



PHOTO COURTESY LASER LES LATIN

## Berlin leans to Gillis for building sale

After chasing him away with shifting demands, council revisits his vision

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) The Berlin Mayor and Council unanimously voted to enter extended negotiations with Palmer and Sandy Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties regarding purchasing and redeveloping Heron Park's parcel 57.

Councilmembers Steve Green, Jack Orris, and Jay Knerr voted to move forward with the Gillises at the Monday, July 22 meeting of the Mayor and Council. Vice President Dean Burrell and Councilmember Shaneka Nichols were absent from the gathering. Though he does not have a vote, Mayor Zack Tyndall said he supported the direction.

A year's worth of negotiating with Coastal Venture Properties (CVP) ended last summer in a 3-2 vote with Knerr, Burrell and Nichols in favor of moving away from the Gillis direction and Green and Orris in favor of continuing on with CVP.

On Monday, the Mayor and Council heard casual presentations from the Gillises and local developer Jack Burbage on each party's intention to re-engineer the former Tyson Foods processing plant on parcel 57 at Heron Park, which is currently undergoing demolition. The venture comes as the town hopes to improve the site's aesthetic and usability. A minimum price of \$1.2 million was set for the space to include 15 sewer EDUs.

At the July 8 meeting, the group discussed potential uses for the area. Initially, they determined that businesses that would compete with downtown Berlin, like retail and restaurants, were off the table. However, upon further conversation, the

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### FAMILY TIME

A new foal on Assateague Island takes a morning snooze on the beach near the surf with its parents, Starlight and Theodore, who relax as well.

## Safety group seeks Rt. 589 trail

Bike & Pedestrian Coalition outlines accomplishments, plans and intentions for OP

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition Chair Patti Stevens updated the Ocean Pines community on the group's accomplishments and priorities at last weekend's Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting.

The organization was formed in October last year to increase road safety for walkers and bikers.

"[Safety] has been an issue that

has come out in community surveys, as there has been an increase nationally and state-wide of traffic incidents for bikers and pedestrians," Stevens said on July 20.

In Ocean Pines, General Manager John Viola nominated Chief of Police Tim Robinson and Public Works Director Eddie Wells to participate in the coalition. Stevens said with their help, the safety group has "gotten to work."

Since the coalition's founding, crosswalks and yellow bike and pedestrian warning signs have been added to the five roads that the Sherwood Forest Trails cross, including Robin Hood Trail. Robinson has also

installed speed monitors along Ocean Parkway, which Stevens said have deterred residents and visitors from driving over the limit.

In February, a crosswalk was also implemented on 589 from the South Gate Pond to the Racetrack Road and Manklin Creek intersection. Stevens said that since the path was completed, she has seen OPA residents biking to Food Lion and kids crossing with fishing poles often.

The 589 project was not created solely due to the coalition but rather a collaborative effort from Stevens and her group and citizen, county, and police input. The safety organiza-

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# Ocean Pines reports 7,777 potential voters in election

Residents have until Aug. 6 to cast ballots; committee chair reports few issues

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) Ocean Pines Elections Committee Chair Steve Ransdell updated the community on the 2024 Board of Directors election timeline, maintaining that it is proceeding as promised with minimal hiccups.

Two seats are up for grabs this year. Incumbents Rick Farr, the board's current president, and Director Jeff Heavner are defending their positions. Challengers Amy Peck, Sherrie Clifford, and Jerry Murphy have also thrown their hats into the ring.

Ransdell addressed the membership at the board of directors meeting on Saturday, July 20. According to the committee chair, the electronic and paper ballots were distributed, and 113 were returned to the association as undeliverable. Of those, 27 included new forwarding addresses, and voting materials were promptly sent.

The committee also recently updated its eligibility list, adding 296 lots, bringing the total number of potential voters to 7,777. As of Tuesday, July 16, 667 electronic ballots had been cast, and 1,780 paper tickets had been submitted. Non-digital selection materials can be dropped into the box at the Ocean Pines Police Station until 4 p.m. on Aug. 6.

Ransdell said that since the election process began, the committee has only received three complaints, all of which were addressed within 24 hours. The chair did not disclose the nature of the grievances.

"In recent memory, I do not remember an election running as

smoothly as the one you are presiding over," Board Vice President Stuart Lakernick said, addressing Ransdell. "It is impressive that with only a few weeks left, there have only been three complaints."

OPA has contracted the Pittsburgh-based MK Election Services to handle the polling proceedings and vote counting. When balloting officially closes at 4 p.m. on Aug. 6, Ransdell, accompanied by a few witnesses will take the paper tickets from the box and immediately overnight ship them to the vendor.

"We want [MK Election Services] to have as much time as possible to complete the last piece of the count," the committee chair said. "Then we will receive a report with the results, and if any contested ballots need to be resolved, we will address that, then have a final report to share with the board and membership."

All ballots will be delivered together. The paper tickets already dropped in the police station box are still there, waiting to be shipped with the rest of the voting materials that will be submitted by Aug. 6.

Ransdell discussed how MK Election Services and OPA intend to handle potential discrepancies. If a homeowner accidentally or deliberately submits their ballot electronically and by paper, the vote received first will be counted, and the second will be discarded.

"We always have that error traffic," the elections committee chair said.

Eligible homeowners have until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, to vote. While OPA encourages households to cast their ballots electronically, residents who prefer may submit their paper selection to a drop box at the neighborhood police station. The results will be announced on Thursday, Aug. 8.

# Association officials discuss tree removals, cell service

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola and OPA Chief of Police Tim Robinson updated the community on tree removal regulations and the ongoing battle with troublesome cell service, respectively, at the board of directors Saturday, July 20 meeting.

Earlier this month, resident and past OPA board member John McLaughlin posted a photo on the neighborhood forum showing where a contractor cleared an entire lot of trees for new home construction. The citizen noted that one removed plant

was partially on a neighbor's easement.

"These trees will never be replaced in our lifetime," he wrote.

Resident and OPA board candidate Amy Peck responded to McLaughlin, writing that she consulted with her husband, Tim Peck, the Environmental and Natural Assets Advisory Committee chair.

"This committee has observed this issue on new home lots repeated many times over the last year and a half," she said. "The committee clearly noted how this practice deviates from past practices in Ocean

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# Captain's Table

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# Viola provides improvement project updates

Maintenance, renovation work continue at several Ocean Pines amenities

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola gave his monthly report at the Board of Directors Saturday, July 20 meeting, where he addressed maintenance efforts, upcoming renovations, and enhancement initiatives.

The bridge near the golf course is undergoing updates. The wing walls and piles are being replaced, per the Maryland State Highway Administration inspection, for a total cost of \$149,500. The OPA board approved the developments at the Sept. 30,

2023, meeting.

Viola said that since the June meeting, it had been brought to his attention that wooden boards at the Beach Club have been popping up, and nails have been exposed. The general manager noted that he instructed the community's public works department to repair the unsafe conditions immediately. The issues have since been resolved.

Boards at the Swim and Racquet Club have also been replaced. "We got a couple of emails, and we were on it right away," Viola said.

Additionally, the association is considering installing jet ski docks at Swim and Racquet, as there are currently a few slips that are too small for boats. While Viola is confident that the initiative will progress, he said he still needs to confer with the

appropriate committees.

OPA is addressing safety concerns on a pathway at Swim and Racquet. Viola said the Aquatics Advisory Committee reported that the area had "major cracks."

"This walkway was a situation where you could hit your foot or trip," he said.

While OPA works to get an estimate on a thin layer of asphalt, the uneven surface has been amended with a cold patch.

Additional sand and mulch were installed at the dog park for \$5,600, and public works also added mulch to all the playgrounds for \$6,900. Inside décor, including panel dividers and artificial plants, was placed in the Yacht Club for roughly \$2,000, and the renovated Veterans Memorial Pavilion is on track to be completed

by November.

The general manager touched on the cured-in-place-pipe lining drainage restoration approved at the March 23 meeting. CIPP is a trenchless rehabilitation method used to repair existing pipes.

The contractor, Pelican Underground, began the project on July 19. The areas being updated are 28 Admiral Avenue, 1221 and 1223 Carrollton Lane, Capetown Road, 22 Harpoon Road, 34, 44, and 84 Lookout Point, 57 Ocean Parkway, 7 and 52 Pinehurst Road, 27 and 48 Seafarer Lane, 192 Team Circle, White Horse Drive, and the 18th green and the 10th tee box at the golf course. The initiative yielded a total cost of \$210,637.

"We all believe this was the best thing we ever did for our pipes," Viola said.

## Cell coverage efforts ongoing

Continued from Page 3

Pines several years ago, when many trees were preserved around new homes. Last year, the committee submitted two statements to the BOD expressing concern over this allowed clear-cutting by builders."

Viola addressed the posed concerns at the most recent board meeting.

"What we are going to be doing now, going forward, is we will review for reasonableness and within our [governing documents] new construction and permits, and how they go about cutting down trees on the lots," he said.

Homeowners still must obtain Worcester County permits when removing trees.

Community updates continued as Robinson assured residents that he is committed to tackling the abysmal cellphone reception in the Pines.

"Everyone is aware of how bad the

cellphone service is," he said. "... one of my biggest worries is that if someone is trying to call for help and that is one of their only means of communication, either the call won't go through, or it would go through to 911, but they would not be able to hear them on the other end."

The chief said he and his team have begun conversations with the county to determine how to improve the connection. He hopes that next summer, the community will be in a "much better position."

"When someone calls for help, we need to make sure the calls go through," Robinson said.

The police chief also reminded residents about the community's National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6. The event, slated for 6 to 8 p.m. at White Horse Park, will allow residents to meet and chat with the neighborhood's officers and voice any concerns.



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# Demo work timeline extended

Continued from Page 6

orders for the ongoing demo project to account for additional areas to be addressed and torn down that were discovered during the current work. The contractor, JNT Enterprises, proposed an extra 45 days, extending the project to September 17. The governing body agreed to the add-ons, granting that the extension be decreased to 30 days.

“I want to see the 45-day extension reduced,” Green said. “I noticed at the project that they are on-site, doing a lot of work, and then there are windows of time where not much is happening. I think sometimes it’s a considerable amount of time.”

# Grant helps fund safety education

Continued from Page 1

tion’s chair said the initiative had been discussed for over 10 years.

In May, Stevens said that she and Robinson worked together on a grant submission to the Maryland State Highway Office and were awarded approximately \$5,000 to fund community safety education, a bike rodeo, and the purchase of lights and reflectors.

“About half the J-1 students work in places where the uniform is all black,” the coalition chair said. “McDonalds and the Casino are a few examples. You can’t see them at night. We ordered through this grant reflecting strips and lights that will be given out through the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce, and the police chief and his team will have them in their cars so they can give out lights and reflectors when they see people walking and biking at night.”

Stevens outlined the group’s short-term potential projects, including a Route 589 trail. This would consist of a 10-foot-wide path set back from the road with a grass or concrete barrier. She also mentioned a six- to seven-foot-wide Ocean Parkway on-road trail on the existing shoulder. The area is already informally used for pedestrians and bikers; however, colored markings would be added to the lane.

The organization has secured feedback from residents, who note that crosswalks and signs are needed in major recreation areas with “significant bike and walk traffic.” This includes the area across Ocean Parkway by the North Fire Station to White Horse Park.

Citizens have also pushed for a walk and biking route out of South Ocean Pines onto 589, “possibly along the road from Triple Crown to the new light at the Atlantic General Hospital Gudelsky Medical Center.”

The Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition is dedicated to creating a safe community for non-drivers. Stevens said that the work group has hit the ground running and is lucky to have obtained members who all tirelessly contribute.

The change order motion increases the contract amount by \$27,995 for a total contract sum of \$375,054. Knerr motioned to approve the change order with the 30-day timeline with a second by Orris and support by Green.

While the town chose the Gillises for further negotiations, local developer Jack Burbage submitted a letter asking to be considered. His associate, Samantha Pielstick, read the letter.

“May I suggest that you listen to the interested parties and what they have to offer before you decide what you do not want in the park,” his written statement reads. “I am referring to storage.”

The developer argued that a competing retail space would jeopardize downtown Berlin, as businesses “work hard to make ends meet” when it is not summer or the Christmas season.

Burbage also asked that the council pause the sale of parcel 57 until the demolition of the processing plant is complete. He said it would be difficult for architects to design a plan without clear parameters.

However, the town favored the Gillises as potential developers.

“Burbage’s letter did not fall on deaf ears,” the mayor assured. “We will use it as guidance as we progress with the project.”

Palmer and Sandy Gillis are scheduled to meet with the Berlin mayor and council again on Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

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SCAN ME





Attendees to last year's Worcester County Fair are pictured participating in a catch-and-release fishing activity led by volunteers.

FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Worcester approves alcohol sales at revamped local fair

County recreation dept. managing event, expecting 40-plus vendors, live music

By Bethany Hooper  
Associate Editor

(July 25, 2024) Officials say planning continues for this year's Worcester County Fair.

The Worcester County Commissioners last month voted 6-0, with Commissioner Eric Fiori abstaining, to approve a request from Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados to have alcohol sales at John Walter Smith Park during the Worcester County Fair. Rados said her department is looking to include breweries in the annual event.

"We've finalized most of our vendors, locked in the food vendors, but now we're working on incorporating some local breweries," she told the commissioners on July 2. "We would like to offer alcohol on Friday and Saturday of the times of the fair. So we just need commissioners' approval to allow alcohol at John Walter Smith on the dates of August 9 and 10 of the fair."

Earlier this year it was announced that Worcester County Recreation and Parks would take charge of hosting the 2024 Worcester County Fair, ending a years-long run at Byrd Park in Snow Hill. This year's event will take place Aug. 9-11 at John Walter Smith Park.

In a memo sent to the county commissioners last week, Rados provided officials with an update on planning of the revamped county fair. She noted that the event would kick off on Friday with a ribbon cutting cere-

mony at 4:30 p.m. and a performance by Jimmy Charles from 6-8 p.m.

"To date have 36 vendors registered with 40 or more expected once everything is finalized," she wrote. "We are working with 10-12 food vendors to get them approved for the Fair and are currently working on the alcohol vendors. All alcohol vendors will meet all state regulations and will therefore not need county permitting, as long as Commissioners would approve alcohol at John Walter Smith Park during the Worcester County Fair dates."

In addition to alcohol sales on Friday and Saturday, other offerings include live entertainment, inflatables, carnival games and a catch-and-release fish tank. Displays and demonstrations from 4-H will be held inside the recreation center, while a livestock tent will feature different shows and demos.

"Other attractions include a Car Show, Jeep Show, Cornhole Tournament, Pipeline eating contest, Drone demonstration and a Petting Zoo," Rados wrote.

The Worcester County Fair will cap off Agricultural Week, to be held Aug. 3-11. The week will include various offerings from local event managers, towns, farms and agricultural businesses in Worcester County.

For more information on the Worcester County Fair, visit WorcesterCountyFair.org or the Worcester County Fair Facebook page. For more information on Agricultural Week, visit VisitMarylandsCoast.org.

"It's just wonderful, and I know it's been a long time coming," Fiori told staff last week. "And I just want to thank you guys for all your hard work."



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# State budget cuts expected to impact local arts funding

By **Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(July 25, 2024) State budget cuts approved this week are expected to impact local arts programming in Worcester County, officials say.

On July 17, the Maryland Board of Public Works, a three-member board consisting of the governor, comptroller and treasurer, voted to approve \$148.3 million in budget reductions for fiscal year 2025. The cuts, officials report, are largely driven by an increase in healthcare and childcare spending, top priorities for the administration.

“Revenues are relatively stagnant – and they have been for quite some time – but needs are growing,” Comptroller Brooke Lierman said.

One of the departments to be cut is the Maryland State Arts Council, which awards grants to artists and nonprofit arts organizations throughout the state. While the \$437,000 cut represents a roughly 1% reduction, a concerted effort has been made at the local level to oppose the change.

“The problem is small organizations like ours depend on that funding through the arts council ...,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League of Ocean City and board member of Maryland Citizens for the Arts, the state’s art advocacy group, said this week. “This will affect the funding we receive for this year.”

Thaler said the reduction could have budgetary impacts for the Art League of Ocean City, which recently submitted its yearly grant application to the Maryland State Arts Council. She noted that the nonprofit receives no direct funding from the Town of Ocean City or Worcester County.

“People don’t start out at Juilliard or MoMA, they start at community organizations like ours ...,” she said. “We’re so underserved as it is on the Eastern Shore that I feel that this cut affects us more than in Baltimore County or Baltimore City, which has such a rich arts offering.”

To that end, Thaler said she is using her connection with Maryland Citizens for the Arts, to advocate for local arts funding. She argued that the Eastern Shore is often overlooked when it comes to supporting the arts.

“This makes it even worse,” she said of the budget reduction. “There’s a smaller pool to fund from.”

The Worcester County Arts Council has also joined the campaign to preserve arts funding ahead of this week’s state board meeting. Executive Director Anna Mullis noted that thousands of letters had been sent to the governor to oppose the reduction to the Maryland State Arts Council budget.

“The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by an annual grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). MSAC is a vital agency to

our sector and the state, helping to contribute over \$1.1 billion annually to Maryland’s economy via its investment in the arts,” she said. “This funding is a major form of support that Worcester County Arts Council depends on which allows our organization to provide much-needed community programs and services.”

Mullis said the reduction impacts an already struggling arts sector, which she said is still grappling through the effects of the COVID pandemic and inflation. She said cuts could have “devastating consequences” for her nonprofit.

“Cuts to the Maryland State Arts Council’s budget will consequently reduce the funding to the Worcester County Arts Council,” she explained. “Reducing these funds will diminish our abilities to provide grants to schools and local civic organizations, arts scholarships, and cultural community programming.”

The Maryland State Arts Council is just one of several line items to be cut within the current fiscal budget, with some of the largest reductions aimed at the University System of Maryland (\$19 million) and local health departments (\$12 million). The Worcester County Health Department did not return requests for comment this week.

Maryland Secretary of Budget and Management Helene Grady told the board Wednesday the proposed reductions were the first step in an ongoing process to balance the budget, which she said focused on supporting economic growth, rebuilding the core of state government and redeploying underutilized funds.

Treasurer Dereck Davis said cutting the budget was no easy feat, adding that agencies and organizations were pitting against each other to preserve their budgets.

“Too often when we hear about deficits and budgets and so forth, people will willy nilly say ‘cut the budget ...’” he said. “While it may not be important to me or you, every single dollar this state spends affects somebody.”

Representatives from state agencies set to receive budget cuts – including the Office of the Public Defender and the Rural Maryland Council – came before the board this week seeking reconsideration. Rural Maryland Council Executive Director Charlotte Davis, joined by representatives of the Regional Council and Tri-County Council, asked officials not to cut her agency’s budget by the proposed \$2.25 million, or 25%.

“We have 25% of the state’s population and represent 1.7 million Marylanders, and we felt like we have been doing a great job with our programs,” she said. “We do the most with the least amount.”

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
Attendees are pictured purchasing bags of peaches at last year's festival. The annual event will return to the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum lawn next week.

# Annual Berlin Peach Festival to be held on museum lawn

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) Berlin's Calvin B. Taylor House's 16th annual Peach Festival is expected to draw thousands of attendees to browse the fruit-themed booths and shops on the museum's lawn. The event is slated for Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Peach Festival is held yearly to celebrate the history of Orlando Harrison and the Harrison Brothers Nurseries in Berlin, which at the time "dominated the United States' peach market," the municipality's website states. The farm, which developed many varieties of peaches and other fruits, was founded in the late 1800s and, season-dependent, created between 250 and 500 jobs in and around the town.

Taylor House President Melissa Reid said that the nursery was once the largest fruit-order company in the world. The orchards had catalogues that people would write to, requesting fruit and trees.

While Worcester County's fruit nursery is no longer here, Harrison's home, Windy Brow, also called the Orlando Harrison House, still stands near the railroad tracks in Berlin. The annual Peach Festival honors the heritage the fruit farm and its founders cultivated in the town.

Reid noted the event had roughly 3,000 attendees last year. Officials hope to reach a similar number this time around.

"It is the biggest event in Berlin," Reid said.

Local peaches and peach-flavored slushies will be for sale. The Salisbury University communications department helped develop a brand-new festival T-shirt. According to Reid, the students created an image, which the event organizers adapted for the garment. Local books on Berlin history, totes, and mugs will also be available.

Reid maintained that the event would include entertainment. Visitors can enjoy musical stylings by George and Pat Bilenki of the local Bilenki Duo, catch a cooking demonstration by Worcester Technical High School culinary and pastry arts teacher Phil Cropper, and witness a performance by magician

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# Berlin event set to return Aug. 3

Magic Jack. The museum president also said that food will be available made by the WTHS students.

Amateur bakers will have the chance to participate in a peach pie-baking competition. The registration deadline is Thursday, Aug. 1, and only 12 entries will be accepted. The Taylor House’s website says that the desserts must be delivered on the day of the festival between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Competitors must include a list of the ingredients.

Reid said there will be an adult and children’s pie-eating contest. Contestants will be judged on who can eat one pie “down to the tin” the fastest. Participants can sign up on the day of the event. The winner of the kids’ competition will receive an Island Creamery gift card, while the champion of the older age group will be given a free Peach Festival T-shirt.

The Briddell Family Foundation, founded by a Berlin family with roots from the 1870s, will have a table on the lawn. Reid said that the family still has descendants in the area and has formed a group focused on literacy and advocating for higher education.

The foundation’s official website describes itself as an organization



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Organizers expect thousands to attend this year’s Peach Festival. A scene from last year’s Peach Festival is shown.

that works to “aid the community in ... humanitarianism, benevolence, education, and scholarship gifts.” Festival-goers will have the chance to learn more on Aug. 3.

The Peach Festival will feature Baked Desserts Café’s peach dumplings, flowers from Bay Street Blooms and kids games set up on the lawn. Attendees can purchase the official Berlin flag, and profits from the sales will help fund the proposed community center.

“This is our largest fundraiser, so we rely on people coming out,” Reid said.





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# SUN Bucks initiative targeting summer gap

Program will provide funds for low-income families to spend on home groceries

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) School-aged children in Maryland who receive free or reduced-price meals in the academic year will automatically be enrolled in the SUN Bucks program. This initiative provides low-income families with grocery money for students in the summer.

Households that qualify for the program will receive \$40 each month in June, July and August for a \$120 summer allowance for each eligible student. The financial assistance is meant to purchase food for the child while they are not receiving the free or reduced-priced meals they would during the school year.

According to a July 1 press release from Maryland Governor Wes Moore's office, roughly 90% of qualifying families will automatically be enrolled in the program, provided they received reduced-price meals in the previous school year, are aged five to 18, and their family participates in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Temporary Cash Assistance or is in foster care.

"SUN Bucks is a summer EBT pro-

gram," Worcester County Department of Social Services SUN Bucks Administrator Jamie Powell said. "It is going to help families, a lot who have been directly certified, granted they were approved by July 1, 2023, for free or reduced lunch or are a foster care, homeless or runaway child."

Powell said that the venture is a permanent program through the federal government and that most children are between the ages of five and 18. However, preschoolers and 19-year-olds who are still in school may also be eligible.

If the family is already participating in SNAP, the Maryland SUN Bucks money will be automatically uploaded to their EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card. The governor's press release said that a Maryland SUN Bucks card will be issued in the child's name if they do not receive SNAP.

Families that fail to meet these criteria but believe they are eligible must submit an application before August 31, 2024, to receive the benefits. Students who have transferred schools or whose parents did not apply for the Free and Reduced-Price School Meals program may fall under this umbrella. An online form can be found at <https://mymdthink.maryland.gov/home/#/sunbucks>.

"During the school year, many of

these students will have meals taken care of," Powell said. "That takes stress off parents' budget for food. It's harder in the summertime. This program will alleviate financial stress for families."

Households that apply and are deemed eligible this year will be automatically certified for the following summer. Director at the Worcester County Department of Social Services Roberta Baldwin said the program will serve over 500,000 students statewide and approximately 3,600

in Worcester County. "This is not a one-and-done benefit," she noted. "This will be an ongoing support for families...This program supports our goal of trying to end childhood poverty."

Baldwin said she wants to ensure the community is aware of the program. Those with questions can call 410-677-6800 and press three to speak with a live human at the Worcester County Department of Social Services.

## June revenue totals up from sports betting in Maryland

Wagering in state increases 51% over last year with \$254.5 million reported

(July 25, 2024) Maryland's sports wagering market continues to climb, with revenue contributions to the state more than doubling last year's total and the total handle up more than 50% for the month of June.

According to a news release from Maryland Lottery and Gaming, revenues from online and physical sports betting generated more than \$5.7 million in contributions to the state from a handle of over \$384.6 million last month. Sports wagering contributions go to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, which supports public education programs.

The total contribution to the state was the fifth-best single month total since sports betting operations began in late 2022 and more than double the \$2.8 million figure recorded in June 2023.

The total handle was an increase of 51.2% compared to last year's \$254.5 million total.

Ocean Downs is one of six casinos statewide that operates a physical sportsbook. Sports betting is also available online through several apps throughout Maryland.

Sports wagering data is tracked and reported based on Maryland's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. For the 12 months of Fiscal Year 2024, sports wagering contributed over \$60.3 million to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund. Another \$985,862 in expired sports wagering prizes were contributed to the state's Problem Gambling Fund during the fiscal year.

A detailed summary of the June 2024 results for each sportsbook, including handle, hold percentage, prizes paid, promotional play, taxable win, and contribution to the state, along with a summary of statewide handle and hold by sport is available for download at [mdgaming.com](http://mdgaming.com).

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# County snipe sign removal to begin Aug. 1

Worcester’s public works department to issue fines this fall as part of program

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(July 25, 2024) Crews with Worcester County Public Works will begin removing snipe signs from the public right-of-way next week.

Beginning Aug. 1, any off-premises signs attached to trees, poles, stakes, fences or other objects will be removed as part of a new county effort to clean up the public right-of-way. Following a three-month period, Worcester County will begin issuing fines.

“Snipe signs are not permitted in any public right-of-way, which is either state or county-owned land,” a news release reads. “Under State law ... the County is authorized to remove these signs. This includes commercial and political signs. All signs removed will be destroyed. Beginning November 1, a \$25 per sign civil penalty will be issued for every snipe sign removed.”

Earlier this month, Public Works Director Dallas Baker gained approval from the Worcester County Commissioners to implement a pilot program to remove snipe signs from public land. He said the program

would be an effort to assist the State Highway Administration in cleaning up the state rights-of-way.

“So, we’re asking for commissioner approval to start a pilot program to remove snipe signs,” he said at the time. “Those are the small roadside signs typically seen advertising services or sales of homes, that kind of thing, that have been illegally placed within state right-of-way. The state has the ability to delegate that authority to remove the signs to the counties. They’re understaffed.”

Baker told the commissioners the public works department had received complaints regarding snipe

signs along major roadways in Worcester County. He proposed a three-month period to remove and dispose of snipe signs before issuing fines.

The commissioner ultimately voted to proceed with the pilot program, but to have the public works department implement a similar policy for county rights-of-way. According to the news release, snipe signs will be removed from the public right-of-way beginning Aug. 1, with fines to be implemented in November. Any questions can be directed to Worcester County Public Works at 410-632-5623.

## Revenue from slot machines, table games decreases

(July 25, 2024) Maryland’s six casinos combined to generate nearly \$163 million in revenue from slot machines and table games last month, an overall decrease of \$802,798 (0.5%) compared to last year, with Ocean Downs reporting a decrease of 6.3%.

The local casino did experience the biggest drop, though, with Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County all reporting larger downtrends from June of 2023.

But even with the slight overall decrease statewide, total casino gaming contributions in Maryland during the month of June this year totaled more than \$69.8 million, an increase of \$412,462 (0.6%). In turn, contributions to the Education Trust Fund were over \$50.3 million, a decrease of \$63,342 (0.1%).

Ocean Downs is among a total of six privately owned casinos in Maryland that offer both slot machines and table games.

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# Ex-teacher pleads to misdemeanor

By **Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(July 25, 2024) A former Stephen Decatur High School band teacher pleaded guilty last week to a misdemeanor charge stemming from a sexual relationship he had with a student more than three decades ago, but not before the involved parties accused school administration of playing some part in the underage abuse.

In Worcester County Circuit Court July 15, Ronald Lee Davis, 64, of Salisbury, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the state education law regarding sex offenses that occurred on premise. As part of a plea agreement with the state's attorney's office, Davis waived the one-year statute of limitations for the misdemeanor charge and was sentenced to six months, with all but two days – or time already served – suspended.

"Actions have consequences, and he is here today accepting those consequences," said John Phoebus, Davis' attorney.

Last fall, law enforcement in Worcester County received a letter from the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Office of Child and Youth Protection regarding a woman who told them she had been sexually abused during her time as a student at Stephen Decatur. When reached by local law enforce-

ment, the victim said she wanted to move forward with an investigation. She told police her sexual relationship with Davis during the 1991-1992 school year led to depression and nightmares.

"What Mr. Davis has done has left me with a lifetime of trauma," she told the court this week.

During Monday's plea hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Pam Correa detailed the events that transpired during the victim's senior year of high school. While acknowledging that the sexual relationship was consensual, she said the victim, who was 16 and 17 years old at the time, knew the relationship was wrong and didn't know how to stop it.

Correa said the victim had three classes with Davis and that sexual acts occurred in the band room, in Davis' office and in the instrument room, in addition to Davis' home. She said the investigation also revealed that other students and parents had suspected Davis of having an inappropriate relationship with the victim.

Correa said a parent who had witnessed the victim lean her head against Davis' shoulder during a band trip that year shared the incident with Lou Taylor, who was vice principal at the time. Taylor, who now serves as the school system superintendent,

told investigators last fall that Davis had approached him in the spring of 1992 to confess to the sexual relationship. Taylor then shared the information with the school principal, who then reported it to the school superintendent at the time.

Davis resigned that year and went to work for Somerset County Public Schools in 1993. He continued to teach there up until last fall, when district administration, having learned of the criminal investigation, placed him on administrative leave.

Phoebus told the court this week his client had admitted the sexual relationship to school leadership and had moved on to another school district, where he remained for three-plus decades. He said since the case was reported in the media, no other students have come forward with allegations against Davis.

"That suggests to me this was a one-time lapse in judgment," he told the judge.

Both the prosecution and defense said the agreement presented to the court this week was the favored outcome, as it guaranteed a conviction and avoided revictimization. Correa added that the plea exposed school administration for failing to report the relationship to authorities.

See 'A ONE-TIME' Page 17

# Judge turns down motion to delay child abuse trial

Defense attorney says 'we can try this case tomorrow'

By **Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

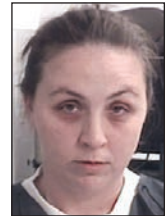
(July 25, 2024) The trial for a Berlin woman facing felony child abuse and other charges will continue as planned despite a request to postpone the proceedings.

During a motions hearing July 15, Worcester County Circuit Court Judge Brett Wilson denied the state's motion to postpone the trial for

Heather Ward, 40, a Berlin woman facing 10 felony counts of child abuse and 80 misdemeanor counts of second-degree assault related to a child abuse investigation at the Berlin Activities Depot.

While the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office argued more time was needed to prepare for trial, Ward's legal counsel said their client was seeking a speedy trial.

"We can try this case tomorrow," Dennis Murphy, Ward's attorney, See TRIAL Page 18



Heather Ward

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# 'A one-time lapse in judgment'

Continued from Page 16

"That's the crux of this case," she said.

Both parties also shared information Davis provided to prosecutors during a proffer session. In that meeting, Davis told prosecutors that the administration did not visit his classroom or supervise his instruction, even after the suspected relationship was brought to Taylor. Davis also told the prosecution that Taylor had tried to convince him not to tender his resignation.

"My client described a culture at Stephen Decatur High School that was quite different a year later when he went to work for Somerset County Public Schools," Phoebus said.

Correa added that the state had subpoenaed the school system for Davis' personnel records, which she said failed to mention the sexual relationship or the reason for his resignation. Both sides also reported that Worcester County Public Schools had offered him a job in 2015, despite knowing the circumstances of his leaving. The victim also alleged that administrators prioritized protecting their colleague over her own safety.

"I need everyone to know that Worcester County Public Schools suspected the abuse to be happening and did nothing," she said.

When reached this week, Worcester County Public Schools declined to

comment, but specifically addressed remarks made about Davis' job offering in 2015.

"The school system will not comment on this matter other than to correct the record that as evidenced by the Board's personnel actions in 2015, Davis was never recommended to the Board for hiring," said Carrie Sterrs, the school system's coordinator of public relations and special programs.

At the conclusion of Monday's hearing, Judge Brett Wilson accepted the plea agreement, which was brought before the court for the second time in just as many months. In June, Judge Beau Oglesby dismissed the case, arguing Davis could not plead guilty to the misdemeanor charge, which was not listed in the charging document. Since then, the case has been refiled to reflect the misdemeanor charge, and the plea agreement was executed this week.

Wilson also issued a \$1,000 fine, plus court fees, and placed Davis under three years of supervised probation, during which time he cannot contact the victim or have any unsupervised contact with unrelated female minors. Phoebus said his client will not return to teaching.

"I take full responsibility for my actions and the pain that came with those actions," Davis said in his apology to the victim last week.

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7/30	7	Layton	Latin America		Asia Pacific	5:30 PM
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8/01	16	Lyons	Asia Pacific		District III	3:00 PM
8/01	17	Layton	Southwest		East	5:30 PM
8/01	18	Lyons	Central		EA	5:30 PM
8/01	19	Layton	East		Latin America	8:00 PM
8/01	20	Lyons	EA		Canada	8:00 PM
8/02	21	Layton	A2		B3	12:30 PM
8/02	22	Layton	B2		A3	3:00 PM
8/02	23	Layton	B1		A4	5:30 PM
8/02	24	Layton	A1		B4	8:00 PM
8/03	A	Layton	Loser of 21		Loser of 22	3:00 PM
8/03	B	Lyons	B5		A5	5:00 PM
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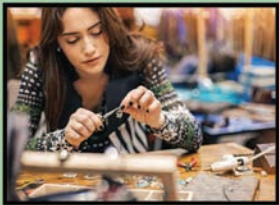


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Trial postponement ask denied

Continued from Page 16  
said. "We can try this case today."  
Last November, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Child Protective Services were notified that an eight-month-old had been admitted to Atlantic General Hospital with a broken tibia. The incident initiated an investigation into the local daycare, where the child attended.

The sheriff's office alleges video footage of the infant classroom revealed that Ward had caused the child's injuries and showed other concerning interactions with several other infants under her supervision. As a result of the investigation, a grand jury in March indicted Ward on 90 charges.

Back in court last week, Assistant State's Attorney Pam Correa said the case posed a challenge as the alleged victims were nonverbal and immobile.

She said the state needed time to work with a medical expert to argue that Ward's alleged actions caused injury.

"It's essentially nine cases wrapped up into one," she said.

Murphy, however, argued that the state was "slow-walking" the case while his client sat in jail. He added that the state had time to prepare.

"There's nothing about this case

that's even remotely complex," he said.

After further discussion, Wilson denied a motion to postpone the trial, which will be held next month in circuit court.

"At some point, any investigation has to come to an end," he said.

Wilson this week also reserved his ruling on the state's motion to admit several videos as evidence of other crimes and wrongs under Rule 404(b). Correa said each of the videos, recorded in the months of October and November, involve the listed victims and demonstrated Ward's treatment of the children.

"These events are alleged to have occurred over a month and a half," she said.

For his part, Murphy argued the videos, which were shown to the judge Monday, did not meet the standards of Rule 404(b) and did not rise to the level of "other crimes." He said he was also concerned the videos would confuse any potential jury.

"Many of the videos don't depict anything at all, objectionably, in terms of dealing with the children," he said.

Wilson told both the prosecution and defense he would issue an order for each of the presented videos at a future date. He also told the state to submit all discovery by July 28.

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Members of the Ocean City Ravens Roost #44 and participants in the nonprofit's scholarship golf tournament pose with sponsorship signs at the spring event.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Roost awards scholarships, holds tourney

Six students presented with monetary recognitions in Worcester, Sussex counties

(July 25, 2024) Ravens Roost #44 of Ocean City recently announced the presentation of annual scholarships. This year, the awards totaling \$15,000 went to six students at three area high schools. The 2024 scholar/athlete awardees are: Daniel Karchevski, Stephen Decatur High School; Abigail Melito, Stephen Decatur High School; Vanesska Hall, Worcester Preparatory School

Esther Mehilli, Worcester Preparatory School; Heather Smyth, Indian River High School; Grace Robinson, Indian River High School. Don McMullen, scholarship committee co-chair, said in a news release that the Ravens Roost Scholarship Committee awards individual scholarships based on SAT/ACT scores, grade-point averages, participation in athletics, community service, work history, letters of recommendations, and an essay on how athletics are important in today's society. Ravens Roost #44 has awarded \$258,900 in scholarships over the last two-plus decades.

The nonprofit held its 27th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on May 31. More than 100 golfers participated. The winning teams and players were: First Place Ravens Roost team: The Ravens Roost #44 team of Bob Grice, Frank Nechay, Scott Ballweg and Andrew Thompson. First Place overall: Dean Hamburg, Mike McCuster, Tracy Piper and Michael Decker. Closest to the Pin (men): Mike Decker. Closest to the Pin (women): Samantha Boger. Closest to the Line (men): Bob Grice. Closest to the Pin (women):

Samantha Boger. Putting Contest: Don Owrey. The Scholarship Committee thanked signature sponsor American Legion Post 166 of Ocean City, and major sponsors District Cannabis, Ocean Downs Casino and Ravens Roost #44. McMullen said the Scholarship Committee is seeking donations for 2025 scholarships. Donations may be mailed to Ravens Roost #44, Post Office Box 4161, Ocean City, Maryland 21843. Ravens Roost #44, Inc. is an IRS 501(7)(c) nonprofit. The federal tax ID is 52-2160753. For more information, visit [ocravensroost44.com](http://ocravensroost44.com).

# Local nonprofit collecting school supplies

Worcester GOLD providing materials to people in need through annual initiative

(July 11, 2024) Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been running its School Supplies for Students program since 1997, providing backpacks filled with grade-appropriate supplies to Worcester County students in need. Each year, GOLD receives 300-plus student school supply requests from the caseworkers employed with

its 13 partnering agencies who work directly with families in need in Worcester County. GOLD officials believe every child deserves to fit in with their peers by starting the school year prepared to succeed, regardless of their family's financial situation. Community members are encouraged to help by shop-

ping for a student or donating. Even a small donation can go a long way in helping them reach their goal of providing every child with the supplies they need. Those interested in shopping for a student, donating, or learning more about the program, visit GOLD's website at [WorcesterGOLD.org](http://WorcesterGOLD.org). Shoppers

must sign up by Aug. 14 and supply donations are due by Aug. 20. Worcester County GOLD is a nonprofit organization improving the quality of life for Worcester County residents living in low-income circumstances by providing emergency financial assistance and items to meet basic needs.



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# Pocomoke set to unveil new hoops courts on July 30

## Middle school planning ribbon cutting gathering

(July 25, 2024) The public is invited to join the Worcester County Commissioners and school officials as they cut the ribbon for the new basketball courts and park at Pocomoke Middle School at 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 30.

Following prior project delays, the new facility is now officially open. It consists of a basketball play area, that can be used as either two courts or one, and one min-pitch for soccer.

The park is recommended for both children and adults to use and is open to the public outside of school hours and when organized sports programming is not taking place.

Worcester County Recreation and Parks professionals contracted with Surface Solutions, Long Fence, and Musco to complete the project.

Learn more about Worcester County Recreation and Parks' parks and programs at [worcester-recandparks.org](http://worcester-recandparks.org), or on social media at [#PlayMDsCoast](https://twitter.com/PlayMDsCoast).



The new basketball courts at Pocomoke Middle School are pictured.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT



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# Runaway Bride anniversary events planned

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(July 25, 2024) The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum in Berlin is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the release of “Runaway Bride,” starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, with an exhibit and a movie showing this weekend.

The iconic movie was filmed in Berlin in 1998 and released on July 30, 1999. Paramount Studios produced the film, turning the downtown area into Hale, Maryland, the motion picture’s setting.

On Saturday, July 27, Worcester GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a group dedicated to providing emergency financial assistance to county residents in need, is hosting a “Fun Run/ Walk” through Main Street to commemorate the film’s release. The race will begin at 8:15 a.m., and participants are encouraged to wear wedding and bridesmaid dresses and tuxedo t-shirts to remain on theme. The event will start and end at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum.

Attendees are encouraged to stop into Taylor House following the run. According to museum President Melissa Reid, inside the facility is an exhibit with donated items from the film, including a script and an extra costume. The museum is also hosting a lawn viewing of “Runaway Bride” on July 27 at 8 p.m. Soda and popcorn will be for sale.

Reid maintained that the museum’s mission statement is to keep the stories of Berlin alive. Continuing to celebrate the Hollywood movie that “rejuvenated” the town aligns with that goal.

“In the late 1970s and early 1980s ... businesses were small and just starting to open again on Main Street,” she said. “Runaway Bride” provided so much to both the town and many of those small businesses ... it gave the town economic stability to allow us to build a thriving small town and America’s Coolest Small Town. The movie gave us a platform to continue sustainable growth.”

The museum president also noted

the movie increased tourism, as so many people wanted to check out the spots where Roberts and Gere lived and filmed.

The idea for the movie on the lawn was conceived when museum officials learned that the Town of Berlin Arts and Entertainment District arranged one-hour guided walking tours that pass iconic locations and buildings from the movie.

These events are scheduled for Aug. 8, 13, 20 and 27. Reservations can be made by calling 410-629-1716.

Reid said that many buildings were empty when she was growing up in Berlin, and the historical architecture was covered up. “Runaway Bride” renewed a sense of community that has remained everlasting since. The town even received movie copies early and had its premiere.

The museum president said much of the town rode on school buses into West Ocean City to watch the film for the first time.

“The first scene shows an overhead shot of Main Street, and when that came up on the screen, the whole theater was clapping and cheering,” Reid said. “It was so fun to see the movie and see Berlin and the changes from then to now. It is a time capsule of Berlin history.”

Berlin citizens and residents of the surrounding areas are encouraged to visit the pop-up museum and come out to watch the movie on the Taylor House lawn. Both events are free and open to the public.

“Berlin is thriving because we still have that sense of collective community,” Reid said. “Runaway Bride” is the perfect way to keep that community going.”

## Last Maryland Safe Boating Course of year set for Aug. 3

(July 25, 2024) The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will host its final Maryland Safe Boating Course of the year next month.

The on-day course is slated for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Aug. 3, at the Ocean Pines Library at 11107 Cathell Road.

Taking a safe boating class is the best way to prevent accidents, and learn new skills. Attendees will learn the rules of navigation, knot tying, docking, basic maintenance, safety measures, and more.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972, must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those who attend the class

and pass the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate, which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20 covers the cost of the course and materials.

Checks should be made payable to USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to USGCAUX 12-05 P.O. Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811. Payments through PayPal are also accepted.

For more information, or to register, call Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or email CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

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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.

## Boating safety class scheduled, so sign up

It's never too late to learn something new, especially when it pertains to protecting oneself and others from serious harm that could have been avoided.

Enter the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Ocean Pines, where its last boating safety course of the season will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Ocean Pines Library.

Boating on an empty body of water is not without its hazards if people don't know what they're doing or are acting irresponsibly, but when a body of water is as crowded as the coastal bays can be on a summer weekend, it can be downright scary.

This is especially so for novice boaters who don't know or follow the rules of the road, don't know basic boating courtesy or routine operating and safety procedures.

The problem is further aggravated by the inevitable other guy who believes that throwing big wakes, running flat-out from launching to lunchtime and drinking to excess is what having fun on the water is all about.

That's why knowing how to avoid trouble and what to do if trouble does occur is more vital to an enjoyable boating experience than simply understanding which way to push the throttle.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission is to show new boaters how to take care of themselves and their passengers, as well as to provide a bit of a refresher course to those whose knowledge of boating laws and basic seamanship may have accumulated a little rust during their offseason landlubber phase.

The unofficial motto of the Coast Guard may be, "You have to go out; you don't have to come back," but that's clearly not an option recreational boaters want to entertain and is why they should sign up for this course ... if they haven't taken it already.

## Letters

### Md. needs to learn from recent mishap

Editor,

Raise your hand if you are aware of the environmental disaster that started on July 13 off the coast of Nantucket?

For those who don't know, a 300-foot long blade broke off a turbine in the Vineyard Wind project located between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. This project is less than one year old, and this particular turbine's construction had just been completed. In fact, the incident happened during the testing phase.

What did this accident teach us? . . . that nothing about offshore wind turbine power plants is "green" or "clean." In fact, now we know these turbine blades are made of metal and fiberglass-reinforced polyester or epoxy. Carbon fiber or aramid (Kevlar) is also used as reinforcement material. These are materials that will never dissipate or biodegrade. But it's worse than that - the pieces of the blade (thousands of shards) are in the ocean and will be eaten by whales, turtles and fish. And it is deadly.

What else did we learn? Something a few of us already knew: these companies have one mission - to extract as much money as possible from the American people with no regard for our safety, environment or livelihoods. This is highlighted by the fact that the developer did not inform any authority until Captain Carl Bois, who was tuna fishing at the time, reported debris in the water.

Capt. Bois then had to alert the authorities 48 hours after the disaster, while toxic, dangerous, sharp (many huge) pieces of the blade floated in the water and washed up on the beach on Nantucket's southern coast. Further, it took another 24 hours to deploy a clean up crew. By that time, the residents and lifeguards of Nantucket were trying to clean up the mess. The developer, Vineyard Wind, never bothered to tell anyone on Martha's Vineyard, or the Cape, and they started finding

debris there as well. You can find all the details in [nantucket-current.com](http://nantucket-current.com). Capt. Bois' article is dated July 18..

The turbine blade began disintegrating on the evening of July 13 and sent some 17 cubic yards of debris into the ocean. The owners of the Vineyard Wind project did not notify Nantucket officials until Monday, July 15 at about 5 p.m.

The beaches were closed due to the hazardous conditions.

A few days ago, the rest of the blade (all 300 feet) fell into the ocean and is now lying on the seafloor.

Raise your hand again if you were aware of this event from any of our local news sources - television, print, radio (other than WGMD).

Raise your hand again if you think this is pretty important information locals should have since there is a wind farm planned for 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City.

Frankly, I find it alarming that the only place I have seen local coverage of this disaster is on social media, particularly Facebook pages concerning offshore wind and its dangers. I know of at least one person who contacted a local television station to ask if it would be covered and was told it's too far away to affect us.

It would seem to me that the residents who live here and whose tax money is substantially funding the Ocean Wind project 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City should certainly be informed, since there's a good chance this would happen here, too. It's probably even more likely here since the developer of the Ocean Wind project, US Wind (an Italian company), is a novice, having never built an offshore wind farm. Yes, our state and federal governments have turned us into guinea pigs.

If you want real, truthful information about the dangers of offshore wind, a great source is actually Facebook. Check out Protect our Coast-Delmarva and other pages to find out what every citizen needs to know. Additionally,

go to [green-oceans.org/](http://green-oceans.org/), [save-the-east-coast.org/](http://save-the-east-coast.org/), [protectourcoastnj.com/](http://protectourcoastnj.com/), and keep your eyes out for [saveoceancity.com/](http://saveoceancity.com/) where very shortly you will be able to find information on all things offshore wind and how it will affect Maryland and in addition, what Ocean City will do to fight the project.

*Carol Frazier  
Ocean Pines*

### Thankful for quality care, empathy

Editor,

We are writing to bring attention to some truly amazing local heroes, who are surely deserving of far more praise and esteem than they usually publicly receive.

Our beloved mother experienced a series of strokes, which caused her to be consigned to long term care at Berlin Nursing & Rehabilitation, in Berlin. The more than two-and-a-half years she was a patient there was obviously a very difficult time for our family.


But we will be forever grateful for the incredibly dedicated staff who were caring for her, as well as every single person who made sure the facility was run from day to day with such professionalism and empathy. From the hard-working and committed administrative personnel, to the nurses and other health professionals who treated our mother day-in-and-day-out with such kindness, patience and love, to even the maintenance staff — one of whom (Lincoln), would regularly stop into her room and sing her a song to try to make her smile — we can hardly find the words to express the boundless respect and gratitude we have for each and every one of them.

Our hope is simply to remind everyone that these are the people who see us through the most challenging times in our lives. Please help us give them the recognition that they truly deserve.

Thank you so much.

*The Scrudato family  
Ocean Pines*

BAYSIDE



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# MCBP eyes public input for 10-year management plan

(July 25, 2024) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program, a consensus environmental program dedicated to protecting the five coastal bays behind Ocean City and Assateague Island through partnerships, is working on a 10-year management plan, and seeking community input.

The plan, referred to as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, is a grant requirement for the program and an essential component to the program's success.

This will be the third plan since the program's inception. The current plan can be reviewed on the MCBP website at [mdcoastalbays.org](http://mdcoastalbays.org).

The updated plan aims to reduce action items focused on the previous plans to make each one more impact-

ful and serve as the basis for a more detailed Annual Work Plan. The plan will also include a new component of resiliency and environmental justice and community engagement actions that relate to infrastructure funding.

The coastal bays program has launched a questionnaire for public input that can be found on the organization's website through [forms.gle/c7F22eMhjgexh6wr9](https://forms.gle/c7F22eMhjgexh6wr9).

The survey will be open until Aug. 15, as the final plan needs to be completed by the end of the year to be submitted to the EPA for final approval.

Contact Sandi Smith at [sandis@mdcoastalbays.org](mailto:sandis@mdcoastalbays.org) for more information, or for any questions or comments on the new plan.



Wetlands in the Maryland Coastal Bays Program area are pictured. PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS

## Obituaries

**CHARLES (CHARLIE) H. MCMICHAEL III**  
Ocean Pines

Charles (Charlie) H. McMichael III, of Ocean Pines, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2024, at the age of 74.



Charlie was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on Aug. 16, 1949, to the late Alice Phillips McMichael and Charles H. McMichael Jr.

He was proud to have grown up in Wilmington, Delaware, and attended Lore Elementary School, Bayard Middle School and Wilmington High School, graduating in 1968. Many knew Charlie as a force to be reckoned with on the pitcher's mound from Little League to his mid 40s with several no-hitters during high school and semi-pro, where he was scouted by the Philadelphia Phillies.

He was one of the first students to attend Delaware Technical and Community College in 1968 to 1970. After college, Charlie joined the U.S. Navy, completing Boot Camp in San Diego, California, and Machines Mate training in Chicago, Illinois.

He went on to serve on the USS Vogelgesang DD- 862 and the USS Manley, DD940 out of Norfolk, Virginia. During his service he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

Charlie wed his high school sweetheart, the love of his life, and best friend Patricia Gordon McMichael, during his time of service on Sept. 4, 1971. They continued to enjoy 52 years together, with his wonderful sense of humor keeping the laughter in their marriage, even in the hardest of times.

After completing four years in the

Navy, Charlie returned to Wilmington, Delaware, where he worked as a painter for the Magnus Construction Company. Shortly after he started his own painting and restoration business, Statewide Restorations, Inc.,

Continued on Page 25

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# Puzzles

## IT GOES BOTH WAYS

BY JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Jeff Chen is a professional crossword constructor from Seattle. He is also the creator of Squeezy, a daily online word game. This is his 42nd Sunday crossword for The Times.

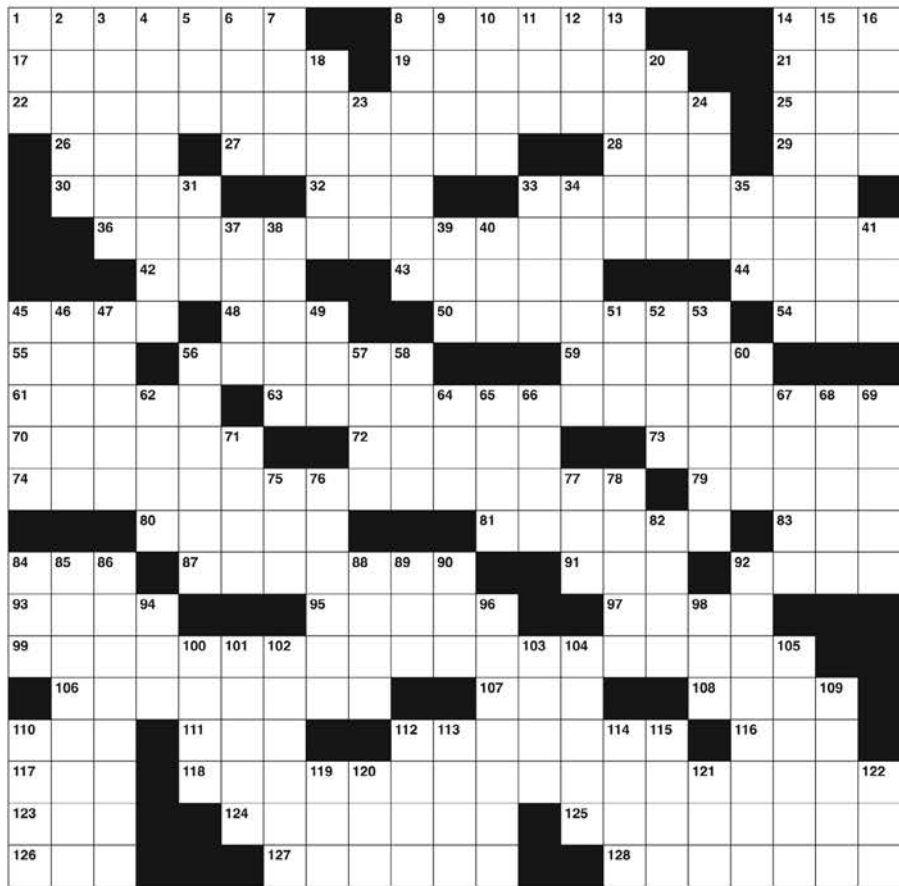
**ACROSS**  
1 J.Lo or J-Law  
8 Brief  
14 Target of a seasonal shot  
17 Harmful algal blooms  
19 Liqueur sharing its name with an island  
21 Actor Somerhalder  
22 Rock group clashes over album art?  
25 Common allergen  
26 Possessive in the Lord's Prayer  
27 Picked up on  
28 Cartoonist Chast  
29 Like one preferring platonic relationships, informally  
30 "Veni, vidi, \_\_\_\_"  
32 Kind of sauce at a sushi bar  
33 "So cute!"  
36 Humble postgame summary from an Indiana basketball player?  
42 Celebration whose name literally means "taro leaf"  
43 Salve targets  
44 You might go for a spin in one  
45 Doohickey  
48 "Secret Celebrity Renovation" airer  
50 Word with high or secret  
54 Top score in a dunk contest

**DOWN**  
55 Director Burton  
56 Doohickey  
59 Its sound is mimicked with coconut shells in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"  
61 Buffalo hockey player  
63 Slangy request to a German to play it cool?  
70 Big brand in the frozen aisle  
72 Greta of "Grand Hotel"  
73 Brisket cooker  
74 What happened when the bust went sideways?  
79 Comment that breaks the fourth wall  
80 "You're \_\_\_\_ luck, my friend"  
81 Place with swinging doors, stereotypically  
83 "The Great Gatsby" antagonist  
84 "That's gotta hurt!"  
87 Fashionable N.Y.C. fund-raiser  
91 Origami, e.g.  
92 Early invader of Britain  
93 Event inspiring many TikTok proposals  
95 Creator of the 1980 video game Adventure  
97 Calf-length dress  
99 Headline regarding a children's author controversy?  
106 Player in a baseball stadium  
107 Sucker

**ACROSS**  
108 Post-workout feeling  
110 Femur-to-tibia connector, for short  
111 Barbecue coating  
112 Rile up  
116 Progressive competitor  
117 Java  
118 Voice-activated order for cabbage or soda bread?  
123 Actress Ortiz  
124 Hard to pin down  
125 Mammal seen in Monterey Bay  
126 Traveling caller, perhaps  
127 Pair in a telescope  
128 Subjects of many evening photographs

**DOWN**  
1 Keyboard shortcuts  
14 Version shown at the movie theater  
15 Nobel honoree  
16 Biblical preposition  
18 Google search results  
20 Nose wrinklers  
23 Contests  
24 Foe of the Bolsheviks  
31 R.N.'s assignment, maybe  
33 Knighted Guinness  
34 Stop it  
35 Use DraftKings or FanDuel  
37 A person  
38 Inventor who wrote "Cubed: The Puzzle of Us All"  
39 \_\_\_\_ Blancos, nickname for soccer's Real Madrid  
40 To's counterpart  
41 Many a dad joke  
45 "OK, the gloves are off!"  
46 Diadem look-alike  
47 After burner?  
49 Show that spawned "MacGruber," for short  
51 Abbr. after a series  
52 Drinks accompanying finger sandwiches  
53 Overly agreeable sort  
56 Monotony  
57 Mad (about)  
58 Chinese dollar  
60 Pairs  
62 Having mucho dinero  
64 Indian honorific  
65 Basics

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



- 66 \_\_\_\_ Felton, title detective of "The Puzzle Lady Mysteries"

67 Japanese dog breed

68 Unfairly enticed

69 Krispy \_\_\_\_

71 Money paid for a hand

75 A.B.A. member: Abbr.

76 Early polytheists

77 In the style of

78 Conventions

82 First name in soul
- 84 Covert \_\_\_\_

85 Nabisco treat with ice cream and cookies

86 Unlike a shamrock

88 Fighting

89 Muscle worked by a pull-down machine, for short

90 Shapiro of NPR

92 Forms from a mold

94 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 96 Guts

98 Singer \_\_\_\_ Lipa

100 Garment worn with a choli

101 Harden (to)

102 Groundbreaking vet legislation of 1944

103 Airport area

104 Devices that often get swiped

105 Certain Muslim

109 "Great" or "snowy" bird
- 110 Just barely open

112 "The way things are going ..."

113 Cry "Uncle!"

114 Skinny pieces of clothing

115 Son of Isaac and Rebecca

119 Bird with four W.N.B.A. titles

120 QVC alternative

121 Snookums

122 Org. with a return policy?

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# su | do | ku

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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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

TALC	TASTEIT	ZAP	BAT
KEA	ECHIDNA	DECO	END
EATTHUUM	BBLEPIE	LIP	
STYRENE	INHDA	ALMA	
MADAMA	TOASTY	ALIAS	
BLINNDD	EEXPERIMENTS		
ABEL	RETAIL	SUSIE	
	PLUSH	EASEL	
KATEMMI	IDDDDLLEETON		
MEDINA	CAROUSE	TYPOS	
LEDA	OBSMAI	OWS	SISI
SPURT	ANTOINE	IRONIC	
SPARRRI	INNGG	PARTNER	
	YENTA	GENIE	
SODOI	STREAK	ERMA	
PPIINNKKY	YANDTHEBRAIN		
FALSE	ERODES	VAINLY	
IRE	STAG	TALENTS	
ZED	FATFINGERS	SYNDROME	
EMU	LILT	BELIEFS	EMIT
REP	OLE	CLAMATO	ASIS



# Obituaries

Continued from Page 23  
from which he retired after 35 years in 2019.

He took pride when seeing the transformation from completing repairs and a fresh coat of paint, enjoyed the camaraderie of his employees and construction teams, and the time with the numerous customers' homes he was welcomed into.

Charlie and Patricia moved to Ocean Pines in 2018 to begin the transition from working to retirement. Charlie felt blessed to have moved into not only a great community, but an area where the neighbors quickly became family.

It comes as no surprise to those who met Charlie that he loved the game of golf. Watching the matches on TV, attending in person, and most of all his time regularly playing on courses from Pebble Beach, California to his backyard in Ocean Pines. He enjoyed walking when he played several times a week, every month of the year. As a member of the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association, he met so many wonderful people and was honored to be the OPGMA membership chair for the past two years.

Charlie was a talented artistic painter. Beginning in high school and dabbling over the years until retirement when time allowed him to revisit his natural ability to masterfully create dozens of landscapes that

adorned their home changing with the seasons.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Patricia Ann Gordon McMichael; their adorable kitty-cat Cece, who was never far from his side; their children, Charles H. McMichael IV (Natile) and Michelle M. Truban (Allen); grandchildren Mason Truban, Mackenzie Truban and Olivia Davis; sister Alice Walsh (Bill); sisters-in-law Cheri Gordon-Patterson, Gerilyn Gaskill (Howard), Theresa Davis (James) and Tara Fairchild (Scott); and brothers-in-law John Gordon (Marge), Joseph Gordon (Cheryle) and Deke Moore; and niece Debbie Cormier; along with many nephews, nieces, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, a great-great nephew, and great-great-great nephew.

He was preceded in death by his older sisters Charlotte-Ann McMichael and Betty Johnson.

Throughout the years, Charlie would often give thanklessly to others in random acts of kindness. From surprising families with a Christmas tree/presents, to secretly buying dinners. There isn't anyone he met who didn't become a friend. He epitomized all of the most important qualities of a person - kindness, compassion, understanding and forgiveness. He spread so much love and laughter with his witty sense of

humor. "To know him is to love him" couldn't have fit more perfectly.

A Celebration of Life, "Charliebration," will take place at 3 p.m., July 30, at the Golden Sands Resort, 10900 Coastal Highway, in Ocean City. Parking is off site at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 10301 Coastal Highway and in the surrounding neighborhood. All locations are a short walk to the resort where you will be assisted to the 22nd floor. Golf attire and bright colors are welcome.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Ave., in Berlin. To send condolences to the family, visit [easternshorecremation.com](http://easternshorecremation.com).

## JAMES "JIM" R. PARKINSON Delaware

Jim quietly went to be with our Lord Jesus Christ with his family by his side on the afternoon of July 3. He was born March 10, 1948.

Jim led a life full of different adventures. In his younger days, he participated in activities with his two children like, scouts, basketball and little league. Later he enjoyed power-sports such as tractor pulling, drag racing, boating and motorcycles. In his middle age years, his interest turned to boarding, raising, training and showing horses with his wife Peggy.



Jim Parkinson

Jim wore many hats, had varied interest and accomplished many goals throughout his life. He was very passionate about others, especially veterans, and showed it through his long tenure as a director of the Legion Riders from Posts 28, 19, and Post 8 in Georgetown, Delaware.

The last few years as Jim was getting sicker he became very close to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Peggy; his son Benny Parkinson (wife Shae); his daughter Lisa Scarbath (husband Steve); stepson Tracy Townsend; four grandchildren, TJ Parkinson (wife Amber), Megan, Jake and Logan Scarbath; two step-grandchildren, Candice Menard and JR Hall; and six great-grandchildren Bryleigh, Brooke, Blaine, Bella Briella and Madison.

Jim touched many people's lives and will be missed by all who knew him.

There will be a Celebration of Life/Memorial Ride held for Jim at noon on Sept. 1 at Wzrd Kustums In Laurel, Delaware.

The ride will leave at 1 p.m. and end up at American Legion Post 28 in Oak Orchard.



OPEN HOUSES



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Daily 11am-3pm	14 82nd Street, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Townhomes	from \$800,000's	Dan Clayland/Coldwell Banker Realty
Fri-Sun 10am-4pm	Memory Lane, Harbour Court, West OC	3BR/4BR/5BR/6BR	Single Family	from \$799,900	Joe Wilson/Coastal Life Realty
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	3BR/2BA	Single Family	starting at \$239,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sat 10am-Noon	304 S, Heron Gull Court Ocean City	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat, Sun & Thurs 10am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wed 10am-Noon	121 81st St. 3 #706, Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sun Noon-3pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat 11am-2pm	409 Sandyhill Dr. Montego Bay, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$355,000	Justin Damadio/Iron Valley Real Estate
Sun 11am-2pm	107 Somerset St. #203 Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$545,000	Joanna Laslo/Beach Real Estate
Sun 11am-2pm	107 Somerset St. #102 Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$570,000	Joanna Laslo/Beach Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	5405 Coastal Hwy. #505, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$649,900	Kim Dixon/RedFin Corp



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# 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., July 25

**SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHT**  
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy a free concert and sunset views over the Isle of Wight Bay. Featuring “Juke Box Heros” (Foreigner Tribute Band). <http://www.ocean.com/things-to-do/>

**CONCERT IN THE PARK**  
White Horse Park Pavilion, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Colossal Fossil Sauce.” Free family-friendly entertainment. Bring chairs and blankets. BYOB permitted, concessions for sale. Held Thursdays through Aug. 22. 410-641-7052

**FENWICK NURTURES NATURE**  
Fenwick Island Town Hall, 800 Coastal Highway, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Stop in to learn how people can live in harmony with nature by reducing the negative impacts of excess nighttime lighting and increasing biodiversity in landscaping. Free snacks, crafts and raffles.

**STORY TIME: THE THREE LITTLE SUPERPIGS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. An adventure story with a new take on an old story. Songs, stories and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014

**PLAY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in 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)

**CAMPFIRE STORIES**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Bring along a sleeping bag or towel to sit around the simulated fire for some camp themed activities. Songs, stories, a craft and a s’more snack. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

**FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE - TEASER!**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12-4 p.m. All prospective customers welcome. The specials room, open for a limited time, features collectibles, signed copies, rare books, sets and vintage books. Proceeds benefit the library. 410-208-4014

**WEEGAMERZ VIDEO GAME TRUCK**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Enjoy a wide selection of games in the high-tech and climate controlled video game truck. Players play in 20 minute turns. Register: 410-957-0878. For ages 12-18 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**LET’S TALK MOVIES: ‘STAR WARS’**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Come to Ocean City’s movie club, where the group talks about classic films and new blockbuster hits. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join in for a LEGO challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-12 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**FIRESIDE CHAT**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books participants have read and want to share. Come and find your next great read. 410-641-0650

**JUGGLING WITH CASCADING CARLOS**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Learn about the ancient art of juggling while Guinness World Book Record holder, Cascading Carlos, hypnotizes with his juggling skills. For all ages. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET**  
*Thursdays* - Nick’s Kitchen + Bar, 14410 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, 4-6 p.m. 215-385-4993, [BeachSingles.org](http://BeachSingles.org)

## Fri., July 26

**ST. GEORGE’S GREEK FESTIVAL**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 12-10 p.m. Featuring a wide variety of authentic Greek cuisine, various vendors and dancing to “The Golden Flame.” Free entrance. 410-524-0990, [www.greekfestivalocmd.com](http://www.greekfestivalocmd.com)

**KANIN WREN’S TAYLOR SWIFT EXPERIENCE**  
Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7-9 p.m. Kanin’s tribute to Taylor Swift is a must see act. VIP experiences available. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/51068051/kanin-wrens-taylor-swift-experience-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

**11TH ANNUAL HUK BIG FISH CLASSIC**  
M.R. Ducks, 311 Talbot St., Ocean City. Weigh ins are each day from 4-9 p.m. and the festivities and there are vendors setup at 3 p.m. at the Tournament Village in the parking lot. [www.bigfishclassic.com](http://www.bigfishclassic.com), 410-213-0325

**CRAFTY WRITERS**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Bring out your inner author with cre-

ative writing games and craft activities. For ages 8 years and older. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**ARTISTIC ARENA: TREASURE CHEST**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Decorate a treasure chest and fill it with treasure. All material provided. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE**  
Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 1-3 p.m. Summer sewing workshop for ages 8 years and older. The group will be working on a fish backpack. Cost is \$20. Register: Debbie, 443-430-4948.

**FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-8 p.m. Friends only night. Pay \$5 each or \$10 per family at the door. Thousands of books for sale, most priced at \$2.50 or less. The specials room will be open. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO**  
*Fridays* - Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, behind St. Luke’s Church. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks available before bingo and at intermission. 410-524-7994

## Sat., July 27

**ST. GEORGE’S GREEK FESTIVAL**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Featuring a wide variety of authentic Greek cuisine, various vendors and dancing to “The Golden Flame.” Free entrance. 410-524-0990, [www.greekfestivalocmd.com](http://www.greekfestivalocmd.com)

**11TH ANNUAL HUK BIG FISH CLASSIC**  
M.R. Ducks, 311 Talbot St., Ocean City. Weigh ins are each day from 4-9 p.m. and the festivities and there are vendors setup at 3 p.m. at the Tournament Village in the parking lot. [www.bigfishclassic.com](http://www.bigfishclassic.com), 410-213-0325

**FURNACE TOWN SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**  
Furnace Town Historic Site (Nassawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 5-8 p.m. Music by The Stringbuzzards (Eastern Shore bluegrass). Beer, wine, burgers and dogs available. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 5-15 years. [www.furnacetown.org/events](http://www.furnacetown.org/events)

**FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road. Dealers

only from 8-10 a.m. Open to general public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thousands of books for sale, most priced at \$2.50 or less. The specials room will be open. 410-208-4014

**RUNAWAY BRIDE FUN RUN/WALK**  
Main St., Berlin, 14 S. Main St., 8 a.m. To participate or sponsor visit [www.WorcesterGOLD.org](http://www.WorcesterGOLD.org). Info: [contact@worcestergold.org](mailto:contact@worcestergold.org), 443-235-6525.

**OCEAN CITY CENTURY TENNIS TOURNAMENT**  
Ocean City Racquet Center, 104 61st St., 9 a.m. Must sign up as a team. Cost is \$40 per team. Register at the Ocean City Racquet Center. <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/racquet/>, 410-524-8337

**ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A ranger-led adventure featuring crafts, puppets, stories and cool props from Assateague Island National Seashore. A different adventure each week. For all ages. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**FREE KIDS CRAFT**  
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring the kids and do something creative with them and for them. Projects change each week. No reservations needed. Free and open to all. [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org), 410-524-9433

**FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET**  
*Saturdays* - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

## Sun., July 28

**ST. GEORGE’S GREEK FESTIVAL**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Featuring a wide variety of authentic Greek cuisine, various vendors and dancing to “The Golden Flame.” Free entrance. 410-524-0990, [www.greekfestivalocmd.com](http://www.greekfestivalocmd.com)

**11TH ANNUAL HUK BIG FISH CLASSIC**  
M.R. Ducks, 311 Talbot St., Ocean City. Weigh ins are each day from 4-9 p.m. and the festivities and there are vendors setup at 3 p.m. at the Tournament Village in the parking lot. [www.bigfishclassic.com](http://www.bigfishclassic.com), 410-213-0325

**SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS**  
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Live music by “Guys in Thin Ties” (alternative 80’s band), kid-friendly entertainment, ice cream and



# Calendar

fireworks. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sundaes-in-the-park/>

**BERLIN FARMERS MARKET**  
*Sundays through October* - Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street, Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Featuring more than 50 farmers, bakers, growers, brewers, food cultivators, distillers, creators and artists. Also free kids art projects, petting zoo, face painting and live music. Today’s market will feature a visit from Santa. <https://berlin-mainstreet.com/farmersmarket/>

**BERLIN FLEA MARKET**  
*Sundays* - Uptown Emporium Parking Lot, 13 S. Main St., Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendor opportunities available. Julie, 410-726-9012; Bill, 410-629-9656

**SEWING FOR A CAUSE**  
*Sundays* - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to sew while making a difference. 410-641-0234

**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., July 29

**FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy half price on your entire purchase, specials room included. All proceeds benefit the library. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**STORY TIME: ROBOTS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a silly boot story time filled with store, games and songs. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**LOCAL AUTHOR ANDY NUNEZ: PIRATES OF THE EASTERN SHORE**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Join local author Andy Nunez and sail with some of the greatest pirates of history as you cruise with waters of Delmarva. For all ages. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169**  
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

**BRIDGE**  
*Mondays* - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-

3971. [www.Worcoa.org/oceancity](http://www.Worcoa.org/oceancity)

**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., July 30

**STORY TIME: ‘SENSORY PLAY’**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**STEM ADVENTURE WITH THE SCIENCE GUYS**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Adventure reveals challenges of defying gravity and electrifying obstacles, all while exploring science principles to navigate and escape. For ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**PLAY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**STEM ADVENTURE WITH THE SCIENCE GUYS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Adventure reveals challenges of defying gravity and electrifying obstacles, all while exploring science principles to navigate and escape. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**JR. LIFEGUARD CAMP**  
Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 5:30-7 p.m., July 30-Aug. 1. Must be a strong swimmer. Ages 7 years and older. Cost is \$75 for residents, \$80 for non-residents. Jr. Lifeguards receive T-shirt and whistle. Register: 410-641-5255, [oceanpines.org](http://oceanpines.org).

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com)

**WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP**  
*Tuesdays* - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, [www.htcanglican.org/activities](http://www.htcanglican.org/activities).

## Wed., July 31

**MOVIES ON THE BEACH**  
Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 8:30-11:59 p.m., Featuring “The Little Mermaid (Live Action).” Enjoy free movies on the beach every Wednesday through the summer. Movie lineup: <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/>

**ADVENTURE BACK IN TIME TO FURNACE TOWN**  
Furnace Town Historic Site (Nasawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Tour through time and soak in the history of this outdoor museum that recreates a 19th century community. Registration required: 443-783-6164.

**PLAY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for imaginative play and social interaction. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**STEM ADVENTURE WITH THE SCIENCE GUYS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Adventure reveals challenges of defying gravity and electrifying obstacles, all while exploring science principles to navigate and escape. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARRY!**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m.

Accio patrons! Join in for a spellbinding adventure with crafts and fun games. For all ages. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**MOVIE MATINEE**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. It’s The Boy Who Lived’s birthday. Celebrate with a movie, crafts and light refreshments. For all ages. Registration required: 410-957-0878. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**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.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT**  
Ocean Pines Yacht Club Pool, 1 Mumfords Landing Road, 6-8 p.m. Featuring swimming, DJ, games and prizes. Cost is \$3 for swim members; \$5 for residents and \$7 for non-resident. No cost if not swimming. Food available. Wednesdays through Aug. 21. 410-641-7052.

**KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**  
*Wednesdays through Aug. 26* - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and information can be found on [www.kiwanisofopoc.org](http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org).

## ONGOING EVENTS

**CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE**  
Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., during August. Choose a mystery adventure from the display to read. Fill out the brief form inside and return it to the library to be entered into the drawing for a prize. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**CREATIVE KIDS CORNER**  
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, during August. Come grab an art kit to create at the library or take it with you. Most supplies included. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**STREAM STATION**  
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., during August. Kids up to 11 years can visit the STEAM Station to take part in crafts and activities exploring science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Take a craft kit home too. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**TEEN STREAM STATION**  
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., during August. 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. For ages 11 years and older. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)



# 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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**WANTED TO BUY:** Vintage  
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# Snapshots



**ART DAYS**  
Attendees of one of the Art League of Ocean City's recent summer Saturday programs are pictured with their creations. All are welcome from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., every summer Saturday, at the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th St. bayside. There's a new project every week. Pictured, far right, is Nolan Diepold of Bishopville and, right, Kayla Diepold of Bishopville. PHOTOS COURTESY ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

## SERVICE RECOGNIZED

At the June 26 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, five members were recognized as Kiwanians of the Month for contributions made within the last several months. Pictured, from left, are President Bob Wolfing, and Kiwanis members Skip Flanagan, Doug Ege, Terri Ulman, Ron Kline and Lyle Dillon.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

## NEW CLUB MEMBER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently welcomed its newest member, Lynne Waugh. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing, Waugh, and her sponsor, Jim Ulman.



PHOTOS COURTESY KIM MOSES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH DECLARED

During their July 2 meeting in Snow Hill, the Worcester County Commissioners recognized July as Park and Recreation Month. Last year alone, 57,812 residents and visitors participated in Worcester County Parks and Recreation activities. (Above left) Commissioner Caryn Abbott is pictured presenting a proclamation for the designation to Worcester County Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados. (Above right) The commissioners are pictured with department officials, front row from left, Kyle Jarmon, Darcy Billetdeaux, Rados, Nick Tolbert and Lauren Ahlers; and second row from left, Kelly Buchanan, Jacob Stephens and Hunter Nelson.



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