



Dogs get last day pool play

Dozens of dogs took to the pool at Mumford's Landing in Ocean Pines on closing day last Saturday. The event helped raised funds for the Worcester County Humane Society.

PHOTOS COURTESY NICK DENNY



Moratorium on site plans stretches out

With no planning director yet on the job, town will continue national search

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) Berlin's moratorium for site plan approval, annexation, and rezoning has been extended once again as the town continues its search for a planning director.

A moratorium, or temporary pause, went into effect on July 8 to halt certain actions of the town's planning commission amid the absence of a full-time director. Site plan approval, annexation, and rezoning will not proceed until the suspension is lifted.

The planning commission's leader, Dave Engelhart, unexpectedly passed away in April. Since then, Rick Baldwin has provided consulting services to the group. A moratorium was proposed earlier in the summer to lessen the burden placed on Baldwin and staff per the director vacancy and unanimously passed by the Berlin Town Council on Monday, July 8.

'This is intended to be temporary ... This is to give staff a bit of relief from having to approve very complex matters.'

— Mary Bohlen
Town Administrator

The purpose is because we are down a planning director," Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said at the initial meeting. "This is intended to be temporary ... This is to give staff a bit of relief from having to approve very complex matters ... [consultant] Rick's assistance has been invaluable, but he is not the planning director. He cannot sign off on things. He gives me solid advice, but he is not the authority."

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See SITE Page 4

School buses experience overcrowding

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) The public school system addressed concerns this week about bus crowding over the first two weeks of school.

The Worcester County Public Schools transportation system is experiencing changes in the wake of

Fiscal Year 2025's budget cuts and a last-minute bus driver retirement, according to WCPS Coordinator of Public Relations and Special Programs Carrie Sterrs.

With fewer students riding the bus to and from school since the pandemic, adjustments to routes and pickup and arrival times have been

made.

Though early school year issues are common as students and bus drivers settle in, many parents have taken to social media since last Tuesday's start to express concerns about high school students forced to sit three to a seat and some students re-

See SCHOOL Page 4

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Elected officials show support for Nichols

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(September 12, 2024) Rules and regulations were laid out last week as the Berlin Municipal Election is officially underway.

While the election is mostly uncontested, except for the match-up between incumbent Shaneka Nichols and challenger Daniel Packey for the District 3 seat, the town's Board of Supervisors of Elections met on Thursday, Sept. 5, to certify the candidates for the Oct. 1 race.

Current Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, District 2 Councilmember Jack Orris, and Nichols were declared eligible to defend their role, while Packey may compete to take the District 3 post from Nichols.

Write-in contenders may still file until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24. However, their names will not appear on the ballots. Granted that no one registers by the deadline, Mayor Zack Tyndall and District 2 Councilmember Jack Orris will hold on to their positions for another four years.

At the Sept. 5 Board of Supervisors of Elections meeting, Town Administrator Mary Bohlen emphasized that absentee ballots, or mail-in voters who cannot physically visit the polls, must submit an application and identify themselves in the correct district to be eligible.

Once the proper forms are certi-

fied by appointed town staff, the ballot will be mailed to the applicant. Interested residents can submit their application paperwork by mail by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24, or in person at Town Hall on 10 William Street by 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27.

For those casting their votes in person on October 1, the polling location, St. Paul United Methodist Church at 405 Flower Street, will open at 7 a.m. The booths will close when the last person who joined the line before 7 p.m. has made their selection. The election group will return to Town Hall at the day's conclusion to tally the tickets.

Bohlen also reminded the board that no campaigning is allowed past a certain point at the polling place. Signs will be present to identify the cutoff point.

"You cannot have election information in so many feet of the facility," she said. "...In a relatively small and mostly uncontested election like this, you do not tend to see much of that campaign paraphernalia anyway... Candidates can't stand outside the door and say, 'Vote for me.' The election board has the authority to stop that."

The Board of Supervisors of Elections is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 5:30 p.m. The



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Prior to this week's meeting, Berlin Mayor and Council members Dean Burrell, Jack Orris, Mayor Zack Tyndall, Jay Knerr and Steve Green gathered in a show of support for the re-election bid of Council member Shaneka Nichols, center, who is seeking a second term on Oct. 1.

town's Facebook page will stream a video of the gathering.

In election news, Mayor Tyndall announced his support for Nichols, who was also supported by her current colleagues on the council.

In a Facebook post, which included a picture of the full council supporting Nichols, "Councilmember Nichols and I are both lifelong residents of the Town of Berlin. We both grew up here and have chosen to

raise our families here. Both of our families have called Berlin home for generations. Over the past four years, I have had the honor of working with Councilmember Nichols on issues affecting the entire Town of Berlin. Her advocacy for our community as a whole has allowed us to advance initiatives including one of the projects we are most proud of, the Berlin Community Center on Flower Street."

Town ethics panel appointment OK'd by Berlin council

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(September 12, 2024) The Berlin Town Council approved the appointment of resident David Ranaghan to a three-year term with the municipality's Ethics Commission this week.

The council unanimously approved Ranaghan for the commission at their Monday, Sept. 9 meeting. Mayor Zack Tyndall said the appointee has worked with hospital ethics boards in the past and is excited to volunteer his time with Berlin.

"I was very impressed with Mr. Ranaghan's resume," Councilmember Jay Knerr said.

The commission's duties include reviewing and enforcing ethics issues within the Town of Berlin, overseeing the financial disclosure forms, and being "integral in our ability to process elections," Tyndall noted.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen echoed the mayor's statements.

"To the point of elections, the portion of the election that this group oversees is the review of the financial

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Ethics commission appointment approved

Continued from Page 3
disclosure forms," she said. "Those are filed by incumbents by April 30 every year and by new candidates when they file for office. The election board reviews things for completeness, but the ethics commission reviews the financial disclosures."

Currently, the ethics group has three members, which is the preferred minimum. Tyndall emphasized that they would like to keep the group to up to five active participants.

Berlin residents may submit their resumes and complete a brief form at berlinmd.gov/mayor/become-involved/ to apply to a board, commission, or committee. Current openings can be found online on the town's website.

The Historic District Commission,

the Arts and Entertainment Advisory Board, the Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee, and the Parks Commission are a few of the teams that residents may lend their time to.

Tyndall wrote in a Facebook post last week that resumes for these roles do not need to be elaborate.

"The reason we ask for a resume is so the selection committee can get to know you before your interview," he said. "We are not looking for decades of experience. If you live in the Town of Berlin and are passionate about a certain topic, we encourage you to apply."

Once the proper forms are submitted, an informal interview with the mayor, town administrator, respective department head, and the current chair of the board or commission to which the individual is applying is

scheduled.

Once the applicant meetings are complete, the interview committee gathers to recommend who is the best fit for the role. Tyndall notes that even if someone is not chosen, the group may inform them of other openings that better align with their experience and skill set.

Once the interview committee decides, the mayor submits the nomination to the Berlin Council for final approval.

Tyndall emphasized at the Sept. 9 meeting that the number of boards and commissions an individual may sit on is limited. Preferably, members of these groups are not permitted to hold positions on more than one committee.

"The ethics commission is one in particular that should definitely not serve on any other group just for the potential of conflict of interest," Bohlen said.

The mayor noted that the decision-makers account for district representation if a vacancy receives a large applicant pool.

"We try to spread that out," he said.

Members of these boards are also primarily residents of Berlin. Tyndall said they often receive applications from individuals who live outside the municipality and want to serve, but as a general practice, recommended volunteers are town residents.

Still, this rule is flexible.

"The parks commission, for instance..." Bohlen said. "There may be someone out there with expertise that they want to bring in who does not necessarily live in town, so it does offer that opportunity. But that does not apply to every board."

More information on Berlin's boards, commissions, and committees can be found on the town's website.

Site plan moratorium extended

Continued from Page 1

The original suspension was set to expire on Sept. 15. It has since been drawn out twice.

The council elected to extend the ban through mid-October on Monday, August 12. Now, per a motion made by Councilman Jay Knerr, seconded by Councilman Dean Burrell, and passed unanimously by the municipality's leaders at its Monday, Sept. 9 meeting, the moratorium is valid until November 15.

The pause will be reviewed at each month's first meeting of the Berlin Mayor and Council. While the hiatus is set to run through mid-November, it may be lifted at any point if deemed acceptable by the governing body. However, the hiring of a planning director would have to be imminent.

"To reiterate, we are here because we still do not have a planning direc-

tor," District 1 Councilmember Steve Green said. "This is the main reason we have a moratorium and are asking for this extension."

Planning Director Dave Engelhart died after a long illness in April after 11 years in the position. The town has been actively interviewing candidates for the position but officials have not provided any public updates on the process.

"We are working extremely hard to get a planning director in place," Knerr added.

While the planning commission cannot sign off on site plans, annexation, or rezoning requests under the ban, they can still meet publicly to discuss conceptual issues. For instance, the group gathered on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m. and is scheduled to assemble again on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

School bus occupancy increases

Continued from Page 1

portedly relegated to standing or sitting in the bus aisles at times.

Sterrs said buses' occupancy levels have increased as four routes to Worcester Technical High School have been reduced. These include two Stephen Decatur High School morning routes, one SDHS afternoon route, and one Pocomoke High School afternoon route. Many high school students report each morning to their home high school before being bused to the tech school for classes.

Sterrs also reported a major logistical issue arose over the summer when a bus contractor elected to end his contract in July, impacting the

transportation situation further.

"Based on prior-year ridership data, that route was absorbed into other routes," Sterrs said.

Sterrs maintained the school system will continue to observe ridership figures while keeping student safety front of mind.

"While occupancy can vary by bus model, WCPS does not exceed the manufacturer's seating capacity, typically 72 or 73 occupants," she continued. "As is done at the beginning of every school year, the WCPS transportation department is closely monitoring all of our bus routes to determine and execute any adjustments that may be necessary."

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OP fire department issues bus safety tips

President urges drivers to remain vigilant, share the road and stay focused

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) As kids officially returned to the classroom, Worcester County leaders urge students, parents, and residents to practice safety during school bus encounters and note changes to the educational system's transportation method.

Drivers across the county must follow all traffic rules when approaching a school bus. In Ocean Pines, first responders prompt residents to practice extra caution during the academic year to avoid unfortunate or tragic incidents.

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste reminds residents that most of Ocean Parkway is a divided highway. As such, vehicles driving in the same direction must stop completely when coming upon a school bus drop-off or pick-up. Drivers traveling in the opposite lane are to proceed with caution. Preferably, cars are to slow down in this situation.

While a median runs the length of much of the Ocean Pines roadway, Enste emphasized that many areas on Ocean Parkway lack a center divider,

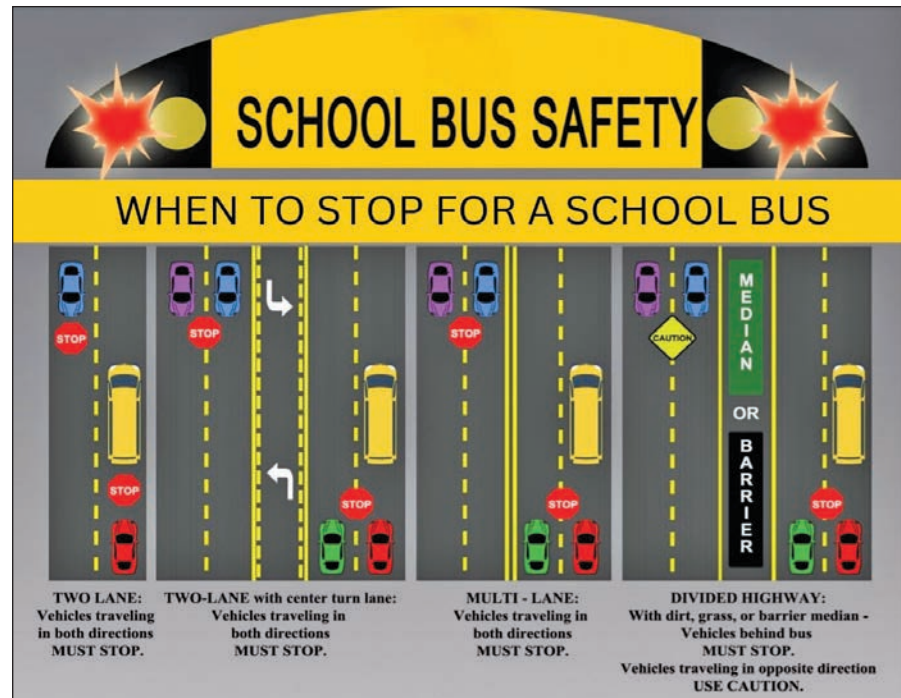
like from St. Martin's Lane to 320 Ocean Parkway and on all intersections and side streets. In these cases, vehicles on both sides of the road must yield while kids get on and off the bus.

The fire company president notes that distractions often cause traffic incidents. Drivers should put away phones, headphones, and anything that takes their attention from the road, especially during peak school bus pick-up and drop-off times.

"It's crucial to stay focused, especially on side streets where unexpected dangers can arise," he said. "Always remain vigilant and remember we must share the road to keep everyone safe."

Enste also provides safety tips for students and parents. While waiting for the bus, kids should stand to the side of the road near a street sign and must be aware of the traffic around them and "never assume that vehicles will stop for pedestrians." During drop-off, children should take five "giant steps," roughly 10 feet away from the bus, to stay in the driver's view and always pay attention to the operator's instructions during the journey to and from school.

As back-to-school season approaches and traffic congestion increases each year, the OPFVD asks the community to use extra caution



SUBMITTED/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Motorists have been reminded over the last couple weeks to understand and follow the rules associated with school buses on local roads, as shown in the above graph.

on the road. Last week, the fire company posted a graphic on Facebook indicating when drivers must stop for a bus. The image can be viewed on the department's page.

"At the end of the day, everyone needs to slow down and remain fully attentive to their surroundings," Enste said. "Tragic accidents can hap-

pen in an instant, often due to distractions that can easily be avoided... distractions, such as using a phone while driving, can have life-altering consequences. Let's commit to staying focused and driving carefully—especially near school buses and bus stops—so that no one else has to experience a devastating loss."

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Berlin electric director gives presentation on future rates

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) At their Monday, Sept. 9 meeting, the Berlin Mayor and Council heard a presentation by Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence on the upcoming increases to Maryland consumers' electricity rates.

Lawrence spoke to an Aug. 14 press release issued by the Maryland Office of People's Counsel that claims customers will "face average annual electricity bill increases of hundreds of dollars in the coming years because of problems in the regional market run by PJM Interconnection, LLC..."

According to Lawrence, PJM is the independent system operator regional transmission organization that runs the electric transmission system for various states, including the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The company coordinates the movement of electricity from generators to local utilities, and the local utilities then distribute the power to customers.

In reference to the press release, Lawrence said that it is a "report that is saying for the next four years, starting at the end of 2025 and up until 2030, we are looking at rate increases" and that the MOPC is blaming PJM for the hikes.

"Customers are facing massive rate increases from potential retirements of old and uneconomic fossil fuel power plants—potential retirements that were entirely foreseeable and that PJM should have planned for," Maryland People's Counsel David S. Lapp said in the release. "Customers will bear the brunt of PJM's planning failures and other dysfunctional market rules, while generation companies will walk away with record profits."

Lawrence argued that PJM is not solely responsible for the rate increases and maintained that the mandated closure of coal-fired plants will

in part cause the rise in consumer prices. According to the utility director, 50% of the plants have already been shut down, and the ones remaining will be gone by 2040.

The required closures, part of an effort to halt climate change caused by fossil fuel energy sources, will be replaced with wind and solar power. Lawrence said these projects cannot be built fast enough to keep up with mandates, and many are still in the planning phase or being ironed out in the court system.

While the alternative energy source providers get worked out, "We're going to have to pay higher capacity charges to guarantee the power is going to flow to each state, each municipality, each power provider," the director said.

Lawrence adds that the proposed Ocean City wind farm, for instance, has been in the works for years and continues to receive opposition.

The utility director said that a silver lining of the situation is that Berlin has peak shaving at its generation power plant located on William Street that will offset capacity charges.

Peak shaving is a cost-saving strategy employed by companies that involve quickly reducing power consumption during intervals of high demand. Lawrence said that for this past year, summer peaking in Berlin had saved approximately \$680,000.

Still, the utility director said residential customer rates are projected to increase by about \$250 a year starting in June 2025. The true impact of Berlin's utility rate will take time to determine. It's a "wait-and-see" approach, Lawrence said Monday night.

"For the period from June 2025 to May 2026, PJM pays generators, which produces the power for the grid, \$14.7 billion annually, which will be collected from customers in the PJM region," Lawrence said. "Beginning in June 2025, capacity costs will be an additional burden...which will add \$250 annually."

Kids art work exhibit planned

(Sept. 12, 2024) Over 250 students in five elementary schools in Worcester County participated in the Worcester County Arts Council's Summer Arts Camp program this year, and a selection of their pieces are on display now at the council's gallery at 6 Jefferson St. in Berlin.

The artwork reflects Eastern Shore farming and agriculture, which the students learned about during hands-on visual and musical performance workshops.

Members of the public are invited to attend an opening reception of the exhibit, set 4-6 p.m., this Friday, Sept. 13.

The Worcester County Arts Council's Summer Arts Camp program is supported by the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club. The exhibit will be on display until the end of September.

Visit the Worcester County Arts Council's website at worcestercountycouncil.org to see images of students' work and view a video of the performing art workshop.



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Group continues Berlin beautification work

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) The Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee continues to prioritize beautification in town.

Since 2022, the committee, in collaboration with Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, has worked to create pollinator gardens, areas of flora and fauna planted to produce nectar and pollen and attract pollinating insects throughout downtown.

Pollinator gardens aim to provide sufficient energy sources, or pollen, to declining insects like bees and other pollinating creatures. These critters are essential to maintaining a prosperous ecosystem and supplying humans with food to meet nutritional needs.

Berlin has committed itself to the beautification effort by creating these spaces in areas across town, such as Henry Park, Heron Park, Stephen Decatur Park, and Burbage Park. Cone-flowers and black-eyed Susans are among the flowers planted.

Committee member Victoria Spice said that the group strives to strike a balance between keeping the gardens effective, tidy, beautiful, and not too wild for Main Street. That means species like goldenrod, often unruly, are not to be planted in excess.

Perennials, plants that grow and come back each year, are prioritized to limit costs, and flora and fauna



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee are pictured with volunteers last year while creating a pollinator garden at Burbage Park, which is also hosts two ping pong tables funded by the We Heart Berlin group through donations.

home to the area are preferred to exotic vegetation.

"We plant things specifically native to Maryland because they are more likely to thrive and grow," member Georgianna McElroy said.

Chair Andrea Weeg echoed McElroy's sentiments.

"Also, because of climate change, it

is hotter and dryer and sometimes rainy; the native plants deal with it better," she said.

Public works manages the gardens' ongoing maintenance, which includes weekly watering and regular weeding. Last month, during the scheduled upkeep, the committee was delighted to find monarch butterfly caterpillars in

the space, proving that the environmental initiative remains effective.

As summer ends and the gardens are officially established, the committee looks toward their fall priorities. Last week, the group planted flowering kale, ornamental pepper, and pink and purple Aster downtown to prepare Berlin for the changing season.

Spice also hopes the team will begin to focus on outreach and programming. Last year, the group raised money via a wreath-making activity and is looking to host a similar event, like seed starting, this winter to help residents prepare their gardens for spring.

The Horticulture Advisory Committee believes that the pollinator gardens have improved Berlin.

"Anytime you plant gardens, it is so eye-catching," McElroy said. "It is a calming, beautiful territory."

McElroy said that the town hopes to create a map soon with all the pollinator gardens numbered so Berlin residents and visitors can take a guided tour. The project is still in the works and might require grant funding to get off the ground.



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Choptank provides county broadband update

Company shares details on service locations, potential grant funding opportunities

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(Sept. 12, 2024) Representatives with Choptank presented officials last week with an update on ongoing broadband improvements throughout Worcester County.

In July, the Worcester County Commissioners asked staff to arrange a meeting with the county's internet service providers to provide a broadband update. And last Tuesday, officials heard from Choptank representatives regarding the company's efforts to expand broadband access.

"Overall, we have offered broad-

band service to 1,112 locations in Worcester County," Valerie Connelly, vice president of government affairs and public relations for Choptank, told commissioners this week. "Today we have 471 active customers."

During last week's presentation, Connelly reported Choptank Fiber began deployment in 2021 and has since passed more than 13,000 locations. In Worcester County, the company has either acquired service locations from Bay Country Communication or has launched its own projects, many of which were funded through ARPA dollars, state infrastructure grants, or county grants.

Officials told commissioners that roughly 42% of county residents with service availability have subscribed to Choptank Fiber. They added that

they expect to surpass their subscription estimates as more people have a chance to sign up for broadband.

"So all 1,100 could take service," Connelly said. "Not everyone's taken it immediately. Sometimes people are waiting to live out a contract that they have with another provider. But each one of those locations has availability at the end of their driveway, or the end of wherever their property is. So whether the current resident or the next resident wants to come in and take service, we can make service available most likely within two weeks because it's already there at the end of their lane or the end of their driveway and ready to go."

Connelly added that Choptank is also exploring other opportunities for future projects. For example, she said the Office of Statewide Broadband recently awarded Worcester County \$1.1 million in grant funding to reach residents with long lanes or a "difficult to reach" premises.

"It provides \$1.1 million for the county to partner with internet service providers to reach people that may have got skipped along the way because they have very long lanes and it was expensive and they didn't want to pay the \$7,000 or \$10,000 or \$15,000 they were quoted in the past by a provider to bring service to their location," she said.

Connelly said Choptank is also working to secure federal BEAD funds, which can be used to extend broadband to unserved locations. She said the state is currently in the "challenge process," during which the county and internet service providers can challenge locations that report no service.

"It's important that any location that is known to be unserved be identified during this process so that this grant funding money can be used to serve those locations in the future," she said.

Company officials also reviewed Choptank's pricing for residential customers, as well as programs to assist low-income households. When asked how much money the county has provided Choptank to expand broadband access, Connelly said it was more than \$1 million.

"You've made significant funding available," she said, "and we appreciate that because it's really helping us reach people who didn't have an opportunity before."

During Tuesday's meeting, the commissioners also approved their consent agenda, which included two broadband expansion grant agreements – one with Choptank and another with Talkie Communications. Each company is proposing a \$500,000 match to a \$500,000 county grant.

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Sports Core Pool reopens following electrical issue

Yacht Club will be open for final weekend, all other outdoor facilities closed

(Sept. 12, 2024) After a temporary closure due to an electrical issue, the Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool reopened on Monday morning, under normal operating hours and with all classes resuming.

The pool is open throughout the week beginning at 6 a.m. for lap swimming, and opens at 10 a.m. to the public each day, seven days a week. Closing times vary by day, and swimmers can check the full schedule posted on the front door and at oceanpines.org.

Aquatics Director Michelle Hitchens said in a news release that the Sports Core Pool was set to close for one more day, likely on a Friday, to complete electrical rewiring work for the building. She said swimmers will be given a full week's notice and the closing will be communicated on oceanpines.org and Ocean Pines Aquatics social media.

Most of the community's outdoor pools are closed for the season, except for the Yacht Club Pool, which will be open for a final weekend this Saturday and Sunday. The pool will open at 8 a.m. for swim members and 10 a.m. to the public. The Yacht Club Pool will close at 6 p.m.

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Officials table campground subdivision bill

By **Bethany Hooper**
Associate Editor

(Sept. 12, 2024) Citing an abundance of shared information, the Worcester County Commissioners agreed to table a bill that would amend accessory building and off-street parking regulations within Worcester's two campground subdivisions.

Following an hour-long public hearing, the Worcester County Commissioners voted 4-2 last Tuesday to table their decision on a proposed zoning code amendment that would allow a second, unenclosed accessory building on campground lots, the elimination of a six-foot separation distance between accessory buildings and other buildings, and a reduction of parking spaces from two to one within campground subdivisions. While Commissioner Eric Fiori agreed last month to sponsor the text amendment, he told colleagues last week that more time was needed to consider the testimony brought before them by several homeowners in White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe.

"I sponsored this mainly to make some changes to it ...," he said at the conclusion of the hearing. "It definitely needs to be tightened up in some areas. But also, a lot of what we learned here today is there's a lot of

things to discuss and I don't think we have enough information right now, me personally, to make this decision. I think we owe it to the residents of both these communities to examine some of these do's and don'ts, things that have come up in this particular hearing, and let us re-address this at a later date."

While the zoning code for Worcester County's campground subdivisions – White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe – allows one detached accessory building per campsite and requires two parking spaces, White Horse Park homeowner Tracey Barnhart submitted a text amendment application earlier this year to change those regulations. The amendment proposes allowing an additional unenclosed, detached accessory building on each lot, eliminating the six-foot separation distance between accessory buildings and other buildings on the same or adjoining sites, and reducing the number of on-site parking spaces from two to one.

According to county staff, the text amendment stemmed from a recent request to permit buildings such as canopies and gazebos within campground subdivisions. However, the department of development review and permitting could not process the permit application, as such a structure would be considered a second

accessory building. It was then that the department was notified of several similar, unpermitted buildings within both the White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe communities.

"Inspections were conducted of both campground subdivisions and notices were sent to the owners," a memo to the commissioners reads. "Various aspects of the proposed bill language were included by the applicant to capture as many existing circumstances as possible."

On July 3, the Worcester County Planning Commission reviewed the proposed text amendment and voted to forward an unfavorable recommendation to the commissioners. During last week's public hearing, Barnhart said she and other residents were simply seeking an amendment to permit canopies and gazebos within campground subdivisions.

"They are not wooden structures, they would not be permanent," she explained. "We're not asking for that. They are temporary."

Commissioner Jim Bunting said he would not support a bill that was not supported by the county's planning commission. He argued the elimination of a six-foot separation and the reduction in required off-street parking could impede fire access.

Fire Marshal Matt Owens echoed

those concerns, adding that such accessory structures could allow fires to spread to neighboring properties.

"It's devastating enough if we lose one property in these campgrounds, and maybe even lose a life," he said. "But if we allow these structures to be so close that one fire spreads to another and then to another unit and that causes a catastrophic event where we're losing multiple lives and multiple properties, and the stress that puts on not only the campground community but then the fire service has to respond to that and deal with that, it's incredible."

However, several property owners in White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe came before the commissioners last week to seek some sort of approval. Many said they were willing to remove the parking reduction or implement other changes to allow their canopies and gazebos to remain.

Assateague Pointe homeowners Stacy Bitner and William O'Brien added that properties within their campground subdivision were different from those at White Horse Park, as they featured courtyards that provided enough separation for gazebos and canopies. Another resident, former fire marshal Dennis Gentzel, added that a six-foot separation was not listed in the codes and standards from the National

See OWNERS Page 14

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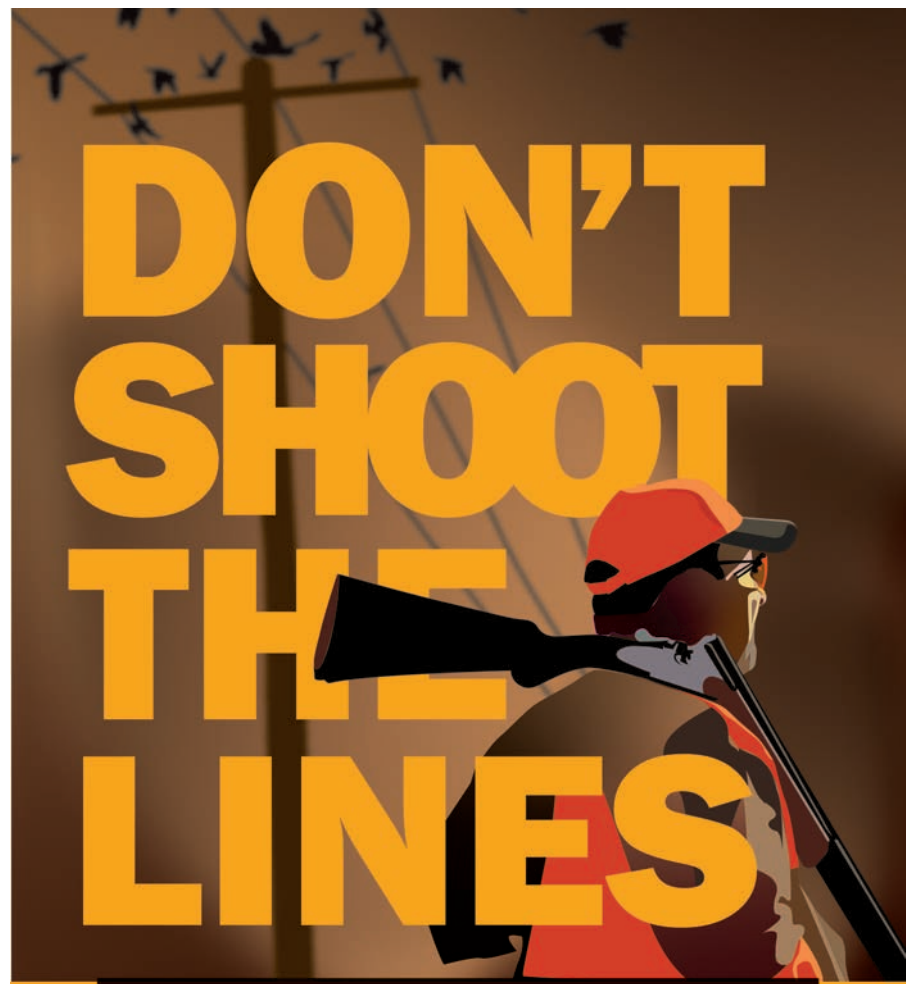
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Hangar roof replacement to get underway at OC airport

Officials approve \$250K in supplemental funding to cover shortfall in project

By **Bethany Hooper**

Associate Editor

(Sept. 12, 2024) A roof replacement project will move forward at the Ocean City Municipal Airport following approvals from the city council last week.

Last Tuesday, the Ocean City Council voted unanimously to appropriate \$250,000 from the town's capital reserve fund and to award a bid to Willow Construction for a roof replacement project at the airport. The decision comes more than two years after the roof at one of the airport's large maintenance hangars was blown off in a summer storm.

"My goal tonight is to finally move forward," Public Works Director Hal Adkins told the council last week.

In June of 2022, a storm blew through the area, destroying a maintenance hangar roof at the municipal airport. Adkins told officials last week that the hangar is currently covered by an old roof located underneath the damaged one.

"The roof that was ripped off was the second roof," he explained.

In the two years since the incident, Adkins said temporary measures have been taken to patch the existing roof and fix the guttering until a new roof could be installed. He said the town also pursued payment through its insurance provider and had sought project bids from local contractors to complete the work.

"Soon after the event, we put a bid package together with a design to put back what was there," he said. "The terminology that is used is in-kind, not betterment. The only betterment, dare you say that, would be the fact that we had to make the 1972 building code compliant."

As the airport is located outside municipal limits, Adkins told the council last week the town must comply with county regulations in replacing the roof. He said the project has been made more complicated by the fact that the hangar is still occupied.

"Add to that, you have an active building with multiple tenants," he said. "So therefore we have to work around them and around their offices. For example, in the second floor of that building, directly under the roof, is your skydiving operation. To reinforce the roof in accordance with the county's wind loads and codes, we basically have to remove the entire ceiling within that office, a large portion of their HVAC system, and other things that are in the way to insert what are known as purlins up and into the roof structure, so that the new roof has something to be attached to."

Adkins said Easton-based Willow Construction had submitted the lowest bid of \$617,000 to replace the roof, and that insurance would provide \$392,000 toward construction costs, leaving the town with a shortfall of roughly \$225,000. He said he was seeking \$250,000 to cover that shortfall, as well as any unanticipated costs.

"I rounded the numbers up to \$250,000, out of the capital reserve fund, with the full intention that if we are lucky we don't have to spend any of the additional \$25,000," he said.

Adkins said construction could begin as early as November. He said work must be completed by April, when business picks up at the airport.

"If it's postponed, it's postponed a whole other year," he said. "And then most likely I really doubt Willow will hold the price for that much longer."

After further discussion, the council voted 7-0 to provide \$250,000 in supplemental funding from the capital reserve fund and to award the project to Willow Construction.

Ocean Downs casino sees slight decrease in revenues

(Sept. 12, 2024) Maryland's six casinos combined to generate nearly \$174 million in revenue from slot machines and table games during the month of August, with Ocean Downs contributing more than \$9.88 million.

Overall, the total was a more than \$12.5 million, or 7.8%, increase compared to last year, the ninth-best single-month total in the history of Maryland's casino program, which launched in September 2010. Locally, however, Ocean Downs saw a slight decrease of 1.8%.

Casino gaming contributions to the state during for last month totaled over

\$73.6 million, an increase of 8.1% from last August.

Contributions to the Education Trust Fund were more than \$53 million, or 8.1%.

Along with Ocean Downs, Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County and Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City reported lower revenues for this August, while MGM National Harbor in Prince George's County, Live! Casino & Hotel in Anne Arundel County, and Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County reported increases.



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Maryland election board warns of text scam

(Sept. 12, 2024) Maryland State Board of Elections officials are warning voters to be vigilant of texting scams that are spreading disinformation about the 2024 Presidential General Election.

Specifically, registered Maryland voters have reported receiving a text message that falsely claims that the voter is not registered and urges them to click on a weblink not associated with the state board of elections.

The text message reads:

"URGENT: To vote in the upcoming

election, you MUST be registered, but public records show you're not registered at [voter address]. Click the link to register before the deadline: md-voter.link/4VczM

Reply Stop to end. AC"

State Administrator Jared DeMarinis said in a news release that these types of scams threaten the legitimacy of the election.

"They are designed to steal identities, sow distrust in the election administration and undermine confidence,"

he said "With election scams and disinformation on the rise nationwide, I encourage every Marylander to be vigilant of any election information sent by phone, mail and email."

He added that voters who want to check their registrations for the upcoming election can do so on the board's official website, at elections.maryland.gov.

The site provides information on voter registration, polling locations, mail-in ballot status, and available ways to vote. Voters are also encouraged to

follow the state board of elections on social media for up-to-date information.

Election board members send official text messages from (833) 572-1128 and will only include links to official ".gov" websites. The messages will never ask for personal information through text messages.

The board has also created a portal for residents to report election disinformation that can be accessed at elections.maryland.gov/press_room/Dis-Misinformation.html.

Owners voice support for zoning amendment

Continued from Page 12

Fire Protection Association.

"Now it's OK to have local amendments that do those things, but as a former fire officer and a former fire marshal I don't really see the need for the six foot ...," he said.

For his part, White Horse Park homeowner Phil Wood said the additional structures being proposed were unenclosed and would not impede fire access. He added that there were several accessory buildings in his community that were permitted without the 6-foot separation.

"That is what's in the law now,"

Development Review and Permitting Director Jennifer Keener said of the six-foot separation. "Back in the 90's there was an appeal to the board of zoning appeals that overturned that separation that had been in the 1992 code, and a 3-foot separation was applied for fire. So a lot of what is out there is subject to that code."

White Horse Park homeowner Liz Snowden said there were other residents within her community who had received permits to construct permanent, wooden gazebos on their properties. Keener said she wasn't aware of her department issuing any per-

mits for those structures.

"It's my understanding that there were lot coverage permits issued by another department for lots that are in the critical area, but that is not the same as us issuing a permit for a building," she replied. "That is what triggered the amendment. There were several that had them that wanted to keep them and we had to turn them away. We said we could not permit it because it's a second accessory structure that was over the limitation."

White Horse Park property owner Charlie Macola said he was one of those residents who had secured a critical

area permit, unaware that he had to seek an additional zoning permit from development review and permitting to construct his gazebo. While Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell said an additional zoning permit was not needed, Keener said it was.

"Obviously there are issues that need to be resolved," Commissioner Chip Bertino said.

At the conclusion of last Tuesday's hearing, the commissioners voted 4-2, with Bunting and Bertino opposed and Commissioner Caryn Abbott absent, to table a decision on the proposed text amendment.



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Parent files lawsuit against Berlin daycare

Activities Depot, former employee accused of mistreatment in civil case

By Stewart Dobson
Editor

(Sept. 12, 2024) Legal difficulties continue to mount for convicted child abuser Heather Ward and her former employer, the Berlin Activities Depot, as the parent of a child in Ward's care at the daycare center is suing both parties for what she says was the mistreatment of her immuno-compromised infant.

The lawsuit, filed by Kearston Cox of Pocomoke City on Sept. 5 in Worcester County Circuit Court, seeks \$30,000 on each of five counts of mistreatment and negligence in caring for her one-year-old daughter. The daughter is listed as a plaintiff in the case as well.

Named as defendants in the suit are Ward, 40, of Berlin, and her former employer, Twisters Inc., the parent company of the Berlin Activities Depot, which houses a daycare center.

The suit contends that Ward, a daycare provider at the center, ignored specific training provided to the staff on how to care for an infant fitted with a G-tube (gastrostomy tube) in her stomach and that Twisters allowed it to happen.

A G-tube is used in babies and small

children to help them breathe and to prevent them from aspirating their food because of their difficulty swallowing.

Because of that circumstance, Cox asserts that a nurse was brought to the center to show caretakers how to handle the infant when the G-tube was inserted and she was receiving tube feedings. Those instructions, the suit continues, included a strong caution against placing the infant face down or with her face covered by a blanket.

According to the complaint, however, a video recording of Ward showed that she "forcefully threw her (the infant) down into a crib face down, covered her head in a blanket, ignored her cries, and left her in that position, completely ignoring the clear instructions she had been supposedly trained on."

In addition, the suit says Ward would "forcefully yank [the infant] by her arm and forcefully bend her legs at the knees, and feet back to her ankles, causing [her] to experience severe pain and/or discomfort, and causing her to audibly scream and cry."

The plaintiff also argues that even though these actions were taken in front of other employees and clients at the daycare, no one "ever reported Defendant Ward's abusive and aggressive behavior to anyone at Defendant Twisters' Daycare."

According to the lawsuit, the consequences of these alleged actions were that the child suffered "great physical pain and has since suffered developmental setbacks causing her to incur disabilities" that are likely to continue.

The suit accuses Ward of one count each of battery and negligence. It also asks the court to find Twisters Inc. guilty of negligence, of being liable for the Ward's actions and being liable for the actions of other unknown employees who "repeatedly failed to observe, report, and not engage in physically abusive behavior occurring at the Day-care."

Ward is awaiting sentencing on nine counts of child abuse involving nine children in her care at the center, after pleading guilty to those charges in circuit court on Aug. 19. Another 81 charges were not prosecuted as part of a deal with the state's attorney's office that allowed Ward to enter an "Alford plea," in which the accused does not admit guilt but acknowledges that the state has sufficient evidence to convict.

Two other former employees of the center, which is owned by Carmella and Mark Solito of Berlin, have been charged with similar offenses following a pair of investigations, one by the county sheriff's office and another by the Berlin Police Department.

As a result of the sheriff's office's investigation into Ward's conduct, inves-

tigators in June arrested daycare classroom worker Catherine Deutsch, 32, of Ocean Pines on 11 charges of failure to report child abuse and four counts of neglect. An Oct. 2 circuit court trial has been ordered in that case

That initial examination of incidents at the center began last November after the mother of an eight-month-old reported that her child had suffered a broken tibia. Video obtained by investigators showed Ward's rough handling of that child and several others.

On Aug. 26, Berlin police, acting on a complaint by a parent, charged Lionel Evans, 57, of Princess Anne, with second-degree assault and second-degree child abuse in connection with an Aug. 13 playground incident. In that instance, Evans is accused of grabbing a 4-year-old by the neck to prevent him from running toward the playground equipment.

When apprised of the situation involving Ward, Carmella Solito said, "We are deeply disturbed and horrified by the circumstances involving the recent arrest of a former employee. The accusations profoundly conflict with our core values and longstanding commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children in our care. We have zero tolerance for any abuse or mistreatment of children. Their safety and well-being are our absolute top priority."

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A collection of students' art work is pictured on display inside the Worcester County Arts Council in Berlin.

Arts Council featuring pieces by local students this month

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) The Worcester County Arts Council will feature work by young and seasoned creators beginning this week.

Over the summer, approximately 250 students from Ocean City Elementary, Showell Elementary, Buckingham Elementary, Pocomoke Elementary, and Snow Hill Elemen-

tary schools participated in the WCAC-hosted art camp.

The lessons, which were free to register, were held at each facility and open to any student enrolled in the institutions, provided they had signed up for summer academy at their respective schools.

The program was funded by the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club. Their support paid for the professional arts educators, many employed by Worcester County Public Schools, and allowed for the purchase of supplies. The instructors coached the young learners across various mediums regarding a specific topic.

Each year, the council, in collaboration with WCPS, chooses a theme that, in addition to having artistic potential, is educational in other areas, like geography or science. WCAC Executive Director Anna Mullis said that 2023's concept was travel and art across the world. This past summer, the content focused on Eastern Shore farming and agriculture.

"Students learned about the importance and benefits of local farming and aquaculture," Mullis said.

The juvenile artists produced creative projects using clay, mixed media, and acrylic mediums with the environmental subject in mind. The camp included a musical component, where the kids attended workshops "focused on signing and creating class compositions using farm animals and the sounds they make," Mullis said.

Representatives from the council visited the schools to offer guidance. However, WCPS art educators provided the bulk of the instruction.

The student-created artwork is on display at the Worcester County Arts Council at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin. An exhibit reception open to the public is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The summer camp was launched by the arts council in 1996. The exec-

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County students to display art

utive director said the program was originally presented at Berlin Intermediate School and required a registration fee to participate. Students from Snow Hill or Pocomoke needed transportation to attend. This situation, Mullis emphasized, created an access barrier for the kids at the southern end of Worcester County.

Mullis said that in 2020, the WCAC reevaluated the initiative and made it more inclusive and accessible “to students in all geographical areas of Worcester County.”

“The partnership with the Worcester County Public School system allowed us to incorporate the camp program into their summer academy schedule, providing an opportunity to offer the camp free of charge to a much broader and diverse population of students,” she continued.

Students across the area can sign up for the summer academy program and travel no further than their home school to receive the artistic training.

The annual art camp aims to foster self-expression in the area’s youth.

“Many studies show that engagement and the participation in the arts encourage...creativity, allowing young people to develop a sense of their own identity and value, the imagination, and skills that are vital to our future,” the executive director said.

For instance, according to Americans for the Arts, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing creative endeavors in the United States, students who take four years of arts and music classes score an average of 150 points higher on the SAT than their peers who participate one year or less in similar programs.

The council also hosts their newest exhibit, “Scapes,” through a juried competition. The pieces will be displayed at the WCAC’s location for the next few months.

“The goal of this competition is to encourage artists to interpret their representation of ‘Scapes’ in a literal form such as landscape, cityscape, or waterscape, as well as challenge them to explore it further through the concept of mindscape, moonscape, or bodyscape in their creative process,” Mullis said.

Artists throughout Worcester County and Delmarva were welcome to present creations that matched the theme laid out by the council.

The 33 submitted pieces, among 23 individuals, were judged by local artist and former art educator Marie A. Cavallaro. The council is hosting an open-to-the-public reception on Friday, Sept. 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mullis said that monetary rewards will be announced at 5 p.m. during

See STUDENTS Page 18

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Students to present recent art

Continued from Page 17 the event.

The exhibit will continue to be on display through November 3. All artwork is available for purchase.

The council will also host its annual Paint Worcester County Plein Air competition later this month in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation.

Mullis said that from Sept. 15 to Sept. 20, local and regional artists will be painting outdoors in locations across Worcester County, including Assateague Island. Visitors are welcome to watch the painters at work during these dates.

The pieces will be judged by Jim Rehak, a winning landscape artist from Seaford, Delaware. Rehak received Best in Show awards at the Rehoboth Art League, the Art League of Ocean City, Chesapeake College, and

Plein Air Brandywine. The competition offers a total of \$2,450 to winning entries.

An award ceremony, exhibit, and sale will culminate on Sept. 20 in an open reception at the Berlin Library from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mullis said the creations will remain on display until late October.

“Individual artists are the foundation for our vibrant cultural community,” Mullis said. “Hosting competitions and exhibits allows the WCAC to support local and regional artists and stimulate their artistic talent and creativity. This also offers an opportunity for the community to experience, enjoy, and learn about what our arts community has to offer. The WCAC is committed to increasing the awareness of the value and benefits of the arts in our communities and local economy.”

MCBP planning 4th Marine Debris Plunder for Sept. 22

Local actor will portray Jack Sparrow while assisting with area collection efforts

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2024) Worcester County residents are encouraged to keep local bays, beaches, and streets clean in an organized effort later this month.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program, in conjunction with the Ocean Pines Association, is gearing up to host its fourth annual Marine Debris Plunder on Sunday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The organization will welcome volunteers on foot and by boat as they gather trash from waterways and land.

Participants may fetch debris from the bays, any Ocean City or Assateague beach, or on any road or pathway and take it to the Ocean Pines White Horse Park boat ramp for collection.

Local actor Trey Eversman will play Captain Jack Sparrow to help gather the trash and “rally the troops,” MCBP Outreach and Marketing Coordinator Sandi Smith said. He and his team will also ensure that the collected items are weighed and disposed of properly.

The initiative was born out of MCBP’s “ghost pot” program, which was launched in 2009 to retrieve abandoned crab pots, also known as “ghost pots,” from coastal waterways. When the cages are left unattended, they continue to capture and kill sea creatures, including Diamondback terrapins, ducks, and otters, unintentionally for years on end.

Smith said that in 2019, the program received funding to host a

“Ghost Pot Rodeo” to educate the community on the dangers of abandoned cages and encourage participation in their removal. That initiative has since transitioned into the annual Marine Debris Plunder. Volunteers may collect any debris they encounter on land or by boat and take it to the event organizers to dispose of.

“As a boater, you see stuff out there like a big piece of debris, you’ll put it on your boat, but then what are you supposed to do with it?” Smith said. “We are encouraging people to get out there, grab the big stuff, and give it to us. We have had boaters call us and tell them they see stuff but don’t know what to do with it. It is a good outreach event to amend this issue.”

While not required, boaters are encouraged to register online prior to Sept. 22 and will be provided with tools like a bucket, tarp, gloves, and a net. However, if individuals or teams decide to participate the day of, they are welcome.

“Boaters are encouraged to register, but only if they want their equipment ahead of time,” the outreach coordinator said. “If it’s a beautiful day and they decide to hop on their boats, they can just stop by.”

On-land volunteers are also encouraged to attend. Any trash found on the beach or on pathways can be taken to White Horse Park for collection and weigh-in. Participants will be given gloves and a tally sheet. Smith said it is vital they keep track of the amount and type of trash for future grant applications.

According to Smith, debris continues to plague the area and does not seem to be slowing down.

“It would be great to say we have

See PARTICIPANTS Page 19

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Participants will scour land, sea for plastic, other debris

Continued from Page 18
seen a decrease in trash, but we haven't," she said. "It is a coastal issue ... When you live in coastal regions, it is windy, and trash blows. In our area, we see a lot of plastic bags, cigarette butts, water bottles, and plastic bottle caps. It is crazy how many of those you find."

Smith wonders if a plastic bag ban would reduce the number of debris found but maintains that these kinds of restrictions are hardly received well.

A ban on single-use plastic bags and a 10-cent fee for paper or reusable bags went into effect in the City of Salisbury on July 1, 2023, and ran into resistance.

The ordinance was amended in October of that same year following feedback from establishments who were already offering paper bags to customers at no cost. According to a press release issued by the municipality on the modification, a business should not charge for any paper bag that "a food service facility gives a customer or third party delivery service to take food sliced or prepared to order from the food service facility; a pharmacy gives to a patient or customer that contains a prescription drug; or constitutes an essential part of the packaging of the product, the product itself, or which was packaged in such manner at the time of manufacture."

"People will not be receptive to a plastic bag ban," Smith said. "There is an expense and a behavioral change that comes with it. It is beyond education; it is just what you're used to...It's easy to be an armchair advocate, but there are people who don't understand, and we have to respect each other's values. You can say the plastic will kill a bird or the turtles, but unless people see it for themselves, they likely won't change."

While outright bans for Worcester

County remain out of the question, MCBP hopes programs like the Marine Debris Plunder will help to keep our waterways and beaches clean and encourage the community to aid in the effort.

Ron Jon Surf Shop is funding this year's event, and Smith said that many local businesses have started instituting environmentally conscious measures.

"The good news is a lot of local restaurants are becoming environmentally responsible," she said. "A lot have started handing out recyclable to-go boxes. More and more of our restaurants understand that this is a valuable addition to our resort."

Mother's Cantina, for instance, uses compostable, biodegradable sugarcane-based alternative takeout containers. Additionally, the advocacy group FoodPrint, dedicated to encouraging the least environmentally damaging food choices, reported that in 2020, Maryland became the first state to prohibit restaurants, cafes, food trucks, and supermarkets from packaging foods in foam.

Volunteers may register for the Marine Debris Plunder on the MCBP's website at coastalbays.org/register-your-trash/marine-debris-plunder-registration/. A t-shirt will be provided while supplies last.

Any questions about the event can be sent to Smith at sandis@md-coastalbays.org.

'You can say the plastic will kill a bird or the turtles, but unless people see it for themselves, they likely won't change.'

MCBP Outreach and Marketing Coordinator
Sandi Smith



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Actor Trey Eversman, pictured as Jack Sparrow, stands behind a collection of ghost pots recovered during a previous Marine Debris Plunder.



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Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Town needs right fit for planning director

There's no such thing as a "plug and play" planning director who can be put behind a desk in any town or county and begin to get things done.

Aside from being required to understand, interpret and explain the local compendium of land use rules and regulations, planners also have to know their audiences and how well they will accept their advice and recommendations.

Because land use regulations can be such a tangle of definitions, references and the law, explaining their applicability in certain circumstances even to experienced lay people can be tough.

That is just the world of planning and zoning, and is why the Berlin mayor and Town Council are being so particular in finding someone to replace the late Dave Englehart, the town's long-time planning director who died in April.

Town officials know they can't just bring in some technocrat who may be able to recite the regulations but can't get the message across clearly. But neither they nor the community would benefit from an eager-to-please softy who just wants to keep everyone happy.

Town officials want someone who not only has the knowledge to defend a well-thought-out position, but also can blend in with co-workers, officials and community members.

That's a tall order to fill but add to that the difficulty many small towns have competing with larger jurisdictions with higher wages, not to mention the soaring cost of housing locally, and qualified candidates probably aren't scrambling over each other to apply.

In the meantime, extending the moratorium on site plan approval, as the mayor and council have done for the second time, isn't the worst thing that could happen. Although some applicants with projects pending are undoubtedly frustrated with this continued delay, the town isn't going to collapse as a result.

It is more important in the long term to get the right fit in a position that plays such a critical role in mapping out the town's future.

Letters

County needs to fix food truck problems

Editor,

I feel I must respond to the comments made by the Worcester County Health Department in reference to mobile food trucks and trailers. That they are willing to work with vendors is just wrong.

When I purchased a food trailer several years ago, I had made a custom food trailer with all the necessary NSF equipment, including a NSF smoker. At that time, I was the owner of the winery in Whaleyville. As soon as food trailer arrived, the health department and county permit office started to deny me use of it.

The health department advised me that food trailers were not allowed and if I wanted to use it, it had to be hooked up to the winery. The county permit office said I couldn't sell food at the winery. So I had to get a text amendment added to the county code. It took a couple months to get that done.

When that was accomplished, it all started. I was told I needed a building permit to hook it to the winery. I applied for a building permit and was told I needed a plumbing inspection and an electrical inspection, a fire marshal inspection, a water

test, a grease trap, a sewer connection and two back flow preventers.

The water connection was the hardest to comply with as environmental health kept changing what hose I needed even though the original hose was NSP compliant. Now this is for a legally tagged and titled trailer. It took me about four months of trying to comply with all their rules and thousands of dollars spent to finally end with a mobile food kitchen, which wasn't allowed in Worcester County but was legal in surrounding counties.

The County Commissioners need to step up and fix this situation. They have known about this for years. It's too late for me.

*Jack Lord
Whaleyville
(The writer is the owner of Costa Ventosa Winery & Brewery.)*

Spend wind lawsuit dollars on flooding

Editor,

I read the news that the plan to build offshore wind turbines off the coast of Ocean City is moving forward and I find that a promising and exciting step for the future of our area. It's exciting because our area will be part of the solution to the climate-related problems directly im-

pacting our wonderful city.

Look no further than the streets of Ocean City, which flood regularly – whether it's due to a major rainfall or just a full moon. The flooded streets are more than an inconvenience; they are dangerous, cause significant economic issues and will only get worse unless we start acting.

That means we must expand our use of clean energy, including solar and wind energy, which will help us be less dependent on polluting energy sources like oil, coal and gas, which are exacerbating climate related impacts to Ocean City and up and down the Eastern Shore.

It appears that Ocean City is going to go to court to try to stop the offshore wind project. Wouldn't it make more sense to spend our tax dollars on raising our roadbeds and installing reverse storm drains to block bay water from coming up into our streets and intersections instead of paying high-dollar legal fees on a lawsuit against the federal government?

We can't pretend that problems like flooding will get better by themselves. We must do more, and building clean energy turbines far at sea is a very smart way to do that.

*Cherie L. McNett
Ocean City*

Women United looking for volunteers

(Sept. 12, 2024) Women United, an affinity group of United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, is calling for volunteers to support its upcoming season of Read to Succeed and Read With Me.

The Read To Succeed initiative aims to help children read at grade level by the end of third grade, when students must move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." The Read With Me program focuses on reading aloud to preschool children to help them develop a love of reading while

improving early literacy.

Organization representatives are looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals, of all genders, who are passionate about children's success.

Volunteers will work as reading mentors with children during school days in local schools at mutually agreed upon locations and times.

Weekly sessions are 30-60 minutes. The programs start mid-October and run through mid-May, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3

p.m., in Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester and Somerset counties for about 26 weeks. All volunteers will be trained and must pass the background check provided by the county school system in which they volunteer.

Interested individuals can get more information on each program or express interest in volunteering by visiting Women United online, calling 410-742-5143 or emailing RWM@uwles.org (Read With Me) or R2S@uwles.org (Read to Succeed).

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Regional orchestra announces 27th season

(Sept. 12, 2024) The concerts for the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra's 27th season, "Adventures in Classical Music," are officially set and begin later this month at venues across the region.

This season will include six Masterworks Series programs, consisting of 17 full orchestra performances, conducted by Grammy-winning Music Director Michael Repper, who is beginning his third season with the orchestra. There will also be four Ensembles Series Concert programs, consisting of eight performances, played by quintets and quartets from the orchestra's woodwind, brass and string sections.

The season's first concert cycle, "Violin Virtuoso," is set for 7:30 p.m., Sept. 26, at the Church of God in Easton; 3 p.m., Sept. 28, at the Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes; and 3 p.m., Sept. 29, at the Community Church in Ocean Pines.

The September concert begins with Johannes Brahms' "Tragic Overture" and ends with Felix Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto," performed by Grace Park, winner of the Naumberg International Violin Competition. The concert will also feature the rarely heard "Symphony in A Minor" by Alice Mary Smith.

The 2024-25 season will continue on Oct. 20 and 26 with MSO Wood-

wind Quintet performances; Nov. 8, 9, and 10 with the full orchestra performing "Fireworks of Fate" featuring Beethoven's "Symphony No. 1" and "Symphony No. 5," and Louise Farrenc's "Overture No. 1" and "Overture No. 2."

The symphony's "Holiday Joy" concerts are set for Dec. 5, 7, and 8, with the orchestra, featuring tenor Jonathan Pierce Rhodes, who is an award winner of the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Young Artists Program, performing holiday favorites. December concerts also include the perennial Holiday Brass Quintet ensemble on Dec. 21 and 22, and the Toast to the New Year, New Year's Eve concert with renowned soprano Kresley Figueroa, who is currently a member of the Kennedy Center's Cafritz Young Artist Program.

The Elizabeth Loker International Concerto Competition at the Todd Performing Arts Center in Wye Mills, set for March 23, will feature three young instrumental soloists performing, backed by the entire Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. This past spring's event attracted 155 instrumental solo musicians competing from 12 countries and 24 states.

The spring concerts will continue with "Mozart's Jupiter", featuring Mozart's "Symphony No. 1," "Symphony No. 40," and "Symphony No.



PHOTO COURTESY MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra is pictured during a past performance.

41" on April 3, 5, and 6. "Symphony No. 1" was written by Mozart as a child, and "Symphony No. 41" was his final symphony, regarded as one of the most ingenious works of Western music ever written.

It will be followed by "Romantic Triumph & Celebration" on May 8, 10, and 11, including brother and sister Felix Mendelssohn's "Symphony

No. 4" (Italian) and Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's "Overture," and Schumann's "Cello Concerto" with Sphinx Competition-winning cellist Gabriel Martins.

The MSO String Quartet will perform concerts on Feb. 8 and 9. Concluding the season, the MSO's Woodwind & Strings ensemble will perform on May 17 and 18.

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Calendar

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

Thurs., Sept. 12

OC BIKEFEST

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Featuring Vendor Village and food and beverages from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Ocean City Inlet will feature concerts, Wall of Death, official merch, food and beverage from 3-11 p.m. <https://ocbikefest.com>, 410-289-6733

2024 ROBERT E. WARFIELD MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT RESERVATION DEADLINE

Held Sept. 19, rain or shine at the Ocean City Golf Club. Team reservations by Sept. 12: www.agh.care/golf. Benefiting Atlantic General Hospital. Raffle tickets available online. 410-641-9858

KONBIT @ THE POCOMOKE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Pocomoke Community Garden, 327 Clarke Ave., Pocomoke City, 9 a.m.-noon. Drop by and help with fall prep at the garden while learning about one of the oldest Haitian traditions still practiced today. Weather permitting. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: THE NAPPING HOUSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Shhhhhh!!! People and animals are sleeping! Will they wake up? Find out at story time! We will have a fun craft, songs and a story. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. A variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GROWING UP WILD: WHO LIVES IN A TREE?

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Learn all about the kinds of animals that live in trees through a variety of activities. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SPEC TENNIS CLUB OF OCEAN PINES OFFERS FREE INTRO CLINICS

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 6 p.m. Free introductory clinic for Ocean Pines residents. Paddles provided and players of all abilities are welcome. RSVP: 516-508-0313, oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

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

Fri., Sept. 13

OC BIKEFEST

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Featuring Vendor Village and food and beverages from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Ocean City Inlet will feature concerts, Wall of Death, official merch, food and beverage from 3-11 p.m. <https://ocbikefest.com>, 410-289-6733

MAHJONG CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a fun morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring our own tile set. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Join in for STREAM activities and socialize with other homeschool families. For ages 5 years and older. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK DISCUSSION: 'WHAT STORM, WHAT THUNDER'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join in for this community read. Copies of the book are available at the library circulation desk. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$14 for a one-crab cake sandwich platter, \$24 for a two-crab cake platter and \$10 for a crab cake sandwich. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Carry-out or eat in.

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., Sept. 14

OC BIKEFEST

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Featuring Vendor Village and food and beverages from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Ocean City Inlet will feature concerts, Wall of Death, official merch, food and beverage from 3-11 p.m. <https://ocbikefest.com>, 410-289-6733

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

Holy Trinity Cathedral (Anglican), 11021 Worcester Highway, Berlin, 9 a.m.-noon. A gently used clothing giveaway for men, women and children in need.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Cpt. Vince Cannuli will focus his presentation on fishing for Sheepshead, offering insights on habitat and sharing tips on bait, tackle and variety of easy to make rigs. All are welcome. 410-641-7662

FREE COMMUNITY SHRED-IT EVENT

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring old documents you want to get rid of. Donations of nonperishable food items are encouraged. Everyone is welcome. Limit 3 boxes per family, no businesses. Also tour the 200-year-old church.

BBQ CHICKEN SALE, BAKE SALE & RAFFLE SALE

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. 1/2 BBQ chicken platter with two sides, roll and drink for \$15. 1/2 BBQ chicken and roll and drink for \$12. Proceeds to benefit St. Paul United Methodist Church Homecoming.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., Sept. 15

OC BIKEFEST

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Featuring Vendor Village and food and beverages from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Ocean City Inlet will feature concerts, Wall of Death, official merch, food and beverage from 3-11 p.m. <https://ocbikefest.com>, 410-289-6733

ANNUAL HOMECOMING

New Bethel United Methodist Church, 10203 Germantown Road, Berlin, 3 p.m. Rev. Dr. Roxie Dennis, guest pastor. Info: Annette Purnell, 443-513-1420.

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. <https://berlinmainstreet.com/farmers-market/>

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

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

Mon., Sept. 16

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m., bring your own beverage. Speaker will be Dr. Adam Hoffman from Salisbury University. His topic will be "The Elections of 2024."

STORY TIME: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIBER ARTS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Bring your own fiber art project (crochet, knitting, etc.) and join in for a casual meet up to work on projects. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PRESCHOOL MESSY PLAY

Bayside Park at Third Street, Third Street, Ocean City, 1-2 p.m. Children, 2-4 years old, explore different textures and sensations. Cost is \$22, \$18 for OC residents. Guardians must participate with their child. 410-250-0125, askrec@oceancitymd.gov

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Group meets twice a month to discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. Focus will be on "Kristin Lavransdatter" Book 3 by Sigrid Unset. 410-208-4014, 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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: A ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK EVENT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m.

Calendar

The Worcester County Department of Emergency Services will speak about how to be ready in an emergency situation.

One lucky winner will receive a survival pack. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DELMARVA CHORUS OPEN HOUSE/GUEST NIGHT

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. All ladies are invited to attend and spend an evening with the group and find out all about the Delmarva Chorus. Mary, 410-208-4009, www.delmarvachorus.org

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., Sept. 17

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy, followed by Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information, if you can. Registration requested: 410-208-4014.

STORY TIME AT THE PARK

Cypress Park Playground, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and outside play. Weather permitting. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: 'HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after

to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH COOKING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Join Michelle from Ocean Pines' Casita Linda as she teaches participants how to make a Mexican dish. All materials provided while supplies last. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

LOTERIA

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. Come sample Hispanic treats and play Loteria while celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. For all ages. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

1ST ANNUAL QUARTER AUCTION

Worcester County Developmental Center, 8545 Newark Road, Newark, 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 (include 1 paddle). Additional paddles are \$5. All In Paddle is \$50 (no need to attend to win). Purchase tickets at WCDC or on Eventbrite. 410-632-2382

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

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.

Wed., Sept. 18

BIARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Online Zoom call on the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn through exploration, curiosity and creativity during the sensory stay and play. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m.

Drop in for a game of strategy that dates back 5,000 years to Mesopotamia and Persia. All skill levels welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles and leave with a new one. Don't have a puzzle but still want one? That's OK too. Puzzles must be in their original box. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK TED TALK

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Listen to and discuss the different TED Talks about the 2010 Haitian earthquake. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORYTELLERS THEATER TROUPE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. First meeting of the new theater troupe. Do some simple theater class exercises and learn different roles in a theater production. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-632-0650

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and information can be found on the website and Facebook. www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

BOOK CHARACTER SCAVENGER HUNT

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Sept. 16-27, all day. Stop by to grab a scavenger hunt sheet and search the Kids and YA area's for book characters. Finish the hunt to reveal a secret message. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

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Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FURNACE TOWN SUPPORTERS RECOGNIZED

During the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester Awards ceremony at the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill Aug. 20, the commissioners named the Friends of Furnace Town as a Group/Team Spirit Award recipient. The Friends of Furnace Town volunteer group has contributed over 1,700 hours and over \$65,000 in-kind hours to support Furnace Town, a 19th century village of the Nassawango Iron Furnace, in its mission to provide quality experiences for visitors and to keep Worcester County's heritage alive. Pictured are members of the group with their award and the commissioners at the meeting.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

MEMBER INDUCTED

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently inducted new member Tim McMullen, who also serves as the founder of the MaryMac Foundation. Pictured with McMullen, center, at the induction ceremony are his sponsors, from left, John Hult and John Hanberry.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

NONPROFIT DONATION

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing, left, poses with Worcester GOLD Executive Director Nicholas Canford and a \$2,000 check the club donated to the local nonprofit organization at a recent meeting.



COUNTY AWARD

During the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester Awards ceremony at the Worcester County Government Center Aug. 20, the commissioners named Go Green OC a Group/Team Spirit Award recipient. Go Green OC, consisting of 24 community volunteers, runs the largest composting operation on the Eastern Shore, diverting millions of pounds of waste from the landfill and promoting recycling and composting at community events. Pictured are members of the group with the commissioners at the meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

CLUB OFFICERS ELECTED

The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club recently elected officers for the 2024-25 year. Pictured, from left, are new officers Mike Simcock, secretary; Jennifer Bodnar, president; Margaret Mudron, treasurer; and Arlan Kinney, sergeant at arms. The club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

RETIREMENT RECOGNIZED

Worcester Commissioner Ted Elder is pictured presenting a commendation to Plant Operator III Russell Blizzard for his service to the county and the public for 27 years. Blizzard, who will retire at the end of August, maintains, inspects, and repairs water and wastewater systems.

Navy retires longtime Pines resident's jersey

(Sept. 12, 2024) Bob "Reif" Reifsnyder, an Ocean Pines resident for more than 30 years, was once the top college football player in the country, winning the Maxwell Award in 1957 for the Navy Midshipmen.

Reifsnyder had his jersey number, 58, retired during halftime ceremonies last Aug. 31, at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis.

"It's a great honor and they only do it for a few people," Reifsnyder said in a news release. "But the big thing is, I've always looked upon those type of things as honoring your team, because if you weren't on a good team with good players, you wouldn't go and get that kind of recognition."

Navy would only lose two games from 1956-57 during Reifsnyder's heyday, and the team finished ranked number five in the country in 1957.

"We worked hard, and we also had great coaching," he said. "It was a good couple of years that I had there."

During halftime at Saturday's game, Reifsnyder stepped back onto the field for what he said was a surreal and humbling experience.

During his playing days, the crowd would chant, "Reif! Reif!" when he was on the field. On Saturday, Reifsnyder said he could hear some of his former classmates doing that familiar chant from the stands.

"It was just a great feeling, and it brought back a lot of great memories," he said. Reifsnyder stuck around for the game, as the Navy Midshipmen went on to win 49-21 over the visiting Bucknell Bisons.

Reifsnyder said he still enjoys attending Navy games on a regular basis.

"It's one of the benefits of living over here in Ocean Pines – we're only a couple hours away," he said. "I watch some of the spring practices, and every once in a while a full game. And, of course, I got season tickets. I've never lost touch with people there."

He added that he made a lot of good friends in school, not just from football, but from his classes.

"It wasn't the easiest thing in the world, but it was a great experience going to the Naval Academy, and obviously the accomplishments we've had in football just made it even better," Reifsnyder said in the release.

Reifsnyder ruptured his Achilles tendon during the preseason of his senior year and did not play. He graduated from the Naval Academy, but a medical discharge prevented him from serving.

"In today's world I don't think that would have happened, and it really disappointed me, because I was looking forward to a career in the Navy," he said. "I went there with the idea of being a pilot, and then I guess between my size and my eyes that got ruled out. But I was thinking of going into the Marine Corps, and then this leg issue happened, and that was it."

Despite not playing his senior year, Reifsnyder was drafted into the NFL by the Los Angeles Rams. However, he never played for the team because of his injury.

"They didn't have MRIs in those days, so I got hurt in August and they didn't operate on me until March, and you can imagine what happened in the meantime," he said.

The Rams later traded Reifsnyder to the New York Giants, where he remained on injured reserve.

"The next year, the AFL opened up, so I took a jump and I went over there. But I just couldn't compete anymore," he said. "You have to be 100% to play in pro football, and I never was."

Instead of playing football, Reifsnyder would go on to have a long career as a schoolteacher and administrator – and as a coach.

"I was a dean of students in charge of discipline at two big high schools on Long Island, and the head football coach," he said. "And in between those two high schools, I coached for six years at Columbia University."

Reifsnyder and his wife, Sandy, ended up in Ocean Pines because his sister-in-law owned property there and introduced them to the area.

"We love what Ocean Pines has. It has everything," he said.

Reifsnyder is an avid golfer, and he also owned a boat when they first moved to the community, and they became regulars at the marina.

"It was close to Navy, and also my kids are up in New York, so it was close to them," he said. "We've had a great life, and we've have made a lot of good friends here. We have a great golf course with great people play with. I've been here 30 years now and enjoyed every minute of it. My wife and I love it here."

Reifsnyder was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1997.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Famed Navy football player and current longtime Ocean Pines resident Bob Reifsnyder is pictured during his college playing days in the 1950s.

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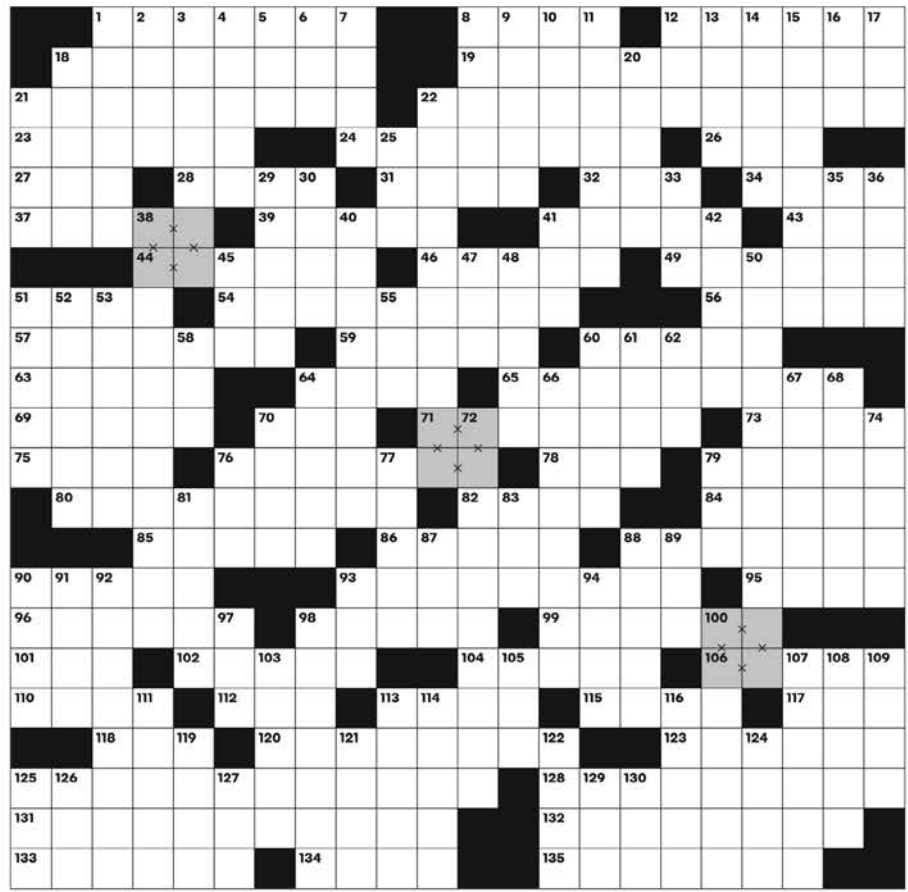
PRODUCT INTEGRATION

BY CHANDI DEITMER AND MATTHEW STOCK / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Chandi Deitmer, of Cambridge, Mass., writes puzzles for Elevate Labs, which produces a brain-training app. Matthew Stock, of Gainesville, Fla., is a master's student in school counseling. As fellow math lovers, this puzzle's theme is a tribute to all of the math teachers they've had who inspired their curiosity and love of learning.

Note: Each square in the shaded areas is to be filled with a numerical digit.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "My hero!"
 - 8 Demonstrate
 - 12 Lentil-based stew from 42-Down
 - 18 Wintertime traction aid
 - 19 Magazine with "Maison" and "Enfants" spinoffs
 - 21 Save money on one's city commute, say
 - 22 One use of an endowment fund
 - 23 Kitchen sampler
 - 24 That's a wrap!
 - 26 Complete group
 - 27 Scrape (by)
 - 28 Hermanas de su padre
 - 31 Ecosystem formed by polyps
 - 32 Goof
 - 34 Lose, as layers
 - 37 West Coast N.C.A.A. conference that lost 10 teams in 2024
 - 39 Cries plaintively
 - 41 "Same!"
 - 43 Newark alternative, in brief
 - 44 Typical length of February
 - 46 Lauds
 - 49 Walking
 - 51 Visual file format
 - 54 Oscar-winning actor in Farmers Insurance ads
 - 56 Writer whose work is hell to get through?
 - 57 Surgeon's co-worker, casually
 - 59 In which little gloves are worn
 - 60 Long-lasting lip makeup
- DOWN**
- 1 "One moment!"
 - 2 ___ de rire ("dying of laughter;" in French)
 - 3 Coming-of-age celebration
 - 4 Pac-Man platform
 - 5 Jazz trombonist Dickenson
 - 6 Period piece
 - 7 For which one might ask for forgiveness
 - 8 Do in, biblically
 - 9 "A Little Devil in America" writer Abdurraqib
 - 10 Like one Freudian stage
 - 11 At the bottom of the standings, perhaps
 - 12 Pop-___ (book genre)
 - 13 "It's too bad, but ..."
 - 14 Brightly colored birds, often
 - 15 Winter Olympics event
 - 16 Filmmaker Aster
 - 17 Like many Christmas ornaments
 - 18 Surfer's hand sign
 - 20 Inbox greeting
 - 21 Accelerate, with "up"
 - 22 Weight gained at the start of college, informally
 - 25 The Magic, on scoreboards
 - 29 Not out
 - 30 "___ who?"
 - 33 Hundred Acre Wood resident
 - 35 Awards feat, for short
 - 36 Take out
 - 38 Military honor with fired artillery
 - 40 "Are you for real?"
 - 41 Hilton ___, Pulitzer-winning critic for The New Yorker
 - 42 See 12-Across
 - 45 Performs at a wedding, say
 - 47 Early L.S.P.
 - 48 ___ suite (attached living space)
 - 50 Squad for the Invisible Woman and the Thing
 - 51 One table in the high school cafeteria, maybe
 - 52 Left no doubts about
 - 53 Bring to a boil
 - 55 Executive deg.
 - 58 Web-feed inits.
 - 60 Clues for bird-watchers
 - 61 Squirt
 - 62 Wake-up times, for short
 - 64 Like Santa after Christmas, presumably
 - 66 Noted leader of the Onondaga
 - 67 Scandalous story
 - 68 Longed (for)
 - 70 Too low, musically
 - 72 Always-open workout spots
 - 74 Soft leather
 - 76 Big-budget expense for a Marvel movie, for short
 - 120 Like a grass-roots approach
 - 123 Specialty of Bordeaux
 - 125 Aces
 - 128 Press-on beauty products
 - 131 Midtown Manhattan hot spot ... or each of this puzzle's three shaded regions?
 - 132 Reacted to a sudden noise, say
 - 133 Assent that might be accompanied by eye-rolling
 - 134 Colada fruit
 - 135 Bicycles built for two
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 77 Clear up, in a way
- 79 ___ de vie (fruit brandy)
- 81 Surrealist James
- 83 Stumbling sounds
- 87 Smartphone-service inits.
- 88 Perfume, as at a Mass
- 89 On the ___, (often, informally)
- 90 Picket-line crosser
- 91 Transportation division
- 92 Lynne Cheney portrayer in 2018's "Vice"
- 93 Turnt
- 94 "Aw, darn!"
- 97 Crime-series spinoff with more seasons than the original
- 98 Mug alternative, at a coffee shop
- 100 One-fifth of a British pound
- 103 Letters of pride
- 105 Where Ross teaches paleontology on "Friends," in brief
- 107 Contradicts
- 108 Exclamation after misunderstanding some Gen Z slang, say
- 109 Starchy side, familiarly
- 111 Ned who composed an operatic version of "Our Town"
- 113 Exacting
- 114 ___ Strait, waterway bordering Japan
- 116 Edit
- 119 Lhasa ___
- 121 Like the New Year festival Songkran
- 122 [That's ridiculous!]
- 124 Golfer Jon
- 125 Pen
- 126 Word with black or bow
- 127 Suffix with doomer or consumer
- 129 French menu phrase
- 130 Reunion attendees

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HARD - 21

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

UNDRESSES	MAJORS	SIN
PARISTEXAS	TIMELAPSE	
DOUBLECLICK	SECONDMATE	
OHMS	RADIOSPEAK	COD
ALEX	DEED	KITE
ITSABET	EBILL	EYEMASKS
RAPDUO	ONEAFTERANOTHER	
ALIST	CLOUNK	UMPS
NOR	POL	ASFARAS
NIGHTBIRD	IPO	OHH
THISBEARS	REPEATING	
END	NYU	RAGEROOMS
BASED	LEGLIFT	ARO
ACT	AIDE	OUTDO
THEMUMMY	RETURNS	ALLOWS
HEARTIES	VALET	CLEARLY
DIED	CENT	MATS
ELI	STARKILLER	GASP
BACKUPCOPY	PAIROFPANTS	
BRAINDUMP	MALLSANTAS	
SAMADAMS	RESURGENT	



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BERLIN HOSTS MAIN STREET BLOCK PARTY

Main Street was closed in Berlin last Saturday for the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's Small Town Block Party. The daylong event featured live music, bounce houses, craft beers, a spice contest and sidewalk sales by town merchants.

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Vienna Boys Choir concert coming to resort

(Sept. 12, 2024) The Vienna Boys Choir, one of the world's most renowned choirs, will perform at the Ocean City Convention Center at 7 p.m., Dec. 10.

The event, presented by the Ocean Pines Association Recreation and Parks Department, promises a memorable evening of Christmas music and classical masterpieces.

Event Coordinator Kevin Powell said in a news release that he was asked to think outside the box to develop fresh and new event programming.

"Having heard them perform in 2022, I thought this would be a great event for Ocean Pines and the surrounding area," he said. "It would be enjoyed by many people as a Christmas concert, and it would also bring some revenue to the Rec Department and potentially build a relationship with their management agency. We would love to be able to do this sort of thing more often and bring more world-renowned artists to our area."

Powell added that the demand for tickets has already been high.

"I've had people clamoring for tickets already because it's the first time they've ever come to our area, and they are one of the finest choirs on the planet," he said.

The event will be held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, because of the lack of an adequate venue in Ocean Pines for a concert this



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Vienna Boys Choir are pictured. The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department has booked the international choral group to perform on Dec. 10 at the convention center in Ocean City.

large.

The Vienna Boys Choir has been performing across the globe for six centuries with a purity of tone, distinctive charm, and popular repertoire. The chorus is composed of four touring choirs that hail from dozens of nations and together give over 300 concerts a year around the world.

Christmas in Vienna will showcase the musicians in a program featuring Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs, and holiday fa-

vorites.

The Vienna Boys Choir is a private, nonprofit organization that relies on sponsorship and donations. The choir maintains a primary school, and junior and senior high schools. Three hundred boys and girls between the ages of six and 19 attend the choir's schools in Vienna's Augarten park. They all receive individual voice lessons and sing in one of the choirs. About a third of the students go on to become music professionals.

The 100 boy choristers, between the ages of 9 and 14, are divided into four choirs. Since 1924, the boys have sung over 1,000 tours in 100 different countries, resulting in 29,000 performances. The Vienna Boys Choir's singing tradition is listed by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage in Austria.

Tickets range from \$40 to \$70. For more information, or to buy tickets, contact the Ocean Pines Association Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.



OPEN HOUSES

Sept. 12 - Sept. 19



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, Harbor 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
Saturday 10am-1pm	722 Mooring Road #A102, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$365,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	304 S. Heron Gull Court, Ocean City	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	8814 Hunting Hound Rd, Berlin	3BR/3BA	Single Family	\$649,995	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Tuesday Noon-2pm	377 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday 11am-1pm	304 S. Heron Gull Court, Ocean City	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday Noon-2pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 3-5pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	19 High Sherrif Trail, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$549,990	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 11am-1pm	300 Robin Dr #318, Ocean City	1 BA/Studio Apt.		\$289,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
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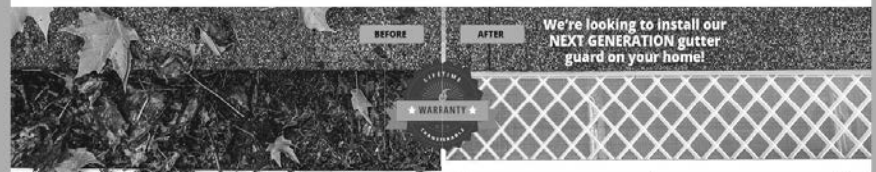
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