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## FIDDLING IN BERLIN

The 32nd Annual Berlin Fiddlers Convention was held in Berlin last week. Above, town residents and visitors are pictured on Main Street taking in the live entertainment.

## Knupp accepts deal on misuse of money

Hit-and-run victim's mother gets probation, as judge orders foundation to close

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(Sept. 27, 2024) Tiffany Knupp, the founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising charitable funds in her son's name, will be placed on probation after entering an Alford plea this week to one of nine charges filed against her in an embezzlement case.

In Worcester County District Court Tuesday, Knupp, 43, entered an Alford plea to theft \$1,000 to under \$25,000, following an investigation involving the Gavin Knupp

Foundation, a nonprofit she helped start following her son's death.

As a condition of her year-long probation, Knupp will pay \$6,500 in restitution and will separate herself from the nonprofit, which will be dissolved.

"The foundation has done tremendous work. It helped a lot of people," Knupp's attorney, Thomas Maronick Jr., said following Tuesday's court proceeding. "And if there's some good that's a part of this, everything that the foundation has done to help people, those funds will be donated to other charities of the board's choosing. So this is a situation where good will continue to be done."

In an Alford plea, the defendant  
See KNUPP Page 3

## State grants provide body camera boost

Pines police seek renewal of contract, new equipment with 'transparency' award

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association Police Department is receiving a series of grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Highway Safety Office, including one allocating \$35,000 for body cameras.

In total, the department received approximately \$61,000 in funding from the state, and OPPD Chief Tim Robinson said the funds will help increase officer visibility at neighborhood events and aid the department's effort to be more transparent.

The financial award from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and

Prevention includes a \$3,891 body armor grant.

Robinson said that the state provides half the money required for the bulletproof vests while the federal government picks up the remaining cost of \$2,485.

The chief added that the equipment is expensive, roughly \$1,500 per officer, and must be updated every five years. The updates are done on a rotating basis rather than all at once.

"If I had to outfit everyone here at one time if we are fully staffed, that is \$24,000 ... but we stagger them," Robinson said. "They are bought as new officers are hired, they are fitted for each officer, or when it needs to be replaced, around five years later."

The \$35,000 that came from the Crime Control and Prevention Office  
See GRANTS Page 4

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# Berlin chamber plans new events for 2025

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The schedule for the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's 2025 events is set.

The organization will host a spring celebration on Saturday, April 19, the Saturday before Easter, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Jazz and Blues on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or the rain date of Saturday, May 10; Spring Cruisers on Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Bathtub Races on Friday, June 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and a new music concert event, with specific planning still in progress, on Saturday July 12 from noon to 5 p.m.

Another occurrence to be added to the 2025 lineup is Chili and Chili Peppers, a day filled with chili and chili pepper competitions, music, and vendors, which will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. A small-town event – this year called the Small Town Block Party and previously known as the Small Town Throw Down – is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6, from noon to 5 p.m. The Fiddler's Convention will kick off on Friday, Sept. 19 and conclude on Saturday, Sept. 20, fall cruisers is expected for Saturday, Oct. 11, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Oktoberfest is slated for Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 4

p.m. The Fiddler's Convention has rain dates of Friday, Sept. 26, and Saturday, Sept. 27.

Alcohol will be served at Jazz and Blues, the July 12 music concert, the chili and chili pepper competition, the Sept. 6 small-town event, the Fiddler's Convention, and Oktoberfest.

At its Monday, Sept. 23 meeting, the Berlin Town Council unanimously approved the chamber of commerce's 2025 schedule, and beer, wine, and liquor permits for the six aforementioned events.

Councilmember Steve Green noted Ocean City and the special event promoter rescheduled the 2025 Cruisin'

from May 15-May 18 to May 1-4 and questioned whether the Berlin Chamber of Commerce was still confident that its cruisers event, set for May 17, would still have a draw without the Ocean City event.

Chamber Director Rebecca Patrowicz, who started in the position on Sept. 11, confirmed that she and her team believe the Berlin cruiser day would still bring in a crowd. She added that the Jazz and Blues, set for Saturday, May 3, the same weekend as Ocean City's 2025 Cruisin', will remain on the set date, as it has traditionally occurred during the month's first weekend, and people like and are accustomed to it.

# Knupp gets probation, foundation dissolved

Continued from Page 1

maintains their innocence but acknowledges that the prosecution has enough evidence to convict them should their case proceed to trial.

In court this week, Maronick said his client had made a mistake and was willing to enter an Alford plea to theft, with the remaining charges to be indefinitely postponed.

"The reason she is here today is she wasn't diligent enough in writing checks out," he told the judge.

Last December, during a divorce proceeding in Wicomico County, it was revealed that Knupp had used the foundation's funds to pay her personal attorney, according to charging documents filed this summer.

An investigation into the foundation's bank account showed two payments – one for \$2,500 and another for \$4,000 – were made to her attorney's law firm.

The investigation also revealed other questionable payments, one involving the foundation's charitable contribution to a local family, and another involving proceeds from shirt sales.

As a result, nine charges – including felonies of embezzlement, theft \$1,500 to under \$25,000, and theft scheme \$1,500 to under \$25,000 – were filed against Knupp.

"Between January 1, 2023, and December 29, 2023, Tiffany embezzled a total of \$12,625 by exploiting her position as the president of the Gavin Knupp Foundation," the charging documents read.

As the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case against Tyler Mailloux, the person accused of killing Knupp's son in a hit-and-run incident, her case has been handled by the Somerset County State's Attorney's Office.

Special prosecutor Wessman Garner said in court that none of the money used to pay Knupp's divorce attorney had been approved by the foundation's board.

"At no point did any of the board members give Ms. Knupp permission to use those funds ...," he said.

As a result of Knupp's Alford plea, Judge Daniel Mumford placed Knupp on unsupervised probation for one year and ordered that she be removed from the foundation and its bank account.

Mumford also ordered that she pay the restitution and dissolve the foundation, with all remaining funds

to be distributed to local charities.

"I think the Alford plea was appropriate in this case," Mumford said.

Maronick said Tuesday he was pleased by the outcome in his client's case. He said for the most part, Knupp had already complied with most of the conditions outlined by the judge.

"Obviously, we would have loved to have had a not guilty acquittal of all charges, have the state dismiss the charges. That wasn't in the cards," he

said. "But this offer was too much to turn down. As Judge Mumford said today, he believed the Alford plea was appropriate. We believe the same as well."

While Knupp's case has concluded, the case against Mailloux continues to move forward in Worcester County Circuit Court. A motions hearing is set for Nov. 21, and a 13-day trial has been scheduled for next March.

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# Grants help boost police dept. transparency

Continued from Page 1

is a "Police Accountability, Community and Transparency (PACT) Grant." Most of the funds will be used to purchase new body cameras.

According to Robinson, the department is halfway through a five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, an Arizona-based company that provides Ocean Pines with its body cameras.

The initial agreement was signed in 2022, the technology was employed in August 2023, and the deal is set to expire in 2026.

However, because of the PACT grant, Axon is allowing Ocean Pines to renegotiate the contract early and will provide the department with new body cameras. The updated arrangement will extend for five years.

The \$35,000 from the state will

fund one year of the cameras and their software systems and licenses. The OPPD will pursue other grants to pay for the remaining four years of the agreement.

"Body cameras are a great thing," Robinson said. "Any police officer in 2024 would be crazy to go out on the street without a body camera... it is an impartial arbitrator of what happened. It tells you, without any bias, from a camera lens, what happened. Many times, when I see people are emotional and upset about what happened in an interaction with a law enforcement officer, I go back and look at the body camera, and it shows me exactly what happened. Most of the time, it protects the officers and obtains valuable evidence, anything from people committing crimes in front of them to admissions and

statements...If we do see something that is wrong on the part of the officer, then we obviously deal with that."

While many law enforcement groups have implemented body cameras, the State of Maryland will not mandate them until next summer.

Also, through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Ocean Pines law force received \$4,456 from the Community Grant Program to fund overtime expenses within the department to allow for a visible presence at large community gatherings, like the Fourth of July and National Night Out.

The money will help to pay for the officers' additional hours worked at those events. Robinson said increasing police presence at celebrations is necessary to keep the neighborhood

safe and everything running smoothly.

"For one event, like the Fourth of July, you could rack up \$1,000 in overtime that day combined," the chief noted. "The Fourth of July was an all-hands-on-deck for the police department. Everyone was working at some point that evening because of the number of people we had here and the responsibilities we had to make it a safe event, like getting the traffic to flow and get in and out."

OPPD also received \$15,125 from the crime control and prevention office for a police recruitment and retention grant. The funds will help the department attract and keep qualified officers.

From the Maryland Highway Safety Office, Ocean Pines was awarded a \$900 Speed Enforcement Grant to support speed limit initiatives, a \$1,035 Impaired Driving Grant to aid efforts in reducing DUIs, and a \$990 Occupant Protection Grant to carry out seat belt and child safety seat enforcement.

Robinson said the department applied for these grants in the spring. The applications go through committee reviews, and decision-makers determine recipients based on the quality of the request and the amount of money they have to allocate.

The application process, while extensive, was rewarding, Robinson said.

"I enjoy [writing grants] because it is something neat to do," he said. "I feel like I really accomplished something when I write a grant and I can bring in additional funding to my jurisdiction."

In the PACT grant application, for instance, the chief was required to include a problem statement and needs justification, program goals and objectives, a spending plan, a timeline, and a slew of other documentation to be eligible for consideration. The grants will allow the Ocean Pines Police Department to further safety initiatives in the community.

"Many of these types of things that are funded, we would have had to have found a way to come up with the money anyway," Robinson said. "[The grants] allow Ocean Pines to either focus their financial efforts on other things or if we need something else in addition, we can because the grant money is able to pay for these things... this funding will pay for things that Ocean Pines might struggle to try to pay for."

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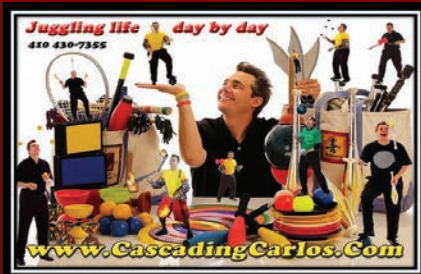
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# Museum's event plan for next year approved

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) Berlin's Calvin B. Taylor House Museum's schedule of events is set for next year.

At the Berlin Town Council's Monday, Sept. 23 meeting, the governing group unanimously passed the non-profit museum's proposed dates for 2025 events.

The museum will host a pig roast on Saturday, April 19, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., the beloved Peach Festival on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the Book Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18, from noon to 4 p.m. The "Second Sundays at the Museum," concerts on the second Sunday of each summer month, are slated for June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, and Sept. 14. These events begin at 6 p.m. and conclude around 7:30 p.m.

Alcohol will be permitted and

served at the pig roast, the Book Festival and the summer concert series. Adult beverages will not be available at the Peach Festival.

The council expressed excitement at the museum's 2025 schedule and the culture the facility continues to bring to Berlin.

"The museum is such a jewel for the Town of Berlin," Councilmember Steve Green said. "It has been that way for a long time, but there is this new energy surrounding it ... the Peach Festival is the hallmark event, but the concerts on the lawn where you have toddlers to 75-year-olds and kids running around the lawn ... it is a special place, and I am really proud of what you guys have done."

Melissa Reid, president of the Taylor House, added that the museum showed "Runaway Bride" on the facility's lawn on July 27 in honor of the

movie's 25th anniversary. The film, starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, was shot mainly in the Town of Berlin in 1998 and released to theaters on July 30, 1999.

Movies on the lawn were summer staples of the museum many years ago but have since fizzled out. Movies were once held on Jefferson Street on a blow up screen as well, but inconsistent attendance led to them being scrapped. However, community residents received the "Runaway Bride" movie showing well, and organizers are planning to bring the film tradition back.

"We did the 'Runaway Bride' movie this summer for the 25th anniversary, which was hugely popular," Reid said. "We had an outpouring of excitement that there was a movie back in Berlin, so we are in discussions with our board of directors about starting to do movies again at the museum. That is something we will see going forward, so hopefully, we will probably do two or three next summer during the season."

The Taylor House has already scheduled a Halloween-themed movie at the museum event. On Sunday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m., the center will play "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The film will be shown on the lawn, and attendees are encouraged to

bring a chair or blanket. The event is free, but snacks will be for sale, and museum donations are welcome.


At least one elected official was delighted to see the movie at the museum event return to the Taylor House.

"I am very excited about all these events, but I am particularly excited about the movies," Councilman Jack Orris, a member of the Taylor House board who has advocated for movies, said. "... It is a nice addition and an event held in the past that is missing and would be welcome back."

Councilmember Shaneka Nichols suggested that the museum consider showing local movies, like "Ping Pong Summer," a 2014 independent film that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was set and shot in Ocean City, as well as Violets Are Blue, which was filmed in the Ocean City area and released in 1986.


Reid also added that in 2026, the Taylor House is partnering with Salisbury University to honor and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. She expects that the museum, in collaboration with SU, will host a whole year's worth of activities and events.

Upcoming Calvin B. Taylor House ongoings can be found on the museum's website and social media.



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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The remains of the Bishopville Park pavilion that was flattened during a "microburst" in late May are pictured.

# County approves \$40K bid for new pavilion

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(Sept. 26, 2024) County officials last week gave staff the go ahead to repair the Bishopville Park pavilion, which was brought down in a May storm.

Last Tuesday, the Worcester County Commissioners voted unanimously to have an independent contractor, Naples Restoration, rebuild the pavilion at Bishopville Park at a cost of \$40,171. While the county has received nearly \$30,000 from its insurance carrier, LGIT, Recreation and

Parks Director Kelly Rados said the remainder of funding would be provided once the project is completed.

"Once we complete the project, we show them the final invoice, then we will be getting that second check," she told the commissioners this week. "That'll fund the project."

On May 24, a microburst storm moved through northern Worcester County, bringing with it rain and high winds that flattened the pavilion at Bishopville Park. Since that time, the pavilion has been taped off as the county worked with its insurance car-

rier to determine the cost of replacing the structure.

In a memo to staff, Rados noted the insurance carrier had received a quote from Naples Restoration to rebuild the pavilion at a cost of \$40,171. She said two other quotes her department received totaled \$81,129 and \$77,032.

"Our department is requesting that we do not formally bid this out and accept the lower quote of \$40,171.97 from Naples to complete the project," she wrote. "This option would save money and help to get the project

completed in a timely manner as this pavilion is an essential community asset for Bishopville residents."

During last week's meeting, the commissioners voted 7-0 to advance the department's request and rebuild the pavilion for \$40,171, to be paid for by the insurance carrier.

"We have received payment from LGIT in the amount of \$29,651.21 for the Pavilion (\$30,651.21, less the \$1,000 deductible)," Rados wrote. "Once the rebuild is completed, LGIT will be able to issue a final payment in the amount of \$9,520.76."



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# Council approves Berlin's scheduled events

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The Town of Berlin's schedule of events is set for next year.

The Berlin Town Council approved the proposed event dates, presented by Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells at a meeting Monday.

The town will host Berlin Restaurant Week from Jan. 17-23; the Berlin Little League Parade from 8-9 a.m., April 12; Memorial Day at the Monument, 8-9 a.m., May 25; the Memorial Day Parade 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., May 26; Berlin fireworks and the Fourth of July celebration at dusk, July 3; the "Runaway Bride" fun run/ walk, to be referred to as "Run-

away Bride Rerun," 7:45-8:45 a.m., July 26; and National Night Out, 4-7 p.m., Aug. 5.

A Back to School Movie in the Park is set for 7:30 p.m., Aug. 30; Oktoberfest is scheduled for Oct. 18; Truck-N-Treat will kick off at 10 a.m., Oct. 25; the Fall Glow Walk is slated for 5-7 p.m., Nov. 7; Ice Ice Berlin and Tree Lighting will be 5-9 p.m., Nov. 28; the Christmas Parade is at 7 p.m., Dec. 4; and the New Year's Eve Celebration is to be held at 5 p.m., Dec. 31.

The Berlin Farmer's Market will welcome patrons each Sunday from May through September. Wells said the date could change, though, as the town is using this year to determine if the mar-

ket can extend into October. If the autumnal market is a success, it will be brought back for the 2025 season.

The council also discussed some changes to the proposed schedule.

Berlin Cleanup Day, a community-wide volunteer effort to beautify the town, was initially scheduled for April 27. However, Wells and Public Works Director Jimmy Charles agreed to move the event up to April 12, the week before Easter.

The motion inspired a discussion about possibly doing away with the cleanup project entirely.

"I wonder if the work is helpful or if it is creating more work," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "I wonder if this is a

carry-through of something we have done for a long time and if it is actually working."

Charles noted that volunteerism had dwindled.

"I think it is a hit or miss," he said. "They called for heavy weather last year, which impacted attendance."

Tyndall proposed eliminating the cleanup day and rescheduling Take Pride in Berlin Week, set for April 21-27, to coincide with the town's birthday at the end of March.

"We can do something more community pride and less labor," he added.

The council agreed with the mayor's proposed plan, but no official action was taken.

# Mayor's volunteer board appointments OK'd

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The Berlin Town Council unanimously passed nominations to boards and commissions as presented by Mayor Zack Tyndall at a meeting Monday.

Jamie Manaia will join the Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee for a two-year term. The meeting document described Manaia as a "human resource executive with progressive HR experi-

ence who enjoys gardening and feels it is important to keep the town looking beautiful."

Andrea Weeg, the group's chair, and members Victoria Spice and Georgianna McElroy, are all returning to the Horticulture Committee for an additional two years.

The Berlin Parks Commission will welcome two new members. According to the mayor's official nomination forms in the meeting packet, recently appointed

member Corey Davis is the founder and director of Swim Ocean City, a nonprofit organization that "trades as Ocean Games." The charitable group was kick-started to raise funds and awareness for traumatic brain injuries.

Michelle Gillespie, who is also joining the Parks Commission, moved to the area from Philadelphia in 2006. She has 30 years of experience in public relations, life sciences, and the pharmaceutical sector, with a specialization in patient advo-

cacy and engagement. She is interested in sustainability and the environment.

The newcomers' term lengths are yet to be determined, as Tyndall notes the Berlin Parks Commission offers one- or two-year terms of service.

"We asked the candidates which one they would like, and if they are both interested in two years, we will draw their names out of a hat to decide," he said.

The appointment recommendations passed unanimously.

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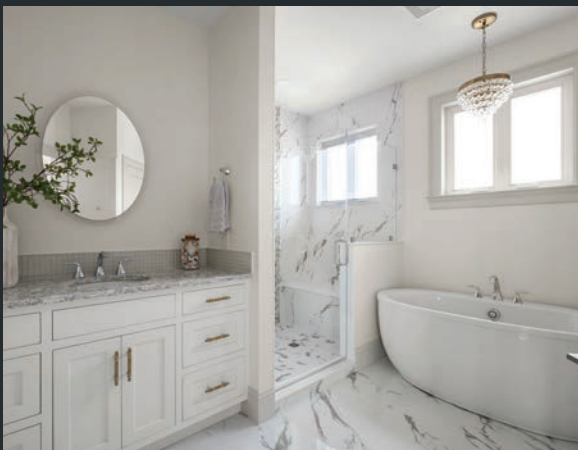
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# Community center feasibility study to begin

### Haley Architecture awarded \$103K contract funded largely by Md. block grant

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The proposed Berlin Community Center off Flower Street is set to undergo a feasibility study.

The creation of the Berlin Community Center has been a goal for the Town of Berlin for decades. Over the last year, numerous efforts have been made, agreements reached and funding secured, as the process continues to inch forward.

At its Monday, Sept. 23 meeting, another big step took place, as the Town Council unanimously approved Haley Architecture for the project's

first phase, a feasibility study and preliminary design services.

The feasibility study will not exceed \$103,880. Funding for this project stage comes from the \$100,000 awarded by the Community Development Block Grant Program, which the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development provided to the town.

The state's financial assistance will pay for almost the entire feasibility study, and town funds will cover the difference.

The proposed community center is to be placed at 130 Flower Street, formerly the site of Flower Street School, a learning institution that operated in the early 20th century. Through a partnership between the Town of Berlin, Berlin Community Improvement Association (BCIA),

SHOREUP! Inc., and the Worcester County Commissioners, officials have combined four parcels on the Flower Street site to be used for the new facility.

The community center will offer meeting rooms, recreational space, and fitness and sports-related activities to town and county residents.

The feasibility study to be completed by Haley Architecture will include gathering community input, evaluating community needs, defining the program, and "ultimately providing a roadmap to the eventual final design and construction of a new community center for the Town of Berlin," the company's proposal reads.

The scope of the initial feasibility assessment will include a community input summary, a space needs

spreadsheet, a site analysis, an operational evaluation from physical, security and efficiency perspectives, cost estimates for site, building and systems construction, project timelines and a preliminary conceptual massing and site design.

According to the proposal, Haley Architecture will "perform site visits to identify existing features and constraints of the site and prepare an existing conditions exhibit showing site access and circulation, utility availability, roads and right of way, structures, sidewalks, and pedestrian circulation, topography, environmental features, slopes, etc. on the site..."

The firm will also "provide a preliminary engineering review study for the new community center from available jurisdictional records for the property to understand its development potential based on the client's desired development program, site development standards, utility availability and upgrade requirements for proposed uses." This includes a preliminary evaluation of existing site access, as well as parking and stormwater management and drainage design requirements.

In the feasibility study proposal, Haley Architecture promises to perform an initial site visit to determine existing conditions and provide a "pre-design narrative project summary outlining the project history, findings from the landscape architect's site investigation including photo documentation of existing condition and opportunities, proposed scope of work, and design recommendations that serve the proposed uses on site and meet applicable code requirements."

An interior design team will facilitate communication and gather information from the community center committee members and the residents of Berlin to recommend spatial arrangements and square footage allocations.

Berlin and Worcester County residents are encouraged to participate in a community survey to indicate to the town and developers what amenities, like fitness classes, health and wellness services, arts and crafts workshops, social events, and educational programs, they would like to see at the center. The questionnaire, which is still open and can be found at [berlinmd.gov/community](http://berlinmd.gov/community), will be consolidated by Salisbury University's Business, Economic, and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) and turned over to Haley Architecture to consider for the design of the site.

The architectural firm will also confer with the community through in-person gatherings and focus groups.

"The survey will just be a piece of the feasibility study," said Daniele

See FIRM Page 11

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# Route 611 bike path design gets \$1.5M in state funding

Shared-use project along corridor likely will be done through multiple phases

By **Bethany Hooper**

Associate Editor

(Sept. 26, 2024) More than \$1.5 million in state funding will allow the design of a shared-use path along Route 611 to move forward.

On Sept. 19, Gov. Wes Moore announced \$16 million in grants were awarded for bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects throughout Maryland. Officials report \$1.5 million of that funding will be used to complete design work on a shared-use path along Route 611 in Worcester County.

"This investment proves that we don't have to choose between boosting our outdoor economy, investing in transportation projects, and cutting emissions — we can address all of these goals at the same time," Moore said in a news release. "In partnership with local leaders, we are building a more competitive and sustainable state from Mountain Maryland to the Eastern Shore."

The state reports the \$16 million in grant funding will support 36 projects, from retrofitting trail-highway crossings to pedestrian improvements within school zones. The funding — broken into two tranches — includes \$13.9 million in federal funds awarded to 26 projects through the Transportation Alternatives Program and Recreational Trails Program and \$2.1 million in state funds awarded to 10 projects through the

Maryland Department of Transportation's Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program.

In Worcester County, \$1,542,289 in Transportation Alternatives Program funding will be used to complete the design for the first phase of a shared-use path along the Route 611 corridor. The state also reports \$625,755 in Bikeways Network Program funding will be used to match federal funding for construction and design projects, including those in Worcester County.

"Funding projects to enhance mobility and accessibility is a priority as these assets are an integral part of the state's transportation system to provide safe, equitable and sustainable connections for pedestrians and bicyclists," said Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. "These investments will help provide high-quality paths to connect communities, enhance safety for students to get to and from school and help the state reach its climate goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

**'These investments will help provide high-quality paths to connect communities, enhance safety for students to get to and from school and help the state reach its climate goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.'**

Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld

goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

In June, Wiedefeld signed a new department-wide Complete Streets Policy to enhance safety for all road users by adding safety features such as bike lanes and pedestrian crossings in projects across the state, according to the news release. The Complete Streets Policy will ensure the Maryland Department of Transportation's multi-billion-dollar capital program funds a transportation system that is safe, accessible and sustainable for Marylanders across all modes.

## Firm will explore options, costs

Continued from Page 10

Haley of Haley Architecture. "The feasibility study will start to be informed by the survey, but we will also hold community meetings, two bigger ones where we invite everyone to come ... and a smaller committee put together. The idea is to try to get these ideas to create a clear, defined path forward that has a clear size and budget attached to it."

Upon the conclusion of the feasibility study, which is expected to take roughly 90 days, Haley Architecture will provide the town with a report with recommendations and options for building the community center.

Berlin officials added that in an effort to fund the community center, they applied for federal earmark funding and were approved for \$479,000 for the project. However, the town will not know for sure if the money will come through until the federal budget is passed in December.

The town is excited the creation of the community center continues to progress.

"This is not a new idea," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "The community center is 20-something years in the making. This is a long overdue idea for Berlin."



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# Berlin's Henry Park will get new playground

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(September 26, 2024) Aging playground equipment at Berlin's Dr. William Henry Park will be replaced next year.

At its Monday, Sept. 23 meeting, the Berlin Town Council unanimously approved the contract to replace Henry Park playground equipment with the commercial playground manufacturer GameTime in care of the North Carolina-based Cunningham Recreation. The scope of the project is not to exceed \$240,000. Of that, \$216,000 will be funded by the Community Parks and Playground Program from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the remaining \$24,000 will be contributed by the Town of Berlin's allocated local funds.

The \$216,000 grant was part of a \$2.7 million Community Parks and Playgrounds Program package that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources distributed among 18 state municipalities.

The same month that the application for the DNR grant was submitted, August 2023, the town received a bid from GameTime for the Henry Park work at \$236,000. Since then, that figure has been increased to \$240,000 for the playground project.



A rendering of the new preliminary playground at Henry Park in Berlin was reviewed at Monday's Berlin Mayor and Council meeting.

RENDERING COURTESY OF CUNNINGHAM RECREATION

Only a part of the playground will be replaced. The purple/green play unit for ages two to five at the front section closest to Flower Street and the blue two-bay swing will remain. The portion behind that, built in 2001 and containing equipment intended

for five- to 12-year-olds, will be included in the renovation project.

The old equipment will be updated with new structures that are compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

Kate Daub, Berlin's Special Proj-

ects Coordinator, said that a project like this would typically select the contractor through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

However, because the town consulted with Brian Lewis from Cunningham Recreation during the Community Parks and Playground Program grant application process in August 2023 and its previous utilization of Omnia Partners Contract, a cooperative purchasing organization of which Cunningham is a vendor, officials feel confident to bypass the RFP procedure and award the initiative directly to GameTime c/o Cunningham Recreation.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall hopes the playground equipment will be replaced by National Night Out, which will be held the first Tuesday in August next year.

"I look forward to seeing this project come to life and continuing to enhance our town's recreational facilities," the mayor said in a Facebook post last month.



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# Partners sending care packages to troops

## Second annual 'Salute to Service' event planned for OP Yacht Club on Oct. 13

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) Ocean Pines Get Involved and Steel Blu Vodka are teaming up next month to give back to American troops.

Steel Blu, a gluten-free vodka brand based in Bear, Del., in collaboration with Ocean Pines, is hosting the second annual "Salute to Service" care package project at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Sunday, Oct. 13 from noon to 2 p.m. Volunteers will meet to assemble goodie bags to ship to active United States service members.

Steel Blu Brand Development

Manager Chelsey Chnelik said event organizers will provide the package supplies, such as sanitizers, hand warmers, Slim Jims, women's hygiene products and socks. Water bowls and tennis balls will also be shipped out for the military dogs. Attendees may chat and enjoy music as they fill the bags.

Participants are permitted to pack any products they believe will add value. Veterans, particularly, are encouraged to include personal items in their bags to offer comradery to the recipients.

"There is a strong sense of community in Ocean Pines, and a lot of men and women have served, so it's their way to give back," Chnelik said.

Ocean Pines and Worcester County residents may volunteer. Registration is not required, but inter-

ested individuals can contact Esther Diller via the Ocean Pines Get Involved Facebook page or Chnelik at chelsey@mattorttcompanies.com with any questions.

Chnelik noted that the company's logo inspired the charitable initiative.

"Steel Blu reached out to me a few years back, and they were looking to re-brand their company in an over-saturated market and get the community involved," she said. "I noticed their original logo, with an American flag, and asked if they do anything for the troops. They were all on board with it, adding more value to the liquid in the bottle. It's one thing to write a check; it's another to get full community backing, have pop-up events, and create handmade packages."

The project was kickstarted last year. Diller said approximately 200 volunteers showed up for the inaugural event, and 1,000 bags were completed in one hour. Organizers expect to welcome even more attendees on

Oct. 13.

"I am getting a ton of people saying they will be there," Diller said. "The community is definitely excited about doing it again."

Once the packages are assembled, they are sent to groups like Soldiers' Angels in San Antonio, Texas, the Wounded Warriors Project in Florida, and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, who then ship them to the soldiers.

Matt Ortt Companies, who is providing the venue, Ocean Pines Get Involved, and Big Wave Marketing are sponsoring the event. The first 150 volunteers to arrive at the yacht club will receive a t-shirt created by Monica from Fully Promoted Apparel.

"The event fosters compassion," Chnelik said. "It encourages the community to think about others. Everyone helping out is engaged and telling stories. It boosts morale for anyone receiving the packages and hopefully can provide comfort and appreciation."

**'I noticed their original logo, with an American flag, and asked if they do anything for the troops. They were all on board with it, adding more value to the liquid in the bottle. It's one thing to write a check; it's another to get full community backing, have pop-up events, and create handmade packages.'**

Chelsey Chnelik, Steel Blu Brand Development Manager

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# Budget year surplus could help after-school programs

### Commissioners must now approved internal shuffling of funding for programs

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The Worcester County Board of Education voted last week to allocate a portion of the projected Fiscal Year 2024 surplus for after-school programs for the current fiscal year.

Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert said that as the system finalizes its fiscal 2024 audit, officials anticipate a surplus of \$800,000 from the unrestricted operating budget, which totaled \$125,946,391. Of the \$800,000 sum, \$567,000 will be set aside as revenue for FY26 to keep the system "revenue neutral in FY26's budget."

The remaining \$233,000 will be used to fund after-school programs in fiscal 2025.

The board's president, Todd Ferrante, noted that no funding was available for after-school initiatives at

Ocean City Elementary School, Showell Elementary School or Stephen Decatur High School.

Tolbert said that financial aid for after-school academies had been reduced in the past few years per the Maintenance of Effort funding formula, the lowest legal monetary amount the local government could provide to the system in fiscal 2024.

Tolbert said the funding was requested to be restored in fiscal 2025, but the ask was denied. In response to the lack of monetary support, Worcester County Superintendent Lou Taylor recommended that the \$233,000 be transferred to the programs.

The board approved the suggestion in a 6-0 vote. Member Donald Smack was absent. Board member Dr. Jon Andes motioned to green light the recommendation, which member Elena McComas seconded.

Taylor maintained that with the board's approval, the body will take the recommendation to the Worcester County Commissioners to seek their approval.

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# 'Good news' for Buckingham rebuild efforts

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Sept. 26, 2024) The process to build a new, improved Buckingham Elementary School continues to work through the county's internal process.

A construction plan has been recommended by a workgroup studying the Buckingham Elementary Replacement School Project.

Facilities Manager Joe Price presented the outline at a meeting of the Worcester County Board of Education on Sept. 17. The governing body unanimously approved the suggestion to build a replacement Buckingham Elementary School and then proceed with the design of a new Berlin Intermediate School. The first step of the BIS project will be to complete a feasibility study, which will determine whether the existing facility should be reno-

vated or if a new structure should be created.

The board approved the recommendation in a 6-0 vote. Member Donald Smack was absent. Dr. Jon Andes motioned to approve the outline, which Elena McComas seconded.

The project's workgroup reviewed five options for moving forward with a new BES. The first choice was to combine Buckingham and BIS, which the team concluded was impossible, as neither facility's current site was large enough to accommodate a 1,200-student school.

The group considered moving sixth grade from BIS to Stephen Decatur Middle School and constructing a pre-k to fifth grade BES, moving sixth grade from BIS to SDMS and creating a pre-k-grade five BES and adding fifth grade to Ocean City Elementary School

and Showell Elementary School, or acquiring all funding for the initiative from the Worcester County Commissioners. These options were determined as impractical and were shot down by the workgroup.

The chosen plan, the construction of a new BES immediately followed by an updated BIS, initially presented challenges, as the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) required that the replacement facilities be built "at or near the IAC Gross Area Baseline size."

Price said that while the BES conceptual plan accounted for 103,000 square feet, the maximum the state would allow the county to build was 83,446 square feet.

IAC and Worcester County Public Schools staff worked to amend the size discrepancies. The IAC reviewed the original plan, looked at 2032 BES enrollment projections, and amended it to provide additional square footage for cooperative use space and concentration of poverty.

WCPS also agreed to reduce its initial floor plan by 12,163 gross square feet. The two parties compromised to allocate a 90,837-square-foot Buckingham replacement school.

Price presented the preliminary cost estimates for the project. Bidding for the BES initiative is expected to

start in the fall of 2026, construction will begin in May 2027, and the total price tag will be \$73,700,000. Of that, \$47,944,000 will come from local funding, while \$25,756,000 will be provided by the state.

With bidding, the BIS project is expected to get off the ground in fall 2028. Construction will begin in May 2029. The total cost is \$80,100,000, with \$23,145,000 from state funding and the remaining \$56,955,000 provided locally.

"Never in our history have we seen \$49 million from the state, and Joe singlehandedly took us to that level ...," WCPS Superintendent Lou Taylor said. "It was a tremendous amount of time and energy, and we were sweating this process because we were not going to let Buckingham go. The county had clearly said to me that they were going to put in \$50 million, and that was not even close to getting us there ... \$49 million from the state is more than Worcester County has seen, probably if you put everything together, in the last 15-20 years. We are going to build BES and go right to BIS ... this is good news for Worcester County."

Price said the Buckingham Replacement School Project began with a feasibility study in December of 2022.

"We spent the next two years trying  
See SCHOOL Page 17

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# County now accepting liquor permits online

(Sept. 26, 2024) As part of ongoing efforts to simplify and expedite Worcester County's permitting process, development review and permitting is now accepting applications for electrical and one-day liquor per diem permits online.

"We're listening to our constituents and looking for better ways to do business," DRP Deputy Director Matthew Laick said in a news release. "Making it possible for our con-

stituents to go online, fill out a form, and submit it whenever and wherever is most convenient to them is just that. Good business."

A one-day per diem permit allows any qualified, bona fide religious, fraternal, veterans, political, civic, or other nonprofit organization to sell and serve beer, wine, or liquor at a one-time event. Applicants are able to fill out and submit applications and upload required documentation.

Once applications are processed, approved permits are emailed.

Registered electricians may apply for electrical permits, attach any necessary documentation, and click submit. Staff will follow up with applicants if more information is needed.

"You submit the information, and we'll work with you," Laick said. "This new process allows DRP staff to better document and communicate with

each electrician and to work with the electrical inspection agency of each electrician's choosing to inspect the work once it is completed. The two processes work well together and make what was once a manual, time-consuming process far more streamlined."

There is a 3% service fee for credit and debit cards. However, there is no service fee for using the automatic checking option.

# Board of Education candidate forum on tap

(Sept. 26, 2024) Worcester County Democrats will host a Spirit of the Party Breakfast on Oct. 19 at Worcester Commission on Aging's Ocean City 50+ Center directly across from the north end of the convention center. The event will feature a Board of Education Candidates Forum.

The forum will allow attendees to learn more about several of the upcoming candidates. All candidates have been invited to the forum. So far, incumbents Jon Andes and Elena McCo-

mas have agreed to participate.

Candidates Angela Alsobrooks (U.S. Senate), Blane Miller III (U.S. House) and Peter Buas (Ocean City mayor) have also agreed to provide short presentations.

Former delegate and senator Jim Mathias will be the official greeter and give a welcome talk to get the festivities started. Pocomoke Mayor Todd Nock will be selling arm's length auction tickets for cash.

Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee and tea will be served from 9 a.m. to

noon. Cost is \$15 per person if paid in advance, and \$20 at the door.

Registration forms can be found at worcesterdems.org. Mail forms

checks payable to DCCWC, PO Box 1582, Berlin, Md. 21811. Call or text Tish at 410-804-3971 for more information or questions.

# School plan includes BES, BIS

Continued from Page 16

to get the state to approve design or construction funding for the project ... they did not because allegedly, we had 799 empty seats at Showell Elementary, OCES, and BIS," said Price.

The IAC then met with the board and the county commissioners and created a set of options to propel the project forward. The workgroup met three times to determine the plan that was approved on Tuesday.

The workgroup includes Dr. Jon Andes, William Gordy, and Donald Smack representing the Worcester County Board of Education; Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-38); Ted Elder and Eric Fiori from the Worcester County Commissioners; Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert; and Dr.

Chris Welch, principal of Buckingham Elementary School, among others.

Price said that as of now, the BIS initiative is two years behind the BES project, which will be negotiated between the county commissioners and the IAC via a memorandum of understanding. If the MOU is completed and forwarded to the commissioners by Oct. 1, as is the goal, the local leaders will hear a presentation on the recommended facility replacement option on Oct. 15.



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# Worcester considering local match to advance Route 90

## State transportation official says \$2.75M would likely keep project in 5-year plan

**By Bethany Hooper**  
 Associate Editor

(Sept. 26, 2024) County leaders vocalized their concerns regarding the delay of certain priority projects during a meeting with state transportation representatives last week.

Last Tuesday, officials with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) met with the Worcester County Commissioners to discuss the agency's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for fiscal years 2025-2023. While county leaders continue to push for major projects, including the dualization of Route 90, Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld said budgetary challenges at the state level have led officials to pause certain projects.

"Regarding MDOT's finances, to be frank, the department continues to face significant budgetary challenges because of the state's slow economic growth, historic levels of inflation, rising costs of labor and materials, and revenues not growing at the rate that we anticipated," he told the commissioner at the beginning of this week's presentation.

Transportation officials reported the state's six-year spending plan prioritizes projects and programs that maintain Maryland's transportation system and reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on Maryland's roads. Wiedefeld told the commissioners Tuesday those goals were reflected in the draft CTP.

"Getting into the details, the draft CTP is balanced and totals \$18.9 billion," he said. "However, because of fiscal constraints, we had to make tough decisions and reductions to live within our means. This resulted in a reduction of \$1.3 billion compared to last year's CTP. This draft CTP presents a challenging road map, obviously, for the department and for the state. However, the department will continue to make strategic investments to support Maryland families in a fiscally responsible manner. And just like Maryland families who are making tough decisions in their own personal budgets, we also have to do the same with ours."

State Highway Administrator Will Pines told county leaders efforts are being made to improve pedestrian safety and transportation infrastructure throughout Worcester County. He said that included a signalized crosswalk project at the intersection of Route 589 and Manklin Creek Road, an underground pipe replacement in Whaleyville, and shared-use path on Route 611, among other things.

Commissioner Chip Bertino

thanked the State Highway Administration officials for installing the crosswalk at Route 589 but urged them to make additional improvements along the roadway. He said traffic continues to be a problem in the area.

"We have had increased traffic there this year, it seemed like more than ever," he said. "And I know we've had this conversation every year that you've been here, and we have expressed in multiple ways our interest in seeing the state spend money and assets to improve that roadway."

Pines, however, said that project remains unfunded. He added that any improvements along Route 589 would require the county to reserve right-of-way.

"We hope you understand the county is reluctant to placing restrictions on people's private property until we have a commitment from the state to determine when, if and how they were going to move forward with the development of route 589 ...," Bertino replied. "I made my pitch again here and unfortunately nothing's going to happen."

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic also questioned when the Route 90 dualization project would be added back into the state's CTP. Officials earlier this summer learned that budget constraints had paused the project.

"You say you're about safety," he said. "Well, Ocean City's safety depends on Route 90 being dualized, and the Route 50 corridor being taken care of. I see you on here that we still have the Route 50 bridge on our shortlist here and, to me, Ocean City, Worcester County and everybody else has been asking about the Route 90 bridge for I don't know how long now. We finally got some money from the former governor and then that was taken right out from underneath us this year."

Wiedefeld noted that the project had been paused until additional revenues were found. He said Route 90 was one of the major projects that would likely be revisited during the Maryland General Assembly session.

"As you can imagine that would be, I think, a very large discussion in this upcoming general session in terms of revenues needed to support major projects throughout the entire state," he replied.

County leaders, however, continued to share the importance of dualizing Route 90. Commissioner Eric Fiori asked if a local match could advance the project.

"We've all been fighting for this project for quite a while, and I'm just looking for some options for local community members to keep this moving forward," he said.

Pines replied that in order to move forward with planning and design, the

See COUNTY Page 21

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# Opinion

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

## Body armor in Pines becomes essential

Not that they shouldn't have it, but you have to wonder what the world's coming to when the police officers in one of the quietest, most peaceful communities in the three-state region need bulletproof vests.

This is no knock on the Ocean Pines Police Department or its request for a state grant to help pay for equipment that's due for an upgrade. This is just the way things are these days, as smaller law enforcement agencies across the country add and deploy more specialized gear ... just in case. Like, for instance, the tactical vehicles such as the one Ocean City's department has and the county sheriff's office awaits.

In some cases, they are encouraged to ratchet up their defenses, as was the situation a few years ago when a federal grant administrator suggested that the National Resources Police accept money to have a .30-caliber machine gun mounted on the bow of its patrol boat.

It declined the offer, noting that rockfish poachers or boaters failing to observe the 6 mph speed limits in the bay aren't inclined to shoot their way out of a ticket.

But that's where we are as the national conversation continues to reinforce the belief that we should be scared, really scared, and that anyone who doesn't agree is anti-police.

That is just not so, as most people do recognize the dangers law enforcement officers face every day. Here's what the FBI said about that in May: "The number of officers assaulted and injured by firearms has climbed over the years, reaching a 10-year high in 2023 with approximately 466 officers assaulted and injured by firearms."

Even though the FBI says most of these incidents occurred in the South, this number justifies the use of body armor by agencies and departments everywhere. It's just a shame that Ocean Pines, of all places, has to follow suit.

## Region's beaches officially reopened

### Officials confident no safety concerns for swimmers, surfers

(Sept. 26, 2024) Ocean City and surrounding beaches were officially reopened on Friday after closing for nearly a week because of medical waste washing ashore in some areas, but officials are still unsure of the source of the syringes, needles and other materials found in the sand.

According to a news release from Ocean City Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald, high tides that swept in for several days eliminated the syringes, needles and other waste that had office pals discovered in the sand last weekend.

"Ocean City Emergency Services, in collaboration with the Worcester County Health Department and Environmental Programs, has conducted thorough water testing, and the results show the water is within normal levels," Theobald said in the release.

"We are confident that it is now safe to reopen the ocean for swimming and surfing."

He added that the source for the waste was "still unknown," but that staff were working with officials from agencies in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia to determine the cause.

Asst. County Executive National Seashore officials released a similar update in the beach and ocean Friday.

"In consultation with the multiple state and federal agencies, we are pleased to report that swimming and ocean access can now be permitted on the lifeguarded beaches in both Maryland and Virginia," the release said.

Other areas, such as the Oceanside Campground Beach and South Beach at Assateague, were also set to reopen Saturday morning.

While no new material was reported on the sand, the release said visitors were advised to continue wearing shoes on the beach as a precaution.

"We have done an intensive cleanup effort-but the risk is not zero," the release said.

The release added that the Maryland Oversand Vehicle area also remained closed over the weekend because of "major washouts and flooding" and the North End of the island was closed to visitors because a larger amount of medical and other waste was reported on the shore in the area.

"It is likely that it will remain closed for at least another week, possibly longer, as cleanup will begin after the other, more visited areas are completed," the release said.

Assateague officials also said the source of the waste, which consisted of used needles, hygiene products, smoking products, and miscellaneous plastics, was unknown and that most of it came ashore Sunday, Monday or Tuesday of last week.

Beaches in Delaware, which were also closed last week, reopened around the same time as well.

## Lower Shore Land Trust benefit eyed

### Halloween-themed event set for Berlin brewery next month

(Sept. 26, 2024) The Lower Shore Land Trust is hosting a Halloween fundraiser, Haunted Harvest: Pouring for Preservation, in partnership with Burley Oak Brewing Company from 6-8 p.m., Oct. 28.

Burley Oak Brewery is donating a portion of proceeds from the event to the organization.

Along with raffle prizes and live music, attendees can buy Burley Oak brews, poured by two celebrity guest bartenders — Secretary of Housing and Community

Development Jake Day and former Lower Shore Land Trust Executive Director Kate Patton. Attendees are encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes.

Day grew up in, and eventually became the mayor of, Salisbury, serving from 2015-23. Last year, Gov. Wes Moore (D) nominated Day to serve as the Maryland secretary of housing and community development. Day has championed initiatives and programs that strengthen local communities and help protect what makes the Eastern Shore a great place to live, work, and play.

Patton served as executive director of the land trust from 2006 until earlier this

year. During her time with the organization, she increased the staff of one to six, and helped preserve over 20,000 acres of the lower shore's working and natural landscape. She continues to serve the Land Trust and its partner organizations in a consulting role and on various boards and committees. Prior to taking on the director job, she owned and operated the Globe Theater, in Berlin for 17 years.

Both Day and Patton are strong supporters of the Lower Shore Land Trust's mission to protect and restore the natural resources, wildlife habitat, and working lands of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842  
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

- EDITOR ..... Stewart Dobson
- EXECUTIVE EDITOR ..... Steve Green
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# Hearing planned for Oct. 2 on energy project proposal

(Sept. 26, 2024) Local residents and other interested members of the public are invited to comment on a proposal by Pocomoke City Community Energy Initiative, LLC to construct a 5.0-megawatt solar facility in Worcester County.

The virtual hearing is set for 7 p.m., Oct. 2, before Public Utility Law Judge Jennifer J. Grace.

In May, Pocomoke City CEI applied to the Maryland Public Service Commission for what is known as a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), which grants an applicant the authority to construct an energy generating station or high-voltage transmission line in Maryland. According to the application, the solar facility, intended as part of Maryland's community solar program, would be built on nearly 36 acres of a 122-acre property at 610 Ocean Highway in Pocomoke City.

To participate virtually, sign up in advance to speak by sending an email referencing Case No. 9740 to [psc.pulj@gmail.com](mailto:psc.pulj@gmail.com), by noon, Oct. 1. Participants will receive an email with the link to join in on the virtual platform. Otherwise, a recording of the hearing will be available on the Public

Utility Law Judge Division's YouTube channel (MD PSC PULJs) at [bit.ly/2X6wLiP](https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP)

The hearing will include a presentation by the developer, followed by brief statements from the Power Plant Research Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, and the Commission's Technical Staff, and an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposed project.

Written comments can also be sent electronically through the Commission's online portal at [psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/](https://psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/), or by mail.

Comments sent by mail should be addressed to: Jamie Bergin, Chief Clerk, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202 (only one copy is required). So that they are noted in the proper case file, all comments should reference Case No. 9740.

Along with the online docket, the application is available for public review at the Worcester County Department of Development Review and Permitting, 1 West Market St., in Snow Hill.

# County stresses safety priority

Continued from Page 18

state would require a \$2.75 million local match. Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) said it was the first time she was hearing of any option to advance the project.

"Until Commissioner Fiori actually asked the question, no options were presented on Route 90," she said. "So, that was a little bit surprising to me because I think we as a community, the Worcester County Commissioners, the Town of Ocean City, and constituents, have made clear this is a priority."

During last week's meeting, Commissioner Caryn Abbott also questioned the status of a project to signalize the intersection at routes 13 and 366 in Pocomoke. She said the intersection would only get worse when a Wawa is constructed in the area.

"To me that's a priority for my district," she said.

Pines said the project is currently being evaluated by the Office of Traffic and Safety. Whether the project moves forward, he said, will depend on its eligibility to receive federal funds.

"If it is federally eligible, then we will be able to move it forward," he replied. "If it's not ... then we may have to defer until the funds are available."

Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young noted that several intersection projects – including one at Route 611 and As-

sateague Road – have been paused. He questioned if there was also an opportunity to provide a local match to keep those projects moving forward.

"I think we should have discussions on any intersection improvement that you may want to be looking at," Wiedefeld replied.

The presentation concluded with updates from MDOT's other departments, including the Maryland Transit Administration, the Maryland Aviation Administration and the Motor Vehicle Administration. Bertino thanked transportation officials for meeting with the commissioners.

"We didn't necessarily hear what we wanted to hear, but we certainly appreciate you being here and taking the time to drive down," he said.


MDOT officials on Tuesday met with officials in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties to discuss the state's draft CTP. The meetings are part of the agency's engagement process in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City to discuss the funding plan and receive input from local officials and the public, MDOT reports.

Following the tour, the Maryland Department of Transportation will finalize the Draft CTP and submit the Final Fiscal Year 2025-2030 CTP to the legislature in January for consideration during the 2025 General Assembly session.

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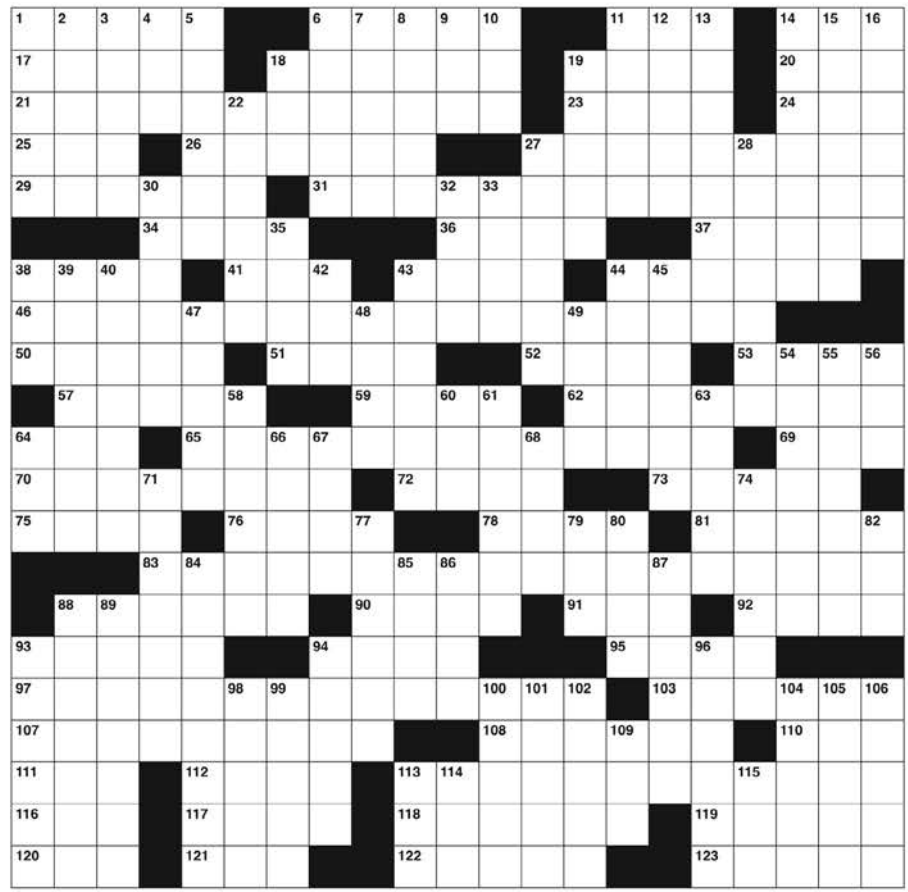


# Puzzles

## ONE FOR THE BOOKS BY AIMEE LUCIDO / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Aimee Lucido, of Irvington, N.Y., is a children's author. Her third book, "Pasta Pasta Lotsa Pasta," came out in July. Puzzles and children's books are "both ways to stretch out language," she says. "They're about using every sentence, every word, every letter to its absolute fullest." Having two related hobbies comes in handy: "I definitely use puzzles to procrastinate writing, and writing to procrastinate puzzles!"

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Here's looking at you, kid" or "You can't handle the truth!" famously
  - 6 Jane Goodall subject
  - 11 Platform for Mega Man, for short
  - 14 Butter (up)
  - 17 Jim who sang "Time in a Bottle"
  - 18 Scintillae
  - 19 Turn in some board games
  - 20 Humble dwelling
  - 21 Record book?
  - 23 Home to Cedar Point
  - 24 Sugar ending
  - 25 Air (carrier to Taiwan)
  - 26 Marked with a tag, maybe
  - 27 Composted material
  - 29 Altima alternative
  - 31 Spell book?
  - 34 Apt name for a gardener
  - 36 Goofs up
  - 37 FAQ consultants
  - 38 Group of conferences, for short
  - 41 Creature whose mating habitats are a scientific mystery
  - 43 Pack 'n Play and stroller, for a traveling parent
  - 44 Walk with confidence
  - 46 Green book?
  - 50 Talent finder
- DOWN**
- 111 Org. that administers the G.R.E.
  - 112 Chugging a bottle of hot sauce, perhaps
  - 113 Scrapbook?
  - 116 Four Corners native
  - 117 Kristin \_\_\_\_, first woman to win six gold medals at a single Olympic Games
  - 118 Late-night host who once wrote for "The Simpsons"
  - 119 Pass
  - 120 Always product
  - 121 Dismissive cry
  - 122 Climbs
  - 123 Cheat, so to speak
- ACROSS**
- 51 Placed on a peg
  - 52 Bops (in two senses)
  - 53 Nail-salon extensions
  - 57 Musical finales
  - 59 Kunis of "Black Swan"
  - 62 Conductor's announcement
  - 64 Lost-at-sea plea
  - 65 Logbook?
  - 69 Most of van Gogh's "The Starry Night"
  - 70 Surfer
  - 72 Source of a natural gel
  - 73 Mother of Perseus
  - 75 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine
  - 76 Sebastian the \_\_\_\_, University of Miami mascot
  - 78 Picked a card
  - 81 John who married Pocahontas
  - 83 Yearbook?
  - 88 Member of the original "S.N.L." cast
  - 90 Lambs' moms
  - 91 Sticky substance
  - 92 Occasional disrupter of activity at Sicily's Vincenzo Bellini Airport
  - 93 Bad buy
  - 94 Spot for a wineglass charm
  - 95 Where the chair of St. Peter sits in St. Peter's Basilica
  - 97 Rule book?
  - 103 Curtain adornment
  - 107 Potluck dish
  - 108 Makes blank
  - 110 Diagnostic tool, briefly
- DOWN**
- 1 Back issues
  - 2 Determination
  - 3 2017 film about Wolverine
  - 4 I, to Einstein
  - 5 Caption under the first half of a makeup ad
  - 6 Mix, as butter and sugar
  - 7 Bailey of 2023's "The Little Mermaid"
  - 8 Less friendly
  - 9 Bumped into
  - 10 Liberal-arts major: Abbr.
  - 11 "Ain't happening!"
  - 12 Skip over, as a sound
  - 13 Gradual buildup
  - 14 Suddenly stopped texting
  - 15 Like monastery life
- ACROSS**
- 16 Takes the helm
  - 18 Rare punt return outcomes, for short
  - 19 Stays (with)
  - 22 Covered by one's network
  - 27 Fawcett who played one of Charlie's Angels
  - 28 Column in a hockey box score
  - 30 Sat on the kitchen counter, perhaps
  - 32 Natural barrier
  - 33 It's opposite Oman on the Gulf of Oman
  - 35 Waist product?
  - 38 High degree
  - 39 Plant also known as coffeeweed
  - 40 Nebulizer's output
  - 42 Cell-service inits.
  - 43 Big name in chocolate
  - 44 Instrument with as many as 21 strings
  - 45 Thrown out
  - 47 Lyre-plucking Muse
  - 48 Lead-in to sphere
  - 49 Pinball game ender
  - 54 "I'm overwhelmed by all this"
  - 55 Tease
  - 56 Bad person to confide in
  - 58 Pilgrim's destination, maybe
  - 60 Rapper \_\_\_\_ Baby
  - 61 Some poles
  - 63 In a flow state?
  - 64 Business that offers microdermabrasion
  - 66 Glowing remnant
  - 67 Manner of walking
- DOWN**
- 16 Takes the helm
  - 18 Rare punt return outcomes, for short
  - 19 Stays (with)
  - 22 Covered by one's network
  - 27 Fawcett who played one of Charlie's Angels
  - 28 Column in a hockey box score
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  - 61 Some poles
  - 63 In a flow state?
  - 64 Business that offers microdermabrasion
  - 66 Glowing remnant
  - 67 Manner of walking
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 68 Halliwell of the Spice Girls
- 71 The Beyhive and the Swifties, for two
- 74 Credit-card lure
- 77 See red
- 79 A Tyrannosaurus rex's was nearly 17 inches long
- 80 "Hold your horses!"
- 82 Chapter of history
- 84 Requiring
- 85 Decorative pitcher
- 86 Film character who becomes trapped in a dentist's office
- 87 Many a critic's year-end list
- 88 Crew meet
- 89 Stockpiled
- 93 Get ready to skate
- 94 "The Great" pope
- 96 Addresses impudently
- 98 Give an address
- 99 Onward
- 100 Approaches
- 101 Hudson of the "Ghostbusters" movies
- 102 Listings on a Japanese menu, maybe
- 104 Bad-mouth
- 105 Writer Jong
- 106 Like a dryer trap
- 109 Title for Sanders: Abbr.
- 113 Word in many greeting-card categories
- 114 Slugger's stat
- 115 What takes this puzzle out with a bang?

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### HARD - 19

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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

WHAPS	ADSLOGAN	PAPAYA	
HENRI	COPAPLEA	ENAMEL	
ADDON	AMATEUR	STANDING	
TOOTS	RODEO	IPAD	
INRE	SUCKY	STONEPIT	
FIRST	INCLASS	EID	DANO
CATEGORY	LLAMA	BRER	
VAN	DRIVING	CRAZY	
TWO	PURE	DAS	AAAS
PRATT	AGAVE	CPR	IUD
GIVE	ITTHEOL	COLLEGE	TRY
AMY	MEH	MONAE	OXIDE
AMIR	AIM	ROOF	ACU
BAR	ADMISSION	INS	
YURT	CORFU	VHSTAPES	
OTOH	DEN	FINISHTHE	JOB
BOWL	GAME	ANNOY	REPO
ELIA	BOOTY	MACHU	
CENTENNIAL	STATE	ATTIC	
ORIENT	SMILES	SAT	YEEESH
DRESSY	PANORAMA	ADDM	



# Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY RANDY'S CREW

## FAMILIES SUPPORT

Randy's Crew Board Members Shelley Leach and Jackie Siejack are pictured presenting a \$1,000 check to the staff of Pocomoke Middle School to sponsor a couple of families for school clothes and supplies.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

## FINANCIAL ADVISOR WELCOMED

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City guest speaker Carrie DuPaie, a Raymond James financial advisor, is pictured with Club President Bob Wolfing and member John Hulit at a recent meeting.



PHOTOS COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATED

Worcester Preparatory upper school students (grades 9-12) started school on Aug. 27, followed by middle school students (grades 6-8) Aug. 28, and lower school students (pre-kindergarten through grade 5) on Aug. 29. Pictured are scenes from the first days. Above, first grader Isaac Gilliam is greeted by faculty members as he heads into school.



Third grader Noah Ramadan is welcomed back to campus by Head of School Dr. John McDonald and faculty members.



Seniors cheer on 10th grader Isha Garg.



The senior class led the morning with a "One Last Treasure Hunt" theme, welcoming underclassmen dressed in pirate attire. Seniors Emma Zajdel, Danielle Carr, Naz Unal and senior class sponsor Hunter Causey are pictured cheering on upper school students as they walk onto campus.



# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Sept. 26

### FREE COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC

St. Mary Star of The Sea Parish - Holy Savior Church, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Providing flu vaccinations for those ages 13 years and older. No appointment required. High-dose vaccines available and billed to Medicare or insurance for those 65 years and older. [www.agh.care/flu](http://www.agh.care/flu)

### STORY TIME: ABUELA

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. What will Rosalba and her abuela see as they travel NYC? A bilingual book celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PLAY TIME

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

### LET'S TALK MOVIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join this monthly movie club, where they discuss timeless classics and newer box office hits. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### GUATEMALAN INSPIRED WORRY DOLLS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn about these dolls while crafting your worries away. Registration required: 410-957-0878. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. Popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books participants have read and want to share. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 6-8 p.m. Held in the Assateague Room. [dcwcmd@gmail.com](mailto:dcwcmd@gmail.com)

### BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. 215-385-4993, [BeachSingles.org](http://BeachSingles.org)

## Fri., Sept. 27

### OCEANS CALLING FESTIVAL

Downtown Ocean City. Tickets are sold out. Traffic, transportation and parking information:

<https://www.oceancity.com/transportation-and-parking-information-for-oceans-calling-festival-2024/>.

### 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SEPTEMBER HOMESCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. A creative writing program that will help students with their vocabulary, imaginative thinking, literary knowledge and social enrichment. For ages 8 years and older. 410-632-3495

### SURVIVAL SPANISH: MONTHS AND SEASONS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Join in to learn about the Spanish vocabulary for special times of the year. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### HOMESCHOOL CAFÉ

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Come see what's brewing at the library and join in some STEAM activities. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

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

## Sat., Sept. 28

### OCEANS CALLING FESTIVAL

Downtown Ocean City. Tickets are sold out. Traffic, transportation and parking information:

<https://www.oceancity.com/transportation-and-parking-information-for-oceans-calling-festival-2024/>.

### FURNACE TOWN RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Furnace Town Historic Site (Nassawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jesters, mead, feasting, music, magic, mirth, merriment, dazzling costumes, merchants and treasures. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for those 5-14 years. [www.furnacetown.org/event](http://www.furnacetown.org/event)

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, Whaleysville, 7-10 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scramble eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes,

toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

### BOOK SIGNING FOR DR. CLARA SMALL

New Bethel United Methodist Church, 10203 Germantown Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Book signing for Dr. Clara Small's newly release book, "Compass Points Volume 4." The book highlights the contributions of African Americans to Eastern Shore life. 410-641-0638

### 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. 29

### OCEANS CALLING FESTIVAL

Downtown Ocean City. Tickets are sold out. Traffic, transportation and parking information:

<https://www.oceancity.com/transportation-and-parking-information-for-oceans-calling-festival-2024/>.

### FURNACE TOWN RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Furnace Town Historic Site (Nassawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jesters, mead, feasting, music, magic, mirth, merriment, dazzling costumes, merchants and treasures. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for those 5-14 years. [www.furnacetown.org/event](http://www.furnacetown.org/event)

### 5TH SUNDAY SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. The church will have one service at 9:30 a.m., followed by a pot luck brunch. Bring your favorite brunch item.

### BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Eastern Shore Lanes, 1834 Market St., Pocomoke City, 2-4 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will be shared with Village Neighbors during this 2-hour fundraiser event. \$10 per person/hour. 410-957-0775

### 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/farmersmarket/>

### BERLIN FLEA MARKET

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

### THE ART OF BERLIN

Sundays through October - The Berlin

Welcome Center Lot, 14 S. Main St., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Merry Haven presents A Local Makers Market.

### SEWING FOR A CAUSE

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

## Mon., Sept. 30

### STORY TIME: DOWN ON THE FARM

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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BINGO

The Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Drive, 1-3 p.m. The Island Community House, in partnership with Village Neighbors, welcome all to play bingo for some amazing prices. Play is \$5 per card. Cash only. 757-336-1993

### YOGA CLASS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Specializing in working with those in the Military and First Responder Communities. Free event. Vance Row, YR Yoga Rescue, [www.yoga-rescue.com](http://www.yoga-rescue.com), [yogarescueinfo@gmail.com](mailto:yogarescueinfo@gmail.com)

### 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 Champion, 410-641-0157

### BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. [www.Worcoa.org/oceancity](http://www.Worcoa.org/oceancity)

### DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

### OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

### THE ART OF TISSUE PAPER FLOWERS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Learn to make festive flowers that



# Calendar

are part of Mexican paper art traditions. Registration required. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## Tues., Oct. 1

### POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

Flower St. field across from Henry Park, 125 Flower St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP - WIC & seniors) checks and WIC Fruit & Vegetable checks welcome here.

### STORY TIME: FARM ANIMALS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME: 'AUTUMN'

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring questions and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### CHAIR YOGA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Certified yoga instructor, Therese O'Boyle, teaches this class that stretches and strengthens in a gentle manner. Registration required: 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ANIME CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Monthly themes will include trivia, games, Japanese snacks and art exploration. For ages 13-16 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PREHISTORIC PASTIMES: DINOSAUR STEAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Forge fossils, build a bone body and more. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## RESCUE EFFORTS COMMENDED

At a Sept. 17 Worcester County Commissioners meeting, Maryland State Police Troopers First Class Robert Bradley and Chad Kreiling, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Deputies Earl Buffa and Mark Shayne, were recognized for rescuing an individual from a burning car on Aug. 4, on Route 50 near Route 589. The honorees, along with other members of the departments, are pictured with the commissioners at the meeting.

### MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6:30 p.m. Take an excursion through well-known musical works of Central and South America and witness how such music melted into the jambalaya of the Southeastern United States. All ages. 410-641-0650

### BEACH HEROES-OC

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

### OC KNITTING CLUB

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

### ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

### ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

### WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral,

11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, [www.htcanglican.org/activities](http://www.htcanglican.org/activities).

## Wed., Oct. 2

### 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. A morning full of movement and music themed stories, fun songs and interactive activities to get everyone moving. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FREE COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Providing flu vaccinations for those ages 13 years and older. No appointment required. High-dose vaccines available and billed to Medicare or insurance for those 65 years and older. [www.agh.care/flu](http://www.agh.care/flu)

### PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring gently used puzzles (in original boxes) and leave with a new-to-you puzzle. Don't have a puzzle but still want one? That's OK too. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: A ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK EVENT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Talk about how to be ready in an emergency situation. One lucky winner will receive

a survival pack. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BUG-OUT BAG ESSENTIALS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. What supplies are needed in a 72-hour emergency supply backpack. Make your own first aid kit. Sample some survival food packets. For ages 12-18 years. Registration necessary: 410-957-0878.

### QIGONG AND TAI CHI FORMS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:30 p.m. Safe, slow moves to improve balance and dexterity. Start creating a healing environment for health conditions. Great for beginners. A six-week course. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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](http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org).

## ONGOING EVENTS

### BERLIN PUMPKIN SCAVENGER HUNT

Find all of the painted pumpkins for your chance to win \$100. Pick up and return your entry form at the Berlin Welcome Center foyer. Open 24/7. Contest runs Oct. 1-30.

### PRE-HOLIDAY SHOWING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Oct. 1-Dec. 31. A pre-holiday showing of original art work. 410-208-4014

### OCTOBER INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Art, photography or poetry competition for all ages. The theme for October is "Sticks and Stones." Due by Oct. 23. 410-632-3495





PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Pictured, from left, are this year's Paint Worcester County award winners and presenters, Gerilyn Gaskill, N. Taylor Collins, Judith Loeber, Rhonda Ford, Nancy Fine, Lori Yates, Ed Lewandowski, Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, commotion judge Jim Rehak, Mathew Ames, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Homer Proctor, Library Foundation President Carol Rose, and WCAC Executive Director Anna Mullis.

# Worcester plein air contest winners named

(Sept. 26, 2024) Local and regional plein air artists from four different states painted their hearts out from Sept. 15-20 and competed for cash prizes in the Paint Worcester County plein air event sponsored by Worcester County Arts Council.

The event, presented in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation, culminated last Friday, Sept. 20, at the Berlin Library branch with an open to public art sale and exhibit showcasing pieces created during the week. Completed artwork was

judged by award-winning plein air artist Jim Rehak. The competition awarded \$2,650 in cash prizes.

- The winners were:
- First Place:** "High Tide" by Rhonda Ford, of Easton
  - Second Place:** "Harvest Sun" by Ed Lewandowski, of Bridgeville, Delaware
  - Third Place:** "Last Light" by Homer Proctor, of Seaford, Delaware
  - Honorable Mention:** "Welcome Home" by Lori Yates, of Easton
  - Maryland Legislators' Choice:**

"North Eastern" by Gerilyn Gaskill, of Georgetown, Delaware

**Worcester County Commissioners' Choice:** "Rain, Fog Again" by Nancy Fine, of Hampstead

**Library Foundation Choice:** "Windmill Creek Winery" by Judith Loeber, of Millsboro, Delaware

**Berlin Mayor's Choice:** "Sam & Sam Get Married" by Taylor Collins, of Dover, Delaware

**Horizon Farm Choice and Artists' Choice:** "Harvest Sun" by Ed Lewandowski, of Bridgeville, Delaware

**WCAC Board of Directors Choice:** "Squirrel!!" by Matthew Amey, of Berlin

The selection of paintings created during the event will be on public display at the Worcester County Library, Berlin branch until Oct. 22. All artwork is available for sale.

For more information on exhibited artwork, or to make a purchase, contact the Worcester County Arts Council at 410-641-0809, or [curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org](mailto:curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org)

## OPEN HOUSES

### Sept. 26 - Oct. 3

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	3BR/2BA	Single Family	starting at \$239,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sat & Sun 11am-1pm	711 Mooring Road #5, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$495,000	Eileen Bumba/Long & Foster Realty
Friday 11am-1pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$799,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Friday 1-3pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 1:30-3:30pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	12 Garrett Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$439,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	377 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	29214 Shady Creek Lane #20, Dagsboro, DE	3BR, 2.5BA	Townhouse	\$349,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	13 Starboard Court, Ocean Pines MD	3 BR/2BA	Single Family	\$449,900	Cindy Poremski/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$799,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Saturday 2-4pm	308 Piedmont Court, Ocean Pines	3 BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$585,000	Cindy Poremski/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	12716 Carnouste Lane #3, River Run, Berlin	3BR/2.5 BA	Townhome	\$254,900	Meme Ellis/Keller Williams Realty North
Sunday 11am-1pm	12 Garrett Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$439,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Sunday 12:30-3:30pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$799,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Tuesday 11am-1pm	1101 Edgewater Ave. #202 Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday 10am-Noon	344 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Thursday 11am-1pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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# Abandoned structure a total loss after fire

### Neighboring homes suffer damage but companies able to minimize impacts

(Sept. 26, 2024) Shortly after midnight on Sept. 17, Worcester County Emergency Services received 911 calls reporting a structure fire at 305 Second St. in Pocomoke City and dispatched multiple departments to respond.

According to a news release from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office, firefighters from Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company were the first on scene and encountered a two-story residence heavily engulfed in fire.

It took firefighters from multiple companies in both Worcester and Accomack counties hours to fully bring the fire under control. Due to the advanced stage of fire and dangerous conditions, the release said firefighters conducted exterior suppression activities and worked quickly to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent homes. At least two of the surrounding homes were damaged, but were largely spared due to firefighting efforts.

Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office investigators learned that the house was uninhabited at the time



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

A structure on Second Street in Pocomoke is pictured fully engulfed in flames after catching fire after midnight Sept. 17.

and was undergoing renovations. The structure was a complete loss, as it collapsed during the fire, leaving only charred remnants behind.

The cause of the fire remains

under investigation.

Investigators are requesting that anyone with information, including pictures and/or video, contact the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Of-

ice at 410-632-5666 or firemarshal@co.worcester.md.us. Tips may also be submitted anonymously to the Maryland Arson Hotline at 800-492-7529.

## DENTAL Insurance

Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Call **1-855-337-5228** Dental50Plus.com/MDDC

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, NV, HI VA - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C25A/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C2540); PA: C254PA; Insurance Policy P64/B469, P50/B439 (GA: P54GA, OK: P54OK, TN: P54TN). 6347

### LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!



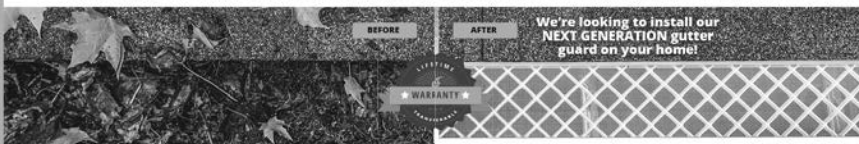
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~ In Memorium ~



## Joyce Earle

11/10/1946 - 9/19/2024

Now I know why you always told me to be strong.

You knew that one day I would need the strength to bear your loss.

And now, we have an angel.  
We call her MOM, GRANDMOM, SISTER, AUNT and FRIEND



# Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



### HELP WANTED

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER TECHNICIAN:** Full or Part Time, No wknds. No nights. Will train. Must have good driving record & some **Basic Mechanical Skills.** Perfect for retirees. Small local co. 30 yrs. serving Delmarva. **410-641-4411**

**FIRE ALARM TECHNICIAN:** Full time position. Exp. w/Low Voltage a plus but will train. **Some Electrical/Mechanical Skills Are Req.** Must have good driving record. Mon.-Fri. Paid vacation and holidays. Small local company. 30 yrs. serving Delmarva. **410-641-4411**

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**Small Engine Mechanic**  
Year-round.  
Competitive Wages.  
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Outdoor work, lifting heavy objects. Mechanical, basic pool pump & motors, CPO a plus / not required. Able to pass CPO test. Summer includes weekends & long hours; working alone or with others  
**410-289-4902**  
ask for Suzanne.

Classifieds 410-723-6397

### HELP WANTED

A-1 Sanitation Service is a family owned and operated business that has been servicing the tri-state area for over 55 years. We are looking to hire a long-term, full-time **Portable Toilet Technician (NON CDL).** Job duties will include cleaning portable toilets on a route from our Frankford location. Must have clean driving record, valid DOT medical card, and provide exceptional customer service to our clients. Good pay with experience, paid weekly. Benefits include health insurance, paid. holidays, paid vacation and sick time, and a retirement savings plan.

Please email your resume to [info@a1sanitation.com](mailto:info@a1sanitation.com)  
Pay: \$19-\$21/hour to start

### RENTALS

Well-appointed **Bay Front Home** for rent in **West Ocean City.** 3900 sq. ft. featuring 4BR, 2.5BA, and in-ground pool with newly renovated pool house. \$4,250/month. **Call Moses: 410-449-1434.**

#### DOWNTOWN OC, YR RENTAL

Bayside Townhouse on water. 3BR, 2.5BA, boat slip. \$1,900 per mo.  
**410-390-1752**

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4BR, 3.5BA, Garage, West OC. No smoking/pets. \$2750/mo. + electric. Available November 1.  
**Call 410-213-1633.**

#### WINTER RENTAL

Nice 2BR, 2BA, on the water in Ocean City, MD. \$1,450 per mo. + utils.  
**Call Karen, 443-880-5727.**

#### WINTER SEASONAL RENTAL (4 months)

2 BEDROOM  
\$1,500 per mo.  
Utils. incl.  
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### SEASONAL WEEKLY RENTALS

**Burgandy Inn**  
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410-289-8581

### ROOMMATES

**Houseshare.** Furnished rooms in South Ocean Pines. All inclusive. \$800 per month. Year-round. No smoking. No pets.  
**Call 443-880-2317.**

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available in West Ocean City. Approximately 1656 sq. ft. and 1728 sq. ft. Call 443-497-4200

Classifieds 410-723-6397

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**MISC./OTHER**

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**YARD SALE**

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**AUCTION**

The contents of mini storage units will be sold online at Lockerfox.com. Ocean City Mini Storage.

Units to be auctioned; S102-S311-S635-L3-L12-O25-O40-O145-O151-O175-B28-B69-B57. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

Date: Friday,  
September 27th, 2024  
Time: 10:00 am

This will be an online auction. Please go to Lockerfox.com and register.

Feel free to call 410-213-2029 for any questions regarding the online auction.

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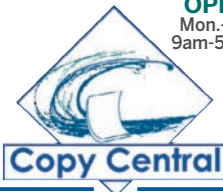
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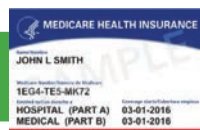
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