



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FOR THE VETERANS

Members of the Delmarva Chorus are pictured performing during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial on Monday. See full story on page 17.

‘Sunset & Cocktails’ eclipsed by logistics

Demands on staff, liability issues of alcohol service cancel adult-themed event

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) Ocean Pines leaders have officially axed the proposed “Sunset and Cocktails” event, a potential evening catered toward adult residents pitched by the community’s

Aquatics Advisory Committee.

Sunset and Cocktails, proposed by the Ocean Pines Association’s Aquatics Advisory Committee to be held at the Yacht Club pool on a weekday night during the summer, was shut down by OPA for potential logistical issues.

OPA Board of Directors President Stuart Lakernick said that the association has elected not to proceed with the idea, citing “added operational

and staff demands” for offering cocktails during extended poolside hours.

“There are liability concerns relative to poolside alcohol consumption during evening hours,” he said. “For those reasons, OPA is presently declining to go forward with the Sunset and Cocktails proposal made by the Aquatics Committee.”

The event was pitched as an evening welcome to all, including children and families, but catered to

the retiree, single, and older couple crowd. The original plan excluded juveniles, and, in response, was deemed discriminatory by the community’s legal counsel, Bruce Bright. The concept was revised and resubmitted to permit entry to all who wished to attend. However, entertainment would still be geared toward adults.

If approved, the evening would
See ADULT Page 4



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Local dollars key to new nonstop air service

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) A deal to secure direct flights from Salisbury's airport to Orlando is on its proverbial final approach before landing.

Wicomico County is about to strike a landmark agreement with a low-cost airline, meaning locals could be cruising uninterrupted from the Lower Shore to destinations like Disney World and Universal Studios by as early as spring 2025. Direct flights may be scheduled as frequently as two to three times weekly.

"Florida markets are some of our strongest markets. If we can capture a percentage of people that go to other airports, that'll help build our base travel customers. The more we get people flying here, the more it'll build us up," said Tony Rudy, director of the Salisbury Regional Airport.

Flights will be on brand-new aircraft that can carry between 100-150 people. While the name of the airline is being held back until a final agreement is signed, Rudy confirmed it's an "ultra low-cost carrier" that will carry passengers to Orlando International Airport. They hope to make that formal announcement by year's end.

"I'm real positive about it, knowing the demand that's there and the frequency they'll be flying. I think it'll be successful," Rudy added.

Orlando is a top market for air travel among Lower Shore residents, according

to Transportation Department passenger ZIP code tracking. However, the Salisbury airport loses 80% of local travelers to airports in Baltimore, Philadelphia, or Washington – where nonstop bookings to the Sunshine State happen to be much cheaper, at least for now.

"What I've been hearing lately is, they'll take a look at Salisbury first," he said. "If people check out fares, they might be surprised. It could be close to what they'd pay at another airport, and they don't have to drive two hours or pay for parking. It may be a wash or they may come out ahead."

The agreement hinges on an \$800,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which was greenlit late last month at the federal level. The grant comes from the agency's Small Community Air Service Development Program.

Should the airline suffer any financial losses in its first two years of operation, the cash will go into a sort of escrow fund, from which the airline will be allowed to dip into monthly. This hedge against losses, which is also earmarked in part for marketing and start-up costs, is being called a "comprehensive revenue guarantee."

Rudy said the deal wouldn't have happened without it.

"When airlines start new routes, they take a big risk on making a profit," he said. "What this grant is for, they basically

set a revenue goal for each flight. They expect X amount of dollars. If they fall short, then this grant and the local contributions will make up that difference."

However, if the airline does well and doesn't need the money to shore up losses, then the money would be refunded to each of the entities that donated, Rudy said.

Supplementing the federal grant is another \$217,500 in local pledges from area businesses and government entities, bringing the airline's safety net to over \$1 million.

That includes \$50,000 pledges from Wicomico County and Worcester County, and \$25,000 from Ocean City. Other Ocean City-based donors include Ocean Downs and Royal Plus (\$10,000 each) as well as the Harrison Group and Positive Energy (\$5,000 each). Pocomoke City-based defense contrac-

tor Hardwire LLC also pledged \$5,000.

Salisbury's airport opened in the 1940s. Its primary airline since the 1970s has been Piedmont, which has served the area since its earliest days as Henson Airlines. The company is headquartered in Salisbury and isn't going anywhere, Rudy said.

In 2012, Allegiant Airlines unsuccessfully attempted regional service out of Salisbury to Orlando. Rudy said Allegiant failed for many reasons; its older equipment proved unreliable, and the route schedules and hours weren't family friendly. Allegiant also flew into Orlando's secondary airport, Sanford International.

Next, the Salisbury airport will be getting a security system upgrade and a much-anticipated runway extension, which Rudy said will help accommodate larger aircraft in the future.



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Adult night out dropped because of logistics

Continued from Page 1
offer hors d'oeuvres, alcoholic beverages, and music.

At the AAC's Sept. 12 meeting, the group's chair, Gary Miller, said that Sunset and Cocktails would be like the weekly summer Family Fun Nights, where adults without young children are welcome, while the music and simple food, like hamburgers, hot dogs, and sodas, would discourage those who do not have kids from attending.

The Sunset and Cocktails pitch was similar in that the more sophisticated bites and tunes would dissuade parents with young children from bringing them along.

Miller argued that Ocean Pines residents are interested in an adults-only space. The Yacht Club was once the community's sole pool where kids

were prohibited. However, officials ruled in 2017 to allow the under-18 crowd. The committee hoped this idea would create an occasion reminiscent of a time when the area was welcome to only the more mature residents.

"The Yacht Club pool was once adults-only," Miller said at a previous AAC meeting. "We understand that we could not go back once it was changed, but many people miss that. This is a way of allowing a segment of the community that has no other specific events tailored to them to go out and enjoy an evening with similar people."

Despite efforts by the group to get the event off the ground, OPA officials have been unreceptive. Chatter about the final decision has taken to social media.

"The original proposal was adults only," AAC member Vivian Koroknay wrote on the community's online forum on Nov. 6. "However, the Aquatics Committee proposed this two other times, and both times, the written proposal emphasized that while this would likely be an event that would have greater appeal to adults without children, it was open to anyone who would be interested in a nice evening at the Yacht Club pool."

"In some ways, it is not too different from Family Fun Night," the statement continued. "In that case, the food and entertainment are geared to appeal to families with kids; however, if adults without children want to attend, no problem."

Koroknay also noted that alcohol is available for adults at Family Fun Night and that the "entire Aquatics Committee supported resubmitting [Sunset and Cocktails] without the adults-only verbiage after several association members expressed interest."

"Sunsets and Cocktails is geared to

appeal to adults without children but is open to families," she added. "I don't see much of a difference, but if the powers that be don't want such an event, then so be it."

Last month, the committee asked their board liaison, Rick Farr, if they might privately rent out the Yacht Club for the occasion if the request was denied.

Those interested in attending could have their night, but it would be unaffiliated with OPA. According to Lakernick, this possibility was also rejected.

"As for renting out the pool for this thing as a private function, it appears management is opposed to that," he said.

"There are different insurance and liability questions and problems that arise from that, and it otherwise presents some of the same operational demands that management understandably wants to avoid, like staffing, mobilizing food and drink, etc."

For now, Sunset and Cocktails will not proceed.



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Pines committee continues talks on geese controls

Shoreline restoration efforts ongoing at South Gate pond

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) The Ocean Pines Environment and Natural Assets Committee is considering how to minimize the community's geese population best but first wants to see if a shoreline restoration project has an impact before officially offering a recommendation.

ENAC Chair Patricia Garcia said that the group is having trouble finding vendors who offer population control methods that it considers the least cruel.

The committee has previously considered egg addling. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service defines this technique as "managing birds that cause damage to property, agriculture, and natural resources or are potential threats to public safety." The process includes oiling, shaking, or puncturing an egg "during incubation to render the embryo unviable. The eggs are put back in the nest, so the adult birds believe they are still developing and do not feel the need to lay anymore."

Environmental committee members confirm that while addling itself is simple, safely getting the geese off the nest and keeping them at bay during the process is challenging. At the group's Oct. 23 meeting, ENAC Chair Patricia Garcia said she is "unwilling to go in and do anything with goose egg nests."

"We, as the committee, are trying to come up with alternatives to minimize any cruelty going on," ENAC member Anne O'Connell said. "Egg addling is not great, but it is a solution. We need to find somebody that is well versed in doing it."

Garcia noted that the shoreline restoration project may also decrease the geese population. The project, to be completed via a partnership between the Ocean Pines Association and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, includes growing native vegetation around the South Gate Pond, like grass and flowers, to combat erosion. The initiative was approved in January.

ENAC Board Liaison Jeff Heavner said while the previous meeting between OPA and the MCBP was postponed, the partners are currently working on the project.

"We have that coming, so let's see if that helps anything," Garcia said. "...the next steps will be to see what happens."

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Berlin planning downtown holiday festivities

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) Berlin is celebrating the holiday season this year with beloved and festive traditions, beginning with the planned arrival of the town's Christmas tree on Monday, Nov. 18.

The Merry Marketplace is returning, and Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said that the Berlin Main Street Program is partnering with the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club this year to bring the tradition back to town.

Local vendors and those from the Berlin Farmers Market will be present on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parking lot next to the Berlin Welcome Center to offer attendees handmade crafts, hot chocolate, freshly roasted chestnuts, and holiday treats. Wells said that there will be more than 20 participating vendors.

"We hope it will bring more visitors to the town, support our local artisans, farmers, and help the Rotary club with fundraising," she said. "Plus, it creates a festive vibe."

On Nov. 29, the town will once again host its Ice Ice Berlin and Tree Lighting event. Wells said more than 30 businesses sponsor the holiday-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A scene from last year's tree lighting ceremony is pictured above. The yearly event will return Nov. 29.

themed ice sculptures, which will be displayed downtown. The night starts at 5 p.m. and continues until about 9 p.m. The tree, which is real and about 25 feet, will be lit at 6 p.m. near the Atlantic Hotel.

Wells said Ocean City Pipes and Drums and Delmarva Chorus will perform, and Santa will be at Kringle Kottage, located on Artisans Green behind the Sterling Tavern, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. She also added that

shops will be open late, and leashed pets are welcome.

The Letters to Santa Mailbox is back again this holiday season. Wells said the program, which began nine years ago, allows kids to drop off their letters and Christmas wish lists to the mailbox located in the foyer of the Berlin Welcome Center. The children receive a personalized response and a coupon for a free treat. The initiative will run through Dec. 16. According

to Wells, the town receives more than 100 letters every season.

The municipality is also getting ready for its 53rd annual Town of Berlin Christmas Parade. The event is set for Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

A complete list of upcoming Berlin events can be found on the municipality's website. The town's Facebook page also contains additional information and dates for offered carriage rides and Santa visits.

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Berlin earns bronze Sustainable recognition

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) The Town of Berlin continues to make strides in sustainability, and last week the municipality's efforts were recognized with a renewal of its Sustainable Maryland Certification.

Sustainable Maryland is a certification initiative for "municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term," according to its website. The program is a collaboration between the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland and the Maryland Municipal League.

Berlin was one of 17 Maryland municipalities recognized at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual fall conference. According to a press release issued by the Sustainable Maryland program, the town was certified at the Bronze Level. To be placed in the bronze category, a participating local government must obtain at least 150 points as determined by the environmental organization. Points are racked up through the implementation of community and health action steps. One such example, which scored 10 points, is Berlin's public wi-fi zone that allows

visitors to access the network downtown for free.

"Renewing Berlin's Sustainable Maryland certification is a testament to our commitment to a greener, more resilient future for our community," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said in the press release. "Through collaborative efforts, we're not only safeguarding our natural resources but also building a healthier, more vibrant Berlin for generations to come. I'm proud of our team's dedication to this important work and look forward to seeing our continued progress."

According to Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, to maintain the sustainability certification, the town must meet "specific environmental, economic, and social sustainability criteria each year, including efforts like reducing energy consumption, supporting local agriculture, and promoting waste production."

The municipality's Facebook page says that Berlin was the first town in Maryland to receive this certification back in 2012. The honor is valid for three years, which Berlin has sustained and renewed each cycle, making this the fifth consecutive recognition for the municipality.

Wells and Berlin Superintendent of Wastewater Meghan Pfaller were

responsible for this year's successful application process. On Nov. 8, Berlin was certified by Sustainable Maryland with 260 points, putting them into the bronze tier.

Berlin's approved application, which highlights the sustainability steps, is available to the public on Sustainable Maryland's website. In the Community Action category, some projects that pushed the town to its 260 points include the addition of murals to downtown, including Pollinator Way.

The official report describes the painting as "an interactive mural where kids hop from flower to flower learning about pollinators and also added bioretention gardens to help alleviate flooding in the alley."

"The community loves learning about pollinators, and it helps keep the kids busy while waiting in line at Island Creamery," the report continues.

Innovation demonstration projects like Take Pride in Berlin Week, food fairs such as the annual Peach Festival and the Berlin Farmers Market, wellness initiatives, including Berlin's support of the Worcester County Health Department's Just Walk program, and a comprehensive process for stormwater management are just a few examples of action



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Superintendent of Wastewater Meghan Pfaller is pictured with the Sustainable Maryland bronze recognition, which the town has achieved since 2012.

steps that led to the town's 2024 Sustainable Maryland recognition.

"Maintaining the Sustainable Maryland certification is important because it demonstrates our commitment to environmental stewardship and improving the quality of life for our residents," Wells said. "It helps guide the town's growth while balancing sustainability and economic development."

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Worcester asked to oppose proposed heavy truck regs

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) A national lobbying group is asking Worcester County leaders to oppose proposed federal regulations that would allow heavier and longer tractor-trailers on the road.

The nonprofit Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT) is fighting two bills pending in the House of Representatives that would increase weight limits for commercial vehicles on interstate highways from 80,000 to 91,000 pounds.

The proposed federal regulatory changes are coming from national companies that rely on shipping, according to Rob Bielunas, Regional Field Director of CABT. He met with Worcester County staffers earlier this year to make his pitch for their support.

“This issue is really being pushed by your big shippers of the world, your Amazons, your UPSs. Your local mom and pop trucking company tends not to be in favor of these kinds of bills or these kinds of effort,” he said.

CABT has asked for, and received, letters of support from the Worcester County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Matt Crisafulli to oppose HB 3372 and HB 2948. The Commissioners approved the mailing of a letter to Sen. Ben Cardin that opposes the unfunded legislative proposals.

“Increased sizes and weights will have a significant effect on our county-maintained roads and infrastructure,” the commissioners’ letter says. “Not only do heavier trucks do enormous damage to our highways, but they also increase costs for taxpayers at the local level by the increased stress they put on older bridges and roads.”

The estimated cost to rebuild the 766 bridges in Maryland’s First Congressional District, 47 of them in “poor condition,” would cost taxpayers \$151 million, the letter also says.

Heavier trucks will wear down the

life expectancy of bridges and roads at a faster rate, Bielunas said.

“I’m sure you’ve been down roads where, you know, so many trucks go on it that they start to get grooves in it, which makes infrastructure dangerous,” he said in an interview. “And none of these bills ever come with any sort of funding ... to keep up with the expedited maintenance routine that comes with heavier tractor trailers.”

In addition to infrastructure, the Commissioners’ letter also shares concerns about motorist safety, because heavier trucks have been shown to have higher crash rates.

There were 59 fatalities in 2022 caused by 3,628 large-truck crashes in Maryland – a 44 percent increase over the prior year, data cited in the letter and attributed to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

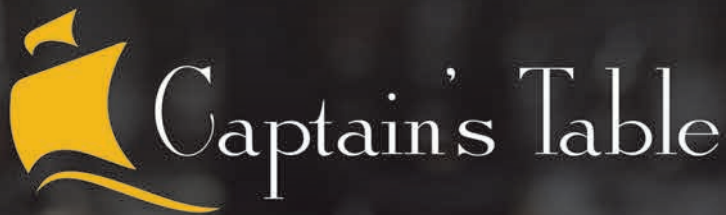
Bielunas was quick to mention that not every crash is the driver’s fault.

“Sometimes it’s, you know, a distracted driver. Someone cuts them off. Maybe it’s bad weather and they just can’t stop in time. But, you know, at the end of the day, it’s their vehicles that are the most dangerous ones on the road,” he said.

CABT has also asked for support from Rep. Andy Harris (R-1st). When asked whether the Congressman supports the measures, a spokeswoman replied via email that the bills were discharged from committee months ago without action on the House floor.

“We will be on the lookout if these go to the floor but I’m unaware if there are any plans to address these bills after the election. If there is floor action, I will be in touch with how the Congressman votes,” said Harris’ communications director Anna Adamian.

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks also received letters of support from the Snow Hill Police Department, the Maryland Chief’s of Police Association, and the Maryland Sheriff’s Association, according to Bielunas.



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Abbott questions superintendent's spending

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) Worcester County's school superintendent responded publicly this week to allegations of spending improprieties, stemming from an anonymous complaint lodged at the state level.

While a state report dismissed any impropriety, Superintendent Louis Taylor said he and his staff are now in the process of sorting out what new policies on spending and reimbursement might look like moving forward. He also noted the school's system had been operating under

out-of-county travel policies that "need to be more detailed."

"We recognize some things we have to adjust," Taylor told the Worcester County Commissioners at their Nov. 6 meeting. "As soon as we have that together, our first step will be to get approve by our Board of Education. Upon completion, we will forward that onto you."

The complaint was reported Oct. 18 to Taylor and county officials by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for Education. It alleges school employees were "misusing education tax dollars to make personal purchases such as meals when the employees were not conducting official business or travel."

The complaint also alleges that school employees were reimbursed for these purchases above the allowable per diem rate. However, while Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) has no internal policies that govern reimbursement allowances or incidental expenses, there is one form, for out-of-county travel, that sets a per diem limit for meals, the report noted.

Meal reimbursements on the WCPS Travel Request Form, which is public record, are listed as \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch, and \$30 for dinner. However, this per diem limit "is not considered to comply with accepted domestic travel per diem standards," the report says.

The OIG report also suggests WCPS conduct an internal review of its reimbursement and travel policy, last updated in 2008, to establish standards more consistent with federal or state rules.

Weston Young, Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer, notified the County Commissioners in an Oct. 29 internal memo that he'd invited Superintendent Taylor to Wednes-

day's meeting to "present to the commissioners his plan to update policies to come into compliant with the issues identified in in this report."

Young noted in his memo that the report's apparent conclusion was that "WCPS staff cannot be held to standards that do not exist or are poorly defined."

The state's Office of the Inspector General for Education investigates whether local school systems and boards of education, both public and private, are compliant with federal and state laws in policies and procedures. Any complaints lodged with the agency are held in strict anonymity.

At the meeting, District 1 Commissioner Caryn Abbott questioned Taylor for the practice of using his personal credit card to pay for items instead of official county purchasing cards. She specifically cited a purchase at the Sterling Tavern in Berlin.

"That's been the practice in the past. That will be part of what we let you all know about," Taylor said, noting that WCPS will obtain legal advice to construct new policies.

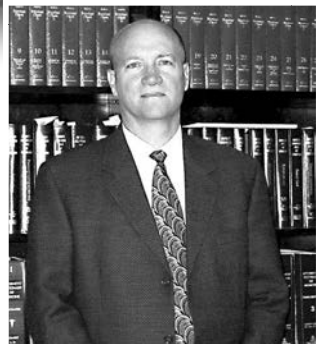
After the OIG report was released, Taylor said in a statement, "While we anticipated that the resolution of this complaint would affirm that school system officials continue to be trusted stewards of taxpayer dollars, we appreciate the Office of the Inspector General for Education issuing this formal report dismissing any impropriety in our school system practices."

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the commissioners approved unanimously the school system's five-year capital improvement plan as a planning document for the next round of big-budget WCPS projects. Those include multi-million-dollar construction projects to replace Buckingham Elementary and renovate and/or replace Berlin Intermediate School.

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BFC, EMS request more town budget funds

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) At a meeting last week, the Berlin Fire Company and Berlin Fire Company Emergency Medical Services outlined their funding amounts for the next budget.

For BFC and BFC EMS, the total request for operations and capital will be \$1,055,000 for fiscal year 2026 compared to approximately \$699,000 included in this year's budget.

The BFC's specific request for fire operations is \$205,000 plus \$150,000 for capital for a total of \$355,000. Last year, the town funded \$200,000 for operations.

For the BFC EMS, the request is for \$625,000 in operations plus \$75,000 for capital. Last year, the town funded

\$484,000 for EMS operations. The town has also committed to a \$15,000 fire and EMS capital allocation associated with casino revenues for three years.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall noted that this year's funding request is an over \$350,000 increase to what was allocated to the services in the previous budget.

"Last year, our budget amount was \$699,000," he said. "This year, BFC and BFC EMS are asking for a total of \$1,055,000. That's a 53% increase overall. I just want us all to be on the same page. That's hard to do in one fiscal year ... that's a hefty ask."

BFC President David Fitzgerald urged the Berlin Mayor and Council to consider the request "ask versus ask." He noted that EMS sought \$611,000 last

year compared to their request of \$625,000 during this budget process and are thus "only asking for \$14,000 more." Fitzgerald said it's important for town officials to understand the budgeted amount was far below the amount identified as necessary to fund operations.

"It sounds bad, but I think you should look at ask to ask too, because that sounds like we've asked for more but look at ask to ask so we don't get people bent out of shape," Fitzgerald said. "Last year, we asked for \$611,000, and we are now asking \$625,000, so we are only asking for \$14,000 more ... I think you all need to say ask to ask."

The emergency officials said the increased request comes as the district

continues to grow rapidly. There are more subdivisions and townhouses, and it is "only going to get worse," according to Fitzgerald.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen agreed town services feel the same pressures.

Still, Tyndall asked that BFC personnel maintain "realistic expectations."

"We understand what the ask has been year over year...but we have to spread that amount of our revenue across many different pathways," the mayor said. "I think we are very generous with what we are able to offer based on what we have available. This body will continue to do that; I just want to set realistic expectations so we are not misleading anybody."

Park's new gazebo celebrated at memorial

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) The new gazebo at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines was officially opened and dedicated on Monday, Nov. 11, prior to the remembrance park's 2024 Veterans Day ceremony.

Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore was joined by com-

munity officials, including Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola, the OPA Board of Directors, and Veterans Memorial Foundation members, as she expressed her gratitude for the creation of the new structure.

Gilmore said the gazebo was erected in collaboration between the Veterans Memorial Foundation, the OPA Board of Directors, Viola, OPA Public Works, and

Whyland Construction, which is based in Laurel, Delaware.

The hope is that the pavilion will act as a space for family and friends to gather during a visit to the memorial park. "What you see today is the fruition of several years of wishing and a year of planning and building," Gilmore said.

"This belongs to all of us now," she added.

OPA and the Veterans Memorial Foundation also intend for the gazebo to serve as an "outdoor classroom" for the more than 650 fifth-grade students from all of Worcester County's private and public schools who come to the site each year to learn about United States history, the flag, and former military members.

"This gazebo allows us to expand
See GAZEBO Page 12

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Gazebo added to memorial site

Continued from Page 11 upon our programs, enhancing the students' experience," the foundation president said. "We are grateful to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and the Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola, who so willingly joined us on our mission."

Gilmore noted that Viola was "instrumental" in ensuring the structure was open in time for Veterans Day, as the goal reiterated by the general manager at community board meetings.

Gilmore expressed her gratitude to Ocean Pines Public Works, which played a vital role in the pavilion's completion, and Whayland Construction, which she said was "amazing to work with."

Viola also spoke at the Nov. 11 dedication.

"We have something very special here [in Ocean Pines], and this certainly is a part of it," he said. "I have termed this a legacy structure which enhances this iconic area."

The official opening concluded with a ribbon cutting performed by Viola and Gilmore.



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation Chair Marie Gilmore delivers remarks before the ribbon is cut by Ocean Pines officials at the new gazebo on Veterans Day.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CONCESSION TEAM AT WORK

Recently the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City concessions team took part in the Pine'eer Craft Fair. The Craft Show members in the kitchen preparing the food were, from left, Candy Foreman, Skip Flanagan, Tim Kartisek, Tom Flanagan, and Ed Ahlquist. At the sales table, from left, Ellen Kartisek, Doug Ege and selling 2025 Kiwanis Lottery tickets Tom Southwell. Final concessions sales events for 2024. Dawg Team can now rest after 20 plus events.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SURF INTO INTEGRITY

The Ocean City Surf Club recently completed another popular Surf Into Integrity program this year. This was the ninth year for the program, which is offered for Stephen Decatur Middle School students. Pictured is this year's group at its graduation ceremony on Nov. 6.

Deputy hospitalized following Pines collision

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) A Worcester County Sheriff's deputy was hospitalized after being involved in a head-on automobile collision in his patrol vehicle on Racetrack Road.

Around 9:20 a.m. last Friday, the deputy was driving southbound on Racetrack Road when a white panel van exited the Tidal Health Ocean Pines Campus at Cathage Road. The van crossed over into the southbound lane, traveling directly into the path of the sheriff's vehicle.

The cars collided in front of the Shore Stop/Valero gas station. The van ended up tilted into a culvert along the southbound lane. The deputy's SUV suffered severe front damage. Neither vehicle was carrying passengers.

The deputy was transported to At-

lantic General Hospital for medical evaluation and was reportedly in stable condition. The driver of the van was taken to Tidal Health. Both individuals sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

Neither the van driver nor the deputy's identify has not been released yet by the sheriff's department. Police have not addressed the cause of the accident. Traffic along Racetrack Road was briefly halted as authorities tended to the scene, sending cars off Racetrack Road onto a detour through Ocean Pines.

"The Worcester County Sheriff's Office extends its sincere gratitude to the citizens who stopped to assist and to the emergency medical services for their swift and professional response. Their support and care are greatly appreciated," the department said in a statement.



BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A Worcester County Sheriff's Office deputy was hospitalized last week following a head-on collision, pictured above on Route 589.



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Opinion

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

Yearly approach only way to control geese

These resident geese that flock, eat, breed and everything else around the ponds in Ocean Pines are like a recurring case of heartburn for which there is no permanent or easy cure.

Although the majestic Canada goose can be an inspiring sight, especially when is one standing watch over the flock like an imperial sentry, the ground around and beneath them is considerably less than inspirational for anyone foolish enough to try to walk among them.

Geese can be aggressive and, as everyone knows, seriously messy, which is why Ocean Pines residents and various officials over the years have tried and failed to eliminate them as humanely as possible.

There's apparently no such thing, however, as a one-time solution, humane or otherwise, that will remedy the situation completely and keep most people happy.

Probably the only means of halting this goose infestation is simply to take away the open grazing and nesting space by letting the grounds around the ponds to go natural, as in allowing untamed tangles of bushes, weeds and briars to grow as they normally would.

All that underbrush, however, would keep just about everyone away, thus solving one problem by creating another.

According to the Humane Society's Canada Goose Toolkit, co-existing with geese involves a never-ending approach that includes curtailing reproduction via egg addling, harassing or scaring geese (harmlessly) before nesting season and right after geese gain their first flight feathers, and reducing the amount of open lawn by allowing other plants to grow.

This must be done every year until most of the remaining resident population decides there are more suitable places elsewhere to eat and breed.

It's either that, or letting the grounds go wild. Otherwise, as the Humane Society says, "Even if it were desirable, it's not possible to eliminate geese from a community."

Letters

Let's keep fear, division out of our county

Editor,

I love where I live.

I think most people who know me understand my deep love of the Eastern Shore and how grateful I am to have lived here for almost 50 years and to have raised my children here.

This love is the reason I am involved in community organizations and have volunteered for many local non-profits. I serve on the Police Accountability Board and love serving as a (paid) Election Judge. And, of course, I am very and happily involved in Republican politics.

I say all this not to pat myself on the back, but to establish credentials for what I am about to say.

As I said, I love serving as an Election Judge, but I find it very frustrating that the most common response I get when I tell people that I am a judge is "Catch those cheaters!" Or something to that effect. Folks, we don't have that problem here. I am very well aware that there are areas of the country that are rife with cheating of all kinds, but not here. Any "cheating" taking place here is beyond the control of our local Election Board and the Staff, lead by the inestimable Patty Jackson. Most "cheating" is wrong information on social media and incorrect reporting in the media. I know a lot of people who absolutely hate Donald Trump, but that hate is based on lies. Is it cheating if people cast a vote based on those lies?

An example of the "misinformation" from the media is the FEMA scandal. So many media outlets stated that Trump was lying when he accused Homeland Security and FEMA of spending billions of taxpayer dollars on illegal immigrants and discriminating against Republicans and Trump supporters in hurricane rescue efforts in Florida and North Carolina. Well guess

what? It turns out Trump was right. There are dozens of other incidents like this. How many people voted against Trump based, at least in part, on this "misreporting"? This may seem to be a minor incident, but it adds up and becomes the accepted "narrative".

Another issue that has frustrated me is the way some of the school board candidates conducted their campaigns and the aspersions cast and the intimidating tactics used against the incumbents by some of the family members and supporters of said candidates. The Worcester County Board of Education has done a very good job handling the overbearing and frankly stupid mandates handed down from on high by the State and Federal governments. From the way the challengers campaigned you would think we are in Baltimore or Los Angeles or Chicago where, yes, children are absolutely NOT being educated and the teachers' unions are in total control and DEI is really all they care about. The transgender issue is a troubling one, but is not widespread here. And guess what? These kids have the same rights as any other and their needs must be taken into account. From the way some of the candidates campaigned you would think the girls' bathrooms are being overrun by boys.

I believe the fears of election cheating and the fears that awful stuff is regularly occurring in our local schools are based on what is happening in other parts of the country. Do we need to be vigilant? Of course. Those who know me know that "vigilance" is my middle name. But we do not need to make assumptions that these things are happening here - that leads to anger and division and distrust of our leaders.

My concern is that it is possible to import this fear and division and destroy a wonderful community based on what is happening in other areas of the country.

Please, let's not do that.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines

Annual Bikers food drive announced

(Nov. 15, 2024) The community is invited to join the Bikers Without Borders Foundation on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Food Lion in Ocean Pines for its annual food drive.

Members will be collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items, toiletries, baby necessities, clothing and monetary donations for local food banks. Food banks receiving donations this fall

include Chincoteague Island Food Closet (Chincoteague, Va.), Shepherd's Office (Georgetown, Del.), Sunrise Church (Berlin), and The Joseph House (Salisbury).

The needed items include ready-to-eat and microwave-ready meals, shelf stable milk, breakfast and granola bars, cases of bottled water, bags of rice and beans, cooking oil, and canned protein. Additionally, personal hygiene items,

infant formula, diapers and clothing (especially new underwear and socks).

Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional food items to ensure well-rounded donations are provided to each organization, as well as provide gift cards for ongoing support through the holiday season. Beginning at noon, members of the Bikers Without Borders Foundation will begin

See BIKERS Page 15

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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State board to decide permit for wind pier

Company wants to build operations, maintenance facility at West OC harbor

By Stewart Dobson
Editor

(Nov. 15, 2024) U.S. Wind's plan to build a 353-foot-long pier in the harbor in West Ocean City will go before the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) in Annapolis next Wednesday, when the board decides whether to grant the offshore wind developer the tidal wetlands permit it needs for the project.

In addition to the 30-foot-wide concrete pier, which would replace a dilapidated structure that juts out past the harbor entrance, the company intends to install 383 feet of bulkhead.

The pier would serve an operations and maintenance facility the company plans to build at the harbor to service the offshore installation's support vessels.

The company's pursuit of the wetlands permit will carry with it a recommendation of approval from the Maryland Department of Environment, which based its findings exclu-

sively on the project's impact on the harbor's wetlands.

Although the department's report to the BPW recognized strong opposition to the proposed pier, the state's wetlands administrator declared that many of those objections fell outside the department's purview.

Following the department's March 25 hearing on U.S. Wind's application for the permit and its subsequent call for more public comment, it received 882 letters of opposition, 835 of which were form letters, the department's report said.

Among the objections raised were the negative effect the pier and the operation and maintenance facility could have on the local commercial fishing industry.

The department said, however, that was a matter for the Department of Natural Resources, which has been working with U.S. Wind to create a package that would compensate commercial operators for losses suffered because of wind farm development.

"Specifically, the Board's evaluation of the license is confined to the impacts of the proposed bulkhead replacement and pier construction in

the wetlands," the department's report said.

Outside of that is U.S. Wind's three-phase plan to install up to 114 turbines in its 80,000-acre lease area off the Maryland coast. Two of the phases, MarWin and Momentum, have received the blessing of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, while a third phase has yet to be put before state and federal authorities.

As it stands, the closest turbines to shore would be around 15 miles out once the second phase, Momentum, is developed, while the third unnamed and unapproved phase would bring

turbines to just under 11 miles from the beach.

Although the pier and facility are but a small part of the overall wind farm project, U.S. Wind needs an on-shore home port nearby, and whether it gets it will be up to only entity of its kind in the 50 states.

Maryland's Board of Public Works is the "highest administrative authority" in the state and exercises power over state spending and major projects such as this one. This is even though it has just three members — the governor, the state treasurer and the state comptroller.

Bikers collecting for charities

Continued from Page 15
escorted rides to the recipients to make the deliveries.

Bikers Without Borders Foundation is comprised of men and women that believe that giving back to the community is a civic duty. Members are motorcycle riders and non-riders who participate in charitable and volunteer activities which support local

communities. The foundation focuses on supporting and serving veterans and active military, emergency responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in our communities. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/bikerswithoutbordersfoundation or email bikerwithoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com.

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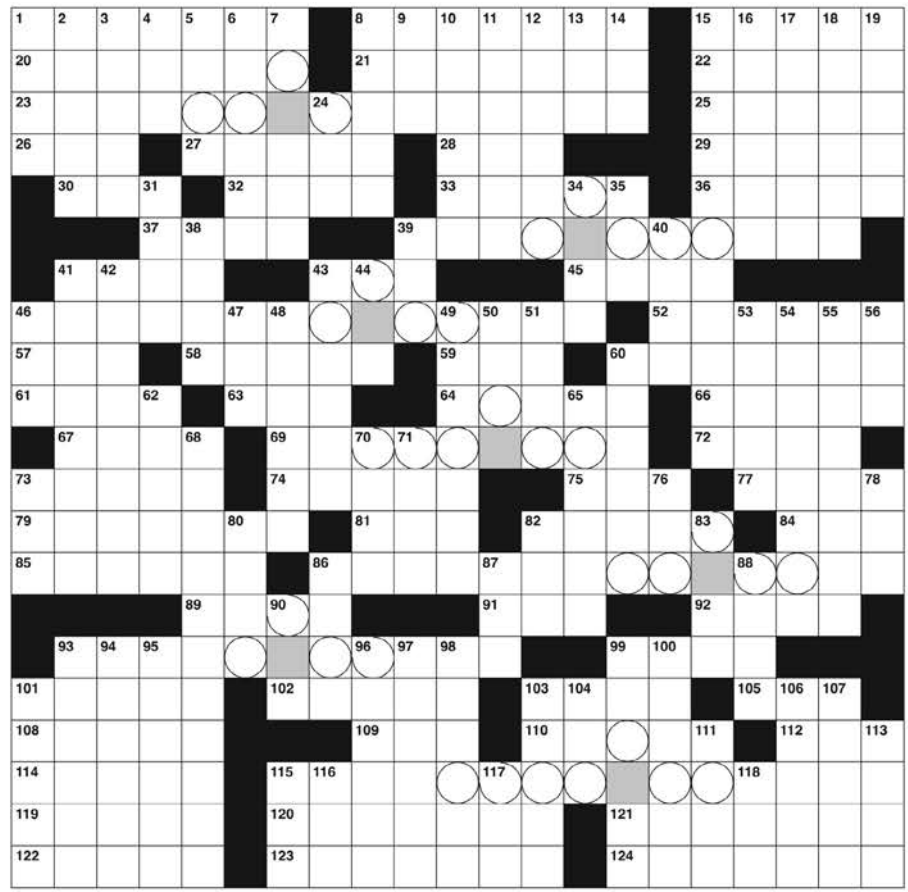


Puzzles

CAN I HAVE A RAISE? BY SID SIVAKUMAR / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Sid Sivakumar is an M.D./Ph.D. student at Washington University in St. Louis, training in biomedical engineering and neuroscience. This is his 18th puzzle for the Times. His 19th will be the upcoming Super Mega crossword in the 2024 edition of Puzzle Mania, our annual print-only games section. At 50 squares by 50 squares, it took a month to make and has over 700 answers. Note: When this puzzle is done, read the shaded letters from top to bottom to get an appropriate phrase.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Simple sugar
 - 8 Relatives of narwhals
 - 15 Eid al-Fitr celebration
 - 20 Boozy holiday confection
 - 21 Like sports stadiums susceptible to rain delays
 - 22 Follower of Jah
 - 23 Land inhabited by the Alutiiq people
 - 25 Cultural climate
 - 26 Racial-justice initialism
 - 27 "Wheels" for a car, say
 - 28 Make "it"
 - 29 Who has successfully juggled 15 balls simultaneously
 - 30 Member of the fam
 - 32 ___ buco
 - 33 Attach, in a way
 - 36 Salted or smoked
 - 37 Shells in Mario Kart, e.g.
 - 39 Zoë Kravitz, to Marisa Tomei
 - 41 Word with the wave of a wand
 - 43 Terse confirmation
 - 45 Protocol part
 - 46 Doppler-effect phenomenon
 - 52 Actress Krishnan of South Indian cinema
 - 57 Nest-egg option, in brief
 - 58 Boasting words
 - 59 Q&A format
- 60** It might be on a lot, but not worth a lot
- 61** Overs and unders, e.g.
- 63** Fracas
- 64** Milk source
- 66** Does some organizing
- 67** Sign of authenticity
- 69** Inventor of the printing press
- 72** Coaster in the cold
- 73** Where a ham might be on display
- 74** Order from on high
- 75** Challenge for a tailor
- 77** Did laps, perhaps
- 79** Holds a grudge against
- 81** Word following a comma in an alphabetized list
- 82** Wild-water craft
- 84** ___ rush
- 85** Texas city that inspired "Friday Night Lights"
- 86** Psychological effect whereby memories are recalled more easily when they match one's current emotional state
- 89** White sight in an expanse of blue
- 91** Physique, informally
- 92** Blow a gasket
- 93** Conscientious of one's community
- 99** Composter's concern
- 101** Comic-strip segment
- 102** Silo fill
- 103** Name that sounds as if its first two letters reversed
- 105** Break down
- 108** Puerto Rico, on some maps
- 109** Popular video game franchise since 1997, for short
- 110** "Oh no you ___!"
- 112** Vigor
- 114** Put away
- 115** Moved across the aisle
- 119** More up to the task
- 120** Unit of explosive force
- 121** Checks and balances include them
- 122** Absolute musts
- 123** Gathers together
- 124** Like the flight from New York to Singapore, among all actively operating passenger flights
- DOWN**
- 1 Partner of go
 - 2 Dips
 - 3 Taste imparted by MSG
 - 4 Network with livestreams on Paramount+
 - 5 Sturdy hardwoods
 - 6 Race from gate to gate?
 - 7 Texas city at the foot of the Franklin Mountains
 - 8 Drum used in son cubano music
 - 9 Delivery room injection, informally
 - 10 Let borrow
 - 11 Not spelled out
 - 12 Sized up
 - 13 Not feel 100 percent
 - 14 Equivalent of Mrs. or Mme.
 - 15 Device with a plunger
 - 16 Go for a bite
 - 17 On solid ground
 - 18 One willing to take the hit?
 - 19 Like Thor, shortly after arriving on Earth in 2011's "Thor"
 - 24 Tennis center?
 - 31 Eponym of a popular root beer brand
 - 34 Kiln for hops
 - 35 Trail mix morsel
 - 38 Island northwest of the Big Island
 - 39 M.L.B. execs
 - 40 Sees the point of
 - 41 Totally fascinated
 - 42 Experience serenity
 - 43 Backup storage service for Apple devices
 - 44 Word from a pirate
 - 46 Taradiddle
 - 47 Internet ___
 - 48 Gentle reminders
 - 49 Spirit-filled?
 - 50 Online reference with credits
 - 51 Become lighter
 - 53 Installations in a Hindu temple
 - 54 Turning some heads?
 - 55 Performance with a sombrero
 - 56 ___ Technica (website with gadget reviews)
 - 60 Strong encouragement
 - 62 Some yoga poses are named for them
 - 65 Item on a to-do list
 - 68 They might be used to change the tone of a film
 - 70 Puente of Latin jazz
 - 71 Returned call?
 - 73 Sign of a packed house
 - 76 ___ qué
 - 78 Jemison in the International Space Hall of Fame
 - 80 Soft rock
 - 82 Call from a dove
 - 83 Currency used in Vatican City
 - 86 1960s-'70s world leader portrayed in film by Helen Mirren
 - 87 Calming oil compound, for short
 - 88 Sites of conch piercings
 - 90 Text often followed by multiple exclamation points
 - 93 "Impossible!"
 - 94 Cushion upon which a ball rests
 - 95 Altered course abruptly
 - 96 "Hava ___" (hora song)
 - 97 "Same as above" marks
 - 98 Passes
 - 99 Longtime buddy
 - 100 Firecracker
 - 101 Certain Tuscan
 - 103 Idyllic places
 - 104 What's seemingly impossible to find when storing leftovers
 - 106 Make one's thoughts known
 - 107 Natural sources of pink dye
 - 111 1982 film that spawned a sci-fi franchise
 - 113 [Check it out!]
 - 115 Music genre often played at a brisk 4/4 time
 - 116 Director Wenders
 - 117 Tilling tool
 - 118 Tower in a port



- 73 Sign of a packed house
- 76 ___ qué
- 78 Jemison in the International Space Hall of Fame
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- 118 Tower in a port

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HARD - 12

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

S	A	T	S	A	L	P	S	E	T	T	U	W	A	S	H					
K	A	R	A	T	R	O	U	N	D	T	R	I	P	L	A	T	H	E		
I	R	I	S	H	A	U	T	O	L	O	A	N	S	U	N	B	O	X		
D	O	A	S	E	T	O	W	I	N	G	O	C	T	A	V	E				
S	N	L	B	R	I	E	F	S	B	I	N	A	R	I	C	L	E	D		
G	O	I	N	G	F	U	L	L	C	I	R	C	L	E						
W	A	R	S	O	N	G	I	O	U	E	M	A	I	L	E	D				
B	A	D	A	S	S	P	A	T	T	E	R	N	S	U	B	L	E	T		
A	R	O	D	H	A	B	A	T	M	R	E	F	I							
W	I	R	E	S	I	N	L	A	N	D	S	E	A	S	U	N	I	N		
L	O	N	D	O	N	E	R	E	A	R	T	H	K	E	M	O	S	A	B	E
O	N	E	S	H	A	S	M	E	M	O										
M	I	C	R	O	D	O	T	B	R	I	T	C	H	E	S					
L	A	N	A	I	G	U	E	S	T	H	O	S	T	H	A	Y	E	S		
I	C	A	N	T	G	O	O	Y	A	H	O	O	S	E	M	E	A	T		
N	A	R	I	Y	A	Y	E	T	E	D	I	B	L	E						
E	R	I	N	H	O	N	E	S	S	U	I	T	E	L	A	T	E			
D	O	T	E	S	L	Y	M	E	E	M	M	E	L	L	E	N				
O	O	H	I	T	S	J	U	S	T	A	P	H	A	S	E	L	A	B		
U	N	E	T	R	E	E	T	A	T	I	M	I	N	I	M	O				
T	S	R	H	I	N	T	O	P	S	T	O	R	Y	T	S	K				

Event stresses importance of veterans' service to U.S.

Officials recognize military members, celebrate newly constructed park pavilion

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Nov. 14, 2024) The Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines held a ceremony on Veterans Day to honor those who have served in all branches of the United States military.

Michelle Winemiller, a Veterans Memorial Foundation Board member, emceed the event. Winemiller spent 11 years in the U.S. Air Force in intelligence and 19 years as an Air Force civilian employee, noted a press release issued by the Ocean Pines Association.

"Veterans Day is a day to recognize those who wore the uniform and returned home," Winemiller said. "To all the veterans here today, whether you served at home or abroad, in wartime or peace, whether you proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or the Space Force, thank you for raising your hand and swearing the oath. You join a legion of patriots who honorably served and put service before self."

Students from Seaside Christian Academy were present at the ceremony, where they recited the United States Pledge of Allegiance and later sang America the Beautiful. The Delmarva Chorus also performed a medley of anthems for each branch of service, and poetry was spoken in honor of the veterans and their families.

U.S. Air Force veteran Robert Hanson, who was the event's guest speaker, attended the Nov. 11 ceremony. Hanson is an Eastern Shore native who enlisted in the Air Force Security Forces in 1971 and served until 1974 in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Later, according to an OPA press release, he served in the Air Force Reserves at Dover Air Force Base and was an advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The veteran is now a Department of Veterans and Military Families commissioner.

Hanson concluded his speech by reading a quote from an unknown author on the impact military members have had on the United States of America.

"Freedom is not free," he read. "Remember, it was a veteran, not a journalist, who gave us freedom of the press. It was a veteran, not a poet, who gave us freedom of speech. It was a veteran, not a campus organizer, who gave us the freedom to demonstrate. It was a veteran- those who salute the flag, serve beneath

the flag, and whose coffins are draped with the flag who purchased our freedom."

Prior to the Veterans Day observance, the Veterans Memorial Foundation and OPA officials opened the park's newly constructed pavilion with a ribbon cutting. The gazebo will serve as a place for family and friends to gather during a visit to the remembrance site and as a holding space and classroom for the hundreds of fifth-grade students who come to the memorial each year to learn about the military, the United States flag, and the country's history.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial broke ground on Veterans Day in 2004. Since its establishment, the park has been the site of holiday celebrations, such as Memorial Day and other military remembrance occasions. The primary part of the space is a "large circle of brick pavers honoring U.S. military men and women, surrounded by brick-wall monuments for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and flags for each branch flying high in the air," an OPA press release said.

"It is a really special place, and it is your place," Winemiller said.

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Calendar

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

Thurs., Nov. 14

STORY TIME: PRINCESS DAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories and crafts. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, 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 0-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ACRYLIC PAINT POUR

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn two different ways to pour paint on canvas and watch the magic happen. Registration required: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

GROWING UP WILD: TERRIFIC TURKEYS

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

PILATES, BARRE, TONING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. Focus on strength, flexibility, breathing and full body alignment. Can be done while standing, sitting and holding on to a chair. Toning adds optional light weights. 410-641-0650

PASTA LIKE A PRO

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 4:30-6:30 p.m. Learn about pasta dough, and then hand-form the dough into southern Italian shapes. Then cook the pasta and eat a family-style meal with a paired sauce. Registration required: 410-632-3495.

STRONGER IN ORANGE FUNDRAISER

Aloft Ocean City, 4501 Coastal Highway, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy Orange Crushes, DJ Wax, raffles, auction and more. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids 12 years and younger. Tickets at the door or by calling 443-373-0800. Benefits the Tyler Walsh family.

QUIT SMOKING & VAPING CLASSES

Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines, 5-6 p.m. This weekly group helps participants learn to set goals, create a quit plan, manage stress and control their health. Register: 410-632-1100, Ext. 1102, www.worcesterhealth.org.

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN'S 2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY BINGO

Willards Lions Community Center,

Hearn Street, 6-9:30 p.m. Tickets \$35. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Holiday themed basket prizes with Pampered Chef and Thirty-One will be available, cash game prizes, raffles and 50/50. No one under age 18 years. Advance tickets: 410-548-7880.

14TH ANNUAL WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

Seacrets - Morley Hall, 117 49th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Food, drinks, raffles and prizes. Tickets cost \$25 each or five for \$100. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/3ck3kfaf>. Benefits Assateague Coastal Trust, Inc.

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. 215-385-4993, BeachSingles.org

Fri., Nov. 15

CARDBOARD ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Test your engineering skills to create a castle, robot, tunnels and more. Drop in any time. A Maryland STEM Festival event. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COMPUTER AND INTERNET BASICS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call to make an appointment: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAHJONG CLUB

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

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB: 'THE NIGHT WATCHMAN' BY LOUISE ERDRICH

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the library's circulation desk. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Matthews By the Sea UMC, 1000 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, 4-7 p.m. Holiday crafts, baked goods, jewelry, wreath sale, decorations, attic treasures, craft table and more. Soup and hot dogs will be available for sale. Benefits Mission Projects.

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., Nov. 16

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Matthews By the Sea UMC, 1000 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Holiday crafts, baked goods, jewelry, wreath sale, decorations, attic treasures, craft table and more. Soup and hot dogs will be available for sale. Benefits Mission Projects.

FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, OJ, coffee and tea. Pay at the door, cash or credit, \$9 for adults and free to those 11 years and younger. Take out available. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

YARD SALE

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 8 a.m.-noon. Bargains on art supplies, material, and excess art at deeply discounted prices. Held indoors and outdoors (weather-permitting). Interested in a table? Contact Kacie Neeb at kacie@artleagueofoceancity.com. 410-524-9433

WALK WITH A DOC

South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. Join Dr. Nikki, PharmD, for a brief presentation on diabetes, then go for a walk around the park's trail. First 10 participants receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. Alyce Marzola, 410-641-9268

CRAFTY SATURDAY: THANKSGIVING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for some Thanksgiving crafts with turkeys, pumpkins and pilgrims. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TECH CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Stop by and ask questions related to your devices and technology services. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FALL FESTIVAL AT COASTAL WILDS

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 2-4 p.m. Self-guided tour, Spooky Animals Maze Games, Bring own pumpkin decorating & carving station. Limited supply of pumpkins for sale. Tickets: <https://book.singenuity.com/469/activity/details/2297/rates>. 302-829-1549

ORIGINALS ONLY!

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Join us for a vibrant showcase where artists perform their original work! 410-524-9433

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., Nov. 17

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER THE MUSICAL

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 6 p.m. Based on the TV classic. Tickets: \$59, \$55, \$50 and \$35. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/4434776/rudolph-the-rednosed-reindeer-the-musical-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

BERLIN FLEA MARKET

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

SEWING FOR A CAUSE

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Nov. 18

AUTUMN TEA TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10 a.m. Every Monday in November, enjoy a cup of hot tea served in the garden for a relaxing start to your week. Test out new flavors and take a pack or two home with you. 410-632-3495

STORY TIME: TOOTH FAIRY

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

FIBER ARTS

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

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group is reading from Book 5 of the Great Conversations Anthology. The focus will be on "Discourse Seven" by Joshua Reynolds. 410-208-4014,

Calendar

www.worcesterlibrary.org

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Champion, 410-641-0157

HEALING THROUGH SOUND

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Discover the profound power of sound. Relax with sounds of crystal bowls, rain sticks and wind chimes. Bring a mat, blanket and pillow or sit in a chair. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., Nov. 19

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey, followed by a Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Registration required: 410-208-4014.

STORY TIME: BEARS

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

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Sing silly songs and play rhythmic instruments. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30

a.m. Do you love to knit or crochet? Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

LET'S MAKE ... BOOK LEAVES FALL WREATH

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Give an old book new life as art you will be proud to display. All materials provided. Register: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

SWITCH PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Drop in and play some Mario Kart and catch up with friends. BYO controller is highly recommended. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ALL ABOUT WAMPUM BELTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. Learn about the history and purpose of wampum belts. Then, participate in a beading craft. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to every-

one. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

Wed., Nov. 20

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

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

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of strategy that dates back 5,000 years to Mesopotamia and Persia. All skill levels welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

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

PUZZLE SWAP

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

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

CSI: THE HISTORICAL EDITION

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. See how science, technology and professional police practices helped detectives catch and convict criminals and close once unsolvable cases. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PINECONE TURKEYS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Make your own pinecone turkey. For ages 6-11 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DRONES 101

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Come check out drones and learn all about them with Worcester Tech instructor Valerie Zienty. For ages 6-11

years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORYTELLERS THEATER TROUPE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Theater Troupe program with activities and instruction. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and crackers. For ages 18 years and older. Register: 410-641-7052.

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

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

ONGOING EVENTS

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Open Wednesday through Sunday, Nov. 21 through Dec. 22. Open daily Dec. 23-31. Cost is \$6 for adults and free to those 11 years and younger. Tour through thousands of sparkling lights and animated Christmas scenes. Pets welcome on Wednesdays. Scooter rentals (\$10/two hours) and wheel chairs available on site: Scooters-4-Rent.com, 302-280-6203. For more info: 410-289-2800, https://www.ocean.com/winterfest/. Weather cancellation hotline: 410-250-2124.

LIGHT UP THE PINES

Register between Nov. 18 and Dec. 13 to be entered into the drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits from Choptank Electric Cooperative. First 25 homes will receive Choptank Electric goodies. Residents may sign up after Dec. 13 and throughout the holiday season to have their homes added to the online map. Submit name, address and phone number via email to info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717, Ext. 3014. Visit oceanpines.org for a map of participating homes.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CRAFT

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Nov. 11-16. Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with a craft kit to do at the library or to take with you. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

NOVEMBER INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Art, photography or poetry competition for all ages. Pieces will be displayed in the library for viewing and voting by age bracket. The theme is "Fairytale." Due by Nov. 20. 410-632-3495

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Concerning blood shortage sparks urgent call for help

Ongoing issues impacting shore's blood supplies but Type O shortfall alarming

(Nov. 14, 2024) Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD) has issued an urgent call for blood donors as local donations have recently declined by nearly 20%, putting the community's blood supply even more at risk at an already vulnerable time.

As the holiday season approaches, BBD is facing a severe shortage of all blood types – especially Type O, which is crucial for emergencies and trauma care.

The holiday season is a traditionally challenging time for blood donation, as family gatherings and holiday travel often lead to a decrease in donations. The early drop in donations this year is a particularly troubling trend, and BBD is calling on new and returning donors to make an immediate appointment to donate.

"Historically, we see donations drop around the holiday season, but this year's early decline has created a deficit that has triggered a blood emergency," said Steve Corse, Executive Director at Blood Bank of Delmarva.

"Our community relies on a steady flow of donors to keep our hospitals supplied, and we're calling on all who are eligible to roll up their sleeves ahead of this holiday season. It is the ultimate holiday gift, now more than ever."

Bayhealth Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Gary Siegelman added, "As the holiday season approaches, the demand for blood doesn't take a break—if anything, it becomes more urgent. With higher risks of travel-related accidents and ongoing routine surgeries, our need for a stable blood supply grows. Every donation made during this critical time can mean the difference between life and death for patients relying on transfusions. We encourage everyone who is eligible to give the gift of life this season."

Blood donors can give every 56 days, and platelet donors can give twice per month. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently lifted several blood donor eligibility restrictions.

To view current eligibility guidelines, or to make an appointment at a location near you, donors can visit delmarvablood.org or call 1.888.8.BLOOD.8.

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Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sat. & Sun. 10am-1pm	103 125th St., #105 Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$529,900	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
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
Friday 10am-Noon	5401 Coastal Unit 204, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 12:30-2:30pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$769,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5 BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	21028 Wavecrest Terrace #19, Lewes, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhouse	\$444,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	9800 Mooring View Lane #6, Ocean City	4BR 3.5BA	Townhouse	\$450,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	803 142nd St., Unit E, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$265,000	Grace Master/Sea Grace at North Beach Realtors
Saturday 11am-2pm	1204 St. Louis Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$649,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	30 Juneway Lane, Berlin	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$644,888	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	19 High Sheriff Trail, Berlin	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$539,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1:30-4pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5 BA	Single Family	\$849,90	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-1pm	1204 St. Louis Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$649,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
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Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5 BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday 2-4pm	11602 South Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 11am-1pm	109 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City	5BR/4BA	Mixed Use Property	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
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