



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Ocean Pines Garden Club are pictured creating a pollinator garden beds in the median along Ocean Gateway.

## Microtel wins support vital to continuing

Project's revised concept earns commission backing

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) Developers for the proposed Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham received the approval they needed last week to continue moving forward.

In what was at least the fourth appearance before the body in the last year, the Microtel representatives presented a revised concept plan to the Berlin Planning Commission once again, incorporating building enhancement suggestions made by the town's advisory group at last month's project meeting. The updated elevations were approved, with a few modifications.

Microtel team members met with the Berlin Planning Commission on Wednesday, Nov. 13, when they presented new elements added to the hotel's exterior, including an awning above the first-floor windows on the building's brick portion, a canopy that comes out of the stair exit over to the pool entry, and a small awning over the rear lobby door.

The revised elements consist of planters between windows, brick on the porte-cochère's support columns that extend to the top, ornate cornices on the porte-cochère matching those on the property's brick area, and a modified porte-cochère connector that resembles the less ornate cornice at the top of the structure.

The design was updated with a darkened, brownish Hardie lap siding rather than the yellowish color in the previous plan. Brick was also added underneath the glass storefront to wrap around the entire window line.

The planning commission approved the modified design unanimously, with a few tweaks. Rather than incorporating brick underneath the window line, the group suggested that the developers switch the pro-

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## OPA issues invite to pollinators

OPA, Garden Club project aims to attract beneficial insects to new plant beds

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association continues to prioritize its environmental impact and beautification efforts by installing pollinator garden beds on Ocean Parkway medians.

Pollinator gardens are essential to the health of the ecosystem. They aid the survival of pollinating insects, like bees, through attraction by planting flora that produces pollen and nectar.

"Of the 1,400 crop plants grown around the world, i.e., those that produce all of our food and plant-based industrial products, almost 80% require pollination by animals," the United States Forest Service says.



OPA is collaborating with the Ocean Pines Garden Club on the initiative.

According to a press release issued by Josh

Davis, the

community's director of public relations and marketing, the project took shape in the summer of 2024 with partnerships between the Ocean Pines Public Works Department, University of Maryland Extension, Assateague Coastal Bays, Lower Shore Land Trust, and Bluebird Farms.

University of Maryland Extension Agent Ginny Rosencranz recommended planting "plugs," or young plants, this fall for "better establishment and growth," the press release reads. The garden sites, which include inside the North Gate entrance, in front of the Pintail Park parking

lot, and inside the South Gate entrance, were cleared and prepared by the OPA Public Works team, and planting plans were developed by gardener Sandy Gaffigan and Nancie Corbett of Bluebird Farms.

The pollinator gardens will include an "edging of grape hyacinths for a striking spring border, surrounded by groupings of switchgrass and little bluestem grass at the center," the release said. In addition, native perennials like beardtongue, blue false indigo, and Bradbury Bee Balm will be featured in the spring, butterfly weed, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower,

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# Partnerships formalized for Route 113 planning phase

MOU approved by Berlin council to advance process forward on connections

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) Berlin is moving closer to bridging the gap between communities divided by Route 113, as the council unanimously approved the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the municipality and the Maryland State Highway Administration and a related grant agreement to further a neighborhood connection project at their meeting last week.

The community connection project, officially known as Bridging the Highway that Divides Berlin: Reconnecting Neighborhoods Split by US 113, is an initiative to improve Berlin's walkability by constructing connectivity projects like a bike and pedestrian bridge over Route 113.

The design and planning stage will be funded by the US Department of Transportation's \$1.2 Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program, created through the Inflation Reduction Act.

"It is a \$1.2 million grant that will include evaluating how we can reconnect our neighborhoods across the divide of 113 so everyone together is really overcoming that highway in a safe way," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said.

In addition to the Route 113 initiative, some of the money will be used for the Berlin Bikeway project. The Berlin Bikeway will place a shared-use bike and pedestrian path along the railroad in town.

"Collectively, these projects will help to remedy long-standing lack of safe access to schools, shopping, health, and medical services, as well as providing economic opportunities for Berlin's residents, many of whom live in income-based housing," the MOU reads. "Project activities include facilitating community engagement, developing concept drawings, a feasibility study, and preliminary engineering for a bridge over Route 113 and advancing the Berlin Bikeway through design. The project will identify necessary sidewalk and crossing improvements in the area and potential connections to existing and proposed bike and pedestrian facilities in the Worcester County Greenways and Trails Plan, many of which are already in development."

The Greenway and Trails Master Plan examines current and future bike paths and trails throughout the county to connect landscapes and local destinations. The Town of Berlin hopes their projects will fit neatly into the county-wide initiative.

"We are trying to make sure that Berlin's plan is not just Berlin," Tyndall said. "We want to fit into a larger pedestrian flow throughout Worcester County."

The MOU approved at last week's meeting lays out the responsibilities of the State Highway Administration and the Town of Berlin as the parties carry out the early stages of the projects. For instance, the municipality must receive environmental clearance required by the National Environmental Policy Act and hold public hearings. SHA must "provide timely review and comment of the project design plans, specifications and estimates submitted by [Berlin], within 45 days following receipt by SHA," and "reimburse [Berlin] within 45 days following the receipt and approval by SHA of each project invoice."

Regarding the grant agreement, which is between the Town of Berlin, the Federal Highway Administration, and the SHA, as stated in the document, \$250,000 of the grant will be used for phase one, which is planning, \$350,000 is set aside for preliminary design, and \$600,000 will be used for final design.

The grant is strictly for design and planning and does not mean a physical bridge will be built connecting the two sides of Berlin.

"It will not result in construction," Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said.

The town will pursue additional grant funding when the time for implementation arises.

Additionally, Tyndall maintained that these agreements do not indicate the start of the project's phase one planning. Instead, "it gets us on our way to phase one," he said.

As the Route 113 design process continues, town officials are looking toward a bigger initiative: pursuing grant funds to connect the bike path to Snow Hill while the state and federal highway administrations are paying attention.

Tyndall credited this effort to Patti Stevens of the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition, who also assisted with the NAE grant application process.

Councilmember Shaneka Nichols expressed concerns about the proposed Snow Hill connection, highlighting a potential weakening of the project's emphasis in Berlin.

"I don't want us to lose sight," she said. "I think this is great for the bicycle path ... I just don't want Berlin's connection to Newark and Snow Hill to get lost or even become a second thought to this Berlin Bikeway, which will eventually connect Berlin with Newark and Snow Hill. I want to make sure we keep the connection of Berlin as a top priority."



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# Berlin officials talk building sale specifics

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Berlin Mayor and Council continue to discuss the sale of Heron Park's parcel 57 for \$1.2 million as the developers and the town work toward an official agreement.

The Town of Berlin and developers Palmer and Sandy Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties entered into extended negotiations in July regarding the sale and redevelopment of the former Tyson's Food processing plant on parcel 57 at Heron Park. Those conversations are ongoing as the municipality and the prospective buyers look to iron out the details and work toward an official contract.

At the Berlin Town Council's Tuesday, Nov. 12 meeting, the topic was brought up once again as the body discussed the timeline and how to incor-

porate an access point to Heron Park and the upcoming public works facility and skate park. While the Gillises' desires were considered, the developers did not attend Tuesday night's gathering.

Regarding the timeline, Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said that his hope is that the space is operational and functional within 24 months of the sale, following the 180-day due diligence period, during which the developers will identify potential challenges they may face during the project. The 180 days will begin once the property is reclassified to B-2 commercial zoning, which allows great flexibility for uses in the town.

The space does not need to be filled by the end of the 24 months, but Tyndall desires that "the shell be capable of being rented."

"We are not saying someone needs to be in the door, but we don't want it sitting in its current condition," he said, drawing agreement from the council.

The mayor also noted that a contract with the developers will not be signed until the parcel is rezoned. According to Tyndall, the Gillises requested that the due diligence period begin following the property's reclassification. To best address this, Tyndall recommends that the Town of Berlin hold off on green-lighting an official agreement until the space is determined as B-2 commercial zoning,

"Handling the things that are some of the contingencies that we can iron out now before we actually sign the agreement will put us in the best possible position," he said.

The municipality's governing body also wants to delay signing a contract until the rezoning is advertised and discussed to allow for fair resident input.

"What we didn't see right was for us to sign [an agreement] and say we are going to have the rezoning take place and then have to go through the public comment period and basically say, 'yeah, you got your public comment, but we're not going to listen because we're going to do it anyway,'" Tyndall said. "This way, we get to hear public comments, so if there is something we're missing, we get to absorb that information before entering into a contract."

As such, the proposed timeline would ensure that firstly, parcel 57 is reworked to commercial zoning, the town and the Gillises enter into an official agreement confirming the sale, the 180-day due diligence period begins, and, upon the conclusion of the 180 days, the developers have 24 months to create a functional space.

Tyndall reminded the council and the public that a moratorium, or temporary pause, in place until a planning director is hired would stall any rezoning requests. Berlin has operated without a planning director since Dave Engelhart, the former position holder, passed away in April. Still, the mayor maintained that the town is "working diligently" to fill the vacancy.

Additionally, the Berlin Mayor and Council discussed the intricacies of the roadway that must allow for access to parcel 57 and the intended new public works facility and skate park, which are planned for the surrounding areas. The maintenance portion of public works will be developed on parcel 410 of Heron Park with the planned skate park. When the town and the contractor begin to lay out the facility, they will look at the entire land holistically, including adjacent parcels like 191.

The Gillises have asked that in the arrangement of the roadway, which is

estimated to cost \$1.1 million to construct, according to Tyndall, the town discuss the possibility of moving the entry point east as close as possible to a parcel on Old Ocean City Boulevard already under private ownership, not Berlin, to make room for parking. Tyndall said that the developers assured the space's operators are open to the idea but that in return, they would want a "reciprocal amount, if not a little more, in the rear part of their parcel, which is town land."

The mayor maintained that he was not receptive to that approach, as it would detract from the town's plan to build a new public works facility and push that project closer to the skate park.

"That was a no-go because it takes away from what we're trying with that parcel," Tyndall said. "It would put us closer to the skate park, which I don't think would look the best aesthetically."

While Tyndall said the town will entertain negotiations if the developers can create a clean and unambiguous agreement, he recommends that "the roadway that services the skate park, the public work facility, whatever future uses for parcel 410, be a roadway that starts on parcel 57, curves to parcel 191 as quickly as we can by keeping the roadway safe, and staying along the property [the town] has."

"It will take away a little bit of parking but not much," the mayor added.

While Councilman Steve Green expressed concern holding firm against the developer's ask on the entry alignment could jeopardize the sale, Tyndall maintained the obstacle should be easy to overcome.

"I think this is a reasonable request," he said.

Tyndall said that once the repurposing of parcel 57, the public works facility, and the skate park are underway, he hopes the town will be able to obtain some grant funding to help offset the high price of constructing the road.

A contingency of the sale in the draft contract, which was created in the summer and will be amended to include the information discussed at the Nov. 12 Mayor and Council meeting, maintains that parcel 57 will not be permitted to host pawn shops, gun shops, tanning salons, massage parlors, adult video/bookshops, adult entertainment facilities, check cashing facilities, tattoo parlors, or liquor stores.

With the help of legal firm experienced in government property sales, Tyndall hopes to have an updated draft contract by the start of January, but ideally, "quicker than that."

"We want to do this deal together, but we want to make sure that in the process of that, we protect the town's interests, and we make it clean all the way around," the mayor said.

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# Pocomoke restaurant grant forgiven by Md.

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) State housing officials have agreed to end a longtime grant funding agreement that once helped Pocomoke City pay to build its own riverfront restaurant, but one that has since failed to generate levels of employment the grant had required.

The Worcester County Board of Commissioners agreed unanimously at its Nov. 6 meeting to close out the grant from the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

As grant recipients, Worcester County and Pocomoke City did everything they were asked to do, "but sometimes, things don't work," according to Cindy Stone, director of the Office of Community Development Programs at DHCD.

The collaboration began 16 years ago when Pocomoke City officials decided to build their own restaurant on spec. The plan was an ambitious experiment in economic development: Pocomoke would construct and own the property, and a restaurateur would operate it.

Under the terms of a grant, the state in 2008 agreed to provide \$500,000 for construction and another \$98,000 for kitchen equipment.

Construction of the restaurant began in 2011. Total grant funding eventually came to \$623,000.

In exchange, however, the restaurant needed to benefit low-and moderate-income people through job creation. The agreement set minimum staffing levels: 35 full-time jobs with 18 of them, or 51 percent, going to low-to-moderate income employees.

But that never really happened, according to Stone

"For this project, the goal was to create jobs," she said. "Unfortunately, in this case, when the first restaurateur went out of business, they closed, and all the jobs were lost. The next restauranter agreed to start over, and they would have to stay in place a certain amount of time. They closed and those jobs were lost."

Money for state-issued Community Development Block Grants trickle down from federal funding under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For many reasons, the state can keep the grant agreement alive for years – for example, to keep the door open for future funding or just for the government to track progress.

Worcester County officials over the summer wrote to the state asking that the agreement come to an end, mostly because its original employment goals

were "inadvertently inflated." Officials added it was becoming onerous to gather data needed for reporting to the state.

"The highest employee numbers since the grant agreement was executed occurred during the first 6 months of the restaurant opening in 2012," wrote County Commissioner Chip Bertino in a July 2 letter. "Since that time period, there has been a decline in the number of jobs created. It is anticipated that those numbers will not be attainable by any lessee at this property."

Stone said DHCD is now willing to end this grant agreement. But in exchange, the state wants a lien on the property for five years. If the building is sold during the that time, then the grantees will be required to reimburse a portion of the sale price to the state.

Located on the banks of the Pocomoke River, what first opened as Riverside Grill in June 2012 had closed by September 2017. New proprietors reopened as Mallards from December 2017 through January 2019. The eatery has been called Dockside since April 2019 under owner/operator Jamie Evans and his wife Caitlin.

Jamie Evans said the grant's staffing requirements were "almost impossible to meet" because of the

nature of the restaurant business. He noted that his staff is all part-time, and many hold down second jobs.

Otherwise, Evans said it's "business as usual" despite the movement between state and local government.

"We've already met with the city to extend our lease another five years," he said. "I think this is more of a county commissioners' bookkeeping thing. Our plans are to continue to stay there and be a tenant of the city of Pocomoke. The City of Pocomoke's been very transparent with us during this process. Our working relationship with them has been great."

## Berlin approves change to start time of meetings

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2023) Per a motion made and approved last week, Berlin Mayor and Council meetings will now begin at 6 p.m., moving up an hour from the previously established start time of 7 p.m.

Councilmember Steve Green suggested modifying the time at which meetings begin at the Berlin Town Council's Tuesday, Nov. 12, meeting, arguing it would be more beneficial to start and end earlier. Last week's meeting began at 6 p.m. rather than 7 p.m. due to a robust agenda.

"I would like a 6 p.m. start," he said. "I would like us to consider that."

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall was receptive to Green's recommendation of an adjusted Town Council meeting launch time, confirming he was "open to it."

"Keep in mind, a lot of these folks get in early, then have to stay late," he continued. "It's a long day."

However, not all assemblies will have the privilege of starting an hour early. The meeting immediately following the municipality's council election will maintain the original start time. Tyndall said the town's charter specifies that the gathering must kick off at 7 p.m.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen noted that Berlin is due to update its election code and that the amendment that determined the start of the post-election meeting may be changed during that process.

Still, the council and staff members in attendance were enthusiastic about the prospective change. Per the unanimously passed motion, all regular meetings of the Berlin Mayor and Council will now move up an hour to begin at 6 p.m. Executive gatherings, or closed sessions, which Tyndall said are held sparingly, will start at 5 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. as needed.



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# Holiday events announced for Ocean Pines area

## Christmas tree lighting planned at park Nov. 30

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association is gearing up to offer residents an array of holiday and Christmas-themed events as the festive season approaches.

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department's Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting is returning for its 14th year. On Saturday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m. at White Horse Park, community members can come out as Christmas trees sponsored and decorated by Ocean Pines social clubs, local businesses, and families are lit.

Sponsoring a tree is \$75 for returners and \$100 for new sponsors. For more information, contact 410-641-7052. Santa will also be at White Horse Park during the tree-lighting festivities from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is hosting a "Light up the Pines" event. Between Nov. 18 and Dec. 13, households may register and decorate their homes for free to be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits from Choptank Electric Cooperative. To be included, participating community members must submit their name, address, and phone number via email to [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) or by calling 410-641-7717.

The parks and rec event flier notes that contestants are also asked to submit a picture of their decorated and lit-up house for a "special holiday video." OPA residents may sign up after Dec. 13. While they will not be entered into the raffle, their festive home will be added to the online map of holiday-themed homes.

Coming up this week, also hosted by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, is the free "Cranksgiving" bike ride and food drive event. On Saturday, Nov. 23, participants will assemble at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club in time for the 9 a.m. start, where they will ride their bikes to Food Lion, Dollar General, and/or the Ocean Pines Farmers Market "to purchase items for donation to 'Sarah's Pantry' at the Ocean Pines Community Church," the advertisement reads. Interested individuals can contact rec and parks at 410-641-7052 for more information.

With the holiday season kicking into gear, the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department offers its resident bus trips. Just in time for Christmas, on Saturday, Dec. 7, OPA members can hop onto a bus at the Ocean Pines Community Center at

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# Concept plan passes muster

Continued from Page 1

posed material to panel for a more traditional and cost-effective structure, eliminate the awning on the Hardie lap siding near the pool, and instead wrap the front's remaining canopy around so it is continuous on the building's brickwork, and do away with the porte-cochère's ornate cornices. Despite disagreements in the past, the Microtel team was receptive to the advisory committee's recommendations.

When the applicants went before the Planning Commission earlier this year, the two groups struggled to agree on the hotel's elevations. The town's representatives argued that the building must resemble downtown Berlin. A few on the commission described the original concept as a "computer box," lacking any of the historic municipality's charm. At the same time, the Microtel team fought back, saying that they could not create a structure without clear guidelines, as the city lacked design standards to which they could refer to for specific guidance.

"Looking at the current plan, it doesn't work for me," Commissioner Pete Cosby told the developers at a July meeting. "The colors, the architecture, it just doesn't work."

Now, the parties have reached a consensus on Microtel's aesthetics.

Upon initial feedback in the spring and summer that the structure was not adequate for Berlin, the developers added Victorian lamp posts, brick, mature trees, and cornices to match the old-time vibe of the town. At the Nov. 13 meeting, the groups continued working together to create the best possible structure. Applicant Athon Zambetis from A&M Properties acknowledged that the compromise has improved the project overall and that they are satisfied with the revised elevations.

"The cooperation and collaboration helped me at the end with the, 'I like this,' 'I don't like this,' 'we can agree for the most part on this,'" he said. "One person may have a differing opinion, but if you all come to a collective agreement on something, that gives us so much to go back with."

The Microtel is a proposed four-story, 78-unit hotel on the east side of Route 113, near Franklin Avenue, across from Berlin Intermediate School. Since it was initially presented to the planning commission in March, the structure has caused a stir among Berlin business owners and residents.

Applicant Tom Zambetis told commissioners at the spring meeting that, given the occupancy rates at the West Ocean City location and the trafficked area of Route 113, he saw a need for



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured is the most recent elevation presented for a Microtel Inn and Suites in Berlin.

another building that could accommodate visitors, this time in Berlin.

Some residents argued that the proposed placement was an issue. Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols, who attended the March planning commission meeting, said that the building was near her house and that she doesn't think "that location is a safe spot." Council Vice President Dean Burrell also spoke critical of the hotel's site selection.

Still, the developers have continued to return to the commission with upgrades as recommended. With the

forementioned modifications, the elevations were approved by the municipality's advisory group on Nov. 13. An official concept approval and the green lighting of site plans will come later as more details are provided and a planning director is hired and established into the current vacant role. Final site plans cannot be confirmed, given a temporary moratorium that has stalled specific actions of the planning commission until the position left by Dave Engelhart, the former planning director who passed away in April, is filled.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Garden Club volunteers are pictured taking a break from planting.

## Garden club becomes bee team

Continued from Page 1

and threadleaf coreopsis in the summer, and smooth after, sweet goldenrod, and blue mistflower in the fall.

"Only native plants were chosen because they can endure and thrive during our hot summers, frequent humidity, and periodic droughts," OPGC Vice President Barbara Miller said. "Within that category, we chose pollinators with different bloom times to benefit the eyes and the wildlife for at least three seasons."

The OPGC is expected to begin planting the hyacinths and grasses this fall. The plug installations are scheduled for March. While some spring bulbs have already been planted, Miller said that "the bulk of the work will be finished upon the April planting."

"Since this is the first year, we will observe and correct as necessary throughout the year," she added.

Miller noted that the gardens will not need to be watered. Maintenance will consist of periodic weeding and trimming, which will be completed by OPGC volunteers, and tiling and mulching with the assistance of OPA Public Works.

This is the first stage of what the OPGC hopes will be an "expanding project."

"As we learn and succeed, OPA is open to installing more beds in future years," Miller said. "We hope to add natural beauty to the journey on the Parkway. Environmentally, it will provide nourishment for birds and beneficial bugs. Practically, it saves mowing energy and expense."



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# Resident's idea becomes new trail

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) Ocean Pines pedestrians will now have another trail option with a new walking path from Pintail Park to Mumford's Landing entrance by the community's yacht club.

According to a press release issued by OPA, Bay Colony resident Ralph Ferrusi emailed the association to suggest creating a trail through the open woods near Pintail Park. This would allow pedestrians to avoid the heavily trafficked Ocean Parkway while accessing Mumford's Landing.

Per the recommendation, OPA Senior Public Works Director Eddie Wells surveyed the space and determined it was suitable for a footpath. The release notes that upon Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola's approval, the public works team trimmed branches, removed debris, and "cleared a quarter-mile path using leaf blowers."

The OPA-issued release includes feedback provided by Ferrusi, an "avid hiker," who, along with his wife, has ventured on treks like Nepal's Everest Base Camp and Kilimanjaro's Marangu route upon the trail's completion. "A superb job, a great route that flows through the existing woods, drawing you along," he said. "I can see it becoming a popular Ocean Pines walking trail."



A new walking path has been created beginning at Pintail Park and ending at the Mumford Landing entrance to the yacht club.

The Pintail Park Trail was added to the association's online guide, making it the seventh official walking path in Ocean Pines.

The newcomer joins the one-mile-long Swim and Racquet Trail, the 2.5-mile South Gate Pond Trail 2 (Route 90/Library Trail), the one-mile South Gate Pond 1 Trail, the 2.5-mile Sherwood Forest Trail, the quarter-mile Bainbridge Park Trail, and the one-mile White Horse Park Trail.

The Ocean Pines Trails guide webpage says the community has many recreational opportunities, attracting visitors in Worcester County and

throughout the state. Many of these activities include footpaths.

"Walking and jogging are among the most popular forms of recreation in The Pines and Worcester County," the website reads.

The website continues, "It's an inexpensive activity that you may enjoy whenever convenient. We encourage families to walk together and make walking a regular activity for all ages. Trails support an active lifestyle that improves health."

More information on these walking areas can be found at [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/trails](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/trails).

# Holiday events on tap for Pines

Continued from Page 7

5:30 a.m. to head to New York City. The transportation costs \$85 per person and includes only the ride. The department's Facebook page indicates that spots are filling up fast. To reserve a seat, contact 410-641-7052. The bus will leave NYC at approximately 6:30 p.m.

OPA Rec and Parks is offering a bus trip to a Capital One Arena-held Washington Capitals vs. New York Rangers game on Saturday, Jan. 4. The trip includes transportation, game tickets, and a food package with unlimited beer and wine for the first two periods. Tickets are priced at \$367 for lower bowl seats and \$195 for upper bowl seats. The bus will depart the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 a.m. The game begins at noon.

The parks group is hosting a similar trip later in the winter on Feb. 23. Hockey fans can again hop on a bus with other Ocean Pines residents for a Washington Capitals vs. Edmonton Oilers game. Spots are \$135 a person, which includes a ticket, transportation, and a food package.

For more information about these events and others, residents can contact Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks at 410-641-7052.

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# Judge Gerald Purnell retires from District Court bench

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) Judge Gerald V. Purnell, the Eastern Shore's first African-American District Court judge, has retired after an 18-year career on the bench. His last day was August 31, according to online records.

Purnell was appointed by former Gov. Robert Ehrlich and began his judgeship in 2006. Of the seven people who applied for the job, he was the only African-American applicant.

He also served since 2013 as the administrative judge for Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. His successor in that role has been named as Judge Melvin J. Jews, out of Dorchester County, according to the state judiciary.

Prior to becoming a judge, Purnell served from 2003 to 2005 as a deputy state's attorney in Dorchester County. He also was legal counsel to Ocean City's Board of Zoning Appeals from 2001 to 2002, according to online records.

A 1978 graduate of Bucknell University, Purnell earned his law degree in 1978 from the Antioch School of Law, now part of the University of the District of Columbia.

Moving forward, it could take months for Gov. Wes Moore to name a replacement. A judicial nominating committee first must accept applications and narrow down the candidates. Then the committee would hold one-on-one roundtable interviews before eventually giving their shortlist to the governor for review. Applicants' names are a matter of public record.

While three applicants already have been vetted at the state level as applicants for an District Court opening — local attorneys Michael Farlow, Regan Smith, and David Gaskill — other candidates may express interest and apply once the vacancy is formally announced.

Maryland's governor last appointed a new District Court judge for the Eastern Shore in 2022, when Gov. Larry Hogan named Cathi

# Salisbury man dies after vehicle leaves Pines road

(Nov. 21, 2024) A landscape worker died last Saturday morning after a motorist veered off the road striking him.

On Nov. 16, at 8:43 a.m., officers from the Ocean Pines Police Department responded to a reported motor vehicle collision on Ocean Parkway between Briarcrest Drive and Beaconhill Road.

Upon arrival, it was observed a vehicle, operated by William R. Lewis Jr., 65, of Parsonsburg, traveled off the south side of the

roadway and struck an individual working in the yard of a property.

The individual who was struck, Ramon Ramirez Castillo, 35, of Salisbury, suffered fatal injuries because of the collision.

Both the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police responded to assist.

The investigation is ongoing with an accident reconstruction being handled by the Maryland State Police.

Coates to fill the opening created by the retirement of Judge Daniel Mumford. Coates became the first woman ever named to the District Court bench in Worcester County.

The list of applicants to succeed Mumford in 2022 included Coates, Patrizia Coletta, Farlow, Gaskill, Steven Rakow, Smith and Kristina Watkowski. After vetting the applicants, the Judicial Nominating Com-

mission forwarded Coates, Farlow, Gaskill and Smith.

Previously, in 2017, former State's Attorney Beau Oglesby and family court judge Peggy Kent were named Worcester County Circuit Court judges over other applicants Gaskill, attorney Jeff Cropper and Smith. Oglesby and Kent replaced retiring judges Thomas Groton and Richard Bloxom, respectively.



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# State plans Critical Area boundary changes

### Commissioners learn about changes to borders leading to net loss of 377 acres

By **Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) State officials are almost done redrawing of the boundaries of Worcester County's most environmentally sensitive areas, meaning some landowners will see increased governmental protection overlaid onto their property.

However, landowners won't be affected directly unless they want to proceed with some kind of redevelopment, according to Lisa Hoerger, a regulation and mapping coordinator with the state's Critical Area Commission. She explained the process Nov. 6 at a meeting of the Worcester County Commissioners.

"Some people are already in the Critical Area and they're getting a little bit more. Some people are coming out of the Critical Area. Then, there's people who, for the first time, might be in the Critical Area," Hoerger said.

The 1,000-foot ribbon of land along tidal shorelines, created in 1984 by state law, gets its name from being a "critical area" of impact to the health of Chesapeake Bay, according to the state's Department of Natural

Resources. In this buffer zone, development is restricted, and builders must follow strict rules to ensure development doesn't harm the Chesapeake or the coastal bays of the Atlantic Ocean.

While the state has oversight, 16 Maryland counties and 44 municipalities bordering water are tasked with local enforcement of their own policies to protect the Critical Areas. (Landlocked counties in central and western Maryland do not participate.)

At first, the Critical Area's borderline was cobbled together from 1960s-era aerial photography, meaning the boundary was already outdated by the time it became law. The General Assembly's eventual solution to that came in 2008, when legislators ruled that Critical Area boundaries – every last inch of them – had to be updated.

That Herculean task is about to end. After more than 15 years, Worcester is the final county to have its Critical Area boundaries redrawn, "so you all have that distinction," Hoerger told the county commissioners.

When denoting the shoreline – meaning, the edge of open water at low tide – cartographers have more tools at their disposal as opposed to their Nixon-era counterparts. Tidal

borders are based on not just aerial images, but topography, color infrared imagery, LiDAR, and on-site verification.

For now, the updated Critical Area resulted in a net loss of 377 acres of protected area for Worcester County, officials said.

One of the largest Critical Area gains for Worcester County is at the border of Somerset County along Dividing Creek, according to Ryan Mello, with Salisbury University's Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative. He also spoke at the Nov. 6 meeting.

The county's most depleted part of the Critical Area, data shows, is between Porters Crossing Road and Whitons Crossing Road – which may have originally been an error, Mello said.

"They have mapped the tidal limit too far," he said. "Beyond Porters Crossing, we went out there and confirmed that area is non tidal. It may have just naturally transitioned or been an error to begin with. But all of that is being pulled out of the Critical Area."

Mello added that the Critical Area also grew around the corporate limits of Berlin, and ebbed around Pocomoke State Park, near the county's southern border at the Virginia state line.

"Anybody whose property gets a gain of one percent or more, their property will get a letter of notice. No matter what, if you have a gain, you get that letter, so you know where the new proposed boundary will be," he said.

## PROPOSED CRITICAL AREA

Worcester County  
57,294 acres  
Chesapeake Total 14,927  
Atlantic Total 42,366

Critical Area Gains 3,185  
Chesapeake Total 1,921  
Atlantic Total 1,264

Critical Area Losses 3,652  
Chesapeake Total 2,605  
Atlantic Total 957

Net Change (-377)  
Chesapeake Total (-684)  
Atlantic Total 307

Properties to be notified 994  
Chesapeake Total 186  
Atlantic Total 808

There will be a public meeting in January for approximately 994 affected property owners. After that, state and local staffers will review the maps, before turning them over to county officials for local adoption. The map itself becomes a matter of public record, available online for anyone to view.

Future development or redevelopment is subject to Critical Area requirements. Property owners who want to build must first fill out a special form at the county level, detailing their plans.



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# Berlin shuffles ARPA funds to parking issue

Former Rails and Trails line item of \$64K will now be set aside to address supply

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Berlin Town Council agreed to reallocate remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds set aside for other capital projects to be moved to downtown parking efforts.

At the governing body's Tuesday, Nov. 12 meeting, Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall recommended that the council agree to reallocate chunks of remaining money from the ARPA fund to remedy parking issues, like a lack thereof, in downtown Berlin. ARPA is an economic stimulus package passed by the United States Congress in 2021 to provide monetary COVID-19 relief to entities like local governments.

Within the fund, the leftover \$64,102.80 from the Rails and Trails phase two line item, a project to install a shared-use bike and pedestrian path along Berlin's railroad, will be reassigned to a new parking line item, as will \$100 leftover from the completed strategic plan item.

Tyndall said the Town of Berlin has been working to address parking supply issues. While the reallocated funds will not get the town to where it needs to be to fully complete parking remediation, the mayor said that the additional money will be a start. Efforts to address parking concerns have been ongoing, including exploring additional opportunities for park-

ing lots as well as the need to repave existing parking lots that are either public or privately owned but used by the public.

Councilmember Steve Green noted parking is a priority for him. He referred to the mayor's request each council person offer to be the point person on goals in the strategic plan. Green offered to take the lead on parking.

"We have our six-month review of our strategic plan coming up, and aside from the summer grassroots effort to encourage business employees to park at the church, we have really nothing to report as far as an update on efforts to address our parking shortage. We all know it and live it here in Berlin," Green said. "There is a pressing need for us to address this in a meaningful way. These leftover dollars are merely a start, but this is a major concern of mine and it's shared by not only business owners who deal with it daily but also town residents and visitors."

Tyndall acknowledged, "Supply is where we want to go first." The mayor added that he hopes the full amount of the repurposed funds will be utilized by 2026.

While in support of funds being set aside for parking, Councilman Jack Orris wanted other uses for the ARPA funds, suggesting in part to set aside

\$4,000 from the funds to address an overgrown ditch area in District 2 impacting stormwater management. Councilmembers Dean Burrell and Shaneka Nichols as well as Town Administrator Mary Bohlen worried about the precedent it would set for other property owners who have complained over ditch overgrowth impacting stormwater. Finance Director Natalie Saleh did not think ditch maintenance was a sound use of the ARPA funds.

A motion was made by Burrell to assign the \$64,102.80 and \$100 to a parking line item for the ARPA capital projects, which will be under the general category. The motion was seconded by Green and passed unanimously.

After the meeting, Green said Berlin is becoming known for not having suitable amounts of parking. He said he knows of local companies who have opted to move their monthly business lunches to West Ocean City rather than Berlin to

avoid the parking hassle. He said he disagrees with the sentiments stated by some that Berlin has a walking problem, not a parking problem. Green said he serves on a parking subcommittee with Councilman Jay Knerr and Tyndall and town officials who are evaluating options for an additional parking lot as well as improving the lots the town has currently.

"Berlin cannot meet the demands of our visitors with the current supply of parking. It's a fact most of the year, and it actually impacts many of our residents too. Daytrippers from elsewhere and visitors from Ocean City cannot walk to Berlin, so that's not a realistic solution to say we just need to walk or bike more. I wish it was that simple," Green said.

Green added, "The perception is Berlin does not have enough parking. That perception may not always be the reality every day, but the parking shortage is putting a cap on our businesses' financial models when we can't accommodate the demand of their customers. These business folks hear about parking just about every day from those I speak to routinely. Our parking problems are a sign of success, but we must strive to address this issue once and for all in a meaningful way. We know it's going to cost money."

**'Daytrippers from elsewhere and visitors from Ocean City cannot walk to Berlin, so that's not a realistic solution to say we just need to walk or bike more. I wish it was that simple.'**

Councilmember  
Steve Green

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# Berlin planners support new building design guidelines

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission supports the adoption of Worcester County's design guidelines and standards as an interim solution until a planning director is hired.

The commission has agreed to amend the Worcester County design guidelines, tweaking them to fit the historic town so that commercial developers may have a set of parameters to refer to when designing new structures and amenities. The municipality has lacked any definitive regulations, which has created conflict, such as in the case of the controversial Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham. To revise the code for Berlin, commissioners met to remove mentions of the words "must" or "shall" from the Worcester document or change the phrases to "should" to avoid pinning hard and fast rules on builders.

Berlin Planning Commission Chair Matthew Stoehr noted at the group's meeting last week that he met with the town's historic district commission earlier this month to discuss their "game plan" for pushing forward the Worcester County Design Guidelines and Standards.

"They [HDC members] were unanimously happy," he said. "They understand that it is basically a stop-gap and that when we get a planning director and a proper staff ... it will get more into the nuts and bolts."

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the historic group had "no real changes" to add to the proposed document. The Berlin Mayor and Council will further review the guidelines at the governing group's next meeting on Nov. 25 at 6 p.m.

The county guidelines will act as a quick fix for the town. Currently, Berlin lacks standards for commercial developers to follow when designing a new space. Like in the case of Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham and the Wawa at the corner of

Route 50 and N. Main Street, this has led to drawn-out discussions and conflict over a structure's elevations.

Microtel developers approached the Berlin Planning Commission in March intending to construct a hotel off Route 113 near Franklin Avenue. The commission criticized the design for lacking the historic charm found in the municipality's downtown area. The developers fought back, arguing that they could not create a structure with everything the group desired if no guidelines were laid out to follow.

Despite the addition of Victorian lamp posts, cornices, and mature trees, commissioners at a July 10 meeting said the hotel failed to match Berlin's aesthetics. The developers expressed their frustration at the advisory group's dismay.

"We all understand what you are trying to achieve. The problem is the manner in which you are trying to achieve it," Mark Cropper, hotel building applicant Thomas Zambetis's attorney, said to the commission at the summer presentation. "At some point, if a developer does A, B, C & D, a developer is entitled to site plan approval ... We are trying to be responsive and cooperative, but it's a two-way street. ... We are told to return with something different, but there's no guidance or details to go by. We are trying to get there, but this is a hard arena to work in when there's nothing to work through."

Despite the improved collaboration between the two parties, paving the way for the elevations to be approved at the commission's Wednesday, Nov. 13 meeting, adopting Worcester County's design code will work to prevent similar problems from forming in the future.

The county standards will be temporary. Once a planning director is hired to fill the role left by former position-holder Dave Engelhart, who tragically passed in April, a Berlin-specific code will be drafted and adopted to address issues highlighted by the Microtel situation. Still, Stoehr



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY OBSERVED

The United States Marine Corps observed its 249th birthday November 10, and as is tradition Marines around the world observed the occasion. In Worcester County, The Leathernecks of Post 166 held their birthday celebration at the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin with the traditional cake cutting and presentation of slices to the oldest and youngest Marines in attendance. The youngest was William Hoover, assistant Steward of Post 166, and the oldest was retired Master Gunnery Sergeant Jim Wright of Selbyville, shown in the photo. Above, Wright makes the traditional ceremonial cut into the cake with retired Master Sergeant Don Coffin looking on.

said this could be awhile, even once a new director is secured, as the individual will have much to work through.

"When that planning director comes on board, I bet it is six months to a year before they can even look at these guidelines," the commission chair said. "They are going to be undated. We need to temper our expectations. This stopgap is going to last a lot longer than anticipated, and

understandably so. There is going to be a lot of catchup."

The municipality is still actively looking for a planning director. Since the role was left vacant, Rick Baldwin has acted as a consultant to the town. In July, a moratorium was implemented to halt certain actions of the planning commission, including final site plan approval, rezoning, and annexation, so as not to overburden staff.

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# Developer alters Oceans East site plan's 2nd phase

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission approved revisions to the Oceans East site plan building mix and density at the body's meeting last week.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, the municipality's planning group unanimously green-lit modifications to Seahawk Road's Oceans East project, a luxury apartment initiative across from Stephen Decatur Middle School. Rather than offering a mix of townhouses and three-story garden walkups, the new plan strikes the townhomes and focuses solely on the apartment-style accommodations.

Oceans East is a collection of apartment buildings in Berlin. While several structures are currently occupied, the project is multi-phased and is expected to house roughly 700 units once completed.

Project engineer Brock Parker said that the initiative's developer, Rinnier Development Company of Salisbury, originally intended to add a segment of 22 townhouses and one 36-unit building as part of phase two of the project. This was changed in 2022 to two, 24-unit apartment buildings and 18 townhouses, with the apartments oriented toward the community's lake. The plan has been adjusted once again to strike the townhomes, as Parker said that some unforeseen issues were discovered as the details were ironed out.

"Once [the developers] got to that point, they realized the economy did not work, and that unit mix of that townhouse just wasn't right for this economy," he said.

The new plan eliminates the proposed townhouses and is amended to construct three standard three-story garden walkups, including two 24-unit buildings and one 36-unit building. While there is a density cap, Parker said that it is "significantly greater than what this phase proposes." The lodging will mix one, two, and three bedrooms.

Parker said the elevations and architecture of the upcoming structures will be "basically identical" to those currently placed and occupied on the project site.

Parker added that the townhouses were eliminated because of the economy's "uneasy footing." The apartments' rents can be kept down more than what the townhouses would charge, and thus, the developers felt that they could fill the units up faster.

Parker noted that the initiative's future is unclear. While preliminary drafts exist, the engineer said there are no concrete plans for phase three of the Oceans East project.

"There are no plans for phase three right now," Parker said. "All they are cartoon drawings to see what and where and make sure it all fits. When we come in for phase three, I'll be given a very strenuous set of advice to kind of come in with a master plan so you can see how this thing is going to finish up."

The planning commission unanimously approved the revisions at its Wednesday, Nov. 13 meeting.

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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## METEOROLOGIST VISITS SCHOOL

On Nov. 18, third-grade students at Ocean City Elementary School were treated to a special presentation from Chief Meteorologist Rich Wirdzek. Wirdzek spoke with the students about the many interesting things that his job entails and also described some of the important weather-related tools that he uses daily in his profession. The children were so excited to see fascinating photographs of snowstorms and tornados and to learn more about what causes these weather events. One of the best parts of the day was receiving a special shout-out on the 5:30 p.m. 47 abc news from Wirdzek.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SDMS BUILDERS CLUB BEGINS NEW YEAR

Stephen Decatur Middle School's Builders Club began its new year with the installation of its new officers. New officers installed were, from left, Vice President Jemma Bunting, President Carly Watts, Kiwanis Liaison Sarah Walker, Treasurer Charlie Smith, Secretary Morgan Jenkins and Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.



Pictured are the Builders Club members, officers, teacher leaders and sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President and liaison. The teachers who volunteer to assist the club are Mindy Ouelette and Kathy McDaniel. The Kiwanis Club members who did the installation of officers are President Bob Wolfing and Liaison to the Builders Club Sarah Walker. Also in attendance was A.J. Patton, the Stephen Decatur Kiwanis Key Club liaison to the Builders Club. These young students are building character, learning how to become leaders, and how to give service to their school and community.





SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Some of the volunteers who helped with a Special Olympics-sponsored gathering at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center are pictured before participating in the Red Ball Tennis event.

## Special Olympics event held at OP Racquet Center

(Nov. 21, 2024) Special Olympics athletes gathered this month at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center to participate in a first-of-its-kind community tennis program.

Made possible by a collaboration between Special Olympics Maryland, Ocean Pines Association, and Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, the inaugural Red Ball Tennis event marked the beginning of what organizers hope will be a lasting program to support athletes of all abilities in the Ocean Pines community and surrounding areas.

Jeff Able, Special Olympics Maryland vice president of Local Program Development, highlighted the potential impact of this new partnership.

"This is a great opportunity for athletes who are coming in," he said. "We serve nearly 20,000 athletes and unified partners across Maryland, offering over 30 sports and activities throughout the year.

"This will be the first community tennis program that we have on the Eastern Shore, and we're excited to plant the seeds for a program that could grow to include friendly competition with athletes from neighboring states in the future," he added.

The day's activities featured Red Ball Tennis, which uses a simplified format, allowing athletes of all experience levels to participate. See VOLUNTEERS Page 19

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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.

## Coastal Bays Program deserves some slack

It's understandable that some Worcester County Commissioners are miffed at the Maryland Coastal Bays Program for taking money from the devil, as in a \$125,000 handout from offshore wind developer US Wind, but sometimes the devil is in the details.

In this case, the details include the program's future funding through the Environmental Protection Agency. As part of the EPA's National Estuary Program, the Coastal Bays Program gets somewhere around half its funding from the agency, which right now isn't looking as stable as it has been because of the nomination of former New York Congressman Lee Zeldin to head the EPA.

That has caused conservationist organizations to wonder what Zeldin will do as a budget-cutter and opponent of the EPA regulations. Although he has said he supports maintaining clean air and water, no one knows how that will play out when current environmental programs come up against his promise to reduce the agency's budget.

With the Coastal Bays Program's continued existence on the line, its personnel might be excused from taking money wherever they can find it. Sometimes, you do what you have to do to keep going and deal with the fallout later.

This is not to criticize Commissioner Ted Elder for lambasting the program's director, Kevin Smith, for taking money from an industry the commissioners strongly oppose. We get it, because on the surface it does look like a slap in the county's face.

Still, the bays program is not in a position to reject any legal contribution, considering the changes the federal government faces and this state's own financial mess.

Besides, what matters here is not where the Coastal Bays Program got the money, but what it intends to do with it. It's people aren't stupid, so it's a safe bet that US Wind gets a nice thank-you note, while the program goes its own way.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured, from left, are Nora Campbell, co-host; Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Department of Planning; Lisa Challenger of Beach to Bay; Liz Fitzsimmons, Director, Maryland Office of Tourism; and Chris Riehl, co-host.

## Beach to Bay earns statewide award

### Douglass mural wins Best New Product at annual summit

(Nov. 21, 2024) The Beach to Bay Heritage Area won the Best New Product award at the 43rd Annual Tourism & Travel Summit held in Belcamp, Md. last week.

The award recognized the Frederick Douglass mural in Salisbury by We Are Limitless Studios. The mural was dedicated to Douglass when he traveled to Salisbury and gave a speech in front of the Wicomico County Courthouse to raise funds for what

is now the Charles H. Chipman Cultural Center.

Sponsored and managed by the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC), the summit brought together hundreds of public sector leaders in the hospitality industry to network and learn new strategies to benefit tourism businesses across the state of Maryland.

"I strongly believe that we need to highlight what has been achieved by Black people throughout American and Maryland's history in the face of adversity," said Andre Nieto Jaime, program specialist with the Beach to Bay Heritage Area. Andre

goes on to say "Black history is more than just a history of suffering, but also a history of achievement, community, perseverance, and much more. This was the preface to our mural journey". "It's always nice to be recognized for the work we are doing" added Lisa Challenger, BBHA Executive Director.

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area received a grant from the Maryland Office of Tourism to fund the mural and funding from the Md. Heritage Areas Authority.

The mural ribbon cutting took place last month and is located at 513 West Main Street, Salisbury.

## Christmas movie nights announced

### Free events planned throughout county starting next month

(Nov. 21, 2024) Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) will be hosting four, free Christmas movie nights in Ocean Pines, Berlin, Snow Hill, and Pocomoke this December. Movies will play on a giant,

outdoor screen. All are invited, so gather your family and friends for a month of movies under the stars.

Nightmare Before Christmas will take place Dec. 6 at Newtown Park in Pocomoke and Dec. 13 at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin.

Elf will take place Dec. 7 at John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill and Dec. 14 at

Showell Elementary School just north of Ocean Pines.

Bring a blanket and favorite snacks. Vehicle parking for all four events will begin at 6 p.m., with show times to start at 7 p.m. The first 20 cars to arrive each night will receive a free bag of popcorn, courtesy of Aetna Better Health of Maryland and Eastern Shore Kettle Korn.

**BAYSIDE GAZETTE**

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

One of the participants in this month's Red Ball Bash in Ocean Pines is pictured following through with the support of a volunteer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Senator Mary Beth Carozza was one of the volunteers who helped teach the game of tennis to special needs participants.

# Volunteers, players enjoy special tennis day

Continued from Page 17

perience levels to participate.

"We played unified doubles on a short court, with Red Ball rules that make it easier to learn and have fun," Able said. "For some of these athletes, this was their first time holding a tennis racket."

Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler praised the enthusiasm of the players and volunteers who helped bring the event to life.

"This event started from a brainstorm between Sen. Carozza and Jeff," Underkoffler said. "Jeff toured the facility, saw the potential, and set a date for this Red Ball tournament. His goal is to plant the seeds for Special Olympics here in Ocean Pines, and I think today we've started something special."

"This isn't just about tennis; it's

about building bridges, giving back, and promoting lifelong activity," he said.

Carozza, who has been involved with Special Olympics Maryland for years and recently returned to tennis herself, emphasized the importance of community partnerships in creating opportunities for athletes.

"This idea started with conversations here in Ocean Pines, and I love how it's bringing together athletes and community members," Carozza said. "With this one-day event, we're creating a starting point that we can grow from, without a full-season commitment. It's about trying something new, connecting with others, and simply enjoying the game."

Organizers said the success of the event reflects the mission of Special Olympics Maryland: to provide inclu-

sive opportunities for athletes without charge.

"None of our athletes or their families are ever charged for participation in Special Olympics," Able said. "We cover all costs, including uniforms, equipment, and competition fees."

Looking ahead, the Ocean Pines

Racquet Center is poised to continue its support for the program, with Underkoffler envisioning more opportunities for athletes and the community.

"We're hoping to host a 'War on the Shore' in the spring, where Special Olympics Maryland could compete with athletes from Special Olympics Delaware," he said.

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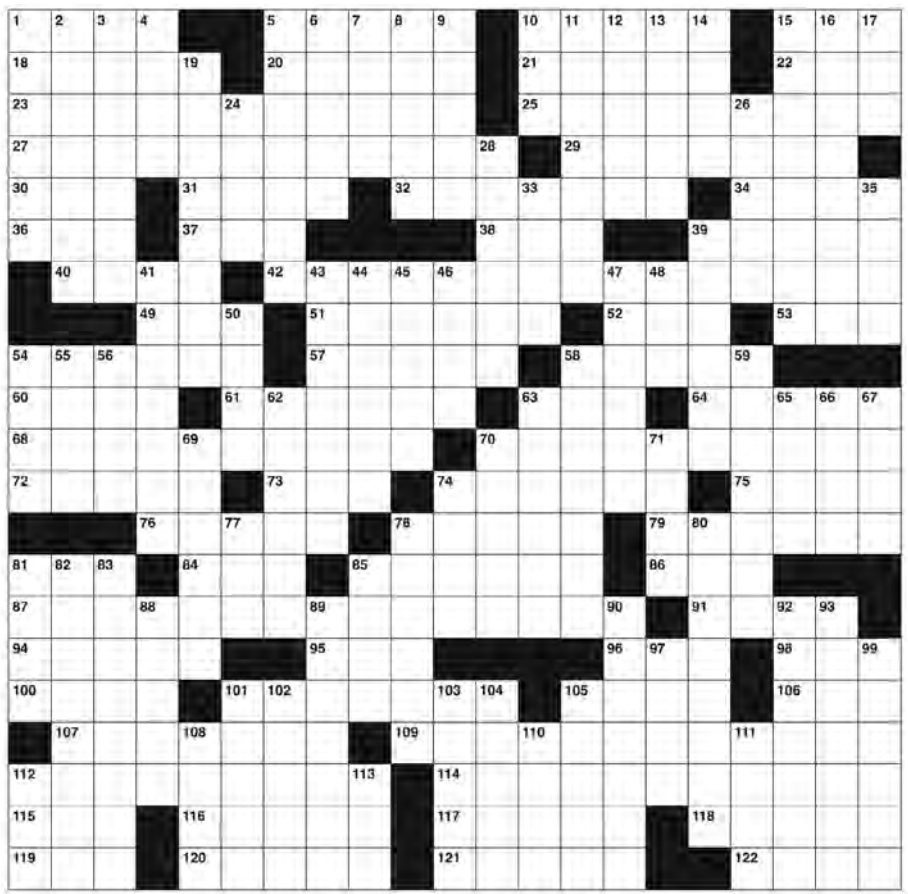
# Puzzles

## FROM START TO FINISH BY SAM EZERSKY / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Sam Ezersky, of Buffalo, N.Y., has worked for The Times's Games team since 2017. He is the editor of Spelling Bee, Letter Boxed and the Mini crossword. Sam keeps a running list of crossword ideas on his iPhone's Notes app; today's puzzle, his eighth Sunday, was inspired by the find at 23-Across, though it took months to cobble together a complete set.

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>   | <b>54</b> Top-notch   | <b>101</b> "Sure thing, dear"  | <b>11</b> Dance move requiring upper body and core strength                  |
| <b>1</b> Like issues covered by The Advocate magazine                   | <b>57</b> de Lesseps of the "Real Housewives" franchise                 | <b>105</b> God who fathered a queen of the Amazons                             | <b>12</b> Dog park figure  |
| <b>5</b> Guide  | <b>58</b> Took (down)   | <b>106</b> smear   | <b>13</b> Clique   |
| <b>10</b> Display along the inside of a subway car                      | <b>60</b> Meriting an R rating, maybe                                   | <b>107</b> Caption describing an online photo that can't be seen               | <b>14</b> Loretta who played "Hot Lips" Houlihan                             |
| <b>15</b> Building access device  | <b>61</b> Figure that's roughly six times less on the moon              | <b>109</b> The engine, the steering wheel, the catalytic converter, all of it? | <b>15</b> Connection to a carburetor   |
| <b>18</b> Poe-esque   | <b>63</b> Play (hit video game)   | <b>112</b> Eye doctor?   | <b>16</b> Length of William Henry Harrison's presidency                      |
| <b>20</b> Aid for an early-morning flight, maybe                        | <b>64</b> Concession opposite 71-Down                                   | <b>114</b> Someone shouting that maybe YOU try fixing your apartment?          | <b>17</b> Diner's request at the end of a meal                               |
| <b>21</b> Response to stunning news                                     | <b>68</b> Vessel for cooking jollof rice or injera bread?               | <b>115</b> Peeve   | <b>19</b> Masters of the written word?                                       |
| <b>22</b> Wild card game  | <b>70</b> "Next time, try reading the clue!" or "Stuck to Sudoku!"?     | <b>116</b> Oktoberfest glass   | <b>24</b> Engineering discipline, casually                                   |
| <b>23</b> Six-inch or footlong?   | <b>72</b> Transcript creator  | <b>117</b> Sports page offering  | <b>26</b> Italian scooter brand  |
| <b>25</b> Who might tearfully wonder "Were we just not meant to be...?" | <b>73</b> French direction  | <b>118</b> Dimples or freckles, e.g.   | <b>28</b> Elevator load limit, often   |
| <b>27</b> Made it through Econ 101?                                     | <b>74</b> Yellow-green soft drink, per the stylization on its packaging | <b>119</b> Last of five rhyming Greek letters                                  | <b>33</b> Not supporting, perhaps  |
| <b>29</b> Crate & Barrel competitor                                     | <b>75</b> Frolic  | <b>120</b> Benefits  | <b>35</b> "Save the ____" (modern conservation slogan)                       |
| <b>30</b> "Give ____ try!"  | <b>76</b> Daytime annoyance while watching TV                           | <b>121</b> Angrily leave, with "out"   | <b>39</b> Submitted  |
| <b>31</b> Museo display   | <b>78</b> Jay-Z's "Magna Holy Grail"                                    | <b>122</b> Mailing info, informally  | <b>41</b> "OMG ... that's hysterical!"                                       |
| <b>32</b> Big name in big home appliances                               | <b>79</b> Annual river thawing  | <b>DOWN</b>  | <b>43</b> Each planet's orbit is one   |
| <b>34</b> Bad sort of roommate  | <b>81</b> Avian rhyme of "hawk"   | <b>1</b> Musical nickname since the 1980s                                      | <b>44</b> Milky Way component  |
| <b>36</b> Sharp turn  | <b>84</b> N.Y.C.-based sports channel                                   | <b>2</b> What servers and sleuths each hope to do                              | <b>45</b> Park City resident   |
| <b>37</b> One who's always springing for things, for short?             | <b>85</b> Tiny pieces   | <b>3</b> Kenneth of "Oppenheimer"  | <b>46</b> Pocket detritus  |
| <b>38</b> Stirrup's place   | <b>86</b> Agcy. overseeing reactors                                     | <b>4</b> Turner backed by the Ikettes  | <b>47</b> Get there  |
| <b>39</b> It's attached to covers and sheets                            | <b>87</b> Something in a doomscribler's feed?                           | <b>5</b> Car roof option   | <b>48</b> Word with true or soon   |
| <b>40</b> Groundhog of renown   | <b>91</b> "Didn't mean to do that!"                                     | <b>6</b> Person I used to be   | <b>50</b> East Coast convenience store chain                                 |
| <b>42</b> Buy-in the round before going all in?                         | <b>94</b> City on the Nile  | <b>7</b> Response to "You were snoring all night again!"                       | <b>54</b> Opposite of maigre   |
| <b>49</b> Kitten's cry  | <b>95</b> Hardy follower  | <b>8</b> Moving day need   | <b>55</b> Flat floater   |
| <b>51</b> Skin care product   | <b>96</b> Shift units: Abbr.  | <b>9</b> Blended hair-coloring effect  | <b>56</b> Unit once defined as the area a team of oxen could plow in one day |
| <b>52</b> Rum, in Spanish   | <b>98</b> Features of two Super Bowls, for short                        | <b>10</b> Soak (up)  | <b>58</b> Equus africanus, for one   |
| <b>53</b> Ho-hum reactions  | <b>100</b> Asia's so-called "____ countries"                            |  | <b>59</b> Young disciple of an old Titan                                     |

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



- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>62</b> Pep  | <b>77</b> In which letters are spelled with digits, for short | <b>88</b> "Pretty please?"               | <b>103</b> Famous family in atomic theory          |
| <b>63</b> Is inadequate  | <b>78</b> Former French president Jacques                     | <b>89</b> Alternative to litmus paper    | <b>104</b> "Nice to ____ you!" (online salutation) |
| <b>65</b> Target of a certain "Eater"                          | <b>80</b> Mad to the max                                      | <b>90</b> When many school days end      | <b>105</b> Backdrop for a memorable kiss           |
| <b>66</b> Liu of "Barbie"                                      | <b>81</b> Four for a TI-84, for short                         | <b>92</b> One might jump out of a window | <b>108</b> Nonsense, to Brits                      |
| <b>67</b> Thunder shower?                                      | <b>82</b> Above the strike zone, to a baseball announcer      | <b>93</b> Driver's license, e.g.         | <b>110</b> Nickname for Francisco                  |
| <b>69</b> ____ Domingo, Best Actor nominee for 2023's "Rustin" | <b>83</b> Brando's role in "A Streetcar Named Desire"         | <b>97</b> No longer on duty: Abbr.       | <b>111</b> Mystique                                |
| <b>70</b> Throat malady  | <b>85</b> Sharp pain  | <b>99</b> Like convertibles              | <b>112</b> One getting a pass, for short           |
| <b>71</b> Gloat opposite 64-Across                             |   | <b>101</b> Broadway gossip               | <b>113</b> Carry-____ (some luggage)               |
| <b>74</b> Artist Chagall                                       |   | <b>102</b> Force out                     |  |

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### HARD - 11

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

GLUCOSE	BELUGAS	FEAST
RUMBALL	OPENAIR	RASTA
ALASKAPENINSULA	ETHOS	
BLM	SLANG	TAG
SIBOSSO	TIEON	CURED
AMMO	GODDAUGHTER	
ABRA	IAM	STEP
FREQUENCYSHIFT	TRISHA	
IRARE	IRULE	AMA
BETS	ADO	UDDER
SEAL	GUTENBERG	SLED
STAGE	EDICT	RIP
RESENTS	THE	CANOE
ODESSA	MOOD	CONGRUENCE
FLOE	BOD	RAGE
CIVIC	MINDED	ODOR
PANEL	GRAIN	ELLY
INSET	GTA	DIDNT
STORE	SWITCHED	PARTIES
ABLER	KILOTON	AMOUNTS
NEEDS	AMASSES	LONGEST





### WE CARE SUPPORT

Last week, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) students collected donations in support of the local non-profit organization, Operation We Care. Items collected are to be wrapped into care packages and sent to deployed military and first responders. Worcester Prep proudly supports Operation We Care. Students collected many items from granola bars, canned pasta, powdered drink mixes, playing cards, baby wipes, toothpaste, and much more. Pictured from the left, Head of Upper School Carol Evans, students Teagan Weinstein (Ocean City), Isabella Rice (Bishopville), CJ Labin (Rehoboth Beach), Will Johnson (Lewes), Caleb Walston (Salisbury), Kayley Adkins (Delmar), Meredith Walston (Salisbury), Jay Moyer (Berlin) and Assistant Head of School/Athletics Director Michael Grosso. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



### WOMEN PANELISTS

Germantown School celebrated Women Veterans at a panel discussion on Nov. 9. Pictured, from left, are panelists Grace Cephas, Staff Sgt Army; Gladys Holland, E7 Army; Sherry Elzey, Sgt Army Reserve; Emeritus Professor Dr. Clara Small, History, Salisbury University; Gwen Wise, OS2 Navy; and Pastina Tingle, Petty Officer Navy. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Check out this week's **Entertainment Line-up** In the pages of **OCToday and Bayside Gazette**



# 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., Nov. 21

### CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointments required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

### STORY TIME: TURKEY SURPRISE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. A surprising tale of two pilgrim brother gathering food for Thanksgiving. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME: THE RAINBOW SNAIL

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 0-5 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### LET'S TALK MOVIES - 'PLANES TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES'

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

### JACK KEROUAC & THE BEAT GENERATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. How did Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsburg, William S. Burroughs and others influence the post-World War II counterculture? Frank DeLuco and Harry Burkett examine the Beat Generation. 410-208-4014

### FIRESIDE CHAT

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

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

## Fri., Nov. 22

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

### NOVEMBER HOMESCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Helping students with their vocabulary, imaginative thinking and social enrichment. For ages 8 years and older. 410-632-3495, [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., Nov. 23

### OCEAN PINES CRANKSGIVING

Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 1 Mumfords Landing Road, 9 a.m. Bike ride and food drive. Ride to Food Lion, Dollar General and the Ocean Pines Farmers Market to purchase items for donation to Sarah's Pantry. 410-641-7052, [cranksgiving@gmail.com](mailto:cranksgiving@gmail.com)

### PANCAKES WITH SANTA

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 10 a.m.-noon. Build your own pancakes bar, photo op with Santa, Christmas ornament craft and participants can mail letters to the North Pole. Tickets: <https://book.singenuity.com/469/activities/details/2250/rates>. 302-829-1549

### GUEST MINISTER

Shiloh Ministries Inc, 209 W. St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring guest speaker Darby Slaton. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch is included. Bring food to share and bring a friend. Randy Walter, 443-513-6285, [shilohministries@comcast.net](mailto:shilohministries@comcast.net)

### FAMILY LIBRARY DAY: DINOVENBER

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m. Come to the library for all things dinosaurs. For all ages. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### CRAFT FOR A CAUSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Make a variety of crafts to donate to local charities. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BOOKS ON THE BAY

Residence Inn Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 12-4 p.m. Local and bestselling

authors will be on display; selling, signing, and chatting. Free event but must pre-register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/books-on-the-bay-tickets-920384433617?aff=oddtcreator>. 410-723-2222

### BIG 5F RACE

Crawl St. Tavern, 19 Wicomico St., Ocean City, 3-7 p.m. The race covers a mere five feet. Munchies, music, silent auction, prizes. Register at 3:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$20. Benefiting Special Olympics. Pledge forms: <https://crawlstreet.com/event/big-5f-race/>. 443-373-2756

### 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.

### FALL HARVEST HOME

St. Paul United Methodist Church - Educational Building, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 5 p.m. Auction, produce, refreshments, tasty treats, games and more. Free admission. Sarah Mitchell, 443-859-3125

## Sun., Nov. 24

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Ocean City Baptist Church, 102 N. Division St., 6-7 p.m. Giving thanks to God through worship, scripture, testimonies and prayer. Bring food goods, paper products and funds for the offering for the needy in the community. Desserts following service. 410-289-6573

### BERLIN FLEA MARKET

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

### SEWING FOR A CAUSE

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

## Mon., Nov. 25

### 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: TURKEYS

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)

### WICKED PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Crafts inspired by the movie Wicked and other famous musicals. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### LEGO STEAM CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Join in for a Lego challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MAGIC MONDAY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Magic the Gathering meet up, fourth Monday of each month. Teens and adults only. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

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

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

### BRIDGE

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

### DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

### OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

## Tues., Nov. 26

### STORY TIME: TURKEY TALES AND GAMES

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)

### SENSORY PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Sensory play encourages learning through exploration. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)



# Calendar

## 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)

## HOMESCHOOL HISTORY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 12 p.m. Learn facts about different historical time periods through reading, writing and games. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## MINI GOLF DAY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Mini golf in the library for ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## ARTSCAPE: ZEN

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 5:30 p.m. Casual meetup for artists of all levels. Basic painting and sketching supplies provided or bring your own supplies. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](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., Nov. 27

### 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

### MOANA PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Create some shiny crafts and board the boat for a whirlwind of fun. For ages 5 years and older. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### AUTUMN WATERCOLORS FOR KIDS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Create a seasonal work of art with watercolor paints. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### COFFEE & CRAFTS - GLASS PAINTING

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Cheers to craft time. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. The goal of the support group is to provide participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, [gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:gmansell@atlanticgeneral.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.kiwanisofpoc.org](http://www.kiwanisofpoc.org).

## ONGOING EVENTS

### LETTERS TO SANTA

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Nov. 25 through Dec. 20. Children of all ages are welcome to drop off their written letters to Santa at the red mailbox. Make sure that letters have child's name and address so Santa can respond.

### WINTER TRAIN GARDEN

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, December through Jan. 4. Visitors of all ages will delight in interacting with buttons that activate accessories and sounds. A scavenger hunt for young patrons will also be available. 410-524-1818

### LETTERS TO SANTA

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Dec. 2-7. Stop in the library to write a letter to Santa and decorate the envelope. Leave it in the special mailbox to be sent to the North pole so Santa can write you back. All supplies provided. For families. 410-957-0878

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**FEATURED SPEAKER**

Little Green Witch owner Michela Aggers was the speaker at the Nov. 13 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Aggers is pictured with club Past President Bob Wolfing. Her apothecary is an herbal store that makes and sells herbal teas and products located at 4F Bay Street in Berlin.



## OPEN HOUSES

Nov. 21 - Nov. 28



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
Friday 2-4pm	S. Heron Dr. Unit 204C, Heron Harbour, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 9am-4pm	13 44th St. Units 402 & 403, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$289,900/\$319,900	Terry Riley/REMAX Shore4U Division
Saturday 10am-2pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5 BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	103 125th St., #105 Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$529,900	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	5401 Coastal Unit 204, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$444,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	19 Liberty Street, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$389,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	172 Seafarer Lane, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$439,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	12905 Sand Bar Lane #3, Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Townhouse	\$799,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	39 Admiral Ave, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$459,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-2pm	14 36th St. Unit 16, The Eldorado, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,000	Gail Crosby/Resort Real Estate, Inc.
Saturday Noon-2pm	1204 St. Louis Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$649,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	11603 Windward Dr., Unit A Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$429,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 3-5pm	S. Heron Dr. Unit 204C, Heron Harbour, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 9am-1pm	13 44th St. Units 402 & 403, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$289,900/\$319,900	Terry Riley/REMAX Shore4U Division
Sunday 10am-1pm	103 125th St., #105, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$529,900	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	9313 Ten Point Court, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$685,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	S. Heron Dr. Unit 204C, Heron Harbour, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 12:30-3:30pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	108 120th St., Unit 2027, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$339,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty

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# Classified

MARKETPLACE

Call 410-723-6397  
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Classifieds appear in OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceanacitytoday.com](http://oceanacitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)



**\* Early Deadline \***  
For Thanksgiving Issue, Nov. 29.  
Deadline for Classifieds will be Friday, Nov. 22, 5 p.m.

**HELP WANTED**  
**NOW HIRING!**  
PT Dental Hygienist for busy office in Ocean City, MD.  
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**HELP WANTED**  
**Pool - General Maintenance.**  
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410-289-4902  
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**YARD SALE**  
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**AUCTIONS**  
**The contents of mini storage units will be sold online at Lockerfox.com. Ocean City Mini Storage.**  
Units to be auctioned: B57-S117-S173-S211-S311-S636-S760-O8-O25-O40-O92-O128-O145-O151-O164-O165-O175. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are, household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antiques and vintage items.  
**Date: Friday, November 29th, 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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# Thank you.



As we celebrate 10 wonderful years of service, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to the local community and all of our valued customers. Your trust, loyalty, and support have been the foundation of our success.

Over the past decade, it has been our privilege to provide you with compassionate care and quality service, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you.

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