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## MONDAY MORNING

Attention was captured around the region Monday morning as the sunrise brought with it a colorful start to the day. Pictured is a scene captured on West Street in Berlin by a group of early walkers.

## Town eases moratorium on site plans

Hiring of planning director results in actions to return to normal approval process

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) The Town of Berlin's moratorium on final site plan approvals, rezonings and annexations will be lifted gradually as the town secures the services of a new planning director.

On Monday, Jan. 13, the Berlin Town Council unanimously voted to allow final site plan reviews to proceed while continuing the moratorium for 45 days for rezonings and annexations.

The decision came at the same meeting the town announced it had hired Ryan Hardesty, a senior code enforcement officer with the City of Salisbury, as the new acting planning director.

The position has been vacant since the April passing of planner  
See BERLIN Page 8



Ryan Hardesty

## OP eyes one rate for racquet center sports

Change in membership fee arrives ahead of schedule as operating costs increase

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) Despite earlier reports the Ocean Pines Association was a year or more away from a single racquet center sports membership option, the board of directors has agreed an updated pricing system should be implemented immediately.

diately.

The decision was made at the Wednesday, Jan. 9 annual budget review meeting. OPA Board President Stuart Lakernick said the racquet sports governing group "want(s) to do one membership for the racquet center for the family at \$495 and individual at \$295."

This upgraded pricing structure would replace the current individual membership choices with one racquet sports rate.

Lakernick also added the board

wanted OPA General Manager John Viola to come up with an individual drop-in rate that would cover another \$10,000 in revenue.

Terry Underkoffler, the community's director of racquet sports, recommended the single membership rate, saying the "bold change" would address increased operating costs.

Labor costs have risen significantly with the rise in minimum wage, and the courts constantly need maintenance and repairs.

Because the center is located in a

marshy area, Underkoffler said the cracks in the courts are a constant safety concern.

"I brought out a very reputable playing surface company to do an estimate on the new cracks and the cracks that have come back on courts nine and 10, which are hard courts shared by tennis and pickleball, and the lower pickleball courts," the racquet director said.

"I didn't even take them to the platform. The repair costs for those

See RACQUET Page 8

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# After audit review, Berlin allocates unassigned funds

Balance reduced by \$2.6M with transfers to town hall renovation, pension reserve

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) Berlin officials unanimously agreed to reallocate \$2.7 million from the town's unassigned general fund balance to act as a cushion for potential new projects and financial challenges.

The transfer of funds will bolster the capital reserve, the debt reduction reserve, the police Law Enforcement Officers' Pension (LEOPS) reserve, and the stabilization reserve.

At its Monday, Jan. 13 meeting, the Berlin Mayor and Council voted to dip into the municipality's unassigned general fund, which currently holds around \$4.8 million, and put

more money into certain reserves to act as a cushion for potential new projects and financial challenges.

Of the changes, the town will add \$1.6 million to the capital reserve, bringing the total from approximately \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2024 to \$2.7 million for FY25.

"The recommendation for that is covering the remaining balance that we need for the town hall renovations," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "This is going to close that gap and bring this project to fruition."

The mayor added that, unlike the upcoming community center project, an initiative planned for the construction of a neighborhood facility with public amenities on Flower Street, the town hall renovations do not qualify for much grant funding.

Reassigning these funds will help get the upgrades off the ground. According to Tyndall, the current town hall building is "subpar," does not meet Berlin's needs, and is negatively impacting recruiting, retention and overall operations.

The town will also transfer \$200,000 to the debt reduction reserve. For FY24, the fund's balance came in at \$298,017. The adjustment will bring this figure up to \$498,017. Tyndall said that this recommendation comes from the town's intake of a "new level of debt with the public works facility" as Berlin works to create the new complex at Heron Park.

The improved structure will be funded through a \$3.8 million bond from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Of this, approximately \$2.8

million is earmarked for the construction of a public works facility, while \$1 million is for electric meter replacement and upgrades.

"The Mayor and Council's goal of establishing the [debt reduction] fund is to carry at least one year's debt service balance in this reserve," Tyndall said. "It just gives us that ability to handle any fluctuations we may have. In a time of distress or challenge fiscally, we want to have some levers we can pull to bolster and not cause the public or the employees to feel the burden of a big shift. We want to be able to weather that storm if we have to."

Berlin will also increase the LEOPS balance, bringing the total from \$429,938 to \$829,938. Tyndall said the decision to pad this fund comes from a recommendation from the Local Development Council of

Worcester County, which has been hesitant to approve casino funds for the reserve due to potential fluctuations. In 2023, the Berlin Town Council voted to use Local Impact Grant funds from Ocean Downs Casino revenue for the LEOPS program.

"This comes in part from the recommendations and feedback we have received from the local development council and their reluctance to use casino funds because they could fluctuate in a given year toward the repayment of LEOPS," the mayor noted.

"There is \$429,938 in that account and that came from shifting in our multi-year plan some of those funds over to a stabilization fund for LEOPS. We want to bolster that fund a little bit more. Not that we see anything on that horizon, but just to really insulate us. That should cover at least two years of the LEOPS if we had to."

Additionally, Berlin will add \$500,000 to the stabilization reserve, from \$1.68 million to around \$2.18 million. The stabilization reserve is used for disaster and/or debt recovery. Tyndall said increasing the amount of money in the fund is "not a bad idea."

"If things go bad, we want to have our unassigned fund balance, but really, the last resort that we have is this stabilization resort," he said. "It is designed to say, 'Okay, our first stopgap hasn't worked; now we have another one in place.'"

With the reallocations, the unassigned fund balance will drop from \$4.8 million in FY24 to \$2.2 million in FY25.

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**'If things go bad, we want to have our unassigned fund balance, but really, the last resort that we have is this stabilization resort.'**

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Berlin Mayor  
Zack Tyndall



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Touch of Italy representatives Robert Ciprietti and Rick Lawrence, center back, are pictured with OPA Board members and staff on Jan. 8.

# Touch of Italy tapped for Ocean Pines

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) Ocean Pines residents and members of the Ocean Pines Association will have the opportunity to learn more about the association's new food and beverage vendor on Thursday.

At noon at the Community Center, representatives of Touch of Italy restaurants will be available for a question-and-answer session and to share their vision for how they intend to handle the association's three food and beverage operations.

Those unable to attend the town

hall session in person can follow up later, since the the meeting will be recorded and posted.

It was announced last Wednesday the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) has secured a five-year deal with Touch of Italy Group as the community's new food and beverage contractor for their three service locations — the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, the Ocean Pines Beach Club in Ocean City and the Clubhouse Bar and Grille.

When Touch of Italy takes over, it intends to serve an expanded American cuisine and fresh seafood menu. Company fisiiiiiii will also uphold the

free summer concerts on the Yacht Club patio. The official start date is yet to be determined, but it will be announced on the community's website at oceanpines.org and at a town hall meeting.

The food and beverage contract with Touch of Italy was signed during a special OPA Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The governing body voted to hire the restaurant group to take over for Matt Ortt Companies, whose contract ends this year.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us to raise the bar in Ocean Pines," Touch of Italy financial operations overseer Rick Lawrence said. "The pressure's on, but we're confident we'll deliver."

On Sept. 13, the association announced that rather than renew Ortt's contract, which is nearing expiration, that it would seek proposals for managing its food and beverage operations.

At that time, board of directors Vice President Rick Farr said the decision was based on a recommendation from the association's legal counsel, Bruce Bright of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy and Almand, and the community's bylaws as they pertain to the request for proposals (RFP) process.

The OPA governing documents state that "all purchases and contracts for services or supplies for the Association shall, to the fullest extent practicable, be made by open competitive procedures."

"It is our fiduciary responsibility as board members to our community to follow our bylaws and governing documents and ensure all protocols are followed for the recommendations by our general manager that is in the best interest of all of Ocean Pines membership," Farr said in September.

Potential vendors had until Oct. 18 to submit their bids. The request yielded three responses — SoDel Concepts from Delaware, Touch of Italy, and incumbent Matt Ortt Companies.

Touch of Italy has three locations: one on 101 2nd Street in Lewes, Delaware, one at 19724 Coastal Highway in Rehoboth, Delaware, and one at 6600 Coastal Highway in Ocean City. The restaurant group also has the

Royal Prime Steakhouse at Bally's in Dover, Delaware, and runs Sunset Island Bar and Grille at 1 Beach Side Drive in Ocean City.

Now, Touch of Italy, founded in 2010 by Bob Ciprietti of Bethany Beach, will expand its reach even further, this time into Ocean Pines.

During the group's five-year contract with Ocean Pines, Lawrence emphasized that Ciprietti is committed to elevating the community's dining experience and is "passionate about getting every flavor right."

Matt Ortt Companies, which also operates Coastal Salt and the Ocean City Rum Shack on the 16th Street Boardwalk, came on as the community's food and beverage service operator in March 2018, signing a two-year deal.

That initial arrangement was extended by five years in 2020 with a \$200,000 management fee per year plus 50% of the profits if goals reached minus depreciation expenses for the buildings.

"Touch of Italy has successfully managed a tiki bar operation in Ocean City, several thriving local restaurants, and a major banquet operation in Dover," OPA General Manager John Viola said.

"We expect they will bring all that expertise to Ocean Pines, making them an ideal fit for our community."

Per the terms of the request for proposals released last year, Touch of Italy will oversee the management and operations of the three food and beverage locations, including janitorial services, banquet functions, and the handling of live entertainment at the Yacht Club from Thursday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The company is also tasked with ensuring that the menu and pricing are of quality and variety, meeting Ocean Pines' needs, administering staffing, coordinating events, and maintaining the facilities and equipment.

"We want to be responsive, deliver exceptional quality, and earn the loyalty of Ocean Pines," Lawrence said. "Our goal isn't just to be the convenient choice. We want to be the first choice."



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# State property assessments jump in county

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) Most Worcester County residents will see an increase in their property assessments this year, as the state's estimated tax values for residential and commercial properties are set to increase by 20 percent statewide.

Property assessments for about 18,000 accounts in Ocean Pines, Berlin, Showell and Bishopville rose 29 percent. That increase will be phased-in over the next three years, according to the state's Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), which mailed notices to homeowners Dec. 30.

Homeowners may grouse at higher assessments that may lead to bigger property tax bills, but overall, it's a good indicator of a healthy real estate market, according to Amy Smith, SDAT's Supervisor of Assessment for Worcester County. She said homes in this area, last assessed in 2022, now have a collective value of \$6.2 billion.

When it comes to property assessment, SDAT divides Worcester County into three different zones. Every three years, one zone gets measured. This year's assessment zone is classified by SDAT as Group 1. Each group is assessed every three

years.

Group 2 encompasses the area south of Newark, including the greater Snow Hill and Pocomoke areas, as well West Ocean City and the South Point district. Group 3 is strictly Ocean City. New assessments will come in 2026 for Group 2, and 2027 for Group 3.

Overall, Worcester County contains about 55,000 total residential properties, including condos and single-family homes (apartments are considered commercial property). The county's total assessable base is about \$19.4 billion – most of which lies in and around Ocean City – but that number has the capacity to change daily, Smith said.

"Houses get demolished. We get new buildings all the time. We could take a 1,000 acres farm and create a new subdivision with residential lots," she said.

That assessable base can take big swings, too. For example, a \$5 million property can be demolished, and a \$30 million hotel property goes up in its place. Vacant properties, such as the land slated for the new Wawa in Berlin, can be developed, resulting in massive land value surges. Massive commercial properties, too, can be demolished and turned into residential, like when Ocean City's Sun &

## Worcester County Assessments

### CHART 1

Group 1 properties, total assessed value

	2022	2025	% change
Residential	\$4,761,254,300	\$6,167,917,400	29.5
Commercial	\$1,460,600,300	\$1,734,406,500	18.7

### CHART 2

Group 1 properties, assessment changes over time

Year	% change (Worcester)	% change (Maryland)
2013	-14.3	-3.6
2016	9.4	10.9
2019	9.4	9.1
2022	16.5	12.0
2025	27.0	20.1

Source: Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation

Surf movie theater became a condo complex, Smith added.

Property assessments are based on reviews of recent home sales and are conducted over a 12-month period in bulk by SDAT staffers. These mass appraisals account for factors like the number of building permits, new construction, and home sale trends into a final tally.

From there, the local SDAT office sends out its final assessment – which is not to be confused with a property tax bill, which comes from the county treasurer – at year's end. Statewide, SDAT just mailed about 700,000 notices from its Baltimore headquarters.

Assessments in Maryland have been rising sharply since 2022, with increases of over 20 percent in recent years, after a period of slow growth following the 2007-08 financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic

Not everyone pays. About 700

properties in Worcester, including churches, are exempt from property taxes, Smith said. Disabled veterans can be exempted but must prove 100 percent disability after an honorable discharge to qualify. Blind homeowners may also receive a partial exemption.

The state also offers a Homestead Tax Credit, which limits how steeply a homeowner's property tax burden may increase. While state law caps the tax credit at no more than 10 percent annually, local governments may lower that figure even more. For example, Worcester's cap is 3 percent.

Homeowners who wish to appeal their assessment may do so by telephone, in writing, in person, or even using a video conferencing option, Smith said.

"Rightfully so – a lot of people might have a secondary home here. If they can't make it to Snow Hill for the appeal, it's an option," she said.

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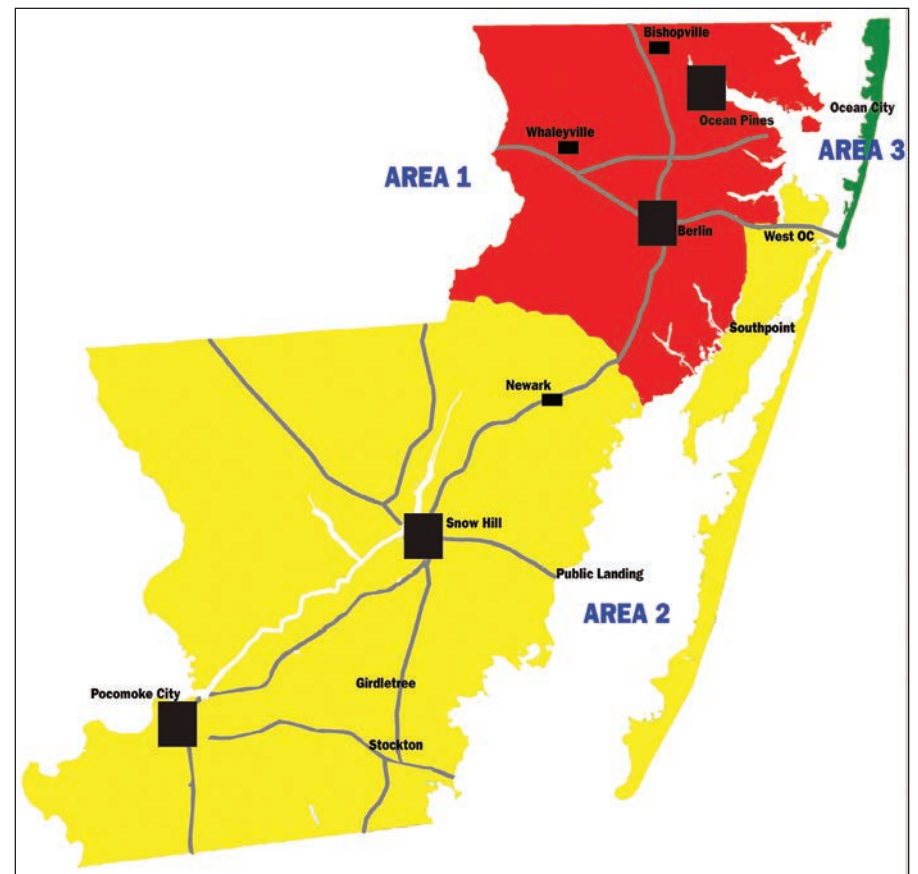
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# Berlin announces new director of planning

Continued from Page 1

Dave Engelhart. Since that time, Rick Baldwin has worked as a consultant in the planning department, but a moratorium on certain actions such as site plan approvals and rezoning requests was imposed in July to limit the burden on staff until a replacement for Engelhart could be found.

“The initial moratorium was enacted to ensure that the town’s growth remained aligned with the unique character that we have and to make sure projects don’t jeopardize our quality of life,” Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said.

According to Tyndall, Hardesty will begin her new role on Feb. 3 and have a transition period before stepping into the full planning director position.

“From a town perspective, we are very excited to have Ryan start and fill that role,” the mayor said.

After the mayor’s announcement, the council agreed to lift the moratorium in phases so Hardesty could ease into the planning director position.

“The hiring of a full-time planning director is essential in lifting [the moratorium] fully,” Tyndall said. “We have to be understanding that we have a new candidate that is

starting, and to throw the floodgates open in one fell swoop is probably not the best approach.

“It also allows us to have the candidate understand and us to hopefully further develop our strategic vision for Berlin and make sure the projects we approve maintain the character of our town.”

Hardesty graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 2000 and immediately began working as a rental agent for Shoreline Properties in Ocean City.

In 2010, Hardesty accepted a position as an administrative records clerk for the City of Salisbury before becoming the city’s senior code enforcement officer in 2014.

After 10 years in the post, Hardesty is set to bring her experience to Berlin as the town’s planning director. Code enforcement has long been a weakness in Berlin.

The moratorium was enacted on July 8 and was set to expire on Sept. 15. As Berlin struggled to lock down a full-time planning director, the pause was extended to mid-October on Aug. 12, until Nov. 15 in September, and to Jan. 15 on Oct. 15.

Tyndall said the decision to lift the pause on final site plan approval is because of engineering support, which “can be helpful in getting

those projects across the finish line while still onboarding the new candidate.”

While the 45-day extension for annexation and rezoning requests is a “ballpark” estimate, the town hopes to lift the moratorium fully around March 1. The mayor added that final site plan approvals are the bulk of the work, and rezoning requests and annexations are “one-offs.”

Council member Steve Green said it is noteworthy Baldwin will remain on as planning consultant as Har-

desty enters her new role in Berlin.

“It is important to the planning director talk to remind the public that our planning consultant will be involved and staying on through this transition,” he said. “I support the phased approach we have here. We enacted the moratorium in July with the idea that it would be a temporary pause. The clincher for me is knowing that we have direction ... I think it’s a wise approach.”

Tyndall said Baldwin has agreed to stay with the town through 2025.

# Racquet sports membership takes consolidated approach

Continued from Page 1

surfaces are \$70,000. If you look at the budget, we have allocated \$36,000. So now, what am I saying? Which courts am I doing, and which aren't I doing? We have to be on top of this. These repairs are major. It's a safety issue we have to budget for and plan for.”

Additionally, the renovations to the racquet center sports building, including upgrades to the bathrooms and the main pro shop, are scheduled to be concluded this May.

Underkoffler said if the association addressed these cost concerns while keeping the current individual memberships model, the pickleball rates would increase dramatically. The single choice allows for a more balanced method for the center’s financial needs.

Director Elaine Brady agreed with switching to a single, all-encompassing membership price, arguing the individual options are an “operating nightmare” to track. She also added the new structure could encourage members to try their hand at all the facilities’ other sports.

“It may introduce people to other sports they didn't try out because they didn't want to pay those extra

fees,” she said. “We keep kicking that can down the road. It is going to continue being a controversy over the years. I just think we have to bite the bullet.”

Not everyone was initially on the same page, however. OPA Board of Directors Treasurer Monica Rakowski argued the proposed fee structure might eliminate some memberships, specifically the senior crowd who only play one sport once a week and would not be interested in paying for all sports.

Director Steve Jacobs was also hesitant to support the one-sport membership. His biggest concern was when the association tried to introduce a sole combo rate last year, the residents objected, and the board had to reinstate the single-sport options.

“The community does not want only a three-sport membership,” Jacobs said. “I think we have to give them as much choice as possible. That's what we do for customers.”

Still, the board consensus was that a single racquet center sport membership should be introduced into the upcoming budget.

A budget town hall is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 5. The budget will be approved shortly after that.

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# Berlin announces plan for new parking lot

Property will be leased to address town's shortage during events, peak season

(Jan. 16, 2025) The Town of Berlin announced Wednesday the Mayor and Council have entered into a 10-year lease agreement to provide a new municipal parking lot.

Located at the corner of West and Washington streets, the lot is owned by the Esham family.

According to a press release issued by the town and Mayor Zack Tyndall, "the new parking facility is part of the town's ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility and support the growth of the downtown business district. The first two years of the lease will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds while the Town works to establish a sustainable funding plan for the remaining lease period."

In November, the Berlin Mayor and Council assigned \$64,102 from ARPA funding previously marked for the Rails and Trails phase to address the town's parking supply.

"This new municipal parking lot will significantly increase parking capacity for our downtown business district and provide much-needed overflow parking during town

events," Tyndall said. "Based on conversations with our downtown businesses and the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, we know that a lack of accessible parking has limited the ability of our businesses to grow and thrive. This investment will help strengthen an already vibrant business district and encourage further growth and reinvestment in our community."

Tyndall noted in the press release the town's parking shortage was consistently noted in the town's strategic planning process last year. The release stated, "In a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, 'parking' was highlighted as both a weakness and an opportunity. Feedback gathered from residents and stakeholders led to the incorporation of parking as a driving strategy and key action step within the Town's strategic plan. The parking lot will also play a key role in accommodating the changing landscape of Berlin's downtown area."

Tyndall noted the town's evolving demographics make the lot more needed than ever.

"As properties begin to include more residential opportunities above their commercial buildings, this municipal lot will offer an essential re-

See PARKING Page 10



A 10-year lease agreement has been signed by Berlin and the property to make the vacant lot at the corner of West and Washington a municipal parking lot to serve the town. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# County commits to roof replacement work

### Project needed after report finds government center's previous job was sloppy

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) Poor construction is the culprit behind a costly roof replacement at a key government building, one that officials in Worcester County say could have been avoided.

The Public Works department needs \$1.6 million to replace the roof at the county's headquarters, a building known as the Worcester County Government Center, in downtown Snow Hill. Structural issues now stem from a cost-cutting installation in 2001, when the facility was built, according to Public Works Director Dallas Baker.

The roof was over-budget when it was installed, "and so there were some value engineering done to that contract and items that were removed (that) probably should have not been removed," Baker told the county's Board of Commissioners at its Dec. 17 meeting.

The roof is made of standing seam metal roof panels and sections of EPDM, a synthetic rubber roofing membrane. Mike Hutchinson, the county's maintenance superintendent,

added at the meeting that if the roof had been installed correctly, "we wouldn't have these issues today and we'd have another 10-plus years of the same roof before we're looking at changing anything."

It's a matter so urgent that an evaluating engineer and roofing contractors commented that "they are surprised the roof has not blown off yet," according to the county's October 2024 Capital Improvement Plan, a list of projects needing funding for the next five years.

That capital funding report goes on to explain how that "value engineering" of the roof system during construction eliminated the plywood layer under the metal roof sections, and that roof panels were not upgraded as required to a structural panel as a result of the plywood being eliminated.

But removal of the plywood underlayer left the metal roof panels unsupported, the report says, causing flexing, seam stains, and aesthetic stress wrinkling known as "oil canning."

Furthermore, the report says leaks have sprung due to corrosion where

the metal roof meets the rubber membrane. It says the roof panels are vulnerable to wind damage, with a "high likelihood of detachment and further panel loss." On top of that, poor insulation and ventilation have led to condensation and climate control issues on the building's third floor.

A potential roof failure would allow water infiltration in the insulation and ceiling. That could mean a temporary relocation of dozens of county staffers at significant cost, affecting continuity of operations. Work would be required to temporarily protect interior spaces of the building, the report also says.

Adding to the roof remorse, Commissioner Joe Mitreic (District 7, Ocean City) expressed serious concerns about a 30-year warranty offered on the sealant being used in areas where the roof is flat, an asphalt-like resin known as bitumen.

"That number for some reason scares me," said Mitreic, a builder and general contractor by trade. "On that material, it's just not attainable. It's concerning to me that they're offering a 30-year warranty on a mate-

rial that's not designed to last 30 years."

Commissioner Chip Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) said it all reminded him of a prior engineering snafu, when the Ocean Pines library required major repairs result of construction errors.

"The design was crappy, and we ended up spending over a million dollars to get it right. And now we're doing the same thing here," Bertino said at the meeting. "This is twice now that it's cost us. This is ridiculous. This government was penny-wise and pound-foolish, and now we're paying the price for it."

In the future, contract stipulations would have to address potential negligence on the part of a builder, and "we can go after them for damages," Nicholas Rice, the county's procurement officer, told Bertino.

In reality, though, that's not possible for this decades-old building, according to county attorney Roscoe Leslie. He told the commissioners that the standard window to take legal action in cases like this is three to five years.

The commissioners ultimately voted unanimously to award the repair contract to Cleveland-based Garland/DBS, Inc., for \$1,584,588. The county had already budgeted \$2.8 million for the project.

**'This is ridiculous. This government was penny-wise and pound-foolish, and now we're paying the price for it.'**  
Commissioner Chip Bertino

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## Parking lot lease announced

Continued from Page 9  
source to meet the demand for residential parking," said Tyndall.

The 10-year lease accord was negotiated with the assistance of the Parking Subcommittee, created by Mayor Tyndall to explore solutions for improving parking in downtown Berlin. The subcommittee, which included Councilmembers Jay Knerr and Steve Green, worked closely with the Esham Family to bring this project to fruition.

"The Town of Berlin extends its gratitude to the Esham Family for

their partnership in supporting this important initiative and to the Mayor and Council for their leadership and dedication in addressing parking challenges," said Tyndall in the press release. "The town is confident that this new parking lot will serve as a catalyst for continued economic growth and provide lasting benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors alike."

When asked on social media whether the lot will be paved or gravel, Tyndall said Wednesday it will feature a pervious surface.

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# Berlin Restaurant Week returns Jan. 17-23

Specials, unique menus presented by chefs to help with seasonal doldrums

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) Berlin residents are encouraged to support local eateries over the next few days, as tomorrow, Jan. 17, the town's restaurant week kicks off. The festivities will extend through Jan. 23.

Restaurants all over town will be offering deals and modified menus for the next week. Those who wish to participate may pick up a ticket at the Berlin Welcome Center or one of the participating locations, dine, and get the form stamped at three different eateries. The cards can be dropped in a drawing box at the welcome center for the chance to win restaurant gift cards and \$100 donated by Cam Bunting of Bunting Realty.

Local favorites will be revamping their menus for diners this week. Burn Woodfired Pizza, for instance, is participating in the annual festivities. The restaurant is offering \$12 baked goat cheese, \$14 shrimp in a Brandy cream sauce dish, and \$16 chicken parmigiana.

Forgotten 50 Distilling Company is also getting in on the action.

"Restaurant Week is here from Jan. 17 to the 23rd, and Forgotten 50 Distilling has an incredible menu waiting for you," the restaurant wrote on Facebook. "From savory soups like duck chili and cream of crab to mouthwatering entrees like shrimp and grits, chicken piccata, and ribeye, there's something for everyone to savor."

In addition, the restaurant will serve French onion soup for \$12, cream of crab soup for \$14, a black truffle Caesar salad for \$18, a chef's special salad for \$16, and polenta fries for \$12.

Baked Dessert Cafe will serve chicken pot pie croissants, tomato pesto, Italian Cheese Quiche, and gluten-free Old Bay macaroni and cheese for \$9.99 each with a side salad. The shop will also offer a peach dumpling, "the official dessert of Berlin," for \$5.25.

2nd Wave Coffee will offer patrons a variety of caffeine options, including a strawberry shortcake latte made with vanilla, strawberry, and a strawberry shortcake crumb topping; a snowball latte featuring coconut, marshmallow, dark chocolate, and coconut flake topping; a no-use for a name latte with raspberry, white mocha, and macadamia; and a salted caramel toffee latte with buttery tof-

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Marketing for Berlin's upcoming Restaurant Week options has been ongoing. All participating restaurants and their menus are available at [berlinmainstreet.com](http://berlinmainstreet.com).

fee, gourmet sea salt, and creamy caramel.

For the first time, the Berlin Beer Company and The Street Kitchen will also participate in the week-long event. The location's menu includes \$7 Mexican street corn soup, \$12 sal-

ads and \$15 sandwiches, such as a ham brie and apple grilled cheese with fries.

The full list of participating restaurants and their menus can be found on the window of the Berlin Welcome Center, [berlinmainstreet.com](http://berlinmainstreet.com).

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# Berlin council approves \$19K cost for mobile sign

Variable message board purchased within budget through capital outlay

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) The Berlin Town Council unanimously approved purchasing a new variable message sign (VMS), not to exceed \$19,000, to act as a board providing event, parking, trash, and law enforcement updates to municipality residents.

The device purchase, passed at the Berlin Mayor and Council's Monday, Jan. 13 meeting, will be funded through the Capital Outlay Equipment—Street Department budget using savings from under-budgeted projects.

Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said that the sign would be used as a general information board.

"One of the ideas, too, was for trash," Charles said. "Like around

the holidays, I could put it in certain rotations. Like leading into Christmas week, we could have put it over on the western side of the town and said, 'Tuesday's route will be picked up on Monday.' We would be able to use it for water outages or upcoming events. The police could use it for anything that they need to. Emergency, detours, traffic control patterns, and things like that."

The sign will be purchased from Sunrise Safety Services, INC., a traffic control company based in Glen Burnie. The official title of the purchase is a Wanco Full Size Matric Message Board with a Hydraulic Lift. The public works director added that the board's capabilities include pictures and scrolling through messages.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said that the town had rented similar signs in the past and that "from a logistics" standpoint, the purchase makes sense to improve the municipality's messaging services.

# US Wind attorneys respond with cease, desist threat

Letter details company's intent to litigate if county interferes with purchases

By Stewart Dobson  
Editor

(Jan. 16, 2025) The light and variable approach that US Wind has attempted to project as part of its plan to build onshore support facilities for its offshore wind farm has gone full gale, as the company told the Worcester County Commissioners last month to stop interfering or face severe legal consequences.

In response to the commissioners' attempt to block the company's purchase of two parcels in the Ocean City Commercial Harbor by seizing them through eminent domain, US Wind's legal representatives wrote in a Dec. 30 letter that it will sue the county government and the commissioners themselves to protect its investment.

Noting that it has more money than the county's total annual budget tied up in its plan to erect 114 wind energy turbines off the coast of Ocean City, the company promised a vigorous legal response if the commissioners don't stop trying to kill its agreement to buy the Harbor Road parcels from seafood wholesalers Southern Connection Seafood and Martin Fish Company.

US Wind intends to build maintenance and operations facilities on the harborside properties and add a major pier for its wind farm support vessels.

At issue is the commissioners' Dec. 17 directive to Chief Administrative

Officer Weston Young to buy the properties for the county, via condemnation, if necessary, on the grounds that they are the only two locations where offshore commercial fishing operators can unload their catches.

That loss, the commissioners contend, could result in the end of ocean-side seafood industry altogether, and cost the economy millions of dollars.

But a Dec. 30 letter from Baltimore attorney Thomas K. Prevas, a partner in the national law firm Saul Ewing, implied that US Wind is prepared to cost the county millions of dollars if it persists.

**'US Wind's investment in Maryland and the project to date exceeds the entire annual operating budget of Worcester County.'**  
Attorney Thomas K. Prevas

"US Wind intends to litigate to the fullest extent to protect its constitutional and other rights to construct the offshore wind project," Prevas said in his letter to the commissioners

and County Attorney Roscoe Leslie.

He further argued that government interference in private contract and private property rights violates the federal and state constitutions, the Maryland Declaration of Rights and common law. He also noted that the county's intentional interference also "creates personal liability for governmental officials involved in such activity."

"To provide context on the magnitude of potential damages for this liability, US Wind's investment in Maryland and the project to date exceeds the entire annual operating budget of Worcester County."

County officials said this week the possibility of litigation prevented them from commenting.

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**DIAKONIA DONATIONS**

Prior to the holiday break, Worcester Preparatory School's Lower School arrived in the dining hall with wrapped gifts and handmade cards for Diakonia. Hundreds of gifts were donated to the homeless shelter in West Ocean City to help brighten up the holidays for the temporary residents. Worcester Prep's Cynthia Phillips' third-grade class takes a photo with Santa after giving gifts to be donated to Diakonia. Front, from left, are Michael Hovvhanisyan, Markuss Jobson, Declan Parks, Vincent Fasano, Wesley Weeth, Palmer Hammonds, Ryder Whitlock and Noah Ramadan. Standing, from left, are Casey Heun, Blakely Absher, Carly McCallum, Sloane Gudelsky, Lisa Stanevich, Eleanor Brown and Ellie Broughel.



Worcester Prep second graders Caroline McCreedy and Ainslie Mitchell provided a couple hugs to Santa after donating toys to Diakonia.



Far left, first graders Tatum Hanna, Grey Lindsey, Milana Christensen and Paislynn Hutchins were excited to give their gifts to Diakonia this holiday season. Left, WPS kindergartners eagerly await Santa's arrival to donate their gifts to Diakonia. Pictured are Aiden Jarvis, Calvin Dunning and Logan Woodall.



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# Local historian loses home, archives in fire

GoFundMe page accepting donations to help Jones recover from devastation

By **Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(Jan. 16, 2025) Community members are raising funds for a local historian who lost his home, and all of his archives, in a fire late last month.

As of Wednesday, about \$7,680 has been raised for Bob Jones, a Stockton resident and local historian who lost his home and all of his possessions in a house fire in the early morning hours of Dec. 19. Paul Sherr, the campaign's organizer, said the money that is collected will be used to help Jones rebuild his collection and turn posts from his Facebook group, "Bob Jones's Worcester Chronicles, Worc. Co. MD," into a book.

"Anybody who serves the general community like Bob deserves some credit and help," Sherr said. "That's why I did what I did."

On Dec. 19, at around 3:30 a.m., the Stockton Volunteer Fire Company and surrounding agencies responded to a residential structure fire at Jones's home, located on Little Mill Road. Jones said the fire originated from a wood stove, an original feature to the 112-year-old home.

"I woke up at 2 or 3 a.m. and noticed an odor I wasn't accustomed to smelling in my home ...," he recalled. "I went downstairs to the kitchen and opened the door ... There was so much smoke I realized that I had to get out of there."

Using a golf cart, Jones fled to his nephew's house, located across the road, and called 911. But within a few hours, his residence, family heirlooms and years of historical research were gone.

In the aftermath of the early morning blaze, Jones shared the news with the nearly 5,000 members of his Facebook group, which shares



A before and after image of the Stockton home destroyed by a fire over the holidays is shown.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

historical data, photographs and information on Worcester County.

"I am grateful for the many expressions of support and sympathy, which, when added to my own well-springs of resiliency and grit will get me back to higher ground ...," he wrote. "Give me a day or two and I will jump back on my horse and trot or canter even if I can no longer gallop."

However, the story didn't end there. Sherr, a long-time member of Jones's Facebook group and grandson of Reginald Truitt, co-author of the 1977 book "Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia," saw the Facebook post and decided to pitch in. Within a matter of days, a GoFundMe page was created.

"Through another relative, I was made aware many years ago that Bob had a Facebook page where he was doing pieces on all sorts of Worcester County history ...," Sherr explained.

"I have become a quiet observer of all this and felt blessed with all the information that was being sent out. As soon as I had found out what had happened, I started to communicate with him and asked if there was anything I could do to help. I was happy to hear he was okay with a GoFundMe."

While insurance will be used to rebuild his home, Sherr said any funds raised will be used to replace Jones's extensive collection of history books, among other things. The money will also be used to publish a book using some of the estimated 3,000 posts Jones has shared with his Facebook group.

If accomplished, Jones said it would be the first book he has written. He noted that he had previously written articles, scholarly journals and a complex index that accompanied Reginald Truitt's second edition.

"It's overwhelming," Jones said of the fundraising effort. "When the community rallies around you like this, it really validates what you've been doing, and it confirms how good people are."

Since the fire, Jones has continued to write for his Facebook following while sharing both the small and big wins he has encountered along the way. Just this week, for example, Jones recovered his computer database, which lists the names, births, marriages and deaths of roughly 30,000 individuals born in Worcester County over the centuries.

Sherr said those interested in contributing to the fundraiser can visit [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) and search "Support Bob Jones: Restore Worcester's History." He said additional information can also be found on Jones's Facebook page.

"So far the response has been great," he said.



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# School-run café exceeding business hopes

## First semester's operations considered solid at Ocean Pines TidalHealth campus

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) With nearly one semester under its belt, the Pines Café continues to amass three times the business expected as officials look for opportunities to continue providing culinary goods to the community heading into winter and, soon enough, summer.

The Pines Café, an interactive teaching cafe developed by Worcester Technical High School's Culinary and Pastry Arts Department, opened its doors last September. It offers baked goods, sandwiches, soups, and salads prepared by WTHS students to patients, staff, and Ocean Pines residents.

The shop, situated between the main lobby and the pharmacy in building number one of the Ocean Pines TidalHealth Campus near the community's North Gate Entrance, is now looking at developments to ease operations as culinary and pastry arts program head chef Phil Cropper said the initiative brings in more patrons than anticipated.

"It has been three times busier than I thought it would be from the conception, which is amazing," he noted. "We have had a ton of community support. We have had a ton of support from TidalHealth."

As with any new venture, the bustle of customers and the fact that the café is an educational operation that heavily relies on student assistance have produced some growing pains Cropper hopes to amend, especially leading into summer. One solution could be the purchase of a transit van to carry the items to the Ocean Pines location.

The food prepared at WTHS to be sold at the shop is currently transported by Cropper in his car, with health department approval. The director said that he and the young learners pack the products in coolers, cover them with ice, and load them in the vehicle to be driven to the café. The high temperatures and declining student help will make this routine difficult as summer approaches.

Cropper said purchasing a small used transit van with a refrigerator unit would improve transportation from WTHS to the shop during the warmer months when school is out of session. The chef added that he is waiting on a quote from Hertrich and has a meeting this week with the executive team for the school board to discuss his plans.

The purchase is still up in the year, and a fundraising initiative for the potential vehicle may or may not be needed.

"I am looking at possibly getting a

used van because we don't need anything brand new; we just need something that's low mileage and works," he said. "Maybe if I could get low enough payments [on the van], we could do payments through the Pines Café monthly, so then if I'm paying \$400, give or take a month, for a van, we might not need to do fundraising...but if I need to pay \$20,000 out of pocket up front, I do not want to take what little money we set aside to cover payroll in case of a rainy day, and spend it all on a van. It is all very loose."

Cropper is also looking to hire around two student workers over the summer to prepare items for the Pines Café in the Worcester Tech kitchen. Currently, 90% of the preparation for the TidalHealth shop is done at WTHS by the culinary baking and pastry classes and transported to Ocean Pines. At the same time, a smaller group of students handle the daily onsite operations at the store.

This system will be modified when the café remains open but the break starts. Some food will be made at the school and some at the shop, and additional costs may be incurred to cover the extra paid help to work at WTHS.

"I think I'll have to bring on two additional students for that in the

summer, which is a win-win because it will give the students from Snow Hill and Pocomoke, the lower end of the county, who struggle finding a job, a job, and some income, and they'll be learning," Cropper said. "That part of it is great, but now I'm covering the payroll of six students instead of four."

Cropper and his students have slightly altered the store's menu, switching up items as the seasons change and adding new products based on customer preferences. While the most popular item, chicken salad, will remain, of which Cropper said they sell between 160 to 180 pounds weekly, a Caesar salad for winter will replace the Greek salad. They have also included egg salad, a soup and sandwich combo, and gluten-free rice bowls.

"Many of our customers are asking for dietary, gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, and low sodium because we are in the middle of a medical complex," the culinary program director said. "We are trying to do our best to listen to what the customers are asking for and help them with that."

The project has proven to be an educational experience for the students, so much so that Cropper nominated student Nicholas Zlotorzynski, who has played a significant role in

the initiative, as the Restaurant Association of Maryland Student of the Year Award.

Cropper said that the organization was looking for students, and he wrote an essay on Zlotorzynski, throwing his hat in the ring. The young chef was recently emailed to let him know that he is in the final run for recognition and will be notified on Jan. 23 if he is selected as the winner.

Cropper is also on the shortlist for the same group's Educator of the Year Award and will know if he is chosen as the honoree on Jan. 20. The Restaurant Association of Maryland's annual gala will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center this March.

Cropper hopes the shop will see even more business as the temperature heats up and summer begins.

"Hopefully, going into the summer months, our business will even go up higher because Ocean City and Ocean Pines are more full," he said. "We're hoping people come in and get sandwiches and salads and carry out for the beach and the pool... We're very grateful for the support we have gotten. It's been bigger and better than I ever thought it could be... As a teacher, I have big ideas. It'll be interesting to see how [the café] evolves."



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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.

## Town's slow approach will help new director

Congratulations to the Town of Berlin's mayor and council for filling the vacant planning director slot and having the good sense to not set up new hire Ryan Hardesty to fail by lifting its planning moratorium all at once.

Working in any public capacity and dealing with unfamiliar circumstances is difficult enough without also having to swim against a flood of land use and zoning matters that require immediate attention.

As it is, the town's elected officials agreed to reboot the planning department's processes gradually, beginning with final site plan reviews. In the meantime, the department won't see any rezoning requests or annexation considerations for another month and a half.

That will allow some business to proceed without inundating the office and swamping its new director with business dating back to July. That's when the moratorium was imposed, partially because of the directorship vacancy created by the passing in April of Dave Englehart.

Town officials have been looking for a replacement since that time and, after a course of resume screenings and interviews, selected Hardesty, who currently serves as the code enforcement officer for the City of Salisbury.

This is a bigger, much more complicated job. But in addition to council's decision to allow Hardesty time to settle in, she will have the advantage of not being a complete newcomer to the community.

She grew up in the area and graduated from Stephen Decatur High School and therefore is well aware of the town's style and the little quirks that make it what it is. Moreover, she will be backed up temporarily by consultant Rick Baldwin, Salisbury's former planning and development director.

Clearly, the town's elected officials have set up Hardesty to succeed in her new assignment. That is how all new employees ought to be treated, but in the case of a high-profile position like this one, it's vital to long-term success.

## Letters

### Homestead cap projects residents

Editor,

Your article "Local Property Assessments Jump" in the January 10 edition left out a very important piece of information.

The statewide Homestead Tax exemption credit allows both counties and cities to adopt a lower ceiling for the exemption than the state standard of 10%. The exemption applies only if the property is the primary resi-

dence of the owner. I believe that Worcester County uses 3% and Ocean City actually uses 0%.

When the budget is being considered in open meetings in other jurisdictions, you will see many homeowners testify asking the politicians to hold the line on property tax increases. In Worcester County and Ocean City, about all you hear are requests for more funding.

The reason is the owner occupied properties have a cap of 3% per year in

Worcester County taxes and are capped at 0% for Ocean City taxes.

The result is that all the voters either pay no property tax because they are renters or are shielded from any significant property tax increase.

The bottom line is no one is trying to put a lid on spending in the county or city because voters are largely unaffected by any property tax increase.

*Jim Thomas  
Silver Spring*

## Meeting set for old Bay Club's future

### Information session will detail restoration projects for property

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2025) The Lower Shore Land Trust invites community members to the Berlin Library at 6 p.m. tonight, Thursday, Jan. 16, to learn more about the transformation of the former Bay Club Golf Course into a Maryland Department of Natural Resources property (MD DNR).

The informational session will cover the history of the property or how the golf course became part of the MD DNR portfolio, management plans, ongoing and upcoming restoration projects, citizen engagement, and a questions-and-answers segment.

ment.

In 2020, the Lower Shore Land Trust began assisting DNR in purchasing the Bay Club, a golf course on Libertytown Road outside Berlin. The deal, finalized in 2023, saw the state acquire 672 acres to be managed by the Maryland Forest Service.

According to the MD DNR website, the project will establish trails, install pollinator meadows, restore wetland habitats, and plant food forests.

"The purchase of this property will provide significant water quality and habitat benefits in addition to public recreational opportunities," said Department of Natural Resources Land Acquisition and Planning Director Hilary Bell in a June 28, 2023 press release announcing the purchase.

The property quietly opened to the public in the fall of 2023. While trail work had yet to begin, hunters and birdwatchers frequented the space.

"The project is one that expands public access to natural areas in the northern part of the county," Kate Patton, executive director of the Lower Shore Land Trust, said last year. "Community engagement efforts will help guide the trail development as access for equestrians, hikers, cyclists, and other passive recreation activities such as birdwatching. The site has already become noted for birdwatchers."

In addition to tonight's information session, the Lower Shore Land Trust is offering a second session on Feb. 1 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Berlin Library.

## New library branch to break ground

(Jan. 16, 2025) On Tuesday, January 21, at 1:30 p.m., the Worcester County Commissioners will break ground on the new Pocomoke branch of the Worcester County Library. This official project kickoff will take place on the grounds of the former branch at 301 Market Street in Pocomoke, and all are invited to attend.

Plans for a new 12,500-square-foot library were developed through the cooperative efforts of the Worcester County Commissioners and library officials. Construction will be completed by Keller Brothers. Funding of \$3.99 million from the County Library Capital Grant program, Maryland State Library Agency and \$4 million from the county as well as the

Worcester County Library Foundation have been allocated to construct the new branch.

The Pocomoke Branch Library has been temporarily relocated to the renovated firehouse on 5th Street in Pocomoke. This will allow the library to continue operating throughout the demolition and construction of a new library facility.

**BAYSIDE GAZETTE**

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### AMERICAN LEGION POST DONATED \$389K IN 2024

American Legion Post 166 provided donations in 2024 to support veterans and charities in 2024 reaching \$389,000. Legionnaires, the Auxiliary, Riders, Sons of the American Legion, and the Leathernecks all contributed to the total. The money came from members who supported various fund-raising activities that each post family holds throughout the year. By far the largest amount, however, came from the post's slot machines where, by law, the post must donate 50 percent of proceeds.

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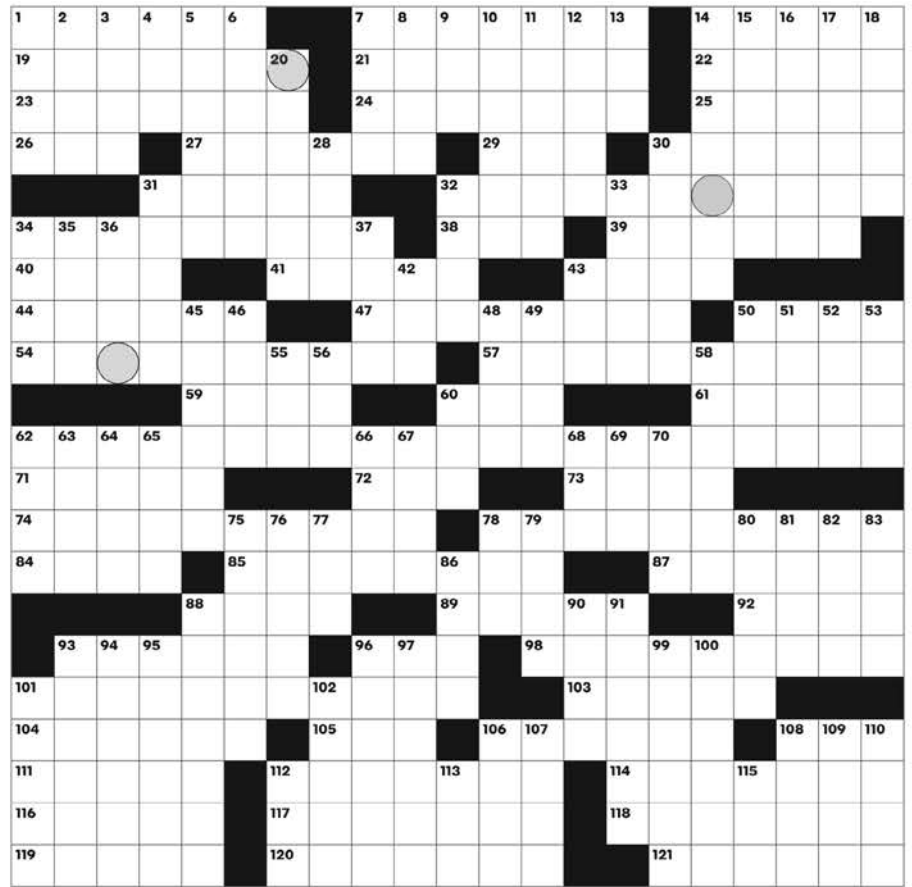
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# Puzzles

## ALL THINGS CHANGE BY KAREEM AYAS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Kareem Ayas is a high school teacher of English literature and film studies in Harlem. He grew up in Syria and Lebanon, moved to the United States in 2014 and started solving the Times crossword with co-workers during lunch breaks. Soon his puzzle habit led to constructing. Kareem says he gets his best theme ideas "as I walk my dog at midnight while listening to Duran Duran." Keep your thinking cap on, because he adds, "More often than not I start with the question 'What crossword rules can I break?'"

- ACROSS**
- 1 Turmoil
  - 7 Protagonist of Arabian folk tales
  - 14 /
  - 19 They might be sewn in at a beauty parlor
  - 21 Mustangs sometimes race with them
  - 22 Many a Quentin Tarantino film role
  - 23 Classic Chevys
  - 24 Vanity fare?
  - 25 Super-excited
  - 26 Donkey Kong, e.g.
  - 27 Some chords
  - 29 Trash
  - 30 Unhappy spectators
  - 31 Live interview shout-out
  - 32 Common sales promotion
  - 34 End of fall?
  - 38 Increases
  - 39 Made less effective, in gamer slang
  - 40 Like some picture frames
  - 41 Part of a fishing line to which a hook is attached
  - 43 Characters from Homer and Herodotus?
  - 44 Goes higher, at an auction
  - 47 Part of a modern assembly line
  - 50 Some works of Pablo Neruda
- DOWN**
- 1 Like most Iraqis
  - 2 Pack (down)
  - 3 Perfect for a salad, say
  - 4 Something often rolled over, for short
  - 5 Was deeply affected by something
  - 6 No longer in service?
  - 7 Passed with flying colors
  - 8 Agonizing occurrences in online games
  - 9 Bit of text pontification
  - 10 Baby in a cave
  - 11 Spreads
  - 12 Sound of spring?
  - 13 Potentially lethal snake
  - 14 Some multimasted ships
  - 15 "Quit hounding me!"
- ACROSS**
- 54 Landmark featured in "Roman Holiday"
  - 57 Reveals everything
  - 59 Biblical inspiration for Caleb, in Steinbeck's "East of Eden"
  - 60 Landscaper's roll-out
  - 61 Jason of "Aquaman"
  - 62 Sign on a tray at a cash register ... or a hint to entering 32-Across
  - 71 Like Sherlock Holmes's "game"
  - 72 Away from work, for short
  - 73 Bit of plankton
  - 74 Place for some light rest?
  - 78 Band with the 2001 No. 1 hit "How You Remind Me" ... or a hint to entering 54-Across
  - 84 Long-running tour title for Taylor Swift
  - 85 Cultural meeting place
  - 87 Washington airport, informally
  - 88 Smartphone precursors, for short
  - 89 Typical features of locker rooms
  - 92 European capital said to be the site of the first decorated Christmas tree
  - 93 Gin or djinn, e.g.
  - 96 Part of overalls
  - 98 Mercilessly harsh treatment, in an expression ... or a hint to entering 117-Across
- DOWN**
- 101 Pivot without warning ... or a hint to entering 19-Across
  - 103 Not straight, in a way
  - 104 Pilot
  - 105 Questionable gift, for short?
  - 106 Musician once nicknamed "The Beale Street Blues Boy"
  - 108 One of 10 on each end of a beer pong table
  - 111 Tough-guy title role
  - 112 "Nice going!"
  - 114 Harsh "reading"
  - 116 Part of a bridal gown
  - 117 ¼
  - 118 Registers
  - 119 Some bank deposits
  - 120 Mentee
  - 121 Start to boil
- ACROSS**
- 16 Current measure
  - 17 Start to boil
  - 18 Mess (around)
  - 20 Emotional strains
  - 28 Last word of the New Testament
  - 30 Second strings
  - 31 Prefix with -centric
  - 32 Onion or garlic
  - 33 2024 Shakira single "(\_\_\_ Paréntesis)"
  - 34 Compartmentalize
  - 35 Swear
  - 36 Quintet of experts on "Queer Eye," familiarly
  - 37 Late actress Garr
  - 42 Chaney of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"
  - 43 Pointy part on a husky
  - 45 Italian motorcycle brand
  - 46 Insta alternative
  - 48 Prominent instrument in Seal's "Kiss From a Rose" and Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe"
  - 49 Revealing word
  - 50 Plains tribe
  - 51 "Hot \_\_\_!"
  - 52 North Carolina campus town
  - 53 Leave rolling in the aisles
  - 55 Love all, essentially
  - 56 One of the Wilsons of Heart
  - 58 Skewer
  - 60 Thruway advisory
  - 62 \_\_\_ Modern (London attraction)
  - 63 Way off
  - 64 Coffee named for the district it's grown in
- DOWN**
- 65 Many, many moons
  - 66 Rejections
  - 67 Weird Al Yankovic's parody of the song "Lola"
  - 68 Little suck-up?
  - 69 Antlered animal
  - 70 Many moons
  - 75 Gordimer who wrote "The Conservationist"
  - 76 Non \_\_\_ (unwelcome)
  - 77 Major K-pop septet
  - 78 Nonverbal OK
  - 79 Privy to
  - 80 The Flash's civilian identity \_\_\_ Allen
  - 81 Bickering
  - 82 Structure for a shark dive
  - 83 1980s Chrysler debut
  - 86 Brain piece
  - 88 Oxygen atoms have eight of them
  - 90 Queen's realm
  - 91 One working the knight shift?
  - 93 Mena of the "American Pie" films
  - 94 Elemental
  - 95 Pretty soon
  - 96 Parisian eatery
  - 97 Effect
  - 99 Storing, as some ashes
  - 100 Vice president with a Nobel Peace Prize
  - 101 Fruit pastries
  - 102 Put off
  - 106 Head shop purchase
  - 107 Memory unit
  - 108 Pacify
  - 109 Sch. with the Daily Bruin newspaper
  - 110 Vet's concern
  - 112 TikTok, for one
  - 113 "Busy" one
  - 115 Litt'l'un



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## HARD - 3

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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

UNTO	CLOAK	LAG	BAWL
HOOP	FARGO	IGER	ALPHA
- - -	WORKER	PETE	HOPES
UNDER	DINE	- - -	CHARTS
HOODED	NDA	ROGUE	TOTO
SET	ANTELOPE	EVES	
KETTLES	PAD	LADED	
TAMIL	SURGED	CMON	
ALONE	TREAD	PHU	ATM
- - -	DRIVES	TRISH	HASH
DEPP	EMILE	VENTI	INTO
ALOO	MOVES	- - -	DANCES
PTA	NED	AMOUR	TAINT
LAYS	FRAPPE	TINTS	
MOYER	BOG	SAFARIS	
DIRE	UPARROWS	DEC	
ODES	BESET	ION	WHARFS
- - -	BACKER	SNAG	ETHAN
RAIMI	OOZE	DASHED	LINE
AIDED	SUES	OTTER	ANTE
GRAN	TDS	MAYER	SOAR

# Obituaries

**GARY LEE KUEBLER**

Berlin  
Gary Lee Kuebler, age 94, passed away peacefully, surrounded in love, on Friday Jan. 10, 2025, at Atlantic General Hospital.



Gary Kuebler

Born in Salem, Oregon, he was the beloved son of the late Lowell and Elizabeth Kuebler.

Gary is survived by his loving wife of 76 years, Doris Jean Kuebler, and his sister, Janette Wheeler. He

also leaves behind daughters, Dian Lawrence and husband Ken, Carol Massey and husband Wayne, Julie Stuart and fiancée Edwin Zajdel, Sandy Crawford and husband Scott, along with his cherished grandchildren Michelle, Melinda, Heather, Tessa, Cassie, Brandon, Jenny, Kristy, Evan and Josh; great-grandchildren Kayla, Abbott, Ethen, Brooke, Braden, Collin, Raegan, Carter, Billy, Cody, Tori, Tiffy and Taylor; and great-great grandchildren Kaiden, Dylan, Vivian, Bentley, Leila Kayden, Luca, Aven, Ava, and Stevie.

Gary was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Christopher Stuart; grandson, Chadwick Stuart; and brother, Lowell Dean Kuebler.

Gary met the love of his life at the age of 16 in high school, at Laurelwood Academy, in Oregon. They married June 17, 1949. After attending Walla Walla College in Washington, Gary began his career with General Foods. He was later recruited by Eastman Kodak and moved his family across the country to Maryland.

Upon retirement Gary and Doris built a home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where they enjoyed the beach, golfing, fishing and traveling, especially to the Caribbean and Europe.

Gary was not only hard working but loved to stay active; he was an avid gardener, and took pride in his lovely yard, plants and shrubs. He loved spending time with his cherished family, playing cards, fishing, skiing, camping, and loved holidays when family would visit. Gary's family was his greatest accomplishment, and he was deeply loved by all. He will be greatly missed.

A viewing will be held at Burbage Fu-

neral Home in Berlin, on Friday, January 17, 2025, from 1-2 p.m. Service will be held following the viewing. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery in Berlin. Letters of condolence may be sent to [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com)

**CHARLES ELWOOD BAILEY**

Berlin

Charles Elwood Bailey, age 82, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, in Berlin. Born in Ocean City, he was the son of the late Ollie Bailey and Pearl Clark Bailey.



Charles Bailey

Charlie, as he was called, grew up in Ocean City and attended Stephen Decatur High School. Charlie was a painter and after retirement, he became a volunteer at the Spirit Kitchen within Stevenson United Methodist Church. He thoroughly enjoyed working with the other volunteers and the visitors that came in. Spending time with family was most important to Charlie.

He is survived by his loving wife,

Vina Bailey; a daughter, Karen Cooper (Lee); two grandchildren, a granddaughter Emylee Cooper, and a grandson Pastor Andrew Cooper (Haley); and one great granddaughter, Elsie Jane Cooper. As well as one surviving sister, Louise Richardson and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Charlie was preceded in death by his son, L/Cpl (USMC) Charles Keith Bailey; four brothers, Monroe, George, Preston and Dennard; and three sisters, Hilda, Sarah and Joyce.

A visitation will be held at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, Maryland on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, from 10-11 a.m. with a funeral service at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Charlie's name can be made to the Spirit Kitchen c/o Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N Main Street, Berlin, Md. 21811 or a charity of one's choice.

Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com). Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

## OPEN HOUSES

Jan. 16 - Jan. 23

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-3pm	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-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sat. & Sun 10am-1pm	8 60th St. Unit 502, Meridian, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$929,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat-Mon 1-4pm	103 125th St. #105, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$529,900	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	702 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	6BR/4BA	Single Family	\$529,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	11603 Windward Drive, Unit A, Sea Mist, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$429,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	27035 Bay Bluff Rd., Bayside, Selbyville	6BR/3.5BA	Single Family	1,150,000	Michele Pompa/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	424 Lark Lane #E303, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$273,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	103 23rd St. Unit 305A1, Jockey Beach, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$252,000	Michele Pompa/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	2901 Atlantic Ave., Unit 101, Harrington Towers, OC	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Katy Durham/Rick Meehan/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	210 Worcester St. #111, Assateague House, OC	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$319,900	The ABC Team/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	11964 W. War Dancer Lane #105, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$485,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-2pm	404 143rd St. Unit 11, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Townhome	\$529,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	73 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5 BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	108 120th Street Unit 2027, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$339,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2-Half BA	Single Family	\$2,800,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	189 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$352,000	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 10am-Noon	108 120th Street Unit 2027, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$339,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1-3pm	11603 Windward Drive, Unit A, Sea Mist, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	429,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1-3pm	73 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5 BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Monday 11am-2pm	19 Liberty Street, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$389,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty

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# Annual SGA-Sponsored Food Drive



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The annual SGA-sponsored Food Drive at WPS began on Nov. 18. On Thursday, Dec. 19, the Upper School community gathered to sort and distribute the collected donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items for local non-profit organizations. The donated items, which include canned goods and non-perishable food, will be distributed to 10 centers throughout Maryland and Delaware. These contributions will help feed individuals and families in need during the holiday season and beyond. Additionally, students contributed \$5 each to help purchase meats for holiday dinners.



# 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., Jan. 16

### BORED TEACHERS: THE STRUGGLE IS REAL! COMEDY TOUR

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. Cost is \$55, \$45 and \$35. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/90617203/bored-teacher-the-struggle-is-real-comedy-tour-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

### CPAP MASK FITTING

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

### STORY TIME: A POLAR BEAR IN THE SNOW

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)

### STORY TIME: MS. ANGIE'S FAVES

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

### REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WORCESTER COUNTY'S JANUARY MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Worcester Technical High School, 6270 Worcester Highway, Newark, 11 a.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. David T. Stevenson leads the national effort opposing offshore wind and served on President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency. Cost is \$27. [gopwomenofwc@gmail.com](mailto:gopwomenofwc@gmail.com)

### NATURE LOVERS CRAFTING

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 1 p.m. Nature themed crafts projects for adults. January: Snow Scenes. 410-632-3495

### 3-D SNOWFLAKES

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Use up cycled book pages to create three dimensional snowflakes. Registration required: 410-957-0878. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MAGIC THE GATHERING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Battle it out with sorcery, dragons and giants. Experienced and novice players welcome. BYOC recommended. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## Fri., Jan. 17

### ANNUAL DELMARVA ART EXPO AND WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau,

4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Juried art show with various mediums represented. Wool show includes vendors with natural wool and fiber arts needs. Destash bin available. Cost is \$4 daily or \$5 for weekend. [www.delmarvaartexpo.com](http://www.delmarvaartexpo.com), 443-235-2926

### MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$17.95. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/79599691/morgan-state-university-choir-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

### FANDOM FRIDAY: K-POP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop in anytime for crafts, quizzes and discussions about the monthly topic. For ages 6-18 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MAHJONG CLUB

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

### HOMESCHOOL HARMONIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. An introduction to the world of music. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB: 'SEA OF TRANQUILITY' BY EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

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

### 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., Jan. 18

### ANNUAL DELMARVA ART EXPO AND WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Juried art show with various mediums represented. Wool show includes vendors with natural wool and fiber arts needs. Destash bin available. Cost is \$4 daily or \$5 for weekend. [www.delmarvaartexpo.com](http://www.delmarvaartexpo.com), 443-235-2926

### WHO'S BAD: THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Tribute to Michael Jackson. Tickets cost \$45 and \$55. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/98868134/w>

[www.delmarvaartexpo.com](http://www.delmarvaartexpo.com), 443-235-2926

### WALK WITH A DOC

Southgate Pond, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. Join a brief discussion about a health topic then walk around the park's trail. The first 10 participants to arrive will receive \$10 WalMart gift cards. 410-641-9268, [amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org)

### FAMILY LIBRARY DAY: WINTER WONDERLAND

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m.-noon. Winter themed crafts, games and activities. For families. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### COMIC BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Learn about comics and create your own. No experience required. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FROZEN SING-ALONG PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Wear your favorite Frozen themed outfits and join in for singing, crafts and more. For ages 0-11 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FREE SOUP AND SANDWICH

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. All are welcome. Sponsored by St. Paul United Methodist Church Men's Ministry.

### THIS OR THAT?

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Peppermint mocha vs hot chocolate ... who will win? Create it and taste test the results. Adult assistance may be needed for younger children. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

### ORIGINALS ONLY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Join us for a vibrant showcase where artists present their original music, share captivating poetry, and hilarious comics deliver their wit and humor. [megan@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:megan@artleagueofoceancity.org), 410-524-9433

### FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

## Sun., Jan. 19

### ANNUAL DELMARVA ART EXPO AND WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Juried art show with various mediums represented. Wool show includes vendors with natural wool and fiber arts needs. Destash bin available. Cost is \$4 daily or \$5 for weekend.

[www.delmarvaartexpo.com](http://www.delmarvaartexpo.com), 443-235-2926

### AN EVENING WITH WAR - 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'WHY CAN'T WE BE FRIENDS'

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Featuring "WAR." Tickets cost \$45 and \$55. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/75070405/an-evening-with-war-50th-anniversary-of-why-cant-we-be-friends-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

### BERLIN FLEA MARKET

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

### SEWING FOR A CAUSE

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

## Mon., Jan. 20

### VIRTUAL VIEWING OF 'RESCUE MEN: THE STORY OF THE PEA ISLAND LIFE SAVERS'

Free online screening of the film "Rescue Men: The Story of the Pea Island Life Savers." <https://www.ocmuseum.org/events/virtual-viewing-of-rescue-men-the-story-of-the-pea-island-lifesavers>, 410-289-4991

### 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.Worca.org/oceancity](http://www.Worca.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., Jan. 21

### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

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

### STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Story time featuring... Continued on Page 24

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# Calendar

Continued from Page 23  
turing seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. Geared to ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

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

### BABY TIME

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

### OC KNITTING GROUP

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

### LET'S MAKE ... TEACUP PINCUSHIONS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. These Victorian inspired pincushions are easy to make and will brighten your sewing room. All materials provided. Register: 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### HIDDEN HEALING

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Discussing the therapeutic properties of common spices and herbs such as black pepper, thyme and sage. Attendees will be given several recipes. Registration required: 410-524-1818.

### GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group is reading from Book 6 of the Great Conversations Anthology. Today's focus: "On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life" by Friedrich Nietzsche. 410-208-4014

### SHARED VISIONS READINGS

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Meet the artists and writers of this year's "Shared Visions" collaboration. Hear readings of the poetry and prose inspired by the artwork on display. Complimentary refreshments. Free admission.

### BEACH HEROES-OC

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin,

3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

### OC KNITTING CLUB

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

### ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

### ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

### WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

## Wed., Jan. 22

### BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### COFFEE & CRAFTS - ART ROCKS!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. See what you can create with rocks, a canvas and your imagination. Limit 30. First come, first served. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### PUZZLE SWAP

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

### PASTA LIKE A PRO

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2-4 p.m. Learn about dough and how to make hand-formed southern Italian shapes. Then cook the pasta and eat a family-style meal with a paired sauce. Registration required: 410-208-4014.

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. Providing participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, 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.kiwanisofopoc.org.



# Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



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