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## WINTER SPECTACULAR

This magical sunset view over Isle of Wight Bay was, thankfully, captured before this week's warmer temperatures made the snow cover rapidly disappear.

## No plans to build cell tower

Board declares rumor completely unfounded, 'patently false' info

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) Ocean Pines officials say there is no plan to construct a cellphone tower on neighborhood property at this time. Instead, the police department's chief has simply looked into ways to improve unreliable cellphone reception.

At a meeting last week, Ocean Pines Association Board of Direc-

tors President Stuart Lakernick maintained that an initiative to build a cellphone tower within the community is not underway.

During the public comments portion of the OPA gathering, resident Dave Tanner criticized the potential construction, inciting strong clarification from community leaders that there is no plan in place for a cell site.

"There is no plan to construct a cellphone tower at this time," Lakernick said. "There is no planned construction; there is no planned site. The only thing our chief decided to look into was the safety

issue of getting through to 911. If you can't call 911 without service, it is a safety issue. But at this time, there is absolutely no planned construction, no site, no contractor. I don't know where [Tanner] got this information, but it is absolutely patently false ... [the police chief] is looking into ways to increase cellphone reception. There was never talk of a new tower."

Tanner's remarks were in reference to previous OPA Board of Directors meetings in which Ocean Pines Police Department Chief

See BOARD Page 10

## Berlin getting radio station from 'We Heart'

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) A new radio station is on its way to Berlin, bringing live and recorded music, educational programming, local history stories, roundtable discussions and emergency alert capabilities.

The radio station, Radio Free Berlin, will operate at 94.1 FM and be managed by the nonprofit organization We Heart Berlin.

We Heart Berlin President Jeff Smith  
See RADIO Page 10

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# Trump's order on wind met with optimism

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(Jan. 30, 2025) Local officials say they are optimistic about an executive order that effectively halts offshore wind development, but US Wind states it will not give up on its plans to build a renewable energy project off Maryland's coast.

On Jan. 20, President Donald Trump signed an executive order effectively withdrawing areas of the Outer Continental Shelf from any new offshore wind leasing. The order also halts the issuance of any new or renewed permits, leases or loans for onshore and offshore wind projects, pending the completion of a federal review.

At the local level, the executive order could impact the 114-turbine project US Wind plans to build 10 miles off the coast, as it tasks the secretary of the interior, in consultation with the attorney general, to "conduct a comprehensive review of the ecological, economic, and environmental necessity of terminating or amending any existing wind energy leases." The order also requires federal agencies to review its leasing and permitting practices.

In response to the executive action, US Wind's Nancy Sopko, vice president of external affairs, said the company will work with the new administration to meet its energy goals.

"US Wind's projects are poised to deliver on the President's promise of achieving American energy dominance, especially now that we have received all of our federal permits," she said. "The energy we will produce off Maryland's shores will help to meet the region's unquenchable thirst for new electricity, power more than 600,000 homes, and support good American jobs. We will be at the forefront of an American manufacturing renaissance that relies heavily on American steel by establishing a new factory at the old Bethlehem Steel facility in Baltimore. This site, once used to produce the steel beams for the Empire State Building, will rise again to meet the demands of a new American industry.

We look forward to working with the new administration to fully realize the potential of American ingenuity and innovation."

### Local leaders praise presidential action

Throughout his campaign, Trump has vowed to end wind energy development. And during his first day in office, he followed through on his promise, issuing an executive order that paused leasing and permitting practices.

Officials with the Town of Ocean City and Worcester County Government – who for years have fought US Wind at various stages of the permitted process for its offshore project – welcomed the news last week. Worcester County's chief administrative officer, Weston Young, said the county fully supported the president's executive order.

"The language in the order closely mirrors our concerns," he said. "We will continue working closely with our state and federal representatives to put safeguards in place to protect our coast in perpetuity."

Young also touched on another executive order signed this week, one that encourages offshore oil exploration.

"Whether we're talking about offshore wind or drilling, our concerns are the same. All of these massive industrial activities would be detrimental to the viewshed, marine animals, the ocean, and our bays," he said. "We'll continue to press the state to pursue clean, stable energy sources, like nuclear. Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant supplies roughly forty percent of the state's energy. If the state brought just two additional plants online, we could meet all of our energy needs and be in a position to sell energy to surrounding states."

Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan said last week that the city was working with its attorneys to determine how the federal government will proceed with the executive order. However, he said he remained "cautiously optimistic."

"After almost eight years. I believe the momentum is beginning to shift

with regard to the wind farms and the proposed wind farm off the coast of Ocean City," he said at the conclusion of last Tuesday's Mayor and City Council meeting. "The newly elected president enacted a number of executive orders. A couple of them address wind farms. We're still trying to analyze exactly with our attorneys what they're going to do, but it does appear that there is going to be some type of moratorium on the existing wind farms, and I think they've at least delayed on those projects in order for the federal agencies to really take a look at these projects, which we've asked them to do for the last eight years. And nobody's really listened and nobody's really done that."

### Environmental, energy advocates voice concerns

In a statement issued last week, the

American Clean Power Association – an advocacy group representing energy storage, wind, solar, clean hydrogen and transmission companies – said it supported Trump's calls to increase domestic energy production but opposed measures to halt wind development.

"Wind power is an essential element of our ability to serve soaring electricity demand for manufacturing and data centers that are key to national security," CEO Jason Grumet said. "It is also playing a growing role in our energy systems in red and blue states across the country. In fact, states voting for President Trump are eight of the top ten states in terms of reliance on wind power with many depending on wind for a significant share of their electricity use. Restricting

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# Pines set to launch Good Neighbor Program

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association, in collaboration with the community's communications committee, will honor one resident a month who demonstrates volunteerism in the newly launched Good Neighbor Program.

The OPA Communications Committee developed the initiative to recognize homeowners who give back to their fellow Ocean Piners. These deeds could include organizing neighborhood cleanups, leading clothing or food donation drives, collecting litter, contributing to beautification efforts, aiding local charitable groups, completing dog walking or yard maintenance for those unable, or engaging in regular acts of kindness.

"It's a great, positive thing for our

community," OPA Board of Directors member Elaine Brady said at the Saturday, Jan. 25 meeting where the idea was presented. "It's something small but meaningful to people."

The communications committee will review nominations and recommend a winner each month. The OPA Board of Directors will recognize and celebrate the do-gooder during the body's regularly scheduled meetings. The selected individual may receive a gift card, such as to the Yacht Club, or OPA-branded merchandise.

Brady maintained that the committee will be managing the program.

"[The board's] role is simply to congratulate [the selected Good Neighbors]," she said.

According to a press release from the Ocean Pines Association, charitable citizens will also be featured in the

community's weekly email newsletter and social media channels.

Residents are encouraged to nominate those that they observe aiding in the betterment of Ocean Pines. Names can be submitted to OPgoodneighbors@gmail.com.

"This program is about celebrating the everyday heroes who make Ocean Pines a better place to live," Communications Committee Chair Linda Yurche said in the press release. "Rec-

ognizing and honoring these efforts helps build a stronger and more connected community."

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors unanimously agreed to allow the OPA Communications Committee to host the Good Neighbor program.

Each month, a new individual will be selected and honored, and their charitable work will be highlighted by community leaders and communications committee members.

## Is wind momentum changing?

Continued from Page 3

wind development in these regions is certain to increase consumer energy bills. Wind development is also supporting more than 300,000 American jobs, many in construction, manufacturing, shipbuilding, and plant operations. Offshore wind is also helping to revitalize America's supply chain, bringing back U.S. shipbuilding, and creating economic prosperity and jobs, with billions of dollars in new investment."

Ocean Conservancy, another advocacy group for protecting the ocean and addressing climate change, also spoke against the president's executive actions.

"Climate change is the greatest threat facing the ocean; and the only way we can prevent the worst impacts is by transitioning to clean energy, ending our reliance on fossil fuels, and protecting more, not less, of the precious shared resource that is the ocean ...," Anna-Marie Laura, senior director of climate policy, said. "Promoting offshore oil and gas while halting progress on developing our offshore wind resources in the name of protecting marine life and fiscal responsibility is irresponsible and disingenuous. Offshore wind has the potential to provide enough energy to power the entire U.S. five times over, as well as create thousands of jobs in coastal communities. As we've seen time and time again, oil and water don't mix: more offshore drilling in the U.S. is bad news for any-

one who cares about having an ocean free from devastating oil spills."

### Efforts against US Wind project ramp up

From the outset, officials with US Wind, as well as state and federal agencies, have highlighted the benefits offshore wind could bring to Maryland. The phased project – to include up to 114, 938-foot-tall wind turbines, four offshore substation platforms, four offshore export cable corridors and one meteorological tower – is expected to generate more than two gigawatts of renewable energy for the Delmarva Peninsula and support nearly 2,700 jobs over the next seven years.

In December, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) granted US Wind's construction and operations plan, or COP, the final permit needed in the company's federal permitting application.

Since that time, however, the Town of Ocean City has continued to add co-plaintiffs to its lawsuit challenging BOEM's process for approving the US Wind project.

And in Snow Hill, Worcester County has launched a public relations campaign against offshore wind and has announced plans to pursue eminent domain in an attempt to stop US Wind's acquisition of two properties at the West Ocean City harbor.

In response to that effort, US Wind has threatened legal action should the county interfere.

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# Disc golf tourney approved for Berlin, Pines

'Double dip' concept will allow players to compete at Bainbridge, Decatur parks

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) A disc golf tournament, Double Dip Double Dash by the Salisbury-based Eastbound Disc Golf group, is coming to Ocean Pines and Berlin on Saturday, March 1.

The tournament will welcome teams of two, with participation not exceed 36 players.

The 'double dip' aspect of the event's name is apt, as participants will switch parks between rounds. The first segment will take place at Bainbridge Park in Ocean Pines.

Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m., the games begin at 9:30 a.m., and activities conclude around 11:30 a.m.

Players will then head to Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin for the afternoon portion of the tournament. Sign-in starts around noon, and the second round will begin at 1 p.m. The tournament is likely to wrap up between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Noah McAleer of Eastbound Disc Golf came before the Berlin Town Council at the group's regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Jan. 27, seeking a special event permit for a segment of the disc golf tournament to be held at Stephen Decatur Park.

While Councilmember Steve Green and Vice President Dean Burrell were absent, the municipality's governing body unanimously agreed to authorize the event in the requested space.

The tournament will have a \$70 entry fee per team. McAleer maintained that Eastbound is a nonprofit organization and that the event is not generating revenue for the group. Taylor Hubbard, also of Eastbound Disc Golf, emphasized that they are not profiting from the game series.

"It's a net negative total tournament, so there is no actual money going to the organization," Hubbard said.

Berlin Councilmember Jack Orris asked if signage could be adopted a week or two before the event to let residents who use Stephen Decatur

Park to walk their dogs or take a stroll know that the space will be occupied on the afternoon of March 1. McAleer and the town agreed that this could be accomplished.

Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles added that the electric sign ordered by the town a few weeks ago from Sunrise Safety Services, INC., a traffic control company based in Glen Burnie, would arrive in early February.

The banner will offer event, parking, trash, and law enforcement updates to municipality residents. Charles said the disc golf tournament could be the sign's first task.

Those interested in participating in the disc golf tournament must enter as a pair and register and pay online ahead of time. Signups will close at 9 p.m. on Feb. 28.

The event will be held March 1, rain or shine, as Eastbound did not schedule a alternate date.

"I think it would probably have to be a lot of rain for us not to play," McAleer said.



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## Police chief's drone request approved for under \$12,000

Downing says purchase will be made with forfeited funds from criminal cases

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) The Town of Berlin's Police Department will purchase a drone at a cost not exceeding \$12,000, per a Berlin Mayor and Council meeting earlier this week.

At the municipality's Monday, Jan. 27 meeting of the Berlin Town Council, the governing body voted 3-0, with Councilmember Steve Green and Vice President Dean Burrell absent, to authorize a police department drone purchase for under \$12,000.

The device, officially known as a DJI Matrice 30T Urban Scout Drone Package from DSLRPros, will be paid for with forfeited funds.

According to Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing, forfeited funds are "funds received from criminal court cases that have all been forfeited through the court themselves, most of them in drug cases."

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall emphasized that forfeited funds are not sourced from general taxpayer dollars and that this monetary stash is to

pay for the full cost of the drone.

Downing said that the police department currently borrows assistance from other agencies, like the fire marshal's office, for services that this new drone can now provide.

The device will allow officers to map out any type of traffic accident and crime scene, assist with search and rescue efforts, community outreach, and surveillance for protests and other large gatherings, among a multitude of law enforcement activities.

The police chief indicated that at least three officers will be trained to operate the drone. He added that the department is still unsure what kind of training it will offer and that much of it is likely to be online.

"We are not quite sure what exact training we are going to do," Downing said. "We are at the point of looking at what the other agencies are doing. We have already decided what we need the actual drone for. We have selected the right one. We have also actually sent a memo soliciting interest from the officers."

Downing also noted that the device will have thermal capabilities, which will allow drone users to see in low-light conditions, and through fog and smoke.

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# Route 90 funds restored in state's capital budget plan

Surprise move comes after county officials told in '24 project was on back burner

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(Jan. 30, 2025) Local officials this month learned planning and engineering funds for the Route 90 widening project have been restored. While county and municipal leaders were told last fall the Route 90 project had been paused due to fiscal constraints, they were pleased to learn last week that funding for the project's planning and engineering phase had been restored in the Maryland Department of Transportation's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for fiscal years 2025-2030.

The capital budget, released on Jan. 15, includes funding for the project beginning in fiscal year 2027.

"The state is aware of the importance of the MD Route 90 project and how it's our priority," Worcester County Commission President Ted Elder said. "We're encouraged by this news. We thank Governor Moore and Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary [Paul] Wiedefeld for keeping this project moving forward."

Citing budgetary challenges, Maryland leaders last fall announced plans to pause various transportation projects, including a project to improve the Route 90 corridor, which spans from Route 50 to Coastal Highway. The news was delivered to local officials weeks before the state was set to release the draft of its fiscal year 2025-2030 CTP, which outlines funding for transportation projects over the next six years.

In September, MDOT officials visited Worcester County, during which time Wiedefeld met with the commissioners to discuss the draft transportation plan, one that focused on projects and programs that maintain Maryland's transportation system and reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on Maryland's roads. At that meeting, many continued to advocate for Worcester's top priority project.

"You say you're about safety," Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said. "Well, Ocean City's safety depends on Route 90 being dualized, and the Route 50 corridor being taken care of. I see on here that we still have the Route 50 bridge on our shortlist here and, to me, Ocean City, Worcester County and everybody else has been asking about the Route 90 bridge for

I don't know how long now. We finally got some money from the former governor and then that was taken right out from underneath us this year."

It was also at that meeting that officials floated the idea of providing a county match to keep the project moving forward. However, state representatives said planning and design would require a \$2.75 million match.

The topic was revisited in November, when representatives from the Maryland State Highway Administration met with the Ocean City Council to discuss local transportation projects.

"Several counties have come in with similar requests as the state went around to conduct its tour meetings," District Engineer Mark Crampton told the council. "Those are all right now being considered by

[the secretary's office] with no final decisions. So I don't really have anything to report other than it's on hold until that specific request is vetted."

Last week, following a statewide public engagement

process, the Maryland Department of Transportation released its final CTP, with projects totaling \$21.2 billion. The program included a plan to advance design on several deferred projects throughout the state, including Route 90. To stabilize the transportation system, Gov. Wes Moore's administration has proposed an infusion of \$420 million per year into the state's Transportation Trust Fund, beginning in fiscal year 2026.

"Funding for Rt. 90 has been restored in the 2025 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Plan beginning in State FY 2027," Terry McGean, city manager for the Town of Ocean City, said in a statement last week. "The town is extremely pleased to see that the Department of Transportation recognized the importance of this project. Dualizing Route 90 is critical to the safety of the residents and visitors of Ocean City."

Mayor Rick Meehan echoed that sentiment during Tuesday's meeting of the Mayor and City Council.

"The governor presented his budget, and the design for the dualization of Route 90 is back in the governor's budget," he announced. "It's a year behind, but it's back in the budget, and really that's one of the most important projects that is on the horizon for Ocean City."

Other transportation projects listed for Worcester County include a shared-use path along Route 611, a study to replace the Route 50 bridge, among other things.

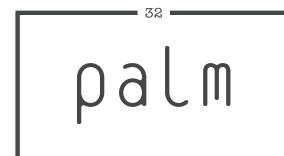
**'Funding for Rt. 90 has been restored in the 2025 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Plan beginning in State FY 2027'**  
Terry McGean, city manager

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# Pines chief reviews monthly police activity

Robinson comments on community search effort to local missing 10-year-old

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) Within the last month, the Ocean Pines Police Department has handled various traffic-related and community safety incidents. Last week, the group led efforts to find a missing 10-year-old boy, which resulted in his safe discovery.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, OPPD Chief Tim Robinson spoke at the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors meeting, where he said that since the previous regularly scheduled OPA board gathering on Dec. 21, 2024, the department has responded to 132 traffic-related situations. Of these, 38 were for speeding, and 23 included stop signs or "some other kind of traffic control device" violation. The law enforcement team handled one DUI (driving under the influence) arrest, a suspended driver, and an uninsured driver.

Robinson noted that despite the number of traffic incidents this past month, there has been a silver lining. "One thing I am pleased about is that we have had zero reportable

motor vehicle collisions since our last board meeting," he said.

The department responded to two vandalisms, one of which resulted in an arrest and two domestic assault cases. Robinson said that in one of the domestic situations, the law enforcement team had to "go back and re-arrest the individual because he returned to the house in defiance of a court order."

Additionally, the OPPD responded to two thefts by fraud, which the chief said is "always concerning," and a business burglary at a tobacco store in the Nicholas Lane shopping center.

The department was also busy this month responding to mental-health-related cases. Robinson said that since the December board meeting report, the group has dealt with nine calls involving emergency petitions or mental health work.

Furthermore, the police chief acknowledged last week's search efforts to locate a 10-year-old boy with autism who went missing in the neighborhood and was last seen at around 4:05 p.m. Robinson said that he was notified a little before 5 p.m. of the situation and was pleased to see the widespread response from surrounding law enforcement teams and volunteer community members.

The child was found safe a little past 8 p.m. that same night.

"One thing I was pleased about was that by the end of the day, we had about 50 people either from law enforcement or the volunteer fire department helping the search," Robinson said. "We had the state police helicopter up; one of the first things they did was check the ponds to make sure he wasn't in there. We also had the Ocean City Police Department with their thermal imaging drones checking the ground cover."

As it turns out, the chief said, the young boy was in a garage. "That does bring a little comfort; he wasn't out in the cold. He did come out after a while, and we did find him."

The law enforcement leader acknowledged the assistance provided

by the Maryland State Police search manager. Robinson said he was "very pleased" with the job done by the state official and his willingness to "drop what they were doing and come up [to Ocean Pines]."

Robinson also thanked the neighborhood residents for their response. According to Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste, over 134 volunteers came out to the OPVDF's South Station to lend a hand in the search.

"When I saw on social media that people were saying, 'we're on our way,' it warmed my heart when I felt that everybody wanted to help," Robinson said. "This is a great community, and I hope it's a long time before we have something like this again."

## Volunteer fire department provides winter safety tips

Enste stresses importance of homes having carbon monoxide detectors

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) As the wintery, frigid-cold weather persists, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department issued safety warnings last week for residents as they heat their homes.

OPVFD President Joe Enste attended the Ocean Pines Association's Saturday, Jan. 25 Board of Directors meeting. Here, he reminded OPA homeowners of fire hazards common during the winter season.

"Hopefully, we are pulling out of this cold spell, but with that being said, it's still cold, it's still winter," Enste noted. "We could still get another polar vortex. Please be smart when we are heating our homes."

The fire president maintained that a carbon monoxide detector in the house is vital if anyone has a gas or wood-burning appliance. Enste added that the department had a call a few weeks ago where an OPA resident's hot water heater was leaking gas, with levels reaching nearly 100 parts per million, and the only reason the inhabitants knew about the safety breach was the carbon monoxide identifier device.

"Thankfully, we were able to turn everything off and secure it, but if [the residents] didn't have a CO detector, they wouldn't have known about [the leak]," Enste said. "Same thing when it comes to the fireplaces, gas fireplaces, things like that."

Enste advises that homeowners resist doing anything "out of the ordinary" to supply warmth to their residences. This includes bringing gen-

erators inside. He added that space heaters should only be on when someone is in the room "paying attention to them" and that they should be turned off each night and when no one is home.

"I understand it's cold, but this is how these accidents happen, so just be careful," the firefighter said.

Enste also reminded residents that while the department's fundraising efforts are in a bit of a "lull," they are still doing their Queen of Heart game. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 from Wednesday at 9 a.m. through Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Drawings are live-streamed on Facebook each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. A winner may receive 60% of the jackpot if their purchased chance correlates to the Queen of Hearts spot on the raffle board. The jackpot is now over \$7,000. The fire group intends to bring some new money-raising strategies to the Ocean Pines community in the near future.

"We will be launching some new fundraisers here in the next couple weeks or couple months, so look out for that," Enste said.

Enste also thanked the OPA residents for last week's neighborhood-wide search for a 10-year-old boy. According to a press release issued by the department, at 5:40 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 21, the team was dispatched to assist the Ocean Pines Police Department in looking for the missing child, who was last seen at 4:05 p.m. The child was found safely at around 8:07 p.m. The fire president said that more than 134 community members came out to aid in the search efforts.

"Thank you to everyone who did that, thank you to all the efforts made by the police chief, and for asking us to be a part of those efforts," Enste said.

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# Audit details county's revenues, expenses

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) Worcester County's government brought in significantly more revenue from taxes, while also committing to paying down pension debt, according to the results of an annual review of the county's finances.

The overview of county operations and budget activity for fiscal 2025, called the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, showed general revenue and spending trends. The document is compiled by county staff, while financial statements were audited by the Salisbury accounting firm of UHY, LLP.

Overall, county revenues were generated mostly from property taxes (59.9%), followed by income taxes (20.3%), other local taxes (7.1%), and then a combination of grants, service charges, and investment interest (12.7%).

The report says the county increased its assets by \$179.9 million, which was \$36.7 million more than the prior year. About two-thirds of that new revenue (\$121.7 million) came from higher-than-expected revenue for income tax, recordation and transfer tax, and investment income.

The other third (\$57.8 million) of new revenue came from the county's water and wastewater operations, which operate as an independent business venture separate from the county's gen-

eral fund. Additional money came from casino revenue, cannabis taxes, and an increase the Opioid Restitution Fund revenue, the report says.

A breakdown of expenses shows that the most money was put toward education (50.7%), public safety (21.1%), and intergovernmental spending (12.4%). Other expenditures included, categorically: libraries, recreation, natural resources, economic development (6.2%); public works (4.6%); health and social services (4.2%), and interest on long-term debt (0.8%).

Spending went up in 2024, the report says, partially because of a 2% cost-of-living increase and a 2.5% step increase for eligible county employees. About \$13.3 million was allocated to pay down the county's share of debt for post-employment benefits. The county also spent more on needed capital projects and equipment purchases.

For cash on hand, Worcester County showed a very healthy general fund balance of \$110.2 million, according to Chris Hall, managing partner at UHY. He said this would be welcome good

news for anyone willing to lend the county money.

"Money in the bank shows you're solvent and you can handle unexpected surprises," Hall told the County Commissioners at their Jan. 21 meeting. "Your balance sheet would be the envy of many other municipalities."

County staffers file this financial report with the state and federal governments, as well as with the nation's three major bond rating agencies. It's public information and gets shared to the county's website.

# Bakery joining OP farmers market

(Jan. 30, 2025) Gather Alfajores, an artisanal bakery based in Lewes, Delaware, has joined the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, bringing their specialty treats to the community.

Starting Saturday, Feb. 1, customers can find Gather Alfajores bi-weekly at the Green Market.

Founded in 2022, Gather Alfajores is owned and operated by Isabel and Matthew Walsh, skilled bakers who craft their products from scratch in small batches.

The bakery specializes in alfajores, a traditional dessert from South and

Central America that features two melt-in-your-mouth shortbread cookies filled with dulce de leche. In addition to alfajores, Gather offers shortbread cookies and savory biscuits.

Isabel Walsh's passion for baking began in her parents' bakery in El Salvador, where she developed her skills and love for traditional recipes. After moving to Delaware, she gained over a decade of local experience, which she now brings to Gather Alfajores.

"Isabel and Matthew's dedication to quality and artistry is evident in every product they make," Market Manager

David Bean said. "We are thrilled to welcome Gather Alfajores to the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market. Their unique offerings add something special to our community."

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park. Visitors can enjoy Gather Alfajores' artisanal baked goods and other local products while supporting small businesses.

For more information, visit [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market).

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# Board says no plans exist for OP cell tower

Continued from Page 1

Tim Robinson acknowledged the spotty reception that often plagues the wooded community, particularly during the busy summer months.

Robinson said in November that Ocean Pines had communicated with Milestone Towers, a potential partner and contractor.

The chief noted that the vendor would put up a tower at their expense and ensure all the necessary permits were obtained if an agreement was signed. While their locations were not disclosed, the chief said a few sites for the structure in Ocean Pines had been looked at and that the company was to scope them out to determine their viability.

He added that Milestone Towers has built sites at three Wicomico County high schools.

“If it is all good, once we sign the

contract, [Milestone Towers] will pay a one-time fee prior to building the tower, plus it will be a monthly 40% revenue share for Ocean Pines,” Robinson said in November.

Officials said at the November board meeting that the project was in the preliminary phase and no contract had been signed or negotiated.

Last week, Tanner addressed the board, arguing that a cellphone tower would disrupt Ocean Pines’ “natural beauty” and that the community is surrounded by adequate cell coverage just outside its boundaries, including a tower near the Ocean Pines North Gate. He added that the consumer should address any reception issues and that they can switch carriers if a user is unhappy with one’s service.

“The Ocean Pines board needs to put an immediate halt to discussions with a contractor to erect a tower in

our community,” Tanner said. “Folks chose to live in Ocean Pines because of its natural beauty and the assurance that no commercial structures will be built in the neighborhood. Cell towers degrade property values and may have radio frequency health issues.”

The board argued that no plan for a tower exists, and that the community chatter is unnecessary.

“We have had zero conversations,” OPA Board Secretary John Latham said, addressing Tanner. “A lot of folks now believe it is happening, which it is not ... I just don’t know where you get your information, and it just causes some angst with folks in our community, and there is no reason for it.”

However, in addition to the November project update in which Robinson said neighborhood officials

were in the beginning stages of talking with Milestone Towers, OPA General Manager John Viola said in October that community personnel had been in contact with the Worcester County Commissioners regarding a poor reception alleviation initiative.

“We have had meetings with the county,” Viola said at the time. “They did say they would work with us in whatever way they could as we look into this.”

Still, the board maintained that there is no current plan to build a cellphone tower in Ocean Pines.

In response to a clarification inquiry, Robinson said that OPA officials “are still in the stage where we are talking with different contractors about what is possible here in Ocean Pines to make sure that we do the best for our community.”

# Radio Free Berlin will work with town govt.

Continued from Page 1

went before the town’s mayor and council at the body’s Jan. 27 meeting to seek a letter of support from the municipality for the communications initiative.

The body voted 3-0, with Councilmember Steve Green and Vice President Dean Burrell absent, to approve the request, with the caveat that the radio station communicate emergency alerts on behalf of the town.

The Town of Berlin will also provide the nonprofit with access to the water tower at Bryan Avenue and Franklin Avenue to serve as the site of an antenna installation for clear radio station signal transmission.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall main-

tained that the two parties, the municipality and the charitable organization, would enter into a use agreement and that the town would not charge We Heart Berlin a fee for their utilization of the water tower space.

“They are a nonprofit, and with that, we are trying to assist with them onboarding a radio station for Berlin, by Berlin,” Tyndall said.

Smith added that We Heart Berlin is in the process of applying for a grant through the county to help fund the project.

According to the president of We Heart Berlin, the group applied in December 2023 to obtain a low-power FM radio station licensed by the Federal Communications Com-

mission (FCC) to operate with a maximum of 100 watts of effective radiated power.

The FCC approved the application in November and gave the nonprofit three years to construct an antenna and install a transmitter to give station’s signal a large enough radius to cover the town of Berlin.

“We view this as a radio station in, for, about, and by the Town of Berlin,” Smith said.

The station will offer local news and sports, original radio drama and theatre performances, a broadcast of mayor, council, and county commissioner meetings, local historical information, and more.

“One of our goals is to include the school systems in our programming,” Smith said. “We would have space on the air dedicated to the schools to be able to broadcast educational programs or have kids run their own

shows on the air. We will also include shows about Berlin’s history.”

Smith noted that the radio station will be operational for 24 hours “in theory” and that the FCC requires it to be operated for at least 5 hours a day.

Tyndall said he would also like the radio to implement emergency alerts, such as storm warning messages, to inform Berlin residents of any impending hazards or threats. Smith said they would be happy to do that.

“If it’s storm-related or something, we can provide that material to [the station operators], and they can push it out on our behalf,” the mayor said.

Per the FCC deadline, the We Heart Berlin radio station will have three years to construct the transmitter.

“I am ecstatic about this,” Councilmember Shaneka Nichols said.



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# Commissioners pivot on coastal bays grant

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) After excoriating a local environmental nonprofit for its neutral stance on offshore wind, Worcester County officials showed a change of heart and are now promising to support the group's efforts to secure a rare and valuable state grant.

The county's Board of Commissioners on Jan. 21 agreed to send a letter of support to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MBCP) in their pursuit of millions in state funding.

It's a reversal from a position the board took just two months back, when they made a stink about withholding support because MCBP wasn't on the same page with wind power.

Commissioners President Ted Elder said at the meeting how he was "really disappointed" to learn MCBP had not only declined to take sides in the offshore wind debate, but also had accepted a \$125,000 in donations from developer US Wind. The nonprofit has said the money went toward a much-needed habitat restoration project.

"I have to say, I'm very torn. I want to vote against you so bad for doing that," Elder told MCBP executive director Kevin Smith. "But I want to vote for the county getting the benefits of this grant money and the good that can come from it. It's just one of the hardest votes I can make either way."

Back in November, Smith came before the commissioners asking for support in the form of a signed letter for a grant application. The grant would be worth \$16.8 million over five years – a huge sum in the world of environmental subsidies.

That money from the state's Whole Watershed Fund would be used for restoration efforts in the Newport Bay watershed, around the area of South Point near Berlin. Adding to the tension, this particular pot of state money would only be made available every five years, and only five grant recipients will be selected.

Whether the grants would continue into the future also depends on the state's current budgeting crisis.

At the time, the commissioners not only scolded Smith for MCBP's neutral stance on wind energy, but for accepting payment from US Wind. "It sounds to me that was a payoff to keep you neutral – a payoff to keep you quiet," Elder told Smith at the commissioners' Nov. 19 meeting.

The harsh stance from county officials comes as battle lines continue to be drawn on wind power and its long-term implications for the Atlantic Coast.

Worcester County has positioned itself as being strongly opposed to offshore wind on many fronts, including partnering with Ocean City in a lawsuit against the federal government, as well as making open plans to use eminent domain to prevent US Wind from buying critical parcels of harbor property in West Ocean City.

However, in this case, county officials were nudged toward a détente by Bob Mitchell, the director of the Environmental Programs office. In a Jan. 17 internal memo, Mitchell basically told elected officials: psst, this grant is an opportunity too good to pass up.

While the application deadline had passed, "there are still opportunities for the county to express backing for the grant project itself with a letter," and that the high-dollar award was still competitive because only one other agency had applied.

"This is an opportunity to attract significant investment to Worcester County for restoration and other environmental activities in a watershed whose health has been [poor]," Mitchell wrote.

At last Tuesday's meeting, Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) made a motion that they send the letter of support, and admitting that the work Coastal Bays does affects his district the most.

"I certainly do have a problem that (MCBP) is not taking a stance on the offshore wind. I still remain the same on that – I think that it's wrong,"



BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

County Commissioners Jim Bunting, Ted Elder, and Eric Fiori listen to testimony during the board's Jan. 21 meeting in Snow Hill.

Mitrecic said. "I think that we've made our point. I would hate to see us lose this money for the benefit of the coastal bays that surround Worcester County."

The commissioners voted 6-1 to send the letter, with Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) voting nay.

Commissioner Chip Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) closed out the conversation by asking Smith: when it comes to taking sides or staying neutral on offshore wind, had his group's position changed?

The answer was still no, Smith replied, but added that MCBP's board of directors must now approve any

donation over \$10,000.

"Our program is made up of a bunch of different partners," Smith said. "Not everyone agrees. In terms of maintaining ourselves and our program and our partners, we felt the neutrality position was, quite honestly, the only position we could take."

Moving forward, Smith said the grant application is under review and his team will meet to discuss it next week with the state.

"We're really very pleased that the county has provided this letter of support because we think it is only going to be helpful in terms of receiving the grant funds," he said.

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Pictured, from left, are library board trustees Patricia Tomasovic and Sandra Buchanan; library board president Jeff Smith; County Commissioners Ted Elder, Caryn Abbott, Diana Purnell; library director Jennifer Ranck; library board trustee Vicki O'Mara; County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic; and library board trustee Nancy Howard.

BRIAN SHANE/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Construction begins on new library branch

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) As local dignitaries gathered to ceremonially flip dirt with their gold-painted shovels, Worcester County Library Director Jennifer Ranck smiled broadly and welcomed those in attendance on an overcast and bone-chilling day.

"Today has been a long time coming. I want to thank you all for being here and sharing in this special moment with us," she said. "We're just elated. We cannot wait to welcome people into their new library."

After five years of planning, construction on Pocomoke City's new li-

brary branch is finally underway. The 12,500-square-foot facility will feature more gathering space than its aging predecessor, allowing for expanded community programs. Outside, the design vibes will be contemporary and inviting, in contrast to the old building's brick colonial façade.

Features of the new library will include a gallery space, a large community room, two small study rooms, and a room dedicated to local history. It will include a children's section, from which an outdoor yard will be accessible.

Library officials and architect Jeff

Schoellkopf had discussed design ideas for a one-story replacement building going back to 2019, a concept at one point which would have included a children's treehouse, Ranck said.

The project is estimated to cost about \$8.4 million, with funds mostly split between the state and Worcester County. The county's Library Foundation also will contribute with fundraisers.

While last Tuesday's groundbreaking came a little late – it had been scheduled for October – construction is expected to conclude by early spring, according to County Commissioner Caryn Abbott, who was in attendance along with other library and county officials.

"It's been a long road but we're finally here," said Abbott, whose District 1 includes Pocomoke City. "I'm very excited to hopefully stay on scheduled and have this completed in early '26. It's going to be a state-of-the-art facility, and an amazing upgrade for the town."

A library does more than lend books, Abbott added. "They service a lot of people that don't have computers, don't know how to even use one.

They help them apply for jobs," she said.

Built in 1970, the Pocomoke branch is Worcester County's oldest public library. Once it's demolished, the new building will be constructed on the same site. Construction will be completed by Keller Brothers, county officials said.

And, avid readers, fret not: the library's collection won't disappear during construction. Contents of the existing branch were boxed up and hauled to a temporary space, the renovated Fifth Street firehouse, which opened to the public in November.

Finding a new location proved to be the biggest challenge for the library's champions, said Jeff Smith, president of the Library Board of Trustees.

"There's going to be a state-of-the-art library for the town Pocomoke, and I think that's the big positive to take away," he said. "There were other locations that were considered – would they have been better? Would they have been worse? In the end it's not really going to make any difference. There's going to be a new library in Pocomoke and that's really what we care about."

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# Snow days lead to school calendar tweaks

## Spring break shortened, last day of instruction now pushed to Tuesday, June 17

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) Due to school being canceled for a week this month due to snow, the Worcester County Board of Education has waived first-semester final exams, eliminated two days from spring break and modified virtual day instruction plans.

At the board of education's Jan. 21 meeting, the body voted to accept the superintendent's recommendation to waive final exams for 2024-2025 semester one courses that do not culminate in state-required assessments. Before modification, the policy stipulates each student must take a comprehensive final exam in all grade nine through 12 subject areas.

"The Board believes that final examinations help to bring focus to the essential outcomes specified in the course of study and help to bring closure to a course and promote curricular articulation among the high schools," the official guideline reads. "...Experiences with locally developed final examinations can better prepare students for successful

achievement in end-of-course examinations required for graduation, higher education, and the world of work."

The standard exempts these final exams if the end of the course includes a college, national, or state assessment. For this year, due to the five instructional days lost to inclement weather earlier this month, the policy will be waived not to require the comprehensive exams for semester one classes.

WCPS Chief Safety and Academic Office Annette Wallace said that during the time when the exams would be taking place, students will be completing "some type of final project, so they have to come," just as if they were taking the originally scheduled tests.

The board of education unanimously passed the motion to accept this recommendation. Most schools had already informed their students of the plan before the official vote, but Wallace said she would communicate the official decision to principals, who will then pass the message on to teachers and students.

The school board also voted to eliminate two days at the end of this year's spring break: Tuesday, April 22, and Wednesday, April 23. These days will be reintroduced to the

school system calendar as classroom instruction days to make up for the two excess days lost to snow. Additionally, the last day of school will now be June 17.

Worcester County Public Schools was closed for five days earlier this month due to the area receiving about six inches of snowfall. The first three were used as inclement weather days that were built into the backend of the current year's calendar. WCPS Coordinator of Public Relations Carrie Sterrs said the move left two days that needed to be made up to provide students with the 180 instruction day minimum. Taking away the end of the school system's spring break will accommodate this requirement.

"We had an excess of two days that we still need to make up," Sterrs said. "...We couldn't utilize virtual instruction for those days, so the modification addresses that. If you look at April, we recommend taking back those two days at the tail end of spring break, April 22 and 23, and changing those into full days of instruction for students and staff."

The board of education passed the calendar revision unanimously.

Sterrs also brought a virtual learning policy revision before the board. The recent school closures revealed challenges to the plan that was ap-

proved last spring, and as such, the system's governing body unanimously agreed to accept the recommendation to not deploy devices for elementary and middle school students but to mandate that they use personal devices to access synchronous learning on virtual day instruction. At the same time, high school students will utilize the take-home devices that WCPS provides them.

Sterrs maintained that elementary and middle schoolers who do not have access to technology at home would not be penalized for not being able to log in on virtual learning days.

"It was already built into the plan that no student would be adversely impacted if they do not have access to connectivity or a device," the public relations coordinator said. "They will have five days from our return to make up that work, which will also account for their attendance."

Going forward, any inclement weather or otherwise unexpected WCPS closure day will utilize the updated virtual learning to avoid making up any more missed days. The very next day, Wednesday, after the board meeting became a virtual learning day due to two inches of snow falling and school being canceled.

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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.

## Board right to explore cell tower possibilities

The cell phone tower argument continues in Ocean Pines, where the years-long disagreement pits objections to a tower's sore-thumb appearance against its function as a vital component of a stable and dependable means of communication.

So far, concerns about esthetics have carried the day, as tower opponents contend that such a structure would pierce the otherwise natural landscape in which they have invested. They further contend that this investment might be lessened by the negative effect a tower would have on their property values.

The latter, however, is a maybe, since the influence a tower would have on a property's worth would diminish in proportion to the distance between the two.

Still, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors has to consider the future. Odds are that landline service won't be available to Ocean Pines residents in 10 years or so, as providers shift away from hard-wired systems to wireless. That could mean a consumer switch to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) — phone calls can go out wherever the caller can connect to the Internet — or cellular service, which is more expensive but provides greater mobility for the user.

Cell service would seem to have the advantage in Ocean Pines, given the mobile nature of its many part-time residents and association members. That makes the need for reliable cell phone communications paramount, not just as a matter of convenience, but for reasons of safety. Being able to connect to 911 in times of emergency shouldn't be a possibility, it should be a guarantee.

That's why the board of directors and the administration have been exploring cell service solutions. But, as board members have said, that doesn't mean they have plans to build anything. For now, they are looking to see what might be done.

Considering the community's erratic cell service, the board would be abrogating its responsibilities were it to do anything less.

## Club names latest crafter of month

Moore's creations now available at Pine'eer's Artisan Gift Shop

(Jan. 30, 2025) The Pine'eer Craft Club announced Susan Moore as its February Crafter of the Month.

Moore, a longtime crafter and retired librarian, grew up in Easton and recently returned to the Eastern Shore after living in southwest Virginia for many years. She now resides in Berlin.

Moore's love of crafting began as a young child and was inspired by her grandmother, who taught her many of the skills she uses today. She specializes in making teddy bears with hand-knitted sweaters, quilted wall hangings, pillows, and full-sized quilts. Most of her creations are crafted by hand using traditional patterns and methods.

A recent member of the Pine'eer Craft Club, Moore expressed her gratitude for joining the group, saying she is "very happy to have found a crafting home."

Her creations can be found at the Pine'eer Craft Club's Artisan Gift Shop, in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Pine'eer Craft Club welcomes new crafters, and its meetings are open to the public. Artisans interested in selling their creations at the shop are encouraged to contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email [opcraftclub@aol.com](mailto:opcraftclub@aol.com) for more information.

Since its founding, the Pine'eer Craft Club has contributed nearly \$196,000 to the



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Susan Moore, Pine'eer Craft Club's February Crafter of the Month, is pictured with her creations.

Ocean Pines community and has proudly promoted handcrafted goods for 50 years.

For more information, visit [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop).

## Session planned to share land vision

Former Bay Club property restoration, future to be detailed

(Jan. 30, 2025) The Lower Shore Land Trust invites the community to attend an informational meeting about the transformation of the former Bay Club Golf Course into a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) property.

The session will provide insight into the property's new role as a natural resource and explore opportunities for public engagement in its restoration and management.

The meeting will be held at the Berlin Branch of the Worcester County Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 1, at

1 p.m.

The following topics will be discussed:

History of the Property: How the Bay Club Golf Course became part of the MD DNR portfolio.

Management Plans: Current and future management strategies for the property.

Restoration Projects: Ongoing and planned restoration efforts led by MD DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Lower Shore Land Trust.

Citizen Engagement: Opportunities for community involvement in conservation, habitat restoration, and stewardship.

Q&A Session: Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas.

The former Bay Club Golf

Course represents a unique opportunity to restore vital habitats and enhance public enjoyment of natural resources on the Lower Eastern Shore.

The collaboration between MD DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Lower Shore Land Trust underscores the importance of partnerships in advancing conservation goals.

The meeting is open to the public, and we encourage all residents, conservation enthusiasts, and local stakeholders to attend and learn more about this exciting project.

For more information, please contact the Lower Shore Land Trust at 443-234-5587 or visit our website at [www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org](http://www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org).

### BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# Superintendent plans summer retirement

## Board of Ed will undergo national search process for next school system leader

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 30, 2025) Rounding out a 41-year-long career, Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools Lou Taylor will retire at the conclusion of the current academic year. The school system is expected to soon begin a national search for his replacement.

At a Worcester County Board of Education meeting Jan. 21, Taylor announced his intention to step down from his role as school system superintendent, effective June 30. Taylor signed a new four-year contract in 2021 at an annual salary of \$210,000.

During his emotional remarks Tuesday, Taylor noted his “entire life has been intertwined with [WCPS].” The system’s leader said he began as a kindergarten student in 1965 at Ocean City Elementary School. He grew up in the county, eventually graduating from Stephen Decatur High School. Taylor received a Master of Education degree from Salisbury University and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, also from SU.

The current superintendent began his education career as a physical education teacher at Berlin Middle School, now known as Berlin Intermediate School, before advancing to an assistant principal position. Taylor moved to SDHS in 1991 as assistant principal and, eventually, principal.

Taylor led SDHS for 17 years, and during the time, SDHS became the first Maryland Blue Ribbon School in Worcester County. Taylor also established the Worcester County Education Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing student

achievement in WCPS. Before his current role, Taylor served as chief operating officer. He was named as superintendent in 2016.

“Since beginning my career as a teacher way back in 1983, I have loved every single position I have held along the way,” Taylor said.

Taylor acknowledged some of his accomplishments as superintendent, including leading WCPS during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. He said the teachers and staff designed creative and stimulating methods to bring students back safely to the classroom sooner than other Maryland school systems.

Taylor added Worcester County schools continue to outperform other educational facilities in the state and invest in “cutting-edge technology to ensure we are reaching and engaging the learners of today and tomorrow.”

“We invested in the most outstanding educators, and we still do, and support staff that continue to make magic ... in our classrooms every single day,” the superintendent continued. “... For the past 41 years of my career, it has been the people, our students, our colleagues, and the community as a whole, who have shaped me into the superintendent of today, and I could not be more grateful.”

Worcester County Board of Education members expressed their gratitude for Taylor’s 41-year service to the school system, including Jon Andes, who acted as superintendent from 1996 to 2012.

Andes said he first met Taylor the summer before his first year as the WCPS leader. Andes acknowledged Taylor’s “outstanding job” as the SDHS principal, one of the largest

high schools on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, and the soon-to-be retiree’s passionate approach when eventually taking over as the county’s superintendent.

“[Taylor] cares deeply about the school system, he cares deeply about the employees, he cares deeply about each and every day, about making a difference in the lives of our students,” Andes said. “He loves our school system, he loves our community ... I look forward to working with him over the next six months to keep our school system moving forward. As he always says, he bleeds blue, the SDHS color, and the difference he has made in the lives of our community will forever be his legacy.”

Board President Todd Ferrante said he has enjoyed a close relationship with Taylor, “since we were younger.”

“Mr. Taylor has dedicated his entire 41-year career to this school system and has left an indelible mark,” said Ferrante, also an SDHS graduate. “He has led this school system through trials and challenges that no superintendent before him has ever faced. From successfully navigating our students and staff through the pandemic to advocating for and implementing the resources to help our staff support our students as they ex-

perience growing mental health challenges because of the pandemic, we are deeply grateful for Taylor’s outstanding service but feel confident that whatever his next journey is, that he will continue to support Worcester County Public Schools.” Board of Education Vice President Bill Buchanan, a former public school teacher, added,

“While Lou and his leadership will be greatly missed, his dedication to and unwavering pride in the school system will be a big part of Lou’s legacy. Moving forward, we will search for the qualities necessary to keep WCPS on its positive trajectory. It won’t be an easy task, but our future generations are depending on the decisions that this board will make. We take that responsibility very seriously.”

Taylor will not be stepping down from his post until the end of the school year. He said he looks forward to a new generation of leadership.

“Education today is evolving,” Taylor said. “I have every confidence that this board will select a leader who will, like I did, face this formidable challenge of pushing this already successful school system to great new heights, even higher than I pushed them. They will not only meet those expectations but exceed them.”



Lou Taylor

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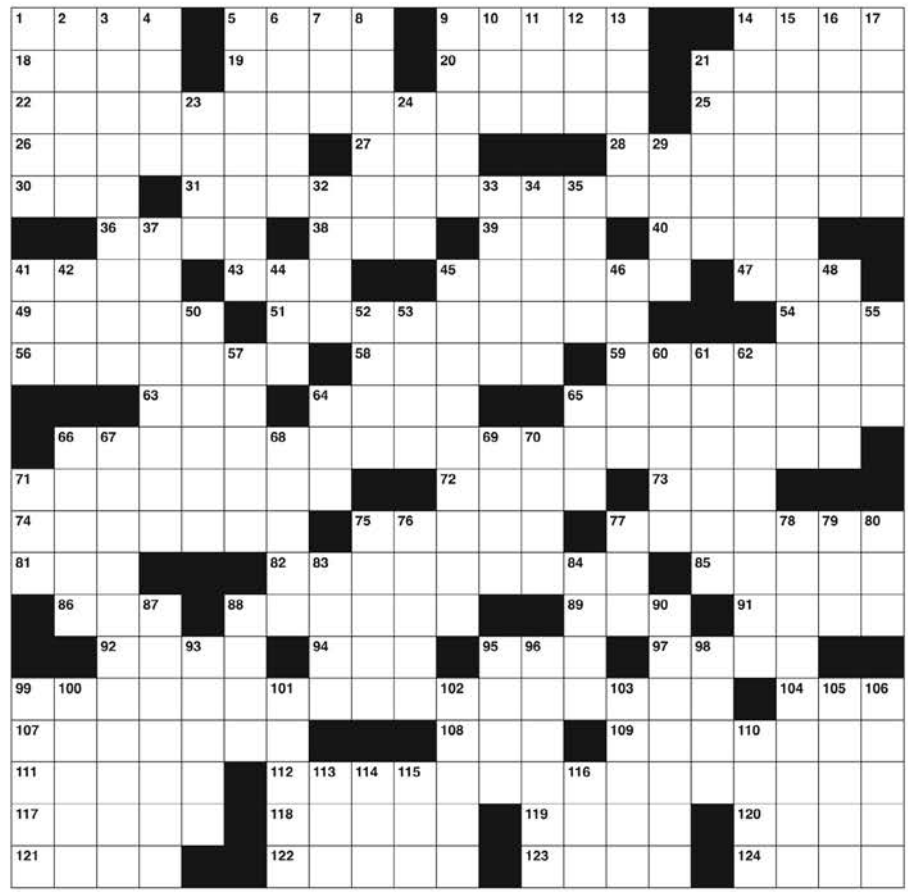
# Puzzles

## WORD PROBLEMS

BY EMILY SHARP AND KUNAL NABAR / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Emily Sharp, of San Jose, Calif., is an ecologist who does habitat restoration and environmental education. Her partner, Kunal Nabar, is a software engineer in Brooklyn. They met when they lived next-door to each other during their freshman year at Vanderbilt. Together they brainstormed this puzzle's theme answers during a road trip through Oregon last summer. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Department store department
  - 5 Tater
  - 9 Indian state along the Himalayas
  - 14 Largest organ in the human body
  - 18 "None for me"
  - 19 Big name in syrup
  - 20 Dessert you might top with gummy bears and chocolate chips, informally
  - 21 Practical
  - 22 *Hard/work*
  - 25 Place for a bob and weave
  - 26 Measured
  - 27 Sky safety org.
  - 28 Starting point, of sorts
  - 30 Key above a tilde
  - 31 *New York x paper*
  - 36 James who wrote the screenplay for "The Night of the Hunter" (1955)
  - 38 Language suffix
  - 39 One answering to a board, for short
  - 40 "Strega \_\_\_\_" (classic children's folk tale)
  - 41 "That's just ... wrong"
  - 43 Arjuna's skill, in the "Mahabharata"
  - 45 Come to rest, as sediment
- DOWN**
- 47 Creature whose narrow waist is called a petiole
  - 49 Encyclopedia filler
  - 51 *vgenerate*
  - 54 Food that becomes its own container if you change the last letter
  - 56 Brush wolves, by another name
  - 58 Fixes a hole, say
  - 59 Post-spring cleaning event
  - 63 Essential \_\_\_\_
  - 64 Heap
  - 65 Nashville neighborhood known for its many recording studios
  - 66 *It's what - you think*
  - 71 Theatrical release, typically
  - 72 Many humanitarian grps.
  - 73 \_\_\_\_ Khan
  - 74 Turkish travel stops
  - 75 "Gimme an A ...!" e.g.
  - 77 Like the presidency of Martin Van Buren
  - 81 Back, informally
  - 82 (*Pixar movie*)<sup>2</sup>
  - 85 Puts on the line
  - 86 Egg \_\_\_\_
  - 88 Pickleball venues
  - 89 Certain sib
  - 91 Dove calls
  - 92 Something tied with a tongue?
  - 94 "\_\_\_\_ got it!"
  - 95 Studio with an iconic lion
  - 97 Pressure, so to speak
  - 99 *f workout routine*
  - 104 Name that drops "jah"
  - 107 Burrowing rodent
  - 108 That, in Spanish
  - 109 Like some parking and poetry
  - 111 Come up
  - 112 *Rocket science + brain surgery*
  - 117 Social work spaces for some remote workers
  - 118 Boondi \_\_\_\_ (yogurt dish with fried chickpea flour)
  - 119 Strove
  - 120 Subj. for a bio major
  - 121 Winter haven for some small mammals
  - 122 Word with peace or beauty
  - 123 Gridiron positions
  - 124 Throws out
  - 13 Transmogrify
  - 14 Staying power
  - 15 It has been called "the roof of Africa"
  - 16 Words of defeat
  - 17 Spanish babies
  - 21 Be of \_\_\_\_ (assist)
  - 23 Building manager, familiarly
  - 24 Confront
  - 29 Philosopher Descartes
  - 32 Females 35-44, e.g.
  - 33 English translation of the Irish "aigéan"
  - 34 Post-embryo stage
  - 35 Onesie wearers
  - 37 Cross the line
  - 41 Mixed martial arts org.
  - 42 Iconic Warhol subject
  - 44 Letters before "gov"
  - 45 Advance film copies sent to critics
  - 46 Relent
  - 48 Nature's fishhook, you might say
  - 50 Tamp down
  - 52 Sleipnir's rider, in myth
  - 53 Soft rock
  - 55 Pokémon with a catlike appearance
  - 57 Put in power
  - 60 Like about 60 percent of the world's population
  - 61 One of the "holy trinity" ingredients in Indian cuisine
  - 62 Real pain in the butt?
  - 64 Sitter's charge
  - 65 Personal approaches, in brief
  - 66 Coins made primarily of copper
  - 67 "When I was much younger ..."
  - 68 \_\_\_\_-Japanese War
  - 69 S-shaped molding in architecture
  - 70 Cross, as a stream
  - 71 Evergreen variety
  - 75 Bend
  - 76 Gave zero stars, say
  - 77 Nail polish brand
  - 78 What few people know
  - 79 Old-time film studio
  - 80 Things eds. edit
  - 83 Bail
  - 84 "Semper Fi" grp.
  - 87 Ticked (off)
  - 88 Michael of "Barbie"
  - 90 Some equipment in hand-to-hand combat
  - 93 Meanspirited sorts
  - 95 This and that: Abbr.
  - 96 Record feature
  - 98 Suffix with kitchen
  - 99 Big Apple purchases
  - 100 "Visions" singer/songwriter Jones
  - 101 Company whose logo is said to resemble Mount Fuji
  - 102 Evergreen variety
  - 103 Cried foul, perhaps?
  - 105 Subtly indicate
  - 106 Pastoral poems
  - 110 Suit
  - 113 Fashion designer Dapper \_\_\_\_
  - 114 Loud noise
  - 115 Season of 2024's Jeux Olympiques
  - 116 "Pachinko" author \_\_\_\_ Jin Lee



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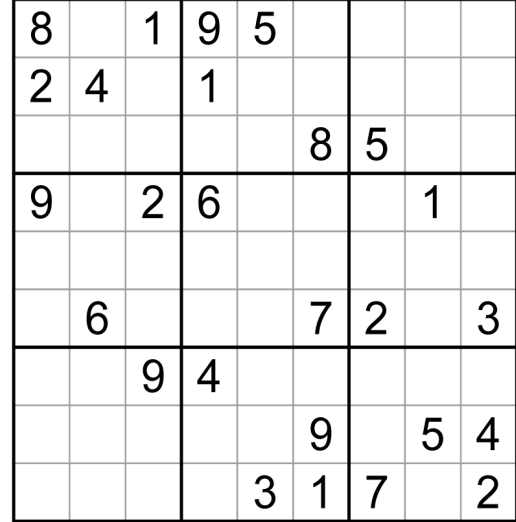
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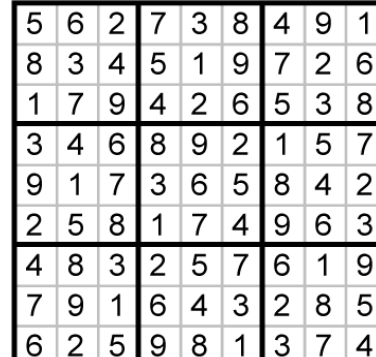
## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom  
**HARD - 1**

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.



### Answers to last week's puzzles





# Obituaries

## ELLEN HENDERSON WENTZEL

Ocean Pines

Ellen Henderson Wentzel, 88, of Ocean Pines, passed away on Dec. 25, 2024.



Ellen Wentzel

She is survived by her two children, Deborah Harriet Wentzel and Howard Thomas Wentzel Jr., and her two grandchildren, Emily Wentzel and Ryder Wentzel.

Originally from Pocomoke, Ellen received her RN at a young age and began working as a nurse in Arlington, PA where she met her husband, Howard Thomas Wentzel. They moved to Huntington Beach, Calif. to raise their children before moving back to Maryland 38 years later.

While living in California, Ellen received a Bachelor's degree and eventually became a nurse administrator. She loved sewing, knitting, and quilting and was a longtime member of Quilters by the Sea. Ellen was a beacon of happiness, hope, and positivity. She inspired others to live their lives with care and cheer. Ellen will be dearly missed by her family and all the friends she made throughout her life.

## RUTH MARILYN DUVALL

Ocean Pines

Ruth Marilyn Duvall, age 92, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 at The Macky and Pam Stansell House in Ocean Pines. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., she was the daughter of the late William Lewis Craig and Helen Ruth (Samuel) Craig.



Ruth Duvall

Ruth was a quick-witted, kind-hearted woman who fiercely loved her family. Her smile, warmth and positivity were infectious. A graduate of Anacostia High School, she spent nine years working in Washington, DC, before dedicating herself fully to her family—a role she embraced with grace and devotion. Ruth and her husband, Ed, were the heart and soul of their family. A true social butterfly, she treasured her time on 36th Street, surrounded by her beloved husband, family, and lifelong friends. Her sharp wit and endless love will remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

She is survived by two daughters, Vicki Verbich (Ted), and Nola Duvall (Jack); three grandchildren, Lauren Martin (Josh), Teddy Verbich, and

Jack Gibson-Duvall; and two great-grandchildren, Isaac Martin, and Zoey Martin.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edgar A. Duvall, and a brother, William Craig, Jr.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at 10 a.m. at

The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, with a viewing one hour prior. Interment will follow at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock.

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.



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Jan. 30 - Feb. 6



| 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             | 2BR/1BA          | Single Family      | starting at \$179,900 | Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community        |
| Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm | 12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC             | 2BR/2BA          | Single Family      | starting at \$284,750 | Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community        |
| Saturday 10am-Noon            | 13 Garrett Drive, Ocean Pines            | 3BR/2BA          | Single Family      | \$359,900             | Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate      |
| Saturday 11am-1pm             | 243 S. Ocean Drive, Ocean City           | 4BR/3BA          | Single Family      | \$999,900             | Cindy Poremski/BHHS PenFed Realty        |
| Saturday 11am-4pm             | 5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City | 3BR/3.5 BA       | Condo              | \$1,499,900           | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty     |
| Saturday 11:30am-2pm          | 798 Ocean Parkway Ocean Pines            | 3BR/2.5BA        | Single Family      | \$399,900             | Erik Dowell/North Beach Realtors         |
| Saturday Noon-2pm             | 261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines         | 4BR/4.5BA        | Single Family      | \$849,900             | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty     |
| Saturday 1-3pm                | 36 Juneway Lane, Ocean Pines             | 5-6BR/4BA        | Single Family      | \$599,900             | Debbie Hileman /Hileman Real Estate      |
| Saturday 1-3pm                | 37781 Heron Lane Unit #434, Selbyville   | 2BR/ 2BA         | Townhouse          | \$364,900             | Anne-Marie Bouse/Re/Max Advantage Realty |
| Sunday 11am-2pm               | 5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City | 3BR/3.5 BA       | Condo              | \$1,499,900           | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty     |

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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SOUTH POINT LEADERSHIP

At its December 15 annual meeting, the South Point Association elected its officers for 2025. Pictured front, from left, are Diane Steiner, secretary; Rick Martelo, director; and Bob Rubenstein, vice president. Pictured back, from left, Eric Fiori, county commissioner vice president; Alex French, director; Michael LeCompte, president; and Brian Julian, treasurer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## CLUB DONATION

Hope4Recovery Executive Director Brandon O'Brien, center, accepts a \$2,000 donation from Ocean City Lions Club President Scott Stark, left, and Ocean City Lion Danny Lewis, right. Hope4Recovery provides residential treatment for men in recovery.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## CLUB VISITS BUCKINGHAM

Cliff Berg and Margaret Mudron of the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club visited the club's adopted class at Buckingham Elementary this month and shared a snack with Jenny Schwab's pre-K-3 students. The club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6pm Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GILMORE RECOGNIZED

Members of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently heard about the Worcester County Veterans Memorial education program from Foundation President Marie Gilmore. At the conclusion, Regent Sharon Moak presented Gilmore with a donation from the chapter as well as an "Excellence in Display of Citizenship" certificate in recognition of her patriotic and civic volunteer service within the community. Pictured, from left, are Americanism Chair Pat Arata, Gilmore and Moak.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## OUTSTANDING YOUNG WRITERS

Last week, Jake Perry, Head of Middle School at Worcester Preparatory School (WPS), announced the winners of this year's Young Writer's Fright Club contest for middle school students. Young Writers organizes national writing contests for schools, aiming to transform students' imagination and creative abilities into confidence and writing skills. They provide vital support to educators across the country by offering engaging creative writing contests, themes, and exceptional resources, while also awarding fantastic prizes to both schools and students. Pictured, front from left, are Perry, along with contest winners Claire Cooper, Lillian Ha, Anna French and Lilly White; and, back, Emmy Givens-Grevey, Raia Gorfinkel, Tenley Absher, Teaghan Weinstein and Sadie Kremer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GARDEN CLUB SPEAKER

Members of the Worcester County Garden Club were recently given an introduction to weather and climate by Walker Skeeter, Ph.D., whose doctoral degree is in Meteorology. Skeeter explained the causal continuum and fielded questions on climate change. It was a most informative program. Skeeter is pictured with Club President Joan LaHayne.

# 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. 30

### STORY TIME: I AM HAPPY

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: GROUNDHOG'S DAY

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

### LET'S TALK MOVIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Discuss timeless classics and newer box office hits. This month's topic is the classic western "3:10 to Yuma." 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FIRESIDE CHAT

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

## Fri., Jan. 31

### 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)

### FAMILY FORT NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 6:30 p.m. Bring your family to the library after-hours. Build a fort, read in the stacks and play some games, all when the library is closed. For ages 6-18 years. 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., Feb. 1

### FREE FAMILY EXPO BY GROWING FAMILIES

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free baby boxes, kids scavenger hunt, face painting, raffles, infant weight check clinic, vendors, healthcare providers, community services and numerous local businesses. [www.ourgrowingfamilies.net](http://www.ourgrowingfamilies.net)

443-323-2151

### LORRIE MORGAN & T GRAHAM BROWN

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. A captivating night of country music. Tickets cost \$35/\$45/\$55. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/98339690/lorrie-morgan-tgraham-brown-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

### SATURDAY WRITERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop ins welcome. 410-641-0650

### GLOBAL GOODIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Are all snacks created equal? Let's taste test some snacks from around the world and find out. All food provided. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Vegetables, beverage and dessert included with dine-in. Carryout platters available for \$15. No pre-orders. Dine-in costs are adults, \$17; children, \$8.50; and free to kids 5 years and younger. 410-835-8340

### FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

## Sun., Feb. 2

### 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., Feb. 3

### LITTLE LEARNERS PROGRAM

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 10-11 a.m. Life-

Saving Reenactment with Coast Guard Members and Story Time. Free program designed for children ages 0-5 years, but all are welcome. Registration requested: [ocmuseum.org](http://ocmuseum.org). 410-289-4991

### STORY TIME: WHALES

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)

### ESL CONVERSATION CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join other non-native English speakers for casual conversational practice and a short lesson prepared by an ESL instructor. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group is reading from Book 6 of the Great Conversations Anthology. The focus will be on "The Devil Baby at Hull House" by Jane Addams. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. Families, partners and other caregivers share similar challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have any type of serious illness. Nicole Fry, [nfry@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:nfry@atlanticgeneral.org), 410-641-2626

### RESEARCHERS MEET UP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Meet with fellow researchers to discuss local history, get tips from the local history librarian and work on the citizen research projects. 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 Champion, 410-641-0157

### UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: SYMBOLS AND SIGNS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Learn about some of the secret meanings of the Underground Railroad quilts and create colorful wall hangings using these intentional graphics. Registration required: 410-632-3495.

### 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)

### WARHAMMER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Come play Warhammer. Use the library's armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos will be available. Novice and veteran players welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

### OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

## Tues., Feb. 4

### STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME: BE MY VALENTINE

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

### BABY TIME

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

### OC KNITTING GROUP

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

### MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

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

### DOCUMENTARY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn about Black culture and music through this 1969 concert at the Harlem Cultural Festival. 410-524-1818,

Continued on Page 20



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# Calendar

Continued from Page 19  
[www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### NAILED IT! VALENTINE COOKIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Mix up some delicious cookies with love while writing valentines. For families. 410-208-4014, [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., Feb. 5

### BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Online Zoom call held the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

### GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7-11 a.m. Eggs, pancakes, sausage, grits and more. Cost is \$10 to carryout and \$12 to eat in.

### PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for imaginative play and social interaction. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014,

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

### PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Swap your gently used puzzle for a new-to-you puzzle. 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### RAPID RESPONSE TEAM OF WORCESTER COUNTY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Join the Rapid Response Team as they discuss what they do and how you can help. Naloxone training to follow discussion. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5-6 p.m. Providing discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Patti Yocubik, 410-208-9761, [pyocubik@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:pyocubik@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](http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org).

## ONGOING EVENTS

### BUS TRIP - BARNES FOUNDATION

Join the Art League of Ocean City and Robinson Fellow - Jenn Carter for a bus trip to the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, PA on Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$95 for Art League of Ocean City members and \$115 for non-members. Tickets: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/classes/2186>

### BUS TRIP - WASHINGTON CAPITALS VS. EDMONTON OILERS

Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., Feb. 23, game time is 1 p.m. Depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$135 and includes ticket, transportation and food package (unlimited beer and wine for the first two periods of the game). No glass or alcohol allowed on bus. Tickets: 410-641-7052.

### BUS TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Takes place at the Philadelphia Convention Center on March 1. Depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. Featuring a day of stunning floral gardens, unique plants and artistic displays. Enjoy shopping, live music, entertainment and learning opportunities. Cost is \$80 and includes transportation and show ticket. Reservations: 410-641-7052.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH COLLAGE

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St. Drop in anytime during February and add pictures, words, poems and anything inspiring to the collage featuring famous Black Americans. For families. 410-957-0878

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Call **410-723-6397**  
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