



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIN MURRAY

QUICK HITTER

About three inches of snow fell in Berlin Tuesday afternoon and early evening before warmer temperatures converted the precipitation to all rain over night.

Racquet sports fans against combo deal

Sports' director says more revenue necessary to pay for needed improvements

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) Racquet sports players in Ocean Pines continue to oppose the transition from separate rates to a single, multi-sport membership choice and the increased prices as a result.

In an effort to increase revenue and avoid logistical headaches, Ocean Pines has opted to eliminate the various membership options and instead offer racquet players a bundled three-sport annual fee.

That decision has proven controversial with residents for at least the last three years.

At the Ocean Pines Association's budget town hall on Wednesday, Feb. 5, Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler presented the new rates with price comparisons.

As proposed, the annual entrance

fee for this coming fiscal year for residents will be \$295. Resident families will incur a cost of \$495. The membership fee for a nonresident individual will be \$370, and the rate for the nonresident family will be \$590. The resident junior cost will be \$70, while nonresident juniors will pay \$90.

The new fees are an increase from the previous year's rates. In fiscal year 2024, the pickleball and platform resident family membership cost \$295.

Resident individuals paid \$180. For tennis in FY24, the resident family membership was \$420, while the resident individual membership was \$265.

To calculate these proposed prices, Underkoffler compared Ocean Pines to similar racquet centers on the Eastern Shore and up and down the coast.

To determine rate increases fairly, these analyses looked at centers that, like OPA, had staff, licensed instructors, and maintenance personnel.

See RACQUET Page 3

Disc golf course will get safety changes

Improvements to be made to protect pedestrians out on course as others play

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) Ahead of a disc golf tournament next month, the Berlin Town Council approved changes to the course at Stephen Decatur Park to improve pedestrian safety and appeal to beginners.

Eastbound Disc Golf representatives came before the Berlin mayor

and Town Council at the body's Monday, Feb. 10 meeting to request modifications to the Stephen Decatur Park course in anticipation of the event.

These changes will include an improved design that focuses on safety for pedestrians and non-disc golf park goers.

"The general idea behind the reorganization of the layout is focused on the crossing of pedestrian walking paths," Eastbound Project Manager Taylor Hubbard said. "Right now, the

See DISC Page 4

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Racquet fees said to reflect higher costs

Continued from Page 1

The racquet director maintained OPA's proposed fees remain lower than those of other centers in surrounding areas, even with the intended increases.

The Bethany Club, for instance, charges \$745 for an individual, \$1,095 for a couple, and \$1,200 for a family. Further north, the New Jersey Cherry Hill Health and Racquet Club charges its pickleball members \$100 a month.

Aside from the price comparisons, officials argue the rise in rates is needed to cover increasing costs.

"Our factors have gone up," Underkoffler said. "Minimum wage is now \$15. Utilities have all been up since the pandemic. Our site is 44 years old with things that need to be repaired ... We are attempting to operate on a break-even level."

Underkoffler continued maintenance costs also are expected to become major expenses in the near future.

"We have hard court repair costs because of crack problems because the site was built on a marsh. We thought fixing the cracks might be a two- or three-year fix, but it's not. Vendors said that the cracks are going to come back," he said.

"We have clay court yearly maintenance. Umbrellas, furniture, court tools, rollers, touchless water fountains, and professional portable pickleball nets. Replacement tennis nets. Those are factors. We have capital improvements that are happening. We have improved the shade structure. Area fencing. Security cameras."

Underkoffler acknowledged the new prices are higher for some members but maintained that it's a "jump that should have been done over years of time" but has not occurred.

"I knew coming in, I was going to be the one coming forward," the racquet director said. "We are not looking at this year \$295, next year \$400, year after that \$600. We are trying hard to stay at an affordable level for everybody to play. I want to encourage people to play more than one sport."

"I want the racquet center to be more family-oriented. I still believe we are giving great value to our membership."

Many racquet center players are against the proposed changes.

At last week's town hall, resident Jim Ferguson spoke at the public comments portion, arguing that most center goers do not wish to play more than one sport, as this new fee structure encourages.

According to Ferguson, a pickleball club survey revealed 84% of those asked would only participate in a single racquet activity. The resident also addressed his concern that increasing rates will reduce member-

ships, ultimately decreasing revenue.

According to the proposed budget, there are currently 302 pickleball members, 59 tennis members and 67 platform tennis members. The new prices would impact pickleball and platform memberships the most, as the pickleball and platform family option currently costs \$295 compared to the proposed \$495.

The tennis family membership price will increase by \$30 from \$465 to \$495, and individual tennis players who paid \$295 in the most recent fee structure will continue to pay the same amount in next year's combined sport price.

"Our recommendation is to maintain the current rate structure," resident Carl Vincent said during the town hall's public comments section. "Adjust the rates as needed ... We want to spur the membership, grow all three sports, and continue to be competitive."

Racquet center members also took issue with the increase in drop-in rates. The daily pickleball fee for Ocean Pines was \$8 for residents and \$11 for non-residents. The proposed budget increases the cost to \$10 for OPA residents and \$13 for non-residents.

"Drop-in fee increases are a major concern," Vincent said. "In the past,



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Dozens of Ocean Pines residents attended last week's budget town hall with several speaking out against proposed increases in racquet center fees.

it was as low as in the \$7 and \$8 dollar range, which is very competitive for the surrounding area. Going up to \$13 is, I feel, going to have a negative impact. Drop-in is good marketing."

"In the pickleball world, we enjoy having people come from Ocean City when they're vacationing. That drop-in fee of \$13 is not in line with the al-

ternatives. Ocean City racquet center is \$6. Northside Park is \$5. Salisbury is free. Higher fees are going to have a negative impact on our revenue stream."

Despite the feedback, Ocean Pines officials maintain they support the combined fee structure and the increased rates.



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Disc golf makes safety upgrades

Continued from Page 1

course has a few that are probably a little too close, being a danger to people walking on the path. We have never had an issue that I'm aware of ... but this plan makes it safer for the community."

Hubbard said the new layout will ensure that a disc golf player only crosses a path when they're throwing the Frisbee instead of where the Frisbee is landing.

"You have the most control when you're throwing the frisbee versus 100, 200 feet away where it's landing where someone could be walking across the corner," the project manager said. "This new layout proposal gets rid of a lot of blind shots and a lot of blind walking paths. You have a full view of the path the entire time."

The new design will see the repositioning of three current baskets and the rearranging of tee pads, where disc golfers begin a hole. Hubbard maintains

that the alterations "follow the general layout of the old course with just a few modifications."

According to Hubbard, hole two will be cut in half, creating two different holes to "reduce any cross of the walking path." Hole four is to be moved slightly to avoid again crossing the path. Holes six and seven are where the "major moves" will occur.

These locations heavily cross main paths, so hole six will be shifted to only cross where the tee pad is. Hole seven, which the project manager said was the biggest complaint hole, will not cross any paths upon the redesign's completion.

"Overall, the goal was to take the design and make it something that was shorter, more beginner friendly, and flowed better with both disc golfers and pedestrians not having to wait on the other group," Eastbound President Shawn Johnson said.



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF BERLIN

Elevated perspectives with hole placements of the planned adjustments to the disc golf course at Stephen Decatur Park are pictured.

The Berlin Town Council approved the changes, and officials were happy with the proposed modifications.

"Course layout is beneficial to walkers and players and makes it safer for everyone," Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said.

Eastbound Disc Golf will also apply new blue vinyl wraps to the metal bands along the top of the disc golf baskets. The group's representatives argued that this enhancement would "provide better wayfinding for disc golfers by presenting the proper number for each hole" and improve the course's aesthetics.

Volunteers supporting Eastbound Disc Golf will complete the modification work on either Feb. 15, Feb. 16, or Feb. 28.

During Monday's presentation, Eastbound Disc Golf shared usage data with the council courtesy of the UDisc app, which players use to keep score and also navigate courses new to them. In 2024, 997 total rounds were logged on the app for the park with 210 of the rounds reported as first-time players to the course. In 2023, 1,213 total rounds were reported with 258 being first-time course users.

The course redesign will be finished in time for Eastbound's tournament on

March 1, Double Dip Double Dash. The morning portion will take place in Ocean Pines, and the afternoon segment will kick off at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin.

The event will welcome teams of two and will not exceed 36 total players. Participants will switch parks between rounds, with the first segment 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 for the afternoon tournament session. Sign-in starts around noon, and the second round will begin at 1 p.m. The tournament is expected to wrap up between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The tournament will have a \$70 entry fee per team. As Eastbound is a non-profit organization, the event is not generating revenue for the group. Hubbard emphasized at the Berlin Town Council's Monday, Jan. 27 meeting when the organization sought a special event permit that Eastbound was 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.

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Student phone use in schools up for debate

Worcester County officials review current cell policy guidelines twice every year

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) Several bills requiring all school systems to create a personal device policy are up for consideration by the Maryland General Assembly.

While the potential laws differ in their specifics, they all stipulate that every school system in Maryland would be required to enact procedures and regulations for student use of personal electronic devices, like cell phones.

Del. Nino Mangione (R-Baltimore County) is sponsoring House Bill 192, or the No Distracted Learning Act. If

passed, the legislation would permit high school students to use their cell phones during their lunch periods. However, the bill would prohibit using these devices at any other point during school hours. Middle and elementary schoolers would be disallowed from accessing any personal devices at all.

Comparatively, Del. David Fraser-Hildago (D-Montgomery) is sponsoring House Bill 57, which would ban the use of cell phones and other personal electronics “during instructional time.” Fraser-Hildago’s petition does not differentiate middle and elementary school students from kids in higher grade levels.

According to Maryland Matters, at a Ways and Means Committee Meeting last week, two high school students from Montgomery County

testified, arguing that safety must be accounted for when creating cell phone policies.

“I believe that if phones are banned, school safety is threatened,” Jariane Martinez, a sophomore at Seneca Valley High School, said in a post-testimony interview. “I’ve realized that a lot of school systems kind of have an issue with clear transparency about what is going on during those situations. Without that transparency and without contact with their child, parents are in the dark about what is going on.”

The Maryland Matters report said Ways and Means Committee Chair Del. Vanessa Atterbeary (D-Howard) noted after last week’s bill hearings that while cell phones should not be used during math or science class, teenagers are often involved in several extracurriculars. These electronic devices are how parents communicate with their students to know where they are and when they’ll be home.

“I want my kids to have a phone because they’re so active,” she said. “They do so many things. Plans change. That’s how I communicate with them, so I do think it’s important that they have a cell phone...It’s a big issue this year because we have multiple bills.”

While these bills would require every school system in the state to enact a cell phone policy, Worcester County Public Schools currently has procedures and regulations regarding this issue. Carrie Sterrs, the WCPS public relations coordinator, said the county’s school guidelines are reviewed biannually.

Sterrs maintained that all decision-making within the school system, including electronic communication device usage, is made “through the lens of safety for both students and staff.”

“The Board of Education encourages communication among the school, parents, and students,” WCPS’ official cell phone policy explains,

adding the board also “recognizes that the use of certain personal electronic communication devices may disrupt the instructional or learning environment.”

As such, the education system has a policy allowing students to possess a personal electronic device, provided they follow a determined set of conditions.

The policy outlines cell phones are permitted to be used before and after regular school hours and before and after school-sponsored activities. Students participating in after-school-related events and extracurriculars can access their devices only with permission from the activity sponsor.

“Students are prohibited from using, activating or displaying personal electronic communication devices on school property during the school day or school-sponsored activities,” the standards continue. “Cellular telephones and other electronic communication devices must be deactivated and out of sight; they must be kept in a book bag, backpack, purse or locker.”

Young learners are also unauthorized to use their communication devices while on a school bus or a bus chartered by the school system.

Violations of these rules could result in the confiscation of the phone or suspension from school.

There are exceptions, however, which include handicapped students having access to their electronic devices for medical reasons, or communication with law enforcement officers and emergency personnel.

While local officials are following the legislation being proposed at the state level, Sterrs said, “school-level procedures in alignment with existing countywide policy will remain in effect until such time that legislation is enacted and/or the Board of Education wishes to revise its existing policy, which likely will not be recommended until the outcome of this legislation is known.”

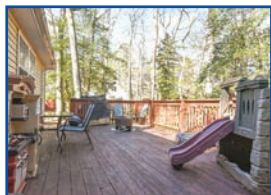


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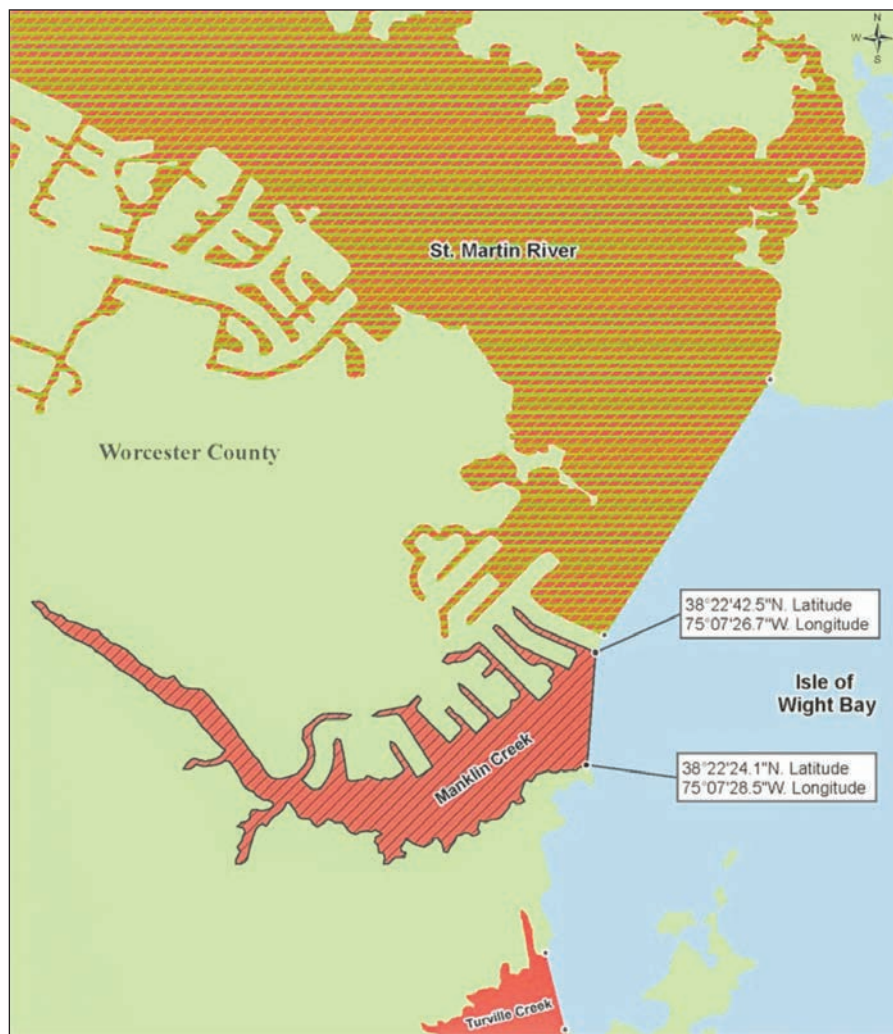
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SUBMITTED IMAGE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Association distributed this map showing the exact location of the emergency closure for shellfish harvesting.

Shellfish harvesting cut off in creek after sewage spill

(Feb. 13, 2025) The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has issued an emergency closure for shellfish harvesting in Manklin Creek following a sewage spill on Feb. 7.

The closure, effective immediately, was enacted to protect public health and will remain in effect until March

The affected area includes all waters of Manklin Creek upstream of a line running in a northeasterly direction from a point of land on the southern end of the creek's mouth to a point of land on the opposite shore. The closure also impacts Isle of Wight

Bay and Sinepuxent Bay in Worcester County.

The closure was enacted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article § 4-742. A map of the restricted area has been provided by MDE and is available for public review.

The Ocean Pines Association is working closely with state and local authorities to monitor the situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. Residents with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact MDE.

County offering free water filters to Newark residents

(Feb. 13, 2025) Newark residential water customers are eligible to receive one free whole house sediment filter per home from the Worcester County Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works to remove iron sediment from their water.

"This program will provide a cartridge filter system, installation by a local company, and four replacement filters," Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. "Additional filters can be purchased at local hardware stores

and online."

Only residents who are currently connected to the Newark water system are eligible. Public Works will verify eligibility, and each property owner will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the county authorizing a certified plumber to complete the installation and acknowledging that maintenance or deinstallation thereafter will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

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Briddell family recognizes Berlin officials' support

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) Mayor Zack Tyndall and Berlin council members were honored this week with the Briddell Family Foundation Service Award for the body's dedication to the small town community.

Co-founder of the foundation, Kwanza Briddell, and her father, Walter Briddell, a member of the group's board of directors, were present at the Berlin Mayor and Council's Monday, Feb. 10 meeting to present the recognition and update the governing body on the service foundation's recent on-goings.

"Thank you for what you do," Kwanza Briddell said, addressing the Berlin Town Council. "Not just for the foundation. Every year the foundation gives out several awards to people in the community, and this year we just thought it would be robbery if we did not recognize you for everything that you have been to us since our inception. So we have this award. It's our community service award for everything that you do for the Town of Berlin. Not just for the foundation, but all of its citizens. We appreciate you."

The Briddell Family Foundation



PHOTO COURTESY SARA GORFINKEL

Members of the Briddell Family Foundation presented a recognition award to Mayor Zack Tyndall and members of the Berlin council on Monday night. Pictured, from left, are Walter Briddell, Council members Jay Knerr, Jack Orris, Dean Burrell and Shaneka Nichols, Kwanza J. Briddell, Mayor Zack Tyndall, Councilman Steve Green and James Allen Briddell.

was birthed in 2001 to help students in their pursuit of higher education.

"The Briddell Family Foundation is dedicated to strengthening our community by helping individuals on their path to higher learning," the non-profit's website says. "We work to aid the community in three areas of focus: humanitarianism, benevolence, education and scholarship gifts. The mission of the Briddell Family Foundation is to help students reach a level of success that will aid them in their academic career and beyond."

The organization offers two scholarships, including the George and Martha Briddell Legacy Scholarship, which was established in 2001 to "assist descendants of George and Martha Briddell as they further their education." The group also sponsors a

Community Scholarship, created in 2021. The scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing full-time enrollment in a college, university or technical school. Both financial gifts are awarded based on financial need, academic achievement, demonstrated leadership skills, and community service.

While the start of the organization was humble, giving away less than \$200 via their scholarship fund, Briddell maintained the foundation's aid has grown by "leaps and bounds." This year alone, the foundation offered approximately \$3,400 in scholarships.

"In addition to that, we reached six schools in the continental United States and two in Ghana," Briddell said. "With that, we were able to do \$1,500 in literacy grants to those stu-

dents. Through those six schools, we reach over 3,000 students and we give out books to all of them on their birthdays, brand new books."

The co-founder said that the group also hosts altruistic events in the Berlin area each year, primarily to benefit students. One such program is the Back-to-School Movie Night. The foundation welcomes students and their families to enjoy a film on the Henry Park lawn, offering popcorn, pizza, refreshments and school supplies free to all students. The event has been going on for about four years now. Briddell said that with leadership support, it has grown since its conception.

"Your faith in us has not gone unused," the co-founder said, addressing the Berlin Town Council.

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Positive bird flu case investigated in county

State does not release farm's location to protect producers, property owners

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) A Worcester County chicken farm has preliminarily tested positive for bird flu, the county's first reported case of the disease.

State officials quarantined the affected premises, which has not been named, and all birds on the property are being culled to prevent the spread of Highly Pathogenic H5 Avian Influenza, according to a news release from the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The agency said a confirmation with final results is pending.

Maryland and Delaware public

health and agriculture authorities have formed a task force, called the Joint Information Center (JIC) to combat the disease and inform the public. JIC spokeswoman Stacey Hofmann in a statement to OC Today-Dispatch said approximately 201,600 birds were affected in this outbreak.

She also said the task force will not release exact locations of the affected Worcester County farm, or the names of the producers.

"Our primary goal is to prevent this disease from spreading by maintaining tight controls and using effective biosecurity practices. We do not want people visiting or driving by that location to potentially track the avian influenza virus to another location and spread it even wider," she said.

This is the fifth case of bird flu on

the Eastern Shore and the sixth in the state. More than 600,000 broiler chickens had to be destroyed this month after flock samples tested positive for bird flu. Two other cases have been confirmed in Kent County, Delaware, and one in Accomack County, Virginia.

Carried by free-flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese, and shorebirds, bird flu is caused by an influenza type A virus. It can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quails, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl, according to the state agriculture department.

Migrating snow geese in Worcester County tested positive for bird flu this month, state authorities said. Another die-off of wildfowl occurred last week in Ocean Pines.

The illness does not typically

spread to humans, with transmission risk between birds and the general public deemed low, according to state health officials. Poultry farm workers are at higher risk.

Poultry farms in Maryland are tested before any birds are harvested, whether there's an outbreak or not, to find outbreaks before any chickens enter the food chain.

"We have a really robust surveillance program," Maryland State Veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Trout told OC Today-Dispatch. "What we're doing is successful. We have this system of checks and balances in place to protect the food supply."

Officials also are warning hunters to take safety precautions. After handling waterfowl or game, people are encouraged to wash hands, clothes, and tools, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Anyone who finds a dead bird may contact officials for collection and disposal by telephone at 877-463-6497.

Filter program expires Dec. 31

Continued from Page 8

Public Works will then notify the installation company of each resident's eligibility.

"The installer will contact the resident to inspect the home plumbing arrangement, determine the best location to install the filter, and schedule the actual installation," Baker said.

The free whole house sediment filter program will expire on Dec. 31. Any requests for filter installations received after that date may not be processed.

Interested residents should contact the Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater Division at 410-641-5251 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday, or email Gary Serman at gserman@co.worcester.md.us.

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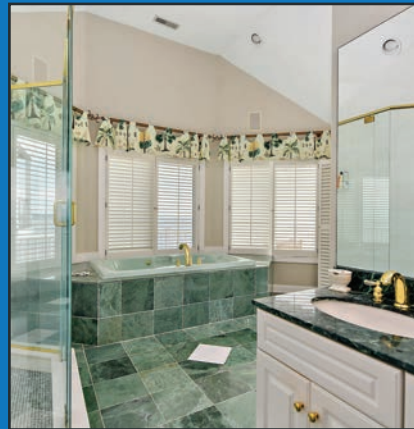
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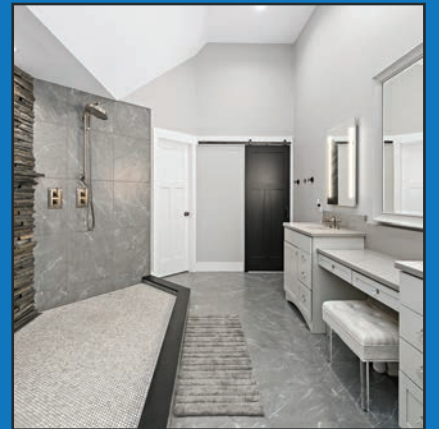
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Café Berlin owners excited for new chapter on Main St.

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) The Town of Berlin's On What Grounds? has officially transitioned to Cafe Berlin with new ownership and new items, like macarons.

Christina and Michael Ewing, who moved to Worcester County from Carroll County in the fall of 2022, officially purchased On What Grounds? on Main Street last month. The couple wants to maintain the cafe's coffee and breakfast tradition while incorporating their per-

sonal touches. These changes include the notable addition of macarons.

Christina Ewing said the couple's seven-year-old daughter inspired the pastry inclusion.

"[My daughter] was like, 'I want to learn how to make macarons, can we make macarons?'" the new owner said. "It was a little bit of a disaster at the beginning, but once I started honing it ... people asked, 'Are you selling them? They look

See COUPLE Page 13



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

In-house marketing at the Café Berlin features a sun theme and the house specialty fare of macarons.

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State flush fee exemption reduces bill for residents

(Feb. 13, 2025) The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has exempted residents in the Ocean Pines Sanitary Service Area (SSA) from paying the \$5 monthly charge to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) for the upcoming year. This exemption will result in an annual savings of \$60 per household in the Ocean Pines SSA.

"This exemption is due to the exemplary work done by our staff," Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. "It's the Public Works professionals maintaining meticulous reporting methods coupled with the knowledge and experience of our Water and Wastewater operators overseeing the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant that make this exemption a reality year after year for those residing in the Ocean Pines SSA."

Commonly referred to as the Flush Fee, the BRF is a dedicated fund financed by residents and businesses served by wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) throughout the

State of Maryland. BRF funds are used to upgrade publicly owned WWTPs throughout Maryland, with enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology to reduce nutrient discharges to the state's waterways.

The Ocean Pines WWTP is equipped with ENR technology that meets the criteria for the fee exemption, which requires a maximum effluent concentration of 3 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorous.

"The Ocean Pines WWTP sets the standard throughout the state for environmental stewardship," Baker said. "For 2024 the Ocean Pines WWTP maintained a yearly flow at 299.5MM gallons, with an average concentration of 2.4 parts per million (PPM) total nitrogen and 0.2 PPM."

BRF exemptions are valid for one year and must be renewed annually, and WCPW professionals maintain meticulous reporting standards to secure the exemptions annually for those residing in the Ocean Pines SSA.

Couple undertakes rebranding

Continued from Page 12

so pretty, they're so good.' I was like, 'I need to get a commercial kitchen.'"

Ewing said the couple then began shopping around for a location to kick-start a new Berlin establishment. Sara Gorfinkel, executive administrative assistant to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, let the husband-and-wife team know the On What Grounds? operators were looking to sell. The parties struck a deal, and the Ewings will now serve Berlin residents and visitors their own coffee blends, pastries, breakfasts and lunches. The new owners have also changed the eatery's name to Cafe Berlin and selected a sun to represent their business.

"We reached out, we started talking to them, and it all kind of blossomed from this macaron thing and became what it is, us taking over their business and creating a vision for what we wanted, Cafe Berlin," Ewing said. "We are renaming and rebranding and just doing things a little differently, so we are excited about some changes to come."

According to Ewing, the new owners hope to make the updated establishment a community favorite and a "heartbeat of Berlin." As such, Jeff Smith of Cast 26 created Cafe Berlin's signature for the business's drip coffee and espresso, which they just rolled out late last week.

"When Jeff decided to come in and meet with us, we were looking for something more full-bodied, robust," Ewing said. "Just something cozy ... we wanted to find something a little more

palatable to a wider range of people. It has that feeling when you smell coffee, like what a good cup of coffee smells; we want it to taste like that and have that full-mouth feel."

The Cafe Berlin operators are also looking to expand the coffee shop's food line. Ewing said the new menu will roll out in April once the spring and summer seasons are closer. The new menu items are expected to be a bit more "elevated," such as a line of gourmet toast with sweet options and more savory choices, like avocado toast and cream cheese and lox toast. The new owner said she also intends to offer seasonal and event-themed selections, like during the annual Peach Festival.

Once established, the new eatery plans to host events like macarons and wine pairings. Some macaron flavors include salted caramel, cookie butter, pistachio strawberry, Aztec chocolate, birthday cake, and fig and goat cheese. Ewing noted that she plans to experiment with the pastry selections eventually.

"We just want to do some cool stuff, some fun stuff that people and the community would love doing, whether it's the summer or the off-season," Ewing said. "We want to appeal to both locals and tourists."

Aside from the food offering alterations, Cafe Berlin is updating the interior look of the space, including painting, replacing the old chalkboard with a new electric menu sign, and obtaining some new chairs.

"We just kind of want to spruce it up a little bit," Ewing said.

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County joins Stop Offshore Wind open letter campaign

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) The latest chapter in Maryland's offshore wind saga has Worcester County officials agreeing to join an open letter that speaks out against a just-approved expansion of an already-proposed wind farm project.

The county's Board of Commissioners on Feb. 4 agreed to put their names on a letter from the nonprofit Stop Offshore Wind. They stand in opposition to the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) Jan. 24 decision to let US Wind take over wind energy credits that were relinquished by competitor Ørsted, which pulled out of a wind project last year.

The PSC, which oversees any offshore wind projects in Maryland, accepted an updated project proposal from US Wind. The approved proposal grants the developer an opportunity to build more and larger turbines in the combined lease areas, according to the open letter.

Crafted by the public relations firm Bedrock Advocacy, whom Worcester County hired in December, the opposition letter also demands to view any independent analysis upon which the PSC decision was based.

"We are advocating for a transparent process that shows a good-faith effort by US Wind to negotiate with residents and businesses," the letter says, "instead of a blind crusade to acquire government funding and secure green energy credits for the State of Maryland."

Earlier versions of the US Wind project would see a project built to generate 1,056 megawatts of electricity. The company's re-bid, approved by the PSC, would generate 1,710

megawatts.

One megawatt of electricity is enough to power about 300 homes during periods of high demand. And, for every megawatt of electricity an offshore wind farm generates, it earns one Offshore Renewable Energy Certificate, or OREC. Consider it a documented way to prove to the state that electricity was generated using renewable offshore wind, instead of fossil fuels.

An OREC is also a commodity. Offshore wind developers like US Wind can make money selling their ORECs to utility companies, such as Delmarva Power. In the state's arrangement with US Wind, the developer gets to sell a certain amount of ORECs annually at a fixed price over a 20-year term.

This latest deal with the PSC grants even more ORECs to US Wind than from its original agreements from 2017 and 2021. That's because the state OK'd giving US Wind the ORECs that were left over when Ørsted dropped its own project, called Skipjack.

Ørsted claimed external economic factors led to their decision to mothball the Skipjack project, including "economic and supply chain constraints [which] caused severe disruptions in the offshore wind industry, including unprecedented cost increases on offshore wind developers," according to public records.

The Stop Offshore Wind letter lists 10 reasons why offshore wind would be "extremely detrimental to the residents of Maryland's coastal communities," including higher electric bills, posing a threat to tourism, a drop in property values, and harm to the coastal ecosystem.

Another reason listed is that wind farms would force generational commercial fishing businesses to abandon traditional fishing grounds "and cope with the unknown changes that the turbine construction and operation will have on the behavior of fish."

This particular point of discussion was mentioned at the County Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Chip Bertino of Ocean Pines wanted the letter to mention that, by law, fishermen who make a commercial catch off Maryland's coast must land the fish in Maryland. County staff said they'd look into that and see the point added to the letter.

Stop Offshore Wind is a nonprofit set up with financial support from the Worcester County Commissioners and the Town of Ocean City, and backed by private residents, businesses and community-based organizations. The PR firm Bedrock says it will obtain more signatures before submitting its letter to the Public Service Commission.

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Obituaries

JOSEPH F. PALMISANO

Ocean Pines

On Jan. 24, 2025, Joseph F. Palmisano, M.D., 97, of Baltimore and Ocean Pines, passed away peacefully.



Joseph Palmisano

Joseph Palmisano, son of Frank C. and Mary J. Palmisano, was born the seventh of nine children in Shamokin, Pennsylvania on March 14, 1927. At age 13, the family moved to Baltimore, where Joseph graduated from Baltimore City College in 1944.

He enlisted in the US Navy at 17 and served on a destroyer as a radar operator in the waning days of WWII.

After discharge, he graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park and the School of Medicine in 1953. After residency at Mercy Hospital, Dr. Palmisano began a family practice on Loch Raven Boulevard that he continued for more than 40

years. Dr. Palmisano was proud to say he never turned down a patient, and he made numerous house calls, with up to 17 in one day. He belonged to the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and was recognized for his instrumental role in helping Baltimore's Good Samaritan Hospital grow into a fine institution.

Dr. Palmisano's motto was, "work hard, play hard." He was a diehard Colt and then Ravens fan, boater, golfer, fisherman, and especially skier.

He belonged to the Baltimore Yacht Club, and as an avid historian, participated in the Baltimore Civil War Round Table. He skied more than 40 times in Europe and earned 12 gold medals for ski racing before he hung up his ski poles at 79.

Dr. Palmisano retired to Ocean Pines in 2001, where he became an active member of the community. In his later years, he could be found riding his scooter on the Boardwalk as he met new people and shared his popular autobiography, "Doctor Joe,

A Family Doctor in the Twentieth Century." He also wrote numerous bi-weekly columns about word history for The Dispatch.

Dr. Palmisano was predeceased by his first wife and childhood sweetheart, Jeanne T. Kell. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Kathleen Palmisano (nee Enright), by his two sons Joseph (Jody) F. Palmisano Jr. (Marcia), Michael J. Palmisano (Christine), and step children Laura M. MacNamara (Brian), and Ross E. Burchill, as well as 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He is survived by his sister, Joanne Strassner McClayton, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be on March 6, 2025, at 11 a.m. at St. Ursula Church at 8801 Harford Road in Parkville, Maryland, and internment in Gardens of Faith Cemetery in Rosedale, Maryland. A Celebration of Life will be held in Ocean City, Maryland at a future date. Donations can be made to the US Olympic Committee.

PAMELA LOUISE HOLBROOK

Parsonsburg

Pamela Louise Holbrook (Pam) of Parsonsburg passed away suddenly at Tidal Health Hospital on Feb. 3, 2025.



Pamela Holbrook

She was born on January 15, 1951 to John Roy and Barbara Holbrook. She was a graduate of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School in Jacksonville, Fla. Pam had worked various jobs over the years, the most recent as a housekeeper at the Seagate Condominiums in Ocean City.

In earlier years, she became a skilled bowler, nearly reaching professional level before a hand injury got in the way. She was an active and talented arts and crafts person, having produced many clever and artsy items over the years. Pam will always be remembered for her generosity in always giving to others. This trait was exemplified in her over four years of

weekly volunteering at the Parkway Church of God food pantry in Salisbury. She always brought great enthusiasm and spirit to family gatherings, to which she often shared her delicious cornbread and desserts.

Pam is survived by her son, Tron Thornton, of Salisbury, and numerous relatives locally and in New England. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her ex-husband, William Thornton.

Her body was donated to the Maryland Anatomy Board.

A memorial service will be held at Berlin American Legion Post #123 Boggs Disharoon at 2 p.m. on Feb. 22, 2025.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Parkway Church of God, Salisbury, Md.

JEFFREY ALAN FLUHARTY

Berlin

Jeffrey Alan Fluharty, born Oct. 10, 1967, passed away Feb. 2, 2025.

Jeff's legacy continues to live on in the lives he touched and the memories he created, a true testament to a life well-lived and deeply cherished.



Jeffrey Fluharty

Jeff is survived by his wife Holly Hogan, his mother Diane Fluharty, his sister Kim Wheatly, sons Tyler and Connor Garvey and Zach and Colby Hogan, grandson Liam, niece Taylor Wheatly, three great-nephews River, Brandon, Jr., and Waylen, Aunt Carol Jones and cousins Scott and Ryan Jones. He was preceded in death by his father Bob Fluharty and nephew Brandon Wheatly.

A celebration of life will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5246 at 2630 Veterans Drive, Federalsburg, Md. 21632 on Feb. 16, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Arrangements with Eastern Shore Cremation & Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Ave., Berlin, Md. 21811. Please visit www.easternshorecremation.com.

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Potential cannabis events concern officials

Mitrecic: 'We need to get out in front of it ... to stop these events ...' in county

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) Smoke-free cannabis consumption lounges, and events where cannabis vendors could offer single-serving products direct to consumers, are both being considered under legislation now pending with Maryland state lawmakers.

Maryland's nascent cannabis marketplace, already a billion-dollar industry, moves mostly combustible products that are consumed by smoking. Now, the state's cannabis oversight agency is looking to cannabis-infused beverages and edibles as "a way that the industry can

grow in a different direction," according to Andrew Garrison, head of the Office of Policy and Government Affairs in the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA).

Garrison spoke Jan. 30 in Annapolis at a hearing for SB 215. He told lawmakers how, because the MCA is about to authorize its second round of cannabis dispensary licenses, cannabis events and consumption lounges will be part of the state's business model moving forward.

However, governments would have to agree to permit on-site lounges and cannabis events before they could go forward. Cannabis lounges can't operate unless a "political subdivision," as the bill puts it, authorizes its operation by issuing a permit or license.

"Not everyone is on board with an

on-site consumption license," Garrison told the committee. "There might be only a few jurisdictions open to moving this forward. If there's only a few, then that's something I think we'd be comfortable with. We don't want to necessarily force what is a relatively new model onto local jurisdictions."

According to the bill, MCA would issue 50 on-site consumption licenses with an application fee of \$5,000. No smoking or vaping would be allowed under this bill, just edible or liquid products.

The license allows for the processing of cannabis or cannabis-infused products, or the adding of cannabis to food prepared or served on the premises – which also means such events would now fall under the oversight of county health departments.

Licensees can't grow the cannabis they're serving; it has to come from a licensed Maryland dispensary. Also, just like a movie theater doesn't want you bringing in your own snacks, customers under this law would not be allowed to bring in their own outside cannabis products to an on-site lounge.

The bill also says cannabis provided for on-site consumption must be single-serving products. When lawmakers at the hearing pointed out

how the bill doesn't limit how many single-serving items a customer could have, the MCA's Garrison said limitations on single servings could be considered.

Agreeable cities, towns, and counties also could adopt their own zoning and planning requirements for on-site consumption establishments.

Notably, the bill prioritizes social equity applicants, giving them the first opportunity to establish on-site consumption businesses and host cannabis events.

"It helps level the playing field and ensures that those most impacted by past cannabis prohibition have a real chance to succeed in the industry," said Audrey Johnson, executive director of the Maryland Office of Social Equity, at the hearing. She also noted that 12 other states have implemented on-site consumption models.

When it comes to cannabis events, the rules are slightly different. The MCA would authorize cannabis event permits, which would be limited to four consecutive days or a period of 48 hours – but you can't host a cannabis event if you already hold a dispensary license, the bill says.

The rules would prohibit smoking at cannabis events, indoors or out, Garrison said. "Having an outdoor smoking event might not be some-

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Commissioners share views over proposed legislation

thing a lot of folks are going to want to have in their neighborhoods," he told the committee.

MCA also can issue permits to vendors who want to sell single-serving products at the event. Only social equity licensees can get vendor permits between now and July 2028. Any product sold at an event has to flow through the MCA licensing system, including packaging, labeling, and testing.

And, just like the on-site lounges, local governments can still prohibit or restrict the authorization of cannabis event registrations or assess their own additional fees, the bill says.

While this bill is sponsored by state Sen. Pamela Beidle (D-32, Anne Arundel), chair of the Finance Committee, the MCA says the legislation is actually an agency-sponsored bill and Beidle just put her name on it. A companion bill has been filed in the House of Delegates, HB 132, under Del. C.T. Wilson (D-28, Charles). The law would take effect Oct. 1.

Not all lawmakers were sold. State Sen. Benjamin Kramer (D-19, Montgomery) at the hearing noted how edible cannabis products can take a while to kick in, which opens the door to "a whole new line of public health concerns" if people get behind the wheel of a car after consuming.

"They get up to leave, and now, boom, now we have somebody out in a 4,000-pound missile endangering every motorist and every pedestrian on the road, suddenly getting hit with the effects that will clearly impair their ability to operate a vehicle," he said. "What we're doing is simply endangering the public in an effort to expand access to cannabis."

Authorities in Worcester County are already dubious about the proposal.

Worcester County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) at the board's Jan. 21 meeting in Snow Hill asked county staff to look into preventing such events. "It looks

like it probably will go through because it's a big revenue generator," he said of the bill.

"People (are) going to come down to the shore and want to have these events here in Worcester County," Mitrecic added. "And we need to get out in front of it – if the commissioners as a whole decides – to stop these events from happening. I'm not sure we want these going on in our county."

Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) agreed.

"This stuff that's being made today, it's 100 times more potent," he said. "People don't realize how it affects you after you leave an event. I actually know three or four accidents that have happened. People don't even know they have an accident, then they wake up in an ambulance, that's how strong it is."

Cannabis was a medical-use only product until 2023, when the market opened to adult use (21+). According to the MCA, the first year of legal adult and medical cannabis sales topped \$1 billion, with adult-use sales making up \$709 million of the total. For the first quarter of fiscal 2025, adult-use cannabis sales and use tax collections totaled \$18.3 million.

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Heiser seeks police meeting on accidents

State's Attorney sees need for streamlined approach to accident investigations

By **Brian Shane**
Staff Writer

(Feb. 13, 2025) A new initiative is underway to standardize traffic accident protocols across Worcester County police agencies, one that aims to produce more streamlined investigations.

Starting in March, monthly meetings will be held among crash evaluators to share techniques and improve investigations, according to Worcester County State's Attorney Kristin Heiser. Her office is working to ensure that best practices are consistent for all law enforcement agencies who deal with car accidents and their aftermath.

Different police departments may have their own rules and regulations about how to investigate a serious car crash where people are hurt or even killed. Not only that, but not every police department has the resources to dedicate one or two officers exclusively to a crash team or a traffic reconstruction detail.

Sitting down in person, as a group, might help police officers start to work from the same playbook on traffic reconstruction cases, Heiser said.

"As State's Attorney, they're looking to me for legal guidance," she said. "Which charges apply? Do we have probable cause? Internally, we're standardizing these investigations. The faster and more efficiently we get all the work done, we can get everything off to the lab to be tested and make those charging decisions."

Traffic reconstruction is highly specialized and comes with extensive training. Officers assigned to these cases are working through a process that rules things out: Was there a malfunction in the car? Was there a medical event that caused a person to lose control of their car? Or was it driver negligence?

Heiser said participating officers in this initiative will include accident reconstructionists and collision investigators for all Worcester County police agencies. They'll be joined by a State's Attorney's Office investigator and prosecutor. Down the line, other specialized partners could join in, like forensic analysts, or specialty auto

mechanics.

For families left grieving after vehicular accidents involving injury or fatality, the penalties allowed by law often feel insufficient. Sometimes, the only punishment is a stiff fine, even when someone has died.

"You have all the emotion of a homicide investigation," she said, "and you have very little in the sense of corresponding jail time. Anybody who's experienced serious injury or death of a loved one, there's no amount of jail time that's going to compensate or make you feel better."

"It's even more difficult," she added, "when you look at the traffic law and you see the penalties are not the same for traffic violations as something that's more intentional – but you still have a loved one gone. Families can be very frustrated by this. They feel like, that's all? That's all the law allows for."

Another reason that collaboration is needed for officers on car accidents is because Worcester County and its tourism hub of Ocean City are home to several annual automotive events, where police sometimes deal with multiple car accidents a day.

The resort's notorious H2O Inter-

national car event may be gone, but "we still have bike week, car cruise – these are unique problems that not a lot of cities have to deal with," Heiser said. "If we're going to continue to be faced with these motor vehicle events, I think it's important we stay on top of this stuff."

In addition to this collaboration, Heiser also plans to propose a strategic highway safety plan for Worcester County, one rooted in data collection. It means collaborating in particular with the Ocean City Police Department, she added, because of how busy resort roadways get.

She said the Maryland Highway Safety Office collaborates with various counties to create these plans, many of which are based on National Highway Traffic Safety administration crash data and can be grant funded.

"Let's talk to police officers on the ground to ask, which intersections in your experience are most dangerous?" Heiser said. "The answers won't always line up with what the data says. We want to make sure we have all of the facts behind where our focus in going to be. I think it will be a helpful tool."



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Opinion

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

In defense of one fee for racquet members

There's nothing like a change in the structure of fees to rile the crowd that's paying them. Almost any increase is too much whether it's for a Netflix subscription, the cost of admission to national parks or, in Ocean Pines, a Racquet Club membership.

It came as no surprise, then, that pickleball members objected last Wednesday when Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler unveiled a consolidated membership plan that will cost them and drop-in players more.

One of the reasons people protest when rates go up on, say, a Netflix subscription is they don't know where that additional money is going and why, leading them to suspect the profit motive is at work.

The profit margin may be a factor in that instance, but that isn't the case for the Racquet Club, which as a nonprofit entity within the nonprofit Ocean Pines Association can't take more than it needs. The IRS is funny about things like that, as OPA members and officials have learned on more than one occasion.

Assuming the center has certain fixed costs and that its common elements must be maintained, if not upgraded, it makes sense to pass these charges on to members in equal percentages regardless of how many sports they pursue.

That must be the basis of any fee structure before working in costs specific to a particular area of play. That is where the question becomes knottier.

Should one-sport-only members be financially responsible for their individual venues only? Should one sport subsidize another and is the appeal of one venue — and the overall center itself — affected by the appearance, condition and availability of another venue?

These aren't unreasonable questions, but from a management perspective, a club with this small of a budget can't be managed efficiently if it is divided into Balkan state-like revenue centers. The one-size-fits-all membership fee might be unpleasant for most members, but it makes the most sense from an administrative point of view.

Ocean City Film Festival to kick off

Feb. 15 event will offer early preview of this year's entries

(Feb. 13, 2025) The Ocean City Film Festival, a production of the Art League of Ocean City, kicks off its ninth season with a special party on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 6-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will take place at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside.

"Our 9th annual OC Film Festival is coming up March 6-9, and this is a free celebration to start our next season of bringing the best in independent filmmaking to the resort," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "We welcome

everyone to attend and get a sneak preview of what's in store this year."

During the kick-off party, the official 2025 Film Festival poster, for the ninth year designed by Bishopville artist Ian Postley, will be unveiled. During the event, attendees who purchase a 4-day Film Festival pass will receive a free limited-edition poster signed and numbered by the artist.

"Our Film Festival posters have become collectors' items over the past nine years, and our 2025 edition is one to add to that collection," Thaler said.

The Art League will also offer complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the event.

The Ocean City Film Festival

comes to the resort March 6-9, bringing four days of independent films both local and from around the world to the Ocean City region. Headliners for this year are two hometown all-stars, John Chester and Erica Cramer Messer, who will bring their film, "The Biggest Little Farm," to the Ocean City Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 9. The director and producer will be live on stage at the PAC giving live commentary during the film's screening and show previews of their new TV series.

Passes to the Film Festival are currently available at OCMDFilmFestival.com. More information is also available by calling 410-524-9433.

Stewardship training session on tap

Snow Hill library to provide volunteers with opportunities

(Feb. 13, 2025) The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is calling on nature enthusiasts and community-minded individuals to step forward and help preserve the iconic landscapes of the Lower Eastern Shore.

On Feb. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m., the LSLT will host a Stewardship Training session at the Snow Hill Library (307 N. Washington St.), offering a unique opportunity for volunteers to make a lasting impact on the region's natural environment.

Frank Deuter, Stewardship Coordinator at LSLT, emphasizes the critical role volunteers play in the organi-

zation's mission. "Stewardship is the backbone of conservation," he said. "Our volunteers are the eyes and ears on the ground, helping us protect the land we've worked so hard to conserve. Plus, it's an incredibly rewarding experience to connect with nature and be part of something bigger than yourself."

The training session will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of LSLT's protected easement properties and the measures taken to preserve them for future generations. Volunteers will also learn how they can assist Deuter and his team during site visits to some of Delmarva's most stunning, and often private, landscapes.

Since its founding, LSLT has conserved over 24,000

acres of working farms, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. As a small nonprofit, the organization relies on dedicated volunteers to monitor and maintain these protected areas.

"It's a team effort," said Deuter. "Every volunteer makes a difference, whether it's monitoring an easement or simply sharing their enthusiasm for our mission."

The Lower Shore Land Trust invites anyone who loves the outdoors and wants to make a difference to register for the Feb. 21 session on its website.

"If you've ever wanted to get involved in conservation, this is your chance," Deuter said. "We'd love to have you join us in protecting the places that make the Lower Shore so special."

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.



Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary presented a check for \$300,000 to hospital and AGH Foundation leadership. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Auxiliary donates \$300K to Atlantic General

(Feb. 13, 2025) The Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary recently presented a check for \$300,000 to hospital and AGH Foundation leadership.

The Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary, a group of more than 200 dedicated volunteers, promotes the welfare of the hospital by fostering good public relations, providing service to the hospital and health system, organizing health-related projects and conducting fundraising activities.

The \$300,000 donation was made possible through various fundraising

events and proceeds from the AGH Thrift Shop, and will be used towards acquiring new medical technology and providing clinical scholarships, including:

Two endoscopy drying cabinets (\$100,000): These new scope storage cabinets continuously filter air into internal endoscope channels to maintain infection control standards, and track scope location, storage time, channel availability and scope lifespan.

Two scope washers (\$150,000): All surgical equipment goes through rigorous cleaning and a high-level disin-

fection process. Due to the unique design and structure of Atlantic General Hospital's scopes, specialized washers are required.

Laboratory Services scholarships (\$50,000): In an effort to attract and retain skilled laboratory professionals, the new scholarship will be open to any individuals, including current AGH associates, who are seeking to further their education in laboratory sciences. Upon completion of the program, scholarship recipients will commit to working at AGH for a predetermined period of time.

"The culture of Atlantic General Hospital has always been based around commitment to our community," said Terry Moore, director of Atlantic General Endoscopy Center. "Based on the rising need for gastrointestinal health-care and colorectal cancer screening services, AGH has made a commitment to expand our endoscopy services. We've seen a significant increase in procedure volumes, and these upgrades to our existing equipment are vital to maintaining safety, efficiency and infection control standards. We greatly appreciate the AGH Auxiliary ..."

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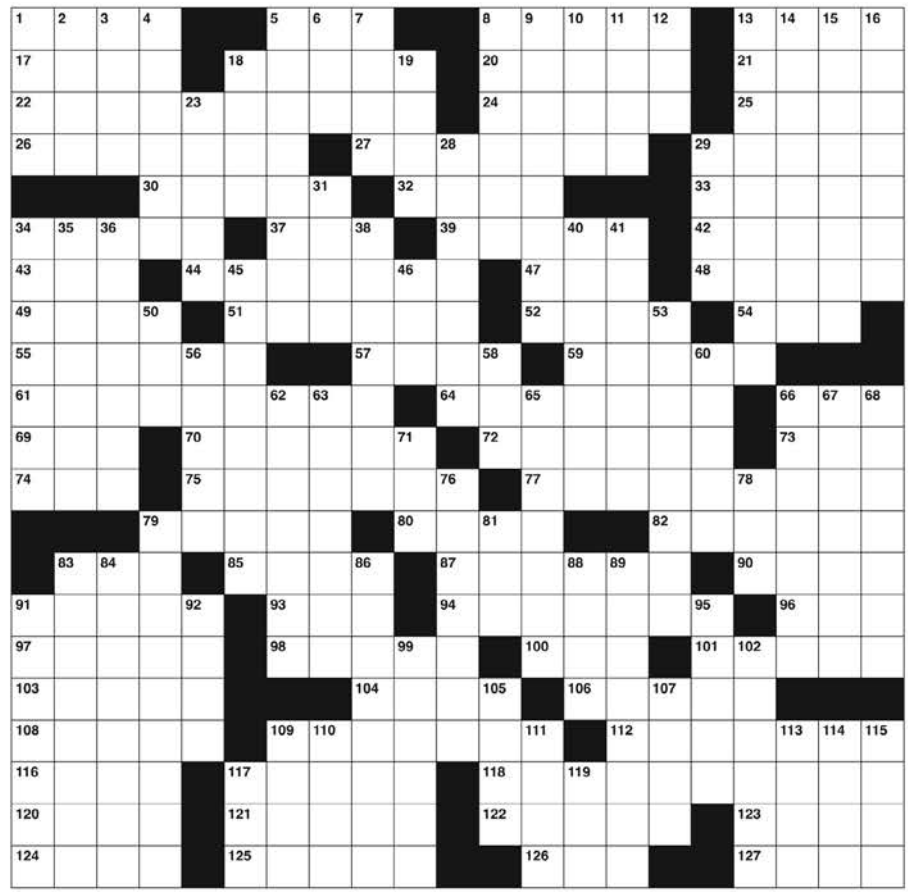
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Puzzles

TWO-FOR-ONE SPECIAL BY DERRICK NIEDERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Derrick Niederman, of Charleston, S.C., recently retired from the mathematics department at the College of Charleston and is the author of numerous books, including "Math Puzzles for the Clever Mind," "Number Freak: A Mathematical Compendium From 1 to 200" and a mystery novel, "A Killing on Wall Street." This is his 14th crossword for The Times (all Sundays), going back to 1983. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trading post
 - 5 For example
 - 8 Italian fashion house
 - 13 Hard-liner
 - 17 "Ave Maria" finale, appropriately?
 - 18 Buying binge
 - 20 Venetian magistrates of old
 - 21 French friend
 - 22 Lead actress in "The Lovely Bones" (2009) and "The Bourne Legacy" (2012)
 - 24 Fast/car
 - 25 Wild/bunch
 - 26 Informer, informally
 - 27 Cartoon character inspired by W.C. Fields
 - 29 Gave a darn
 - 30 3,605, in ancient Rome
 - 32 Image on a Missouri state quarter
 - 33 Wombs
 - 34 Italian sports cars, informally
 - 37 Gear tooth
 - 39 Desirable condition for hostas
 - 42 "Cómo ___?"
 - 43 Divinity sch. subj.
 - 44 Provoked an online fight
 - 47 Treasure
- DOWN**
- 48 Holland/tunnel
 - 49 Figs. on flight boards
 - 51 Onetime Kia model
 - 52 Spot
 - 54 Tik___ challenge
 - 55 Home of the Temple of Poseidon
 - 57 Put-down
 - 59 They put things on the back burner
 - 61 Stadium/timekeeper
 - 64 Smash hit
 - 66 Steamed Chinese bun
 - 69 Exist
 - 70 Your business start-up?
 - 72 Word often shortened to a letter and a number
 - 73 Catherine the Great, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 74 Average/income
 - 75 Jeans popular in the 1980s
 - 77 Denver/Colorado
 - 79 Name spelled by the initials of five consecutive months
 - 80 The "E" in G.E.: Abbr.
 - 82 Applied to
 - 83 Org. once led by George H. W. Bush
 - 85 Direction of the wind that brought Mary Poppins
 - 87 Where "Cheers" is set
 - 90 Chart-topping Basil or Braxton
 - 91 Start of "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
 - 93 Place to buy tickets: Abbr.
 - 94 Jewel case holders
 - 96 Architect Maya
 - 97 Follow
 - 98 Mel who sang the 1949 No. 1 hit "Careless Hands"
 - 100 Year abroad
 - 101 Stars and Stripes
 - 103 For the birds
 - 104 Rainproof cover
 - 106 ___ bears
 - 108 Hall-of-Famer Martinez
 - 109 Woodworking tool with a belt
 - 112 "Nothing much"
 - 116 Dino/expedition
 - 117 Card/game
 - 118 Certain emcee
 - 120 Grim Grimm figure
 - 121 Beethoven dedicatee
 - 122 Risk of heavy lifting
 - 123 First name in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
 - 124 Costner's role in "The Untouchables"
 - 125 Sheen
 - 126 Happy companion
 - 127 Right hand: Abbr.
 - 8 Fictional composer whose first three initials mean "A.S.A.P."
 - 9 Dietary plant fiber
 - 10 Foreign exchange fee
 - 11 Chrysler Building style, familiarly
 - 12 Request
 - 13 Protective outfits for handling radioactive material
 - 14 Almond-flavored liqueur
 - 15 Stand in a cellar
 - 16 Small entryway receptacle that might also house loose change
 - 18 Skinny/dip
 - 19 Poet Pound
 - 23 Horror film locale, in brief
 - 28 Seasoning brand that dropped the first part of its name in 2020
 - 29 Prompted, in a theater
 - 31 Horse/power
 - 34 Tour aid
 - 35 What Hester Prynne wore in a Hawthorne novel
 - 36 Excessive praise
 - 38 Like some eyeliners
 - 40 Lineage
 - 41 Major shops
 - 45 Honking or screeching, for example
 - 46 Bygone owner of Virgin Records
 - 50 "Hello there, good ___"



- 53 One eager for radical change
- 56 Kind of line that no one just stands in
- 58 Party to the left of Dem.
- 60 Body parts with caps
- 62 How caviar might be served
- 63 Will, given the opportunity
- 65 Sephora purchase
- 66 "Help me out here!"
- 67 Fast-evaporating cleaning agent
- 68 Sicilian Defense in chess, e.g.
- 71 Adversary
- 76 Deli devices
- 78 Pickleball need
- 79 Classic British sports cars
- 81 Conclusion
- 83 What parallel lines never do
- 84 Ones in the know
- 86 Feature of rhubarb pie
- 88 [Kapow!]
- 89 Not plugged in, in a way
- 91 Grabbed, as an opportunity
- 92 Sommelier's prefix
- 95 Diploma modifier
- 99 Mothers, in Mexico
- 102 Slumber/party
- 105 Trail/head
- 107 Crib call
- 109 Cotton capsule
- 110 Sony co-founder Morita
- 111 Promise/keeper
- 113 Soul legend Redding
- 114 Something to look through
- 115 Mild expletive
- 117 Digital picture format
- 119 ___-cone

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HARD - 99

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

T	G	I	F	I	N	C	A	S	T	A	K	E	M	A	A	M					
M	A	E	A	T	O	A	S	T	R	O	S	I	E	I	C	E					
C	L	E	A	R	A	S	M	U	D	A	N	Y	T	O	W	N	U	S	A		
E	A	R	C	L	I	P			J	O	L	T	H	I	T	O	N				
		A	I	L		E	A	T	A	W	A		A	D	E	P	T				
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Pine Tones Chorus planning open auditions

(Feb. 14, 2025) In advance of its spring concert, The Pine Tones Chorus will hold rehearsals from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, March 6 at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

In preparation for the spring 2025 concert, Sounds of the '70s, the Pine Tones Chorus will have open rehearsals to build their chorus membership. These are not auditions, but an opportunity for interested folks to try out the group, meet other

singers, ask questions, and decide if they want to join. Musical training and experience are appreciated, but not necessary.

If you love to sing, they want you and will help you be the singer you want to be. If you are interested in joining but can't make the first rehearsal, or aren't sure yet, contact the Director, Jenny Anderson at 443-655-5636. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center

up to the concert date.

The Sounds of the 70's concert will be performed Sunday, June 8, at 3 p.m. at the Community Church at Ocean Pines. Chorus members and audience alike will groove to classic favorites like, Moonshadow, Joy to the World, Love Me Like a Rock, Fire and Rain, and I'll Be There.

The Pine Tones Chorus has a 40-plus year history as a non-profit, all-volunteer group of folks who love to sing for their

community. The chorus holds spring and fall concerts every year, and each season they also travel to several area senior centers to share the music with those who are not able to come to the shows.

This season is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, through the Maryland State Arts Council and Worcester County Arts Council. Follow Pine Tones Chorus on Facebook and on Instagram @pinetoneschorus.

Worcester GOLD announces Bingo benefit

(Feb. 14, 2025) Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) will host the "Pot of GOLD" Cash Bingo at the American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City on Saturday, March 8.

All proceeds benefit the local registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing emergency financial assistance and items to meet basic needs for Worcester County residents living in low-income circumstances.

Doors open at 1 p.m. and games run

from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$40 online at www.WorcesterGOLD.org or \$45 at the door. The venue has limited seating, so advanced purchase is recommended. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite St. Patrick's Day outfit and bring a "lucky charm". Cash prizes, a photo backdrop, free giveaways and a hilarious MC will be featured. Pull tabs and 50/50 raffle tickets

will be available for purchase for even more chances to win.

"We're obsessed with bingo and can't wait for our supporters to join us for some good old-fashioned fun with a St. Patrick's Day twist", said GOLD Executive Director Nicholas Cranford. "The success of this event is crucial to our goal to meet the growing need for GOLD's emergency assistance program. What could be better than helping a deserving neighbor while getting

a chance to win a cash prize?"

Must be 18 or older to participate and no alcohol is permitted. Worcester County GOLD is a local nonprofit organization improving the quality of life for Worcester County residents living in low-income circumstances by providing emergency financial assistance and items to meet basic needs. For more information, visit www.WorcesterGOLD.org or call 443-235-6525.



OPEN HOUSES

Feb. 13 - 20



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
Fri-Sun 11am-3pm	14403 Coastal Hwy. Unit B Sanibel Seas OC	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	from \$675,000	Mary McCracken/Mary McCracken Realty, Inc.
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	from \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 2-4pm	6201 Atlantic Ave., Unit 108 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat-Mon 11am-1pm	16 138th St. #301 Island Breeze, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$649,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	11 142nd Street #213, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$374,900	Lauren Bunting/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10:30am-1pm	210 Worcester St., Unit 111, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$319,900	The ABC Team/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	711 Mooring Road #5, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$495,000	Eileen Bumba/Long & Foster Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	27035 Bay Bluff Road, Selbyville	6BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$1,150,000	Michele Pompa/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	3801 Atlantic Ave. Unit 411, Diamand Beach, OC	1BR, 1.5BA	Condo	\$440,000	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	101 123rd St. #375C, Jockey Beach, Ocean City	1BR, 1BA	Condo	\$254,900	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	34039 Peppers Corner Rd, Frankford, DE	4BR/3BA/2 half BA	Single Family	\$859,900	Rich DiFilippo/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	6201 Atlantic Ave., Unit 108 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	1308 McHenry Court, Ocean Pines	5BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$729,900	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	252 Windjammer Road, Ocean Pines	3BR/1BA	Single Family	\$365,000	Kim Heaney/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	5401 Coastal Hwy., Unit 204 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$434,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	9 41st St. #125 Ocean Point III, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$284,000	Eileen Bumba/Long & Foster Real Estate
Sunday 10am-Noon	2301 Philadelphia Avenue #305, Ocean City	Studio Unit		\$209,900	Lauren Bunting/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	6201 Atlantic Ave., Unit 108 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-3pm	9 46th Street Unit 6, Old Wharf, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$290,995	Steve Green/Coastal Life Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	5401 Coastal Hwy., Unit 204 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$434,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5 BA	Condo	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty



Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BELIEVE IN TOMORROW DONATION

National Honor Society members at Stephen Decatur High School presented \$,1000 to Believe In Tomorrow representatives Mary Brown and Amanda Koontz after fundraising in the fall. The Stephen Decatur High School National Honor Society has been donating to Believe in Tomorrow Children's House By the Sea since 2005.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DORMAN HONORED

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently honored Charlie Dorman, left, former boat show chairman, for his dedication and years of service in making the Optimist-sponsored Annual Seaside Boat Show the success it has become. Presenting the award is the current Boat Show Chairman Bill Brown.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PERDUE FOUNDATION GIVES \$100K

The TidalHealth Foundation has announced a generous \$100,000 donation from the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation in support of the "Drive For Mobile Mammography" campaign. This significant contribution is one of the largest donations to the campaign and plays a critical role in helping the TidalHealth Foundation reach its ambitious \$1 million goal in support of a mobile breast clinic, which is planned for an October launch. Pictured, front from left, are Carole Sizemore, Vice President, Total Rewards, Perdue Farms; Kim Nechay, Executive Director, Perdue Foundation; Kathryn Fiddler, Vice President, Population Health, TidalHealth and Jessica Hales, Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Foundation President, TidalHealth. Back, from left, are Perry Aulie, President, Perdue Agribusiness; Steve Leonard, TidalHealth President/CEO; and Charles Dolan, Vice President, Clinical Operations, TidalHealth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BFC VISITS CHURCH

Members and leadership of the Berlin Fire Company each February attend the Sunday service at Stevenson United United Methodist to recognize the memory of former church and BFC Franklin Pennewell. Last Sunday marked the 90th year on the first Sunday in February that Pennewell's passing was observed in his memory. Pennewell's granddaughter was in attendance. The church gathered with the BFC after the service for a meal and fellowship.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS INSTALLED

The Worcester County Garden Club's 2025-2027 officers were recently installed during a meeting and luncheon in the Clubhouse at the Ocean City Golf Club. Special guest Ann Street, Assistant Director, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland District 1, did the installation. Pictured, from left, are Membership Chair Rebecca Galyon, Corresponding Secretary Jackie Davies, Recording Secretary Ellen Howse, Treasurer Martha Bennett, Second Vice President Jan King, First Vice President Pat Arata and President Susan Fletcher. Right, outgoing President Joan LaHayne was presented a floral arrangement by successor Fletcher.

Calendar

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

Thurs., Feb. 13

VALENTINE'S CARD MAKING WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the crafting table anytime this week to make Valentine's Day cards. Ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: VALENTINES

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

STORY TIME: 'SLUG IN LOVE'

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

A VALENTINE'S GIFT: THE EIGHT HABITS OF LOVE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Also held via Zoom. This webinar focuses on developing a lifestyle defined by an open heart and an open mind. Registration required for zoom only. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

QUIT SMOKING & VAPING CLASS

Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines, 5-6 p.m. Participants receive one-on-one support, group support, weekly prizes and quit resources. Register: 410-632-1100, Ext. 1103 or www.worcesterhealth.org.

POETRY & PIE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Learn why we love and hate poetry. Enjoy coffee and pie courtesy of the Ugly Pie. Registration required: 410-632-3495. www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., Feb. 14

SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring approximately 350 boats, more than 140 exhibitors, more than 50 boat dealers, show specials and more. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$1 for those 13 and younger. www.ocboatshow.com, 410-250-0125

KINDNESS CARDS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Be prepared for Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17. Create a Kindness Card to share with someone you appreciate. All materials provided. For families. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

VALENTINE'S CARD MAKING WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the crafting table anytime this week to make Valentine's Day cards. Ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

THRIFT SHOP VALENTINE SPECIAL - \$5 BAG SALE

Atlantic United Methodist Church Thrift Shop, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fill a huge shopping bag for \$5. Debit/credit cards accepted with minimum purchase of \$10. 410-289-7430

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes, fingerplays and stories. For ages 0-2 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAHJONG CLUB

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

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. STREAM activities and socialize with other homeschool families. For ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB: 'I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS' BY MAYA ANGELOU

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the library's circulation desk. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. One crab cake sandwich platter cost \$14; two crab cake sandwich platter, \$24; and one crab cake sandwich, \$10. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Eat in or carryout. Bake table.

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. 15

SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6

p.m. Featuring approximately 350 boats, more than 140 exhibitors, more than 50 boat dealers, show specials and more. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$1 for those 13 and younger. www.ocboatshow.com, 410-250-0125

WINTER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Part of the 2025 Eastern Shore Pickleball Addicts Tournament Series. <https://pickleballtournaments.com/tournaments/ocean-city-winter-pickleball-tournament-2025-part-of-the-2025-espa-tournament-series>

WALK WITH A DOC

Southgate Pond, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. An AGH representative will host a brief discussion about a health topic, then lead the group for a walk around the park's trail. First 10 to arrive, receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. 410-641-9268

THRIFT SHOP VALENTINE SPECIAL - \$5 BAG SALE

Atlantic United Methodist Church Thrift Shop, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fill a huge shopping bag for \$5. Debit/credit cards accepted with minimum purchase of \$10. 410-289-7430

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT: GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Learn about one of our nation's leaders in inventions and about his promotion of alternative crops through some fun activities. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC FILM FEST KICK OFF PARTY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Please join us for a night of selected short films from the OCFE Season 9 catalog as well as the grand reveal of our 2025 poster design by artist Ian Postley! Content not rated by MPAA. 410-524-9433

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., Feb. 16

SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring approximately 350 boats, more than 140 exhibitors, more than 50 boat dealers, show specials and more. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$1 for those 13 and younger. www.ocboatshow.com, 410-250-0125

WINTER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Part of the 2025 Eastern Shore Pickleball Addicts Tournament Series. <https://pickleballtournaments.com/tournaments/ocean-city-winter-pickleball-tournament-2025-part-of-the-2025-espa-tournament-series>

OCEAN CITY LUXURY WEDDING EXPO

Hilton Garden Inn Ocean City Oceanfront, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 12-3 p.m. Vendors, giveaways and exclusive offers. Admission cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ocean-city-luxury-wedding-expo-tickets-1053210102769?aff=oddtcreator>, 410-390-3937

BERLIN FLEA MARKET

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

SEWING FOR A CAUSE

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Feb. 17

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

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

BRIDGE

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

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. 18

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines
Continued on Page 28

Calendar

Continued from Page 27

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

STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills. Geared for ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: BLAST-OFF TO SPACE

Worcester County Library - Pocumoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories and crafts. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

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

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

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: SYMBOLS AND SIGNS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn about the secret meanings of the Underground Railroad quilts. Create colorful wall hangings using these intentional graphics. Registration required: 410-524-1818. www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group is currently reading from Book 6 of the Great Conversations Anthology. The focus will be on "The Man Who Could Work Miracles" by H. G. Wells. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COMIC BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about comics and create your own. No experience required. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, 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 Jeho-

vah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

Wed., Feb. 19

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

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

BABY TIME

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

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

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

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of Backgammon, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome.

410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles and leave with a new-to-you puzzle. Don't have a puzzle but want one? That's OK too. All puzzles swapped must be in their original box. 410-641-0650

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY: HIT AND MISS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. Come test your knowledge. Prizes and refreshments provided. Admission is free and there is no registration necessary. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORYTELLERS THEATER TROUPE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Theater activities like improv, memorization, public speaking and learning about theater. For ages 6-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

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

ONGOING EVENTS

FREE IN-PERSON TAX PREPARATION

Takes place through April 15. By appointment only, call 443-584-5661 or online at the following sites.

- Mondays at the Ocean Pines library, www.tinyurl.com/t8km843p
- Tuesdays at the Berlin library, www.tinyurl.com/2rvvha2y
- Saturdays at the Ocean City library, www.tinyurl.com/3bt6ujx7.

The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required. Find sites near you: aarpfoundation.org/taxaide.

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.

PHILLIES VS DODGERS BUS TRIP

Bus departs from Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. on April 6 for Citizens Bank Park. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Cost is \$85 and includes transportation and ticket. Tickets: Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks, 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

TEENY ARTS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during February. A themed craft program available in the teen section all month long. February Teeny Art is "Post-It Art Show." For ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495

TEEN TIMESHARE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, during February, 3 p.m. to close. Drop in and create a seasonal craft or study for a test in your own teen area. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

FEBRUARY INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

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

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Weekly virtual drawings on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Winner receives 60 percent of jackpot. www.opvfd.com/queen-of-hearts. Sponsored by the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

On sale every Saturday morning at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One \$20 ticket is good for all 365 drawings in 2025. Benefits the youth of the community.

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Don's Seafood & Chop House at the South Gate of Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

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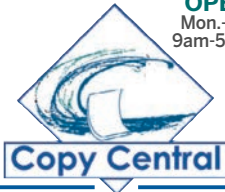
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