



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Belle, a Hero Facility Dog, greets people at the CAC. She is the product of a program that trains dogs to perform specific tasks such as when animal-assisted interventions are needed.

## Child Advocacy Center replaces 'CRICKET' tag

Mission remains same as provider of youth services seeks higher public profile

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) The Berlin-based youth support organization The CRICKET Center is rolling out a re-brand, complete with a new logo, a fresh website, and a change in name to the Worcester County Child Advocacy Center, as it works to provide resources to juveniles in the area.

As part of The CRICKET Center's efforts to revamp itself, the group has changed its name to The Worcester County Child Advocacy Center. Lauren Cooper, executive director, said this modification was made to provide a clearer picture to the community of the organization's youth and family support mission and make it a more recognizable presence throughout the county.

"These changes are about ensuring that every child, family, and partner agency knows who we are, what we do, and how we can help," Cooper said. "Our commitment to protecting children in Worcester County re-

mains the same, but our ability to serve is stronger than ever."

The center aids juveniles within the community. Programs include forensic interviews for children to share their stories in a "safe, supportive environment," advocating for legal action against child abuse perpetrators, mental health services, collaboration with agencies that aid child victims and their families during investigations, and child abuse protection.

Of these projects is human trafficking education. Each year, the center partners with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

See CRICKET Page 6



## Emporium of ethereal offers seasonal spirits

Town sees Ghost Museum as Pitts Street attraction for paranormal enthusiasts

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) This summer, a new haunted attraction will open in Berlin, allowing residents and visitors to explore local paranormal history.

A ghost museum with artifacts and documents detailing the spooky past and stories about Berlin will welcome

paranormal enthusiasts from near and far in June. A specific date has not been formalized, but Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director, maintained the facility will open its doors in early summer. The upper level of Pitts Street Treasures will serve as the exhibit's home.

"[Pitts Street Treasures] was ultimately chosen due to its historic nature and the beauty of the room and windows," Wells said.

See GHOST Page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Signage proposed for the new Ghost Museum in Berlin is pictured. The town's Historic District Commission reviewed the signage at its meeting Wednesday night, which was too late to be included in this issue.



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# Kindness river of rocks planned for park

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) A “Community River of Kindness” is coming to Berlin’s Stephen Decatur Park this spring, reminding visitors to practice compassion and empathy in their daily lives.

The river will be formed using hundreds to thousands of painted rocks that incorporate messages of kindness, anti-bullying, and self-worth created by students in the area. The project is to be built by the Stephen Decatur Middle School’s Kiwanis Builders Club in collaboration with the Jesse Klump Memorial Foundation, a suicide prevention nonprofit in Worcester County.

“It’s going to be a fun and uplifting project,” said Katrin Huber, the executive director of the advocacy organization.

All rocks will be collected by the end of April. Per the project timeline, education programs were slated to visit schools like SDMS, Stephen Decatur High School, Buckingham Elementary School, Berlin Intermediate School, and Worcester Preparatory School from October 2024 to April 2025.

The proposal’s plan was included in the packet for the Berlin Mayor and Council’s Feb. 24 meeting, where the project was presented for approval. According to the document, the goal is that by May, a plaque detailing the structure’s story will be installed at the river. The signage’s cost is estimated at approximately \$4,500 to \$5,000 and will likely be funded through sponsorships.

The inspiration for the project comes from the increase in bullying and suicide rates, particularly with the rise of social media. The hope is that the rocks will remind Stephen Decatur Park visitors to treat others with respect and kindness.

The Berlin Town Council approved the “Community River of Kindness” unanimously, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

“There is a human being behind the screen,” Berlin Mayor Zack Tyn-

dall said of online bullying and harassment. “Some people feel empowered when they’re behind the keyboard thinking that it’s going into outer space somewhere, but someone is on the other end of that reading it.”

Project officials said that the decision to hold the project in the chosen spot was easy. Given the plethora of things to do there, many students and other Worcester County residents frequent the park. The intent is for guests to take note of the rocks and reflect.

“I appreciate you choosing Berlin,” councilmember Steve Green said. “It’s a great message for the kids.”

The Jesse Klump Memorial Foundation strives to end the threat of suicide in Worcester County through outreach and educational programs. The organization was named after Jesse R. Klump, a Snow Hill High School senior who tragically passed away by suicide in early 2009.

“In the years since 2009, we have found ourselves addressing suicide across all demographics,” the nonprofit’s website reads. “Since some of our citizens find themselves in occupations or situations that exacerbate their suicide risk (first responders and farm families, for example), we create targeted programs to reach those folks.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The proposed “Community River of Kindness” for Berlin’s Stephen Decatur Park could resemble this project, which was included in the meeting packet last week.

Additionally, in 2011, to address the grief of those impacted by suicide, Kim Klump, Jesse’s mother and president of the organization, as well as a founding board member, created a monthly post-suicide griever’s support group.

The foundation’s website explains that “hundreds of people have met others struggling with the same in the meetings, and have found ways to peace with their loss.”

This kind of work was recently ex- See RIVER Page 4



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# Ghost Museum plans high-spirited exhibits

Continued from Page 1

According to Wells, the museum's owners and operators have chosen to remain anonymous at this time. She added when the creator came to her with the idea, she "loved it," adding the attraction has been in the works for about a year.

The museum will be suitable for all ages. A Facebook post by the Town of Berlin Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District announcing the gallery said there would be "no jump scares."

The facility will feature "a collection showcasing artifacts, stories, and historical accounts of ghost sightings and paranormal phenomena," the social media post continues. The cost of entrance has yet to be determined. Wells noted the establishment will be open during the weekly Berlin Farm-

ers Market each Sunday from May through October.

Municipal officials are confident the exhibit will enhance the town's allure.

"It brings a unique blend of history, mystery, and intrigue to downtown Berlin for those eager to experience the town's haunted charm," Wells said.

Berlin's mystical background has been a source of interest for some time. Chesapeake Ghost Tours, a paranormal business owned by Mindie Burgoyne, features the town as one of its Maryland Eastern Shore haunted attractions that tourists and residents can attend via a guided tour with storytellers. Additional offerings by the company include an Ocean City Ghost Walk, a St. Michaels Ghost Walk, a Cambridge Ghost Walk, a

Salisbury Ghost Walk, a Snow Hill Ghost Walk, a Pocomoke Ghost Walk, and a Denton Ghost Walk.

The Chesapeake Ghost Tours website notes that Berlin's tour "has the strangest energy out of all our Eastern Shore ghost walks."

The excursion features legends like the "healing tree," walking dead and an "elemental."

The healing tree is located on the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum's property. The story goes the plant radiates heat, healing energy, and vibration. The elemental, or a non-human spirit, is also discussed on the tour, as there have been accounts of apparition sightings at the Adkins Company on Harrison Avenue.

The company's website notes the walk includes stories of a child who

haunts the iconic Atlantic Hotel, the Lady in White standing by the Calvin B. Taylor Bank on Main and Commerce streets, other "long dead folks" strolling the town roads, and the sad tale of the Carey family that lost four children during the Civil War.

The tour is \$25 for adults 13 and over and \$20 for children ages eight to 12. Those under eight can attend for free. The frightening exploration of downtown Berlin's paranormal background lasts around an hour and 45 minutes. The excursions can be booked on <https://chesapeakeghosts.com/>.

The Pitts Street museum will now operate in conjunction with Chesapeake Ghost Tours' unearthly services.

Visitors and residents can access the new facility sometime this June.

## River of Kindness in Berlin park

Continued from Page 3

panded. In 2024, the group created a Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team. The alliance is made up of trained volunteers, many of whom are survivors of suicide loss themselves, who reach out to the newly bereaved with kindness, com-

passion, and resources to manage their grief.

The "Community River of Kindness" coming soon to Berlin is another step in the foundation's mission to increase suicide awareness and do its part to decrease the risk of tragedy in Worcester County.



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# CRICKET Center opts for clearer branding

Continued from Page 1

County Sheriff's Office and the Life Crisis Center to provide this type of community outreach. Criminal justice interns from Worcester Technical High School were selected to be a part of the program, and they, through research and in collaboration with mentors, create lectures that are given to middle and high school students throughout the area.

The demonstrations highlight the use of artificial intelligence, sextortion and grooming as it relates to human trafficking. Messages are provided on how to identify abuse and recognize trafficking in the community and how to go about reporting these situations. Along with the students, parents and guardians are encouraged to attend.

Cooper noted that advances in AI have been used as tactics to exploit and prey on vulnerable populations.

"What we're seeing is a lot of victims that don't even know they're victims because their pictures are on the internet, and they don't know how they got there," Cooper said. "Some of it is self-generated [AI], but a lot of it is synthetic AI. There's a lot of dangerous stuff on the internet these days."

The executive director added that the increased access to technology

and the internet has given predators new channels to victimize others, particularly children.

"Kids as young as eight have cell phones now," she said. "Being connected just to Wi-Fi is a dangerous place. Predators know exactly how to target these kids, whether it's through apps or games that they're playing that we as parents may think are innocent, but that's exactly how they're being targeted."

In addition to the new name, the center is changing its logo. Cooper said that officials have chosen blue, which was "very intentional," as it represents child abuse awareness. Waves and a surfboard have also been incorporated to capture the uniqueness of Worcester County's coastal aesthetic.

"We wanted to make it child friendly, capture the blue, make it refined and refreshed and also tie it back to the area we serve," Cooper said.

Officials hope the symbol, website, and name rebrand will encourage even greater community participation. The organization's staff wants Worcester County residents to know that they are here to help and can provide mental health and advocacy services to child victims and their families if necessary.

"With this re-brand comes an opportunity for renewed and greater awareness in our community, along with an opportunity to promote and share our work with those who may not fully be aware of all the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) has to offer," said Christina Fohner, president of the group's board of directors.

In addition to the logo and name change, the organization brought on a facility dog late last year to comfort its visitors. The two-year-old black Labrador retriever, Belle, was adopted from Hero Dogs and is authorized to sit with children during forensic interviews, medical exams, and therapy services and join the kids in court if they must testify or sit near their abuser.

"Belle's job is to provide comfort," Cooper said. "She has a couple of commands that she follows. She can rest her head on the child's lap, just to help reduce any anxiety that they're feeling and then any sort of retraumatization that they feel when they have to talk about the events that happened to them."

The center has three handlers for Belle. Cooper said this guarantees that should someone be gone for any reason, there is always backup to ensure the children can access the dog.

"[The kids] come here on their first

day for their forensic interviewer, meet Belle, and then they're going to ask about her down the road," the executive director said. "They want her there for therapy and their court day. They build a relationship with her, which is really nice to see. So, with three handlers, we can accommodate the child's schedule."

While Belle has already been around the kids and has sat with them during forensic interviews, she is working on finalizing her service training, particularly for courtroom presence.

The CAC continues to expand its services. According to Cooper, a new center in Pocomoke was opened last April. The executive director maintained that this move has allowed staff to provide their offerings, like therapy and mental health support, to children and families in the southern end of Worcester County. The primary and previously only facility is in Berlin. While the northern county residents could easily access the CAC, families a little further away had trouble utilizing the center's services before the adjustment.

Cooper said that before the new facility was created, the center noticed low participation from southern Worcester County residents. The transportation burden was the main



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# CAC institutes broader scope

barrier. Now, the advocacy team can help a broader scope of children directly out of the Pocomoke Office.

“Just by having a presence in Pocomoke, people use us as a resource,” Cooper said. “Whether it’s to report abuse, call us and ask questions about maybe abuse that they think they see in the community.”

Cooper added that the center’s ability to meet these individuals where they are is vital to enhancing its services and aligning with its mission of being an essential resource in Worcester County.

“Being able to actually deliver the service to them in their own community is the biggest impact we’ve had because before if you were living in Pocomoke, you’d have to drive 30 miles north to get a forensic interview or to participate in therapy or get a medical evaluation or meet with members of our team for welfare checks or advocacy appointments,” Cooper said. “Now, our team can come to them in their own community so they do not have to disrupt children’s lives and take them out of school for appointments. It’s a lot more convenient for them.”

Community representatives are excited about the CAC’s fresh branding. State’s Attorney Kris Heiser, whose office collaborates with the child advocacy group, said the new

logo and name were created with “input from the entire CAC team, including the prosecutors, social workers, detectives, family advocates, and therapists who all work on these difficult child abuse and neglect cases every day.”

“I also have to thank [Cooper] for her tireless work in securing equipment and services for law enforcement and prosecutors to help us build the strongest cases possible and set the entire team up for success in our mission,” Heiser said.

The CAC group is looking ahead and is excited to strengthen its community presence. The advocacy group is hosting its 12th annual Walk for Kids on the Ocean City Boardwalk on Saturday, April 26. Participants are encouraged to gather a team, and businesses may donate gifts to be used as raffle or auction prizes.

More information about the center can be found on its official website at [worcestercac.org](http://worcestercac.org).

“There truly is so much good being done at the CAC,” Heiser said. “There is always more to do, especially in these challenging and trauma-filled cases, but we are proud that all of our CAC partners are more dedicated than ever to the mission. We are grateful to have such dedicated people working to keep Worcester County kids safe.”



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# Greenways master plan gets green light from Worcester

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) A grant-funded network of bicycle and walking trails that could eventually connect all of Worcester County has garnered preliminary approval from county officials.

The Worcester County Board of Commissioners at its Feb. 18 meeting unanimously approved a Greenway Trails Master Plan. Greenways proposed include shared on-road bike lanes, paved off-road walking and biking paths, unpaved trails in natural landscapes, side path trails adjacent to roadways, and even a “rail with trail” option where a pathway runs parallel to an existing railway line.

Different greenway ideas were sorted categorically: short-term and quick build (within 5 years), medium-term (within 10 years) and long-term (more than 10 years) improvements. The plan also suggests focusing on land acquisition for recreational uses in West Ocean City, Berlin, and Pocomoke City, areas where the fewest residents live within five miles of a walking trail.

Bob Mitchell, head of the county’s environmental programs department, called the proposal a “guidance document” for decision making and future realization of interconnected greenways, trails, and bike paths that connect residents to destinations like parks and natural areas.

“This is not a plan to go and take and mow down a pathway to a destination. This is more of an A-to-B in

showing our existing trailways and what we plan to do,” Mitchell told the commissioners.

Mitchell said the project team spent months hosting public meetings, meeting with local groups, and collecting in-person and online feedback from hundreds of people.

Most respondents (87%) expressed support for more greenway trails in the county, with a preference for separated shared-use trails, which are standalone share-use trails that don’t share space with a road or highway. Commenters also asked for wayfinding signage, lighting, rest areas, bicycle parking, and boat launches to be taken into consideration.

One long-term suggestion from commenters was to create greenways linking West Ocean City to Pocomoke City through Berlin and Snow Hill. Other feedback included a desire for longer connected paths that offer safe and convenient access to destinations without gaps or barriers.

One public comment from Lisa Challenger, executive director of the Beach to Bay Heritage Area, noted that adding a bicycle path along Route 589 for seasonal Ocean City workers should be a high priority for safety’s sake.

“This is a highly traveled road and not geared to sharing the road with bicycle traffic. The fact that most housing costs price seasonal workforce out of the market in Ocean City, leaving them to live in parts west of Ocean City, makes this a high priority due to safety  
See COUNTY Page 10

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US 113 side path from Snow Hill to Pocomoke City

MD 90 side path across bridge to Coastal Highway\*

Berlin Bikeway Trail from Main Street to Bay Club Trails

MD 376 side path, Berlin to Assateague

Bay Street pedestrian bridge over US 113\*

MD 611 side path from US 50 to Assateague Island\*

Pocomoke Beltway side path to Pocomoke Elementary

Berlin to Ocean City bikeway along Grey's Corner Road

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# TidalHealth commits to Pines sponsorship

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) Officials announced last week TidalHealth has signed on as the Ocean Pines Association's signature sponsor.

The company will collaborate with the community to host engaging events as they continue to provide quality healthcare.

A press release issued by the community on Feb. 26 named TidalHealth, a regional healthcare provider, as the primary partner. The relationship will include collaborative efforts between OPA and TidalHealth, including bringing the healthcare group on as the principal backer for events like the Fourth of July Fireworks and Carnival, the Concert in the Park series, and the Yacht Club Pool's Family Fun Nights.

"We are beyond grateful to have TidalHealth as our partner for these events," Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said in the notice announcing the collaboration. "Thousands of local families and children look forward to our summer activities each year, and this sponsorship ensures we can continue providing top-notch entertainment, community engagement, and a safe and fun environment for all."

In line with the new partnership, TidalHealth was also chosen as the

platinum sponsor for the second annual Ocean Pines Season Kickoff, an expo led by OPA Communications Committee chair Linda Yurche and the leader of the Aquatics Advisory Committee, Gary Miller. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Yurche said Miller spearheaded TidalHealth's involvement in the expo. "[TidalHealth] had said they were interested, and then [Miller] is such an

ace at rounding up sponsors," the Communications Committee leader noted last month of the partnership decision. "He is a go-out-and-talk-to-everybody guy. He just kept in touch with people and worked with TidalHealth to make this happen, so we're excited."

The healthcare group will now continue working with Ocean Pines as not only the season kickoff's primary supporter but also the community's main sponsor.

Per the agreement, TidalHealth's branding will be "prominently displayed" on promotional materials such as event banners, digital and print advertising, and the cover of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide.

"The sponsorship also includes on-site engagement opportunities and live recognition at events, reinforcing TidalHealth's presence as a dedicated community partner," the press release

See SIGNATURE Page 13

# County approves greenways plan

Continued from Page 8  
and high usage," she wrote.

Mitchell said the project's as-yet-unknown price tag would be in the millions, and it would be almost completely grant-funded; a small percentage of the future cost would come from county funds.

Public Works Director Dallas Baker told the commissioners that having their approval and support would help to secure grant funding.

"A lot of these grants, you become a lot more competitive if you have these kinds of projects listed in an approved greenways plan," Baker said. "They

want to know that the projects we're proceeding have the political leadership buy-in. We're competing with all the other counties in the state for some of this money, and it just makes us that much more competitive."

District 3 Commissioner Eric Fiori said his West Ocean City constituents would benefit from greenways where pedestrians and cyclists could safely steer clear of vehicular traffic.

"I just think this is something that's going to cost the county very little over the long range, and it's all going to be a huge benefit for our residents," he said. "Even our tourism side of things,

as our bike events become more numerous, this will allow us not to shut down major highways like 611" during bicycle events.

Worcester has never undertaken such a comprehensive plan for greenways, bikes, or pedestrians, the proposal notes. However, some local municipalities already have plans for their own trails, the proposal notes.

The 2013 Walkable Bikeable Berlin plan recommends three interconnected trail networks around the town. Snow Hill's 2022 Bikeway Feasibility Study recommends the town become a regional destination for bike trails.

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# Berlin A&E District request gets commissioners support

## Redesignation application with Maryland considered important for historic town

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) The Town of Berlin's Arts and Entertainment District redesignation application to the Department of Commerce of the State of Maryland was recently endorsed by the Berlin Town Council and the Worcester County Commissioners.

On Feb. 24, the Town of Berlin's Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells went before the Mayor and Council to seek approval to redesignate the town's arts and entertainment district.

The governing body passed the request unanimously, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent. On March 4, the resolution was presented to the Worcester County Commissioners, which was once again supported.

According to Wells, an arts and entertainment designation allows Berlin to apply for certain grant funding to "promote and foster the arts downtown." Over the past five years, Berlin has received around \$17,000 annually in aid for programs like children's activities, live music, and visual arts.

Within the last two years, some of that money has paid for the ghost mural restoration project on Pitts Street Treasurers and the J.E. Parker building on Main Street that saw the renovation of advertisements from Berlin's earlier days. The effort, aimed at remaining connected to and paying homage to the town's past, was funded by an \$8,000 grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

The arts and entertainment classification also carries tax incentives. These include an income tax subtraction modification for qualifying residing artists, a property tax credit, and an exemption from the Admissions and Amusement Tax.

"The designation allows us to invite artists to come here," Wells said. "When they sell their art, they don't have to pay income tax on it. It's enticing for artists to come and open their business here or even work here."

The district's geographical boundaries that were a part of approval consideration are "continuous," Wells said. The designation goes over Route 113 and includes Flower Street and the site of the planned community center, which will be constructed on the area formerly home to the Flower Street School.

The inclusion of the community center spot will allow the town to fund arts projects at the new facility,

like installations and other programming, to strengthen Berlin's commitment to artistic endeavors that engage municipality residents.

"It's really important that we maintain our boundaries for our redesignation, specifically for the community center," Wells said.

While the town hopes to retain the current boundaries, Wells noted that she learned through conversations with representatives from the Maryland State Arts Council that Berlin's district is generously sized.

"Our arts and entertainment district is 350 acres, and it should only be 100 acres," she said.

If realignment were to take place, the town would have to remove 250 acres of the district, something Wells said they did not want to do, as it would not be in the best interest of Berlin. The director added that she intends to explain why the area must maintain the entire 350 acres in their redesignation application.

"If we had to scale it back, it would not be able to include the downtown district and the community center location," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "We would lose one of them."

Wells assured that decreasing the district's limits is unlikely. She said that she has talked with staff from the MSAC who concur that the bounds should be kept as is.

Berlin was originally classified as an arts and entertainment district in 2005. The town is one of two municipalities on Maryland's coast to carry this designation, the other being Snow Hill. The program allows neighborhoods to develop and foster community involvement, attract tourists, and improve the quality of life for residents through artistic prioritization.



## Marlene Ott

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Tariffs hit newsprint, we won't pass it on

The 25 percent tariffs President Trump imposed yesterday on imported goods from Canada and Mexico have hit home. Next week, our newspapers, *Bayside Gazette* and *OC Today-Dispatch*, will begin to feel the pinch of the tariff on the Canadian newsprint our printer uses for all our products.

In addition to our main publications, this will include our public notices newspaper, *Digest*, the monthly *Real Estate* section we publish through our association with the Coastal Association of Realtors, and, if the tariffs extend into spring, the *Discover Downtown* section we produce in concert with the Ocean City Development Corporation.

Last year, this resulted in a combined annual press run of about 1.7 million papers and somewhere around 62 million individual pages of newsprint rolling off the press. Since paper constitutes 50-70% of the total cost of printing, a price increase is coming our way in seven days regardless of how this tariff is handled by the Canadian producer and our printer.

We were alerted to that Tuesday by our printing company in Dover, Delaware. It cannot yet say how much of an increase we'll see, because the producer has not told its buyers how much of the tariff it is willing to absorb.

For our part, it is our intent to absorb all of it for as long as we can to help our advertisers. Many of them could be facing their own tariff-related price increases this year — food, paper goods, building materials — and we would rather be part of the solution than a part of the problem.

That's the beauty of being an independent and "stubbornly local" newspaper company. We can react to the needs of the community while we look for a way to make this work without doing irreparable damage to our own financial circumstances.

Of course, given the political volatility of the situation right now, these tariffs could be gone before this paper even reaches the newsstands. We sincerely hope that happens, but if it doesn't, we want our customers and supporters to know how we will handle it.

## Local participating in American Idol

### Performer part of network show's 23rd season this month

(March 6, 2025) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market has long been a launching pad for local talent, but few stories are as inspiring as that of singer-songwriter Cal Toner.

A familiar face to market-goers, Toner — who performs under the name Callum — is set to appear on season 23 of American Idol when it returns to ABC and Hulu on March 9.

Toner first performed at the Ocean Pines market in the summer of 2021 and continued to take the Market Stage over the years, honing her craft in front of an enthusiastic local audience. Now, she's taking her talents to a national platform, with the support of the community behind her.

"We have had a front seat to watching Cal grow into the

rising performer she is today," Farmers & Artisans Market Manager David Bean said. "Our market has a lot of pride and support for her as she embarks on this extraordinary journey."

Toner expressed her gratitude for the Ocean Pines community, crediting the market as one of her first performance venues.

"My first gigs were at the Market Stage. Thank you all for giving me a chance," she said.

In addition to her upcoming television debut, Toner recently released a new EP, "The Present Past," on Feb. 28. The EP is available on major streaming platforms, including Apple Music and Spotify.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market continues to be a hub for fresh produce, handcrafted goods, and live entertainment, showcasing a variety of local and regional talent.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Cal Toner, a frequenter entertainer at the Ocean Pines farmers market days, is pictured during her American Idol appearance.**

The market operates year-round at White Horse Park, located at 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Off-season hours are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon through March 29, with in-season hours shifting to 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning in April.

For more information about the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, visit [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market).

## Junior Golf League returns for spring

### Matt Ruggiere will host league sessions from March to July

(March 6, 2025) Young golfers looking to develop their skills in a fun and competitive environment will have the perfect opportunity through the Ocean Pines Junior Golf League.

Hosted by Matt Ruggiere and the Matt Ruggiere Golf Academy at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, the league offers a team-based format designed to enhance players' abilities while fostering a love for the game.

The league will follow a two-person scramble format, with tee yardages adjusted based on age and on-course experience. Players can register independently and be placed on a team if needed.

Parents are encouraged to caddie for newer golfers, and

push carts are permitted. Ride-along carts will not be allowed for golfers or spectators.

Participants will compete for weekly and season-long prizes, with winners announced at the following session. To ensure smooth play, maximum stroke and time limits will be enforced for each hole.

Ruggiere emphasized the importance of instruction in developing young golfers, tailoring his lessons to each player's skill level.

"Helping young golfers improve their game while developing a genuine passion for golf is what this league is all about," Ruggiere said. "Every player learns differently, and my goal is to work with each junior golfer to refine their skills and build confidence, all while having fun on our beautiful course in Ocean Pines."

The league will be held on Fridays, with sessions scheduled for 5-7 p.m. in March and April, and 6-8 p.m. from May through July. The cost is \$25 per player per session.

Spring Session Schedule (5-7 p.m.)

- March 14
- March 21
- March 28
- April 4

Summer Session Schedule (6-8 p.m.)

- May 2
- May 9
- May 16
- May 23
- May 30
- June 6
- June 13
- June 27
- July 11

Registration is available online at [www.ruggieregolf.com](http://www.ruggieregolf.com) under the "Juniors On-Course" tab.

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# Additional OP history book copies printed

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(March 6, 2025) For a group of Ocean Pines Association homeowners, preserving the neighborhood's past remains a priority as they reprint the book, "History of Ocean Pines, Maryland."

Late homeowner Bud Rogner originally wrote the document covering OPA details from 1968 to 1998. Before the recent efforts to increase the supply, only a few copies remained, as Rogner did not initiate a reissue.

Thanks to efforts spearheaded by a neighborhood historical task force, OPA residents will now have another option to pick up the binding that recounts the past of the community, available for \$20 each at the front desk of the Ocean Pines Administration Building.

A press release distributed earlier this week by OPA Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis reported the proceeds will go towards "future historical projects" and that "additional copies will be donated to the local library to ensure public access to this vital record."

Marlene Ott, a real estate agent and

longtime Ocean Pines resident, led the reprint initiative. OPA Board of Directors member Elaine Brady encouraged it as part of a pitch to create a new Historical Task Force last summer.

"What we do today will be Ocean Pines history in the future," she noted at the time.

The initial inspiration to reprint the book came following last year's Ocean Pines Season Kickoff in April, where residents had the opportunity to explore, connect with, and learn more about community amenities, clubs, businesses, and organizations.

Ott was seated at the OPA Communications Committee table. The press release said that she showcased binders with original sales data from the late 1960s that detailed lot sales and early buyers.

Thus, attendees inquired where they could purchase a history book or find additional facts about the community's founding.

"That's when we realized we needed to make this information more accessible," Ott said.

"...There's a lot of pride in Ocean Pines. People here care about their neighbors and about this."

The need to spur initiatives to retain history was born, like the book reprinting project.

"Different people have different pieces of the history, and we need to gather it while we can," Brady said in the community press release. "Even though we're not an incorporated town, we're the largest community in the area, and we need to take steps to protect our heritage."

To get the reprint off the ground, permission was first secured from the Rogner family. The original author never copyrighted the book, allowing project leaders to avoid any legal issues.

"One relative told me he would have been so proud to see this happening," Ott noted. "[The family member] said, 'He put so much work into that book, and he would be thrilled to know people still care about it.'"

Davis said Copy Central in Ocean Pines printed 100 copies of the book.

With Rogner's creation once again available, the historical preservation group looks to kickstart additional projects to continue their mission of

remembering the past and founding of Ocean Pines. One such initiative Ott, Brady, and others are hopeful about is a coffee table book featuring rare photographs and documents. These artifacts would take viewers through OPA's transformation from its earliest days of dirt roads to now. Currently, the neighborhood is the largest year-round residential community in Worcester County.

"Original images from the 1970s and even earlier will be included, showcasing the landscape before and after development," this week's announcement reads.

Ott added that she had recently looked through old photographs and found one from when the community's first homes were built.

"It was nothing but sand and trees back then," she said. "It's incredible to see how far we've come."

Also aligned with the mission of knowledge retention, the group intends to establish historical displays around Whitehorse Park, possibly with old

See ROGNER Page 15

## Signature sponsor announced

reads.

The healthcare group's affiliation with OPA extends to the neighborhood's biweekly podcast, PinesCast. This show highlights the neighborhood amenities and services and the folks with roots and attachment to the community.

"TidalHealth's ongoing support of PinesCast is invaluable," Ocean Pines Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis said. "Their partnership ensures we can keep sharing important stories about local history and the people who make our community thrive while also emphasizing the essential nature of accessible, quality healthcare."

TidalHealth Director of Strategic Communications Roger A. Follebout,

Jr., added the regional healthcare company is excited to take on the sponsorship and strengthen community ties as they work to offer medical services to the area.

"We are proud to partner with Ocean Pines as the signature sponsor for this year's summer events," he said in the Feb. 26 release. "At TidalHealth, we believe in the power of community engagement and support, and this sponsorship provides us with the opportunity to directly connect with the individuals and families who make the Pines so special. We look forward to seeing everyone out there enjoying the events and continuing to promote health and wellness with us in Worcester County."

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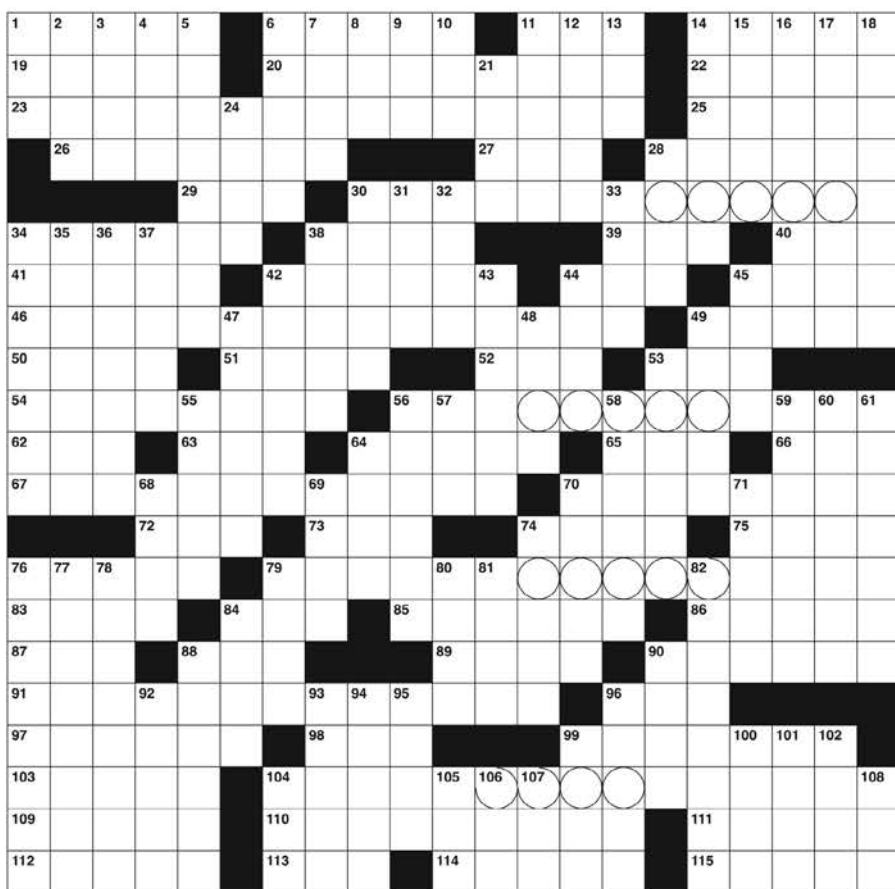
# Puzzles

## IN THE REARVIEW

BY DANIEL GRINBERG AND RAFAEL MUSA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Daniel Grinberg, of Philadelphia, researches user experience for an energy company. Rafael Musa, of San Francisco, is a software engineer at Airbnb. They met last year at a crossword tournament and hit it off. This is Daniel's seventh crossword for The Times and Rafael's 16th. Most of Rafael's puzzles here have been collaborations. He says co-constructing "is a great way to get to know someone." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dazzling display
  - 6 Tech giant based in Cupertino, Calif.
  - 11 Plant with bugs?
  - 14 Formation of rugby players
  - 19 Queendom in the Bible
  - 20 Hint at L.G.B.T.Q.+ story lines to generate buzz
  - 22 Give an address
  - 23 What a tight deadline might require ... or what's found in 30-Across?
  - 25 Viennese "please"
  - 26 Attacked
  - 27 Do perfectly
  - 28 Hound or dog
  - 29 What's-\_\_\_\_-name
  - 30 Question when leaving a grocery store, perhaps
  - 34 Inaugural
  - 38 Unwanted event at a speakeasy
  - 39 Spot for a pin
  - 40 Lyricist Gershwin
  - 41 Halls that may have glass ceilings
  - 42 Improvise
  - 44 "Everything \_\_\_\_\_ Changed" (Taylor Swift song)
  - 45 Scheme
  - 46 Tolerate misbehavior ... or what's found in 56-Across?
  - 49 Collectors of signatures?
- 50** \_\_\_\_ of Cleves, wife of Henry VIII
- 51** Newspaper section
- 52** Tuna variety
- 53** Word with lock or pocket
- 54** Second printings, e.g.
- 56** Source of some public funding
- 62** Boiling state
- 63** Author of the 1964 artist's book "Grapefruit"
- 64** Legal tender
- 65** When doubled, a dance
- 66** Home of the Sugarloaf Cable Car, informally
- 67** Totally the wrong way ... or what's found in 79-Across?
- 70** "Really! Check for yourself!"
- 72** Radar gun inits.
- 73** Philosophy
- 74** It may be on the chopping block
- 75** "Uh-huh, whatever you say!"
- 76** Distorts
- 79** "It'd be my pleasure"
- 83** Mates
- 84** 1/96 of a pint: Abbr.
- 85** It comes with a hefty bill
- 86** Happen over and over
- 87** Beehive State athlete
- 88** Coalesce
- 89** 11, literally
- 90** Occasions for self-indulgence
- 91** Completely change one's position ... or what's found in 104-Across?
- 96** Intimidate
- 97** Wild goats of the Alps
- 98** Delta hub: Abbr.
- 99** Reality competition show with quick-fire challenges
- 103** Smidgen
- 104** Gift-wrapping supplies
- 109** Formal "you," in Uruguay
- 110** Americans who live in their own time zone
- 111** Many a piece of writing by Joan Didion
- 112** In a bashful manner
- 113** Sweetie
- 114** Part of a wheel
- 115** Detaches from a source of dependence
- DOWN**
- 1 Lawyer's title: Abbr.
  - 2 Fish bait
  - 3 Leader of filmdom's Rebel Alliance
  - 4 Options on some tests
  - 5 Receive severe criticism
  - 6 Blue-green shades
  - 7 Sound of a smooth-running engine
  - 8 Pig's digs
  - 9 Locale where clovers bloom
  - 10 Forget to finish writing a clue, mayb
  - 11 Secret \_\_\_\_
  - 12 Felt longing (for)
  - 13 Since Jan. 1
  - 14 "C'est la vie"
  - 15 Potato chip, to a Brit
  - 16 Coiffure parts that are sometimes braided
  - 17 Complete nonsense
  - 18 Small mongooses
  - 21 Creature that sounds like a snooze
  - 24 Scarlett Johansson, Rami Malek or Vin Diesel (did you know?)
  - 28 PalmPilots, e.g., for short
  - 30 Wish list items
  - 31 Like some heels and hopes
  - 32 Marriage equality activist Windsor, familiarly
  - 33 "Perhaps. That's something that interests me"
  - 34 Disease that was the subject of the second Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1902)
  - 35 Yom Kippur observers, e.g.
  - 36 Amusingly incongruous outcomes
  - 37 Flood preventers
  - 38 Hoots
  - 42 "Don't worry about us"
  - 43 Lines of work
  - 44 What locks are made of
  - 45 Catherine \_\_\_\_, wife of Henry VIII
  - 47 Horse's behind
  - 48 Protein powder ingredient
  - 49 Aetna alternative
  - 53 "Unfortunately, that's incorrect"
  - 55 Many long-running TV shows
  - 56 Word processing selection
  - 57 Close
  - 58 Director's directive
  - 59 Most common coffee bean variety
  - 60 Love interest in a Hallmark movie, maybe
  - 61 Walks unsteadily
  - 64 "Monster \_\_\_\_" (1962 No. 1 song)
  - 68 i5 and X5
  - 69 Fraidy-cat
  - 70 Souppons
  - 71 Organized in a cabinet, say
  - 74 School before l'université
  - 76 Not to be relied upon
  - 77 Singer whose 1985 song "Running Up That Hill" became a Top 10 hit in 2022 after being featured on "Stranger Things"
  - 78 110, facetiously
  - 79 Barbuda or Barbados
  - 80 Shoddy
  - 81 Most dad jokes
  - 82 Nickname for Milwaukee's baseball team
  - 84 Ocean in "Ocean's Eleven"
  - 88 Like King Midas, notably
  - 90 Have a pity party alternative
  - 93 Supply at the Hershey Company
  - 94 City near Disney World, informally
  - 95 \_\_\_\_ Beauty
  - 96 Small wood
  - 99 Fail ignominiously, as at the box office
  - 100 Rip off
  - 101 "Lohengrin" soprano
  - 102 Custardy treat
  - 104 "Quiet!"
  - 105 Gender identity prefix
  - 106 With it
  - 107 Confucian concept
  - 108 Part of iOS: Abbr.



- 59 Most common coffee bean variety
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### HARD - 96

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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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



# Rogner history book reprinted

Continued from Page 13  
parkway bulletin boards repurposed as kiosks to showcase information.

The release said the team hopes to create a “dedicated historical society or room where residents and visitors can explore the community’s past in depth “ down the road.

“It’s about more than just preserving old photos and documents,” Brady noted. “We want to make this history accessible and engaging for future generations. We’d love to have a space where people can come in and see old maps, listen to oral histories, and really connect with the past.”

According to Davis, historical Task Force members include Ott, Brian Reynolds, John Talbott, Olga Grisaitis, Jenny Cropper-Rines, Jacklyn Metzger, Alfreda Sample, Helen Johnson, and Carolyn Neal. Brady acts as the Board representative chair.

The group’s formation was first discussed at an OPA Board of Directors meeting last summer. Brady said at the time that the idea was conceived following an inquiry from neighborhood forum moderator and Ocean Pines resident Joe Reynolds regarding signage at the Community Center’s East Room.

According to Reynolds, the East Room was named after Phyllis East, a longtime executive secretary to the general manager and board of directors before her passing in 2012. However, many residents are unaware of

this designation as the room does not contain information about the recognition. The oversight was modified last June. A plaque has now been added acknowledging East’s contributions to Ocean Pines.

“His request sparked the need to form the [historical] group, as much of the inherent knowledge of the early days of OP will be forgotten,” Brady said during last year’s meeting.

The “History of Ocean Pines, Maryland” reprint is the latest in the team’s efforts to prioritize preserving, collecting, and remembering the community’s earliest years.



**Historical Task Force member Marlene Ott holds a copy of the History of Ocean Pines book.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## Obituary

**GERRIE ANNE MUMFORD**  
Berlin

Gerrie Anne Mumford, age 79, of Berlin, passed away at Tidal Health Hospital on Feb. 15, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Cambridge, she was the daughter of the late Jerry Del Guereio and Eulalia (Carey) Del Guereio. She was the wife of Charles Edward Mumford III “Ned”.

In addition to her husband, Gerrie is survived by her three sons, Carey, Jason and wife Brooke and, Aaron and wife Heather; and four grand-

children, Wyatt, Charlie, Taylor and Jackson. Gerrie also leaves behind

her three sisters, Trudy Dennis, Jo Sue Livesay and husband Don and, Linda Palmer and husband Alan, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Gerrie was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was an avid gardener and artist. Gerrie served as the president of the Berlin Little

League for several years as well as chairman for the Christmas Bazaar for Worcester County School from 1978 to 1979.

She worked as a hair stylist for many years. Working at Bessie’s Beauty Shop, Nellie’s Beauty Shop and, her own business Gerrie’s Hair Garage for over 40 years.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 208 S. Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, Md. 21842.



Gerrie Mumford

## Diakonia planning BINGO benefit at casino March 13

(March 6, 2025) Diakonia, a local homeless solutions provider, will be raising funds through BINGO and other games on Thursday, March 13 at the Casino at Ocean Downs in Berlin.

All proceeds go to benefit Diakonia’s programs to help those who are homeless through outreach, emergency shelter, eviction prevention, and placing them in their own affordable rental unit. Diakonia also specifically targets veterans in ensuring that no one who served our country goes homeless on the Lower Eastern Shore.

BINGO tickets are \$40 (\$45 at the door) and can be purchased at Diakonia’s Thrift Store (12507 Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City) or online at [app.aplos.com/aws/events/a\\_night\\_on\\_the\\_town](http://app.aplos.com/aws/events/a_night_on_the_town)

Doors open at 5 p.m., with games starting at 6 p.m. There will be two intermissions, in which other games will be available to play with special prizes.

Special gifts will be for up grabs including overnight packages in Ocean City, Rehoboth Beach and even the Poconos. Restaurant and store gift cards will also be available to win. In addition, there will be a silent ticket auction, 50/50s, and more.

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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## MAYOR VISITS SCHOOL

On Friday, Feb. 7, Kim Jankowski and Hannah Purnell's fourth-grade classes had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Zack Tyndall of the Town of Berlin, Maryland, to discuss the annual Maryland Municipal League's "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." essay contest. This year's theme, "Building Community for a New Generation," encourages students to write an essay that envisions how they would enhance their town for the future and foster a sense of belonging within the community. During the meeting, Tyndall shared insights about his responsibilities as the mayor, the various departments that contribute to the governance of Berlin, and his aspirations for future initiatives aimed at improving the town. Above, teachers stand with their students and Tyndall and Executive Assistant to the Mayor Sara Gorfinkel, second from right, after the mayor's visit to discuss this year's "If I Were Mayor, I would..." essay contest theme.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## FEATURED SPEAKER

Troy Foxwell, First Vice President of the Delaware Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), recently spoke to members of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) about the SAR's plans for celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Its activities will not only educate the public, but recognize, honor, and celebrate the events and heroes of the period surrounding the American Revolution. Accompanying Foxwell was his wife Carolyn Foxwell, Vice Regent of Delaware DAR, who provided additional information on some DAR initiatives with respect to America 250 celebrations. Regent Sharon Moak, left, is pictured also.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## BULL ON THE BEACH DONATION

The Bull on the Beach recently presented a check for \$25,000 to the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation. The donation was made as part of the Bull on the Beach's sponsorship of the foundation's annual Penguin Swim event, in which they have been the Legacy Sponsor for 31 consecutive years. To date, Bull on the Beach and their fundraising initiatives have raised over \$450,000 for Atlantic General Hospital. Pictured, front from left, are Steven Weisenberg, Bull on the Beach; Toni Keiser, AGH vice president of public relations; Laura Powell, AGH Foundation community relations officer; Michele Knopp, Bull on the Beach; and Thomas Knopp, Bull on the Beach; and, back, Matthew Saloney, Bull on the Beach; Michael Cyle, AGH Foundation treasurer; Jessica Jersey, AGH Foundation donor relations officer; and Hillary Mozeik, AGH Foundation assistant.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Worcester Preparatory School's (WPS) Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 essay contest winners were recently recognized. This year's theme for the Elks National Great Americanism essay contest was "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?" Each student submitted an essay consisting of at least 300 words. WPS student Freddy Hertrich for achieving 1st place, Abigail Kratzner for securing 2nd place, and Grant Messner for receiving 3rd place in the 5th Grade division. In the 6th Grade division, Maddie Bobenko won 2nd place. In the 7th Grade division, Ronit Poddar also earned 2nd place. In the 8th Grade division, Sophia Nguyen achieved 1st place, and Elle Wilsey received 3rd place. The students are pictured with Head of Lower School Dr. Sara Timmons, Gretchen and Allen Meyer of Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 and Head of Middle School Jake Perry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## PAST PRESIDENT HONORED

The Ocean City Lions Club recently honored Past President Greg Cathell, left, for his contributions to the Ocean City Lions Club during his term as president. Presenting the award is current OC Lions President Scott Stark.



# Calendar

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

## Thurs., March 6

### OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Film showings and events held throughout the area. This annual event attracts international, national and regional artists working in film. Tickets: <https://ocmfilmfestival.com/>. 410-524-9433

### FREE CPAP MASK FITTING

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

### STORY TIME: DR. SEUSS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Featuring songs, dancing and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30

a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Looking for a quiet place to meet new friends and play some chess? Bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### POCOMOKE BOOK CLUB: 'THE PECAN MAN' BY CASSIE DANDRIDGE SELLECK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Join in for a lively discussion each month. Stop by the Pocomoke Branch to pick up a copy in advance. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.worcesterhealth.org).

## Fri., March 7

### OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Film showings and events held throughout the area. This annual event attracts international, national and regional artists working in film. Tickets: <https://ocmfilmfestival.com/>. 410-524-9433

### OC MAHJONG CLUB

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

### NECROMUNDA

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Come play a selected role-playing game for adults only after hours. Registration required: 410-632-3495. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Fridays - Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, behind St. Luke's

Church. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks available before bingo and at intermission. 410-524-7994

## Sat., March 8

### OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Film showings and events held throughout the area. This annual event attracts international, national and regional artists working in film. Tickets: <https://ocmfilmfestival.com/>. 410-524-9433

### KIWANIS MARCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, OJ, coffee and tea. Cost is \$9 for adults and free to kids 11 years and younger. Benefits youth of the community.

### OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. The club will feature an open discussion about local fishing. Attendees can enjoy

Continued on Page 18

SNOW HILL - ARTS ON THE RIVER

**SAINT PATRICK'S FIRST FRIDAY**

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# Calendar

Continued from Page 17  
free coffee and doughnuts, purchase OPAC apparel and decals. All welcome.

### FRIED FISH / FRIED CHICKEN / BAKED CHICKEN PLATTERS CARRYOUT

Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. Platters include homemade potato salad, greens and string beans. Also: corn bread, drinks, sweet potato biscuits, rice pudding, cakes, pies, etc.

### KICKSTART KINDERGARTEN

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. A special six session series built to help preschoolers get ready for Kindergarten. Families receive a light snack and tips for continuing kindergarten preparedness at home. For ages 3-5. 410-957-0878

### MARIO PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m. Enjoy Mario crafts, play Switch games and come dressed as your favorite Mario character. Light refreshments served. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### 'POT OF GOLD' CASH BINGO

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 2-5 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. Attendees are

encouraged to wear their favorite St. Patrick's Day outfit. Tickets cost \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door. Advance tickets recommended: www.Worcester-GOLD.org. 443-235-6525

### 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., March 9

### OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Film showings and events held throughout the area. This annual event attracts international, national and regional artists working in film. Tickets: <https://ocmdfilmfestival.com/>. 410-524-9433

### OC FILM FEST - THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 12:30-3 p.m. A special Family Fun Day at the Movies featuring a screening of the award-winning documentary. Cost is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and free to those 14 years and younger. [ocmdfilmfestival.com](http://ocmdfilmfestival.com), 410-524-9433

### FRIED CHICKEN CARRYOUT DINNER

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 1-4 p.m. Fried chicken (1/2 chicken), ham, potato salad, coleslaw, green beans, roll and dessert. Cost is \$20 per platter. Walkins only. 443-880-4944

### 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., March 10

### WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness may boost health and psychological well-being. The group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-

208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### STORY TIME: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

### GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3-6 p.m. Come tour the local history collection. If you need more help finding your roots, contact the local history librarian at [history@worcesterlibrary.org](mailto:history@worcesterlibrary.org). 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### TEEN CRAFT LAB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Chill, create and decorate a statement tote bag that is uniquely you. All supplies included. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### BRIDGE

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

### LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m.



## OPEN HOUSES

March 6 - 13



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 10am-Noon	4 84th St. #2C, Unit 6, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$574,900	Team Bouse House/ReMax Advantage Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	11421 Manklin Creek Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$297,500	Jeffrey Messick/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	13 Garrett Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$355,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	13 91st St #305, Tahitian Sun, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$399,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	1 Links Lane, Innerlinks, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$419,900	Claudia Gausepohl/Coastal Life Realty
Saturday 11am-3:30pm	5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11:30am-2pm	798 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$399,900	Grace Masten/North Beach Realtors
Saturday 2-3:30pm	16 138th St #301 Island Breeze, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$649,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-12:30pm	16 138th St #301 Island Breeze, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$649,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	5603 Atlantic Ave. #301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	13 91st St #305, Tahitian Sun, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$399,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty



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# Calendar

Join in for a Lego challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

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

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

## HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Leah Magnone from Achieve Fitness LLC teaches how to eat well while saving money. Receive grocery store shopping tips and other insights. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

## OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

## Tues., March 11

### STORY TIME: FIVE SENSES

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

### STORY TIME

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

### OC KNITTING GROUP

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

### PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Providing discussions and mutual support, along with education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, [kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org), 410-641-4765

### SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song to the library and share it with

other players and writers. Originals encouraged. Listeners welcome. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BOOK CLUB: 'BLACK GIRL, CALL HOME' BY JASMINE MANS

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. Stop by the library to pick up your book anytime, then meet for a great discussion at Tides & Vine. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. A representative from "HYDRA-FOAM" decking will be the guest speaker. Food and refreshments available at 6:15 p.m. The public is invited.

### BEACH HEROES-OC

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

*Tuesdays* - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

### OC KNITTING CLUB

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

### ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

### ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

### WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

## Wed., March 12

### BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Online Zoom call held the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-

surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

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

### AIR FOAM CATS

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. The group will be making air foam cats, all supplies provided. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MERRY MAKERS: AIR CLAY FLOWER FROGS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Using air clay, design cute flower frogs to keep cut flowers in place in jars and vases. Registration required: 410-208-4014. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, [bglime@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:bglime@atlanticgeneral.org).

### LET'S GET COOKING!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn how to create a healthy version of a shamrock shake. Adult assistance may be needed for younger children. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Come play a selected role-playing game for teens. Registration required: 410-632-3495. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### DANGEROUS WOMEN: THE POWER OF THE FEMININE IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Dr. Jennifer Ballengee from Towson University zooms into the library to talk about these ladies of myth. Registration required for zoom only: 443-783-6164, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org).

### KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

*Wednesdays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Last Wednesday of the month meetings are offsite and information can be found on the website and Facebook. [www.kiwanisofopoc.org](http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org).

## ONGOING EVENTS

### PINOCHLE

Meets the first and third Thursday of each month at Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 12:15-3:15 p.m. Established Pinochle group welcoming new members. Carrie, 410-251-8207

### MARCH INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during March. Art, photography or poetry competition for all ages. Pieces will be displayed in the library for viewing. The theme is "Stormy." Due by March 26. 410-632-3495

### COMMUNITY JOURNAL: TELL HER STORY

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St. Drop in anytime during March and write a story in the community journal about a woman who has inspired you and share your thoughts and hopes for a better future. 410-957-0878

### 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/t8km843p)
- Tuesdays at the Berlin library, [www.tinyurl.com/2rvvha2y](http://www.tinyurl.com/2rvvha2y)
- Saturdays at the Ocean City library, [www.tinyurl.com/3bt6ujx7](http://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](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide).

### 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.

### 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](http://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](mailto:ocberlinrotary@gmail.com)

### OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. [www.sonsofitaly-oceancity.com](http://www.sonsofitaly-oceancity.com)

### POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA

Meets the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-4 p.m. A social organization of men and women of Polish or Slavic descent.



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