



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino tells Ocean Pines residents he opposes a county proposal to cover debt in county water-wastewater funds by having Ocean Pines pick up a large share.

## Bertino pledges to fight rate plan

Proposal to bail out debt for sewer, water districts would lean heavily on OP

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) Worcester County and Ocean Pines officials pledged at a public meeting this week to fight a proposed budget plan that could increase Pines ratepayer bills to make up millions of dollars in water and wastewater debt despite the wooded community's minimal contribution to the deficit.

At a March 29 meeting of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, Worcester County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting told board members that one budget plan could raise water and wastewater quarterly bills by an estimated \$32 for the 18,000 ratepayers within 11 Worcester County service areas.

Last month, the proposal was presented at a Worcester County Commissioners meeting as a solution to covering financial insufficiencies. The spending blueprint has not been approved yet, but Bertino said it is the

only option at present.

Ocean Pines officials argue the plan will unjustly affect Pines residents and have urged community members to join their efforts to oppose it.

"We need your support," OPA Director Elaine Brady said, addressing the Ocean Pines homeowners. "We've got to fight this thing."

Those living in the Ocean Pines service area are being encouraged to email the commissioners and write letters to the editors to raise awareness of the financial plan. Bertino and Bunting are also set to host a town hall on Wednesday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Library, and a public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, at 6 p.m. in Snow Hill.

"The Ocean Pines service area is in the crosshairs of a very unfair proposal," Bertino said.

The attempt to launch a community rally follows the FY26 Water/Wastewater Enterprise Funds budget presentation at a county commissioners meeting on March 18. The proposal to raise rates by about \$32

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## Kids to take over class

Not really, but two does will become part of a new instructional program at Worcester Tech

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) Worcester Technical High School's live stream, called the "Kidding Kam," is offering agricultural students a deeper dive into the intricacies of animal health this semester.

The Kidding Kam is a project spearheaded by the WTHS agricultural program to provide students with a deeper look at the labor process of goats. A press release by Worcester County Public Schools announcing the initiative says that the endeavor is in partnership with the University of Maryland Ex-

tension and allows students to manage and help the animals as they prepare to "kid out" or give birth.

The Kidding Kam has been featuring two pregnant does, or adult female goats, named Faith and Samantha. Faith is recognizable by her brown and white coloring, while Samantha is dark brown, almost black, and white. The animals are being housed in the WTHS's agricultural lab.

Worcester Tech's IT Department and Digital Audio Pro-

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Faith is pictured last week with her baby goats — a boy and a girl — at the Worcester Technical High School's agricultural lab.

## Now streaming: Kidding Kam

Continued from Page 1

gram have created a livestream to allow students to check in on the animals when they are not in school. Community members can also join in on the fun by going to [https://youtube.com/live/B1RB\\_an2UBE?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/B1RB_an2UBE?feature=share).

Last week, Faith delivered two baby goats, a boy and a girl, right on her due date of March 26. WTHS announced the twins' birth on Facebook, describing each kid.

The male is black with brown legs and long ears, while the female is black and white with "elf ears." The social media post maintains that the elf ears are normal and are a result of genetics. The update also adds that the students were keeping a close eye on the livestream and could give their teacher a heads up when the doe's water broke.

Samantha is still expecting. Her due date is April 12.

The school system's press release provides details on the goat kidding process to provide further information and spur community involvement. Some highlights include the fact that it's normal for does to have twins or triplets every time they give birth, like in the case of Faith, who had twins last week, and that expectant birth signs are softening above the tail head, stretching while laying down, and a dropped low abdomen.

The interactive program benefits the young learners, as many of the students enrolled in the tech school's agricultural program hope to one day have a career in veterinary sciences.

"This project gives [students] hands-on practice with animals that are not only mature but dairy animals that are in a production stage and keeping young animals healthy," said Jessica Flores, WTHS's agricultural teacher.

Flores maintained the project teaches students the accountability involved in supporting the health of animals. Each day, they are assigned to feed and water the goats, clean the pen, and complete daily health care checks.

"The students learn how much responsibility is required in taking care of and maintaining good animal welfare and wellbeing," the agricultural teacher said.

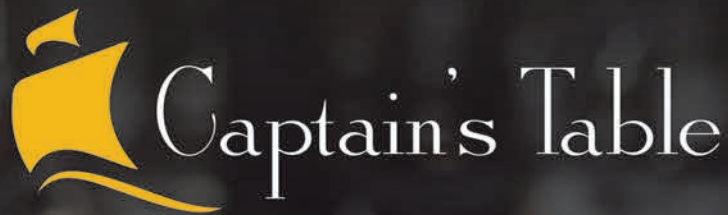
Some planning was needed to get the project off the ground. According to Flores, the students were to be prepped on the details of doe labor and health to ensure they could keep a watchful eye on the animals.

"Students must be knowledgeable of goat behavior and learn the signs of parturition, the act of giving birth, to be on the lookout," the teacher noted.

Flores added that the Kidding Kam was made possible with the help of Program Advisory Members of the University of Maryland Extension and the Berlin-located Rusted Star Ranch for offering animals and supplying bedding and expertise.

The educator mentioned that the WTHS has had animals in its lab for past student projects. However, the Kidding Kam is the first to offer a live feed.

"It's addictive and fun," Flores said.



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# Good Neighbor program honors Leimbachs

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) Ocean Pines Association officials continue to celebrate good neighbors through the community's new volunteer appreciation initiative to honor people who lend a helping hand to others.

At the OPA Board of Directors meeting earlier this week, the community's governing body used the Ocean Pines Good Neighbor Program to recognize residents Rob and Kay Leimbach for their dedication to neighborhood improvement.

While the pair could not attend the gathering in person, Stuart Laker-nick, the board's president, read aloud the commendation recognizing the homeowners' good deeds. Laker-nick maintained that the Good Neighbor project aims to celebrate those who display the "spirit of kindness, generosity, and community service in Ocean Pines."

The commendation read, "whereas Rob and Kay Leimbach have exemplified these values through their tireless efforts to support those in need and whereas Rob and Kay's thought-

fulness shines through on countless acts of kindness..."

These do-gooder activities include collecting mail, shoveling snow for neighbors unable to do it themselves, and offering assistance to those experiencing hardship. Laker-nick added that the honorees' dedication to Ocean Pines's beautification was evident through flower planting.

According to the board president, Kay Leimbach maintains a "heartfelt tradition" of baking cookies for neighborhood children, while Rob Leimbach provides aid and guidance

on home and auto-related matters.

"It is proclaimed by the Ocean Pines Board of Directors that we recognize and commend Rob and Kay Leimbach for their unwavering dedication, kindness, and generosity that exemplifies the spirit of an Ocean Pines Good Neighbor," the award concluded. "We extend a heartfelt appreciation to Rob and Kay for their remarkable contributions and for making Ocean Pines a better place to call home."

The Ocean Pines Good Neighbor  
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# OP board opposes water, wastewater proposal

Continued from Page 1

a quarter in all service areas aims to make up a \$2.1 million deficit for the fiscal year ahead.

A water/ wastewater discussion group consisting of staff and Commissioners Ted Elder, Eric Fiori, and Bunting created the proposal. Bertino said the team met three times, and a majority voted to present the plan given to the commissioners last month.

Ocean Pines' actual share of the losses is \$116,699. Ocean Pines

boasts 10,000 of the 18,000 utility users countywide, making it the largest service area. As such, Bertino noted that the fee bump should be only \$1 to \$3.

The commissioner added that other service areas, like West Ocean City, also would be billed unfairly under the outline. The proposal looks to raise fees equally across the service areas, yet not all are responsible for the accumulated debt.

For example, while Ocean Pines's share of the financial insufficiencies

is relatively small, Riddle Farm's enterprise fund shortfall is slightly over \$1 million.

In addition to the \$2.1 million deficit in fiscal year 2026, there is an impending \$6 million debt accumulated by financial mistakes that must be paid back over 10 years beginning in fiscal 2027.

Bertino said the deficit accrued because "over many years when there was a shortage in one fund, financial transfers were made – without commissioner approval – from another fund."

"Eventually, there was no money to transfer," he continued. "In short, money transfers were made on paper between fund accounts that had no money in them."

The commissioners were made aware of the situation in September. To address the crisis, the governing group unanimously approved a transfer of around \$9 million from the general fund to the Enterprise Funds.

Of that, \$2.7 million was designated as a grant to the Riddle Farm service area. The remaining \$6.3 million was provided as a loan with an interest rate of around 5% to be paid back to the general fund over 10 years beginning in fiscal 2027.

Bertino said that if the plan of raising quarterly bills equally across the 11 service areas to address the FY2026 deficit were implemented, that model could address the looming \$6 million shortfall.

"If the proposed plan is approved, it could be used as a model to require Ocean Pines ratepayers to help repay the \$6 million loan beginning in FY 2027 even though the district contributed nothing to the debt," Bertino said.

Brady assured residents that board members are taking steps behind the scenes in case the county commissioners elect to approve the plan this summer.

The directors wrote a letter to the county commissioners, urging them to reconsider the budget. The correspondence was made public earlier this week.

The OPA group also maintained that the proposal goes against the county code, which requires the Enterprise Funds to be self-sustaining.

"The intentions of the FY2026 budget for Water/Wastewater Enterprise Funds raise considerable concern among the Ocean Pines Service Area ratepayers," the letter reads. "The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors request that Ocean Pines be held harmless from the debts of all other Water/Wastewater Service Areas."



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# Good Neighbor program honors

Continued from Page 4

Program was started earlier this year to showcase positivity. The project, developed by the OPA Communications Committee, aims to highlight community citizens who inspire and help others and work to maintain and improve the conditions of the Ocean Pines area.

The communications committee accepts nominations for future neighbors to spotlight via email at OPgoodneighbors@gmail.com. The group recommends one recipient to the board monthly to be honored at regularly scheduled meetings.

Highlightable acts of kindness include organizing neighborhood clean-ups or block parties, leading donation drives, assisting disabled neighbors with yard maintenance and other physically demanding tasks, volunteering with local organizations, and community beautification efforts, among others.

While this month's honorees could not attend the meeting, Director Elaine Brady will ensure they receive their accolades.

"The Good Neighbor award is just one of many ways we try to honor some of the people making a difference in Ocean Pines," Lakernick said.

# Pipe break leads to new gym floor

### Hybrid system approved after staff researched best options for community ctr.

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) The Ocean Pines Community Center will soon have a new gym floor after a pipe break in February caused water damage to the current hardwood.

At a meeting earlier this week, the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors unanimously approved proceeding with the staff recommendation to pay \$62,300 to Dynamic Sports Construction for a new community center gym floor. The decision follows a situation in which a leak caused water damage to the existing hardwood surface.

Dynamic Sports Construction has been selected to replace the current floor with a DynaForce System. OPA Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said the new installation would be a poured floor with padding underneath.

"DynaForce is a hybrid system of multipurpose athletic flooring that provides support and durability for all athletes," the vendor's website reads. "It merges the best attributes of sheet and poured systems to de-

liver truly amazing basketball court flooring... DynaForce is about superior performance, safety, and flexibility."

According to Donahue, this system, which has been implemented at spots like the Salisbury Salvation Army, is shock-absorbing to the body and helpful when playing sports like basketball.

"We have proposed that we move forward with a poured floor," the recreation and parks director said. "There's no seams, there's no padding on the top that can get ripped from chairs or anything of that nature. It is, to me, the best option. If we have the water problem again, it will roll out, and we will mop it up. It's not anything that will cause this type of damage."

The contractor's website says a benefit of the planned flooring is that the seamless, non-porous surface can enhance performance, durability, and sanitation.

A pipe break occurred over a weekend when the building did not receive many visitors, so the situation was not discovered until several days later, exacerbating the problem.

Donahue said the problem the gym's radiant floor heating system.

"There has been some misunderstanding about what happened [to

the gym floor]," she said at the March 29 OPA Board of Directors meeting.

"It wasn't coming from outside; it isn't a massive leak underneath the flooring; it was an O-ring in the piping that runs the water to the radiant heat. It was a minor thing that, once in the wall, could not be detected until, unfortunately, the water was on the floor."

Donahue maintained that the community center's radiant heat system is beneficial despite the leak.

"We do have radiant heat in every room in the community center, which is a great thing actually to do it that way because of yoga ladies and Pilates, and when you're on the floor, it makes a huge difference in being able to do those exercises and do those classes," the recreation director said.

OPA General Manager John Viola added, "There is radiant heat throughout the [community center] because of a lot of programs, with people laying on the floor, and the floors were cold."

OPA staff reviewed options to fix the gym floor and talked to people in recreation departments and schools "from here to Illinois about their experiences with flooring types and companies."

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# Synthetic bocce courts approved for Pines

### Project at yacht club will cost \$50,000 with work wrapped up before summer

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) Two new bocce ball courts are coming to Ocean Pines this spring for a cost that community officials claim will pay for itself within seven years.

At an Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting last week, the governing body approved proceeding with a staff recommendation of \$50,692 to an outside contractor, Southwest Greens Delaware Valley, to build two bocce courts at the Yacht Club, where a current play area currently sits. The project is expected to be completed in May. OPA General Manager John Viola said that with registration, the initiative should yield a return on investment within seven years.

“With memberships, a projection of 100 members...they will break even somewhere around the sixth year, the seventh year,” Viola said.

The general manager added that the courts could pay for themselves even sooner because of ancillary income from bocce members’ food and beverage purchases.

“I will update over the years on what we believe, working with the food and beverage, what we believe is the ancillary income from having [the courts] at the Yacht Club and what [bocce players] purchase at the Yacht Club,” he said. “If we factored that in, [return on investment] would probably only be around two years.”

Southwest Greens Delaware Valley will complete the installation process in time for the summer season. The association weighed the pros and cons of creating courts with either synthetic or natural materials. Officials opted to build synthetic bocce spaces, as they require less maintenance than their natural counterparts.

“The two courts we are proposing to build are synthetic,” said Mike Galello, the Ocean Pines bocce ball club director. “We are doing it right, so we have 10 years on this court before it even needs maintenance. That’s the advantage of going synthetic versus natural. Natural, you need constant maintenance like you need to roll it. Synthetic is where we need to be.”

Viola says the soon-to-be-installed play areas will be standard, professional, club-sized courts.

Galello formed an Ocean Pines Bocce Ball Club earlier this year. The

initiative took shape in late 2024, and an inaugural club meeting was held in January.

“[Bocce] is something I grew up with,” Galello said in a December press release. “It was a neighborhood activity, and it has been part of my life for as long as I can remember.”

Galello envisioned the bocce league as a casual game to be enjoyed

by anyone.

“[Bocce] is perfect for people who may have graduated from more physically demanding sports but still want to stay active and engaged,” he added in the release. “This is a game for everyone. It’s fun, strategic, and social – and I think it’s something the Ocean Pines community will enjoy.”

## Yard debris drop-off services offered on April Saturdays

(April 3, 2025) Ocean Pines Association’s Public Works Department will offer yard debris drop-off services every Saturday in April to assist residents with spring cleanup.

The Public Works yard at 1 Firehouse Lane will be open for yard debris drop-off every Saturday in April from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The yard will be closed during weekdays throughout the month.

A valid vehicle sticker is required for access to the Public Works yard. Residents may use their 2024 stickers or obtain a new sticker at no charge by visiting the Public Works office during regular business hours,

Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents have several options this spring to dispose of yard waste:

Weekly Collection by Republic Services: Republic Services will collect up to eight bags of leaves per week on regular trash days.

Special pick-up for excess bags: If residents have more than eight bags, they can call Public Works at 410-641-7425 and request a special pick-up.

Residents are reminded that leaves and yard debris must be placed in paper bags only for both drop-off and pick-up. Plastic bags are not accepted.

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# Aquatics improvements suggested

## Ocean Pines committee looking to address safety concerns around pools

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Aquatics Committee made recommendations at an executive meeting last week for possible improvements ahead of summer.

During an Ocean Pines executive meeting last month, Gary Miller, the chair of the aquatics group, brought forward possible adjustments to prioritize pool safety.

Miller said his group has received complaints from aquatics members, including an issue at the Swim and Racquet club, where the set of steps leading into the water is narrow. The group concluded that is a hazard for older people getting into the pool considering the volume of young kids who often play on the stairs.

"This complaint is from senior people that go to that pool that have trouble getting in and out because there's kids that constantly hang on those steps," Miller said. "That pool is not shallow. It's not conducive to

little kids, but that's where many go. They hang around those steps because they can't stand up in the pool."

Miller said this issue has been prevalent for some time, but he and his team were told nothing can be done. While lifeguards are supposed to discourage congestion, the aquatics chair noted that this is sometimes difficult with "badgering from parents."

"This is still an ongoing issue," Miller added. "We have suggested getting a second set of steps. But nothing to date has been done."

Miller also pointed out the slipperiness of the pool ladders at the Yacht Club and Swim and Racquet facilities. The committee leader maintained that the ladder steps to get in and out of the pool are metal, making it difficult for older members.

According to Miller, staff put non-slip tape on the steps last year. However, insufficient time was given for proper curing, and the method proved unsuccessful.

Board of Directors President Stuart Lakernick said he would check with public works on what can be done ahead of the upcoming summer

season.

Additional safety hazards are present at the Mumford's Landing pool, Miller said. There are "very narrow cement steps that go into the shallow area where kids hang out." Ladders at the deeper end are built into the wall, making it dicey to climb out for people without a lot of upper body strength.

The aquatics chair said a possible modification is to replace the handrails with traditional ladders.

Lakernick asked Miller to send him charging documents for a solution to the congested Swim and Racquet steps, the Yacht Club and Swim and Racquet non-slip ladder tape, and a possible remedy to the issues at Mumford's Landing.

"I will forward that to operations and get worked on," Lakernick said.

# Seaside Athletic Center project benefit planned

(April 3, 2025) Seaside Christian Academy, a nonprofit in Ocean City, is making significant progress toward breaking ground on the Seaside Athletic Center, a new multipurpose youth sports facility in West Ocean City.

Located on the grounds of the Christian school owned by Ocean City Baptist Church, the center will enhance local youth sports programs and provide a space for indoor sports tournaments to capitalize on the growth potential that sports tourism could bring to the community.

This project aims to provide safe, accessible sports facilities to promote fitness, teamwork and community

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# Complex project start in summer

Continued from Page 9  
 spirit, building on the success of the low- or no-cost summer camps rooted in Christian values that are already available. The NCAA-sized basketball court will support year-round access to sports and community events like soccer and volleyball, addressing the area's lack of such spaces.

The complex is intended to serve as a year-round venue for local, regional, and potentially national youth sports events, ensuring all young athletes can thrive. Ongoing fundraising efforts are critical to sustaining the \$5 million project.

Groundbreaking is planned for summer 2025 with completion expected by late 2026.

According to a press release from the academy, the initiative has strong backing from residents, local businesses, and the Christian community, with volunteer opportunities upcoming.

The Seaside Legacy Gala is set for April 6, 2025 at Fager's Island. A comprehensive vision will be shared, along with sponsorship opportunities. Tickets are now on sale with limited availability. Purchase tickets here: [www.fagers.ticketleap.com/seaside/](http://www.fagers.ticketleap.com/seaside/)

# Hardwire wins fed armor contract

## Pocomoke company will produce protective inserts for U.S. front line soldiers

**By Brian Shane**  
 Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) A Pocomoke City defense contractor has been awarded a long-term contract valued at \$416 million to produce body armor for U.S. soldiers on the battlefield.

The Department of Defense announced March 14 that Hardwire LLC won a bid to produce Lares Small Arms Protective Inserts, part of what the Army calls the Vital Torso Protection Program, or VTP.

"Lares" is a reference to protective guardian spirits from ancient Rome, and this model of armor is the lightest version out of three possible variants of ballistic protection, an Army spokesman said.

He said it's part of a long-standing Army initiative to create body armor that is less one-size-fits-all, and more suited to soldiers with smaller frames, like short men or petite women.

A lighter protective vest for soldiers in combat provides greater mobility and faster movement, according to Congressional testimony this month from Army Vice Chief of

Staff Gen. James Mingus. He said the Army's latest generation of protective inserts, like the ones being developed at Hardwire, should weigh about 30% less than a soldier's current standard body armor.

Hardwire founder and chief executive officer George Tunis called the program a "win-win."

**'It is good for the warfighter, good for the defense industrial base, and good for the local Eastern Shore workforce'**  
 George Tunis

"It is good for the warfighter, good for the defense industrial base, and good for the local Eastern Shore workforce," he said. "It will continue to grow full-time, family-supporting jobs in Pocomoke. I couldn't be more proud of the Hardwire team and their gritty perseverance."

Set to expire in 2032, Hardwire's deal is what's known as "indefinite delivery-indefinite quantity" contract, and the dollar amount of the agreement represents a ceiling for orders, the Army spokesman said. It gives Hardwire a long-term deal to continue producing the VTP armor plating for the Army on an as-needed

basis.

The contract was publicized by Congressman Andy Harris (R-1st) who posted to social media last week about the award.

"For decades, Hardwire has facilitated the expansion of business in my district though their innovative products that protect military, police, and our communities," Harris said in a statement. "I look forward to watching the important work of hardwire through this critical Army investment which advances the readiness, lethality, and protection of the American warfighter."

Founded by Tunis in 2000, Hardwire is headquartered in a 130,000 square foot manufacturing facility in downtown Pocomoke City. The company designs and manufactures bullet-resistant armor plating and soft armor for the military and law enforcement. Hardwire also provides bulletproof shields for local schools, some of which double as handheld whiteboards.

Hardwire was one of two winning bidders on the contract. A company called Leading Technology Composites Inc., out of Wichita, Kansas, also will be producing armor inserts. Their bids were solicited online. The armor will be tested at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Army said.

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# Berlin's electric department earns safety award honor

**Bohlen: 'A testament to the safety culture we have built and the hard work' by team**

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) The Town of Berlin Electric Utility Department has earned a Gold Designation under the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for maintaining safe operating practices in 2024.

Per a release issued by the town this week, Berlin's Electric Utility Department was recognized for its commitment to safety through APPA's annual Safety Award of Excellence, receiving the gold distinction in the category for utilities with 15,000 to 29,999 worker hours of yearly worker exposure.

APPA's website says their safety award "recognizes public power utilities prioritizing safety in their day-to-day operations."

"The Town of Berlin is proud of our safety culture," Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said in the announcement. "This award is a testament to the safety culture we have built and the hard work that goes into ensuring that our team members have a safe work environment."

Utility departments are presented with Diamond, Platinum, or Gold-level designations based on factors like their incident rates and responses to an application that displays the effectiveness of safety programs.

Over 200 utilities entered the annual APPA Safety Awards for 2024. Applicants are categorized according to their number of worker hours and

then ranked based on the most incident-free records and the overall status of their safety culture.

"The incidence rate is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker hours during 2024, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)," the municipality's announcement states.

Per APPA's website, the application process involves providing facts and figures in three categories: lagging indicators, leading indicators, and optional, non-graded essay questions.

Lagging indicators measure the "occurrence and frequency of past events, like the number or rate of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities," the award's application guidebook says. These factors also show the departments' historical safety performance and are "traditionally used to identify deviations from established safety goals."

Organizations must also detail the leading indicators or proactive steps a utility prioritizes to ensure a safe working environment.

APPA's application handbook maintains that these measures play a key role in preventing worker fatalities, injuries, and illnesses and promoting continuous safety improvements.

The leading indicators category asks utilities if they track metrics. Some of these evaluations could include near miss frequency rate (NMFR), injury frequency rate (IFR), lost time injury frequency rate (LTIFR), injury severity rate (ISR), total recordable incident rate (TRIR), days away restricted or transferred (DART), and safety compliance rate.

The utilities are then scored based on their application responses. They can receive up to 60 points in the lagging indicators category and up to 40 points in the leading indicators group.

A diamond certificate is given to departments with 90 or more points, a platinum certificate is for those receiving 80 to 89 points, and a gold certificate yields 70 to 79 points.

APPA's application guide website says that the method for awarding points for reportable cases was revised for the 2024 award year to include a weighted system that ensures smaller utilities with fewer worker hours are not "disproportionately affected by the number of incidents reported in the award year."

Berlin, in the 15,000 to 29,999 worker hours of yearly worker exposure category, received a gold designation.

"Harnessing electricity to keep our communities powered is vital work that can be dangerous, even deadly if

See SAFETY Page 13



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## BOOK CLUB GATHERING

The Ocean Pines Book Club, "Books by the Bay," held their March meeting on Thursday, March 13, at the home of member Jackie Choate. Their book selection for March was "What We Talk About When We're Over 60" by Sherri Daley and Linda Hughes. Members are pictured at the March gathering.

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# Habitat announces new Bishopville project

## Long-time Berlin resident looking forward to joys of first-time homeownership

(March 27, 2025) Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County is breaking ground a new home build project in Bishopville that will provide local resident Deonhya Purnel the opportunity to become a homeowner.

Purnell has lived in Berlin her entire life and has worked at Food Lion for 22 years. She is a single mother to an adult daughter and two sons who attend Stephen Decatur High School.

“A yard for my granddaughter, a place for my boys and their friends ... it’s all I’ve ever wanted,” says Purnell.

Rising housing costs in the region have made her search for affordable homeownership difficult. As her income gradually increased, she found herself caught in the middle: she earns too much to qualify for assistance programs, but not enough to readily secure a mortgage in the current lending market.

She notes that the high cost of renting has prevented her from saving more for a down payment or other home-related expenses. Furthermore, renting has prevented her from building equity in a home that would be an investment for the future of her family. Purnell looks forward to simple pleasures that come with having a house of her own, such as being able to host family dinners and her sons decorating their own bedrooms with their football and wrestling trophies and awards.

“I can’t wait to have my family over for Christmas. I want my older relatives to come see our home without having to climb 38 stairs,” Purnell shares.

As part of the Habitat homeownership journey, Purnell aims to show her children the importance of persistence, good credit, and smart money habits. She encourages them to distinguish between wants and needs, reminding them that sometimes it’s best to wait before making a purchase.

“Your credit is everything. Keep your credit high,” she tells her children, emphasizing the value of staying patient, being responsible, and spending within your means. These lessons are especially important now as they edge closer to turning the key in the door of their own house in Bishopville, just minutes away from their family and friends in Berlin.

Through the Habitat for Humanity program, Deonhya and her family will perform “sweat equity” hours on the construction site and at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Ocean Pines.

The organization’s volunteer-driven model aims to lower construction costs while engaging local individuals, businesses, and community groups in the process.

“Habitat for Humanity partner families pay a monthly mortgage, property taxes, and homeowner’s insurance just like any other homeowner. Habitat’s role is to work with the local community to accept monetary donations, labor, and materials that offset the cost to build creating increased affordability for Habitat partner families,” said Andrea Bowland, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County.

Purnell said, “I’ve worked for so long and couldn’t qualify for many



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Deonhya Purnell is pictured with her sons, Adarein Manual and Amarian Manuel, during last fall’s football season at Stephen Decatur High School.

programs. Now, just seeing how the community is reaching out is heartwarming. It just means the world.”

Habitat for Humanity relies on donations and volunteer support to make these projects possible. The organization welcomes contributions toward related costs. Community

members who wish to support the build are encouraged to donate or volunteer. For more information on this project or how to get involved, please visit [habitatworcester.org](http://habitatworcester.org) or contact the Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County office at [inquire@habitatworcester.org](mailto:inquire@habitatworcester.org).

## Safety award for Berlin electric

Continued from Page 12  
the proper attention isn’t paid to tried-and-true safety practices,” said Jon Beasley, chair of APPA’s Safety Committee and Vice-President of Electric Cities of GA in the Berlin-issued press release. “This award honors utilities that hold fast to these practices and put the safety of their personnel and their customers above all else.”

APPA’s Safety Award of Excellence is a 60-plus-year-long tradition.

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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.

## Federal funding cut flows down to schools

As if the State of Maryland didn't already have enough problems scrounging up money to bridge the great divide between revenues and expenditures for the year ahead, now it must find a way to cover the loss of \$418 million in federal education funds it thought it already had.

The *Baltimore Banner* reported Tuesday that the Trump Administration last Friday reversed course on a pledge to award up to that amount in pandemic recovery funds to Maryland, with U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon saying the department had given the schools too much time to spend the money.

Maybe it did and maybe it didn't, but that's beside the point for the schools that have spent their allocations according to the rules and now won't be reimbursed.

Worcester County Public Schools is among those left holding the empty bag, having spent \$512,000 based on state and federal assurances that it would get the money back in a pair of grants. Now, it doesn't look like that will happen.

While that's just a small percentage of this school system's budget, it remains that covering that debt is just one more thing for which local institutions and taxpayers are responsible.

That's the real rub in all this. As the U.S. Department of Education almost certainly will say it is cutting federal spending, the fact is it is just reassigning its debt to a smaller group of taxpayers instead of spreading the cost nationwide. In essence, no tax dollars are being saved when they have already been spent.

Neither the local school system nor the state Department of Education can be faulted for taking advantage of a federal funding program that was guaranteed ... at the time.

Again, whether this was a good program or a case of excessive federal spending is not the issue. That would be how schools and other publicly funded institutions proceed now that they they know a deal's a deal until it isn't.

## Letters

### OPA Board opposes county's proposal

Editor,

*(The following letter was sent to the Worcester County Commissioners with a copy sent to this newspaper for publication.)*

This letter is in response to the FY2026 budget draft that was put forward for the Water/Wastewater Enterprise Funds during your Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, March 18th. We find your proposal to burden all 11 Water/Wastewater Service Area ratepayers with \$2,188,000 in shortfalls accumulated over many years to be unfair.

The Ocean Pines Service Area only contributed \$116,699 to the shortfalls. The approval of the budget put forward for the upcoming fiscal year would penalize rate payers in the Ocean Pines Service Area in the amount of \$2,021,301. (\$2,188,000 in total debts - \$116,699 in actual Ocean Pines Service Area shortfalls) and would set a precedent for further financial hardship of the residents of Ocean Pines.

Your proposal obligates Ocean Pines Service Area ratepayers to pay 55.6% (10,000 Ocean Pines Service Area ratepayers / 18,000 countywide ratepayers) of a debt that is mostly not associated with the Ocean Pines Water/Wastewater Service Area. It appears that your intention is to evade public attention from the issues connected to the misappropriation of enterprise funds within your finance office:

- Contrary to county financial protocols, reports are that disbursements were being made absent of approval or oversight by the County Commissioners.

- These financial inconsistencies were discovered in February 2024 during the implementation of new budgeting procedures and not as a result of either an internal or external financial audit.
- No personnel have been

held accountable for the financial inconsistencies within the Enterprise Funds operations.

- The plan brought forward to resolve the Enterprise Funds debt is inconsistent with the county code that defines 11 Water/Wastewater service areas within Worcester County to be self-sustaining, meaning income should equal expenses.

Ocean Pines rate payers have a responsibility to pay for the operations of our system that provided us with clean water and effluent processing and nothing more. The intentions of the FY2026 budget for Water/Wastewater Enterprise Funds raise considerable concern among the Ocean Pines Service Area rate payers.

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors request that Ocean Pines be held harmless from the debts of all other Water/Wastewater Service Areas.

*Ocean Pines Association  
Board of Directors*

### Yard maintenance policy goes too far

Editor,

*(The following letter was sent to the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors with a copy forwarded for publication.)*

I am reaching out to respectfully request that the Board re-evaluate its approach to yard maintenance regarding the use of leaves as ground cover. As I shared during my public comments at the March Board meeting, the founders of Ocean Pines envisioned a community that embraced its natural, wooded environment rather than emulating manicured neighborhoods like Glen Riddle.

The preserved wooded landscape has always been a hallmark of Ocean Pines, setting it apart and embodying a core value worth safeguarding.

The Declaration of Restrictions serves as the cornerstone of governance for Ocean Pines, holding legal precedence over all other rules and guidelines. However, in 2024, this Board appears to have reinterpreted the intent of these foundational restrictions, seemingly initiating a campaign against leaves.

In January 2024, the Board amended Resolution M-04 to include the phrase "accumulation of leaves," and in April 2024, the statement "Leaves are not considered acceptable ground cover" was added to the Architectural Guidelines. These changes starkly contrast with the ARC Guidelines' stated goal—to "preserve the natural beauty of Ocean Pines."

To amend the Declaration of Restrictions, a vote from property owners within each section is required. In my section, as in many others, Section 8 A.I. of the Declaration specifies that properties must be maintained to prevent becoming "unsightly by reason of unattractive growth...or the accumulation of rubbish or debris."

For over 50 years, leaf cover has been regarded as an integral aspect of maintaining wooded properties, rather than being classified as debris or rubbish. Additionally, there is clear evidence that violations were not historically issued to homeowners who embraced natural landscapes consistent with the community's character.

Despite this, the current Board and operations have deemed natural leaf cover to be unsightly while finding gravel-filled yards, store-bought mulch, or bare landscapes more appealing. Directors residing in sunny, unwooded areas or condominiums have taken it upon themselves to define what is considered beautiful for our community.

While beauty may be subjective — "in the eye of the  
Continued on Page 15

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# YouTube 'auditor' comes after Worcester jail

Recording okay in public places, county officials say; Video views exceed 286K

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2025) The scene unfolds outside the tall chain-link fence surrounding the Worcester County Jail, where an unseen cameraman approaches Cpl. Caleb Foster, dressed in his brown correctional officer uniform.

"What are you doing here? You can't be back in here," Foster says, hands in his pockets, starting down the camera. "Want me to call the sheriff's office and have you arrested? This is a secure facility." The radio on his hip starts to pick up chatter.

"All due respect," the cameraman replies, "if it's so secure, I don't know how I got here."

The man recording the video is SeanPaul Reyes. Calling himself a "First Amendment auditor," Reyes goes to public places staffed by law enforcement and pushes the boundaries of where and when he can film them. Since 2021, Reyes has uploaded the sometimes-combative results to his social media accounts, garnering thousands of views.

Reyes turned his camera lens to the Worcester County Jail the afternoon of March 16; it's been viewed 286,000 times as of last Wednesday. Worcester County authorities say they're aware of the video and said correctional officers mostly did the right thing: they allowed Reyes to film, they contacted their supervisors, and then left him alone when they learned his presence was permissible.

"We're always looking for ways we can improve our interactions with the public," said county spokeswoman Kim Moses. "It did appear there was a misperception or a misunderstanding



Correctional officers Caleb Foster, left, and Tyler Hunter were filmed outside the Worcester County Jail in a video posted March 18 to the YouTube channel Long Island Auditor.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ing of the areas that are secure outside the jail. As soon as they were informed those areas were not restricted, they recognized that and backed off."

Reyes' video in Snow Hill, posted March 18, begins at the jail entrance. He tells viewers he's here to "peacefully exercise our First Amendment right to film in public and publicly accessible areas," and to promote government transparency and accountability. He pronounces Worcester as "war-chester."

Making his way to the rear of the facility, near the fenced-in basketball courts and recreation area, Reyes remarks on the lack of "restricted area" signage. That's when Cpl. Foster spots him and flags him down from 100 yards away – giving Reyes the opportunity for a possible on-camera confrontation.

Another correctional officer ap-

proaches, Tyler Hunter. Now both officers are on camera. Hunter asks if Reyes is recording on his phone. "Walking around the whole facility recording, it's a little weird," Hunter tells him, before going to find a supervisor.

Sgt. Jeffrey Douglas approaches. When Reyes – who never appears on

camera himself in this video – says he's just getting some footage of the basketball court, Douglas pushes back with a cool demeanor.

"Yeah, you can't do that. That's not legal, my man," he says.

"That's not legal? Really!" Reyes says with surprise.

See AUDITOR Page 17

## Letters

Continued from Page 14  
beholder" – it was also in the eye of our community's founders when they crafted the Declaration of Restrictions. The changes made in 2024 mark a significant departure from long-established practices and appear to constitute an effort to redefine the intent of the Declarations.

I also believe these changes conflict with Maryland House Bill 322, enacted in 2021, which protects low-impact landscaping practices and prohibits unreasonable restrictions on environmentally sustainable methods.

Leaf cover is widely recognized as an eco-friendly approach to maintaining wooded areas, as it enhances soil health, fosters biodiversity, and minimizes waste. HB 322 prohibits unreasonable limitations on low-impact landscaping, including native

plants, pollinator gardens, and rain gardens. These provisions aim to encourage sustainable landscaping while balancing community standards.

The changes enacted by Ocean Pines in 2024 impose unnecessary burdens on homeowners and may be considered unreasonable under HB 322.

I respectfully urge the Board and Operations to reassess their stance on natural, low-impact landscaping practices, revisit their interpretation of the Declaration of Restrictions, and align their policies with Maryland HB 322.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Amy Peck  
Ocean Pines

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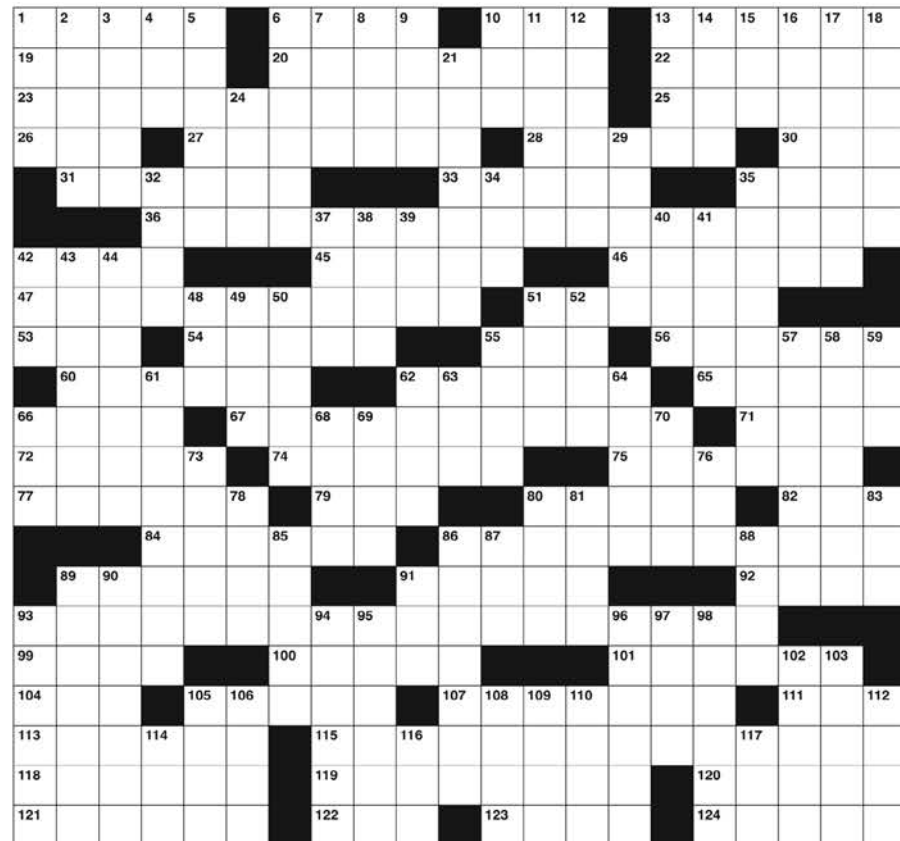
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# Puzzles

## WHERE'D YOU GO? BY ANDREW COLIN KIRK / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Andrew Colin Kirk was born and raised on a cattle farm in Scott City, in western Kansas. For 15 years he worked as a management consultant for federal agencies in Washington. Unfortunately, he was laid off recently. On a positive note, he and his husband are in the process of moving to Denver. "We're looking forward to getting The Times's puzzles digitally at 8 p.m. instead of 10," Andy says. This is his first crossword for the paper.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Capital of Western Australia
  - 6 Doomed Ethiopian princess
  - 10 Do some basic math
  - 13 Heats to just below a boil, as milk
  - 19 Setting for 6-Across
  - 20 Higher in rank?
  - 22 "Here!"
  - 23 Stay in one's lane?
  - 25 One place to redeem tickets
  - 26 One might be custom-printed
  - 27 Target
  - 28 Brings in
  - 30 Vehicle in 2020's "Nomadland"
  - 31 Like bread more suitable for panzanella
  - 33 Canada's \_\_\_\_ Nova National Park
  - 35 It follows Oktober
  - 36 CliffsNotes version of Holmes and Watson stories?
  - 42 Morales of the "Mission: Impossible" franchise
  - 45 Wedding cake features
  - 46 Knack
  - 47 "When do you need this patched up?" "Do you have the missing button?" etc.?
- DOWN**
- 51 Hockey player who wears No. 1, traditionally
  - 53 \_\_\_\_ milk
  - 54 Slightest amount
  - 55 Pentagon div.
  - 56 Figure on a Wyoming license plate
  - 60 Straightens up
  - 62 Neptune, e.g.
  - 65 Weapon/fashion accessory for animation's Sailor Moon
  - 66 Apt name for a car salesman?
  - 67 Best impression of a Springfield patriarch?
  - 71 Start to wear
  - 72 Where you might walk down the aisle
  - 74 The "K" of 15-Down
  - 75 Support on a lease
  - 77 Temporarily banish, as a college roommate
  - 79 Planks can build them
  - 80 Wire holder
  - 82 Get along in years
  - 84 Vivid shade of yellow
  - 86 Headline about a falsely incriminated person casting a ballot?
  - 89 Beautifully emotive
  - 91 Exudes
  - 92 "\_\_\_\_ we forget ..."
  - 93 Delivered a nasty insult with perfect timing?
  - 99 Word after cash or read
  - 100 Toiled on a longship, maybe
  - 101 "Lawrence of Arabia" star
  - 104 Cut short
  - 105 Grain used in Italian cuisine
  - 107 Turns inside out
  - 111 Bit of concert stage equipment
  - 113 Liqueur in a spritz
  - 115 Classic breakup excuse ... or a phonetic hint to 23-, 36-, 47-, 67-, 86- and 93-Across
  - 118 Claim in a courtroom
  - 119 Dartmouth's colorful nickname
  - 120 2010 comedy inspired by "The Scarlet Letter"
  - 121 "Too bad for me!"
  - 122 Mo. known for political surprises
  - 123 Common conjunctions
  - 124 Rule the \_\_\_\_
- DOWN**
- 1 Wine whose name is the first half of its country of origin
  - 2 Dueling weapons
  - 3 Electric appliance button
  - 4 Arm muscle, informally
  - 5 Big pain
  - 6 Noted family of New York City's Gilded Age
  - 7 "If you ask me ...," to texters
  - 8 Alternative to a citronella candle
  - 9 \_\_\_\_ mater
  - 10 Sign at a gas station
  - 11 Use a Clorox wipe on, say
  - 12 Gloomy
  - 13 Laurel of Laurel and Hardy
  - 14 They fill up a lot
  - 15 Org. that awards the "Paw of Courage" for canine heroism
  - 16 Retain
  - 17 Told some jokes, say
  - 18 Surgical aids
  - 21 Literature
  - 24 Before now
  - 29 One celebrating Ethiopian Christmas (Jan. 7)
  - 32 In the thick of
  - 34 Mag staffers
  - 35 It might have "GUEST" in its name
  - 37 Big name in elevators
  - 38 Dryer detritus
  - 39 Victory symbol
  - 40 Soft mineral
  - 41 "Middlemarch" author
  - 42 \_\_\_\_ pop (hybrid music genre)
  - 43 Birthplace of Starbucks
  - 44 Skeptical of big government, say
  - 48 Yalie
  - 49 Ecosystem for an estimated 25 percent of all marine species
  - 50 Corrective eye surgery
  - 51 Kind of boot
  - 52 "Hamilton" co-star Leslie \_\_\_\_ Jr.
  - 55 "Matilda" author
  - 57 Darts or billiards
  - 58 Ambrosia salad ingredients
  - 59 "Woo-hoo!"
  - 61 Suffice
  - 62 IDs that will never start 000 or 666: Abbr.
  - 63 Summertime in Versailles
  - 64 Designer's specialty
  - 66 Photo \_\_\_\_
  - 68 Warm, in a sense
  - 69 Disc jockey : deejay :: nonbinary : \_\_\_\_
  - 70 Feature of a yurt, but not a tepee
  - 73 Thrill
  - 76 Camera choice, in brief
  - 78 Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
  - 80 Red part of rhubarb
  - 81 Philippine currency
  - 83 Summer setting in Somerset, for short
  - 85 Jackson or Jackman
  - 86 Nullifying
  - 87 Parts of baby wts.
  - 88 Member of a choir
  - 89 Impressive array
  - 90 Crude cavity
  - 91 Pablo Neruda's "\_\_\_\_ to My Socks"
  - 93 Polite "I'll pass"
  - 94 Gummy candy company
  - 95 Like the Kama Sutra
  - 96 Dunderheads
  - 97 Caesar's addressing?
  - 98 More intrusive
  - 102 Dogie catcher
  - 103 Angela Lansbury was nominated for 18 of them (winning none)
  - 105 Obscures
  - 106 Some six-packs
  - 108 Director Ephron
  - 109 Powerful engine
  - 110 Kept watch on
  - 112 Bog deposit
  - 114 \_\_\_\_ Speedwagon
  - 116 Army rank above cpl.
  - 117 Principle behind yin and yang



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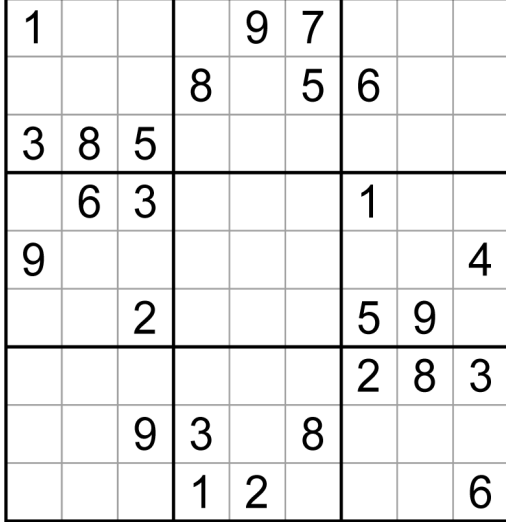
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### HARD - 92

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.



### Answers to last week's puzzles

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





# Crafter of month named by OP's Pine'eer Craft Club

(April 3, 2025) The Pine'eer Craft Club has announced Lois Schultz as its April Crafter of the Month.

Schultz and her husband moved to Ocean Pines 12 years ago from the Philadelphia area, and she joined the Craft Club soon after. She is currently the co-treasurer of the Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop.

Schultz grew up in Finksburg, Maryland, where her passion for crafting began in third grade when her grandmother taught her to embroider. That early introduction to the creative world sparked a lifelong love of crafting that continues today.

Schultz enjoys creating a wide variety of items, including jewelry, mermaid crowns, and whimsical fairies made from silk flowers.

"After I saw a YouTube video about making flower fairies, I gave it a try," Schultz said. "They have become a big hit in the Gift Shop! I enjoy making special orders of the Bride and Groom Fairies to match the real bride and groom."

Schultz's fairies – ranging from witches and mermaids to Disney

princesses – allow her to express her imagination and creativity. The tiny, handcrafted masterpieces have become one of the most popular items at the shop. According to shop managers, customers frequently check the spinning rack for the latest fairy creations.

Schultz is also known for her unique "beerings," earrings crafted from recycled aluminum cans. These distinctive pieces join the many one-of-a-kind, handcrafted gifts available at the Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop.

The shop, located in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines, is open year-round on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Pine'eer Craft Club welcomes new crafters, and its meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Artisans interested in selling their creations at the shop can contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email opcraftclub@aol.com for more information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Artist Lois Schultz, who was named April's Crafter of the Month, is pictured with the silk flowers she has offered at the Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop.

# Auditor targets Worcester jail

Continued from Page 15

Douglas tells him it's private property and he needs permission to be here. His body language is that of a person who wants the conversation to end. Douglas makes it clear that Reyes has to go, but Reyes isn't leaving.

Douglas walks away and is seen making a phone call. Then, he ends the call and waves to the camera, signaling the interaction is over. "You have a good day, my man," Douglas says.

"Looks like somebody got educated on the phone," Reyes says smugly. "To have the mentality that this is private property, you can't record, just so many falsities that – I don't know. They have no concept of what's public and not private. Again, there aren't any restricted area signs. If there were, I wouldn't have crossed them. It's really that simple."

Reyes closes with an assertion that the jail's "rude" correctional officers "failed here today" by not identifying themselves and not de-escalating.

"We're not anti-law enforcement," he declares. "We are anti-tyrant."

His YouTube channel, Long Island Auditor, has more than 1,300 videos and 890,000 subscribers. He even sells his own merchandise, like mugs and hats emblazoned with "We The People" and "Resist Tyranny." He's also crowd-funded more than \$52,000 in donations to "support the fight against tyranny and corruption."

That money, according to Reyes,

goes toward travel and legal expenses – which he's apparently needed. Published reports show he's run afoul of police on several occasions and has a history of being arrested and sued for his actions. Reyes did not respond to multiple requests for comment for this report.

Moses said Worcester County last held employee training on understanding First Amendment rights in 2023, where employees were instructed that so-called "auditors" don't need their consent to film in public places.

She added that the interaction presented an opportunity to provide refresher training for existing jail staff, to train up new hires, or to re-evaluate areas outside the county jail where new signs should be posted.

"It can certainly be uncomfortable when someone puts a video in their face, but they do have a right to record. Let people film in peace as long as they are peaceful. When you're in a public place, there is really no expectation of privacy," she said.

County Administrator Weston Young acknowledged that videos like these can be quite popular, especially when cops lose their cool and make the encounter go viral.

"I'm all for it. I'm open to it. We want to be transparent. But post 9/11, when people are filming infrastructure, you never know. Are you legitimately a First Amendment auditor or an evildoer?" Young said. "I personally would take up other hobbies."



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# Snapshots



**DR. ANDES READS**  
 Ocean City Elementary School recently welcomed Worcester County Board of Education member Dr. Jon Andes as a guest reader for Read Across America Day. Fourth grade students had the honor of hearing Dr. Andes read his very own published book, "The Legacy of Billy Lee: An American Hero." He also presented Mrs. Moeller's class with a copy of the book for their classroom library.  
 SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## PEP RALLY

Ocean City Elementary School third and fourth grade students geared up for success by participating in a Maryland State Assessment Pep Rally on March 5. This celebration was to recognize their hard work and preparation to "show what they know" on the upcoming math and reading assessments. Through cheers, encouragement, and strategy reminders, students were motivated to apply their skills, use their test-taking strategies, and do their best on the MCAP test. The rally served as a fun and energetic way to build confidence and excitement for the assessments ahead.  
 SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## HISTORY LESSON PROVIDED

Dr. Clara Small, Professor Emerita of Salisbury University, discussed local members of the WAC 6888 with an overflow crowd at the Germantown School Community Heritage Center on Saturday, March 22.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## PRESSED FLOWER FRAMES MADE

The Art League of Ocean City hosted a private art class for Stevenson United Methodist Church of Berlin at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside. The group made pressed flower frames. The OC Arts Center is available to host private events and art classes by contacting Mary Anne Cooper at education@artleagueofoceancity.org



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**WORCESTER GOLD SUPPORT**

The community of River Run recently presented Worcester GOLD a donation of \$5,000. Pictured with GOLD Executive Director Nicholas Canford with River Run Co-Chairs Kathy Thomas, left, and Sharon Williams.

# County announces housing study to gather local views

Survey results will help staff identify current needs and update comp plan

(April 3, 2025) Now through May 31, Worcester County residents are invited to participate in a community survey to voice their views regarding the most pressing housing issues facing the county today. The answers residents provide will help county officials determine community needs, challenges, and opportunities, as they update the 2004 Worcester County Housing Study.

The updated housing study will be designed to analyze current demographic, economic, and housing market trends, and provide a housing demand forecast for Worcester County through 2050. It will also identify and map substandard housing units within all jurisdictions of the county, identify potential funding sources that could be used to improve the housing stock, and provide recommendations for improvements to the Worcester County housing program to provide the highest and best use of funding and to provide a greater supply of affordable housing.

“Housing affordability is a major issue locally, so input from area residents will play a key role in helping us understand the needs of the community,” Development Review and Permitting (DRP) Director Jennifer Keener said. “Input from residents will also be incorporated into the Worcester County Comprehensive Plan by reference. We will use that information to direct policies affecting housing in the county.”

In Worcester County, 32% of homeowners and 54.7% of renters are considered housing burdened, which is defined as housing costs that exceed 30% of the household’s income. This can limit residents’ ability to pay

for other expenses, like food, home repairs, medical care, childcare, and transportation.

“As part of our housing study, we will be using a variety of methods to get the message out to encourage local residents to participate, including placing flyers at county libraries, community centers, and other public locations,” DRP Deputy Director

Matt Laick said. “We’ll also be utilizing social media and other outreach efforts to ensure everyone has the opportunity to give their input.”

The 22-question survey takes just five to 10 minutes to complete and is available in English at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/WorcesterHousing](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WorcesterHousing) and in Spanish at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/WorcesterHousing-SP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WorcesterHousing-SP).

# Obituary

**JAMES EDWARD TRUMMEL**  
Ocean Pines

James Edward Trummel, age 85, passed away on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at his home in Ocean Pines. Born in Elmhurst, Illinois, he was the son of the late Verne Trummel and Earville Dooley Trummel.



James Trummel

James proudly served in the Marine Corps as a captain during the Vietnam War. He later obtained degrees in both engineering and law. He worked as a lawyer and industrial engineer. James was an avid reader and enjoyed golf. He was also a member of the Ocean Pines Association. He

is fondly remembered as a very intelligent man and will be dearly missed by those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Lucretia Trummel; sons Jeff Moreland (Jenny), and Richard Graeber (Katie); a daughter, Debra Moreland; a sister, Joan Gatewood; niece Lindsey Nelson (David); and four grandchildren, Derek Graeber, Kaitlyn Nelson, Zach Nelson, and Avery Nelson.

Cremation followed his death. No formal services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to The Community Church at Ocean Pines. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com). Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Volunteers from Beach Heroes-OC are pictured at a trash cleanup event at the Ocean Pines Beach Club following the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

# Volunteers work together on cleanup effort

Participants provide service when needed after resort hosts crowded weekend

(April 3, 2025) A group of dedicated volunteers from the Beach Heroes-OC recently completed a post-event trash cleanup at the Ocean Pines Beach Club and surrounding areas following the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Beach Heroes-OC organizes weekly cleanups every Tuesday morn-

ing, with locations announced monthly on their Facebook page. Ocean City provides a small dump truck to assist with trash removal, and volunteers are equipped with bags, gloves, and grabbers provided by the group.

Volunteers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, Fenwick, and other nearby areas regularly take part in the cleanups. Participants can earn T-shirts and hoodies after logging several weeks of participation, thanks to generous sponsorships that vary from

year to year.

Participation has grown significantly over the past year, increasing from just a handful of volunteers in the group's early days to 40-plus participants on cold days and as many as 80-plus during the summer months. The surge in participation was fueled by word of mouth and momentum generated after last year's Ocean Pines Season Kickoff event at White Horse Park.

The group's efforts go beyond routine litter removal. From countless

cigarette butts and bottles, cans, plastic items, and various debris to abandoned bicycles and other large objects, volunteers have made a tangible impact on the local environment.

Beach Heroes-OC has been invited to return to Ocean Pines for an Earth Day cleanup in April. Details will be announced on their Facebook page, and community members are encouraged to get involved.

For more information or to get involved, visit Beach Heroes-OC on Facebook.



## OPEN HOUSES

April 3 - 10



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	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 10am-Noon	201 S Heron Drive Unit B22, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	11964 W. War Dancer Lane #105, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$449,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sat & Sun 11am-1pm	5603 Atlantic Ave. Unit 301 Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	149 Captains Quarters #101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$313,999	Team Bouse House/Re/Max Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-1:30pm	8 60th St. Unit 502 Meridian, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$899,900	Monica McNamara /Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2pm	10366 Keyser Point Rd, West Ocean City	4BR/2.5 BA	Single Family	\$750,000	Linda Moran/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	149 Captains Quarters Rd. #101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$315,000	Team Bouse House/Re/Max Advantage Realty
Sunday 10am-12:30pm	11000 Coastal Hwy. #1703 Capri, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$480,000	Monica McNamara /Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	201 S Heron Drive Unit B22, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	44 Meadow Lark Drive, Milford	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$449,900	Anne-Marie Bouse/Re/Max Advantage Realty

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# 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., April 3

### THE ADDAMS FAMILY: A MUSICAL COMEDY

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 7 p.m. Based on the creepy, kooky characters by legendary cartoonist Charles Addams. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/74999475/the-addams-family-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

### STORY TIME: AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a story about a zebra that is unique. 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. Come to the library and bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### LUNCHTIME LENTEN SERVICE AND SOUP LUNCH

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin. Worship begins at noon followed by a light lunch. Rev. Zachary Brown preaching on Giving. [bethany21811@gmail.com](mailto:bethany21811@gmail.com), 410-641-2186

### 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. Appointment required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

### POCOMOKE BOOK CLUB: 'THE LEISURE SEEKER' BY MICHAEL ZADOORIAN

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

### MAGIC THE GATHERING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Experienced and novice players welcome. BYOC recommended. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## Fri., April 4

### 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)

### PEEP-SCAPES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Bring a shoe box to crate a Peep scene. Craft supplies and peeps provided. Scenes will be displayed in the Berlin Library. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MINECRAFT PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join the library for a block party with gaming, crafts and more. For ages 6-18 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### LOST TREASURES OF THE 'TITANIC'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. This lecture takes a closer look at and tells the stories of some of the treasures lost on that fateful night. Art Historian Malory Mortillaro zooms for this presentation. 410-208-4014

### ANNUAL FISH FRY

Holy Savior Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fired cod, French fries, homemade coleslaw, choice of tomato bisque or MD crab soup, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids 11 years and younger.

### APRILS FIRST FRIDAY

Art League of Ocean City, 504 94th St., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and see the new exhibits by a variety of local artists. Free. All are welcome. Refreshments provided. <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>, 410-524-9433

### 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., April 5

### BERLIN CELEBRATES VINTAGE & VINYL

14 S. Main St. Parking Lot, Berlin, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sound Storm Records, Pitts Street Treasurers, Viking Tree, Outtens Delights, Uptown Emporium. The Merry

Haven, Blazer, Bleached Butterfly and more. Rain date is April 6.

### TOWN OF BERLIN COMMUNITY YARD SALE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 7:30 a.m. Proceeds will go toward outreach for the Church Mouse Ministry at St. Paul's.

### SPRING FLEA INDOOR/OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m.-noon. Vendors selling gently used clothing, household items, collectables and more. Rain or shine. Spaces are \$25 and include one 8 ft. table and two chairs. Stop by and get registered or call 410-641-7052.

### 2ND ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY & EASTER EGG HUNT

Dry Dock 28, 2709 N. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Includes kids crafts, activities and the Easter Bunny. Seatings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Easter egg hunts at 9:40 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. Advance tickets are discounted: 443-978-0680, [www.randy-crew.com](http://www.randy-crew.com).

### SPRING CRAFT DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m.-noon. A variety of spring crafts available. For ages 6-11 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SATURDAY WRITERS

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

### FRIED FISH / FRIED CHICKEN / BAKED CHICKEN PLATTERS TO GO

Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. Platters cost \$13 and include homemade potato salad, macaroni salad, fried potatoes 'n onions, greens and string beans. Also available are biscuits, corn bread, drinks, rice pudding, cakes and more.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Collect candy and prizes as you hunt down Easter eggs. Age hunt divisions will be ages 0-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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., April 6

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 8-11 a.m. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Menu includes eggs, pancakes, bacon, ham, sausage, hash browns, coffee, orange juice, gravy and biscuits. Cost is \$15 for ages 4 years and older.

### GOSPELRANZA CONCERT AND DINNER

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 4:30 p.m. Features local gospel singers and workshop dancers. Chicken parmesan dinner to follow concert. Cost is \$20. Reserve tickets: 410-641-2186.

### BERLIN FLEA MARKET

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

### SEWING FOR A CAUSE

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

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

## Mon., April 7

### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK SCAVENGER HUNT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St. Celebrate National Library Week with a fun scavenger hunt around the library and complete book themed riddles for a prize, April 7-12. For families. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK COMMUNI-TREE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin. Stop by the Berlin Library to leave a note to populate the Communi-Tree, April 7-12. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### LITTLE LEARNERS: OCEAN CITY FIRE AND RESCUE FEATURING MAX THE THERAPY DOG

Museum of Ocean City, 217 S. Baltimore Ave., 10-11 a.m. The Ocean City Fire Department will be visiting with not only engines, but an extra special guest, Max the therapy dog. Registration requested: [ocmuseum.org](http://ocmuseum.org). 410-289-4991

### STORY TIME: FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City  
Continued on Page 22

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# Calendar

Continued from Page 21

**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

### 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

### ESL CONVERSATION CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Come join other non-native English speakers for casual conversation practice and a short lesson prepared by an ESL instructor. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. The group is reading from Book 6 of the Great Conversations Anthology. Today's focus is on "R. U. R." by Karel Capek. 410-208-4014

### RESEARCHERS MEET UP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Meet with fellow researchers to discuss local history, get tips from the local history librarian and work on the citizen research projects. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

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

### WARHAMMER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Use the library's armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos will be available, so novice and veteran players alike are welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### WATERCOLOR BASICS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Artist Jan Coulbourne teaches this class about creating a piece of watercolor art. Registration required: 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

### 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., April 8

### STORY TIME

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

### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Sing silly songs, play rhythmic instruments and move to the beat. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### DOCUMENTARY: 'FREE FOR ALL: THE PUBLIC LIBRARY'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Celebrate National Library Week and learn something new about the history of libraries in America. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides discussions, education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinikin@atlanticgeneral.org

### MILLENNIAL-ISH: BAD ART NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30 p.m. Join the library and other in their 20s-40s to make the ugliest art you can imagine. Stay until the end to vote on the best worst piece. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### OC KNITTING CLUB

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

### SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song to share with other players and writers. Originals encouraged. Listeners

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BEFORE

AFTER

WARRANTY

# Calendar

welcome. Hosted by Mikel Campbell. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**BOOK CLUB: 'THE RADIIUM GIRLS' BY KATE MOORE**

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. Join in for an evening for books and wine. Stop by the library in advance to pick up a copy of the book. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**BEACH HEROES-OC**

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

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**

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

**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

**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., April 9

**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

**PRESERVING THE PAST WITH PHOTOGRAPHS**

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Learn how to keep

your old photographs organized, safe and protected. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**MERRY MAKERS: CLAY POT MARBLED WITH NAIL POLISH**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Use colorful nail polishes to try the fun technique of marbling on clay pots. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

**PLANT THESE, NOT THOSE**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Examine a selection of native plants that make great alternatives to non-natives and invasives. Discuss the importance of planning natives in landscapes. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY: SPRING, SPRANG, SPRUNG!**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. Test your knowledge of everything from Spring showers to May flowers. Prizes and refreshments provided. Admission is free and no registration required. 410-208-4014, 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

**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

**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.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK COMMUNI-TREE**

Berlin Library, 13 Harrison Ave., April 7-12. To celebrate the role the library plays in our community, stop by the Berlin Library to leave a note to populate the Communi-Tree, April 7-12. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK SCAVENGER HUNT**

Snow Hill Library, 307 N. Washington St., April 7-12. Celebrate National Library Week with a fun scavenger hunt around the library and complete book themed riddles for a prize. For families. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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**ADMIN, 11934 Ocean Gateway, Ste. 6, Ocean City, MD 21842**

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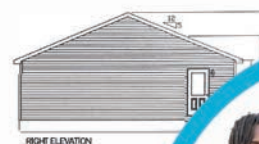
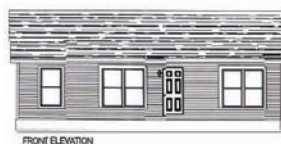
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