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Members of the SkillsUSA team from Worcester Technical High School gather for a photo at the state's competition March 28-30 in Westminster.

SkillsUSA

Worcester Tech students head to nat'l contest

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) After a successful run at their state competition, Worcester Technical High School's SkillsUSA participants are gearing up for the national contest, where the students will display their real-world abilities as they compete against peers from across the country.

This June, over 20 Worcester Tech students will travel to Atlanta, Georgia, for the week-long SkillsUSA national competition in various
See SKILLSUSA Page 6

Berlin tax rate could stay as-is

Rate left unchanged would bring in about \$359,000 more money for FY2026

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) The Berlin Mayor and Council plan to keep the property tax rate flat for fiscal year 2026 at \$0.8275 per \$100 of a property's assessed value.

The Berlin Mayor and Council met for a general fund budget work session earlier this week. While stagnant, the property tax rate will generate additional revenue for the town in FY26 from rising property values, said Zack Tyndall, the municipality's mayor.

"This budget keeps the tax rate the same, and that's at \$0.8275 per \$100 assessed value," Tyndall said. "Keeping the tax rate the same will generate about \$359,000 in additional revenue for FY26, which comes out to about a 7% increase from FY25."

The tax rate yielded \$4,563,392 last fiscal year. This year, the tax is projected to generate \$4,922,500 in revenue, an 8% increase.

Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh opposes the council's decision to maintain the tax rate. She argued the increase in property values, which will bring in more revenue even with a flat rate, is still not enough to keep up with rising costs and needs.

"We are advancing a lot from reserves to fund capital projects," Saleh

said. "It's not a good practice to advance money from reserves and fund future capital projects ... Most of the projects we see on the general fund and the utility sides are either a carried forward project funded from reserves or a new project which will be funded potentially from reserves."

The finance director reiterated that the council should consider increasing the tax rate incrementally to ensure the town's financial stability.

"We ... pretty much rely on the real estate tax as revenue for the general fund," she said. "I encourage you to rethink an incremental increase in the tax rate so that it will allow us to plan for a five- and 10-year capital plan in the future and be sustainable

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Ocean Pines to host Easter bunny breakfast

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Recreation and Parks Department is preparing to host Easter and spring events as the weather finally starts to warm up.

Ocean Pines is once again hosting its annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny to put kids and families into the holiday spirit.

The occasion is set for Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Children three and under can enter for free. The cost for ages four to 10 is \$6. Entrance for kids 11 and older is \$10.

The menu for the springtime event

includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, assorted pastries, fruit, orange juice, milk, and coffee.

A little later into the season, on Sunday, May 18, the Ocean Pines rec and parks group is offering neighborhood residents the chance to travel to Camden Yard in Baltimore for an Orioles versus Washington Nationals baseball game. The bus trip is \$120 per person.

According to the event's advertisement, the ticket includes a "spectacular display of major league baseball at the Camden Yards." Seats are located in the picnic perch, section 286.

"All-inclusive picnic perch food is included in the trip price," the ad

reads. "It is all you can eat from when the gates open to the middle of the 7th inning."

The trip's pickup time is 8:30 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The game begins at 1:35 p.m. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 18. Additionally, alcohol and glass containers are prohibited on the bus. Tickets can be obtained by calling rec and parks at 410-641-7052.

OPA hosted a budget town hall earlier this year, during which Debbie Donahue, the community's recreation and parks director, maintained that her department is looking to host more events this spring and summer. One endeavor is to incorporate more bus trips.

"We have a lot of different programs that we are adding this year," Donahue said. "We have gone back to

bus trips again. That was kind of taken aside since [the pandemic]."

The community will also host Back in Action physical therapy seminars beginning this month and extending into the summer.

Dr. Sandra Kappes will attend the free information sessions, which are held from 11 a.m. to noon. The April 24 session will feature joint disorders, a May 22 seminar will highlight age-related pain, a June 26 session will discuss core strengthening, and a September 11 session will deal with fall prevention.

Those interested in attending the PT seminars can register by calling 410-641-7052.

For more OPA rec and parks events and classes, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks>.

OP Yacht Club, Grille set to open under new leadership

(April 10, 2025) Touch of Italy will officially open operation of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and Clubhouse Grille on May 1, company officials announced.

All previously booked obligations in April will be honored as planned. Beginning May 1, both restaurants will open with a full menu and full service

under Touch of Italy's management.

Known for its authentic Italian cuisine and warm hospitality, Touch of Italy will offer a variety of foods and an elevated dining experience to Ocean Pines while maintaining the Yacht Club and Clubhouse Grille as premier destinations for locals and visitors alike.

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Main Street branch's ATM plans tabled for now by HDC

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) Last week, the Berlin Historic District Commission voted to table Taylor Bank's ATM renovation project to allow the applicant time to present a new outline more in keeping with the town's historic charm.

A proposed renovation project would remove the ATM vestibule that currently sits at Taylor Bank in Berlin. The initiative's plan, passed by the HDC in July 2023, was to install a new ATM that instead of walking through a door to access, would be sticking out through a wall. Last week, the applicant again came before the HDC to seek approval for a few adjustments.

The renderings proposed in July

2023 had the ATM facing towards the north side of the building. The change most recently proposed would place the machine in a more central location on the bank's front and remove a door that provides direct access.

Applicants for the project said that removing the door would address security concerns caused by the ease of access to the executive office space. Even with the entrance's elimination, there would still be three openings to access the bank.

"I think when this building was taken over, [the former bank president] wanted to be right there where people could walk in and enter his office," Robinson said. "Now there is a need for more security for higher-ups in the banks."

However, while the applicant was



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The existing vestibule at Taylor Bank's Main Street branch provides cover for its current ATM as well as entrance to an office area.

simply seeking modifications to an already approved initiative, the discussion brought up issues some HDC

members had with removing the ATM vestibule.

"I use the ATM, and I love it because it's the most charming ATM I've ever seen," commission member Laura Sterns said. "I feel safe ... In inclement weather, it's easier to hit the buttons when your fingers are not freezing. I put my purse on the windowsill. I love the ATM the way it is. If we take it away, it will be one less thing in this town that is so charming. The town has already made a lot of changes. Putting an ATM on the front of the most historic building ... is a mistake."

Ray Robinson of Taylor Bank argued the proposal is necessary to remain ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. This includes making the ATM more visible, which the current placement does not.

The HDC voted unanimously to table the matter and reschedule another meeting to review alterations that prioritize the town's historic culture.

Berlin council wants same rate

Continued from Page 1
going forward."

Still, the Berlin council remained, at least this week, committed to maintaining the same rate.

Tyndall says the FY26 budget draft is "balanced" at roughly \$17.4 million. The mayor added that it is around a 22.45% increase from FY25.

"I know that seems like sticker shock," Tyndall said. "But I want to draw your attention to some of the capital projects that caused that increase... there is \$2.5 million for the town hall renovation...\$216,000 for permanent restrooms at Stephen Decatur Park, which is grant funded, and \$2.8 million dollars which is bond funded for a new public works facility. When you adjust that out, it's really not a 22% increase."

The budget includes a step increase for eligible employees as well as a 2% COLA, resulting in town employees seeing a 4.5% increase in their annual pay.

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SkillsUSA team heads to Atlanta

Continued from Page 1
categories, including TeamWorks and Opening and Closing.

SkillsUSA is a workforce development organization with chapters scattered in schools across the United States. The program allows students to master hands-on occupational skills and focus on career readiness. SkillsUSA prioritizes teamwork, communication, professionalism, and leadership to ensure success beyond high school.

“They are doing adult work and doing it a lot better than a lot of adults that I know,” WTHS Principal Tony Bevilacqua said of his school’s SkillsUSA students.

According to Worcester Tech SkillsUSA advisor Rick Stephens, 89% of the school’s 79 participants placed in the Maryland competition’s top 10, 73% placed in the top five, and 57% placed in the top three.

Additionally, the local skills group boasted over 20 first-place winners across categories like Medical Math, Robotics and Automation Technology, TeamWorks, Opening and Closing, Technical Computer Application, Related Technical Math, Robotics Urban Search and Rescue, Pin Design, and Extemporaneous Speaking.

The first-place winners and WTHS’s two SkillsUSA Maryland State Officers will attend the country-wide competition from June 22 to 28. As such, the tech school is looking to raise approximately \$100,000 to cover hotel stays, flights, registration fees, and food, in addition to other necessary costs.

Stephens added that an additional mobile robotics silver medalist team would represent Maryland at nationals, as the gold medalists from another district cannot attend.

The national championship will allow local students to showcase their skills on the big stage.

The WTHS young learners heading to the summer contest will compete in several categories, including the collaborative program known as TeamWorks. TeamWorks consists of groups of four, each specializing as either a carpenter, a plumber, a mason, or an electrician, as they work together to produce a construction project.

Worcester Tech students Aidan Parks, Kathie Maldonado, Tyler Kilyk, and Destin Duncan placed first in last month’s Maryland championship. Now, the group is preparing to advance to the next level.

“[TeamWorks] is supposed to imitate building a house and all the parts of building a house,” said Duncan, the team’s plumber. “It’s called TeamWorks because you do work as a team ... I can’t do my plumbing unless [the carpenter] has the wood up, and I have to help him with the wood, so I had to cross-train to assist him... It gives you real-world obstacles and



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Destin Duncan, Kathie Maldonado, Tyler Kulyk and Aidan Parks took gold in the Team Works competition. Students had to demonstrate precise carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and masonry skills in this highly competitive match up. WTHS took down the defending champions and will now head to Nationals in June.



A hybrid team of students from Nursing, Cosmology, Computer Science and Pre-Engineering are pictured with their GOLD.

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Skills students seek donations

teaches you how to overcome them.”

The student added that, as a member of Worcester Tech’s state-awarded TeamWorks group, the skills he gained will last a lifetime.

“The more you put in, the more you get out of it,” Duncan continued. “I will never forget how to plumb.”

The students emphasize that SkillsUSA is a beneficial program that prepares them for their careers beyond high school graduation.

Heydein Flores, among the students representing the Opening and Closing category at the June championship, said that the skills learned will aid in occupational environments. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies evaluate a seven-member team on their ability to open and close a proceeding, ceremony or formal gathering professionally.

“The thing about [SkillsUSA] is that there are so many different competitions that for whatever pathway you do, whatever your skill is, there is a competition to match it,” Flores said. “As for our team, we are practicing professionalism ... even in general competitions where you’re speaking, you’re learning how to prepare yourself for the workplace.”

Bevilacqua added that the Opening and Closing program will help the juveniles advance their careers and take on roles requiring them to conduct meetings, like a town’s planning and zon-

ing commission.

“[SkillsUSA] is a student organization that when students join, they do stuff because they have to train, they have to compete,” the principal said. “Everybody here has learned something they can carry to the next level at college and beyond. This is the most real-world club that a student can join.”

Stephens sits on the SkillsUSA Maryland Board of Directors. The educator maintained that he sees programs throughout the state as part of this role. Yet, he said that nothing compares to Worcester Tech.

“No other kids can match our kids,” he noted. “Our kids are just awesome. We are very lucky.”

The advisor added that the school’s support plays a part in the program’s success.

“Our staff here is amazing,” he said. “All the teachers and advisors help get [the SkillsUSA students] ready. They miss a lot of class time once in a while to get ready, especially during states. [The teachers] help them keep their grades up and are very supportive of them.”

In an effort to ensure the championship run continues in Georgia, the team is seeking donations to cover the nearly \$100,000 cost of attending the national championship. To donate, call the tech school at 410-632-5050 or email wths@worcesterk12.org for a donation link page.



A link to a fundraising page for Worcester Tech.

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Berlin looks to double planning department

Proposed budget includes major investment in staff, services, comp plan update

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) The Berlin Planning Department budget is proposing a 102% increase in funding for fiscal year 2026, including two new employees, new professional services, an updated comprehensive plan, a vehicle and modern equipment.

At a Berlin budget workshop on April 7, the town's acting planning director, Ryan Hardesty, went before the Mayor and Council to make her department's general fund budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. The ask, \$859,728, is a 102% increase from fiscal year 2025's \$425,480.

A highlight is the salary allocation increase due to onboarding two additional employees, including the already-hired GIS (Geographic Information System) analyst, Meghan Pfaller, who had been working in the wastewater department.

Furthermore, the town is accepting applications currently for a code en-

forcement officer, a position sought in Berlin for several years. The full-time salaries request for fiscal year 2026 to account for the positions jumps roughly 59% from \$188,000 to \$298,850.

The planning department has also requested a new vehicle, particularly for the GIS analyst, to fulfill her role's responsibilities. There is already a vehicle in place for the new code enforcement officer.

"We are going to have two positions that are going to need to be out of the office," Hardesty said. "We currently only have one vehicle right now. Our GIS person will need a car to get around to do her duties."

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen added the vehicle will not be a "heavy-duty pickup truck" but will be enough to do the job.

The division's budget included an increase from last year's \$25,000 to a request of \$50,000 for professional services, particularly legal consultancy specific to the planning department and planning commission meetings.

The planning department's FY26 spending plan also increases contracted services by around \$30,000.

The director said this is partially due to new code enforcement software, which is akin to a tracking program that can handle permits, licensing, and planning in addition to code enforcement. The director added that she did a live software demonstration with a possible vendor.

"When I did the demo, it was pretty neat because they described it like when you order a pizza and how it says we received your order, preparing, baking, ready for pickup," Hardesty said. "You could clearly watch it go through the process. We received your permit, reviewed it, and approved the permits. It shows it right down the line."

Hardesty said that her department is looking at all potential options but will be looking to add the software over the summer.

The budget request allocates \$100,000 for an updated comprehensive plan. Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall noted that this figure is "light" because while in-house experts estimate \$150,000 for the document's much-needed upgrade, the town is facing budget constraints.

"We do a comp plan every 10-ish

years," Tyndall said. "Ours is outdated by several. We've not done one, so it's hard to go back and say how much it costs ... We don't know where it will come in until we do an RFP (request for proposals), but we know this number is light because of the available funding within the FY26 budget."

Funds are also being set aside for new equipment, including a plotter. According to Hardesty, a plotter allows officials to scan architectural plans when submitted as well as print large format.

"We are working with Becker Morgan to design our public works building," Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said. "They can send a digital copy over to us. Instead of waiting until our next meeting ... we can come to [Hardesty], she can print them out for us, and we would be ahead of the game."

"[Architects] bring one set when they come, we go over it, and they walk out the door with the only set, and we have no record of the conversation to fall back on," Bohlen added.

An operational plotter would give each party access to the plans, staff said.

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Commissioners reject Bertino's audit request

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) One Worcester County commissioner's frustration with an uncompleted request for public information triggered a demand that his peers green-light an audit of Worcester County's entire financial operation.

County staffers countered by saying they've been swamped amid a busy budget season and are moving as fast as they can to provide the public information requested.

"We need an external audit for the finance department," Commissioner Chip Bertino said last Tuesday, "because, here again, is another situation where the commissioners ask for information, and it is not provided. We have made it very clear at the last meeting that we wanted to provide information on the website, at least, of what is going on – and we've been ignored. And it's not here."

The conflict started to bubble up last month when the commissioners at their March 18 meeting discussed the possibility an increase to county water and sewer rates – a tough call precipitated by years of financial mismanagement that left county sewerage operations more than \$9 million in the red.

The operational deficit, affecting

seven of the county's 11 independent sanitary sewer districts, was discovered last fall by county leadership. Now, new revenue is needed to cover a system-wide operating deficit for the current fiscal year and beyond, and one solution would be to increase user rates.

Irrked that his District 5 constituents in Ocean Pines might pay more than their fair share to fix the problem, Bertino asked his fellow commissioners to cosign on sending an informational letter to all ratepayers.

"We have a responsibility to make clear to the public," he said, "this is not their fault, at all."

Bertino wanted the notice to include nitty-gritty details like per-household rate increase, rate percentage increases over the current year and, dollar-for-dollar, an explanation of where the new revenue would go. County staffers said it could be as long as 30 pages.

However, the commissioners rejected Bertino's motion to mail information to all 18,000 ratepayers and instead agreed to post the same information for free to the county's website.

By last Tuesday, two weeks had passed since Bertino sought the water rate information. "Where's that document?" he asked pointedly. "It was

supposed to be here before the commissioners at this meeting. Why wasn't it?"

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Candace Savage explained that the Treasurer's Office had only just provided the 16-page report last Monday afternoon, and it was under review. Bertino wasn't having it.

"We now have a 16-page document that none of the commissioners have had a chance to read," he said, "although it was supposed to be in our hands today, so that it could be put up on the website. Hasn't been done. Yet again, it draws into question what our finance department is doing."

Bertino moved for an external audit to be conducted on the finance department. The reason, he said, was to determine if the procedures of the county code are being followed, and to ensure that funding accounts are adequate and accurately funded. He wanted the results in 60 to 90 days.

"Given the fact that we're seeing problems with the enterprise fund, it's only fair to have a concern about the entire finance department," he said. "I'm hoping that it comes back with a clean bill of health. We had a \$9.2 million situation. Whatever we pay for an audit should include a review of the entire operation, because we don't know what we don't know."

Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said an audit like Bertino described could have a \$25,000 price tag, clarifying that a separate internal controls audit was planned for the future as part of a new audit bid process.

Others pushed back. Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, Sinepuxent) questioned why Bertino was pushing for an audit now after years of involvement without raising concerns.

"Why today are we jumping in with audits and all this? Coming down on our finance department without even giving them a chance to correct the problem?" he said.

Fiori continued to pepper Bertino with questions. Bertino didn't take the bait.

"I am not a witness in a trial, Commissioner Fiori. The motion is on the floor. It has been seconded. That's all that's on the table," he said.

With tempers flared on the dais, the commissioners called up Finance Officer Phil Thompson for some clarity. Thompson apologized for the delay in document delivery but did not mince words as to why.

"We have been overly burdened this year with all of the changes with regards to the enterprise funds – nu-
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Staffers respond to audit request

Continued from Page 10
regards to the enterprise funds – numerous different rate scenarios, many different versions of the budget have transpired over the last two and a half, three months,” he told the board.

Raising his voice, Bertino chided Thompson.

“The motion was to have it at this meeting,” he said. “I heard what you said, and I respectfully disagree. If this body asks for something and we had a timeline, which we did, then there is no excuse.”

Commission President Ted Elder (District 4, Western) asked Thompson what an audit would do to finance staffers’ morale during budget time. Thompson replied that having an auditor in his department would be “impossible,” he said, adding, “it’s been a challenging budget cycle in general.”

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic pointed out, with Thompson’s input, that annual financial audits have never revealed significant issues and questioned the need for additional taxpayer-funded scrutiny. He also said many departments could fairly share the blame for the years-long financial mistakes.

“I think we’re reactive, to everything, from the top-down,” said Mitrecic. “I’m tired of being reactive. I’m tired of being caught flat-footed. It’s time to be proactive. So, if you want to spend the money on an audit, go ahead. But I don’t think you’re going to learn anything from it that we don’t already know.”

Elder also said the issues Bertino brought up have been rectified, “if not all of them.”

“We’re kind of right in the middle of correcting things as we go along,” said Elder. “I can’t see that switching horses in the middle of the stream’s gonna be much good. I think we need to get to the other side first, and go over what we need the auditors to do. When we get a yearly audit, we need to have it all corrected at that time.”

Ultimately, the commissioners rejected Bertino’s motion for an audit in a 2-5 vote.

AGH corp. board signs off on merger

Two Eastern Shore hospital systems eye May 1 goal as process completion date

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) Board members of the Atlantic General Hospital Corporation have voted overwhelmingly to proceed with their planned merger with TidalHealth.

Out of 77 members present in person or by proxy for the March 27 meeting, there were 72 votes in favor of approving the merger transaction, and five votes in opposition, according to Don Owrey, chief executive officer of AGH.

Both parties are in the process of providing the necessary notices and disclosures to the various regulatory agencies ahead of the expected May 1 start of their agreement.

The TidalHealth corporate board still must also approve the transaction, a vote that was slated to occur at a April 3 board meeting, according to spokesman Roger Follebout.

Five weeks ago, TidalHealth provided formal written notice to the state of Maryland, which is required by law at least 30 days ahead of a merger date, according to Tracey DeShields, the Director for Policy Development and External Affairs at the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)

The Feb. 28 letter also sets May 1 as the date in which TidalHealth would become the sole member of the AGH corporation. Both parties had signed a letter of intent to merge Dec. 12.

“The parties have determined that it is in the best interests of their respective communities to affiliate and that the integration of AGHC into the TidalHealth system will increase the availability of opportunities for, and improves access to, quality healthcare services in the geographic area served by both parties,” wrote TidalHealth’s attorney Molly Ferraioli in the letter to the MHCC.

As a part of the merger, another

big change may be coming in the near future to the Berlin hospital: its name.

In TidalHealth’s letter to the MHCC, it’s mentioned how the name of Atlantic General Hospital “will change within a year of the [merger] and they will notify the Commission when such change occurs.”

TidalHealth employes 5,500 people and operates in 35 locations across eight counties on Delmarva. The former Peninsula Health System and its flagship Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) in downtown Salisbury became TidalHealth in 2020 after absorbing Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford, Del., and McCready Memorial Hospital in Cr-

isfield.

Ahead of the merger, AGH now employs 885 people, including a medical staff of over 270 providers at 20 locations in Worcester and Sussex counties, including doctors’ offices, outpatient facilities, and the original Berlin hospital, according to Owrey.

However, leadership from both TidalHealth and AGH have stressed that no job cuts are planned, and that all hospital system employees are needed in an area where many medical specialties are in short supply.

“We need more workers, not fewer,” Owrey said in a Feb. 24 interview. “I say it’s somewhat jokingly, but if the specialty ends in ‘-ology,’ there’s a need for those services.”



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Berlin parking lot granted variances by BZA

Town's request largely due to lease not allowing for paving of existing parcel

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) A new public parking lot planned for the corner of West and Washington streets in Berlin will not be paved and will likely be grass in its first season with only modest improvements.

The Town of Berlin has struggled to increase its available parking supply for years. To remedy the issue, the Berlin Mayor and Council recently entered an arrangement with William Esham, Jr. to lease a vacant 2.13-acre lot on the west side of West Street. The space will provide over 100 spots.

The parking lot was before the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals last week. Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall presented the parking lot plan, as the Mayor and Council are the official applicants of the proposal.

"It's no surprise that a small town that's 157 years old was not built for

the car traffic we have today," Tyndall said. "We hear that first and foremost with, whether it's from our businesses, whether it's from folks that live in town trying to go to the dentist or the eye doctor, parking is a challenge ... It's something we are trying to alleviate. Will this lot do it on its own? Probably not, but it's part of a very integral puzzle in getting our parking lots up to where they need to be to hold the volume of traffic we are trying to bring in."

The mayor added the lack of available parking spaces impacts the revenue businesses can bring in. If there isn't room for all the visitors who want to enjoy Berlin, they won't shop or dine at local establishments.

"What we found through the strategic planning process is a cap on what our businesses can really see in the form of revenue and folks visiting their shops," Tyndall said. "We are trying to provide that additional service of parking and hoping it provides some secondary economic benefits as well."

The mayor went before the board

to seek waivers for a few requirements currently outlined in the town code. To get the lot off the ground, Tyndall asked that the mandate that a lot be graded and surfaced with asphalt or other similar materials be abandoned for this particular project.

Esham, the property owner, has stipulated in the lease agreement between himself and the town that paving is prohibited. Had the requirement not been waived, the town would have had to terminate the contract and forgo the \$60,000 already paid with ARPA funds. However, the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals ultimately agreed to allow the town to move forward with the initiative without the surfacing condition.

According to Tyndall, the Esham family requested the lot not be paved with blacktop because the contract was simply a lease arrangement. The town did not buy the property.

"This is a trial to see if it will work," Tyndall said. "The Eshams want to make sure that if it doesn't work, they can still turn it into something viable for the town and them. We want to try to do it in a way that if it is viable, we can do something other than a lease and maybe make those improvements at a future date."

The mayor added the town's public works department will make improvements to the grass area to get the lot "up and running" for the upcoming season.

"Hopefully if it's successful, next year we will move into some form of a solid surface," Tyndall said.

The mayor also requested that the current code requiring curbing or buffering and landscaping, such as including ornamental trees, be waived. The property owners have asked that a fence be installed instead.

"The look [of the fence] we would be going for is basically the fence you would have in your front yard," Tyndall said to BZA Chair Joe Moore. "... We want to keep with the aesthetic of downtown and the neighboring properties."

The Board of Zoning Appeals granted the landscape variance request.

The town also requested some leeway to the code requirement that the parking area be located 20 feet from any street line and every residential lot line.

David Gaskill, attorney for the town, said the mandate is met under the current concept plan, but he and the town would like some breathing room if any changes were made to the proposal.

"The ordinance requires that every off-street parking area for more than five vehicles should be located at least 20 feet from any street line and from any residential lot," Gaskill said. "If you look at the concept plan, it appears to be well over 20 feet right now, but ... this is a concept plan, and it may not change, but if we do need that extra space, I would like to have the opportunity to have that provision waived."

Gaskill noted if the mandate is waived, the town could commit to a minimum 15-foot setback. The attorney pointed out that other lots in town do not meet this requirement. However, the zoning board maintained the 20-foot provision should be upheld.

The parking lot discussion yielded comments from the public.

Berlin resident Carol Rose expressed concern that the parking lot could lower property values.

"If someone would need to unexpectedly sell their home, I think having this parking lot there would be a hindrance to getting a fair price," she said.

Tyndall assured the town would do its best to ensure that the project had as little impact on property values as possible, reminding attendees the town's primary revenue source is property tax revenue.

Rose also asked that more be done to beautify the area, such as landscaping with the help of the municipality's horticulture group. Still, the zoning board maintained the suggestion and ones like it would be more

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Mayor: Lot likely grass for season

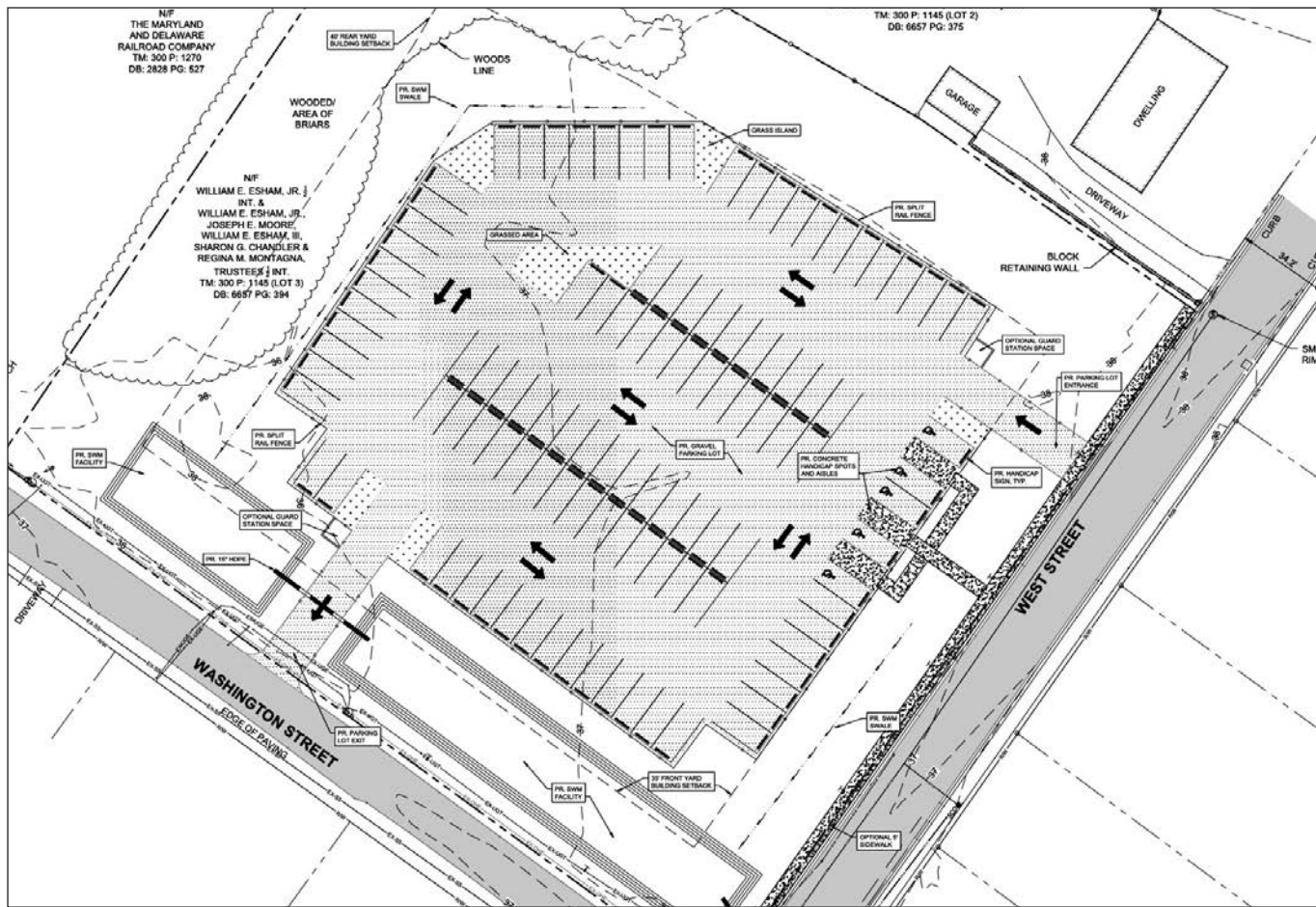
fleshed out when the proposal came before the planning commission.

Resident Betsy Love expressed her concerns with potential traffic increases on Washington Street with the new lot. Jimmy Charles, Berlin's public works director, hopes the parking spaces will alleviate some vehicle congestion. The new lot will allow visitors to head straight to the designated parking lot rather than searching along town streets as is the case currently.

"Traffic on Washington Street is high right now," Charles said. "When people come to events, they are searching every street for an open spot. With this plan, we will have signage directing people, and ... we hope to relieve the people driving around."

The zoning board voted to grant the town's request to waive the paving and landscaping requirements for the new lot planned for West and Washington streets. The group agreed to uphold the 20-foot setback minimum.

The lease extends for 10 years. Tyndall said that a fee to park will likely be implemented, but the amount and timing is unknown. The town is to pay the property owners \$30,000 in rent for years one, two, and three and \$35,000 for years four



A schematic of the proposed layout for the new 100-plus space parking lot shows the entrance on West Street with the exit on Washington Street. It was said during last week's meeting motorists will exit west on Washington Street and be directed to Broad Street.

and five. The rent will increase 3% annually for years six through 10.

"We are exploring the use of Park-Mobile because we need to break

even on the lease for the lot," Tyndall said. "We have used American Rescue Plan Act funds to cover year one and year two, but it's a 10-year lease

and we want to have a sustainable path forward. It's possible there would only be a fee during peak times."

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Public comments welcomed on Rt. 50 shopping center

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) The proposed new shopping center to be anchored by a Giant supermarket continues to move through the approval process and now awaits the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' assessment of its environmental impact.

To that end, the Corps is seeking comment from the public and federal, state, and local agencies and officials.

The Worcester County Commissioners in the fall of 2023 approved site plans the shopping center to be located at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 589.

As designed, the shopping center is expected to be around 120,561 square feet, with Giant occupying about half the space.

The Corps issued a public notice on March 31 seeking feedback on the project's effects on the immediate area, which includes farm land, nontidal wetlands and ditches to Mud Creek.

The notice describes the scope of the work as "to permanently impact approximately 37,513 square feet (0.86 acre) of palustrine emergent

(PEM) nontidal wetlands for a mixed-use development and approximately 208 linear feet (2,107 square feet) of an agricultural ditch for construction of utilities and road crossings."

The Corps said the applicant had reviewed alternative designs and that it will collaborate with the applicant in an attempt to minimize environmental issues.

One step already agreed to by the developer is to preserve wetlands, restore any disturbed wetlands restoration or buy or restoration credits from an approved mitigation bank. The latter option's goal is to replace any lost wetlands on a one-to-one basis. This means that for every acre of wetlands affected, an acre elsewhere will be protected or restored.

The Corps' evaluation of possible impacts on wildlife found that the center could have a negative effect on the endangered tricolored bat and the threatened monarch butterfly.

The document released by the Corps last week "serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity."

The organization will accept comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested parties to consider the shopping center's potential impacts.

See FEEDBACK Page 15

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VISITOR CELEBRATED

The Art League of Ocean City welcomed Patricia Kearney of Ocean Pines as the 200,000th visitor to their home, the Ocean City Center for the Arts, on March 7 during their First Friday opening reception. The OC Arts Center opened its doors in 2013 on 94th Street bayside with support from the Town of Ocean City, the State of Maryland, Worcester County Arts Council, and private contributions.

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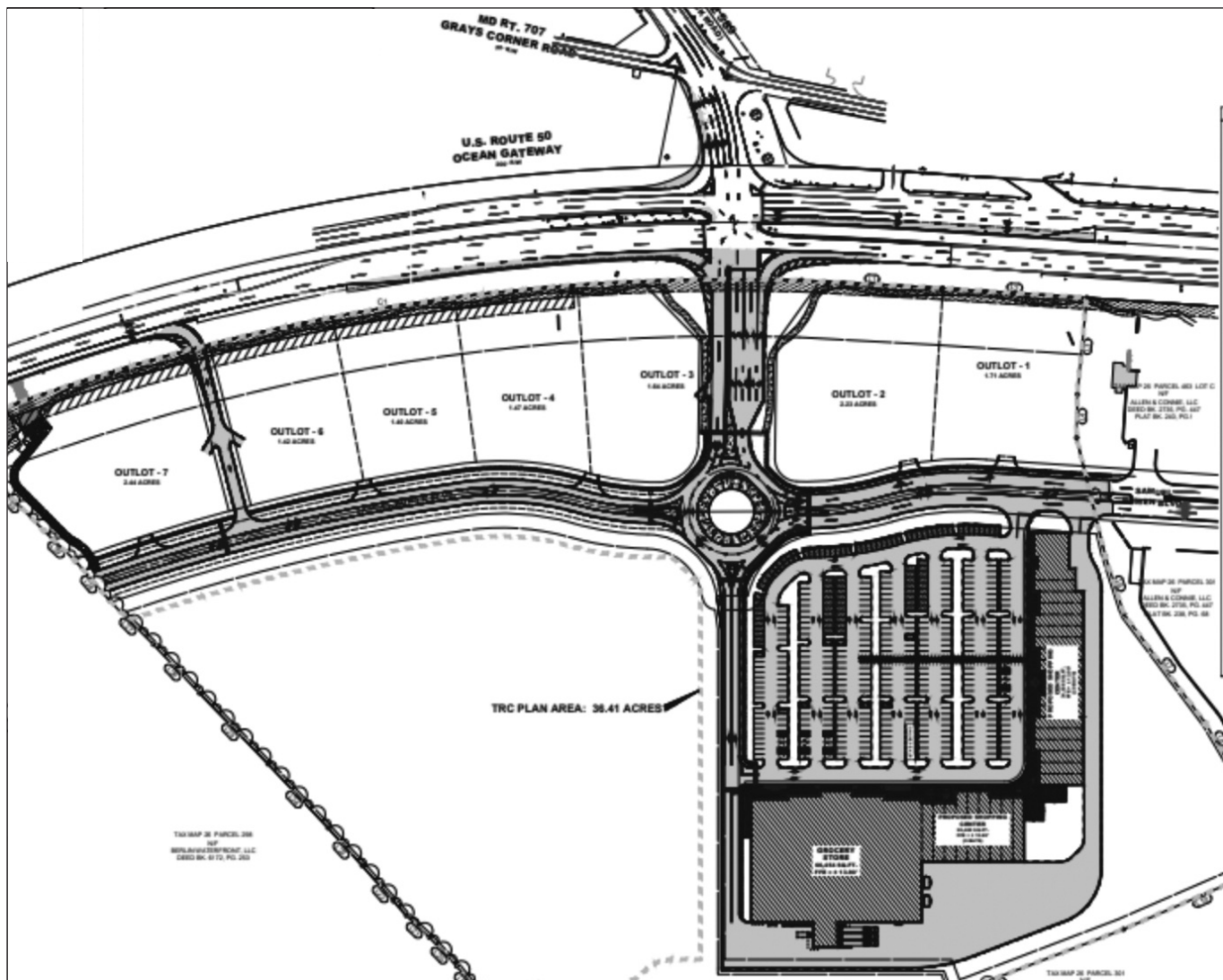
Feedback part of plan's review

Continued from Page 14
tial impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, and other environmental effects. The Corps will use this feedback to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for the proposed development and consider the need for a public hearing.

The notice confirms that the Baltimore District will receive written comments on the proposed work until April 30. Comments must be submitted electronically through the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Jaclyn Kelleher at jaclyn.k.kelleher@usace.army.mil.

Participants can also write comments to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attention: Jaclyn Kelleher, 218 Washington Street, Suite 304, Easton, MD 21601. The submissions must include the permit application number NAB-2024-60730-M53.

The Giant will be situated inside the new retail shopping complex by the Capano Management Company, referred to as the Coastal Square Shopping Center. The mixed-use development project is to include a grocery store, apartments, and retail buildings.



A schematic of the new shopping center is pictured off Route 50 near the intersection with Route 589. A new Giant grocery store is expected to be the anchor tenant.

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Superintendent evaluating commission run

District 6 Commissioner Bunting confirms current term will be his last one

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) Worcester County's outgoing schools chief says he's considering a run for a seat on the county's Board of Commissioners.

Lou Taylor, superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools, revealed his potential post-career plans in a radio interview March 27 on radio station WOCM 98.1-FM, along with school board President Todd Ferrante.

After talking through his decision to retire after a 41-year career in public schools, Ocean 98 morning show host David "Bulldog" Rothner asked Taylor what's next. "Are you gonna take any time off?" he said.

Taylor said he does plan to take the summer off but would still be available to help the school system if they need him.

"I need to recharge," he told Bulldog. "I need to feel better physically, mentally. I need to understand what life is about besides being in schools, because that's all I've done."

Show co-host Bill "The Dude" Todd followed up about Taylor's future

plans. "I've heard a rumor through the rumor mill," he said, "that you might have some higher aspirations down the road here."

Taylor clicked his tongue.

"Well, I'm considering," he said. "That rumor is kind of true, because I have put it out there somewhat. If I can get rested and I can get rejuvenated, possibly running for District 6 county commissioner. All the stars have to line up."

"I'm getting a lot of people patting me on the back, saying, 'go for it, Lou' right now. But nobody who runs never met a voter who didn't vote for you until they go in the booth," he added.

Adjacent to the Delaware state line, District 6 is located at the northernmost end of the county and includes the Bishopville area and parts of Ocean Pines.

Jim Bunting has served as the District 6 commissioners since 2010. He served as president from 2014 to 2019. Bunting, who turns 74 next week, told OC Today-Dispatch on Tuesday that he is "99 percent certain" he won't run again in the 2026 election.

Taylor in his radio interview went on to say that he had other issues of concern, including public safety, continuity in our government, and how to work well with the Board of Educa-

tion. He also said he's "adamantly opposed" to the proposed field of wind turbines off the coast of Ocean City.

Ferrante then chimed in. "As somebody who works hand in hand with him, he's not going to let any grass grow underneath him. He's a Type A personality. He's not going to sit home and just do nothing," he said.

Taylor closed by thanking the radio hosts for their ongoing support for him, and for the school system.

"I'm hoping if I decide to enter the political field, that I will do the right things, and I can get your support moving forward," he said. "Once I re-

tire and everything, and it's out there that I do it, if I do it, I look forward to you guys having me on."

No candidates have officially filed yet to run for any of the seven County Commissioner seats in the 2026 election. In other county races, incumbents Sheriff Matt Crisafulli and Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Braniecki have filed for reelection, while newcomer Kathy Cater is the only candidate who has filed to run for school board.

School board members are now taking applications for a new superintendent and hope to name Taylor's replacement by May.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

VET RECOGNIZED

At its recent meeting, the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honored Ed Phillips, a veteran, for his service during the Vietnam War. The General Levin Winder Chapter is a Commemorative Partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration authorized by the U.S. Congress to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. In advance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, observed on March 29, Chapter Regent Sharon Moak, right, presented Phillips with a DAR certificate of appreciation, a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin and copies of three Presidential proclamations recognizing Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Phillips served in the U.S. Army.

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Teal Bay Mitzvah group organizes Sole4Souls drive

Footwear being collected at four OP, Berlin locations

(April 10, 2025) The Teal Bay Mitzvah Team, recently honored as the first recipient of the Good Neighbor Award in Ocean Pines, has launched a community shoe drive to benefit Sole4Souls, a nonprofit that provides footwear to people in need across the U.S. and around the world.

The team has placed collection boxes in four locations. People can drop off their gently worn shoes throughout April and May at the following sites: Ocean Pines Community Center, Ocean Pines Library, Teal Bay Mitzvah (2 Riverside Court, Ocean Pines) and Titan Gym (10452 Old Ocean City Boulevard, Berlin).

Each box carries a flyer explaining how the shoes will help. Some will go to entrepreneurs in developing nations. Some will land in the hands of children who have none. All will stay out of landfills, and none will go to waste.

Moyer Move Management stepped up, donating 50 cartons for shipping, and Zappos for Good is covering the cost to send them where they belong.

“Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals, we can give new life to gently worn shoes while making a meaningful impact for people in need,” Margit Novack, a member of the Teal Bay Mitzvah Team, said.

The team won’t stop at the collection drive. On May 17, they will be at the Ocean Pines Season Kickoff event, raising awareness, gathering more donations, and reminding people that small things – like a pair of shoes – can make a world of difference.

For more information, visit www.souls4souls.org, or contact the Teal Bay Mitzvah Team at margitnovack@gmail.com.

Obituaries

CONNIE DYCHE MERRIMAN
Ocean Pines

Connie Dyche Merriman, age 87, passed away at her home in Ocean Pines on Saturday, March 29, 2025.



Connie Merriman

Connie was born in Hagerstown, Maryland on Aug. 6, 1937 to William and Mary Dyche.

Connie was an excellent card player who loved the casino, her friends and family.

Survivors include her partner, Jerome Edwards of Baltimore; her sister, Mary Ann Pellicano of Ocean Pines; her son and his wife, Denton and Karen Merriman of Abbottstown, Pa.; her daughter and her husband, Lacey and Mike Peppler of Delmar; and her brother-in-law, Jerry Russell of Baltimore. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Bryan and Steven Merriman, Christopher, Michael, William and Grace Ellinghaus, and seven great grandchildren.

Connie was predeceased by her spouse of fifty-six years, Donald Merriman and her sister, Billie Lee Russell of Baltimore Maryland.

A private celebration of life will be held at a date to be determined. Memorial contributions may be made to Coastal Hospice at PO Box 1733, Salisbury, Md. 21802.

JAMES D. YOUTZ
Berlin

James D. Youtz, age 77, of Berlin, died Sunday, March 30, 2025 at home. He was born in Columbia, Pa. and was the son of the late James Youtz and Miriam (Fisher) Youtz.



James Youtz

He was a retired truck driver for Yellow Freight Systems in Lancaster, PA. and a member of the Teamsters Union 771.

He loved boating on the Susquehanna River before moving to Maryland. He loved to fish and golf and

was a member of the Great Hopers Golf Group. He loved spending time with his family and friends and his precious grandchildren, Stella and Zane.

James is survived by his wife Sharon L. Youtz; two sons, Michael Youtz of Berlin and Jamie Youtz and wife Regina of Summerfield, Fla.; one brother, Tom Youtz of East Petersburg, Pa.; and two grandchildren, Zane and Stella Youtz.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Peggy Shreiner.

Services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Maryland 21802.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com

KAREN CHERIE PRYER
Ocean Pines

Karen Cherie Pryor, 69, of Ocean Pines, departed this Earth on April 3, 2025, at 4:05 a.m. Cherie was known for her bright smile, her kind heart, and her devotion to her family and garden.



Karen Pryer

Born August 1, 1955, in Baltimore City, she is preceded

in death by her parents, Katherine and Anthony Crisafulli. Family was very important to her. She is survived by her husband, Jack, of 36 years, her brother, Anthony JR, her children; Eric Berkeridge, Nanette Berkeridge, Jack Pryor JR, Jason Pryor, Jordan Pryor and Josh Pryor and their spouses (respectively); Jeannie Berkeridge, Budd Faulkner, Jessica Murray, Stacy Daigle, and Camille Pryor. Her grandchildren were the apple of her eye; Chelsea, Lance, TJ, Wynter, Great granddaughter, Isabella, Micheal, Jaya, Harper, Addison, Cora, Kaia, Roman, Casey and her children.

If Cherie wasn’t spending time with her family, you could find her in her garden or on her porch enjoying the sun! In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Diabetes Foundations (<https://diabetes.org/ways-to-contribute?form=FUNYHSQXNZD>).

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

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Opinion

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

School super choice will be first for county

Worcester County's public school system is about to make history, locally at least, as the board of education is on the verge of naming its first female superintendent of schools.

With local candidate Annette Wallace and Baltimore County's Monique Wheatley-Phillip the finalists in the school board's selection process, leadership of the county's public schools by a woman is guaranteed.

To many people, this wouldn't seem to be a terribly significant event. Because the field of public education draws many more women to its ranks than men, the odds would seem to favor a woman ascending to the top administrative post in any school district. Yet, that isn't how it has worked over the years.

Studies by various institutions show that women's career advancements within the administrative ranks end at the school principal level more often than not.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 77% of teachers are women and 23% are men. Those percentages are almost reversed — 73% to 27% in favor of men — on the leadership end of the hierarchy, according to Education Week online. This is even though more women than men, 66% to 34%, reach the career steppingstone level of school principal.

Although it is unpopular these days to talk about inherent bias, it is obvious that something of that nature has been going on for generations in the nation's public schools.

Most probably, the Worcester County Board of Education wasn't thinking about that as it began its pursuit of someone to fill the job opening created by the retirement of current Superintendent Lou Taylor at the end of June.

To the local school board's credit, members simply went after the best candidates, and that is what they have in Wallace and Wheatley-Phillip — two highly qualified people who, as it turns out, happen to be women.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opening reception attendees include, from left, Tamara Mills, WCPS fine arts supervisor, Anna Mullis, WCAC director, Belinda Gulyas, principal, CCSS family of student Abraham Acosta-Contreras, pictured in front, Mary Beth Lampman, CCSS art teacher and Carole Campbell, Abraham Costa's nurse at CCSS.

Exhibit celebrates Youth Art Month

Arts Council, Cedar Chapel team up for opening reception

(April 10, 2025) In celebration of Youth Art Month, the Worcester County Arts Council (WCAC) proudly presents an inspiring exhibition showcasing artwork created by students from Cedar Chapel Special School.

This special exhibit is part of their I Heart Poetry – Anthology of Free Verse project, highlighting the creative talents and expressive voices of these young artists.

Several students attended the opening reception on Friday, March 14 with their families, teachers, and friends, adding to the joyful and supportive atmosphere of the event.

Their artwork, now on display at the WCAC Gallery, located at 6 Jefferson St. in Berlin, offers a unique opportunity for the community to experience their perspectives through art and poetry.

As part of their creative journey, students used the Expanding Expression Tool (EET) to enhance their descriptive and artistic skills.

"We are thrilled to showcase the incredible talents of Cedar Chapel Special School students," said Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council. "Art is a powerful tool for self-expression, and it is essential to create inclusive opportunities where all students, regardless of ability, can share their voices and perspectives with the community."

Youth Art Month is a national initiative that emphasizes the vital role of arts education in fostering creativity, self-confidence, and communication skills in students. It also recognizes the dedication of educators who nurture artistic expression and provide students with the tools to explore their creativity.

The Worcester County Arts Council encourages the community to view the exhibit and support these talented young artists. Don't miss this inspiring exhibition that showcases the beauty of artistic expression and the power of inclusive arts education.

For more information, please contact the Worcester County Arts Council at www.worcestercount-yartscouncil.org.

Art League invites plein air artists

Festival to celebrate 20 years of hosting outdoor paint event

(April 10, 2025) The Art League of Ocean City's annual outdoor painting festival, "Artists Paint OC," is happening Aug. 13-17, 2025 in the resort, and artists who paint "plein air" are invited

to register for the competition.

In 2025, the festival celebrates 20 years of bringing outdoor painting to the community.

For five days, 50 of the region's best landscape painters compete for prestige and cash prizes — more than \$8,000 total — with the 1st place winner receiving

\$2,500.

These "plein air" artists are professionals; many are award winners in multiple competitions.

The 50 artists spread out across the area to paint anything that catches their eye, from the Boardwalk to Assateague to Berlin and beyond.

See ART Page 19

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$90/year or \$45/6 mos.
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County requests state audit of school system

Worcester commissioners agree to send formal letter to state legislative services

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 10, 2025) Worcester County officials say they will formally request that the county's Board of Education be audited by the State of Maryland.

The legislative audit request was made by Commissioner Caryn Abbott (District 7, Southern) during last Tuesday's county commissioner meeting.

"I'm asking us to reconsider that and send a letter," she said. "Apparently we're in the window where we can make that request." Her motion to send that letter was approved unanimously.

A letter directed to the state's Department of Legislative Services will be drafted and go out by early next week, county spokeswoman Kim Moses said.

The state's Office of Legislative Audits conducts audits of school boards every six years, the objective

of which is to evaluate whether a school system's accounting procedures are efficient and are safeguarding assets.

The last time the results of a Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) audited were released was 2017 – after which point, WCPS got the green light to delay its next audit, which Abbott also mentioned in the meeting.

The public school system was exempted from an audit during the 2017-2022 window because the audit law allows school systems to ask for a free pass if the county's governing body, the school board, and its state legislators all make the request in writing.

A school system can't be exempt for two consecutive audits, the law also says, meaning Worcester County schools would be eligible again at some point in the current 2023 to 2028 cycle.

"I just think it's prudent to do it," Abbott said in an interview. "I'm not sure why (an exemption) was asked for and given. It's an independent and objective review, and that doesn't

hurt, it only helps. I thought it would be a good tool for the schools and the taxpayers, especially with a new superintendent coming in."

The last two WCPS audits, from 2010 and 2017, are publicly available online. The 2010 audit mentioned several recommendations to "enhance controls and to implement best practices" in the areas of procurement, transportation, food services, facilities, an inventory.

WCPS at the time was cited for a failure to bid certain construction contracts, contrary to state law governing procurements by local boards of education.

In the 2017 audit, the state noted how WCPS had not established processes to monitor employees who processed vendor invoices and payroll. That audit also found security risks in computer networks, and that transportation costs were "excessive" because bus contractors were paid more than necessary for bus purchase reimbursement and fuel costs.

Even before the 2017 audit results were released in June 2017, WCPS Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert in September 2016 was asking the

school board to request a formal audit waiver.

Tolbert said it could save school system employees 1,200 hours in audit assistance, bringing their focus back to primary tasks. "Not unless you want to hire two or three more accountants, we don't have the huge staff," Tolbert said, according to a Sept. 22, 2016, report from the Maryland Coast Dispatch.

Board members at that meeting agreed that receiving the waiver would be validation that the school system has an upstanding financial record, and the motion had support from then-superintendent Jerry Wilson.

School audits can make a major impact. Prince George's County Public Schools were found in audit results published March 25 to have accidentally paid a substitute teacher more than \$7 million in 2022, the result of human error in payroll software.

"That's the kind of stuff that's found in the legislative audit," Abbott said. "We always have to be improving our system with checks and balances. It's nothing personal; it's just being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars."

'It's an independent and objective review, and that doesn't hurt, it only helps.'

Commissioner Caryn Abbott

Art event registration ongoing

Continued from Page 18

Registration is limited to 50 artists, age 18 or older, on a first-come basis. The registration fee is \$50 for Art League members, \$65 for non-members and is non-refundable. Registration includes participation in the full event and the Sunday Boardwalk Quick Paint, sponsored by the Ocean City Development Corp. Registration is now open at OCart.org.

The artwork painted during the festival will be available for purchase during two sales at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on Saturday, Aug. 16, 5-7 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 17, 1-4 p.m. The best of the artwork will remain on display through September 2025.

The juror for the competition is Sara Linda Poly, whose past expe-

rience includes illustration and design and work as assistant gallery director at the Art League Gallery in Alexandria, Va., where she is now an instructor.

Known for her sweeping skies and dramatic light in the landscape, she has been the winner of numerous awards.

Sponsorships are also available for the festival and welcomed by the non-profit Art League. Sponsors present special awards to the artists who best portray a theme or category, for example, Best Use of Light or Best Maritime.

Interested sponsors may contact Jessica Bauer, the Art League's Development Director, at development@artleagueofoceancity.org.

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Photo by Stephen Pryce Lea

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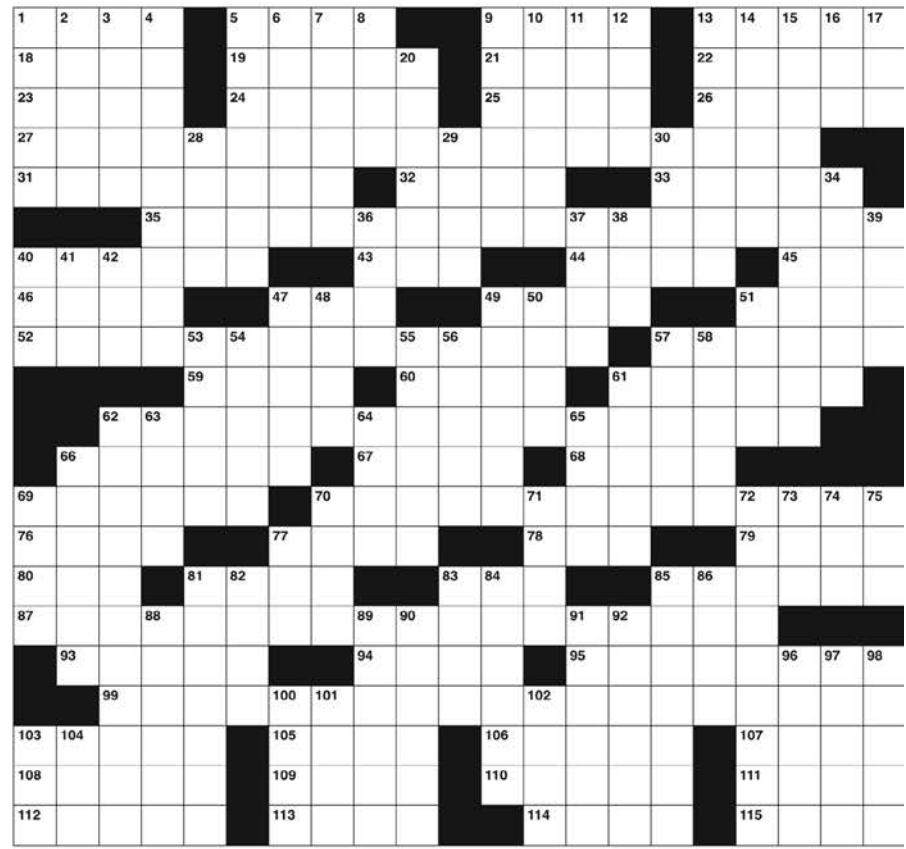
TempleBatYam-oc.org

Puzzles

MARK MY WORDS BY SIMEON SEIGEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Simeon Seigel, of Brooklyn, is a partner at the Turret Collaborative, an architecture and design firm in New York City. He sees a similarity between his professional work and crossword constructing: "They're both about finding creative ways to work with and around a litany of practical constraints, rules and conventions to create something unexpected and beautiful." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Choose not to take part
 - 5 Style of hip-hop
 - 9 "Like, duh!"
 - 13 Settles, as the stomach
 - 18 High in the Andes
 - 19 Hole-boring tool
 - 21 Feature of a safe landing, perhaps
 - 22 Architectural projection
 - 23 Hit the _____
 - 24 Stiletto feature
 - 25 Fraudster Sorokin profiled in Netflix's "Inventing _____"
 - 26 Mere pittance
 - 27 [Not this]
 - 31 Film attire for George Clooney and Christian Bale
 - 32 The Emmy statuette depicts a winged woman holding one
 - 33 Jordan's most-visited tourist site
 - 35 ... Ancient
 - 40 Returns a call, in a way
 - 43 Comprehension
 - 44 Facilitates
 - 45 Sch. whose student newspaper is The Reveille
 - 46 Kid who's a handful
 - 47 Utter
- DOWN**
- 1 Medicare section
 - 2 Literally, "love," "peace" or "mercy"
 - 3 Weasel family member
 - 4 Special sympathies
 - 5 Garfield and others
 - 6 Hath dominion o'er
 - 7 Eight-time Grand Slam tournament winner from 1992 to 2003
 - 8 Spa treatment, informally
 - 9 Keynote figure
 - 10 Baguette in Vietnamese cuisine
 - 11 Wall climber
 - 12 Apply haphazardly, with "on"
 - 13 Reproductive systems?
 - 14 Question of self-reflection
 - 15 Items helpful for removing pet hair
 - 16 Chess pieces
- ACROSS**
- 49 Pickles might be in them
 - 51 Dollar, informally
 - 52 # Believes
 - 57 Useless
 - 59 Stack in an office cabinet
 - 60 1960s diplomat Dean
 - 61 Hold together
 - 62 * Composed *
 - 66 Canadian dollar, informally
 - 67 Stimulant crop of South America
 - 68 Pricing level
 - 69 Dishes out
 - 70 Feasts - - -
 - 76 Fairy _____
 - 77 Put-down
 - 78 Modern love?
 - 79 Elegant and luxurious
 - 80 Translation of "fin"
 - 81 Target for a Mighty Patch
 - 83 Something searched for in vein?
 - 85 Soak
 - 87 Alumnus °
 - 93 Leader who wrote "The Discovery of [96-Down]"
 - 94 Feed at a trough
 - 95 Steep decline
 - 99 — Peruse —
 - 103 Do a millworker or barista's job, maybe
 - 105 Its southernmost point, Pamana Island, is more than 750 miles below the Equator
 - 106 Group in "a pension fund"
- DOWN**
- 107 Mark one's words?
 - 108 Classification on a B.M.I. chart
 - 109 Having a certain strong flavor, as meat
 - 110 Fine print, often
 - 111 _____ wave
 - 112 Entries in a passport
 - 113 Makes liable for libel, say
 - 114 Average killers?
 - 115 Actor Diggs who made his film debut in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back"
- ACROSS**
- 17 Furtive
 - 20 Fix, as a logbook entry
 - 28 "If you say so!"
 - 29 School for some royal offspring
 - 30 Piece of one's mind?
 - 34 Bit of media revenue
 - 36 Terrier type from Scotland
 - 37 Joker ... or jokester
 - 38 Detectives, for short
 - 39 Home drainage option
 - 40 Recede
 - 41 Vin classification
 - 42 Something a pitchfork might go into
 - 47 What a star may represent
 - 48 "Alas ..."
 - 49 In the same way that
 - 50 Egyptian symbol of life
 - 51 Only solo artist with Billboard No. 1 singles in seven consecutive decades
 - 53 Curing liquid
 - 54 Cryptids of the Himalayas
 - 55 Proteins hypothetically responsible for mad cow disease
 - 56 Small scale amount
 - 57 "Point taken!"
 - 58 "Schitt's Creek" co-star Catherine
 - 61 Third part of a double album
 - 62 Diamond jubilee?
 - 63 Get around



- 64 TV franchise spun off from "JAG"
- 65 Big Sicilian smoker
- 66 Apply pressure to
- 69 You might be told to watch yours
- 70 Broke down
- 71 Sleeping, quaintly
- 72 First to the finish line
- 73 Sweetie
- 74 "Exit" key
- 75 "Don't tell anyone!"
- 77 Fiber of one's being, so to speak
- 81 Top marks
- 82 "Aw, rats!"
- 83 Tribe headquartered in Red Rock, Okla.
- 84 Music player button
- 85 Author who originally intended his pen name to rhyme with "voice," though Americans pronounced it differently
- 86 Walk unsteadily
- 88 Org. whose budget is classified
- 89 Period that a couple dedicates to themselves
- 90 Invariably
- 91 Not partial
- 92 Order after closing time
- 96 Country once led by 93-Across
- 97 Like a bodybuilder's arms
- 98 Much-lauded Lauder
- 100 Features of sleepy eyes
- 101 Genesis brother
- 102 Scholarship criterion
- 103 Whitehouse. follower
- 104 Stat achieved after a bases-loaded walk

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HARD - 91

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Native Plant Sale to return with new selection, compost

(April 10, 2025) Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) recently announce its 26th Annual Native Plant Sale, set for Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to noon at ACT's new location, 10031 Old Ocean City Blvd. in Berlin.

This beloved annual event highlights the crucial role of native plants in supporting pollinators and the environment.

Native plants provide vital habitats for birds, insects, and pollinators while reducing reliance on pesticides and fertilizers due to their self-sustaining nature. Home gardeners who incorporate native species can also create essential buffer areas that help reduce surface runoff and filter pollutants before they reach local waterways.

With the expanded native plant selection and local farm partnership this year, ACT is excited to introduce an expanded inventory of native sun and shade pollinator species carefully selected to promote eco-positivity in gardens.

With 40 species of native perennials, these plants are chosen to attract and support key pollinators such as butterflies and bees while fostering sustainability and biodiversity in home landscapes.

In addition to native plants, ACT is once again partnering with local organic farm "Herbs, Spices and Everything Nice" to offer 22 varieties of vegetables, including heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. This collaboration reinforces ACT's dedication to local agriculture and sustainable practices, providing community members with the opportunity to enhance their gardens with both native plants and homegrown produce.

To celebrate the event's 26th milestone anniversary, ACT is pleased to announce the availability of compost from "Go Green OC" and "Ocean Compost," offered for a donation while supplies last.

Community Engagement Coordinator Debbi Dean underscores the importance of compost in fostering robust plant growth and sustainability, making it an ideal complement to this year's plant sale.

Gardeners are encouraged to place online orders to guarantee plant selection and availability for their spring gardens.

A limited selection will be available for purchase on the day of the event.

Please note, arrangements can be made for an alternate date if the pre-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WORCESTER YOUTH DONATION

Worcester Youth & Family, a local non-profit whose mission is "Helping People Shine", had Program Support Coordinator Rachel Mitchell speak to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City where she also received a \$2,500 donation from the club. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell.

order pickup date of May 3 is not an option for you.

Proceeds from the Native Plant Sale directly support ACT's mission to ensure clean waterways and a healthy community through education and conservation efforts along Delmarva's coastline.

Assateague Coastal Trust is committed to preserving the health and

beauty of Delmarva's coastal areas through community engagement, education, and conservation initiatives.

For more information, including the online order form and native plant guide, visit ACTforbays.org.

For questions regarding order pickup or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Debbi Dean at outreach@actforbays.org.



OPEN HOUSES

April 10 - 17



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
Friday 1-3pm	9900 Coastal Hwy Unit 1407, Century I, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$599,000	Taylor M. Fowlkes/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	11964 W. War Dancer Lane #105, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$449,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-1pm	9900 Coastal Hwy Unit 1407, Century I, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$599,000	Taylor M. Fowlkes/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	12301 Jamaica Avenue #C209 Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$309,900	Rosemarie Leonard/ Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-3pm	5603 Atlantic Ave. Unit 301 Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	9500 Coastal Hwy., Unit 17J, Pyramid, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$449,900	Jeanna Terzano/ Engel & Völkers Real Estate
Saturday 11am-2pm	9500 Coastal Hwy., Unit 1J, Pyramid, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$439,900	Kevin Heselbach/ Engel & Völkers Real Estate
Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2:30pm	11605 Seaward Road, Unit E, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$399,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat & Sun 1:30-3:30pm	14000 Coastal Hwy #505, Avalon, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$685,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	5603 Atlantic Ave. Unit 301 Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	2 Edgewood Road, Ocean City	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$549,900	Chantal Apple/ Engel & Völkers Real Estate
Sunday 11am-1pm	8500 Coastal Highway #805 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Rosemarie Leonard/ Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	155 Jamestown Road, Unit 104, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$279,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	8 121st Street Unit 202A, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$289,000	Tammy Medlock/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1-3pm	12141 Landings Blvd., Bayside, West OC	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$574,900	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate



Calendar

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

Thurs., April 10

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN'S MOTHER'S DAY AUCTION

Women Supporting Women is holding an online auction for Mother's Day to raise funds for its organization, April 10 and 11. Web: <https://www.biddingforgood.com/wsw>. Mobile: <http://bfordg.com/wsw>. 410-548-7880

STORY TIME: ANIMALS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Songs, dancing and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME 'OPEN THIS LITTLE BOOK'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, 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. Dale Brown preaching and serving. bethany21811@gmail.com, 410-641-1286

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD & THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'THE GREAT GATSBY'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Frank DeLuco and Harry Burkett discuss the novel and the tumultuous life of its author. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BINGO

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Lively game of bingo with fun prizes. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ACCIDENTAL POETRY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Registration required: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

TEEN CRAFT LAB

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Chill, create and paint or dye a terracotta pot that is uniquely you. All supplies provided. For ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., April 11

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A great opportunity for babies (0-2 years) and their caregivers to socialize, play, read and explore in the library's bright

play space. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

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

MOVIE MATINEE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come see a movie you might have missed in the theaters. Light refreshments provided. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB: 'THE HOME PLACE' BY J. DREW LANHAM

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

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$14 for a one-crab-cake platter, \$24 for a two-crab-cake platter and \$10 for crab cake sandwich only. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Bake table available.

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 12

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, assorted pastries, fruit and beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for ages 4-10 years and free to those 3 years and younger. www.oceanpines.org, 410-641-7052

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Speakers will be Claire Rush Blades Eco-Tourism & Aquaculture Sales Manager representing Baywater Landing Marina and Katie Goezinger, OPA Recreation

Program Supervisor. All are welcome. 410-641-7662

LOCALS BLOOM MARKET

InnerBloom, 2908 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring 48 vendors including local small businesses, ice cream truck, farmers, makers and more. <http://innerbloomfloral.com>

KICKSTART KINDERGARTEN

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Six-session series built to help preschoolers get ready for kindergarten. Preschoolers enjoy stories and activities exploring school readiness skills. Light snack provided. For ages 3-5. 410-957-0878

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 13

PALM SUNDAY

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. Services held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

LOCALS BLOOM MARKET

InnerBloom, 2908 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring 48 vendors including local small businesses, ice cream truck, farmers, makers and more. <http://innerbloomfloral.com>

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 10 a.m. Join in for praise and palms in preparation for Holy Week. 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com

BEST BLOODY MARY ON THE SHORE CONTEST

Seacrets, Morley Hall, 117 49th St., Ocean City, 12-3 p.m. A \$20 donation at the door allows you to vote in several categories. Benefiting the Ocean 98 Cash for College Fund. <https://ocean98.com/event/ocean-98s-best-bloody-mary-contest-1/2025-04-13>

FICTION & FIBER ARTS

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 12-3 p.m. Stitch back in time with your fiber art of choice along to a live reading of "Oliver."

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., April 14

STORY TIME: RAIN

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

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

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. Group uses exercises to simulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, 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 help finding your roots, contact the local history librarian at 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. Paint or dye a terracotta pot that is uniquely yours. All supplies included. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CROCHETED RUGS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5-7 p.m. Learn the basics of making a rectangular rug or table mat out of recycled materials. Check list for supplies to bring with you. Registration required: 410-632-3495. www.worcesterlibrary.org

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

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

Calendar

a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Champion, 410-641-0157

BRIDGE

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

Tues., April 15

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

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

STORY TIME: COMMUNITY HELPERS

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

STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A 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

BABY TIME

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

COOKING FOR BRAIN HEALTH

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. This cooking demonstration will show you how to create a delicious and nutritious dish using ingredients that promote brain health. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY BAGS AND BOTTLES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Create a sensory bag or bottle for calming your mind and stimulating your brain. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SURGICAL CLASSES

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6 p.m. Upcoming surgery? Attend to learn what to expect, information about your surgery and directions about post-

operative care. Atlantic General Hospital's Pre-Admission Testing Department, 410-641-9814

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

Wed., April 16

36TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 a.m.-noon. Experts onsite providing health screenings, education and information about local healthcare resources. Free event. Alyce Marzola, 410-641-9268, amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

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

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

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

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of Backgammon, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

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

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

KICKSTART KINDERGARTEN

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. Six-session series built to help preschoolers get ready for kindergarten. Preschoolers enjoy stories and activities exploring school readiness skills. List snack provided. 410-641-0650

STORYTELLERS THEATER

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Theater activities like improv, memorization, public speaking and learning about theater. Best for ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. 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 Li-

brary 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

LOUIS PARSONS III MEMORIAL PHOTO CONTEST OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

OC Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., April 1-Sept. 1. Entry fee is \$5 per entry. Category winners will be announced on Nov. 1. <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/oceancitymuseumsociety>, 410-289-4991, emma@ocmuseum.org

BOOKMARK DESIGN CONTEST

Held throughout all of Worcester County library branches, during April. Design a custom bookmark. Pick up an entry form and template at your local library branch. Submit your design by April 30 for a chance to be featured. Winners will be announced on May 12. For ages 6-18 years. 410-632-5622

APRIL INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during April. Art, photography or poetry challenge for all ages. Pieces will be displayed in the library for viewing. The theme is "Crystal Clear." Due by April 30. 410-632-3495

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

FREE IN-PERSON TAX PREPARATION

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

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

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

QUEEN OF HEARTS

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

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

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

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

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

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

STUDENT HABITAT FAIR HELD

On Friday, March 28, Worcester Prep's 2nd-grade students hosted a Habitat Fair for fellow lower school students, staff, and families. Attendees learned about the various places where animals make their homes, from the rainforest to the Arctic and all the habitats in between. In class, the students explored different types of land and water habitats, the animals that inhabit each one, the adaptations they make, and the food chain. They also examined the various types of plants, landforms, and threats present in each habitat. After their lessons, it was the students' turn to teach by spending a month researching and writing about their selected habitat. They chose an animal from that habitat, and with the assistance of lower school art teacher, Mrs. Roman, they each created a model of the animal in art class. The project also transitioned to computer class, where Mrs. Lyons guided them in compiling their research into a digital presentation. Left, second grader Christian Williams shared his habitat project on the Desert with his family. Pictured, from left, are his grandfather, Jim Mathias; his parents, Lauren and Beau Williams; and his grandparents, Roland and Roxanne Williams. Right, second grader Henry Johnson was thrilled to share his Coral Reef habitat project with his family. Pictured, from left, are his mother, Jessica Johnson; his sister, Ella Johnson; his brother, Will Johnson; and his father, Jonathan Johnson.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LIONS CLUB DONATION

Belinda Gulyas, principal of the Cedar Chapel Special School, recently accepted a donation from Ocean City Lions' President Scott Stark. Located in Snow Hill, Cedar Chapel serves students with disabilities. Pictured, from left, are Stark, Gulyas, and Lion J. D. Quillin.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

In February, the Republican Women of Worcester County sponsored an essay contest that was opened to all eighth graders in Worcester County. The topic was the "US Constitution." Standing, from left, are RWWC President Jean Delcher, Tyler Smith, second place, Most Blessed Sacrament; Seamus Wilkinson, first place, Most Blessed; Brock Hidell, third place, Worcester Prep; and Susan Ostrowski, RWWC Literary Chair.

ACADEMY GRADUATES

Officers who graduated in the 120th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury are shown, from left, Lucas Webster and Lauren Lintz of the Ocean City Police Department; and Shanell Taylor, Autumn Harris, Eric Weaver and Alexander Bjork of the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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Email:
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