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JUNE 5, 2025

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ANNUAL TORCH RUN

The final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics was held Monday through Berlin. The event kicked off on the Ocean City Boardwalk and made stops at area schools.

Ballot set for OP board election

Four candidates on ballot in this summer's contest for three director seats

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors election approaches with four candidates officially registered to run for the governing group's three open seats.

The community's election committee conducted a drawing last week to determine ballot order and forum seating.

OPA's Board of Directors is a seven-person team tasked with policy setting. Terms extend for three years before a member is up for reelection.

Each summer, members of trhe association vote to fill that year's

This time, the four individuals

campaigning for the homeowner association's board of directors are incumbents Stuart Lakernick, the body's current president, Monica Rakowski, the acting treasurer and director Steve Jacobs. Challenging for a seat is a Amy Peck.

Peck ran for the board last year but lost to incumbents Rick Farr and Jeff Heavner. The repeat challenger served on the governing group from

See THREE Page 3

Did county offer teacher raises in private talk?

By Brian Shane, Staff Writer and Stewart Dobson, Editor

(June 5, 2025) The president of the Worcester County Commissioners reportedly offered a \$3,000 pay raise for teachers to the teachers association president two weeks ago provided she would end salary nego-

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OPA early budget review confirms surplus

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association is operating at a positive variance of around \$70,000 with a revenue surplus, according to the community's unaudited April finances.

OPA's Budget and Finance Committee met last week to review April's finances. During the evaluation of the unaudited numbers, it was understood that the association is operating at a favorable variance. Committee member Jack Collins inquired as to why, considering the favorable financial position, homeowners saw a \$25 increase in their assessment fees, which now sit at \$875 for basic non-water lots per the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget that was passed in February.

"We keep coming up in a positive

vein in terms of revenue," the committee member said. "... I get confused because when I see these positive variances and they come back with, 'well we have to increase our dues \$25' ... The question to me is, why are we increasing rates, increasing revenues, when we have all of this revenue surplus? Both on the budget side and on the actual side."

Doug Parks, the budget committee's chair who sat on the neighborhood's board of directors for seven years before stepping down in 2023 as president, argued that while he cannot pinpoint an exact reason for the assessment increase, he supports maintaining a healthy reserve balance.

"I am a big proponent of having the right reserve amount," Parks said. "When I was on the board, one of the things we pushed for, and [the general manager] and his team have delivered wholeheartedly, is that we wanted to make sure we had 'x' amount percentage in our reserves compared to the asset base. I think we're now up to 24%, 25% ... Future proofing might not be the right word, but you're looking ahead to ensure we have enough in our reserves."

Parks added that a stable monetary position is necessary to ensure a smoothly run homeowners association. The finances could be required for replacement work, bulkhead, drainage, capital projects, or unforeseen situations. A bolstered reserve is also needed to ensure the association can front expenses from major events or accidents, which, while insurance is likely to contribute, may not cover the entire cost.

"The worst thing that could happen

to a budget is an unplanned expense," the committee chair said.

Safety costs have also likely contributed to the increase in assessments. According to a report from OPA General Manager John Viola at the community's May 24 board meeting, 44% of the assessment revenue aids safety efforts. The rise in fees is likely to cover costs associated with hiring additional emergency personnel to compensate for the staff shortage the neighborhood experienced around two years ago.

Furthermore, in early 2024, the police department raised its starting salary by over \$12,000 to around \$63,500 to attract and retain officers. The budget and finance team said this additional expense has also likely contributed to the assessment's hand in

See PINES Page 7

Three seats open in OP election

Continued from Page 1

October 2021 to August 2022 after being appointed to carry out the remainder of a former member's term who had resigned.

The ballot order, chosen by a random drawing at the OPA Election Committee's May 27 meeting, places Lakernick first, Rakowski second, Jacobs third, and Peck fourth. The deadline for candidates to submit applications was extended to June 20 to solicit additional entries, as the community's governing documents prefer two more runners than available seats. As such, if anyone else throws their hat into the ring, they will be added to the ballot order, determined by their application submission date.

Steve Ransdell, election committee chair, said that the forum, where candidates will be asked questions to gauge their priorities and positions on specific issues, is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, June 27. Voting is set to open Monday, July 7, and close Wednesday, August 6.

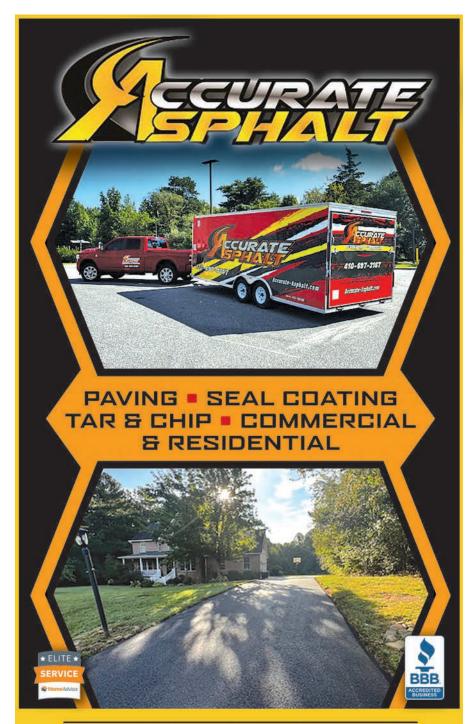
The ballot order also determines how the forum is conducted. Not only will the candidates be seated in order of ballot appearance, but questions will be asked in this configuration as well. For instance, the first campaigner on the voting card will be asked the initial inquiry.

In addition to an internet ballotcasting option, Ocean Pines residents can drop their votes into a box at the community's administration building. Homeowners can slip their votes into this collection site until noon on August 6.

The annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, August 9. The election results will be announced ahead of or at the scheduled gathering.

The election committee encourages residents to ensure their physical and email addresses are current to guarantee they can vote in this summer's election. Ransdell asks that homeowners contact the administration office with any address updates or to rectify issues like CPI (Compliance, Permit, and Inspections) violations that could prevent ballot-casting qualification.

For questions about the election, residents can email elections@ocean-pines.org.



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Pollinator garden tour planned for Saturday

Lower Shore Land Trust's annual event will feature nine Berlin properties

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) This week, Berlin residents and visitors will have the opportunity to explore the town's private pollinator gardens, talk to hosts, and learn about how to create spaces that attract the creatures necessary to ensure a healthy ecosystem.

The Lower Shore Land Trust, an environmental group covering Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset Counties and dedicated to preserving the area's natural beauty and health, prepares for its fifth annual pollinator garden tour on Saturday, June 7. This year, the event will feature nine properties in the Town of Berlin that contain plantings to attract pollinating insects.

Attendees can explore the gardens on a self-guided tour, talk to the properties' hosts, and get inspiration for their yards. The event will kick off on Saturday at 8 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Participants can check in to the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, where they will receive a pin to wear on their shirts for entry into the gardens, and a booklet with garden adand other pertinent dresses

information.

Tickets to the tour can be purchased for \$30 ahead of the event at https://lower-shore-land-trust.networkforgood.com/events/84313-2025-pollinator-garden-tour-town-ofberlin. Entry slips can also be purchased the day of for \$35. The tour will welcome residents and visitors to the town as they scope out the nine gardens, each with distinct character.

"The gardens are private residences, and each has their unique flavor, style, and plantings," said LSLT's executive administrator Margot Resto. "Some are very small, some are farms, and everything in between."

Resto continued, noting that on the tour, participants can expect to walk through each garden and see different ways of planting in smaller spaces, as the designated spots are private residences.

"It's kind of our theme, the small spaces have a big impact," the executive administrator said.

The flora is mostly native, with some variety. The space's primary goal is to attract pollinating insects, providing them with habitat, food, safety, and water. This will increase the number of these creatures and thus improve the quality of air, water, and our Earth.

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Service, pollinators play a vital role in the natural environment. The insects are necessary for the movement of pollen among plants to produce fruits, seeds, and new plants that create food for humans and animals, stabilize soil, clean our air, supply oxygen, and support wildlife.

Resto maintained that even individuals can make a difference in retaining the pollinator population.

"If all you have is a front porch with a container, you are providing something for pollinators," she said. "Everybody's containers, giant yards, and small backyard gardens are one big backyard for our pollinators. They have multiple places to come to. We can make a difference. It may be small, but each of us can."

Resto said the tour's goal is to inspire others to get involved and encourage a relaxing weekend.

"We are inviting people into people's private gardens to get inspired, get ideas, get tips, talk to other people with the same interests," Resto added. "It's also just a wonderful way to spend a Saturday, even if you're not a gardener, even if you don't plan on gardening, it's fun."

The garden tour will also have something for artists and artist connoisseurs. On the event day, a plein air painter will be on-site at each property creating a piece depicting the land-

"When you visit the garden, you can observe the artist in the act of creating art," Resto said. "They'll pick a spot where they love, and they will begin painting.'

The artwork will then be displayed and available for purchase on Friday, June 27, at the Bishop's Stock Gallery in Snow Hill. According to Resto, the artists are primarily local to the Eastern Shore.

The garden tour will also cater to the younger crowd with activities designed for children. Resto said that there will be a kids plein air art project in the Taylor House, where attendees will go to check in. From around 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., instructors and materials will be available for painting, drawing, and sketching in the space.

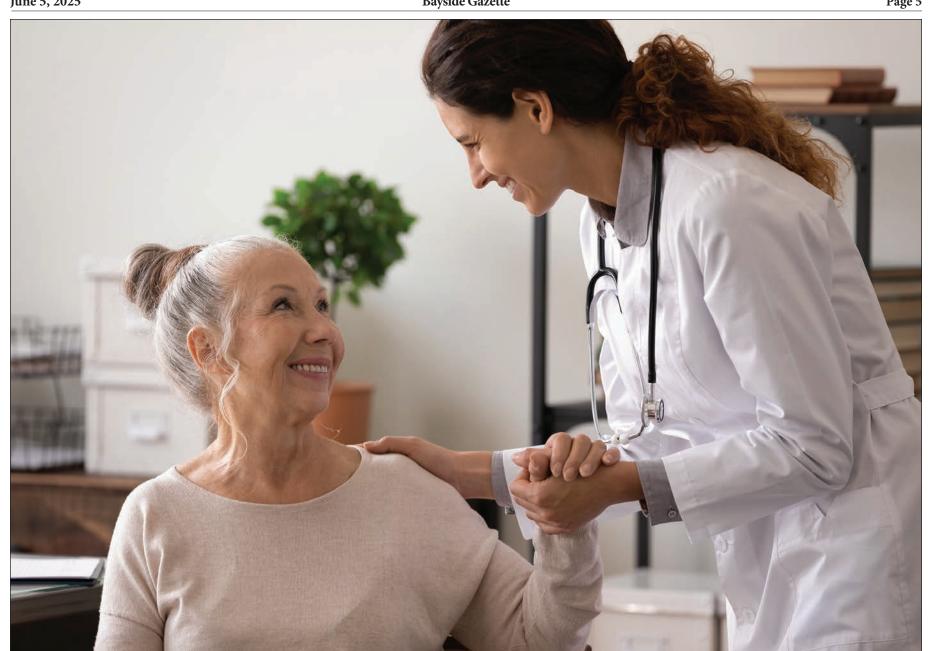
Furthermore, the youngsters can participate in a scavenger hunt. Sheets will be available, one for kids six and under and one for those older, to search around Berlin for natural features. Resto said the items will not be found in the gardens themselves but throughout town.

The garden tour is self-guided. Each property owner will speak about their gardens and volunteers will be on-site to assist with the presenta-

See POLLINATOR Page 8



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Parties disagree on who asked for meeting

Continued from Page 1 tiations with the board of education.

Worcester County Teachers Association President Beth Shockley-Lynch turned down the offer that included identical raises for school support staff, sheriff's deputies and other county employees on the basis that she was not authorized to agree to anything without her membership's knowledge and consent

Shockley-Lynch did not identify the commissioner she met with over lunch on May 23 at the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin, but this week commissioner President Ted Elder acknowledged that it was he.

The session between the two followed the commissioners' decision days earlier to raise teachers' pay to \$2,000 instead of to the \$4,000 raise agreed to during negotiations between the board of education and the association.

The \$4,000 raise the board agreed to was part of its multi-year plan to comply with a statewide legislative mandate, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, to set the starting salary for teachers at \$60,000 by the 2027-28 school year.

Worcester's current first-year teacher salary of \$52,789 is the lowest among Maryland's 24 public school districts.

In separate negotiations, the school board approved a \$2,000 raise for the public school system's support staff.

But some commissioners, including Elder, objected to giving teachers double the support staff raises, and decided to fund raises equally — even though the commissioners have no control over who gets paid what in the public school system. Their authority is over the over-



RIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTI

Pictured, from left, during last week's budget meeting in Snow Hill were Commissioners Caryn Abbott, Joe Mitrecic, Jim Bunting, Ted Elder, Eric Fiori, Diana Purnell and Chip Bertino.

all budget, not its parts.

Nevertheless, the off-the-books proposal was presented to Shockley-Lynch, as Commissioner Caryn Abbott revealed in a May 30 Facebook exchange with a critic of the commissioners' school funding decisions.

In her response, Abbott disclosed that the teachers had turned down a \$3,000 increase, although there was no record of such a deal having been offered in public.

"By the way," she wrote, "all of the

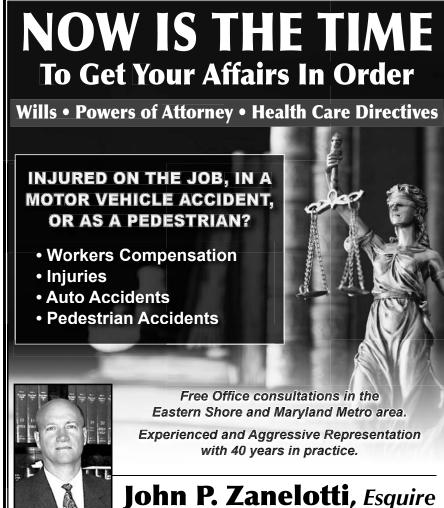
employees could've gotten \$3,000 but the teachers union rejected that so maybe you can thank them."

Shockley-Lynch, however, said accepting or rejecting the deal wasn't her call to make and that she told the commissioner she met with, presumably Elder, that the offer would have to be voted on by the full Worcester County Teacher's Association membership, and then presented to the school board. Accepting any kind of offer outside of ne-

See WAS Page 7



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Was increased raise an offer or suggestion?

Continued from Page 6 gotiations, she said, would violate collective bargaining laws.

"When I explained I did not have the authority agree to this offer, and I would consult with my legal counsel, I was told, 'that's the offer, take it or leave it.' I would need to put it in writing before Wednesday, May 28th at 12:00, when the commissioners meet again. If I did not take it, all departments (county employees, school support staff and sheriff's deputies) would be cut to \$2,500," she said.

Who invited whom to lunch is unclear. Elder said Tuesday the teacher's association reached out to him, while Shockley-Lynch said he invited her.

As for presenting a take-it-or-leave it offer, Elder said Tuesday he mentioned to Shockley-Lynch the possibility that the commissioners might consider amending their budget considerations to fund a \$3,000 across-the-board teacher raise instead of just \$2,000.

"I did ask her if she would, you know, if she could get the teachers to meet in the middle," Elder told OC Today-Dispatch. "And, of course there was discussions that they can't legally do that, I don't think. That's about where it went and that I had a nice meal with her and that was it.

"I did mention that figure," Elder said. "I said, 'I can't promise, but I think if we could, if you would settle for something like that, I think I could get the votes.' That's just what I said. ... I mean, it was a suggestion, that I may be able to get that. But I can't promise them anything and I made sure they knew that."

Elder also said he issued no ultimatums, "because I can't – I have no control over the what the board does, and I have no control over what the teacher's association does. I just I asked for something, and she said they can't do it.

Pines reporting budget surplus

Continued from Page 3 public safety.

Collins said he does not mind the increase but would like to know the exact reason for its implementation.

"I don't have a problem with a \$25 increase, I just would like to know why if we're running a \$1 million positive variance on actual numbers and \$472,000 on a budget," Collins said.

The team intends to ask the general manager for specifics about why the assessment was raised and what exactly the investment in public safety has paid for. The responses will be included in next month's minutes.

Last week's budget review was based on unaudited numbers. Parks said the audit is scheduled for mid-June, and results are expected by the end of the month or early July. That's it."

Shockley-Lynch, however, said, "The offer from a commissioner was that they felt there were four votes for the teachers, support staff, bus driver, county employees, and the sheriff's department to get a \$3,000 salary adjustment if the teacher's association agreed not to go back and renegotiate for our original agreement of \$4,000."

Elder added that he's met often with board of education members as both sides attempt to reach a compromise to fund the school system's \$115 million budget request.

Reactions were mixed when the commissioners met Tuesday to cast their final budget vote.

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) said he'd first heard about the lunch by reading about it on this newspaper's website and not from

his peers on the dais, calling such a meeting "highly irregular."

"We don't set the teacher's salaries," he said. "I think it was wrong that it even happened, let alone there was a deal trying to be struck that didn't include the rest of the commissioners. I would hope that in the future, this type of situation doesn't occur."

Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, Sinepuxent) credited school officials for working to comply with the commissioners' line-item budget requests.

"And in return, what do we do?" he asked. "Have a backdoor meeting for \$3,000 for a raise to try to leverage things?"

Abbott (District 1, Southern) then asked Fiori, "how many meetings have you had with the board of education and others that we've never been told about?

"I think we all can do better and certainly communicating amongst all of us is the proper way to do things," she said.

Mitrecic interjected that the commissioners' job is to confer with the school board, not the teachers' union. "So, you can't compare the two," he said to Abbott.

In her responses to Abbott's Facebook comment, Shockley-Lynch said, "Unfortunately, Commissioner Abbott does not understand how collective-bargaining works. A Friday afternoon last-minute offer to the teachers association is not the process in which collective bargaining works. The offer was not taken to the Board of Education. We do not negotiate with the commissioners; we only negotiate with the Board of Education. Obviously, they had the funds to offer an increase of \$3,000 but chose not to do it."





Juneteenth Celebration set for two days on June 20-21

(June 5, 2025) The public is welcome to join the Sturgis One Room School Museum in Pocomoke for its 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration, a two-day event with food, fun and fellowship.

Juneteenth is the oldest-known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States, first recognized by the state of Texas.

On Friday, June 20, from 6-9 p.m. the Pocomoke Library 401 5th Street (Old Fire Hall) will host an Open Mic Night hosted by Sharnell Tull a.k.a. Sista Big. The event is seeking all talents, singers, poets, or spoken word. Come showcase your talent.

On Saturday, June 21 from noon-4 p.m. at 209 Willow Street in Pocomoke, everyone is invited to enjoy free tours of the Sturgis Museum, door prizes, live performances, a bounce house for kids, music by Charles Smith, DJ Max 2.0, 360 Photobooth, and great food.

Guest speakers include Sista Big, Lissa J, community partners, and more. Sidewalk vendors include baked goods, community resources, jewelry, apparel, sunglasses, and more

If you are interested in joining the board or volunteering, please email Board President Kim Jones at sturgismuseum5@gmail.com.

The Sturgis One Room School Museum is the only African American One Room School in Worcester County retaining its original integrity. This event will bring together descendants of Sturgis students, past and present board members, as well as community partners. Everyone is invited. Vendor space is available.

Pollinator pre-tour event Friday

Continued from Page 4 tions.

Resto assured that proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the LSLT in its mission to preserve the shore. Money will also be raised the night before, Friday, June 6, at a pre-tour event at Sisters Wine Bar from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Entry to the Berlin bar is free, and beer, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages will be for sale. There will also be free appetizers, music by Rob Bailey, and raffles.

"We just want to invite people to come out and have fun and know that if they purchase anything there that night, the proceeds will help the Lower Shore Land Trust," Resto said.

According to Resto, in the past, the garden tour was held over two days and spaced out across one county or a few counties. This is the first year the event is scheduled for one day and localized to a specific town. The executive administrator said that the previous setup was difficult to secure volunteers and put a strain on hosts,

who were required to have their homes open for two straight days.

By having it in a more condensed area, the tour becomes walkable and easier to manage for organizers.

"We're experimenting to see what works best with everybody involved," Resto said.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to purchase a ticket ahead of time. Entry slips are available online and at the Sisters Wine Bar event. They can also be picked up the day of for an additional \$5.

"Anyone who would like to see beauty and be inspired, even if they are not a green thumb, even if they don't plan on planting anything, should come and have a peaceful day, if that's something they need," Resto said. "It's like nature therapy, is how I would describe it. You soak in all the beauty and get all that fresh oxygen. You might see some birds, butterflies, creatures, and quirky items in people's gardens. Come and be prepared to be inspired, surprised, and delighted."





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Commissioner Abbott shows support for Somerset moves

'Your decision to remove

divisive DEI frameworks is a

step toward unity.'

Worcester County

Commissioner Caryn Abbott

Official backs neighboring county schools for pushing back on 'DEI frameworks'

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) Worcester County Commissioner Caryn Abbott made an appearance last month across county lines at a school board meeting in Somerset County, where she offered support as a private citizen who opposes so-called DEI initiatives in public schools.

Abbott (District 1, Southern) spoke at a packed May 20 public hearing before the Somerset County Board of Education, where the public was allowed to offer comments and criticism of the board's reported \$1

million in proposed budget cuts, including one plan to cut loose school librarians.

"Thank you for your leadership and courage in addressing critical issues

facing our schools," she told the board. "I commend your efforts to refocus our classrooms on education, safety, and values that uplift every student.

"Your decision to remove divisive DEI frameworks is a step toward unity," Abbott added – a comment that elicited groans and cries of "come on!" from the audience.

"Please!" called out board member William McInturff, holding his hands in the air. School board president Matthew Lankford banged his gavel for quiet.

Abbott continued, sharing her opinion that DEI programs are "often rooted in ideology over evidence" and "can foster resentment rather than understanding."

"By prioritizing equal opportunity and merit, you are ensuring all students are judged for their character and achievements, not their identity," Abbott said, citing a 2023 study from the conservative-leaning Manhattan Institute that found 65% of parents prefer schools focus on core academics.

In her three minutes of commentary, Abbott also voiced support for the district's scrutiny of library materials, applauding the board for what she called efforts to remove "what many would call obscene books" and align resources with community standards.

"Literature should inspire and educate, not expose young minds to explicit content that undermines their well-being," she said, adding that a rise in book challenges nationwide reflects parental concerns.

Her remarks, at times, sparked audible dissent from audience members.

As Abbott concluded, she told the board "know this: parents, teachers, students, and the community stand with you." To that, the audience's murmurs swelled to a

brief roar, drowning out Abbott briefly with cries of "no!" and "no, they don't!"

Not all speakers were supportive of the board's direction. Brittany Tignor, the librarian at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, spoke in her capacity as treasurer for the Maryland Association of School Librarians.

She warned that eliminating library staff is both harmful and possibly illegal.

"Let us be clear: cutting school librarians is not a cost-saving measure. It undermines your students' success and ignores your district's legal obligations under (Maryland law) which requires certified library media personnel in schools," Tignor said.

She also warned that content restrictions could violate Maryland's 2023 Freedom to Read Act, which clearly states that library content "may not be excluded or removed from the catalogue of a school library



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Abbott says 'went as a citizen'

media program because of partisan, ideological, or religious disapproval."

Controversy has been stirred in Somerset County by two school board policy changes that passed in March: a revamped "whistleblower policy" that provides a 1-800 number for citizens to call in complaints, as well as revised guidelines for selecting and removing library materials.

The new guidelines bar materials with sexually explicit or discriminatory content and mandate school board approval for any new purchases of library materials.

The state librarian's association in a March 25 letter to Somerset's school board expressed deep concern that the policy changes – such as removing materials that reference sexuality, rebellion, or anti-religion – could amount to censorship and violate students' First Amendment rights.

"By promoting the beliefs and values of a handful of people, you ignore the fact that you work for every student and every family in Somerset County," the letter says.

When reached by phone May 27 for comment, Abbott clarified that she's been speaking out on Somerset County education issues for years and never attend any meetings in her official elected capacity. Abbott was elected to the Worcester County Board of Commissioners in 2022.

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"Well, I didn't go as a commissioner. I went as a citizen," she said Tuesday. "They forget that I'm still Caryn Abbott, the person, you know? But they think that because I'm a commissioner, that I can't go do anything outside my county, I guess. But I have been supportive of the Board of Ed over there, of the people that were trying to, you know, make things better for five years — so, long before I was a commissioner."

Abbott voiced concern over low academic performance in Somerset County schools and said she attended the hearing to support board members she believes are working to reverse years of decline.

She also cited an Executive Order signed in April by President Donald Trump that targets the practice of "diversity, equity, and inclusion" efforts, or DEI, in public education.

Abbott equated DEI with "Marxist ideology" and said it unfairly divides students by physical characteristics. She wants to see schools "get back to the core subjects."

"When I was in school, we didn't have all these political agendas in our schools — at least, I don't remember any of it — and we all succeeded," she said. "You didn't have the safety issues; you didn't have the academic issues you have now. So, it's obviously it's not working."





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Council holds tax rate, looks past concerns

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) The Berlin Mayor and Council presented the municipality's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget last week, revealing a stagnant property tax rate and additional interest income.

The Town of Berlin's Mayor and Council presented the municipality's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget on Tuesday, May 27. The document includes a balanced general fund budget of roughly \$17.4 million and a balanced electric budget of about \$8.8

million

According to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, the budget process begins with each department head submitting their team's needs for the upcoming fiscal year. During this initial process, the budget came in with roughly a half-million-dollar deficit. The finance group worked with staff on items that could be eliminated to reach the balanced fund that was reviewed this week

The approximately \$500,000 reductions, the mayor said, "won't come without any pain."

"The departments don't put in a lot of frills, and when they have to cut those things, it means something has to be moved to another fiscal year," he said. "...I would say some of the [cuts] are probably critical, but it's just a matter of when. Are we in jeopardy of the wheels falling off the tracks? No. Are we in jeopardy of [the utility director] not being able to get the things he needs to make sure the lights stay on? No. But, is it stuff you can defer for multiple years? No, it's not."

Tyndall continued, maintaining that while the budget cuts had "some real substance that needs to be chiseled away," the removed items would not have been eliminated if the town could not make it to the next fiscal year without them.

Also of note is the town's decision to keep the real property tax rate flat at \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value, leading into FY26. Even with the unchanged rate, the town projects additional income of around \$350,000, accounting for an increase in property value.

Two years ago, in 2023, Berlin increased its tax rate from .815 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to its current .8275.

Natalie Saleh, Berlin's finance director, warned the governing group that a flat rate could damage the municipality's financial situation in the long run.

"We are going through the same routine that we go year after year ... without an incremental increase," she said. "Every three years, the property is reassessed. When the new reassessment hits, it will be higher, and for you to say, 'now we're going to do an incremental increase,' plus the assessed value will go up, it will get harder. The more we wait, the harder it will get."

Saleh added that the town relies on the real estate tax as revenue for the general fund, and an increase will eventually be required to ensure Berlin's financial stability.

"We don't have new forms of revenue we can bring in to fund the ongoing projects," the finance director maintained.

Some council members resisted increasing the property tax rate, arguing that they must consider the escalating cost of living when making decisions that will affect constituents.

"Our job, I look at it as balancing what you just said, with what we're hearing from people out on the streets, and that is that people are struggling," said Councilman Steve Green in response to Saleh's comments. "Families are struggling amid rising costs of everything, working families ... you're the expert in the finance world. We







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Mayor expects tax rate movement next year

must balance that with what we hear from people, and families are struggling."

Green said he recently fielded a call from a constituent asking for help because she could not pay her first tax bill. He suggested she call the county treasurer's office, which agreed to work with the homeowner because many residents are challenged to meet their property tax amounts.

Saleh conceded that people are feeling the rise in living expenses. However, she argued that these increases are also affecting the town and the services it is required to provide.

"We have to look at the cost of equipment, how much trash pickup costs, how much the trash truck costs, and providing those services at the level that we've always been, that's our goal," she said. "And even better, we need to improve the services, but that unfortunately requires funding."

Tyndall expects to see some movement in the property tax rate next year, even if it's marginal. Green said he would prefer to "see what the surplus is" from the current fiscal year budget rather than talk about tax increases. The town typically ends its budget year with a surplus due to conservative budgeting.

Saleh also worries that the town is advancing too much money from reserves to fund certain projects, another reason she believes the real property tax rate must be increased to produce additional revenue for the town.

In addition to capital expenses, such as \$2.5 million for Town Hall renovations, \$216,000 for restrooms at Stephen Decatur Park, and \$2.8 million for a new public works facility at Heron Park, Saleh noted that there are some carry over initiatives from departments, particularly water resources, which has contributed to the decision to pull from reserves. Tyndall adds that the budget has a contingency of approximately \$45,000, but believes it is likely not enough.

"Some carryforward projects from fiscal 2025 are not completed," Saleh said. "The heavy lifter is water resources, they have major projects that they have been doing for several years and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been almost depleted...most of the biggest projects have been funded by ARPA, but also we have advanced some monies from capital reserves to continue and the prices of the project and the cost of equipment, supplies, and operations have been increasing recently."

Tyndall said that the finance department has worked on building up the municipality's reserves, which has resulted in a projected \$285,000 in interest income. However, the mayor said that to maintain this strong financial position, continuing to pull from these reserves will have consequences.

"There is too much coming from reserves in this fiscal budget," he said.

"That is not a good thing when you're trying to save and ensure we have the money we need moving forward. I want to ensure everyone knows that the finance director has been sounding the alarm about the significant pull on these funds from contributions from reserves. With that, it's not sustainable. Sooner or later, that pot of money does dry up, and we're sitting here talking about how we can see so much more in interest income. That doesn't happen if we continue to draw."

The budget reviewed this week also includes an electric budget of around \$8.8 million, which provides for water at \$5.7 million, sewer at \$7.2 million, and stormwater at around \$1 million.

Through discussions during the budget presentation, the council elected to make changes to staff appreciation. Historically, around Thanksgiving each year, the Town of Berlin provides its employees with a \$50 Food Lion gift card. Councilman Jack Orris initiated a discussion to do away with the line item and instead incorporate the \$50 into the one-time payment.

Thus, town staff will no longer receive a Food Lion gift card. Instead, their one-time payment amount, also given out around the holiday season, will increase from \$300 to \$350.

Berlin officials and staff agreed to eliminate the gift card line item, maintaining that the result remains the same: \$350 each year for employee appreciation.

"I like it," Green said. "I think some people don't like to shop at that particular grocery store, and I think it's easier ... I just can't imagine it not being well-received." The Town of Berlin will welcome residents on Monday, June 9, at 6 p.m. at its regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meeting for a public hearing on the fiscal year 2026 budget. The budget will be adopted at that time. The full document can be viewed on the municipality's website.

Included in the town's budget is a step increase for employees and a 2% cost-of-living-adjustment, resulting in most employees receiving a 4.5% salary jump.

The mayor noted he is confident in this year's budget and the town's financial position, but he believes some changes will likely need to be made next year, potentially to the real property tax rate.

"We're in a good spot, but we also have to make some smart plays over the next 12 months," he said.







Berlin eyes ordinance after recent business concerns

Discussion sparked after residents report concerns with nuisance business

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) Berlin's council may soon be able to enact enforcement strategies against businesses operating within the municipality, given that they incur an influx of complaints or cause issues for residents and visitors.

David Gaskill, the town's attorney, will draft a document that could allow the council to regulate how businesses operate within Berlin, provided they display nuisance behavior. Enforcement methods may include the revocation of a business license. The Berlin Mayor and Council will review the amended ordinance at a later date.

The move follows a council meeting in April in which town residents came forward, expressing their dissatisfaction with the Broad Street-located Tracks and Yaks, a railbike excursion. The citizens explained that the business is a nuisance to that part of town, citing issues with parking, trash, drug use, public indecency, and unsightly property. Tracks and Yaks operates via a Maryland and Delaware Railroad lease agreement.

Adam Davis, owner of Berlin Beer Company on Broad Street, spoke at last month's meeting when the issue was brought to light. According to Davis, the railbike group does not have restrooms for guests or staff. As such, these individuals have used Berlin Beer Company's facilities, putting a strain on the local business. Guests for Tracks and Yaks have also taken to using parking spots designated for Berlin Beer Company, which already has limited spaces.

Baker Street residents were also present at the April meeting. Citizen Sara Simon added that she has seen the excursion employees smoking marijuana in their cars and loitering on the streets. At the time, the Berlin council agreed that the business was



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Business regulations proposed

having a negative impact, believing the company was a public nuisance to the town.

"I am frustrated," said Councilman Steve Green at April's meeting, who lives nearby. "There were seven cars parked there today, jammed in there. It looks like total trash. We, up here, should not tolerate it. Whatever we have to do, whether it's sending a letter to the railroad company or Tracks and Yaks, we can't continue to tell these folks, 'You have to live with it.' That is not fair of us to ask ... they shouldn't be there ... I think it's time for the business to move out of Berlin."

In response to these issues and to prevent a similar situation, Gaskill will draft a document allowing the council to regulate these businesses.

The town's administrator, Mary Bohlen, maintained that the potential regulations would not dictate whether a business could open in Berlin. Instead, they would allow the council to stop behavior that is negatively impacting the town's beautification, services, and residents.

"It's important to note that such a regulation would not impact whether or not a business can function in a certain zone, that's part of a zoning code," she said. "This isn't about stopping a business from opening, as long as it's allowed in a certain location, it's more about dealing with it if there's a problem after the fact."

Gaskill agreed, explaining that regulations would be used if a business exacerbated town issues like trash, noise, and illegal parking. He added that the power could also be exercised if the business's building is not up to code.

The new ordinance may allow the town to revoke a business license or provide a pathway for the town administrator or planning director to suggest a suspension, which could then be appealed to the Mayor and Council.

According to the staff, the council is authorized to perform such actions.

"In the code, there are areas that permit the council to function as a sort of judicial body to hold a hearing and make a decision," Bohlen said.

Dean Burrell, council vice president, said he can recall a situation in which a business received many complaints years ago. The business was required to explain to the council why they should be allowed to operate in Berlin and the steps they would take to improve its behavior.

"It worked tremendously well," he said.

Gaskill will draft an ordinance pertaining to business regulations that the Berlin Mayor and Council will review upon its completion.

EASTERN SHORE LIFE ART EXHIBIT

Ocean Pines Library

Located on Cathell Road



From now through June 30th

Monday – Thursday 9am – 6pm

<u>Friday</u>

9am – 5pm

Saturday 9am – 3pm

Featuring creations by local artist

NANCY JARVIS

and much more!



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPTIMISTS IN COMMUNITY

Optimist Club members participated in Ocean Pines Season Kickoff last Saturday at the Veterans Park in Ocean Pines. Past President Bill Hickey and member Mitch Francis hold display signs showing Club Scholarships and other programs.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

On May 14, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City heard from guest speaker Russell Lederman of Dankmeir Optical. Lederman shared his information about the 3D night vision telescope he invented as well as 3D Astronomy "Space Walker" binocular. Lederman is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIP RECEIVED

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club provide an annual endowment to Wor-Wic Community College that supports many scholarship opportunities for young people to access in pursuit of a career that benefits our community. Above, Past President Charlie Smith is pictured with Stephen Decatur High School student Brennan McCabe who received \$1,500 and Wor-Wic Donor Relations Representative Heather Trader.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZE

NEW DAR MEMBER

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) welcomed its newest member during a recent luncheon meeting. Regent Sharon Moak and Chaplain Jane Bunting administered the oath of membership to Melissa Reid. She is a descendant of Lieutenant David Ball who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. Pictured, from left, are Bunting, Reid and Moak.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GILMORE RECOGNIZED

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented the DAR Medal of Honor to Marie Gilmore, center, at American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City. Americanism Committee Chair Pat Arata, left, who prepared the nomination package, explained the prestigious award is given to a United States citizen by birth who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, trustworthiness, service, and patriotism. Regent Sharon Moak presented Gilmore with the certificate and medal adding that this is an honor for both Gilmore and the chapter.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

The Worcester Country Historical Society announced its new officers and board members during their recent spring banquet in Pocomoke City. Pictured, front from left, are Secretary Erin Scott, President Jefferson Moak and Vice President Cara Downey; and, back Board members Jeff Bacon, Kimberly Jones, Karen Neville, Allison Blakeman, Alicia Gibson, Roxie Dennis, Bunk Mann and Barry

Obituaries

BEATRICE J. ANTONINI

Selbyville

Beatrice "Bebe" J. Antonini, age 98, of Selbyville, Del. died Monday, May 19, 2025, at the Country Rest

Home in Greenwood, Del.





Beatrice Antonin

She was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and was the daughter of the late Walter Arner and Florence (Baylor) Arner.

After high school graduation, her first

job was at the Passport Division in Washington, D.C. Thereafter, she had many jobs including retail and various property management positions, including George Washington University where she remained until retirement.

Bebe was involved in Maryland politics for many years and even ran for state delegate. Bebe was an avid book reader and artist. She learned watercolor painting while she was employed at George Washington University. She had various art shows in Washington, D.C. and Ocean City and she also volunteered at the Ocean City Art League for many years.

Bebe always loved the beach. When her father-in-law built a home on 87th Street in Ocean City in the early 1950's, she visited Ocean City every weekend and spent several summers there with her children. Her dream was to build a beautiful home on the water after she retired. Her dream was finally fulfilled at the age of 88 years old. She and her daughter, Teri, lived together in this home until her final days.

Bebe was a member of Fenwick Island Baptist Church, the Art League of Ocean City and her neighborhood book club. Bebe loved spending time with her friends on the beach, enter-

taining and playing any type of game. Bebe was always the life of the party.

Bebe is survived by her daughter, Teri Antonini of Selbyville, Del.; her son, Timothy Antonini and his wife, Linda of Annapolis; two granddaughters, Stacy Corwin and her husband, Tim; and Christina Rice and her husband Andy. In addition to her parents, Bebe was preceded in death by her sister Dorothy Penn.

Friends may visit on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Bishop-Hastings Funeral Home, 19 S. Main Street, Selbyville, DE. A funeral service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Fenwick Island Baptist Church, located at 36806 Lighthouse Road, Selbyville, Del. Entombment will be in Granite Memorial Mausoleum in Bishopville, Delaware.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Art League of Ocean City, P.O. Box 3503, Ocean City, Md. 21843. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bish-ophastingsfh.com.

J. OLIVER SMITH JR.

Showell

J. Oliver "Buddy" Smith Jr., age 85, of Showell, died Friday, May 30, 2025 at University of Maryland in Baltimore. He was born in Bishopville and was the son of the late John Oliver Smith Sr. and Ethel Anna (Smith) Smith.

He was a grain and poultry farmer and owner and operator of Smith Farms. Oliver was a lifelong member of the Showell United Methodist Church and a former member of the Farm Bureau, Maryland Certified Seed dealer and Maryland Commercial Fishing Assoc. He was a devoted husband, lifelong farmer and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and crabbing.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Janice McCabe Smith; three



J. Oliver Smith Jr.

children, Charlese Smith, Dean O. Smith and wife Robin and Brian Smith and wife Sheri all of Bishopville; eight grandchildren, Tyler Smith (Katie), Olivia Tyndall (Matt). Erin Smith

(Matt), Erin Smith (Brett), Adam Smith, Sarah Smith, Emily Smith, Chris Boston and Brandon Boston; three great grandchildren, Garner Smith, Fletcher Smith and Addie Tyndall.

In addition to his parents, he was

preceded in death by his sister, Naomi Taylor.

A funeral service was held Tuesday at Showell United Methodist Church, 10115 Pitts Road, Showell, MD. 21862.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Showell Vol. Fire Department, 11620 Worcester Hwy., Showell, Md. 21862 or Curtis United Methodist Church, 11808 Campbelltown Road, Bishopville, Md. 21813.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com.







Opinion

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

Commissioners really messed up this time

County Commissioner Caryn Abbott of Pocomoke didn't just let the cat out of the bag last week by revealing the backroom pay raise proposal made to the teachers association, she threw the door open on the majority's overreaching and sometimes slippery approach to government.

In secretly offering teachers association President Beth Shockley-Lynch a take-it-or-leave-it teacher pay increase of \$3,000 a year, as opposed to the \$2,000 the four-member majority voted for publicly after rejecting the board of education's \$4,000 deal with teachers, they did so many things wrong it's tough to list them all.

Still, we'll give it a try:

- They tried to co-opt Shockley-Lynch by getting her to agree to a deal she had no authority to accept without her membership's knowledge. They also unfairly tied the fate of all school system and county employees pay to her answer.
- They tried to circumvent the board of education, the only branch of local government authorized by the state to negotiate with teachers and other school employees.
- They might have violated the state's open meetings law if they agreed privately, through a phone poll or some other off-the-books manner, to pursue a deal.
- They got even with Shockley-Lynch for refusing to join their scheme by walking back that private offer of \$3,000, and instead voting for a \$2,500 raise in last Wednesday's public session. If they had the money, why do that?
- They assumed authority they don't have over teachers' pay either through ignorance of the law or purposely going around it to try to repair the political damage they suffered after rejecting the terms of the teacher/school board con-

Whether the majority just didn't know any better or took this route for political reasons makes no difference. It's no way to run the county and changes should be made.

- Stewart Dobson

(We acknowledge that Executive Editor Steve Green has filed to run for the 4th District county commissioner seat.)

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Berlin looks to prioritize stormwater

Town seeks bids in an effort to improve utility, officials vote

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) The Town of Berlin will issue an RFP (request for proposal) to determine the ownership status of ditches and property elements as they pertain to stormwater in an effort to prioritize the utility, despite being uncertain of how to fund the potential project.

At its Tuesday, May 27 meeting, the Berlin Mayor and Council discussed the issue of stormwater. The conversation was initiated by Councilmember Jack Orris, in which he urged the body to prioritize the success of the utility. The representative argued that major improvement work is needed to ensure the success of stormwater maintenance in town.

"Over the past five plus years, it's definitely felt like swimming against a current at times, trying to navigate the town's stormwater utility as well as the fiscal draining system," Orris said. "...We have come a long way since 2013 with a stormwater utility ordinance and fee, but the fact is this utility hasn't operated in the black almost every year since. In order to balance the fund, interfund transfers have regularly been used. Grants are certainly great ... however, while we wait for grant opporthe current ... stormwater system needs improvement."

The councilman suggested a complete evaluation of the stormwater utility, "from the ground up," including the review of state laws, easements, ownership, and "what the utility itself would need to ensure sufficient operations, remove barriers, and work towards creating a stormwater system that Berlin deserves."

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said that the first step to improve stormwater efforts would be figuring out who owns what, so as to determine whether the town or a private entity or individual is responsible for maintenance.

'We are missing an understanding of who owns what," Tyndall said. "If I could ask for one thing for the stormwater fund this year, I think the best thing we could do is hire someone to tell us this is a publicly owned ditch, this is privately owned ditch, this is owned by the Town of Berlin. That would be money well spent."

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen added that staff does plenty of work on stormwater, but they face restrictions as to what is possible.

"We do have staff, and they do a lot of work on stormwater, but we don't have enough," she said. "There's not enough money, equipment, or staff. Staff is swimming upstream as well.'

The administrator also argued that in regard to stormwater upkeep, the town cannot and should not maintain property they are not legally required to.

Tyndall suggested that vol-

unteers may help those like the elderly maintain their ditches if they are unable. However, this is again disrupted by the fact that there is not a clear-cut answer to what is town or privately owned.

As such, the Berlin Town Council unanimously agreed to direct staff to draft an RFP to solicit bids from companies who can help determine ownership statuses, a first step in improving stormwater.

Still, even with an RFP, members of the council argue that the town would struggle to fund the project.

"It is disconcerting to have an RFP put out with no way to fund what the RFP will come back with," Councilman Steve Green said, despite having voted favorably. "I hope it does confirm the importance of [stormwater] for you ... but we also have no way to fund it."

Green said he would certainly not support an increase in stormwater fees to gain the finances for the ownership status initiative.

Orris, a strong advocate of stormwater, said he would also not suggest a rise in rates.

The council agreed to the RFP, just to see what the responses yielded. Tyndall said that a decision can be made to proceed with the project, depending on the cost. The initiative could be fronted with capital reserves, although this would likely be avoided as to not strain the town's financial stability.

"There is no revenue to support this, and if we borrow, there needs to be a plan to repay," Tyndall said.

Berlin to share cost of a traffic study

By Tara Fischer

(June 5, 2025) Last week, the Berlin Town Council approved a motion to share the cost of a traffic study on Old Ocean City Boulevard with Coastal Ventures Properties (CVP) for \$14,250 as it pertains to the site's upcoming development.

Per the approval, the town will contribute half of the cost

of a traffic impact study regarding future road construction at Heron Park. The agenda item passed in a 4-1 vote at the town's May 27 Mayor and Council meeting. Councilman Jack Orris made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Jay Knerr. Council members Shaneka Nichols and Steve Green also voted favorably, with Council Vice President Dean Burrell opposed. Burrell has opposed the redevelopment of Heron Park and specifically the sale to CVP.

The decision follows the municipality's contract with Palmer and Sandy Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties, which was officially signed in April. The agreement cemented the pair's purchase of parcel 57, a portion of prop-See STUDY Page 19

Racquet center sport memberships decline

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 5, 2025) Racquet center sport membership is down 30% in Ocean Pines, per a review of the homeowner association's unaudited April financials conducted by the community's budget and finance committee last week.

The committee observed the 30% decrease, which was noted as a significant decline compared to an increase in memberships among the other amenities. The racquet center was the only item where a registrant drop was seen.

The group noted that the decrease in racquet sport members could be due

to an "aversion to the new rate schedule."

Earlier this year, the Ocean Pines Association eliminated the single-sport choices and offered a bundled threesport annual fee for pickleball, tennis, and platform tennis. The decision was controversial with OPA residents.

At the neighborhood's budget town hall in February, the racquet sports director, Terry Underkoffler, presented the new rates with price comparisons. Underkoffler noted at the time that the entry fee into the facility for resident individuals would be \$295, and resident families would incur a cost of \$495. The membership fee for a non-

resident individual would be \$370, and the rate for nonresident families would be \$590. The resident junior cost would be \$70, while nonresident juniors would pay \$90.

Community officials said the change was necessary to avoid the logistical headache of offering too many membership options and to account for increased costs like staff wages, utilities, and maintenance. Racquet center goers argued it was unfair to be required to pay for three sports when most only participate in one.

Still, OPA maintained the combo package was most economical. This decision may have hurt memberships, but OPA's Budget and Finance Committee Chair Doug Parks assured that while the fee change could be responsible for the decline in registrants, many other factors are likely at play.

"It could be that people moved out of the area," Parks said. "... Or they just decided that their buddies play in Ocean City, so they went to play with them. It could be any number of reasons."

Parks said the next move is to monitor the racquet center membership rate going forward and potentially make recommendations to the OPA Board of Directors during the budget process for fiscal year 2027, which begins in September.

"What's done is done," the committee chair said. "The board passed that particular rate structure ... It's not up to us to promote. We let the board know we noticed this downturn in the membership with racquet sports, and maybe we can see if there's any reason to relook at it again for the following fiscal year. It's informational at this point."

Study needed for work at park

Continued from Page 18

erty at Heron Park consisting of around 9.35 acres of land area for \$1,200,000. The arrangement included the note that the Town of Berlin would split the cost of the traffic study necessary for future development.

The town's portion of the study will primarily concern the development of the upcoming skate park and the new public works facility at Heron Park. The other portion consists of redeveloping parcel 57, which was officially contracted for sale to Coastal Ventures Properties earlier this spring. Settlement has not occurred with one of the pending items to tackle being the traffic impact study, which must take place during school days.

A letter to Palmer Gillis from The Traffic Group, the company who will conduct the study, maintained that "as part of the development, the existing access to the town's 40-acre public park will be redeveloped with multiple driveways to serve the park, proposed development, and will also provide access to

the Cropper Auto Repair Facility."

The correspondence continued, reading that "for the purpose of the [traffic impact study]," they recommend including the intersections N. Main Street, at Graham Avenue, at the Heron Park access road and Route 113.

The study's scope will include coordinating with representatives from the Town of Berlin and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and collecting intersection turning movement counts from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. "on a typical weekday while public school is in session" at the intersection locations.

The project will also involve a site visit by The Traffic Group to review the road network and obtain ground-level photographs, secure details on the proposed development, including the skate park and new public works building, and prepare a traffic signal warrant analysis for the intersection at Old Ocean City Boulevard at Main Street, among other items.







Directions from Selbyville: Turn on Hosier St. Ext. (Next to Arby's). Follow to stop sig turn right on Morris Rd. Greenhouses approximately 3/4 mile on right.

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Puzzles

TRAVEL BUG BY DYLAN SCHIFF / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Dylan Schiff is a middle-school science teacher in Millsboro, Del. This is his fourth crossword for The Times. In his spare time, Dylan enjoys making and editing quizzes for Sporcle.com, where he uses the handle Purple Parrot. One of my favorites of his there is "Badly Misspelled Signs," which is good for a lot of laughs. — W. S.

ACROSS

- 1 Woodworking byproduct
- 8 Most-awarded musician at the American Music Awards
- 13 Outkast, for one
- 19 Angioplasty tube
- 20 Mammal with a prehensile snout
- 21 Something to run
- 22 Like floppy disks and typewriters 23 Gaming company whose logo is known as "the Fuji"
- 24 Must
- 25 Melittologist's study
- 26 Army bosses, informally
- 28 Exam in which using notes is allowed
- 30 Inventor's pride
- 33 "Sorta"
- 34 "The Last Judgment" is found in one in the Sistine Chapel
- 35 Search around, as a truffle-hunting pig
- 36 "I'm so frustrated!"
- 38 Thereabouts 40 Going on to say
- 43 Harry Houdini and David Blaine, for two
- 46 Escalator part
- 50 Beheader of Medusa 52 Guaranteed
- 53 Magazine with an annual Person of the
- Year issue
- 54 53-Across, reversed
- 55 Praise highly

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, (\$39.95 a year).

- 58 Gal of Hollywood
- 60 Groove on
- 61 Not too shabby
- 63 Synagogue greeting 66 Cotton and flax, for two
- 68 Set (down)
- 69 Theoretical paths depicted by the circled squares
- 73 Snazzily dressed gent
- 74 Musical sections
- 77 Wellness product derived from an Australian bird
- 78 Cappuccino topper
- 81 Fat stack of cash
- 82 "Hang loose" sign
- 86 City destroyed in Genesis
- 88 Manhattan neighborhood that's adjacent to the East Village
- 89 "Whatever!"
- 91 Like the subject of a photograph, ideally 94 Cyclist, e.g.
- 96 Grandmother's
- nickname 97 Brand known as "the
- San Francisco Treat'
- 100 Has trouble swallowing
- 101 Roman who opposed Julius Caesar
- 103 "All right!"
- 104 Senator's home
- 106 Battle of Normandy city
- 108 "Defending Our Nation. Securing the Future" org.
- 110 Not breaking, as an
- 115 Lightweight Apple laptop
- 117 Color-coated candies

- 118 Healthful smoothie ingredient
- 119 Slant skyward
- 120 Brand that merged with BP 122 Compound used
- to make synthetic rubber
- 125 Witches
- 126 Have a night on the town
- 127 Oprah delivered them for Rosa Parks and Toni Morrison
- 128 Peckish and peevish
- 129 Bender
- 130 Spot of madness, metaphorically

DOWN

- 1 Fencing discipline 2 Perplexed
- 3 "Can I speak to your manager?"
- 4 "Barb and Star Go to Vista ____ Mar" (2021 comedy)
- 5 All-purpose truck, informally
- 6 Programs to, as a
- thermostat 7 Molasses, to a
- contestant on "The Great British Bake Off"
- 8 Put on
- 9 Mixture of carbon monoxide and hvdrogen
- 10 Many Dogfish Head brews
- 11 Tree with "noble" and "grand" varieties
- 12 ZZ Top and Green Day, for two
- 13 Magritte who painted "The Son of Man"

TAG & TITLE

SERVICE

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Mon-Sat 8am - 4:45pm

14 Spots for some rockers

- 15 Making hotel reservations in advance
- 16 Certain parents, to their tots
- 17 Loosen
- 18 Baking soda target 19 Kind of salad with
- bacon and hardboiled eggs
- 27 GPS suggestions: Abbr.
- 29 Buzzed
- 31 Top-notch
- 32 "X-Men" character portrayed by Anna Paquin
- 33 "Ain't that the truth!"
- 37 Some tough H.S.
- **39** No longer burdened by
- 40 Mammals with prehensile feet
- 41 Showcase at an expo
- 42 Taught by repetition 44 "Stay in touch"
- 45 Rita _____, "Let You Love Me" singer
- 47 Habitats for hermit crabs and sea stars
- 48 Qatari ruler
- 49 Parts of a coatrack
- 51 Annual Austin music festival, in brief
- 56 However, in shorthand
- 57 Flat-headed crew
- 59 Small row
- 62 What spinach leaves and beets can be used as
- 64 Its symbol is omega
- 65 Moves a cursor (over)
- 67 Many an evangelical 70 Best place to go in London?
- 84 Fast-food chain that's headquartered 71 Holiday that celebrates the end of Ramadan in Louisville 72 Spill (over)
- 74 Metaphor for a late bloomer
- 75 "Mi _es su _

125

128

- 76 T follower 79 Nickname alternative
- to Teddy 80 What disbudding prevents the growth
- 83 Negatively charged particles
- 85 Floor covering in many a living room
- 87 Mullally who played the ex-wife of her real-life husband on "Parks and Recreation'
- 90 Certain social
- media update 92 Loved, loved, loved, with "up"
- 93 Be late in the theater? 111 Govt. bond
- 95 Canine in "Hi and Lois" 98 Leathery-skinned

127

130

- hopper 99 Unable to progress
- 102 Coatrack, in many a lodge
- 105 What might be given for crying out loud?
- 106 Frank who directed "It Happened One Night'
- 107 Follow, as an impulse 109 A few bucks?
- 112 Strand at a chalet, say
- 113 Like a bowling alley or Olympic pool
- 114 Runs out of power 115 " _obliged!"
- 116 Craftsperson's online
- marketplace 117 Tie up, as a boat
- 121 "Miracle" product from inventor Joy Mangano
- 123 "Well done, torero!"
- 124 Sound from a kid with a roll of Bubble Wrap



su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 83

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.

6	2	6			0			
8	3	6			9			5
					9 5		6	
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7		9				4		3
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1			8 5			2	8	7

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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June 5, 2025 **Bayside Gazette** Page 21

Date announced for second Runaway Bride fun run, walk

Registration now open for July 26 event; participants can wear wedding attire

(June 5, 2025) Local nonprofit Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) and the Town of Berlin will host the Runaway Bride Fun Run/Walk to be held Saturday, July 26 at 8:30 a.m.

Celebrate the 26th anniversary of the release of "Runaway Bride" by running/walking through the small town where the movie was filmed. Participants are encouraged to wear their favorite wedding attire like a wedding dress, bridesmaid dress, suit, tuxedo t-shirt, or all-white. Dressing up in a fun outfit and reliving the magic of "The Runaway Bride", participants will raise money to support local families living in low-income circumstances.

Registration is only \$20 and sponsorship opportunities are available for what promises to be a highly visible and well attended event.

With a planned route only one mile long, participants don't need to be in 5K shape to participate. Participants will meet on the lawn of the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum to check in.

The event will begin on Main Street in front of The Sterling Tavern, head down Main Street passing iconic movie locations like The Atlantic Hotel and Raynes Reef, turn right on Washington Street, crossing Broad Street to Harrison Avenue and then turning right before finishing back at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum.

Activities and celebrations will continue after the race with prizes awarded for first, second, third, best outfit, and best group outfit.

The unique event will not only celebrate the Town of Berlin's history as the location for the filming of this iconic movie but also engage locals in an accessible and fun way while raising money for Worcester County residents with a verified emergency need.

Supporters can find more information by visiting GOLD's website at www.WorcesterGOLD.org or by reaching out to contact@worcestergold.org or 443-235-6525.

Worcester County GOLD is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization improving the quality of life for Worcester County residents living in low-income circumstances by providing emergency financial assistance and items to meet basic needs.





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., June 5

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME: BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

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

BABY RAVE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Baby is ready to rave with this baby, toddler and preschool friendly neon party. Bring your tiny dancers. Lighting, decor and music provided. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a relaxing game of chess every Thursday at the library. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CONCERT ON THE PATIO: JEREMIAH COYNE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Jeremiah Coyne writes and performs songs that are both personal and inspirational. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., June 6

4TH ANNUAL BLUES FOR DU BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Bahia Marina at Fish Tales, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. Fishing from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scales open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit Ducks Unlimited. Bahia Marina Tackle Shop, 410-289-7438,

www.bahiamarina.com/tournaments/bl ues-for-du

SUMMER READING KICK OFF: GLOW PARTY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 6:30 a.m. Kick off Summer Reading with a glowing good time. Dance and have fun after hours in the library. Don't forget to wear your neon. 410-632-3495, 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

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF: RAINBOW PARTY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Kick off your summer reading fun and try to win a prize during Skittles Bingo, join a collaborative art project and enjoy a colorful cupcake. For readers of all ages. 410-641-0650

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION FOR JUNE EXHIBITS

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and see the new exhibits by a variety of local artists. Free event. www.artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

PAINT & SIP NIGHT

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, Bishopville, 6-9:30 p.m. Instruction, supplies and 1 glass of wine included. Cost is \$45. Extra wine available for purchase. Pre-reservations and payment required: 443-880-4944.

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-

Sat., June 7

4TH ANNUAL BLUES FOR DU BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Bahia Marina at Fish Tales, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. Fishing from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scales open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit Ducks Unlimited. Bahia Marina Tackle Shop, 410-289-7438, www.bahiamarina.com/tournaments/blues-for-du

SAND DUELS BEACH SOCCER CHALLENGE SERIES

Ocean City Beach between Wicomico and N. Division streets, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 5on-5 Soccer Tournament, June 7 and 8. Saturday will be Boys, Girls, COED, U8 -U13. https://ocbeachsoccer.com

FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 8-11 a.m. The event is held outdoors. Vendors, to reserve space, contact 443-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com.

KID'S FISHING DERBY

Oceanic Fishing Pier, 710 S. Philadel-

phia Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Kid's ages 6-10 years will be in group 1 and ages 11-16 years in group 2. Attending will be representatives from DNR and the Coast Guard to support the kids.

1ST SEMI ANNUAL YARD SALE AND CRAFT SHOW

Elks Lodge #2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Kitchen will be serving breakfast sandwiches, coffee and baked goods. Cindy D'Alfonso, ocelks.secretary@comcast.net

SATURDAY WRITERS

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

SUMMER READING KICKOFF: RAINBOW BASH

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Come for the bad art extravaganza, stay for a scavenger hunt, Switch games and more. Wear your most colorful outfit and get a head start on Summer Reading registration. For families. 410-524-1818

SATURDAY KIDS' CRAFT POTTERY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free event. Kids will create pressed clay projects using plants in the Courtyard. www.artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Also featuring family-friendly activities, music and unique shopping experiences. Open to the public, year round. 410-641-7052,

https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market

Sun., June 8

4TH ANNUAL BLUES FOR DU BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Bahia Marina at Fish Tales, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. Fishing from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scales open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit Ducks Unlimited. Bahia Marina Tackle Shop, 410-289-7438,

www.bahiamarina.com/tournaments/bl ues-for-du

SAND DUELS BEACH SOCCER CHALLENGE SERIES

Ocean City Beach between Wicomico and N. Division streets, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 5-

on-5 Soccer Tournament, June 7 and 8. Sunday will be Boys & Girls, COED, U14 - Adult. https://ocbeachsoccer.com

2ND SUNDAY BERLIN ART & VINTAGE MARKET

Berlin Main St. & Maryland Welcome Center Parking Lot, 14 S. Main St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Takes place during the Berlin Farmers Market. https://berlinmainstreet.com

OUTDOOR RAKU POTTERY WORKSHOP

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Choose a 1-2 bisque-ware pot thrown by Robbie Johnson and learn the Raku firing technique. Take your piece home the same day. Cost is \$50/\$60.

www.artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

PINE TONES 'SOUNDS OF THE '70S' CONCERT

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 3-5 p.m. Tickets \$15. Join this nostalgic trip of favorite songs from the '70s like "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Joy To The World," "Rocky Mountain High," "Where You Lead," and more. Cost is \$15 cash or check at the door.

OC CRUZERS ON SOMERSET PLAZA

Somerset Plaza, Somerset Street, Ocean City, 3-6 p.m. Free, family-friendly car show featuring classics, hot rods and customs from the OC Cruzers Car Club. Also featuring live music by "Full Circle Duo." https://ocdc.org

SECOND SUNDAYS AT THE MUSEUM

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 6 p.m. Featuring music by Schizophrenic Boogiemen. www.taylorhousemuseum.org

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring "Real Diamond" (The Premier Neil Diamond Tribute Band). Kids enjoy free activities and entertainment. Ice cream and beverages available for purchase. Free event concluding with fireworks.

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays - Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street, Berlin, May through October, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Producers only market featuring more than 50 farmers, food cultivators, bakers, distillers, seafood, meat and more. Also featuring a petting farm (9-11 a.m.), free kids art station and live music. The-BerlinFarmersMarket.com

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

Calendar

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., June 9

FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY: MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND WORCESTER HISTORY PANEL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. All FOPL members are invited to refreshments at 9:30 a.m., followed by an open membership meeting at 10 a.m. Worcester History Panel starts at 11 a.m. and everyone is welcome. 410-208-4014

STORY TIME: PRIDE CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For children ages 0-5 years. 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. The group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIBER CRAFT MEET-UP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 4 p.m. Bring your work in progress for community and shared knowledge. Held in the meeting room or in the garden, weather permitting. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Join in for a Lego challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 5 oplus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. www.Worcoa.org/oceancity

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., June 10

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

STORY TIME @ THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Join in for stories, songs and crafts that feature one of the DDM's special animals. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, 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

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides discussions and mutual support, along with education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medication and development in treatment. Kay.Kinnikin@TidalHealth.org, 410-641-4765

SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song and share it with other players and writers. Original compositions encouraged. Listeners welcome. Hosted by Mikel Campbell. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES & VINE

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. June features a Book Swap Discussion, so bring the book you swapped at the May Book Club or one you enjoyed reading for a great discussion. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-3495

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTSFISHING ASSCIATION MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Matt Thompson of MARTEK Marine Electronics. He will explain the side-looking radar. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., food and refreshments available. The public is cordially invited.

CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

Tuesdays - Flower Street Field across from Henry Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Accepting Maryland Department of Agriculture FMNP (WIC & Seniors) Checks and Maryland WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks. Also offering a "Produce Bucks" program, which doubles purchases for eligible residents. https://www.facebook.com/theberlinfarmersmarket.

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., June 11

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring "Elemental." Free, family-friendly event. Bring blankets, chairs, snack, drinks and warm clothing. Weather permitting.

www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.

Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

POKENO AT THE 50PLUS CENTER

Snow Hill 50 plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. The group will be playing Pokeno. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MERRY MAKERS: CYANOTYPE PRINTS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Using leaves and flowers (feel free to bring some from your own garden), create unique blue and white cyanotype prints. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

CRAFT WITH PRIDE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Stop by any Wednesday in June to show your support by making a flag, button or sticker. All ages welcome. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, Betty.Darby-Glime@TidalHealth.org

T(W)EEN PRIDE CRAFTERNOON

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. T(w)eens and families can join in for an extra special rainbow afternoon. Hang out, do crafts, play Nintendo Switch and spend time with friends. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818

LIP BALM CREATIONS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Mix and make your own lip balm. For tweens and teens. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAME

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

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

CLAY-A-PALOOZA

Celebrate the art of clay, June 4 through July 6, at the Art League of Ocean City during Clay-a-palooza, a vibrant series of events showcasing pottery and ceramic arts.

www. art league of ocean city. org

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2 units available. May-Sept.

Call Mike at 410-603-6120.

www.mbjcproperties.com

House for Rent

Year-Round Rental 3BR, 2BA House for Rent in downtown Berlin, MD. House is newly renovated with all new appliances, bathroom fixtures, HVAC, full-sized W/D and quartz countertops. Rent is \$2800/month plus utilities

Contact Jessica @ 410-641-3333 for more information

YEARLY RENTAL Robin Drive

Available Immediately 2BR, 1BA, Furnished. Ideal 2 mature adults w/strong work history. \$2,000/mo.

Background required. Call/text 703-819-7400

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