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BAYSIDE GAZETTE



JUNE 12, 2025

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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste puts the paver in place honoring the memory of WWII veteran George Kerchner at a ceremony last Friday at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines.

Berlin to use ParkMobile at its new lot

Council yet to decide what charge will be for parking

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) Berlin's new parking lot, planned for the corner of West and Washington Streets, will be pay-to-park and utilize the smartphone app ParkMobile. Potential rates have yet to be finalized.

This week, the Berlin Town Council unanimously agreed to enter into a contract with ParkMobile. This app-based parking system will allow the municipality to set a fee structure for the new 2.13-acre lot on the west side of West Street. Customers will go onto their app and pay accordingly, said Councilman Jay Knerr, the point of contact with the parking business.

The fees for the parking site have yet to be decided, but Knerr said that a few scenarios have been discussed. For instance, the town may opt to make the lot free during the week, \$1.50/hour on the weekend, and \$4/hour during events. Visitors can see how much they are being charged directly on their ParkMobile app.

"The town has control of the rates and can change them on the fly," Knerr said.

The agreement requires ParkMobile to receive \$0.20 per transaction plus 3% of the total transaction. Furthermore, the customer will incur a \$0.40 on-demand user fee per trans-

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WWII hero honored on D-Day

George Kerchner showed leadership, determination in taking out gun position

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) A decorated World War II hero with connections to the Maryland Eastern Shore has been honored with a brick dedication at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park at Ocean Pines, 81 years after the veteran's valiant

wartime actions.

On Friday, June 6, the late George Kerchner, who passed away on Feb. 17, 2012, just days before his 94th birthday, was recognized with a paver at the remembrance site for his heroic behavior on D-Day.

Last week's ceremony was intentionally held on the 81st anniversary of the massive 1944 WWII operation, which remains the largest seaborne invasion in history.

Rick Farr, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors vice presi-

dent, Veterans Memorial Foundation Board of Directors member, and retired United States Air Force member, emceed the brick dedication.

According to Farr, Kerchner was a Baltimore native and joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and the elite 2nd Ranger Battalion as a lieutenant the following year.

Kerchner trained in England for six months, scaling seaside cliffs in preparation for a risky raid on Pointe du Hoc, a fortified German position

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Council employs parking app

Continued from Page 1
action.

The councilman added that the town’s cut of ParkMobile revenue will go to the parking lot fund, which would service the new lot and others in Berlin.

“It’s profitable for [ParkMobile] and us,” Knerr said.

According to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, while the parking system is app-based, there will be other ways to pay for a spot.

“There is the ability to call or text,” he said. “You don’t just have to have a smartphone.”

Furthermore, in the contract, Park-Mobile gives the town the right to use its software, which tracks the amount of money coming in and lets police officers know who has paid and who has not.

The contract was approved by the Berlin Town Council this week.

Following the motion’s passage, Councilman Steve Green initiated a discussion concerning the status of the new lot.

According to Public Works Director Jimmy Charles, his team expects to be able to park around 80 cars in the grass lot for the annual bathtub races, scheduled for Friday, June 20. The crew is gearing up to install entrance and exit signs within the next week or two to “keep a general flow of in off of [West Street] and exiting to [Washington Street].”

Charles added that he is considering placing extra cones and barricades along the street to control excessive on-street parking.

“We might limit a little bit of the on-street parking to provide ... a path on West Street so multiple vehicles can travel on West Street, not just the single lane, which could happen if too many people are on the street,” Charles said.

Green noted that when the new lot opens, he would like to see street parking on West Street from Board to Washington streets completely eliminated.

Tyndall agreed but prefers to wait for town staff to evaluate parking patterns. The mayor suggested the council engage in a discussion at its first meeting in July before making any final decisions on West Street parking.

“I don’t want us to blanket something without getting the full perspective,” Tyndall maintained.

Green responded that he understood that perspective, but he worries about vehicles being able to access the lot with cars lined up on West Street.

“I worry about people being able to get into the lot,” Green said. “I know I wouldn’t be able to make that turn in my truck to get into the lot if people are parking where they are parking now.”

The mayor amended that before the council can create a plan of action, the entry and egress points could be denoted as no parking to ensure a manageable distance for access into the lot.

“We’ll aim for the first meeting in July to have a more comprehensive discussion about the narrow streets in that area,” Tyndall added.

Following those conversations, parking changes will likely be made in the areas of Washington and West streets.

The new parking lot was conceived out of the Town of Berlin’s historic struggle to provide visitors and residents with enough parking, particularly during crowded events.

To address this challenge, the Berlin Mayor and Council entered into a 10-year deal with William Esham, Jr., to lease a vacant 2.13-acre lot on the west side of West Street. The space will supply roughly 110 spots. The property’s grass surface will remain during the lot’s first year.

The lot’s concept plan came before the Berlin Planning Commission last month, where Knerr hinted at the eventual use of ParkMobile. At that time, the commission members expressed concern that if the space charges visitors a fee, it would exacerbate congestion issues, as people may scour neighborhoods for free spots. Knerr noted that West Street and the rear side of Washington could be designated as resident-only parking.

These decisions have yet to be cemented, but new parking patterns will likely be enforced later this summer.




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Mike Detmer, a representative for Congressman Andy Harris, and OPA Board Vice President Rick Farr are pictured at last week's memorial ceremony.

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War hero honored at memorial

Continued from Page 1

towering above the English Channel.

The task, often cited as the most challenging mission of D-Day, required Kerchner and his fellow rangers commanded by Lt. Col. James E. Rudder, to climb a 100-foot cliff under heavy German fire.

Kerchner assumed command of his task group, Company D, after all the senior officers were killed or seriously injured.

His team scaled the 100-foot cliffs to discover that the 155-millimeter guns they were sent to destroy had been relocated.

Yet, Kerchner and his men tracked down and disabled the firearms, then held their position against German counterattacks for approximately three days until reinforcements could arrive.

Around 100 of the 225 Rangers who stormed the Pointe du Hoc that day survived. Later, Kerchner was wounded near Saint-Lô, but lived through the war and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism.

In part, Farr said that Kerchner's commendation read, "By his determined leadership and outstanding heroism, he led his company in a successful assault upon and captured 155-millimeter enemy gun positions. While engaged in the operation, Kerchner and 15 members of his unit were cut off from the main body and surrounded for two and a half days. His tenacity courageously held his position until he was relieved and was a constant inspiration and source of encouragement to his troops."

After the war, Kerchner returned to Arundel Ice Cream Company, where he had been employed before WWII. He was eventually elected president of the business. Later, as the majority stockholder, he sold the company and retired to the Eastern Shore.

"As a child, [Kerchner] had once taken the train to Ocean City, decided he liked it, and had told his buddies, 'I am going to retire to Ocean City before I am 55,'" Farr noted. "In 1970, he made good on that promise."

During his retirement, Farr said Kerchner "immersed himself in affairs" with St. Luke Catholic Church,

the American Legion Post 166, and the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association. Later, he moved to Ocean Pines and was a founding Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department member.

"[Kerchner] enjoyed boating, fishing, and everything about the slow pace of life here on the Maryland Eastern Shore," Farr added.

At the June 6 brick dedication, OPVFD President Joe Enste placed the paver at the memorial site to honor Kerchner's bravery in WWII and his work with Ocean Pines emergency services.

The ceremony included a formal recognition and a recount of Kerchner's story and connections to northern Worcester County, as well as a presentation from Mike Detmer, a representative for Congressman Andy Harris.

Ocean Pines resident and former board of directors member Marty Clarke conceived the effort to include Kerchner at the veterans memorial. In March, when he began fundraising for the paver, Clarke said that he had read a book about D-Day around a year ago and had seen Kerchner's name mentioned in connection with Ocean City, Maryland.

"I had never heard of him," Clarke said at the time. "He was in our local American Legion and lived in Ocean Pines, but there is nothing in the memorial, which I think is one of the most beautiful amenities built in recent history in Worcester County. There is not a peep about [Kerchner]. That began the efforts to raise money for the paver."

The veterans memorial is accepting donations in Kerchner's name. Checks may be sent to Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, P.O. Box 1576, Berlin, Maryland 21811, with "George Kerchner" written on the check. The funds will bolster the remembrance site's teaching program to area school children.

Every year, the Veterans Memorial Foundation invites every Worcester County fifth-grade class on a field trip to the park. Students participate in a tour and a three-part informational program featuring different aspects of the veteran area.



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HISTORY AWARD

Barbara Purnell was recognized as the 2025 “Bob and Kathy Fisher Award” recipient by the Worcester County Historical Society (WCHS) at their spring banquet. This award is given annually to one that has shown a dedication to the preservation of the history of Worcester County. Purnell was honored for her outstanding efforts in helping restore Berlin’s Germantown School. Purnell is pictured with Cara Downey, vice president of the WCHS.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PATRIOT RECOGNITION

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

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Worshipful Master Eric Voges, center, of Evergreen Lodge #153 in Berlin presents Masonic Charities of Maryland and Evergreen Lodge scholarship awards to Lucas Magathan, left, and Payton Piercy, both graduates from Stephen Decatur High School this spring.

Berlin awarded grant for the demolition of ruined facility

Dilapidated, multipurpose building on Flower Street to be removed for new center

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) The Town of Berlin announced it has received \$297,449 in Community Development Block Grant funds to demolish the existing multipurpose building on 130 Flower Street, the town’s planned community center site.

Sara Gorfinkel, executive assistant to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, announced the news at a Town Council meeting this week.

The governing group authorized the successful submission of the CDBG grant application in April to the state. The money is part of additional funding available to Berlin for the specific use of removing spot blight.

Earlier this spring, Gorfinkel had noted that in 2024, Berlin applied for a \$500,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s CDBG program to tear down the buildings on the future community center’s property and conduct site work. The project was not awarded the full ask. However, the town did receive \$100,000 to begin a feasibility study and pay for preliminary expenses.

Through that process, it was discovered that the town could apply for special, additional funding, up to \$300,000, specifically for the removal of spot blight. Berlin was notified it had received the funding on Monday, June 9.

The finances will be used only for the demolition of the multipurpose building on the Flower Street property, which Gorfinkel said is in disre-

pair, thus allowing the town to qualify for the grant.

“The multipurpose building will be demolished shortly,” the executive assistant said upon the award announcement.

In April, Gorfinkel noted that any project funded with the CDBG must meet specific national requirements. Objectives such as benefiting persons of low and moderate income, preventing slum or blight, and eliminating an immediate threat to health, safety, and welfare are required to be considered eligible.

The defective building met these standards and was thus awarded nearly \$300,000 for its elimination from 130 Flower Street.

“[The multipurpose structure] has been abandoned, tested positive for lead paint and asbestos, and suffered severe roof damage during the 2024-2025 winter storms,” Gorfinkel said at the April meeting. “The building, once used for community events but long abandoned, is now a source of blight near Henry Park, which includes a playground and a basketball court frequented by families and children.”

Removing the structure, which consists of hazardous materials, asbestos, and lead paint, will put the town closer to creating the community center.

The future facility is made possible via a partnership between the Town of Berlin, Berlin Community Improvement Association (BCIA), SHOREUP! Inc., and the Worcester County Commissioners, who worked to combine four parcels of property on Flower Street, formerly the site of the Flower Street School. The center will likely provide meeting space, recreational activities, services, and amenities.

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Berlin adopts budget, tax rate flat

Town Council approved FY26 spending plan this week, mayor calls it “solid”

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) The Town of Berlin’s fiscal year 2026 budget passed this week. The document includes a \$17.4 million general fund, a \$8.8 million utility fund, and a flat property tax rate.

The Berlin Town Council unanimously adopted the municipality’s FY26 budget on Monday, June 9. The spending plan consists of a balanced general fund budget of approximately \$17.4 million and a balanced electric budget of about \$8.8 million.

A few changes were made to the budget between its passage this week and its review on May 27. For instance, according to Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh, the \$50 Food Lion gift card provided to employees each year around Thanksgiving was combined with the \$300 one-time payment, also given during the holidays.

This move was discussed at last month’s budget review, during which the council agreed that combining employee appreciation line items

made the most sense. “I like it,” Councilman Steve Green said at the time. “I think some people don’t like shopping at that particular grocery store, and it’s easier...I just can’t imagine it not being well-received.”

Additionally, Saleh said \$50,000 had been added to the Worcester County Unrestricted Grant.

Councilman Jack Orris noted that the comprehensive plan update budgeted for FY26 is estimated to cost around \$100,000 but worries its price tag could be north of that amount. Orris inquired if the additional \$50,000 from the county could be used for the comp plan update, if it requires more funding.

“In the planning for the comprehensive plan update, we have budgeted for \$100,000,” Orris said. “I understand there is some concern from some of us that that is not enough...I’m not saying all of it, but some of the \$50,000 grant from the county could get us to where we would like to be for the comp plan update. I’m just throwing that as an option to do at another time.”

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall agreed that \$100,000 may not be enough.

“We think \$100,000 may do it, but it could be upwards of \$130,000 or \$160,000,” he said.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen argued that “it’s hard to judge.” She noted that the City of Cambridge’s comprehensive plan cost around \$168,000, but that document covers a larger area

“I was thinking that after the Cambridge discussion, \$120,000 or \$130,000 might get us to where we want to be,” Orris said.

Tyndall reminded the council that the budget does carry about \$44,000 in contingency, which could also help the town with additional comprehensive plan expenses if needed.

“If it comes in at \$160,000, we might have to relook at the scope of the work ... But I think having a little lever to pull in contingency ... I feel comfortable with it,” he said. “It might come in north of \$100,000, but if we had a contingency of \$18,000 like last year, I would be more concerned.”

Also of note is the council’s decision to remain at a flat real property tax rate of \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value for FY26, despite staff concern that an incremental increase is needed to keep up with rising costs.

Accounting for an increase in property value, even with the unchanged rate, the town projects additional property tax revenue of around \$350,000. Still, Saleh pushed for an incremental property tax rate increase throughout the budget process to no avail.

“We are going through the same routine that we go year after year

after year...without an incremental increase,” she said last month. “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, it’s going to get harder.”

Tyndall did say that Berlin residents are likely to see some movement in the property tax rate next year, despite Green’s argument that the unchanged rate helps to relieve financial strain on struggling families.

“Our job, I look at it as balancing that with what we’re hearing from people out on the streets, and that is that people are struggling,” Green said in May. “Families are struggling ... We must balance that with what we hear from people, and families, working families, are struggling.”

Furthermore, the FY26 budget includes 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, as well as some carryover initiatives from departments like water resources.

Saleh noted last month that these expenses have forced the town to pull from reserves, initiating a discussion that this practice cannot continue.

“There are some carry projects from fiscal 2025 that are not completed,” Saleh said in May. “The heavy lifter is water resources, they have major projects that they have been doing for several years and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPS) 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 added at the May meeting that the finance department has worked on building up the municipality’s reserves, resulting in a projected \$285,000 in interest income. Still, the mayor agreed with the finance director and said that to maintain Berlin’s strong financial position, the town cannot continue to pull from reserves.

Despite the few concerns, town officials believe the adopted budget is monetarily sound.

“The budget has been a solid work of our departments...I think it’s solid,” Tyndall said this week. “We have kept the tax rate the same, we have invested in some significant projects for FY26, and I think it’s a pretty good package all around.”

The full, adopted spending plan can be viewed on the Town of Berlin’s website.

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Ocean Pines Association salutes volunteers

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association leaders recognized the community’s volunteers, organizations, and emergency service groups last week at its annual appreciation dinner, which officials noted was the largest one yet, hosted at the neighborhood’s Yacht Club.

On Thursday, June 5, the OPA Board of Directors’ Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at the Yacht Club, with food catered by the facility’s new restaurant group, Touch of Italy. The event welcomed committee leaders, emergency personnel, organization members, the neighborhood operations team, and others in the Eastern Shore community. OPA Board of Directors President Stuart Lakernick noted that this year’s event yielded a turnout of roughly 187 attendees, a third more than last year.

“We expanded out who we invited,” he said. “...We decided to not only honor our committees, but we are also honoring all of the different service groups that spend their time here in Ocean Pines.”

Before dinner, OPA Board of Directors Vice President Rick Farr led the room in a prayer, recognizing all the OPA members who give back to the community.



Ocean Pines Association President Stuart Lakernick is pictured recognizing community volunteers during the association’s annual appreciation dinner, held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

“Heavenly Father, we come before you with grateful hearts, thankful for the dedication of these volunteers and all those who contribute to the Ocean Pines community,” he prayed. “Their selfless service, kindness, and compassion make Ocean Pines a better place for all who live and visit here ... May their acts of service inspire others and may they always remember the importance of community, care, and charity.”

Following Farr’s prayer, Lakernick acknowledged the dinner attendees with a speech.

“It’s an absolute honor to stand here before you tonight in this room filled with people who make Ocean Pines not just a place to live but a community worth calling home,” he said. “You’re the volunteers, the problem solvers, the steady hands and open hearts that keep everything moving. Whether

you’re organizing events, picking up trash, or just offering your time, with no fanfare, you make his community thrive.”

The president recognized the OPA Board of Directors, including himself, Farr, Director Steve Jacobs, Director Elaine Brady, Director Jeff Heavner, Director and Secretary John Latham, and Director and Treasurer Monica

See OPA Page 12

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OPA recognizes groups, leaders

Continued from Page 10 Rakowski.

OPA General Manager John Viola, Linda Martin, senior director of administration, and Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson were acknowledged for their attendance, as were elected officials State Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Delegate Wayne Hartman, County Commissioner Chip Bertino, and Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli.

Lakernick moved on to recognize the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation Board, the Ocean Pines Women's Club, the Ocean Pines Pine'er Craft Club, the Ocean Pines Association Neighborhood Watch Program, and the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines and Ocean City.

The community's committee chairs, the leaders of the volunteer groups in Ocean Pines that work as advisory bodies, and OPA's public safety teams, such as the police and police departments, were also honored.

"To everyone in this room, whether you're a chair, a committee member, serve on the board, run an organization, protect our community, report the news, or simply just step up when you're asked, everyone in this room makes Ocean Pines a special place," Lakernick concluded.

Free library coming to Berlin park

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) A new Little Free Library is soon coming to Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin. It will be available for parents and park goers to enjoy as their children play, in an effort to encourage reading and sharing stories.

The library box, to be placed near the fenced-in playground at Stephen Decatur Park, is an initiative spearheaded by Stephen Decatur High School sophomore Vincent Schicchi. The young student is a Life Scout in Berlin Troop 225, working toward his Eagle Scout Rank. The book collection site will act as his Eagle Scout project.

The Little Free Library will be small and decorated with waterproof, wood-colored paint to look natural. The Berlin Troop member plans to order a kit to build the box. The library will be made of plywood with a metal roof and cedar posts to ensure it's structurally sound, and visitors will be encouraged to take and return books during their stops at Stephen Decatur Park.

The box will contain an assortment of children's and adult books. Schicchi said he intends to ask the Berlin Library if they have any older novels to donate to get him started, in

addition to contributions from friends, family, and community members.

Schicchi said that the box's idea is to encourage Berlin residents to turn to books rather than electronics during their visits to Stephen Decatur Park.

"Many parents who visit the park and take their kids might want to read some literature and need something to do," he said. "There are a lot of benches at Stephen Decatur Park. It would be great for them to sit down and read while their kids are playing. I think it's very important to implement reading nowadays since many people are on their cell phones."

The project is also reminiscent of the scout's childhood before moving to the Berlin area.

"When I lived in New York, there was a park I would visit a lot, and I remember opening a box and reading books," Schicchi said. "It brings back some nostalgia, and I just always thought it was very interesting."

Schicchi said he would fundraise for the money needed to complete the Little Free Library initiative, estimated at around \$850 for materials. Schicchi and his mother plan to volunteer their maintenance services, which will include rotating and replacing books as needed.

We Heart Berlin President Tony Weeg, who was in the audience of the June 9 Berlin Mayor and Council meeting where the project was presented, suggested to Schicchi that the base of the library is "thick and heavy so it doesn't sway or fall forward," particularly when the ground is wet, as the books will be heavy.

"It needs to be secure at the bottom," he said.

Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles added that he and his team will be on site when the library box is installed to ensure its structural strength.

The library box will be officially registered with Little Free Library, a nonprofit group based in Minnesota whose mission is to expand access to books in communities throughout the nation. This goal is achieved through the small book lockers, which are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and incur no cost, "removing barriers to book access," their website says.

This week, the Berlin Town Council unanimously approved the Little Free Library at Stephen Decatur Park.

"I think this is a wonderful project and I think it will be very well received by the residents of Berlin," Councilman Jay Knerr, a fellow Eagle Scout himself, said.



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Berlin Bathtub Races returns to Main Street

Parade, trials planned for 35th annual event, to be held downtown June 20

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to host the 35th annual Berlin Bathtub Races, where participants will zoom their bathtub-inspired vehicles down Main Street for the chance to secure bragging rights.

This year, the creative and competitive tradition will be held on Friday, June 20, on Main Street in downtown Berlin. A parade of the homemade tubs will begin at 6 p.m., with races to follow, kicking off at around 6:15 p.m.

Each year, the Berlin Bathtub Races provide local businesses with a fun advertising method, as they hitch up their modified, road-capable bathtub and compete against their neighbors in a series of heats. The winner receives bragging rights for their speed and style, and their name is added to the trophy, known as the Turner Cup.

The winning trophy is a tribute to the late Jesse Turner, the former owner of the Main Street repair business, the Berlin Shoe Box. Turner helped get the races off the ground and actively participated in the tradition, coming up victorious on several occasions.

Community members are encouraged to crowd the sidelines and watch as the racers dart downtown. During the contest, food vendors will be available for attendees to pick up dinner and snacks. The chamber will also be selling event T-shirts and conducting its annual 50/50 raffle drawing.

“The Bathtub Races are a one-of-a-kind, high-energy event that brings the community together for a night of fun and friendly competition,” the Berlin Chamber of Commerce’s website reads. “Participants race creatively designed, bathtub-inspired vehicles down Main Street, competing for speed, style, and bragging rights. Whether you’re a racer or a spectator, there’s plenty of excitement with themed races, team costumes, and laughter.”

For more information about the Berlin Bathtub Races, visit <https://berlinchamber.org/event/bathtub-races/>.



Racers speed down Main Street in this file photo of the Berlin Bathtub Races. This year’s event will be held June 20. A parade will kick off the festivities, and the races will follow.

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No guards on duty for Assateague's fed side

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) Just as summer crowds are arriving, a federal hiring freeze is preventing the National Park Service from staffing any lifeguards at Assateague Island National Seashore.

Lifeguards have not been deemed “public safety” personnel, thereby qualifying them for an exception to President Donald Trump’s April 17 overall hiring freeze. That directive, an Executive Order, was a follow-up on a freeze Trump imposed Jan. 20. The order adds that the federal Office of Personnel Management department may grant exemptions.

The U.S. Interior Department, which oversees the National Park Service, also issued notice of an indefinite freeze on personnel actions in a May 2 internal memo. The freeze includes promotions, reassignments, schedule changes, hard-ship transfers, and any new hiring.

“This decision has been made to ensure stability during our current employee data review processes and to streamline our operational focus associated with potential reductions in force,” wrote Stephanie M. Holmes, acting chief human capital officer for the Interior Department.

The Interior Department issued another notice on April 3, clarifying that some seasonal and public safety posi-

tions would be exempt from the freeze. The list included 55 jobs in the categories of emergency response, firefighting, law enforcement, security and aviation. Lifeguards did not make the list.

Assateague Island National Seashore Superintendent Hugh Hawthorne and a spokeswoman for the Interior Department both declined to comment for this report. An emailed inquiry to the Office of Public Affairs at the National Park Service on May 30 turned up a terse and unsigned response: “We have no further information to share at this time.”

First response for water rescues falls to Berlin Fire Company, which is unchanged from the status quo, according to President David Fitzgerald. He’s also reached out to the office of U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen for confirmation whether any lifeguards will be staffing the federal beach this summer.

Rep. Andy Harris, whose First Congressional District encompasses the entirety of the Maryland side of Assateague Island, has not received any citizen inquiries about the lifeguarding situation at the National Seashore, according to spokeswoman Anna Adamian.

Lifeguards at nearby Assateague State Park will continue to monitor emergencies on the National Seashore and will respond and assist if available,

according to Gregg Bortz, a spokesman for the state’s Department of Natural Resources.

“The Maryland Park Service strongly cautions visitors not to swim in unguarded areas,” he said. “Assateague State Park is fully staffed and we encourage island visitors who want to swim to use the state beach or remain very close to it.”

Assateague Island National Seashore typically staffs 12 to 13 lifeguards. This includes one head lifeguard as supervisor and dozen seasonal guards – six each on both the Maryland and Virginia sides of the park. The lifeguard crew usually drops to eight or nine at summer’s end when some go back to school.

The Maryland side of the park doesn’t guard all 22 miles of its shoreline, as the top half contains pockets of guarded recreational beach, and the bottom half is the over-sand vehicle area, which is unguarded. In the meantime, visitors are urged to exercise caution at unguarded beaches.

With no clear resolution in sight, advocates warn that national parks like Assateague are at a breaking point, with essential staff positions unfilled and no guarantee of relief on the horizon.

The hiring freeze has created a “cloud of uncertainty” for those still employed by the National Park Service (NPS), according to Ed Stierli, senior mid-Atlantic director for the National Parks Conservation Association, an advocacy organization.

He said the NPS as an agency is still facing looming consolidation, reductions in force, and deferred resignations after having already lost about 13% of its workforce.

“We’re in this kind of Orwellian atmosphere where the Park Service staff can’t even inform the public about what might be potential life-threatening or emergency information, other than posting a sign saying, ‘no lifeguards,’” he said in an interview.

Many probationary employees already have been cut loose by this presidential administration; Stierli says this impacted hiring in national parks because many of the probationary workers were the ones doing the hiring.

“All of a sudden, the National Park Service and the federal government doesn’t really look like a stable employer, because they’re constantly downsizing at random. You have no idea what it’s going to be like working there. And there’s been just delay after delay, which has led to this point where we’re past Memorial Day weekend and there’s not a single lifeguard at the park,” he said.

Stierli said he worries the national parks are “hitting a breaking point” and he’s worried many will be shuttered. “You’re just going to run out of people to work there, and they’ll just have to close the gates. It’s bleak,” he said.

A group of two dozen Democratic U.S. senators, including Maryland’s Van Hollen, shared their concerns in a Feb. 7 letter, urging Interior Department Secretary Doug Burgum to immediately re-issue seasonal employment offers to NPS workers. Despite increased visitation, they say the agency is still operating below staffing levels following budget cuts in the 2010s.

“Americans showing up to national parks this summer and for years to come don’t deserve to have their vacations ruined by a completely preventable – and completely irresponsible – staffing shortage,” the letter says.

The Trump administration’s proposed 2026 budget cuts more than \$1 billion from the National Park System, which oversees 443 park units in all 50 states.

Last month, Burgum told a Senate panel that any NPS unit without “National Park” in its name, such as a historic or cultural site, shouldn’t be managed by the park service, instead being transferred to the states.

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Inlet dredging ‘critical’ for summer season

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) Worcester County officials are pressing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform emergency dredging at the Ocean City inlet ahead of the White Marlin Open.

“It is critical that these boats are able to get through the inlet. That ability is in jeopardy unless summer dredging occurs,” County Commissioners President Ted Elder wrote in a May 27 letter to the Army Corps’ Baltimore office.

There’s urgency here because the usual dredge vessels, the Murden and Currituck, will be unavailable to clear sediment ahead of the Aug. 4-8 fishing tournament, leaving county leaders looking for other options.

The Murden is in drydock and won’t be available until July, while the Currituck is currently out of service, according to Bob Mitchell, the county’s director of environmental programs.

He said the Army Corps’ Baltimore District will make an emergency request to the Wilmington District to

schedule the use of the sidescaster dredge Merritt to clear sediment before the White Marlin Open.

More frequent inlet dredging is crucial to keep ahead of shoaling and erosion, which has only gotten worse since Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Mitchell told county officials in a May 12 internal memo.

He stressed to the County Commissioners that they must explain “the seriousness of the situation here in the inlet” to the Army Corps, and emphasized the need for another maintenance dredging pass before the White Marlin Open.

“This dredging event not only benefits our tournament visitors,” Mitchell wrote, “but the dredge visit also provides a measure of safety with sediment removal accommodating the vessel drafts for our commercial fishing fleet as well.”

Two Army Corps initiatives maintain the channel. One is the Assateague Long Term Sand Management Project, where a boat dredges the inlet and the ebb shoal just

offshore of the inlet, and deposits the material on the beach at Assateague Island. Funding for that program is split evenly between the Army Corps and the National Park Service.

The second program is the maintenance dredging of the inlet, also known as the Navigational Program. Funded entirely by the Army Corps, this effort is constrained by dredge availability and the federal budget, according to Mitchell.

Once the Murden is out of the boatyard, the Corps hopes to bring the vessel back into a season cycle for maintenance dredging and the Assateague sand management program.

With a local economic impact of about \$30 million, the iconic White Marlin Open brings hundreds of boats to Ocean City as anglers compete for millions in prize money. The event is

considered the largest billfish tournament in the world and has a massive economic impact on the resort.

An undredged inlet puts some very expensive boats at risk of running aground at the mouth of the West Ocean City commercial fishing harbor, said White Marlin Open founder Jim Motsko.

“It would be a major issue if it wasn’t dredged,” he said in an interview. “You sure as heck don’t want them running aground where they can’t come in or leave the harbor. If these folks don’t dredge it, it would really, really hurt us.”

Motsko said he expects upwards of 400 boats in this year’s tournament. So far, he’s booked about 80 boats, with the majority of entries expected to come in closer to the tournament date.

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County budget adopted by divided officials

Approved funding for local schools comes in \$2.7M under requested amount

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) Worcester County officials approved their 2026 operating budget this week, one that increases spending on education, public safety, and employee pay while cutting the property tax rate.

Buoyed by millions in new revenue from income tax and property tax, the finalized \$281.4 million operating budget represents a 7% increase over the prior year, or \$19.4 million.

Expected revenue exceeded projected expenses, resulting in a surplus of about \$2.8 million. Officials also moved \$3.8 million into reserves.

“I believe this budget has been struck with everyone in mind,” Ted Elder, president of the county’s Board of Commissioners, said at Tuesday’s commissioners’ meeting. “Everybody got something. Very few places in the state of Maryland can boast of that.”

Elder also said he was pleased to “give back to our constituency” by lowering the property tax rate by 3 cents, dropping it from \$0.845 to \$0.815 for every \$1,000 of assessed value. That decrease means the

county will lose about \$2.4 million in revenue. Worcester’s property tax rate is the second lowest among all 24 Maryland counties.

New revenue for fiscal 2026 includes \$11.7 million in property taxes, \$6 million from income tax, and \$1.2 million more from recordation and transfer taxes. Residential property tax revenues jumped this year because assessed real estate values increased by about 21% statewide, according to the state’s Department of Assessment and Taxation.

County schools were approved for \$113.8 million in funding, or \$7.5 million more than last year, including a boost of about \$150,000 for after school programs.

It’s an amount that still landed \$2.7 million shy of the Board of Education’s \$115 million ask, meaning its budget will be short \$1.1 million on salaries and \$1.6 million for materials of instruction and other expenses, according to school board president Todd Ferrante.

“Those four commissioners felt

like they did what they needed to do, and that they felt like they did the right thing. I just, I don’t agree with them – I respect their positions, maybe not their decision,” Ferrante said. “Certainly, I don’t think the school system can continue to produce the kind of results that it’s produced without getting the adequate funding that it needs.”

For weeks, commissioners had fiercely debated – both at public meetings and in the court of social media – the school board’s plan to offer an across-the-board \$4,000 salary increase for teachers and \$2,000 for support staff.

Those raises were part of a two-year budgeting strategy to comply with a state-mandated \$60,000 minimum starting teacher salary. School leaders have said about three-fourths of all school districts have met this minimum already ahead of a July 2027 deadline.

Unions for both teachers and support staff had approved those raises in contract negotiations. However, because the county did not fully fund the Board of Education budget, it means the school board and the teacher’s union will have to go back to the bargaining table.

Because teachers got raises, the commissioners decided to share the wealth and give a \$2,500 cost-of-living increase to all county employees. Technically, this COLA also includes teachers, though it’s not up to county officials – who can only approve or deny the overall school board budget request – to dictate how schools compensate employees.

Salaries for the sheriff’s department also were a point of contention in this budget. Sheriff Matt Crisafulli had asked for about \$20 million in funding. That included pay grade increases for active deputies and a

salary bump for recruits.

The commissioners declined to fund about \$224,000 in deputy overtime, but did agree to fund higher rookie-level pay, which will increase from \$55,037 to \$62,632. They also approved a pay grade increase that takes effect July 1.

Crisafulli’s final budget for 2026 comes in around \$19.3 million, or \$2.4 million over last year. “We feel we are moving in a positive direction with our budgetary needs,” he said in a statement. “We must stay competitive as other law-enforcement agencies continue to increase their salary packages.”

The county typically offers unrestricted grants to its four municipalities, as well as the Ocean Pines homeowner’s association. Commissioners initially said they would flat-fund those requests but ended up changing course and instead gave Berlin, Ocean City, Snow Hill, and Pocomoke City each \$50,000 more than last year. Ocean City’s request for another \$1 million for police recruiting was denied.

The commissioners also had given the go-ahead to cut the income tax, from a rate of 2.25% down to 2%, but this effort failed because the county’s current income tax rate – lowest in Maryland – is already at the minimum level allowable by state law.

As a result, the county ends up with more income tax revenue than first projected under a 2% income tax rate. “We weren’t able to help the workers get more in their paychecks because the state blocked us on that,” Commissioner Elder noted.

Special projects funded include upgrades to the county’s fire training center (\$1.8 million) as well as roof replacements for both the Government Center building in Snow Hill (\$2.8 million) and Pocomoke Elementary School (\$1.7 million). Public safety grants included \$2.9 million for fire companies and \$9.6 million to bolster ambulance service.

And, while not technically a part of this year’s budget, commissioners

See INCOME Page 17



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Bill Drews

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Income tax drop voided after state law comes to light

Continued from Page 16

also decided to drop the homestead tax credit from 3% to 0%. It means qualifying homeowners could effectively lock in their property tax bill for as long as they own the home. This will take effect in summer 2027 after the commissioners officially make the change in early 2026, according to county spokeswoman Kim Moses.

Commissioners approved the budget in a 4-3 vote, with majority support from Caryn Abbott, Chip Bertino, Jim Bunting, and Elder. “No” votes came from Joe Mitrecic, Diana Purnell, and Eric Fiori.

The two groups evolved into cliques, and showed a clear philosophical split as the months-long budget process unfolded – mostly over how to allocate their revenue windfall – with tempers flaring at times and snide comments slipping out during heated discussions.

The three commissioners who voted down this budget had vocally supported fully funded budget requests for both teachers and police, saying that the county’s coffers were more than flush enough to accommodate everyone’s request and still leave a surplus.

By contrast, the other four approached the surplus with more careful hesitation, saying there could be bigger bills coming down the pike. Elder in particular said he’s been told that the Maryland General Assembly is likely to call a special session in October, when lawmakers could foist new unfunded mandates onto counties.

Commissioner Purnell – who doesn’t often speak at length, or even at all during commissioner meetings – scolded her peers for several minutes for not opening the county’s pocketbook in light of the revenue windfall. She talked about how everything is more expensive, including day care and rent.

“I’ve had so many emails from voters that are saying, don’t take away things from my children or our seniors. We need these things,” said Purnell (District 2, Central). “We’re in better shape than a lot of people in this state.”

Commissioner Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) said this budget – his 15th since being elected in 2010 – “addresses something fairly for everybody in the county.”

“I’ve been on the side that approved the budget, and I’ve voted against the budget. And I definitely didn’t sit here and act like a child, like some people have,” he said. “Four people can’t be wrong or right all the time, and three people can’t be wrong or right all the time. Apparently, four people decided something today.”



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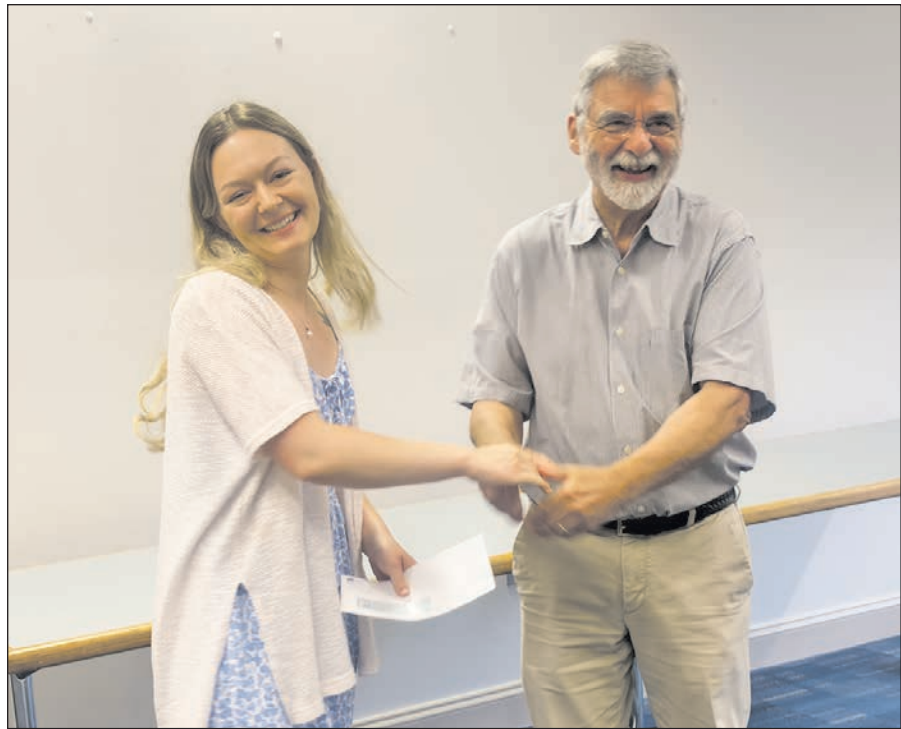
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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Friends of the Pines Library President Jim Meckley is pictured presenting a \$1,000 check to Wor-Wic Community College student Olivia Haines.

Library friends group awards scholarship to area student

Haines planned to earn degree at Wor-Wic before transferring to Salis. Univ.

Haines said she hopes to stay on the Eastern Shore after she graduates, at least for a while.
“I want to stay here and continue
See HAINES Page 20

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) An ambitious, local student was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship this week to advance her education as she pursues a career path in library science.

On Monday, June 9, the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library (FOPL), a volunteer group dedicated to assisting facility staff in providing community resources, presented Wor-Wic Community College student Olivia Haines with a \$1,000 check. The scholarship will be used for her future education costs as she works towards a master's in library science.

Haines is nearing graduation from Wor-Wic. With just one more semester to go, the student, a resident of Ocean Pines, will receive her associate's degree in general studies from the community college with honors distinction. Haines will then enroll at Salisbury University, where she intends to major in English Literature with a minor in art history.

Typically, to work in the library science field, a master's degree is required. As such, upon completing her bachelor's degree, Haines plans to attend the University of Maryland, where she will obtain her library science certification.

The \$1,000 check, courtesy of FOPL, will help her as she advances her education.

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Haines earns \$1K scholarship

Continued from Page 19

to work with [the Ocean Pines Library], at least for a little while,” she said. “My absolute dream job would probably be working with the Smithsonian Libraries or something like that. I want to hang around here and support the community that provided me this scholarship.”

Haines’ decision to pursue library science came from time she spent with her mother as a child.

“When I was younger, my mom would take me to the library all the time,” the student said. “That was our favorite pastime. She would take me to storytime, she would take me to check out a bunch of books.”

While Haines has always loved reading, she said that for a long time, she saw herself in a more STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) field, like marine biology. However, after taking a few science classes at Wor-Wic, she realized something better aligned with her passion for stories would be the right career choice.

“I was taking science classes at Wor-Wic, and I was like, ‘okay, I like this but maybe it’s not my thing,’” she noted. “I’m more of an English person. I was looking at things you could do with an English major, and for the longest time, I was undecided about what I wanted to do. Then one day I was researching majors and came

across library science, and something clicked.”

The young student has already kick-started her work with the public library system. According to Jim Meckley, the FOPL president, Haines volunteers at the Ocean Pines Library every Thursday.

“She is very ambitious,” he said.

Meckley added that he met Haines when he and his wife were having dinner at Carrabba’s, and the library science-hopeful was their server. The FOPL president said that they got to talking, and she told them about her desired career path. She has since lent her time to the Ocean Pines facility each week.

“Sometimes you just have a feeling about people. They are genuine, ambitious, and they have everything going for them,” Meckley said of the scholarship recipient.

As such, Haines was awarded the \$1,000 to continue her studies.

Meckley said the scholarship was conceived three years ago to provide funds for students looking to enter a library-focused field. As the FOPL president awarded Haines the check, he noted that he hopes to see the student back at the library in a paid capacity after she completes her studies.

“We are hoping maybe someday she’ll be employed here,” he said.

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Obituaries

KAREN MARY PIPPIN

Berlin

Karen Mary Pippin, age 68 passed away unexpectedly Sunday, June 1, 2025 at her home.



Karen Pippin

Born in New York, she was the daughter of the late Andrew Askland and Mary (Daly) Askland. Karen was the wife of the late Herbert Lanis Pippin.

Karen was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Caring for others and helping people was her true passion. She was an incredible wife and her love and devotion to her sons and grandchildren was unwavering.

Karen was the kind of friend you could always count on. A barber by trade, she built lifelong friendships through her care, warmth, and the pride she took in helping people look and feel their best. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Karen is survived by her sons, Jordan Pippin (Lindsay Robinson) and Lanis Pippin (Cindy Long); her grandchildren, Cheyenne Long, Seth Pippin and Isla Pippin; as well as her siblings, Steve Askland and Laurie Brittingham. She was preceded in death by her brother Sandy Askland.

Cremation followed Karen's passing. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Savior Catholic Church, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842 at 11am on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Inurnment will follow at Sunset Memorial Park in Berlin, Maryland. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, Maryland.

Condolences may be shared with the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

JACK COLCORD

Berlin

John "Jack" Colcord, age 71, passed away on Monday, June 2, 2025, in Berlin.



Jack Colcord

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, he was the son of the late Carl and Ruth (Morris) Colcord. Jack was a beloved husband, devoted father, and dear friend to many. His greatest roles in life were those of husband and father.

He was fiercely dedicated to his family, always putting them at the center of everything he did. With a fun-loving spirit and a heart full of kindness, Jack was known for his easy smile and warm greetings. He never met a stranger.

A passionate physical fitness enthusiast, Jack especially loved cycling. He turned that passion into a livelihood, running a successful bike rental business for over 25 years along the boardwalk in Ocean City. Beyond the boardwalk, Jack

raced competitively on a national level, continuing to win gold through 2023.

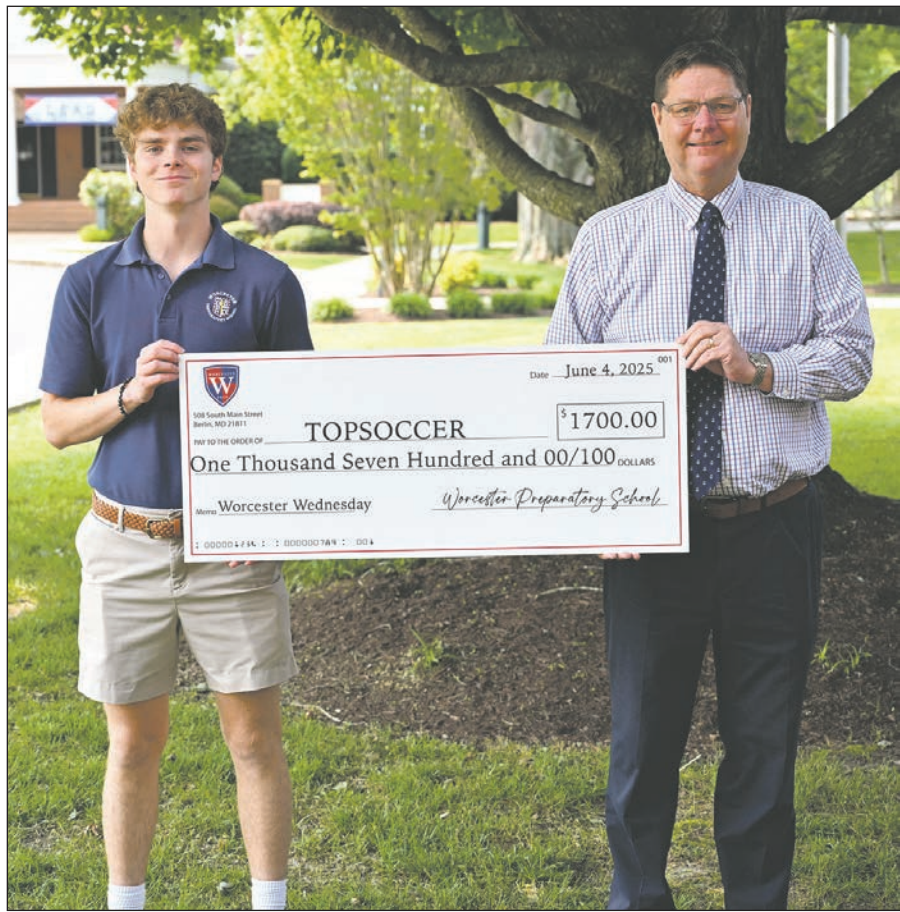
He also shared a deep love of amusement parks with his wife Colleen and son Cannon. Some of their most joyful moments were spent together at Disney and Universal Studios, where Jack's playful spirit and sense of wonder shone brightly. Whether racing Cannon to the next ride or simply soaking in the magic of the parks, Jack embraced every experience with childlike joy and genuine enthusiasm.

Jack's energy, generosity, and love of life touched all who knew him. His legacy lives on in the countless memories shared with family, friends and the cycling community he loved so much.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Colleen Hahn Colcord, a son, Cannon Colcord, a brother, Michael Colcord (Laura) and two nephews, Max Colcord and Lex Colcord. He also leaves behind an extensive family of in-laws who adored him.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Edward Colcord and Richard Colcord.

Cremation followed his death. No formal services are planned at this time. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MONEY RAISED FOR SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

On Worchester Wednesday, May 28, students and faculty at Worchester Preparatory School (WPS) came together to support TOPSOCCER, a community-based program for young athletes with disabilities through River Soccer Club. The effort raised approximately \$1,700 for the cause. Each month, WPS students are invited to nominate charitable organizations for the school's monthly Worchester Wednesday fundraiser. For May, junior Beckett Green, 17, submitted TOPSOCCER, an organization close to his heart. As a dedicated TOPSOCCER Buddy, Green volunteers his time working with players in the program, including his brother, Carson, 15, helping to foster their growth through the game of soccer. Above, Green receives a check from Head of School Dr. John McDonald.

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Opinion

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

Through heroism, late vet offers perspective

Talk about a study in contrasts! All one has to do is look at what’s happening in the country today — political name-calling, bitter divisiveness and extreme positions staked out by the parties involved — and then consider the single-minded selflessness of Lt. George Kerchner at Normandy on June 6, 1944, D-Day.

While under fire from the Germans above, Kerchner led his company of Army Rangers up the 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and then guided them to the five German artillery emplacements that threatened Utah and Omaha beaches down below and destroyed them.

He and 15 members of his unit soon found themselves surrounded by the enemy but managed to repel them for two-and-a-half days until relief troops arrived.

As reported by Descendents of WWII Rangers’ website, wwiirangers.org, “50 years later, a fellow Ranger confided in one of Mr. Kerchner’s sons, ‘When we were surrounded for so long, I had started to cry and would have kept it up if it wasn’t for your dad jumping in my foxhole and holding me like a baby.’”

Lt. Kerchner, who moved to Ocean City in 1970 and later to Ocean Pines, died on Feb. 17, 2012. At the urging of Ocean Pines resident Marty Clarke, a memorial brick in Kerchner’s name was added to the circle at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines last Friday, the 81st anniversary of the Normandy invasion.

Although the Army recognized Kerchner’s heroism by awarding him the Distinguished Service Cross, second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor, he did not undertake this harrowing assault for personal recognition, or glory, or reward. He did it because that was his duty.

It might be said that was then and this is now but reflecting on the purity of motive exhibited by Lt. Kerchner on that day, in that place and under those conditions does put current events in perspective.

Thank you, veterans memorial members, volunteers and donors, for giving us that opportunity.

Letters

Commissioners hurt school support staff

Editor,

The Worcester County Education Support Professionals Association (WCESPA) is deeply disappointed that the Worcester County Commissioners failed to fully fund the Board of Education’s budget request. This decision has direct consequences—not just for teachers, but for the lowest-paid employees in our schools: the support staff.

When funding falls short, education support professionals are often the first to lose out. Many of us are already working for wages that fall below a livable standard, and this year’s budget would have offered a long-overdue and much-needed raise. Denying that funding means denying dignity to workers who keep our schools running every single day.

We especially want to thank Commissioners Diana Purnell, Ted Mitrecic, and Eric Fiori for voting in favor of fully funding our schools. Your support of students and staff alike is appreciated and remembered.

To the remaining commissioners—we urge you to reflect on the impact of your decisions. Underfunding schools doesn’t just hurt teachers. It hurts nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, aides, secretaries, technical support and bus drivers—the very people who make safe learning possible.

Ivory Smith
Berlin

(The writer is the president of the Worcester County Education Support Professionals Association (WCESPA).)

County must right a wrong in Snow Hill

Editor,

For years now, the County Commissioners have absolutely refused to pick up a phone and stop the county landscapers from destroying property in Snow Hill and causing incredible health problems for the citizens.

For this reason, the fight will be elevated to include the Maryland Environmental Protection, the state’s attorney, the Maryland State Police and our statewide elected leaders. I will also be rallying my neighbors and look for your landscapers to be arrested by the police the next time they are seen committing these dangerous and illegal actions.

It is clear that the commissioners have finally gotten sick of the Sheriff begging for money.

Perhaps they could put the Sheriff to work on this. It is embarrassing to walk around the municipal parking lot edge and see where these landscapers have been piling up garbage for years. People have to pay property taxes on that land they are ruining and using for county disposal.

But the most concerning


thing about all of this is this callous nature of the spreading of allergens. This entire episode began many years ago when the county’s lead landscaper stood in front of me with his blower on full blast, blowing garbade and pollen and grass into my face. When I asked him to not do that, he told me to complain to the county commissioners because he did whatever he wanted. You all fired Ken instead of dealing with a lawsuit from me at the time. But that is not good enough anymore.

If this situation continues, my lawsuit will occur. Ken attacked me that day and deserved to go to prison. He was finally fired/retired because he was illegally driving a county vehicle truck every day with one eye. You all have a very large problem on your hands now. The town of Snow Hill is thoroughly on my side, and now the rest of the state is joining this party.

Property rights? Public health? To be a leader, you have to make decisions. For no one to have picked up the phone in six years and told the landscapers to use a lawnmower with a lead bag, a rake and a trash can to clean the parking lot every week instead of lazily just blowing everything on the surface of the lot onto private property. This is a ridiculous failure by the Worcester County Commissioners.

Greg Gunther
Snow Hill

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Partnership completes wall mural project

Morgan's Message chapter at Decatur partners with We Are Limitless Studios

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 12, 2025) A new art project at Stephen Decatur High School, in conjunction with a few community partners, aimed to promote mental health among student athletes.

Last week, members of We Are Limitless Studios, a Salisbury-based team dedicated to public art throughout Delmarva, began painting a mural at SDHS behind the school's football stadium. The ball wall depicts a teal butterfly logo with a semicolon to represent suicide prevention, resilience, and hope. Surrounding the butterfly are images showcasing the plethora of athletic teams at SDHS.

The design was created by Decatur's Morgan's Message chapter, a nonprofit that works to destigmatize mental health challenges in the student athlete community. The group, with participating colleges and high school campuses throughout the nation, was kick-started in response to a university lacrosse player who died by suicide at 22 years old in 2019.

"The mural showcases the Morgan's Message butterfly logo with the semicolon body, which was derived from Morgan's artwork and inspired by her love of the color teal," said Wendy Shirk, a school social worker at SDHS. "At her memorial, many people noticed they were surrounded by butterflies, which they believed was Morgan's way of saying she's always here, embracing others with love. To us, the semicolon means that when things feel hard, we should allow ourselves to pause and get the help we need to move forward, but never stop."

We Are Limitless Studios created and outlined the design and assisted



PHOTO COURTESY WE ARE LIMITLESS STUDIOS

The finished wall ball mural is pictured after students and teachers partnered on the project as part of Morgan's Message.

in the painting, which took place this week, with help from students and community members.

Shirk said that the mural will help normalize mental health resources and encourage students, student athletes, and staff to seek help if they need it. The art initiative will eliminate the stigma that often comes with asking for assistance, particularly regarding mental well-being, among young athletes and beyond.

"We believe that although Morgan's Message has a foundation in athletics, all of our students, teachers, staff, and families can benefit from the overall message: we all struggle, help is available, and it's okay to ask for help," Shirk said.

The project was created after Decatur's Morgan's Message chapter received a grant from the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation in December for a community art initiative. Following the award, the decision was made to construct an athletic, concrete ball wall with a mural to normalize mental health conversations.

Shirk said that the initiative's planning included researching and securing a construction company to build the concrete wall, which ended up

being completed by Hayward Construction, and outreach work to garner donations and grants, totaling just over \$20,000, for the mural.

Construction of the wall took place from May 1 to May 19. On June 2, the mural was primed and outlined, painted by students and community members on June 3, and finalized with a seal-coating was planned on June 4.

Students from the Morgan's Message group did the artistic project with guidance from Shirk and teachers and coaches Lindsay Owens and Shannon Bone, who coach Unified sports in the fall and winter at De-

catur as well as varsity women's lacrosse in the spring.

The initiative leads are excited about what the wall will add to the Seahawk community.

"At its foundation, [the mural] serves as a practice tool for our various athletic teams and physical education students," Shirk said. "But more importantly, it is a conversation piece for students and community members that will highlight the importance of having honest and safe conversations about mental health that include resources and support. The beauty of it is that it holds value

See MENTAL Page 25

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BY SAM BRODY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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Mental health put in spotlight

Continued from Page 23
to all students and extends beyond our school community. It also highlights the importance of the arts and community partnerships.”

Students' work in Decatur's Morgan's Message chapter made the mural's conception possible. According to Shirk, the nonprofit was founded to honor Morgan Rodgers, a Division I lacrosse player at Duke University who suffered a knee injury and subsequent mental health challenges. The young athlete died by suicide in 2019.


Morgan's friends and family started the nonprofit to prop up her story and create a platform for those going through similar challenges to share their struggles.

“Morgan's Message is clear: as an athlete, there is no shame in seeking physical healthcare -- the same should be true for mental healthcare,” Shirk said. “To close the gap, we must eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health together.”




Decatur's new butterfly mural aims to foster a safe space for each member of the Seahawk family to open up about their struggles by normalizing mental health conversations and promoting the available resources for those that need it.



LIONS CLUB AWARDS
This year's winners of the Berlin Lions Club \$1,000 scholarships are pictured. Lions Club representative Tommy Hinkle is pictured at the Stephen Decatur's awards night, top, with seniors Clay McCabe, Matt Holland and Aaron August, and, below with Addison Conley and Frankie Buxbaum, who each could not attend the ceremony due to sports.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE




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Friday 4-6pm	12505 Assawoman Drive #1N Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$275,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 2:30-5pm	13 91st St. Tahitian Sun, Ocean City	2BR & Loft	Condo	\$374,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	12428 Sea Oaks Lane #4, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Townhome	\$584,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 11am-1pm	1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$689,990	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	21 Links Lane, Ocean Pines	3BR /2.5BA	Single Family	\$450,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	13 91st St. Tahitian Sun, Ocean City	2BR & Loft	Condo	\$374,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	176 Bobbys Branch Rd, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$340,000	Elaine Davidson/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	34272 Bi State Blvd Laurel, DE	3BR/1BA	Single Family	\$305,900	Tim Meadowcroft/Long & Foster Real Estate
Saturday 1 -3pm	1 Chester St. The Parke, Ocean Pines	2BR/2BA	Townhome	\$334,900	Su Mei Prete/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 1-4pm	12304 Southhampton Drive, Bishopville	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$1,250,000	Greg Erdie/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 10am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sunday 11am-1pm	119 Mumfords Landing Road, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$575,000	Katie Quinn/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	121 70th Street #8, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$659,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

Presented free as a courtesy to Licensed REALTORS® who are regular OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette Advertisers.



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 12

THE THIRD ANNUAL SHINE ON THE SHORE LUAU

Sunset Grille, 12933 Sunset Ave., Ocean City, 5-8 p.m. Tickets \$35. Welcome to the party! Worcester Youth and Family invites you to Sunset Grille for food, drinks, music, games, and more - all to support our goal of “helping everyone shine!” rmitchell@gowoyo.org, 410-641-4598

READ-A-THON

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Join in for some comfy reading time inside the library or out on the lawn. Bring a towel or a blanket and read for as long as you’d like. Get help logging your reading time. 410-641-0650

STORY TIME: OUR COLOFUL WORLD

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

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 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

COLOR AND CALM CONNECTION

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Through guided breathing exercises and intentional coloring, learn how to calm the nervous system, enhance mindfulness and express creativity as a form of self-care. Registration required 410-957-0878.

SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Paint a vibrant summer scene with warm and cool colors. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., June 13

OC AIR SHOW PERFORMER'S PARTY

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin, 6 p.m. Meet the U.S. Navy Blue Angels pilots, see the American Legion Color Guard perform and the West Point Parachute Team landing. Plus, a free concert by DSB-The World’s Greatest Tribute to Journey.

5TH ANNUAL TUNAS & TIARAS LADIES TUNA TOURNAMENT

Micky Fins Bar & Grill, 12952 Inlet Isle Lane, Ocean City. Weigh-ins held from 4-7 p.m. Benefiting Women Supporting Women. <https://tunaandtiaras.com>

‘RETURN OF THE TERNS’ BOOK SIGNING AND PROGRAM

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Learn about how scientists are helping common terms. Free book signing and program. Donations for program are encouraged. 410-289-4991, emma@oc-museum.org, www.ocmuseum.org

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

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

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

FRIDAY THE 13TH ART NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Make funny, beautiful or spooky collages using the library’s fine art prints and other supplies. Refreshments provided. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BINGO NIGHT

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Gather your family and friends and join in. Cost is \$5 per person. Children’s prize will be won. Outside food and drinks welcome.

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., June 14

OC AIR SHOW

Quality Inn Boardwalk, 1601 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. View along the beach and Boardwalk at 16th

Street and surrounding areas. Seating options and tickets: <https://air.show/oc-purchase-tickets/>. Info: ocairshow@completeticketsolutions.com. 410-450-4197

5TH ANNUAL TUNAS & TIARAS LADIES TUNA TOURNAMENT

Micky Fins Bar & Grill, 12952 Inlet Isle Lane, Ocean City. Weigh-ins held from 4-7 p.m. Benefiting Women Supporting Women. <https://tunaandtiaras.com>

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. The speaker is Ashlie Kozlowski from the Assateague Island Alliance, who will be discussing their hands-on program Discovering Horseshoe Crabs and how to sign-up to help. All welcome. 410-641-7662

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF: COLOR OUR WORLD

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m.-noon. Come out and register for the Summer Reading program and enjoy a variety of art projects, games, snacks and balloons. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FRIED FISH PLATTERS & FRIED FISH SANDWICHES TO GO

Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. Fried fish platter combo with macaroni salad, chips and drink, \$13. Fried fish sandwiches, \$8 each. Also available: corn bread, drinks, rice pudding, cakes, etc.

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF: MESSTIVAL FESTIVAL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m. Get ready for some messy art fun including tie-dye. Readers of all ages welcome. Bring your own T-shirt. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

KIDS CRAFT TIME - PAINTED COFFEE MUG FOR DAD

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 2-3 p.m. From ages 4-10 years. Cost is \$8 for Ocean Pines residents and \$10 for non-residents. Register: 410-641-7052.

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 15

OC AIR SHOW

Quality Inn Boardwalk, 1601 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. View along the beach and Boardwalk at 16th Street and surrounding areas. Seating options and tickets: <https://air.show/oc-purchase-tickets/>. Info: ocairshow@completeticketsolutions.com. 410-450-4197

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 a DJ. <https://ocdc.org>

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Jade Lee” (R&B). 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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., June 16

MESSY ART WEEK

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop in to make some messy art projects of your own creation and design. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: JUNETEENTH

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

JUNETEENTH JOY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Drop in and create some crafts to celebrate

Calendar

Juneteenth. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COLORFUEL NUTRITION
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. The group will talk about what phytonutrients are, their health benefits and how different colors of fruits and vegetables provide unique nutrients. 410-641-0650

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

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

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

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

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

Tues., June 17

KID'S CARNIVAL
Fish Tales Bar and Grill, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City, 12-4 p.m. Carnival games, petting zoo, face painting, inflatables, children's vendors, pony rides, food and drinks. Commemorative T-shirts available. Proceeds benefit the Lower Shore Special Olympics. 410-289-0990

MESSY ART WEEK
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop in to make some messy art projects of your own creation and design. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Workshop begins 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
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

PLAY TIME @ CYPRESS PARK
Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Meet at the playground for outside play and to socialize with other families. Bring a blanket. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worces-terlibrary.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

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.worces-terlibrary.org

JUNETEENTH JOY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Drop in and create some crafts to celebrate Juneteenth. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SURGICAL CLASSES
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6 p.m. Learn what to expect, information about your upcoming surgery and directions about post-operative care. No RSVP required. Atlantic General Hospital's Pre-Admission Testing Department, 410-641-9814

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 18

MOVIES ON THE BEACH
Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring "The Muppet Movie." 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 third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

MESSY ART WEEK
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Drop in to make some messy art projects of your own creation and design. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

KIDS GARDENING WORKSHOP: SEED BALLS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Hands-on workshop with Master Gardener Theresa Maggio on how to make and plant seed balls. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterli-brary.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

JUNETEENTH JOY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Drop in and create some crafts to celebrate Juneteenth. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ART FOR THE REST OF US: REVERSE COLORING
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m. A fun and stress free coloring experience. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

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

KIDS PAINT NIGHT
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$22 per painter. All materials and instruction provided. For ages 8 years and older. Pre-registration required: 410-641-7052.

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.kiwaniso-fopoc.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

TINY ART CONTEST
Kits are available from June 2-13 at all Worcester County library branches. Submit your creation by the end of the day June 13 for voting. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-631-5622

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MARKETPLACE

Call **410-723-6397** or email
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Production Crew
 for our WOC kitchen facility
 Up to \$20/hr.
 Apply online at:
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 Person needed for light mechanical work (will train if needed) and light yard work at WOC Boat Yard.
Call 410-213-1383.

LANDSCAPING
 Person to help with landscaping/mulching at a residence in WOC.
Call 410-430-7554.

AMERICAN LEGION
 Assistant Manager,
 PM Shift
 2 Line Cooks,
 experience required.
 Part-time.
 Apply at Post,
 2308 Philadelphia Avenue
 or call for information at
 410-289-3166

Small seasonal boutique
Oceanfront Hotel in Ocean City has the following jobs available:

- **DESK CLERKS (3-11pm)**
 Reservation computer program experience needed.
- **LAUNDRY**
 Apply online at
info@ocbreakers.com
 or call **410-289-9165**
 Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

CLEANERS WANTED
 Vacation rental cleaners needed for OC and The Pines. Exp. preferred, but not required. OC PURIFIERS.
 Call or text **443-397-1189**
 or email
Karen@ocpurifiers.com

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FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND
 Competitive Salary,
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Apply: Qualified candidates can submit a confidential Town of Berlin application online or to directly to the Town's Human Resources Director at kjensen@berlinmd.gov. Applications can be found under the employment section of our website at <https://berlinmd.gov/employment/> or you can pick one up at 10 William Street Berlin, MD 21811.
 EOE/M/F/V/D.

PARTS STORE ASSOCIATE

Carquest Auto Parts & Marine, now has an opening for a **PARTS ASSOCIATE** at our location in Ocean Pines. We will train the right person. Must be reliable and have great customer service experience.
Call: 302-228-2353

CARPENTERS & CARPENTERS HELPERS

Must have
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Experience preferred, but will train.

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Merchandiser \$17-19/hr

Merchandising Assistant \$16-\$18/hr

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SUMMER BAYSIDE CONDO near Jolly Rogers. 2BR, 2BA, W/D, A/C, Wi-Fi, fully furnished. Sleeps 4-6. 2 units available. May-Sept. Call Mike at 410-603-6120. www.mbjcproperties.com

RENTALS

Seeking YR & Seasonal Rentals! Call Howard Martin Realty 410-352-5555.

WATERFRONT BAYSIDE Newly remodeled 2BR, 2BA Condo in North OC. Full kitchen, LR, DR, W/D, balcony for sunsets. Perfect for crabbing, fishing, kayaking. 10 min. walk to beach. Weekly summer rentals & long term seasonal Nov.-May. Contact Julie, 443-223-4623

Classifieds 410-723-6397 www.baysideoc.com www.octodaydispatch.com

RENTALS

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.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE BY OWNER Sunset Island TH Move-in ready. Many upgrades. Original owner. \$961,000 Karen 240-780-6554 Bart 703-915-1530

COMMERCIAL

Industrial Space Yard and Storage Shed. Approx. 10x25+/- Route 90/Bishopville. Call 443-497-4200.

Commercial Space for Lease. 2-3 Units available, can be divided or joined. Approx. 800-1000 sq. ft. ea. Busy major road in Town of Berlin. Call 443-880-8885

2 Office/Retail Spaces available in West Ocean City. Approximately 1656 sq. ft. and 1728 sq. ft. Call 443-497-4200

DONATIONS

Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.

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