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# BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

**JUNE 19, 2025** 

**BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY • OCEAN PINES** 



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRICE STUMP

#### MILESTONE REUNION

On Wednesday, June 11, Stephen Decatur High School's Class of 1955 celebrated 70 years since graduation with a reunion at the Berlin Beer Company. The group represented the first graduating class from the new Stephen Decatur High School, which was founded in 1954. The school's creation combined the "island kids" at Ocean City High School with the inland group from Buckingham High School in Berlin. Nineteen members of the graduating class attended. The 40 members of the 69-person class who are deceased were recognized. Pictured, front from left, are Helen Mae Ellis Chamblin, Helen Rounds Tinsman, Joyce Davis Davis and Virginia Hudson Pepper; middle, Gloria Truitt Nolan, Betsy Barrett Ludlam, Nancy Davis Owens, Joanne Quillen Jackson, Fay Collins Wooten, Roy Watson and Norma Wainwright Rickards; and, back, Mary Dean Rouchard, Clifford Dypsky, Dale Cathell, Bob Murray, Jane Disharoon Bunting and Bob Gray.

# **Planning commission backs** park parcel's zoning change

Redevelopment of property by Gillises hinges on ability to create mixed-use project

#### By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) Citing a change in the neighborhood's character and a previous zoning designation mistake, Berlin's Planning Commission is recommending rezoning parcel 57 at Heron Park from R-1, residential, to B-2, shopping and retail.

The reclassification, approved by the commission last Wednesday, will allow for the space's redevelopment providing the Town Council agrees.

The designation will pave the way

for Palmer and Sandy Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties (CVP) to rehab the former poultry processing plant building for commercial use.

CVP entered into a contract to purchase parcel 57 from the Town of Berlin in April. The property is the former site of the old Tyson Foods poultry processing plant, which is now non-operational.

The arrangement's conditions include the rezoning request. If parcel 57 remains R-1, the attorney for the Gillises, Mark Cropper, said the agreement will not close, and the project will not go forward.

However, the town's planning commission is recommending the re-

See COMMISSION Page 6









# Candidate forum June 27

Four candidates vying for three open seats on board

#### **By Tara Fischer**

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) Candidates for the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors election will have the opportunity to appeal to voters later this month, during a question-and-answer forum.

OPA's Elections Committee will

host its annual candidate forum on Friday, June 27, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room at 100 Clubhouse Drive.

Residents are encouraged to send their inquiries for the four campaigners at elections@oceanpines.org. Questions will be added to the list and may be asked during the panel.

Running for the three open seats in the 2025 election, in ballot order,

See CANDIDATES Page 12

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# Swipe cards, extended hours eyed for pools

Changes being considered for next summer season, but discussion informal

**By Tara Fischer** Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) Despite this summer just getting started, the Ocean Pines Association's Aquatics Advisory Committee is looking at improvements for next year, which could include swipe cards and a later pool closing time on weekdays.

OPA's aquatic advisory crew met last week to discuss potential enhancements to Ocean Pines' five swimming pools. The conversation included upgrade suggestions, but not all of them would, or could, be initiated for the current warm-weather season.

To improve convenience at Ocean Pines pools, the aquatics group intends to investigate the possibility of obtaining swipe cards for entry into the facilities and their restrooms. If the initiative reaches fruition, it would likely be for next summer, said Gary Miller, the chair of OPA's Aquatics Advisory Committee.

Miller noted that the idea of using cards or other measures to access the pool and its bathrooms to reduce congestion was previously suggested to but the project never got off the ground. Committee members argue that more research is needed.

"I think we need to keep an eye on how the lines are and how bad the crowds get and see if it's really an issue that needs addressing," the committee chair said.

The possibility of swipe cards came up at a January meeting of the aquatics group. At that time, Miller spoke about an ongoing problem at the Ocean Pines Beach Club in Ocean City, where non-pool members were using the amenity's restrooms.

Miller had said that bathroom attendants and cameras had been implemented to mitigate the issue, but these measures weren't successful. The possibility of distributing a swipe card was mentioned, which would limit restroom entrance to members. The card could also be used as an admission key to the pool grounds to limit excessive lines during peak hours.

Committee members added at the January meeting that steps other than a physical card could be taken to address the crowds. For example, a QR code may be given to residents when they purchase their aquatics memberships, which would act similarly to a swipe card but electronically. Last tinue to pursue this project for next week. vear.

Also on the committee's recommendation docket for summer 2026 is leaving one of the pools open later during the weekdays to give more time to residents who work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Swim and Racquet does have lengthened hours, but only during weekends.

Miller noted that this year, in a departure from seasons past, Swim and Racquet is open until 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to give homeowners additional access to the summertime amenity. Still, the pool closes at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The aquatics committee chair said the extended weekend hours are "good," but they do not give working folks extra time to enjoy the pool after their long days during the

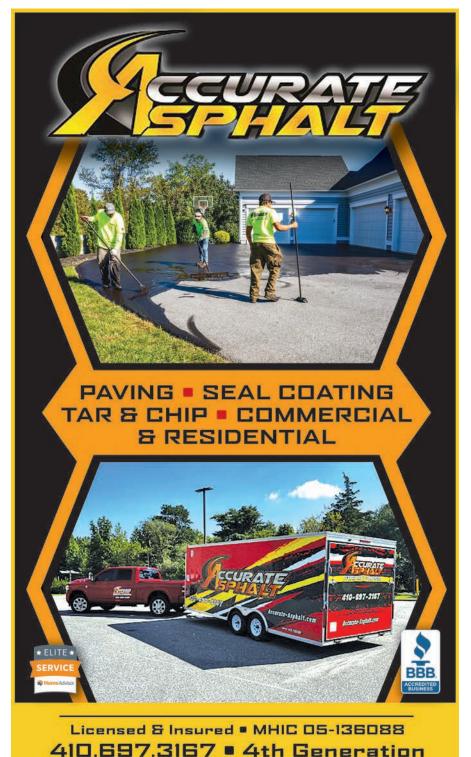
To be more accommodating to all Ocean Pines residents, the aquatics team will recommend to the association that one pool be open Monday through Thursday to a time later than 6 p.m. next summer.

Making the suggestion for a year from now will provide OPA staff breathing room to arrange operation dealings, if the community leaders opt to uphold the recommendation.

"It will give [OPA] more time to plan if they have to hire more lifeguards, or whatever," said Mary Hastler, aquatics committee member.

The OPA Aquatics Advisory Committee will look into these improvements, along with others that may arise this summer, as recommendations to propose to community staff ahead of next season.





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# **MDE** issues wind farm construction permit

'The Department has made a

final determination to issue the

permit-to-construct, the PSD

Approval, and the NSR Approval,

effective June 6, 2025.

MDE Website

#### By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

(June 19, 2025) The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has approved US Wind's air quality permit application, which will allow the company to construct an offshore wind project off the coast of Ocean City.

In the wake of last week's announcement, both Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan and Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (District 38) issued separate news releases criticizing the state agency for ignoring feedback collected at public hearings.

For her part, Carozza called the decision a "blatant disregard of the momentum and growing opposition to the industrialization of the ocean off Maryland's coast."

"The approval of US Wind's air quality permit ignores the numerous concerns outlined by the growing opposition from Maryland residents regarding the negative consequences of this project," she said.

In late 2023, MDE received an air quality permit application from US Wind for the construction and operation of a 114-turbine wind project to be located nearly 11 miles off the coast of Ocean City. The application consisted of an air quality permit-to-construct, an application for a New

Source Review (NSR) approval, and an application for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) approval.

To that end, MDE held an informational meeting on June 13, 2024, followed by a public hearing on Jan. 9, 2025. And in March, following a 60-day extension, the public comment period closed.

"The Department has reviewed the

application and the comments received and has determined that the proposed construction and commissioning of the offshore wind project would not cause violations of any applicable air pollution control

Respite Care and Hospice Care

regulations," MDE shared on its website last week. "The Department has made a final determination to issue the permit-to-construct, the PSD Approval, and the NSR Approval, effective June 6, 2025."

In response to last week's announcement, Meehan lambasted the state agency for approving the US Wind application. He argued MDE ignored public comments from the dozens of local business owners and residents who would be impacted by

the project.

"It is unconscionable to believe that the Maryland Department of Environment is ignoring pre-established permitting deadlines and fundamentally ignoring every shred of feedback offered by those who will be directly involved if this poorly conceived and potentially disastrous offshore wind project is allowed to move forward," he said in a news release. "The entire

economy of our coastal resort town is dependent on tourism, our eco system, and commercial fishing, all of which will be significantly impacted if hundreds of these giant eyesores are constructed 10

miles from our beaches.'

Meehan said the state has "ignored their voices" and "will stop at no end to politically approve" a project he called unreliable and unsustainable, among other things. He also vowed to continue to fight the US Wind project in court.

"It is time to put an end to subsidizing this cash cow for US Wind and for the state to invest time and energy on more realistic forms of alternative energy before we end up with a wind turbine graveyard off of our coast and the multi-generational nightmare of repairing our environment and economy," he said.

Carozza also took issue with the public comment process, during which several local leaders and residents testified against the company's air quality permit application. She said MDE's response to her questions was "unsatisfactory."

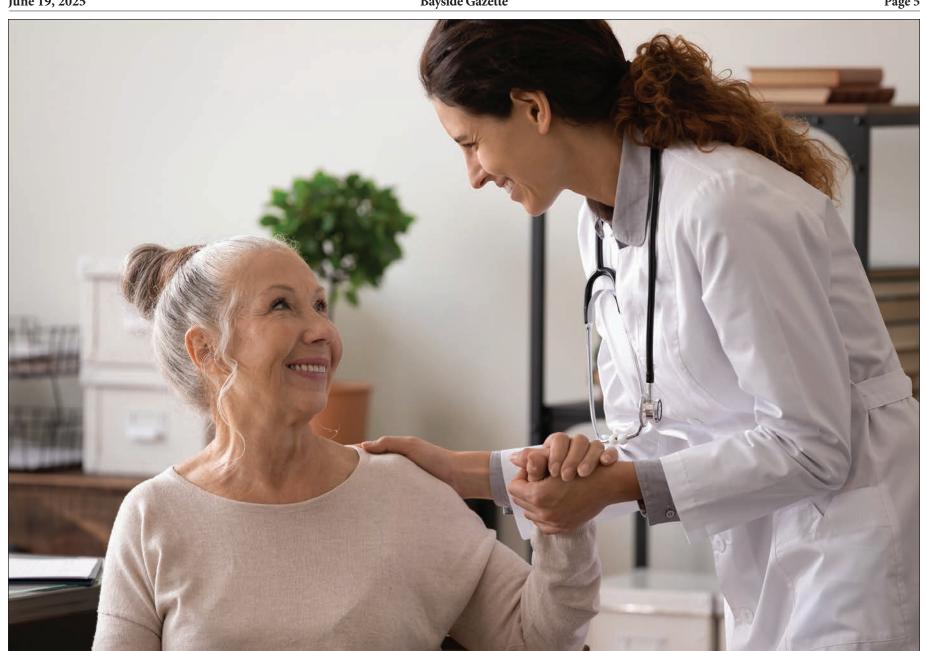
"The State of Maryland should be focused on lowering energy costs for the ratepayers, and not pushing costly, subsidized offshore wind energy development, which is the most expensive generating technology," Carozza said in the news release. "Offshore wind is intermittent and unreliable, and we are finding more and more negative impacts across the board. As more and more Marylanders learn the true costs and negative impacts of the industrialization of our ocean, the Stop Offshore Wind movement continues to grow each day. We need our voices heard by the Governor and all his Administration."

In addition to its final determination and permit approvals, MDE also released its transcript from the January public hearing, as well as responses to comments the agency received.



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# Commission recommends parcel's rezoning

Continued from Page 1

classification, which the town council is expected to greenlight at an upcoming meeting.

"I am in full support of this project as a town resident and a council member," said Jay Knerr, a councilman in attendance at the planning commission meeting. "We firmly believe CVP will do a great job rehabbing this derelict property. It will be a nice addition to the Town of Berlin. We want to see it happen."

The commission asked Knerr if he believed his endorsement to be the council's majority opinion. Knerr responded, "That is my belief, yes."

While the establishments to enter the space have yet to be determined, Cropper noted that the area will likely see office and/ or retail space.

Still, the Berlin Town Council has

included a list in the contract that dictates what can and cannot operate on the property. Prohibited uses of the site are pawn shops, gun shops, tanning salons, massage parlors, adult video and book shops, adult entertainment facilities, check cashing facilities, tattoo parlors, liquor stores, and gambling facilities.

"Quite honestly, we don't know yet what's going to go there, but it will be consistent with the provisions," Palmer Gillis said.

If the council follows the planning commission's recommendation, parcel 57's status as an R-1 residential site will be modified to B-2 shopping and retail. Cropper argued at last week's meeting that the change is necessary as the neighborhood's character has changed.

"As far as a change in the character



SUBMITTED IMAGE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A conceptual plan outlines the developer's intent to focus on the north side of parcel 57 for a potential office building with retail eyed along Old Ocean City Boulevard in the second phase.

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Specifically, the attorney cites the abandonment of the former poultry processing plant.

"Part of the proposed redevelopment of the chosen property is parcel 57, which is under contract by CVP for retail/commercial uses," Cropper continued. "So, there has been a change in the character of the neighborhood to the extent you had a very significant industrial use on the property, which has been dormant now for many years. It's never going to resume being an industrial use. It's only going to be utilized as approved by the Town of Berlin, and part of the principal reuse of the property is essentially retail and commercial, so that in and of itself is a change in the character of the neighborhood that would warrant the rezoning.'

Cropper added that the rezoning should take place as the current classification as residential was likely a mistake, considering the property used to be home to an industrial site.

"With regards to the mistake argument, I think that's a very easy argument under the circumstances because this property has been utilized as the Tyson processing plant for decades and yet it's zoned R-1 residential," he said. "The use that has been on this property for decades is industrial, but it is zoned residential. I believe that is a mistake."

Cropper said he was "stunned" when he realized the parcel's current zoning was R-1.

"I actually didn't believe it at first that we were seeking a change of zoning from R-1...for the very reason Tyson's plant has been there for as long as I can remember, I mean a long time," he noted.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said that Berlin purchased the property in early 2016. At this time, it was rezoned R-1, as the municipality intended to turn it into a park. That mission was never realized, but the residential distinction remained.

The Berlin Planning Commission is thus recommending the parcel 57 rezoning request. The body noted that in addition to the classification mistake and the neighborhood's character change, the town's comprehensive plan aims to promote businesses and job opportunities. The property's redevelopment to retail and office space would propel this objective.

Earlier this spring, CVP and the town entered into an agreement to purchase parcel 57, consisting of approximately 9.35 acres of land area, for \$1,200,000. The purchase price includes the allocation of 15 sewer Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) to the property. Furthermore, Gillis committed to constructing at least one office or retail building in the designated space within two years of closing as part of the redevelopment plans. CVP is responsible for the re-engineering costs associated with the site.

The agreement notes that Gillis plans to construct an office building on the rear end of the property, denoted as "Phase I," and a retail space along Old Ocean City Boulevard, designated as "Phase II."

The Berlin Town Council will soon hold a public hearing on the rezoning request and then vote to approve or disapprove it.

# West Ocean City cottage destroyed by mid-day blaze

Three roommates lived in rental home; fire cause remains under investigation

#### By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(June 17, 2025) Fire ravaged a West Ocean City cottage midday Tuesday, bringing incoming beach traffic on Route 50 to a standstill as firefighters responded. Nobody was hurt.

The two-bedroom home in the Peterson Cottages enclave, nestled in the woods just off the highway, went up in flames at approximately 12:15 pm. Residents of the rental cottage said they believe an outlet in a bedroom caught fire.

Three roommates, all women, were inside the home at the time. The fire happened so fast that resident Cheryl Merendino didn't even have time to put shoes on. Outside, she stood barefoot in the dirt, her toenails painted a shade of baby blue.

"I just ran," she said. "I was dialing 911 as I went out."

Merendino said she was in her bedroom when, "next thing you know, I heard her screaming," she said, pointing to her roommate, Lisa Biasucci. "I came out and I looked in her room and it was on fire. My room was fine. No smoke in there, no nothing."

Biasucci said the women were getting ready to leave to go work a house cleaning job when the fire broke out in a bedroom.

"I happened to notice smoke coming out and I got a bowl (of water) – I thought it was something little – we tried throwing it on it. All of a sudden the black smoke just started, and I said, oh my god, Donna, we gotta get outta here," Biasucci said. "We all got out okay."

With the fire out and more firefighters on the property, cottage resident Donna Anastasio sat in the front seat of a grey pickup parked outside the home. She was laying her head against the seat rest, a lit cigarette in her hand, with specks of soot on her cheerless face. She's lived here since 2017.

Anastasio said she had been in the living room when the back bedroom

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fire started. Like her roommate, she tried to fill a Tupperware bowl of water to douse the flames, going back and forth from the bathroom, "but my water doesn't come out quick enough," she said.

"So, yeah," she said, "I've just lost everything."

It's soon to determine an official cause of the fire, according to Worcester County Fire Marshal Matt Owens, who was at the scene. His team will investigate the cause.

Responding fire departments included Ocean City, Berlin, and Ocean Pines. Firefighters had the fire knocked down in about 10 minutes. Fire police had Route 50 stopped for a spell until they opened one lane to eastbound traffic.



LIAM SAVAGE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Local firefighters are pictured applying water to an active fire that destroyed a two-bedroom home on the Patterson Cottages property.



# Berlin to hold auction for old street signs

#### By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) This summer, old street signs will be available for bidding via an online auction hosted by the Town of Berlin to raise money to support the municipality's community center effort.

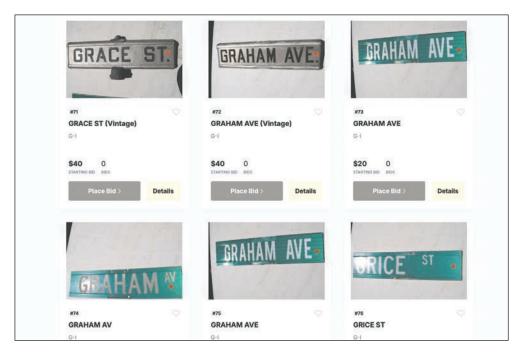
According to Sara Gorfinkel, executive assistant to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, the town's public works team has spent the past two years replacing street signs with more up-to-date reflective tape and lettering to ensure compliance with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration. The signs are now also higher on poles than previously.

During this process, residents asked about Berlin's plans for the old signage and if they could take or purchase them. This sparked the idea to organize an online auction for the banners. The proceeds from the sales will go toward the development of a planned community center in town.

Gorfinkel noted that the auction was Tyndall's brainchild, while she created the sale site to "reflect the mission of the auction, information about the community center, and the Town of Berlin" and uploaded all of the signs, around 160, that will be available for bidding.

The auction will begin promptly at midnight on July 1 and is expected to last about two weeks. The town is using the ClickBid system for the initiative, which Worcester Preparatory School referred them to as the school uses it for its silent auction fundraising efforts. The mayor's assistant maintained that the site is "very user-friendly."

The auction can be accessed at



A screenshot of the Town of Berlin's auction site shows some of the retired street signs available for purchase. The gray signs are considered vintage by town officials.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

https://cbo.io/app/public/bidapp/tobm/auction.

To participate, on July 1, individuals can upload their credit card information, bid in increments of \$5 on the signs, and even set a max bid for easy use.

"If there's one sign that you want, you can put in however much money you would be willing to spend on it, and then you can have the system bid for you in \$5 increments," Gorfinkel said. "If you say, 'I really want this sign and I'll pay \$100 for it,' then it will bid for you up to \$100. Then it will tell you whether or not you need to add more money or if you did or didn't get the sign."

Gorfinkel said the base price for most signs will be \$20, while the more vintage street markings will start at around \$30 or \$35.

The money from the auction will help the town's community center come to fruition. Specifically, the proceeds will be used for a historical display in the facility. While what exactly will be included in the exhibit is currently unknown, it could incorporate plaques, archive materials, or display boxes.

"We really want to highlight the history of Berlin and the families that have made Berlin what it is,"



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# Retired signs to benefit project

the executive assistant said. "We know that the archives and the history are really important to the Town of Berlin, so we are specifically raising money to put aside for that. We have the Taylor House Museum, so it won't be anything on that level. Still, we want it to be people-focused and just a really good resource so people feel their history is reflected in the community center."

The community center is an ongoing project for the Town of Berlin. The dream has been on the docket for decades, but has started to make headway over the past few years. The future structure, which will provide meeting space, recreational activities, services, and amenities, will be located at 130 Flower Street.

Advancement of the planned facility has been 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 side of the Flower Street School.

The upcoming auction is another initiative that will aid the center's creation.

Gorfinkel said that the bid contest will appeal to those who decorate with and collect street signs, specifically those who are nostalgic about the road they grew up on or currently live on. The town's inventory of signage varies, and the executive assistant is excited to see participants' responses.

Some signs have seven of its type available, while others are one of a kind. 'N Main Street' signs, for instance, have multiple copies. Others are special in that they are misspelled.

"William Street is really William Street, but sometimes it says, 'Williams' with an S," Gorfinkel said. "We have one that is spelled W-I-L-L-A-M. It's missing the second I, so there are some unique signs that I think people will be interested in purchasing."

Bid winners will be able to pick their banners up in Berlin sometime this summer. A time and place will be communicated at a later date. Additionally, if someone who lives far away buys a sign, they can pay an add-on fee to have their item shipped.

The auction will help Berlin reach the community center dream. If anyone does not want to bid or is unsuccessful in obtaining a sign, they can donate directly to the future facility efforts on the town's ClickBid webpage.

"I am excited to see the response," Gorfinkel said. "I'm hopeful we'll be able to raise money for the community center."



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# **County approves solar farm project south of Snow Hill**

Maryland governor signs law establishing new zoning standards for ag properties

#### **By Brian Shane**

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) A new solar farm has been approved to move forward by Worcester County officials, while yet another solar project was put on hold pending further regulatory compliance.

The 23-acre facility is slated for installation on a 92.6-acre parcel owned by Jack and Barbara Shockley on Woodside Lane, just off Route 113 south of Snow Hill. The 5-megawatt project is being developed by New Leaf Energy, a solar developer based outside Boston.

At their May 20 meeting, the County Commissioners had declined to approve this project, because they were waiting on Gov. Wes Moore to sign into law a new bill that sets new stringent regulations for aesthetics and zoning.

Moore did sign the bill later that day, and it takes effect July 1. The Renewable Energy Certainty Act (SB 931) sets more restrictive zoning standards for community solar projects than what Worcester County had in place.

The law also lets the state seize authority over smaller solar projects from county governments. Currently, projects over two megawatts – enough to power up to 1,000 homes – can be preempted by the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) through a special certification, ensuring they meet safety, environmental, and economic standards.

However, the new law lowers that threshold to one megawatt. It means solar projects producing at least that amount of electricity, ones that also comply with new siting standards, cannot be blocked by local jurisdictions like Worcester County.

Counties can still adopt less strict zoning provisions for individual projects, which are then reviewed by the PSC. The state cannot override county modifications.

The new law also will impose more stringent aesthetic standards for elements like landscaping, setbacks, and fencing.

Moore did end up signing this bill. The commissioners went ahead at their next meeting on June 3 and approved the project in a 6-1 vote, with Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) the lone dissenter.

Another utility-scale solar project by the same developer did not receive a hearing by commissioners during their June 3 meeting in Snow Hill because the same developer, New Leaf, had not yet completed required landscape and viewshed analysis. Those documents are required.

For that reason, the commissioners decided to wait until the analyses are submitted to the county's review and permitting department.

"Apparently we're going to have to wait until we get these studies in before we proceed," remarked Commission President Ted Elder (District 4, Western).

That delayed 5-megawatt project is slated for 40 acres along Queponco Road in Newark, owned by Jack Harrison and family, according to Drew Funk with New Leaf.

Documents submitted to the county show that this solar facility could support electricity generation for about 1,125 households and would take six months to build. The family's full 185-acre tract has been farmland since at least 1952.

# Women's Club of OP awards three student scholarships

(June 19, 2025) The purpose of the Women's Club of Ocean Pines is to promote civic and social activities which include educational and community outreach opportunities to benefit the Ocean Pines community. During the year, members raise funds for scholarships and community awards

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines awarded three \$2,000 scholarships to deserving seniors from Stephen Decatur High School. The awardees are Adam Baker, Mara Sharon Minkey and Marley Noonan in recognition of their academic achievements, extracurricular involvement and dedication to their community.

In addition, \$2,500 was awarded to these local organizations: Coastal Hospice, Delmarva Women's Chorus, Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Ocean Pines Parks and Recreation, Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Women Supporting Women, Worcester County Veteran's Memorial.

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# Candidates to air views at June 27 forum

Continued from Page 1

are Stuart Lakernick, Steve Jacobs, Monica Rakowski, and Amy Peck. Lakernick, the body's current president, Rakowski, treasurer, and Jacobs, director, are the incumbents. The sole challenger, Peck, who ran last year, is vying once again to break into the governing group.

As part of the campaign leading up to the election, the board-hopefuls have curated bios that can be found on the OPA website.

Lakernick has served as the board's president this past year. Under his reign, his bio states, the community has seen the construction of a gazebo at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, enhanced beautification efforts, and an improved racquet center sports building, "all while keeping assessments low and budgets balanced."

"We've also increased public safety by adding new police officers to our force, ensuring quicker response times and greater community presence," he said

Under Lakernick's leadership, improved landscaping and signage, including the installation of electronic banners to replace the analog marquees, have also occurred.

If elected again, the current president's priority will be "getting shovels

in the ground for the much-needed Southside Firehouse."

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and OPA are working to replace the Southside Firehouse at 911 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines. The project will include constructing a nearly 15,000-square-foot facility to replace the existing, deteriorating building. Construction is estimated to begin in October, and the work is expected to take approximately 65 weeks.

OPA's estimated financial contribution to the project is \$3.4 million, with a 10% contingency for unforeseen expenses. Per the board's approval last month, a referendum on matters pertaining to the South Fire Station's funding will take place in accordance with this year's board of directors' election.

A public hearing on the referendum will be held on Friday, June 27, at 2 p.m. at the South Fire Station, 911 Ocean Parkway.

The question to be asked of the Ocean Pines members on the 2025 Board of Directors election ballot is as follows: "Do you authorize the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors and Administration to proceed with the construction of a new South Fire Station at a target cost to OPA, Inc. of up to \$3.4 million, with a possible cost variance of up to ten percent (10%)?"

The notice of the public hearing in-

cludes details to be discussed at the June 27 gathering, such as the fact that the existing South Station was constructed in 1981 and no longer meets safety standards.

The structure's conditions are inconsistent with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, are not compliant with modern building codes, and consist of mold, gas line issues, and drainage problems. Furthermore, the public hearing announcement reads, "the building's condition makes it challenging to recruit and retain both volunteer and career staff, negatively impacting the quality of service we can provide to our community."

As such, if reelected, Lakernick hopes to oversee the construction work of the new fire facility.

"I bring experience, a steady hand, and a strong vision for continued progress," the president said. "...Together, we can keep our community safe, beautiful, and thriving."

Steve Jacobs, a current board director, is also running for reelection. Jacob's bio explains that he is a member of Temple Bat Yam in Berlin and a former member of the Ocean Pines By-Laws and Resolutions Advisory Committee and the Golf Advisory Committee. He is also the former president of the Hardings Run Homeowners Association in New Jersey.

Jacobs was employed for around nine years for republican and democratic members of the U. S. House of Representatives, "worked for two small private, general practice law firms," was employed by the Attorney General of Maryland, assigned to the

Department of Human Resources in Howard County to litigate child support cases," he said.

Monica Rakowski, who has served as Ocean Pines treasurer on the OPA Board of Directors for the past three years, is also running for reelection to the governing body.

Rakowski notes that she is a professional services consultant who provides accounting practices, project management, implementation, and training for

Fortune 500 companies.

"If re-elected, Ocean Pines' finances will remain my top priority," Rakowski said.

The treasurer's bio adds that she will ensure the community has a suitable reserve balance to address road issues, drainage, and any other crucial projects that may arise.

She also vows to support the Southside Firehouse renovation, safety, property values, and OPA beautification.

Amy Peck is the only challenger in the 2025 election. According to her bio, the homeowner has a paralegal and teaching background, allowing her to "research issues and rigorously evaluate projects for cost-effectiveness and community benefit...and [utilize] active listening, empathy, and clear communication skills."

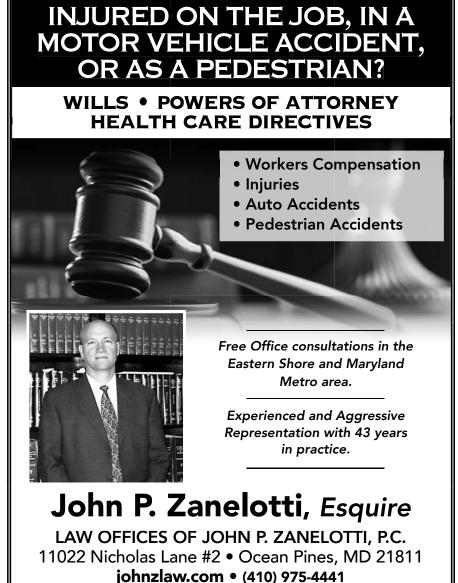
"These tools are essential for engaging with diverse homeowners, addressing concerns, and fostering consensus," Peck said.

Peck served on the OPA board from October 2021 to August 2022 after being appointed to carry out the remainder of a former member's term, who had resigned. She also ran for the election last year but was edged out by incumbents Rick Farr and Jeff Heavner. The repeat challenger hopes to secure a seat this time around.

Peck's candidacy stems from her belief in fiscal responsibility. She notes that if elected, she intends to focus on essential needs like safety, OPA's resources, natural beauty, and maintaining infrastructure instead of "chasing flashy projects."

"I am here to listen, serve, and advocate for every resident in Ocean Pines. Together, let's build on the strong foundation laid by our Founders to create a future that honors our past while meeting today's needs," her bio concludes.

Ocean Pines residents will hear about the candidates' platforms more in-depth at the forum on Friday, June 27. Homeowners are encouraged to submit their questions to elections@oceanpines.org. Inquiries will be asked live during the panel.







SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Crews are pictured working on the new bocce courts last month.

# First summer bocce league reaches capacity in Pines

**By Tara Fischer** Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's first-ever season of its new bocce league kicks off this week with a series of matches among the 72 registered community members. Organizers hope the initial summer yields healthy participation, with a long-term plan to schedule games against regional divisions.

A waiting list will be distributed sometime this July for interested residents who missed sign-ups for the current season, extending from now through August, to get their names down for the bocce league's fall play schedule.

The new bocce league officially begins its summer season today, Thursday, June 19. A series of matches will start at 4 p.m., with a game played on each of the Yacht Club's two new courts. Subsequent contests will occur at 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. According to Michael Galello, the bocce club director, the league will have contests scheduled every Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday throughout the summer.

The new sports league consists of 72 members, divided into teams. Galello noted that there are eight groups of two members and 14 crews of four members. The two-member teams have matches on Thursdays and Fridays, while the four-member teams will play on Thursdays and Fridays or Sundays and Mondays.

The club director said one of the teams, the "Red Roosters," is currently "loose," with no set individuals. Instead, as a gesture of appreciation to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and the operations leadership for making the new Yacht Club bocce courts a reality, four members of the board and/ or OPA General Manager John Viola will play in the first match today, acting as substitutes.

That team's future as the season goes on is still up in the air.

"I set up [the Red Rooster], I kind of put it together," Galello said. "It's kind of a loose team, you know, whoever is available will play. If somebody legitimately comes to the table and wants to play in the league and they can come with four people, I'll slip them in instead." The new league is kicking off with the completion of the two new professional bocce courts at the community's Yacht Club. The enhanced play areas are replacing an existing, outdated bocce space.

The new courts are made of synthetic material rather than natural. Galello said this decision was made to give the stations an extended lifespan, which is estimated between 15 and 18 years. Occasional maintenance like sand replacement will be required throughout this time, but the club director said that kind of work is easy and not a big deal. The facility is now lighted as well, which will allow the league and casual bocce participants to play after sunset.

Galello expects additional improvements to the courts after the season ends. He noted that the area surrounding the play sites was built with a base for pavers, although they have not yet been added.

"We're not going to install the pavers this year; we ran out of time," he said. "The pavers will probably be installed in the fall or spring. It's kind of a minor part of all this. We wanted to open up and start playing."

Galello hopes that the bocce league's inaugural season is successful, with more to follow throughout the year. Eventually, organizers hope to make Ocean Pines an open league, welcoming members from anywhere, not just OPA, and playing other divisions in places like Rehoboth or Ocean City.

The new league will offer healthy competition and fun, and be a new way for older people to stay active and involved.

"It's going to bring another element towards amenities to socialize," Galello said. "I'm getting a lot of pickleball players because, you know, there are injuries, and this is a less physically demanding sport. It involves skill, accuracy, strategy, and I think many people can gravitate to that without overextending their elbows, shoulders, knees, and getting into physical therapy to play a sport."

The summer play schedule kicks off today. For those who want to participate in an upcoming bocce ball league season, stay tuned for a waiting list, which is likely to be distributed later this summer.



# **Obituaries**

#### **DAVID REED KRUPER**

Bishopville

David Reed Kruper, 78, of Bishopville and Smithton, Pa., passed away peacefully at his home in Maryland on

> Saturday, June 2025.



Reed, as he was known to his friends and family, was born on July 14, 1946 in Mount Pleasant, Pa., son of the late John H. and Donna M. (Durstine) Kruper, and

spent his childhood in Smithton and McKeesport, Pa.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Frances (Miller) Kruper; daughter Amanda Lynn (Kruper) Evans, son-in-law, David Christian Evans; two grandchildren, Olivia Grace and Isaac Reed Evans; two brothers, Bennett Dean Kruper and sister-inlaw, Brenda, of Terra Haute, Ind. and Todd Curtis Kruper of Fair Haven, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Reed graduated from South Huntington High School, Ruffsdale, Pa., and Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, West Mifflin Pa., and was a United States Air Force veteran, 1964-1968. He was an airplane mechanic, was stationed at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., and had a tour in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

By trade, Reed was an electrical contractor and previous owner of Kruper Contracting, Inc. He also worked for Pratt Whitney Aircraft, West Palm Beach, Fla., US Steel, West Mifflin, Pa., GC Murphy Co. and Canova Electric, both in McKeesport, Pa., and retired from Donegal Center, Donegal, Pa., owned by the late Robert Bruno, one of his many mentors.

Spending time with his grandchildren was his favorite thing in the world, whether he was singing in the truck with Olivia on the ride home from school or creating a train village in his garage for Isaac, these moments brought his biggest smiles. He was known around town as a handyman and was known to accept peach pie as

payment for his work. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, time at his friend Jack's cabin and his vacation beer (Corona with a lime) on the beach in Ocean City. In retirement, he enjoyed woodworking and gun repair. In both of his homes, his garage was always open for visitors.

Reed followed in his parent's footsteps by always being involved in his community. He was the mayor of Smithton for two terms, a lifetime member of Lt. Wayne F. Forsythe American Legion, Post 790, where he was the commander for many years, Marion Masonic Lodge #562, and the Smithton Volunteer Fire Department, member of Hope Memorial Lutheran Church, where he served on church council, Sons of the American Revolution Captain John Smoot Chapter, Delmarva Irish American Club, and National Rifle Association.

Family and friends may pay their respects at his Celebration of Life on June 22, 2-4 p.m., at Mio's, Selbyville, Del. or at his Memorial at L L Barthels Funeral Home, Smithton, Pa. on June 28

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hope Memorial Lutheran Church, PO Box 771 Smithton, Pa. 15479 or Coastal Hospice, 1500 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, Md. 21811.

#### **IRVA LILLIE HARP**

Berlin

Irva Lillie Harp, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and greatgrandmother, passed away peacefully

> on June 9, 2025, at the age of 94.



Born in Philadelphia on June 28, 1930, to Leonard and Sarah Seither, Irva was a loving and steady presence in the lives of all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Edward Harp, who passed in 2013 after 64 wonderful years of marriage. Irva is survived by her daughter, Barbara Miccolupi of York, Pa., and her son, Edward Harp and his wife Deborah of Berlin, MD.

She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Gregory (Gretchen) of Macungie, Pa.; Christine Reptsik (Joshua) of Berlin; Christopher Miccolupi of York, PA; and Daniel Miccolupi (Lydia) of York, Pa. Her greatgrandchildren include Amber Plachko (Jacob) of Kutztown, Pa.; Mackenzie Harp and Camryn Harp of Macungie, PA; and Isabell, Monica, and Josephine Miccolupi of York, Pa. Irva is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Irva raised her family in Allentown, Pa., while working in retail before retiring to Cape Coral, Florida, in 1988. She later moved to Berlin in 2008, where she continued to share her warmth and kindness with everyone around her.

A private celebration of Irva's life will be held at a future date for immediate family.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

#### **NORMAN 'KIRK' SCOTT**

Berlin

Norman "Kirk" Scott, age 59, passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at his home in Berlin.



Born in Salisbury, he was the son of Mary Shockley Williams, Norman Frederick "Freddie" Scott, and his stepfather, Calvin F. Williams.

graduated Kirk from Stephen Decatur High School in 1983.

He then attended Wesley College and Salisbury University. After college, he worked in the hospitality industry mainly in Ocean City. He was a lifelong enthusiast of sports cars and his love for motorcycles was just as deep. A loyal Harley-Davidson rider, Kirk made an annual trip to Daytona Beach, Florida, for Bike Week, where he found community among fellow riders and joy in the roar of the rally. These trips were sacred to him—part escape, part celebration of the freedom he cher-

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# Freeman partners with BES on music arts

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) Ukuleles are now a staple of classroom instruction for Buckingham Elementary School students, courtesy of a new initiative launched by Freeman Arts Pavilion, a program of the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation.

The pilot project focuses on art education. Started by the Freeman Arts Pavilion, it collaborates with Salisbury University music education professor Louise Anderson, who specializes in music education and integrating ukuleles into the curriculum.

To get the project off the ground, Freeman Arts Pavilion provided a classroom set of ukuleles and teaching tools tailored to elementary music introduction to Buckingham, said a press release from the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation. BES will incorporate the instruments into its curriculum for at least five years.

According to Lindsay Richard, Joshua M. Freeman Foundation's community engagement director, the ukulele was selected as the primary instrument for musical instruction for "a variety of reasons."

"The ukulele is relatively easy to

learn for children and can be used to teach various musical concepts," she said. "The size of a ukulele is perfect for young children, and it is fun for children to play as a group. Additionally, ukuleles are generally affordable for families. We hope that students will fall in love with the ukulele in music class and their families will be able to purchase one and incorporate more music into the home."

The ukuleles will be available to the Buckingham music teacher for the duration of the instruments' lifespans and will be incorporated into musical instruction for at least five years. Richard noted that "students will learn the instrument nearly their entire time at BES."

The musical project has been in the works since the fall of 2024. Richard said that the goal of creating such a program is to instill an enduring impact on the school and the students themselves. Organizers also hope the initiative will provide young learners access to new experiences to bolster their education.

"Music education enhances cognitive development and academic performance while building discipline, collaboration, and confidence," said the community engagement director. "The ukulele is particularly accessible — easy



Buckingham
Elementary School
students are
pictured with their
instruments earlier
this month before
school let out for
summer.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/

SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

to learn and less intimidating than other instruments. By investing in both instruments and professional instruction, we're creating a sustainable, replicable model that maximizes long-term impact while reinforcing the importance of arts education in preparing students for success."

BES was chosen as the program's pilot school in part because music teacher Emely Martin was interested in integrating ukuleles into classroom instruction. Martin was also a former student of Anderson, allowing for a smooth collaboration.

While Buckingham will be the first school to incorporate ukuleles, initiative spearheaders hope to expand throughout Delmarva. Richard said the mission offer the project to at least one school per academic year, focusing on elementary schools. However, she added that they will also consider general music programs in middle schools.

The program leads are confident that the ukulele instruction will enrich BES's music curriculum and offer a new outlet for student expression. Per the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation's status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, donors have provided the funding for this initiative and the organization's additional work

"Our arts education programs and other Arts Access Initiative efforts are made possible thanks to this vital support, which helps us ensure that the arts remain accessible to all," Richard said.

### **Obituaries**

Continued from Page 14

ished. When not riding or driving, Kirk could be found at his local gym, where he took tremendous pride in his workouts and desire to stay fit.

In addition to his parents, he is also survived by his daughter, Ashley Baer (Dan), a brother, Michael Williams (Rita), two grandchildren, Ava Baer and Daniel Baer, two nephews, Blake Williams and Luke Williams, a half-sister, Renee Scott, and his special uncle, William "Bill" Shockley.

a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2025, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, Md. 21811. A reception and fellowship immediately following service. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family

www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in honor of Norman Kirk Scott can be made to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org.





Worcester Library: Berlin Branch

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# **Snapshots**



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETT

#### SKILLS TEAM IN FINAL FUNDRAISING PUSH

The Worcester Technical High School SkillsUSA Maryland State Champs, including students and teachers pictured above, will be representing at the National SkillsUSA Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, starting on June 22. Thirty-plus students will demonstrate their talent to shine at the national level. The students are actively fundraising for travel expenses, and community sponsorship could be the key ingredient that fuels their journey. As of Thursday, competitors still need to raise \$15,000 to meet their travel expense's goal. If



you're inspired to help these emerging leaders, consider reaching out to Mrs. Bunting at 410-632-5050. Contributions, no matter the size, not only help cover logistical expenses but also ignite confidence and open doors for these competitive students.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **AGH ANNIVERSARY HOSTS SALUTED**

On May 8, the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation held its annual Anniversary Celebration to commemorate the hospital's 32 years of service to the Delmarva community. The celebration was hosted at Brooklyn Meadows Estate, in Berlin, where roughly 550 supporters were treated to delicious food and beverages and hours of live music. Through the generous support of over 100 monetary sponsors, 50 in-kind sponsors and the event attendees, the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation's Anniversary Celebration Committee was able to raise more than \$191,000 in support of the hospital's mission to improve community health.

AGH Foundation staff and Anniversary Celebration Committee co-chairs recently presented a special gift to Brooklyn Meadows Estate owner Patrick Brady and event partner Alyson Kendall as a token of gratitude for hosting this year's event. Pictured, from left, are Jessica Jersey, AGH Foundation donor relations officer; Laura Powell, AGH Foundation community relations officer; Sarah Evans, Anniversary Celebration Committee co-chair; Kourtney Duffie, Anniversary Celebration Committee co-chair; Brady; Kendall; Jessica Giardina, Anniversary Celebration Committee co-chair; Toni Keiser, AGH vice president of public relations; and Hillary Mozeik, AGH Foundation assistant.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZET

#### SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club presented four "Friends of Youth Scholarships" at the Snow Hill High School Senior Awards Ceremony on May 21 totaling \$36,000. Pictured, from left, are Dena Holloway, scholarship committee member; Hope Cooper, \$7,000; Heydein Flores, \$7,000; Ernest Burch, \$7,000; Abigail Gaskill, \$12,000; and Lee Holloway, scholarship committee member.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED**

On May 22, at the luncheon meeting of the Republican Women of Worcester County, four new members were welcomed. Pictured, from left, are Jennie Allen, RWWC Membership Chair; new members Annette Pennewell Furst, Alice Wigfield, Susan Wilgus-Murphy and Barbara Firchak; and Jean Delcher, RWWC president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **YOUNG PUBLISHERS**

Worcester Preparatory School has announced several talented student writers have been published in *Fright Club: Home Before Dark*, a national flash fiction anthology showcasing spine-tingling stories in just 100 words or less. This unique challenge invited young authors from across the country to craft complete and compelling spooky tales in exactly 100 words — a true test of precision, imagination, and storytelling skill. Worcester Prep students stood out for their originality, chilling twists, and ability to pack a punch in a small package. Front row from left, are Anna French, Claire Cooper, Lillian Ha, Lilly White and Tenley Absher; second, from left, Isha Garg, Sydney Parker, Bella Forman, Genia Fedarkevich and Keerat Brar; third row, from left, Raia Gorfinkel, Olivia Owens, Lara Owens, Gabriella Damouni, Haven Harrison, Kayley Adkins and Alex Gjoni; and, back, Michael Hall, Luke Pitarra, Karrigan Russel-Wood, Jackson Griffin and Gavin Mann. Not pictured were Reagan Mathews, Justin McGovern, Lyla Roberts and Hayden Wagner.

# Retiring Taylor issues 'a heartfelt thank you'

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) This week, at his last Board of Education meeting as superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools, Lou Taylor gave an emotional goodbye to the academic

system that has been a part of his life for 60 years.

Taylor announced his retirement in January. Effective July 1, the superintendent will round out a 41year career in education and a 60-year



Lou Taylor

involvement in Worcester County Public Schools.

In an emotional address to the Worcester County Board of Education at its Tuesday, June 17 meeting, the last of his tenure, Taylor said his goodbyes to school system personnel with whom he has had the "distinct pleasure" of working over the years.

"Thank you to this board and all the board members before you," Taylor said. "Thank you to our school leaders and central office leaders, who inspire, and I see this every day, our staff and students to be their best every day."

The superintendent continued, expressing his gratitude for his executive leadership team.

"We have been through some of the most challenging times together that this system has ever experienced," Taylor shared. "I'm so grateful to have had all of you by my side as we navigated them ... I wouldn't have been who I am, leading through the pandemic and this political climate that we've had, without your expertise. This is a heartfelt thank you."

"Thank you to our teachers," Taylor added. "You're the reason our students are not only learning academically but learning to be the greatest versions of themselves."

Taylor also thanked Ivory Smith, the president of the Worcester County Education Support Personnel Association, and Worcester County Teachers Association President Beth Shockley-Lynch for their stellar support.

"You have been wonderful, and still are wonderful to work with," he said, addressing Shockley-Lynch and Smith. "I don't know where I'd be without you ... I think we are the envy of the state, that the superintendent gets along well with the leadership of our associations. It's because of the professionalism of you two that make that happen. I will be forever grateful."

Taylor thanked the school system's families and urged them to remain involved. Finally, he said goodbye to the facilities' young learners enrolled in WCPS now and throughout his long career.

"Most importantly, I want to thank the thousands of students I have had the opportunity to work with for 41 years," Taylor said. "Worcester County has great students. They have forever. For the past 41 years, I have had the chance to walk beside them, watch them grow, and to excel in areas that none of us thought were possible."

The superintendent's ties to WCPS began as a five-year-old kindergarten student in 1965 at Ocean City Elementary School.

"Worcester County Public Schools is and will always be a large part of my heart," a teary-eyed Taylor said. "Thank you for 60 of my 65 years, learning and growing. Because I started as a five-year-old, I remember distinctly, on 89th Street in Ocean City, my mom walking me to the bus stop to get on the bus that day, and it has been an absolute joy since, both personally and professionally. I leave all of you with this: May God bless you, may God bless our kids, our families, our community, and may God always bless Worcester County Public Schools."

Taylor grew up in Worcester County and eventually graduated from Stephen Decatur High School. He began his career as a physical education teacher at Berlin Middle School, now Berlin Intermediate School, before accepting an assistant principal position.

In 1991, Taylor moved to SDHS as an assistant principal before advancing to the facility's principal and leading the school for 17 years. Under his reign, SDHS became the first Maryland Blue Ribbon School in Worcester County.

Taylor also established the Worcester County Education Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing student achievement in WCPS. Before his current role, Taylor served as chief operating officer and was named superintendent in 2016. His nine years in the position will end on July 1.

At Tuesday's meeting, Worcester County Board of Education members expressed their gratitude for Taylor's years of service.

"I came on board in 2016 just after [Taylor] came on as and was appointed superintendent," said Elena McComas, board member. "... He honestly breathes Worcester County Public Schools ... have we had our differences?... I drove him crazy, and he drove me crazy. But, we were able to sit down and work out our differences together, and that is the sign of a wonderful leader ... He also had the unique

See SUPERINTENDENT Page 19





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# Opinion

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

# 'Yes' on referendum

In addition to deciding who of the four candidates will fill the three board of directors seats up for election this summer, Ocean Pines Association members will be asked whether to authorize the board to help pay for a new southside firehouse at 911 Ocean Parkway.

As referendums go, this one is about as uncomplicated as one could be. The indirect question voters will have to answer is whether the old southside station the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department uses to protect homes, residents and lives in that part of the community needs to be replaced.

More specifically, the referendum asks voters to permit the board to contribute up to \$3.4 million, along with a 10% cushion for unforeseen expenses, to make it happen.

If the answer to that indirect question is "yes," and it should be, then association members have no choice but to approve the board's funding proposal by voting "yes" on this ballot question.

# Thanks, Lou Taylor

So long, Lou Taylor, it's been good to know you.

As Worcester County's superintendent of schools prepares to retire after nine years at the helm of the county's public school system and 41 years overall, he should be applauded for a job well done and having handled those responsibilities during some exceptionally difficult circumstances.

Not only did he have to deal with a county commissioner majority that was decidedly unsympathetic to the needs of public education, but he was also confronted by blatant attempts by some of those commissioners to seize control of the legally independent school system by various means.

And then there was covid, the effects of which could not have been anticipated or planned for, and yet the schools emerged relatively unscathed.

So, it's hat's off to you, Mr. Taylor. Thanks for all you have done for the people and students of Worcester County, and may retirement provide you with the time to do more.

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# **Bathtub races back in Berlin Friday**

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for this Friday's 35th annual Berlin Bathtub Races, where participants will compete 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

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 winter 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



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Hundreds of people crowd Main Street in Berlin to watch teams of two compete in the annual bathtub races.

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/bathtubraces/.

# **Committee mulling pool safety ideas**

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(June 19, 2025) While the Ocean Pines Yacht Club's slippery access into the pool has been resolved, the community's aquatics advisory team looks to amend similar issues at Mumford's Land-

The Ocean Pines Association's Aquatics Advisory Committee met last week, where they discussed completed and ongoing improvements at the five pools, as the summer season is officially in full swing.

At the Yacht Club, the OPA members were concerned about the slipperiof the ladders, particularly because they pose a safety hazard to the community's older population. These steps are made of metal, said Gary Miller, chair of the OPA Aquatics Advisory Committee, which does not facilitate smooth entry and exit into and out of the pool.

The aquatics advisory crew has been considering ways to address the problem for some time and recommending solutions to the OPA Board of Directors.

At an aquatics committee meeting earlier this spring, Miller noted that OPA staff installed non-slip tape on the ladder steps last year. This measure was unsuccessful as sufficient time for proper curing did not occur. **Board of Directors President** Stuart Lakernick said during the previous conversations that he would check with public works on what can be done for this summer sea-

Those talks proved worthwhile, as Miller noted that two of the ladders at the Yacht Club pool now have black rubber treads, and the third ladder has all-new plastic white steps.

Miller thanked OPA staff and John Viola, the community's general manager, for prioritizing the pool's safety.

"The new steps are much better," Miller said.

Similar safety concerns at Mumford's Landing have not been resolved, however. Miller said the steps at this property's pool are built into the wall, which is an awkward angle for members trying to lift themselves out of the water.

"The three pool ladders and the steps are built into the See POOL Page 21

# Superintendent praised at final bd. meeting

Continued from Page 17

ability to surround himself with outstanding people and then let them do their jobs. Many times, that is a rare gift in leaders. We are touted as one of the best school districts in Maryland, and in large part it is because of [Taylor]."

Board member Jon Andes, former county superintendent of schools, addressed Taylor's parents, who were in attendance Tuesday afternoon, sitting in the front row at their son's final board meeting as superintendent.

"Thank you for making him who he is, because without you, he wouldn't be who he is," Andes told Taylor's folks. "I thank you, I praise you, I commend you for making this five-year-old going to kindergarten, you put him on the bus ... When you put him on that bus, you probably never realized that, so many years later, he would be one of

the most highly regarded and successful superintendents of schools in Maryland. It's because of you."

The goodbyes continued, rounding out the superintendent's last meeting.

"I want to thank you for your kindness and your love ... I love you, you're my friend," said board member Donald Smack.

"[Taylor] and I have been kicking around a little longer than the rest of you, and I can't tell you how much I appreciate the time we've had together and the leadership he's demonstrated ... I believe your service will serve as a model for future superintendents," member William Gordy added.

Todd Ferrante, president of the board of education, also said goodbye, recalling his long relationship with Taylor.

"When I was younger, I knew who Lou Taylor was, but as time has gone on, I've gotten to know more of who Lou Taylor is as a person," he said. "He wears his heart on his sleeve. He loves Worcester County Public Schools. His leadership has shone through in the last nine years he has taken on this superintendent position...he has developed the trust of the teachers, support staff, bus drivers, and everyone he has come in contact with."

According to Ferrante, Taylor is the reason he became involved with the school system in his professional life. Around 2011, Taylor came to him about starting the Worcester County Education Foundation, which has raised over \$1 million for the school system to date.

"His passion is contagious; he's going to be missed," the president said. "On behalf of this board, I want to thank you for all you've done ... You get

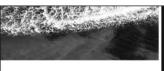
up every day thinking about how you're going to improve the school system. You haven't lost it. I have a feeling that no matter what happens in the future, you will still be somewhere, supporting Worcester County Public Schools."

When Taylor retires next month, the school system's current chief operating officer, Annette Wallace, will fill the vacant seat.

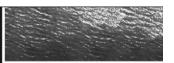
"We know we have another great leader who is going to take the reins and do a fantastic job," Ferrante noted.

As for Taylor's future, he acknowledged in April on Ocean 98 radio he wanted to "recharge" but is strongly weighing a political post. He said, "If I can get rested and I can get rejuvenated, possibly running for District 6 county commissioner. All the stars have to line up."

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81

122

# **Puzzles**

#### MEETING THEIR MATCH BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

John Kugelman, of Gainesville, Va., is a software engineer specializing in cybersecurity. This is his 10th Sunday crossword for The Times in the past two years. "When I was young, I would steal my dad's Games magazines, and he'd be both annoyed and proud." One day John gave his dad an original puzzle. The family assumed it was generated by a computer — but he had made it himself. He has been hooked on crossword constructing ever since. — W.S.

#### ACROSS

- 1 Regarding
- 5 Some hotel check-in areas
- 10 Singer Cruz known
- the "Queen of Salsa"
- 15 Jibe
- 19 Break, slangily
- 20 Rafael Nadal has
- a record 14 of these
- 22 Boxer's diet, maybe 23 Mmes. : France :: \_\_\_\_\_: Spain
- 24 Deal with a problem later, as a filmmaker
- 25 Belle boy?
- 26 It's a cinch!
- 27 "Everything in the world is about except
- " (quote often attributed to Oscar Wilde) 28 Wedding toast
- signals 29 Howe'er
- 31 Adds to an email
- 32 Some narrative homages, informally 34 National anthem
- contraction
- 35 Uncle (nickname
- for comedian Berle) 37 Point in the direction
- of 39 Yosemite's
- Adams Gallery

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

- 41 Gateway to the
- Amalfi Coast 42 -
- 43 -
- 45 -
- 48 Brand used for Taco Tuesday
- 51 Share cleanup duty, in a way
- 54 Brittney of the W.N.B.A.
- 57 Hardy mountain plants
- 61 Highest point
- 65 Cold and wet, as weather
- 66 Last-one-standing fights
- 69 "!!!"
- 70 Seventh of 24
- \_\_Sweet" 71 "Ain't
- 72 Hopper in the Hundred Acre Wood 73 High-tail it
- 74 Plead
- 75 A, in German class
- 76 Forehead-slapping moments
- 77 Mich. neighbor
- 78 "Star Trek: T.N.G."
- empath 80 Greeting from a
- man's best friend 81 Abstainer
- 83 Beefy, as gym bros
- 85 Composer Vivaldi
- 87 Bumps on a log 88 Fancy diving flips
- 90 Prefix with -caster

WE PAY CAS

For Like New & Used Cars & Trucks

- 91 -
- 92 -
- 93 -

Place That Does It All

- - 96 Something that often changes color before it falls
  - 98 Vegas opener?
  - 99 One-named pop star with releases on the Monkey Puzzle record label
  - 100 Kids' cries
  - 101 Guinness recordholder for most words in a hit single (1,560 in six minutes)
  - 103 De Armas of "Blade Runner 2049"
  - 106 Fibonacci and Galileo, for two
  - 108 Powerful force of attraction on display in this puzzle?
  - 111 Dance in celebration 114 Single-use binders
  - 115 "You gotta be kidding me!'
  - 119 Reddit endorsement
  - 120 Fat substitute
  - 121 Smallest discrete of energy
  - 122 More expensive
  - 123 Drift (off)
  - 124 Captain's rear
  - 125 Not go along, say

#### DOWN

- 1 What Jason Momoa has, notably
- 2 Potassium (preservative)
- 3 Orientation participant

**RACETRACK AUTO SALES** 

- 4 Go-aheads
- 5 Manner

- 6 It's for kids, not silly
- 7 "Toy Story" dino
- 8 Still alive, so to speak 9 Jason Statham or
- Sylvester Stallone 10 Churchgoer
- 11 Actor Omar
- 12 Fifth of 12
- 13 Part of M.I.T.: Abbr.
- 14 Literally, "panting," in Greek 15 Literary fairy queen
- 16 Spider-Man's lightning-wielding
- 17 In la-la land, with
- 18 Church
- 21 Gregory of Hollywood
  - 27 "My man" 30 Vegetable
  - 33 Convicted criminal
  - 36 Yielded 38 Piece of one's mine
  - 39 Even a little
  - 40 Cagney's partner on classic TV
  - 41 La petite Thérèse, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 44 Striped stones
  - 46 Meal modifier 49 Hebrew honorific
  - 50 Makes a mess of
  - 52 Lesser deities in Greek mythology
  - 53 Computer addresses, for short
  - 54 Colorful feature of a lawn
  - 55 Based on reason
  - 56 "Show me! Show me!"
- 58 Ground cover plant 76 Syst. of unspoken with trailing vines and five-petaled
- flowers 59 Like some patches
- 60 Japanese restaurant order
- 62 Lose it

puzzle.

- 63 Part of a retirement title
- 64 Chinese restaurant order
- 67 Yonder, to a pirate
- 68 Dr. Zhivago's beloved
- words 79 Addams Family

120

123

- cousin 82 Constellation on
- Alaska's flag 83 Big Fifth Avenue
- retailer 84 Subject of the Liberi painting "The Birth of Love"
- 86 Offal
- 88 Tall, chic woman
- 89 Attacks like a kitten
- 92 Kind of sch. 94 Bottleful for un bébé
- 97 Like a mom or dad's patience
- 100 Amalgamation 102 African country
- whose name is found in another country's name
- 103 Totally stoked
- 104 Washington team, to fans
- 105 State of unease

- 107 "Thong Song" singer, 2000
- 109 Stitch's film friend 110 Soft ball brand
- 111 Flop

121

125

- 112 Expose, poetically
- 113 Director DuVernay 116 Pioneer in
- electronica music 117 Soccer analyst
- Holden 118 Bowler or boater

# su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom **HARD - 81** 

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

	8		4		6	
2	0				$\vdash$	7
3						7
		7		6		
6	3		9		8	1
		6		1		
5	4		7		3	6
		1		2		
7						5
	9		6		1	

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### Answers to last week's puzzles

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





Representatives receiving grants were, back, from left, Bob Johnson, Pine Tones Chorus; Stacey Phillips, Ocean City Elementary and Showell Elementary schools: Dr. Mary Ann Cooper, Art League of Ocean City; Heather Nottingham, Berlin Heritage Foundation; Kristie Clattenburg, Ward Foundation; Rebecca Pille, Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra; Ivy Wells, Town of Berlin/Main Street Program; Kelly Buchanan - Worcester County Parks and Recreation: and, front. Claudia Nagle, Furnace Town; Amber Hall, Pocomoke Elementary School; Julie Mills, Berlin Intermediate School; and Rina Thaler, Art League of Ocean City. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Arts Council awards \$17K in annual grants

(June 20, 2025) The Worcester County Arts Council (WCAC) has announced the award of \$17,150 in Community Arts Development Grant funding to support nine arts projects and events presented by local nonprofit organizations during the upcoming granting cycle beginning July

These grants will support a wide range of creative and innovative initiatives that promote artistic excellence and provide meaningful cultural experiences to residents and visitors across Worcester County. Projects were selected based on artistic quality, community outreach, public impact, and administrative merit. Funding for this program is provided by the Maryland State Arts

Representatives from the recipient organizations were honored and recognized for their contributions to the local arts community during WCAC's annual Art Celebration, held on June 11, 2025. A group photo taken during the event features both the newly awarded grantees as well as those whose projects were successfully presented during the FY2025 grant

"This program is at the heart of our mission," said Anna Mullis, Executive Director of the Worcester County Arts Council. "By providing financial support to local organizations, we help create opportunities for artists, engage audiences of all ages, and strengthen the cultural fabric of our communities. These projects not only spark creativity, but also bring people together through shared experiences in the arts."

Since the inception of this grant program, WCAC has awarded nearly \$500,000 to assist local groups in presenting high-quality arts programming that engages the community and inspires creativity.

FY2025 Community Arts Development grant recipients included:

Art League of Ocean City – Kids Paint OC 2025

Berlin Heritage Foundation -Year-Round Community Events 2025-2026

Friends of Assateague State Park -Ballet on the Beach Dance Festival

Furnace Town Foundation - Renaissance Faire

Furnace Town Foundation - Summer Music Series Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra

– 2025 Fall Concerts Pine Tones Chorus - "The Joy of

Christmas" Concert

Town of Berlin/Arts & Entertainment District - Oktoberfest Live Music

Town of Berlin/Main Street -Farmers Market Live Music

# **Pool safety ideas considered**

Continued from Page 18

wall, and the only thing you have to grab onto are two handrails that come down because of the weird angle," Miller said. "It takes a lot of upper body strength to pull yourself up.

Miller added that, based on prior conversations with OPA officials, it was assumed that staff would remove the handrails and install full pool ladders, but this hasn't been done yet.

The aquatics team intends to communicate with the board about whether this measure is still possible

and other potential solutions.

"Those ladders are really tough to get out of," said aquatics committee member Mary Hastler. "I'm fairly strong ... but it's challenging, and I notice most people don't use them because they go out through the lower end where it's shallower.

The aquatics team will draft a charging document for the OPA Board of Directors to address the ladder issues at Mumford's Landing. The group hopes the problem is remedied before the season's peak.



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# 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 19

#### **CPAP MASK FITTING**

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

#### STORYTELLING ON THE LAWN

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m. Featuring Adventure Tales & Forest Friends. www.taylorhousemuseum.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

## Fri., June 20

#### **35TH ANNUAL BERLIN BATHTUB RACES**

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 6 p.m. Featuring themed bathtub races, team costumes, Hulu hoop fun during race intermission, food vendors, Bathtub Race t-shirts and 50/50 ducks. https://berlinchamber.org/event/bathtub-races/

#### **MESSY ART WEEK**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-5 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

#### **PLAY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for imaginative play and social interactions. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, 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

#### 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

#### INTERNATIONAL HORSESHOE CRAB DAY

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 11-11:30 a.m. Hands-on program will spotlight one of Earth's

oldest living creatures — the remarkable horseshoe crab. Roaming oceans for more than 450 million years. Included with admission fee. www.ocmuseum.org

#### **FANDOM FRIDAY: COZY GAMES**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:30 p.m. Drop in for crafts, quizzes and discussions about the monthly topic. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### SIPPIN' WITH SLOTHS

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, DE, 6-8 p.m. Music provided by Bryan Scar. Featuring sloth encounter, self-guided tour of the park and one complimentary glass of wine. Tickets:

https://book.singenuity.com/469/activity/details/2284/rates. 302-829-1548

#### **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 21

## 7TH ANNUAL FISH N PADDLE SALTWATER SLAM

Atlantic Tackle, 12930 Sunset Ave., Ocean City. Weigh-in Festival held from 12-4 p.m. at the Atlantic Tackle and The Shark on the Harbor. (Park in boat ramp parking lot.) Featuring DJ, food, drinks and vendors. https://fishnpaddle.com

## 46TH ANNUAL OCMC SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Ocean City Marlin Club Inc, 9659 Golf Course Road. Weigh-ins are from 3-6:30 p.m. at the Fisherman's Marina. https://members.ocmarlinclub.com/To urnaments

#### **OC SURF FEST**

Castle in the Sand Hotel - 37th St. Beach, 3701 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 8 a.m. Anything goes team challenge, OCPD demonstration, Tug-of-War and more. Sign up at:

OceanCitySurfClub.org. Schedule of events: https://ocsurfclub.org/programs/oc-surf-fest/. Tommy, 443-366-5885

#### **BEACH 5 SAND SOCCER**

Ocean City beach at Dorchester St., 1 Dorchester St., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$550 per team. 919-607-0864, beach5sandsoccer@yahoo.com, http://www.beach5sandsoccerseries.com.

#### **TEACH A KID TO FISH DAY**

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track

Road, Ocean Pines, 9-11 a.m. Kids of all ages are invited to come learn fishing skills and techniques. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen and your own rod. Bait and water provided. There will be a drawing for a rod and reel. 443-542-3500

#### **WALK WITH A DOC**

Southgate Pond, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. AGH President Don Owrey will discuss AGH's partnership with TidalHealth, then the group will walk around the park's trail. First 10 participants receive \$10 Wal-Mart gift card. 410-641-9268

#### **SUMMER FUN KICKOFF**

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Rides, face painting, animal encounters, fire trucks, free food and fun for all. The event is free and open to all. 410-641-0638, germantownschool@gmail.com

#### **BBQ CHICKEN**

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. 1/2 BBQ chicken platter with two sides, roll and drink costs \$15 or 1/2 BBQ chicken, roll and drink for \$12. Proceeds benefit St. Paul United Methodist Church Men's Ministry.

#### SCHOOL'S OUT SWIM PARTY

Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 5-8 p.m. Swimming, music, fun games, food and more. Cost is \$7 for swim members, \$9 for residents, \$11 for non-residents and \$3 for non-swimmers. Bring a towel. 410-641-5255, OceanPines.org

#### **FILM NIGHT**

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Featuring "Ocean City History Films." Free event. 410-524-9433, megan@artleagueofoceancity.org, www.artleagueofoceancity.org

## 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 22

### 7TH ANNUAL FISH N PADDLE SALTWATER SLAM

Atlantic Tackle, 12930 Sunset Ave., Ocean City. Weigh-in Festival held from 12-4 p.m. at the Atlantic Tackle and The Shark on the Harbor. (Park in boat ramp parking lot.) Featuring DJ, food, drinks and vendors. https://fishnpaddle.com

## 46TH ANNUAL OCMC SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Ocean City Marlin Club Inc, 9659 Golf Course Road, Ocean City. Weigh-ins are from 3-6:30 p.m. at the Fisherman's Marina. https://members.ocmarlinclub.com/Tournaments

#### SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring "Josh Christina & The Revivals" (Tribute to piano men). 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 23

#### **STORY TIME: TURTLES**

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

#### MOVIES AND MUNCHIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join in as the group paints with all the colors of the wind. Muchies included. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **BRIDGE**

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

## THE FASTEST PLANE: PAINT OUR WORLD WITH STORIES, MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3-6 p.m. An entertaining, international, dynamic

# **Calendar**

program that weaves the power of dance, theatre, music and storytelling together. For families. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **FIBER CRAFT MEET-UP**

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

#### 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

## DECOYS AND CARVERS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Learn about local decoy carvers and trends and traditions in wildfowl and waterfowl art. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS**

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

#### **OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS**

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

## Tues., June 24

#### STORY TIME: SUMMER

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **SENSORY STORY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Make some new friends to play with and improve language and motor skill development. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **ADVENTURES IN RHYTHM**

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Children will be introduced to the drum-set and many percussion instruments, their names and history, how they are played and how they are applied in various styles of music. Ages 4-11. 410-632-3495

#### **OC KNITTING GROUP**

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

#### **LET'S MAKE ... PAPER CUP VASES**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Make small table vases using household materials. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **ADVENTURES IN RHYTHM**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Children will be introduced to the drum-set and many percussion instruments, their names and history, how they are played and how they are applied in various styles of music. Ages 4-11. 410-208-4014

## 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 25

#### **MOVIES ON THE BEACH**

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring "Encanto." 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

## PRESSED-FLOWER BOOKMARKS FOR TEENS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Create a custom bookmark choosing from an assortment of pressed flowers and leaves. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **BABY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### ADVENTURES IN RHYTHM

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Children will be introduced to the drum-set and many percussion instruments, their names and history, how they are played and how they are applied in various styles of music. Ages 4-11. 410-524-1818

#### **COFFEE & CRAFTS: MAGNETS ROCK!**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join in every month for a new crafts. Materials provided. Limit 30. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. The goal of the group is to provide participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, Gail.Mansell@TidalHealth.org

#### **DIY RAINBOW LOOMS**

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Learn how to make a mini loom and knit a rainbow tube. Best of ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **SUMMER VISION**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Create a colorful, uniquely you summer vision board using magazines, stickers, newspapers and more. All materials provided while supplies last. For tweens and teens. 410-208-4014

#### **FAMILY FUN NIGHTS**

Wednesdays (through Aug. 20) - Ocean Pines Yacht Club Pool, 1 Mumford's Landing Road, 6-8 p.m. DJ, games and prizes. Food available for purchase. Admission is \$3 for OP swim members, \$5 for OP residents, \$7 for non-residents and free for non-swimmers. Cash only. 410-641-7052, oceanpines.org

#### **KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**

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

### **ONGOING EVENTS**

#### **CLAY-A-PALOOZA**

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

www.artleagueofoceancity.org

## WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN'S 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS IN JULY RAFFLE

Women Supporting Women, 1320 Belmont Ave., Salisbury, June 1-July 25. Tickets \$10. Daily raffle to win prizes for the 12 days of Christmas in July. 410-548-7880

## LOUIS PARSONS III MEMORIAL PHOTO CONTEST OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

OC Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., April 1-Sept. 1. Entry fee is \$5 per entry. Category winners will be announced on Nov. 1.

https://www.gogophotocontest.com/oce ancitymuseumsociety, 410-289-4991, emma@ocmuseum.org

#### **OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB**

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

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

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

#### **POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA**

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

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June 19, 2025

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June 19 - 26











		<b>Mare</b>	Julie 13 -	20	
DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Friday 2-4pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,700,000	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
Sat & Sun 10am-Noon	12505 Assawoman Dr #1N, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$275,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 10:30am-2:30	pm 121 70th Street #8, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$659,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	5 Macafee Ct. The Parke, Ocean Pines	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$524,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	87 Boston Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$369,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$679,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	12304 Southhampton Drive, Bishopville	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$1,250,000	Greg Erdie/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday Noon-3pm	32314 Spring Court, Dagsboro, DE	3BR/3BA	Single Family	\$444,900	Tim Meadowcroft/Long & Foster Real Estate
Saturday 2-4pm	26 Driftwood Lane, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$575,000	Colleen Deptula/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	199 Windjammer Rd., Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$479,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 3:30-5pm	12505 Assawoman Drive #1N Ocean City	y 2BR/1BA	Condo	\$275,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	104 127th Street, #326B, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$245,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker 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	5 Cresthaven Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$361,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 11am-1pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue #C209 Ocean Cit	y 1BR/1BA	Condo	\$305,000	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 12:30-2:30pm	121 70th Street #8, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$659,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
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