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MAIN STREET HOOPERS

About 75 kids of all ages took to Main Street for some hula hoop action during intermission of last week's Berlin Bathtub Races, organized by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. See page 16 for more photos from last Friday's event.

Voters to get referendum refresher

Public hearing will give Pines homeowners chance to hear about south fire station

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) Ocean Pines homeowners are invited to a public hearing on the upcoming referendum on the whether the Ocean Pines Association should help pay for a new South Station Firehouse.

The ballot question will be put before voters in conjunction with the 2025 Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors election, which has four candidates vying for one of three open seats.

The referendum question will ask voters whether the OPA should contribute to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department's new South Station.

The referendum reads, "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 meeting will be held Friday, June 27, at the current South Fire Station, located at 911 Ocean Parkway, beginning at 2 p.m.

With approval from OPA, the fire department was directed to determine the layout, design, interior dimensions, color schemes, and furniture.

Upon the completion of that rebuilding, the OPVFD will pay all property taxes and maintenance associated with the South Station space and its improvements.

The agreement between the town and the fire department also states that the fire company will use "grant and bond funds previously secured toward the project's con-

See OPA Page 6

County gets \$1 million from pot tax

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(June 27, 2025) State tax revenue from recreational cannabis sales has given Worcester County a \$1 million kitty from which to distribute community-based impact grants.

The Worcester County Reinvestment and Repair Grant Program will distribute money that's been

See COUNTY Page 4



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County to distribute pot money

Continued from Page 1

earmarked for low-income communities or to serve disproportionality impacted areas.

Funding comes from the state's 9% tax on recreational cannabis, which was legalized in 2023. Maryland puts 35% of that tax revenue into an impact fund, from which the state's 23 counties and Baltimore City each get a percentage.

Counties are required to adopt laws outlining specific purposes for which the cannabis tax revenue can be used locally. The county's Board of Commissioners voted to do so unanimously at its June 17 meeting.

Each county's fund share is based, generally, on its historical impact of drug enforcement laws. Last year, Worcester County's share of the fund was 1.22%, according to county spokeswoman Kim Moses. As of June 1, the fund balance was \$1,084,216.

In Worcester, grant applicants can be nonprofit organizations, community groups, small businesses, and municipalities. The money can be used for economic development, public health, and community improvement.

Funds may not be spent on law enforcement, or to supplant any county programs that existed before the legalization recreational cannabis.

Proposals must include an outline of project goals, including who the money will help, a budget, and measurable outcomes. Applicants also must include letters of support from local community organizations, according to Worcester County Administrator Weston Young.

He said they'll be more likely to seriously consider grant requests from nonprofits and municipalities. For example, he

said Berlin is looking to fund a community center, and Snow Hill wants to resurface its public basketball courts.

"Our Program Open Space money's been cut to less than a third of what it used to be under Governor [Wes] Moore. So, we don't have as much money to give around for parks," Young said.

Applicants would benefit from including letters of support from others in the community, "to show this is a community request, and not [for] the benefit of one business owner," Young added.

County officials will accept applications through the end of this summer, with grant awards announced in October. Smaller grants are encouraged, though there's no maximum award. The county eventually will publish online an annual report including the projects selected and their respective grant amounts.

When the Worcester County Commissioners discussed this on June 17, Commissioner Caryn Abbot (District 1, Southern) said she knows of two projects in the Pocomoke City that could benefit from such funds.

According to Abbott, one project would be housing several businesses under its roof, and two of those businesses in particular would be a law practice and a mental health clinic.

While the southern end of Worcester County does lack many services like day care, dry cleaners, or attorneys, "it's meant to be for community initiatives," Young said of the grants.

"I could see churches. I could see, you know, any sort of nonprofits out there. ... Ultimately, we'll present everything back to you all that's been requested," he told Abbot.

Public comment period OK'd

Continued from Page 3

Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) at the same meeting said that opening the door to public comments could prolong commissioner meetings.

The commissioners ultimately voted again, in February 2024, to lock in a policy of three minutes for public comment, but that measure failed in a 4-3 vote. Mitrecic at the time called

it "a loss for the citizens of Worcester County."

Notably, the commissioners hold their meetings at 10 a.m. every other Tuesday, at a time when many members of the public may be unable to attend because of employment obligations. And, save for once a year at budget time, the commissioners do not hold evening meetings.



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OPA hearing will delve into south station funding issue

Continued from Page 1

struction cost.

“The department shall also utilize funds raised through charitable fundraising efforts or otherwise available for the Department for the project.”

OPA will be responsible for the remaining costs, “subject to OPA having exclusive control over the ultimate cost and scope of the project, as well as management after that.”

According to OPA and the fire department, a new station is needed to ensure the proper level of community protection continues.

“The station was built for a different time and does not adequately accommodate the department’s growth,” the document reads.

“The gross square footage falls well short of our operational needs. The bunkroom, originally built for one staffer, currently houses four men and women in a single room.”

Safety concerns are also central to the renovation, because current building’s layout does not meet standards set by the National Fire Protection Association and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The OPA and the OPVFD agree that the infrastructure is outdated,

has mold and gas line issues, the first responder circulation is convoluted, potentially slowing emergency response times, and the old facility makes recruiting and retaining volunteer and career staff challenging.

“In light of these challenges, OPVFD and the OPA Board are seeking your support for a vital project,” reads the public hearing announcement. “We propose to build a new station on the existing South Station footprint, addressing the shortcomings of the current facility and providing a safer and more efficient environment for our first responders and the public.”

The new South Station Fire House will be built within the next few years. Friday’s public hearing will allow residents to obtain additional information on the issue before casting their ballots.

Voting will open on Monday, July 7, and close on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Ballots can be submitted online or in hard copy.

Assuming the OPA funding is approved, construction of the nearly 15,000-square-foot South Station will begin this October. The work is expected to take around a year and three months.

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Museum welcomes paranormal enthusiasts

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) Berlin's new ghost museum welcomes residents and visitors to explore the Eastern Shore town's supernatural history, featuring spooky artifacts, haunted stories, and paranormal accounts.

The Town of Berlin Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District announced in February that a new exhibit, the Ghost Museum, would be coming to town this summer. That time has officially arrived, as the latest business, located on the upper level of Pitt Street Treasures, opened its doors last week. The facility will operate daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum's entrance fee is \$11 at the door. For information about the exhibit, email info@ghostmuseums.com.

Per the facility's website, the Ghost Museum aims to "educate and entertain."

"Our collection showcases artifacts, stories, and historical accounts of ghost sightings and paranormal phenomena," their webpage reads. "We believe in preserving the rich tapestry of ghostly history while encouraging visitors to explore their beliefs about the afterlife."

According to Alyssa Maloof, the Ghost Museum's owner, the space includes exhibits that encapsulate Berlin's haunted history, like photographs, materials that potentially prove the existence of ghosts, and art installation pieces that "give the eerie ghost vibe."

"It's a really unique experience and space that's different from anything around the area," said Maloof, who also operates the town's Mermaid Mu-

seum on Jefferson Street.

The owner noted that the ghostly facility's artifacts and pieces were sourced through donations, help from her friends and community members, and eBay.

The museum officially opened on June 20. Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, said the response to its founding has been "incredible."

"It's such a unique idea and a fun way to spend the day. It's just another thing that makes Berlin even better," she said.

Berlin's paranormal background has been a topic of interest for some time. The Ghost Museum will add another way for residents and tourists to explore the town's spooky past.

Chesapeake Ghost Tours, for instance, a haunted walking excursion, features the town as one of its Maryland Eastern Shore spine-chilling attractions. The ghost tour company allows participants to take a guided tour, led by storytellers, as they explain some of Berlin's most frightening tales.

Chesapeake Ghost Tours also offers an Ocean City Ghost Walk, a St. Michaels Ghost Walk, a Cambridge Ghost Walk, a Salisbury Ghost Walk, a Snow Hill Ghost Walk, a Pocomoke Ghost Walk, and a Denton Ghost Walk. Still, their website notes that Berlin's tour "has the strangest energy out of all our Eastern Shore ghost walks."

The tour features legends like the "healing tree," a notable plant on the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum's property. The story goes that the tree radiates heat, healing energy, and vibration.

An elemental, or a non-human spirit, is also a



SUBMITTED PHOTO/OC TODAY-DISPATCH
Berlin's new ghost exhibit, now open, features spooky artwork, proof of the supernatural, and scary stories.

highlight on the Berlin tour, as accounts of apparition sightings have been recorded at the Adkins Company on Harrison Avenue.

The company's website notes that the walk includes stories of a child who haunts the iconic Atlantic Hotel, the Lady in White standing by the Calvin B. Taylor Bank on Main and Commerce Streets, and the tragic tale of the Carey family, who

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Berlin gets new spooky exhibit

Continued from Page 8
lost four children during the Civil War. Berlin's Chesapeake Ghost Tour, which lasts about an hour and 45 minutes, can be booked at <https://chesapeakeghosts.com/>. The guided walk costs \$25 for adults 13 and older and \$20 for children eight to 12. Those under eight can attend at no cost.

The Ghost Museum will now be another attraction for paranormal enthusiasts who want to explore some of the town's scariest legends through artifacts, photographs, stories, art pieces, and more.

"We have ghost tours every week," Wells said. "We are a haunted town, so [the new ghost museum] just adds to the allure of Downtown Berlin. It's really cool."

Maloof is no stranger to the ghostly world. Last August, the Pasadena, Maryland-based Dead of Night Paranormal Investigators probed her other exhibit, the Mermaid Museum. The team visited the space, and their focus was less on the mermaids and more on the possibility of otherworldly visitors.

Investigator Olen Price contacted Maloof in May of 2024 after a trip to Berlin with his wife. While walking downtown, Price took notice of the Mermaid Museum, particularly its haunted vibe. Maloof's new business will now feature proof of the town's ghostly accounts.

The Ghost Museum's home is on the upper level of the Pitt Street Treasurers. Maloofsaid the top of the facility had been vacant for a decade before her new business moved in.

"The space had been empty for over 10 years, so it was nice to be able to utilize that unique space in a creative way," she said.

The Ghost Museum is open seven days a week. Its founder hopes to attract visitors interested in the metaphysical realm who want to discover more of Berlin's unique history.

"The Ghost Museum was inspired by the fascination with the paranormal," the facility's website reads. "We are passionate about ghost stories and folklore. We set out to create a space where visitors could engage with the supernatural in a respectful and enlightening way."

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Pines plans Independence Day Carnival, then fireworks

Holiday activities include Freedom 5K race beginning at Veterans Memorial Park

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) With summer in full swing, Ocean Pines gears up for its annual Fourth of July celebration with fireworks, music, and refreshments.

On Friday, July 4, the Ocean Pines Association's Recreation and Parks Department will host its Independence Day Carnival at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park, located at 11144 Cathell Road. The event will feature games, music, and food. Attendees can make their way to the patriotic festival at 4 p.m. A fireworks show will kick off at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Admission into the Fourth of July Carnival is \$20 per wristband. Parking will be available next to the Taylor Bank and the Ocean Pines Library. Handicapped spots will be accessible on-site in designated areas at the Veterans Park.

In addition to the festival and fire-

works show, Ocean Pines is once again hosting its July 4 Freedom 5k. Racers will take their marks at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines and run the 3.1 miles around the wooded community.

Race contestants are encouraged to wear their most patriotic outfits. In addition to awards for the top three male and female runners and a grand prize trophy, recognition will be given to the 5k competitor who dresses in the best American-themed costume.

The race is \$30 for advanced registrations and \$35 for day-of sign-ups. Those interested in competing in the 5k can register ahead of time, through July 1, at runsignup.com. T-shirts will be reserved for all pre-registered runners. Preferred sizes are not guaranteed for day-of registrations.

All ages are welcome to participate in the run. Racers can pick up their 5k packets at Ocean Pines Community Center on Thursday, July 3, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, the event organizers, at 410-641-7052 for more information about OP's Independence Day celebration lineup.



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Berlin fireworks display planned for July 3

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) With Independence Day fast approaching, the Town of Berlin is gearing up for its annual fireworks display on July 3, to be visible throughout the municipality's limits.

Berlin will host its fireworks show one day before the Fourth of July, as has been a tradition for many years. On July 3, the colorful, sparkling lights will launch from Heron Park around 9 p.m. The explosives will illuminate the sky for approximately 20 minutes.

According to Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, the town hosts its patriotic display the day before actual Independence Day, as folks typically have the following day, the Fourth of July, off from work. This allows parties to last a bit longer, which is conducive to the fireworks' 9 p.m. start time.

"Historically, we have always held our fireworks celebration on July 3, because there are a lot of backyard barbecues, parties, and family get-togethers," she said. "Knowing that people have July 4

off, the parties can run a little bit later since the fireworks don't start until after 9 p.m. Everyone has the next day off. We like to have a party here in Berlin."

Berlin residents typically watch the show from different spots around the area, like SonRise Church or their backyards, as the town's agreement with firework provider, SkyShooter Displays of Pennsylvania, stipulates that the explosives shoot high enough to be seen throughout most sites within the town's limits.

"We contract with the fireworks company specifically for our show to be as high up in the air as possible so people from all over the town can see them," Wells said. "You don't have to actually go to Heron Park to watch the fireworks because there won't be anything low to the ground, so that you won't miss anything. We intentionally have the fireworks high to allow the most visibility around town."

Wells added that the Town of Berlin avoids using sparklers and other limited-height explosives so that no one misses out. The whole 20-minute show can be enjoyed from anywhere in Berlin, specifically residences, as barbecues and at-

home parties are a staple of the American holiday.

SonRise Church is also a popular spot for Berlin locals to catch the fireworks show. As a sponsor of the event, SonRise Church hosts a variety of children's activities and offers food as families come out to enjoy the Independence Day tradition.

In the case of rain, the fireworks will still be lit off. However, Wells notes that if the weather is dangerous or threatening, the illumination display will be postponed and added to another upcoming event. If this were to occur, the town would communicate the time and date to residents when determined.

Currently, the town plans for the annual fireworks display to go off on July 3 without a hitch.

"It's a wonderful time in Berlin," Wells said. "Come down, get some dinner, grab some ice cream at Island Creamery, and enjoy the fun. It's the way for the Town of Berlin to give back to the community."

County schools, rec dept. create shared use accord

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) Community collaboration and healthy lifestyles are the priority of a recently approved joint agreement between the Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) and the Worcester County Department of Recreation and Parks, in which each party will have access to the other's facilities.

The Worcester County Board of Education approved the arrangement at its Tuesday, June 17, meeting.

Dwayne Abt, the school system's assistant superintendent of human relations and operations, presented the action item.

The contract says that school system amenities like athletic fields, gymnasiums, and auditoriums will be available for use by the county's recreation and parks department during non-school hours. In turn, WCPS will have access to recreation and parks properties for school-related events and activities, "further expanding the resources available to students and staff," Abt said.

"This cooperative agreement en-

hances the efficient use of public resources and strengthens the county's commitment to youth, development, healthy lifestyles, and lifetime learning," he added.

Depending on scheduling, each entity – denoted in the document as "Board" for the school system and "County" for Worcester's recreation and parks – will have access to the other's facilities, with no cost for using the property incurred.

"Subject to the schedule developed by the County and the Board or its agents, the County and third parties authorized by the County shall be entitled to use Board Property without charge for community recreational and educational purposes for the benefit of Board students, the Board and the County at large," the contract reads. "...Subject to the schedule developed by the County and Board, the Board shall be entitled to use County Property, without charge, for Board educational and recreational activities and/or programs."

Still, some fees may be imposed if school system or county personnel are required to be on site during events organized by one entity on the other's property.

For instance, the board of education may ask that school system leaders be present at a recreation and parks activity hosted at a high school's gymnasium. In this case, the county would be required to pay for the required staffing.

"The County shall timely reimburse the Board for expenses which are incurred by the Board outside normal working hours in providing staff or other personnel as the Board deems necessary to monitor and/or be present during the County's (or any third-party) use of the Board property," the contract says. "The Board shall timely reimburse the County for expenses which are incurred by the County outside normal working hours in providing staff or other personnel as the County deems necessary to monitor and/or be present during the Board's use of County property."

The board greenlit the agreement this week. Per its passage, the contract will go into effect on July 1 and extend for one calendar year.

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DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

Photo by Susan Lyons

Obituaries

SHELIA JUDITH ROTH
Ocean Pines
Shelia Judith Roth, 86 of Ocean Pines, passed away on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Born in New York City, she was the daughter of the late Thomas A. Barrett and Helen Schoen Barrett. She was the loving wife of Harvey Roth for 64 years.

In addition to her husband, Sheila is survived by her three children Linda Roth, Thomas Roth and wife Barbara, Victoria Roth McKelvey and husband Craig. Her grandchildren include Kate, Barrett, Kori, Taylor Jeann, Aidan, Keath, and Colin. Her great grandchildren include Annabelle, Adalyn and Sophie. She also leaves behind a sister, Mary Alice Messemer, and a brother, Thomas Barrett.

Shelia loved her family and friends selflessly. She said she never met a stranger and after a short visit they became her new best friend. She was adventurous following Harvey and setting up homes on four continents with three young children. Regardless of what country or state she was living in, she was an active member of the community. While in Germany during Desert

Storm I, as a Donut Dolly she distributed sandwiches and drinks to soldier War Zone.

She was an EMT while living in Ocean Pines volunteering for the community as well as working at the horse racetrack in the ambulance. She was an artist and crafter working with multiple mediums – fabric, stained glass, paint and yarn. Sheila loved to cook feeding friends and family and believed there was always room for one more at her table – “The more the merrier”.

A Catholic Funeral Mass will be held at St. Luke’s Catholic Church located at 9903 Coastal Highway, Ocean City at 11 a.m. on June 30. Arrangements are in the care of the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. Condolences may be shared with the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers the family prefers donations to be made in Sheila’s memory via Diakonia “a non-profit organization that provides homeless families with food, shelter and clothing” or the Worcester County Humane Society.

FRANCES ELEANOR PILARSKI
Ocean Pines
Frances Eleanor Pilarski, age 83, a loving wife, mother, grandmother (babcia), and great-grandmother, passed away on Friday, June 13, 2025, at her home in Ocean Pines.

Born on August 25, 1941, in Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late Frank Cline and Kathryn Elizabeth (Harper) Cline.

Frances was born in Baltimore city and mostly grew up on the east side. She attended St. Katherine of Sienna School for elementary and middle school and later graduated from The Catholic High School of Baltimore, where her passion for learning began to flourish. Frances went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree from Alvernia College in Reading, Pennsylvania. Years later, she earned a master’s degree in education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction, furthering her lifelong commitment to education.

Frances truly enjoyed life and had a deep, lifelong passion for teaching—from the youngest kindergarteners to adults pursuing continued education. She began her teaching career at St. Michael the Archangel School and continued at St. Ignatius Loyola in Reading, Pa.

Later, she embarked on a remarkable journey with Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Berlin. In addition to her full-time classroom roles, Frances also dedicated many of her evenings to teaching adult education classes at Stephen Decatur High School through Worcester County Public Schools.

She had a unique and beautiful talent for bringing every lesson to life

Continued on Page 15

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Obituaries

Continued from Page 14

through her exciting and heartfelt stories drawn from her real-world experiences. Her vibrant energy and genuine love for learning left an enduring impact on generations of students and colleagues alike.

In October of 2004, the Diocese of Wilmington honored Frances for 25 years of dedicated service in Catholic education—a testament to her unwavering devotion to her students and her faith.

Frances lived in Reading, Pennsylvania, for 18 years, where she built a life rooted in faith, education, and service. She and her beloved husband moved to their retirement home in 2003, in Ocean Pines, Maryland, to enjoy life near the beach that she loved so much.

Outside the classroom, Frances embraced every moment of life. She loved line dancing, taking walks on the beach, reading novels of various genres, and most of all, spending quality time with her family and friends. Frances especially adored butterflies—their bright colors and gentle, dancing movements from flower to flower brought her peace and calmness, especially during her walks around the pond of Ocean Pines. Frances’ strong Catholic faith was a guiding light throughout her life. She found comfort and purpose in her weekly prayer groups, served as a Eucharistic Minister in her Catholic communities in both Reading and Ocean

City, and shared her faith with the next generation as a CCD teacher.

Known for her kindness, wisdom, and unwavering spirit, Frances touched many lives through her work, her friendship, and her love of family. She will be remembered for her warmth, wisdom, her grace, and the joy she brought to every interaction. Her legacy of love, learning, and faith will live on in the many lives she touched.

She is survived by her loving husband, Albert James Pilarski Jr., son Kenneth Albert Pilarski, son Kevin Michael Pilarski (wife Tina Pilarski), daughter Sharon Michelle Smith (husband Ted Smith), granddaughter Amanda Lynn Pilarski (fiancé Scott Botkins), granddaughter Jessica Pilarski Borits (husband Michael Ryan Borits), grandson Zachary Kenneth Pilarski, grandson Devin James Pilarski, grandson Gabriel Edward Smith, grandson Tyler Albert Smith, great-grandson, Mason Ryan Borits, great-granddaughter Madison Reign Botkins, and loving sister Kathryn Virginia DiNatale.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother-in-

law, Joseph Michael DiNatale Sr.

Visitations will be held on Monday, June 23rd, 2025, from 6pm to 8pm, and Tuesday, June 24th, 2025, from 9 to 10 am, at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025, 11am, at Holy Savior Catholic Church in Ocean City. Interment will follow the mass at 1pm, in Gates of Heaven, Dagsboro, DE. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

Ocean Pines offers fitness classes

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) Ocean Pines’ summer activity options are chock-full of games, crafts, and fitness classes this season, providing residents with a plethora of choices to stay involved and utilize all the community has to offer.

This summer, the Ocean Pines Association’s Recreation and Parks Department has a lineup of ongoing activities to keep residents occupied. To encourage kids and families to play outdoors, the rec group is hosting a scavenger hunt called “Rock the Park” from now until Aug. 8. The rec team

will hide five gold-painted rocks at different Ocean Pines parks.

Five rocks will be hidden at the same park each week, including White Horse Park, Pintail Park, Somerset Park, Bainbridge Park, Veterans Memorial Park, Robin Hood Park and Huntington Park. Those who find the objects may return them to the Ocean Pines Community Center to receive a certificate for Family Fun Night at the Yacht Club Pool.

OPA residents may also participate in summer-themed craft events. On Wednesday, July 2, for instance, those 18 and older can go to the Ocean Pines Community Center for Adult Paint and Sip Night to create waterscape designs.

The artistic offering will cost \$27 per person. Wine and crackers are included, but attendees must be 21 or older to drink. Those interested in participating in the waterscape paint night can register by calling Rec and Parks at 410-641-7052.

Fitness is a staple in Ocean Pines this summer season. OPA will offer Zumba for a few batches of six-week sessions, with one class a week. The next segment will start July 1 and extend to Aug. 5. Another portion of

See OP Page 19



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Berlin Bathtub Races Held



The Berlin Chamber of Commerce's 35th annual Berlin Bathtub Races were held last Friday on Main Street. There were 16 teams competing for bragging rights with Pohanka, pictured at right with MC Al Reno, in the end repeating as champions. The husband-and-wife team from Pohanka went undefeated in their heats during the night. In the finals, Pohanka defeated the team of Sea-side Plumbing. Pictured are snapshots from the rest of the event.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club presented nine “Friends of Youth Scholarships” at the Stephen Decatur High School Senior Awards Ceremony on May 14 totaling \$78,000. Pictured, from left, are Past President Charlie Smith; Kaolin Riser, \$6,000; Sasha Mete, \$6,000; Tirza Hill, \$6,000; Arron August, \$6,000; Jada Marshall, \$6,000; Michaela Brown, \$14,000; Brooke Berquist, \$14,000; and Scholarship Chairman Kathy Cater. Not pictured are Owen Sperry, \$10,000, and Carly Moyer, \$10,000.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DECATUR DONATION

The Ocean City-Berlin Opti-ms Club donated \$1,000 to Decatur's football program. This donation will provide funds for equipment and other expenses needed to compete.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TECH SCHOOL SUPPORT

The Ocean City-Berlin Opti-Ms Club recently donated \$1,000 to Worcester Technical High School to help cover the cost for students to attend the SkillsUSA National Competition in Atlanta, Georgia in June. This competition allows students to display real world skills against peers from across the country.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

Captain Tom Ottenwaelder was the guest speaker at the Wednesday June 18 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Ottenwaelder, known by his friends as TommyO, retired from the US Coast Guard after serving 29 years of active duty including serving as the Assistant Chief of the National Search & Rescue School and establishing the Coast Guard's first deployable anti-terrorism teams. After retiring in 2019, Captain TommyO continued his passion for boating safety and is a marine safety consultant with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and serves on Maryland's Boating Act Advisory Committee.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GARDEN CLUB DOCENTS

Members of the Worcester County Garden Club serve as docents at Historic St. Martin's Church in Showell during the month of June. This Georgian brick structure, completed in 1764, is open to the public on Mondays throughout the summer from 1-3 p.m. The Worcester County Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to provide support, leadership and education for garden clubs and the public about best practices for horticulture, conservation, and landscape design. Above, recent visitors hear about the altar from, at far right, Worcester County Garden Club members Patsy Bell and Pat Arata.

Opinion

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

Marijuana legalization to pay local dividends

When marijuana use moved into the mainstream middle-class in the 1960s, after years of being a vice limited to jazz clubs and the coffee houses of the Beat Generation, fans routinely argued that governments would make a fortune if they controlled cannabis sales like they did liquor.

Although anyone with common sense knew that was so, it was a matter of overcoming more than 70 years of federal and state governments’ anti-marijuana propaganda (based primarily on social and racial prejudices) for the general population and elected officials to embrace that notion as well.

That 70-plus years, incidentally, is counting from the notoriously bad and unintentionally hilarious “Reefer Madness” film of 1936 to the legalization of recreational marijuana use by Colorado and Washington in 2012. Maryland waited 11 years, until July 1, 2023.

And now, the big question facing this and other Maryland counties is what to do with their share of proceeds from a source that at one time they would have steadfastly opposed.

As it is, and accepting the fact that nothing excites local government and nonprofit organizations more than the possibility of free money, Worcester County officials are about to be flooded with requests for a piece of the \$1,084,216 it has received as its share of the state’s marijuana tax revenue.

As County Administrator Weston Young noted this week, applicants for grants from this fund will have to do much more than simply make a request in writing. They will have to present a strong and detailed account of what they want to do, how they intend to do it and how it will benefit the community.

The irony in all this, however, is difficult to overlook, considering that the good works organizations and small governments seek to do today with marijuana money would have landed plenty of Marylanders in jail during the war on drugs era.

What this proves is that society is constantly evolving, while governments tend to wait and then play catch-up when real money is involved.

Teacher, support staff raises reduced

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) The Worcester County Board of Education approved renegotiated agreements this week with the Worcester County Teachers Association (WCTA) and the Worcester County Educational Support Professional Association (WCESPA). These agreements provide a step increase for eligible employees and an increase for salary scale adjustments, but fall short of the unions’ desires.

The WCTA agreement reflects a step and \$3,000 increase to the salary scale, coming in \$1,000 under what was formerly negotiated, while the WCESPA agreement reflects a step and \$1,500 increase to the salary scale. The support personnel amount is \$500 lower than originally negotiated.

The Board of Education had originally intended to offer an across-the-board teacher salary increase of \$4,000, and support staff were going to receive an additional \$2,000.

The renegotiated agreements with the WCTA and the WCESPA were required after the Worcester County Com-

missioners did not fully fund the board of education’s fiscal year 2026 operating budget request of approximately \$116 million.

The local government came short of this ask, approving \$113.8 million to fund the county’s schools.

The commissioners’ contribution is \$7.5 million more than last year, with an additional \$150,000 for after-school programs. Still, as the county neglected to fully fund the board’s request, the \$113.8 million is shy of about \$1.1 million for salaries.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, the state’s education reform plan, requires new teachers to earn a starting salary of \$60,000 by July 2027. FY26’s salary increases are meant to push Worcester County Public Schools, the Maryland district with the lowest starting teacher salaries – around \$52,000 – toward this goal.

That mission appears loftier now, given the commissioner’s decision to underfund WCPS’ FY26 budget request.

The commissioners’ 2026 operating budget, which includes the choice to short the

school system’s funding ask, was approved in a 4-3 vote on June 3. Commissioners Chip Bertino, Caryn Abbott, Jim Bunting, and Ted Elder voted in favor of the spending plan, while commissioners Joe Mitrecic, Diana Purnell, and Eric Fiori opposed it.

The three dissenting votes argued that the county’s revenue surplus was healthy enough to accommodate every department’s ask, including the school system’s, while the budget’s ‘yes’ voters were more apprehensive to spend more.

For instance, Elder voiced his concerns that following a special session of the Maryland General Assembly in October, unfunded mandates could be forced onto the state’s counties.

The WCTA and the WCESPA were sent back to the drawing board upon the budget decision, to determine what raise amounts could be given under the county’s \$113.8 contribution.

Per the agreements that were negotiated by the unions, and approved by the board of education this week, teachers will receive an additional \$3,000, while support staff will receive \$1,500.

Decatur to undergo LED retrofit work

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) The Worcester County Board of Education approved an LED lighting retrofit at Stephen Decatur High School this month to equip the facility with fixtures geared toward energy sustainability.

The board of education met on June 17 and voted to proceed with a lighting project at SDHS.

According to Sam Slacum, the school system’s maintenance and operations manager, the initiative will involve replacing all current fluorescent and halogen fixtures at SDHS with LEDs.

Worcester County Public Schools will partner with contractor Mid-Atlantic Energy Solutions on the scope of the work, which will cost \$652,758.

Slacum maintained that the project will be fully funded through a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration and Delmarva Power’s rebate program.

“No local money is being put toward for this,” he said.

The maintenance and operations manager added that while exact numbers have yet to be finalized, he expects the school system to “save on lighting about two-thirds of our current spending.”

The LED lighting retrofit is necessary at SDHS to keep costs down and enhance the school’s visibility.

“[The project will] improve energy efficiency, reduce long-term utility costs, and provide better quality lighting for students and staff,” the proposal document reads.


As many of the current light-

ing fixtures at Stephen Decatur have reached their useful lives, they are less efficient, which has led to an increase in required maintenance and higher energy consumption.

“Upgrading to LED technology will enhance visibility, extend the lifespan of lighting systems, and support the school’s sustainability goals,” the project form reads.

Mid-Atlantic Energy Solutions will handle the work. Slacum said that the company, based in Salisbury, was the only response to Worcester County Public Schools’ request for proposals for the replacement effort. Still, the school official is confident in the contractor’s ability to handle the lighting project.

Slacum added that all of the fixtures at SDHS will be replaced with LED.

BAYSIDEGAZETTE

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Puzzles

TOSSING AND TURNING

BY ADAM WAGNER AND REBECCA GOLDSTEIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Adam Wagner, of Oakland, Calif., is a creative lead at Patreon, a monetization platform for content creators. Rebecca Goldstein, of Albany, Calif., is a research scientist at Merck, developing cancer immunotherapies. They've known each other for several years. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 "Oh, fiddlesticks!"
7 Peace symbol
12 What a flipping tool!
19 Big, important people, informally
21 Listless malaise
22 National flowers of India, Vietnam and Egypt
23 Device used to clear out nasal passages / Final part of a radio countdown
24 Perez of film
25 Brunch entrees / Eponymous figure associated with fire
26 Paper views?
27 Laughing hysterically
30 Cooling systems, for short
31 _____ Dems (U.K. party, informally)
32 Product branded as the "coldest drink in town"
33 Belafonte hit featured in the movie "Beetlejuice"
34 Five-time world chess champion Viswanathan "Vishy" _____
36 Genetic repositories / Reel Big Fish or Sublime
39 Eau zone?
40 Takes advantage of / Decoration painted on many a W.W. II aircraft
43 It's a sin

DOWN
1 "The Governor"
2 Reaction to a tear-jerker
3 Hand-held snack with dried fruit
4 Rah-rah

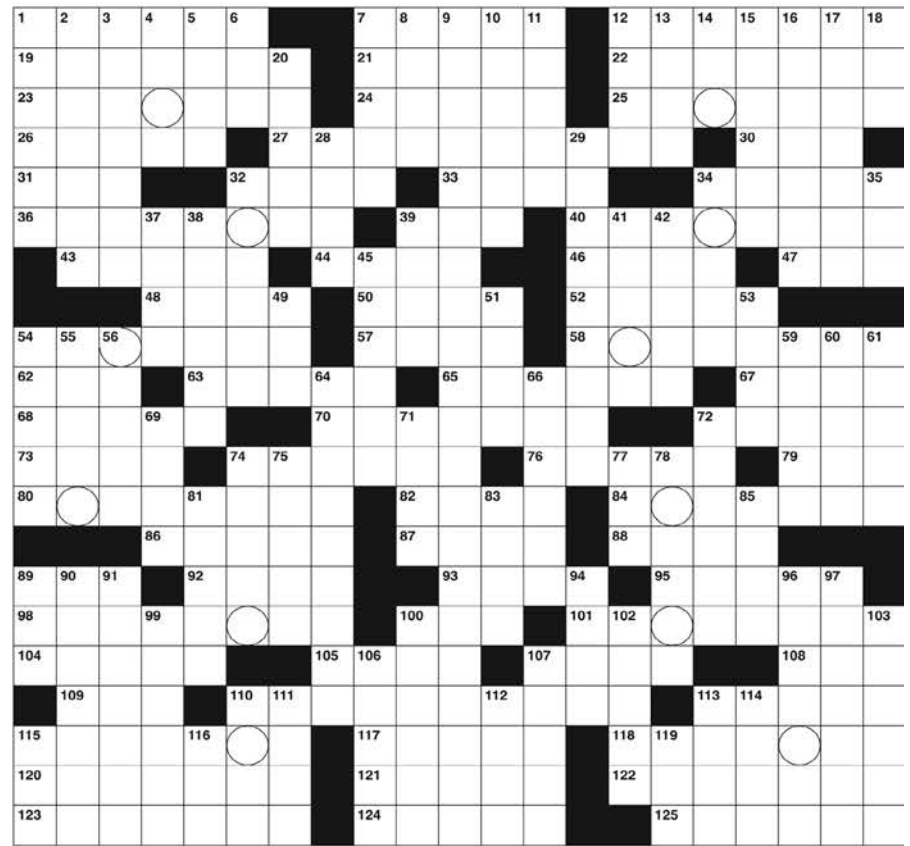
ACROSS
44 Vince Guaraldi _____ jazz group featured in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
46 Note at work
47 Abbr. in lieu of an ellipsis
48 Figure who might leave you heart-stricken?
50 Taipei-based tech company
52 Thawb-wearing leaders
54 Hit 1981 German-language film / "What a shame!"
57 _____ bene
58 Women abroad / Wrapped garments
62 Conference opponent of a Sun Devil
63 Concocts
65 Record label founded by Clive Davis
67 Moist
68 Father figure?
70 "Love that for you"
72 Actress Sink of "Stranger Things"
73 Introduction to a conclusion
74 Headed for disaster
76 No man's land, maybe?
79 Stumble _____ (punny bar name)
80 Offerings from Healthline / Roasting on an open fire, maybe
82 Up to it
84 Pioneer in Modernist poetry / Throne
86 Justice Sotomayor
87 Head-butts
88 Weapon used for touching
89 Gate initials.

DOWN
92 Turn away
93 Ragamuffins and Pixie-bobs, for two
95 Besides, with "from"
98 Portmanteau drinking hangouts / Marine crustacean
100 Film studio with a tower logo that beeped out "V for Victory" during W.W. II
101 Like some bikes / Sunk, as the eyes
104 In all honesty
105 Burst forth
107 Mud
108 Issa of "American Fiction"
109 Cry while covering one's ears, maybe
110 Was without peer
113 Social grace
115 Comparatively upper-crust, in a way / Wood cutter
117 One addressed as "lord"
118 Component of a Caesar salad / Captivate
120 Dessert with a cookie crust
121 Person I used to be
122 Bankroll
123 Trait of many healthy dogs
124 Positive feedback?
125 How the U.S. has existed since its inception

ACROSS
5 Copies, as from a disc
6 Prefix with Confucianism
7 Chapter component
8 Little twerp
9 How a shirt might be put on in a rush ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme
10 One of at least 35 smashed in 1967 alone by the Who's Pete Townshend
11 Actress Nash of "Never Have I Ever"
12 Bluish-black berry
13 Small, fuzzy dogs, in brief
14 Took the cake?
15 University whose name sounds like a kind of highway
16 Scenario for a software developer
17 "Guys, we're better than this!"
18 Donkey
20 Become established over time, so to speak
28 Make one's home in the woods, say
29 Complete disasters
32 Like some pets and pools
34 Zhuzh up
35 Donkey grp.
37 English channel, with "the"
38 Life-form that requires oxygen
39 Japanese paste imparting umami
41 Send, as money
42 Guadalajara girlfriend
45 Bad return policy?
49 Business address abbr.

DOWN
51 Wrapped garment
53 Drink from a fountain
54 Got good
55 Company whose logo was designed to resemble the game Pong
56 Grasslike marsh plant
59 Pie chart dividers
60 _____ acid
61 Totally beat
64 Question of authority
66 Most in need of salt, say
69 Goes bad
71 Fray
72 Gets in hot water?
74 Chowd down (on)
75 Share one's take
77 Smartphone alternative to Wi-Fi
78 El pais de Palma
81 Program that debuted a little before "The Tonight Show," appropriately
83 "u crack me up"
85 Gap in logic
89 Inits. on a food assistance card
90 Served raw
91 Kit with cymbals
94 Comics legend Lee
96 Daring poker action
97 Someone who might find Darjeeling appealing
99 Like some ties
100 Colorful selection at an Irish pub
102 Civil rights activist Medgar
103 Parched place
106 New Orleans food specialty
107 Craving
110 Twice tres
111 One of many on Antarctica over 280 million years ago, scientists have discovered
112 Togo's capital
113 "Gimme a break!"
114 Succeed, as a joke
115 "There are no words"
116 Corp. debut
119 Nail polish brand with a "Wicked"-inspired collection

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



51 Wrapped garment
53 Drink from a fountain
54 Got good
55 Company whose logo was designed to resemble the game Pong
56 Grasslike marsh plant
59 Pie chart dividers
60 _____ acid
61 Totally beat
64 Question of authority
66 Most in need of salt, say
69 Goes bad

71 Fray
72 Gets in hot water?
74 Chowd down (on)
75 Share one's take
77 Smartphone alternative to Wi-Fi
78 El pais de Palma
81 Program that debuted a little before "The Tonight Show," appropriately
83 "u crack me up"
85 Gap in logic
89 Inits. on a food assistance card

90 Served raw
91 Kit with cymbals
94 Comics legend Lee
96 Daring poker action
97 Someone who might find Darjeeling appealing
99 Like some ties
100 Colorful selection at an Irish pub
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113 "Gimme a break!"
114 Succeed, as a joke
115 "There are no words"
116 Corp. debut
119 Nail polish brand with a "Wicked"-inspired collection

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su | do | ku

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HARD - 80

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Commissioners review new school designs

Bertino questions whether community medical clinic at Buckingham is justified

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(June 26, 2025) A community medical clinic that will be built into in a future Berlin elementary school drew the attention of one county official last week during a schematic review of the project.

“We have the hospital; we have a number of medical facilities right there in Berlin. So, I’m just curious as to why that’s needed,” Commissioner Chip Bertino asked during the June 17 meeting of the County Commissioners. “What’s the justification for it? That’s the part I’m missing.”

Throughout Maryland, public schools are including expanded medical care beyond a simple nurse’s office, especially for schools where the feeder population is impoverished, according to Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor.

“We can bring the medical care to our kids,” he told the commissioners, “For Title I schools, where 40% or more of the population come from

low-income households, families may not be able to afford a doctor’s visit, or just don’t have access to medical care in their own communities, Taylor also said.

Buckingham is Worcester’s only Title I school in the north end of the county, “so it’s only purposeful that we house that there,” Taylor added.

Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) then wanted to know how much money a medical facility in the school would cost the Board of Education. Taylor said no taxpayer dollars would be touched, because the cost would be borne by the medical facility contracted to provide services.

“We give the space, and then the hospital or medical facility that does it takes care of all that,” Taylor said.

The community medical space will be located in a far corner of the school, with its own separate exterior entrance. It would be accessible from the inside from both the administrative offices and the nurse’s station.

So far, there’s no medical provider contracted to occupy the space. To get there, the state outlines a process for the school system to follow, according to Annette Wallace, chief safety and academic officer. The Board of Edu-

cation has partnered with Chesapeake Health for a similar medical space that services Pocomoke City-area schools, she added.

The conversation was part of the Board of Education’s broader presentation Tuesday of the new Buckingham Elementary, a \$71.4 million facility scheduled to open for the 2029-30 school year. It will replace the current Buckingham property, built in 1978.

Taylor said the schematic design for the new Buckingham began in January and the school board approved it last month. This includes a floor plan, a site plan, and a preliminary architectural renderings and elevations.

The 90,700 square foot, two-story building will house classrooms for Grades 2, 3, and 4 upstairs, while pre-kindergarten classes will be closest to the gymnasium and cafeteria downstairs, according to architect Allison Shockley with design firm Becker Morgan Group.

Shockley shared other unique elements of the plans, such as the pick-up and drop-off lane that would let 100 cars queue without spilling onto West Street. Energy-efficient glass

will keep sunny parts of the building from overheating. A tiered amphitheater, one available for public events, will be built into a naturally occurring 8-foot slope on the property.

Plans also call for entrances and vestibules to be locked and accessible only to staff during school hours.

“We were thinking about safety before we even got started with the schematic design,” Shockley said.

Shockley added that this design phase will last through September. From there, Becker Morgan will draft construction documents before getting final approval from the state next June. The bidding and permitting process will take most of 2026 before groundbreaking in May 2027. Construction is scheduled to last through summer 2029.

Notably, school officials last week also announced that Buckingham Elementary Principal Christina Welch would be moved into a new role for the 2025-26 school year. She’ll be overseeing the Judy Center, an early learning program with hubs at three elementary schools in the county, including Buckingham. The new Buckingham principal will be Danielle Jackson.



OPEN HOUSES



June 26 - July 3

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 10am-Noon	121 70th Street #8, Ocean City	3BR/2.5 BA	Townhome	\$659,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 5-7pm	12808 Coastal Hwy #206, Ocean City	1BA/Efficiency	Condo	\$214,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 10am-Noon	13000 Marina View Lane #19, Ocean City	4BR/4BA	Townhome	\$1,574,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	406 15th Street #1, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,000	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	121 70th Street #8, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$659,900	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 11am-1pm	17 Alden Court, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$549,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1-3pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue #C209, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	9729 Village Lane #9715C, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$395,000	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/ReMax Advantage Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$679,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 3:30-5pm	12505 Assawoman Drive #1N, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$275,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	12301 Jamaica Avenue #C209, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-2pm	121 70th Street #8, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$659,900	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	56 Quarter Staff Place, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$339,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 1-3pm	29 Salt Grass Road, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$639,900	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 1-4pm	10103 War Admiral Lane, Glen Riddle, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$775,000	Kim Heaney/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 1-4pm	12140 Pimlico Lane, Glen Riddle, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$1,074,900	Kim Heaney/BHHS PenFed Realty
Tuesday 3:30-5pm	12505 Assawoman Drive #1N, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$275,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm	10300 Coastal Hwy #1802, Ocean City	1BA/Studio	Condo	\$268,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 2-4pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,700,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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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 26

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
White Horse Park Pavilion, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Featuring music by David Smith. Free family entertainment. Bring chairs, blankets, etc. Food will be available for purchase and BYOB is acceptable. Smoking area is in the rear. 410-641-7052

YOUTH POLLINATOR CLASS
Berlin Main St. & Maryland Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., 5-6 p.m. Join beekeeper Lauren and members of the Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee. All ages are welcome to come learn about the importance of pollinators in our community and plant.

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

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ADVENTURES IN RHYTHM
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 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. 410-641-0650

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

BACK IN ACTION PHYSICAL THERAPY FREE SEMINAR
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 11 a.m.-noon. Join Dr. Sandra Kappes for “What is my core & why do I need to strengthen it?” Register: 410-641-7052. www.oceanpines.org

MOVIE MATINEE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. June marks the 50th anniversary of Steven Spielberg’s first big summer blockbuster. Come experience this nail-biting action thriller on the big screen. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ADVENTURES IN RHYTHM
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke

Branch, 401 Fifth St., 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. 410-957-0878

FIRESIDE CHAT
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books you have read and want to share. Come find your next great read. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

POP CULTURE BOOK CLUB: ‘GLITTER AND CONCRETE: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF DRAG IN NEW YORK CITY’
Game Theory Board Games & Coffee, 1822 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 5 p.m. Join the Ocean City Library with Game Theory Cafe for an afternoon of popular culture nonfiction. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., June 27

JAMES ‘MURR’ MURRAY: THE ERRORS TOUR
Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8 p.m. Featuring “Murr” from Impractical Jokers. Tickets cost \$47/\$57. Must be 18 years of age or older. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/32370469/james-murrmurray-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR ADULTS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Held June 27, July 25, Aug. 15 and Aug. 22. Join 1, 2, 3 or all sessions. Strength in Every Story — Understand how poverty affects everyone and explore real, local solutions.

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

GAME DAY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Play games all afternoon. From Mario Kart to chess, challenge yourself. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COCO-WYO INSPIRED COLORING
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 2 p.m. Use alcohol ink to learn new techniques like layering, blending and adding highlights. Some materials provided, but feel

free to bring your own. For ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495

70’S BOOK BASH AND FUNDRAISER
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5-8 p.m. There will be games and crafts for all ages as well as a book sale, silent auction, 50/50 and more. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SIPPIN’ WITH SLOTHS
Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 6-8 p.m. Music by Sound Living/Glenn Stern. Cost is \$40 and includes sloth encounter, self-guided tour, and one complementary 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 28

OC PRIDE PARADE
Downtown Ocean City, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m. The 30-45 minute parade goes around the pier, up the Boardwalk to Second Street and back. The event is free and open to all. Full details: <https://www.ocmdpride.com/pride-parade>.

SNOW HILL BOOK SALE
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-noon. Enjoy another day of supporting your library. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CRAFTY SATURDAY: SUMMERTIME FUN
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Let’s get crafty. All ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER
American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 12 p.m. 1/2 chicken with Carolina sauce and a bag of chips. Cost is \$10.

CHICKEN SALAD AND SHRIMP SALAD CARRYOUT
Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 12-2 p.m. Shrimp salad is \$16 per pint and chicken salad is \$10 per pint. Preorder and information: 443-880-4944.

LIBRAY LEGO LEAGUE
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Explore your imagination with LEGO bricks pro-

vided by the library. Your creation will be displayed in the library for the next whole month. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COMIC BOOK CLUB: LUNCH LADY SERIES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Check out this month’s featured series, create your own comic and craft. No experience required. For families. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.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 29

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Chris Sacks Band” (Tropicana Rock). 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 30

STORY TIME: WEATHER
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. Dis-

Calendar

cover the meaning of “ohana.” Munchies included. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. “Jack” Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For those newly diagnosed, in treatment or in remission. Face challenges, celebrate victories and build strength from the group’s shared journeys. Friends and family welcome. 410-641-2626

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.

BRIDGE

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

DELMARVA WOMEN’S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER’S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., July 1

SEAFOOD NIGHT WITH THE KNIGHTS

Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Held Tuesdays in the Columbus Hall behind St. Luke’s Church. Pre-order crabs Monday or Tuesday morning of that week: 410-524-7994. Non-seafood options will be available.

STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A story time geared for ages 0-5 years featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME: PAINT DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Dress for a mess. Creative finger paint day. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANYTHING BUT A PAINBRUSH

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Try your hand at painting using anything but a paintbrush. Spin, roll, dab and spray during this colorful event. Dress for a mess. For families. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring any questions and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: STICKY ART

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Using washi tape and your creativity, design your own canvas. All material provided while supplies last. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TEEN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB: LIGHTING

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Bring your phone, tablet or any type of camera for this photography lesson on lighting. If you don’t have a camera, there will be one to use during the program. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818

SAFE BOATING COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. State mandated Recreational Safe Boating Course held July 1 and 2. Cost is \$20. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807 or CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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., July 2

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring “Paw Patrol: Mighty Movie.” Free, family-friendly event. Bring blankets, chairs, snack, drinks and warm clothing. Weather permitting. www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/

PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and crackers. Must be at least 18 years old to participate. Register: 410-641-7052.

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

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

KIDS BINGO

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30

a.m. Join in for a beach-themed bingo and the chance to win a summertime prize basket. For ages 0-11 years and their families. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

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

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Providing discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Patti Yocubik, 410-208-9761, Patti.Yocubik@Tidal-Health.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

CREATIVE KIDS CORNER: COLOR BY NUMBER

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, July 1-31. Grab an art kit to create at the library or take it with you. Most supplies are included. For children ages 0-11 years. 410-524-1818

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/oceancitymuseumsociety>, 410-289-4991, emma@ocmuseum.org

PINOCHLE

Meets the first and third Thursday of each month at Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 12:15-3:15 p.m. Established Pinochle group welcoming new members. Carrie, 410-251-8207

Classified

MARKETPLACE

Call **410-723-6397** or email
classifieds@octodaydispatch.com
 by Monday, 5 p.m.

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