GAZETTE BAYSIDE

JULY 3, 2025

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PHOTO COURTESY OLGA BISULTANAVA

Amy Peck

HAMMERHEADS IN ACTION

Members of the Ocean Pines Hammerheads Swim Team are pictured competing in a recent swim meet at the Swim and Racquet pool. The team features 140 swimmers spread out over a variety of age groups.

Candidates hold forth at forum

Four director candidates for three open board seats field host of questions

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) The four candidates running for the three open seats on the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors sparred at a questionand-answer forum last week, with each candidate vowing to prioritize safety and the financial integrity of the community.

Candidates Stuart Lakernick, Monica Rakowski, Steve Jacobs, and Amy Peck stated their cases to Ocean Pines homeowners ahead of the election that begins next Tuesday and ends at noon, Aug. 6.

Three seats up for election have been held this past term by incum-





Stuart Lakernick

Monica Rakowski bent Lakernick, Rakowski, and Jacobs, while Peck is seeking to break into the governing group by besting

The candidates were allotted three minutes to speak in all forum rounds, including opening statements, randomly selected questions compiled by the OPA Elections Committee, and two randomly chosen community submitted questions sent to and held by the elections team. The candidates also were allowed to ask a question of

any one of them. The winners of the

race will serve three-year terms.





one of their competitors.

Lakernick has been on the board for three years. He served one year as director, the next as vice president, and most recently, as president. In his opening statements, Lakernick touted the board's accomplishments during his tenure. These included constructing a pavilion at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park. That job was completed in November.

"One of the things that I hold dear See OPA Page 20

Directors weigh cell tower site

Location would help some. but not all residents of OP who can't get good signal

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) A cell phone tower proposed for Ocean Pines may help some residents of the community, but the extent to which it will benefit all residents remains unknown, according to a presentation last week by tower construction company Milestone Towers.

Ocean Pines Police Department Chief Tim Robinson has been working with Milestone Towers on a plan to construct a cell phone tower in Ocean Pines to address spotty cell service. The project has been discussed at Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meetings since the

Robinson proposed building a cell site in Ocean Pines last year. He said that last summer, he noticed that he was unable to make phone calls during the season's busiest weekends. This was particularly concerning in emergency situations, Robinson said, adding that police can't respond to an emergency if the person experiencing that emergency can't call a 911 disnatcher.

Last week, Matt Forkas, project manager at Milestone Towers, discussed the cell tower's location, impact, and design with the board of directors and staff.

If the tower is approved, Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile will offer service from that location, Forkas said. He also said Milestone Towers would put up the structure at its cost and that Ocean Pines would not incur any ex-

Forkas also told the board that each carrier would pay \$2,500 a See TOWER Page 4

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZET

A child climbs on a makeshift rock-climbing wall during a previous Ocean Pines Fourth of July celebration at Veterans Memorial Park. This year's holiday event, which will feature activities including carnival games, dry slides and a bounce house for children, is set to start at 4 p.m. on Friday at the nark.



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Ocean Pines to host annual Independence Day Carnival

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Jully 4, 2025) Ocean Pines is gearing 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 fireworks 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.

Tower would help some, not all

Continued from Page 1

month to provide service out of the structure. Milestone Towers would receive 40% of all gross revenue generated

"In this case, we have three carriers, and after the revenue is split, it would be \$36,000 annual revenue to Ocean Pines," Forkas said.

The contractor has identified the site behind the maintenance building on the Ocean Pines golf course as the ideal spot for the tower.

"That location was chosen because it's a central location in the community and can provide the most efficient service to the customers here," Forkas said.

However, the tower may not improve reception for everyone in Ocean Pines if built.

With the tower, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile customers within a one-mile radius would see the most increase in cell phone reception. Those outside the circle, like the more southern end of the community, such as The Point at Ocean Pines and Sherwood Forest, would likely feel some benefit, but the level of impact is unknown.

"The best impact will be in the onemile radius, but the individuals outside that one-mile radius, you're communicating with this tower, so there will be a growth of service even outside that service," Robinson said.

"You may get improved service, but you may not get the most reliable service."

ice," Forkas added.

Forkas noted that even though the

tower may not radiate to "south south"

Ocean Pines, the carriers could implement solutions to improve the signal on the outskirts of the radius.

"Verizon could propose small cell solutions, which would be essentially smaller towers like very small, 40 feet, they could put them on light posts, and they can target certain neighborhoods," Forkas said. "I would assume that if there is enough need in that specific area, there could be a solution Verizon could propose that wouldn't necessarily require a whole new tower in Ocean Pines."

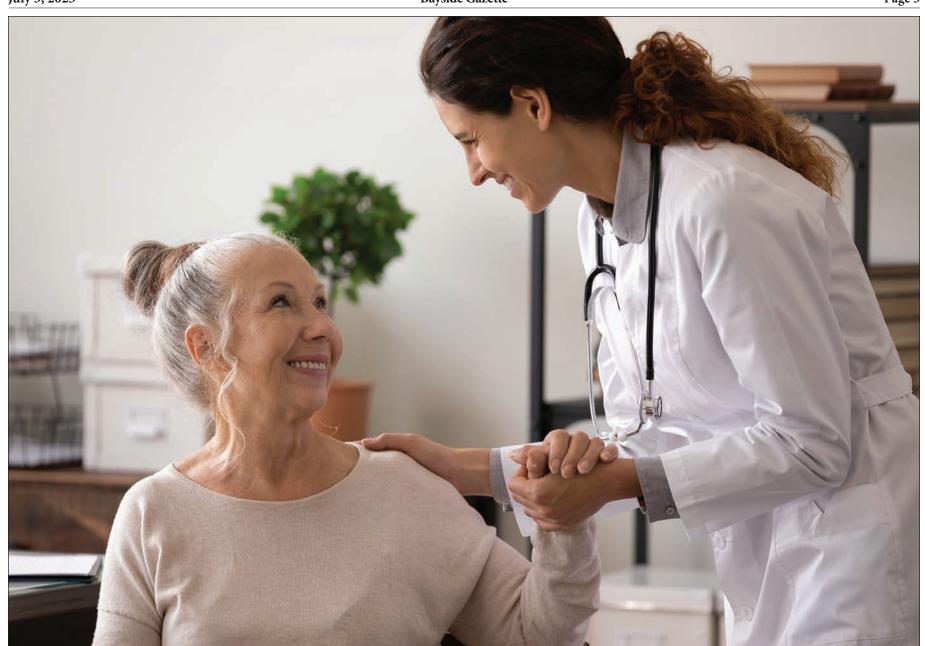
Discussions of a second tower in Ocean Pines did come up, but Forkas said he would have to confer with the carriers to see if that would be a financially viable option for them.

"We need to make sure our entire community is seeing a benefit, not just those in a one-mile radius," said Director John Latham.

If built, the tower could be made to blend in with the community. While the standard design would be a single piece of steel in the air with visible arrays, the camouflaged version could look like a tree.

"You guys have a beautiful community, and we want to honor that," Forkas noted.

A town hall will be scheduled to provide more in-depth information to the community. Forkas said that to build the tower, they first need approval from Ocean Pines, and then they will work with Worcester County on permitting. If approved, it could be over a year before cell phone reception improves.



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OP food, beverage sales revenue up for May

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) Most Ocean Pines Association amenities' revenue and memberships remain steady, with some trending upwards. The racquet center, however, has seen a slight dip in year-to-date projections.

During an OPA Board of Directors meeting last week, staff gave an update on how each amenity is performing compared to this time last year. According to OPA General Manager John Viola, May's combined gross sales for food and beverage at the Yacht Club, the Beach Club, and the Clubhouse Bar and Grille exceeded last year's by \$150,000. Viola said that the Yacht Club is leading this increase in revenue.

"The weather affected numbers for May, especially at the Beach Club,"

Viola said. "However, gross sales exceeded May of the prior year by approximately \$150,000, led by the Yacht Club. It was basically all the Yacht Club. The Beach Club was down, but it's coming back really well. Let's just hope for some sunny weather because that team down there is doing a great job."

The positive report comes after restaurant group Touch of Italy took over the community's food and beverage operations earlier this spring. In January, OPA elected to replace the previous vendor, Matt Ortt Companies, with TOI. The two parties signed a five-year contract at the start of this year.

OPA Recreation and Parks Department Director Debbie Donahue provided an update on the golf course, which she said has seen an increase

of 29 members from this time last year. Currently, the amenity has 167 regular players compared to 138 in 2024.

As of June 25, the course's revenue was \$203,000. OPA is forecasting another \$30,000 for a June total of \$233,000, compared to the budget prediction of \$221,000. Donahue added that between 230 and 250 rounds of golf are played daily.

"They are doing great work here, and busy, and the course is in great shape," Donahue said.

Aquatics' performance has also remained steady, with an additional eight members compared to last year.

Donahue added that the Yacht Club pool has extended its hours. On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, residents can swim until 7 p.m. Additionally, Swim and Racquet does not close until 8 p.m. on weekends.

The Aquatics Advisory Committee has advocated for lengthened pool hours during the week to give more time to residents who work standard jobs. Viola noted that his team, the aquatics staff, and Touch of Italy representatives are considering implementing events in August to meet this goal.

While most OPA amenities have shown an optimistic year-to-date projection, the racquet center has dropped. Donahue said that the activity is down 98 members compared to 2024.

"My understanding of the numbers is that racquet sports are down \$4,000 from last year to this year," said Monica Rakowski, OPA Board of Directors treasurer.

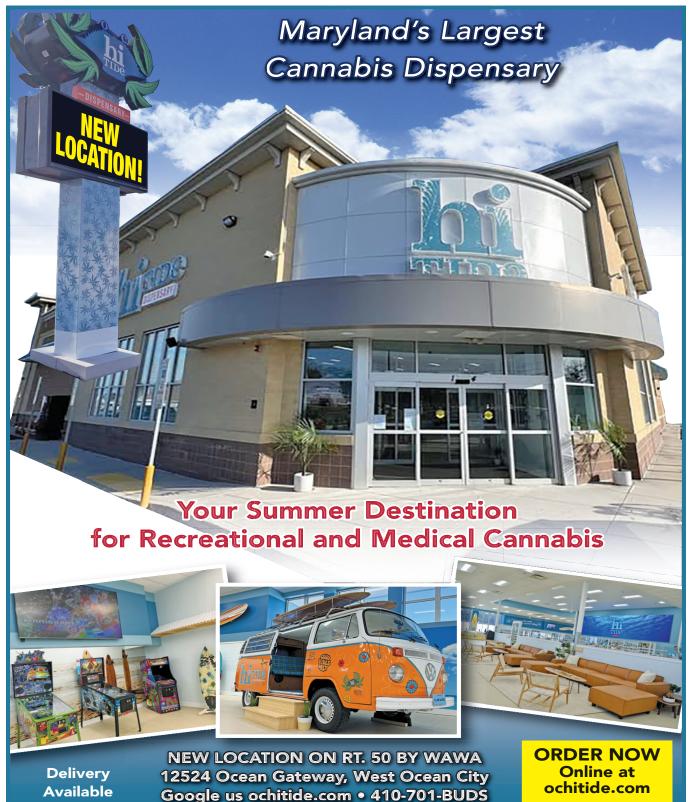
This decrease in revenue and players could be due to recent changes in how residents are charged for their memberships. During this year's budget process, individual racquet sport options were cut, and a combo three-sport rate was implemented. Fees also had a slight increase. Membership dues in the fiscal year 2025-2026 are now \$495 for a family, \$295 for individuals, \$590 for the nonmember family option, and \$270 for a non-member individual.

Viola noted that Ocean Pines Racquet Center is still cheaper than most comparable courts nearby, even with the price rise

"We did raise it, but it is still low compared to other places, and it was very low to begin with," the general manager said. "When you look at those numbers, I've heard that people from Delaware were coming here, and we would lose those people if we raised the prices. And maybe we did. But my view is this: I don't believe this homeowners association is in the business of subsidizing people to come down here from Delaware. If they want to come, they're welcome. That's what I've heard, that the people from Delaware aren't going to come. My racquet sports director told me, 'Let's give it a little more time.' I stand by that, and we will give the best experience down there and the best experience we can. Hopefully, people will come."

Donahue also updated the community on summer activities hosted by the Rec and Parks group. Last week, the Yacht Club's recurring Family Fun Night began. The event will kick off at 6 p.m. every Wednesday. The recreation director said the first night had about 200 attendees, but expects to see more as the recent heat wave expires.

The free concerts at White Horse Park have also started back up for the summer. Each Thursday, OPA residents can head to the park from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to listen to the live music



New 'Hot Summer Swing' coming to Berlin on July 12

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) To celebrate 135 years of Taylor Bank in Berlin, the town's chamber of commerce is hosting a 1920s-themed event later this month as an ode to the business's earlier days.

On Saturday, July 12, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce is hosting a "Hot Summer Swing" concert with live music, dancing, street performers, and food and beverage vendors. The festivities will kick off at noon and finish up around 5 p.m.

According to Berlin Chamber of Commerce President Garrett Neville, this will be the organization's first "Hot Summer Swing," which will be held in conjunction with Taylor Bank.

"It's to celebrate their 135 years in business," Neville said. "They are certainly a staple here on the Eastern Shore."

The party will feature live music from the appropriately named Gatsby Gang Band. There will be kids' games, and, as a highly different part of the day, a stilt walker will trek up and down Main Street.

"The swing theme is an ode back to vintage Berlin," Neville said. "It's something a little bit different but also very family-friendly. We wanted to pick a genre that encouraged hot summer nights and dancing with family and friends on historic Main Street, Berlin."

The first 200 children will receive complimentary cotton candy, while the first batch of adults will enjoy complimentary beer from Evolution Craft Brewing Company. Food vendors will also be on-site for attendees to purchase lunch or dinner.

To celebrate Taylor Bank's 135th anniversary, the Gatsby-themed band will take a break every hour, allowing representatives from the banking group to offer history lessons and stories about the Eastern Shore and the business's legacy in the community.

Shore leaders will also speak at the Hot Summer Swing.

"At 3 p.m., there will be presentations from various elected officials from the Eastern Shore, just saying wonderful things about Berlin and Taylor Bank," Neville added.

The chamber president hopes the event will be filled with dancing and fun, appropriate for the whole family.

"This will showcase another incredible event that the Berlin Chamber can put on for the community," Neville said. "There will be good music and just something for everybody to do. It'll just be a good way to spend a summer evening. We hope everyone comes out, and we can make this an annual event."

Neville also encouraged attendees to visit Main Street shops on the day of the event to support local businesses.







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Committee remains hopeful about South Gate project

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) While an erosion limitation and beautification project at the Ocean Pines South Gate Pond has been paused amid federal grant funding uncertainty, the community's Environment and Natural Assets Committee remains optimistic in its eventual renewal.

In conjunction with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, the project's plan included planting vegetation and flowers around Ocean Pines' South Gate Pond to combat erosion, preserve wildlife, and promote community beautification. The scope of the work is to cover 4,600 feet of shoreline. The initial phase will focus on the area that faces Racetrack Road, where experts believe soil loss is most troublesome.

The project's total cost is estimated at \$500,000. That amount includes \$200,000 to \$250,000 for the submerged gravel wetland, \$100,000 for the fishing area, and \$100,000 to \$150,000 for landscaping. MCBP has paused the project, citing uncertainty of federal grant funding under the Trump administration.

The ENAC met on June 25 to discuss the work. While Ocean Pines As-

Racetrack0C.com

sociation officials hope the project will resume in 2026, the ENAC intends to periodically check in with OPA Senior Director of Administration Linda Martin on the initiative's status.

When the project starts again, additional modifications will likely be made for turtle habitat.

According to Patricia Garcia, the environmental group's chair, logs used to float in the South Gate Pond. The team hopes that features like these can once again be added to the waterway.

"Turtles love to bask, so we were just saying, 'hey, can OPA just find a log and just put it in there?" Garcia said

When the pond restoration project resumes, a turtle sanctuary will be included in the plans.

"Turtle-specific protection is supposed to be part of [the pond work]," Garcia maintained.

The project will be funded via grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency, which Garcia said are currently frozen. Per the natural asset team's meeting on June 25, the group will continue monitoring the financial assistance status and the initiative's progress. The work is stalled with an unknown resumption date.





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Natural gas tanks create a stir during shipping process

By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

(July 3, 2025) Barges hauling 100,000-gallon gas tanks made their way to Bishopville over the last month in preparation for a new natural gas storage facility.

Nicholas Bishop, capital projects manager for Chesapeake Utilities, said the tanks are part of an Worcester Resiliency Upgrade project recently approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which oversees the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil and electricity.

Construction of a new liquefied natural gas storage facility in Bishopville will begin in the coming months and be completed by next year. Eastern Shore Natural Gas, a subsidiary of Chesapeake

Utilities, will operate the site.

"The facility will provide additional capacity to protect customers from weather-related supply disruptions and expand energy availability to more residents and local businesses," he said.

The 135-acre site – located next to the asphalt plant in Bishopville – will house five, 100,000-gallon, low-profile horizontal storage tanks, Bishop said.

Given their size, the tanks were shipped from a manufacturing company to Norfolk, Va., where they were then barged to Moore Boat in Bishopville. From there, the tanks were transported by truck to the project site, which caused temporary road closures.

"Eastern Shore Natural Gas worked with several specialized shipping companies to deliver the tanks, and coordinated



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF HICKS

One of the massive tanks shipped from Norfolk, Va. to Bishopville is pictured making its way through the Route 50 bridge drawspan on June 25.

the entire process with FERC, local officials, first responders and MDOT to ensure safety and minimize disruption to

Eastern Shore Natural Gas reports the project will service residents in Worcester and Wicomico counties in Maryland, and Sussex County in Delaware.

the community," Bishop said.

In addition to the installation of the gas tanks, the project will include pipeline looping, upgrades to the Millsboro pressure control station, and upgrades to three existing meter and regulator stations – located in Selbyville,

Thompson and Berlin.

Eastern Shore Natural Gas reports the project's goal is to ensure reliability and affordability. With the new capacity, the company said customers are protected from weather-related supply disruptions and associated price spikes.

"The tanks will be used to supply additional natural gas via the existing Eastern Shore Natural Gas pipeline during periods of winter weather and supply shortages," Bishop said.

Bishop said those with questions should visit the project's webpage, worcesterresiliencyupgrade.com.

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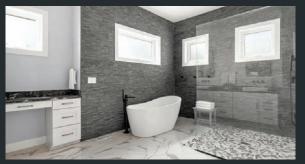












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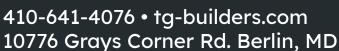


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Gov. stands behind offshore wind despite OC opposition

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) As President Donald Trump continues to tweet against windmills, Maryland's governor says his office hasn't been in communication with the White House over a proposed offshore mid-Atlantic wind farm that's in the final stages of approval at the state level.

"No, we haven't had any communication with the Trump administration on this project specifically," Moore said in an interview Tuesday with OC Today-Dispatch. The governor is in Ocean City for the annual summer conference of the Maryland Municipal League.

"I know some of the challenges that the administration has and we hear them loud and clear," he added. "The thing that I want for everybody to hear loud and clear is that in the state of Maryland, we have got to come up with more energy options. We've got to come up with a more sustainable and affordable way for people to be able to harness energy. We have to do more to invest in our grid. We have to do more to make sure that we are not solely reliant on individual or independent sources of energy."

Moore added he's looking forward

to working with the federal government "to figure out just where exactly they are, and what they will support and fund, because federal involvement does matter in these projects, we cannot deny that."

During his 2024 campaign, Trump said he'd end offshore wind with an executive order "on Day 1." Once he took office in January, the President continued to make overtures about stomping out offshore wind projects, calling them "an economic and environmental disaster" that only work with government subsidies.

Trump's criticism continued last week with this June 21 posting to his Truth Social account:

"Windmills, and the rest of this 'JUNK,' are the most expensive and inefficient energy in the world, is destroying the beauty of the environment, and is 10 times more costly than any other energy. None of it works without massive government subsidy (energy should NOT NEED SUBSIDY!). Also, it is almost exclusively made in China!!! It is time to break away, finally, from this craziness!!!"

The developer US Wind plans to install a 114-turbine wind farm as close as 11 miles off the coast of Ocean



RRIAN SHANE/RAYSIDE GAZETI

Gov. Wes Moore was in Ocean City last week for the Maryland Municipal League convention held at the convention center. He is pictured speaking during a coastal bays event last week.

City. The company recently cleared a final round of permitting from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

"The Department has made a final determination to issue the permit-to-construct, the PSD Approval, and the NSR Approval, effective June 6, 2025," the agency shared on its website earlier this month.

OC Today-Dispatch specifically asked Moore, a Democrat, what his position is on this project.

"My position is that Maryland needs to have an energy future that can create sustainable and affordable and reliable energy for every Marylander," came his reply. "It's the reason that I've been pushing for not just wind, but also solar and nuclear energy, and just more energy sources that can make things a little bit easier for the people of our state and for the people of Maryland.

"But I also know that I don't do anything without community," he



Moore seeking energy diversity

added. "I think there's one thing that people have learned about me and the way that I lead, is that I believe that partnership produces progress. I don't believe that we do things to communities – I believe we do things with communities. My promise to all of our communities is that I will always be not just an active listener, but an active partner inside of this work to make sure that we get to the right conclusion."

Local elected officials have voiced their strident opposition to the wind farm project for years. Ocean City is currently in the process of suing the federal government to stop the project from proceeding, with Worcester County government signed on as a coplaintiff.

Worcester County officials also have considered invoking eminent domain to stop US Wind from setting up shop at the West Ocean City commercial fishing harbor for an operations and maintenance facility to service the wind farm.

When asked what he would say to those elected officials who are staunchly opposed to wind farms off their coastline, Moore said "they're still my partners on the (Lower Eastern Shore) and they're people who I still plan on working with and still plan on coordinating with on these is-

Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan has vowed to keep fighting the US Wind project in court, saying that the state has "ignored" local voices and "will stop at no end to politically approve" a project he called unreliable and unsustainable.

Congressman Andy Harris on Tuesday posted to Facebook his opposition to the US Wind project, saying "this offshore wind project will devastate our shoreline, destroy the commercial fishing industry, and harm our marine life.'

Moore has strongly supported offshore wind. After signing a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to advance offshore wind development in Maryland, Moore said in June of 2024 via statement on his website, "Maryland is serious about offshore wind - not just because of what it means for our environment, but also because of what it means for our economy. Offshore wind means new manufacturing jobs, higher wages, and more opportunity to grow wealth for Maryland families. I'm grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration and all of our partners at the local, state, and federal levels for their partnership in this work. Together, we will build an economy that is both green and growing."



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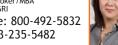




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Man sentenced for setting three fires across Worcester

(July 3, 2025) On Friday, June 27, Felix Rounds, Jr., 38, of Berlin, was sentenced to 40 years of incarceration after being convicted of first-degree malicious burning, reckless endangerment, and first-degree arson.

Judge Beau H. Oglesby of the Worcester County Circuit Court sus-

pended all but 15 years of active incarceration, placed Rounds on five years of supervised probation upon release, with the condition that he complete mental health counseling for pyromania,



Felix Rounds, Jr.

and ordered Rounds to pay over \$12,000 in restitution to multiple victims for property damage.

The charges stem from three separate reports of structure fires which occurred throughout northern Worcester County between Nov. 21, 2023, and March 29, 2024. These incidents were investigated by both the Ocean City and Worcester County Fire Marshal's Offices and allied law enforcement agencies and fire departments.

The first fire occurred in a house on Sinepuxent Road in Berlin, where witnesses observed smoke and fire coming from an open front window. A witness also saw an individual, later identified as Rounds, running behind the house at the time of the fire. The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office responded and determined that the fire was intentionally set in a bedroom of the home.

The second fire was reported in

March of 2024 by a cleaning crew working at an Ocean City hotel, who discovered fire damage to one of the hotel rooms. Investigation by the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Office revealed that Rounds had rented that hotel room hours before the fire occurred and had left the hotel without checking out soon thereafter.

The third fire was intentionally set a few weeks later, on March 29, 2024, inside a house on Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Investigation revealed that Rounds, who had been staying at the residence, had barricaded himself inside a bedroom and began lighting clothing and other items within the room on fire. As firefighters breached the bedroom door, Rounds jumped out of a window and was eventually apprehended by police. He was transported to the hospital for an emergency evaluation and officers placed him under arrest after the evaluation was completed.

Rounds was indicted by a Worcester County grand jury in May of 2024 on charges related to all three fire investigations.

Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser thanked the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office, the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Office, and all allied first responders and law enforcement for their work on these investigations, and praised their dedication and combined efforts in linking these fires to the same suspect. Heiser also thanked her team of prosecutors, investigators and support staff at the Office of the State's Attorney for their diligence and attention to detail in preparing the case for successful prosecution.



ROTARY WORK DAY

Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club representatives Margaret Mudron and **Cliff Berg attended Rotary Work Days** at Camp Fairlee, an **Easter Seals Camp** in Fairlee, Md. to help spruce up the camp for summer campers. The club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines, For more information email ocberlinrotar v@gmail.com BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Worcester parks to receive update

Program Open Space funds to benefit recreational sites pending state's approval

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) Upgraded concessions, parking lots, and lighting are part of \$650,000 in potential upgrades to five Worcester County parks using state grant funding.

The County Commissioners at their June 17 meeting unanimously approved a proposal to use \$585,000 in grant funding from Program Open Space. The state's cost share is 90% and the county will provide the remaining \$65,000 as a 10% share. The plan requires state approval.

In Berlin, the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex would see \$225,000 in renovations. It would include new LED lighting at the parking lot, which already has conduit in place for light placement, and upgrades to the bathrooms and concessions area, including a new pavilion roof.

Snow Hill's John Walter Smith Park would see a dugout replacement project for three fields at a cost of \$125,000. The dugouts are original to the park. This park also would get a new roof for its concession area at a cost of \$50,000.

Showell Park in Showell would get a brand-new parking lot, including engineering, design, and construction, at a cost of \$150,000. The park's limited parking area fills up during peak times, pushing visitors to park on the roadside, which county officials say is a safety concern.

On the southern end of the county, both Stockton Park in Stockton and Newtown Park in Pocomoke City will see improvements as well. Stockton Park will place its 16-by-30 foot pavilion at a cost of \$50,000 and Newtown Park will get a new \$50,000 roof for its concession stand.

DNR established Program Open Space in 1969 and has since provided funding for nearly 7,000 parks and conservation areas statewide.

Today, however, the availability of Program Open Space funds for Worcester County stands at about a third of what it used to be. That's because the state has cut back as a cost-saving measure in the wake of this year's multi-billion-dollar budget shortfall, according to County Administrator Weston Young.

"My stance is, they should not cut anything that has a return on investment – investing in tourism, in parks, things like that," he said. "An improved park improves property values. It contributes to tourism. But it's also quality-of-life for jurisdictions."

In 2023, Worcester County received Open Space \$1.14 million in Program Open Space funding. Two years later, that amount fell to \$450,209, despite the county's request for \$1.65 million in grants.

For this upcoming fiscal year, which begins Tuesday, the county's grant award total is \$359,744. The county will next submit its full proposal to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for approval. It can be amended during the year if other projects arise.

While year-by-year grants have dropped, the county still gets to keep prior year grants in escrow. The county's parks department has more than \$1.5 million in Program Open Space funding available, which includes the fiscal 2026 allocation.

If the county taps into its reserves to complete all the proposed park projects for this year, then that fund balance would drop to about \$783,000, according to an internal county memo from May 27.

Last year's Open Space money was used to acquire Little League fields in Berlin from the Lions Club, to add to the county's parkland, according to Young.

Worcester County Library honors US in series of events

The Worcester County Library has announce a year-long series of events commemorating the upcoming Semiquincentennial of the United States, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The kickoff event will feature "Travel Through Time with Mary Katharine Goddard," a living history program researched, written, and performed by Rosemarie Law. The event is on Monday, July 14 at the Ocean Pines Library at 2 p.m. This engaging portrayal will delve into the life and contributions of the woman responsible for printing the first broadside of the Declaration of Independence that included the names of the signers.

"We are thrilled to begin our celebration with such a unique and educational program," stated Elena Coelho, Adult Services Coordinator for the Worcester County Library. "Ms. Law's performance promises to be informative, offering our community a deeper understanding of a pivotal figure in American history."

This program is the first in a comprehensive series that will explore various facets of Colonial America. The Worcester County Library invites the public to participate in this enriching journey through American history.







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State and local officials gathered in a signing ceremony to celebrate the updated environmental plan last week.

BRIAN SHANE/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Coastal bays prioritized in revised blueprint

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) A local environmental nonprofit just inked its latest tenyear roadmap with state and local officials, including a ringing endorsement from Maryland's governor, to protect and restore coastal bay waters in Worcester County.

Calling the coastal bays "one of the greatest heirlooms we've got," Gov. Wes Moore appeared in person Tuesday in Ocean City to affix his signature to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program's (MCBP) newest Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan.

Admission: \$15.00

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Photo by Susan Lyons

delawaregardens.org

"It's our job to protect this area and we will make sure we do just that," Moore said from a lectern at the southern end of the Boardwalk overlooking Assateague Island. "Thank you for making sure that we can walk arm in arm through this, to know that the next generation will look back at the same waterway generations from now."

Moore ended his enthusiastic remarks by writing his signature in Sharpie marker on a poster-sized version of the agreement displayed on an easel. He was joined by other local elected officials including state Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, mayors Zach Tyndall of Berlin and Rick Meehan of

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Ocean City, and Worcester County Commission President Ted Elder.

Josh Kurtz, Secretary of the state's Department of Natural Resources, at the signing ceremony lauded the group for its long-term blueprint, one that aims to tackle a daunting future marked by warmer waters, more erosion, and shrinking islands.

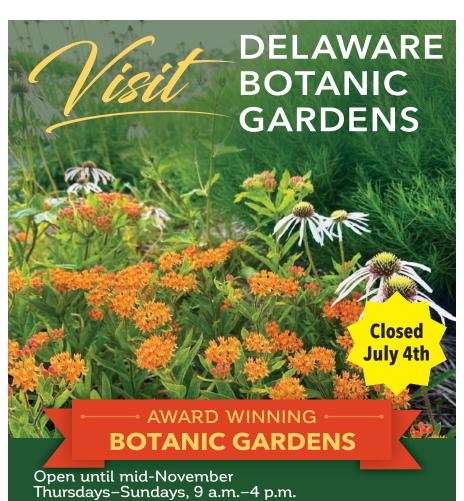
"Having the foresight to do this in 10-year increments allows us to really say: what are the challenges on the horizon?" Kurtz said. "This plan looks into that future, and it helps us really build for what we want to see, which is a coastal bays that provide robust economic opportunity for all of our local

communities."

It's the third iteration of the organization's management plan, with its first edition coming out in 1999-2000. They revamped it again in 2015, following a three-year effort to define the most significant issues related to water quality and environmental health.

What emerged was a 10-year treatise that addresses goals and action items in the areas of legislation and policy, education and outreach, restoration and conservation, and ecosystem assessment.

So what's changed in the last See LEADERS Page 19



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Berlin seeks bids for town's comprehensive plan update

(July 3, 2025) The Mayor and Council and Planning Commission of the Town of Berlin have announced the release of Request for Proposals (RFP) for a full update to the town's comprehensive plan.

The RFP was opened to interested parties beginning July 1, with final proposals due by 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5.

Questions from prospective bidders will be accepted until Aug. 1 with responses provided and posted publicly by Aug. 8. All deadlines are subject to change at the town's discretion.

"The current Comprehensive Plan has served as a valuable tool in guiding Berlin's growth and land use decisions," said Mayor Zack Tyndall. "However, it was adopted in 2010 and, reviewed without change in 2020, so it is due for a thorough review and update. It's time for a fresh look to ensure we are meeting the needs of our current and future residents."

An internal review committee, in-

Leaders ink plan to preserve bays

Continued from Page 18

decade? Worcester County officials say "significant progress" has been made that benefit the coastal bays, like ongoing litter cleanup initiatives, more environmental education in local schools, increased land conservation programs, and improved bay health report cards.

The new management plan, which extends to 2035, touches on themes of providing healthy waters, protecting fish and wildlife and their habitats, creating resilient ecosystems, and developing public engagement and partnership. It's also sleeker, with a list of 124 action compared with 222 in the prior version.

The coastal bays include the areas of Assawoman Bay, Isle of Wight Bay, the St. Martin River, Sinepuxent Bay, Newport Bay, and Chincoteague Bay and all their respective creeks, prongs, and coves. Their collective watersheds extend through Worcester County from lower Sussex County, Delaware, to Chincoteague, Virginia.

Kevin Smith, executive director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, said it's been 25 years since local leaders last renewed their commitment to keeping those waterways healthy by signing a working agreement like they did Tuesday.

"It's almost, in certain regards, like renewing your marriage vows," he said. "We've always had a good partnership with folks – the town, the county, and other folks. We'll go back to work tomorrow and just continue what we're doing."

cluding the mayor, members of the council, planning commission and town staff developed the RFP and will evaluate submitted proposals in September. The committee will interview selected firms and make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council for contract award.

The selected consultant will lead a thorough update of the town's comprehensive plan, addressing key areas such as population trends, land use, infrastructure and utility needs, environmental sustainability, stormwater management, and future growth. A strong emphasis will be placed on community engagement, with a variety of public outreach methods including in-person meetings, surveys, and workshops. The final plan will be submitted for review by the planning commission before formal consideration and adoption by the Mayor and Council.

Those interested can access the full document and submission details on the town's website at www.berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals

Updates on the planning process and opportunities for public involvement will be shared over the next 12—18 months via the town's website.



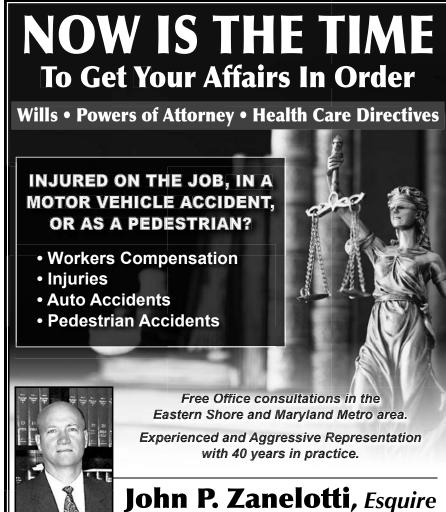


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OPA board candidates appeal to residents

Continued from Page 1

was watching the Veterans Memorial pavilion come to life," Lakernick said. "That to me is the cornerstone of our community. We have delivered a brand new racquet center. I have to tell you that the financial health of Ocean Pines is good. The reason it's good is because of our financial steward, [OPA General Manager] John Viola, and his incredible team. We work in collaboration with him to get it done."

The board president also noted that when he joined the board three years ago, the Ocean Pines Police Department was understaffed, with just eight full-time officers. However, the board hired Tim Robinson as police chief, and 13 officers are now employed with the department.

Rakowski, who is the current treasurer of the OPA board, is running for her second term.

Rakowski has lived in Ocean Pines for 15 years. She attended Salisbury University, and she said it was there that fell in love with the Eastern Shore and knew she had to return. If reelected, Rakowski vowed to listen to homeowners and maintain regular communication to ensure the community's needs are met.

"Safety will always be my number one priority, and financial stability," she said. "I won't always have the answers, but I guarantee you, when I say I'll get back to you, I will get back to you. No one has all the answers all the time, but what sets us apart is how we follow up."

In his opening statements, Jacobs emphasized the need to facilitate stronger community involvement.

"What disappoints me, I'll be quite candid, is we only have four people running for three vacancies," he said. "We need to get more people involved in what Ocean Pines does on a regular basis."

Jacobs added that he hopes to find ways to make board discussions more transparent.

"A lot of our discussions are through emails," he said.

Peck told the audience that she and her husband have been homeowners in Ocean Pines since 2002. Peck said that she is fiscally conservative and pledges to prioritize community needs over wants. She said she is "all about basic infrastructure and safety" and uses data-based research to make decisions.

"I am about community input and listening to the homeowners," Peck said. "I'm about listening to the community; we need leadership that listens."

The challenger asked that commu-

nity members contact her at Peck4pines@comcast.net with any questions they may have about her candidacy.

Following opening statements, the candidates were asked questions from the elections committee.

Lakernick was asked, "How would you handle situations where homeowners are not abiding by the rules and regulations, for instance, the recent situation regarding leaf accumulation?"

Lakernick noted that the community's public works department had decided to issue citations to households where leaf accumulation is a problem.

"We are below sea level in certain portions of our community," he said. "Flooding is an issue after heavy storms. It was determined through our public works and engineering that the swales and the clogged drainage pipes are responsible for some of this. So, the decision was made to send out some letters. Most folks jumped right on it and cleaned their swales out. Let me tell you, some of that problem was aggravated by some of our homeowners dumping all the yard waste into the ditches."

Rakowski was asked, "What steps would you take to ensure that board decisions align with the best interests of the community?"

She replied that engaging with homeowners and OPA personnel is her approach to gauge Ocean Pines' wants and needs.

"I think communicating with our board members, our community members, committees, things like that, offers us insight," she said. "...We need to continue along those lines. Use every resource and communicate in every way we can with the community."

Jacobs was asked, "What is your approach to resolving issues and making decisions as a team?"

The candidate said he draws from his professional experience when interacting with competing viewpoints.

"I worked for eight years on Capi-

tol Hill for both Republican and Democratic congressmen," he said. "I served 20-plus years as a lobbyist...I also worked for the last seven years dealing with child support litigation for the attorney general in Howard County.

"So I have a lot of experience in finding people from different points of view, pulling them into a room, and trying to resolve differences. I think that's what I'm trying to do now...You have to respect the other side when talking about them. There are no permanent enemies.

"You may agree on something one day and disagree on something the next day. That's fine, but you've got to find a way to work together. That's what's most important for everybody here. That should be the guiding principle we use."

Concluding the first round of questions, Peck was asked, "How do you plan to balance competing wants within the community?"

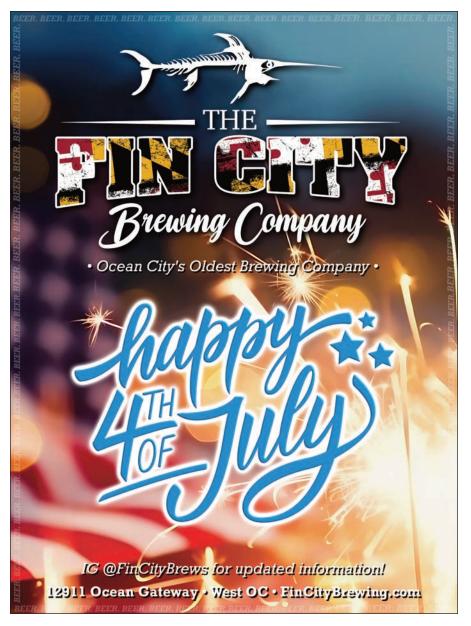
Peck said she believes that gathering input from the community ensures resident concerns are heard and considered.

"Listening to the homeowners and having your finger on the pulse for what they want is important," she said.

She added that in addressing resident desires, if elected, she would prioritize items most necessary to make sure OPA remains operational and in a healthy financial position.

"I am fiscally conservative, so I am always going to prioritize the needs, which are infrastructure," Peck said. "We've got a big expense with the fire department coming up, so safety will always be first.

"Infrastructure is always going to be ahead. Then we're going to see what will benefit the community. I'm looking at things like return on investment. Is this a project that's going to help us generate revenue? Is this a project that will benefit the community as a whole? How many people is this going to help, and what is the legacy of this project? I'm going to take a multidisciplinary look at it."





Campaigners answer questions

During the next round, the board candidates were asked questions submitted by Ocean Pines residents.

Lakernick was asked, "Do you support changing the Declaration of Restrictions to allow foster and adopted kids to occupy homes in section

While the rule exists in the community's governing documents, Lakernick replied, it was implemented years ago, and the board has no intention of ever executing it.

"...that DR is unenforceable," he said. "There is no way that they're going to put a kid out that's an adopted child. To go through the process of changing a DR is an expensive proposition, and when you're talking about something that's unenforceable, that's not something we're going to take action on. This is something from a bygone age, and we're not going to do it."

Rakowski's second question was whether she would support future community surveys to gather resident input. She replied that she would and said she intends to look for ways to ensure the forums reach the homeowners.

"What I think we need to be better at is getting more people involved," she said. "How do we get this survey information out there? Do we take it to the Yacht Club and have people fill out surveys there? Do we take it to the farmer's market and have a table set up there?

do better with the surveys. We need to do a better job of getting out there and making people know that we're

often do you expect to interact with the general manager? And how would you address your communication to

sees OPA General Manager John Viola as a resource and that he tries

cobs noted. "We don't always agree, but if you need to know something, he's the guy to ask."

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Peck was asked if she is involved in any of OPA's amenities. She responded that she is a member of the community pools, a spec tennis player, uses the boat ramps for kayaking, raised her children through Ocean Pines' recreation and parks department, and that her husband is a golfer.

Peck added that the board should remain in constant communication with amenity users and staff to ensure the facilities services are maintained, and that customer input is vital when determining membership pricing.

She also referenced the board's decision this year to do away with individual sport memberships at the racquet center and instead impose a combo, across-the-board fee. Because of this change, the challenger said, the racquet amenity is losing money, citing a \$47,000 variance.

'When you're a director, I think it's important to be visiting those amenities, understand what the users want for those amenities, and making smart decisions so that the amenities keep running smoothly and making money," she said.

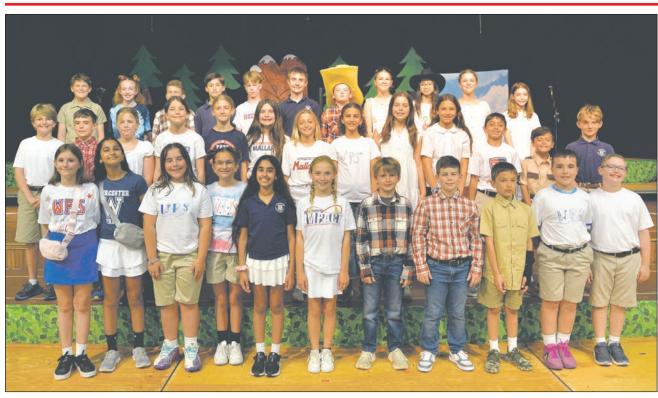
Each candidate was allowed to ask a competitor one question. During this round, Lakernick accused Peck of boycotting the Yacht Club following the hit-and-run incident in 2022 that led to the death of local 14-year-old Gavin Knupp. The mother of Tyler Mailloux, the vehicle's driver, was







'The Field Trip' Performance



Worcester Prep's 5th grade class performed their final Lower School performance, The Field Trip. In the front row from the left are Abigail Kratzer (Bishopville, MD), Anya Murukutla (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Avery Freitas (Dagsboro, DE), Priya Garg (Berlin, MD), Jaanvi Pandher (Berlin, MD), Lila Holland (Berlin, MD), Joey Kraeuter (Berlin, MD), Know Luttrell (Delmar, DE), Jace Zervakos (Selbyville, DE), John Freitas (Dagsboro, DE) and Mykolas Doyle (Selbyville, DE).

In the second row from the left are Carter Harrison (Ocean City, MD), Grant Messner (Berlin, MD), Piper Coyle (Berlin, MD), Bia Prosekova (Selbyville, DE), Madelyn Tull (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Kingsley Giardina (Berlin, MD), Kate DelliGatti (Berlin, MD), Charlize Damouni (Lewes, DE), Nora Rafinski (Berlin, MD), Isabella Labin (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Jude Waked (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Tobi Blaska (Ocean City) and Avrum Gudelsky (Ocean City, MD). In the back row from the left are Freddy Hertrich (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Roz Hagner (Berlin, MD), Teo Conev (Berlin), Marshal Hidell (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Maverick Pyne (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Peter Van Dalen (Rehoboth Beach, DE), Jack Parks (Salisbury), Aaralyn Lillquist (Selbyville, DE), Grace Tunnell (Lewes, DE), and Sloane Kremer (Snow Hill). SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



WPS 5th graders Freddy Hertrich (Ranger Rick/Rehoboth Beach, DE) and Tobi Blaska (Ranger John/Ocean City), along with 4th grader Dev Pillai (Ranger Jacob/Lewes, DE), take the stage in lead roles.



WPS 4th graders Alice Diorio (left/Selbyville, DE) and Grace Hornung (center/Newark) rock out as the Mt. Rushmore Rock Band.



WPS 5th grade soloists Nora Rafinski (Berlin), Amalia Gjikuria (Ocean City), and Grace Tunnell (Lewes, DE) perform a moving rendition of *The Climb*.



WPS 5th grader Maverick Pyne (Rehoboth Beach, DE) shines as the Singing Buffalo in the 3rd and 4th grade's rendition of *The Badlands*.

Voting materials to be distributed on July 8

Continued from Page 21 food and beverage operations.

"I advocated for what was the good decision for Ocean Pines and what ultimately happened, which was an RFP (request for proposal)," Peck said. "I've always advocated that there are good places to outsource, and one of those is food and beverage...We are in a much better financial position with the new Touch of Italy vendor.

"Decisions have to be made on what is best for Ocean Pines. Not who you're friends with, not the vendor that you love. It's what is the best financial decision, and that's what we did, and I stand by that."

During her turn, Peck asked Lakernick why, in late 2022, the board no longer allowed homeowners who were following meetings online to offer public comments. Peck argued that Lakernick is a part-time resident and cited the decision as lacking transparency.

Lakernick said that the board eliminated public comments from online viewers because, following Knupp's death, the online meeting space was bombarded with boycotters, many of whom had no connection to Ocean Pines.

"Back in 2022, there was a huge controversy going on with the death of a young child," Lakernick said. "We were being targeted and boycotted, as you know, for our restaurateur at that time. People were picketing outside. We had to have our police here just in case anything happened.

"We had people online who were not necessarily residents during our board meetings, and board meetings are for our association only. The only way we would ensure that was to eliminate the comments we heard that came over that Teams meeting."

To round out the forum, each candidate was asked one final question, randomly selected from community members' submissions.

Lakernick was asked, "What would you propose or do differently to improve the perception of board transparency?"

He said the answer is encouraging more people to attend board meetings.

Rakowski was asked, "Do you feel that the yearly assessment should increase to cover the cost of aging amenity buildings?"

Rakowski said, "Yes and no."

"If we're going to maintain this wonderful, beautiful place we have, there probably will come a time when we're going to have to raise HOA fees," she said. "Neglect is the worst thing for everything. The fire department's going through that. It got so bad, and now it's not workable. I foresee increasing HOA fees, but it will be done with the DMA study, our reserves, and where we are financially."

Jacobs' last question was about what he believed to be the role of the community's advisory committees. He said he had served on the bylaws and resolutions committee and that he sees value in their existence.

He said these committees are to act in an advisory capacity and should not interfere with the amenities staff. He referred to last spring, when the board voted 6-1 to abolish the racquet advisory committee after months of disputes about membership options and an allegedly false report of dangerous mold conditions in the old building. Jacobs, the sole dissenter at the time, maintained at last week's forum that this decision was a mistake.

"I actually believe in advisory committees," he said. "I know some people think we have too many. Some people suggest we should get rid of them all. But, my own view is they serve a vital purpose ...They advise the board on things they're hearing in the community and hearing at the amenities.

omly selected from community bers' submissions.

"The other advantage is that these people are interested in specific

areas. They have some level of expertise or some level of specialty that we should make use of. They provide a new avenue of communication beyond just what the board and staff hear. My view is that there needs to be an adjustment. We may want to consolidate. We may want to review all the committees, but they serve a valuable purpose."

Finally, to round out the forum, Peck was asked: "How comfortable are you with biking or walking on Ocean Parkway? Do you feel Ocean Parkway is safe for residents to walk or bike?"

Peck replied that as a "big walker and a big biker," she does not believe the parkway is a safe path for pedestrians. She said she hopes adjustments can be made, as children must wait for the bus in less-than-safe spots, and residents must walk the parkway to retrieve their mail.

Peck noted that the money budgeted each year for repainting the roads is often untouched, and suggested that these funds could be allocated to bike and pedestrian safety.

"Let's make safety a priority and find some common-sense solutions to what is a problem," the challenger said.

The forum can be viewed in its entirety on OPA's YouTube channel.

Voting materials for OPA's Board of Directors election will be mailed and emailed to eligible homeowners on July 8. Ballots can be cast online, by mail, or dropped off at a box at the community's police building by noon on Aug. 6. The results will be certified at the annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 9.

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OPA residents to vote on fire house funding

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(July 3, 2025) The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department will have a new South Side Station within the next couple of years, if community homeowners approve a referendum to authorize Ocean Pines Association's contribution of up to \$3.4 million to the project. The rebuild could result in a \$50 increase in residents' annual assessment fees if it's green-lit.

Materials for OPA's 2025 Board of Directors election will be mailed and emailed to residents on July 8, and in that packet will include a referendum question asking Ocean Pines citizens to approve a contribution of around \$3.4 million to the new South Station.

The ballot question is worded 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%)?"

A public hearing on the matter was held last week. Residents were allowed to ask OPA and OPVFD representatives questions about the project.

Fire Department President Joe Enste also outlined the current building's deteriorating condition and the plans for the new structure.

According to Enste, OPVFD's South Station, located at 911 Ocean Parkway, must be replaced to meet the fire company's needs. The fire president noted that the department has wanted a new building for decades, with the initial idea for the construction project dating back to 2001.

The association's leadership and the department are anxious to get the initiative underway. The current facility is hindering public safety, and the price tag will only increase as time passes, Enste said.

"Where we're at today is that it is now 2025 and we are still discussing the same thing," Enste said. "And the cost of everything has gone up significantly. So again, we are at the point where we need to decide on how we are going to progress and make sure that it is set up for the future and not just, 'oh, we can get by for now."

Enste said that the South Station was built in 1981. In 1985, a 4,200-square-foot addition was added to accommodate the new EMS side of the department. In 1987, a 500-square-foot addition was made for administrative offices. Since those modifications, only minor improvements have been made to the building, like paintings and replacing kitchen cabinets.

"Structurally, this building has stayed the exact same as it has been since 1987," Enste said.

The design and conditions of the South Station have created issues for the department's staff and volunteers and hinder the quality of fire protection service available for the community, according to Enste.

The engine bay's current setup includes a ladder truck, a rescue truck, a fire engine, three medic units, and all the personal protective equipment for both volunteer and career teams.

"That is challenging for a number of reasons," Enste said. "Number one, when we have an emergency, we have volunteers and career staff coming from different directions to get out into that engine bay.

"At the same time, people are trying to drive these vehicles in and out in an emergency response mode. It provides challenges you need to be aware of, like, is anyone going to run across because they forgot their keys, and things like that."

The engine bay's doors are also only 12 feet wide. Enste said that in 1981 this was standard, as fire trucks

were smaller. Now, the size of these vehicles is growing.

"It's a challenge trying to back a multi-million dollar piece of equipment with maybe six inches of room on each side of you," Enste said.

There is also no proper decontamination area in the South Station, which Enset said was particularly worrisome during the covid-19 pandemic. While this issue is not as prevalent today, the firefighters still need a space to clean off if exposed to smoke and illness. The area designated for decontamination now is missing a shower, leaving just one in the building for the staff.

There are also drainage issues, leaks, and mold concerns. Furthermore, bunk rooms do not have gender separation and are built for one to two overnight employees, as opposed to four today. Enste added that these conditions have made it difficult for the fire company to retain and recruit volunteer staff.

"It's no secret that volunteerism, when it comes to being involved in the fire department, is lessening and lessening every year," he said. "There are still great people out there, and we are still bringing great people in every year, but the days of having a waiting list to be a part of the volunteer fire department are long gone."

Resident Karen Kaplan asked at the public hearing why OPA and the fire department have chosen to construct an entirely new facility rather than renovate the current building. Enste said that the original plan from 2001 was a renovation, but a lot has changed since then. A building committee was created to talk to career and volunteer employees to formulate a list of company needs. This process revealed that a reconstruction was required.

The department's needs include a decontamination room with a shower and toilet, an EMS and fire workshop, fire storage, a storage mezzanine, separate career and volunteer bunk rooms with optional gender separation, multiple toilet and shower rooms, a laundry room, a secure





New fire station possible for OPA

lobby, and training rooms, among others, to ensure a fully operational fire facility.

"Renovation would not be a fiscally responsible decision," Enste said. "There are serious life hazards there. We have plumbing that is backing up. There are places with rusted out ceiling tiles with leaks coming in. We also realized that the way this firehouse is laid out, because it was pieced together, it's an inefficient layout, and the last thing we want to do is put another piece to the puzzle to continue to make it inefficient."

As such, the plan is to do a partial renovation with new construction. While most of the building will be brand new, the engine bay will be renovated.

"There are still good bones in that engine bay," Enste said. "What we are going to do is go through there, fix the drainage, fix the leaks. We're going to expand that area and push out one of the walls to make sure it can fit, so we don't have the fire truck and medic units smashed back to back together."

Once operational, the new South Station would be approximately 15,000 square feet. Shovels are expected to go into the ground in October. It will take around 65 weeks to complete.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines residents will vote on a referendum to permit the homeowners association to spend up to \$3.4 million on a proposed new fire station on the community's south side. Renderings of the potential new facility are pictured.

Career staff will respond from the North Fire Station during construction. Enste said officials did discuss adding temporary trailers, which would cost around \$150,000, to maintain operations at 911 Ocean Parkway. They ultimately decided against it for financial reasons.

Resident and forum moderator Joe Reynolds said that he believes the cost of temporary trailers would be worth it to maintain quick response times for emergency situations on the community's south end. The crowd seemed to agree. As such, Enste said that project representatives will reconsider.

"Our priority is to protect the community as best we can, and if it is part of the community's wishes that they would feel better if we had a temporary facility [at the south station], we will gladly do that," Enste said. "We are just trying to make sure we are getting as many concessions as we can. We want to hear your feedback."

Enste noted that the department has secured \$1.7 million in grants and bonds and has an additional \$750,000 from fundraising efforts and savings allocated for the project.

"That leaves us about \$3.4 million we are looking for in support [from OPA]," Enste added.

If residents vote to allow OPA to contribute up to \$3.4 million, the project could result in an additional cost of up to \$50 on annual assessment fees, OPA General Manager John Viola said. However, this figure is not firm.

While discussion among residents at the hearing revolved around how to best maintain emergency response time during construction and the potential cost to residents, the majority of community members present at the meeting seemed to approve of OPA's funding contribution to the new fire-house.

"I am in support of providing our firefighters with a building that they need to continue their outstanding service to us," said homeowner Marlene Ott.

Board members also emphasized that pushing the project forward is necessary to avoid more price hikes.

"The longer we push it down the road, the more expensive it is going to become," OPA Board of Director Elaine Brady said. "It is important to ensure this firehouse can get what they need and do it quickly. If it costs a little but more money, it needs to be spent. We wait to get bids and sign a contract every month, and it keeps escalating. We have to come to a point where we say, what are the best options? We need to get it started."



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Opinion

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

Incumbents should be returned for new term

Vote 'Yes' on ballot's referendum question

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors candidates forum last week was noteworthy for what it did not do: it produced no shocking revelations, no real moments of truth and no compelling reason to alter the board's membership.

Each candidate came down on the side of fiscal responsibility, as if some other option existed, and pledged to improve communications between the board and association members.

This was no slam-bang debate, but was more of an affirmation that the conduct of association business and operations should continue as is and that this election is more about personalities than it is issues.

Even then, because the board has been functioning relatively quietly and smoothly, change for the sake of change is unwarranted. It is for that reason that we recommend returning Stuart Lakernick, Monica Rakowski and Steve Jacobs to the board for another term.

If there's anything on the ballot going out on July 8 that might give voters pause for thought, it would be the referendum question asking if the association should be allowed to commit up to \$3.4 million to help pay for a new south side station for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Whenever any governing authority asks voters for permission to spend money, people tend to hesitate and ask themselves if it's worth it. In the case of the south station replacement, it's not only worth it, it is essential to the safety of the community.

The existing building is long past its expiration date in terms of functionality and, to some extent, structural integrity.

This isn't some pie-in-the-sky project born of the department's desire to luxe up the place, it's a need that must be filled so the department can do its job properly.

Vote "yes" on the referendum question.

BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW ART COUNCIL OFFICERS

The Worcester County Arts Council has announced its FY 2026 slate of officers, presented during the annual Arts Celebration held on June 11. The newly announced officers are President Tamara Mills, Vice President Kate Cashman, Treasurer Alex Sousa and Secretary Barbara Johnson. Pictured, from left, are Sharon Sorrentino, Administrative Assistant; Cashman; Johnson; Anna Mullis, executive director; Jen Backof, Board member; Alyssa Maloof, Board member; and Mills. Not pictured were Sousa and Ko Gang.

Berlin's community work recognized

(June 26, 2025) Berlin Main Street has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards.

Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of designated programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street ApproachTM.

Main Street America recognizes two tiers of national designation-Affiliate and Accredited. These designations are a powerful advocacy tool, signaling to local stakeholders, as well as city, state, and national funders, that a Main Street program has an established position within a nationwide movement with a 45-year proven track record of generating impressive economic returns, building local capacity, creating welcoming and inviting communities, and creating lasting impact.

"Main Street America is proud to recognize this year's 821 Accredited Main Street America programs for their commitment to building strong and vibrant communities," said Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America. "Their tireless efforts show what's possible when engaged leaders work together to shape places that reflect the people they serve.

The continued impact of our network shows that the Main Street movement remains a powerful force for positive transformation."

Berlin Main Street's performance was evaluated through assessments conducted by the organization's personnel and board of directors, and Main Street Maryland, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify local programs that meet rigorous national community evaluation standards.

These standards provide the Main Street America network with a strong foundational framework to review progress, recognize strengths, understand trends, and identify strategies that move Main Street programs forward. To quality for Accredited status - Main Street America's top designation tier — communities must demonstrate a proved track record of achieving outcomes in alignment with the Main Street Approach and exceptional performance in six areas: broad-based community commitment to revitalization; inclusive leadership and organizational capacity; diversified funding and sustainable program operations; strategy-driven propreservationgramming; based economic development; and demonstrated impact and results.

In 2024, Main Street America programs generated \$7.65 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 6,324 new businesses, facilitated the creation of 33,835 new jobs, rehabilitated 10,126 historic buildings, and logged 1.9 million volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, \$21.73 was reinvested into their downtown and commercial corridor communities.

Berlin Main Street was named a 2025 Top 10 Great American Main Street by Main Street America.

"Berlin's Main Street is thriving because we focus on both preserving history and planning for the future, and this accreditation affirms we're on the right path and motivates us to keep that momentum going," said Ivy Wells, Economic and Community Development Director and Manager of the Berlin Main Street Program and Arts and Entertainment District.

Mayor Zack Tyndall added, "Being accredited with the National Main Street Center is a testament to our commitment to preserving and enhancing the unique character of our downtown. This recognition strengthens our sense of pride and provides a solid foundation for continued growth and success."



Nonprofit recipients of the 2025 Community Foundation Women's Fund grants received a combined \$65,000 to support the needs of women and girls in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Local Women's Fund awards \$65K in grants

(July 3, 2025) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's Women's Fund recently awarded \$65,000 to nonprofits serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. These grants support programs which address the unmet needs of women and girls to create positive change in their lives. The Women's Fund is a giving circle at the Community Foundation which allows members to have a team-approach to philanthropy and charitable network-

The 2025 Community Foundation Women's Fund grant recipients are:

Art League of Ocean City to create a new community of young women leaders that will work together to brainstorm, create, provide, lead and execute arts programming that supports women.

Because I Am My Sister's Keeper to support initiatives for girls ages 14-18 with educational sessions, field trips, and scholarships.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore for the Overcoming Obstacles program, where young girls will engage in team building and develop resilience through obstacle course exercises.

Célébrez la Femme to create the Empowerment Expo, an expansion of their annual Empowerment Summit.

Chesapeake Housing Mission to fund two Women's Builds and a 1 Year to Empowerment team build.

Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake to provide 30 scholarships to 3rd-8th grade girls to participate in the Girls on the Run program at their school.

Help and Outreach Point of Entry to support the women's care program, which provides assistance, supplies, and support for at risk female

Lead4Life Inc. to build workforce opportunities for formerly incarcerated women in the reentry program through career coaching and support for CNA or cosmetology programs.

Oshun's Garden to expand the Sista Circle program, empowering Black women and addressing genderbased violence.

Salisbury Elite to support female centered programming and a self-

The Child & Family Foundation (1 Year to Empowerment) to support programming for the 2025-2026 year, including activities to empower middle and high school girls to make healthy choices, lasting friendships, and attainable goals.

The Salvation Army of Salisbury to expand the Girl Guards and Sunbeams programs, which provide mentorship, character development, and life skills training for girls ages 6-18.

Village of Hope to support transportation needs of transitional hous-

ing residents to ensure access to employment, medical care, childcare, and educational opportunities.

Worcester County Economic Development to aid the creation and delivery of a dynamic workshop and seminar aimed at empowering women in business throughout Worcester County and the surround-

Worcester County GOLD to support GOLD's VAULT (Vast Amounts of Useful Little Things) and Dignity Boxes with items specifically for women and girls in need.





Puzzles

BRINGING A PLUS ONE BY RUTH BLOOMFIELD MARGOLIN AND HANNAH MARGOLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ruth Bloomfield Margolin, of Westfield, N.J., serves on several community philanthropic boards. Her daughter, Hannah Margolin, of Brooklyn, works for an older-adult-services nonprofit. Hannah says she has been solving crosswords with her mom since she was a tween. "My mom used to send me crosswords in the mail at summer camp, and she'd pre-fill the answers she knew I wouldn't know." Now they collaborate in constructing as well as solving. — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Large ____ Collider (facility in Geneva)
- 7 "We need to talk ..."
- 12 Barnvard strutter
- 16 Lazy day attire, for
- 19 Family elder in El Salvador
- 20 Bishop's deputy
- 21 Marine predator
- 22 Luau accessory 23 Make a partner's
- beard presentable for all the photos? 25 Poet hired to write the couple's vows in flowery verse?
- 27 Survey option
- 28 Responded to an alarm
- 29 Increment in an elephant's weight
- 30 Pancake with applesauce or sour cream
- 31 Trample
- 34 Cause of many headaches while planning the big day?
- 37 1980s tennis champ Ivan
- 39 Reeves of "The Matrix'
- 40 Suffix with Caesar
- 41 What's broken for a record?
- 44 Unagi catcher
- 46 Lay low?

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

- on Down the Road," song from
- 52 Tool for a couple who intend to return everything and keep the money?
- 56 Where inner truth is seen clearly?
- 59 Start of a "RuPaul's Drag Race" farewell
- 60 Diamonds, for one 61 Airport alternative to
- 62 Little nobodies 65 Pope who
- excommunicated Martin Luther
- 66 Response to winning a lottery, maybe
- 67 Milk source
- 68 Fancy headpiece ornament?
- 72 Much
- 74 Famous "Dr." who never practiced medicine
- is me, to have seen what I have seen": Ophelia
- 76 Mesmerized
- 79 In the style of 80 Weight of an
- empty container
- 81 Spread the word?
- 83 One side of the Bosporus
- 84 "Absolutely!"
- 86 Colorful sequined jacket that the groom chose to wear?
- 89 Mine find

WE PAY CA

90 Like some online purchases

For Like New & Used Cars & Trucks

- 92 Obsessed with
- 93 Major lobby in D.C.
- 94 Communication that goes without saying, for short
- 96 Trojan War king
- 99 Rugby scuffle 101 One ensuring that
- each family can invite the same number of guests?
- 106 Orthodox Jewish sect
- 110 What wispy swirling lines from a cartoon pie may represent
- 111 Umpire's call 112 Febreze competitor
- 114 Disembodied assistant
- 115 Animal's escort down the aisle? 117 Parent who foolishly
- wore stiletto heels to a garden event?
- 120 Popular 90-min. show
- 121 A bushel or a peck 122 Gather a bushel
- or a peck, perhaps 123 -weenie
- 124 Wee bit
- 125 PlayStation maker 126 Head over heels
- 127 Taxis, typically

DOWN

- 1 Lacks 2 Detest
- 3 One of music's Allman Brothers
- 4 Gender _(prebirth event)
- 5 Fútbol cheer

- 6 "King" Cole's first
- 7 Declare
- 8 Lady Anne, at the beginning of "Richard III"
- 9 Rocker Ric
- 10 Like the Mario Kart games
- 11 Famous "Dr" who never practiced medicine
- 12 Piña colada vessel
- 13 Cousin of a chimp
- 14 Loops in, in brief
- 15 Mudslide component 16 Batter's position
- 17 Spasms
- 18 Menu heading
- 24 Manages
- 26 Dinosaur "from our imagination'
- 29 Thin-sounding
- 32 Off! ingredient 33 Real lulu
- 35 Milk source
- 36 Caboose
- 38 Terms of a contract? 41 Queue before Q
- 42 Get one's ducks in
- 43 Vintage racket?
- 45 Choral arrangement essentials
- 47 Community at the end of the line
- 49 Year-round, as tires
- 50 Starch-yielding palm 51 Parent of Shopping. com
- 53 Driver's warning
- 54 "Away with you!"
- 55 1099, e.g.
- 57 Stayed home for dinner
- 60 Filibuster components
- 63 Wallop

110

115

120

124

- 64 Without change 66 Young pigs
- 69 The "H" in HOMES
- 70 Overly precious
- 71 Lackluster
- 72 F that comes right after A, B, C and D
- 73 Additionally 77 Heap
- 78 "Look! I did it!"
- 81 Make a quick visit

- 82 One looking for a free 98 Like the cheese in ride
- 85 Adjusts sights
- 86 Jack on a nonfat diet
- 87 Awkwafina's given name
- 88 Hoofed creatures that sound up-to-date?
- 91 Galore
- obsession
- Portuguesespeaking country
- fondue
- when a crossword

122

126

- 95 Social climber's
- 97 Second-largest
- 100 How one might feel
 - clue is tricky 101 Blue Ribbon beer
 - 102 "The Hunger Games" venue
 - 103 South Pole trailblazer
 - Amundsen 104 Bagel option 105 Motorsports Hall-of-

Famer Bobby

refuse thy name": Juliet

tag

113 "

123

127

- 116 6, on a phone 117 Leo's movie studio
- 118 FWIW part 119 Helpful word on a

class reunion name

107 Character in "The

108 "Crocodile Hunter"

_ thy father and

Crown"

Steve

109 Digs for data

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 79

121

125

Fill in the blank spaces in

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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Obituaries

STEPHANIE JANE DIETZ

Newark

Stephanie Jane Dietz, 59, of Newark, passed away on June 21, 2025.



Stephanie Dietz

Born on October 24, 1965, Stephanie's early years on a farm shaped a lifetime of love for animals and nature. She was known for her deep connection with her pony Rocket, her pig Wilbur, and a pets and strays that

menagerie of pets and strays that found solace in her care.

Stephanie's mechanical aptitude was evident from a young age, as she could fix nearly anything.stephanie was a baker at Layton's Dip and Donuts for 35 years. Her culinary talents didn't stop at her career; she was an exceptional cook and baker at home, known for her cross-stitching and a range of hobbies including gar-

dening, birding, camping, and fishing.

Her straightforward, resilient nature was balanced by a generous heart. Stephanie's marriage to Michael Dietz was marked by deep companionship and love, enduring for 21 years until her passing.

She is survived by her husband, Michael; her mother and stepfather, Cheryl and David Pace of Glen Arm; her father and stepmother, Stephen and Carol Neukam of Belington, W.Va.; her siblings, Lisa Dehorty of Annapolis, Christine Neukam of Middle River, Md., Lauren Thomas of St. Thomas, USVI, and Jonathan Neukam of Elkins, WV; along with several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Coastal Hospice or the Worcester County Humane Society, honoring Stephanie's love for animals and her community.

MICHAEL PYLYPCZUK

Rerlin

Michael Pylypczuk, born Aug. 20, 1937 in Ukraine, passed away on Sunday, June 22, 2025 at the age of 87 at a nursing home in New York.

Michael was a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin. He then attended Maryland Institute of Art and graduated from Johns Hopkins University before being drafted into the United States Army.

After serving, he became an art



M. Pylypczuk

teacher, working in Maryland and then New York. Once he retired from teaching, he focused on his art and studying his Ukrainian heritage. Michael had one son, Andrew Pylypczuk,

who preceded him in death (2021).

He is survived by one brother, Joe Pylypczuk (Berlin), two granddaughters, and nieces and nephews.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary Notices cost \$50 per week for Print and Online Publications.

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曲曲曲	OPEN HOU	JSES	July 3 - Ju	ly 10	金金金金	
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	
Fri. & Sat. 1-3pm	1 Chester St. The Parke, Ocean Pines	2BR/2BA	Townhome	\$314,999	Su Mei Prete/BHHS PenFed Realty	
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	5 Macafee Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$524,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams 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	12301 Jamaica Avenue #C209, Ocean City	y 1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,900 R	osemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Saturday 11am-1pm	1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$679,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate	
Sunday 10am-12:30pm	11000 Coastal Hwy #1703	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$475,000	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Sunday 10am-Noon	13000 Marina View Lane #19, Ocean City	4BR/4BA	Townhome	\$1,574,900	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	
Monday 10am-Noon	104 127th Street #326B, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$239,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Wednesday 1-3 pm	13000 Marina View Lane #19, Ocean City	4BR/4BA	Townhome	\$1,574,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Wednesday 12:30-2:30p	om 104 127th Street #326B, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$239,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Wednesday 3-5pm	607 S. Surf Road, Ocean City	5BR/3BA	Single Family	\$1,349,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Thursday 1:30-3:30pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,700,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Thursday 2-4pm	10300 Coastal Hwy #1802	1BA/Studio	Condo	\$268,900	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., July 3

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

White Horse Park Pavilion, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Featuring music by Breath of Fresh Air. 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

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME: COLORFUL ANIMALS

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

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

PAINT LIKE ALMA

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Alma Woodsey Thomas was an African-American artist and teacher best know of her abstract paintings. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC CHESS CLUB

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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11:30 a.m. Featuring ice cream with all the toppings. Ice cream donated by Island Creamery. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

'PAINT WITH BOB ROSS' DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Paint a "happy" outdoor scene with a Bob Ross impersonator. Chances to win some ob Ross-inspired prizes. For ages 6-18 years. Registration required: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIY FIREWORKS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines

Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join in for a STEAM adventure. For tweens and teens. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., July 4

JULY 4TH FIREWORKS - DOWNTOWN OC

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City. 8 p.m. Music by DJ Kutt from 8-9:30 p.m. followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Bring a beach chair or blanket and arrive early. https://www.ococean.com/event/july-4th-fireworks/2301/

JULY 4TH FIREWORKS - UPTOWN OC

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 8 p.m. Music by Radio Ocean City's BK and Chrissy from 8-9:30 p.m. followed by a fireworks display. Bring a beach chair or blanket and arrive early. https://www.ococean.com/event/july-4th-fireworks/2301/

4TH OF JULY CARNIVAL & FIREWORKS

Veterans Memorial Park, 11144 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, 4 p.m. Carnival games, music, food & fun. Carnival admission fee: \$20/wristband. Fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m. Parking available in green lot next to Taylor Bank and the OP Library. Handicapped parking onsite.

JULY 4TH FREEDOM 5K

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. Day of registration begins at 7 a.m. Cost is \$30 for advance registration and \$35 for day of. T-shirts included. Wear your best patriotic outfit. Pre-register: events.elitefeats.com/25oceanpines. 410-641-7052

43RD ANNUAL OCMC CANYON KICK-OFF

O.C. Fisherman's Marina, 12806 Sunset Ave., Ocean City, 5-7:30 p.m. Weigh-ins held from 5-7:30 p.m. https://ocmarlin-club.com

SIPPIN' WITH SLOTHS

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 6-8 p.m. Music TBD. 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

Sat., July 5

43RD ANNUAL OCMC CANYON KICK-OFF

O.C. Fisherman's Marina, 12806 Sunset Ave., Ocean City, 5-7:30 p.m. Weigh-ins held from 5-7:30 p.m. https://ocmarlin-club.com

FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE

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

SATURDAY WRITERS

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

RED, WHITE AND ROO

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Kangaroo Walkabout, self-guided tour, special animal ambassadors, live music, outdoor yard games, kids crafts & more. Cost is \$25. Tickets: https://book.singenuity.com/469/activity/details/2292/ra tes. 302-829-1549

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., July 6

43RD ANNUAL OCMC CANYON KICK-OFF

O.C. Fisherman's Marina, 12806 Sunset Ave., Ocean City, 5-7:30 p.m. Weigh-ins held from 5-7:30 p.m. https://ocmarlin-club.com

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring "Radio Tokyo" (Hip hop/R&B/pop with some rock and a touch of country). Kids enjoy free activities and entertainment. Ice cream and beverages available for purchase. 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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

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

Mon., July 7

OC BEACH DANCE PARTY WITH FIREWORKS

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Ocean 98.1 WOCM Presents. Fireworks show starts at 9 p.m.

https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/oc-beach-dance-party/

STORY TIME: COWS

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. Are you ready for an adventure? Munchies included. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ESL CONVERSATION CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join other non-native English speakers for casual conversational practice and a short lesson prepared by an ESL instructor. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. Offering a safe place for families, partners & other caregivers who share the same challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have any type of serious illness. Nicole.Fry@TidalHealth.org, 410-641-2626

WARHAMMER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Use the library's armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos will be available, so novice and veteran players alike are welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 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,

Calendar

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 8

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

STORY TIME @ THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY **MUSEUM**

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts that feature one of the museum's special animals. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrarv.org

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: PETER PAN

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Meet Lenny and Mabel as they hilariously work to bring this literary classic to life in a hysterical play within a play. 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

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: STORYBOOK TALES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Meet Lenny and Mabel as they bring their traveling show featuring Gepetto and his little wooden boy Pinocchio. Then encounter great capers with Robin Hood. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway

Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Providing discussions and mutual support, along with education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, Kay, Kinnikin@TidalHealth.org, 410-641-4765

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.

SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song you would like to share with other players and writers in a welcoming and encouraging space. Original compositions encouraged. Listeners welcome. 410-641-0650.

www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES & VINE: 'THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM' BY **MARIE BENEDICT**

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. An evening of books and wine. Stop by the Snow Hill Library to pick up your book anytime, then meet for a great discussion at Tides & Wine. 410-632-3495,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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.

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

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 9

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

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

www.ococean.com/things-to-do/freefamily-fun/

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

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: PETER PAN

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Meet Lenny and Mabel as they hilariously work to bring this literacy classic to life in a hysterical play within a play. For families. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MERRY MAKERS: UPCYCLED SUMMER WREATH

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. The group will use both found and new materials to create a cheery indoor wreath. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAME

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

BOOK CLUB AT 50PLUS CENTER: 'WHAT THE EYES DON'T SEE' BY MONA HANNA-ATTISHA

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Stop by the Snow Hill Library or the 50 plus Center to pick up your book, then meet for a great discussion. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

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

Betty. Darby-Glime@TidalHealth.org

NAILED IT! MELTING ICE CREAM CUPCAKES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Time to test your decorating skills. For ages 6 years and older. Call to register: 410-208-4014.

www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE OC **LIFE-SAVING STATION MUSEUM**

Summer programs take place at the OC Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., from 10-10:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday, July 7-Aug. 29. Monday - History of Our Surfmen Tuesday - Beach Safety Wednesday - Knot Tying Thursday - All About Sharks Friday - Land, Sky & Sea Saturday - Aquarium Feeding For more info: 410-289-4991, emma@ocmuseum.org

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

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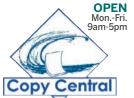
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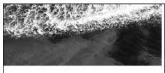




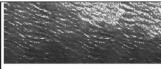












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