

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



JULY 10, 2025

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PHOTO COURTESY DAVE DODSON

MIGHTY BIG BOW

A double rainbow is pictured after a quick downpour Monday night over Robert G. Knox Field at Louis H. Taylor Stadium at Stephen Decatur High School.

New water rates in effect

Commissioners approve increases, but not enough to bail out enterprise funds

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) User rates for public water and sewer customers in Worcester County, including Ocean Pines, will be increased across the board for the new fiscal year – which still doesn't help the county's enterprise funds break even after falling into a deficit.

The Worcester County Board of Commissioners approved the new rates at its June 17 meeting. The rate changes are the direct result of 7 of 11 wastewater districts falling into a deficit because they hadn't been charging enough money from user fees to break even.

The new rates are effective July 1, but customers won't be charged the updated fees on their bills until October.

For Ocean Pines, quarterly domestic and commercial user rates are set as follows: minimum water and sewer \$209 per EDU, with additional charges of \$5 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$15 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons. Quarterly flat domestic sewer-only service is \$241.13 per EDU. Standard assessments for debt service are \$36 per EDU quarterly. White Horse Park lots pay a quarterly flat rate of \$160 per lot for water and sewer. Unimproved lots pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$177.65 per EDU.

County leaders only found out last year that the financial mismanagement had led to, at one point, a collective deficit topping \$2 million.

Each water-sewer district operates as its own account, separate from the county's main fund, and is expected to break even.

According to Worcester County Enterprise Fund Controller Quinn Dittrich, the new water-sewer rates still don't put the individual funds in a position to break even. He said only Ocean Pines and Lighthouse Sound are operating at a surplus with their new rates.

It's been a months-long process for county officials to wrap their heads around the problem and agree upon a solution.

The commissioners admitted that inconsistent oversight led to the crisis and pledged not to pass the burden to ratepayers without exploring alternatives. Some commissioners publicly committed to opposing steep rate

See NEW Page 4

Eagle Scout will upgrade park bridges

Structures would be rebuilt by Parker Gill, with some help from troop members

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) An upgrade is planned for the bridges at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin later this summer to address instability and overgrowth as part of a local student's Eagle Scout project.

Parker Gill of Boy Scouts of America Troop 261 has proposed a rebuild of two bridges at Stephen Decatur Park on the area's pond side. The ini-

See EAGLE Page 7



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Berlin chamber to celebrate Taylor Bank's legacy in style

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) To celebrate 135 years of Taylor Bank in Berlin, the town's chamber of commerce is hosting a 1920s-themed event this weekend 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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New sanitary district rates go into effect

Continued from Page 1

hikes. The commissioners also formed their own internal subcommittee to investigate inefficiencies and propose fixes.

To make up for the deficit, officials initially talked about increasing user rates in areas where the user rates fell short of expenses, before pitching another plan: distribute the \$2.1 million deficit evenly among all 18,000 water and sewer customers. Under this proposal, customers' quarterly bills would have risen \$32 per household, regardless of which district incurred the debt.

By December, at a packed public hearing in Snow Hill, residents expressed outrage over the proposed increases, which would have been almost double in some areas, and denounced the lack of prior notice.

Residents of financially healthy wastewater districts, like Ocean Pines, pushed back. They said it was unfair to make them cover they had nothing to do with. Even Ocean Pines' representative, County Commissioner Chip Bertino, condemned the blanket fee proposal as a "stupid plan" because it punished customers who didn't create the problem.

Ultimately, this universal rate hike was abandoned, in part because it may have violated a county code that requires each district's rates to be set separately. For service areas operating at a deficit, the commissioners finally agreed to cover the deficit using loans and grants

from existing county funds.

The following are the new rates as approved by the Worcester County Commissioners, in alphabetical order by district:

Assateague Point. Quarterly flat user rates are established at \$181.50 per park trailer, which includes water and sewer service. Quarterly flat user rates are set at \$309.38 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) for sewer service only. The quarterly commercial flat rate is \$136.13 per EDU for sewer service only. Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$191.25 per EDU (not yet connected).

Bridgetown. Quarterly flat domestic user rates are set at \$90 per EDU, including water service only. Quarterly minimum commercial user rates are set at \$50 per EDU, including water service only, with additional commercial water charges of \$11 per 1,000 gallons. A flat swimming pool charge of \$100 quarterly and a flat irrigation system charge of \$100 quarterly are established. Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$42.50 per EDU.

Edgewater Acres. Quarterly user rates are set as follows: domestic minimum water and sewer \$230; additional water charges of \$8 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$15 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons; flat domestic water only (not metered) \$220; and flat domestic sewer only (not metered) \$190.

Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$119 per EDU. Quarterly assessment for debt service is established at 2 cents per linear front foot.

The Landings. Quarterly domestic and commercial user rates are set as follows: minimum water and sewer \$360 per EDU, with additional charges of \$5 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$15 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons. Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$306 per EDU. Lewis Road domestic water-only minimum is set at \$60 per quarter.

Lighthouse Sound. Quarterly flat domestic and commercial user rates are set as follows: improved lots pay \$276.38 per EDU for sewer service only, and unimproved lots pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$163.20 per EDU.

Mystic Harbor. Quarterly domestic and commercial user rates are as follows: minimum water and sewer \$300 per EDU, with additional charges of \$5 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$15 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons. Flat rate domestic sewer-only service is \$309.38. The Sunset Village Homeowner's Association shall pay \$75 per EDU quarterly for water service. Sewer assessment for debt service is \$66 per EDU quarterly. Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$255 per EDU.

Newark. Quarterly domestic and

commercial user rates are: minimum water and sewer \$280 per EDU, with additional charges of \$5 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$15 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons. Quarterly flat domestic sewer-only service is \$294.38 per EDU. Newark water assessments are set at \$27 per water EDU quarterly, and sewer assessments at \$55 per sewer EDU quarterly. Unimproved lots pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$238 per EDU.

Riddle Farm. Quarterly domestic and commercial user rates are: minimum water and sewer \$350 per EDU, with additional charges of \$5 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$15 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons. Unimproved lots pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$297.50 per EDU. Riddle Farm assessment for debt service is \$9 per EDU quarterly.

River Run. Minimum quarterly water rates of \$73.15 per EDU, with additional charges of \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons up to 22,500 gallons and \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons over 22,500 gallons. User rates are set as follows: flat sewer \$254.38 per EDU per quarter. Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$206.68 per EDU.

West Ocean City. Quarterly domestic and commercial user rates for sewer are set at a flat rate of \$139.38 per EDU. Unimproved lots shall pay a quarterly accessibility charge of \$46.75 per EDU.

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GOODBYE GATHERING

After 32 years of living in Ocean Pines, Roelof “Dutch” Oostveen, 93, recently relocated to Easton to be closer to family. A farewell party for Oostveen was held on June 25 at Taylor’s Restaurant in Ocean Pines to say goodbye to all his biking buddies in the Worcester Bike Club. Oostveen started the club 30 years ago and retired from biking just last year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Roof, ramp at arts council facility to see improvements

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) The Worcester County Arts Council’s building, located in Berlin, will receive a roof replacement and improvement work to the facility’s handicapped ramp to make it safe and durable, per approval from the town’s Historic District Commission last week. Anna Mullis, the art council’s executive director, came before the commission at its Wednesday, July 2 meeting to request approval to go ahead with replacing the structure’s current, deteriorating roof. The executive director said that the organization has been in contact with Chesapeake Roofing, a local company, which will complete the installation.

Per the commission’s meeting agenda, the proposed shingle material for the new roof is GAF Timberline HDZ in the color “Fox Hollow Gray,” which will offer durability, wind resistance, “advanced protection,” and a “cool-toned, dimensional gray color that complements traditional and coastal-style exteriors.”

Historic committee members maintained that the arts council selected ideal roof shingle material, keeping in line with the artistic aesthetic of Jefferson Street, where the facility is located.

Council officials hope to launch the project soon. According to Mullis, the current roof is creating less-than-ideal conditions for the structure’s safety and integrity.

“We are very anxious to start this project once it’s approved because we have had several issues with leaking windows, and we don’t want it to cause any more damage to the building,” she said.

The Worcester County Arts Council will also make improvements to its handicapped ramp. Mullis stated that the walkway features wooden pickets that are decaying and in constant need of maintenance, posing a hazard to those who use it, such as the elderly and disabled.

The council’s ramp work proposal includes “replacing the pickets with stainless steel cable inserts on both sides of the ramp to ensure greater stability, safety, and reduced upkeep,” the application reads.

The ramp’s current white graspable handrails will remain. Two new 4x4 posts will be placed at the end of the ramp near the council’s front entrance to replace the existing, unstable supports.

“The stainless steel cable system will run continuously through the existing 4x4 posts for added support and a clean finish,” the art council’s proposal details.

Once the ramp is completed, Mullis said that her team intends to do some landscaping work around the new structure to brighten up the space.

The Berlin Historic District Commission unanimously approved the Worcester County Arts Council’s roofing and ramp improvement request.

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Eagle Scout project would provide upgrades for park

Continued from Page 1

tative is to be undertaken as Gill's Eagle Scout project, with the assistance of Town of Berlin staff and fellow Boy Scout troop members.

Gill presented his plans to Berlin's Parks Commission at the group's meeting on Tuesday, July 1. Cody Chesser, Berlin's public works superintendent, who attended the gathering, said that the bridge improvement was already on the town's docket as a project, but will now be spearheaded by Gill, who requested to take it over.

"[Gill] thought it could help the town, thought it could help the parks," Chesser said.

The improvement work will address the deteriorating condition of the current bridges. Gill said that there are missing railing pieces, and what is left is unstable.

"If someone were to put their hand on the railings, they would rock a bit," he said.

The Boy Scout added that there is also overgrowth of vegetation on the bridges, creating a hazard for those walking across.

To address the bridges' issues, Gill intends to relocate the structures' posts to create approximately six to eight more inches of space.

"When I met with [Chesser], he said they would likely be able to get some service vehicles over the bridges [with the modification], so that will help with that problem," the student added.

Gill's blueprint also includes the removal of the up and down railings. This will leave the horizontal, right-to-left fencing in place. Gill noted that the crossed planks are redundant.

"They sort of have the same purpose," he said. "That's just my choice. I didn't think we needed both."

Gill hopes the materials to complete

the project, such as the treated lumber, screws, and nails, will be provided to him for free by Home Depot and The Adkins Company. Gill maintained that these businesses have been "very generous" to his troop in the past. He will also send out letters to family and friends to solicit donations.

The endeavor is expected to begin in mid-to-late August, spanning one to one and a half days. Gill will gather helpers from his Boy Scout troop, and Chesser said that members of the town's public works crew will be on-site to help with the work and handle equipment, such as power tools.

Chesser added that his team plans to chop down a tree that has begun to grow near the bridge. The public works superintendent noted that if left alone, the roots will likely create issues for the structure.

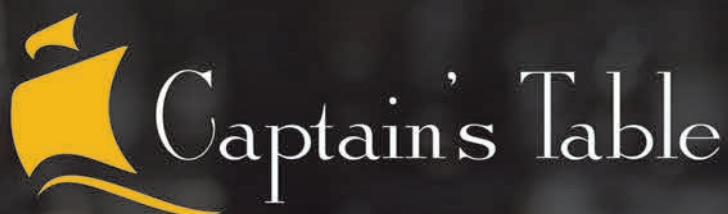
"We want the bridge to be there for 15, 20 years after [Gill]," he said.

Once completed, the structures will likely contain a plaque with Gill's name, his troop number, and those who aided the effort to acknowledge the boy scout's contribution to Stephen Decatur Park. The design of the marker will need to be approved by the Parks Commission and the Berlin Town Council.

Gill said that he was inspired to spearhead the bridge project due to his appreciation for public parks. The student noticed the bridges' disrepair and wanted to solve the issue and create a safe path for pedestrians.

"This is just something that I saw while walking in the park with my dad, it caught my eye mostly because of the missing up and down railings," he said. "A lot of those were broken, and one had fallen onto the bridge."

The initiative is expected to be completed by the end of this summer.



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Open forum on recreation in Snow Hill, public is welcome

County residents invited to hear about future outdoor activities later this month

(July 10, 2025) The public is invited to a town hall meeting with Snow Hill, Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED), and National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Gateways professionals to discuss the future of outdoor recreation and adventure in Snow Hill. The meeting will take place Tuesday, July 15, from 5-7 p.m. in the Worcester County Government Center's first-floor board room at 1 West Market Street in Snow Hill.

"This is an incredible opportunity for Snow Hill to bring our stakeholders and tourism partners together to assess our community's natural assets and chart a path forward to improve their functionality and attraction," Snow Hill Economic Development Director Lorissa Mcallister said. "We encourage everyone in the community to come out and engage in the town hall to ensure all perspectives are included in this


planning process."


This open forum will also focus on opportunities along the Pocomoke River. Community members will have the chance to share feedback, ideas, and visions for improving the unique recreational experiences in Snow Hill for both residents and visitors. NPS Chesapeake Gateways staff will also discuss the programs and opportunities they offer.

All are welcome, and no registration is required. Light refreshments will be provided, and attendees can expect a welcoming, open-dialogue environment where all voices are encouraged.


"We want to hear directly from the community," WCTED Director Melanie Pursel said. "Snow Hill has incredible natural and cultural assets, and this is an opportunity to help shape how they're presented and made accessible to everyone for future generations."

For more information about the town hall, contact WCTED Communication and Marketing Manager Brianna Dix at bdix@marylandscoast.org or call 410-632-3110.






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Grant funding for body-worn cameras for police declining

Worcester Sheriff's Office to likely see less state aid for the costly, required devices

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) As body-worn cameras became mandatory last week for all police officers in Maryland, state grants to cover local law enforcement agencies' costs for the program have declined sharply.

In the last three years, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy awarded the Worcester County Sheriff's Office with more than \$800,000 in grant funding toward body cameras. But this year, they won't know for a few more weeks how much they'll get. The department had applied for \$300,000, the maximum available this grant cycle.

This grant is administered under the Police Accountability, Community, and Transparency (PACT) grant program, and the money flows from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

Law enforcement agencies in Maryland had to be using body-worn cameras starting July 1, 2025, according to a provision in the Mary-

land Police Accountability Act of 2021. That law also repealed the Law Officer's Bill of Rights and required police agencies to create multiple oversight boards.

Ahead of that deadline, sheriff's deputies in Worcester County started using body-worn cameras in January 2023. The program's \$411,542 annual cost includes equipment, cloud storage, warranties, licenses, and tech support.

However, very little county money went toward body cameras in the first two years, the sheriff's office says, because they were awarded PACT funding to defray costs: \$379,905 in fiscal year 2023, and \$382,566

But last year, despite asking for more than \$400,000 in grant funding, the state came back with only \$40,000 in funding.

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli says the availability of grant money has likely shrunk because there are far more police agencies applying for the same grant money due to that July 1 deadline.

A total of \$4 million in state funding was made available for 50 applicants in the PACT program for fiscal year 2026, according to Arinze Ifeakauche, a spokesman for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention

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Sheriff's office looks to grants

and Policy. He said all hands are on deck within his agency to review and award grants as quickly as possible.

In Worcester, 105 body-worn cameras are used by deputies, animal control officers, and fire marshals. For deputies, 42 in-car cameras are in use for patrol vehicles.

Deputies also are equipped with a sensor on their gun holster that automatically activates all Axon-brand cameras when a gun is pulled, according to the county's grant application, which is public record.

Nearly 44,000 gigabytes of digital information have been gathered in the 30-month life of the program, though older footage is purged from the system after a set retention period as new footage is uploaded.

"While it is undeniably a high-cost endeavor, we have found that the body-worn camera program significantly enhances public transparency and police accountability," the application stated.

The program also provides valuable evidentiary material for criminal prosecutions. County officials said more than 90% of cases have been assisted by camera evidence, according to the grant application.

Separately, the sheriff's office also has applied for an \$8,110 grant from the Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement Program, which is also administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. Those awards will be revealed later this month, according to Ifekauche.

Funding would go toward the personnel cost of deputies conducting in-person compliance checks on registered sex offenders. The sheriff's office maintains its own dedicated sex offender registry unit with two deputies specifically assigned. Last year, the same grant program awarded them \$9,096.

The county has 92 people on its sex offender registry, with 16 incarcerated, according to the grant application. From March 3-14, the sheriff's office and partner agencies arrested eight listed offenders for failing compliance checks.

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Artist's screen painting love on display in Ocean Pines

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) The Baltimore tradition of screen painting has made its way to the Eastern Shore, with a local artist's work featured on homes throughout Ocean Pines.

Baltimore native and 30-year Bishopville resident John R. Iampieri has brought the city practice of painting home and storefront windows and door screens over the bridge to Ocean Pines.

Iampieri's work involves taking a piece of screen, washing and priming it, painting an image on the partition, and sealing it with three coats of clear gloss polyurethane.

According to Iampieri, the painting technique is both artistic and functional. The method adds a pop of beauty and intrigue to a home or a storefront while offering privacy to residents. The screen's intricate and colorful image is visible only from the outside. Additionally, while providing a decorative look to a house, the paint conceals the structure's interior from passersby. Those inside, however, can see out onto the street or yard.

"I like the concept that you can see out but no one can see in," said Christina Petrlik-Siegel, an Ocean

Pines homeowner whose back porch and side screens have been painted by Iampieri.

Iampieri has imparted his artistic flair on about 10 houses in Ocean Pines. His most recent project on Boston Drive, commissioned by homeowner Peter Nason, includes detailed images of Worcester County locations and other Eastern Shore landmarks.

Every screen on the house, big or small, showcases iconic spots like the Fenwick Island Lighthouse and scenes from Ocean City and West Ocean City. A large portion of the house's newly painted display includes the journey of horses from Assateague Island as they swim to Chincoteague Island.

Nason hired Iampieri for the project after his neighbor, Petrlik-Siegel, had the mural work done on her home. Petrlik-Siegel's screens are now alive with an aquarium-like portrait of underwater creatures.

"I'm from the Baltimore area," Petrlik-Siegel said. "It was a big thing there to have the screens painted. When I came down here, it seemed like an opportunity for some art."

Now, several homes in Ocean Pines contain intricate, colorful

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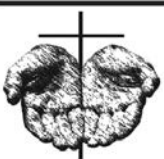


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Woman recognized as Good Neighbor Award recipient

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) Another Ocean Pines resident was recently recognized with the community's monthly Good Neighbor Award for her work with an Eastern Shore youth organization.

At the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, June 28, Missy Carder was honored by the neighborhood's governing group for her involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore. This organization matches adult volunteers with children. The hope is that the older mentors can make a positive impact on the lives of struggling juveniles.

According to OPA Board of Directors member Elaine Brady, Carder spends one-on-one time with her "little sister," a young girl in the community who is navigating a challenging time. Through the program, the pair visit local parks, attend events in and around Ocean Pines, and participate in activities hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"By just showing up, listening, and having fun together, [Carder] is helping her little sister feel supported and valued," Brady said. "She is truly helping change a life for this little girl with one outing at a time."

OPA's Good Neighbor program was

launched at the beginning of this year to recognize community members who donate their time, efforts, and money to help make Ocean Pines and Worcester County a better place.

Residents are encouraged to nominate their friends and neighbors who exhibit do-gooder behavior. According to the Ocean Pines website, examples include organizing clean-ups or block parties, leading food or clothing drives, helping other OPA citizens with yard maintenance and other physically demanding tasks, volunteering with nonprofits, and partaking in beautification work.

"We do this every month because it's nice to recognize people who do small and large things within our community as good neighbors," Brady said.

Each month, a different OPA resident is recognized for their contributions to Ocean Pines and/or the Eastern Shore. Carder was June's honoree, shining light on the good work done by mentors via the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

"It's a very nice thing to do," Brady said. "It's one of the many things people do in our community...all of these little things have big impacts in life."

Nominations for the Good Neighbor Award can be sent to OPgoodneighbors@gmail.com.



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State survey open until Aug. 7

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 10, 2025) Representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration (SHA) are gathering public opinion on bicyclist and pedestrian needs.

In an effort to improve road safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, the State Highway Administration is seeking public comments. The feedback will be used to update the agency's Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Assessment.

"Vulnerable road users are particularly susceptible to being killed or injured in a crash and account for a growing share of transportation fatalities in Maryland and across the United States," a news release from Maryland SHA reads. "The purpose of Maryland's VRU Assessment is to evaluate safety needs for pedestrians, cyclists and any other non-motorists and to update the state's plan to improve safety for these travelers."

This month, the State Highway Administration will host five virtual public meetings, when residents can ask questions and provide feedback on their areas of interest. Meetings will be held from 4-6 p.m. through Microsoft Teams and will focus on specific geographic areas.

The local meeting for 10 of the Eastern Shore counties – including Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset – was held Tuesday, July 8.

In addition to the virtual meetings, SHA has also posted an online survey conducted by the agency's Office of Traffic and Safety. The survey will remain open through midnight, Aug. 7.

"The survey allows participants to use a digital map to provide feedback on their experience walking, biking and rolling on routes that have been identified through the analysis as corridors of interest and suggest enhanced biking and walking infrastructure that could help make Maryland's roads safer for all users," the news release reads.

According to the agency, the VRU Assessment reinforces the Maryland Department of Transportation's Serious About Safety initiative – an enhanced, department-wide program to drive safety goals and save lives – as well as the Complete Streets policy that prioritizes safe, reliable, equitable and sustainable travel across all modes to make roads safer and connect Marylanders to jobs, education and economic opportunity.

For more information, visit the SHA Project Portal at roads.maryland.gov.



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Worcester County Arts Council has announced the recipients of the 2025 Arts Scholarships, awarding a total of \$10,000 to six outstanding students pursuing college degrees in the arts. Recipients included Savannah Chisholm, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Aiden Clayton, Towson University; Genevieve Eggers, Stephen Decatur High School; Teresa Guo, Pocomoke High School; Tirzah Hill, Stephen Decatur High School; and Ja'Mari Savage, Snow Hill High School. Pictured, from left, are Hill, Guo, Eggers, Chisholm and John Sisson, scholarship donor. Not pictured were Clayton and Savage.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

STUDENTS GRADUATE

Wor-Wic Community College graduated seven occupational therapy assistant students in May. The department held an awards and recognition ceremony to signal completion of the occupational therapy assistant program and an official invitation into the profession. Pictured, from left, are Wor-Wic Community College occupational therapy assistant graduates Maxime Fatal and Talia Matthews of Salisbury, Marysol Pereyra of Newark, Savannah Bolick of Hurlock, Ahydia Ward of Salisbury, Kelsie Ridpath of Delmar, Del., and Patty Cabbage of Pocomoke City.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

The guest speaker at the July 2 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City was Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer Weston S. Young who has served for 5 years. Young is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell. He spoke about many of the issues he deals with including county taxes, assessments, Homestead rates, water rates, the budget, salaries, schools, offshore wind, recreation and parks, to name a few.



WYFCS SUPPORT

Worcester Youth & Family Counselling Services held its annual "Shine on The Shore Luau" fundraiser on June 12 at Sunset Grille. The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City annually supports this organization with a donation of \$2,500, which was presented earlier this spring. Kiwanis members attending the function included John Hanberry, Teri Westbrook, Tom and Skip Flanagan, WYFCS Executive Director Dr. Jennifer Leggour, Jan and Bob Wolfing, Ron and Bette Wildgust and Jim Spicknall.

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STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BERLIN FIREWORKS
Berlin kicked off the holiday weekend early with fireworks on Thursday, July 3. The fireworks were set off from Heron Park off Old Ocean City Boulevard.



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Opinion

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

Good citizens' work deserves recognition

Instead of using this space to examine the actions of local governing bodies, or try to explain some involved topic, this week we will recognize the good works of a pair of citizens.

Although their work is unrelated and is taking place in different communities, Parker Gill of Berlin Boy Scout Troop 261 and Missy Carder of Ocean Pines have something in common.

They are giving their time to improve their communities and the lives of people who live in them.

In Carder's case, her involvement with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore has led her to help a little girl in Ocean Pines find her way in life. That's a huge responsibility, but it is one that Carder has assumed as she spends one-on-one time with her "little sister."

Not that she was seeking the attention, but Carder was recognized by the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors last month, when it presented her with its Good Neighbor Award.

Meanwhile, in Berlin, Gill has been organizing his Eagle Scout project, which entails replacing two bridges in Stephen Decatur Park. He will not be doing the work alone but will enlist the help of other members of his troop.

That's all part of the Eagle Scout project process, which, really, is about helping to instill in scouts the leadership qualities that will help them and others throughout their adult lives. These projects not only require scouts to find a way to contribute to the community, but they also must plan, organize and lead the effort.

Considering that only about 4% of all members of the Boy Scouts of America earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Gill's project is about more than attaining scouting's highest rank, it's also about embracing and employing the values that make for a first-class citizen.

Ocean Pines and Berlin are fortunate to have people like Carder and Gill, so it's only fitting that they be held up as examples of how good people can make a difference. Because of that, Missy Carder and Parker Gill, we salute you.

Letter

Schools will be impacted by cuts

Editor,

I am writing this letter to educate the community about how the proposed federal funding cuts will negatively impact our schools and our broader Eastern Shore community.

I am expressing deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed "Big Beautiful Bill." This is not about politics, democrats or republicans. This is about our schools and our children.

While its title may suggest promise, the bill threatens to eliminate or significantly reduce funding for critical programs, including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants. These grants are not just federal line items — they are lifelines to the students and families in our local communities.

In Worcester County alone, this funding supports vital afterschool programming and summer learning academies, which provide learning and meals for students who need it most: students receiving special education services, children living in poverty, and families who often lack the resources to fully support their children's academic and developmental needs.

Stripping away these supports would be nothing short of devastating. We have seen firsthand the difference that access to extended-day programming makes — not just academically, but emotionally and socially — for our youth.

These programs provide a safe, structured environment after school hours and during the summer, when many families struggle to find adequate care, academic reinforcement, or consistent meals. Without this funding, we would be forced to turn away students who rely on us most.

I respectfully urge you to contact your Congressman and ask them not to support these spending cuts and instead work to protect and preserve 21st CCLC funding. I also ask members of our community to amplify our voice of opposition and advocate for the children and families whose well-being will be directly and negatively affected by this legislation.

*Tamara Mills
Snow Hill*

Historic group okays Berlin projects

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) Last week, the Berlin Historic District Commission approved a slew of additions and storefront adjustments for a few businesses in town.

Kelly Dean of Sylvie Rose LLC, a flower shop at 17 Jefferson Street in Berlin, came before the commission at its Wednesday, July 2 meeting. She asked the historic district group to approve her request to add a vinyl decal to an existing sign structure on the roof of her business.

The new addition will display, in vinyl lettering, the company's name, "Sylvie Rose," with "floral designs" underneath. The decal will be placed on the surface of a sign structure currently attached to the building.

According to Dean, the existing sign attachment is a 108 inches wide by 48 inches tall wooden frame with a flat metal surface, which will remain as is. The lettering will be added to the structure and will occupy the entire interior space of the frame. Dean said that the decal will be professionally designed and printed by the Queen Anne-based company, Sign Connection. The logo will be safe for outdoor use and can be easily removed from the frame and replaced as needed.

Currently, lights are hanging over the frame. These fixtures will remain, Dean said.

Berlin's Historic District Commission unanimously approved the floral shop's signage request.

Kevin and Brianne Chmielewski also appeared before the commission to request adjustments to the storefront of their snowball stand, On Thin Ice, a new Berlin business that opened this summer.

The pair sought the group's approval to place a sign with the stand's logo to the building's brick, above the old bank teller window. On Thin Ice owner Kevin Chmielewski said that the attachment will resemble synthetic wood and will be 18 inches high by 48 inches wide.

Additionally, the Chmielewskis requested permission to attach a menu sign to the building's old deposit box, holders for an American and Maryland flag, which will likely be made of stainless steel, and an 18x18 window

clinging with the company's logo to the structure's glass side door.

Berlin staff said that they will have to measure the size of the glass door to make sure the 18x18 window cling is an appropriate amount of signage for the area.


The historic commission approved the On Thin Ice owners' requests, with the stipulation that the cling's measurements pertaining to the side door's size meet the town's code, to be determined upon further research.

A structure at 13-15 South Main Street, owned by longtime local businessman Billy Esham, was also approved for modifications at the historic district commission's July 2 meeting. The facility, a former warehouse, has been converted into a small furniture market.

As such, a green sign with white letters, reading "Berlin Furniture Market," will be placed on the building's front. According to the district's meeting agenda, the attachment will be made of medium density overlay plywood.

The furniture sign request was approved unanimously by the commission.

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

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New fiscal year brings changes across Md.

By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

(July 10, 2025) Members of the local delegation to the Maryland General Assembly say new fees and tax provisions taking effect this week will affect Worcester County residents.

During the 2025 legislative session, the General Assembly passed its Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, which makes several changes to Maryland's tax law beginning July 1, the start of a new fiscal year.

The legislation includes new provisions for income tax — such as adding new tax brackets, repealing the phase-in of the standard deduction, increasing the standard deduction by 20% and more.

The act also establishes a 2% surcharge on capital gains income in excess of \$350,000, and implements a 3% sales and use tax on certain data and information technology services.

"We'll see that tax showing up in everything from your data processing to media streaming, to film and music services, and computer software design services," Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) said. "It will hit everybody."

Both Carozza and Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C) shared their disappointment this week over several new taxes and fee increases, which they say will place an economic strain on local residents already struggling to make ends meet.

They argued the state's approach to raise revenues will cost its residents and businesses.

"Today is money day," Hartman said, "and with Maryland facing a \$3 billion deficit, unfortunately there were a lot of tax increases for Marylanders."

Gov. Wes Moore has said the legislation would balance the budget, provide structural deficit relief and spur economic growth. In his testimony before the House Appropriations and Ways and Means committees this winter, he said the bill increases revenues while providing tax cuts for two-thirds of Marylanders and protecting key industries.

However, Hartman argued the legislation could push high earners and consumers, particularly those on the Eastern Shore, into neighboring states.

"People will do things differently to avoid paying those taxes," he said. "It will include moving for some."

Local officials also pointed to increased fees for vehicle registration, new tires and emissions tests, as well as new fees for the processing and issuance of on-site sewage disposal permits and individual well construction permits.

"It is no doubt that tax and fee increases will hit Marylanders across the board," Carozza said. "These are significant increases, which is why I am opposed to them. And when you get to the Eastern Shore, these fees for onsite

sewage disposal permits and well permits will hit us hard."

In addition to new taxes and fees, local representatives say other bills take effect this week, including one that will give the state more control over local solar projects.

Specifically, the legislation gives the state's Public Service Commission the final say on the potential size and scope of large-scale solar farms in rural areas. The bill also says local jurisdictions must process site plan applications for solar fields generating up to five megawatts of electricity as a permitted use.

Solar fields generating more than five megawatts would be prohibited in higher density or growth areas, and capped at 5% on forest or agricultural land marked for preservation.

Local lawmakers said the legislation would be revisited at the next session of the Maryland General Assembly.

"Given the fact that this solar bill will continue to be opposed at the local level, and given that we pushed to have the governor veto the legislation, you will see efforts to try and lower that cap on solar development in each county's priority preservation area next session ...," Carozza said. "Of all the bill hearings I participated in this past session, this had the highest number of participants coming from the shore in person to testify in Annapolis, and it was extremely emo-

tional as we had farm families explaining and advocating for our way of life on the Eastern Shore."

Other notable bills taking effect this week include the Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act, which received the support of both Carozza and Hartman. Carozza said the legislation encourages more ecofriendly farming practices.

"It's a way to recognize that our farmers can play even more of a role in protecting the environment by the type of sustainable practices they put into effect ...," she said. "It also allows our commercial fishing industry to process fish using a Japanese technique known as ikejime and selling directly to restaurants."

Ikejime, which involves separating a fish's brain and spinal cord, is viewed as a faster and more humane way of dispatching fish once caught. That process reduces bacterial infection and the release of stress-related hormones.

Carozza also highlighted new legislation that will suspend, rather than revoke, a waterman's oyster authorization for committing the first violation.

"It eliminates the lifetime revocation of a waterman's oyster license for a first-time violation," she explained. "It will enable more of our watermen to return to work."

A complete list of bills taking effect July 1 can be found on the Maryland General Assembly website.



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Puzzles

ALL-IN-CLUE-SIVE
BY MIKE HOBIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Mike Hobin is a real estate agent in Chicago. This is his second crossword for The Times — both Sundays. His starting point for the theme was 29-Across, which he stumbled upon by accident. Finding other examples took weeks of trial and error. Mike's favorite is 46-Across, which was the last one he got. "I woke up one morning with it stuck in my head." — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Muslim leader

5 Daffy Duck, for one

10 Grueling process

14 Unlocked?

18 Consideration in the dating scene

19 TV or radio station

20 Capitulate

21 Sacrificial site

22 Apt clue for the circled letters

25 Famed actress who portrayed Queen Christina in 1933's "Queen Christina"

26 The Washington Monument, e.g.

27 Twistable piece on Mr. Potato Head

28 Eclectic cuisine style

29 Apt clue for the circled letters

35 Makes amends?

37 Relative of a zither

38 Caroler's tune

39 Mind-clearing chants

40 Takes down to the studs

41 "Mighty" Mudville batter

43 Staff symbol for violists

45 Goon

46 Apt clue for the circled letters

53 Tart or torte

55 R.p.m. gauge, for short

56 "Parks and Recreation" character who says "Fishing relaxes me. It's like yoga, except I still get to kill something"

57 Stadium chant

58 Corp. worker concerned with employee development

60 Choice on "Let's Make a Deal"

62 What duelists and doodlers do

63 Apt clue for the circled letters

71 Employee welfare org.

72 Issue with a scratched record

73 Stick out

74 He rhymed 19 different words with "Lenore" in his most famous work

75 See 75-Down

78 Some GPS calculations

80 Ax handlers, perhaps

84 Apt clue for the circled letters

89 A.E.L.-

90 Hardware/software expert, in brief

91 Exposed

92 Variety of plant whose name is pronounced differently in the U.K. than the U.S.

93 "Geez Louise!"

95 Some fine art

97 Remaining

98 Kentucky Derby prize

99 Apt clue for the circled letters

104 Ajar, say

105 Park, suburb of Chicago

106 "Hey Ya" hip-hop duo

109 Product in the paint department

110 Apt clue for the circled letters

115 Write by hand not using cursive

116 Previously

117 "The ____ is ..."

118 At this point

119 Stuff thrown over one's shoulder in an act of superstition

120 Paint brand with an animal in its logo

121 "Ditto!"

122 Onetime high-speed fliers, for short

15 Open, light-filled area

16 Works, works, works

17 Bagpipe's sound

21 fresca (refreshing Latin American beverage)

23 Afflicts

24 Like a \$2 bill

28 Became the duty of

30 Besides

31 Russian rebuff

32 "You don't know what you're missing!"

33 Pixar film that takes place in the Land of the Dead

34 Happen again

35 Old-style "OMG!"

36 Fool

41 Wispy streaks in the sky

42 Pile of chips, maybe

44 Many, many moons

46 ____ ball

47 Did as expected on the links

48 Class with many graphs, in brief

49 "Beat it!"

50 Sped

51 Stylish vigor

52 California ____ amphibian whose slippery skin produces a toxin lethal to humans

54 Branch of Islam

59 There are eight in a gallon: Abbr.

61 Seasoning blend

62 Contacted on social media, for short

63 Fuzz

64 Not worth ____

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

65 Entertainer who doesn't sound very selfish?

66 ____-Ball

67 "Runaway Bride" actress Wilson

68 Breastfeed

69 Obscure

70 Jennifer who wrote "A Visit From the Goon Squad"

75 With 75-Across, hearty baked entree

76 Bring to the country

77 Hair-raising

79 Item turned upside down at a bar's closing time

81 They barely scratch the surface

82 Name on Irish stamps

83 Blubbers

85 "... if you get my drift"

86 The Big Easy, in brief

87 Cousin of a Nebula Award

88 School founded as Kyng's College of Our Ladye of besyde Windesore

92 Pipes smoked at some lounges

93 Phrase meant to be repeated

94 Attack

96 Incompetent person, so to speak

97 Rug rat

98 Campus mil. group

99 Thresholds

100 Patty or Selma, to Bart and Lisa

101 Tattoo-removing option

102 "You couldn't be more wrong!"

103 Video game brother

107 Ilk

108 Square root of nueve

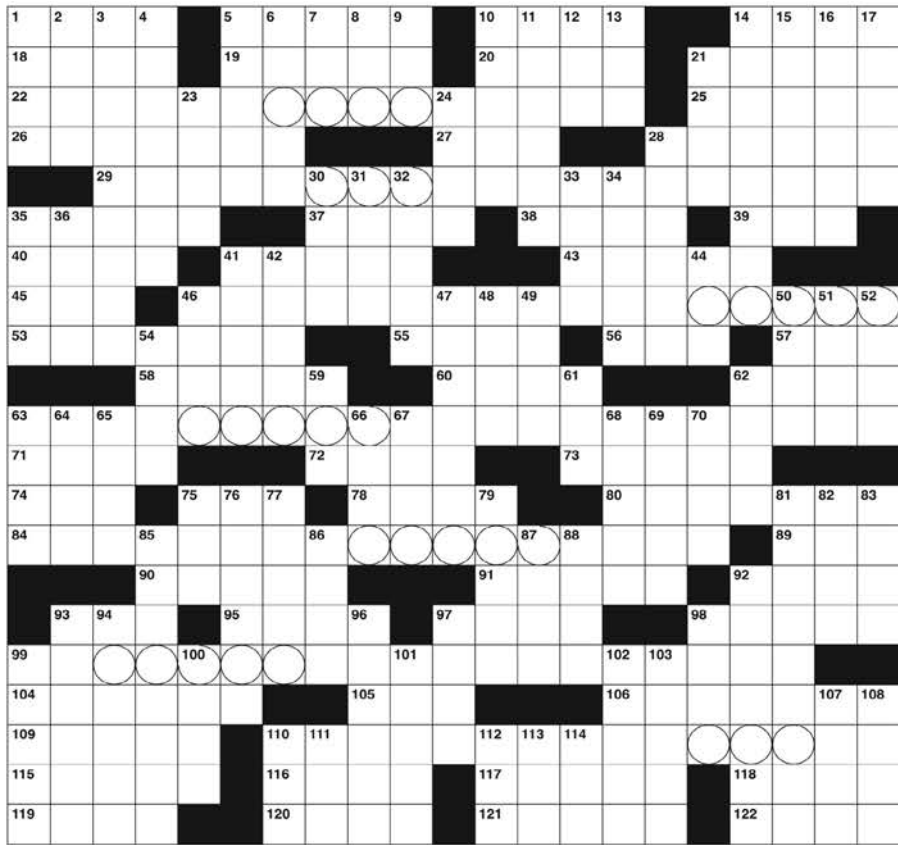
110 Group of Black Friday shoppers, say

111 Half and half

112 "We come in peace" speakers, in brief

113 Pi follower

114 Help



65 Entertainer who doesn't sound very selfish?

66 ____-Ball

67 "Runaway Bride" actress Wilson

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HARD - 78

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.

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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GRIFFREGISTRY

XRAYLAB

BONO

SASHAY

SUIT

LGA

TWERPS

LEOX

SPREE

SOY

FEATHER

OF THE

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SCRUM

PARITY

PLANNER

HASIDIM

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GLADE

SIRI

BEASTMAN

MOTHER

INLAWN

SNL

UNIT

GLEAN

TEENIE

TAD

SONY

MADLY

SEDANS

Communication key to planning committee

Strategic group exploring ways to show community survey results considered

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Strategic Planning Committee is seeking to enhance membership communication through a regular article or an updated webpage, informing the community about ongoing activities and initiatives that have been most frequently mentioned in recent surveys.

OPA's strategic planning group met late last month, where they brainstormed how to best communicate to residents that projects referenced in feedback-gathering efforts collected earlier this year have been heard, and if and how they are being prioritized by OPA staff.

Rob Keesling, chair of the strategic planning group, said his team and the OPA's Communications Committee have been working together on a possible outlet to inform Ocean Pines homeowners about how their concerns are being addressed. Communications Committee member Connie Corbett attended the strategic planning team's meeting, where she presented her idea of publicizing survey outlets via the quarterly newsletter, a regularly published article, or a constantly updated webpage. The survey findings will be accompanied by an explanation of how the association is handling the feedback.

"We have an opportunity with the survey to match the statistics with specific actions that have been taken," Corbett said. "The improvements, the outcome. I've heard a lot of good things about the amenities being self-sustaining and generating a net profit. If we can marry that action and impact with the survey, what we have is an opportunity for a branding campaign to describe that we hear you, we have your input, and we have a strategic plan."

Corbett noted the strategic plan is available on the Ocean Pines official website and aligns with OPA General Manager John Viola's monthly recaps of new and ongoing initiatives, such as the new racquet center and bocce ball courts; however, the webpage is seldom updated.

"We could match up the survey results with the corresponding strategy and show how the departments are aligned to support and address these various issues," Corbett added.

This information could be compiled into an article that the association publishes regularly or promoted on the community's social media channels. Corbett noted that these reports could be divided into "snackable content," in which a few items, expressed as priorities by homeowners, such as safety and infrastructure,

are bundled together. The communications committee member added that these promotional or "campaign" materials would likely be an ongoing occurrence.

"I use the word campaign because I don't think this is a one-time article where you contact a reporter and get it in a newspaper and be done," she said. "I feel like there is a theme, if you will. A campaign is eternal. We can take small pieces of the survey, of the actions, the progress that [Viola] reports to the board, and develop snackable content so we can promote that in various ways, whether that's social media, or it's mentioned at the board meeting. He's connecting his team's results with what the community has said."

Corbett said that this information could also be incorporated into OPA's quarterly mailings or could be used to create a strategic plan progress report on OPA's website.

Additionally, according to Corbett, these updates about the community-wide efforts could quell negative social media comments. If people are

unaware of an upcoming update to an aging building, they are more likely to take to Facebook to comment on its disrepair.

"Not everything is perfect," Corbett said. "You won't find a perfect community, and I don't want us to be concerned with trying to debate or deflect any of the negative comments. Those are going to come. But I think

if we can create an understanding of what is happening out there, that is the power of a survey. That way people feel like they're heard, they're seeing action, and they'll have more of a positive outlook on the community."

Keesling added that a key step in updating the community's strategic plan efforts is strengthening the synergy of the advisory committees. The committee chair stated that maintaining constant communication among the groups is vital in avoiding overlapping project conversations, ensuring each team spends its time as productively as possible.

"This might be another way to say, this is what the survey says about pools, let's go talk to aquatics," he

said. "Or, let's go talk to Parks and Rec. What actions are they taking? What are the advisory committees at large reporting on what they're doing and what they have going forward? And doing it regularly."

The strategic planning team's next step will be to accumulate survey feedback, research the steps being taken by advisory committees and staff to address membership concerns, and confirm progress with Viola, Keesling said. The effort will be ongoing, with updates occurring often.

The strategic planning and communications committees hope that the initiative will inform OPA residents on upcoming and tabled projects. A regularly updated report card, Corbett said, can also help keep citizens in the know on when necessary endeavors are taking place. For instance, she noted that maintaining a schedule of road paving can ease homeowner worries.

"I think it's important to use all of our communication outlets to continue to remind people what they said, and here's the progress and giving them a resource to go to," she said. "Like when people's roads are scheduled to be paved. So, people are now empowered. They have that information."

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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 10

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Free concert by Tranzfusion, views of the sunset over the Isle of Wight Bay and free admission. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sunset-park-party-nights/>

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
White Horse Park Pavilion, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Featuring music by Uptown Band. 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

STORY TIME: COLORFUL ART
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

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

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: PETER PAN
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 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. 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

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: STORYBOOK TALES
Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center, 103 Market St., Pocomoke City, 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. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FANCY NANCY PARTY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join in for “tea,” tattoos and tutus. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome. Register: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

Isle Lane, Ocean City, 4-8 p.m. World’s largest tuna tournament. Weigh-ins held from 4-8 p.m. Spectators can enjoy cocktails, food and vendors selling everything from boats and tackle to jewelry. <https://octunatournament.com>

SECOND FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION FOR JULY EXHIBITS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. In observance of the July 4th holiday we will be hosting a SECOND Friday Opening Reception for our July exhibitions! FREE. All are welcome. 410-524-9433

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

ANIME ART
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Choose a favorite character to create. From Hello Kitty to Pikachu, the library has them all. For ages 6 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A great opportunity for babies (0-2 years) and their caregivers to socialize, play, read and explore in the library’s play space. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC MAHJONG CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own tile set. All adults are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MOVIE MATINEE: SHARK WEEK MOVIE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come celebrate Shark Week with this infamous 3D shark movie starring Dennis Quaid. Glasses provided. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIY KOMBUCHA
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join Michaela Eggers and learn all about kombucha, its benefits, and how to make it yourself. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SIPPIN’ WITH SLOTHS
Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 6-8 p.m. Music by Bryan Scar. 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

FAMILY FORT NIGHT
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 6:30 p.m. Build a fort, read in the stacks and play some games, all when the library is closed. For ages 6-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO
Fridays - Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, behind St. Luke’s Church. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks available before bingo and at intermission. 410-524-7994

Sat., July 12

38TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY TUNA TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Fishing Center, 12940 Inlet Isle Lane, 4-8 p.m. World’s largest tuna tournament. Weigh-ins held from 4-8 p.m. Spectators can enjoy cocktails, food and vendors selling everything from boats and tackle to jewelry. <https://octunatournament.com>

2025 PRO FOOTVOLLEY TOUR
Ocean City Beach at N. Division St., 1 N. Division St., Ocean City, 4-8 p.m. Watch pros from Team USA compete in finals. Opportunities for beginner as well. <https://footvolley.net/pro-footvolley-tour-returns-to-mid-atlantic-with-stop-6-in-ocean-city-md-july-12-13/>, 305-213-3275

SLIPPERY STAIRS
Ocean City Beach at N. Division St., 1 N. Division St., 7-11 p.m. Challenging contestants with unpredictable steps, slippery slime, dodging balls in the challenge of being the first to the top. <https://www.instagram.com/theslipperystairs/>, 949-412-7023

SUMMER SPORTS SAFARI AKA S3 FESTIVAL
Atlantic Hotel, Inc, 403 S. Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Offering a unique blend of sand lacrosse, beach volleyball Footvolley, spike ball and teqball. Also, food, music and vendor booths. Tournament teams and drop-ins welcome. <https://www.s3festival.com>, 970-792-7818

ANNUAL SUMMER PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, OJ, coffee and tea. Carryout available. Cost is \$9 for adults, and \$5 for kids 11 years and younger. Proceeds benefit the youth the

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

FAMILY LIBRARY DAY: ART EXPLORATION
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m. Get creative and explore your artistic side. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANIME ART
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12:30 p.m. Choose a favorite character to create. From Hello Kitty to Picachu, the library has them all. For ages 6 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

THE DELMARVA CHORUS’ ANNUAL CHORUS SHOW
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7 p.m. “Coffee, Tea & Who Dun It Harmony.” Free coffee, tea, & homemade desserts, door prizes, a 50/50, raffles, raffle baskets and more. Tickets cost \$15. Tickets: Barb, 814-421-3437 or Elaine, 410-703-1262.

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 13

38TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY TUNA TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Fishing Center, 12940 Inlet Isle Lane, 4-7 p.m. World’s largest tuna tournament. Weigh-ins held from 4-8 p.m. Spectators can enjoy cocktails, food and vendors selling everything from boats and tackle to jewelry. <https://octunatournament.com>

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SUMMER SPORTS SAFARI AKA S3 FESTIVAL
Atlantic Hotel, Inc, 403 S. Baltimore

Fri., July 11

38TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY TUNA TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Fishing Center, 12940 Inlet

Calendar

Ave., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Offering a unique blend of sand lacrosse, beach volleyball Footvolley, spike ball and teqball. Also, food, music and vendor booths. Tournament teams and drop-ins welcome. <https://www.s3festival.com>, 970-792-7818

OC CRUZERS ON SOMERSET PLAZA

Somerset Plaza, Somerset Street, Ocean City, 3-6 p.m. Free, family-friendly car show featuring classics, hot rods and customs from the OC Cruzers Car Club. Also featuring live music by “Troy Sawyer.” <https://ocdc.org>

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Be Kind and Rewind” (the ultimate tribute to 90s alternative). Kids enjoy free activities and entertainment. Ice cream and beverages available for purchase. Concluding with fireworks.

2ND SUNDAY BERLIN ART & VINTAGE MARKET

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

JIMMY JOHNSON'S CHAMPIONSHIP FISHING WEEK RETURNS TO ATLANTIC CITY, NJ AND OCEAN CITY, MD

Sunset Marina, 12911 Sunset Ave., Ocean City, 5 p.m. Tickets \$3000. Jimmy Johnson “Quest for the Ring” Championship Fishing Week is making its highly anticipated return to Atlantic City, NJ and Ocean City, MD from July 13-19, 2025.

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

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

SEWING FOR A CAUSE

Sundays - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to sew while making a difference. 410-641-0234

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., July 14

OC BEACH DANCE PARTY WITH FIREWORKS

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Radio Ocean City present BK & Chrissy. Fireworks show starts at 9 p.m. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family->

[fun/oc-beach-dance-party/](#)

GAME DAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Drop in to play games all morning. From Mario Kart to chess, challenge yourself. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: SHARK AWARENESS DAY

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

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness may boost health and psychological well-being. The group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TIME TRAVEL WITH MARY KATHARINE GODDARD

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Mary Katharine Goddard comes alive to share her journey as a Maryland publisher and first Federal postmaster. Researched, written and performed by Rosemarie Law. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIBER CRAFT MEET-UP

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

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

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Held July 14-17. The theme is “Abundance Orchard: Where faith grows and people are fed.” Supper, stories, crafts, games, music and fellowship. info@bethanyberlin.org, 410-641-2186

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 15

TIME TRAVEL WITH VIRGINIA HALL

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-7 p.m. Join performing artist Rosemarie Law as she steps into the shoes of Virgina Hall, WWII spy and hero. Cost is \$5 per person. Register: 410-641-7052.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey, followed by a Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet, or papers containing family information, if possible. 410-208-4014

PLAY TIME @ CYPRESS PARK

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

STORY TIME

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

CIRCUS SCIENCE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join silly scientist Gregory May on a tour of the scientific principles behind his circus skills. Best for ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

CIRCUS SCIENCE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join silly scientist Gregory May on a tour of the scientific principles behind is circus skills. Best for ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

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.

SURGICAL CLASSES

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

CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

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

BEACH HEROES-OC

Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page “Beach Heroes-OC” for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

Tuesdays - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: TangobytheBeach.com.

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

Wed., July 16

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring “The Jungle Book.”
Continued on Page 24

Calendar

Continued from Page 23
Free, family-friendly event. Bring blankets, chairs, snack, drinks and warm clothing. Weather permitting. www.ocean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/

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

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meets the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities, and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CIRCUS SCIENCE
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join silly scientist Gregory May on a tour of the scientific principles behind his circus skills. Best for ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818,

www.worcesterlibrary.org
BACKGAMMON CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of backgammon, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

PURRFECT THRIFTED PORCELAIN
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Cats invade the night as the group revamps thrifted plates and dishes. Refreshments provided. All supplies provided. Registration required: 410-632-3495, 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
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

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 Surfmens
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

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN'S 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS IN JULY RAFFLE
Women Supporting Women, 1320 Belmont Ave., Salisbury, June 1-July 25. Tickets \$10. Daily raffle to win prizes for the 12 days of Christmas in July. 410-548-7880

LOUIS PARSONS III MEMORIAL PHOTO CONTEST OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS
OC Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., April 1-Sept. 1. Entry fee is \$5 per entry. Category winners will be announced on Nov. 1. <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/oceancitymuseumsociety>, 410-289-4991, emma@ocmuseum.org

QUEEN OF HEARTS
Weekly virtual drawings on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Winner receives 60 percent of jackpot. www.opvfd.com/queen-of-hearts. Sponsored by the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.



OPEN HOUSES

July 10 - July 17



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
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 1-3 pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue, C209, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 5-7pm	12304 Southhampton Drive, Bishopville	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$1,250,000	Greg Erdie/BHHS PenFed Realty
Friday 5-7pm	12428 Sea Oaks Lane #4, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Townhouse	\$584,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	13031 Hayes Ave #4, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Townhome	\$585,000	Christine McCoy/The Real McCoy Group
Sat. 10:30am-12:30pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue, C209, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat. 10am-12:30pm	11438 Manklin Creek Rd, The Parke/Ocean Pines	3BR/3BA	Townhome	\$449,900	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed 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	87 Boston Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$364,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	7 Widows Watch Court, Ocean Pines	3BR/3BA	Single Family	\$1,165,000	Sherry Thens/The Real McCoy Group
Saturday 11am-1pm	21 Birdnest Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$519,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1-4pm	2015 Points Reach Unit 2105, Ocean Pines	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$899,000	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	17 Alden Court, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$549,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 10am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sunday 11am-1pm	10300 Coastal Hwy #1802	1BA/Studio	Condo	\$268,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-2pm	12428 Sea Oaks Lane #4, Berlin	5BR 4.5BA	Townhouse	\$584,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday Noon-2pm	35202 Dogwood Drive, Selbyville	4BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$550,000	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Tuesday 2-4 pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue, C209, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 1-3pm	10300 Coastal Hwy #1802	1BA/Studio	Condo	\$268,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 3:30-5:30pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,700,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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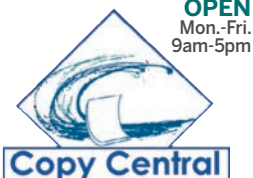
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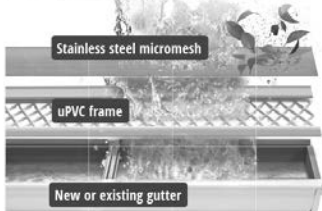
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