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# AZETTE

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

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#### FIRST DAY

Approximately 6,841 students returned to the 14 schools within the Worcester County Public School system on Tuesday. Above, Superintendent of Schools Annette Wallace and Board of Education member Bill Buchanan walk the halls on Tuesday with students from Berlin Intermediate.

#### Strategic Planning pledges status reports

Committee wants to show residents officials hear what they've been saying

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Strategic Planning Committee decided last week to issue a regular progress report to residents on amenity improvements, initiatives

advancements and the feasibility of homeowner desires.

At the committee's meeting last week, the group discussed its effort to draft a quarterly report card to keep homeowner association members informed about the status of work being done.

The documents would likely be presented as a press release sent out by OPA's public relations team and would include updates from various advisory committees about current and future endeavors.

Rob Keesling, strategic planning committee chair, directed members of his group to speak with the heads of different advisory teams, inquiring about recent improvements made to the other amenities, such as beautification of an area or extended pool hours.

The results will be discussed at the See COMMITTEE Page 11

#### **Berlin to kick off** fall event lineup

**By Tara Fischer** 

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) As summer draws to a close, the Town of Berlin will kick off its lineup of fall events, inviting community members to engage in autumnal, family-friendly fun.

See BERLIN Page 10



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# Ocean Pines offering fitness classes and more in autumn

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) With summer coming to an end, Ocean Pines Association's Recreation and Parks Department is gearing up to offer new and returning activities and programs this fall and winter.

In an effort to promote fitness, OPA's rec team is offering various sessions of afternoon Zumba classes this off-season, held on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the OPA Community Center. The current six-week series began on Aug. 13 and will run until Sept. 17. Drop-ins are \$10.

Additional Zumba classes will be offered in packages of five or six weeks, all on Wednesday evenings, from Oct. 1 to Nov. 5, Nov. 12 to Dec. 17, Jan. 7 to Feb. 11, Feb. 18 to March 25 and April 1 to May 6. The Nov. 12 to Dec. 17 series is only five classes, as no Zumba will be hosted the week of Thanksgiving.

The five-week session is \$40 for Ocean Pines residents and \$45 for non-residents. The six-class packages are \$45 for OPA citizens and \$50 for those who live outside the community. Drop-ins will also be available for \$10 each class.

In the same vein, Zumba toning, an exercise that combines dance moves with strength training, will also be offered by OPA this fall and winter, and into spring.

Classes will be hosted on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. from Oct. 9 to Nov. 13, Jan. 8 to Feb. 12, Feb. 19 to March 26 and April 2 to May 7. Each six-week series is \$45 for OPA residents and \$50 for nonresidents

Furthermore, OPA will host multilevel yoga this fall on Tuesdays from Sept. 9 to Oct. 14 and Oct. 28 to Dec. 2 at 8:15 a.m. The lessons offer an introduction to basic yoga poses. Instructors will lead flows that focus on alignment, strength, endurance and balance. Participants are required to bring their own yoga mats.

The yoga sessions are \$40 for Ocean Pines residents and \$50 for nonresidents. Drop-ins are offered for \$10 a class.

For a less traditional fitness method, the community will have tai chi at the community center on Tuesdays from Sept. 9 until Dec. 23 from 9:40 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

According to an OPA ad, "Tai chi is clinically proven to be one of the most beneficial exercises to improve health, fitness and relaxation."

OPA's tai chi classes will cover the 24 Fforms practice of Paul Lam, a family physician and leader in the field of tai chi for health improvement. The moves will help participants with alignment, balance and bringing the mind back to the body.

For kids, OPA will have skate-boarding classes this fall, hosted by Berlin skater Matt Dove. The lessons, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., are offered to girls and boys aged 8 to 16 and will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays in September and October, beginning Sept. 8. The October session will kick off on Oct. 6.

The skateboarding courses are \$145 per month for Ocean Pines residents and \$155 for nonresidents. Families must provide their children with their own skateboards, helmets and knee pads.

For OPA's youngest, the recreation department is hosting "Toddler Time." Parents will have the opportunity to socialize their children, ages 18 months to three years, in the community center gym. Indoor playtime, small crafts and music movement are the focus of the offering. Guardians are required to stay with their kids for the duration of the sessions.

Toddler Time will be held on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. from Sept. 11 to Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 to Jan. 15. The sessions are \$25 for Ocean Pines residents and \$30 for nonresidents. Parents and kids may also drop in for \$4.

Also, for the younger crowd, fall T-ball is scheduled in Ocean Pines this autumn for children aged four to six years old. The activity will be held each Saturday at the Maklin Meadows Ball Field from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. starting Sept. 20.

OPA will once again offer its bus trips this fall, with an addition. On Friday, Sept. 12, the rec department has arranged a trip to Sight and Sound Theaters in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to see a stage production of the biblical story of Noah's Ark. The advertisement promises "jaw-dropping stage effects and live animals."

The bus trip will depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 9 a.m. on Sept. 12.

The show is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. The event is \$127 per person, which includes transportation from Ocean Pines, as well as the performance ticket.

Because limited seats are available, interested parties should reserve their spots as soon as possible by contacting OPA Rec and Parks.

Lastly, birding will be a staple in Ocean Pines this fall. Starting Sept. 20, American Birding Association Director Wayne Klockner will teach nature enthusiasts how it's done.

While the community's outdoor pools may be closing this month, Ocean Piners will have plenty to do this offseason. For registration and more information about OPA's Recreation and Parks Department offerings, call 410-641-7052 or go to the team's page on Ocean Pines' official



### **Committee eyeing Pines pool improvements**

'I was kind of shocked by the

condition of the Swim and

Racquet building.'

Vivian Koroknay,

aquatics committee

member

Needed renovations at the Swim and Racquet facility identified by OP volunteers

#### By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) As the traditional summer season comes to a close, the Ocean Pines Association's Aquatics Advisory Committee is considering new pool improvements to be implemented in time for the next warmweather season.

OPA's outdoor pools close in early September. As such, late last month, the aquatics team met, where they discussed ways in which to improve the amenity for next summer. The group considered maintenance opportunities, primarily at the Swim and Racquet facility.

According to committee members, they have recently heard from OPA residents and pool members the Swim and Racquet pool and building have a host of issues, including insufficient lighting and slippery floors in the bathroom and uneven boards and peeling paint on the deck.

"I was kind of shocked by the con-

dition of the Swim and Racquet building," said Vivian Koroknay, aquatics committee member. "I was shocked about it because it's in bad shape. My sister went into the bathroom, and she said, 'That was interesting. It's like a cave in there.' You

can't even really see where you're walking. It's very dark."

Gary Miller, the chair of the aquatic advisory group, added that he would like the homeowners' association to consider painting the entire

interior of the bathrooms/ changing rooms, and to look into installing restroom safety handrails.

The group voted to send a charging document to the OPA Board of Directors in hopes of getting the problems resolved in time for the pool's reopening next May.

The team mentioned that they would also like to see some adjustments to the community's Ocean City-located Beach Club next summer. According to the aquatics group, there are several instances in which the bathroom attendant is absent or missing from their post, despite being hired to ensure all users are facility members. As a result, the bathrooms can sometimes be crowded with non-OPA residents coming up off the

beach to use the restroom.

Also discussed by the aquatics advisory committee was the implementation of a couponesque booklet or swipe card guests brought in by pool members. Ac-

cording to Miller, Steve Jacobs, board of directors member, received a letter from a homeowner asking about the possibility of a "grandparent pass."

The offering would be a weekly membership for grandparents to give to their grandchildren when they visit, to be bought at a set price, rather than paying the kids' \$10 daily

Aquatics liaison Rick Farr noted that similar deals were provided in the past, but only about four or five were ever purchased.

A swipe card was also debated, in which a certain number of pool visits could be pre-loaded into it, and pool members could use this to get their guests into the aquatics facilities. The preloaded visits would provide some type of discount.

The aquatics advisory committee ultimately opted against recommending the passbook or swipe card, arguing that there were too many variables, like determining if the discounts would apply for adult guests, and what happens if a card gets lost. The group decided to table the discussion for now, believing the system could get complicated quickly.

The aquatics team may consider suggesting a better children's discount. Currently, children aged five to 17 can access the pools for a daily rate of \$10 for members and residents. For non-residents, children aged 5 to 17 can enter the facilities for \$15. A new deal could bring these price tags down by a dollar or two, but the advisory committee did not yet opt to make any definite recommendations on this topic to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors.



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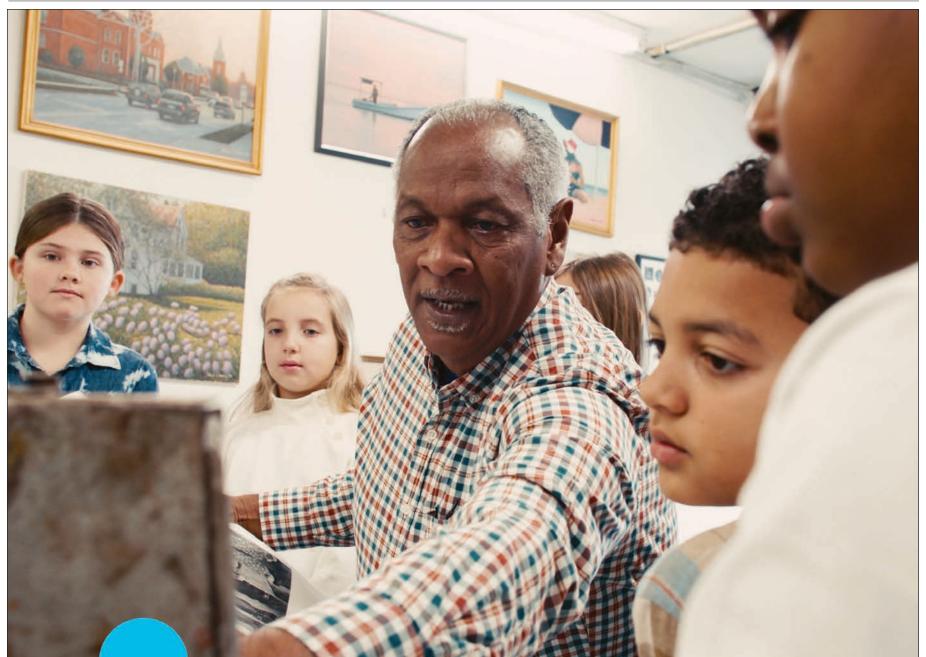


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#### Motorcycle driver killed in **West Ocean City accident**

(Sept. 4, 2025) Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal twovehicle crash that occurred shortly after 10 a.m. in West Ocean City on Aug. 27.

The driver of a motorcycle, identified as Dennis Ellis, 65, of Berlin, was transported by ambulance to TidalHealth Peninsula Regional, where he was later pronounced deceased. The driver, a 17-year-old male, and a passenger, an 18-yearold female, of a Jeep Grand Cherokee were reported uninjured in the crash.

Around 10:17 a.m., troopers from the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack responded to Route 50 at Inlet Isle Lane for a report of a two-vehicle crash. According to a preliminary investigation, the motorcycle, operated by Ellis, was traveling westbound on Route 50, attempting to go through the intersection, when it was struck by the Jeep, who failed to yield the right of

The driver of the Jeep was issued traffic citations on the scene. Assistance on scene was provided by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Ocean City Fire Department, and Ocean City emergency medical services personnel. The crash investigation is being led by the Maryland State Police Crash Team.



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#### **Ocean Pines group looks to** schedule regular clean ups

A nature-focused team of volunteers suggests days to remove invasive vines, trash

#### **By Tara Fischer**

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Environmental and Natural Assets Advisory Committee wants to implement clean-up days to ensure the community stays tidy and its flora remains healthy.

The ENAC met on Wednesday, Aug. 27, when they discussed opportunities to enhance Ocean Pines. One suggestion was a fall clean-up day to address invasive vines such as wisteria and English ivy that can take over

Patricia Garcia, committee chair, said that fellow group member Don Wolski recommended the autumn effort.

'There's a lot of overgrowth along the Southgate Pond," Garcia said at the recent ENAC meeting. "... English ivy will kill your trees. And wisteria, even worse.'

A clean-up to address the tree issue would likely be in mid- to late October or early November, as the vines are easier to spot and therefore remove when the trees begin to lose their leaves.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, English ivy is an invasive climbing vine that can reach heights of 90 feet. Controlling English ivy is essential to maintaining the health of a forested

When an area experiences an overgrowth of the vine, it can alter the native ecosystem, changing the food source and habitat for wildlife.

English ivy can also compromise the health of the affected trees. The

vine blocks sunlight, hindering the photosynthesis process, weakens the tree's structure with heavy weight and holds moisture and pathogens against the trunk, which can lead to rot and disease.

Wisteria is also detrimental to trees, according to the Maryland Invasive Species Council, as it can envelop the trees and block sunlight, ultimately preventing the tree from

A day will likely be scheduled in the next few months for volunteers to help remove the intrusive vines.

You don't want English ivy or wisteria; they are the particular offenders," Garcia said at last month's meeting.

The ENAC also discussed the possibility of holding a clean-up on April 22 next year, on Earth Day. Garcia said that the committee would like to get more publicity for the event and secure help from around the community and its surrounding areas, including, once again, the Ocean City-based Beach Heroes.

Beach Heroes-OC is a group of volunteers who meet every Tuesday morning year-round to clean a portion of Ocean City. Around St. Patrick's Day this year, the team helped tidy up the Ocean Pines Beach

Garcia added that in addition to the two aforementioned clean-ups, she would like to see more regular efforts to keep the neighborhood neat.

"It's pretty tidy here, but you do see places where people, especially near the retail areas, just toss cans and plastic cups and liquor bottles," she said.

The association will communicate any updates or scheduling of the potential clean-up efforts as they be-



# Pines pickleball event seeks donations for cancer society

(Sept. 4, 2025) The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club will host the 2025 Pink Ribbon Pickleball Round Robin on Friday, Oct. 3, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

The event itself is sold out, but the community is invited to come out and participate in the fundraising from 11am-2pm, featuring gift baskets, raffles, a local vendor, and more

This year, anyone can make a donation online to the Ocean Pines Pink Ribbon Pickleball event to benefit the American Cancer Society. Those interested in making a donation can do so by searching Ocean Pines Pink Ribbon Pickleball Round Robin on the internet.

All sponsored donations will be recognized with a Sponsor sign at the event

Sponsorship opportunities also remain available, ranging from \$50 (Tribute Sign) to \$1,000 (Platinum). Track sign recognition at Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event at the Boardwalk on October 25th is included with all sponsorship levels.

For questions and information on sponsorships, contact Becky Ferguson at 410-446-1816 or rcoltferguson@gmail.com.

# Golf championship event to kickoff at end of September

(Sept. 4, 2025) The Men's Golf Club Championship, originally scheduled for this weekend, has been rescheduled for September 27th and 28th.

Players already registered who are available on the new dates do not need to take any action. Those unable to participate may contact the Pro Shop to receive a refund.

Golfers who have not yet registered are still welcome to sign up by calling the Pro Shop. Entry fees for full golf members are \$40, \$65 for golf members without a cart plan, and \$85 for non-members.

The deadline to register is Sept. 21. For questions or additional information, call 410-641-6057.





'We would like high speed fiber

in front of everybody's home.

This is all part of a longer

process of connecting

everybody.'

County Administrator

Weston Young

#### **Broadband effort nearing 100% coverage**

Grants helping to boost residential coverage for rural parts of Worcester

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) Worcester County is on the verge of having 100% coverage in rural areas for access to fiber optic cables and broadband internet access, county officials said.

The feat was made possible with a state grant that will subsidize the cost of installation in the most far-flung and isolated corners of the county, from marshy and coastal spots, to homes hidden away on middle-ofnowhere dirt roads.

Installation will be handled by internet service providers such as Talkie, Choptank Fiber, and Simple Fiber, said County Administrator Weston Young

"We would like high speed fiber in front of everybody's home," he said. "This is all part of a longer process of connecting everybody.

In the not-too-distant past, before fiber optic connections were mainstreamed or subsidized, municipalities and counties relied on coaxial cable providers like Comcast to install internet access infrastructure.

The issue became more serious when the COVID-19 pandemic locked communities down for months, forcing many to work or attend public school classes from home, Young

"We'd reach out to say, 'can you run internet to this subdivision?' If

they did not feel they'd get paid back just they at. wouldn't do it,' Young said. "There were whole subdivisions running off satellite dishes. That makes it really hard to do anything with education or teleworking.'

The latest round of grants for those last-mile locations, totaling \$2.42 million, have been approved and the funding is pending, according to Brian Jones, Worcester County's information technology director. It's bumped residential saturation from about 70% in May to today's full cov-

He said the county's efforts to col-

laborate with the state in the last few years - ahead of the state's \$3 billion revenue shortfall that lawmakers struggled to address during this year's legislative session – got them to this point.

"If we didn't start as early as we did, with the drive behind the [county] commissioners, we'd be hard pressed to get the funds we need. Now

> we can honestly say, we're going to get there. We have a little ways to go," Jones said.

Money is coming from the state via federal passthrough grants. Officially, it's called The Home Stretch -Difficult to Serve

Properties Program, administered by the Office of Statewide Broadband within the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Jones said the cashflow will ultimately provide fiber optic access to 366 previously unserved properties, bringing the total of rural properties with new service to about 6,400. This doesn't apply to municipalities like

Ocean City or Berlin, who have their own agreements with Comcast to provide Internet service.

One obstacle continues to be a matter of policy and permission: for homeowners alone Route 113, the highway frontage is technically state property, not county land. It means, for now, there's still no official easement in place for install crews to op-

Jones said the state had wanted to charge a monthly or annual fee for internet service providers to gain access. The county is in touch with state lawmakers to possibly legislate around the hurdle.

In addition, internet service provider Choptank Fiber recently struck a fresh Memorandum of Understanding with the county after having handled similar work for more than 1,500 properties since 2022. The company's latest round of work will provide high-speed internet service to 200 homes, according to spokeswoman Valerie Connelly.

'Choptank has completed all other grant work in the county in half the time allotted, so we expect many locations should have service by the end of this year," she said.





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#### **Berlin plans fall event lineup**

Continued from Page 1

This Saturday, Sept. 6, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce will host its second annual Small Town Block Party. According to Garrett Neville, chamber president, the event is free to attend. Residents can come out from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and be welcomed with live music, food vendors, kids' crafts and a bouncy house. Alcohol will be for sale for adults.

The music lineup includes Berlin Airlift from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., followed by Kiti Gartner & The Drifting Valentines from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Berlin Airlift is a local group that often plays their tunes throughout the area; Kiti Gartner & The Drifting Valentines hail from Washington, D.C. The band plays western swing, rockabilly, old country and jump blues.

Block party attendees can grab lunch from the Grateful Grub Food Truck. Berlin restaurants will also be open to patronize, as will the downtown storefronts.

"This event brings family fun, great music, activities for adults and kids, and it's a fun afternoon to sort of close out summer and shift into fall," Neville said. "This event offers us a chance to provide an afternoon of fun for our community and visitors while also bringing people to town to patronize our various shops and restaurants."

This Saturday will be the second time the Berlin Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Small Town Block Party. Before 2024, the event was privately funded by the Atlantic Hotel and Fager's Island and was known as the Berlin Small Town Throw Down, which featured country music bands.

Last year, the chamber took the block party over and will continue its involvement yet again.

"We hope everyone has a fantastic time and enjoys all that this cool town has to offer," Neville added.

In addition to the Small Town Block Party, Berlin residents will have the opportunity to attend a series of gatherings this fall.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, Berlin Airlift will be back in town, this time performing at the Calvin B. Taylor House's lawn at 6 p.m. Next month, the Taylor House is screening the Halloween classic Hocus Pocus on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m.

Furthermore, the town's annual bluegrass music festival, the Fiddler's Convention, is set for Sept. 19 through Sept. 20.

Maintaining the autumnal theme, Oktoberfest is scheduled for Berlin on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Truck-N-Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Fiddler's Convention is one of Berlin's oldest special events, featuring a competition on Saturday, Sept. 20.

#### **Committee: members' voices heard**

Continued from Page 1

strategic planning's next meeting on Sept. 25. These findings will then be written in a one-to two-page document in collaboration with OPA's communications committee. Thereafter, the report will be reviewed by the board of directors and management team, approved, and released to the public.

The community's strategic planning and communications committees hope that these press releases will be a quarterly occurrence

The goal of the project, according to its sponsors, is to support OPA's commitment to transparency. The idea was first discussed upon the conclusion of a resident survey, in which homeowners were asked about their satisfaction level and the direction they would like to see the community take.

The progress report document would allow association officials to let residents know they have been heard and to update them on the action they will or have taken to determine each item's feasibility.

For instance, streetlights, a bike lane and a fitness center have been called for by residents and were addressed by board of directors member and strategic planning liaison Stuart Lakernick last week. A more complete explanation as to why these requests cannot be pursued would likely be included in the upcoming report.

Speaking about the fitness center, Lakernick said, "There is no appetite. We have a couple of fitness centers that are close by for \$25, \$30 a month, you can join like Planet

Fitness

"The fitness center has come up repeatedly...We don't have a facility for a fitness center, and the cost of the building, the equipment, and the potential revenue generated, the potential return on investment could be 20 years out."

Streetlights would cost millions of dollars to implement, Lakernick said, adding that the addition of lights probably would drive out residents who moved to Ocean Pines for the promise of clear skies and a quiet community.

As for the bicycle lane on Ocean Parkway, even though it would contribute to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, preliminary research revealed that the cost to retrofit a bike lane would be prohibitive. In addition, about two feet of the median would have to be removed, Lakernick said.

He added that cycling on Ocean Parkway can be done safely, despite a few challenges.

"I mean, you can drive a bike on Ocean Parkway like I've done," Lakernick said. "It's a little tight, but there are areas where the shoulder is a little wider. And bicycles do have the right of way on any road in Maryland."

The upcoming progress report is also expected to include an update on residents' desire for extended hours at the outdoor pool. The outdoor pool hours were extended on the weekends this year because of residents' request, and now the aquatics committee hopes the pool's hours can be extended on weekdays for working residents next year.



#### Pines Cafe has reached 'the gold standard'

Tech School program now grown to be self-sustaining. able to cover all expenses

#### **By Tara Fischer**

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) As the studentand-instructor-run Pines Café prepares to celebrate its first anniversary, its leaders have been reflecting on the business's overwhelming success and looking forward to

The Pines Café is a project developed by Worcester Technical High School's Culinary and Pastry Arts Department's head chef, Phil Cropper, to provide his students with experience operating a real-world food retail facility. The business officially opened its doors on Sept. 9, 2024.

To celebrate the café's first year, Cropper said he and his students are preparing cupcakes - vanilla and chocolate, with buttercream icing and sprinkles — to be given away to the first 50 customers who come in on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

"It's just a small token of thanks," Cropper said.

The culinary program's director said the café has been so successful in its first year that it tripled his initial revenue goal. According to Cropper, the community's support has allowed the Pines Café to be self-sustaining.

This means that café covers the payroll for the apprentices and student workers, as well as fixed expenses, equipment, and refrigerated van to transport the food from the technical school to the

"We call that in education the gold standard — where the program is funding itself 100% on its own," Cropper said. "We are one of the few in Maryland doing that."

The Pines Café is in building number one of the Ocean Pines Tidal-Health Campus, near the Ocean Pines Association's North Gate entrance. The shop is nestled between the medical facility's main lobby and pharmacy.

The café is an interactive teaching business created through the technical school. The food is cooked entirely by the culinary students at the school, which acts as the shop's commissary.

Cropper assists and then drives the student-made dishes to the Ocean Pines establishment. Student workers and student apprentices are hired to oversee the day-to-day operations of the café.

"I come up with ideas, like, 'Okay, we're going to make crab cakes today," Cropper said. "And then the kids make it all. It's all student driven."

Over the past year, the Pines Café's menu has evolved to reflect its market's tastes. One spring addition was Chipotle-inspired rice bowls. At the start of the summer, poke bowls, shrimp salad, and a salmon BLT sandwich arrived at the site.

Cropper said that the café's offerings will remain the same through the beginning of fall. Once the culinary program's fresh group of students gains its footing, another menu shakeup is anticipated.

The chef said that he first needs to get a sense of the new kids' personalities and skill level before determining what customers can expect. Standard lessons on sanitation, nutrition, and management are also required before the young learners can spend most of their class time in the kitchen.

A highlight of the café's first year was the creation of the shop's popular grab-and-go dinners. Cropper said these are mostly homestyle meals, such as meatloaf, Eastern Shore-style roasted chicken, and lasagna Bolognese. Seafood, such as crab cakes and blackened salmon, is also a big seller.

Grab-and-gos are popular among Ocean Pines residents. The meals are precooked and can be purchased and heated at home.

"It especially works really well for the Ocean Pines community because you have a lot of either single working individuals or you have elderly that are homebound or maybe a widow or widower that doesn't want to cook a big meal for one person," Cropper said. "That has really kicked off."

While the grab-and-go dinners are the most labor-intensive, the Cropper said that they "drive the business." Still, because of the immense work they require, the meals are not a

guarantee. Cropper and his students aim to have them cooked by Monday and at the shop by Tuesday, but they may be a day or two late, depending on the week. Updates are provided to the community via the café's Face-

The success of the Pines Café could lead to a new, similar endeavor with a sweet twist. Cropper said that in the next few months, he hopes to launch a new food site, offering pastries, espresso, and gelato.

The establishment would not be quite as intensive as the Ocean Pines shop. Instead of operating daily at a location away from Worcester Tech, the latest café would be located inside the school's ballroom and would be open only a couple of times a month.

Many school programs will contribute to the creation of the new project, with masonry and trades students on board to construct the cabinets and countertops.

"We're trying to make the students 100% involved," Cropper said. "I'm hoping when the kids get back to school, the construction kids can finish ... and then we're hopefully having that open sometime this fall.

"We have all the equipment, and we have the business plan, the concept, everything; we just have to get it physically put together."

The pastry, espresso, and gelato bar would be available primarily to the Worcester County public and adult school system staff, serving as an outlet for the baking and pastry students.

Cropper added that the products would correspond with what the kids are learning. For instance, a unit on petit fours would yield a large selection of the tiny treats.

Furthermore, capitalizing on the Pines Café's success, the culinary program opened the Marlin Marketplace See PINES Page 13

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#### 'Life on the Eastern Shore' show set to open Sept. 12

Pieces on display were created by students during annual Summer Arts Camp

(Sept. 4, 2025) More than 250 students from five elementary schools in Worcester County participated in the Worcester County Arts Council's annual Summer Arts Camp, which this year explored the theme: "Life on the Eastern Shore."

Through hands-on, visual and performing arts workshops, students had an opportunity to learn about the heritage of Eastern Shore farming and agriculture, as well as the ocean and underwater life that are for which the region is known.

The results of these workshops are on display at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin, where an opening reception will take place from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

'We are so proud of the talent and imagination our young artists bring to the Summer Arts Camp each year," said Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Coun-

"This year's theme, 'Life on the Eastern Shore,' allowed students to reflect on the beauty, traditions, and community spirit of the place they call home - from farms and fields to the ocean and bay. Their artwork truly tells the story of Worcester County through their eyes.

The Arts Council thanked Worcester County Public Schools and its art teachers whose support made it possible to reach a diverse population of students through this enrichment

The Summer Arts Camp program is made possible through the support of the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club. The exhibit will remain on view through the end of September.

To see images of the students' work and a video of the performing arts workshop, visit: www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org.

#### **Pines Cafe eyes anniversary**

Continued from Page 12

at Worcester Tech last March, a scaled-down version of the Ocean Pines eatery. The shop is primarily a retail establishment, offering a selection of packaged foods for school staff. Snow Hill and Newark residents are also encouraged to stop in if they're in the area.

The Marlin Market will open in the third week of school this year and will now offer grab-and-go dinner options like those at the Pines Café.

"We're always trying to think outside the box," Cropper said.

The success of the Pines Café also has become known elsewhere. In January, Cropper and his student, Nick Zlotorzynski, were notified that they had been named the Maryland ProStart Teacher of the Year and the Maryland ProStart Student of the Year, respectively.

Maryland ProStart is a program managed by the Restaurant Association of Maryland and is a two-year high school curriculum "designed to merge classroom learning with realworld industry experience," said a Worcester County Public School press release announcing the award winners.

The memo continues, "Currently,

over 4,000 students across nearly 80 Maryland high schools benefit from this program, which equips them with essential culinary and management skills for success in the foodservice industry."

Zlotorzynski, a 2025 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, will return to the café this year. Cropper said that through a new state program, the recent graduate will come on as a full-time, 40-hour-a-week manager to learn the ins and outs of running a business.

This time next year, Zlotorzynski will leave the shop equipped with skills to start his own food service

"We're going to cut him loose this time next year with the goal that this is just temporary, because then he can spread his wings and fly and open up his own cafe or food service-related business, using everything he's done at the cafe from purchasing to scheduling to ordering to financial management," Cropper said.

'This is cool because we're getting kids not only invested in culinary, but also in business and entrepreneurship and community involvement."

The Pines Café is open Monday through Friday, year-round.

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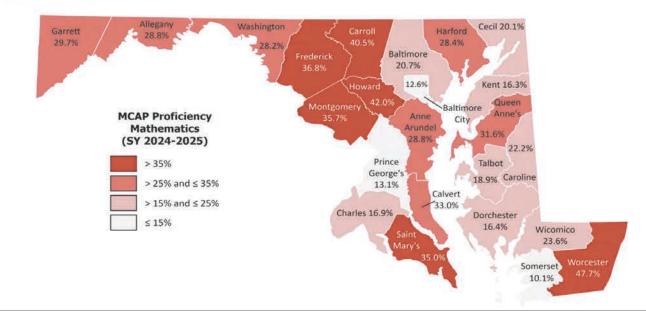
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#### Mathematics Proficiency by LEA, SY 2024-2025

Mathematics proficiency for all tests combined varied from 10.1% to 47.7% across LEAs.



LEA	Percent Proficient
Allegany	28.8%
Anne Arundel	28.8%
Baltimore City	12.6%
Baltimore County	20.7%
Calvert	33.0%
Caroline	22.2%
Carroll	40.5%
Cecil	20.1%
Charles	16.9%
Dorchester	16.4%
Frederick	36.8%
Garrett	29.7%
Harford	28.4%
Howard	42.0%
Kent	16.3%
Montgomery	35.7%
Prince George's	13.1%
Queen Anne's	31.6%
Saint Mary's	35.0%
Somerset	10.1%
Talbot	18.9%
Washington	28.2%
Wicomico	23.6%
Worcester	47.7%

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#### **Worcester students again** lead state with test scores

**By Tara Fischer** 

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) Student testing data from 2024-2025 shows that Worcester County Public Schools to lead the state in multiple categories, having outperformed all other Maryland school systems in mathematics and English/language arts.

Per an announcement from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) revealing spring 2025 exam statistics through the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in English/language arts (ELA) and math, WCPS lands at the top, with the highest rate of proficiency in both subjects. This data was released on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

In ELA, 68.5% of Worcester students scored at a proficient level or higher, outperforming the state average of 50.8% by 18 percentage points. The Maryland school system with the second-highest passing rate was Carroll County at 66.5%. Baltimore City's ELA proficiency sits at 31.2%, the lowest among all state educational institutions.

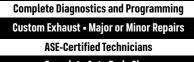
Last year, Worcester's ELA scores earned the school system the top spot among all 24 Maryland counties. WCPS has retained that slot for 2025 with another round of impressive MCAP scores.

According to a press release from WCPS, "seventh-grade proficiency in ELA grew at every school across the county, with Pocomoke Middle School standing out with a nearly 8.5 percentage point increase over the 2024 administration."

WCPS also leads Maryland in mathematics. On the spring 2025 math assessments, 47.7% of Worcester students scored at or above the proficiency level.

For context, statewide, 26.5% of Maryland's learners received passing scores in math across all tested areas. Behind WCPS is Howard County, with 42% of its students reaching proficiency in the subject. Somerset County fell to the bottom spot on the spring math exams, with just 10.1% of students exhibiting topic comprehension.

For math, Worcester's scores on the 2025 exams jumped eight percentage points from those in 2024, where 39.3% of students performed at proficiency. This rate earned WCPS the second-place spot among Maryland systems last year, right behind Howard County. This year, the



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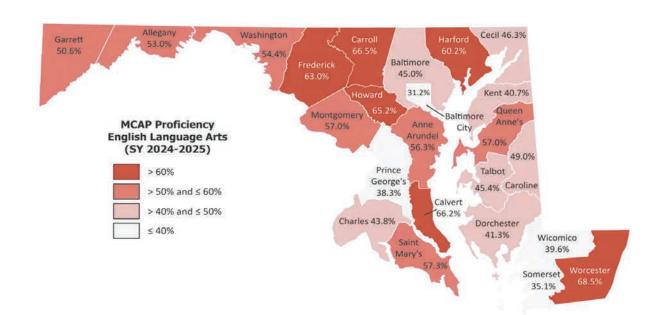
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#### ELA Proficiency by LEA, SY 2024-2025

ELA proficiency for all tests combined varied from 31.2% to 68.5% across LEAs.



LEA	Percent Proficient
Allegany	53.0%
Anne Arundel	56.3%
Baltimore City	31.2%
Baltimore County	45.0%
Calvert	66.2%
Caroline	49.0%
Carroll	66.5%
Cecil	46.3%
Charles	43.8%
Dorchester	41.3%
Frederick	63.0%
Garrett	50.6%
Harford	60.2%
Howard	65.2%
Kent	40.7%
Montgomery	57.0%
Prince George's	38.3%
Queen Anne's	57.0%
Saint Mary's	57.3%
Somerset	35.1%
Talbot	45.4%
Washington	54.4%
Wicomico	39.6%
Worcester	68.5%

#### Improvements recorded in proficiency rates

increase in passing rates puts the Eastern Shore county firmly at number one.

According to the WCPS press release, countywide, the comprehension of seventh and eighth graders in math increased across all schools. At Snow Hill Middle School, seventhand eighth-grade students saw the most significant increase from 2024, with proficiency jumping 10.5 percentage points for seventh graders and a remarkable 20 percentage points for eighth graders.

Worcester's school officials are delighted by the results. Annette Wallace, WCPS' new superintendent, who this year succeeded Lou Taylor, maintains that through her tenure, she hopes to continue the educational system's upward trajectory.

"We are proud to celebrate our students, educators, and families for leading the state in both English/language arts and mathematics," Wallace said in WCPS' press release.

"These results are a testament to the incredible dedication within our schools, but we know our work is not finished until every single child reaches proficiency. I hope that by knowing every student by name, strength, and need, we will build on this momentum and move even closer to that goal.'

The results are based on MCAP scores, a Maryland testing program created to comply with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a law signed by former President Barack Obama in 2015. ESSA requires states to assess students in ELA and mathematics annually for grades 3 through 8 and once in high school.

Statewide, the majority of student groups saw an increase in passing marks as compared to 2024. According to an MSDE press release, this

year, 50.8% of Maryland students demonstrated comprehension in ELA, up from 48.4% the previous

Rates also improved for mathematics, with 26.5% of learners showing proficiency, a slight increase from 24.1% in the last exam cycle.

The passing rates varied by test, said the MSDE memo. For example, statewide student proficiency in ELA ranged from 45.0% in ELA 5 to 59.5% in ELA 10. In mathematics, this variation was more pronounced, with 8.7% in Math 8 to 42.0% in Math 3.

MSDE noted that Worcester and Saint Mary's counties had the most significant growth in math proficiency, with rates increasing by 8.4 and 5.9 percentage points, respectively.







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#### **Obituaries**

#### **GLORIA MAE WAINRIGHT**

Willards

Gloria Mae Wainright of Willards passed away August 26, 2025, at the age of 93.



Gloria Wainright

Gloria was born in Powellville and was the daughter of the late Arthur W. and Flora E. Davis.

Gloria graduated valedictorian of the 1950 graduating class of Pittsville High School and continued

her education by attending Salisbury Institute for Business in 1951. She started at The Farmers Bank of Willards on July 13, 1952 as a teller and advancing through the years to assistant cashier, assistant VP, VP, and finally retiring in 2001 as a Director. She was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of Farmers Bank of Willards in 2000. She participated in the Farmers Bank of Willards Bowling League until adopting son, Wayne in 1970.

Gloria was a member of New Hope United Methodist Church from the age of 4 until becoming a member of the Eden United Methodist Church in Willards. Gloria was a singer with the Eden Church Trio with Dottie Gurley and Mattie Lee Hildreth where they sang at local minstrel shows and church home comings. They once performed at the Lions International Conference in Atlantic City, NJ.

She also played piano in the Willards Dixieland Band with Aubrey Davis, Jim Hildreth, Harry Wilkins and Eschol Adkins performing for church and community functions and other local gigs. Gloria played the piano for many local weddings in the 1960's and 1970's.

Gloria was married to William (Whitey) F. Gordy on September 14, 1951.

Gloria was a 35 year active member of the Willards Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary and held various positions as Treasurer and President in the Ladies Auxiliary. She was the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer in 1983 for the Wicomico County Fireman's Association.

She was active in the Pittsville Band Boosters in early 80's when Wayne was in Middle School.

Gloria was in the Willards Lioness Club from the time it was chartered until it folded. She continued to work functions and bingo as member's wife (Whitey and Tommy). She was awarded the Lions Club "Good Neighbor Award" on November 16, 1988 for Outstanding Community Service.

She was a member of the Willards Homemaker's Club that was formed in 1952. Gloria was a member of the Wicomico County Recreation Commission from 1977-1981.

Gloria married Joshua Thomas

(Tommy) Wainright on April 4, 1987. Tommy was her closest friend and showed her great respect and love from day one. They enjoyed Nascar races, taking day trips together and attending antique car shows with the Grand National, winning many awards.

Two of her favorite quotes: "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." (George Washington Carver) and "Treat others as you would want to be treated" has been Gloria's guiding principle.

She is survived by her step-children Cynthia Kimball and late husband Steven of Bear, DE, Linda Stamp of Salisbury; Joshua T. Wainright II of Hockessin, DE, and Nancy Ennis and husband Chuck of Parsonsburg; grandchildren William White and wife Maddie, Leigh Smith and wife Jen, Brittney Parsons and husband Joey, Katya Wainright, Anton Wainright and wife Alicia, Alyessa Ryan and husband Corey, Alex Kimball and wife Hillary, Kyra Kimball Wilhelm and husband Alex. "Honorary" granddaughter Danielle Davis Eichhorn (Greg). Great-grandchildren Lennex White, Gabriel White, Joel White, Reid White, Ashley Tyler, Evan Tyler, Skyler Parsons, Conner Parsons, Emma Kimball, Jack Kimball, Bailey Wilhelm, Ada Wilhelm, Nikolaé (Niko) Ryan, Olive Hilton and "Honorary" great-grandchildren Ethen Eichhorn and Sadie Eichhorn.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, William (Whitey) F. Gordy in July 1981, second husband, Tommy Wainright in January 2018, her son, Wayne Davis Gordy in June 1990 and step-grandson, Kolya Nikolaé Wainright in 2008. Step-siblings Virginia Davis Miller, John Everett Davis, and Vaughn Hall Davis.

Thank you to all her caregivers, namely Tammy, Jennie, Betty, Danielle, Margaret, Ginger, Michelle, Courtney, Joyce, Ann, Bonnie, and Pat.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at Bishop-Hastings Funeral Home, 19 South Main Street in Selbyville with a viewing from 10am to 11am. Services will be conducted by Allen "Buck" Burton. Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery in Libertytown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org or 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, Tenn. 38105), New Hope United Methodist Church 7348 New Hope Rd, Willards, Md. 21874, or Eden United Methodist Church, 7283 Main St, Willards, Md. 21874.

Continued on Page 17

#### **Obituaries**

Continued from Page 16

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com

#### HARVEY FRANKLIN ROTH

Ocean Pines

Harvey Franklin Roth (90), a beloved husband, father, and Opa,



Harvey Roth

passed away on August 22, 2025 in Ocean Pines.

The son of Annabelle Roth, Harvey was born in New York City in 1934. He graduated from Stuyvesant Charter School before enlist-

ing in the Navy where he served for 8 vears. He served on the USS Whitehall II and learned electrical and communications skills that led to a career working with early computer systems and complex communications equipment. Harvey went on to work at Mitre Corporation and Westinghouse Electric enabling him to continue to learn and travel the world working in Colorado, Iran, Morocco, and Germany. The early computers Harvey worked with occupied an entire room. Later in life, Harvey started up CompassTech, a computer consulting firm to help new users setup their first time personal computers for home as

well as small businesses. Harvey was a life long learner who also enjoyed teaching others. He established early computer systems in local libraries and taught computer classes at WORWIC community college.

A Yankees fan, a lover of military history, and an avid story teller, Harvey was also known to never miss a Chicken dance at weddings and was quick to give an eloquent, thoughtful toast. Harvey hiked on Volksmarches throughout Germany, loved to sail and was a fierce competitor in Jeopardy.

In 1961, Harvey married the love of his life, Sheila Judith Barrett who he met on Long Island while deployed there with the Navy. He would often say that when he first saw Sheila from across the room, he knew she was the one he would marry. Harvey and Sheila were married for 64 years until Sheila's passing on June 13, 2025.

Harvey is survived by his daughter Linda Roth, son Thomas Roth (wife Barbara), daughter Victoria McKelvey (husband Craig), and seven grandchildren (Kate, Barrett, Kori, Taylor Jeann, Aidan, Keath and Colin).

Services will be held at Temple Bat Yam, 11036 Worcester Hwy, Berlin, Md. 21811, Sunday Sept. 7 at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments to be served following service in the Temple.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETT

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

At the Aug. 27, weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, two The Atlantic Club officers visited as the guest speakers. Pictured, from left, are Director Steve Goray, General Manager Sue Rodden and Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell. The Atlantic Club, located o Route 50 in West Ocean City, states, "Our primary purpose is to help individuals & families recover from addiction, while helping to reduce the social & economic impact addiction has on the Delmarva Peninsula."





# Opinion

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

#### State's workaround pays off for Berlin

Congratulations to the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Town of Berlin and the Worcester County Commissioners for figuring out how to get back on track with the town's community connection project after last month's loss of the federal funding already set aside for it.

Although \$1.2 million in federal money was awarded to the town last year to help pay for the planning and design of a means to bridge the two sides of town divided by Route 113, the town learned in early August that most of that money had been taken away under the Big Beautiful tax bill.

The reaction to that reversal of fortune was, as expected, bitter disappointment. That was especially so considering that the source of the money, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program, was a perfect match for what the town hoped to do — find a way for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the highway safely.

But in less than a month, state and local officials found a solution by scrambling for a workaround that would allow the county commissioners to make the final call.

First, transportation department officials reassigned more than \$640,000 in federal money awarded for other community projects in the state. Then the town came up with \$104,000 on its own, leaving it up to the county to give the town just \$24,000 so it could meet the matching grant requirement attached to the state's funding.

Although the town did ask the commissioners for the release of \$113,000 in county money left over from other town projects, the commissioners did ensure that Berlin got what it needed, if not what it wanted.

Even so, residents need to understand that these good efforts don't mean a walkway/bike path will be built any time soon or, possibly, ever. This funding will help the town and state highway officials determine what is possible. That's still a big step, however, because without the patchwork funding plan masterminded by the state, the continued pursuit of this idea would have been impossible.

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#### **Questions swirl around disbanding**

Pocomoke nonprofit had earned county grant of \$100,000

By Brian Shane Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) Board members of a Pocomokebased nonprofit that was supposed to have been the recipient of a nearly \$100,0000 local grant have decided to disband, saying negative publicity soured the experience for those involved.

An Aug. 25 post to Facebook by the Pocomoke City Development Corporation (PCDC) stated the group has dissolved without having received the grant funds it had been promised by the Worcester County Commissioners.

'We wish Pocomoke the best in all its endeavors. We are rooting for you. Respect-PCDC Executive Board," it says, adding that other funds the group did raise went toward an automatic external defibrillator that was donated to the Pocomoke Little League.

As of Aug. 27, the group's Facebook page appears to have been deleted or deactivated, though the PCDC is still listed as an active nonprofit by the IRS, online records show.

The history of the group and its heady plans for Pocomoke City began more than a year ago. PCDC founder Sara Chapman said the goal was to fill a gap where money was needed in their community. Thev wanted to fund home improvement projects for veterans and the elderly in Pocomoke City.

The plan that took shape was to approach the issue with a homegrown, missiondriven outfit, much like the public-private partnership that Ocean City has with the nonprofit Ocean City Development Corporation, or OCDC.

They even worked with former OCDC Executive Director Glenn Irwin to get the process moving, according to Chapman, and he helped them incorporate as a nonprofit in May 2024.

"When we started it, we wanted to literally mirror what O.C. Development Corp. had done for the town of Ocean City. It would have been very simple to do. We weren't looking for anything crazy," she said.

At the same time, Worcester County government had set aside funding for Pocomoke City government as an infrastructure grant.

At the request of former Pocomoke district Commissioner Josh Nordstrom, that funding initiative was created by the county, for both Pocomoke and Snow Hill, in an amount equal to what the Town of Berlin had been receiving from its share of video lottery terminal funds, according to County Administrator Weston Young.

In this deal, both municipalities each got the equivalent of 10 percent of Ocean Downs Casino table games revenue as an annual grant. For Pocomoke, the grant was for \$36,807 in fiscal year 2023; \$49,959 in fiscal 2024; and \$48,317 in fiscal

Pocomoke City did collect on its fiscal 2025 grant money, but not the prior two years. The county tried to reach Pocomoke about its money but did not get a response, so unused grant money went back into county coffers, Young explained at a commissioners' meeting on Sept. 17, 2024.

Five days earlier, Chapman had emailed District 1 Commissioner Caryn Abbott to ask, "if any funds are available for restoration projects in Pocomoke City, that (PCDC) be considered. This email was included in the meeting packet and is part of the public record.

On a motion from Abbott, the commissioners voted to pledge the money to the PCDC.

It ended up setting a small firestorm of controversy in Pocomoke and online. Pocomoke City Mayor Todd Nock sent a scathing letter the next day to county officials for failing to release the funds to the city, saying he'd already made a formal request in writing to recapture the money for the town that seemingly went ignored.

"The PCDC was not working with the city on this project prior to commissioners' vote, and my office was not aware that they were even in consideration for the grant funds that had been earmarked for our town," Nock wrote, adding, "I am extremely disappointed in the county commissioners."

Not only that, but the commissioners were later flagged for violating the state's Open Meetings Act for failing to include Nock's letter as a discussion item on the meeting agenda.

Ultimately, after the money was promised to the PCDC and not the town, the response was not kind from the community. Chapman says she and other members of the PCDC were excoriated online and in person.

"It caused a lot of hard feelings. Nobody contacted [our] people to figure out what the deal was. They said, if we're getting nothing but negativity, then we're going to step aside. They did everything right. Glenn [Irwin] set it up. They had a reputable attorney set up the paperwork. Everything was fine. They went about it the right way and they did all they could do," she said.

Chapman bristled at any implication that there was a backroom deal done in secret - it was all done in the open and using official county channels, she said.

Furthermore, she said hers and other board members' businesses were unfairly targeted in the court of public opinion. For that reason, several PCDC board members stepped aside before they accomplished anything.

"It took a lot of wind out of people's sails," she said. See POCOMOKE Page 19



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The new Snow Hill Police Department is pictured. Snow Hill's police chief said the new headquarters is a massive improvement for the local police force.

#### **Pocomoke nonprofit disbands**

Continued from Page 18

"Good people don't want to deal with the drama. It's tax dollars no matter what grant it's coming from. If anybody was going to be crucified, it should be the people distributing the grant, not requesting the money. It's just a blow for the community, because it could have been something great."

According to Chapman, the real reason the PCDC didn't collect the grant because it was structured as a reimbursement. That meant the PCDC would have had to spend its own money first and then submit invoices to the county for repayment, which Chapman said was not feasible

"They did not know it was a reimbursement grant," she said. "Immediately, they told the county, we can't do it this way, we don't have the funds. The board did everything right

that they could. It just wasn't reported [in the news] that way."

Moving forward, County Administrator Young says there are several options: let the money roll back into the general fund; give what will be three years' worth of grant money back to Pocomoke City; or potentially give it away as seed money to help the PCDC off the ground.

He also said there's a developer, Davis Strategic Development, who's rehabbed a blighted old retail shop in downtown Pocomoke that may be a candidate for grant funding in the fu-

Ultimately, Young noted, giving grants to Snow Hill and Pocomoke is still new to the county, and they'll continue to work out the kinks in the process. "We hope they spend it on improving their infrastructure and helping themselves," he said.



# Police chief excited about Snow Hill force's new home

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Sept. 4, 2025) Buzzing florescent lights resonate off 14-foot walls clad in knotty pine. A leaky roof led to a mold outbreak in the evidence room. The bathroom doorknob falls off. Fuse box breakers pop. There is no security system, no fire alarm, and no

real personal space away from colleagues.

Welcome to Snow Hill's police station, a warren of rooms housed in an abandoned postwar firehouse that's mustier than an old book.

Chief Andy McGee, a big guy himself, noted how the doorways in the See CHIEF Page 21



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Authority of the Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County Cherie McNett, Treasurer

27

#### **Puzzles**

#### MIXED COMPANY BY MICHAEL LIEBERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Michael Lieberman, of Washington, D.C., is a lawyer at Fairmark Partners, an antitrust firm that fights corporate mergers. Some of his colleagues at work are Times puzzle doers, he says, "and it's always fun to see them post their solving times in the office chat." — W.S.

#### ACROSS

1 Swanky

- 5 Bluffer's declaration
- 11 Educational advertisement, for short
- 14 Farm-related prefix
- 18 Ding-dong ditch, e.g.
- 20 Bitter Italian digestif
- 21 Close of business?
- 22 Spanish province WSW of Bilbao
- 23 If HOSTESS & PETCO merged and became a medical supply company, they would sell
- 25 Small fry?
- 27 It can be a pain in the neck
- Lingus
- 29 One of 200+ stations for NBC, e.g.
- 30 Fitting
- 31 If NEUTROGENA, BIC & VANS merged and opened a winery, they would sell \_
- ane \_\_\_\_, longtime writer for The New 35 Jane
- 36 Author Roald
- 37 Cursor icon for clickable links
- 38 Snack with a Mega Stuf variety
- 41 Sit tight
- 44 Tickle
- 48 If IBM, DANNON & ACER merged and started a bakery, they would sell \_\_\_
- 52 Sallie (student loan program)

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

**BEER • WINE** 

LOTTERY

**PROPANE REFILLS** 

- 53 King in a 1978 novelty 87 Actress Skye
- 56 Made sense
- 57 Provides assistance

- 61 Las Vegas's W.N.B.A. team
- 62 October birthstone
- 63 Org. for Nelly Korda and Lydia Ko
- 64 If POST & SCHICK merged and became a kitchenware company, they would sell
- 67 If EPSON & CHASE merged and became an electronics accessories company, they would sell \_\_\_\_
- 69 French filmmaker Jacques
- 70 Some train depot figs.
- 71 Gent from Kent 72 Injudicious
- 73 Debater's skill
- 75 Golden arrow-shooting deity
- 76 Lets breathe
- '\_\_\_ Meninas'' (Velázquez masterpiece)
- 80 Big name in the ice cream aisle
- 81 If FORD & WALGREENS merged and became a landscaping company, they would sell
- 83 Like a bicycle or a horse
- 85 Movie princess who wields a blaster pistol
- 86 Winter Olympics setting in 1972, 1998, 2018 and 2022

- 90 German article
- 92 Atomic number of neodymium
- 58 Working on one's own well-being 95 If GMC, PETSMART & LENOVO merged and became an auto parts company, they would sell
  - 101 West Coast airport code
  - 104 Like a column starting a row, perhaps
  - 105 Narrow inlet
  - 106 Buckwheat, for one 108 Time-shares?
  - 109 If MERCK, MARS & AIG merged and became an art supplies company, they would sell
  - 112 Most Vermeer works 113 Fair
  - doctrine) (copyright
  - 114 Verdi opera that becomes the name of a board game when an "H" is inserted

    34 Magicians' flourish
    35 What a fixer-upper might become, pessimistically
  - 115 Scorch
  - 116 Old-fashioned invitation enclosure, in brief
  - 117 Ayo Edebiri's character on "The Bear," familiarly
  - 118 Analyzed grammatically
  - 119 Element of many signs

#### DOWN

- 1 Corkscrews and such 2 In the No. 1 position
- 3 Inner tube?
- 4 Billboard chart listings
- 5 Hypotheticals 6 Suggestion, casually
- 7 Cheering loudly
- 8 Like a "wet" signature

- 10 Visitors from afar, in brief
  - 11 Hazard for the unwary
  - 12 Hot mess 13 When Ophelia dies in "Hamlet"
  - 14 2015 Kendrick Lamar anthem that won two Grammys
  - 15 Ace the test

9 Be furious

- 16 Cheer for 17 Mean

  - 19 Spanish girl
  - 24 Skin-care brand with the slogan "Face Anything"
  - Lilly and Company
  - 29 Tapped, as a cigarette 32 Jazz style
  - Oh\_\_\_\_" (Thomas Moore
  - 34 Magicians' flourishes

  - 38 South American tuber
  - 39 Relieved (of)
  - 40 Supplementary data and suggestions for further reading, maybe
  - 42 Rival of the Dodgers and Rockies, informally
  - 43 Great Lakes natives
  - 45 Precursor to a clarifying remark
  - 46 Fancy shopping mall 47 Playboy's founder, in
  - brief 49 Fruit drinks

  - 50 Complained under one's breath 51 Ones making margin calls, for short?
  - 53 Purchases that come with metal plates
- 54 Craving

112

116

- 55 Bags with black and green varieties
- 58 Lend, as money 59 Celebration for seniors
- 61 "Highway to Hell"
- band
- 62 "Aha, got it!"
- 64 Key near Fn
- 65 Response to a routine delivery?
- 66 1986 rock autobiography
- 67 Be on the hunt
- 68 Baker v. \_\_\_\_ (landmark voting rights case)
- 71 Fratty type

113

117

- 74 Kimono sash 75 Novelist Ferrante
- 76 From the top
- 77 Sea urchin, on a sushi menu
- 78 Govt. agency whose busiest days usually precede major holidays
- 81 Some gymnastics
- 82 Go up

83 "R" in a car 84 Puzzled

118

- 87 Cool places to live? 88 Singer Rodrigo
- 89 Awards partially bestowed by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- 91 List of mistakes
- 93 Pibb \_ (soft drink) 94 Ruling Romanovs,
- e.g.
- 96 Bend in a pipe 97 Santa
- 98 "Clumsy me!"
- 100 Sends off 101 Spectacle

99 University of

102 Hit 1996 movie billed as a "homespun

Memphis athlete

- murder story' 103 "Love & Death" actress Elizabeth
- **107** Pelt
- 109 Janitorial implement
- 110 The Guardians, on sports tickers
- 111 Hip



#### su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

**HARD - 70** 

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

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

#### Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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#### Chief excited police force has new home

Continued from Page 19

workspace he's called home for the last six years are barely two feet wide. "We must have had skinny firemen back in the day, because you can't even get a chair through that," he said.

After the volunteer fire company moved out in 2002, the police department took over this portion of the building on Green Street. They've been here 20 years now. It's never been suited to the needs of a modern law enforcement agency, according to McGee, a former county sheriff's deputy who has 33 years of service under his belt.

But now, relief is on the way: McGee and his roster of eight officers are in the middle of making an historic move, packing up for a new headquarters on West Market Street, less than a mile down the road.

They just signed a lease for a modern space where every cop will have their own office, and the HVAC won't struggle in icy winter or sweltering summer. "The best part of it is just getting our feet down on the ground there and starting to work out of that office," McGee said. "We've been working out of our car for about the last three weeks, so it'd be nice to, you know, put ourselves in seats and actually be able to do some work from an office setting."

In the old building, the problems went beyond cramped workspaces. Built in 1950, its wiring – which already was replaced, twice – just couldn't support the electronics and computer infrastructure needed for 21st Century police work.

One big reason he wanted to move was to have a building capable of having an alarm system, McGee said, especially for their evidence room. The 14,000 square foot firehouse is now listed for sale by the town.

In the new office, Snow Hill's police officers will enter using electronic keycards. They'll have separate bathrooms for police and the public, and a proper entry foyer where a receptionist eventually will sit. Electronics

will live in a server room. A spacious conference room up front is bigger than the entirety of the old police station.

"I tell people, I'm going from driving a Ford Pinto to a Mercedez-Benz," McGee said.

What might be the most exciting news, though, is that this space isn't even the department's long-term solution.

McGee said a brand-new police headquarters is slated to be built just around the corner from here, on a grassy parcel is at the corner of Federal and Market Streets, across from a Methodist cemetery and a convenience store. Its slight incline makes it the closest thing to a hill most people will see on the Eastern Shore.

The two-acre lot was donated by the late Pete Scarborough, who died in 2021 at age 78.

"He was very involved with the community here in Snow Hill," McGee said, "and that was his goal, to have a police department there. What we're hoping to build is a 30-year po-

lice department, make it modernized, much like what Berlin did years ago, just on a smaller scale."

But how they got here, to their new home, was by "sheer accident," as McGee puts it.

He and town leaders started putting out some feelers for a new location and found this spot after an officer on patrol noticed the space, part of a three-unit commercial building, was empty.

The town made an inquiry of the owners, and within a manner of weeks, they were working on a rental agreement. They just signed a three-year lease this month.

McGee's officers couldn't be happier.

"They were moved in before I was moved in, so I didn't have to ask them to do a whole lot. They brought all their stuff that they wanted, set up their offices the way they wanted to. You know, happy employees tend to work better. We're excited. I'm excited. The town's excited, which is a good thing."

summer.	tionist eventually will	sit. Electronics w	ve're hoping to build i	is a 30-year po	- good thing."
曲曲曲	OPEN HOU	<b>JSES</b>	Sept. 4 -	11	金金金金
DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family from	\$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 11am-1pm	104 125th Street #106, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$625,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Friday 1:30-3:30pm	616 Salt Spray Road #6, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$320,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	609 Bayshore Drive #32, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Townhome	\$899,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	201 S. Heron Drive #G5, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$398,400	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	21 Birdnest Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$479,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	27450 Covered Bridge Trail, Harbeson, DE	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$575,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 11am-1pm	11204 Coastal Highway Unit 3C, Ocean Cit	y 2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Tim Meadowcroft/Long & Foster Real Estat
Saturday 11am-1pm	105 120th St. #8A, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$335,000	Cindy Purcell/Re/MAX Advantage Realty
Sat & Sun 11am-3pm	415 14th St. Unit 55A, Ocean City	6BR/4.5 BA	Condo	\$2,497,000	David Dypsky/Newport Bay Realty
Saturday 12:30-2:30pm	616 Salt Spray Road #6, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$320,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 3-5pm	504 Robin Drive #50, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$269,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	104 125th Street #106, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$625,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	609 Bayshore Drive #32, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Townhome	\$899,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sunday 12:30-2:30pm	504 Robin Drive #50, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$269,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 12:30-2:30pm	201 S. Heron Drive #G5, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$398,400	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., Sept. 4

#### **'STORY TIME 'IS THIS THE BUS FOR US?'**

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### STORY TIME: BACK TO SCHOOL

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

#### PINE TONES CHORUS OPEN REHEARSAL

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 1-3 p.m. An opportunity for interested folks to try out the group. Musical training/experienced are appreciated, but not necessary. Jenny Anderson, 443-655-5636; Dave Holloway, 610-213-7472, @pinetoneschorus.

#### LET'S MAKE ... MONARCH MIGRATION WREATHS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Make stunning monarch butterfly wreaths using paper, fabric and other materials in this adult craft program. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### POCOMOKE BOOK CLUB: TEA & TALK (JANE AUSTEN'S 'NORTHANGER ABBEY)

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join in for a lively discussion each month. Stop by the Pocomoke Branch to pick up a copy in advance. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Join in for a Lego challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### Fri., Sept. 5

#### WINE ON THE BEACH 2025

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Featuring unique artisans and crafters, popular Delmarva food and live music by Bird Dog and the Road Kings followed by Misspent Youth. Tickets: http://www.winefest.com/tickets-beach.html. 410-263-3323

#### MARK TWAIN TONIGHT! STARRING RICHARD THOMAS

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. Thomas brings Mark Twain's razor-sharp wit and enduring wisdom to life. Tickets:

https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/319850 69/mark-twain-tonight-starring-richard-thomas-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center.

#### **OC MAHJONG CLUB**

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

#### **HOMESCHOOL HIATUS**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Take a break from learning to explore STEAM activities and crafts. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### DISCOVERY DEN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30-4:30 p.m. Come enjoy a new topic every week. Week 1: Art Studio. Best of elementary and middle school students, but all are welcome. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### FIRST FRIDAY & BLOCK PARTY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and see the new exhibits. Also featuring live music with events and demos. Free event. All are welcome. 410-524-9433, frankie@artleagueofoceancity.org

#### YOGA BASICS FOR BEGINNERS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 6 p.m. Build confidence and familiarity with foundational yoga poses. Bring your own mat. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### SIPPIN' WITH SLOTHS

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 6-8 p.m. Music by Sound Living/Glenn Stern. Cost is \$40 and includes sloth encounter, selfguided tour, and one complementary glass of wine. Tickets: https://book.singenuity.com/469/activity/details/2284/ rates. 302-829-1548

#### KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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., Sept. 6

#### **WINE ON THE BEACH 2025**

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Featuring unique artisans and crafters, popular Delmarva food and live music by Bird Dog and the Road Kings followed by Misspent Youth. Tickets: http://www.winefest.com/tickets-beach.html. 410-263-3323

#### **OCEAN CITY SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 12-8 p.m. Featuring steamed crabs, Maryland seafood, beer, wine, cocktails, live music and cooking demos. Family friendly event. Tickets: https://ocmd-seafoodfest.com.

#### **SATURDAY WRITERS**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their works. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop-ins welcome. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### PAW PATROL PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Enjoy some paw-riffic crafts and get your first library cards. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **ANNUAL DOGGIE SWIM**

Mumford's Landing Pool, 7351 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Small dogs under 20 lbs. swim from 10-10:30 a.m. All dogs swim from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$8 per dog. Benefits Worcester County Humane Society. Rain date is Sept. 9. All donations welcome. 410-641-5255

#### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST, SLIGO BY THE SEA. SUMMER MINISTRY

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 10 a.m.-noon. Pastor Kandace Zollman - Pastor for Nurture and Visitation, Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, Spencerville, MD.

sligochurch.org/sligobythesea, 301-270-6777

#### 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., Sept. 7

#### 20TH ANNUAL BAHIA MARINA FLOUNDER POUNDER

Bahia Marina and Tackle Shop, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. A one day fishing tournament for flounder. Great for kids. You may fish from your own boat or rent a skiff, skimmer or pontoon from the marina. https://www.bahiamarina.com/tournaments/flounderpounder, 410-289-7438

#### 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 "Beach Bandit Duo." https://ocdc.org

#### **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., Sept. 8

#### STORY TIME: PIGS

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 & psychological well-being. This group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

#### **MOVIE MATINEE**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come see a movie you may have missed

#### **Calendar**

in the theaters. Light refreshments provided. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **BRIDGE**

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

#### **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.

#### Tues., Sept. 9

#### 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.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 fingerplays. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **BABY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **OC KNITTING GROUP**

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

#### STORM OF '33 WITH BUNK MANN

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4-5 p.m. A presentation on Ocean City's Storm of '33 with local writer Bunk Mann. 410-524-1818, https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/14718110

#### BOOK CLUB @ TIDES AND VINE: 'KIN: ROOTED IN HOPE' BY CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. An evening of Books and Wine with the One Maryland One Book. Stop by the Snow Hill library to pick up your book. Must be at least 21 years of age. 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

#### **OC KNITTING CLUB**

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

#### ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

Tuesdays - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: Tangobythe Beach.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., Sept. 10

#### OC ROCK AND RIDE BIKEFEST

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Also held in the convention center for 10 a.m to 7 p.m. Featuring 23 bands, 85 vendors, fireworks, 9/11 tribute, bike show and prizes, stunt shows and passport ride. Tickets: www.ocrockandride.com.

#### **PUZZLE SWAP**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-7 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles and leave with new-to-you puzzles. 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

#### **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

#### BOOK CLUB @ 50PLUS CENTER: 'KIN: ROOTED IN HOPE' BY CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD

Snow Hill 5oplus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Read the One Maryland One Book 2025 selection. Stop by the Snow Hill library or the 5oplus Center to pick up your book. Then meet for a discussion. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **MERRY MAKERS: OPEN CRAFT DAY!**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Marble, paint and decoupage on multiple surfaces. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **CRAB CAKES FOR A CAUSE**

Captain's Galley Crab Cake Shack, 9936 Stephen Decatur Highway, Ocean City, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. All day long, 10% of all sale will benefit the Ocean City Art League. Dine in or take out. Tickets: https://givebutter.com/TeamPrez. 410-524-9433

#### WHATCHA READING?

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Share your book recommendations and enjoy a snack while you read. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **COLONIAL CRAFTS**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 p.m. Create your own quill pen to take home and explore the traditional technique of tin punching. Learn how everyday items were made in the 1700s. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

#### INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING AND CHILI DINNER

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8:30 p.m. Free event. Chili dinner held at 6 p.m. followed by dance lessons from 7-8:30 p.m. Adult singles and couples welcome. No children. RSVP by Sept. 8: 908-229-8799.

#### PAJAMA STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6:30 p.m. Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffie to snuggle while you enjoy stories and songs to wind down to bedtime. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, 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.

#### **CASH BINGO**

Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave. Door open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Food available before bingo and at intermission. Open to the public. 443-605-5028

#### ONGOING EVENTS

#### **BUS TRIP TO BRANDYWINE MUSEUM**

Sponsored by the Art League of Ocean City. The exhibit features 50 of Andrew Wyeth's paintings inspired by Kuerner Farm. A visit to Kuerner Farm is also available (\$12). Cost is \$95 for members and \$115 for non-members and includes transportation and museum ticket. The bus will leave from the ACME parking lot (94th Street and Coastal Highway) on Sept. 12 at 8 a.m. and returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. Tickets: https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/classes/2630. 410-524-9433, frankie@artleagueofoceancity.org

#### **CREATIVITY CORNER**

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., throughout September. Students are invited to engage in STEAM-related projects and crafts. Activities change monthly. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650

#### LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout September. Take a self-guided tour of the library's local history collection. For help with finding your roots or navigating historical records, contact the local history librarian at history@worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-3495.

#### HISTORY-TO-GO: CROSS STITCHING

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout September. Pick up a History-to-Go kit about the colonial art of cross stitch. Includes info sheets, recommended activities, supples and more. 410-632-3495

#### **PURNEL MUSEUM AT THE LIBRARY: TOYS**

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout September. Come see the history displays that will feature toys from the colonial era to the 20th century. 410-632-3495

#### **TEEN TIME**

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, throughout September, 3 p.m. to close. Create your own journal using stickers, markers, etc. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

Page 24 Bayside Gazette September 4, 2025

#### **Snapshots**



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **LOCAL MARKET**

Residents and visitors stroll downtown Berlin during the municipality's popular weekly farmers market. The events are held each Sunday morning through October.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# TO UND CALL AND CALL

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **NEW KIWANIS MEMBER**

New member Patrick Foley was welcomed into the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City at the Aug. 27, 2025 meeting. Foley recently moved to Ocean Pines and was looking for a place to connect with something that fit his experience. He is pictured center with sponsor Bob Wolfing and Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell.

#### **SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS**

The members of Ocean City Firefighters & Paramedics – IAFF Local 4269 have announced their recent donation of school supplies to Ocean City Elementary School. The donation included backpacks, pencil cases, markers, lunch boxes, and headphones, all aimed at helping students start the school year with the tools they need to succeed. This initiative is part of Local 4269's ongoing commitment to supporting the Ocean City community both in and out of uniform.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club awarded three local seniors with college scholarships. Pictured, from left, are Nancy Bradford, committee chair; recipients Owen Sperry and Adam Baker; and club members Cliff Berg and Jay Warrington. Not pictured is senior Kamryn Black. The club meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

#### **NEW CLUB PRESIDENT**

Seth Thatcher, left, was elected president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City at the Aug. 27 meeting. A new member of the club since April 23, Thatcher, pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell, comes with past experience as a leader, even Lt. Governor, from his former Kiwanis Club.

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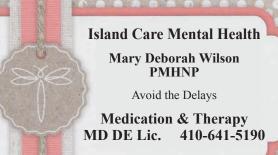
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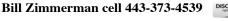
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