GAZETTE BAYSIDE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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DECATUR WALL MURAL CELEBRATED

Morgan's Message founder Dona Rodgers was joined by Worcester County Superintendent of Schools Annette Wallace and administrators, teachers and student-athletes at Stephen Decatur High School in celebrating the grand opening of the dedication wall behind the stadium. Rodgers was the mom of Morgan, a former Division I lacrosse player who died by suicide after a mental health battle linked to a devastating knee injury she suffered.

Committees could be cut by OP board

Heavner cites increasing friction between advisory panels and their bosses

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) Several of the advisory committees in Ocean Pines that had been tasked with recommending initiatives and community improvements to the Board of Directors may be eliminated later this week.

The Ocean Pines Association has numerous committees assigned to assess specific aspects of community life and association operations.

These include the Aquatics Advisory Committee, the Golf Advisory Committee, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, the Environment and Natural Assets Committee, the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, the Bylaws and Resolutions Advisory Committee, the Communications Advisory Committee, the Marine Activities Advisory Committee, the Elections Committee, the Architectural Review Committee and the See HEAVNER Page 8

Fiddlers rosin up bows for Berlin

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Grass always bluer during fiddlin', pickin' contests at Fiddler's Convention

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) Berlin's popular and enduring Fiddler's Convention is back this weekend for its 33rd year of bluegrass, folk, and country tunes.

Berlin's Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to host the convention on Main Street, which will begin Friday at 6 p.m. and conclude at around 10 p.m. The festival will continue into Saturday with music and entertainment planned from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Friday night will feature bands such as The String Buzzards from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and The Plate Scrapers from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

On Saturday, The High and Wides will play from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and The Clendenen Brothers, a group making their Fiddler's Convention debut, will perform from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Garrett Neville, the chamber's president, said that the organization affectionately refers to Friday as "a good locals' night." "The street is open later, and shops

See GOOD Page 4



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BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Maryland State Police moved into a brand-new Berlin barrack earlier this year, pictured, to replace the former facility, which officials say was long since outdated.

Officials celebrate the state police's new Berlin barrack

Updated facility, finished earlier this year, will better serve the law enforcement

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) Back in 2006, when Lt. Earl Starner took command of the Maryland State Police barrack in Berlin, it was already a 30-year-old building with limited space, an unreliable HVAC system and aging technology.

"Something happened during those couple of decades: that middleaged barrack, it turned into an old barrack," Starner said Tuesday. "And you all know what's good about old barracks, right? Nothing. Not a thing."

It took nearly a decade of planning and more than two years of construction, but this week, Starner - now the agency's longest-service barrack commander – and other State Police officials marked the official opening of their gleaming new Berlin barrack, beside where the old building had sat along Route 50 since 1976.

Troopers here moved in March 28, ahead of the ribbon cutting. A dozen of them, in their classic khaki uniforms and straw hats, queued behind their commander when he rose to speak.

Starner beamed with pride while giving credit to his cadre of dedicated troopers, for the hours they spend not just conducting patrols and making arrests, but for helping those in need and even taking kids shopping at the holidays.

'I can't stand up here today and talk about this without talking about them," Starner said. "They were really the favorite part of my story."

On a blustery day when flags were snapping, dozens of members of law enforcement, elected leaders, and community members gathered on folding chairs under a tent for the long-awaited ribbon cutting ceremony.

Leaders hailed the \$26.8 million, 24,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility as a stronger, safer homebase that will serve the Lower Shore for decades to come.

"What you see before you today, this wonderful new building, did not happen overnight," said Chaudhry, secretary of the state Department of General Services, whose agency oversees the construction and maintenance of facilities like this one. "Projects like these are just an idea and it takes years of effort to get to this point."

The guest of honor at Tuesday's ceremony was Maryland Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller, who arrived in a motorcade led by troopers on motorcycles. She thanked the troopers "who put on the uniform each day with courage, dedication, and with utmost professionalism."

"Listen," she told the audience,
"I'm a civil engineer, and there's nothing more that feels like music to my ears than a project that is built on time and on budget."

Replacement plans started forming nine years ago, Starner said, when he sat down with an architect to sketch out ideas for a new barracks. After an April 2023 groundbreaking, they fought off curveballs along the way like the COVID-19 pandemic, bad weather, and even bad soil.

Starner also traveled extensively to Cumberland, where the State Police had built their most recent new bar-

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Good time downtown with strings attached

Continued from Page 1 usually stay open later as well," he said.

Also included in the two-day lineup is a contest for amateur musicians on Saturday from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. The performers will have the opportunity to showcase their talent, and a judge has been selected to determine the winners.

Entries are still open for youth and adult categories, said David Fitzgerald, the chamber's incoming president.

Chamber officials said that they are expecting 2,000 to 3,000 attendees on Saturday alone. Food trucks will be on-site for residents and visitors to grab lunch and dinner, and beer and wine tickets can be purchased from the commerce organization at the event. Around 20 vendors are slated for the second day of the festival.

New this year is the event's stage placement. Neville said that on Friday night, the platform will be situated in its traditional spot near Sterling Tavern. On Saturday, it will be parked in the center of town.

The Fiddler's Convention is a Berlin tradition that has spanned decades. Fitzgerald noted that due to its popularity and scale, planning for the event begins up to one year in ad-



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Music appreciators listen to a live folk performance at last year's Fiddler's Convention on Main Street.

vance.

"We will probably, even this weekend, start our 2026 planning because I'm sure these bands will ask about coming back, or they will give us their availability for next year," the official said.

The Fiddler's Convention is free to attend, with food, beverages, and alcohol available for sale. The festival benefits the town by bringing business to its shops. Furthermore, proceeds from the beer and wine tickets will directly go back into the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, allowing the group to continue hosting its lineup of events.

The commerce team is looking forward to this weekend and ensuring the longstanding and beloved convention goes off without a hitch.

"The convention continues the tradition that a lot of people have come to expect as far as good fiddler music here on Main Street," Neville said. "Like most of our events, it's good family fun, good music, good food, good vendors, and another reason to come and explore cool small-town America."



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New state police building in Berlin a needed upgrade

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rack. He would often drive 4.5 hours each way to observe the build, take notes, and to figure out what worked and what didn't.

Upgrades over the old building include a perimeter fence, a sally port, and a regional training room. Bunk rooms will provide overnight accommodations for troopers and a 4,400-square-foot garage will house the barrack's 50-vehicle fleet.

Modern technology is also a hallmark of the new building, including electronic keycard entry and server space for storing bodycam footage. It'll also house a spacious new crime lab staffed with full-time investigators that will serve as a forensics hub for toxicology, fingerprinting, and ballistics.

Another custom touch was inspired by the building's formal title of Barrack "V" – all 24 State Police barracks are categorized by a letter of the alphabet – as bricks from the old barracks were saved after its demolition in early May to form a "V" in the concrete sidewalk at the new entrance, near its "2025" cornerstone.

It was decided the new barracks

It was decided the new barracks would be built adjacent to the site of the former one, just 8 feet apart, to maintain operations during the eventual changeover. But unlike the old building, which was set back from the highway and hard to see through the woods, the new one sits right at the edge of the highway, its brick arcade and columns front and center.

State Police Superintendent Col. Ronald Butler said that kind of improved visibility makes for a powerful recruiting tool, while giving a nod to troopers who are now upgrading from a much smaller facility.

"You'll never know the level of thanks that a trooper has for this installation when they pull in at three o'clock in the morning, and just want to take a moment, to take a deep breath and smile about what's ahead of them," Butler said. "We look forward to seeing you take it to the next lovel."



Upcoming book launch will feature work by Shore writer

Atlantic Hotel event will highlight local author's new book of science and family

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) A true story of adventure and family history come together in a soon-to-be published book by an Eastern Shore author, who will preside over a launch party at the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin.

On Sunday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m local author Barbara Lockhart will meet her readers and sign copies of her new book, "Half Pass Six." Per Lockhart's official website, the work is described as the writer's "memoir and biography of her father, who was on board during the famous expedition to the South Seas by William Beebe in 1925."

"Half Pass Six" is set to release on Tuesday, Sept. 23 by regional company Secant Publishing. The book is available now for preorder on Amazon.

Lockhart's story recounts the exploits of her father, Willi Rohrbein, a young boy struggling in a post-World War I Germany, who, in 1925, gets the chance to work as a mess boy on a scientific expedition led by Beebe, an explorer, marine biologist, and ornithologist.

The trip included discovering and cataloging thousands of new plant and animal specimens, exploring the ocean, and, according to the book's official description on Amazon, "seal the case for Darwin's theory of evolution."

In 1958, the synopsis continues, Rohrbein, now a Long Island, New York resident and a legal United States citizen, receives an original edition of "The Arcturus Adventure," a bestseller published in 1926 by Beebe as a Christmas gift from his daughter.

"[Rohrbein] had always admired, almost worshipped Beebe, but had little comprehension of the scientific breakthroughs happening on a weekly, sometimes daily and hourly, basis, in the Galapagos expedition that Beebe led and [Rohrbein] served as mess boy," the summary reads.

"Now [Rohrbein] gets it, as he spends his evenings reading slowly chapter by chapter, reliving old sights and episodes as if they had happened only yesterday and realizing for the first time why they were significant."

Residents and visitors of Berlin and the surrounding areas are invited to the book launch on Sept. 28. Here, Lockhart will greet readers and sign copies of her historical and personal story.

"I have been meaning to write this book probably all my life, and I finally got to it," the writer said. "These were stories over the kitchen table...As I got older, I started to realize the importance of [Beebe's] expedition and what it meant to the sciences, but also to my father. It changed his life, and it changed my life."

The author was born in New York, but is a longtime Eastern Shore resident, having moved to the area around 1968. Lockhart lives in Dorchester County. Here, she served 25 years as a kindergarten teacher, and now spends her time writing books, many of which focus on Eastern Shore history.

Previous works include "Elizabeth's Field," a story about a free black population living on Maryland's Eastern Shore, an area known for being the birthplace of Harriet Tubman. Lockhart said she was inspired by the fact that a free black woman owned her farm in Dorchester.

"Elizabeth's Field," published in 2013, won a silver medal in the Independent Publisher Book Awards for Regional Fiction.

Additionally, Lockhart has written two collections of short stories, as well as her first novel, released in 2002, "Requiem for a Summer Cottage," which is set on Maryland's Eastern Shore in the 1970s and 1980s.

Furthermore, Lockhart has authored children's books, including "Once a Pony Time at Chincoteague."

Lockhart's work has been celebrated for its excellence. The author has received two Maryland Arts Council Awards for excerpts from "Requiem for a Summer Cottage," as well as sections from her short stories. Another of her short story collections, "The Night is Young," was nominated as a Finalist in the National Indie Excellence Awards.

Lockhart's family is entrenched in the arts. According to Ron Sauder, publisher at Secant, the author's son, Paul Lockhart, sculpted the marlin that greets Ocean City tourists once they make it across the Route 50 bridge. Lynne Lockhart, the writer's daughter, is a successful painter in Worcester County who prioritizes local scenes.

Lockhart added that her youngest son is musically gifted and, for a long time, had a regular gig playing the guitar in Ocean City.

"Half Pass Six" will be available for purchase next week, followed by a book launch in downtown Berlin on Sept. 28. Secant Publishing, an independent publishing company that takes on stories and authors with a connection to the region, is the official publisher of the work.

Lockhart's new book is currently available for preorder at https://www.amazon.com/Half-Pass-Six/dp/BoFJ8VSB81/.



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Heavner seeks committees' end

Continued from Page 1

Budget and Finance Committee.

Now, some of these groups could be disbanded per a motion to be put forward at the OPA Board of Directors meeting this Saturday. If passed, these groups would be eliminated, save for the Elections Committee, the Architectural Review Committee, and the Budget and Finance Committee.

In a memorandum to the committee chairs obtained by The Bayside Gazette, Director Jeff Heavner advises them that he plans to call for a vote on terminating the majority of the advisory committees.

Heavner's letter explains that he believes the committees no longer serve OPA as they once did.

Per the community's governing documents, the board is authorized to establish advisory committees "as may be necessary to, or convenient in, the Association's discharging [of its] duties."

Heavner's memorandum says these groups must take direction from the board and provide requested advice to the board and, under Resolution C-01, "are encouraged to provide recommendations to the board that will 'enhance the management and functioning of the Association."

Heavnor maintains that while volunteerism is recognized and applauded, it is no longer necessary in an advisory capacity, particularly because OPA's management and departmental team has "grown in size and in depth of talent and capability," ultimately rendering the committees redundant.

The friction between the board and the advisory groups has reached a flashpoint, according to Heavner's letter, which says committees are often left frustrated when their ideas are deemed unfeasible or do not align with the priorities of the community's management team and elected officials.

The director notes that this sometimes hostile climate has led to conflict among committees, the board, and management.

"The lines of communication between the committees and the board and/or management have become inefficient and strained," Heavner's letter reads.

The director argues that ad hoc groups would be better suited for the community at this time. These teams can gather when needed to focus on assigned missions, rather than hold regular meetings in which they search for projects that may not be in sync with the neighborhood's strategies.

Heavner will propose eliminating the existing committees at a public board meeting this week. The board will be required to vote on the action item and a majority of the directors must concur with Heavnor for anything to happen.

Residents will have the chance to speak at the upcoming neighborhood assembly on this situation or other unrelated issues.

Heavnor maintains that three com-

mittees will be exempt from the motion: "the Election Committee (which serves an important governance-related role and has required status under the OPA Bylaws); the Architectural Review Committee (which is reguired under the OPA Declarations and serves the important role of formulating ARC Guidelines for Board consideration and considering and acting on permit and variance requests from members); and the Budget and Finance Committee (the existence of which derives from Bylaw section 9.04 and which has a narrow, clear, and annually recurring role in assisting with the preparation of the annual budget).

Heavner's memorandum has sparked outrage on social media.

"This proposal isn't just a procedural tweak: it's a fundamental shift that threatens homeowner engagement, transparency, and the collaborative spirit that built Ocean Pines," wrote resident Amy Peck on the Facebook page Ocean Pines ROC.

"We must speak up," she continued. "If passed, this motion tells every homeowner: 'Your voice doesn't matter.' It concentrates power, dismantles decades of collaboration, and undermines the inclusive governance we all deserve."

Heavner's proposed motion is not the first time committees have been questioned. In April 2024, OPA's Board of Directors voted 6-1 to disband the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee. The decision came following months of disputes between the group and the HOA's governing body.

Most notably, the volunteer team claimed that the old building at the paddle sports complex contained mold in an apparent attempt to persuade the directors to construct an entirely new facility.

The community initiated an evaluation, which revealed, after \$10,000 spent on labor, supplies, and services, that no mold was present within the structure. Soon after, the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee was terminated

Heavner maintained in his recent memorandum that while he sees the value in the committees, they no longer productively serve Ocean Pines.

"I am making this motion after careful consideration and in furtherance of my fiduciary duties, which I take very seriously, and also in furtherance of what I believe to be in the best interests of the Association," his letter concluded. "I am also doing so with due respect for the volunteer service your respective Committees have generously provided, for which I am thankful."

The meeting where the motion will be voted upon is set for 9 a.m. on Saturday at the Ocean Pines Golf Course Clubhouse. The Ocean Pines ROC Facebook page urges residents to make their voices heard at the gathering. Public comments are permitted only to those who attend in person.



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- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, from 10:30 am to 1 pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842).
- Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company (1410 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD 21851).
- Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, from 8 am to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center's Assateague Room (235 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811).
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, from 11 am to 1 pm at Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen (123 N. Main St., Berlin, MD 21811).

- Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, from 10 am to 1 pm at Holy Savior Catholic Church (1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842).
- Friday, Oct. 10, 2025, from 8 am to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center (235 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811).
 This event is a drive-thru flu clinic.
- Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, from 8 am to noon at the Gudelsky Family Medical Center (10614 Racetrack Road, Berlin, MD 21811). This event is a drive-thru flu clinic.
- Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Atlantic Club (11827 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842).
- Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Department (4718 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863).

Learn more about these free flu clinics at tidalhealth.org/flu



Runoff code's impact worrisome, group says

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) A Berlin stormwater management code that requires property developers to obtain easements from downstream neighbors to build up a lot could be amended, per a recommendation by the town's planning commission.

Current municipality standards maintain that if stormwater flows onto an existing property, the new project's developers are mandated to secure easements from that site's owner.

According to Sharon Cruz, a civil engineer with firm Davis, Bowen & Friedel, as it stands, Berlin's rules dictate that, "if a stormwater management plan involves direction of some or all runoff off of the site, it is the responsibility of the developer to obtain from adjacent property owners, any easements or other necessary property interest concerning flowage of water. Approval of a stormwater management plan does not create or affect any right to direct runoff onto adjacent property without the property owner's permission."

That rule could now be adjusted. The planning commission's basis for its recommendation for staff review is that even in the case where development of a property does not create

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additional runoff, another nearby owner may still deny the required easement and thus halt the new initiative from moving forward.

'I'm fearful as a precedent, a smart investor could just start buying random lots around town and holding future developers hostage," said Commission Chair Matthew Stoehr.

Stoehr's fellow committee members agreed.

The topic came up during a project presentation on Wednesday, Sept. 10. The endeavor evaluated at that meeting had been previously reviewed by the Berlin Planning Commission but came before the group again with a minimized version to comply with the stormwater easement code.

Last week, the Berlin Planning Commission reviewed the preliminary plans to subdivide an existing parcel on Bay Street, west of Bottle Branch Road, into four residential lots. Property owner Eric Davis and Jason Lindsey, an engineer with Atlantic Group and Associates, presented the new design.

The project was originally to include several duplexes. Now, the approximately 2.8-acre parcel will be divided into four separate lots: Lot 1, 8,948 square feet; Lot 2, 8,700 square feet; Lot 3, 12,112 square feet; and Lot 4, 92,605 square feet.

Friday, October 10

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Davis said that with the new setup, he could likely get away with building one small duplex. There are also three failing structures on the land, currently located on Lot 1, Lot 3, and Lot 4. The owner added that he may be able to remodel these facilities for some type of use.

The scope of the multi-duplex work was revised and reduced due to the town's stormwater code, Lindsey said. According to the engineer, the developers were informed that to move forward, they needed to obtain an easement from the nearby Decatur Farms neighborhood to discharge stormwater onto their property.

Lindsey added that his team was able to reduce the 10-year peak discharge rate and match the regulatory standard of a two-year discharge rate. The duplex development would not increase the amount of stormwater Decatur Farms receives, as it would be considered a natural flow. Even with the modified flow rate, Decatur Farms' eight-person homeowners association board denied the request, ultimately stopping the owner's original intent for the property in its tracks.

The new plans are allowable without permission from an adjacent property owner, so long as each lot's development does not exceed 5,000 square feet of disturbance, which the owner and engineers maintain they will not hit with the modified scope of

This scaled-down version and parcel subdivision were preliminarily approved by the Berlin Planning Commission last week. The plans will be eligible for final approval once engineering, stormwater, and utility reviews are finalized.

Davis indicated that if the town standard were to be adjusted to allow for his initial duplex design, he would consider revitalizing those efforts. For now, the developer will move forward with the reduced variation.

While this project will likely be amended to comply with the runoff code, the commission has asked that town staff take a look at the guidelines to protect future developments.

"I care about your project, but also the next 50," Stoer said, addressing Davis.

Cruz said that discussions would begin at the staff level "to evaluate the code for compliance with state regulations, because obviously, any storm water information in your code has to first and foremost comply with the state stormwater regulations."

She continued, "And then, with the internal discussions, moving forward with, 'What are the implications of the code as it is written now?' And are there ways to clarify the code for better information for any potential developers with projects and their engineers?"

No timeline for these conversations was decided last week. The commission has simply requested that they eventually take place.

'A business owner or an HOA, they're just going to say no," Stoehr said. "They have almost zero to gain. That's my concern. That all future developments have this issue hanging over their head."

Marine Debris Plunder set for Sunday in Ocean Pines

(Sept. 18, 2025) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Ocean Pines community will host this Sunday the annual Marine Debris Plunder.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Captain Jack and his crew of volunteers will be at the White Horse Park boat ramp waiting for volunteers to bring debris collected out of our waterways.

Both boaters and land-based volunteers are encouraged to join the cleanup effort. Gather collected debris and bring it to the Ocean Pines White Horse Park Boat Ramp for a weigh-in. Captain Jack Sparrow and his pirate crew will assist with the weigh-in and ensure proper disposal of the debris.

Preregistration is encouraged and can be completed online at the Maryland Coastal Bays Program website, www.mdcoastalbays.org, or by contacting Sandi Smith at mcbp@md-

coastalbays.org. Thanks to a sponsorship from Ron

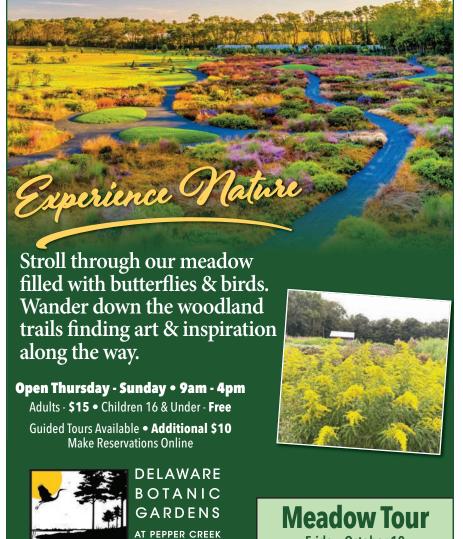
Jon Surf Shop, supply packets can be picked up at the Yacht Club Marina or the MCBP office on a pre-arranged date, or at the boat ramp the day of the

Participants who bring their collected debris to the weigh-in will receive an event T-shirt, while supplies

The goal of this event is to engage the community in cleaning up our waterways and streets and to collect data on the debris. Participants will be asked to fill out data sheets, which will be used for an outreach campaign next year to remind visitors of the importance of keeping local waterways

Boaters will receive specific instructions on identifying marine debris and avoiding live traps, as crabbing season is in effect. It is illegal to tamper with

Boaters are encouraged to collect abandoned and derelict crab pots, which often become ghost pots that trap and kill marine life, including crabs, terrapins, otters, and fish.



Rental permit issue sparks resident outrage

Some community members threatening lawsuit against HOA in rental license feud

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2025) In one West Ocean City neighborhood, a fight over parking spaces has escalated into a bitter battle over short-term rentals, with residents now threatening to haul their homeowners association into court.

Worcester County last month notified 16 owners in The Landings at Bayside community along Route 611 that their short-term rental licenses were being revoked, because they were out of compliance with parking rules by not providing a third parking space to renters. The letter to owners also said their original rental licenses had been issued in error by county staff.

Some owners then reached out to their management company, Legum & Norman, which led to the HOA's board of directors sending out a note that licenses were pulled because of the parking issue.

However, in a three-page letter shared with OC Today-Dispatch on Sept. 4, two dozen residents from 15 households allege the conflict was the fault of the homeowners association. They specifically said it was the HOA's board of directors that created the problem when they raised the complaint with the county – allegedly as a way to target and weed out short-term rental properties.

"Homeowners purchased their properties with the reasonable expectation... that the common area parking facilities sufficiently meet the requirements for all permissible uses, including short-term rentals," the letter says. "Short-term rentals have been an integral part of this community for 20 years."

According to the zoning code, for any unit to be rented on a short-term basis – that's 28 days or fewer – it must provide an additional off-street parking space beyond the two re-

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BAYSIDE V GAZETTE

quired. The rule applies only to homes built after January 1, 2020, which affects nearly all the recently built townhouses in The Landings, county officials have stated.

Zoning officials in Snow Hill said the issue could be resolved quickly if the HOA would assign parking spaces for short-term rentals, because the board of directors under HOA rules controls all parking areas and can assign spaces if needed.

But residents allege the board didn't do this and failed to ask homeowners for input. They say the county never had a problem with parking before, that HOA acted in bad faith and against the community's best interest, and their actions were "premeditated to circumvent the bylaws process" for short-term rental restrictions

"The Board's deliberate obstruction of access to common area parking spaces, despite its clear authority and responsibility to solve the issue it created, appears calculated to further a clandestine agenda aimed at prohibiting short-term rentals," the letter says.

Further, the board may have violated state open meetings requirements for HOAs by not convening a meeting to solicit resident or homeowner input, the residents say in the letter, noting that bylaws say HOA and board meetings shall be open to members.

Now, citing the state condominium and homeowners association laws, the homeowners are demanding a resolution from their HOA within 30 days, by assigning parking if necessary. They also are asking for

the board to find a permanent solution within three months to ensure homeowners can still do short-term rentals if they so wish.

Residents – who privately have said their fight isn't with the county – say they'll file a complaint with the Maryland Attorney General's office for breach of duty. They're also prepared to file a lawsuit against not only the board of directors but its individual members to force compliance, seek damages, and recover attorney's fees

Property management company Legum & Norman did send a note to residents, offering refunds for canceled rentals as a result of homeowners losing their rental licenses. The company did not respond to an email request for comment sent Wednesday.





Frankford Chapel 43 Thatcher Street Frankford, DE

302.732.9000

Long Neck Chapel 32013 Long Neck Road Millsboro, DE

302.945.9000

Ocean View Chapel 38040 Muddy Neck Road Ocean View, DE

302.537.2441

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OC LIONS DONATION

The Ocean City Lions Club donated \$1,000 to the Ocean City Museum Society's 11th Annual Storm Warriors 5K Run Walk scheduled for Nov. 8. Monies raised help preserve the 1891 Ocean City Life Saving Station and support the Museum of Ocean City. Pictured are Curator Christine Okerblom and OC Lion Jeff Facello

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Purnell Crossing looking to add 20 homes in next phase

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) The Berlin Planning Commission last week reviewed preliminary subdivision plans for the construction of phase five of a development project at Purnell Crossing South.

Troy Purnell, property owner, and attorney Mark Cropper went before the municipality's planning commission last Wednesday seeking preliminary blessing for the subdivision of land off Prospect Drive.

The commission signed off on the initiative's initial design. Final approval, which includes the review of utility, landscaping, and other required plans, must be obtained through a subsequent application and review process.

The original Purnell Crossing Planned Unit Development was greenlit in the early 2000s, and the land intended for phase five has always been denoted as space for future development.

Last week, the Berlin Planning Commission heard the preliminary plans to divide this property into three parcels for eventual construction. Purnell maintained that he is unsure if he will sell the area or build it up himself. Still, a designated setup will allow Purnell to either move forward with construction

or relinquish the space.

Currently, Purnell said that he plans to construct 20 single-family homes on the property, assuming he doesn't put the site on the market.

The land will be divided into three parcels: one being an extension of the existing roadway, which, once completed, will be turned over to the Town of Berlin, as well as the water and sewer lines underneath. A second parcel would be used for the proposed 20 single-family homes, and a third a section would be used for stormwater management, likely to include a pond and drainage area.

"We need to go ahead and establish this now to go forward," Purnell said. "We are very, very close as far as design drawings, construction drawings, and everything else."

Once the development is complete, the repairs to the roads and sewer would be the responsibility of the Town of Berlin. As for stormwater management, an association agreement will be set up that dictates that all the owners will share in any maintenance fees or future costs.

Last week's review was strictly preliminary. The commission will hear the project once again at a later date for final site plan approval.





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NEW MEMBER INDUCTED

On Sept. 10, Susie Yovanno was inducted as the newest member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Pictured, from left, are Susie's sponsor John Hulit, Susie and Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell. .



Federal bill includes funds for new bay dredging vessel

By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

(Sept. 18, 2025) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could be on its way to securing a new dredging vessel to maintain navigation channels on the East Coast, including the Ocean City Inlet.

On Tuesday, Rep. Andy Harris (R-1st) announced the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2026, which earmarks \$375 million for coastal storm protection and beach management and \$50 million in new funding to replace the Currituck, one of two dredge vessels in the Army Corps fleet without a private industry equivalent.

Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young applauded the news this week, as county leaders have continued to advocate for the maintenance of the inlet and the need for another dredge vessel.

"We truly appreciate the congressman's efforts with this funding," he said. "The shoaling within the Ocean City Inlet creates navigational hazards for our commercial and recreational vessels, making the continued maintenance dredging one of the county's federal priorities.



"The Currituck has done amazing work over the years but has clearly reached the end of its useful life. We are aware there are other steps to secure this funding, however we remain optimistic, as this benefits multiple states up and down the East Coast."

This week's announcement comes eight months after Ted Elder, president of the Worcester County Commissioners, sent a letter to Harris, sharing the need for an additional dredge vessel on the East Coast.

In his correspondence, he noted that both the Currituck and the dredge Murden were scheduled for repairs during the summer, just as fishing activity hit its peak in Ocean City.

"With that in mind, we urge you to consider allocating federal funding to study the need for a third dredge vessel for the East Coast, as availability of the two existing vessels is always in doubt with natural disasters and dry dock maintenance requirements for the aging vessels," he wrote in his January letter.

"It is only through the assistance from your office that we've been able to get the dredge vessels here enough to keep the channels here navigable. Continual entreaties for dredging wouldn't be necessary if there was a third dredge vessel serving the region."

The importance of available dredge vessels became clear earlier this summer, when the commissioners pressed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform emergency dredging in the inlet ahead of the White Marlin Open.

The federal agency ended up sending the dredge vessel Merritt from North Carolina to complete the work, as both the Currituck and Murden were undergoing repairs.

Harris' office announced the federal appropriation this week, saying that funding will address urgent shoaling concerns in Maryland's waterways. Harris joined a coalition of representatives from coastal states to secure funds for a new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging vessel.

"For too long, critical dredging projects have been slowed due to the age and maintenance demands of Dredge Currituck. My language will ensure the prompt replacement of Dredge Currituck and deliver a long-term solution needed to sustain coastal economies up and down the East Coast," Harris said in a news release.

"Before leaving office, Senator Ben Cardin urged me to ensure this longneeded project finally became a reality after years of unsuccessful attempts to secure a new dredge vessel. I'm proud to have led the effort that brought this project to completion for Maryland and the entire East Coast."

Deputies honored for heroic car fire rescue

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) From a short distance in the dark of night, the fire on the highway appears only as a bright, flickering glow on the grainy police bodycam footage

Only as the sheriff's deputy hustles closer does the video become clear: stopped in the road, there's a car on fire – and it's right next to a tanker truck.

"There's people trapped in the vehicle! Vehicle's on fire!" Worcester County Sheriff's Deputy First Class Mark Shayne can be heard telling a state trooper, who hands him a fire extinguisher over a guardrail. "We need help up here!"

Shayne runs toward the blaze, pulls the extinguisher pin, and sprays the firefighting foam over the engulfed sedan. "All right, we're coming!" he calls to the driver. "Get' em out, get 'em out!"

He was joined by Deputy Earl Buffa, who freed the driver from her seatbelt and can be seen on camera, hands under her arms, dragging her away to a safe distance.

For their actions in saving the life of the driver, Gov. Wes Moore last week presented Shayne and Buffa with commendations for valor. They accepted their awards Sept. 8 in Ocean City during an annual conference of Maryland sheriffs and police chiefs at the Ashore



PHOTO COURTESY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Worcester County Sheriff's Deputies Mark Shayne and Earl Buffa (center, with ribbons) were honored Monday in Ocean City by (from left) Malik Aziz, president of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli and Sheriff Jim DeWees of Carroll County, who heads the Maryland Sheriff's Association.

hotel.

"Today's honorees are the best of our state, the ones who run toward danger when others run from it," Moore said in a statement.

The governor also honored two deputies from Howard County who saved a mother and child from an armed assailant, as well as Maryland Transportation Authority Police officers who saved lives when Baltimore's Key Bridge collapsed in March 2024.

In a video released by the sheriff's office that included the bodycam footage

from the night of Aug. 24, 2024, Shayne says he and Buffa were dispatched for the report of a vehicle versus tanker truck collision on eastbound Route 50 between Racetrack Road and Seahawk Road.

"Honestly, there was so much fire, I didn't think there was anybody alive in that car," he said. "Then, my [shift] partner, he went up to the car and actually said there was somebody alive inside."

Buffa said his first thought was how to get the woman out of the car while avoiding getting burned himself by the flames. "At that point," he said, "It all went blank and I just put her life ahead of ours."

The sheriff's office says both deputies sustained and were treated for severe burns, with Shayne suffering burns to his head and Buffa on his arms.

"It was definitely an eye-opening experience and it kind of shows, like, in the moment, you put somebody's else's life above yours and it kind of makes you happy in the end," Buffa added.



Free flu clinics planned for next few weeks

(Sept. 18, 2025) Atlantic General Berlin). This event is a drive-thru flu Hospital will host free flu clinics at various locations throughout Worcester County that are open to anyone age 12 and up (individuals under age 18 must bring a parent or legal guardian to sign consent).

Trivalent flu shots and high-dose "senior" flu shots will be available at all events unless otherwise noted. Please see below for more information:

• Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center (9707 Healthway Drive, clinic.

- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City).
- Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company (1410 Market St., Pocomoke City).
- Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center's Assateague Room (235 Ocean Parkway, Berlin).
 - Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, from 11

a.m. to 1 p.m. at Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen (123 N. Main St., Berlin).

- Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holy Savior Catholic Church (1705 Philadelphia Ave.,
- Friday, Oct. 10, 2025, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center (235 Ocean Parkway, Berlin). This event is a drive-thru flu
- Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Gudelsky Family Medical Center (10614 Racetrack

Road, Berlin). This event is a drivethru flu clinic.

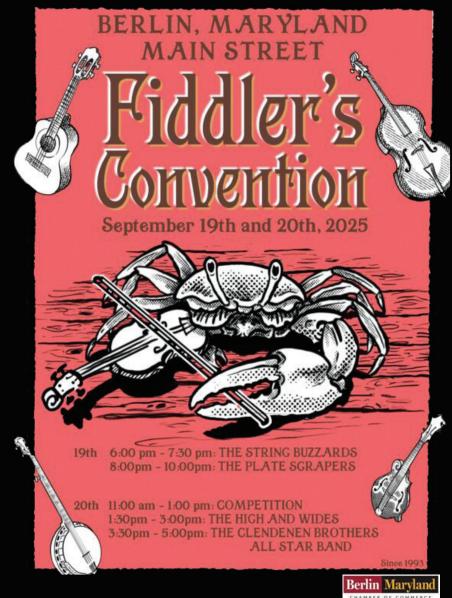
- Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Atlantic Club (11827 Ocean Gateway). Highdose "senior" flu shots are not available at this event.
- Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Department (4718 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill).

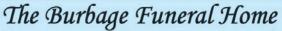
To learn more about these events, contact Population Health Manager Alyce Marzola at 410-641-9268 or alyce.marzola@tidalhealth.org.













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Bishopville native will fill federal farm post

(Sept. 18, 2025) George Turner of Bishopville has been named the new state executive director for the USDA Farm Service Agency in Maryland. Turner joined the Maryland agency on Aug. 25.

"When America's farming communities prosper, the entire nation thrives. This new group of USDA appointees will ensure President Trump's America First agenda is a reality in rural areas across the country," said Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins.

"I am grateful for the leadership of these new state directors and look for-



George Turner

ward to their work reorienting the agency to put Farmers First again," he said.

Farm Service state executive directors carry out U.S. Department of Agriculture's at the state level to en-

sure that the agency's focus is on meeting the needs of local agricultural producers by putting farmers and ranchers first, FSA Administrator Bill Beam said.

Turner brings more than 41 years of

Maryland agriculture and Farm Service experience to his role as executive director. He most recently served as the FSA District Director for Maryland's District 2. Prior to his role as district director, he served as the county executive director for the agency's Worcester County Office.

Turner will now be responsible for overseeing the delivery of agency programs to agricultural producers in Maryland. These commodity, conservation, credit, and disaster assistance programs ensure a safe, affordable, abundant and nutritious food, fiber, and fuel supply for all Americans.

According to the agency, it America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans.

The agency implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees.



















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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LEATHERNECKS ARE OFFICIAL

On June 27, the club formally known as the Post 166 Leathernecks graduated from a local American Legion Club to the Delmarva Leathernecks Foundation, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt foundation. The Delmarva Leathernecks are a diverse group of veterans and patriots who believe that service doesn't end when coming off active duty. The Delmarva Leathernecks will be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Residence Inn located at 300 Seabay Lane, Ocean City. Any local patriots interested in joining are welcome to come out and participate in the comradery and join us for a social hour following the meeting. Pictured, from left, are Tom Wengert, Vice President; Gene Dankewicz, Events Chairman; Vic Freeman, Chaplain; Jon Pearl, Treasurer; and Don Coffin, President.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club at their September meeting hosted Nancy Gaither of the Assateague Island Alliance who spoke on the history of Assateague Island Refuge and State Park. Anglers Club meetings are held the second Saturday of each month, 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Library. Anglers Club Administrator Frank Tortella is shown with Nancy Gaither, AIA. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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SOCCER TEAM DONATIONS

The Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) girls soccer team recently collected new backpacks and filled them with essential school supplies to donate to Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin. This tradition began more than 10 years ago, started by alumna and former teammate Marissa Grosso ('18). Head Coach Carol Hartnett proudly continues the legacy each season, coordinating the effort in partnership with the WPS Volunteer Club. Hartnett said, "This project has always been about more than soccer. It's about teaching our players the value of giving back and supporting younger students in our community." Pictured are captains Olivia Soares and Cora McClanahan with Hartnett and backpacks filled with school supplies before delivering them to Buckingham Elementary School.



MAYOR VISITS

Ocean Mayor Rick Meehan visited the Kiwanis Club of **Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean** City in the Ocean Pines **Community Center as the** guest speaker. There were lots of questions on topics of offshore windmill turbines, Airbnb's in Ocean City, the boardwalk tram cars, scooter bikes and skateboards, the Route 50 drawbridge construction, the room tax, sports complex and recognition for the beach heroes who clean up the OC beach. He is pictured with Kiwanis Club **President Tom Southwell** SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

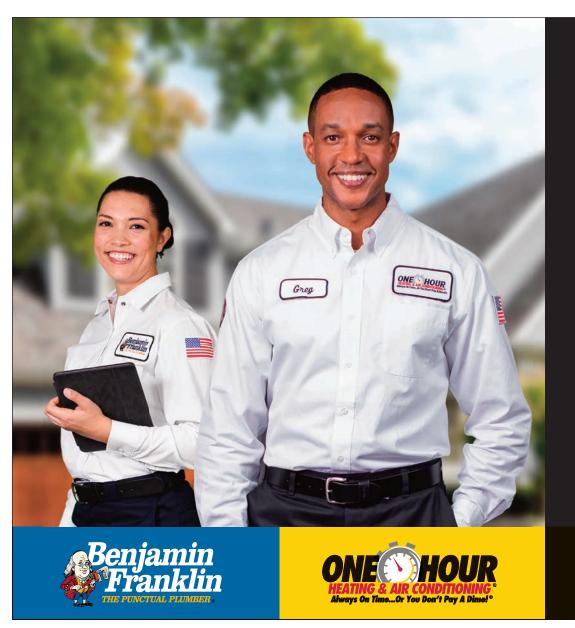




PHOTO COURTESY OF WCPS

CEREMONY CELEBRATES PROJECT COMPLETION

Stephen Decatur High School Principal Tom Sites speaks during last Friday's ceremony to mark the completion of the Morgan's Message wall ball mural funded by local families and businesses.



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WPS Back to School



Worcester Prep Lower School students Colton McCready, Emma Abbott, Caroline McCready, Romie Crevecoeur and Roshan Chapla are greeted by Head of Lower School Travis Bower, Upper School science teacher Katie Moreland, Upper School English teacher Elena Zambori, and faculty and staff as they get off the bus on their first day of school. Approximately 200 students are enrolled in the school's lower school, pre-kindergarten to fifth grade.



WPS siblings Thatcher and Emilia Crist were happy to see the Mallard on the first day of school.



WPS seventh grader Madelyn Bobenko runs in for a hug on her first day back to school



Worcester Prep Middle School students Jack Parks, Carter Conyers and Arden Mulford arrive ready to begin the new school year amid a tunnel of teachers and administrators.

Last month, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) joyfully welcomed students back to campus for the start of the 2025-26 school year. Upper School students (Grades 9-12) returned on Tuesday, Aug. 26, fol-lowed by Middle **School students** (Grades 6-8) on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and Lower School students (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5) on Thursday, Aug. 28. SUBMITTED PHOTOS/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Worcester Prep Upper School students (front to back) Rani Yonker, Chloe Holland and Ellery Given are welcomed by excited faculty and staff as well as members of the senior class.



Worcester Prep Upper School students (front to back) Gavin Mann and Justin McGovernsmile as they are greeted by seniors and faculty on their first day.

Obituaries

STANLEY HANSEN

Ocean City

Stanley Hansen, age 76, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, joining his beloved wife



Stanley Hanser

Jeanette. Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Almer and Elna Hansen.

Raised in Jackson, New Jersey and graduating from Jackson Memorial High School in 1967, Stan

grew up with a deep love for the outdoors, enjoying soccer, hunting, and fishing. He was an avid fan of winter sports, from skating to skiing, and never missed a chance to watch the Winter Olympics.

A skilled butcher by trade, Stan worked for the Shop Rite companies for most of his career. It was there that he met Jeanette, and they were married in 1982. The two moved to Belmar, where Stan continued his passion for surf fishing along the Jersey Shore, fly fishing at the Salmon River, and skiing in the mountains. Their family vacations were often filled with these adventures, as well as days spent at the beaches of Ocean City Maryland.

In 2000, Stan and Jeanette made Ocean City their permanent home. Stan resumed his trade at Food Lion before starting his own business, Stan's Fish Cutting Service, where he proudly supported local sport fishermen, captains, and crews at Sunset Marina and The Fishing Center.

In his later years, Stan devoted himself to caring for Jeanette until her passing. He found joy in quiet moments, like sipping coffee and chatting with friends at the casino or spending time with the crew at Captain Ron's Deer Processing. During his final days, Stan enjoyed drives through Assateague Island with his daughter-in-law, marveling at the wild ponies, and watching the fleet return to the harbor from his porch on the inlet. He passed away peacefully in Ocean Pines, Maryland, surrounded by his family, a testament to the love he gave throughout his life.

Stan was a patient and generous soul, always ready to share his kind heart and infectious grin. He touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Stan is survived by his brother Art Hansen and wife Cathy; his stepson Michael Fitch and wife Katie; his stepdaughter Janis Fitch and husband Steven Mayhew; two grandchildren, Jordan Fitch and Ryan Fitch; and three nieces, Deana Hoffmann, Jeana Tafrow and Christina D'Agostino.

Cremation followed his death. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

DIANE DEVANNA

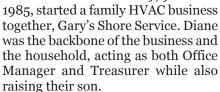
Diane Devanna

Rorlin

Diane Devanna passed away at home on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, surrounded by her loving family after

a courageous and enduring journey with cancer.

Born and raised in South Jersey, it was there she met her husband, Gary, while working together. They married in September 1979 and in



In 2009, Diane and Gary relocated to Berlin, Maryland, where they

reestablished the family business.

Diagnosed with cancer in 2011, Diane faced her illness with remarkable strength and resilience. Throughout her journey, she was surrounded by an extraordinary support group of friends who became like family. Diane was known for her love of cats, her appreciation of a good margarita, and the joy she found in spending time with friends and family. You could also always count on Diane to give the best hugs.

Diane is survived by her devoted husband of 45 years, Gary, who considers himself the luckiest man alive to have shared his life with her; her son Bob (Tory); her grandson Declan; her mother Peg; her sister Donna (Steve); nephews Chris (Kate) and Matt (Rebecca); her brother-in-law Fred (Jackie); nephew Dave (Christine) and niece Laura (Henry) as well as their mother, Patty (Rick). She was predeceased by her infant son Gary Jr. and her father Bob.

Per Diane's wishes, there will not be a formal service. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date, during the warm weather months she loved most—she never liked the cold!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Diane's honor to Town Cats of Ocean City, Maryland at PO Box 1405, Ocean Pines, Md. 21811.

OBITUARY NOTICES

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

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Opinion

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

Pines committees: to be or not to be?

Whether Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors member Jeff Heavner is making the right call as he seeks the dissolution of most of the OPA's advisory committees is open to discussion. And that's how it should remain for now — all discussion and no decision, because this could get awkward and, possibly, ugly.

The argument for the continuation of the committee system is simple: board members and the administration can't be everywhere and can't see everything, which is where a committee assigned specific tasks in a specific area of OPA business, services and products would be helpful. They can observe and make recommendations to the board based on what they see and hear.

But then there is Heavner's point: a committee without a regular job to do will find or create its own work, which may not coincide with what the directors want to do.

That can be as much of a problem for the board and management as a failing or fumbling amenity, except that it compounds the difficulty the board must overcome: instead of just one challenge to deal with, the board ends up with two: figuring out how to fix what's broken and reining in a committee that's sees itself not as an advisory body but as an independent agency or advocate with its own agenda.

The real question here is how many managers does the OPA need? The one who is paid to run the association and to advise the board on all aspects of the community, or volunteer managers who might see things differently?

If Heavner does move to eliminate all but a handful of committees, the other members risk entering a public relations minefield by alienating many volunteers who believe in their missions. On the other hand, a vote of confidence in the committees invites those with little to do to justify their positions by making work for themselves.

Faced with this unpleasant situation, the board should opt to assess the value and contribution of each committee one at a time and then act if members deem it necessary.

BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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Student scores called 'improbable'

Public school system outperforms state, overcomes poverty

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2025) Assessment data reveal that not only are Worcester County Public School students outperforming their peers across the state, but that the district's young learners are beating the odds when it comes to achievement and poverty.

At the Worcester County Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16, Tom Hamill, coordinator of research and student information. and Jennifer McDowell, local accountability coordinator, presented an in-depth look at the system's results in the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program, exams administered in spring

On August 26, the Maryland State Department of Education released the statewide MCAP scores, revealing that WCPS students achieved the highest passing rates in both English/Language Arts and mathematics, surpassing all other 23 districts

This week, school system staff dove even deeper into the data, highlighting further the barriers WCPS continues to break.

MCAP testing occurs every year for grades three through eight, and once in high school. Each student receives a score from one through four. One implies that the learner requires significant academic support. Two demonstrates partial understanding, while three and four indicate proficiency in a subject.

In WCPS, 68.5% of students were proficient in ELA, while 47.7% displayed comprehension in mathematics. Worcester was at the top of the leader board in the state for both learning topics.

This trend continues, even when examining MCAP

scores in each grade level. ELA 7 notably showed strong levels of understanding, with 75% of students who took that test across the county receiving a three or a four, compared to the state average of 53%.

Data from ELA 5 test takers does dip a little. Among students who were administered the ELA 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10 exams, no less than 68% demonstrated subject proficiency. However, in ELA 5, only 54% of learners displayed topic comprehension. Still, this figure surpasses the state average of a 45% pass rate.

'You would expect outliers but to the quantity of scores that we have at the level we have with the poverty that we have in the schools that we have, there is no reason for us to be performing as high as we are, other than what we're doing.'

Tom Hamill

Officials noted the discrepancy for grade five. The slight decrease in passing scores may be attributed to the fact that students transition into a new school in fifth grade and are learning an entirely new set of expec-

"I think it's an expectation gap that happens when students leave one school and go to the next, because across the state, they're leaving elementary school at grade four typically, and they're going to grade five," said Annette Wallace, WCPS superintendent. "We see the same thing when they leave grade 8 and go to high school. We were discussing this and discussing what we could do."

WCPS was ranked number one across the state in ELA MCAP scores in every grade level, except for ELA 5, where Worcester came in

sixth and Frederick County placed first, and ELA 10, where Worcester also came in sixth and Calvert County came in first.

Furthermore, WCPS ranked as the top county in the state, based on MCAP results, for mathematics. Diving even deeper, 71% of students who took the Math 3 assessment earned a proficient score, drastically outperforming the state average of 42% for that same test.

Like ELA, WCPS's math MCAP scores were the highest among each grade level statewide, except for a few. Worcester placed second in both Math 5 and Math 6, just below Howard County.

The last part of Tuesday's presentation focused on how WCPS is performing, with poverty rates factored in.

"[This analysis] is based upon the simple truism that poorer schools have lower levels of proficiency across the entire country than schools with less levels of poverty," Hamill said. "It's one of those conundrums in education. It shouldn't matter, and yet it shows up in the data time and time again."

However, WCPS appears to be the exception to that rule. Hamill's graphs include a line that predicts where a school would fall based on poverty. A shaded area indicates one standard deviation outside of that expected range.

"We would expect 70% of schools to fall inside that [shaded area]," Hamill said. "WCPS in every case is well above the prediction line but also one standard deviation, and in some cases, four or five standard deviations."

Hamill emphasizes how unlikely it is that WCPS consistently outperforms its poverty expectations to such a high extent.

"I look at this data and I don't understand this," he said. "You would expect outliers but to the quantity of scores that we have at the level we have with the poverty that we have in the

See COUNTY Page 23

Moore chooses new Worcester circuit judge

New judges selected by Md. governor in Worcester and Montgomery counties

By Steve Green

Executive Editor

(Sept. 18, 2025) A local attorney has been appointed to become the next judge for the Circuit Court for Worcester County.

Gov. Wes Moore has chosen Kristina L. Watkowski to replace the retired Peggy Kent on the bench. Moore also announced James J. Dietrich to the Montgomery County Circuit Court in a press release Wednesday.

"The Montgomery County and Worcester County Circuit Courts are gaining two remarkable servants of the law," said Moore. "Throughout their legal careers, James Dietrich and Kristina Watkowski have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to integrity and justice that will serve the people of Maryland well for years to come. I thank them for raising their hands to serve on the bench."

After a career as a public defender, Watkowski worked as an attorney with Booth, Cropper & Marriner, joining that firm in 2022. Her practice primarily focused on civil litigation with a concentration in land use and zoning.

Watkowski's career began in Worcester County, clerking for the now retired judges Theodore R. Eschenburg Sr. and Thomas C. Groton III in the Worcester County Circuit Court.

Watkowski went on to work with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender where she ultimately became the supervising attorney for the Worcester County office.

According to Moore's press release, "During her time with the public defender's office, Watkowski developed long-lasting relationships with partner agencies while representing clients charged with both minor and serious criminal offenses."

Watkowski earned her associate's degree from Howard Community College, her bachelor's degree from Salisbury University, and her law degree from Delaware Law School.

Worcester County still has a vacancy on the bench in District Court following Gerald Purnell's retirement. Included in the nominee pool are Patrizia Coletta, a senior assistant state's attorney for Wicomico County; Michael Farlow, a prosecutor with the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office; David Gaskill, an Ocean City-based attorney who also serves as town attorney for Berlin as well as legal counsel for the county's Board of Zoning Appeals; and Regan Smith, a lawyer with Williams, Moore, Shockley, Harrison, LLP focusing on real estate, corporation, probate, estate planning and zoning.





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Tire recycling available next month for free in Worcester

(Sept. 18, 2025) The Worcester County Commissioners and the Public Works Recycling Division will host Citizens Scrap Tire Drop-Off Day on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. This event will take place at the Central Landfill in Newark.

"Recycling old and unwanted tires plays an important role in diverting waste from the landfill and increases recycling rates countywide," Recycling Manager Bob Keenan said.

Worcester County residents are in-

vited to recycle their old, scrap, passenger, and light truck tires free of charge, with a limit of 10 tires per household (photo ID required).

Only non-commercial truck and car tires will be accepted. No agricultural tires will be accepted, and no businesses, commercial haulers of tires, or generators of scrap tires will be permitted to participate in the Citizen Scrap Tire Drop-Off.

For more information, contact Keenan at 410-632-3177, ext. 2405.

County students break barries

Continued from Page 22

schools that we have, there is no reason for us to be performing as high as we are, other than what we're doing. I don't know why the national media isn't saying, 'Oh my God what is going on here?' and asking us because they should.

"From a statistical point of view, it's very improbable. We're doing the improbable in WCPS. That doesn't mean there aren't gaps, there are certainly gaps, but...when you look overall, we should not be performing as well as we do."

Hamill said that some identifiable

challenges include the fact that there is an achievement dip in fifth grade and that non-white students are not performing as well as white students. However, Wallace said she and her team are looking at ways to amend these apparent difficulties. She added that these problematic findings are just another reason why teachers and school staff must know "every single kid by name, strength and need."

Wallace also said that in light of Worcester's testing success, she was invited to present to the Maryland State Department of Education in December.

Local News • Cuisine • Entertainment
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Calendar
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Annual Kennedy King Dinner
October 9, 2025 6:30PM
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Authority of the Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County Cherie McNett, Treasurer

Puzzles

THE NAME IS THE GAME BY DERRICK NIEDERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Derrick Niederman, of Charleston, S.C., is a writer, mathematician and game designer who was until recentlyan adjunct math professor at the College of Charleston. His game inventions include Pathwords, 36 Cube and the soon-to-be-published Tosswords, which, he says, "enables players to create more interesting words than they ever could playing Scrabble or Boggle." — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Where Gloria Estefan was born
- 7 Hairstyle that can be
- casual or formal
- 11 Relative of a sultan
- 15 Strikebreaking sort
- 19 One who gives a good talking-to?
- 20 Spring's opposite, tidally
- 21 Constant nuisance
- 22 Mansión, por ejemplo
- 23 As the British pound rises in value, the dollar ____
- 25 Sure things
- 27 Area with pews
- 28 Part of many a
- 29 Equipment
- 30 Orchestra section toward the middle of the pit

morning routine

- 31 With 76-Down, individually
- 33 Fury
- 34 After spending the afternoon at Epcot. we had dinner at a bistro
- 36 Ancestor of the tuba or sousaphone
- 38 Low-quality paper?
- 39 Like a naughty Beetle Bailey, in brief
- 40 Overdone
- 41 The "E" of Q.E.D.
- 43 Depleted
- 48 Facetious suffix with most

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

- 51 Did Joyce write courtesy of a
- 55 Blunt negative
- 56 Philosopher who purportedly said "The best fighter is never angry"
- 58 Have a bawl
- 59 Son of Hanna-Barbera's Doggie Daddy
- 60 Reason to relocate a picnic blanket, maybe
- 61 Borneo neighbor 63 Female moose or
- elephant
- 65 Fish-eating raptors 66 Dab with a towel
- 67 Subdivisions of some
- counties: Abbr. 68 An increase in ham prices forced the deli to ____sandwiches
- higher 71 Begged
- 72 Scorch the surface 73 Andean stimulant
- 74 Source of the films "The Blues Brothers" and 'Coneheads," in brief
- 75 Gerald Ford or William Howard Taft, once
- 78 Peter, Paul and Mary,
- 79 Words before sea or lunch
- 81 Summer mo.
- 83 Decks for reading 84 Biblical preposition
- 85 To Washington Germany, seemed far from Tarrytown, N.Y.
- 88 Big word in advertising

WE PAY CAS

For Like New & Used Cars & Trucks

89 Toady

- 91 Buzz, so to speak 92 Charles or Ray who lent their name to a
 - kind of chair 94 Unpleasant look
 - 97 Social gathering of a sort
- 98 Certain canines
- 102 Some Californians consider Santa_ on Earth
- _-cone 107
- 108 Stockpile
- 109 Anesthetic first used on a patient in 1842
- 110 "Fine as is, actually"
- 111 Canada's first national park, founded in 1885
- "___ Three Lives" (early TV drama)
- 114 The shark-warning notes of "Jaws," for example
- 116 The supermodel was holding a copy of _____ herself on the heach
- 118 Tackle box item
- 119 Home makeover, in brief
- 120 Election Day is one:
- 121 Work on the score of
- 122 Carbon compound 123 Beat one's chest
- 124 Set of pull-ups?
- 125 Very high
- DOWN 1 Schmooze
- Afghan Airlines, carrier to the
- 3 Parts of a heart or
- trumpet
- Mideast

RACETRACK AUTO SALES

- 4 No fewer than
- 5 "Stat!"

6 Media personalities Melber and Fleischer

23 27

- 7 Remove a restraint from
- 8 Irk
- 9 Have the nerve
- 10 Special
- 11 Buddy who portrayed TV's Jed Clampett 12 Peninsula in southeast
- 13 Consecutively
- 14 Somnial acronym
- 15 Aquatic acronym
- 16 Collection of laws
- 17 "Jeez, sorry I __
- 18 Sarastro in Mozart's "The Magic Flute,"
- 24 Product of the first three primes
- 26 Tiny house occupants
- 29 Get crazy (over)
- 32 Pushes with force
- 34 Smears
- 35 Directs, as cargo 37 Edmonton N.H.L. player
- 38 International shoe brand originating in England
 - 42 Extremely loyal
 - 44 One who's a well-meaning but bad influence on a friend, maybe
 - 45 Why do none of the Fruit of the Loom characters -colored clothing?
 - 46 Current
 - 47 Annovance
 - 48 Trains above street
 - 49 White wine named for 70 Powerless a region in France
- 50 Peeping for Lady 72 Bed-Godiva to appear
- 52 Like some philosophical arguments

109

114

118

122

- 53 Taj Mahal's city
- 54 Numbskull
- 57 Bar with drafts
- 62 Love, in Lyon 64 Spots to go in the U.K.
- 69 End of any Shakespeare play
- 71 Space balls
- Bed-___ (Brooklyn neighborhood, familiarly) 73 Shakespeare, vis-à-
- vis the expression "brave new world"
- 76 See 31-Across

119

123

- 77 Sydney's state: Abbr. 80 How some risks are taken
- 82 Immaturity
- 86 Secluded valley
- 87 "Take it easy, will you?!"
- 90 Startle

93 Mounted below the surface of Sunday

120

124

- 96 Body part containing photoreceptors
- 99 Relating to the wind's
- movement 100 Vingt + dix
- 101 Equivocated
- 102 Ball girl?
- 103 Didn't dine out 104 Large safari sight
- 105 Intoxicating Asian plant whose name sounds like an insect
- 107 Beaver State capital 111 Sight of a speeding

windshield

121

125

car, maybe 112 Season ticket

106 Clear, in a way, as a

September 18, 2025

- holders, presumably
- 115 Spherical shape

and want

116 Info for a traveler. for short 117 Follower of waste

su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 68

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.

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

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Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Schools' IT coach honored with state award

(Sept. 18, 2025) The Maryland Society for Educational Technology has announce that Caleb Wilson, district coach of Instructional Technology and Innovation for Worcester County Public Schools, has been named the 2025 recipient of the "Outstanding Leader Using Technology Award."

The award is presented annually to a Maryland educator serving outside the classroom "who has made exemplary contributions to the implementation and advancement of educational technology." The award reflects MSET's mission to advance excellence in learning and teaching through innovative and effective uses of technology in education.

Wilson has demonstrated exceptional leadership in guiding Worcester County Public Schools and the state of Maryland through transformative approaches to technology integration, the society announcement said.

He spearheaded the AI4WCPS Steering Committee, where he led the development of one of the most comprehensive and forward-thinking frameworks for artificial intelligence in K–12 education. His work has emphasized ethical use, accessibility, and practical classroom applications, ensuring that technology adoption remains focused on meaningful stu-

dent outcomes.

Beyond policy and vision, Wilson has helped multiple schools achieve Apple Distinguished School recognition, provided coaching and mentoring to educators across grade levels, and developed customized applications and tools to meet the unique needs of students, including nonverbal learners and students requiring adaptive technologies.

Wilson has spoken at events and gatherings across Maryland, offering professional learning on artificial intelligence, instructional innovation, and the future of educational technology.

His Wakelet collection of over 390 AI-focused resources has become a statewide resource for educators and stakeholders seeking to deepen their knowledge of AI tools in teaching and learning.

"Caleb's leadership in bringing artificial intelligence into the professional learning space has been nothing short of inspiring," said Dr. Brandie Shatto, the society's past president and awards chair.

"He has provided countless educators with the tools, strategies, and confidence they need to approach AI thoughtfully and responsibly. His vision has positioned Maryland at the forefront of this critical conversation,



PHOTO COURTESY OF WCPS

Pictured, from left, are WCPS Grants Manager Brian Cook, Superintendent of Schools Annette Wallace, Wilson and Board of Education President Todd Ferrante.

while his humility and collaborative spirit have empowered others to lead alongside him."

In addition to his local and state impact, Wilson has collaborated with the Maryland Center for Computing Education, the Maryland State Department of Education, and higher education institutions such as the University of Maryland Global Campus. His work continues to shape

both the policy and practice of technology integration in education across the region.

"Caleb's commitment to innovation, equity, and teacher empowerment embodies the true spirit of this award," said the society's leadership. "He reminds us that technology is not about the tools themselves, but about expanding opportunities and ensuring that every student can thrive."

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|----------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| DAY/TIME | ADDRESS | BR/BA | STYLE | PRICE | AGENT/AGENCY |
| Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm | 12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC | 2BR/2BA | Single Family from | from \$284,750 | Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community |
| Fri-Mon 11am-4pm | Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside | 1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+ | Condos, Towns & SF | - | Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate |
| Friday 3-5 pm | 609 Bayshore Drive #32, Ocean City | 3BR/2BA | Townhome | \$849,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 10am-Noon | 1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines | 4BR/2.5BA | Single Family | \$669,888 | Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 609 Bayshore Drive #32, Ocean City | 3BR/2BA | Townhome | \$849,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 703 Loop Road, Ocean City | 4BR/3BA | Single Family | \$1,249,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 87 Boston Dr., South Ocean Pines | 3BD/2BA | Single Family | \$359,900 | Team Bouse House/ReMax Advantage Realt |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 13 Dog Leg Court, Ocean Pines | 4BR/3.5BA | Single Family | \$599,900 | Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 6 Duck Cove Circle, Ocean Pines | 3BR/2BA | Single Family | \$369,900 | Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate |
| Saturday 11am-2pm | 11204 Coastal Highway Unit 3C, Ocean Cit | y 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$674,900 | Tim Meadowcroft/Long & Foster Real Estat |
| Sat & Sun 11am-3pm | 12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC | 2BR/2BA | Single Family | from \$284,750 | Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community |
| Saturday 11am-3pm | 415 14th St. Harbour Island, Ocean City | 6BR/4.5BA | Townhome | \$2,350,000 | David Dypsky/Newport Bay Realty |
| Saturday Noon-2pm | 11900 Coastal Hwy. Unit 102 Ocean City | 3BR/3BA | Condo | \$679,900 | Katy Durham/Rick Meehan/Coldwell Banker Realt |
| Saturday 1-3pm | 124 Camelot Circle Ocean Pines | 4BR/2BA | Single Family | \$424,900 | Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate |
| Saturday 1:30-3:30pm | 429 Bayshore Drive #104, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$499,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Sunday 10am-Noon | 609 Bayshore Drive #32, Ocean City | 3BR/2BA | Townhome | \$849,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Sunday 11am-1pm | 429 Bayshore Drive #104, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$499,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Sunday 1pm-3pm | 201 S Heron Drive #G5, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$398,400 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |

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. 18

47TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2025

The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops and sport kite demos. Free event. http://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-

kite-festival/ DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR 8TH ANNUAL

PINK RIBBON PICKLEBALL ROUND ROBIN

Held Oct. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry fee is \$45 and includes snacks, lunch, prizes and medals. Open to all men and women. Make checks payable to ACS. Becky Ferguson,

rcoltferguson@gmail.com, 410-446-1816

STORY TIME 'HEN IN THE BED'

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: FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION

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

SILENT BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-4 p.m. Bring your current read or borrow one of the suggestions. Read silently for the first 50 minutes, then use the last 10 minutes to mingle and discuss your read. 410-524-1818

HAPPY HOUR COLORING CLUB

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 4-6 p.m. Join in for "Happy Hour" and enjoy light refreshments while exploring new coloring trends in a relaxing atmosphere. 410-632-3495, 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

DRY PANTRY

Thursdays - St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower Street, Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For those in need of resources such as paper products, laundry products, baby items, and personal care items. Limits apply. 410-641-0270

Fri., Sept. 19

47TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2025

The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops and sport kite demos. Free event. http://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-

http://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-kite-festival/

FIDDLER'S CONVENTION

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 6-10 p.m. Featuring The String Buzzards (6-7:30 p.m.) and The Plate Scrapers (8-10 p.m.). Bring chairs.

FANDOM FRIDAY: MARIO VS. SONIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop in anytime for crafts, quizzes and discussions about the monthly topic. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

SURVIVAL SPANISH: BASIC PHRASES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Learn how to say basic phrases in Spanish. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THE CHELSEA GIRLS' BY FIONA DAVIS

Oaked at The Globe/Tiki Tim's, 12 Broad St., Berlin, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Berlin Library circulation desk. 410-641-0650, 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

FRESH PAINT: ART SHOW AND SALE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4-6 p.m. Part of the Paint Worcester County Plein Air event. Free and open to the public. curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org, 410-641-0809, www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org

MIXED MEDIA WITH SISTA BIG

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 6 p.m. Use a variety of materials to create unique art and poetry pieces. Light refreshments. Register: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

SIPPIN' WITH SLOTHS

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

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

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

Sat., Sept. 20

47TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2025

The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops and sport kite demos. Free event. http://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-kite-festival/

FIDDLER'S CONVENTION

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring The High and Wides (11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.), Amateur Competition (1:30-3 p.m.) and The Clendenen Brothers All Star Band (3:30-5 p.m.). Bring chairs.

OCEAN PINES FALL FLEA MARKET

Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m.-noon. Vendors selling gently used clothing, household items, toys, jewelry, collectibles and more. Held rain or shine. Vendor spaces are \$25 and include a table and two chairs. Register: 410-641-7052.

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

BIRD WATCHING WITH SCOTT HOUSTEN

Museum of Ocean City, 217 S. Baltimore Ave., 8-10 a.m. Meet at the Museum of Ocean City then take a guided birdwatching walk through some of the town's best viewing spots, including the inlet, the jetty and Sunset Park. Cost is \$20. ocmuseum.org

WSW YOUNG SURVIVORS CONFERENCE

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Salisbury, 8:30 a.m.-noon. For breast cancer survivors around the age of 40 and younger. Register: wicomico@womensupporting-

women.org, 410-548-7880, or visit the WSW Office. Free to attend but space is limited. Comp. breakfast.

BOOK CHARACTER BASH

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Celebrate your favorite characters like Dogman and the Babysitters Club girls for Library Card month. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST, SLIGO BY THE SEA, SUMMER MINISTRY

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 10 a.m.-noon. Pastor Ron Halvorsen Jr. - Senior Pastor, Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists, Collegedale, TN. sligochurch.org/sligobythesea, 301-270-6777

STEAM MOVIE WATCH PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Kick off a STEAM-filled fall with a huggable robot and friends. Light snacks provided. For families. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHICKEN BBQ SALE

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 for 1/2 BBQ chicken platters with two sides, roll and a drink or \$12 for 1/2 BBQ chicken and roll and drink. Baked goods available. Proceeds benefit the church's Annual Homecoming. 410-641-0270

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY: PUTTING THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE TOGETHER

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Hands-on experience that will help participants trace their family's history and some common pitfalls that African-Americans may face whilst researching. Bring laptops, photos, ect. 410-632-3495

BALLET ON THE BEACH DANCE FESTIVAL

Assateague State Park, 6915 Maryland 611, Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. Free professional performance, 5 p.m. Open to the public. Also featuring eco talks, a literature area and art activities for children. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. Rain date is Sept. 21.

ORIGINALS ONLY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. A celebration of authentic, original expression across all creative mediums including poets, musicians & comedians. Free event. 410-524-9433, aubrey@artleagueofoceancity.org, artleagueofoceancity.org

Sun., Sept. 21

47TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2025

The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite

Calendar

flying games, Bol races, candy drops and sport kite demos. Free event. http://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfestkite-festival/

MARINE DEBRIS PLUNDER

White Horse Park Boat Launch, Ocean Pines, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Join MCBP and Capt. Jack by land or by sea to pick up debris in our Coastal Bays Watershed. Pre-registration and packet pickup available prior to the event. mdcoastalbays.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR 2025 MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

To be held Sept. 27 and 28 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. Open to all Ocean Pines golf members and property owners ages 18+ years. Entry feee is \$40. Must have established USGA handicap. 410-641-6057

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB FEAST

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin, 4-7 p.m. Cost is \$45 and includes steamed crabs, corn on the cob, potato salad, soft drinks and \$15 free play. Also cash bar, 50/50 raffle and music. Tickets: https://chamber.oceancity.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. TheBerlinFarmers—Market.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. 22

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEETING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Guest speaker, Leila Weah, senior reporter with WMDT, will discuss "Broadcast Media: What's going on in the world, and how are journalists handling it?" Followed by a BYO brown bag lunch meet and greet.

STORY TIME: WELCOME FALL!

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

CASITA LINDA

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about Hispanic culture and food with Michelle, the owner of Casita Linda in Ocean Pines. For families. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 5 oplus 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. Elissa, 410-641-8050; on social media; or delmarvachorus.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

Tues., Sept. 23

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

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Sing silly songs, play rhythmic instruments and move to the beat. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, 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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

COLONIAL CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 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. 410-208-4014

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'KIN: ROOTED IN HOPE' BY CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the library's circulation desk. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

Wed., Sept. 24

BLUES ON THE BAY - CELEBRATE WITH US!

Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill, 5311 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6-9 p.m. Live music, cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres benefiting the Macky & Pam Stansell House of Coastal Hospice. Tickets cost \$125 and include open bar. Tickets: www.coastalhospice.org/blues-on-the-bay/. 410-742-8732, 515

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Imaginative play and social interaction. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COFFEE & CRAFTS: BEADED JELLYFISH

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. A new craft each month. Materials provided. Limit 30. Register: 410-524-1818. www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

TEEN BOARD GAME NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Test your luck and your mettle against others in games like Sorry!, Hive and more. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SERVICE SQUAD - MAKE IT MATTER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Service hour earning program that lets participants be creative while benefiting worthy causes. Open to students of Worcester County Schools. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOUNCING CHEMISTRY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Put your science skills to use creating a bouncy ball. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7-8:30 p.m. Adult singles and couples welcome. RSVP: 908-229-

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

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by Monday, 5 p.m.

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Local new home builder looking for year round parttime experienced assistant for our West OC office. This person will be working 2-3 days per week, 8-4, and needs to be flexible to cover the office managers days off. A friendly personality, a good grasp of proper communication skills, polite phone manners, punctuality, the ability to work well with others, strong computer skills with experience in word & excel and the ability to multi-task are required. Dress is business casual and salary is negotiable based on experience.

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This position is part of the Communicable Disease team in

the Nursing Department and will assist clients who are infected with HIV, to improve health outcomes. Assistance is provided through case management services by way of medical and social support. These job duties also include, but are not limited to assessment, individualized goal planning, linkage to resources, assisting with applications/ referrals to resources, and assisting with access to appointments for needed services to improve health outcomes. Additionally, this position will provide education for clients, the community and our staff. Home visits and participation in multidisciplinary team meetings are required.

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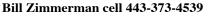
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- If we determine your case qualifies, you'll be paired with a specialist to guide you through the process.
- Our Resolution Department works diligently to cancel your timeshare and help stop related

Thousands of timeshare owners have already found relief through our proven process. You could be just one phone call away from peace of mind. Our dedicated team is ready to help.

Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:

Call 1.888.984.2917

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Don't Miss Another Moment...





Schedule Your Flu Shot Today

- Flu Shots
- High Dose Flu Shots for Seniors age 65+
- Prevnar 20
- RSV Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Shingle Vaccine

COASTAL DRUG HARMACY

WALK-INS WELCOME

Appointments Recommended Curbside Available

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- Open Saturdays

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We will schedule a nurse to come and administer the vaccine. Call for details.

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11005 Manklin Meadows Lane #1 • Ocean Pines (in front of Headlines Salon)

410.629.0089

Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm Sat: 10am-2pm • Sun: Closed