

# BAYSIDE



# GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY • OCEAN PINES

FREE



BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

Community members gathered this week at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines to honor those that served in the United States Armed Forces.

## Tasers to be added to OPPD equipment

Ocean Pines department currently only local agency not issuing them to officers

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 7, 2025) Police officers in Ocean Pines will be equipped with stun guns by the end of this year, according to Chief Tim Robinson.

“In modern policing, our job is to make sure my officers have the latest and greatest things that are out there,

the industry standard. A Taser is the industry standard,” Robinson told OC Today-Dispatch.

Colloquially referred to as stun guns, or sometimes by the brand name Taser, electronic control devices give police officers an in-between tool that’s not as deadly as a firearm and not as in-your-face as a hand-to-hand interaction.

Robinson said stun guns used properly can prevent permanent injury to either a citizen or an officer.

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## Whimsical marsh mural gets commission’s vote

With its antlered deer/fox, and other fanciful images art earns majority support

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) The month-long debate over how well a somewhat fanciful mural fits into the historic downtown image the town works to maintain ended last week when the Berlin Historic District Commission issued its approval.

At its meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5, the commission voted 4-1 to allow local artist Evan Fitzgerald to depict a marsh scene on the side of the Poole Building at 10 South Main Street. The image includes a girl playing music surrounded by (mostly) native animals on the side of the Poole Building at 10 South Main Street. The

sole dissenting vote was board member Mary Moore.

Fitzgerald said that the mural will likely be completed around late April, when warmer weather returns to ensure the paint dries properly.

The commission’s vote comes a month after the body initially heard the proposal from by Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director, on behalf of the municipality’s Arts and Entertainment Advisory Board.

At that Oct. 1 meeting, Wells said the mural, which will feature an Eastern Shore marsh populated by a crab, a blue heron, a young woman in a headdress playing the guitar, and a fox/deer-like creature with antlers, strengthens the town’s commitment to artistry and local talent.

Much of the historic district com-

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

From the flower behind the non-existent ear on a blue heron to the antlers on a fox, the subjects in the mural proposed by local artist Evan Fitzgerald project having a little idiosyncratic fun.



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# Berlin to clarify backyard fire pit regulations

Opening burning rules too broad, suggest even grills need permission from town

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) Berlin officials are looking to clarify the town’s rules on backyard fire pits after residents expressed confusion over whether the fixtures fall under the town’s ban on open burning.

During Monday’s mayor and council meeting, staff and elected officials discussed updating the code to make the difference clear between recreational fire pits and burning debris. Staff will establish the definitions and standards to remove any uncertainty on what is and is not allowed within the Town of Berlin.

Ryan Hardesty, the town’s planning director, noted that at a previous council meeting, the question was raised about whether fire pits are allowed and if they fall under the outdoor burning article of the town code.

Councilman Jack Orris said the situation was brought up after he was approached by a resident who had received a citation, seeking some clarification over the allowance of backyard burning.

According to Hardesty, the municipality’s regulation states that, “except by special permit from the

director of the planning and zoning department, no outside or open fires or burnings of any kind shall be permitted.”

“That wording kind of suggests that all outdoor fires, including fire pits, are either not permitted or only allowed with a permit,” the planning director said.

Hardesty added that her department researched approximately 20 municipalities in Maryland to determine their rules and gain guidance on how to proceed with Berlin’s own fire pit standards.

Of the towns examined, 43% do not permit fire pits of any kind, 33% allow fire pits, and 24% will sanction fire pits with a permit. The districts that approved fire pits without a permit included restrictions like size, materials to be burned, and setbacks from buildings and property lines.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said that he has had citizens reach out to him about the town’s rules and regulations for fire pits, and that he passes them along to the police or planning department. To remedy the confusion on what is and isn’t sanctioned, the mayor stated that clear outlines should be created.

“We’re not talking s’mores in the backyard,” Tyndall said. “We’re talking about burning debris. Do I think setting guidelines should have a family have to contact the planning department every time they want to do

s’mores outside? No. I think there should be a standard size and material. If you are seeking something outside of that norm, then it requires an application from the planning department.”

Berlin Town Administrator Mary Bohlen added that the current code could include restrictions on items such as barbecue grills and fires for family s’mores.

Staff and officials maintained that they would like to ensure that the updated standards clarify that these recreational activities are permitted without special authorization by the town, while larger debris burning would be outlawed, or allowed with exceptions.

“I don’t think any of us are interested in people coming into planning every Friday, going, ‘I’m going to

have hamburgers tonight,’ Bohlen said.

Some definitions to determine what a fire pit actually is, the town administrator noted, should be included in the new guidelines.

“Fire pits, BBQ grills, very common throughout the United States, they definitely should be allowed as a non-permitted use,” said Councilman Jay Knerr. “But I do agree we need some definitions.”

“There definitely is a difference between recreational burning and open burning,” Hardesty echoed. “I think the clearer we can be, the better.”

Bohlen said that staff will look at creating an updated burning code to ensure residents and officials are clear on what type of fire fixtures are and are not allowed.

## Pines police to get stun guns

Continued from Page 1

“I would rather be prepared to handle something and not need to use the equipment than to have our officers be in a situation where they were at an extreme disadvantage and their only options would be to go hands-on or use lethal force,” he said.

Robinson announced at an Oct. 30 meeting of the Police Accountability Board that the Ocean Pines Police Department had placed the order.

He told OC Today-Dispatch that a dozen Axon-brand stun guns should arrive by the end of the year, and the 12 officers on his roster will spend two days on training. The \$60,590 purchase was funded through federal pass-through dollars and administered by the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

Any time a Taser is used, it’s qualified as a “use of force.” That generates a report which gets reviewed by an oversight board – standard practice for most police departments in 2025.

Notably, the Ocean Pines Police Department has logged zero uses of force in the two years that Robinson has been chief here, after having served 27 years with the Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office.

It’s not the first time Robinson has

introduced a new tool for his officers in Ocean Pines. In summer 2023, when he joined the agency, he launched a body camera program for officers, also manufactured by Axon.

A 2021 state law made body cameras mandatory for police officers in Maryland as of July 1 of this year.


Officers in Ocean Pines were skeptical at first about body cameras, Robinson said, and didn’t want to be recorded all the time. However, they’ve learned that body camera recordings often protect the officers from accusations of impropriety or bad behavior.

“They’re impartial arbiters of what happened,” he said of body cam footage. “There’s many times in my previous employment when a complaint came in. Most of the time we were able to exonerate the officers by reviewing what actually happened.”


For now, Ocean Pines is the only law enforcement agency in Worcester County that doesn’t issue a stun gun as a weapon for police officers.


Robinson also said his department is working with a policy consultant called Lexipol to get policies written on tasers and use of force. Once enacted, those policies will be made public on the Ocean Pines website.


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# Commission OKs mural proposal for Poole Building

Continued from Page 1  
mission, however, had trouble connecting with the piece, and argued that the heron was too big and overpowered the space, and that the fox/deer was too “weird.”

“What catches my eye is the blue heron, where everything is so real and alive, it’s almost like somebody just put it there,” Moore said last month. “Everything else is flowing... To me, with my art eye, with my background, what I see first is the blue heron. And he looks like something you buy at a garden center.”

Fitzgerald, who was watching the initial meeting from home, showed up in person to defend his artwork. Fitzgerald said he was depicting animals acting in a human-esque manner. He added that the large heron was a result of playing with scale to elicit an emotional response from the painting’s viewers.

The conversation became strained, and the commission opted to delay the vote until last week’s session. Wells told commission members she understands they are trying to prioritize Berlin’s historic appeal.

“I care deeply about Berlin’s historic district and I have great respect



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Local artist Evan Fitzgerald also plays with the scale of subjects in his Poole Building mural to create multiple points that draw viewers into the work and allow the eye to travel through the whole scene.

for everything that you do,” she said. “We wouldn’t be where we are today if we didn’t have a historic district and a historic district commission. I

have the utmost respect for everything that you do and I appreciate the job that you do; it isn’t easy so thank you for doing this for our town.”

The commission members expressed their positions to Wells, Fitzgerald, building owner Mike Poole, along with a packed audience.

Norman Bunting, the commission chair, asked Fitzgerald if he had modified his design since the original request as he suggested he might be willing to do.

Fitzgerald replied that his design remained the same.

“I took the time and I started removing things, and honestly, I was just a little confused as to how much of what I put into it I would need to take out to make it not harmful to the town,” Fitzgerald said. “I wasn’t sure how much needed to be removed, so I needed clarification on what about the marsh scene and music being played, and local animals are offensive.”

Commission member Carol Rose jumped in, saying that she has never had a problem with the design, and that she was willing to approve the request at last month’s meeting.

“I personally didn’t think that you should be asked in any way, shape, fashion, or form to change your work,” Rose said.

Commission members John Hol-loway, Lisa Doyle, and Laura Stearns agreed, arguing that the building is not historic, art is subjective, and that the new mural would cover up the structure’s exterior, which is unappealing due to its cinder block appearance.

Moore voted against the proposal, saying that she would have preferred to see a painting that would offer some historical significance, aligning with the Town of Berlin’s old-school

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"This town means a lot to me," he said. "We wouldn't do something that's against what the town wants. [Fitzgerald's] painting is beautiful, and it's different. There are going to be so many people who are going to want to stand in front of that and take a picture."

Haley said early contractor estimates suggest the project remains “within striking distance” of the town’s budget. The tentative schedule calls for putting the project out to bid on Dec. 8, awarding a contract in January, and completing construction by next September.

**DOORS CLOSE JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup> 2026**



# Ocean Pines gearing up for festive season

Letters to Santa, a decor competition, and a holiday vendor fair top the lineup

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is rolling out a full lineup of holiday activities this season, offering residents opportunities to get into the festive spirit.

One of the efforts is the P.E.P. Club Christmas Wish Tree now on display in the Ocean Pines Community Center lobby. The P.E.P. Club is a social group for adults with developmental disabilities. They meet monthly at the center. Community members are invited to choose a tag from the tree, purchase and wrap the gift listed, and

return it with the tag by Dec. 15.

Ocean Pines Association homeowners will also have the chance to help brighten the neighborhood through the annual Ocean Pines outdoor decorating program, called Light Up the Pines. Participation is free, and the first 25 homes to register will receive “goodies” from Choptank Electric Cooperative, according to the recreation department. Furthermore, homes that are registered by Dec. 12 will be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits from Choptank.

Those interested should email their name, address, and phone number to [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) or call 410-641-7717, ext. 3014. Participants should also submit a photo of their decorative light display for a special community holiday video.

The holiday festivities don't end there. The community will gather for the 15th Annual Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, Nov. 29, at White Horse Park. The festival will include tree displays sponsored and decorated by local social clubs, businesses, and families.

Santa will also make an appearance at the event. Those interested in sponsoring a tree can call 410-641-7052 or email [Katie Goetzinger](mailto:kgoetzinger@oceanpines.org), event supervisor, at [kgoetzinger@oceanpines.org](mailto:kgoetzinger@oceanpines.org).

OPA citizens will also have the opportunity to do some holiday shopping in the community at the annual Vendor Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center gym. Admission is free. Shoppers can browse a variety of gift items, including cus-

tom art, tumblers, and candles.

Additionally, to create some Christmas magic for Ocean Pines' youngest residents, children are invited to send letters to Santa by placing written notes in the red mailbox at the community center between Nov. 25 and Dec. 20. The notes should include the child's name and address to receive a reply.

Rounding out the season is a bus trip to Washington, D.C., to see the Washington Capitals take on the Detroit Red Wings on Saturday, Dec. 20. Tickets are \$120 per person, which includes transportation and game admission. The bus departs the Community Center at 8 a.m. for the 12:30 p.m. game. Seats may be reserved by calling Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks at 410-641-7052.

## Miniature pieces by local artists to soon be displayed

(Nov. 13, 2025) The Worcester County Arts Council has announced that its next exhibit, “Small Treasures,” will explore the beauty, intricacy and charm of miniature artworks.

The exhibition invited artists to explore the intimacy of small-scale creations, drawing viewers in with hidden details, delicate craftsmanship, and imaginative expression.

Artists produced various kinds of works, ranging from tiny landscapes and delicate portraits to intricate still lifes, abstract compositions, and miniature sculptures.

The juror for the competition, John Mosher, a multidisciplinary artist and associate professor of art at Salisbury University, reviewed each submission to select works that best capture the essence of Small Treasures.

The exhibit will be on display at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery through Dec. 31.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Friday, Nov. 14, from 4-6 p.m., with awards presented at 5 p.m.

The public is invited to meet the artists and view the artwork. All pieces are available for purchase.

“Small Treasures invites viewers to slow down and appreciate the detail and craftsmanship of miniature art,” said Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council. “We're proud to showcase the talent and creativity of our local and regional artists in this unique and engaging exhibition.”

For more information about the exhibit or the Worcester County Arts Council, visit [www.worcestercountycouncil.org](http://www.worcestercountycouncil.org) or call 410-641-0809.



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# Council pushes back on parade chair policy

Residents must now wait until two hours before event to drop off chairs, blankets

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) A discussion this week among Berlin officials and residents highlighted frustrations over the town's new policy that limits when spectators can place chairs along Main Street ahead of the annual Christmas Parade and summer-time Bathtub Races.

The town recently announced that members of the streetside audience cannot place chairs or blankets along the sidewalks until two hours before an event begins, when the roads are formally closed for the event. In the case of the Christmas Parade, scheduled for Dec. 4 this year at 7 p.m., that means no seating is permitted before 5 p.m.

Before the rule change, chairs and blankets were lined up on the sidewalks along Main Street, sometimes even before sunrise on the day of the Christmas Parade, by residents who aimed to secure a front-row viewing position. Now, that tradition is coming to an end.

Despite the argument from staff that the new policy will make the

pedestrian paths safer for wheelchair users and other individuals with disabilities, some residents argue that the move is not fair.

During Monday's mayor and council meeting, resident Mary Hedlesky stated that enforcement feels unfair to residents. At the same time, businesses continue to place merchandise, tables, and sandwich boards along the sidewalks throughout the year.

"I don't have a problem with the policy itself and the reasons behind it, but it's very unfair," Hedlesky said. "It's two times a year where we allow residents to put chairs out for the Christmas Parade and Bathtub Races, and meanwhile, businesses do this 365 days a year. It's just not right."

The rule mandating that pathways be kept clear has been in place for years, but was rarely enforced. Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said the decision to implement the regulation was based on safety and accessibility concerns.

"The stem of this really was last year; we had some folks in wheelchairs that could not access or move about the sidewalks in Berlin," Tyn-

dall said. "...[Chairs] were blowing into the streets multiple times, and then public works had to go out there and set them back up in what they thought was the appropriate space... It does feel like home seeing the chairs lined up along Main Street. But we also have to be cognizant that we have a responsibility to make sure those sidewalks are ADA compliant and the chairs are not ending up in the streets like they have been."

Councilman Jay Knerr asked why the policy announcement had been released without council input.

"We had this longstanding policy that was never enforced, and then all of a sudden it gets enforced," Knerr said. "Why did that happen, and why wasn't the council involved? It's frustrating to get calls asking why we did something that we didn't know about."

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells previously explained that for popular events like the Christmas Parade, chairs have been placed as early as 6 a.m. Town staff reported that chairs and blankets frequently blocked walkways,

created tripping hazards, and blew into Main Street, necessitating repeated cleanup efforts.

Hedlesky suggested that businesses temporarily remove sidewalk displays during the Christmas Parade and the Bathtub Races to allow residents to place seats earlier without blocking pathway access.

"Because of what's already there, the residents are the ones being slighted," she said.

Town staff pushed back, arguing that technically, businesses are also prohibited from congesting sidewalks with signs and clothes racks, but that it's easier for enforcement staff to communicate the rule to storefront employees. The chairs, however, are left unattended.

"If you have a business and they put out the biggest mannequin, we can knock on the door, and the mannequin will be moved," Police Chief Arnold Downing said. "The business is there."

Downing added that last year's parade day was exceptionally busy with shoppers, and the chairs blocked the paths.

"People had a heck of a time trying to move, and chairs were flying," the police chief said.

Staff emphasized that while the

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**'I don't have a problem with the policy itself and the reasons behind it, but it's very unfair.'**  
Mary Hedlesky

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# New custom license plate to soon be available in Berlin

The tag to feature the town logo, letters ‘BER’ and will raise funds for new center

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) Berlin residents will soon have the opportunity to sport a town custom license plate on their cars and trucks through an initiative to raise money for a proposed community center.

At a mayor and council meeting in Berlin this week, staff presented the new tag program to officials, seeking direction on style, and offering timelines and details about the project.

According to Linda Johnston, a member of the Town of Berlin’s finance department, the municipality must design the specialty plate, which is then submitted for review by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

Once the license plate configuration gets the green light, Berlin residents will be able to complete an application for their own specialty car tag. The form will include a fee to be put towards the cost of the proposed Berlin community center.

Officials said that the price for the plate would be around \$30, likely a bit more, to secure as many donation dollars as possible for the center.

“We have talked about this multiple times; this is just moving that ball forward,” Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said. “It’s likely that the tags will be more expensive to add the donation

component to the program.” Officials decided that the left side of the plate would include the town logo, an anchor, and to the right of that image would be the letters ‘BER.’ As required by the MVA, ‘Maryland’ will be written across the top. The municipality may opt to put ‘Town of Berlin’ at the bottom of the tag.

Staff will create a mockup to be presented at a later date. The finance department will return to a later council meeting with more details, such as the exact cost of the specialty plates.

Once the design receives approval from the MVA, applications for the new tags will be available to citizens. The town requires an initial 25 requests to proceed with the program. Once the first batch of forms is collected, Berlin staff will order the tags from the MVA, which will then be shipped directly to the applicants.

A recreational and functional space the custom tag program seeks to support has been a dream of municipality officials and residents for decades.

That wish moved closer to fruition over the past few years, particularly when four parcels of property on Flower Street were combined to be the site of the new center through a partnership between the Town of Berlin, the Berlin Community Improvement Association (BCIA), SHOREUP! Inc., and the Worcester County Commissioners.

The future building will provide space for meetings recreational activities and services.

# Tension boils over chair policy

Continued from Page 10  
chair policy may limit the timeframe for when residents and visitors can set up their seats, they will still have the opportunity to reserve those prime spots.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said chairs are permitted, but not until road closures. “Chairs will be allowed, we’re just asking after 5 p.m.,” he said. “At two or three in the afternoon, they’re a headache.”

Hedlesky argued 5 p.m. is a time of “mass confusion” on the day of the Christmas event because parade floats are arriving and kids participating in the procession are being dropped off.

Additionally, some officials raised concerns about how the policy is implemented. Councilman Steve Green (who is executive editor of this paper) said residents should not have to wait until the next day to retrieve their chairs if they are removed by staff.

“I think that’s very rude, honestly,” Green said. “They should be able to get their chairs back whenever they want.”

According to Downing and Town Administrator Mary Bohlen, guests who have their seats confiscated can pick them up that same day. However, the Facebook post by the Town of Berlin Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District from Oct. 28 reads that to pick up a chair, residents should “contact the Berlin Police Department non-emergency line or Town Hall the following day.”

Still, despite the post, staff maintained that those whose blankets or chairs were removed would be able to retrieve them then and there.

Despite the public discourse, Tyndall maintained that the policy will ultimately improve the parade operation, even if the longstanding tradition must be compromised.

“I thought the chairs were cool, but I have to balance that with accessibility and staff time,” the mayor said. “We only have a finite amount of staff, and then for one of our busiest events, if they have to be pulled to pull chairs out of the road, it creates a lot of challenges.”



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Nancy Reynolds is pictured with her piece, titled "Plus 400 Million years Old."

# Berlin library branch now featuring new art exhibits

Featured pieces will be on display on building's walls through end of the year

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) Two local artists are sharing their work with the community via a joint exhibit now on display at the Berlin branch of the Worcester County Library through the end of the year.

The show, sponsored by the Worcester County Arts Council, features glass mosaics by Nancy Reynolds alongside oil and mixed-media paintings by artist Marian Bickerstaff. Both women are members of the arts council.

For Reynolds, who moved to the Eastern Shore in the spring of 2024, the Berlin exhibit marks her first public art display.

"Since I moved here last April, I joined the Worcester County Arts Council, and it's just been really fun being a part of that group, and they invited me to do this," she said.

The glass mosaic artist began experimenting with the medium about 35 years ago, when she took a class shortly after completing her graduate studies. Reynolds creates designs to hang on walls, stained glass window commissions, and a few functional pieces, such as mirrors, surrounded by colorful shards. She's been captivated since the first time she was introduced to the art form, she said.

"I saw this stained-glass heart and I said, 'That's really cute, I want to learn how to do that,' she said. "So, I took a class and then I just got hooked."

Now, the artist has a home studio where she designs, cuts, foils, solder, and polishes each glass piece.

"It's a messy, kind of dangerous art form," she said, adding that rules for her den include shoes on at all times, and no food or drinks due to the glass shards, glues, and soldering fumes. "I just have a really good time creating."

Reynolds said that while her glass

creations are more of a hobby, she will also do stained glass commissions, which are more technical assignments. For instance, in September, she finalized and delivered a window for a fitness and health center in New Jersey, in which she cut the letters out of thin glass and fashioned an EKG line through the middle. While not the most creative project, Reynolds said that tasks like these allow her to expand her skill set.

"Doing a custom window is more technical than artistic, because you have to measure and make sure it fits," she said. "It was technically challenging, and I learned a lot from doing that."

Mosaics, however, are where Reynolds gets to tap into her playful side.

"Mosaics are much more fun, you can just play, and there's a little more room for error and creativity," she added.

Reynolds' works on display this fall include about ten pieces that she made over the course of about a year. The artist stated that the arts council invited her to exhibit her work in the Berlin library at the beginning of 2025, with sufficient notice to allow her to develop the intricate designs.

"My goal was to do one a month," she said. "I got ten done, which was perfect."

One piece, titled "Plus 400 Million Years Old," incorporates fossils. "These fossils are over 400 million years old," she said, noting that it's one of her favorites in the collection.

Before moving to the Eastern Shore, Reynolds spent her career as a physical therapist, specializing in sports medicine, and later worked with patients with Parkinson's disease. The artist stated that she had known she wanted to work in the field since she was a sophomore in high school. She opened her own clinic in 2006, before selling it 17 years later.

"I had a great career," she said. "I'm retired, and I'm just enjoying my re-

See LIBRARY Page 13

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# Vendor approved for Berlin comp plan work

Town officials say process will include public survey, meetings, detailed website

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) Following a vote this week, the Town of Berlin will contract with the firm Mead and Hunt for an update to the municipality’s comprehensive plan, a process that will guide future growth and development, for a cost of \$99,075.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the town is required to review its comprehensive plan every ten years. Berlin’s current plan was adopted in 2010 and reviewed without changes in 2020.

Bohlen said she chose to take the comprehensive plan project on during the upcoming town hall renovations. A total of eight firms returned proposals for the work, and Mead and Hunt was selected as the successful bid submitter.

Councilman Steve Green, who served on the review committee with Councilman Jack Orris, said the decision followed “a pretty extensive” process, including two four-hour meetings to review the four top-ranked applications.

Green noted that the comprehen-

sive plan is essential to Berlin’s planning department and planning commission, as well as future developers, so they have “some indication of what we stand for as a town, what we’re looking for.”

He added that residents will have chances to offer their input on the community’s future, in what they would like to see in terms of infrastructure and development efforts.

“Citizens will have a survey; they’ll also have plenty of opportunities to weigh in along the way,” the councilman said.

Green also stated that the project was budgeted at \$100,000, and the selected firm’s proposal fell within that amount. Additionally, the submission includes an interactive “story map” website that will be updated in phases and maintained by the consultants rather than the town.

Orris said the final choice was difficult given the strong applications, but he supported Mead and Hunt in part because of their community engagement approach and local connections.

“It did make it very tough, at least for me, to narrow it down to one,” Orris said. “But I think that was a plus in my book.”

Mead and Hunt have worked on the Greenway Master Trail project, an initiative that looks to create a network of

bikeways, connecting local destinations and landscapes throughout Worcester County.

The selected firm’s proposal says that their execution of an updated comprehensive plan for Berlin “will be grounded in a collaborative, transparent, and phased approach that reflects the town’s unique character, priorities, and aspirations.”

A timeline was included in Mead and Hunt’s submission. The project is scheduled to kick off in January 2026. From February to April, the firm will hold meetings to address topics like goals and policies, land use, transportation, municipal growth, historic and cultural resources, community facilities, water resources, natural resources, housing, economic development, and plan implementation.

“Our team is aware of stormwater and drainage issues around the town, specifically in the Flower Street and West Street areas, and is prepared to address these concerns,” Mead and Hunt’s proposal adds.

From May to July, the company will develop the plan, engaging with town residents and business owners to gather feedback on objectives. A first draft of the comp plan will be completed by late summer or early autumn of 2026, and an open public meeting will be held for critiques. A final document will be submitted around November or December.

The council unanimously approved awarding the comprehensive plan update project to Mead and Hunt, with Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols absent.

## Library changes out art works

Continued from Page 12

tirement. I’m just thankful every day,” Bickerstaff, the second artist featured in the Berlin library display, works primarily in oil, acrylic, mixed media, and photography. She is originally from Telford, Pennsylvania, where she began painting in the late 1970s and has won numerous awards in juried shows through the Worcester County Arts Council and Art League of Ocean City.

Bickerstaff worked a 37-year career in banking before moving to Ocean Pines in 2007 to prioritize her creative side.

“Her focus continues to be painting in oil, which generally conveys a sense of place, light, and luminosity, and acrylic work in bold color and surface texture, as she continues experimentation with surface treatments and techniques and a thought process of ‘I wonder what would happen if...,’” her biography on the WCAC website reads.

Bickerstaff said most of her work in the Berlin exhibit is oil paintings, primarily in her preferred style of landscapes. Two of the pieces are mixed media, used with foils and acrylics. Most of the paintings in the showcase, she added, were completed within the last year.

“I started oil painting when I was in my 30s,” Bickerstaff noted. “Someone

gave me a set of oils as a gift, and then I started taking lessons. I always loved art. I have been painting for years ever since.”

Reynold’s and Bickerstaff’s exhibit is open to the public for viewing and for sale during regular library hours at the Berlin branch at 13 Harrison Avenue, through Jan. 6, 2026.

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# Major public safety campus tops county's capital hopes

Latest plan outlines top projects with total spending estimated at \$345 million

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2025) Worcester County's sheriff is pitching elected officials on an ambitious new public safety headquarters that would put prosecutors, emergency services, and the sheriff's office under one roof.

"We feel that it strengthens the partnerships where we have that one-facility approach, where we're all under the same roof," Sheriff Matt Crisafulli told OC Today-Dispatch. "It'll be better for facilitating ideas, management of personnel, and just that inter-cooperation and collaboration."

This proposal was included as part of Worcester County's latest capital spending plan, a 175-page planning document full of department heads' wish lists for the next five years. Overall, the fiscal 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan includes projects totaling more than \$345 million.

Crisafulli's ask comes with an estimated \$46 million price tag, which would account only for his agency's

share of the potential design and construction cost.

The sheriff's office is now housed in a warren of crowded, windowless offices in the basement of the county's Snow Hill headquarters. A new facility for the sheriff and his 96 sworn deputies also would be home to 911 dispatchers, the fire marshal's office, and the state's attorney's office.

Crisafulli also said it could be located along Route 113 in Newark, on an empty parcel near the board of education and county landfill, for easy public access.

"There's obviously going to have to be a lot of further discussion with the different partners as we move forward with this project," Crisafulli said.

State's Attorney Kris Heiser has previously stated how her agency's current building, next door to the government center, is too small for current and projected staffing. In last year's capital improvement plan, she proposed a 6,000 square foot addition to the building but that ask did not appear in this year's document.

The plan includes other big-ticket funding requests, including millions

See CAPITAL Page 17



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPLGA's Denise Stevens and Donna Kelly are pictured with a ceremonial big check representing the proceeds from last month's tournament.

## Successful golf tournament leads to \$18K gift to AGH

(Nov. 13, 2025) This year's Pink Lady Golf Tournament raised a \$18,657.83 to fight the battle against breast cancer, the Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association announced this week.

Money raised from the tournament help pay for mammograms for women who are unable to afford those services. The tournament began 14 years ago and has brought in over \$25,000 to the Women's Imaging Center over the years.

The association also thanked the businesses, people and organizations that helped make the tournament possible:

Stacie Swanstrom, Summit Exteriors LLC; Bloomfield Foundation; Pines Point Provisions; Touch of Italy, Bob Ciprietti; Gina Nairn, Sunny Dawn; Perfect Face, Donna McElroy, Tim Floyd, American Legion, Haly Architect, Ocean Pines ROC Edition and Frick Electric.

Also, Tiffanie Adkins, Patuxent Insurance Co, Geri & Alfred Fasulo, Park Place Jewelers, The Berlin Beer Company, Forgotten 50, Smashed, East & Main, Norma Kessler, Delmarva Physical Therapy, Nielsen/Platt, Designing Windows, Adkins Interiors, Patti Jeans, Tractor Supply, Sterling Tavern, Salon Sixteen, and Massage Envy.

Serving on the OPLGA Committee were Denise Stevens, OPLGA president; Donna Kelly, OPLGA vice president; Ann Shockley, OPLGA secretary; Colette Horn, OPLGA treasurer; Kathy Monaco, OPLGA event coordinator; and members Carol Smith, Kitty Sawchak, Cheryl Florin, Jane Scuto, Donna McElroy, Catie Sostak, Lisa McNamara, Gina Morris, and Roberta Bragunier.

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# Former superintendent eyes elected office

Lou Taylor, incumbent Joe Mitrecic file for commission seats in next year's election

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 7, 2025) Saying he wants Worcester County to move in “the right direction,” former school superintendent Lou Taylor this week filed to run for county commissioner.

Taylor was at the Board of Elections in Snow Hill on Tuesday, signing the papers that make his campaign official. He said the idea to run took shape after people in the community began asking him to consider public office.

“The more they reached out to me, the more I thought about it,” he said. “And I just enjoy being in public service. I’ve had four months right now to rest, get recharged, rejuvenated, and I think I’m ready to roll my sleeves back up and give this a run. I’m 65 years old but I still think I’m young enough to give of myself.”

Taylor retired from a four-decade career in public schools in June. If elected to the Bishopville area in District 6, Taylor said he wants to focus not only on education issues, but law enforcement staffing and the future of offshore wind.

He said other issues of concern include the tenuous state of the county’s sewerage system, as well as the commissioners’ relationship with elected officials in the Town of Ocean City.

“Ocean City is the goose that lays the golden egg for this county,” Taylor said. “I don’t think presently, the (commissioners) as a whole have been very cooperative with Ocean City. Without Ocean City, Worcester County would really struggle in a lot of ways.”

Taylor’s candidacy had been the subject of some speculation after incumbent District 6 Commissioner Jim Bunting, 74, said earlier this year he was “99 percent certain” he would not pursue a fifth term.

Born and raised in Worcester County, Taylor started his public school career in 1983 as a physical education teacher at Berlin Middle School. In 1989, he went into administration, serving as a vice principal at Berlin Middle and then Stephen Decatur High School.

Taylor took over as principal in 1995 and served 17 years in that role before being promoted to assistant

superintendent in 2012. The school board appointed him superintendent in 2016. Taylor is also the owner of his family business, the Bal-Hi campground in Bishopville.

“I’ve had the opportunity to run the school system for the past nine years and that’s a \$125 million business,” he said. “I hope that I have the skills, and I think I do, that will be able to make some good business decisions along with some of the other commissioners. I’m just excited about the opportunity to be a part of that team and make good decisions for the area of which I’ve lived my entire life and really love.”

Notably, Taylor’s grandfather Louis J. Hickman also served on the county commissioners from 1962-1974.

**Mitrecic files for reelection**

Taylor was accompanied at the Board of Elections by Commissioner Joe Mitrecic, who filed for reelection. Mitrecic, 63, is a four-term incumbent representing Ocean City in District 7.

One of the Lower Shore’s longest-serving public officials – he previously served eight years on Ocean City’s City Council before joining the

commissioners in 2010 – Mitrecic said he almost decided not to run again.

“You know, I wasn’t going to. I really wasn’t. I kind of thought I was done,” he said. “But things got turned around and went backwards so far in this last term, I felt that it was necessary for me to come back and try to move the county forward again.”

Added Mitrecic: “We’ve been nothing but reactive for the last three years. We haven’t been proactive. We haven’t looked to the future at all. My idea when I became a county commissioner was to leave the county better when I was gone than it was when I got there. And I’m not sure that it’s there right now. So, that’s why I filed again.”

Other candidates who have filed for county commissioner in next fall’s election include Roxie Dennis for District 2 and Steve Green for District 4. Taylor and Mitrecic are Republicans, while Dennis is a Democrat. Green is running unaffiliated.

Several incumbents have filed for reelection in other county races, including Sheriff Matt Crisafulli, State’s Attorney Kris Heiser, Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Braniecki, and Register of Wills Terri Westcott. Kathy Cater is the only candidate who has filed to run for school board.

**‘Ocean City is the goose that lays the golden egg for this county’**  
Candidate Lou Taylor



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# Grandparents and Special Friends Day



Worcester Prep kindergartner Pierson Hankerson enjoys quality time on the playground with his grandmother, Marcia Hankerson, during Grandparents & Special Friends Day at WPS.



Worcester Prep siblings Blakely and Sadie Absher take a break from the Book Fair to share a smile with their grandad, Allen Absher, during Grandparents & Special Friends Day at WPS.



Worcester Prep grandparents Annette and O.R. White pose for a keepsake photo with their granddaughter, 1st grader Maeve Keyser, during Grandparents & Special Friends Day at WPS.



Worcester Prep 1st grader Avery Townsend gives her special guest, Jess Tomko, a warm embrace following the Lower School's performance.

On Friday, Oct. 24, Worcester Preparatory School hosted the grandparents and guests of lower school students for a special day on campus. Lower School students have been busy preparing class projects and performances in anticipation of Grandparents and Special Friends Day at WPS. The day began with coffee and refreshments, followed by a "Harvesting Memories" themed performance by each grade. The students then met their grandparents and special guests in the Field House to present their projects. Next up were visits to the Lower School classrooms and a quick stop for a keepsake photo. The day ended in the library with a visit to the Book Fair.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Worcester Prep 5th grader Addilyn Fawcett browses the Book Fair with her grandmother during Grandparents & Special Friends Day at WPS.



Worcester Prep 5th grader Dev Pillai spends time with his grandmother, Sasi Pillai, during Grandparents & Special Friends Day at WPS.



# Capital project priorities in plan

Continued from Page 14  
for two new public schools.

Buckingham Elementary’s \$71.3 million replacement is still in the works. Plans also call for a new Berlin Intermediate School, budgeted at \$80 million, though a feasibility study is still underway to determine whether renovation or full replacement is the most viable option.

It’s not the only request for school spending. The Board of Education wants money to replace roofs at three schools in each of the next three years: Worcester Technical High School (\$11M), Stephen Decatur High School (\$15.3M), Ocean City Elementary (\$6.2M).

Also in the education realm, Wor-Wic Community College wants \$5.8M for a local share of a proposed 50,000 to 80,000 square foot student center on campus. It also would include an outdoor multipurpose athletic field with a track and fieldhouse. The state would fund 75% of the project’s proposed \$84.5 million cost, with Worcester and Wicomico counties splitting the remaining 25%.

Renovations to the Family Court facilities were requested for Snow Hill Circuit Court, at a projected cost of \$1.68 million. Judge Brian Shockley wrote in his proposal that renovations are needed because Family Court is small, overcrowded, and unsafe for judges and attendees. Work in two phases would reconfigure the first floor of the historic courthouse and steal space from the existing Register of Wills office and other courthouse offices.

Another courthouse proposal from Judge Shockley asks for \$955,630 toward construction of a major exterior change: adding a 672 square foot vestibule to the Washington Street entrance. The same request last year came in at about \$600,000.

For the health department, a joint facility to house both a new senior center and health department offices in Pocomoke City is proposed at a cost of about \$10 million. The existing senior center in Pocomoke was built in 1947 as a school, and its deteriorating condition doesn’t meet safety or accessibility codes.

The Public Works department has several projects on the list, including \$2.13 million to expand a recycling building, \$9 million for five years’ worth of road paving, and \$16 million to build a new storage cell at the landfill. Another landfill project on the list would cost \$4.6 million for the construction of a state-mandated gas collection system.

Another dozen more proposed Public Works projects concern upgrades or replacements to water and sewer infrastructure, including millions of dollars for new sewer main connections between different treatment plans.

# Obituary

**CHARLES RICHARD LAMPE**  
Selbyville, Del.

Charles “Chuck” Richard Lampe, 97, of Selbyville, Del., passed away peacefully in his home after a long illness on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, surrounded by his loving children.

Chuck was born on January 12, 1928, in Pekin, IL, the son of the late Charles and Ruth Lampe. The oldest of five children, he attended the University of Illinois on a football scholarship, where he met and married the love of his life, Marylou Thompson. He proudly served in the United States Army as a First Lieutenant during the Korean War.

Throughout his career, Chuck relocated his family several times, living throughout the Midwest and East Coast before finally settling in Delaware in the home he built with his own hands. Life at the shore brought him tremendous joy—he loved fishing, boating, and crabbing, and he always knew where the fish were biting.

Chuck was a lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners and held a special passion for their charitable work. Over the years, he



Charles Lampe

drove more than fifty children and their families to the Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia for medical care, offering not only transportation but comfort and companionship.

Until his illness, Chuck was an active and devoted member of Mariner’s Bethel Global Methodist Church in Ocean View, DE. Known for his skill with tools and a generous spirit, he volunteered countless hours building and repairing churches throughout the community.

Above all, Chuck loved his family. He cherished every gathering, celebration, and milestone, and in his later years would often say with a wide smile, “I have the best family.” Chuck and Marylou were blessed with 69 years of marriage.

He is survived by his three children: Greg Lampe and his wife, Beverly, of Selbyville, DE; Jeff Lampe and his wife, Karen, of Meyersville, MD; and Jeanne Mecca and her husband, Billy, of North Haven, CT; five grandchildren, Sarah (Al), Linnea,

Shayna (Brian), Christina (Ryan), and Nikki (Adam); and eight great-grandchildren, Dylan, Sofia, Connor, Olivia, Julia, Owen, Oliver, and Josie.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to the caregivers for the exceptional care and compassion shown to Chuck throughout his illness.

A Celebration of Life will be held at noon on Monday, Nov. 17 at Mariner’s Bethel Global Methodist Church. A viewing will take place prior to the service beginning at 11:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Children’s Hospital, Mariner’s Bethel Global Methodist Church, or a charity of one’s choice.

Chuck’s legacy lives on in the faith he practiced, the family he cherished, and the kindness he showed to everyone he met.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.bishophastingsfh.com](http://www.bishophastingsfh.com).

## OBITUARY NOTICES

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Renovation needed

Any number of things might be and probably have been said about the Berlin mayor and Town Council’s decision to renovate Town Hall, but “frivolous” or “excessive” should not be among them.

A better one-word description of the \$2.5 million project scheduled to begin next year might be “practical,” even though it does entail a little bit of dressing up here and there.

But when the major components of an interior overhaul include “a new elevator, new HVAC systems, (seven of the eight existing units are not operating correctly) automatic fire sprinklers, and asbestos and lead remediation,” the remaining budget isn’t likely to have much room for extravagances.

Town Hall has never been what anyone would call a show-place, and it’s safe to assume that a visitor who last entered the building 10 years ago wouldn’t find many changes today, but it is the seat of local government and should look better and work better than it does. While there’s always the possibility of changes here and there, this is a project that just makes sense.

## Mural has right mix

Put us down for a “Yes” vote on Evan Fitzgerald’s design for the side of the Poole Building in Berlin. It has just the right mix of realism in technique and its depiction of the sea-side marsh landscape, and the touch of whimsy that makes Berlin more than a town that’s proud of its architectural heritage.

Although the town’s historic district is the foundation of the town’s image, it’s also a perfect backdrop to a community whose downtown has a little bit of a bohemian flavor and a big commitment to having fun.

Congratulations to the artist for having passed muster with Historic District Commission and for injecting a little humor into the downtown atmosphere.

## Letters

### Independent voters deserve a voice

Editor,

I am one of almost a million Maryland voters – 22.5% of the electorate – who are unaffiliated with either of the two major political parties.

I registered as an independent because I believe 'We The People' must interact directly with our government, not just choose between two parties that often fail to hold themselves accountable.

Like millions of independents across the country, we represent the fastest-growing segment of voters. Yet in Maryland, we are denied the right to participate in the very elections that often matter most: the primaries.

Maryland’s primaries are paid for with public dollars and administered by state officials. They are not private club elections. And yet, unless I join a political party, I

cannot cast a ballot in these contests. This system effectively suppresses all voices outside the two-party structure and tells voters like me that our voices don’t matter until the general election, when it’s often too late.

As Marylanders, we should each ask what the American Dream means if some of us are denied a voice in shaping it. Our liberty begins with the right to participate, fully and freely in our democracy.

In many districts where one party dominates, the decisive election takes place without the input of nearly a quarter of Maryland voters. That is not only unfair—it is profoundly anti-democratic.

In May 2025, the Open Primaries Education Fund, in partnership with former Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, filed a lawsuit on behalf of five plaintiffs against the Maryland State Board of Elections, challenging the state’s closed pri-

mary system as unconstitutional.

This legal challenge gives voice to what so many of us believe: no American should ever have to join a political party to exercise the right to vote. We hope the courts will uphold the rights of independent voters.

Our nation’s history is rooted in expanding participation and ensuring that all citizens have a voice. Excluding independents from publicly funded elections undermines both the integrity of our democracy and the trust of voters who already feel alienated from a political system that does not reflect their views.

It is time for Maryland to end this exclusionary practice. Independent voters deserve a seat at the table. For more information, please visit Let Us Vote Maryland at <https://maryland.letusvote.org/>.

Sincerely,  
*Ed Tinus*  
*Whaleyville*

## New program tackles food insecurity

### Food pantries, soup kitchens and more eligible for funding


(Nov. 14, 2025) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) and the Richard A. Henson Foundation have announced the launch of the Feeding Our Neighbors Fund, a rapid-response funding initiative supporting nonprofit organizations that provide direct meal assistance or food/groceries in Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties. The program is made possible through a \$250,000 gift from the Richard A. Henson Foundation with grants administered by the Community Foundation.

With ongoing economic challenges, reductions in food assistance benefits, and the recurring rise in local

need during the winter months, many households across the Lower Shore are facing increased food insecurity. The Feeding Our Neighbors grant program will support organizations responding to these urgent needs while also reinforcing long-term stability in meal access.

“For 35 years, The Richard A. Henson Foundation has stepped up to respond to local needs and honor Mr. Henson’s priorities,” said Stacey McMichael, executive director of the Richard A. Henson Foundation. With the rising demand for food resources in our region, the Trustees and I knew it was not the time to wait, but to act. The Community Foundation has been able to help us realize this vision and we are thankful that many will benefit from the Feeding Our Neighbors

Fund.” Within hours of the program opening, the Community Foundation saw a surge in grant applications, validating the significant regional need. Grant awards will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000, with applications accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Eligible programs include food pantries and soup kitchens, including school or university pantries; prepared meals offered as part of programming such as after-school or transitional housing programs; meal deliveries and homebound meal services; and shelter or community meal programs. “Food insecurity is not a short-term issue, and meeting this need requires both immediate relief and stability for the organizations doing the work,” Community Foundation President  
See PROGRAM Page 19

BAYSIDEGAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842  
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# Puzzles

OPEN-FACED

BY RAFAEL MUSA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rafael Musa, of San Francisco, is a software engineer. His favorite kind of crossword to construct is themeless, like this one, because of the freedom it gives him in filling the grid. This puzzle has only 117 answers — the lowest ever for a Sunday, beating the previous record by one. It's full of long, colorful words and phrases not seen in Times puzzles before. This is Rafa's 22nd construction for The Times since 2022. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Cause a mess, as with frying oil

9 Create an intricate series of lies, say

17 Offerings to prospective bicycle buyers

19 “Ben-Hur” or “Lawrence of Arabia”

20 Or more

22 Like many public housing projects

23 Comprehends

24 Way to manipulate public opinion through fear

26 “The \_\_\_ is done”

27 Some ambulance destinations, for short

28 Ceramicists’ devices

30 Hog heaven?

31 Wrong idea

33 Word with bean or lemon

34 \_\_\_ Jones, author of “How We Fight for Our Lives”

35 Tick off

37 Pieces of art?

40 Allude (to)

41 Winter Olympics event

44 Agreements where one party takes some heat?

46 Old-time theater item

48 They point toward Mecca while salah is performed

50 Evergreen pointer

51 Sharpen

52 Natural process of maturing

54 Airplane wing feature

55 Girder whose name assumes a serif font

57 Paleolithic-era tools

58 Have spiritual unity (with)

59 Falsify

61 \_\_\_ syndrome (allergic reaction to some bug bites)

62 Actress and model Ali \_\_\_

63 Like some pricing strategies

65 Annual awards whose name is an acronym

66 Affectedly clever

67 Allude (to)

69 Southwest landform

70 Smokey Bear spot, e.g., for short

73 Area with the highest percentage of homes valued at \$1 million or more

79 [ha ha!]

82 Reddish-brown color

84 Ones skilled in governance

85 Gram

86 Return analogue

88 “You’re one to talk!”

89 Mumbo jumbo

90 Instrument for which Beethoven and Mozart composed

92 Drink order at a sushi restaurant

94 What might have green rooms?

95 Unlikely sportsmanship award winner

96 \_\_\_ Lupton, author of the 2010 best seller “Sister”

97 Quarter-barrel containers of beer

DOWN

1 Talking \_\_\_ (early dating period, in modern lingo)

2 Fizzle (out)

3 Exams whose analytical reasoning sections were removed in 2024

4 PINpoints?

5 Lead-in to state or Star

6 Typically red-coated toy figurines

7 Official proclamations

8 Try to produce better offspring from

9 Bursts

10 Feels for

11 Sport with crampons and carabiners

12 Document that promises secrecy, for short

13 Like the climate in Antarctica

14 Does the Narrows hike at Zion National Park, say

15 Become acquainted over Zoom, e.g.

16 Villain

18 “No doubt about it!”

19 Inscribed

21 Mythical creature with scales

22 Lost one’s temper

25 Like some donations that anyone can accept

28 Pride celebration

29 “That much is obvious”

31 Child who refuses to put things away?

32 Flag thrower

33 Olympic gymnast Nadia who was the first to receive a perfect 10 score

36 Livestock facilities regulated by the E.P.A.

37 TV series starring Rami Malek as a hacktivist

38 Absurdist philosopher born in Algeria

39 Perspectives

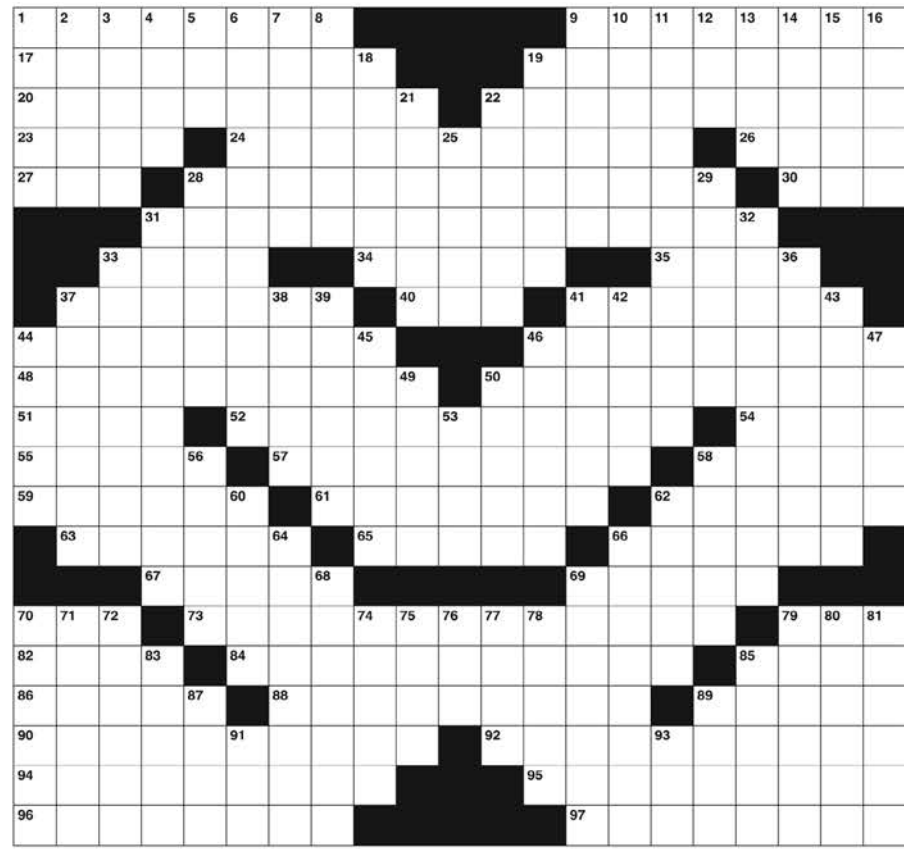
41 More difficult to eat, as fish

42 Tandooors, e.g.

43 Lucy \_\_\_, African American slave narrator

44 Garden pest

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



- 45 Butterfly, e.g.

46 Cheeky flirts

47 Sufferer healed by Jesus

49 Unit circle ratios

50 Like some soils high in organic matter

53 Small protestation

56 Sociologist’s concern

58 Eccentric

60 Update the equipment in

62 Musical instruments that become other musical instruments when an F is added to the front

64 Erasure

66 Person idolized by a niche audience

68 Physics Nobelist Feynman

69 Covert mission, familiarly

70 Be partial to

71 Shell competitor

72 Daikin Park team

74 Gregorian \_\_\_

75 Aware of

76 We, in Portuguese

77 Bygone devices whose tapes had to be rewound

78 Teatro alla Scala solos

79 Ancient philosopher whose name means “old master”

80 Support for the tree pose in yoga

81 Strategy against fickle weather

83 One more than 5-Down

85 Unacceptable

87 \_\_\_ Kassiss, author of “The Arabesque Table”

89 Hallowed

91 Nittany Lions’ sch.

93 Big \_\_\_

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 60

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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



# Commissioners deny Pocomoke library ask

No vote taken, but officials not willing to contribute funds toward adding porch

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 7, 2025) Worcester County officials denied a funding request for a children’s outdoor space at the new public library under construction in Pocomoke City.

County library Director Jennifer Ranck on Tuesday told the county commissioners that the gazebo-like “treehouse porch” had previously been struck from the project’s original budget to save money.

However, after having raised \$35,000 privately toward its \$110,000 cost, she asked the commissioners to fund the remaining \$75,000 to build it.

While Ranck said there was some urgency to the request because trades workers already were on-site, the commissioners ultimately declined to

entertain any motion to fund the gazebo.

Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) urged Ranck and library foundation President Carol Rose to keep fundraising or do more cost-cutting to meet their goals.

“We give you an amount we could live with,” he said. “We’ve done everything we could for you.”

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City), a home builder by trade, pointed out that 412 square foot gazebo was coming in at a price per square foot of \$266.

“I mean, they build houses for that,” he said. “I support it and I think that the Pocomoke library deserves everything else that every other library has. However, I just think that, as a builder, if I was on site already this number seems awfully high to me.”

Mitrecic noted in particular that the 6x8-inch, 16-foot vertical wood posts to support the gazebo roof were quoted by builder Keller Brothers at

\$57,600 – more than half the price of the bid.

Commissioner Chip Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) noted how an uncovered porch recently built at the Ocean Pines library had been paid for with donations, not county taxpayers. He suggested the library build an uncovered gazebo and then raise money to pay for a roof.

“I think coming to the county to ask us to pay for something with the square footage rate that is almost equivalent to building a school is a little bit out of line,” Bertino said, adding, “I like the concept, I just have a problem with the cost.”

After more than five years of planning, crews finally broke ground in January to build the new library. The 12,500-square-foot facility will be constructed on the same Market Street property as its 55-year-old predecessor, which had been the county’s oldest library branch.

It will include a large community room, study spaces, a room dedicated

to local history, and a children’s section from which an outdoor yard will be accessible – which, originally, had included the “treehouse” as designed by architect Jeff Schoellkopf.

Ranck said the project is on pace to be substantially completed by April, with a planned opening for June. It will cost about \$8.4 million, with half that coming from the State of Maryland. The state also will give \$275,000 toward furnishings and equipment, she added.

After the meeting, Ranck said the library foundation is grateful for the county’s financial support and will continue to fundraise.

“We are fortunate to have wonderful outdoor spaces at all four other library locations and certainly want that for the Pocomoke community as well,” she said. “I’m hopeful we can get the children’s porch built during the construction phase, but time is definitely a factor, as the other aspects of the project need to progress and take precedence.”



## OPEN HOUSES



Nov. 13 - Nov. 20

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family from	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 3-5pm	105 123rd Street, B332, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$264,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	650 Suffolk Ct, Salisbury	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$374,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	9540 Wedge Way, Delmar, MD	2BR/2BA	Townhome	\$251,500	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	201 S Heron Drive #5G, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$358,400	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	204 S Heron Drive #202G, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$575,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	10312 Bristol Rd, West Ocean City	3BR/1BA	Single Family	\$339,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	17 Stacy Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$925,000	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$629,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	11845 Man O' War Ln, Glen Riddle, Berlin	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$874,990	Brett Miller/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2pm	27450 Covered Bridge Trail, Harbeson, DE	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$550,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-3pm	11204 Coastal Hwy #3C HPS, Ocean City	2 BR/2 BA	Condo	\$674,900	Tim Meadowcroft/Long & Foster Real Estate
Saturday 1-3pm	722 139th Street #722C, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$1,199,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	6305 Atlantic Ave #301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,550,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	11877 Man O War Lane, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$729,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	745 Mooring Road Unit 202, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$399,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	17 Stacy Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$925,000	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	14401 Tunnel Ave #263, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$249,900	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/ReMax Advantage Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	201 S Heron Drive #5G, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$358,400	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	722 139th Street #722C, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$1,199,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sunday Noon-3pm	2 80th St. Unit 212 Diamond Head, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$519,000	Tim Meadowcroft/Long & Foster Real Estate

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BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**REMEMBERING VETS**  
A group of local residents presented a gold star flag to signify family members' deaths during Tuesday's Veterans Day ceremony in Ocean Pines.



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# Calendar

Please send calendar items to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

## Thurs., Nov. 13

**VISION BOARD + HEALTH & WELLNESS COACHING SESSION**  
Residence Inn by Marriott, 300 Seabay Lane, Ocean City, 10-11:30 a.m. Designed to help participants reflect, reset and envision their ideal path to wellness. Cost is \$35. Register: <https://givebut-ter.com/MaryRupinski>. Benefiting the Art League of Ocean City.

**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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

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

**STORY TIME: 'JUMP!'**  
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

**AROMATHERAPY WORKSHOP**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Participants will create their own custom fragrances and will use these to create three personal aromatherapy items. Registration required: 410-957-0878.

**BINGO**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join in for a lively game of Bingo and win fun prizes. 410-524-1818

**LET'S MAKE ... PINE CONE WREATHS**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Create a beautiful and rustic pinecone wreath. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-641-0650. [www.worcesterli-brary.org](http://www.worcesterli-brary.org)

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

## Fri., Nov. 14

**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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

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

**BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THE NIGHT WATCHMAN' BY LOUISE ERDRICH**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Ocean Pines Library circulation desk. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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 2: Theater. Best of elementary and middle school students, but all are welcome. 410-632-3495

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

**CHICKEN SALAD CARRYOUT**  
Bishopville Volunteer Fire Dept, 11837 Saint Martins Neck Road, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per pint. Preorder or for more information: 443-880-4944.

**PAINT & SIP NIGHT**  
Bishopville Volunteer Fire Dept, 11837 Saint Martins Neck Road, 6-9:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Paint & Sip held from 7-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 and includes instructions, all supplies and a glass of wine. Extra wine, food and sodas available. Reservations: 410-713-2110.

**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., Nov. 15

**COLOR RUN FOR THE ARTS**  
Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m.-noon. Check-in from 8-9 a.m. Kids Run for ages 9 and younger begins at 9 a.m. The 5K run begins at 9:30 a.m. The 2-mile walk around the pond begins at 10 a.m. Pre-registra-tion required: [OCart.org/ColorRun](http://OCart.org/ColorRun).

**CRAFTY SATURDAY: THANKSGIVING**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Cre-

ate some Thanksgiving treats and crafts. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**A MUSIC, DANCE AND COMEDY SHOW: READING ROCKS!**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Join Turtle Dance Music for a hybrid show featuring classic and original chil-dren's songs and tales. Dance, sing, laugh and use your imagination. For families. 410-641-0650

**KIDS STEAM WORKSHOP: POWER PROTECTORS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join 4-H educator Theresa Maggio on a journey to learn about renewable energy through an exciting, superhero-themed workshop. Best for ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

**GLOBAL GOODIES**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Are all snacks created equal? Taste test snacks from around the world and find out. All food provided. For families. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**ORIGINALS ONLY: NO COVERS, JUST CREATORS**  
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 6-8 p.m. Local creators — musicians, poets, comedians, and per-formers — showcase their talents. Free and open to all. Snacks included. 410-254-9433, [info@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:info@artleagueofoceancity.org)

**OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET**  
*Saturdays* - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Also featuring family-friendly activities, music and unique shopping experiences. Open to the public, year round. 410-641-7052, <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>

## Sun., Nov. 16

**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, bak-ers, distillers, seafood, meat and more. Also featuring a petting farm (9-11 a.m.), free kids art station and live music. The-BerlinFarmersMarket.com

**SEWING FOR A CAUSE**  
*Sundays* - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to sew while

making a difference. 410-641-0234

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**  
*Sundays* - Berlin Congregation of Jeho-vah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

## Mon., Nov. 17

**STORY TIME: MS. AVERY'S FAVORITES**  
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.worces-terlibrary.org](http://www.worces-terlibrary.org)

**DIY KOMBUCHA**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join Michaela Eggers and learn all about kombucha, its benefits and how to make it yourself. 410-208-4014, [www.worces-terlibrary.org](http://www.worces-terlibrary.org)

**OREO TASTE TEST CHALLENGE**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. An afternoon of wacky Oreo flavors. Test each one and then rank them from best to worst. For families. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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 50plus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. [www.Worcoa.org/oceancity](http://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](http://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., Nov. 18

**GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research, followed by a Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Registra-tion required: 410-208-4014.

Continued on Page 24



# Calendar

Continued from Page 23

**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](http://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. Group meets every Tuesday. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**STORY TIME**

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

**CRAFTS FOR A CAUSE: ADOPT ME BANDANAS**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Craft a special “Adopt Me!” bandana for a furry friend at the Worcester County Humane Society. All ages. Service hours available upon request. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**OREO TASTE TEST CHALLENGE**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 4:30 p.m. An afternoon of wacky Oreo flavors. Test each one and then rank them all from best to worst. For families. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET**

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

**BEACH HEROES-OC**

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

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**

*Tuesdays* - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**

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

**OC KNITTING CLUB**

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

**ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE**

*Tuesdays* - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: [TangobytheBeach.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.htcanglican.org/activities).

## Wed., Nov. 19

**EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**BACKGAMMON CLUB**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of Backgammon, whether you're an expert for want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**SENSORY STAY AND PLAY**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**WHAT WE COLLECT. WHAT WE TELL: SENIOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m. Share stories and reminisce about the past through prompts and activities. 410-957-0878. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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 complete in

their original boxes. 410-641-0650

**EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Receive an embroidery kit that celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. Learn basic embroidery stitches. Registration required: 410-641-0650.

**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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**BINGO**

The Sterling Tavern, 119 N. Main St., Berlin, 6 p.m. Play Bingo and support the Church Mouse Ministry Outreach of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Cost is \$2 per Bingo card, cash only. Prizes include donations and gift cards and handcrafted items.

**OCEAN CITY - BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6 p.m. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. [ocberlinrotary@gmail.com](mailto:ocberlinrotary@gmail.com)

**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](http://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](http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org).

**CASH BINGO**

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

**WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS**

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Open Wednesdays through Sundays, Nov. 20-Dec. 21 and open daily Dec. 22-31, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$6 for adults and free to those 11 years and younger. Enjoy a walk-through winter wonderland experience. Also featuring 50-foot Christmas tree, refreshments, bonfire, interactive games, photos with Santa Claus, family crafts and a gift

shop. Tickets: [www.ococean.com/winterfest/](http://www.ococean.com/winterfest/).  
On Dec. 1, 8, 9 and 15, enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride through the lights. Enchanted Evenings tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/e/1054835/enchanted-evenings-ocean-city-winter-fest-of-lights>.  
Pets are welcome on Wednesday evenings. Mobility devices available for rent on site - \$10 per two hours (scooters, powered wheelchairs) - standard wheelchairs also available. Scooters-4-Rent.com 302-280-6203.  
Info: 410-289-2800.

**LIGHT UP THE PINES**

Free annual outdoor decorating event. Register by Dec. 12 to be entered into the drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits from Choptank Electric Cooperative. The first 25 home to sign up will receive Choptank Electric goodies. Residents may sign up throughout the holiday season to have their homes added to the online map ([oceanpines.org](http://oceanpines.org)). Register: [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org), 410-641-7717, Ext. 3014.

**BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY**

Depart from the OP Community Center at 5:30 a.m. Spend the day exploring the Big Apple on your own from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$90 for transportation only. Reservations: 410-641-7052.

**YOUNG HISTORIANS ESSAY CONTEST**

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St. Open to middle and high school students. All entries that meet requirements will earn one hour of service learning. Winners in each age group will receive an extra prize. Reach out to [history@worcesterlibrary.org](mailto:history@worcesterlibrary.org) for any local history research assistance. Stop in or call for full details. 410-632-3495 Due by Nov. 15.

**CARDBOARD CITY - 3-D MURAL**

Pocomoke library, 401 5th Street, throughout November. Materials are provided to design your own house or building to add to our cardboard city 3-D mural. For ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878

**HISTORY-TO-GO: CROSS STITCHING**

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout November. Includes info sheets, recommended activities, supplies and more. Pick up from the Snow Hill library. 410-632-3495

**BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK**

Bus departs on Dec. 20 at 6 a.m. from Chuckie Cheese in Salisbury. Cost is \$97 and includes driver's tip. Arrive at Macy's in New York at 11 a.m. Bus will be leaving from Macy's at 6 p.m. Pay by Dec. 15 by check, money order or use the church's cash app (\$calvarychurch6607, to: Calvary Church, for: New York Bus Trip) Make payments to Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin. Info: Rosie Dennis, 443-614-7518.



# Classified

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Call **410-723-6397** or email  
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