# BAYSIDE & GAZETTE

**DECEMBER 18, 2025** 

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STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### **GERMANTOWN MURAL**

The Germantown School Community Center hosted a ribbon cutting and holiday reception last Saturday to mark the installation of Patrick Henry's historic mural depicting a scene at the former school. The mural was installed on the outside of the former school located at 10223 Trappe Rd in Berlin.

# Berlin outlines New Year's plans

Ball drop will take place at 6 p.m., to give families with kids chance to celebrate

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) For area residents and visitors who want to ring in 2026

a few hours early, the Town of Berlin is once again hosting its New Year's Eve ball drop at 6 p.m. on Dec. 31.

On New Year's Eve, Berlin will continue its tradition of dropping a disco ball in town to recognize the start of a new year. As is custom for the event, the ball drop will take place promptly at 6 p.m., rather than midnight, to

give families with young children another way to celebrate the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026.

Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, said 6 p.m. was chosen because when it's 6 p.m. in Berlin, Maryland, it's midnight in Berlin, Germany. The See EARLY-BIRD Page 7

# Hawaii trip hits right notes for students

Decatur band represents state in commemoration of Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) After months of preparation and securing more than \$125,000 in donations, the Stephen Decatur High School marching band has returned from a successful trip to Hawaii, where they performed at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu on Dec. 7.

On Thursday, Dec. 4, all 37 members of the high school's marching band and 10 adults flew to the islands to represent Maryland at the event. The parade commemorates the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and celebrates the end of World War II. This year's procession was particularly special, marking 80 years since the establishment of peace in 1945.

Jimmy McKenzie, Decatur's marching band director, said SDHS was the only Maryland school invited. A band from each state with a battleship of the same name in Pearl Harbor at the time of the invasion is asked to perform, and the honor is passed around from year to year.

This year was Stephen Decatur's turn. As the parade proceeded down Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki, featuring a variety of performances and acts, the Berlin band played selections from their halftime show lineup

See BAND Page 6

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# Officials to light menorah in ceremony hosted by The Inn

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) As part of Berlin's holiday lineup, town residents and visitors are invited to celebrate Hanukkah tonight with a menorah lighting at The Inn Berlin.

Tonight, Thursday, Dec. 18, is the fifth night of Hanukkah. To recognize the Jewish holiday, community members and families can make their way to The Inn Berlin at 15 Harrison Ave. to participate in children's crafts, listen to live music, and witness the lighting of five menorah candles—to honor the first five days of the eightday celebration.

Hanukkah this year began on the night of Sunday, Dec. 14, and will conclude on the evening of Monday,

According to Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, this year marks the town's third official menorah lighting. The event, she added, typically vields about 100 attendees, all eager to partake in the seasonal festivity.

"It's grown into a really special community tradition," Wells said.

The large outdoor menorah will be placed in front of The Inn Berlin. Community members, the inn's

owner, Maya Tomasello and her family, and the Berlin mayor and council will light the candles.

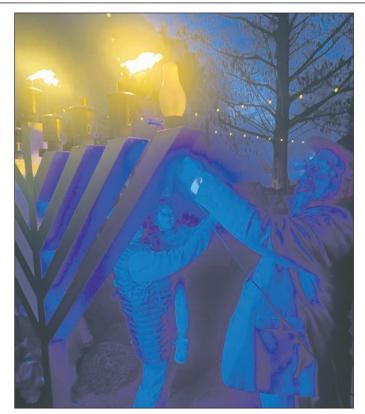
The event will begin at 4 p.m. At that time, kids will have the opportunity to create their own menorahs, sponsored by Temple Bat Yam, a synagogue in Berlin. The official lighting will take place at 5 p.m.

Additionally, treats will be available, including Jewish potato latkes from the Inn Berlin and gluten-free jelly-filled donuts, also called sufganiyota, a Hanukkah staple. Wells said that Chabad of the Eastern Shore is also providing their own donuts.

Town staff said the event rallies the community during the season's holiday lineup and recognizes those in the area who observe Hanukkah rather than Christmas, offering an opportunity to blend cultures.

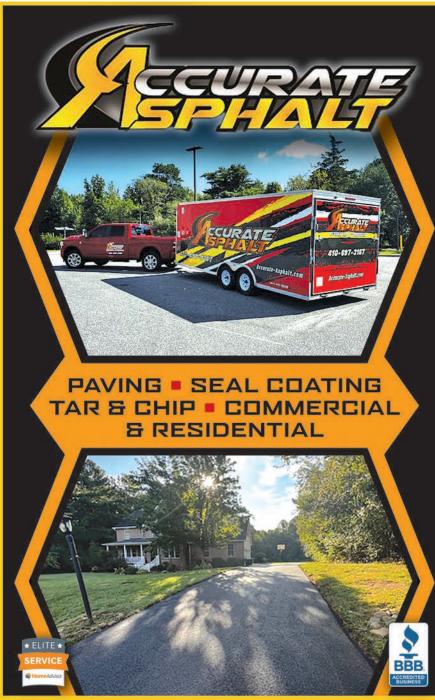
It's all about bringing people together," Wells said. "Hanukkah in Berlin gives us a chance to honor the Jewish community, and we love having events where the community can learn and celebrate together."

The children's crafts and the live music were a new addition this year, "to make the evening even more festive," the economic and community development director said.



The ceremonial lighting of the menorah has been hosted by The Inn Berlin the last three years.

FILE PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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# Bishopville desperate for new headquarters

### By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) Every year, Chief David Collins of the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department climbs onto the roof of his old firehouse to patch the leaks on a building that can't even fit his fire engine.

The low-slung, brick-façade building that serve this unincorporated community of 550 people turned 60 this year. It has no air conditioning, electrical issues that can't support modern tech, moisture infiltration, and is effectively a dead zone for cell phones. They can't even wash firetrucks out front because the concrete pad is too short.

Volunteers and their families have diligently been trying to pull together roughly \$5 million to replace their aging headquarters before the old hall quite literally falls apart.

"It's been added on, it's been patched, it's been repaired," said Kathy Drew, a life member of the ladies auxiliary. "A lot of our frontline equipment can't go in the front bays of this old firehouse because they're too tall."

Project blueprints drawn by the firm Davis Bowen & Friedel were reviewed this week by the Worcester County Technical Review Committee. At 12,518 square feet, a new facility

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would be constructed on the same 4plus acre footprint as the current station

Plans calls for a bigger space out front for apparatus to double-park, spacious engine bays, ADA-compliant restrooms, and a 3,000 square foot community room that could double as a disaster shelter. It'll also have a 40x40 tank on-site for static water storage.

Even though funding isn't secure, Chief Collins said it's important to get paperwork in motion now with Worcester County officials, just in case the money should fall into their laps and they can move forward with the project. "If they say we got the money here, we need to be able to go right away," he said.

They also need to prepare for growth, because the Bishopville volunteers also service the burgeoning Route 54 corridor in Selbyville, where generational corn and soybean fields continue to give way to housing sprawl.

One major goal of the project, now three years into planning, is to provide housing quarters for paramedics. For now, their EMTs bunk out of a substation on St. Martins Neck Road, which is where the fire company would temporarily relocate to after breaking ground. Drew has been taking a lead in fundraising by reaching out to state and federal elected officials for the last two years, including Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Congressman Andy Harris. Despite their verbal support, she's not made much headway but is hoping for better news after the New Year.

"I've got the 'Dear Jane' letter that says, 'I'm really sorry, but, you know, there has been too many requests and your project is not being picked or funded this year," she said. "The problem is there's always so many applications that — it's whatever's screaming the loudest."

So far, the fire company has \$1 million on hand. It's taken them a decade to raise it, and that's not getting any easier

Bishopville doesn't have a municipal general fund to draw from, and the fire company gets by mostly from an annual grant provided by the county. A bank loan is an option, Collins admits, but the monthly interest payments would be crushing.

Fried chicken dinner fundraisers, advertised for decades on the marquee along Bishopville Road, used to draw upwards of 1,200 people.

"Now, nobody comes out on Sundays to eat fried chicken and ham anymore," Collins said. "The ladies auxiliary does smaller events like carry

outs and stuff like that. But again, raising money through food and stuff like, you're not gonna get rich on that."

One outside-the-box possibility to raise money could come from solar power.

Drew said the fire company has been gifted a piece of unimproved property just down the road, across from a county park, one they believe would be a prime spot for a solar farm. It's a longshot idea and would take years to complete, but it could generate long-term revenue to subsidize payments or expenses.

Manpower is an issue, too. They have 35 volunteers on the rolls, but less than half are truly active. What's more, the younger generation hasn't signed up to join the volunteer fire company like their parents and grandparents did.

It's a stark contrast from life members like Collins and Drew's husband Mark, each of whom have spent decades in the fire service. Kathy Drew herself, a retired bank investigator, has been involved for 25 years.

"We have a few younger, but sometimes those are the ones that don't wanna get out of bed at middle of the night because they have families," she said. "They got their jobs to go to. The world's changed a lot with regards to that"

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# Band marches in Hawaii parade

Continued from Page 1 titled "American Voices."

McKenzie added that other works included "Aloha 'Oe," composed by the last queen of Hawaii, as well as patriotic songs such as "America the Beautiful," their favorites for football games —"Land of 1000 Dances" — and their usual parade drum cadence called "Birds of Prey."

In addition to the parade, the Seahawks also played at the USS Missouri Battleship Memorial in a band featuring all the other invited schools and marching ensembles.

"Our performances went spectacularly," McKenzie said. "I think it's the best performance they've had all year."

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade was not the only meaningful experience the Decatur students embarked on during their trip. The band director said the students and chaperones visited the Dole Plantation and the Polynesian Cultural Center.

The group returned on Dec. 9. Since then, McKenzie noted that the excursion has been the talk of the classroom.

"The kids have been telling me all week that it was a really terrific experience and they had a wonderful time



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Stephen Decatur High School band are pictured warming up among other schools before this month's parade in Hawaii.

out there," he said.

The SDHS marching band received its invitation to perform at the Hawaiian event in October 2024. However, the hefty \$130,000 price tag was a hurdle they first had to overcome before booking their plane tickets.

Ultimately, however, the island journey was funded through donations. Thanks to the \$125,000 the group secured, all 37 students attended, with no cost to their families, except for four meals during the trip.

McKenzie said garnering such a large amount of money was made

possible by simply spreading the word. Because the band had the unique opportunity to represent Maryland and the Eastern Shore, many in the community were happy to contribute to the cause.

"We were able to fundraise a lot through just accepting donations," McKenzie said.

He added that the band also hosted restaurant nights at places like Crimson Coward and Chipotle and sold blankets to help raise the funds.

Despite the steep cost, McKenzie said the experience for his band students was worth every penny.

According to the band director, he used the trip to teach the children more about World War II. These extra lessons came in handy when the Berlin musicians headed to the USS Arizona Memorial, a battleship that was sunk during the Pearl Harbor attack, taking 1,1177 crew members down with her.

"We were able to go to the memorial, which was a special moment for the kids, so that they could be in the exact spot where history was made and maybe become a little more worldly and understand the world

See DECATUR Page 7



# **Early-bird ball drop marks NYE**

Continued from Page 1

early-bird event is also a convenient way for parents to provide an exciting experience for their kids without the hassle of staying up past their bedtimes

"[The event] has become a fun tradition for families with kids who can't stay up too late," Wells said.

She added that a disco ball is "the star of the show" and is used to mimic the iconic New York City ball drop. The sphere will be lowered across from the Atlantic Hotel.

Before Berlin rings in the new year at 6 p.m., attendees are invited to arrive around 5 p.m. Wells said there will be music from Radio Ocean City and free cowbells for the kids, while supplies last. Downtown restaurants will be open for dinner, with many hosting late-night celebrations after the lowering of the disco ball.

Oaked at the Globe, for instance, is hosting a New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The band Old State Line will perform. Tickets are available on the establishment's website. Individuals can attend for \$20, which includes entry and a champagne toast, or \$30, which provides for entry, a champagne toast, and a lite fare buffet.

The Town of Berlin's NYE ball drop is "a family-friendly way to ring in the New Year early, and it gets people downtown to celebrate together," Wells said.

While the ball drop this year will again be held at 6 p.m., there was some discussion in October that for Dec. 21, 2026, the time could be ad-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETT

Residents and visitors gather for the Town of Berlin's New Year's Eve ball drop. The town will once again hold the celebration this year.

justed to around 8:30 p.m. or 9 p.m. to encourage additional downtown patronage.

At an Oct. 27 meeting of the Berlin mayor and council, it was argued that the 6 p.m. ball drop draws many families who roll out as soon as it's over. By 6:20 p.m., the town is empty. Moving the time slightly later would allow residents and visitors to arrive early, grab dinner at downtown restaurants, and then stay for the New Year's Eve celebration.

The town will look into the possibility of having a later start time in the future.

This year, however, residents are encouraged to come out at 5 p.m. for music and enjoy the traditional NYE celebration with their friends and family at 6 p.m.

# Dec. 31, 2026, the time could be adfamily at 6 p.m.

**Decatur band goes to Hawaii** 

Continued from Page 6

around them a bit better," he said.

McKenzie added that the experience was particularly special for the students whose travels at this point had been limited.

"A lot of the kids had never flown before, so they now have a better opportunity to understand what life is like beyond the Shore," he said. While the group may not be returning to Hawaii next year, the band director intends to develop the musical program further. He said he hopes to expand field show productions, perhaps incorporating props into their halftime show. McKenzie also said he would like to attend more competitions next year, such as the state championships in Towson.





# Fowler's latest book explores '68 jail break

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) Local author Stephanie L. Fowler will be at The Greyhound Bookstore in Berlin this weekend, chatting with readers and signing copies of her new book on the 1960s double homicide in the Salisbury jail.

On Saturday, Dec. 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fowler, a true crime author and co-owner of Berlin's independent self-publishing company Salt Water Media, will be at the indie bookstore signing copies of her third book, "Into the Night: A Jailbreak and Double Homicide on Maryland's Eastern Shore."

Fowler said that the book examines the night of Sunday, Dec. 8, 1968, when 21-year-old prisoner Joseph J. Bartholomey Jr. from Baltimore escaped from the Wicomico County Jail, murdering the Wicomico County Sheriff Samuel Graham and jailer Albert L. Kelly in the process.

According to the Fowler, Bartholomey was arrested for a few robberies in and around Wicomico and Somerset counties. On Friday, Dec. 6, 1968, two days before the double homicide took place, the prisoner's friend and girlfriend visited him and smuggled in a gun by hiding it in a box of candy. Bartholomey used the firearm on Kelly first around 10 p.m., before attacking the sheriff, who had come running in in response to the commotion.

At the time of the event, the county jail was located on the top floor of the district court building, referred to by many as the "penthouse prison," Fowler said. And in the basement of that structure was the sheriff's department.

Right after the shots were fired, another pris-

oner rushed to find the deputy on duty in the sheriff's office. Unfortunately, by the time the pair made it back up to the top of the courthouse, both Kelly and Graham had died. That deputy happened to be Fowler's grandfather.

Bartholomey made his escape but was eventually captured and sentenced to life in prison.

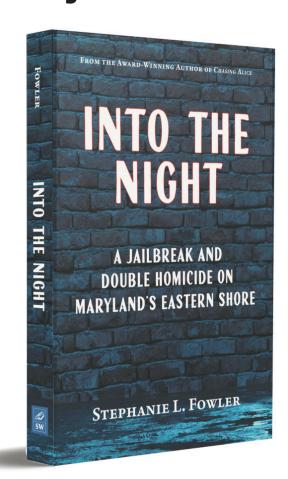
The details of the crime are laid out in the first few pages of the book. Fowler then dives into the history of Salisbury, the courthouse, the lives of the victims and the perpetrators, and how the events unfolded that night. The author also takes a thorough look at the painful aftermath of the murders and how they shook the community.

Fowler's inspiration for writing the book comes from her interest in Eastern Shore history. The author was born and raised in Salisbury, where she attended Parkside High School and graduated in 1997. She then enrolled at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

"My family roots go pretty deep here," she said. "I feel very Delmarva born and bred. I think that there's something about the history of Delmarva, there's something about our myths, our legends, these weird stories, these crazy stories...There are many interesting and unusual stories, and this one came to me personally through my grandfather.

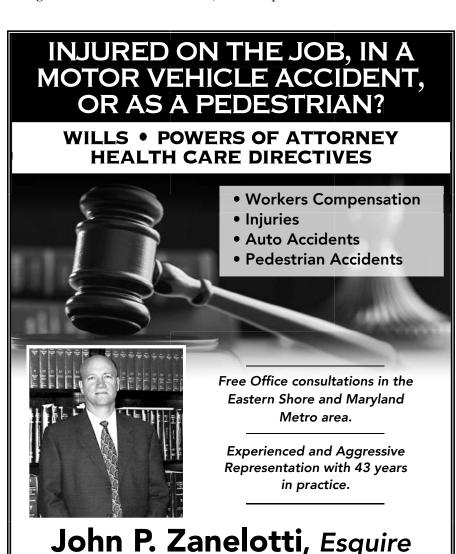
'And I am fascinated with Delmarva and the history and the culture and the way that we have been and the way that we are and the things that have shaped us and what continues to shape us. As a nonfiction writer, the stuff of Delmarva is my wheelhouse. It's all the fodder for what I want to

Fowler said that she hopes her books shed light



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

"As a nonfiction writer, the stuff of Delmarva is my wheelhouse. It's all the fodder for what I want to write," said Stephanie Fowler, whose new book cover is pictured.



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# Author to hold signing on Sat.

on forgotten local tragedies. At the time of the murders, Sheriff Graham and his wife, the Wicomico High School vice principal, were beloved figures. But with time, the stories fade. She added that she also made it a point to highlight the death of Kelly, the jailer, as his involvement sometimes gets overlooked. Kelly had only been employed at the facility for around 10 months before his death.

"I always try to make sure I lead with [Kelly]," she said. "I don't want him to get lost in the conversation."

"Into the Night" is Fowler's third book. Her first work was a collection of short stories that, before its official publication, won Washington College's 2001 Sophie Kerr Prize, the largest undergraduate literary award in the country.

The local author's second book, "Chasing Alice," tells the story of Fowler's high school English teacher, Alice Davis, who was killed by her husband in 2011. That book was published in 2020. Fowler said that while there were no positives from that situation, she found comfort in feedback from others who had used the book to escape toxic relationships or help their loved ones leave abusive partners.

The better part of that book was people saying, 'I bought your book, and I gave it to my friend who is in a difficult relationship," she said. "One man bought it for his niece, who was dating a guy that raised a lot of red

flags for the family."
"Chasing Alice" won the 2021 Bronze Medal from the Independent Publishers Book Awards in the True Crime Category.

Berlin residents and visitors can meet Fowler this Saturday at The Greyhound and score a signed copy of "Into the Night." Fiction author Andrew Heller will also be joining the Salt Water Media owner, signing copies of his fiction book, "The Ondines of French Camp." The event will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude around 2 p.m.

"Into the Night" can be purchased at local independent bookstores, including The Buzzed Word in Ocean City, The Greyhound in Berlin, Sundial Books in Chincoteague, Virginia, Browseabout Books in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, The Bookplate in Chestertown, and Bethany Beach Books in Bethany Beach, Delaware. The work can also be bought on Amazon, the bookshop.org, at Barnes and Noble, and at Salt Water Media, on 29 Broad Street in Berlin.

Fowler said that she is already working on her next book. This story will detail the mysterious death of a lighthouse keeper in the Chesapeake Bay in 1931.

"I am just starting to get into that one," she said.



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# **Snow Hill seeks** re-annexation of school properties

Concept tied to town's wish to add well to local supply

### By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) The town of Snow Hill is planning to reabsorb several properties on the edge of town, including three public schools and a municipal well.

Town Manager Rick Pollitt said plans calls for a re-annexation of parcels on Coulbourne Lane now occupied by Snow Hill Middle School, Snow Hill Elementary School, and Cedar Chapel Special School.

But it's not about the schools: a public well for drinking water is the focus of the initiative, and it happens to lie in the re-annexation footprint. The schools are standing between the well and the existing town border, and the swath of properties must be contiguous to be annexed.

"Our principal motivator is to get the well back in the town limits, and the annexation is the tool that makes it happen," he said. "It does help us by having that well in town limits and it opens the door for state funding opportunities, grants, and low interest loans if we need to beef up the well."



# State, county to review Snow Hill's plan before vote

The Coulbourne Lane well is one of three aquifer-fed drinking water wells located in Snow Hill. Other municipal production wells are on Washington Street and Ross Street, and all water drawn goes into a water treatment system.

Annexation had been completed about 15 years ago for a planned housing development called Summerfield. When that project failed to materialize, the property was de-annexed — but the mapping was not changed to reflect the de-annexation.

It meant that, on paper, the properties were still shown as being within the town's municipal border. Staffers went on thinking that those properties were still in town limits, according to Pollitt, and had represented the land as such when applying for grants.

The school properties already enjoy public services and are tax-exempt, so adding them back onto town property won't directly impact the town Pollitt also said.

He added that Worcester County Public Schools may end up saving some money because properties outside the municipal border are supposed to pay double the rates for water access compared to properties located in town.

"It doesn't change anything but protect our well property and give us access to funds we wouldn't otherwise have," Pollitt said.

The final piece of the puzzle is a residential sliver on a corner of a nearby residential parcel, on the middle school side. It will also need to be re-annexed from unincorporated Worcester County and put back into town limits, Pollitt added.

That property owner and leaders from the Worcester County Board of Education have signed off on a petition for annexation, and a pre-annexation resolution is being drawn up ahead of a public hearing. The town will cover the cost of land surveying and legal bills as administrative expense.

While the topic was discussed at the town council's Dec. 2 work session, town leaders decided last year to make the change, according to Pol-

Moving forward, Town Attorney Maureen Howarth said two resolutions are forthcoming: one to adopt the annexation plan, and another formal resolution to annex the property. She also said the annexation plan will require a review by state and county agencies.





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# **Snapshots**



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### REPUBLICAN WOMEN HOST BOOK CLUB

Republican Women of Worcester County's Red Shoe Book Club met at Ocean Pines Library on Nov. 11 to discuss "Plan Red" by Gordon Chang. Pictured, front row from left, are Jean Scanlon, Yvonne Babcock and Deb Dills; and, back, Susan Ostrowski, Literacy Chair, Julie Koehler, Linda Sirianni and Nina Willett.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### REPUBLICAN WOMEN DECORATE TREE

The Republican Women of Worcester County decorated the Christmas Tree in White Horse Park recently. Standing, from left, are RWWC members Deb Dil, Mary Adair, President Jean Delcher, Jane Wolnik and Jennie Allen..



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZ

### FISHING TOURNAMENT WINNERS

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club at its December meeting announced winners of the 2025 Walt Boge Fishing Tournament, which recognizes anglers for largest fish in each of 15 categories from Dec. 1, 2024 to Nov. 30 2025. Pictured, from left, are Frank Tortella, Fresh Water Trout 12.5"; Ken Thompson, Tuna 71"; and Rich Kuhar, Croaker 13.5", Spot 9 3/4", Large Mouth Bass 17". Not present were Adam Thompson, Striped Bass 48", Sea Bass 21", Tautog 20.25"; Greg Donahue, Bluefish 14.75"; Judy Schiable, Flounder 23"; and Tom Ottenwaelder, Salt Water Trout 15".



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### **COASTAL FOOD DRIVE**

Reid Odachowski with Coastal Life Realty Group and Tosh Zeller, kitchen pantry manager with Diakonia, both of whom are pictured, recently partnered on the Coastal Cans for a Cause food drive. Turnout was amazing, according to Odachowski, with organizers able to deliver a large amount of food to local families in need right before Thanksgiving..



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### **TOWNHOME PROJECT BREAKS GROUND**

On December 4, Worcester County Commissioner Caryn Abbott and county staff joined Davis Strategic, Mayor Todd Nock, and members of the Pocomoke City community to officially break ground on the Drawbridge Villas townhome project. Through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD), Davis Strategic will offer 25 new townhomes for sale at a \$50,000 discount through the State's Project UPLIFT program.

# Zoning dispute puts antique business plans in jeopardy

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2025) A zoning debate over an old concrete warehouse in the middle of Snow Hill farmland came before Maryland's second-highest court this week, with a small business owner's dream of opening an antique shop at stake.

At issue is whether Worcester County planners, during a 1992 rezoning, made a mistake when they declared the building agricultural in use. The current owner wants to turn the Market Street property into an antique shop, but she can't proceed until the zoning is changed from agricultural to commercial.

Roscoe Leslie, attorney for Worcester County, said county planners at the time had intentionally zoned the entire area for agricultural use, including the warehouse in question, to preserve an agricultural block. He argued it's normal to broadly zone a larger swath into one zoning category, even if it contains a few nonconforming properties

"The idea is that that use will eventually wither and die," Leslie said in oral arguments Tuesday before the Appellate Court of Maryland. "We're not ossifying the use forever when

we're doing zoning. We're planning for the future. So we're saying we want this area to be ag, to stay ag. Therefore, we are zoning it all ag."

Under state law, a property owner is entitled to a rezoning if they can prove that a mistake informed the original zoning. However, such a mistake has to be based on fact, not a hindsight judgement call.

"Bad information has to go into the decision-making process," Leslie told the three-judge panel.

Attorney Hugh Cropper, appearing on behalf of petitioner Black Water Relics LLC, argued that the "mistake" was made when county planners in 1992 mistakenly assumed the warehouse building was an agricultural storage shed.

However, according to Cropper, the 75-year-old building has never been used for farm storage. Instead, it operated for years as a wholesale produce distribution hub. He said the building's four street-facing bay doors were where trucks once hauled potatoes and tomatoes to market.

Cropper also argued that the property, on less than an acre of land, has always been too small to be a farm or qualify for other agricultural uses.

See ZONING Page 15



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# **Opinion**

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

# **Coastal generosity** remains impressive

Once again, residents, businesses and organizations in the coastal area have demonstrated their seemingly endless generosity by chipping in to cover the substantial cost of sending the Stephen Decatur High School Marching Band to Hawaii for a Pearl Harbor day ceremony.

It was 84 years ago last week, on Dec. 7, that the Japanese delivered a devasting blow to this country's Pacific naval fleet in a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

The destruction included three battleships and numerous other ships sunk and many vessels damaged. Among the latter was the USS Maryland, which suffered two hits but survived.

In the Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Waikiki, bands from states with namesake battleships moored there at the time of the attack were invited to participate, and this year the SDHS band was asked to represent Maryland.

Which it did, thanks to more than \$125,000 in donations from area businesses and residents.

Going to and staying in Oahu for an extended weekend this time of year is expensive enough for a couple, but the cost of sending 37 band members and 10 adults to the island? Ordinarily, with a total price tag of \$130,000, that would be considered prohibitively expensive ... except for here.

The coastal region has a long tradition of contributing to a variety of causes, as hardly a day goes by that doesn't have a fundraiser of some kind taking place. It has become part of the culture it seems and there's no doubt that we're all better off for it.

In this instance, donors contributed more than \$125,000 to send this delegation to a resort city 5,000 miles away and took care of everything except for a few meals

That's impressive. But then again, it's just the way we do things around here.

# BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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# Social hour planned at senior facility

Residents invited to afternoon with older Ocean Pines citizens

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2025) Spreading holiday cheer and brightening the day of the community's most vulnerable residents is the mission behind a social hour planned for this weekend at an assisted living facility tucked inside Ocean Pines.

Esther Diller, a former member of the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors, founded a group a few years back called Ocean Pines Get Involved, which hosts charitable events and drives throughout the year. That team is giving back once again on Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Woodlands of Ocean Pines, an elderly care home located at 1135 Ocean Parkway.

Diller described the event as a social hour. Community members are invited to make their way to The Woodlands at 1 p.m. on Saturday, where they can chat with the facility's 29 residents. Diller added that nine of these individuals don't have any family.

"We're going to have a lot of people come and really sit and spend some time talking with the residents," Diller said.

"Let them tell their stories, let them share their experiences in life. I think that's one of the best gifts you can give, your time. As you get older, your friend group shrinks. This is a way to bring some socialization to the community there."

Diller said each of the 29 Woodlands residents will receive a gift bag containing sweets and other items. She added that she posted about the event on Facebook and noted that the response from followers was "incredible."

One of those responses was from an Pine resident who mailed her 30 throw blankets from Amazon to include in the seniors' gift bundle. Diller is also bringing trays of pastries and desserts, and some music to set a festive tone.

Currently, approximately 20 to 30 Ocean Pines community members have indicated they will attend the event. Anyone is welcome and can simply show up. Preregistration is not required.

Those who choose to participate in the social hour are encouraged to bring with

'You shouldn't be in your golden years and be lonely and by yourself during the holidays, no matter what holiday you celebrate.'

Esther Diller

them a treat for one or a few of The Woodland's residents, like fluffy socks, snacks, or sweets.

Diller said the idea for a social hour at an assisted living facility came to her while she was planning Senior Helping Hands, Ocean Pines Get Involved kick-started last year. Senior Helping Hands is a Christmas drive in which Diller collects names of older adults in Ocean Pines who may be alone during the holidays and assembles a few gifts for them. Last year, the Get Involved founder received 13 names. This year, that number fell to two.

To make up for the lack of submissions to Senior Helping Hands, Diller pivoted and proposed hosting a social hour at The Woodlands of Ocean Pines.

"I reached out to some other people in the community, and they said, 'What about the assisted living facilities?' and I thought that was a great idea," Diller said. "So many of these people have dementia; they have a lot of health issues. I don't think that they can really enjoy the holidays the way that they used to."

Diller's goal for the event is to give back to a population in Ocean Pines that is often overlooked during the Christmas season.

"Everyone is focused on kids, which is great," she said. "But every organization is doing something for kids. Look around. How many are doing something for seniors? Not many. It just breaks my heart. You shouldn't be in your golden years and be lonely and by yourself during the holidays, no matter what holiday you celebrate."

Diller hopes to expand this program next year to include several assisted living facilities and elderly residents who live alone in Ocean Pines.

"Ultimately, I would really like to put together some type of event, like a luncheon or something like that," she

Diller will also explore additional avenues to solicit names for Senior Helping Hands next year, including reaching out to local churches.

This Saturday's social hour will begin at 1 p.m. at The Woodlands of Ocean Pines. The event will conclude around 2 p.m.

"I look at it this way: everyone has an hour they can give," Diller said. "And I really want to make it fun for everybody, and I want to leave seeing the smiles on their faces."

### Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.

### **GARDEN CLUB TEA**

**The Worcester County Garden Club** recently gathered at the Victorian home of member Jan King for a festive Holiday Tea. **Members brought** non-perishable food items for the Snow **Hill Ecumenical Food Pantry and** participated in a "Yankee Swap" gift exchange. SUBMITTED PHOTO/



# **Zoning designation considered**

Continued from Page 13

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

County code says farmland is technically five acres at minimum.

Leslie countered that no such mistake was ever made. He said while everyone knew the building was used commercially, county leaders still zoned the entire swath south of downtown Snow Hill as agricultural with the expectation that quirky commercial uses would fade over time - a conclusion Cropper called "complete speculation."

Furthermore, because there's no hard documentation to show the county commissioners in 1992 were misinformed, Leslie also said that means there's no proof of a mistake. In that case, the law requires the court to defer to the original zoning deci-

Property owner Amy Kelly acquired the land in February 2023 for \$225,000. She already ran an antique shop in Pocomoke City, Black Water Relics, and wanted to open a second

location in Snow Hill. Her plan drew support and eager acclaim from town officials and the Snow Hill business community.

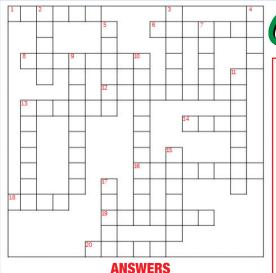
The county's planning commission agreed with her bid for a C-2 General Commercial zoning designation, but the Worcester County Commissioners, who have final say, denied her request - and never offered any reasoning during a public hearing as to why.

That lack of any explanation came back to haunt the commissioners, whose denial was vacated and remanded on appeal in Worcester County Circuit Court. Judge Brian Shockley chided the commissioners in a 12-page opinion for not offering any "further discussion, questions, or debate" when voting to deny.

Moving forward, the appeals court typically takes 9-12 months to issue its opinion. Oral arguments were heard Dec. 9 in Annapolis by appellate judges Donald Beachley, Stuart Berger, and J. Frederick Sharer.



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### **ACROSS**

- 1. WINTER
- 6. PRESENT
- 7. STOCKING
- 12. CANDYCANE
- 13. SLEIGH
- **14.** TREE 16. REINDEER
- **18.** SNOW
- 19. RUDOLPH
- 20. ELVES

### **DOWN**

- 2. NORTH
- 3. FROSTY
- 4. STAR 5. GRINCH
- 7. SANTA
- 9. CHRISTMAS
- 10. GINGERBREAD
- 11. DECEMBER 12. SNOWMAN
- 15. JINGLE
- 17. CAROL

# **Christmas**

## **ACROSS**

- 1. COLDEST SEASON
- 6. GIFT
- 7. HUNG OVER THE **FIREPLACE**
- **12. STRIPED SWEET**
- 13. SANTA'S RIDE
- 14. GREEN CHRISTMAS DECORATION
- 16. RUDOLPH & FRIENDS 18. FROZEN RAIN
- **19.** LEAD REINDEER
- 20. SANTA'S HELPERS'

### **DOWN**

- \_POLE
- 3. FAMOUS SNOWMAN
- 4. TREE TOPPER
- 5. GREEN CHRISTMAS THIEF
- 7. JOLLY GIFT GIVER
- 9. CHRISTMAS
- 10. TREAT USED FOR BUILD
- MINIATURE HOUSES
- 11. CHRISTMAS MONTH
- 12. CARROT-NOSED FIGURE
- BELLS 17. CHRISTMAS SONG



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23

27

83

100

104

115

120

124

# **Puzzles**

### ORIGINAL THINKERS BY KATE JENSEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Kate Jensen is a professor of computer science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is her first puzzle for the paper. Kate comes from a long line of crossword lovers. "My grandmother would regularly do the New York Times puzzles," Kate says. "I have strong memories of 'helping' her solve them from a young age. And my dad used to challenge me and my siblings to crossword 'races' -- we'd print out the daily puzzles and see who could complete them the fastest." — W.S.

### ACROSS

- 1 Fancy dos
- 6 "Count me out"
- 11 Cantankerous captain of fiction
- 15 Lab provisions?
- 19 Bit of letter-shaped hardware
- 20 Attended
- 21 New York university based in Manhattan
- 22 A "bear of very little brain"
- 23 Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison?
- 25 John James Audubon?
- 27 Victorian-era prescription for melancholy
- 28 They'll make it up to you
- 30 Stumble or lurch
- 31 Pittsburgh-to-Buffalo dir.
- 32 Dictionary tag: Abbr.
- 34 Summer camper's conveyance
- 36 Emmy-winning actor Ray
- 38 Samuel Morse?
- 43 Sir Edmund Hillary?
- 46 Lake that's home to the world's largest freshwater island
- 47 Bit of cacao
- 49 Come out on top
- 50 Suffix with hypn-

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

- 51 Trees commonly confused with birches
- 54 Deposit that might gather interest?
- 55 Cheeky
- 59 Sir Isaac Newton?
- 62 Cattle calls
- 63 "Harper Valley (1968 hit)
- 64 TV tavern visited by Mayor Quimby
- 65 Shoe covering
- 67 It's often rapped but never spoken
- 68 Like beds on lazy Saturdays
- 70 Cuts (back)
- 71 Outfit that may have a hood
- \_, former 73 Kofi \_\_\_\_ secretary general of the United Nations
- 74 Like the Red Sea after a visit from Moses
- 76 Rain on your wedding day, perhaps
- 77 ...
- 79 Oui : non :: ia :
- 80 Gregor Mendel?
- 83 Hint
- 85 Gives a thumbs-up 86 Basic tenet of improv
- 87 Sister to Lex Luthor
- 88 With love, musically
- 91 A urinal, according to Duchamp
- 92 Remedies
- 93 Henry Ford?
- 98 Orville and Wilbur Wright?
- 100 Give a darn, again?
- 101 Food and water, e.g.

WE PAY CAS

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- 103 College located in Cedar Rapids
- 104 "That sounds awful!"
- 105 Noble title
- 108 Bit of letter-shaped hardware
- 110 Unexpected endings
- 115 Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung?
- 118 Galileo Galilei?
- 120 Genesis
- 121 Roof overhang
- 122 Weirdly spooky 123 Church staple
- 124 "Vous \_ ici" (French map
- phrase) 125 Part of a wooden
- bench 126 "In other words," in other words
- 127 Trips around the sun

### DOWN

- 1 Solos at a party, say
- 2 The duck in "Peter and the Wolf"
- 3 Future birthplace of Captain Kirk
- 4 Pest whose name is a homophone for what you might do when
- 5 Gone to great lengths
- \_\_ Jima
- 7 One of the Fab Four
- 8 Jelly you wouldn't pair with peanut butter
- 9 Arabic greeting and farewell
- 10 Canned fuel used in making fondue

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- 11 Broadcast to squad in brief
- 12 Slim margin of victory
- 13 One chain x one furlong
- 14 Amelia maid of children's literature
- 15 Its showers bring
- flowers: Abbr.
- 16 Grant a mortgage, say 17 Where one's trip
- begins
- 18 "Golly, that's cool!" 24 Rock climber's
- handhold 26 Russian crepes
- 29 Starter, perhaps
- 33 Is felt strongly
- 35 Firmly establishes
- 37 Crazy Horse and fellow tribespeople
- 38 Bite down hard
- 39 Musical tool popularized by T-Pain 40 Personification of
- England, Scotland and Wales
- 41 Sets of points, in math
- 42 "Jeepers creepers!"
- 44 Pied-à-
- 45 Michigan, in Chicago: Abbr. 48 Word after you or
- wanna 51 "And giving
- up the chimney he rose"
- 52 Nullify 53 -cat
- 56 Like many Russian housing blocks
- 57 Made more enticing

- 58 French fashion inits. 60 Oldest independent
- state in the Arab world
- 61 Alter, as a T-shirt for a Phish concert, say
- 66 Idealist
- 67 Actress Rowlands
- 69 She-shed's counterpart 70 Like some nails found
- in a drugstore
- 72 Geek (out)

- 73 Drone or queen
- 75 Want from 76 Catherine of "Best
- in Show" and "A Mighty Wind"
- 78 Uncouth 81 Farm-share program,

121

125

- for short 82 Hint
- 84 Self-proclaimed
- "Rap God"
- chart 89 Like many couples at theaters

122

126

93 Toil 94 Wish one could take

90 McFlurry flavor

to sink their canines

- back
- 95 Arrival announcement

into

- Lannister. "Game of Thrones"
- queen 97 Like professional
- publications 99 Indian flatbread
- **102** Trap

123

127

- 92 Something for canines 106 Not just theoretical
  - 107 It runs hot 109 Drab color for una
  - 111 Concerning

casa

- 112 Sonic the Hedgehog company
- 113 Feodor I, for one
- 114 Taxpayer IDs
- 116 Morning times, in brief
- 117 Encountered 119 Kind of nurse or suit

# su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

**HARD - 55** 

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

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

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# week's puzzles

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

# Obituaries

### **NANCY SPIES CUMMINS**

Berlin

Nancy Spies Cummins, age 102, died peacefully on December 6, 2025. She was the daughter of the late



Henry Spies, Sr. (pronounced "Spees") and Mary Macklem Spies. She was, in her words, "born and reared" at Square Farm, near Easton. The oldest daughter of a family of eight farm kids, she fantastic was a

mother, an excellent cook and a beloved teacher. She was remarkably intelligent, the first in her family to graduate from college, the University of Maryland, in 1944. That summer she married James Cummins, Jr., whose mother, Kitty Whaley Cummins, was from Berlin. Then she started her career as a teacher at a high school in Preston. However, most of her career (1962-1985) she taught third grade at Thoroughgood Elementary School in Virginia Beach, Va.

She married Dick Cummins when he was back in the states on leave as a B-17/B-24 navigator for the US Army's 15th Air Corp in eastern Europe. In 1945 he was shot down in enemy territory while on one of his 34 bombing missions and became MIA for over two months, but he made his way back to allied-held land. As always during this ordeal, Nancy showed she was a strong and resilient woman who loved her country. Like many military families, they raised their three children across America: Texas, Colorado, California, South Dakota, territorial Alaska, Virginia and Maryland.

Nancy loved life and people. She volunteered to help others throughout her life, especially in her retirement. She was a 20-year volunteer at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Museum in Virginia Beach.

She loved her churches, Old Donation Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach and Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, Maryland. She enjoyed sewing, decorating, cooking, gardening, entertaining, reading and travelling. She had a great sense of humor she often exhibited with a "Spies laugh" that was both outrageous and contagious. For instance, she once explained why she didn't like to cook pies. With a smirky-smile on her face, she recounted how, after spending hours preparing pies at Square Farm, her brothers would come in from working in the fields and eat them up way too fast.

Dick passed away in 1991. Nancy is survived by her youngest brother, Bill Spies, three children; Carolyn Cummins, Jim Cummins and wife Nancy, and Mary Kay Cummins-Korb and husband Alan; four grandchildren, Kitty Maves, Jamie Sullivan, Caroline Cummins Buege and husband Ryan,

Dirick Cummins and husband Damon Branson; three step-grandchildren, Blake, Harrison and Chandler; five great grandchildren, Lana and partner Isaac, Ella, Tess, River, and Lilith; three great-great grandchildren, Duke, Drake, Dallas; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and

Since 2017 she has lived at Chesapeake Manor, Willards. The family is grateful for the staff and the wonderful care they provided.

### STEPHEN EDWIN HUMPHREYS

Berlin

Steve was born on June 16,1941 to Pauline Harrington Humphreys and William Wendell Humphreys. He



S. Humphreys

passed peacefully with his family by his side on November 23, 2025.

Steve leaves behind his wife Joan Hawke Humphreys of almost 63 years. His daugh-Ashley ter Humphreys, her

spouse Paul, his son Joshua Humphreys, wife Brooke and grandson Zane Hawke Humphreys and brother William Wendell Humphreys

Steve proudly served in the United States Army, Old Guard, stationed at Fort Myers in Arlington, Va. and assigned to the White House and Camp David. He served under President Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy.

Steve was very proud of his level of success during his 40-year career while employed by Du Pont de Nemours, Directional Industries and retired from Hancock & Moore after 30 years from any salesman's dream job.

Steve will be missed by all who knew him.

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Saturday 11am-1pm	1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$619,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
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Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 1-3pm	11964 W War Dancer Ln #107, Berlin	4BR/4BA	Townhome	\$494,900	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/ReMAX/Advantage Realty
Saturday 1-4pm	6305 Atlantic Avenue #301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,550,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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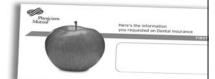
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# Calendar

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

# Thurs., Dec. 18

### **HANUKKAH CELEBRATION**

The Inn Berlin, 15 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Kids crafts and live music beginning at 4 p.m. Lighting the Menorah at 5 p.m. https://berlinmainstreet.com/hanukkah-celebration-at-the-inn-berlin/

### STORY TIME: CHRISTMAS

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

### STORY TIME 'DOG'S COLORFUL DAY'

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

### **COLONIAL CRAFTS: POMANDERS**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Decorate an orange with cloves to celebrate the holidays colonial style. Registration required: 410-957-0878.

### **SILENT BOOK CLUB**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-4 p.m. Bring your current read or borrow one. The first 50 minutes will be spent silently reading, the last 10 minutes can be used to mingle and discuss your read. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### **BOOK BEDAZZLE**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Bring your favorite book to decorate with tiny gems and glue. Best for ages 10 years and older. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### HAPPY HOUR COZY COLORING

Worcester County Tourism, 107 W. Green Street, Snow Hill, 4:30-5:30 p.m. A cozy coloring program for adults to relax and enjoy holiday themed designs while listening to seasonal tunes and enjoying light refreshments. 410-632-3495, 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., Dec. 19

### P.E.P. CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5-7 p.m. Music, food, presents and a visit from Santa. 410641-7052

# DEADLINE FOR REGISTER FOR WINTER FOLKLORE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Test your knowledge and learn something new about winter folklore and legends. Register by Dec. 19 to receive your link and complete it at your own speed. For ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495

### **FANDOM FRIDAY: HORROR GAMES**

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

# BOOK DISCUSISONS: 'REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES' BY SHELBY VAN PELT

Oaked at The Globe/Tiki Tim's, 12 Broad St., Berlin, 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the Berlin Library an then join in for a lively discussion at Oaked at the Globe. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### **KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO**

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

# Sat., Dec. 20

### HOMETOWN HOLIDAY MARKET

White Horse Park Marketplace, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 9 a.m.noon. Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisan Market featuring festive baked goods, artisan jams and candies, homemade gifts, seasonal decor and fresh winter produce. 410-641-7717

### **BERLIN'S MERRY MARKETPLACE**

Berlin Main St. & Maryland Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Holiday market. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

### **MEET SANTA**

Kringle Kottage on Artisans Green, 12 Artisans Way, Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Artisans Green is located behind the main Berlin parking lot, next to Honey Water Candles, behind the Sterling Tavern. https://berlinmainstreet.com/berlinholiday-events/

### **FREE CARRIAGE RIDES**

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Take a horse-drawn drive around town. https://berlinmain-street.com/berlin-holiday-events/

### **SWIM WITH SANTA**

Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 12-3 p.m. Crafts, music, games and food available for purchase. Kids ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult in the facility. Kids needing assistance in the pool must swim with an adult. 410-641-5255

### **PAWS & READING**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m. Young independent readers can practice their literacy skills by reading aloud to a friendly dog. Stop by to sign up for a time slot. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### **FAMILY FUN DAY: HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m.-noon. Join in for a crafty morning making homemade ornaments. For families. 410-957-0878, 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

### TWEEN AND TEEN PEPPERMINT TASTING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. "Taste" test winter themed YA and Juvenile books and peppermint dishes, then rate them. Best for ages 10 years and older. 410-208-4014

## **Sun., Dec. 21**

### **MEET SANTA**

Kringle Kottage on Artisans Green, 12 Artisans Way, Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Artisans Green is located behind the main Berlin parking lot, next to Honey Water Candles, behind the Sterling Tavern. https://berlinmainstreet.com/berlin-holiday-events/

### **FREE CARRIAGE RIDES**

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Take a horse-drawn drive around town. https://berlinmain-street.com/berlin-holiday-events/

### **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., Dec. 22

### **BABY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.

Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### STORY TIME: WELCOME WINTER!

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

### **HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Create crafts celebrating December holidays and traditions from all around the world. For families. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### **DIY GIFTS**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join in for a crafty afternoon making homemade gifts to give to your family or friends. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-957-0878. 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

### **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

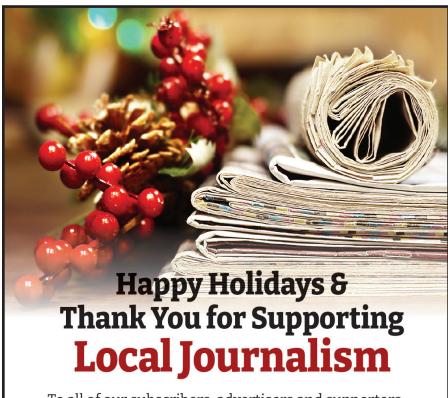
# Tues., Dec. 23

### **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

### **BABY TIME**

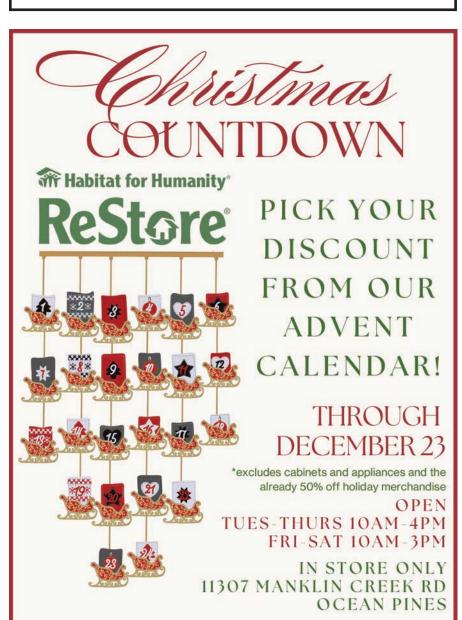
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay Continued on Page 20



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**OC Today-Dispatch** BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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# Calendar

Continued from Page 19 after to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### STORY TIME

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

### STORY TIME: CHRISTMAS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs, games and crafts about Christmas. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### **WACKY WEATHER STEM**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Explore the science behind wild weather with fun hands-on activities. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### **CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET**

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

### **BEACH HEROES-OC**

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

### **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**

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

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

### **OC KNITTING CLUB**

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

### **ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE**

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

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., Dec. 24

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

St. Martin's Church, 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell. Lessons and carols at 3 p.m. at historic St. Martins Church in Showell. Pre-service music at St. Paul's, 3 Church Street, Berlin at 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m No Christmas Day service.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 5 p.m. and 11

### ONGOING EVENTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean

City. Open Wednesdays through Sun-

### **WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS**

days, 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, a gift shop and train gardens (6-8:30 p.m.). Tickets: www.ococean.com/winterfest/. On Dec. 1, 8, 9 and 15, enjoy a horsedrawn carriage ride through the lights. **Enchanted Evenings tickets:** https://www.etix.com/ticket/e/1054835 /enchanted-evenings-ocean-city-winterfest-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.

### **3RD ANNUAL TRAIN DISPLAY**

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, North Station, 249 Ocean Parkway, Nov. 23 to Jan. 5. Free entry; donations appreciated. Hours are Fridays, 6-9 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.OPVFD.com

### TRAIN GARDEN SCAVENGER HUNT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, Dec. 1 through Jan. 3. Stop by the Ocean City branch to admire the holiday magic and help complete a very special scavenger hunt. For families. 410-524-1818

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## \* Early Deadlines \*

Classified deadline for the Dec. 26 issue. will be Monday, Dec. 22nd, 10 a.m.





Classified deadline for the Jan. 2 issue, will be Monday, Dec. 29th, 10 a.m.

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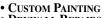
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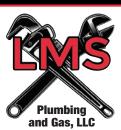


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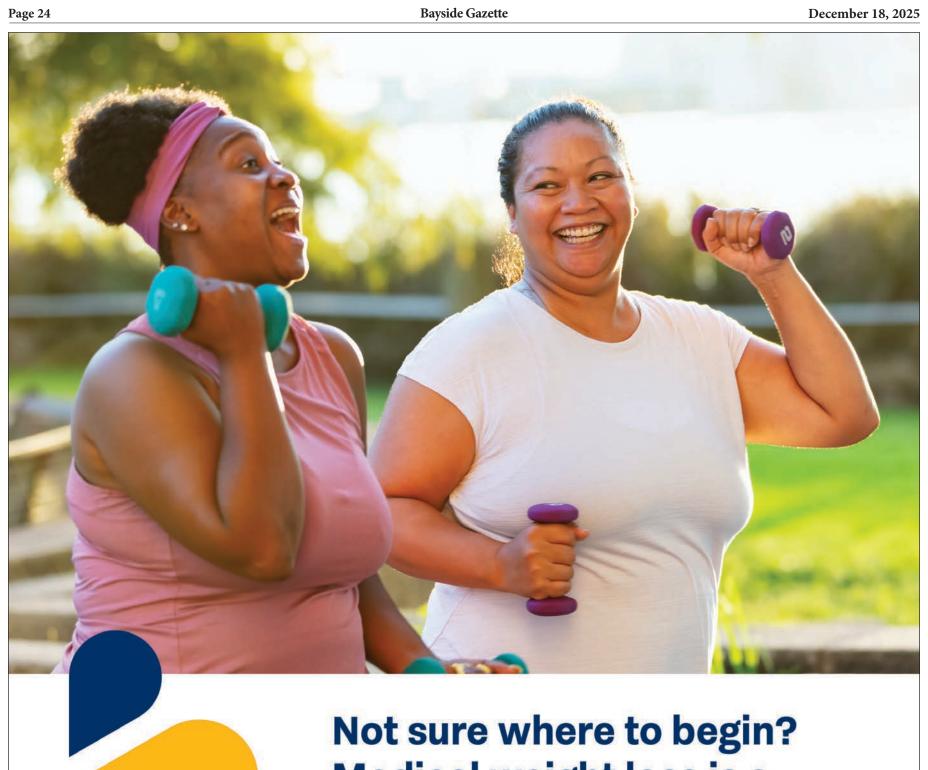
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