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JANUARY 8, 2026 **BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY • OCEAN PINES** **FREE**

OPA board taking budget to town hall

Of proposed \$40 increase in assessment, \$25 will be used for new fire station

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer
(Jan. 8, 2026) Ocean Pines Association officials will host a public budget town hall next Thursday to

give residents an opportunity to learn more about the proposed fiscal year 2026/2027 spending plan and ask questions ahead of a board of directors vote next month. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the clubhouse meeting room. OPA officials will discuss and present the budget, with public comments to follow. The session will also be streamed

online. The proposed budget was discussed at the association's Dec. 20 board of directors meeting and includes a potential \$40 increase in annual membership assessments, pending board approval in February. Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola said most of the proposed price hike would support

public safety initiatives, particularly the construction of a new firehouse. Currently, owners of non-water-front lots, which make up almost 7,000, or the vast majority, of the properties in Ocean Pines, pay yearly dues of \$875. If the proposed FY 2026/2027 spending plan is approved, that fee would increase to
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STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GOOD START
About 60 community members turned out Monday morning at Buckingham Elementary School to welcome back students as they returned to school. Schools have been closed for two weeks for the holidays, and the school invited fathers and male role models to provide a welcoming scene from the students and a high five or two. Above, student Karson Chavis is greeted by volunteers including Berlin Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence.

Worcester Youth, Family will need new director

Leggour to step down after six years of leading agency, and 17 years with it overall

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer
(Jan. 8, 2026) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services Inc. (WYFCS) will be seeking a new executive director, following the announcement that Jennifer Leggour will be stepping down later this year after six years at the helm of the nonprofit organization. WYFCS, which operates in Berlin, advances programming to raise mental health awareness and provides resources to individuals and families in need. Leggour, who has held the role since January 2020, announced that her last day on the job will be Aug. 31. "I decided a few months ago that I really needed to cut back and have more time for my family and more time for myself," Leggour said. Leggour has been with the agency for 17 years. When she was first hired, Leggour started as a psychologist conducting therapy. Around 2011, she became the clinical director, and

in 2020, she assumed the executive director role when her predecessor, Steven Tayler, retired. Leggour is an Ocean City native, having graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 1989. She went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at Salisbury University, before securing her Doctor of Psychology degree from Loyola College in Baltimore. Leggour's day-to-day work with WYFCS is "very busy," she said. "We are a small nonprofit. At any smaller organization, the executive director tends to have a bit more responsibility and does more of a variety of things." Tasks of the nonprofit's executive director include attending partnership meetings, program management, grant writing and reporting, and marketing and fundraising. "It depends upon the time of year
See WYFCS Page 2



Jennifer Leggour



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New state laws officially active as of Jan. 1

Along with 2026, New Year's Day brought with it two dozen policies for Md.

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2026) Changes to firefighters' health care, rideshare income reporting, and licensing mandates for service jobs are among the two dozen state laws passed in 2025 that will take effect as of Jan. 1.

The state's Jimmy Malone Act says self-insured counties must start to provide preventative cancer screenings at no cost to county-employed firefighters. Counties may apply for a state grant to cover those screening costs.

Counties also must collect data on cost, how many firefighters were eligi-

ble, how many were screened, and how many preventative screenings resulted in a cancer diagnosis. Each county must report to state health authorities what its data showed by June 2027.

Tax sale reforms with statewide impact also will take effect in the New Year. A new law taking effect Jan. 1 changes the process by which counties can foreclose on and sell properties with unpaid property taxes.

The law (HB 59) says counties have to hold back owner-occupied residential properties from being offered at tax sale. Counties also must create a registry of properties meeting those conditions, and report that information to the state.

It's meant to protect owner-occupied properties as well as heirs of deceased owners from being foreclosed

upon too quickly. Housing advocates supported this bill as a way to prevent families from being displaced from their home because of relatively small tax debts.

Business taxation will change in the New Year as well.

A new policy that was passed through the state's umbrella budget act amends how small business owners are taxed.

State residents with sole proprietorships, partnerships, and LLCs – "pass-through" businesses where owners are

responsible for paying taxes on their personal share of revenue – will be taxed on their full share of income.

Nonresidents, however, will be taxed only on their business activity tied to Maryland. State officials say the change will improve compliance with revenue collections, particularly from out-of-state investors.

Another new law is sure to impact the many seasonal workers who drive for Uber or Lyft seasonally in Ocean City. Transportation companies like

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WYFCS to seek new director

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and what's going on at the moment, but there's always a lot to do," she added.

Worcester Youth's Board of Directors has created a search committee to identify the right replacement for Leggour. For her part, she said she will provide feedback on the qualities necessary for a successful executive director, offer potential interview questions, and inform the team about the nature of her role to aid the recruitment process. The final decision will remain up to the board.

Officials maintain that an ideal candidate must be aware of mental health and its importance to each individual and be able to collaborate effectively with others. Leggour noted that an essential attribute is excellent writing skills, which are necessary for grant application formulation.

"There's a lot of grant writing that goes into the process," she said. "And they should also be able to work with budgeting and understand the nuances of nonprofit grant funding, versus clinical funding, and how that works in the accounting process. There are different levels of things that all come together in this position."

Worcester Youth's board plans to conduct interviews this spring and summer, with the goal of having the new hire in place by July. Leggour said she will be available to train the successful candidate, if needed.

"I wanted to give [the board] plenty of time to get things together," she said. "And there needs to be a training period as well. Depending upon how much experience a person has in the nonprofit world, it's a complex business to learn, so I am happy to help train the next person, and I just felt like the more time the better. It's a very complicated organization. I wanted the transition to be as smooth as possible."

Leggour emphasized that her decision to leave Worcester Youth was "personal," and added that she remains "very happy" there but hopes to spend some time with her family.

Despite leaving the nonprofit, Leg-

gour said her favorite part of her time with the group will be the clients she has had the privilege of working with.

"I'm probably a bit biased, being a psychologist and being person-centered, but that's really what I have enjoyed the most," she said. "Just helping people and working with people in the community, but also helping staff to grow and help people in the community, and developing programs that do the same thing. I've really enjoyed the hands-on work."

WYFCS offers therapy for all age groups, from toddlers to senior citizens; youth programs to promote healthy, happy childhoods; and Worcester Connects, a youth mentoring initiative for children in 1st through 12th grade in Worcester County schools who are struggling academically or socially.

The organization also provides its Worcester Navigation project, with the primary goal of "reducing the effects of financial hardship on children and families in Worcester County by connecting them to resources based upon their particular needs," according to the nonprofit's website.

While Leggour may be leaving Worcester Youth, she is not retiring. She said she plans to launch a small solo therapy practice in September, working part-time with a few clients.

Those that Leggour collaborated with at Worcester Youth have praised her work in the leadership role, emphasizing that her service to the agency has been invaluable.

"[Leggour] has been such an asset to WYFCS, both as our former clinical director and then as our executive director," said Gwen Lehman, WYFCS board of directors president. "She made the transition beautifully, bringing to the position of executive director a stellar commitment, a uniquely broad skill set, and a deep understanding of the organization."

"She has worked so well with the board of directors that we will all be very sorry to see her leave her position. We wish her well and know that she will remain a friend of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services long into the future."

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Pines to host craft sessions, Valentine's swim and more

Ocean Pines prepares for the offseason with events and activities for residents

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 8, 2025) While the Christmas and New Year's holidays are over, Ocean Pines residents and visitors have several opportunities to celebrate creativity, family fun, and Valentine's Week with a slate of upcoming events this offseason.

As part of the winter lineup, Ocean Pines Aquatics will host a Valentine Swim at the Sports Core Pool on Saturday, Feb. 14, from noon to 3 p.m. The family-friendly festivity will feature crafts, games, music, and a Chocolate Kiss guessing contest. A press re-

lease announcing the event notes that food will be available for purchase.

The Valentine Swim is open to the public, with admission priced at \$8 for swim members, \$10 for Ocean Pines residents, \$12 for non-residents, and \$3 for non-swimmers.

Children ages six and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in the pool. Kids who require flotation devices must remain near their supervising adult at all times. For more information, call the Sports Core Pool at 410-641-5255.

Meanwhile, the Art League of Ocean City is accepting reservations for its newest fundraising event, "Art Uncorked," set for Thursday, Feb. 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the ballroom of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. The event will support the Art League's nonprofit mission and its outreach programs throughout the community.

Designed around romance, fine dining, and wine pairing, Art Uncorked will feature a five-course Italian dinner prepared by Touch of

Italy, Ocean Pines' food and beverage vendor.

Each course will be paired with Italian wines and guided by nationally recognized wine expert and author Laurie Forster, known as The Wine Coach®.

"Art Uncorked is a fundraising dinner where love, creativity, and Italian wine come together in perfect harmony," said Art League Executive Director Rina Thaler in the event announcement. "Whether you're sharing the night with a sweetheart, friends, or fellow art lovers, this is the perfect way to toast Valentine's

'Art Uncorked is a fundraising dinner where love, creativity, and Italian wine come together in perfect harmony.'

Art League Executive Director Rina Thaler

Week— an unforgettable evening of wine, art, and heartfelt giving."

Throughout the evening, artwork will be unveiled and paired with featured wines, highlighting the

connection between visual art and the alcoholic beverage.

"The pairings will be part of a silent auction at the end of the evening, with proceeds supporting the Art League and its mission to nurture creativity in the community," the event press release adds.

Reservations are \$150 per person, or \$900 for a table of six. Tickets and additional information are available at <https://givebutter.com/ArtUncorked>.

Younger residents can also get creative this winter when the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department presents a kids-themed craft session, making DIY dream catchers at the Ocean Pines Community Center on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Participants must pre-register by calling 410-641-7052. The cost is \$8 for Ocean Pines residents and \$10 for non-residents.

More of the Ocean Pines Association's offseason events can be found on the community's official website.

Maryland adopts new policies

Continued from Page 2

Uber or Lyft will now be required to provide drivers with a weekly summary of their fares and earnings. Annual earnings data also must be reported to the state.

Yet another New Year's Day policy will impact small businesses in the personal care industry: barbers and cosmetologists will be required to take a one-time domestic violence awareness training to get or keep their state-issued license.

One new law that was pitched for a Jan. 1 effective date, but ended up

being withdrawn, would have tackled health insurance and consumer protection.

That law (SB 393) would have required insurance companies to post updated lists of the prescription drugs they'll cover – a list known as a formulary, in insurance lingo – on their websites.

Consumer advocates pushed for the bill to help consumers better understand their prescription drug benefits offered by health insurers. It also asked that insurers and HMOS to make certain generic drugs available.



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New fire station will require about 62% of increase

Continued from Page 1
 \$915.

Of the \$40 increase, approximately \$25 would be allocated toward the replacement of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department's South Side Station, located at 911 Ocean Parkway. The existing building, constructed in 1981, has long been considered inadequate to meet modern fire and emergency medical service needs.

Officials have cited persistent leaks, drainage problems, and mold concerns, as well as engine bay doors measuring a mere 12 feet wide, which fire team members have said are too small to accommodate the newer fire apparatus. The updated firehouse, which will be built at the same location, is expected to address those issues.

The enhanced firehouse will be a new 15,000-square-foot facility designed to house both volunteer and career staff. The cost of the building will be split between the OPVFD and OPA.

A community referendum passed during last summer's board of directors election authorized the Ocean Pines Association to spend up to \$3.4 million on the project. Viola said last month that construction is scheduled to begin in February and is expected to take approximately 60 weeks to complete.

The remaining \$15 of the proposed assessment increase would cover higher costs for water and wastewater services. Viola explained at the December board meeting that the Ocean Pines Association recently received a rate increase from the county government similar to what individual homeowners are experiencing.

A portion of the increase was allocated to Touch of Italy, the community's food and beverage contractor overseeing the three OPA establishments. Homeowners could see \$15 reflected in their assessments from the rate hike. Some of that cost, Viola added, has been offset through proposed amenity increases.

Last month, Viola delved into the components of the assessment fee. The general manager said public safety costs now account for about 43% of the annual assessment, up from roughly 22% about a decade ago. Those dollars include police pension equivalents, the new firehouse project, and what he described as ongoing "organic growth" in expenses.

Residents are encouraged to attend the town hall to understand the proposed budget better and provide input before the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors is expected to vote on the fiscal year 2026/2027 budget sometime in February.

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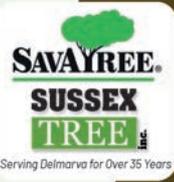
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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Fifty-five year member of the Berlin Fire Company Charlie Townsend has been named the Berlin Award winner for this year. Townsend is pictured on the 1924 Mack with Bryan Lecompte during the Farmers Market in 2024.

Annual banquet will honor Townsend with Berlin Award

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 8, 2026) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce will welcome the public to an evening of recognition and leadership transitions next week during its annual installation dinner and business and volunteer awards ceremony.

The event will take place on Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Berlin Fire Company Banquet Hall, located at 214 North Main Street. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the awards program immediately afterward.

According to chamber officials, the evening will feature the installation of its 2026 officers, a report highlighting the organization's accomplishments in 2025, and the presentation of multiple business and volunteer awards, including the 2025 Chamber Partner Award, Past President Award, Best New Business of the Year Award, the Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Bright Idea Award.

On the leadership transition front, President Garrett Neville will be named the outgoing president, and incoming president David Fitzgerald will officially assume the role of sitting president. Neville added that Crystal Collins will be introduced as the incoming president for 2026.

"Our president terms act in three years," Neville said. "The first year you're the incoming president, where you learn the ins and outs from the sitting president, and then you have your term as the sitting president, and then the outgoing president is there for continuity of how things work and still sits on the board as well and votes and that sort of stuff."

The event will also feature the presentation of the 2025 Citizen of the Year award, or the Berlin Award, to Charles Townsend.

The Berlin Award selectee is chosen by a committee made up of past winners and has been given out each year since 1964. The person nominated is someone who gives their time for free for the betterment of the town.

Melissa Reid, Taylor House president and last year's Berlin Award recipient, said Townsend was chosen because he "exemplifies what we all want our community members to do. Use your gifts for

the good of the community."

Townsend, Reid noted, has devoted 57 years to volunteer service to the Berlin Fire Company, which equates to about 10,000 hours of firefighting calls.

"He is one of the people when that fire alarm goes off, gets up at whatever time, like 3 a.m., and would get to the fire department because he knew there was a reason for that fire alarm and somebody needed help," the Taylor House president added. "He is what we all aspire to be in Berlin. A committed person who gives hours and hours of time for free to make sure Berlin is a place we all want to work and live."

This is the first year that the Berlin Award honoree is announced prior to the Chamber of Commerce event. Reid said that the committee wanted to get the word out early to encourage residents to attend the dinner and celebrate Townsend.

Furthermore, the evening will highlight the chamber's achievements in 2025, which include the introduction of several new community events. Neville said attendance was strong across the board and emphasized the chamber's continued focus on showcasing local businesses.

"We did great in 2025," he said. "We introduced some new events, and we had great turnouts for the events. We will continue to boost the community within Berlin and showcase all sorts of different music and food."

Among the new events launched last year were the Chili Pepper Festival and Hot Summer Swing, hosted in celebration of Taylor Bank's 135th anniversary.

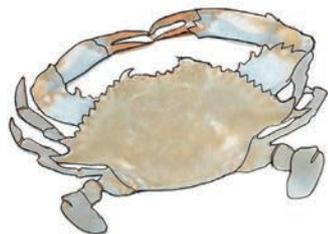
The Chili Pepper Festival was held on Aug. 23 and featured chili and chili pepper competitions, music, and vendors. Chamber leaders confirmed that the spice-filled festivity will return in 2026.

Fitzgerald said that dinner for the installation event will be catered by Street Kitchen, with hors d'oeuvres provided by The Blacksmith and Forgotten 50, and desserts by Roadie Joe's. A limited open bar will be offered, sponsored by Forgotten 50 and Berlin Beer Company.

Entry to the installation dinner is open to the public and costs \$40 per person. Tickets can be purchased online on the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's website.

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OP Bocce League to grow in its second year

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 8, 2026) The Ocean Pines Bocce League is preparing for its second year, with plans to expand programming, upgrade facilities, and launch fundraising efforts to build interest in the sport locally and regionally.

Part of that expansion effort is creating opportunities for the Ocean Pines bocce enthusiasts to play against other townships and leagues. With new and improved courts at the Yacht Club and successful summer and autumn seasons of play in 2025, officials hope to enhance all other aspects of the sport in the community.

According to bocce director Michael Galello, the OP group is working toward organizing a regional bocce league by coordinating with clubs across Maryland and Delaware. A key part of that effort is standardizing rules to align with those of the United States Bocce Federation (USBF), allowing Ocean Pines teams to compete more easily in regional tournaments.

“The number one thing we’re trying to do is standardize bocce,” he said. “[USBF] are the national rules for bocce ball in the United States. There’s some variations to it. So, what we’re trying to do is, I’m attempting

to contact Delmarva bocce ball leagues and clubs and trying to get everyone on board with a set of rules, simulating the USBF.

“Once we do that, then after our own leagues, we can have tournaments, and then we can play other tournament leagues in a big tournament. To accomplish that, we need to come up with some fundraising.”

To attend any potential tournaments, the Ocean Pines league would need to secure a few dollars to cover travel expenses. Galello noted that renting a bus, for instance, is about \$2,000. To offset those expenses, the league plans to launch merchandise featuring “modern, edgy” shirt designs with the OP Bocce League’s logo produced by a local supplier.

These pieces would be sold in Ocean Pines, and proceeds would help pay for transportation to competitions. Galello added that they may add items such as socks, shoes, and hats to the apparel lineup in the future.

Sponsorships are also expected to play a role in the group’s fundraising efforts. Galello said that the league intends to create a wall near the Yacht Club’s bocce courts to display the names of businesses and individuals who sign on as benefactors.

Facility improvements are already



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured are the new and improved bocce ball courts at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. The courts were installed last year.

underway at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club bocce courts. Aluminum bleachers, three rows high and eight feet long, have been purchased and are scheduled for delivery this spring, providing seating for spectators.

Galello noted that these will be useful when hosting tournaments. Additional upgrades include plans for shade structures to help players and fans cope with summer heat, beginning with a temporary 13-by-13-foot tent.

The bocce team is also coordinating more closely with Touch of Italy, the vendor running the Yacht Club to

ensure food, beverage, and restroom access during league play. Galello said games will be scheduled only when the Yacht Club is open, based on player feedback from the fall season.

“One thing we did learn, I set up the fall league when the Yacht Club was closed on Monday and Tuesday nights,” Galello said. “When they’re closed, there’s no bathroom facility. When the Yacht Club is open, players buy drinks and food. A couple of them came up to me and said, ‘It would be nice if they were open because we would use them.’ There is much more

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(410) 632-2144 x2519

Nick Tolbert



Ocean Pines sets special events for Super Bowl day

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 8, 2026) Ocean Pines will offer sports fans multiple ways to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday this year with a full day of activities on Feb. 8, including a golf tournament and an evening game-day party.

According to a community announcement, the Clubhouse Bar & Grille will host a Super Bowl Party, giving fans a front-row seat to the Big Game in a lively, all-inclusive setting. Guests will enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring popular Clubhouse menu items, along with an open bar offering select beer, wine, and cocktails. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

Attendees can watch each touchdown on 11 different televisions throughout the establishment, as well as a large projection screen, ensuring guests won't miss a moment of the action.

According to the event announcement, doors will open at 5 p.m. for advance ticket holders and 5:30 p.m. for at-the-door purchases. Advance tickets are \$78 plus tax and gratuity, while tickets purchased at the door are \$83 plus tax and gratuity. Advance ticket holders will receive early entry to the Clubhouse and the opportunity to select their preferred seats. Tickets are limited and expected to sell out, the festivity's press release notes.

More information about the Super Bowl party can be found by heading to the Ocean Pines Association's official website.

Additionally, earlier in the day, golf enthusiasts can take part in the Big Game Scramble at Ocean Pines Golf Club. The event format is a two-player scramble tournament and will begin with a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

Registration is \$20 per team and includes range balls, entry into the prize pool, a hot dog, and a beer. Greens and cart fees will be paid on the day of the tournament. Rates are \$35 for non-members, while members will pay their regular membership rate.

For more information or to register for the Big Game Scramble, golfers can call 410-641-6057.

Furthermore, while not a Super Bowl-themed celebration, the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is hosting another bus trip to watch the Washington Capitals take on the Carolina Hurricanes later this month at the Capital One Arena.

The Ocean Pines bus trip, planned for Saturday, Jan. 31, is \$130 per person, and includes transportation, the game ticket, and a food package. The bus is set to depart the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot at 1 p.m. the day of the game. The event flyer adds that an additional pickup location is being offered, at the Shoppes at Salisbury parking lot. The bus will arrive at that spot at 1:30 p.m. The game is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Those interested can register by calling the recreation and parks team at 410-641-7052.



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Obituary

DONNA MARIE ATWELL CAVALLARO

Ocean Pines

Donna Marie Atwell Cavallaro, 71, of Ocean Pines, passed away on Dec. 18, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.



Donna Cavallaro

Born on Nov. 20, 1954, in Philadelphia, she was the daughter of the late Donald Atwell and Anne Grady Atwell.

Raised in the Westbrook Park section of Upper Darby, she was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church and a graduate of Cardinal O'Hara High School, Class of 1972. A true Delco girl through and through, that spirit stayed with her throughout her life.

She raised her family in Drexel Hill and Coatesville, Pa., gathering friends along the way — much like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, collecting companions along the Yellow Brick Road.

A devoted wife, mother, and recent nana, she found her greatest joy in time spent with family. With a magnetic personality, quiet strength, and a remarkable sense of humor, Donna had a way of making people laugh without even trying — and if you were lucky enough to make her laugh, you never forgot how it made you feel.

She loved camping with her family and vacations to the shore, Knoebels, and Lake Wallenpaupack.

Whether hosting Christmas gatherings, offering thoughtful advice, or simply listening, she made everyone feel special.

She worked for many years in several roles at QVC, where she shared one of her greatest gifts — helping others. A longtime volunteer, she generously gave her time to organizations ranging from the Boy Scouts to fundraisers and marching bands.

In retirement, Donna made her
 Continued on Page 13

Bocce tournaments, camp planned

Continued from Page 8

collaboration between TOI and the bocce ball league now. We're not going to play if they're not open."

Participation in the league continues to grow. Last summer's inaugural season drew 100 members. For the fall league, 65 of the 80 who signed up had previously played during the June to August period. The upcoming summer session is expected to exceed 100 players, with hopes of reaching 130 to 140 participants, Galello said.

Summer league play is tentatively scheduled for late May through late July or early August, followed by a fall league running from late August or early September through October.

The summer session typically runs 10 weeks, with teams playing two to three matches per week. Both two-member and four-member teams will again be offered to accommodate different playing preferences.

Galello said some players have recommended adding a spring league to the bocce ball lineup. However, rather than adding a third play period, the organization is looking to launch a spring bocce instructional camp that focuses on fundamentals such as throwing form, stance, strategy, and

game situations, offering guidance for beginners and competitive players alike.

Galello said that details are still being ironed out, but that the camp is likely. More information will be provided to the Ocean Pines community when it becomes available. The director added that he hopes the potential spring camp will encourage new players to join the summer league.

Galello also emphasized the league's accessibility and community impact, noting that his league is exploring opportunities to host Special Olympics bocce teams at the Yacht Club courts.

The director said he has been impressed by the league's success and has seen friendships form among participants both on and off the court.

"The friendships that have been made? They call each other, and they go out to dinner with each other. They practice together. New relationships have really bloomed from this," Galello said.

"It amazes me that once people play, they're hooked," he added.

More details on the upcoming summer league and spring camp will be provided once they are available.

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Obituary

Continued from Page 12
 home in Ocean Pines, becoming a fierce pinochle player and a devoted passenger aboard the family pontoon boat. She was grateful for the opportunity to visit her ancestral homeland of County Mayo, Ireland, where she reunited with family and visited the birthplace of her grandmother. She also enjoyed many trips to California and Florida and developed a love for cruising — traveling more than she ever imagined and embracing life with joy and adventure.

She is survived by her loving husband, Anthony Cavallaro Jr.; her children, Brian Cavallaro, Andrew Cavallaro, and Christina Cavallaro Johnson (Matthew Johnson); her cherished granddaughter, Lily Johnson; her sister, Barbara Atwell Garvey; her nephews, Donald Garvey and Matthew Garvey; and her beloved Pickles, the cat.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend her memorial visitation on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in St. Gabriel Catholic Church, Mohawk Ave., Norwood, where Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow in Ss Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Donna's memory to the Worcester County Humane Society at worcestercounty-humanesociety.org.

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THANK YOU FROM BUCKINGHAM ELEMENTARY

Buckingham Elementary extended a heartfelt thank you to the aerobics classes of the Ocean City Recreation Department, the Worcester County Bar Association, the Radford University Alumni Chapter, Worcester Gold, and Keller Williams Realty Delmarva for the generous holiday assistance including donations of coats as well as gift baskets.



POCOMOKE ELEMENTARY ART

The after-school art club at Pocomoke Elementary School, an outreach program of the Art League of Ocean City, is pictured. Students read the book, Leaf Man, by Lois Ehlert, gathered leaves outside, then made leaf men using the fall foliage.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Law agency nixes shooting threat at Snow Hill High

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2026) Police shut down a threat of violence against Snow Hill High School made on Dec. 19 by a student who was using spoofed text messages.

Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli said a quick resolution in this particular threat was the result of strong communication and collaboration between the school and law enforcement.

“Because information was shared quickly,” he told OC Today-Dispatch, “we were able to intervene before any potential threat could evolve, keeping our students and staff safe. I am extremely grateful for the collaborative efforts of everyone involved!”

It was around 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 19 when the Sheriff’s Office announced on social media that there had been a “concerning message” circulating among students.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 19, several students reported receiving a text message from an unknown telephone number, saying there would be a midday shooting at the school against students and staff.

The sheriff’s office posted to social media at 10:34 a.m. that they were looking into the threat. Police beefed up their presence at the school while they investigated.

Law enforcement acted quickly, according to the sheriff’s office. Deputies were able to trace the source of the message using phone records and investigative techniques. They learned the number had been “spoofed” to make it appear like a random phone number.

The student, a freshman enrolled at Snow Hill High, was taken into custody and criminally charged as a juvenile. After having confiscated his phone, deputies confirmed that the threats were sent using the boy’s device, according to the sheriff’s office.

By 11 a.m., an all-clear update was posted: “The investigation remains ongoing; however, there is no current threat to students or staff at the school,” the sheriff’s office said on Facebook.

At this time, it’s not clear what punitive consequences the student may have faced from school administrators.

It’s not the first time an online or phone-based threat has shaken the Snow Hill community.

In February 2023, police investigated an early-morning threat to Snow Hill Middle posted to social media. Law enforcement later deemed the threat “not credible” and school services resumed later in the day.

In March 2019, the sheriff’s office charged two juveniles criminally in connection with a failed school shooting plot at Snow Hill Middle.

Police determined that the juveniles’ plan was months in the making. Other students ended up tipping off authorities to the threat, and no weapons were ever brought onto school property.



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW YEAR’S EVE DISCO BALL DROP

Residents and visitors flocked to downtown Berlin on New Year’s Eve to watch the annual ball drop at 6 p.m. The town hosts its own celebration each year to allow young kids to take part in the holiday. The time of 6 p.m. was chosen because that’s when it’s midnight in Berlin, Germany.

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Opinion

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

OPA members should attend next town hall

Considering that members of the Ocean Pines Association had already agreed to chip in up to \$3.4 million to help the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department build a new south-side fire station and that this contribution would require an increase in the annual assessment, no one is surprised that next year's assessment will go up by \$40.

At least that's the assessment change the OPA administration and board of directors will discuss and explain when members gather at a town hall meeting in the clubhouse meeting room next Thursday, starting at 10 a.m.

Although upward adjustments of the annual assessment usually result in at least some grumbling, an overwhelming majority — 80% — of the votes cast in the August referendum on the OPA's fire station contribution accepted that they were voting on the possibility of having to pay an additional \$50 on assessments.

The fact that the additional expense came in at much less than that suggests smooth sailing when the directors, members and staff gather to review the financial package for next year.

Even so, this doesn't mean people shouldn't attend this session or that they can skip it because all is well for another year.

No, they owe it to themselves and other members to learn as much as they can about the board's projects, spending plans and the general outlook for the year ahead.

It isn't complicated: the more people know about how things work and what's expected, the less likely any kind of turmoil will arise when the unexpected does occur.

In addition to the session at the clubhouse, the meeting will be streamed online, thus giving those who are unable to attend the opportunity to learn more themselves.

This opportunity really comes down to this: once Thursday's meeting comes and goes, members have no excuse for not knowing what's going on.

Offshore wind challenges continue

Uncertainty remains for developer of wind project off OC coast

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 8, 2026) Congressman Andy Harris predicts US Wind will fail.

Regulatory uncertainty, he said, may doom the developer's plans for an offshore wind farm near Ocean City.

It means the deep-pocketed lenders required to finance the project may walk away, the Eastern Shore representative said in an interview with OC Today-Dispatch.

After the U.S. Interior Department on Dec. 22 announced a pause on all large-scale offshore wind projects under construction, citing national security concerns, Harris noted how shares of the five companies affected "took a beating on Wall Street."

"And I think what that means for US Wind — which, of course, is not a publicly traded company, it's owned by Italian billionaires — it means that they're unlikely to get the financing," he said. "At some point they're going to pull the plug. I expect that actually to be sooner rather than later. I wouldn't be surprised if they pulled the plug by summer."

When asked about the government's claims that national security is suddenly a determining factor now, despite years of federal review, Harris asserted that red flags about safety from the Coast Guard and the Defense Department during the permitting process had been "disregarded" in a rush to approve the permits.

"I think there was a feeling in the Biden administration that, if this was not granted, that it would've been stopped by the Trump administration for reasonable concerns," he said.

"We should never threaten our national security because of a renewable energy push."

A Year of Uncertainty

US Wind's project — in the works for more than a decade and approved under President Joe Biden's administration — would see 114 turbines erected in the Atlantic Ocean in a lease area that starts approximately 11 miles off Ocean City.

After a tumultuous 2025, the project's future is uncertain because of ongoing lawsuits.

President Donald Trump has openly been hostile to offshore wind for years. At the start of his second term on Jan. 20, Trump issued a wind power moratorium by executive order, which was later struck down by a federal judge.

Also in January, Worcester County officials tried to derail US Wind's planned acquisition of commercial property for a future maintenance hub at the West Ocean City harbor, threatening to seize the property through eminent domain. US Wind responded with a cease-and-desist letter.

Then, US Wind came back with cash on the barrel offering in May to seed a \$20 million "relief fund" that would compensate commercial fishermen. Local watermen rejected the offer, saying they weren't for sale.

By August, the federal government pivoted, showing an interest in revisiting US Wind's permit approval, known as a Construction and Operations Plan. The Interior Department — which, under President Biden, had greenlit the project — was now telling a federal judge it wanted the permit sent back for reconsideration.

Harris in October joined with local, state, and federal leaders for a summit in West Ocean City, where the discussion hinged on offshore wind's potential damage to commercial fisheries and the environment. Harris told the group that the White House would be working to kneecap the US Wind project through policy initiatives.

OC Lawsuit Continues

Ocean City in October 2024 had filed a lawsuit against US Wind and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to block the project. That suit continued throughout 2025.

With the city's legal bills now pushing \$400,000, resort officials even used ticket sales from the town's recent 150th anniversary gala to help fund litigation.

City Manager Terry McGean said it was "encouraging news" to hear that the White House has issued its Dec. 22 order to pause ongoing wind farm construction.

"We believe that the US Wind project would have the same National Security impacts," McGean said via email, "and we expect that to be thoroughly investigated once the permits are remanded back for review."

He also said that a judge just denied US Wind's motions to prevent the government from re-evaluating the permit approvals. Next, BOEM would submit a full administrative record to the court, likely by mid-March.

Based on the merits of the city's case, once the full administrative record is produced, BOEM could then refile for remand, he added.

"Lots of moving parts," McGean said.

SPEED Act Amendment

Rep. Harris has also successfully sponsored an amendment to a regulatory reform bill that just passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

The SPEED Act — short for "Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act" — would overhaul how big energy or infrastructure projects get reviewed and approved at the federal level. It passed the GOP-controlled House on Dec. 18, by a vote of 221-196.

For now, projects like a large-scale offshore wind farm must undergo a lengthy environmental review from the federal government. See LEGISLATION Page 17

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Hundreds ring in new year at 32nd annual Penguin Swim

(Jan. 8, 2026) On Jan. 1, supporters of the 32nd Annual Penguin Swim plunged into 41-degree water amid a “feels like” air temperature of 28°, leaving 2025 behind and welcoming the new year.

With nearly 850 registered swimmers, this year’s Penguin Swim was an incredible success, according to the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation.

The event exceeded its fundraising goal, raising more than \$131,000 in support of the foundation.

Fundraising awards were presented to the following:

Individual – Youth (18 & Under): Leila Attia, \$1,040; Logan

Sexauer, \$405; and Brooklyn and Ellie Tunis, tied \$280 each.

Individual – Adult: Susan Sturla, \$2,280; Brittany Pridgeon, \$1,970; and Melissa Ruck, \$515,

Team – Youth & Family: Team Believe, \$4,360; Utter Penguins, \$2,230; and Zoo Crew, \$1,095.

Team – Community: OC Ravens Roost #44, \$11,011; Val D’Ambrogi’s License to Chill – \$2,545; and Damn Seagulls, \$630.

Team – Business: Bull on the Beach, \$36,716; Local 486 Swim Team, \$5,602; and Yoga Centric OC – \$1,660

Novelty winners were:



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Participants take the plunge into the chilly waters off 91st Street for the 32nd Annual Penguin Swim, which raised more than \$131,000 for the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation.

Legislation targets fed review

Continued from Page 16

ernment under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

Harris said while the SPEED Act expedites those processes under NEPA so they don’t drag out for years, his amendment creates a carve-out that preserves the Trump administration’s ability to formally review ongoing projects.

Without the amendment, the act as written would have blocked efforts by the federal government to reconsider – or remand, in legislative lingo – an approved wind farm permit.

His amendment was co-sponsored

by Reps. Chris Smith and Jeff Van Drew, both Republicans from New Jersey.

Specifically, Harris said he doesn’t think it’s fair that the government could change the rules on offshore wind while the Town of Ocean City is in the middle of a legal battle with US Wind.

“The bottom line is that, I just felt it fair,” Harris said. “If something had been filed already, it actually should be allowed to continue, and you shouldn’t change the rules midstream on whether or not you can continue to request those permits to be remanded.”

- **Oldest Penguin:** Robert Reese
- **Youngest Penguin:** Zach Tyborowski
- **Traveled the Furthest:** Bob Kimber (Great Britain)
- **Best Youth Costume:** Krista Stump
- **Best Adult Costume:** Butch Lorditch
- **Best Couple Costume:** Melissa Page
- **Best Group Costume:** Damn Seagulls
- **Blingiest Costume:** Madison

Rackley
A post-event statement on the AGH Foundation Facebook page read, “For almost 33 years, Atlantic General Hospital has celebrated the hometown heroes who strengthen our community every day.

“As we look ahead, everyone at TidalHealth is ready to carry that spirit forward and take the plunge into what comes next as one family.”

For more information, visit the AGH Penguin Swim website.

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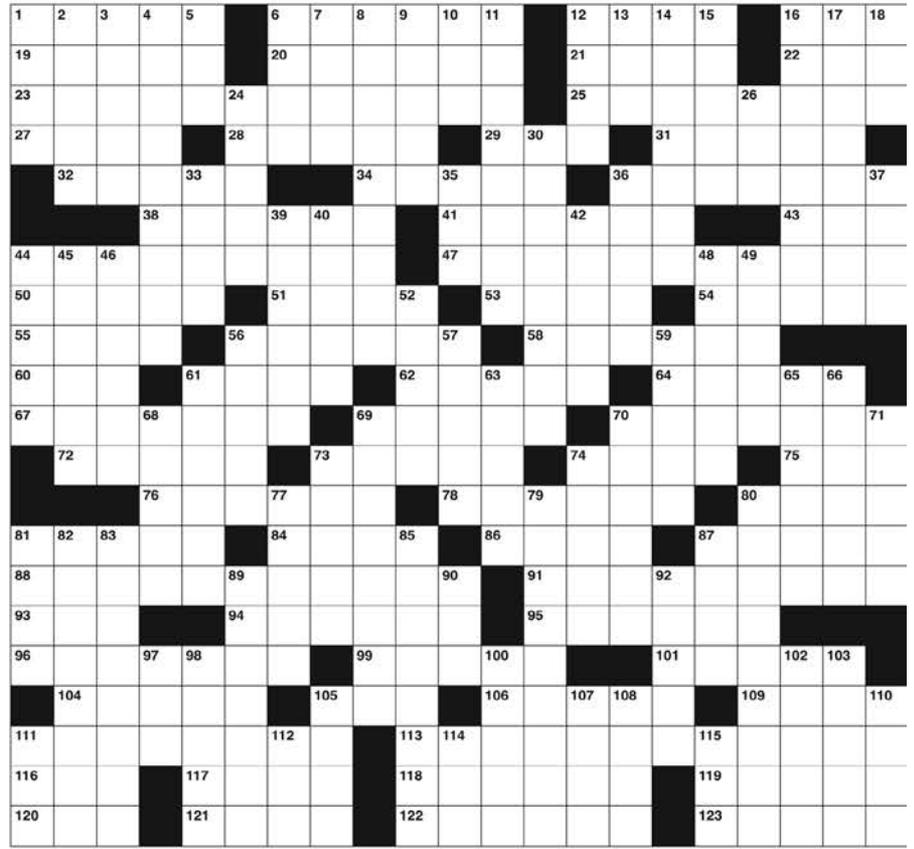
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Puzzles

OFF BROADWAY MUSICALS BY ALEX EATON-SALNERS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Eaton-Salners is an in-house attorney for Sandisk, a technology company in Milpitas, Calif. This is his 54th crossword for The Times. When he's not making puzzles, Alex has been spending a lot of time lately at Activate, a sort of "hybrid puzzle room/sports simulator" that offers a mix of co-operative and competitive games at about 100 locations around the world. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Poet with a 1982 posthumous Pulitzer
 - 6 S.L.R. insert since the early 2000s
 - 12 Baths in Bath
 - 16 Comedian Notaro
 - 19 Host Tyler of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"
 - 20 One sporting an article of apparel
 - 21 Sign in a theater
 - 22 Droll
 - 23 *Rock of Ages*
 - 25 *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*
 - 27 Prop for a proposal
 - 28 College credit hours
 - 29 Far from fore
 - 31 Starting section
 - 32 Fab Four drummer
 - 34 "I can handle that for you"
 - 36 Swallow something hook, line and sinker
 - 38 Subject of some modern maps
 - 41 Boots out
 - 43 Ending with Butler or Bard
 - 44 *A Class Act*
 - 47 *A Strange Loop*
 - 50 Played a part
 - 51 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
- DOWN**
- 53 Ran in the rain, perhaps
 - 54 Brig pair
 - 55 New Mexico skiing locale
 - 56 Full legislative assembly
 - 58 Personification of darkness, in Greek myth
 - 60 Shapiro of public radio
 - 61 Buds
 - 62 Chips go-with
 - 64 Straight up
 - 67 *A Little Night Music*
 - 69 *Rent*
 - 70 *A Chorus Line*
 - 72 Creatures formed from the fingers of the sea goddess Sedna, in Inuit myth
 - 73 Personal histories
 - 74 Automaton, informally
 - 75 Cell letters
 - 76 "___ down the hatches!"
 - 78 Nursery rhyme couple
 - 80 Cribbage markers
 - 81 Sine's reciprocal, in trig
 - 84 Bit of power
 - 86 Japanese noodle
 - 87 Wave to, say
 - 88 *The Producers*
 - 91 *Into the Woods*
 - 93 ___ Lingus
 - 94 Intertwine
 - 95 Halloween haul
 - 96 In tears
 - 99 Eschew the high road, say
 - 101 ___ Dame
 - 104 Repeatedly hit hard
 - 105 Dollop
 - 106 Pop group
 - 109 Sitar great Shankar
 - 111 *The Wiz*
 - 113 *Mean Girls*
 - 116 Chess pieces
 - 117 Bombeck who wrote "At Wit's End"
 - 118 File often installed with computer programs
 - 119 Do penance
 - 120 Apply
 - 121 Hurdle for a J.D.-to-be
 - 122 Became aware of
 - 123 "Fiddler on the Roof" matchmaker
 - 12 Advanced
 - 13 Guitar, slangily
 - 14 Front-of-the-line credential
 - 15 Cousin of a mink
 - 16 Cheep trills?
 - 17 Dodger's comeuppance
 - 18 Indoor recess locale
 - 24 Super-excited, in slang
 - 26 One "T" of TNT
 - 30 Least hale
 - 33 Foxx of 1970s TV
 - 35 Judge pro ___
 - 36 Piano pupil's practice piece
 - 37 Short boxers, e.g.
 - 39 How some medicines are taken
 - 40 Apt name for a distance runner?
 - 42 Oldsmobile Cutlass model
 - 44 Like 45-Down's flaw
 - 45 Mythical figure undone by hubris
 - 46 Prima ballerina
 - 48 Uses an alternate account to play against easier opponents, in gamer-speak
 - 49 Police weapon
 - 52 Transition points
 - 56 Blue Ribbon brand
 - 57 Ice cream parlor offerings
 - 59 Borscht base
 - 61 Classic theater name
 - 63 Struggles with sibilant sounds
 - 65 Law, but not order
 - 66 Hints
 - 68 Word with record or union
 - 69 World capital near the Andean foothills
 - 70 Give a twist
 - 71 Downright mean
 - 73 Bit of wisdom
 - 74 Founder of the Mughal Empire
 - 77 String-plucking sound
 - 79 Sources in etymology
 - 80 Prone
 - 81 Some summers, in brief
 - 82 Black-and-white desserts
 - 83 Université with a Pierre and Marie Curie campus
 - 85 Shell filling stations
 - 87 Basic programming command
 - 89 Chicken pieces
 - 90 Part of AT&T: Abbr.
 - 92 Ballet or bourrée, in Bourgogne
 - 97 Do a diner job
 - 98 Gathering of moles
 - 100 Setting for Cole Porter's "Anything Goes"
 - 102 Continued interminably
 - 103 Discuss throw at the Olympics, e.g.
 - 105 Buzzing nuisance
 - 107 Glitzy fabric
 - 108 Like some cheese
 - 110 "Gotcha"
 - 111 Blue-necked bird
 - 112 "___ Believer"
 - 114 Flock formation
 - 115 Blue-winged bird



- 63 Struggles with sibilant sounds
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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 52

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

S	K	I	P	L	A	N	E	S	B	A	M	A	S	O	D	A	S	H	O	P
T	E	T	R	O	M	I	N	O	A	M	I	R	P	R	O	W	L	S		
E	A	S	E	S	I	N	T	O	D	A	R	N	R	E	M	E	D	Y		
A	N	I	L	L	E	E	S	U	N	R	O	S	E	S	D	M	C			
M	E	N	U	A	P	R	I	L	D	O	L	C	E	N	A	H				
S	P	H	E	R	E	S	A	P	A	P	A	L	M	O	F	F	A	S		
C	O	A	T	S	T	E	T	O	N	R	E	B	R	A	N	D	E	D		
I	M	S	O	A	K	E	D	V	E	N	T	N	O	R	O	N	S	A	L	E
O	M	N	I	N	O	I	R	F	A	N	S	I	T	E	Y	I	N			
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P	O	P	B	A	R	C	L	A	Y	B	I	E	N	D	E	L	I			
T	O	O	K	I	N	L	A	Y	F	L	A	T	G	R	E	W	I	N		
S	H	R	I	N	K	R	A	Y	A	U	R	A	S	B	R	A	V	E		
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M	U	S	T	V	E	S	S	E	L	S	H	U	S							
S	U	P	I	N	E	M	E	N	L	O	E	T	H	E	R	E	S	P	N	
E	L	F	D	A	N	O	U	N	D	I	M	S	T	H	E	E				
E	L	I	D	E	S	R	A	R	E	S	K	A	T	E	R	A	T	S		
Y	E	S	Y	E	S	O	N	C	E	G	E	T	O	V	E	R	I	T		
A	D	H	E	R	E	W	E	E	D	T	R	A	N	S	E	P	T	S		

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., Jan. 8

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: SNOWMAN

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, worcesterlibrary.org

OC CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a relaxing game of chess at the library. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

BINGO

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Play a lively game of Bingo and win fun prizes. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

MERRY MAKERS: WINTER SCENE TERRARIUM

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Using various artificial materials, create a winter wonderland scene inside a mini terrarium. No watering required. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

YOGA BASICS FOR BEGINNERS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 5 p.m. Build confidence and familiarity with foundational yoga poses. Bring your own mat. 410-957-0878, 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., Jan. 9

TODDLER TIME AT THE MUSEUM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10-11 a.m. Early opening great for kids ages 0-5 years and their families. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for kids ages 4-17 years and free to those 3 year and younger. delmarvadiscoverycenter.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. Drop by and make some friends. 410-641-0650, 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 are welcome. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'BUNKER HILL' BY NATHANIEL PHILBRICK

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the Ocean Pines branch circulation desk and join in for a lively discussion. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

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

Sat., Jan. 10

K-POP ART

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Create works of art with K-pop characters. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

MUSCLES IN MOTION: EXPLORING THE HUMAN BODY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11 a.m. Kids learn how muscles work and how exercise helps keep our bodies strong through exciting STEM-based activities. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

FREE SOUP & SANDWICH FELLOWSHIP EVENT

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. All are welcome. Benefiting the St. Paul UM Men's Ministry. 410-641-0270

BAD GIFT TRADING

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1 p.m. Trade your undesirable holiday gifts with other people. Please keep all gifts PG friendly. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m. to noon. 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., Jan. 11

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., Jan. 12

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, worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: STUFFED ANIMALS

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, worcesterlibrary.org

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

NAILED IT: WINTER WONDERLAND

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Create a winter wonderland with a partner/group using the ingredients and materials provided. Best for ages 8 years and older. Registration required: 410-208-4014. 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., Jan. 13

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, worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME @ THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts that feature one of the museum's special animals. For ages 0-5 years. Registration required: 410-957-0878. worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME AT THE MUSEUM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn all about bears and hibernation. Due to the popularity of these events you must register your child at <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/15633533?hs=a>

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

TEEN GAME NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 p.m. Test your luck and your mettle against others in games like Sorry!, Hive and more. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES & VINE: 'THE WATER DANCER' BY TA-NEHISI COATES

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. An evening of books and wine. Stop by the Snow Hill Library to pick up your book, then meet for a great discussion at Tides & Vine. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-3495, worcesterlibrary.org

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. Dinner and drinks available after 6:15 p.m. Celebrating the winners of the yearly tournament and announcing the "Angler of the Year" recipient. Guest

Calendar

Continued from Page 19
speakers include Brian Reynolds and Dan Erb.

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

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 every-

one. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

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

Wed., Jan. 14

AARP MEETING

Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., 10 a.m. Social and refreshments begin at



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW RWWC OFFICERS

On Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, the Republican Women of Worcester County held their annual dinner and installation of new officers at the Lighthouse Restaurant. The new officers are Gwen Crisafulli, Recording Secretary; Mary Weezie Carey Corresponding Secretary; Delores Matthews, Second Vice President; Jane Wolnik, Treasurer; Jennie Allen, President; Carol Frazier, First Vice President; and Linda Moran, Assistant Treasurer/membership.

9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will discuss tax tips and tax scams. Upcoming travel opportunities and more provided. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

BOOK CLUB AT 50PLUS CENTER: 'THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM' BY MARIE BENEFACT

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Stop by the Snow Hill Library or the 50plus Center to pick up your book, then meet for a great discussion. 410-632-3495, worcesterialibrary.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 box. 410-641-0650

PASTA MAKING WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Demonstration on how to make a traditional eggless dough and shape pre-prepared dough into beautiful southern-style pasta using simple tools. Take home some pasta. Registration required: 410-641-0650.

PAJAMA STORY TIME

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

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Last Wednesday of the month meetings are offsite and information can be found on the website and Facebook. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

CASH BINGO

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

ONGOING EVENTS

HISTORY-TO-GO

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout January. Pick up a History-to-Go kit and learn about ciphers and codes used throughout history. Supplies provided to make your own cipher disk. Pick up between December and February. 410-632-3495

THE WINTER QUILL POETRY CONTEST

This year's theme is frozen moments, encouraging young writers to capture a single memory, feeling or image in an original poem. Entries are due by Feb. 2 and the contest is open to ages 6-11 and 12-18 years. Winners will be announced on Feb. 9. All participants are invited to celebrate at a Family Poetry Read-aloud on Feb. 21. 443-235-5597

QUEEN OF HEARTS

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

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

On sale every Saturday morning at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One \$20 ticket is good for all 365 drawings in 2025. Benefits the youth of the community.

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Don's Seafood & Chop House at the South Gate of Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

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Call **410-723-6397** or email classifieds@octodaydispatch.com
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**Beginning again!**  
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# Service DIRECTORY

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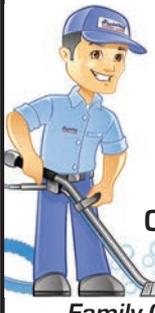
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# Service DIRECTORY

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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     |
| Saturday 10am-Noon   | 745 Mooring Road #202, Ocean City    | 2BR/2BA          | Condo              | \$399,990      | Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty   |
| Saturday 10am-Noon   | 204 S. Heron Drive #202G, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA          | Condo              | \$575,000      | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty  |
| Saturday 10:30am-3pm | 6305 Atlantic Ave #301, Ocean City   | 3BR/3.5BA        | Condo              | \$1,550,000    | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty  |
| Saturday 11am-1pm    | 100 White Horse Drive, Ocean Pines   | 3BR/2BA          | Single Family      | \$419,900      | Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate    |
| Saturday 11am-1pm    | 4 Preakness Drive, Ocean Pines       | 5BR/3.5BA        | Single Family      | \$922,800      | Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate   |
| Saturday Noon-2pm    | 11500 Coastal Hwy #1614, Ocean City  | 2BR/2BA          | Condo              | \$579,900      | Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty |
| Saturday 1-3pm       | 50 Admiral Avenue, Ocean Pines       | 4BR/3BA          | Single Family      | \$427,900      | Michael Ray/Sunshine Properties, Inc. |
| Saturday 1-3pm       | 104 125th Street #106, Ocean City    | 3BR/2.5BA        | Condo              | \$575,000      | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty  |
| Saturday 2-4pm       | 1404 N. Chase Street, Ocean Pines    | 4BR/2.5 BA       | Single Family      | \$619,888      | Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate    |
| Sunday 10am-Noon     | 105 123rd Street #B332, Ocean City   | 1BR/1BA          | Condo              | \$259,900      | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty  |
| Sunday 12:30-2:30pm  | 6305 Atlantic Ave #301, Ocean City   | 3BR/3.5BA        | Condo              | \$1,550,000    | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty  |

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- 18 inch seat width (1065284) **\$179.99**
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