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BERLIN AWARD

The winner of this year's Berlin Award was Charles Townsend, who has been a member of the Berlin Fire Company for 55 years. Townsend was celebrated at the annual Berlin Chamber of Commerce banquet and introduced by last year's winner, Melissa Reid. Pictured, from left, are Reid, Townsend, Past President Garrett Neville, Carol Rose representing Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, and Berlin Council members Dean Burrell, Steve Green, Jack Orris and Jay Knerr.

Tyson parcel images show design ideas

Developer Palmer Gillis seeks planning commission reaction before proceeding

By Tara Fischer
 Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2026) An idea of how the redeveloped Tyson Food property on Old Ocean City Boulevard might look was shown to Berlin Planning Commission members last Wednesday in a preliminary step by the developers.

Palmer Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties (CVP), joined by his development team, appeared before the commission to get their reaction to his concept before he moves on to formal presentations.

"I think this is an opportunity that

"To put it in kind of blunt terms, 'a hell yes, a hell no,' or somewhere in between."

— Palmer Gillis

we would like to give commission members, early in the game, to provide comments," Gillis said. "To put it in kind of blunt terms, 'a hell yes, a hell no,' or somewhere in between."

The roughly 9.35-acre site, known as parcel 57 at Heron Park, contains two remaining industrial buildings from the former Tyson Foods operation. Gillis said those buildings are structurally strong and would be reused rather than demolished, with renovations designed to reflect Berlin's architectural character.

Under the concept, the rear building would likely be converted into medical or healthcare-related offices, See REDEVELOPMENT Page 3

OP budget shows higher fees

Just proposal at this stage, but inflation, public safety drive increase in expenses

By Tara Fischer
 Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2026) Ocean Pines Association officials outlined proposed membership fee increases at a Jan. 15 budget town hall meeting and said

much of the adjustment was due to rising utility costs and public safety expenses.

Citing inflation and increases in county utility rates as major drivers in the upcoming fiscal year's budget, OPA Director of Finance Steve Phillips walked attendees through the membership dues portion of the recommended budget.

He said total membership revenue

is projected at approximately \$1.56 million, up from \$1.438 million the previous year.

"We did have some inflationary increases across the board," Phillips said.

Under the proposal, swim memberships would increase by 5%, while racquet sports fees would rise by \$5 to \$10 depending on the category.

See OPA Page 10



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Developer Palmer Gillis outlined his plans for the former chicken plant property in Berlin, including bringing in Chesapeake Health Care, a child care facility and a garden center as possible tenants.

Redevelopment ideas revealed

Continued from Page 1

while the front building along Old Ocean City Boulevard could house future commercial uses such as retail, professional offices, or a restaurant.

While no tenants have been finalized for the front building, the design could include multiple entrances, storefront windows, and potential patio or terrace space.

Developers added that plans for the commercial space include softening the site with additional green space, landscaping, and improved pedestrian access. Large garage-style doors, awnings, brick, and stucco materials were discussed as ways to create an aesthetic environment.

While the front commercial building could house professional office space, planning commission member Dirk Widdowson noted that he would like to see the structure serve in a more retail capacity.

Gillis said that something like a restaurant is possible, but that his team received guidance from the Berlin Town Council that whatever goes into the building does not compete with downtown businesses.

“We were pursuing that, and we got a lot of pushback from the Town Council,” Gillis said in response to Widdowson’s comments. “Our goal here is to make this economically feasible.”

The developer added that “the good news” is that the project’s financial engine is in building two, likely to be taken over by a specific medical provider. Gillis said that Chesapeake

Health Care is the possible tenant.

“That gives us a lot of patience and tolerance and time to pursue what we want to have as the developers in that front building,” Gillis said. “We want it to be alive and lively.”

A third building shown in the conceptual plan could house a private daycare facility intended primarily for employees of nearby healthcare operations, such as Chesapeake Health, if it moves into the site’s rear building.

“Let me get into the third building,” said Gillis, addressing the planning commission. “We had some activity on this. That third building that you’re seeing, you’ll see a picture of a daycare center. We are throwing that in as a placeholder. We will have to come back to you guys for final approval on that, of course. We have a client who’s in building number two who is looking for daycare education facilities for their employees. This won’t be open to the public, per se, but open for private use only. In other words, for one or two specific employers.”

Sandy Gillis, Palmer Gillis’ wife, added that the medical office in building two, or the rear building, is “highly probable” and noted that this space, along with the potential daycare business, would be closed on evenings and weekends. Therefore, plenty of parking for any retail function in the front structure would be available onsite.

Two additional structures associated with a garden center concept were also shown.

Much of last week’s discussion for See COMMISSION Page 4



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Commission sees ideas for parcel's makeover

Continued from Page 3

cused on site logistics, including property boundaries, traffic access, parking, and stormwater management.

Gillis explained that multiple hypothetical property lines are still being evaluated as the town and project leaders work to preserve an existing lagoon and pedestrian walkway near the site. The developers said they designed the concept using the most restrictive boundary assumptions to ensure compliance regardless of final determinations.

A state-required traffic study was completed in May 2025, and the State Highway Administration has decided that, as part of the project, Main Street and Old Ocean City Boulevard would need to become a four-way stop.

To meet parking requirements, the front building would be reduced in size by approximately 35 to 40 feet, allowing for double-loaded parking rather than parking along the street. Gillis said the goal is to create a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape.

Furthermore, in addition to Gillis' development, a new structure for the town's public works department is planned for Heron Park, along with a skate park.

The commissioners expressed interest in enhanced landscaping, bike

racks, sidewalks, and active uses along the street frontage, particularly given anticipated future development along the corridor. Planning Commission Chair Matt Stoehr highlighted the importance of walkability and street activation as the area continues to evolve.

"I think it's going to be really important to us, it's going to be really important to me how that streetscape, how that basically front yard gets developed, and hopefully eventually a sidewalk going down there where people can bike and whatever is and that the front building is accessible from a bikeability standpoint, and walkability," Stoehr said.

"It's not just people inside the building...It's going to be a crazy time with a lot of development along that street."

Additionally, Gillis emphasized that the project would generate new jobs, expand the town's tax base, and remove what he described as a long-standing blighted property.

He also said the development team is sensitive to concerns about competing with downtown Berlin and intends to pursue complementary uses.

"This town has put up with this blight for quite a long time," Gillis said. "We want to make it a shining star for this community."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Developer Palmer Gillis came before the Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday seeking preliminary feedback from members to the redevelopment vision for the property.

The conceptual presentation follows the Berlin Town Council's decision last summer to rezone parcel 57 from R-1 residential to B-2 shopping district, clearing the way for the town to sell the property to CVP. The council approved the rezoning in July 2025 after determining that the residential classification was a mistake and inconsistent with the site's long-standing industrial use.

The town agreed to sell the prop-

erty to CVP for \$1.2 million. Certain uses, including liquor stores, tattoo parlors, adult entertainment, and gambling facilities, are prohibited under the agreement.

No formal action was taken by the planning commission on Jan. 14, as the plans were presented for discussion only.

Developers said they will return in the future once plans are further refined.

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New budget features capital funds

Ocean Pines general mgr. highlights major investment in community infrastructure

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2025) Ocean Pines Association officials presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year at a town hall last week.

According to OPA General Manager John Viola, the proposed budget includes more than \$6 million in capital funding, making it one of the largest infrastructure investment years in the association's history.

Significant projects include the replacement of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department's South Side Station and the third phase of the community's multi-year golf course irrigation system replacement.

"We look at the number...there's over \$6 million in capital," Viola said. "Go back and see over the years. It's one of the highest years this association has ever invested in its infrastructure. It's all part of the plan, way before us, on how this place was built."

The general manager added that much of the funding has been accumulated over the past six to seven

years.

The golf course irrigation project, for instance, is one of the association's significant capital endeavors.

"This is a major one," Viola said. "This is one of the most major capital projects we've done. It's something designed 50 years ago that we should have been replacing. We're probably 10, 15, 20 years behind."

Golf Course Superintendent Justin Hartshorne said the irrigation replacement is currently in its second phase, with the upcoming budget funding the third phase of the four-stage project.

The irrigation replacement effort began in 2024 and is intended to update the course's aging infrastructure, reduce leaks, and improve efficiency. Phase one included work on hole one, the fourth tee, hole nine, the practice range, and the pump station, for a total cost of \$934,000.

The second phase covers holes four through eight and is expected to finish around March of this year. This phase's cost is right around \$810,500.

Another major capital item in the budget is the anticipated replacement of the South Side Fire Station at 911 Ocean Parkway. The existing structure was built in 1981 and ex-

panded in the mid-1980s. Fire personnel have long stated that the facility has suffered from drainage issues, leaks, mold concerns, and space limitations that no longer meet modern firefighting needs.

Construction on the new station is set to occur this winter.

"This project is a big one for Ocean Pines," Viola said.

During the summer's OPA Board of Directors election, voting homeowners approved a referendum to authorize OPA's contribution of up to \$3.4 million to the firehouse project. Residents will be hit with a \$40 increase in their assessments if the recommended budget gets passed, \$25 of which is attributed to the station rebuild.

Ocean Pines officials touched on other budgetary highlights at last week's town hall.

One operational change proposed in the upcoming fiscal year is the elimination of easement cutting by the Public Works Department. Viola explained that funds previously allocated for easement maintenance will be redirected toward drainage improvements across the community.

The OPA Board of Directors is expected to pass the recommended spending plan at a future meeting before spring.

Property owner sells land to state for conservation

Queponco Farms placed in permanent ag easement

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2026) Owners of a 186-acre farm and woodland property outside Berlin have placed their land under a permanent agricultural easement, adding to a growing block of Worcester County farmland that will remain off-limits to subdivision and development.

The state's purchase of the Queponco Farms property, located near Basket Switch Road, was coordinated through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, or MALPF.

Property owner Mike Sirman said the easement on his property will protect not just his land but will contribute to the larger ecosystem of the Newport Bay watershed,

"We have a unique opportunity to influence the future of our region," he said in a statement. "I encourage fellow farmers and landowners to consider the benefits of MALPF and similar programs. These initiatives offer financial incentives and techni-

See FARM Page 7



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

An 186-acre farm off Basket Switch Road has been purchased by the state through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

Farm land protected in accord

Continued from Page 6
cal support, making it easier to protect our agricultural heritage. By working together, we can foster a community that prioritizes sustainable practices and conservation.”

When a landowner sells an easement through MALPF, they’re not selling the land itself. Rather, the state is buying the right to prevent development – a restriction that’s attached to the deed, binding future owners.

Property owners hold their title and are encouraged to keep farming the land. At the same time, conservation restrictions prevent subdivision and non-agricultural uses in perpetuity.

This project is part of a broader legislative initiative under the state’s Whole Watershed Act, one expected to direct up to \$20 million toward conservation and water-quality projects in the Newport Bay watershed over five years.

Grant funding flows from the Whole Watershed Fund – a pool of money that combines six state environmental and conservation funding streams, including MALPF and the Bay Restoration Fund. The fund will provide up to half the cost of land management projects.

Spending will be overseen by representatives of local government and nonprofit organizations – Worcester County, the Town of Berlin, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Lower Shore Land Trust.

The oversight group will be known as the Partnership for Newport Bay. County officials said this is first project to be completed in Newport Bay watershed since the partnership was established.

Overall, the program isn’t just meant to buy conservation ease-

ments, but to improve water and habitat quality in the Newport Bay watershed. Some of the funding also will be used to measure changes in water quality and habitat monitoring over time, according to Katherine Munson, a planner with the county’s office of environmental programs.

Because the Queponco Farms acreage is adjacent to an already-protected tract of forest, it raises the total amount of contiguous protected farmland in Worcester County to more than 747 acres, Munson said.

“Land protection has lagged in the Newport Bay watershed compared to other areas of the county,” she said in a statement, “so we are thrilled to work with this landowner and MALPF to protect this property.”

Since 1977, MALPF easements have been used in every one of Maryland’s 23 counties to protect more than 300,000 acres.

The program aims not just to protect agricultural parcels, but to conserve open space, preserve wildlife habitats, and improve water quality, according to state policy.

While owners do retain limited development rights, the easement says future housing subdivisions, commercial development, and non-agricultural land use are prohibited.

In Worcester County, more than 11,000 acres of farmland and forest are protected under MALPF. Properties eligible for MALPF easements must be a minimum of 50 acres with subdivision potential, and at least 50% prime agricultural soil.

Moving forward, the local grant is structured to give the partnership five years to identify new priority projects and line up local funding to meet the state’s 50% match.



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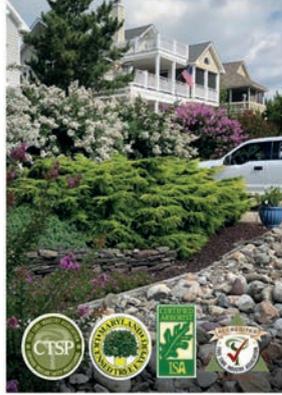


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Funding sought for Newark's new water treatment facility

House of Reps advanced millions towards project, awaiting Senate approval

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2026) After years of dealing with iron-stained water and stop-gap fixes, the Newark community is closer than ever to getting a replacement for its 55-year-old water treatment facility.

The House of Representatives on Jan. 8 advanced \$2.55 million toward the replacement of the Newark water treatment plant through an appropriations bill. Congressman Andy Harris announced this week that his office had secured the earmark.

Harris said the funding allows not only for the replacement of the existing water treatment plant but upgrading treatment capacity to meet current water quality standards.

"This is a problem in many rural areas," Harris told OC-Today Dispatch. "We need to have systems that service small communities – in this case, around 100 households where literally they could not afford to pay for it themselves."

No money will flow, however, until the appropriations bill clears the U.S. Senate and becomes law. Harris said he's confident the Senate will approve the funding in the next week or so, based on strong bipartisan support.

Residents served by the Newark water-sewer district – one of the county's smallest, with just 123 total customers – for years have dealt with iron sediment in their pipes, which turns water brown, stains clothes, and can discolor hair. Worcester County tried to offer a short-term solution in late 2024 by offering residents water filters at no cost.

Brown water is caused by iron in the aquifer. The plant has filters to remove the iron, but filter technology has improved since the plant was built in 1971, according to Worcester County Public Works Director Dallas

Baker. The county is also proposing to drill a new water supply well as part of the plant upgrade, Baker added. If the state approves, a new well could be located in a different aquifer, one with lower iron levels.

Worcester County asked Congress in March 2025 for money to fund the plant replacement, saying the community being served was so small that it would take decades for rate payers to cover the cost of replacing the treatment plant.

County officials in their earmark application to Congress also said upgrades were needed because the plant's existing hydro-pneumatic system was made obsolete by a new elevated storage tank. The county hopes to build a replacement facility closer to the storage tank site.

The water plant is also located nearby the county's landfill on Newark Road, and cross-contamination into the drinking water system has always been a concern, though the existing system had prevented that from ever happening. A modern facility would prevent systemic issues caused by potential water contamination, the county also said.

Worcester County officials typically send funding requests to the federal government after prioritizing a handful of projects from its annual Capital Improvement Plan, according to County Administrator Weston Young.

The county does not use regular tax revenue toward water and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Instead, each of 11 water and sewer districts have to rely on ratepayers in each district to cover all costs in what's called an enterprise fund.

Leaders here have struggled for nearly two years over water-sewer finances because, as the county commissioners found out in 2024, some districts didn't have enough customers to cover costs. It led the commissioners to move millions of See COUNTY Page 12

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OPA membership fees going up

Continued from Page 1

Golf memberships would see larger adjustments, with a \$100 increase for individual memberships and \$150 for family memberships. Boat slip rates would increase 3% for residential slots and 5% for commercial slips.

Association General Manager John Viola said inflation and utility costs played a significant role in creating the proposed increases, particularly water and wastewater expenses passed down from Worcester County, which will account for \$15 of a \$40 increase to assessment fees.

“One of the increases that raised our assessment by \$15 was water and wastewater,” Viola said. “Anybody who owns a home knows you received a high bill because there were increases from the county.”

Those rising water costs were factored into aquatic fees to help offset expenses, Viola said. He added that 1.25% of the 3% marina rate increases is to cover water-related expenses.

Phillips also reviewed proposed user fees, noting that the amenities’ daily rate fees will increase, based on annual benchmarking against similar communities. Swim fees would rise by \$1 per visit, while racquet sports daily rates would remain flat. Golf fees would increase by \$5 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.

Water and sewer expenses have been a significant topic of discussion in recent months, Phillips said, adding that they continue to affect multiple departments and amenities.

Viola highlighted the impact on the association’s food and beverage operations, noting that water costs for the contractor have more than tripled since the restaurant group and OPA inked its agreement in January 2025.

“When they first signed the contract, the water cost was around \$20,000. Now it’s \$71,000-plus,” Viola said. “They were hit with a

\$50,000 to \$60,000 increase just in water.”

Public safety costs were also discussed, with Phillips presenting a 15-year overview showing a steady rise in expenses. According to the presentation, the portion of the annual assessment dedicated to public safety increased from \$199 per property in 2012-2013 to \$377 today.

“Obviously personnel costs, recruiting, retention, and then obviously capital costs as well,” Phillips said. “The infrastructure and the apparatus costs for the fire department.”

Of the \$40 assessment increase included in the recommended budget, \$25 will be put towards public safety, particularly costs related to the upcoming rebuild of the old South Side Fire Station.

Officials said that the public safety share of annual assessments has nearly doubled over the past 15 years, rising from 22% to a little over 40%.

In the public comment portion of the meeting, resident Karen Kaplan asked why marina slip fee increases were modest, given a reported waiting list of more than 100 applicants.

Viola responded that the association aims to remain comparable while covering operating costs.

“There have been increases,” he said. “We will continue to look at the marina. That’s what the team felt like at this time...with that said, we are one of the lowest in the area. That is the objective of our amenities. We want to try and cover our operating costs. We want to be competitive.”

Viola concluded the presentation by praising the staff and their work on the budget.

“It’s probably one of the strongest senior management teams since I’ve been here,” Viola said.

The OPA Board of Directors is expected to vote on the proposed spending plan in the near future.



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EARLE AND KATIE MOORE

~An Old Fashioned Love Story~

It began the summer my mother graduated from nursing school. Her older sister called, asking if she could come help with two young children while her husband was being sent to Korea. My mom agreed without hesitation — she had a few months before beginning her studies to become an anesthesiologist, and family always came first.

My grandmother and my aunt lived next door to each other, and that small detail of geography changed the course of my mother's life. One weekend, my father happened to be home on leave. He was a sergeant in World War II, steady and disciplined, but with a quiet warmth that people remembered. According to my aunt, the moment they met, something clicked. They fell in love almost immediately — the kind of love people talk about but rarely witness.

They dated for two years before marrying. After his honorable discharge, my father became an undercover agent for the FBI. My mother never returned to school, but she carried her nursing skills with her through every move, every assignment, every new chapter. She was the constant — the anchor of a life that shifted often.

When my father eventually left the FBI, he became a National Sales Manager for 3M, and the traveling continued. My mother worked as a nurse wherever they landed, keeping the family grounded while he built a career that took him across the country.

Retirement didn't slow them down. He became a travel agent for DuPont, and because they always needed a nurse on their trips, she traveled the world by his side for three unforgettable years. When that adventure ended, they settled on the Maryland shore — the ocean felt like home to them. For the next 35 years, they poured themselves into the community they loved.

My mother joined the Retired Nurses Club, volunteered at the hospital, and helped raise scholarship funds for future nurses. She played bridge, chaired the Women's Club, served as secretary of the Garden Club, and cooked gourmet meals that made holidays sparkle. My father chaired the National Kidney Foundation golf tournament for a decade, played in every golf group he could, joined the poker and fishing clubs, and served as head usher at their church for 25 years. They were the kind of couple who made friends everywhere they went — and kept them.

They did everything together, hand in hand.

Last Thursday, December 19th, we were writing invitations for his 100th birthday celebration. The next morning, everything changed. My mother couldn't stand, her words were slurring, and the ambulance came quickly. She was diagnosed with a stroke. After a long day of tests, she was exhausted.

On Sunday night, my father asked to visit her. The nurse mentioned they had given her a light sedative to help her rest. My father tried gently to wake her, but she didn't respond. Finally, he leaned close, took her face in his hands, and whispered, "Katie, I love you, I always have, I always will." To everyone's astonishment, she opened her eyes, looked at him, and said clearly, "Earle, I love you too. Now go home and rest." Even then, she was still the nurse — still taking care of him.

On Monday, she suffered another stroke. The doctor told me she was unlikely to recover. I went home and told my father.

On Tuesday, he had a doctor's appointment and seemed fine. That evening, while a friend kept him company, I returned to the hospital. Watching the house cameras I had installed two weeks earlier, I saw him waving his hands in distress. I rushed home and called an ambulance. He was having chest pains. At the ER, they diagnosed a touch of pneumonia and planned to keep him overnight. Before I left, he told me he loved me — and that he could not live without my mother. She was the light of his life, he said, and he didn't want to be here without her.

The next morning, December 24th, the doctor called. My father's heart had given out. He passed away peacefully in his sleep at 7:00 a.m.

I rushed to the hospital to tell my mother. She was lucid. She cried. She said she didn't want to be without him. After 75 years together, she couldn't imagine a world where he wasn't beside her.

That night, she declined. On Christmas Day, the doctor told me it would be only hours. On Friday, December 26th, at almost the exact same time my father had passed, my mother slipped away in her sleep.

They lived a long, full, joyful life — and they left it the only way they knew how.

Together.

They are survived by one son and daughter-in-law, 2 daughters, 3 granddaughters and 2 great granddaughters.

County looks to replace outdated treatment plant

Continued from Page 8

dollars from the general fund to make up for a steep deficit. They also voted to raise user rates and fees to generate more revenue.

Young says aggressively fighting for federal funds each year can help greatly to defray those local costs for customers. And, even in a highly divided political environment, community projects like this one have been known to garner bipartisan support from the state's congressional delegation.

"The media will play Congressman Harris as the lone Republican voting against what the (Democratic Maryland) senators vote. But they do work together on these projects. If the senators put forward a project, Congressman Harris is supportive of it on the House side," he said. "Once that's done, it's definitely something we need to celebrate."

The federal funding will cover less than half the cost of the project, which is estimated at \$5.5 million. The county is applying for additional grant funding through the Maryland Department of the Environment and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to Worcester County Public Works Director Dallas Baker.

Once funding is secure, the project may take at least three years to complete, including a year for design, 8 to 12 months of permitting, and 12 to 16 months of construction.

Jenny Mumford is a longtime Newark resident who's been an outspoken advocate for her community's water troubles and serves on the district water board. She said the county needs to install new water pipes for the district, not just a new plant.

Mumford won't even drink her home's discolored tap water anymore and called the county's offer of free filters "only a bandage" that didn't get many takers and didn't fix the root cause.

While she called the possibility of federal funding "meaningful, long-overdue progress," she's also unwavering that the county must prioritize grant funding, so taxpayers won't be burdened.

"Given the history of fiscal shortfalls, lack of proactive oversight, and funding constraints that have strained residents, the commissioners must take responsibility to make things right for Newark and other service areas," she said.



Obituaries

CAROL E. MILLS

Ocean Pines
 Carol Elizabeth Mills of Ocean Pines passed away November 18, 2025, after a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's Disease. She was 92.

She was born to Clarence and Bertha Hahn and raised in Springfield, Illinois. After graduating from Macalester College, she worked for the National Security Agency for two years where she met her husband Jim Mills. Married to James P. Mills in 1956, she raised her family in New Carrollton, MD, a Washington suburb where she served as the Carrollton Elementary PTA president, brownie leader, volunteered with Meals on Wheels and the Parkdale High School Sports Boosters along with Jim, Thursday morning 10-pin league bowler, bridge player, Library Book Club Member, and the unofficial Mayor of the New Carrollton Swim and Recreation Club. She was a great Cook.

Jim and Carol Mills retired to Ocean Pines in 1986 where bridge, bowling, knitting & sewing, going to the Beach, bird watching, Ocean City Kiwanis Club, and the Ocean Pines Craft Club kept her busy along with lots of golf and some Elder Hostile adventures. She loved Dogs.

Jim Mills passed away during January 2018. Mrs. Mills leaves behind her daughter Deborah Mills of Richmond, Va. and her son, David of Milford, Del. Please contribute to a charity of your choice to honor her memory.

also survived by many nieces and nephews- Beth Brockman (spouse Will Brockman), Blaire Jackson, Christopher Stant, Jeffrey Stant (spouse Michelle Stant), Brittani Bunting (spouse Colby Bunting), Andrew Rogers (spouse Rachel Rogers), and Wesley Rogers (spouse Mikayla Rogers). He is survived by several great nieces and nephews- Tegan Rogers (spouse Trish Rogers), Riley Rogers (Bryan and Tina Rogers), Lincoln Tellier, Logan Brockman (Beth and Will Brockman), Emerson Gray and Delaney Bunting (Brittani and Colby Bunting), Jack Rogers and Banks Rogers (Andrew and Rachel Rogers), Lorelei Rogers (Tegan and Trish Rogers), Brent Spicer and Lainey Rogers (Wesley and Mikayla Rogers). Billy did not have any biological children, but he treated all his nieces and nephews as his own.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 beginning at 11 am at Bishop Hastings Funeral Home in Selbyville, DE. There will be a memorial service directly after the visitation at 12 pm followed by a procession to the graveside at Bishopville Cemetery.

The family is asking for either flowers sent to Bishop Hastings Funeral Home or donations to the Bishopville Fire Company, P.O. Box 350, Bishopville, MD 21813.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com

WILLIAM P. ROGERS JR.

Bishopville
 William (Billy) Purnell Rogers Jr, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2026 at 59 years young.

Billy was born on June 18, 1966 to parents Jacqueline Tingle Rogers and William Purnell Rogers Sr. Billy grew up in Bishopville, Maryland where he loved to go hunting, fishing, and riding four wheelers. His family lovingly remembers him playing in the woods for hours on end- and had to be called up for dinner nightly.

He worked as an electrician for most of his adult life, but his passion was serving the Bishopville Fire Company alongside his immediate family members (Bill, Andrew, Bryan). He very much enjoyed packing up his RV alongside his parents and siblings to go camping either at Shad Landing or Assateague beach with as many nieces and nephews as possible. Billy was a caring, generous, fiercely loyal and loving man.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Jackie and Bill Rogers, his nephew James Scott Jackson, his great nieces Adeline and Amelia Tellier.

He is survived by many close friends and family including siblings Patricia Jackson, (spouse James Jackson), Susan Rogers Stant, Andrew Rogers, Bryan Rogers (nephew- raised as brothers), and Tina Rogers (niece and sister-in-law). He is

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Annual Berlin Chamber Banquet



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAM GREEN

The Berlin Fire Company hosted the annual Berlin Chamber of Commerce's banquet last Thursday, presenting the installation of new leaders, award winners and the recognition of this year's Berlin Award winner, Charles Townsend. Above left, Best Chamber Partner: Arctic Heating and Air Conditioning operators Christine Queen-Brown and Andrew Queen are pictured with President David Fitzgerald, Past President Garrett Neville and Berlin Council members Steve Green, Dean Burrell, Jack Orris and Jay Knerr. Above right, Best New Business: The Ghost Museum owner Alyssa Maloof, third from left, who owns and operates the Mermaid Museum in downtown Berlin, is pictured with Fitzgerald, Senator Mary Beth Carozza representative Carol Rose, Neville, Green, Burrell, Orris and Knerr.



Bright Idea Award: On Thin Ice owner Bree Chmielewski, third from left, was presented with a handmade award from Jeffrey Auxer Designs. The business was honored for the concept of rewarding children seen wearing helmets while riding their bikes in Berlin. The idea was a summer partnership with the Berlin Police Department.

Volunteer of the Year: Christopher Rice, third from left, was celebrated for his dedication to volunteering at nearly all the chamber's events in the calendar year 2025.



Past President Garrett Neville was recognized by Incoming President David Fitzgerald and Berlin council members for his dedication to the chamber during the past year of service.

New Chamber Officers and Board members were recognized. Pictured, from left, are President David Fitzgerald, Vice President/Incoming President Crystall Collins, Treasurer Denny Murphy, Past President Garrett Neville and Board members Bill Outten, Cindi Krempel, Gussie Sholtis, Adam Davis and Jason Myers. Not pictured were Board members Lauren Carlson and Garrett Neeb.

OP bocce league registration to open soon

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2026) Registration for the spring session of the Ocean Pines Bocce Ball League will open Monday, Jan. 26. And for those looking to gain additional skills, a two-day instructional camp is set to launch next month as organizers continue to expand the community program.

The nonrefundable membership fee for the spring play period is \$25 per player and covers participation in the upcoming league as well as the championship tournament. Players may register in teams of two or four, with up to four pre-registered substitutes permitted per group. According to a press release issued by the Ocean Pines Association, no dues are required for alternate players.

The registration deadline is 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Spring league play will run from

March 12 through May 1 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club bocce courts. Matches will be scheduled between 3 and 7 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and Mondays, depending on the number of teams enrolled and Yacht Club availability.

Registration forms are available on the Ocean Pines Bocce League Facebook page under the "Files" tab, as well as at the front desk of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Completed forms and payment must be submitted in person at the community center. Mail-in registrations will not be accepted, and checks should be made payable to the Ocean Pines Association.

The spring season is part of a broader effort to grow bocce in Ocean Pines and connect with leagues throughout the region. Part of that effort is an instructional camp, officially announced by Bocce Director Mike Galello on Jan. 20.

The free two-day bocce camp will

occur next month for players of various skill levels. The offering will take place Saturday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 21, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club bocce courts. Space is limited to the first 10 registrants, and the registration deadline is 5 p.m. on Feb. 6, said Galello in an email.

The camp will focus on familiarizing players with recent US Bocce Federation rule changes and developing techniques and skills for competitive matches, including throwing stance and grip, ball placement and scoring strategies, bank and raffa shots, and use of measuring devices. Equipment will be provided.

Galello said that his initial hope was to initiate just the camp, and start back up the league in the summer. However, after some "arm twisting" and teams looking forward to a third play period joining the existing summer and fall ses-

sions, he "couldn't disappoint."

Galello has said that participation and interest in the Ocean Pines Bocce League continues to grow. The inaugural summer season in 2025 attracted 100 players, and the upcoming summer session is expected to exceed that number, aiming for 130-140 participants.

While the spring session will hold bocce enthusiasts over for the time being, the 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 spans 10 weeks, with teams playing two to three matches per week.

For questions, residents may contact Galello at mgalello@aol.com for more information about the spring league, instructional camp, and upcoming seasons.

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Opinion

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

Tyson project process needs to be efficient

Palmer Gillis' company, Coastal Ventures Properties, has a few ideas for the redevelopment of the Tyson Foods properties on Old Ocean City Boulevard in Berlin. Now all he needs is permission to implement them.

Well, not exactly. He will need a great deal more than that to turn his concepts, as represented in the illustrations he presented to the Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday, into concrete propositions.

Understandably, Gillis wants to know how the commission feels about the direction he intends to go before he begins converting his vision into a real set of plans.

He and the project itself are already somewhat limited in the directions they can go, as he needs to maintain some competitive distance between his project's tenants and the enterprises that are wary of commercial growth beyond the immediate downtown area.

Since small business generally operates on small margins, that caution is understandable.

At the same time, however, if there is one business where the expression "time is money" is painfully true, it is real estate development, where the longer it takes to complete a project, the more it costs and the less the developer will make.

As Gillis told commission members, his company's goal is to make the transformation of this scar of a property into a town attraction financially feasible.

As much as town officials might wish to guide this process with their own thoughts and opinions, they also need to bear in mind that the success of this project depends on an efficient and responsible approval process.

That means there should be no cutting corners but also no erecting unnecessary obstacles.

With the Tyson property not getting any prettier, we'd say time is of the essence.

Volunteer dinner expense questioned

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2026) The allocation of funds to Ocean Pines' 2026 annual volunteer appreciation dinner drew comments and concerns at a recent budget town hall meeting, with some residents arguing that, without committees, the event should be reworked.

Each year in the spring, the Ocean Pines Association invites homeowners who donate their time to serve the community to a formal dinner at the Yacht Club, complete with a plated meal, appetizers, desserts, and an open bar. Guests of honor typically include emergency service personnel, organizations, and club members.

A large portion of the guest list typically included members of the various committees throughout Ocean Pines, such as the golf, aquatics, and communications committees. However, most of these groups were dissolved by the OPA Board of Directors last fall, with some board members arguing their existence has become unnecessary and unproductive.

That led to the question at a budget town hall on Thursday, Jan. 15, if the OPA should have a volunteer appreciation dinner in 2026 at all.

Resident Karen Kaplan asked officials at last week's meeting how much funding was budgeted for the event in the upcoming fiscal year.

OPA Director of Finance Steve Phillips responded that \$15,000 is allocated for the dinner in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026/2027.

"That is less than last year," OPA General Manager John Viola added.

Kaplan questioned the rationale for the expense, noting that the association currently has only three committees. While most of these groups were dissolved, the association opted to retain the ones it believed most necessary: the Budget and Finance Committee, the Elections Committee, and the Architectural Review Committee.

"But we don't have committees," Kaplan said. "We

only have three committees now, so how do you rationalize that?"

Viola said the event is not limited to committee members and is intended to recognize volunteers more broadly.

"It's not just for committees," he said. "The board has made that clear. It's for all volunteers. The board wants to recognize volunteers, anybody ... I have volunteers who help me on different projects."

Kaplan concluded her comments by expressing her hope that the Ocean Pines Garden Club would be included in future recognition, noting their absence in previous volunteer appreciation events.

Former board member and resident Colette Horn also addressed the issue, voicing opposition to how the dinner has been structured in recent years.

"I know a lot of people in Ocean Pines, and everybody I know volunteers," she said. "If you're going to have a volunteer dinner that honors volunteers, it's going to include almost everybody who lives in Ocean Pines. That's not happening. What's happening, it appears, is selecting certain volunteer groups to invite to what looks like an at least 50-dollar-per-plate event with an open bar."

"That's a lot of our assessment dollars going to a select

few. The Quilters by the Sea do a lot of great work. The crafters do a lot of great work; they do fundraise to give back to the association and support parks and recreation. There are a lot of volunteer groups, and hundreds and hundreds of volunteers altogether...I want to bring this up to the community that if you're going to be cherry picking who the volunteers are that you're going to honor, I just don't see that as appropriate."

Horn added that when she served on the board, the dinner was focused on committees that worked towards advancing initiatives each month, which she said she believed was an acceptable use of assessment dollars.

"I object to our assessment dollars being spent on a volunteer dinner that is based on cherry-picking certain volunteers when almost everyone who lives here really falls in that category," she said.

Viola acknowledged the concerns and said the decision ultimately rests with the board.

"I agree with you, and I know the board agrees with you also on how important volunteerism is," Viola said. "This is a board-sponsored situation. The board has this town hall to listen, and I'm sure they heard you and will discuss it among themselves."

Hometown Heroes eyed

(Jan. 22, 2026) Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645 has started looking for Worcester County Military veterans and active-duty personnel who would like to participate in the 13th Annual Hometown Heroes Banner program.

Veterans or active-duty service members can nominate themselves or be nominated by a relative or friend. Those selected will have banners with their photographs displayed on light poles on the Ocean City's legendary boardwalk this summer.

The program that began in 2014 has so far displayed banners for 439 veterans who

have served our country from World War II, Korea, the Cold War and Vietnam. Now the Lodge is adding veterans and active-duty personnel who served in the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and the War on Terror.

At no cost to the veteran, banners will display a photo of the honoree, name, rank, branch, and era of service in all branches of our armed forces. The veteran will be given the banner at a ceremony in October that the Elks hold each year to honor their service.

Nomination forms are available by emailing hometownhero2645@gmail.com.

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OP district to have choice for commissioner

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2026) Three more incumbent Worcester County Commissioners have filed for reelection, while a new candidate for the southern district seat has emerged ahead of next month's filing deadline.

Commissioners Eric Fiori, Ted Elder and Chip Bertino will appear on the ballot for the June 23 primary, according to the Maryland State Board of Elections. All three filed as Republicans. The statewide deadline for candidates to file is Feb. 24.

Fiori (District 3, West Ocean City) said his reasons for running for a second term haven't changed from his first candidacy in 2022. His top priorities are public safety, education, and water-sewer management.

"I started working here on the Shore, summers, over 30 years ago. I just enjoy helping the local community and try to do our best to let government and private sector intermingle, so we can have the best of both worlds. That's my goal," Fiori said in an interview.

Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) says his top priority in seeking a fourth term will be to continue to advocate for his Ocean Pines constituency and for the county taxpayers' interest.

"That's the lens through which I see issues, and I will continue doing the

same thing," he said in an interview. "It's very humbling to have the opportunity to do that for the community, and I hope that I'm given the chance to do it for another four years."

Elder, the current board president, told OC Today-Dispatch he'd been undecided for a long while before finally deciding to commit to a fourth term after getting community support.

If reelected, Elder (District 4, Western) plans to double down on a fiscally conservative agenda and to "keep the votes going in the right direction."

"I've been kind of afraid for the county that our great financial situation that we have, compared to the state and other counties, would be in jeopardy," he told OC Today-Dispatch. "I've been worried a little bit about losing our AAA bond rating that we worked so hard to get. I know last year some [commissioners] wanted to spend every penny we had and even go into reserves - I was a little leery of that."

Fiori is running unopposed at this time. Bertino is being challenged by fellow Republican Joe Schanno.

Elder will face a challenger in the GOP primary, Berlin Councilman Steve Green.

Green, an editor of this newspaper, originally filed last summer with the Worcester County Board of Elections

as an unaffiliated candidate with the expectation that he'd skip the primary and go right to the Nov. 3 general election.

However, the Maryland State Board of Elections told him that was a mistake on the board's part - because state rules require candidates who choose not to affiliate with a political party to solicit a minimum of 250 signatures from district voters to get on the ballot.

Green opted instead to file as a Republican and skip the petition process.

"I was looking forward to running as an unaffiliated candidate because it represents who I am. It best reflects my positions, but Maryland's closed primary system does not allow it. I look forward to officially launching my campaign in the coming weeks," he said in a statement last week.

Two other incumbent commissioners who already filed have already filed for reelection include Diana Purnell (District 2, Central) and Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City). Both are registered as Democrats. Mitrecic is unopposed, while Purnell will face opponent Roxie Dennis of Berlin, also a Democ-

rat.

On the southern end of the county, Pocomoke-area incumbent Caryn Abbott, a first-term Republican, has not filed. Two newcomers are gunning for her District 1 seat: Wayne Taylor filed his candidacy on Monday, while Shawn Shockley filed in November. Both are Republicans.

"I've always been a servant of the community and that's what I plan on continue going," Taylor said in an interview. "In my personal circle, I've always had opinions and things. Don't talk about it, be about it. I thought about it for a good while, and I figured, well, now's the time."

When asked what issues would be priorities for him if elected, Taylor said funding for education and public safety, and opposition to offshore wind.

The board's longest-serving commissioner won't be seeking reelection. Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville), first elected in 2010, says he's decided not to run for a fifth term. So far, the only candidate who has filed for the seat is former Worcester County school superintendent Lou Taylor.

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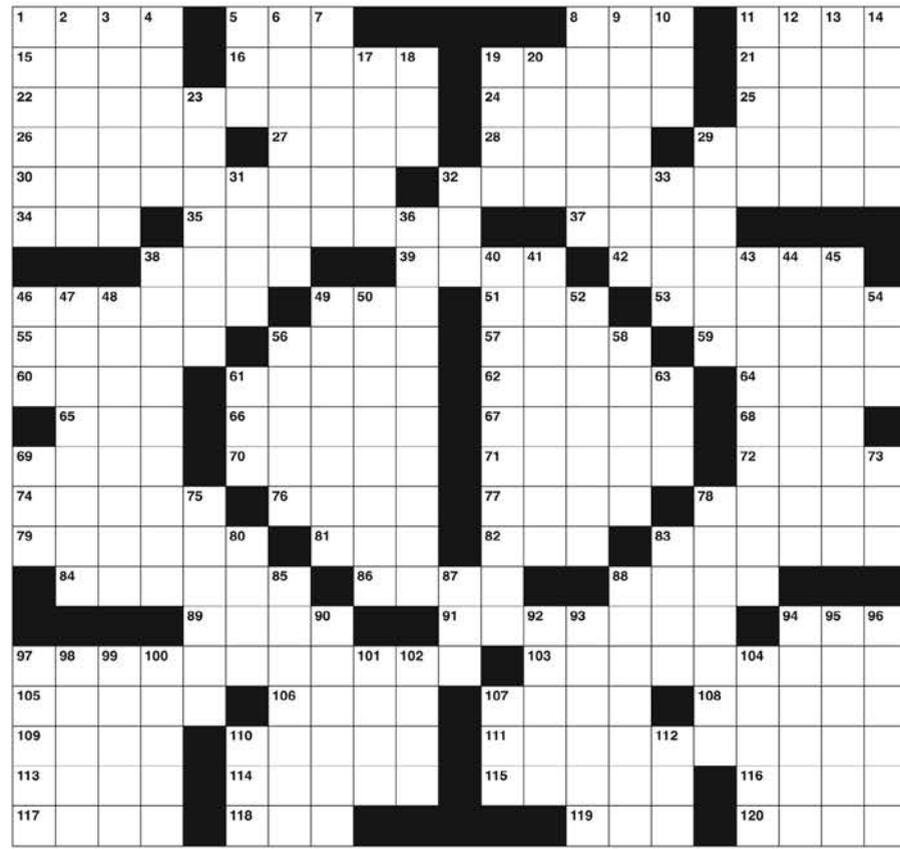
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Puzzles

IT'S ALL GREEK BY DYLAN SCHIFF / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Dylan Schiff is a middle school science teacher in Millsboro, Del. This is his fifth crossword for The Times and the first to include "grid art": The pattern of black squares in the middle of the diagram is a hint to the puzzle's theme. Dylan's favorite part of the construction is the fortuitous stacking of 29- and 32-Across. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tennis superstar Nadal, familiarly
 - 5 "Wicked" director Jon M. _____
 - 8 Unspecified degree
 - 11 Pack (down)
 - 15 "Sign me up!"
 - 16 Bygone carrier that had a fleet of "Clippers"
 - 19 Really like
 - 21 Woodwind related to the cor anglais
 - 22 Article of sports equipment that typically has two rubber sheets of different colors
 - 24 Delivery option
 - 25 Sound from a ragdoll
 - 26 Division signs, more formally
 - 27 Word sung three times in a row in "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"
 - 28 Et _____ (and others)
 - 29 Games on some kids' menus
 - 30 Boss at a blaze
 - 32 Game on some kids' menus
 - 34 "King Kong" actress Wray
 - 35 What might pop up from time to time?
 - 37 Item in a numismatist's collection
 - 38 "S.N.L." alum Nora
- DOWN**
- 1 Take to the cleaners
 - 2 Class with frogs
 - 3 Dressy clothes
 - 4 Point of view
 - 5 Filing pro
 - 6 Roman emperor with a namesake wall
 - 7 Hits Ctrl+Z to fix
 - 8 Error message on a Blu-ray display
 - 9 Benedict Arnold's offense
 - 10 Practice witchcraft on
 - 11 Birthstone after opal
 - 12 Filled with activity
 - 13 Mushroom often added to cream sauces
 - 14 Inherently
 - 17 In the air
 - 18 _____ Gala
 - 19 Way off in the distance
 - 20 Classical Greek precinct with a noted oracle
 - 23 Imagine
 - 29 Randall who created the webcomic "xkcd"
 - 31 Sharpen
 - 32 _____Magnon
 - 33 Apt name of 12 popes
 - 36 Felt someone's pain
 - 38 Prank of doorbell ringing and running
 - 40 Gradually entering, as a hot tub
 - 41 Modern social media craze
 - 43 Melodic way of speaking
 - 44 Turn off
 - 45 Less laissez-faire
- ACROSS**
- 39 Champagne giant
 - 42 Patient watchers
 - 46 Birthstone before opal
 - 49 Longtime NASCAR sponsor
 - 51 Ladybug's prey
 - 53 Debaters who use deceptive arguments
 - 55 Stag
 - 56 Oscar-winning actress Loren
 - 57 Lower-right button on YouTube ads
 - 59 _____ nous (between us)
 - 60 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"
 - 61 Seduce
 - 62 "In my estimation ..."
 - 64 Rubber end of a golf club
 - 65 Ninth inning, usually
 - 66 Flooded
 - 67 Iridescent jewelry material
 - 68 Rug cleaner, for short
 - 69 Lead-in to aging or anxiety
 - 70 Two-time capital of the Mughal Empire
 - 71 Biting pests
 - 72 Follower of catch or latch
 - 74 Former times
 - 76 Cameron who voiced Princess Fiona in the "Shrek" movies
 - 77 Flo Rida title sung before the words "just a little"
 - 78 Big cat hybrid
 - 79 No Shave November growth, informally
 - 81 Mimic
- DOWN**
- 82 Connecticut governor Lamont
 - 83 N.B.A. team that plays at Gainbridge Fieldhouse
 - 84 Compound that ripens bananas
 - 86 Computer menu heading
 - 88 Owlsh, in a way
 - 89 Brontë heroine
 - 91 Bit of entertainment for a morning commute, maybe
 - 94 A-one ... or an "A" worth one
 - 97 Beachy footwear
 - 103 "I'm fine, but thanks anyway!"
 - 105 Literally, "the god"
 - 106 Provocative
 - 107 Parcel of land
 - 108 Classic origami design
 - 109 Medallions might be seen in them
 - 110 _____ Games, event first held in 70-Across
 - 111 Tupac and Eminem, for two
 - 113 Give off
 - 114 Like an authoritarian
 - 115 _____ Montoya, "The Princess Bride" swordsman
 - 116 Telly channel, with "the"
 - 117 Well grounded
 - 118 Hit title for Abba or Rihanna
 - 119 Email category
 - 120 Website with a "Craft Supplies & Tools" page



- 46 Cutter with teeth
- 47 Make an enemy of
- 48 Identifies digitally?
- 49 Part of the Horn of Africa
- 50 Perfect condition
- 52 Throw out
- 54 Leaf-turning mo.
- 56 Put in stitches
- 58 Subject of an R.S.V.P.
- 61 Tiny amount
- 63 "Absolutely!"
- 69 Tough H.S. classes
- 73 Hosp. surgical sites
- 75 "You've gotta be kidding!"
- 78 Swan song
- 80 Mononymous singer who popularized New Celtic music
- 83 "Baloney!"
- 85 Birth name of Che Guevara
- 87 Computer addresses, for short
- 88 Lightbulb measure
- 90 Swirling currents
- 92 Intelligent sea mammal
- 93 Composer of the "Raindrop" prelude
- 94 How china is often sold
- 95 Short adventure tales
- 96 Barely manages to get through
- 97 Goes up against
- 98 Beast domesticated by the Incas
- 99 Longtime TV personality Regis
- 100 Tomato product
- 101 Culture medium
- 102 Country singer Loretta
- 104 "Survivor" group
- 107 Greek letter that resembles an "I" atop an "O," as seen eight times in this puzzle
- 110 Jerk
- 112 Period in the periodic table



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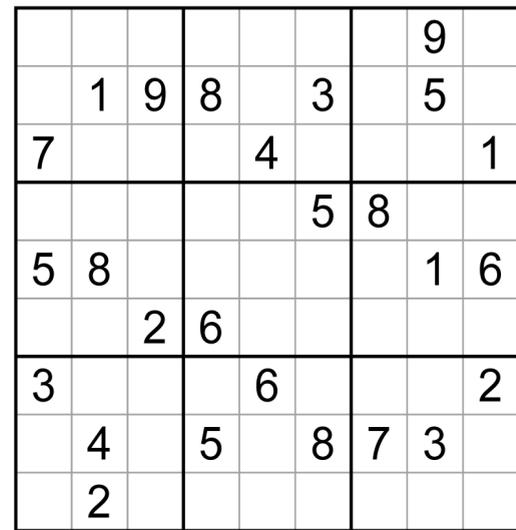
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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 50

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



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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. 22

PLAY TIME

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

STORY TIME: 'DUCK AT THE DOOR'

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

CLAY DIY: CANDLEHOLDER

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m. Create and craft with hair dry clay. Registration necessary: 410-957-0878. worcesterlibrary.org

LET'S MAKE ... BOOK VASES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Upcycle those old books into a beautiful and unique way to display greenery throughout your home. All materials provided. Register: 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org.

IN CONCERT: NOTES ON THE BEACH

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Vincent Varrassi and Jeff Cooper celebrate music from the 50s and 60s with artists such as Elvis, Chuck Berry and Fats Domino with a little Motown and the Beatles. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

PAGE ONE, VIRTUAL WRITING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Held via Zoom. Learn tips and tricks of writing fiction, nonfiction and poetry while offering critiques and receiving feedback from others. Register: 410-632-3495. 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. 23

PLAY TIME

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

CAST 26 CUPPING DEMONSTRATION

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m. Experience an informative and fun coffee tast-

ing experience with Cast 26 Coffee. Registration required: 410-957-0878. 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

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. 24

COCOA AND WINTER CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m. Join in for a cup of warm cocoa, coloring and crafts. For families. 410-957-0878

ARTIST ROUNDTABLE

The Art Collective at The Factory, 16 S. Main St., Suite D, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. See the new space and learn about upcoming opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61584689881220>, artcollectiveatthefactory@gmail.com

KIDS DANCE ALONG

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Beat the winter slump with some dance-along videos featuring popular songs. Dress comfortably. Best of ages 4 years and older. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

GLOBAL GOODIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Taste test snacks from around the world. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, 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. 25

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 10 a.m. Rev. Janice

Herman, guest preacher "Victorious Women: Rising, Reigning, Renewed" All are welcome. 410-641-0270

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. 26

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM - WARSHIP MYSTERY

Register before Jan. 26 for the Warship Virtual Escape Room and get your invitation to help solve the mystery. Get a link that will be active Jan. 28-31. 410-632-3495, worcesterlibrary.org

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: SNOWMEN

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

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 Champion, 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

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEETING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9:30 a.m. Hear members of the League of Women

Voters speak about the organization. Open to the public. <https://dwcmd.org>

Tues., Jan. 27

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

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

SENSORY STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and sensory play for kids of all abilities. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: FOLK AND FAIRY TALES

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

AUTHOR TALK: 'THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE FATE OF THE WORLD'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. Historian Dr. Richard Bell talks about his new book that investigates The American Revolution and how it was a cataclysm that pulled in participants from around the globe. 410-208-4014

NEEDLE FELTING WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about the properties of wool and needle felting with 4-H educator Barbara Barga and create your own piece to take home. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, 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

Continued on Page 20

Calendar

Continued from Page 19
 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., Jan. 28

COFFEE & CRAFTS: COLONIAL CRAFT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in every month for a new craft. Materials provided. Limit 30. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-7 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles and leave with new-to-you puzzles. Don't have a puzzle to exchange but still want one? That's OK too. All puzzles must be complete in their original box. 410-641-0650

CARDBOARD GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Make a gingerbread house using cardboard, cotton balls and all kinds of other crafting materials. For families. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

THE LIVES OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. You know

the importance of the document, but what happened to these men and their families afterwards? Practice your own signature using quills and fountain pens. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878

SPEED-FRIENDING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:30 p.m. Join in for an evening of conversation to make new connections in a speed-dating format. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.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

TOWN OF BERLIN RESTAURANT WEEK

Held Jan. 19-26. Pick up an entry card at The Berlin Welcome Center. Dine at three different participating restaurants and get your card stamped. Drop your

card in the Entry Box located in the foyer of the Berlin Welcome Center. Random drawing for the winner.

FREE TAX PREP

AARP is offering free tax preparations to the public. AARP Foundation Tax Aides will be available at the following libraries: Mondays in Ocean Pines; Wednesdays, Berlin; Fridays, Pocomoke City; and Saturdays, Ocean City. By appointment only: 443-584-5661, aarp-foundation.org/taxaide.

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER 50/50 FUNDRAISER

Drawings are held every Thursday at 8 p.m. Ticket sales open Thursdays at 8:05 p.m. and close the following Thursday at 7:59 p.m. One winner takes home 50% of the total jackpot and the remainder supports the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Tickets: https://md.5050raffle.org/give/mdfire/50-50-raffles/md5050/charities/ocean-pines/checkout

BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON CAPITALS VS. CAROLINA HURRICANES REMATCH GAME

Held Jan. 31 at the Capital One Arena in Washington, DC. Cost is \$130 and includes transportation, game ticket and food package. Bus departs Ocean Pines Community Center at 1 p.m. Game time is 5 p.m. Tickets: OP Recreation & Parks, 410-641-7052.



OPEN HOUSES

Jan. 22 - Jan. 29



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family from	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 10am-2pm	632 Gulf Stream Dr. Montego Bay, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$729,000	Scott Holdren/Larry Holdren Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	204 S Heron Drive, Unit 202G, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$575,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	12048 Pimlico Lane, Glen Riddle, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$949,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	424 Bayshore Drive #4101, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$295,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	124 Camelot Circle, Ocean Pines	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$414,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	11500 Coastal Hwy #1614, Sea Watch, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$579,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	35 Hatteras Street, Ocean Pines	2BR/3BA	Townhome	\$389,000	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 2-4pm	4 Preakness Drive, Ocean Pines	5BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$922,800	Power of 2 Team/ Hileman Real Estate
Sunday Noon-2pm	2108 Points Reach Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate

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Call **410-723-6397** or email classifieds@octodaydispatch.com
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Large unit with 5 individual
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MISC./OTHER

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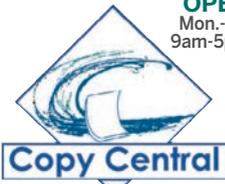
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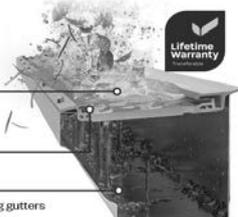
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