

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Fun is Blooming in Ocean Pines!



Easter/Spring Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt Sat., April 4 | 11am-2pm White Horse Park Pavilion | ALL AGES. FREE EVENT
Easter Egg Hunt & Pool Party Fri., April 3 | 5-8pm Sports Core Pool | SWIM MEMBER: \$8, RESIDENT: \$10, NON-RESIDENT \$12



For more information: OP Recreation & Parks: 410-641-7052 | Sports Core Pool: 410-641-5255 | oceanpines.org

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

MARCH 26, 2026

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY • OCEAN PINES

FREE



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM JOHNSON

YEAR'S FIRST BORN ON ISLAND

Assateague Island National Seashore has a new resident as Johnny's Star and Dewey welcomed their new foal this month. The colt is pictured with his mom Johnny's Star last week.

Wastewater must have motivated microbes

Study in Pines to determine if warmth helps bacteria remove nitrogen from waste

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) When hungry microbes living in sewage treatment tanks get too cold, they go to sleep and can't do their job: eating up harmful nitrogen compounds to prevent them from polluting local waterways.

That's why the Worcester County Commissioners last Tuesday unanimously approved a performance study for the Ocean Pines wastewater treatment plant. The goal of the 16-week study is to help the public works department understand how better to keep sewage tanks warmer after a winter of historically frigid conditions, among other outcomes.

"I don't think I'd be a good steward of the plant if I said, 'OK, well, let's just let things keep going the way we're going and hope for the best.' We've got to take a look and see, are there things that we can be doing better?" Public Works Director Dallas Baker told the commissioners.

Study results would show not only whether the plant needs insulation wraps to keep treatment tanks warmer in winter, but whether performance could be improved by additional mixing or oxidation, according to Baker.

The no-bid contract would go to the
See WARM Page 7

(Almost) everything must go

With Town Hall about to be renovated, Berlin officials to sell what they don't need

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) As the Town of Berlin prepares to vacate Town Hall for upcoming renovations, officials this week approved plans to label a wide range of items as surplus property and offer them to the public through a sale aligned with the town-

wide yard sale scheduled for April 4.

At Monday's Town Council meeting, Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said staff are still identifying items to be included. Furniture to be added to the sale consists of file cabinets, tables, chairs, and other miscellaneous goods.

"Usually, we like to have a detailed list, but unfortunately, every day we're coming across things and going, 'Oh, we forgot about interior doors,' or whatever," Bohlen said. "The best we can do at this point is

say we are cataloging things as we go, and the intent is to hold a yard sale, or along with the town yard sale."

The town plans to open Town Hall to the public for a walk-through preview on Thursday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., allowing potential buyers to view available items ahead of the community yard sale scheduled for that weekend.

A social media post announcing the event states that those interested in touring the Town Hall should call
See TOWN Page 6

WE BUY GOLD & SILVER
Kozma Jewelry & Coins

We Pay the Highest Prices for Gold & Silver Coins
Gold Jewelry • Silver Jewelry • Silverware
D.A. KOZMA JEWELERS RT 50 & 611 in the
FOOD LION SHOPPING CENTER WOC
410-213-7505 • DAKOZMAJEWELERS.COM

A Place To Call Home



JOHN B. PARSONS HARRISON SENIOR LIVING



Assisted Living | Respite | Memory Care
Salisbury's Historic "Mansion on the Hill"

Voted Best Assisted Living in Wicomico County 2024 and 2025.

Safety is our Priority!

Newly Installed - Insperien, an industry Leading Artificial Intelligence Camera for fall prevention and care tracking!



Schedule a tour to see our historic renovations at
HarrisonSeniorLiving.com

300 LEMMON HILL LANE | SALISBURY, MD | (410) 742-1432



Democratic challengers file for Worcester County seats

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) A months-long push by Maryland Democrats to run candidates in every state legislative race has resulted in new challengers filing for seats representing Worcester County.

While Feb. 24 was the filing deadline for individual candidates to register for the June 12 primary, state election rules allow party central committees to add new candidates within 10 business days, a deadline that landed on March 10.

It means incumbent lower shore legislators who had been unopposed will now face an Election Day opponent.

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza will be challenged for her District 38 seat in the general election by Democrat Lino Cressotti of Ocean Pines.

If elected, he hopes to be focused on the concerns of working families, small businesses, and rural communities – which he said are “overlooked” in Annapolis.

“We need leadership that listens to residents and works collaboratively to deliver real results,” he said in a statement. “I will work with colleagues across Maryland to advance practical solutions that strengthen our local economy, support families, and ensure the Eastern Shore has a seat at the table when decisions are made that affect our future.”

Carozza, a Republican, said she’s “humbled and grateful” to represent Maryland’s Coast and the lower shore counties of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset.

“I believe public officials must earn and keep the trust of the people they represent. I will continue to work hard, day in and day out, on behalf of all my constituents, regardless of whether I am opposed or not in the 2026 election,” she said in a statement.

After serving one term in the House of Delegates, Carozza narrowly defeated incumbent Democratic Sen. Jim Mathias in the 2018 election. While unopposed in her 2022 Senate primary, Carozza went on to defeat Democratic challenger Michelle Gregory with 66% of the vote.

On the House side, incumbent Del. Wayne Hartman, who won’t have any competition in the primary, will be opposed in the general election by Democrat Laurie Anne Brittingham of Ocean Pines.

Hartman hasn’t faced any general election challenger since his first run for the House in 2018, when he defeated three other primary challengers. When re-elected in 2022, he again went unopposed in both the primary and the general election for his District 38C seat.

Hartman in an interview noted that

he filed for election nearly a year ago, at the close of the 2025 legislative session “out of a desire to serve the constituents.”

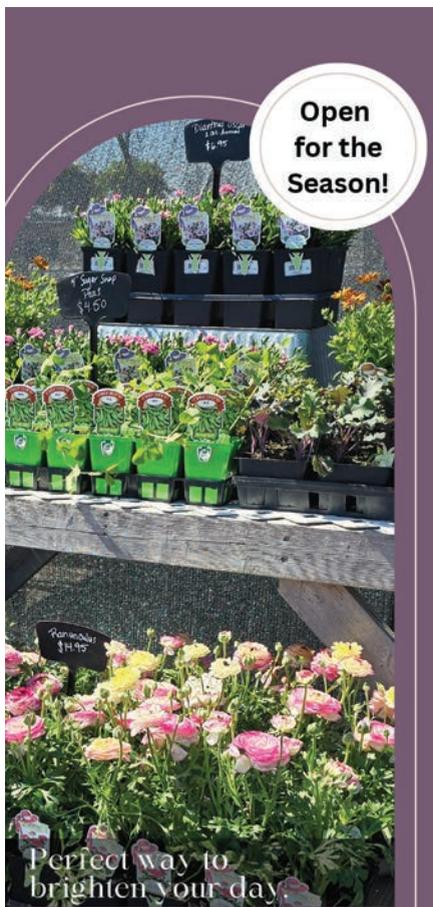
“It was a goal of the state party to have someone in every race, so it did not come as a surprise,” he said. “We’ve had one-party rule in Maryland for over 100 years. I think it’s important that we have someone up here fighting against offshore wind... against Gov. Moore’s tax increases.

“In my eight years serving in Annapolis, I feel I’ve represented all the people in my district, whether they’re Republican, Independent, or Democrat. When I get a request for a meeting in my office, regardless of their affiliation, I take it. I’m here to serve all of them,” he added.

Brittingham did not respond via email for a request for comment. She is also a candidate for the District 2 seat on the Worcester County Democratic Central Committee. State election law does permit dual candidacy for party office.

The Maryland Democratic Party since October has been laboring to recruit and run candidates in every state legislative race for the Nov. 3 general election. The party says it hasn’t hap-

See DEMOCRATS Page 6



Open for the Season!

Perfect way to brighten your day.

VISIT STRING AND PETALS NURSERY TODAY!

String and Petals Nursery
Located at 9040 Worcester Hwy
in the Historic Town of Berlin
(410) 861-0084
stringandpetals.com



Captain's Table

OCEAN CITY'S HOME FOR STEAKS, SEAFOOD & COCKTAILS!

OFF-SEASON SPECIALS | DINE-IN ONLY

TUESDAY

EARLY BIRD 20% OFF BEFORE 6PM

WEDNESDAY

50% OFF BOTTLED WINE

THURSDAY

COMPLIMENTARY DESSERT WITH ENTRÉE PURCHASE



HAPPY HOUR
TUESDAY-SATURDAY 4-6 PM
SUN & MON ALL NIGHT

FIND THE LATEST MENUS & SPECIALS AT
CAPTAINSTABLEOC.COM

15th Street & Oceanside
410.289.7192

Funds transferred for Henry's Mill

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Berlin Town Council on Monday approved reallocating \$450,000 in fiscal year 2026 street capital funding to address deteriorating conditions on Henry's Mill Drive, now considered the "worst roadway" in the Town of Berlin.

Jimmy Charles, the municipality's public works director, told the council Monday night that sections of the road became impassable after cold weather caused the pavement to buckle.

"Back in February, a portion of two sections of the road on Henry's Mill Drive after the thaw buckled up, deteriorated, and created an impassable," Charles said.

Now, the town will turn its sights on a comprehensive repair effort, primarily consisting of milling and resurfacing the roadway. While no major underground utility work is anticipated, public works teams will evaluate and address issues with existing storm drain piping in problem areas.

"There are potholes in areas that need to be addressed where the storm piping is crossing, so it's just to fix some of the storm piping, not doing any new storm work," Charles maintained.

A staff report adds that "multiple

sections of Henry's Mill Drive exhibit advanced roadway failure," including extensive potholing, elevated and misaligned manhole covers, raised water meter covers, and "alligator" cracking, indicating failure of the roadbed.

The report notes that "based on observed conditions, a grind-and-repave project is required. In addition, localized removal and replacement of unsuitable subgrade material may be necessary in identified soft spots to stabilize the roadway and prevent recurring failure."

Funding for the project will be used with dollars transferred from street capital previously designated for work on Branch Street, Schoolfield Street, Flower Street, and Washington Street.

According to the staff report, each of these locations requires underground utility work before any roadway improvements can occur. As these utility projects are likely not to be completed until the late 2026-2027 budget timeframe, any roadway construction initiatives are infeasible in the near term.

Charles confirmed the town intends to add these streets back into the next budget cycle after the reallocation.

The project will be put out for bid through a request for proposals (RFP), with officials estimating it

could take three to six months before construction begins.

Residents who attended the meeting voiced concerns about access and timing.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall confirmed that throughout the process, "messaging is definitely part of the plan."

Linda Palmer, a Henry's Mill Drive citizen, urged officials to provide advance notice so residents can plan for parking and access disruptions.

"We have a lot of people who park cars on the roads," she said. "We need advanced warning about what to do about that."

Others asked the town to consider academic schedules, as lots of parents in the area drive their children to school and will need to get in and out of the roadway.

It was also suggested that the construction be coordinated in a way where one side is worked on at a time, creating a path for vehicles to get around.

Nicholas Bradley, with the engineering consulting firm Davis, Bowen & Friedel, maintained that in-and-out points would be a priority, as "access is the primary concern."

The council unanimously approved the funding reallocation, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

County plans for over \$17 million in new spending

Worcester dives into budget details for fiscal year 2027

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) More than \$17 million in projected new spending for fiscal year 2027 is putting Worcester County's operating budget \$3 million short of what it would collect in revenue.

Budget officer Kim Reynolds last Tuesday told the Worcester County Commissioners that the county's projected operating budget for FY 2027 is \$299 million, a 6% increase.

Proposed spending comes to \$302 million, which is an increase of \$20.6 million, or 7% over last year.

Two-thirds of projected revenue, or \$200 million, would come from property taxes. Another \$53 million, or 17% of revenue, comes from income taxes.

Other projected revenue comes from a combination of other taxes, state and federal grants, permitting, service charges, and interest on accounts.

Officials are required to adopt a balanced budget. To reconcile any See COUNTY Page 7

Mention This Ad for 1/2 OFF Application Fee!

Eastern Shore Assisted Living Facilities - Our Homes Are Here For You...



• Assisted Living • Memory Care
A Home-Like Setting with Peace of Mind

We Offer:

- 24 Hour Awake Staff
- All Private Rooms & Baths
- Three Home-Cooked Meals a Day!
- All Inclusive Pricing
- In-House Doctor Visits
- VA and MAC Subsidy Approved
- Respite Care and Hospice Care

Let us help you navigate through this difficult decision.

Call 443-256-4871 Today for more information or to schedule a visit to our on-site showroom.

1135 Ocean Parkway • Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811 • 443-256-4871





TidalHealth Community Pharmacy locations

Delaware

Seaford

801 Middleford Road
Seaford, DE 19973
☎ 302-297-2420

Maryland

Berlin

9733 Healthway Drive
Berlin, MD 21811
☎ 410-641-9240

Ocean Pines North

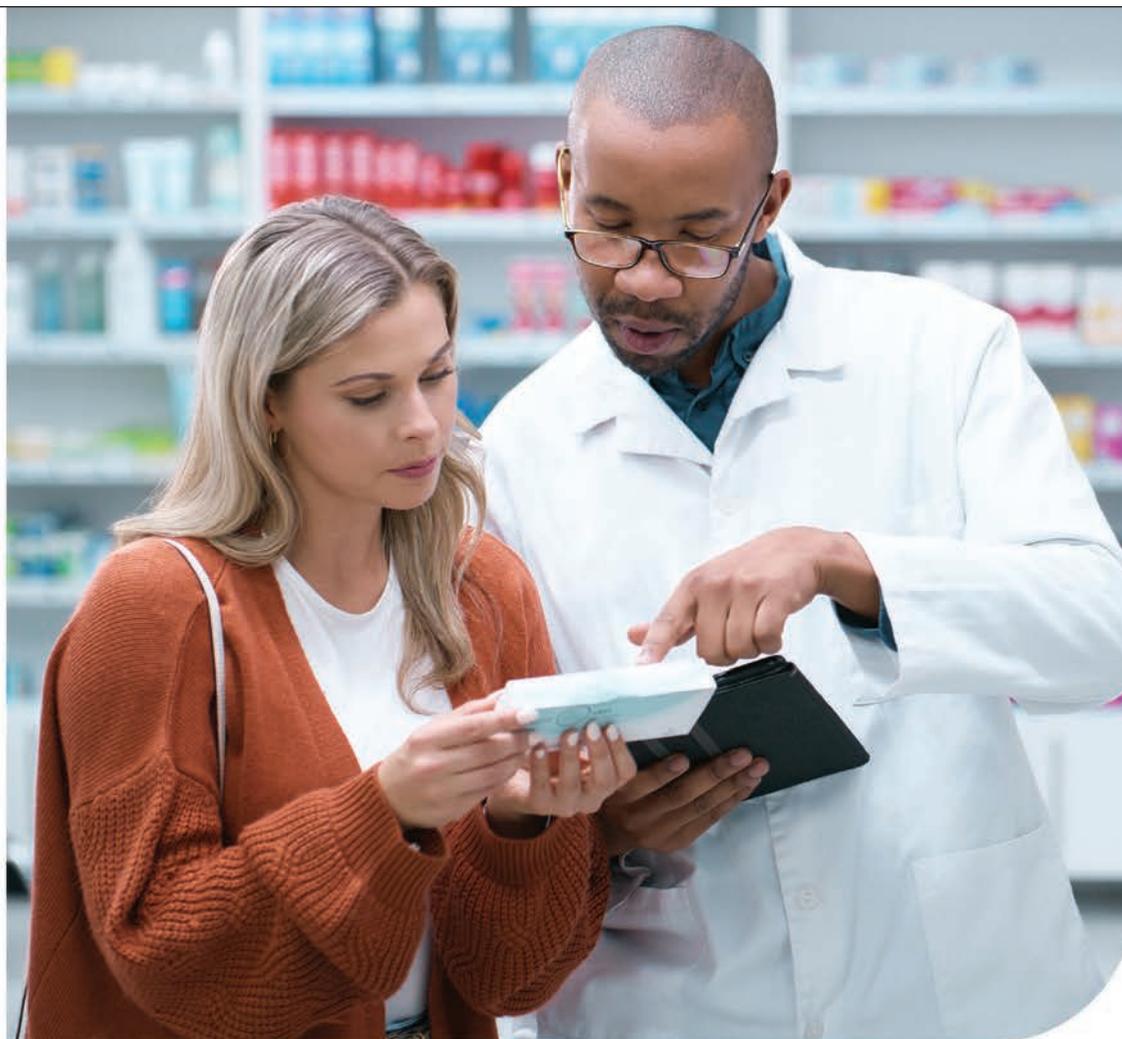
11101 Cathage Road
Berlin, MD 21811
☎ 410-543-4769

Ocean Pines South

10614 Racetrack Road
Suite 7
Berlin, MD 21811
☎ 410-629-6240

Salisbury

100 E. Carroll St.
Salisbury, MD 21801
☎ 410-543-4798



New name, same great service

TidalHealth Home Scripts and AGHRx RediScripts are now TidalHealth Community Pharmacy. You'll still see the same friendly faces and get the same trusted, personal care you count on, now together under one name.

Refills made easy. Expert help close to home.

Visit tidalhealth.org/easyrefills



Town Hall yard sale first-come, first-served

Continued from Page 1

410-641-4314 or email mbohlen@berlinmd.gov to schedule a time to view the surplus property. However, the April 4 sale will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Viewing the articles on Thursday does not guarantee purchase on Saturday.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said the effort is designed both to clear out the building and to capitalize on increased foot traffic during the event.

“We are trying to maximize the fact that community yard salers will be out,” Tyndall said.

The mayor added that costs will be flexible, but that the municipality will still aim to get the best price. However, he maintained that whatever cannot be repurposed by the town and is not sold by the end of the day will be thrown away.

“We are trying to get the best price, but we also don’t want to have to take it to the landfill at the end of the day, which is what we have to do,” Tyndall said. “Make an offer, as long as it’s reasonable. If it’s \$1 and we think we can get \$10, we’ll try to get \$10. But we also know that public works will have to take everything we can’t sell to the landfill. And then we’re going to have to pay to get rid of it.”

Councilmember Dean Burrell expressed his concern about under-selling usable items.

“I don’t want things walking out that have some value for just a few dollars,” he said. “...The value is what someone is willing to pay.”

Officials emphasized that not everything will be sold or thrown out. Items in good condition or with future use will be retained and either reused

in the renovated Town Hall or repurposed for other departments.

“If a door can be reused, we are saving it; it will not be labeled as surplus...the chairs for the council meeting, they’re being retained. We are trying to reuse where we can,” Tyndall said.

The town and all interior furniture must vacate the building by April 6 to allow contractors to begin work.

Furthermore, resident Carol Rose asked that the municipality, where possible, maintain items to keep costs low when furnishing the renovated Town Hall.

“Please be careful with our money,” she said. “...people cannot afford to have their taxes go up anymore.”

Tyndall responded that the town is working closely with its architect to

evaluate what can be reused and is taking a careful approach to spending.

“We spend money with the utmost diligence, as if it were coming from our own pockets,” he said. “Because ultimately it is, from our own taxes.”

The council unanimously approved the surplus declaration and sale plan, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

The effort comes as Berlin moves forward with a major Town Hall renovation project. In February, the council awarded a \$3.15 million construction contract to the Keller Brothers for the initiative.

The project includes building-system upgrades and the addition of an elevator. Staff is required to temporarily vacate the building while construction is underway.

Democrats to run in Worcester

Continued from Page 3

pened since 1974. “For too long there were districts where Democrats did not always field candidates. That changes now,” said party chair Stuart Pittman in a March 11 statement. “By organizing in every corner of Maryland, we are rebuilding the party in places where we have lost ground and creating opportunities to compete, win seats, and grow our movement for years to come.”

Locally, the only county commissioner race where the Worcester County Democratic Central Committee added a candidate was in Ocean Pines. Vicky Wallace made her campaign for the District 5 seat official March 9.

She’ll go on to face the winner of the GOP primary, either incumbent Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino or challenger Joseph

Schanno, Jr.

No other local races were affected after the March 10 party candidate deadline, and other local incumbents for non-legislative positions will continue to run unopposed.

They include State’s Attorney Kris Heiser, Clerk of the Circuit Court Susan Braniecki and Register of Wills Terri Westcott.

No Democrats filed for Worcester County Sheriff. The winner of the GOP primary between incumbent Sheriff Matt Crisafulli and challenger Jeffrey Buhrt will take the seat.

Elections for the Worcester County Board of Education are nonpartisan and therefore unaffected after the Feb. 24 filing deadline for individual candidates.

The next milestone in the 2026 election cycle is the April 21 due date for spring campaign finance reports.

ACCURATE ASPHALT

PAVING ■ SEAL COATING
TAR & CHIP ■ COMMERCIAL
& RESIDENTIAL

ELITE SERVICE
HomeAdvisor

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Licensed & Insured ■ MHC 05-136088
410.697.3167 ■ 4th Generation
www.accurate-asphalt.com
info@accurate-asphalt.com

Jean Marie OC Dance Studio

Hop On In and Join Us
For Spring Adult Dance Classes!
Summer Dance Registration
Opens March 26!
(For All Ages)

Private Studio LOCATED IN SOUTH POINT

443-994-8561

Voted a Favorite Business Owner

Visit www.Jeanmarietdancestudio.com for full schedule, pricing & registration!

County to pass budget by June

Continued from Page 4

revenue shortfall, the commissioners can make cuts to projected spending, increase taxes, or tap into budget stabilization funds.

Education is the county's largest outlay, representing about 45% of total expenditures. Last year, the county gave the school board a record \$113.8 million in funding.

For this year, the Worcester County Board of Education is asking the county for \$126 million, including a \$2.7 million more for healthcare costs and salary increases of \$6.6 million.

That payroll bump would go toward a \$4,000 raise for teachers and support staff, as well as a step increase for eligible employees.

Teacher raises were a huge point of contention in last year's budget process, with some commissioners butting heads over whether to account for raises in a fully funded school budget.

Raises are part of the school board's obligation to meet a state-mandated \$60,000 salary minimum, based on the state's education reform legislation known as the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Debt service on school construction and other projects, totaling \$7.7 million, is calculated separately from the school's operating budget.

Overall, the school board's projected FY 2027 budget of \$157.4 million is a total of state, county, grants, and other funding.

Other requested county expenditures by department include \$22.2 million for the sheriff's office, \$16 million for the county jail, and \$10 million toward the health department. Another \$15.3 million is budgeted for grants to volunteer fire companies.

Notably, the county still has not released the final tally on its budget surplus from fiscal 2026, a figure estimated in the millions thanks to the revenue spike.

Last year's round of property tax assessments grew the county's assessable base by more than \$4 billion, leading to \$11.7 million in new revenue.

Along with increases from income tax and fees, the county's FY 2026 windfall prompted the commissioners to lower the property tax by three cents. They also lowered the homestead property tax credit from 3% to 0%, which will take effect July 1.

Moving forward, additional budget hearings are scheduled for April and May. The commissioners will hold a public budget hearing May 5 at 6 pm in the county government building in Snow Hill. A budget must be approved by June 2.

OCEAN CITY SELF STORAGE

YOUR GO-TO STORAGE FACILITY IN BISHOPVILLE!

12059 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD., BISHOPVILLE, MD 21813

FEATURES INCLUDE

- CONTACTLESS SUPPORT: MOVE, RENT, & PAY ONLINE OR BY PHONE. ON-SITE FULL-TIME STAFF AVAILABLE DURING BUSINESS HOURS.
- MONTH TO MONTH LEASES
- 6 AM - 10 PM DAILY ACCESS
- KEY PAD ACCESS
- CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS AVAILABLE
- MOVING SUPPLIES & HIGH SECURITY LOCKS AVAILABLE

SPRING SPECIAL!

TWO MONTHS RENT FREE*

*MENTION THIS AD IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PROMOTIONAL OFFER.

(410) 352-5404

INFO@OCEANCITYMDSTORAGE.COM

OCEANCITYMDSTORAGE.COM

Warm bacteria do better job

Continued from Page 1

Salisbury engineering firm of George, Miles & Buhr, based on GMB's success with design revisions to the Riddle Farm sewage plant. Its \$18,500 cost would come from the plant's enterprise fund, not the county's general fund, according to Baker.

Baker told the commissioners that the issue isn't the plant's overall performance, but that the facility has struggled to meet its permitting requirements from the Maryland Department of the Environment for discharging into the St. Martin River.

It comes down to state regulations about preventing nitrates – a nutrient that's a byproduct of sewage treatment – from reaching waterways and becoming a pollutant.

Maryland's sewage treatment facilities are required to clean discharged wastewater to very low levels because high nitrate levels in waterways can contribute to harmful algae blooms. According to state rules on "enhanced nutrient removal," sewage discharge can't have more than 3 milligrams of total nitrogen per liter.

For sewage treatment, tanks are filled with "good" bacteria to eat up nitrates, turning them into harmless nitrogen gas.

But when temperatures are too cold, the good bacteria can become sluggish or even fall dormant, leaving

nitrates unchecked.

Baker says that's what's been happening at the Ocean Pines plant: this past winter's freezing temperatures proved too cold for the good bacteria to do their job inside the above-ground steel tanks.

He also noted that, when the Ocean Pines facility opened 30 years ago, the plant's minimum state-mandated operating temperature was 12 degrees Celsius – about 54 degrees Fahrenheit.

However, thanks to improvements in technology, a treatment tank's operating temperature can now drop by a few degrees, so the microbes doing the work are able to survive and thrive in cold weather, Baker said.

Notably, sewage plants that fail to meet permitted nitrate levels are subject to an annual bay restoration fee of \$60 per household, sometimes called a "flush tax."

But because the Ocean Pines facility is one of the few plants in Maryland – and the only one among the county's nine sewage plants – that was not constructed using state or federal funds, its users are exempt from that fee, Baker said.

However, that exemption falls away should the Ocean Pines plant fail to meet its permit standards, based on a one-year average of nitrate levels.

You Take Pride in Your Ride. We Take Pride in Our Work.

Get quality vehicle care and repair from a trusted local business.

All Services for All Makes & Models
cars - trucks
vans - hybrids
ASE Certified Techs

\$10 OFF COOLANT FLUSH
Cannot be combined with other discounts. Exp. 3/31/26

\$10 OFF MD. STATE INSPECTION
Most Vehicles
REGULAR \$120
Cannot combine coupons. Exp. 3/31/26

FREE TIRE ROTATION
With Purchase of Oil, Lube & Filter
for life of tires when purchased at Racetrack Auto
Includes 10W30 or 5w30, Up to 5 Quarts of Oil, other weights available at extra charge. Diesel Oil & Filter extra. All coupons must be presented before estimate. Cannot combine coupons. Exp. 3/31/26

TRAILERS - TRAILER HITCHES - PARTS & REPAIRS

24 HOUR TOWING

Join Our VIP CLUB
EVERY 6TH OIL CHANGE FREE
SPECIAL DISCOUNTS for VIP Members
Join Today!

PREMIUM TIRES
Come See the Experts!

RENTAL CARS AVAILABLE **AUTO DETAILING AVAILABLE**

Need Automotive, Body or Marine Repair?
Visit One of Our 3 Locations:

RACETRACK AUTO & TIRE CENTER 10436 Racetrack Road, Berlin 410-641-5262	RACETRACK MARINE & BOAT SALES 10438 Racetrack Road, Berlin 410-641-5204	RACETRACK AUTO & BODY SHOP 10834 Ocean Gateway, Berlin 410-641-3200
---	--	--

The Place That Does It All!

RACETRACK
RacetrackOC.com

Your All-in-One Solution from Grass Roots to Tree Tops

- FALL - WINTER**
- Fall Cleanups
 - Dormant Pruning
- SPRING**
- Turf Applications

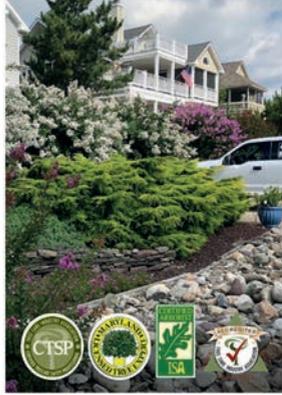


- YEAR-ROUND**
- Tree Care
 - Landscaping
 - Plant Health Care
 - Irrigation
 - Hardscaping
 - Landscape Lighting

Our expertise, proven track record, and innovative approach enable us to deliver top-tier services with...



- State-of-the-art equipment for maximum efficiency
- Highly trained experts certified arborists with decades of experience
- Comprehensive services to solve every problem



302-227-1980 302-645-6262
MD Lic. #001623 STI LANDSCAPE CENTER SussexTreeInc.com



LANDSCAPE SPECIAL

Try our landscape service and let us prove we are the best option.

Book Fall-Winter and get
20% OFF

SUSSEX TREE, INC.
New landscape quotes only. Cannot be combined with any other offers or coupons. Some exclusions apply. Expires 3/31/26

TREE SERVICE SPECIAL

\$50 OFF
Trimming or Removal over \$500

\$150 OFF
Trimming or Removal over \$1,000

SUSSEX TREE, INC.
Valid with coupon only. Cannot be combined with any other offers or coupons. Some exclusions apply. Expires 3/31/26

Council okays smart meter opt-out policy, monthly fees

Rather than allow devices, town will allow older meter readings by staff for charge

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Berlin Town Council this week voted to approve a smart meter opt-out policy and an associated fee structure for residents who choose not to participate in the town's advanced metering system for electric and water utilities.

At Monday's council meeting, town officials outlined the two-part process required to implement the program: adoption of the opt-out policy and a related tariff amendment that the Maryland Public Service Commission must approve before certain charges can take effect.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the statewide guideline requiring the opt-out policy applies only to electric meters. While not mandated for water meters, officials indicated the town intends to apply a similar structure to both services.

"We are not required to offer an opt-out for the water meters, however, from my experience with this body, I know that that would not be something you would be interested in doing, offering for electric and not water," the town administrator said, addressing the Town Council.

Under the approved policy, residents — six have requested to date — who opt out of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure will be charged a one-time \$50 service fee and a recurring monthly fee of \$17 per utility.

Bohlen explained the fees are intended to offset additional labor costs associated with manually reading meters, a task that would otherwise be automated through the smart metering system.

"The smart meters allow us to read meters remotely," she said. "We don't have to physically drive to the address, get out of the truck, walk up to the meter, read the meter. So, this is essentially covering what will become the additional labor that has to be done to manually read a meter."

According to town staff, six residents have requested to opt out of electric smart meters so far.

The monthly electric opt-out fee cannot be implemented until the Public Service Commission approves the required tariff amendment. However, officials said water-related charges could begin sooner. Fees will not be applied retroactively.

The policy prompted discussion among council members, particularly regarding the fairness of the monthly charge.

Councilmember Jack Orris asked if the fee accurately reflects the cost of manually reading meters. Additionally, he noted the limited number of opt-out requests.

"I don't see why there's a \$17 fee for those who choose not to have a smart meter ... we never charged to go read meters," Orris said. "Now we have this smart opportunity, and these folks are not choosing to be in it. I don't understand."

Other officials argued the costs extend beyond meter reading alone. Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said manual readings require additional data processing and staff time compared to automated systems.

"It's more than just going out and reading meters," Lawrence said. "AMI metering, the way when it's all up and running, it will be seamless. Basically, when you go out and read meters remotely, it downloads automatically then does all the billing... but when you manually read a meter, you have to bring that information black to customer service, then they have to manually enter it."

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall added that Berlin operates with lean staffing, and the efficiencies gained through smart meters allow employees to focus on other priorities.

"If we can save the two to three days used for manually reading those meters, this new system will allow us to have increased staff time to focus on other projects," Tyndall said.

Officials also emphasized the benefits of advanced metering infrastructure, including improved system data, reduced billing errors, and enhanced tools for customers. The system is expected to include a web portal where residents can track real-time energy usage.

"Smart meters tell us a lot of information," Lawrence said. "We can tell the customer usage, we can tell that it's peaking during the wintertime, what time of day...it can tell you every 15 minutes what your peak is, what day was the highest peak and at what time, and see the temperature of the meter itself. The meters are designed so when they reach a certain temperature, they automatically shut themselves down to prevent a fire hazard."

There is no cost for residents who accept smart meters. Fees apply only to those who opt out.

The council approved the opt-out policy in a 3-1 vote, with Orris opposed and Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

In a related action, the council unanimously approved electric utility tariff adjustments, 4-0, with Nichols absent.

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST

We have generations of experience and are well known for our exceptional dental care.

We want to help you keep that bright and beautiful smile every season!



ATLANTIC DENTAL COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

- PREVENTIVE CARE • INVISALIGN
PERIODONTAL TREATMENT • FULL MOUTH RESTORATIONS • IMPLANT RESTORATIONS
SMILE ENHANCEMENTS
EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR OUR CURRENT PATIENTS



410-213-7575

AtlanticDental.com

12308 OCEAN GATEWAY,
SUITE 6, OCEAN CITY,
MD 21842



SELBYVILLE

Open 11am Every Day

Happy Hour 2-5pm Every Day

Friday, March 27

**\$22.99 ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
RIBS, SHRIMP & SIDES ALL DAY**

NEW!!!

Saturday, March 28

**\$19.99 ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
WINGS W/ SIDES**

SPECIALS ALL DAY

(Selbyville Location Only)

Sunday: Happy Hour All Day

Monday: 25% Off Anything Chicken

Tuesday: 25% Off Burgers

Wednesday: 25% Off Cheesesteaks

Thursday: 25% Off Entrees

Residents cite fairness with collection work

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) Residents expressed frustration over storm debris collection at a Berlin mayor and council meeting this week and asked why some properties were skipped following last month's snowstorm.

A massive windy, winter storm in February left branches and trees in disarray throughout the Town of Berlin, and residents are still feeling the event's aftermath. To help town citizens deal with the cleanup, the municipality offered debris pickup, so long as the wreckage was organized at the top of the curb at each property.

Several residents said this week that they followed town guidance but have since been left with large piles of fallen trees and branches.

"I lost two huge pine trees in my backyard," said resident Linda Palmer. "They drive by my stack of stuff every time. Nothing has ever been said to me ... it said you were picking it up. If that's not going to happen you should at least tell people."

Town officials acknowledged the concerns but said the original debris pickup effort — intended as a limited, courtesy service — has been stretched beyond what staff and equipment can safely handle.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said crews have collected storm debris using chipping equipment but have encountered piles that exceed operational limits.

"When we started this, it was, 'if you have some broken branches, bring them to the curb,'" Charles said. "But now we're getting whole trees."

He added that certain debris cannot be processed due to safety concerns, including

branches cut too short to be fed into chippers.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said in response to Palmer's concerns that the town must defer to staff judgment when it comes to safety.

"If Jimmy is not comfortable with the equipment that we have, to do it safely, we are going to have to defer to public works' judgment," he said.

Officials emphasized that the cleanup effort was never intended to replace private responsibility for tree removal.

"When does this stop?" Council Vice President Dean Burrell said. "Will we be chipping trees and hauling debris for the next five to ten years? ... It is not the town's responsibility to clear your property of trees that are yours ... As far as I'm concerned, we have done as much as we can afford to do as a town."

"We don't have a tree department in the Town of Berlin. Those guys that took it upon themselves to do this have other jobs. I would suggest for those folks that are still dealing with tree removal that you contact a company to do that for you ... that favor needs to be done with because those folks do have other jobs."

Charles noted that the town's parks have been neglected as staff deal with residence cleanup.

Residents raised issues about communication and fairness, noting that the town's initial outreach did not clearly define limitations on what would be collected or how long the service would last.

Resident Mary Hedlesky urged the council to consider additional solutions, including hiring contractors or using emergency funds to assist residents still dealing with debris.

"This is a one-time catastrophic storm," she said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A pile of storm debris is pictured in Berlin after last month's blizzard conditions.

"A lot of people did what they were asked to do and now they're stuck with it."

Tyndall said that such an expenditure would have to be approved by the council, and argued that the town's tax base should not absorb costs of individual properties.

For now, officials indicated that residents with large or unmanageable piles may need to arrange private removal.

"Those guys have been working hours upon hours since the storm," Tyndall said. "The good work that they have done has been overshadowed by the few piles that still remain."

The town also reminded residents that regular yard waste collection is scheduled for May, provided materials are prepared according to guidelines.

QUALITY MEANS DOING IT JUST-RITE
MARINE CONSTRUCTION



VINYL BULKHEADS
RIP-RAP PIERS • DOCKS
BOATLIFT PILING • DREDGING
SKID STEER SERVICES



NOW HIRING
CARPENTER/LABORER

JUST-RITE MARINE INC.
410-641-9961 • JUSTRITEMARINEINC.COM
MIKE@JUSTRITEMARINE.COM

MD MARINE 083(E) • MHIC 71561 • OC 30542 • DE 2019101403




Serving Worcester County
for almost 4 decades
Accepting New Patients

OCEAN CITY CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
12417 Ocean Gateway, Suite #2
Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone (410) 213-1233 • occhiropractic.net

The Framing Corner
Quality Custom Picture Framing
Fair Prices ALWAYS!

Shop and Compare! • Personal Attention to Detail
Wood Mouldings • Conservation Framing • Archival Mats • UV Glass

Original Paintings, Photographs & Art Prints
by Local Artists Make Great Gifts!

Open Tues – Fri 10am-5pm & Sat Call for Hours • 410-213-8266

12417 Ocean Gateway, Suite 20, Herring Creek Professional Ctr.
West Ocean City



Temple Bat Yam
A Reform Jewish Congregation

JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES
FRIDAYS AT 7PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH AT 10AM

Call for More Information 410-641-4311
or email office@templebatyam-oc.org
11036 Worcester Hwy., Berlin, MD 21811
TempleBatYam-oc.org

WE PAY TOP DOLLAR

**We will buy your old gold, silver & platinum jewelry,
as well as gold & silver coins, flatware & tea sets.**

We will evaluate your items & if you decide to sell,
we will write you a check on the spot.

We pay the absolute highest prices
& have an unmatched reputation
for honesty & integrity.



Park Place

JEWELERS

PARK PLACE PLAZA

Rt. 50, West Ocean City, MD

410.213.9220 ParkPlaceJewelers.com

Building demolition project moving forward

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Berlin Town Council this week approved a contract with Bennett Construction for \$121,436 to demolish a multipurpose building at 130 Flower Street. The job is a key step in preparing the site for the town's planned community center.

At its Monday, March 23, meeting, town officials said the project will be funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awarded to address blight on the property.

The municipality received six bids for the demolition. Councilmember Jay Knerr asked whether the demolition would include removing underground elements at the site.

Nicholas Bradley from the engineering firm Davis, Bowen & Friedel confirmed that the scope of work includes full removal of the building's foundation as well as an existing fuel tank.

The demolition is supported by roughly \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding.

With some grant money remaining, Mayor Zack Tyndall raised the possibility of expanding the project to include the nearby SHOREUP! Inc. trailers.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The multi-purpose building on Flower Street will soon be demolished after the Town of Berlin awarded the contract to Bennett Construction on Monday night.

"I don't want to leave money on the table," he said.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said that because the trailers were not included in the original bid documents approved under the grant, adding them to the project may not be straightforward. However, she agreed to investigate whether the structures could be included in the demolition initiative.

Sara Gorfinkel, Tyndall's executive assistant, said only a few people are still working out of the trailers and that relocation efforts for occupants have largely been completed. That could simplify any future demolition plans, she said.

"Before we can go after the money, we'll have to bring it back publicly anyway," Bohlen said. "Let us explore it first."

The council ultimately approved the demolition contract, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

The project stems from grant award announced in June 2025, when the Town of Berlin received \$297,449 to demolish the former multipurpose building at the Flower Street site. The property is slated to become a community center.

Town officials said the funding was specifically designated for the removal of "spot blight." The building qualified due to its deteriorated con-

dition, including the presence of asbestos and lead paint, as well as significant structural damage.

The structure, long abandoned and located near Henry Park, had become a safety concern and a visual blight in an area frequented by families.

Its removal will bring the town closer to its plans to build a community center, a collaborative effort involving the Town of Berlin, the Berlin Community Improvement Association, SHOREUP! Inc., and the Worcester County Commissioners. The proposed facility is expected to provide community meeting space, recreational opportunities, and public services.

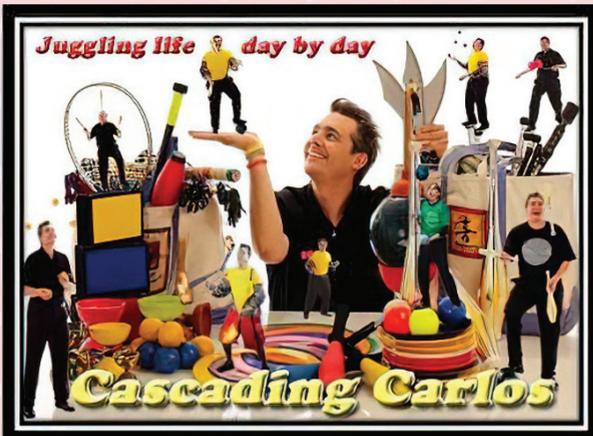
EASTER KIDS FUN FAIR

Friday, April 3rd 10am-4pm



Saturday, April 4th 10am-4pm

Beanny the Easter Bunny • Juggling Shows & Lessons • Face Painting
Easter Egg Hunts • Jelly Bean Guesses • Coloring Tables
Musical Chairs • Hula Hoop Contests • Limbo Contests



Sponsored by:  Taylor Bank
Always Here. For Good.

Visit www.oceanpromotions.info
for schedule of
egg hunts
and activities




Roland E. Powell Convention Center 40th Street, Ocean City, MD

Council seeks membership changes for housing board

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Berlin Town Council made no changes this week in a proposed ordinance that would reduce the required number of housing board of review members from five to three.

At its meeting on Monday, March 23, the council heard a first reading of an ordinance that would change to the review board's composition.

This board hears appeals regarding building code requirements, and meets as needed, which hasn't been for over 15 years, said David Gaskill, the town's attorney.

The municipality's code requires the mayor to appoint five members to the group. However, because the body meets so infrequently, the ordinance presented this week would reduce that panel to three members.

Those individuals would be the respective chairs of the planning commission, the board of appeals, and the historic district commission.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said this move creates a body that can operate effectively, as all three members have experience conducting meetings and hearing cases.

"A group that has not met in more

than 15 years. Do you think that they would operate like a well-oiled machine? No," he said. "What we're trying to do with the town code is to change that and say the housing board of review, rather than that being a group of citizens that really don't meet, we would like to make it so that it's the chairs of the planning commission, the board of zoning appeals, and the historic district commission, to serve as a three-board panel to hear appeals.

"They would understand the process, and they could focus more time on hearing whatever appeal is before them, rather than trying to figure out how to operate."

Gaskill added that the proposed adjustment would also address the fact that the town has had trouble finding residents interested in seeking appointment to the housing board.

If the ordinance passes, two members of the housing board of review in attendance at any meeting shall constitute a quorum, rather than three under the existing guidelines.

Additionally, the role of the housing inspector was discussed at this week's council meeting. Officials clarified that the housing inspector is not

See HOUSING Page 14

WE WANT YOU

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HELP SUPPORT THE WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial respectfully invites individuals and businesses to become members and help preserve a place of honor for those who have served our country. Your membership and donations directly support the maintenance, programs, and future enhancements of the memorial.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

For more information email: Suzie Pantone
Suziepan123@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

ANNUAL	LIFE	CORPORATE ANNUAL	CORPORATE LIFE
\$25	\$150	\$100	\$300

Any additional donations are greatly appreciated

Please make checks payable to WCVMF & send to MEMBERSHIP, Worcester County Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 1576, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

Visit our website: Wocovets.org

PREMIER HOME & ARTISAN EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center

April 3rd & 4th 2026
10am to 4pm

4001 Coastal Hwy Ocean City, MD

Talk to the Pros - Shop show only deals - Buy one of a kind pieces - Get inspiration for your next project



✉ events@oceanpromotions.info

🌐 www.oceanpromotions.info



**Native Plant Sale
In Progress
Best Selection
Right Now!**



**Flora of Delaware
Lecture by Bill McAvoy**
April 16 • 5-8pm
Tickets at
DelawareGardens.org

Spring blooms return down winding pathways to southern Delaware's most scenic outdoor destination. See different native plants & bulbs in bloom every time you visit.

Now Open for the Season!

Open Thursday - Sunday • 9am - 4pm

Adults \$15 • Children 16 & Under - Free

For Reservations & Tickets, Go To

delawaregardens.org

30220 Piney Neck Road | Dagsboro, DE 19939

Foundation eyes new members

(March 26, 2026) The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation is inviting individuals and businesses to become members and help preserve a place of honor for those who have served our country.

Memberships and donations directly support the foundation's Educational Outreach Program, which provides every fifth-grade class in Worcester County the opportunity to participate in a field trip to the Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines. During the visit, students rotate through three educational stations, where they learn about the memorial and veterans' stories, proper flag folding and etiquette, and the Patriots Pathway.

In addition to the Educational Outreach Program, memberships and donations also help fund the ongoing maintenance, programs, and future enhancements of the memorial.

Membership levels include Annual (\$25), Life (\$150), Corporate Annual (\$100) and Corporate Life (\$300)

Checks should be made payable to WCVMF and sent to Membership, Worcester County Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 1576, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

For more information, contact Suzie Pantone at Suziepan123@gmail.com.

To learn more about the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, visit www.wocovets.org.

Housing inspector role clarified

Continued from Page 13

a separate town employee, but rather the duties of the role are baked into the responsibilities of Berlin's planning director and code enforcement officer.

"The planning director and code enforcement officer are certified housing inspectors ... [the code enforcement officer's] function and role is that of a housing inspector," said Town Administrator Mary Bohlen. "Her title doesn't necessarily need to

reflect it — it's reflected in her job duties."

Clarifying the issue, Gaskill said, "What the code enforcement officer does is, they see a house in disrepair, they will alert the property owner that they need to fix it or demolish it, and the housing board of review would be the [body] the property owner would appeal to, if they disagreed with the determination of the housing inspector, who is the code enforcement officer."

COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Copy Central of Ocean Pines is honoring



Gina Maria Barnes
memory this month raising awareness for colon cancer screenings, collecting change and raising funds to donate to the comfort fund.

**WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP
IN OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

Owners of Copy Central, Linda and Michael Dearing lost their daughter Gina to colon cancer in 2014. Gina Barnes was just 37 years old when she was diagnosed with colon cancer. A wife and mother of three children she was too busy to make time for herself even when she noticed there was a problem. There is the misconception that colon cancer is thought of as an older person's disease. It can attack anyone under 50 years of age. Gina fought her battle with courage and poise while serving as a role model for others fighting their own battle. Gina's Comfort Fund was created in her honor to provide comfort and resources to individuals fighting the battle. Every day individuals fight cancer. Many of whom have families, jobs and life responsibilities regardless of how the disease and treatments are making them feel physically and emotionally. The fund helps to alleviate some of the stress and financial barriers to those brave individuals battling Colon Cancer. Stop in to Copy Central Monday-Friday 9 to 5 if you would like to contribute. You will be entered into a drawing for a 16 x 20 full color giclee print donated by a local artist with a \$5 donation.



Copy Central

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

410-208-0641
11065 Cathell Road
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

PLEASE GET YOUR SCREENINGS

MARCH MAGIC

MAKE THE SHOT

FREE Select Treatment*
25% Off Select Products

MISS THE SHOT

50% Off a Select Treatment*
15% Off Select Products

*Paraffin Hand Dip treatment or Hyaluronic Repair Eye Masque

Everyone Wins!

THE SALON[®] PROFESSIONAL ACADEMY

32448 Royal Blvd, Suite A
Dagsboro, DE 19939
www.tspaDelaware.com
302.732.6704

Offer Valid until March 1 - 31, 2026. Offer not available for future services and cannot be combined with any other discounts. All services performed by supervised students.

CALL OR TEXT (302) 296-6909



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

202 GUMBORO RD, SELBYVILLE, DE

Discover Our Extensive Collection
New & Vintage Jewelry | Purchases & Trades Welcome
Turn your unwanted, broken, or old wedding bands and engagement rings into something new!
• Upgrade | • Remount | • CAD Design | • Repair Estimates
Just Back from the Trade Shows!
Featuring new and exciting gems, jewelry, and accessories.
Large selection of loose diamonds and gemstones available for replacement.

Now Open by appointment

COME TO SASHA'S JEWELS FOR WHOLESALE PRICES. GOLD AND SILVER COSTS ARE UP—BUT OUR PRICES AREN'T.

GET PAID TODAY—BRING US YOUR BROKEN OR UNWANTED JEWELRY AND GET PAID IMMEDIATELY!

- Get a professional valuation and a competitive offer.
- We welcome trades people, purchases and repairs.
- Appointments recommended to ensure personalized service.

We Buy Costume Jewelry!



Madeleine Sasha
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST & REPAIR EXPERT

CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT
VISIT US ONLINE WWW.SASHASJEWELS.COM

Buying Event hosted by our certified Gemologist and master Repair Expert.

THIS SUNDAY!



Sunday Brunch Buffet Menu

\$29 Adults | \$16 Children 6-12 | 5 & under FREE | 10AM-2PM | EXCLUDING Easter

Breakfast

- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- BRIOCHE FRENCH TOAST
- BACON AND CHEDDAR FRITTATA
- WAFFLES
- BREAKFAST POTATOES
- PANCAKES
- BACON/SAUSAGE LINKS
- BISCUITS/SAUSAGE GRAVY
- BREADS FOR TOAST
- BAGELS, MUFFINS, ENGLISH MUFFINS, BEIGNETS, DANISH, COFFEE CAKE

Appetizers

- CREAM OF CRAB
- LOBSTER BISQUE
- FRESH FRUITS
- COTTAGE CHEESE
- CAESAR SALAD
- DEVEILED EGGS
- CHICKEN/SHRIMP SALADS
- SLAW/CUKE SALAD
- OYSTERS ON THE HALF SHELL
- SHRIMP COCKTAIL
- CRAB MINIS

Mains

- AHI TUNA PLATTER - ACCOMPANIMENTS
- SMOKED SALMON - ACCOMPANIMENTS
- CHICKEN AND WAFFLES
- COCONUT SHRIMP
- SALMON OSCAR



SCAN TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE



806 S. Atlantic Avenue
Located at the Ocean City Inlet and Open Thursday - Sunday in March.
HARBORWATCHRESTAURANT.COM

Black Excellence fund awards 3 local grants

(March 26, 2026) The Black Excellence Community Fund, which is a Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Giving Circle, awarded three grants in honor of Black History Month.

The grants benefit local nonprofits which elevate and celebrate the history of the local Black community.

Each organization received a \$750 grant for their work. Grantees were:

Buffalo Soldier Living History Site Co dba The Outpost is dedicated to the restoration of Thomas Elzey Polk's homeland in Allen, Maryland. Polk, was a veteran of the US Army when it expanded in 1866 to create six African American regiments composed of former slaves and African Americans who served during the Civil War.

Sturgis One Room School House in Pocomoke is the only African American One Room School in Worcester County retaining its original integrity. The organization actively works to preserve, promote, and protect the rich cultural heritage and educate youth to value the school's cultural and historical richness.

The Henry Hotel has stood at the corner of S. Division Street and Baltimore Avenue in downtown Ocean



Pictured, from left, are Sonya White, BECF; Nancy Howard, The Henry Hotel; Deborah Scott, The Buffalo Soldier Living History Site/ The Outpost; Kim Jones, Sturgis One Room School House; Sharon Morris, BECF; and Lori Carter, BECF. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

City since 1916. The Henry Hotel is the last remaining hotel in Ocean City where Black people were allowed to stay up until the Mid-60s. This grant will support the restoration efforts of this historical site.

"Each of these nonprofits highlights important history for the Lower Shore," says BECF founding member Lori Carter. "Charitable giving plays a

valuable role in our community, and we hope these grants inspire others to give back to worthwhile causes."

BECF was created in 2022 at the Community Foundation to preserve cultural awareness and pride by expanding the benefits of education, health, and welfare in the Black Community, while teaching the values of philanthropy. Members work to-

gether through the power of collective philanthropy to create a positive impact.

Dr. Angela Lee presented BECF visionary founder Sonya White with the My Mind Beautiful Magazine's Historic First award for her vision and implementation of BECF, which was noted as the first giving circle of its kind on the Lower Shore.

Board approves plans for BIS replacement

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Worcester County Board of Education has approved the architectural assessment's conclusion that Berlin Intermediate School needs to be replaced.

The proposal to proceed in that direction will be presented to the Worcester County Commissioners next month and then to the state this summer for the final green light.

Architecture firm Becker Morgan Group initiated a feasibility study for BIS in September 2025 to determine whether the building could be renovated, renovated with an addition, or replaced.

WCPS Coordinator of Facilities Brian Cook said an evaluation of the facility assessed the structure's condition, instructional space, and deficiencies. Options were then developed to address the institution's educational and safety needs, both present and future.

Representatives of the firm said the study revealed that the most logical action would be to construct an entirely new facility. Cost benefits, shorter work time, and limited impact on students and staff were the factors that led the firm to the decision to replace rather than renovate.

The initiative will be funded through a collaboration among the Worcester County Commissioners and the Interagency Commission on

School Construction. The IAC is a state agency. That arrangement comes out of a deal between the school board, the commissioners, and the IAC.

In February 2025, the three-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was finalized to support major capital projects at Buckingham Elementary School and BIS.

The agreement outlines a combined \$49.9 million in state capital funding, including \$25.8 million for the BES replacement project and \$23.1 million for improvements at BIS. About \$48 million from the county will help pay for BES, while BIS's local share comes to roughly \$57 million.

BES is scheduled to occur first, followed by the project at BIS.

The MOU mandates that the enhanced BIS is limited to 94,220 square feet. The current BIS facility is 101,000 square feet and was constructed in 1970.

The feasibility study to determine next steps at BIS was presented to the Worcester County Board of Education at its meeting on March 17.

According to the review, the existing building's HVAC system is outdated, the security systems need a refresh, and there are code issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The school maintains an open floor plan with no doors from the class-

rooms into the corridors which has created acoustical, learning, and safety concerns.

The freezer for the cafeteria is outside the building with a makeshift shed roof, the kitchen is undersized and lacks proper storage space, and the gym is missing an HVAC system. Additionally, the cafeteria is open, which allows excessive noise to filter into classrooms and hallways during mealtimes.

The study also pointed to security problems. The entrance does not have a safety vestibule, and the security resource officer is posted in the main hallway, rather than a secure space.

The media center's central location cuts it off from any natural light, and science classrooms lack sufficient equipment.

Additionally, there are only two restroom stalls for all the facility's women's staff.

Upon completion of the evaluation, Becker Morgan Group developed three options to address BIS's shortcomings: renovation, renovation/addition, and replacement.

Becker Morgan representatives said while a renovation is feasible to maintain the current site and improve traffic and bus flow, studies found that several existing classrooms would still struggle to receive any natural light.

Additionally, the project would require a drawn-out renovation with the purchase of 12 to 15 portable trailers

for makeshift student classrooms.

The second option, a renovation with an add-on, would include a building-support addition for new mechanical and electrical systems. Additionally, in this option, the state said that the site could maintain its 101,000 square feet in size rather than conform to the 94,000-square-foot requirement.

Under this selection, the gym and cafeterias could be larger and offer more gathering space. However, the architects' primary concern was the construction timeline.

Contractors estimate that the venture would take about 42 months to complete.

Becker Morgan concluded that a replacement would meet the square-footage requirements, allow natural light to enter instructional spaces, offer a shorter construction time (about 28 months), and minimize disruptions to students and staff. A separation of the bus and parent drop-off loop could also be achieved.

Becker Morgan will present the feasibility study to the Worcester County Commissioners in April. The proposal will be submitted to the IAC for their June 11 meeting, seeking approval to proceed with the BIS replacement project.

If everything works out as expected, construction on the new BIS would stretch from March 2029 through August 2031.

Community invited to sunrise service

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Berlin Town Council approved a special event permit Monday night allowing the Berlin First Baptist Church to host an Easter Sunrise Service at Stephen Decatur Park.

Church member Dan Mason told officials the congregation has held sunrise services for years, traditionally at a private home, but is now seeking a larger, more inclusive setting.

“Our church has held an Easter Sunrise Service for many years, but it has always been in a private home,” Mason said. “Thankfully we now need a little more space to do it and we want to make it more of a community event. We had the idea to host it in Stephen Decatur Park and invite community members to take part in that. So it’s not just our church’s church service but welcome to all in the community.”

Mason said the service, planned for around 6:15 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 5, would be held in the park’s pavilion area. He noted the church intends to use some amplified sound to accommodate older church members, but would remain mindful of nearby citizens.

“We also want to be conscientious of noise ordinances especially because it will be happening about 6:15 in the morning,” he said.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall asked that any speakers be angled away from the town’s residential side, noting that the event is set to begin before the park’s official hours.

A staff report indicates that the service is expected to draw more than 50 attendees and will conclude around 8 a.m.

The Town Council unanimously approved the permit, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

Obituary

JAMES L. SHREEVE, JR.
Berlin

James Lockerman Shreeve Jr., known to all as Jim, passed away on March 16, 2026, in Berlin, Maryland, just three days after celebrating his 84th birthday. Born on March 13, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland, Jim lived a full and vibrant life defined by his love of sports, his sharp wit, and his gift for bringing people together.



James Shreeve, Jr.

Jim proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, a chapter of his life that reflected his sense of duty and discipline. He went on to attend the University of Virginia, where he distinguished himself as an All American goalie on the lacrosse team. That athletic excellence was not merely a personal achievement but the foundation for a lifelong passion. Jim carried his love of the game, and of sports in general, with him throughout his years on the Eastern Shore, where he devoted countless hours to coaching youth lacrosse and soccer. He also served as an official for both sports, earning the respect and admiration of players, families, and fellow coaches alike.

Jim married the love of his life, Judith Ann Shreeve, née Whitmore, and together they built a family and a home filled with laughter and warmth. He was a man who thrived in the company of others, always organizing a gathering, always ready with a plan. Whether it was a card game, a round of Chickenfoot, a spirited game of bingo, or a session of pinochle, Jim was the one rallying friends and family to the table. A small wager was never

out of the question, adding just enough friendly competition to keep things interesting. His witty sense of humor made every occasion more memorable, and his talent for bringing people together ensured that no one was ever left out.

Beyond the games and the laughter, Jim found deep contentment in life’s simpler pleasures. He loved reading and sitting on the beach, savoring the quiet beauty of the shore he called home. He cherished going out for lunch or dinner with family and friends, turning ordinary meals into occasions worth remembering. His generous spirit extended to those who could not speak for themselves; Jim was passionate about spending time with his dogs and was a dedicated supporter of animal rescue organizations, giving faithfully to causes that reflected his compassionate heart.

Jim is survived by his daughter, Stacey Bachar, and his son, Dana Shreeve (and his favorite daughter in law Kimberly Shreeve), both of whom carry forward the warmth, humor, and love of life that their father embodied so naturally. He is also survived by his brother Thomas Shreeve (Patti), his sister Barbara Shreeve, and his brother-in-law Charlie Whitmore (Betty).

In keeping with the faith that quietly guided his life, may Jim find peace and rest in God’s eternal care.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. The visitation will take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with the service to follow. Family and friends are welcome to gather in celebration of a life well lived. Jim will be greatly missed by many who loved him dearly.



TWO GREAT COMPANIES READY TO SERVE

\$75 OFF

Plumbing or HVAC Repairs

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Some restrictions may apply. Each location independently owned and operated. ©2026 One Hour Air Conditioning Franchising SPE LLC. All rights reserved. Licensed in the respective state or county. ©2026 Benjamin Franklin Plumbing Franchising SPE, LLC. All rights reserved. Each location independently owned and operated. Licensed in the respective state or county.

Benjamin Franklin Plumbing: 410-705-5749
One Hour Heating and Air: 443-397-9750

OneHourHeatandAir.com/Delmarva
BenjaminFranklinPlumbing.com/Delmarva



Opinion

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

Don't get hung up on making a few dollars

One man's trash is another man's treasure, so they say, except it might also be said that trash should not be designated as trash if it's paid for with taxpayers' money.

In that instance, one needs to be aware that throwing out old government property comes with certain political risks, especially if seen doing it. That's the situation the Berlin mayor and Town Council are in, along with their staff, as they prepare to renovate Town Hall.

Undoubtedly, the place is full of items — furniture, accessories, equipment — that most people would leave out at the curb for bulk pickup if it no longer suited their purposes. But were a town official to do that cries of wastefulness would surely follow because those discards were paid for with "taxpayers' hard-earned money."

Accepting that all taxpayers' money is "hard-earned," it remains that not everything purchased with that revenue is worth saving.

Town taxpayers should accept that just because it's government doesn't mean it must make do with furnishings and fixtures are that are way past their prime and are essentially worthless on the second-hand market.

The mayor and council members are probably aware that the items they will be offering at their April 4 yard sale will be scrutinized by lookers and prospective buyers on the alert for signs of government waste.

That means they will be careful not to appear careless or self-indulgent as they price objects to sell so they won't end up turning some portion of their newly overhauled building into the office equivalent of the kitchen drawer — full of stuff that may be useful someday, but not right now.

The opportunity to free Town Hall of the semi-functional clutter and fatigued furnishings at the end of their useful lives should not be impeded by a desire to make a few bucks.

If it's no longer in decent shape, useful and truly needed, now is the time to just let it go.

Ocean Pines hosts springtime events

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is gearing up to offer a series of events and activities for residents and non-residents alike this spring.

The OPA, in conjunction with The Salon Professional Academy, is inviting girls aged four to 12 to a glamour day on Saturday, March 28 at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Appointments are available hourly between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Students from the salon academy will be on-site for hair styling, nail painting, and makeup artistry. Attendees may also participate in a craft project. The event flyer adds that snacks will be provided.

Those interested in bringing their girls to the community's glamour day are required to pre-register by calling the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052. The cost is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents.

The parks team is also hosting a series of birding classes later this spring. Each Wednesday, April 15 to May 1, 3 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., American Birding Association Director Wayne Klockner, along with other experts

on Eastern Shore birding, will teach participants the skills required to spot the best birds in the area.

The neighborhood's recreation department notes that the first class, on April 15, will be held indoors in the East Room at the OPA Community Center. All other sessions will be field trips, with locations to be communicated by instructors later.

Those interested in participating will need a pair of binoculars, walking shoes, and should dress appropriately for the outdoors. The cost is \$30 for Ocean Pines residents and \$40 for non-residents.

Young Ocean Piners can also get in on the fun this season. Kids aged 8 to 12 are invited to Dungeons and Dragons game nights, with all experience levels welcome. While participants may bring their own, character sheets and dice will be provided.

The series will take place across six Tuesday nights from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., beginning on April 20, and will be held in the Foulz Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The cost is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Registration should be done by contacting Ocean Pines Recreation at 410-641-7052.

Skateboard classes will

also be sponsored by OPA this spring and summer led by Delmarva skateboarder Matt Dove. The lessons will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays in April, May, and June at the Ocean Pines Skate Bowl. The price is \$145 for Ocean Pines residents and \$155 for non-residents. The fees are monthly. Participants will need to bring a skateboard and a helmet.

In other ways to help keep community members active, OPA Recreation and Parks will be hosting a cornhole league starting Friday, May 15. Registration is open now for teams. The cost is \$100 per group. The matches will be held each Friday night from 5 p.m. to around 8 p.m. at White Horse Park.

Furthermore, later this spring, the community will be offering a bus trip to New York City. The bus will take guests to the Big Apple on Saturday, May 23, where they can explore on their own.

Tickets are \$85 a person and include transportation only. The bus is scheduled to depart the Ocean Pines Community Center at 5:30 a.m. and will arrive in NYC at about 10 a.m. The bus will head back to Ocean Pines at 6:30 p.m. that same day. Reservations can be made by calling 410-641-7052.

Officials address audit deficiencies

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2026) Worcester County Public Schools officials say they have addressed all issues identified in a recent state legislative audit, including deficiencies related to human resources, transportation, management of other risks, and information technology.

WCPS Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert briefed the Worcester County Board of Education on the audit during its March 17 meeting, summarizing the findings and the school system's response to the report issued

Feb. 23.

Tolbert began his presentation by quoting the audit's conclusion to WCPS's reply.

"We have reviewed the response to our findings and related recommendations and have concluded that the corrective actions identified are sufficient to address all issues," Tolbert read.

The audit — the system's first since 2017 — identified seven findings across several operational areas, including human resources, transportation, risk management and information technology. Four of those findings, related to cybersecurity, were

redacted from the public report but shared with the board in closed session, Tolbert said.

Among the issues, auditors flagged "questionable procurement activity involving a management employee," which was referred to the Office of the State Prosecutor.

While not mentioned by name, a search-and-seizure team from the state prosecutor's office was seen late last year at the West Ocean City residence of Denise "Dee" Shorts, the school system's chief academic officer for grades Pre-K through 8.

See SCHOOL Page 19

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

- EDITOR Stewart Dobson
- EXECUTIVE EDITOR Steve Green
- ASSOCIATE EDITOR Bethany Hooper
- STAFF WRITERS.....Tara Fischer, Brian Shane
- ACCOUNT MANAGERS Mary Cooper, Renée Kelly,
.....Terri French
- CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS Pamela Green
- ART DIRECTOR Cole Gibson
- SENIOR PAGE DESIGNER Susan Parks
- SENIOR AD DESIGNER..... Kelly Brown
- PUBLISHER..... Christine Brown
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Gini Tufts

The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$90/year or \$45/6 mos.
Visit us on the Web at www.baysideoc.com. Copyright 2026

School system says audit findings remedied

Continued from Page 18

Tolbert emphasized that such a referral does not indicate a crime occurred or that charges will be filed. Shorts remains on administrative leave.

Auditors also found lapses in required background screening documentation for employees working with minors, as mandated under a 2019 state law.

Human resources officials said the issue stemmed not from a failure to conduct screenings, but from insufficient documentation tied to required reference checks from prior employers, if the previous employment included direct contact with minors.

“One misleading thing is where it says we did not perform a newly required screening for the positions...HR always does the screenings,” said WCPS Human Relations Officer Dwayne Abt.

“What we are talking about in this instance is House Bill 486 [from 2019]. Following the legislative audit, the HR office reviewed the hiring procedures related to HB486 which requires background reference checks from prior employers for applicants who have worked in positions requiring direct contact with minors.”

He continued, “The audit identified 10 personnel files where documentation related to the HB 486 process was incomplete. Since that time, HR have secured the necessary documentation, and all 10 files have been brought into full compliance.”

Abt added the department has since strengthened onboarding procedures, assigning staff to track required forms and ensure they are returned within the mandated 20-day window. A review of hiring practices over the past three years is also underway.

House Bill 486, Abt noted, is a form that is given to new public school employees to give to their former employer “if they worked for an employer that has access to children.”

Officials noted that all employees still undergo fingerprint-based background checks through state and federal systems, with results typically returned within a day.

The audit also noted concerns related to transportation services.

The February report questioned whether WCPS had sufficient documentation to support about \$1.8 million in bus maintenance payments to its 69 bus contractors in fiscal year 2024. The report also noted the system reimbursed contractors for fuel taxes they may not have owed, potentially totaling about \$1 million over several years.

Tolbert stressed that no improper payments were made under the board-approved rate structure.

“There were no overpayments, there were no missed payments,” he said. “We paid for the rates that were approved and adopted by our board in

our budget book. The auditor’s concern, the maintenance part of that payment, they did not feel we had enough support. That was their question, not that we overpaid or paid incorrectly.”

Board members defended the longstanding “meet and confer” process used to set contractor rates, which includes input from the county’s bus contractor association.

“In 2010, the same findings were made by the auditors...I disagreed with them,” board member and former WCPS superintendent Jon Andes said. “I continue today to disagree with them. We have outstanding bus contractors that do a fantastic job of safely transporting our students each and every day.

“The requirements to be a bus contractor are significant: commercial driver’s license, yearly physical exam. So

forth and so on. I believe we do it the right way. We have a bus contractor who is responsible for their bus. They take care of their bus, they clean the bus, they oversee the bus, they make sure the bus is in good working condition...I will say it again: Our bus contractors are fairly compensated. I do not support the finding from the legislative auditors.”

Andes argued that requiring contractors to document exact annual maintenance costs would be impractical, as expenses vary widely year to year.

Tolbert added that 11 of 17 Maryland school systems with contracted bus services adjust for fuel taxes, while six — including WCPS — do not. Any future change to exclude those taxes could reduce contractor compensation.

The audit also found that WCPS did not adequately monitor its third-party health insurance administrator, particularly in verifying payments and performance standards.

Officials agreed with that finding and said improvements are already planned.

“We intend to have quarterly meetings to compare records and contract rates and establish a formal independent review process,” Tolbert said.

Board members pointed out that the number of findings has decreased significantly since the last audit.

“In 2017 ... we had 19 deficiencies and this time we only had seven,” said board president Todd Ferrante.

Tolbert confirmed the improvement, noting that the statewide average for similar audits is about 10 findings per school system.

Introducing our **Summer Body Protocol™**, a curated, nurse practitioner-led approach to body refinement and metabolic optimization.



IAM
INSTITUTE
OF
AESTHETIC
MEDICINE

Your customized protocol may include:

- GLP-1 microdosing for fat loss + appetite control
- Peptide therapy for lean muscle + skin tightening
- T-Shape 2™ + Body Tone sculpting for contour + definition
- Amino + B12 injections for energy + metabolism
- Skin tightening + collagen stimulation for a smooth, radiant finish

This is not one treatment. This is a strategy.

Now enrolling for Summer 2026 Protocols

**Berlin, MD
Milton, DE**

Book your consultation at IAMOC.NET

Download the IAM Rewards App for exclusive access



Scan For Rewards App

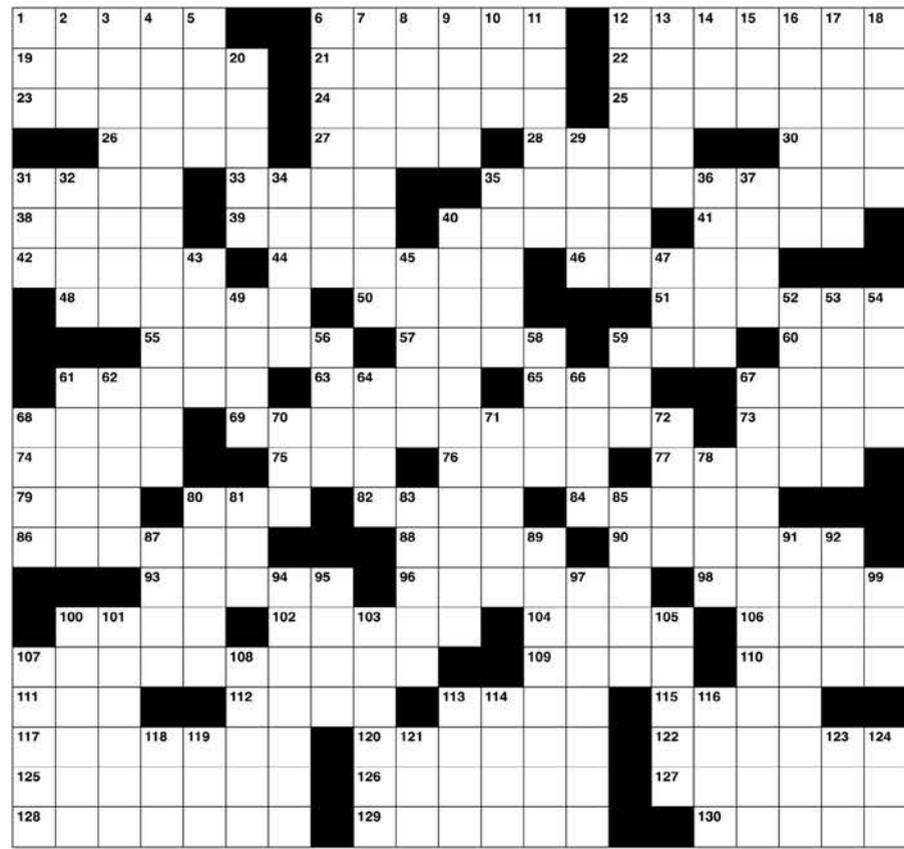
**12475 Sea Oaks Lane, Suite 5-6, Berlin, MD • 410.390.5954
28312 Lewes Georgetown Highway, Milton, DE 19968 • 302.446.4460**

Puzzles

HISTORY COURSE BY MIRANDA KANY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Miranda Kany is a chef and caterer in Philadelphia. This is her fourth crossword and first Sunday for The Times. Its food-related theme might be predictable given Miranda's line of work. But the theme has two more layers, explained by an astonishingly fortuitous crossing at 69-Across and 40-Down. The crossword gods were smiling while Miranda was making this. —

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| ACROSS | 46 Easily duped | 98 Title role for both Patti LuPone and Madonna | 6 Soupçon feature |
| 1 Dwelling | 48 Lupin, gentleman thief of literature | 100 Uncle Remus title | 7 ½ cup, slowly drizzled and whisked to form an emulsion |
| 6 One of two elected magistrates to the ancient cursus honorum | 50 Peepers keepers? | 102 Tree from which turpentine may be derived | 8 Area with pews |
| 12 Plagiarized | 51 One clove, crushed | 104 Hullabaloo | 9 Certain silk spinner |
| 19 Notion that's difficult to dispel | 55 Chaucer collection | 106 Word before stick or after Scotland | 10 Onetime org. for Jimmy Carter and J.F.K. |
| 21 Roll on, as time | 57 5/8 or 2/14 | 107 One cup, seasoned and lightly toasted until crispy | 11 Bean counter's book |
| 22 One large head, shredded, with the outer leaves discarded | 59 One might be noble | 109 "The kissing disease" | 12 Its box is yellow and green, with many colors in between |
| 23 Record label for the Beastie Boys and Public Enemy | 60 "Foucault's Pendulum" author | 110 Some savanna groups | 13 Empire |
| 24 Stockholder's portion | 61 Drummer with the coffee table book "Another Day in the Life" | 111 "___ for Ricochet" (Sue Grafton mystery) | 14 Rapscaillon's exclamation |
| 25 Handled vessel in a museum | 63 All-star pitcher Hershiser | 112 Got ready to drive? | 15 Curmudgeon's exclamation |
| 26 1977 Robin Cook medical thriller | 65 Sch. whose team name is a poisonous nut | 113 Commoner | 16 "Sully" or "Spartacus" |
| 27 Bon ___ ("Skinny Love" band) | 67 The Bard of ___ | 115 Human rights lawyer Clooney | 17 Add value to |
| 28 Brand of canned beans | 68 Thanksgiving is always on the fourth one in Nov. | 117 Ones changing the narrative? | 18 Rejuvenate digitally |
| 30 Greedy sort | 69 Infamous warning for 126-Across ... and for solvers, when filling in seven squares in this puzzle? | 120 Chillaxing | 20 The first one was sent in 1971 |
| 31 Soon, to Shakespeare | 73 Creature to take a gander at on Haleakala? | 122 Word on a protest sign | 29 A calf born with two heads, some say |
| 33 Lying about | 74 Lacking adornment | 125 One, coddled or raw; add an extra for a richer flavor | 31 Satisfied sigh |
| 35 2 tbsp., for acidity | 75 Digressive remark | 126 This puzzle's subject, in two very different ways | 32 "Haven't a clue" |
| 38 Ian who portrayed Bilbo Baggins | 76 Tabby talk | 127 Samurai sword | 34 Gift recipient |
| 39 ___ Jones, bobsledder and hurdler who has competed in both the Winter and Summer Olympics | 77 Rushes | 128 Kind of overload | 35 "___ luck!" |
| 40 Mushroom prized by chefs | 79 ___ Lanka | 129 Stile coins that have gone out of style | 36 Cups o' joe |
| 41 Psychologist Solomon | 80 "Daughter," in Hebrew | 130 Contemptuously laughed at | 37 The "U" of UX |
| 42 Lair | 82 Harvest | DOWN | 40 George Eliot masterpiece ... or a punny hint to seven squares in this puzzle |
| 44 Do something perfectly | 84 Hole on a belt | 1 Provided assistance | 43 Eye drop? |
| | 86 Ground, black, to taste | 2 Spelling ___ | 45 "What am I, chopped ___?" |
| | 88 Chop, mince, grate, etc. | 3 Spicy, say | 47 Swiatek who has won the U.S. Open, French Open and Wimbledon |
| | 90 Holiday harmonies | 4 ¾ teaspoon, Grey Poupon preferred | 49 Workers' rights org. |
| | 93 Cute, woolly farm animals | 5 End-of-semester hurdle | 52 Army Corps of Engineers project |
| | 96 Period of glaciation | | 53 Pictures on a screen |
| | | | 54 Alternative to a cup |



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 56 Scatters, as seeds | 72 Mlle. in Madrid | 92 Big step | 108 "Refreshing" web shortcut |
| 58 Start of a pirate-y pillaging song | 78 One of a hundred for Pooh and friends | 94 Alternative to X | 113 Open before December 25? |
| 59 Tour leader | 80 Part of a Santa Claus costume | 95 Kemo ___ | 114 Operate on with light |
| 61 Go halvesies, say | 81 Adjustable feature of an office chair, maybe | 97 Peanuts | 116 Olden honeyed drink |
| 62 Flower with a cup-shaped bloom | 83 "Pharsalia" and the "Aeneid" | 99 Expensive Super Bowl features | 118 Expressions of appreciation, in texts |
| 64 Las Vegas football player | 85 Poseidon's domain | 100 One way to cross the Rubicon | 119 Tic-tac-toe win |
| 66 In stitches | 87 Entreaty | 101 Step down | 121 "The ___ of Pooh" |
| 67 2 tbsp., for a briny flavor | 89 ½ cup, freshly grated | 103 Black out, in a way | 123 Slyly disparaging |
| 68 Baking meas. | 91 1997 Jim Carrey comedy | 105 "The Fountainhead" protagonist | 124 Bit |
| 70 Make a fast not last? | | 107 Longtime Saints QB Drew | |
| 71 Conical dwelling | | | |



RACETRACK AUTO SALES

410-352-5070

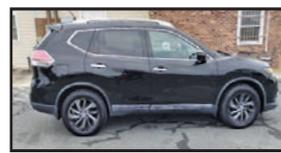
TRAILER SALE!




PREVIOUSLY OWNED VEHICLES for SALE



'22 TOYOTA COROLLA



'15 NISSAN ROGUE

AUTO DETAILING GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

SMITH'S MARKET

BEER • WINE
LOTTERY
PROPANE REFILLS

TAG & TITLE SERVICE

No Wait • Walk-In
No Appointment Necessary
Mon-Sat 9am - 5:30pm

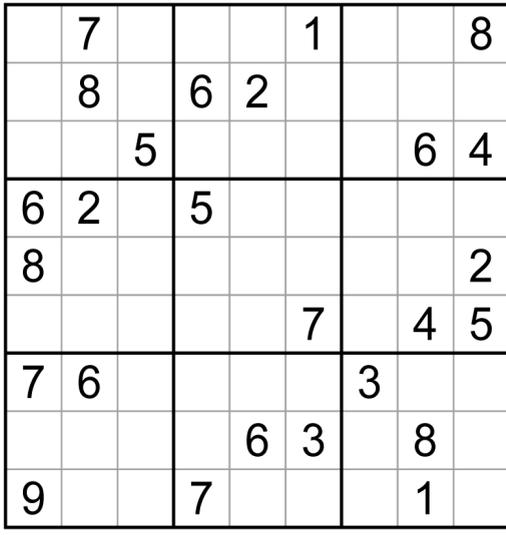
11740 Worcester Hwy. Showell, MD 21862 • 410-352-5070
 (Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 41

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

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

ATTACH	ATBAT	ALDIS						
HOAGIE	SHAPED	SPEEDO						
IODINE	KEYGRIP	SWEATER						
	TELL	RWANDA	AIRVENT					
ATEAM	IHEAR	SLOPPIEST						
LAM	ATLAST	MOLD	ETAT					
IBM	SRIRACHA	EATSIT						
BOAS	OUR	HALFTWO	FIFTH					
IOWA	NOIR	MAI	ANI	PRIE				
	ADO	KEEN	LEG	ICI	IND			
	INTERNATIONAL	WOMENS	DAY					
SIS	AIL	DRY	DECO	AHA				
SNOW	NAW	MOC	NORA	AKIN				
AANDM	NOHANDS	NRC	WADE					
	ARRIVE	GRAINIER	HER					
	LYRE	ELMO	GLOSSY	LAV				
	MEMORANDA	CAIRO	ECOLE					
MEGABIT	UNPACK	NUBS						
ONETO	GO	PERRIER	NEPALI					
MONETS		DOTTIE	DEALER					
ANDSO		SAYTO	ORNATE					

An Easton-based trio will celebrate history at the library in Ocean Pines on April 1. The concert will recognize the colonial era
SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Musical group to celebrate Maryland's 250 next month

(March 26, 2026) History is coming to life through song this spring as the Worcester County Library prepares to host a unique musical journey back to the founding of America.

On Wednesday, April 1 at 2 p.m., the Ocean Pines Library will welcome the Easton based musical group Ampersand for a special performance of their hit show, Music of the New Nation.

As Maryland continues to celebrate Maryland 250—the statewide commemoration of the 250th anniversary

of the Declaration of Independence—this concert offers a rare opportunity to experience the atmosphere of the colonial era through the melodies that defined it.

“As part of our celebration of Maryland 250, Ampersand will play music that takes us back to the roots of our country,” says Elena Coelho, adult services coordinator. “This concert brings us back in time through songs that reflect the experiences of the home front and those of everyday people.”

*You are invited to join us at
Buckingham Presbyterian Church*

Easter Sunday

April 5th

20 S. Main St. - Berlin, MD

Two services to choose from

9am Contemporary
with live music by Steve Frene
of Stevenson's Crossroads

11am Traditional
with beautiful hymns by Greg Fraser

Easter Egg Hunt
10:15 am
Between Services

Join us between services for
light breakfast snacks and
an Easter Egg Hunt!



THE PLAYBOOKTM

SPORTS BAR

#1 SPORTS BAR IN OC



WATCH, WAGER & DINE.



DAILY SPECIALS

MONDAY	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Wings & Apps	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE
TUESDAY	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Soups & Salads Trivia	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE 7PM
WEDNESDAY	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Wings & Steamed Shrimp	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE
THURSDAY	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Sandwiches & Burgers	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE
FRIDAY	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Entrées	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE
SATURDAY	Happy Hour Drink Specials	ALL DAY
SUNDAY	1/2 Price Wings & Apps	ALL DAY



OCEAN DOWNS
CASINO

10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin, MD 21811

Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Specials cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts, including tier rewards. Happy Hour specials available only at The Playbook Sports Bar. Please drink responsibly. Must be 21 years of age or older to enter the casino. Please play responsibly. For help, visit mdgamblinghelp.org or call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Calendar

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

Thurs., March 26

NARFE MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. Attention National Active and Retired Federal Employees, spouses and surviving spouses. NARFE works to protect your benefits. Karleen Hagan, khagannarfe@gmail.com, 703-729-2103

STORY TIME 'GRUMPY PANTS'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: THE VERY IMPATIENT CATERPILLAR

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

WOMEN IN ART

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Learn something new about women artists from the medieval era through the 17th century. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. Book discussion featuring books you have read and want to share. Come and find your next great read. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-8 p.m. Shelley Johnson, a candidate for the MD House of Delegates in District 38A, will be speaking. All are welcome.

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., March 27

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

GODDARD SPACE CENTER VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines

Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Take a virtual field trip at the Ocean Pines branch and learn something new about the Goddard Space Center. 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., March 28

AUCE BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

GLAMOUR GIRL DAY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. For girls ages 4-12 years. Pre-registration required: 410-641-7052, www.oceanpines.org. Services by The Saloon Professional Academy students.

SERVICE SQUAD

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11 a.m. Earn service learning hours for helping with crafts, program prep and other activities at the library. Open to students of Worcester County Schools, ages 12-18 years. Call for information 410-641-0650.

NO KINGS 3 OC BOARDWALK RALLY

Tram Station, 801 S. Boardwalk, Ocean City, 12-1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tram Station and march the boardwalk to the Fireman's Memorial and back. Sponsored by Indivisible, a non-partisan grass roots group. <https://www.mobilize.us/nokings/event/905979/>

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY BINGO FUNDRAISER

Elks Lodge #2645, Ocean City, MD, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$30. Cash prize minimum \$100 per game. Food available for purchase. Tickets: www.ocberlinrotary.com, ocberlinrotary@gmail.com, gina@shafferlawmd.com or stop in Shaffer Law in Berlin. 410-995-8455

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., March 29

MARYLAND SIERRA CLUB FUNDRAISER

Panchos & Lefty's, 12911 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 12-4 p.m. 10% of proceeds will be donated to the Lower Eastern Shore Group. The LES Group volunteers work to make Maryland's air, water, soil and food cleaner and healthier for all.

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., March 30

BUS TRIP TO SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Join us for a special day trip to the Smithsonian American Art Museum to experience Grandma Moses: A Good Day's Work. 410-524-9433

STORY TIME: PIE

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

BATTLE OF THE MACS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Take plain Mac & cheese, mix some delish add-ins, and let the blind taste test decide who will be the Big Cheese. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-641-0650.

SPRING LANDSCAPES IN TEXTURE AND FIBER

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 6 p.m. A creative exploration of spring landscapes using canvas, texture paste and a variety of fibers. Learn how to build depth and movement while crafting a serene scene. Registration required 410-957-0878.

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., March 31

STORY TIME: SPRING SHOWERS AND FLOWERS

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

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

SENSORY STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Story time geared for ages 0-5 years featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, 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. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

BUNNY BURROWS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about the Earth's surface while creating a delicious treat. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

STITCH & BITCH

Art Collective at The Factory, 16 S. Main St., Suite D, Berlin, 5-7 p.m. Held every other Tuesday. Bring what you are stitching and join in for good talks and good times. Show up anytime after 5 p.m. <https://art-collective.square.site>

Calendar

CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

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

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

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.

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

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., April 1

PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and crackers. Register 410-641-7052.

OPENING DAY AND FREE CONCERT

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m. Featuring Ampersand

250 & Music of the New Nation. Reserve your seat and receive a free VIP gift. Send your name and number in your party to info@taylorhousemuseum.org. www.taylorhousemuseum.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

MUSIC OF THE NEW NATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Easton-based traditional music group, Ampersand, will present a concert of Revolutionary War-era music. Songs about the stirrings of revolution, colonists, soldiers, slaves and protests. 410-208-4014

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

TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND

Trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA to see "Joshua," on June 27, at 3 p.m. Cost is \$200. Pay by May 15. Cash app: [scalvarychurch8607](https://www.cashapp.com/pay/$scalvarychurch8607). Sponsored by Calvary United Methodist Church. Contact Rosie Dennis, 443-614-7518.

MARIO SCAVENGER HUNT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, March 9-27. Can you find Mario and his friends and solve the riddle? Prizes awarded from the treasure box. For families. 410-208-4014

OC READS: 'THE VIEW FROM LAKE COMO' BY ADRIANA TRIGIANI

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway. Pick up a copy of this month's read. Come in by March 30 to share your impressions and enter into a drawing to win free books. 410-524-1818

TEEN TIME: EGG DECORATING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, March 2-31, 3:30 p.m. Drop in and design an egg. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014



OPEN HOUSES

March 26 - April 2



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 \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday Noon-2 pm	1 66th Street #101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	37033 Barrington Pkwy Millville, DE	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$614,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	13410 Madison Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$585,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	37007 Owl Drive Selbyville, DE	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$529,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	E. Annie Lank Avenue, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	745 Mooring Rd, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$399,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	12048 Pimlico Lane, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$939,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-2pm	37099 Fairway Drive Frankford, DE	4BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$585,000	Kevin Heselbach/Engel & Völkers Real Estate
Saturday 1-3 pm	124 Camelot Circle, Ocean Pines	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$399,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1-3pm	11324 River Run Lane, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$627,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sat & Sun, 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Sunday 11am-1pm	201 S Heron Drive #26B, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$595,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	11324 River Run Lane, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$627,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2 pm	37033 Barrington Pkwy Millville, DE	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$614,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-3 pm	13110 Coastal Hwy #206, Braemar Towers	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Kenny Amereihn/Century 21 New Horizon



Classified

MARKETPLACE

Call **410-723-6397** or email classifieds@octodaydispatch.com
by Monday, 5 p.m.

Classifieds appear in **OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette** each week & online at octodaydispatch.com & baysideoc.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Farmers Bank of Willards
The annual Farmers Bank of Willards Meeting of Stockholders will be held on **April 30, 2026 at 10:00am at the Willards Lions Club Hall on Hearn Street in Willards, Md.**

HELP WANTED

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER for Local Business. Knowledge of QuickBooks is helpful, for standard double entry cash basis book-keeping, with weekly and monthly bank reconciliation. Very flexible hours.
Call Dennis Gural 410-627-8545 or e-mail to dennisgural@interstateoilus.com.

PGN Crab House
29th Street & Coastal Hwy,
Now Hiring for
• Waitstaff
• Kitchen Help
Apply within in person after 11:00 am.

HELP WANTED



DUNKIN' DONUTS
AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'
NOW HIRING!!
Production Crew
for our WOC kitchen facility
Up to \$20/hr.
Apply online at:
www.delmarvadd.com

HANDYMAN FT, YR
For condo located on 47th St., Bayside, OC, MD. Must work weekends during summer months, off Tues. & Wed. Duties include painting, power washing, light clean up, light maintenance. Pay \$18-\$22/hr. Benefits include 100% paid health & life insurance.
Call 443-523-5739

HELP WANTED

MARINE MECHANIC needed for year round marine business in West Ocean City. Yamaha training school available in the off season.
Call 410-213-2296.

CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITION available at year round marine business in West Ocean City.
Call 410-213-1383.

JOLLY ROGER Small Engine Mechanic & Ride Maintenance.
(Must have mechanical knowledge)
Technical Support & Installation
(Entry level with knowledge of network systems)
SEASONAL HELP: Cashiers, Waterpark Attendants, Lifeguards, Ride Operators
Wage based on experience. Benefits available.
410-289-4902

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Full-Time, Year-Round
Must be available for day, night or weekend shifts.
If interested apply in person.
Open daily, 11:00 a.m.
American Legion Post #166,
2308 Philadelphia Avenue
For information call
410-289-3166

The Tides Inn NOW HIRING NIGHT AUDITOR
This position may be full or part time, seasonal, requires flexible schedule. Experience is preferred but we will train the right person.
Apply in person 10am-3pm
3001 N. Baltimore Ave.
2nd Floor Office

RENTALS

Seasonal **WEEKLY RENTAL** only. Single family home, Berlin, 4Br, 3Ba. \$725/night.
Call 484-319-7188 for details.

YR OCEAN PINES
Available Immediately!
3BR, 2BA
Central HVAC
All Appliances Incl.
No Pets.
\$2,300 per month + \$2,300 sec. dep.
410-404-8851

Seeking Year-Round Rentals!
Call Howard Martin Realty
410-352-5555.

YEARLY RENTALS WEST OCEAN CITY
PETS WELCOME
2 Bedroom / 1 Bath
Laundry on premises.
877-289-1616
www.bbapartmentsoc.com



Yearly & Seasonal Rentals
We Welcome Pets
7700 Coastal Hwy
410-524-7700
www.holidayoc.com
Mention this ad for \$10 OFF Application Fee!

RENTALS

2 BEDROOM, 1.5 BATH in Berlin. Very clean, furnished or unfurnished. \$1800 a month. No pets. No smoking.
Call 301-748-1977.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE OR RENT
Salt Life West OC
2BR, 1BA Model Mobile Home. Fully furnished. New pool & community BBQ area. Close to beaches, restaurants, nightlife and fishing. Will co-op w/realtor.
Call 410-807-2515 for more info.

MINUTES TO THE BEACH! Built in 2024
This beautiful **2BR, 2BA Mobile Home** is right next to the County Boat Ramp. \$120,000. Financing avail. to qualified buyers. Lot Rent \$700/mo. Pays for water/sewer/trash/taxes.
Call Howard Martin Realty 410-352-5555

COMMERCIAL

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
Looking for space, comfort and great views? Spacious, climate-controlled office available, with use of conference room and reception area, in a modern, well-maintained building in prime Ocean City location.
Call 410-524-3440 for appointment.

COMMERCIAL

FOR LEASE
Commercial Retail/Office Space 760 sq. ft. Village of Fenwick, Fenwick Island, DE.
Call Melissa, 410-641-1101 or Email Melissa@bergeycpa.com

Commercial Space for Lease ONLY 1 UNIT LEFT!
2-3 Units available, can be divided or joined. Approx. 1000 sq. ft. Busy major road in Town of Berlin.
Call 443-880-8885 for more information.

2 Office/Retail Spaces available in West Ocean City. Approximately 1656 sq. ft. and 1728 sq. ft.
Call 443-497-4200

Industrial Space
Yard and Storage Shed. Approx. 10x25+/- Route 90/Bishopville.
Call 443-497-4200

SERVICES

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE No job too small, entrance doors, interior doors, storm doors, shower doors, drywall repairs and paint, laminate floors, interior paint. Over 40 years of carpentry experience.
Please call Larry, 410-251-9066.

Classifieds 410-723-6397 By Monday, 5 p.m.



Join the Sea Colony East Maintenance Team!
Now hiring high rise condominium/full time building maintenance techs.
Great Benefit plan/paid time off!
Apply online at troon.com/careers - company location Sea Colony Assoc East
Email bethann.steele@seacolony.com or call 302-541-8831 for an interview



Worcester Prep is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND TEACHERS:
French Teacher
Middle School History
Upper School Science
Upper School Math/Physics
A fully accredited Pre-k through Grade 12 independent school located in Berlin, MD just minutes from the beach in the heart of the Eastern Shore. An additional benefit to a career with WPS is discounted tuition for your child's education at Worcester Prep!
worcesterprep.org/about/employment



RENTALS

Extended Spring & Summer Stays Avail.
Utilities Included
CONTACT US AT
burgundyinn@gmail.com
410-289-8581

YEARLY RENTAL Available Immediately
2 UNITS - Robin Dr.
(1 furn., 1 unfurn.)
2BR, 1BA.
Dog friendly only.
Ideal for 2 mature adults.
\$2,000/mo. + electric.
Call/text 703-819-7400

Advertise Your Summer Rentals

410-723-6397

www.octodaydispatch.com

www.baysideoc.com



SERVICES

Responsible Female,
48 years old
BABYSITTING
PETSITTING
HOUSE SITTING
Call Kate 443-859-2467.

DONATIONS

Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. **Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.**

WANT TO BUY

I BUY ALBUMS!
410-430-5349

Classifieds 410-723-6397

YARD SALE

COMMUNITY YARD SALE -
Berlin, Decatur Farm.
Off Route 113, across from
Stephen Decatur Park
Saturday, April 4th,
7:30am to Noon.

www.baysideoc.com
www.octodaydispatch.com

MISC./OTHER

**How well You know me,
Yet, You reach for my broken,
To lead me from here.**

SERVICES

BUDGET MOVERS

443-664-5797

LOCAL & EAST COAST MOVING

Full Packing Service

Piano Movers - Full Service

www.facebook.com/OCBudgetMovers



CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

MARYLAND STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

SERVICES

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your **FREE** Dental Information Kit with all the details!
1-855-337-5228
www.dental50plus.com/
MDDC #6258

FOR SALE

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a **FREE** 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-993-0969 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

MISC. FOR SALE

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-977-5719

MISC. FOR SALE

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today!
1-855-407-6870

REAL ESTATE

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-541-7929

Advertise in MDDC 410-723-6397

Consumer Cellular®

BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today.

866-337-1676

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.



WE CANCEL TIMESHARES

Many people think they're stuck with their timeshare forever— but that's often not the case. Wesley Financial Group has helped more than 50,000 families break free from unwanted timeshares, and we may be able to help you, too. If you were misled, pressured, or deceived during your purchase, you could qualify for cancellation.

How Does the Cancellation Process Work?

- Start with a **FREE consultation** to tell us your story.
- If we determine your case qualifies, you'll be paired with a specialist to guide you through the process.
- Our **Resolution Department** works diligently to cancel your timeshare and help stop related maintenance fees—permanently.

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

Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:

Call 1.888.984.2917

*This is an Advertisement. Wesley Financial Group, LLC ("WFG") and/or its affiliates, successors, or assigns are not lawyers and/or a law firm and do not engage in the practice of law or provide legal advice or legal representation. Actual results depend on each client's distinct case, and no specific outcome is guaranteed.

Have you been to the ReStore?!



IN STORE SAVINGS

EACH WEEK FEATURES A SALE ON FURNITURE, DECOR, OR HOME IMPROVEMENT

ONLINE SHOPPING

GRAB GREAT DEALS FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME!
<https://habitatrestoreworcester.company.site>

DONATION CENTER

ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED FOR PICK UP OR DROP OFF FOLLOWING EMAIL APPROVAL. CONTACT US!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BY JOINING OUR FUN, FRIENDLY, RELAXED TEAM! WE NEED YOU!

donations@habitatworcester.org
volunteer@habitatworcester.org



OPEN

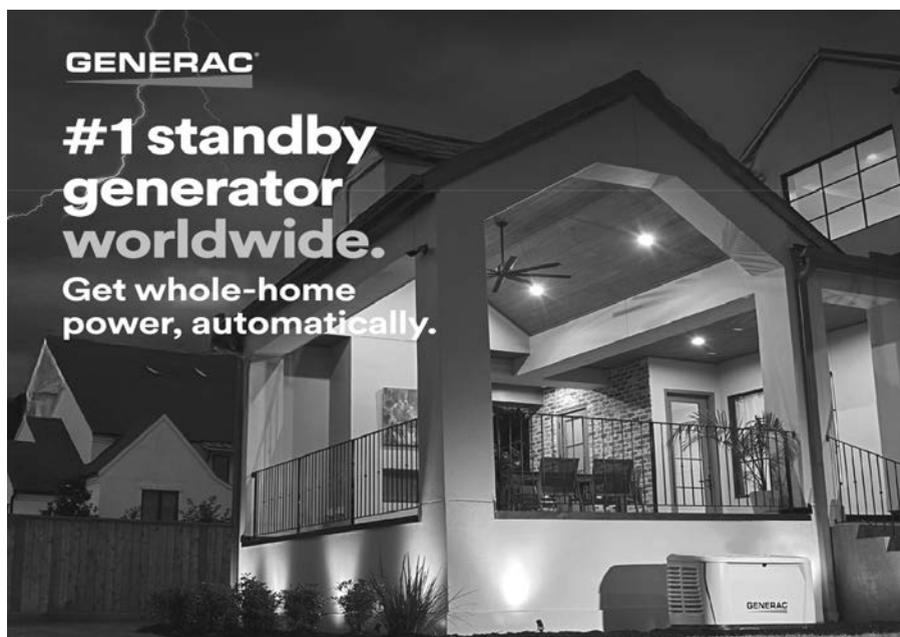
**Tuesday-Thursday 10AM to 4 PM
and Friday-Saturday 10AM to 3 PM**

11307 Manklin Creek Rd, Ocean Pines, MD

GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.



Call 855-993-0969 to schedule your free quote today!

*Terms & conditions apply

Service DIRECTORY



BOAT REPAIRS

443-614-7259 MARK RADCLIFFE



RADCLIFFE BOAT WORKS

TOTAL REFURBS • FIBERGLASS REPAIRS • CUSTOM DESIGNS
CONSOLES • HATCHES • TEAK • PAINT

CLEANING SERVICES



Brasure's CARPET CARE

Carpet, Upholstery, Tile and Grout Cleaning

Oriental Rug Cleaning and Repair

302-436-5652

Family Owned and Operated Since 1983

DECKS

**Decks • Patios • Sitting Walls
Walkways • Paver Driveways**



Licensed

Insured

Family-owned & Operated for 30+ Years
Need a FREE Estimate? Give us a call!

410.390.1499 • ShorePatiosAndDecks.com

DENTAL

DePalma Dental, LLC



Michael DePalma, D.D.S.
Errin DePalma, D.D.S.

500 Franklin Avenue, Unit 3 Phone: 410-641-3222
Berlin, Maryland 21811 www.depalmadental.com

ELECTRICIAN

Pr 16:3

LET THERE BE LIGHT ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC.



Residential
Commercial

Licensed
and Insured

667-266-0209

MD0#35112
DE-#T1-0017133

HANDYMAN SERVICES

PARRISH THE HANDY BEACHMAN

Exterior Home Repairs
"WE DO IT ALL"

- Roofing Repairs • Rain Gutters • Screening • Staining
- Roof Cleaning • Gutter Guards • Painting • Caulking
- Gutter Cleaning & Powerwashing • Deck Repairs •

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • MHIC 17433

"A Family Tradition Since 1935"

Phil Parrish

410-893-9707

Pat Parrish

HOME IMPROVEMENT



- Licensed and Fully Insured
- Free Estimates
- Locally Owned
- Cleaning Specials
- Roofing
- Maintenance

Complete Home Improvement Contractor

*** NOW OFFERING *
DISPOSAL ROLLOFF SERVICE**

Quick Reliable Service 7 Days A Week
Clean Up Crews Available • 15 & 20 Yard



410.713.8599
MHIC#95214

HOME IMPROVEMENT

EVANS BROTHERS 410-984-4938

Decks / Screen Rooms / Wood / Composite
Windows / Siding
Bathroom / Kitchen Remodels
Flooring Hardwood / LVP
Ceramic Tiles

FREE Estimates • Licensed And Insured
MHIC #52065

HOME IMPROVEMENT



PipeLine Contracting, LLC

"One stop shop
for Home
Improvement"

Home Improvement Services Company

Home Improvement Design & Bertch Cabinet Retail

- Cabinets & Countertop
- Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
- General Carpentry & Painting
- Flooring & Tile
- Residential & Commercial
- Servicing Maryland & Delaware Beaches
- US Veterans Administration Approved Contractor

11312 Manklin Creek, Rd., Ocean Pines, MD ~ Call or Stop in Today!

(410) 208-1518 • (410) 982-8368

pipelinecontracting.net • info@pipelinecontracting.net

MDHIC # 107489 • DE # 2014100304 • Insured & Licensed

HOME IMPROVEMENT

- * 0 Payments
- * 0 Interest
- * 12 Months
- * Free Estimates



410-430-2583

ROOFING - SIDING WINDOWS - DOORS HOME IMPROVEMENTS

MHIC 114960- Insured- Affordable

HOME IMPROVEMENT



WALSH

Home Improvement, Inc.

Specializing in Additions, Kitchens, Baths and
All Types of Custom Remodeling.

Time to schedule and complete before Memorial Day!

We accept MC/Visa

Ken Walsh 301-776-7249 • (410) 641-3762

Licensed ~ Bonded ~ Insured • MHIC #8465

LANDSCAPING

Lawncare, Landscaping & Hardscapes



- Spring Cleanup
- Brush Removal
- Hauling
- Mulch
- Planting
- Driveway Seal Coating
- Patio & Walkway
- Custom Landscape

FREE ESTIMATES

410-430-7543

MHIC #12398

MDA #30202

MENTAL HEALTH

Island Care Mental Health

Mary Deborah Wilson
PMHNP

Avoid the Delays

Medication & Therapy
MD DE Lic. 410-641-5190

MVA LICENSED

NEW TITLE AND TAGS AND MORE

www.westoceancitytagandtitle.com

WEST OCEAN CITY

VEHICLE TAG & TITLE

NEW LOCATION!

12507 Sunset Ave. #8

West Ocean City

Open Mon., Fri., 9-2 & Wed. 9-5

JODY PALMISANO 410-629-5600

PAINTING

PAT'S PAINTING IN THE PINES

Reliable and Affordable Painting

SPECIALIZING IN CABINET PAINTING

Delaware ~ Ocean Pines ~ Ocean City ~ Berlin

- Powerwashing
- Drywall Repairs
- House/Deck Staining
- Wallpaper Removal
- Custom Painting

Free Estimates

410-641-5957

Resident of Ocean Pines

Licensed & Insured

Service DIRECTORY



PAINTING

Zimmerman & Son LLC

Painting & Powerwashing
Interior & Exterior
Serving Delmarva for Over 35 Years
Licensed & Insured

- CUSTOM PAINTING
- DRYWALL REPAIRS
- WALLPAPER REMOVED
- DECK & HOUSE STAINING
- ALWAYS PROMPT SERVICE

Free Estimates

NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS!

10% Discount with this ad.



Bill Zimmerman cell 443-373-4539

PAVING

Established 1954

NR

Harrison Paving Co.
NRHarrisonpaving.com
410-742-0359 MHIC# 1516

PIANO TUNING



NICK'S NOTES
PIANO TUNING

Nick French • 443-783-8255
Nfrenhti@gmail.com

PLUMBING



We do it all from ground work to rough in to final trim & fixtures.

We Install:

- Faucets/Sinks • Showers/Tubs/Toilets
- Water Heaters • Water/Sewer Lines

Winterization Packages • Repairs

MD 62495 • DE 13060 • Insured

CALL FOR ANY OF YOUR PLUMBING OR GAS NEEDS

410-430-3490 • LMSPlumbingandgas.com

PLUMBING



Local Plumbing Co.

"Serving Our Coastal Communities With Pride!"

- * Water Heaters * Water Heater Repairs
- * Faucet Replacements * Toilet Replacements
- * Garbage Disposals And More!

www.localplumbingcompany.net

Md(410)726.0513 Family Owned & Operated

PRINTING & DESIGN

NOT YOUR AVERAGE COPY CENTER

- Full Business Center
- Custom Gifts
- Graphic Designs
- Retail Gift Items
- Wedding Print Services



OPEN Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm

UPS ONE STOP SHOP For ALL YOUR PERSONAL & BUSINESS NEEDS

11065 Cathell Road • Ocean Pines
410-208-0641 • copycentral@verizon.net

ROOFING



Your Roofing, Siding & Home Improvement Specialist Since 1989

ROOFING • SIDING • DURADEK • WINDOWS • GUTTERS

Mike Moesle 410-629-1573, Fax: 410-629-1946

9240 Peerless Rd. • Bishopville, MD

mmoesle@shoresidingmd.com • www.shoresidingmd.com

*Licensed in MD, DE & VA

YOUR BUSINESS

Your Business Card Here!
Call 410-723-6397

Home Need Improvements?
Check out the Service Directory
For a variety of local contractors

Start the new year clog-free!



Claim by: 02/28/2026

We install year-round!

15% OFF + 10% LeafFilter™

Discount For Seniors + Military

Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: 1-844-566-3227
Promo: 285

**Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified seniors and/or military. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. See Representative for full warranty details. AZ: R01344027, AR: 366926025, CA: 18155795, CT: H010671526, DC: 420223000007, FL: C03056678, ID: R0253504, IA: C127236, IL: 539544, IN: M04111225, MA: 21282, MI: 262300331, 262300330, 262300329, 262300328, 262300318, 262300173, MN: R0160524, MT: 266192, NE: 50145-24, NY: 80990, NJ: 13101328500, NH: 408694, ND: 47104, OR: 216204, PA: P01179643, RI: 02-41154, TN: 1001, UT: 30718455-5001, VT: 174-0000371, VA: 270510445, WA: LEAF1107639, WI: W056072. *The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America.

Retire with confidence.

Stop wondering if your savings will last. Get a personalized retirement plan designed to help provide consistent income and ongoing guidance from a fiduciary advisor.

Whether you've saved \$50,000 or \$500,000, we'll help you build a strategy to make the most of it.

Call for a free, no-pressure consultation
(888) 295-9055



Advisory services offered through Retirable, a Registered Investment Adviser. The free consultation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. Investment outcomes are not guaranteed and may vary based on market conditions.

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.



1-855-337-5228

Dental50Plus.com/MDDC

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, KS, NY, OR - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN).

Audien Hearing

The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

Atom X

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call 888-410-0534

to get your 45-day risk free trial.





MyChart makes it easy to manage your care



Now that the entire TidalHealth system is using MyChart, your care is better connected and you have more tools to stay informed between visits.

With MyChart, you can quickly access test results, message your practitioner, schedule appointments, request refills and manage billing, all in one secure place.

Activate your account at tidalhealth.org/newportal.

