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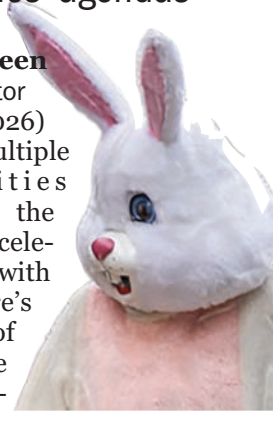
That was the order of the day in Snow Hill Sunday afternoon at the 15th Annual Oyster Roast, which offered oysters quite a few other ways as well. In addition to oysters on the half-shell or roasted over hot coals, there were oysters plain and fancy, from Rockefeller to casino to, a real crowd favorite, single-fried, served by the American Legion Post 67 on Green Street.

Area teems with Easter events this weekend

Easter egg hunts, games, crafts and food will fill communities' agendas

By Steve Green
Executive Editor
(April 2, 2026)

There are multiple opportunities throughout the weekend to celebrate Easter with the kids. Here's a rundown of some of the larger planned events:



Berlin

The historic town will be transformed Saturday into the annual Spring Celebration from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, the event kicks off with an Easter Bonnet Parade along Main Street at 10 a.m. and a special visit from the Easter Bunny to start the parade. Prizes will be awarded after the parade in several categories.

At 11 a.m., hundreds of kids will search out thousands of eggs during the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the Taylor House Museum.

Throughout the day following the Easter egg hunt, family fun activities, games and crafts will be held throughout town.

Ocean Pines

The Easter Egg Hunt & Pool Party

See EASTER Page 6

OPA projects moving right along

Phase 2 of golf course work expected to be completed by end April, Viola reports

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) While major improvements continue to be made at the Ocean Pines Golf Course, officials

say February's winter storm has caused planned bulkhead work to be postponed until after summer.

At the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting this week, OPA General Manager John Viola reported that the multi-phase irrigation overhaul remains in "green" status, with phase two expected to wrap up in early April.

The community has been working to replace the site's 50-year-old failing system. Phase one included work on hole one, the fourth tee, hole nine, the practice range, and the pump station. The second stage began in December, and by the time it's complete, holes 1 through 10 and 18, the main pumping station, and the

See IRRIGATION Page 3

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Cleanup effort continues in Pines after Feb. snow storm

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) More than a month after February's blizzard left Ocean Pines blanketed by fallen trees and branches, officials say the continuing cleanup efforts are stalling because of residents adding everyday yard waste to the piles of storm debris.

At the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors meeting this week, OPA General Manager John Viola said the cleanup began the week of March 2, following the heavy snowfall and wind of the Feb. 22 winter storm.

Residents were told to assemble any broken limbs in a pile at the top of their property for OPA Public Works crews to collect. Viola noted that he authorized overtime and the hiring of outside vendors to assist with debris collection, and that the work continues. Officials expect all neighborhoods to be free of the storm waste by April 10.

Officials said, however, that the effort has been slowed by some Ocean Pines citizens using the courtesy service to dispose of discarded trees and branches unrelated to winter weather.

"We've been picking it up; we're a little behind, but here's what's happening: We do it, people put more brush out there," Viola said. "The brush that we're seeing, the trees that we're seeing cut down, everybody is using it as an opportunity to clean out their yards, not just from the storm. That's just taking us more time to do

it."

The general manager added that OPA Board President John Latham has asked the staff to be sure the cleanup is completed by the start of the busy summer season.

"I believe we'll have everything reasonably done so that I can utilize that team for the opening of Ocean Pines," Viola said. "We have brought in outside contractors. We continue to bring them out. I authorized it because I do want to get it done...And we will."

According to Linda Martin, OPA's senior director of administration, Republic Services, the company that handles garbage collection in Ocean Pines, will also pick up debris if residents tie their waste into bundles of a maximum length of four feet, or place the limbs in paper bags.

"So if you do not want to wait you can do that," Martin said.

Community officials reiterated that homeowners must keep any yard debris intended for storm-related pickup limited to the branches that fell during the blizzard.

"What I'm finding is that a neighborhood will get done, and then two days later, someone decides, 'Hey, I could trim down my tree,'" Director Elaine Brady said. "They're only going to do it once in your neighborhood. If they've already been through, it's not going to do you any good to throw your stuff back on the curb. It's going to sit until you hire somebody to come and get it for you."

Irrigation project still on track

Continued from Page 1
practice green will have been updated.

"[The golf course superintendent] has told me we're on track. You can see the work being done," Viola said. He added that crews are currently working on hole 10.

The next phase will address holes 11 through 17. Viola said that he will come before the board with more detailed plans at a later date.

The irrigation project has already completed its first phase for \$934,000. Phase two was budgeted at \$810,500. Viola said that progress has remained steady despite winter weather challenges.

Bulkhead work at the course is also progressing. Construction began last month at the pond on hole 18, a project approved at \$141,375 with Fisher Marine Construction. Viola said the improvement will play a key role in supporting the new irrigation system by increasing water retention.

"That bulkhead is also aiding in the amount of water that we'll be able to retain for this irrigation system,

which will minimize, if not hopefully eliminate, but it will definitely minimize the amount of water we take out of the aquifer," he said. "That is big for this association, big for the Eastern Shore. It won't be this golf course that's pulling on the aquifer."

However, a second bulkhead project at hole 16 for \$75,000 has been postponed until the fall to prioritize spring course readiness following delays caused by February's snow and wind storm. Viola said while the original plan was to have both initiatives completed in succession while the vendor was onsite, the contractor is working with the association to adjust the timeline.

Golf course improvements continue to be a priority for the association. In February, OPA approved several capital investments for the golf course, including new equipment.

At its Feb. 28 meeting, the board signed off on three pieces of equipment from Burke Equipment Company: a \$26,477 utility tractor, an \$80,828 Holland loader, and a \$24,343 range picker.



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Tax credit eyed for Berlin's first responders

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) The Town of Berlin informally committed this week to providing a tax credit to first responders who reside within the municipal limits. The move is an attempt to bolster fire company recruitment and retention efforts.

At a work session between the Berlin Fire Company and the mayor and Town Council on Monday night, municipal and emergency officials discussed the possibility of offering eligible volunteer and career fire staff an annual property tax credit, or refund, after they settle their property tax bills.

How it would work is the fire company would provide the town with a list of members and staff who qualify for the perk. Fire company President David Fitzgerald said that, for example, this year, 18 of the 28 members who live in town are eligible for the refund.

To qualify, volunteer or career staff must live within the Berlin town limits and own their home, with their name appearing on the property deed.

Members would receive their property tax bill, pay the balance, and then apply for the credit from the town. The municipality would budget for the expense.

Officials said that they would like to see the credit at \$1,000, at least to start.

"My thought is we start at \$1,000 and then see how it goes," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "And we can always work up. It's always easier to work up than it is down."

Offering the tax credit could encourage fire company members to move into the Town of Berlin. With more members residing in the area of service, response times would likely be quicker.

"I moved out of town because of the cost. The taxes, water, sewer...this could bring people in town to live in town, young people, knowing they would get something off their taxes, because where does that help us? Response times," Fitzgerald said.

Adding that he lives about four miles out of town, he said he can get to a scene quickly at night, but daytime traffic makes that more difficult.

The refund may also give town citizens already considering membership into the volunteer company that final push.

The council's discussion of the proposal included length-of-service requirements for eligibility. Town Council Vice President Dean Burrell said that requiring members to have served for three years will provide a

hook and increase retention. Individuals would stay on, in the hopes of securing the tax refund when they reach that third year.

Tyndall, however, said that he would like one year to be the marker of eligibility.

"What I'm looking for is a year of service," he said. "If the goal is recruitment and retention and you say it takes three years ... I don't think it's going to happen."

Furthermore, the perk would be given to those who met the qualifications in the prior year.

"The thing is, we're not front funding, we're back funding a year," the mayor added. "So, if you volunteered for a year, we're going to recognize it and say thank you and hopefully you continue again for next year."

Tyndall also said that he would prefer to extend the credit to all first responders who meet the requirements, including those in law enforcement.

Fire company officials have acknowledged that the Berlin company, like many volunteer units across the country, are struggling to recruit new members.

"It's a struggle," Fire Chief Andrew Grunden said at a mayor and Town Council meeting earlier this month. "It's a time-consuming thing. People

don't want to spend a lot of time doing something for free ... The amount of time training, all that, continues to be problematic. People have to want to take the time to help our community ... a lot of people don't want to spend a lot of free time for someone they don't know."

To illustrate the time commitment, from July through December, company personnel spent 1,286.19 hours answering emergency calls and 1,498.25 hours on non-emergency events. The non-emergency time included training, meetings, and fundraisers.

Worcester County is considering a similar tax incentive for fire company members. Those eligible would receive both perks from the county and the Town of Berlin.

Other towns have their own version of a property tax credit. In November, the Ocean City Council voted to proceed with the incentive for active members of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company who live in town.

The Ocean City tax credit, up to \$2,500, would apply only to active volunteer firefighters.

No action was taken on Berlin's tax credit at Monday night's work session, but officials said they would support the move informally.

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Easter events abound on coast

Continued from Page 1

is happening on Friday, April 3 from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy crafts, music, and games, with food available for purchase. The Egg Hunt will be divided into three groups and times:

5:30 p.m.: Floaters (those who cannot swim on their own and don't go underwater)

6 p.m.: Underwater Swimmers (ages 5-8, in 3.5 to 4 feet of water)

6:30 p.m.: Underwater Swimmers (ages 9 & up, in 3.5 to 12 feet of water)

Admission is \$8 for Swim Members, \$10 for Residents, and \$12 for Non-Residents. The admission fee is paid at the door.

On Saturday, April 4, families are invited to hop over to White Horse Park for the community's annual Spring Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt. This free event, happening from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., will feature car-

nival games, food, a petting zoo, bounce houses, face painting, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Egg Hunt times are divided by age group:

Ages 1-3: 11:30 a.m.

Ages 4-6: Noon

Ages 7-10: 12:30 p.m.

Ocean City

Since 2000, Ocean City locals and visitors have enjoyed family fun at our Easter Kids Fun Fair plus Art & Craft Show, and it's still going strong! And by popular demand, in 2011, we created our second Home Show — the Autumn Home & Condo Show. We have been busy creating, hosting and promoting events. It's what we do... AND we can Do It For You TOO! Contact us for more information regarding Attendance or Exhibition.

The kids fun fair includes games and contests, Beanny the Easter Bunny, jelly bean guesses, coloring ta-



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Easter Bonnet Parade will kick off in Berlin this Saturday at 10 a.m. Pictured is the event from last year.

bles, Easter egg hunts, juggling shows by Cascading Carlos, juggling lessons, musical chairs, hula hoops contests, limbo contests and face painting.

The entertainment schedule for Friday and Saturday is the same each day and includes:

Meet BEANNY the EASTER BUNNY: 10 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 6 and under): 10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 6 and under): 10:45 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 7 and up): 11:15 a.m.

Musical Chairs/Hula Hoops: 11:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 6 and under): 12:15 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 7 and up): 12:45 p.m.

Limbo Contest/Hula Hoops: 1 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 6 and under): 1:45 p.m.

Friday: Cascading Carlos: 2 p.m.

Saturday: Musical Chairs/Hula Hoops: 2 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 7 and up): 2:45 p.m. Limbo/Hula Hoops: 3 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt (All Ages): 3:40 p.m.

Hula Hoop Contest, Limbo Contest: 4:15 p.m. Extreme Events will be on site with pay-as-you-go tickets for a variety of kids activities including shark slide, castle obstacle course, bounce houses and slides.

The event is open Friday, April 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$6, adults; \$4, seniors (60-plus); and \$4, students (4-18). Free admission for military, police and fire with ID. Free admission for children 3 and under.

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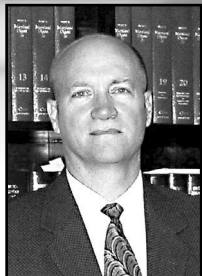
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Pines board hires company to build outdoor kitchen

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors agreed this week to spend more than \$300,000 to build an outdoor kitchen at the Yacht Club to improve patio service and food quality this summer.

In an email vote on March 18, the board agreed to hire My Hands Handyman to construct an outside kitchen at the community Yacht Club for \$316,500. The email poll was announced at the governing body's meeting on Saturday, March 28. According to Director Jeff Heavner, the vote was unanimous.

"After previous unanimous consent to vote by email, [Board President] John Latham made the motion to vote in favor by an email vote to approve \$316,500 for the contractor My Hands Handyman to build the tiki kitchen at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club," Heavner said. "This vote needed to be unanimous, and it passed with a unanimous vote, and it is being announced for recording in the board meeting minutes."

The director maintained that voting by email, rather than in a public forum as is typical, complies with the associa-
See YACHT Page 9



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- Large backyard with invisible pet perimeter fence.
- Oversized deck & custom stone patio overlook golf course.
- Heated garage & central vacuum system.
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- Laundry room with utility tub off garage.
- Trane heat pump (2017).
- Primary suite BA has newer seated handicap-accessible shower.
- Private front courtyard.
- Window treatments throughout & generous living spaces.

\$399,000

Projects continue at Ocean Pines facilities

General manager highlights solid financial position, but notes \$4k shortfall in Feb.

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) Current maintenance projects were discussed during last week's Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting, as staff detailed progress to date and upcoming improvements to be made in areas like bocce, aquatics, and racquet sports.

OPA's Senior Director of Administration Linda Martin reported that annual maintenance on the bocce courts was completed March 11, a day ahead of its season opener on March 12. The work was performed by the original installation contractor as part of a routine upkeep program.

"We have an annual maintenance program, so the company that installed the bocce courts came out and did that on March 11," Martin said.

Martin added that further upgrades to the bocce area are in motion. Shade tents and bleachers have been ordered, and a new leaderboard is currently being fabricated. Martin added a limited number of sponsorship opportunities for the courts are still available.

Additionally, facility improvements are planned for the golf course and pools. Martin said restrooms at the golf course fairways are scheduled for painting and general repairs, while more extensive upgrades are planned for Swim and Racquet.

"Materials have been ordered to replace the partitions and flooring," she said. "So, the Swim and Racquet bathrooms will be upgraded with new partitions and flooring once those materials arrive."

At the racquet sports complex, staff are working to replace a light on court No. 8, though the project has faced minor delays due to logistical issues.

"We were trying to do it when we had the lift. Unfortunately, we didn't want to damage the courts or the grounds around there," Martin explained. "So, we're trying to get equipment that will not damage that."

Inside the clubhouse, additional maintenance is planned, including steam cleaning of carpeting throughout the building.

Also at this week's meeting, Viola provided a financial update, emphasizing that while the association finished the month of February unfavorable to budget, the overall outlook remains positive.

"If we look [at our scorecard], we

are negative about \$4,000, and I take that seriously, even though it's a small number," Viola said. "When I look at the detail and everything, revenues were under budget by about \$30,000, but our expenses were under budget by \$26,000. These are slow months to begin with. The golf course was closed, other things were closed. And we had the storm. But I take this seriously, my team takes it seriously."

Viola added that despite the financial slide, the community's staff are to thank for the quick and effective response to cleanup efforts from February's unprecedented winter storm.

"Public works and everybody in this association — when I look all around, we could say we stood at the top for how we handled it as a team," he said.

Viola maintained that the association remains in a favorable position financially, reporting approximately \$400,000 in positive variance year-to-date.

"I'm about 10 months in. We're favorable around \$400,000. We've been estimated before between \$400,000 and \$450,000 on favorability," he said. "Again, it's not surplus. It's favorability. A lot of that money is already earmarked for the next assessment and for capital [projects]."

Viola noted that both revenues and expenses have trended favorably overall. A major contributor to the improved financial picture is the turnaround in food and beverage operations, he added.

"If you look at food and beverage, the year before we were negative \$100,000 after depreciation which obviously would be a cost in the assessment," Viola said. "What I look at now in the budget we used for this year, we are favorable...we are estimated to be favorable \$150,000 in the black. That's a \$250,000 swing. That's \$25 to \$30 favorable on the assessment this year because of food and beverage. Hopefully we continue that."

Viola maintained that much of that improvement is due to the association's contract with Touch of Italy and said the results reinforce ongoing investments in community infrastructure. Meanwhile, the Yacht Club's main bar has officially reopened following renovations completed in late February.

"The main bar reopened on Feb. 27, and Touch of Italy added drink counters to the corners of the bar area," Viola said. "We also installed televisions for viewing enhancement. We never had TVs in the middle of the bar. I think it looks great."



EASTER KIDS FUN FAIR

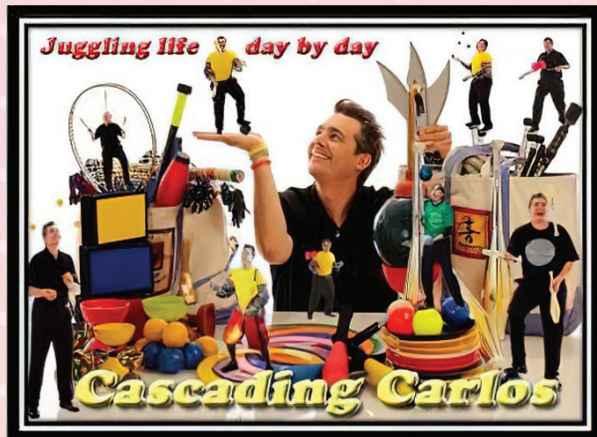


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Yacht Club improvements eyed

Continued from Page 7

tion's bylaws and the Corporations and Associations Article of the Maryland Code, so long as all directors agree.

Officials say that the initiative will enhance the service at the community's eatery.

The tiki kitchen will be erected on the Yacht Club's outdoor premises. Its purpose is to serve the patrons at the establishment's pool and patio area.

Bob Ciprietti, owner of Touch of Italy, the restaurant group that oversees the site's food and beverage operations, said last year that the summer presented challenges in getting orders to customers while keeping service quick and food fresh.

An influx of the warm weather crowd, he said, made it difficult for staff to juggle the inside patrons and the poolside guests. Touch of Italy hopes that the additional kitchen outside will supplement the indoor galley.

The endeavor has been moving through the approval processes since 2025. In October, the board unanimously agreed to spend \$40,800 for engineering designs from Vista Design.

A request for proposal (RFP) for the tiki kitchen was issued in February. OPA General Manager John Viola said this week that his team evaluated five RFPs and ultimately recommended the now-approved My Hands Handyman for \$316,500. The general manager

added that the structure is expected to be finished in time for summer.

"I think it's a very good initiative," Viola said. "We have a kitchen that takes care of the Yacht Club, the inside. That's a big effort when 200 people come all at the same time ... We are very, very happy and excited about what's going to happen over the next month."

He added that the effort is a collaboration between OPA and Touch of Italy. The restaurant group will pay for the structure's interior, like the kitchen equipment, while Ocean Pines is responsible for the construction of the building.

"This was Touch of Italy's idea, which we've embraced," Viola said "...I look at this as a hybrid. Ocean Pines, we're responsible for the structure. It's our building, it will always be our building. They, TOI, are putting money into the interior, into the kitchen ... I've been hearing a lot of different things. No, we did not give TOI \$316,500. That's our money invested, and it will be part of our assets."

Improvements are also expected at the community's Clubhouse Bar and Grille this year. Officials said in February that while these projects are upcoming, their progress has slowed due to recent priorities, such as the new firehouse and the winter storm cleanup effort.



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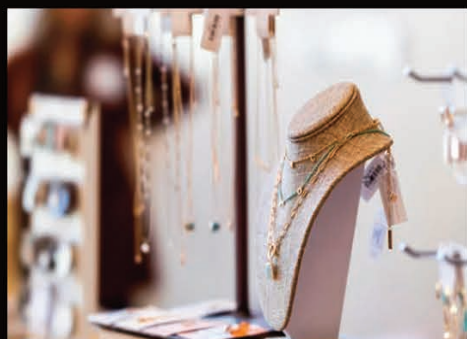
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Yearly Easter Market comes back to Ocean Pines April 4

Community's farmers and artisans sale announces special, festive 2026 dates

(April 2, 2026) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market will return to its in-season hours of 8 a.m.-1 p.m. this Saturday, April 4.

Also happening this Saturday is the annual Easter Market, which brings together local farmers, makers, and families for a morning of fresh goods and holiday cheer. The Market's favorite spring tradition, the Marketplace Egg Trail, will also take place on Saturday.

The 2026 Market season will feature a variety of themed markets and special events throughout the year, including:

April 4: Easter Market - Featuring Easter baked goods, early spring produce, and flowers.

May 9: Blooms & Bouquets - A Mother's Day-themed market with flowers, decor, and garden items

May 23: Memorial Day Weekend Market - Offering ingredients for holiday meals, including fresh produce, meats, and baked goods.

June 20: Artisans Celebration Market - A special celebration of local

artists and crafters. Discover hand-made treasures and support talented makers.

July 4: Fourth Weekend Market - A Star-Spangled celebration!

Aug. 1: National Farmers Market Week - A celebration of the market's merchants and community partners.

Aug. 29: Labor Day Weekend Market - All the items for an end-of-summer gathering.

Oct. 10: Scarecrow Shuffle - A lively celebration of the harvest season! A marketplace atmosphere filled with the sweet scent of apple cider and the sound of live music. Stock up on seasonal goodies and enjoy the festive fall vibes!

Oct. 31: Halloween Market - A marketplace with Halloween-inspired elements. Costumes are encouraged!

Nov. 14: Flannel & Harvest Market - Grab your best flannel outfit and the market basket and head out to the White Horse Park Marketplace for a morning of community fun!

Nov. 21, 24: Thanksgiving Festival - Two markets that will provide items for your Thanksgiving celebration, with a special pre-holiday market on Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon.

See THEMES Page 12

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New artwork on display at the Berlin Library

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) A new art exhibit at the Berlin Library is now available for viewing, with pieces for sale that depict scenes of wildlife and natural beauty found here on the Eastern Shore.

The showcase features the work of two artists and members of the Worcester County Arts Council, Cheryl Taylor and Carol Gentes. The collections are being displayed at the Berlin Library on the second floor.

Additionally, Taylor and Gentes will host a meet-the-artist evening on Thursday, April 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the facility. The event will offer attendees the opportunity to see the gallery and ask the artists questions about subjects such as technique and inspiration. Refreshments will also be available.

The pieces largely speak to the natural beauty of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Much of Taylor's artwork is glass-work, paintings, and mixed media, with inspiration drawn from Chincoteague Island and the Maryland Eastern Shore.

"There's so much beauty and so much land and wildlife, flora, fauna," she said. "All of it is just an inspiration to me...It's so green and so pretty; springtime is always the best. It just inspires you."

According to Taylor, her creations

often depict the many animals native to the area, specifically the array of birds. She added that the environment further influences her through her work as a Virginia Master Naturalist, which are volunteer educators and stewards of the state's natural resources.

"Becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist gave me more insight into how fragile the ecological system is here," Taylor said. "We have beauty here that to keep it, you have to make sure that the land stays as it is. It has been my inspiration for a lot of my art."

Taylor said that she dabbled in stained glass work for more than 30 years. Her interest in glass came when she was living in Germany as a child when she was drawn to blown-glass animals.

While she didn't take up blown glass, she enrolled in a stained-glass class and "fell in love with it."

Now, she has transitioned to fused glass. The technique is similar to stained glass, but rather than foiling and soldering, a kiln is used. Taylor said that she also paints and dabbles in photography.

Taylor was born in Philadelphia. As a military child, she moved around, finding herself in Germany before high school. However, she lived the longest in Baltimore County and graduated from the University of Baltimore. She



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pieces by artists Cheryl Taylor, left, and Carol Gentes, right are now featured at the Berlin Library. The pair are inviting community members to a reception on April 16.

worked for 34 years in property management, and in 2018, she became a full-time resident of the Eastern Shore.

That move is what inspired her to create again.

"It wasn't until I literally finished my career as a property manager that I then got back to art," Taylor said. "Moving to the Eastern Shore is what did it, honestly. It's just inspiration as soon as you get on the other side of the bridge from Baltimore and you're on

the Eastern Shore. It's just a different feeling, it's a different lifestyle, it's a different pace. You can continue to be in that buried lifestyle of stress and work or you can breathe and take it all in and be inspired by the beauty around you. That was the option I went for."

Gentes work also highlights the nature around her. The artist said her pieces are mixed-media and abstract-realist. One of the works displayed is ti-

See ARTISTS Page 13

Themes slated for OP market

Continued from Page 10

Dec. 5: Candy Cane Hunt - Gather the family and get ready for a sweet adventure! Search for hundreds of candy canes around the marketplace for a fun holiday hunt!

Dec. 12: Mrs. Claus Market Tour - Meet the merchants of the market with a holiday tour by Mrs. Claus herself.

Dec. 19: Christmas Market - Holiday baked goods, fresh produce, and artisan foods to prepare the perfect holiday feast.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Saturday, year-round, at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.



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Artists plan reception for April 16

Continued from Page 13

tled 'Garden in the Ocean,' which highlights an octopus.

"My inspiration is my love of nature," she said. "I love bird watching. So, I take a lot of photos that I use as reference in my paintings. And whatever catches my fancy. I might see something and have an idea that I want to put down on paper."

Gentes' artistic career began around age five. She was born just outside Boston and moved to western Massachusetts as a teenager. She graduated from Westfield University with a degree in biology and a minor in art. She said that she feels these two passions have guided how she creates.

Much of Gentes' pieces showcase flora and fauna. Additionally, her career has influenced her work.

"I worked in the microtechnology

field for a long time because that was where all the jobs were at the time. And that was detailed work...so you'll see in a lot of my work a lot of detail."

The artist added that she had been employed as an interior designer for 20 years and, in 2000, started her company, Pigment of the Imagination, where she began creating murals.

Most of the large-scale designs were done in the Wilmington, Delaware area, where she moved in 1984. She was also commissioned to do an outdoor shower in Bethany Beach and an electrical box in Ocean City. Gentes added that she is still available for murals and does them whenever she gets a call.

She said her experience has shaped the plethora of pieces she makes.

"I go from large-scale to tiny, detailed work," she said. "It's a whole

range."

Gentes and her husband now live in Selbyville, where they moved in 2016. She hopes that her art inspires those who are given the chance to view it.

"I think my artwork portrays something beautiful and happy," she said. "Scenes that people might like to look at. Scenes of animals, birds that people like are depicted differently."

Taylor and Gentes invite the community to attend their reception at the Berlin Library on April 16. The pair will be available to answer questions about their artistic process.

"The whole show is happy," Gentes said. "There's a lot of color. Nothing is political, nothing is depressing. It's uplifting art. If people are looking for something they would love to look at every day, they might find a piece there."

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07 APRIL 2:00PM-3:00PM **SECRETS OF THE EASTERN SHORE**
Jim Duffy, WBOC-TV's DelmarvaLife favorite, shares tales of the Eastern Shore. **Ocean City Branch.**

08 APRIL 12:00PM-1:00PM **CAREER POWER HOUR**
Learn key soft skills that can help you get hired! Registration Required. **Maryland's Coast Office.**

08 APRIL 2:00PM-3:00PM **MARYLAND TRIVIA**
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09 APRIL 2:00PM-3:00PM **BINGO**
Join us for a lively game of Bingo and win fun prizes. **Ocean City Branch.**

13 APRIL 2:00PM-4:00PM **WATERCOLOR BASICS**
Artist Jan Coulbourne teaches this class. Registration Required. **101 Green Street Gallery.**

16 APRIL 4:00PM-5:00PM **MD 250: TRICORN HATS**
Make your very own tricorne hat! All supplies provided. For families. **Ocean City Branch.**

21 APRIL 1:00PM-4:00PM **LET'S MAKE...EARTH DAY BEE HOUSES**
All materials provided. Registration Required. **Berlin Branch.**

22&29 APRIL 2:00PM-3:00PM **SELF DEFENSE BASICS**
Kevin Killian from Gracie Ocean City teaches this class. **Berlin Branch.**

24 APRIL 7:00PM-9:30PM **OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT**
Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and join us for a cozy outdoor showing of The Lorax. **Berlin Branch.**

25 APRIL 10:00AM-12:00PM **NATURE TRAIL WALK**
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28 APRIL 2:00PM-3:00PM **THE HISTORY OF MYSTERY**
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30 APRIL 2:00PM-3:00PM **1920S POETRY**:Dorothy Parker Join poet Nancy Mitchell for a lively celebration of Parker's life - refreshments and a prize if you come in costume. **Ocean Pines Branch.**

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County committee to review solar farm plan

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) A solar farm on the outskirts of Berlin that drew opposition from the Worcester County Commissioners is advancing anyway under state authority that overrides local zoning.

Arizona-based developer TurningPoint Solar is scheduled to meet next Wednesday with the county's Technical Review Committee for a major site plan review. If approved, the proposal would be heard by the county's planning commission for a favorable or unfavorable vote, followed by a public hearing.

Worcester County's zoning does not allow utility-scale solar farms like this one within residential areas. But Maryland's high court in 2019 ruled that the state's Public Service Commission has final say over placement of solar farms and may preempt local zoning. The best a county or municipality can do is

write a strongly worded letter in opposition.

That's what happened a year and a half ago. Before TurningPoint had even filed the project paperwork with the state, the developer came before the commissioners for a courtesy consultation. The commissioners were skeptical of the plan and unanimously voted to oppose the proposal.

Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, West Ocean City) expressed serious concern about building a renewable energy project in a spot already designated for future residential development.

"It's really kind of affecting the way we've planned the growth of Berlin and growth of Worcester County. I think there's a lot of better sites than this particular one," he said at the Oct. 1, 2024, meeting.

A month after that meeting, TurningPoint filed an application with the Public Service Commission. Following two public comment hearings last year, the commission on Jan. 13 gave its approval for the project to proceed, a regulatory order known as a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

That state certification typically hinges on local site plan review to address technical details like screening, stormwater, and road access, which is why the project is headed to the county's Technical Review Committee.

The 5-megawatt project would be constructed on a triangular parcel of agricultural land off Old Ocean City Boulevard. Its 13,780 solar panels would take up 35.5 acres of the 137-acre site. It would be enclosed by a 7-foot security fence and buffered by 35 feet of landscaping.

Power generated by the facility would be delivered through Delmarva Power's electric distribution grid to Maryland subscribers, rather than sold directly to a single utility buyer.

TurningPoint spokeswoman Christy Scott said the proposed project would serve more than 800 residential subscribers, with a minimum of 40% of the capacity of the project set aside for low-income customers.

She also said the company scouted the site for a solar farm based on its proximity to a nearby substation, the landowner's interest, and interconnection viability with the utility, among other factors.

TurningPoint says the project would generate \$3.5 million in tax revenue from its land lease and employ about 50 people during construction. The company has been developing solar projects in Maryland since 2016.

By 2030, renewable energy sources must account for 50% of the electricity sold by suppliers in Maryland, including a 14.5% requirement for solar power, according to state law. That mandate was set by the 2019 Clean Energy Jobs Act, which expanded the state's original 2004 renewable energy law.

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Cable station proposed for West Ocean City

Local property owners call facility a data center, push back on company's project

By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

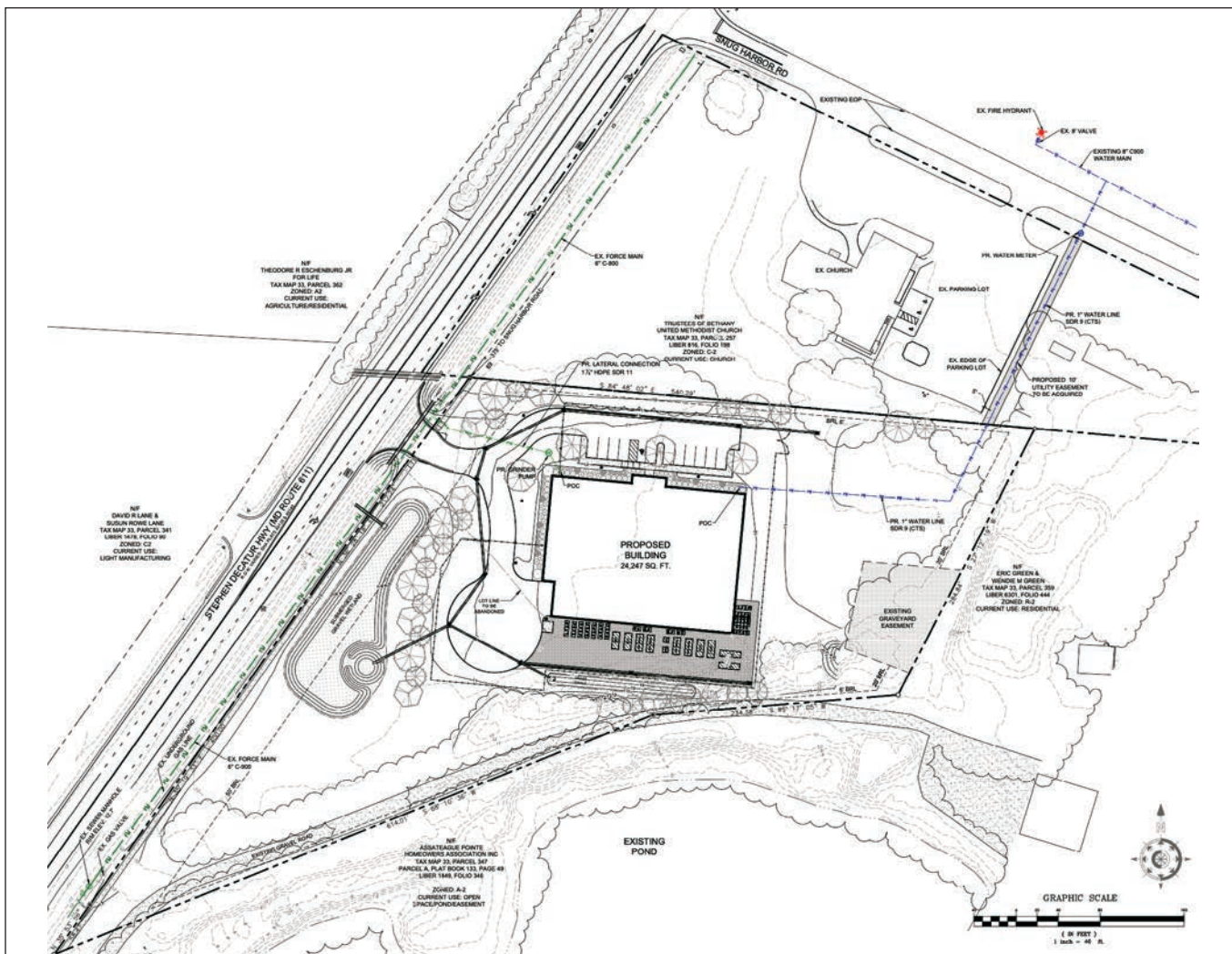
(April 2, 2026) Property owners are pushing back on a company's plans to build a cable landing station in West Ocean City, despite assurances from company leadership that the facility is not a data center.

Last October, the City Council entered into a 25-year lease agreement with Globalinx to land transatlantic fiber optic cables at the municipality's airport along Stephen Decatur Highway.

Now, the company reports it has plans to construct a 24,000-square-foot cable landing station nearby.

"We want to be good stewards of the land, and we are there to offer something, not to take ...," said Greg Twitt, CEO of Globalinx. "We are not a data center."

Last year, the Town of Ocean City received a proposal from Globalinx to bring a transatlantic cable system – used by Amazon – from the southwest coast of Ireland to a landing site at the municipal airport. In return, Ocean City would receive \$800,000 over the course of the 25-year lease,



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Nearby property owners are opposing a company's plans to build a cable landing station, shown in the drawing above, along Stephen Decatur Highway.

plus another \$200,000 per cable for any additional cables that are installed.

"It is simply a vault at the airport where the cable comes through," Ocean City Public Works Director Hal Adkins said in an interview.

However, local leaders and residents are now learning of the company's plans to install a facility nearby, one that would allow data to pass through to land-based networks. State property records show Globalinx has purchased two parcels on Stephen Decatur Highway – totaling roughly five acres – in an area immediately south of Snug Harbor Road

and Bethany United Methodist Church.

"We have a lot of questions and have not been given a lot of answers at this point," Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young told the OC Today-Dispatch. "And we have to try to figure out if there's a right to be concerned."

In March, neighboring property owners, including those in Snug Harbor, Assateague Pointe, Landings at Bayside and those representing the neighboring church, issued a letter to the Worcester County Commissioners detailing their opposition to the proposed landing station.

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Project seeks county approvals

The coalition voiced its concerns over what members say is a data center, and the impacts it could have on energy use, the environment, quality of life and other issues.

“The Community Coalition of Impacted Property Owners formally submits this memorandum to express our strenuous opposition to the Globalinx data center project as currently proposed,” the letter reads.

“While presented as ‘economic development,’ the scale of this 24,000-square-foot, 5-megawatt facility represents a high-intensity industrial utility that poses significant risks to the coastal environment and the financial well-being of Worcester County residents.”

Specifically, the coalition argued the facility would increase energy use, requiring “massive grid upgrades.” They also raised concerns over noise and light pollution, water consumption, and the lack of transparency.

“The County Commissioners have frequently advocated for ‘local control’ against state overreach,” the letter reads. “We expect that same control to be exercised now to protect constituents rather than facilitate developers. A five-minute window during a Planning Commission meeting is insufficient for a project of this scale, in order to address the community concerns and disseminate information.”

When reached for comment last week, Twitt reiterated that the facility in question is not a data center, but a connection point for subsea cables. Those fiber optic lines, he added, will be used by providers to improve internet connections.

“They come into that facility and take that subsea cable and distribute it throughout the community and other parts of the country,” he explained, adding that the cables would remain underground and would be brought from the airport to the new facility through horizontal directional drilling.

Twitt said the facility being proposed would feature cable equipment and cabinets inside and backup generators outside, which he said would only be used during power outages. He added that water usage would be minimal, and that the building would have no more than five employees on-site at any given time.

“If you drove past it, it would look like a normal building,” he said, “like a warehouse or office building.”

Twitt also acknowledged the community’s concerns over power usage. While noting that the initial power demand would be low, it would increase gradually over time. He said the company will be working with Choptank to upgrade two substations in the Worcester County area.

However, once finished, Twitt said the cable landing station would be beneficial to the community, as it could attract more providers and ultimately

improve pricing. With the proper approvals, he said the facility would be completed halfway through next year.

“It won’t be disruptive in terms of the build ...,” he said. “It’s not a big build.”

Young said Globalinx has submitted plans to the county’s technical review committee, which he said had questions about water usage, sewer capacity and noise, to name a few. Bob Mitchell, the county’s director of environmental programs, added that staff have since held an online meeting with company representatives to get answers.

“We did note the public’s interest in this project and its impact on the surrounding community,” he said in an email last week. “They are considering conducting a public meeting to explain the project to the community at the Berlin Library or another public facility. We are sending correspondence back to the company to request additional clarifications on remaining questions.”

Commissioner Eric Fiori, who represents the district in which the facility will be located, echoed his constituents’ concerns. While he acknowledged the facility does not reach the scale of a typical data center, he argued it would still have negative impacts.

“To-ma-to, to-mah-to,” he said. “It’s still the same vegetable.”

Fiori not only shared concerns over utility usage and noise generation but questioned if such a facility was even allowed in the district per the county’s zoning code, which he said addressed cabling but not data centers.

“This is the wrong spot for this,” he said. “It’s on Route 611 in a mostly residential district.”

Fiori said the county awaits the company’s written responses to staff’s questions. In the meantime, nearby residents are seeking a pause in the permitting process until an environmental and rate impact study can be completed.

The coalition also asked that alternative sites be evaluated, and that a town hall meeting be scheduled with Globalinx and its partners.

“Development must be planned carefully to ensure that it will serve the community,” the coalition’s letter reads. “Currently the members of this coalition feel that there has been a lack of information and transparency regarding this development, that without further information, appears to only benefit Globalinx.”

For his part, Twitt said Globalinx is willing to meet with community members. He said the company has also created a webpage, where the public can view facts about the project and submit any questions and concerns they may have.

“It’s important that we have that relationship with the community,” he said.



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As deficits persist, water, sewer fees to rise

Latest increase another step to remedy financial crisis in enterprise funds

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2026) Worcester County's water and sewer accounts are still operating collectively in the red, despite proposed fee increases for the next fiscal year and a \$1.1 million subsidy from the county.

Base fees would increase by 5% for 10 of the county's 11 sanitary sewer enterprise funds, according to a fiscal year 2027 budget proposal from enterprise fund controller Quinn Dittrich. Rates for the West Ocean City district would not change.

"Last year was a big hit to a lot of people," Dittrich told OC Today-Dispatch. "So, this year, while it is still an unsustainable increase, most of these areas that are still operating in a deficit. It's steppingstone into the right direction of getting these funds to be where they need to be."

Enterprise funds generate their own revenue from user rates and operate independently of the county's general fund. This year's enterprise budget, however, proposes \$1,116,908 in subsidies from the county's general fund for select dis-

tricts that requested support, according to Dittrich. Those include The Landings, Riddle Farm, and River Run.

Other budgeted subsidies are tied to capital requests, like large purchase orders for chemicals. Whether those subsidies would be treated as a loan is up to the commissioners, Dittrich also said.

The average percentage increase for The Landings district is driven primarily by a 57.5% increase in the Lewis Road water fee, from \$60 per quarter to \$94.50.

Dittrich said the county is planning next to bid out a rate study, where a third-party adviser not only would evaluate their rate needs but offer suggestions on building capital reserves.

Overall, the FY27 enterprise fund budget calls for a 7% increase, or \$1.3 million in projected revenue. Expenses are budgeted to increase by 3%, or \$617,000.

"You're outweighing your expenses, but you're still operating at deficits. So, the expenses are still there. We kept it as lean as possible

that while being efficient as possible," Dittrich said.

The proposed water-sewer budget arrives in the shadow of a multimillion-dollar financial crisis that forced the county to fundamentally restructure its enterprise fund oversight and billing.

Two years ago, the county commissioners learned of a systemic financial crisis in its water-sewer enterprise funds, where 7 of 11 sewerage accounts were operating in a deep deficit, one that had ballooned for years.

The bad news came to light after a new budget officer was appointed and learned of the negligence: a former enterprise fund controller had been covering losses by taking cash-flow from profitable areas to cover failing ones. Dittrich was hired as a replacement enterprise fund controller.

One major expense that added millions to the deficit involved the cost of trucking sludge from the out-of-commission Riddle Farm plant, where the filtration system had failed, to the Ocean Pines facility. That ex-

pense was never reflected in user rates.

To address the immediate shortfall, the county opted to stabilize the enterprise account by transferring \$9.1 million from the general fund, most of which was structured as a loan to be repaid by ratepayers over ten years.

An unpopular pitch for a universal rate hike was scrapped in favor of making each district self-sustaining, but that led to dramatic rate hikes where many customers saw quarterly bills double or even triple last year. Instead, each service area saw a rate hike commensurate with its individual needs and usage.

Standards for household usage, known as equivalent dwelling units, or EDUs, also were lowered to 250 gallons per day for residential and commercial customers. That eliminated fixture-based billing for residents and removed discounted rate tiers for commercial customers.

Dittrich said, moving forward, another complaint to be addressed was giving customers adequate notice of changes being made. He said upcoming April bills for the county's roughly 18,000 customers will include an insert with public meeting dates and a website address with more information.

'It's steppingstone into the right direction of getting these funds to be where they need to be'
Enterprise fund controller Quinn Dittrich

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Snapshots



ANNUAL SERVICE

Members and leadership of the Berlin Fire Company each February attend the Sunday service at Stevenson United Methodist to recognize the memory of former church and BFC Franklin Pennewell. This past February marked the 91st year on the first Sunday in February that Pennewell's passing was observed in his memory.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LEGION DONATION

Michael DeSelm with Stop Soldier Suicide joined the monthly membership meeting of American Legion Auxiliary Synepuxent Unit 166 virtually to speak about the organization and also to be presented with a \$23,000 check from the 4th Annual Putting for a Cause event.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Students from Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) were recently recognized as winners in the annual Great Americanism Essay Contest hosted by the Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645. This year's contest theme, "What Does Service to Your Country Mean to You?", encouraged students to reflect on the meaning of patriotism, civic responsibility, and service. Participants submitted essays of at least 300 words addressing the theme. In the 6th grade division, WPS student Jude Waked earned first place, while Jaanvi Pandher received second place honors. In the 7th-grade division, Tejal Pillai was awarded first place, and Eli Parker earned second place recognition. Pictured, from left, are Tejal Pillai, Eli Parker, Jaanvi Pandher, Jude Waked and Head of Middle School Jake Perry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

STUDENT ARTISTS CELEBRATED

Students from Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) were honored for their outstanding artwork in the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club's Worcester County High School Art Contest. In February, the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club hosted the Worcester County High School Art Contest, a juried event showcasing the artistic talents of high school students. The exhibition displayed student artwork submitted by various high school art teachers, including George Zaiser, the WPS Art Director. Pictured, from left, are third place winner in Drawing, Elena Gjoni; Honorable Mention in Painting, Levi Phillips; and second place winner in Drawing, Nate Friedman. Not pictured is first place winner in Drawing, Hayden Wagner.



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NEW MEMBER JOINS

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club welcomed new member Christine Whittenberger, left. She was welcomed by her sponsor Club Treasurer and District Lt. Governor Cynthia Malament.

Foster care changes a plus for Worcester kids in system

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(March 27, 2026) Maryland social services officials say the number of Worcester County foster children placed with relatives and trusted adults has surged in recent months, a change they attribute to new financial support for caregivers and a broader definition of who qualifies as "family."

"We've seen that children thrive when they can be with family and in their community," said Becky Rice, director of out-of-home care for the state's Department of Human Services.

Before Maryland expanded its "kinship care" policy in October 2024, just 4 of the county's 26 children in out-of-home care, about 15%, were placed with relatives. By January, that figure had climbed to 20 of 31 children, or roughly 65%, according to state data.

Officials say the increase is the result of several changes working at once, including expanded eligibility for kinship caregivers, streamlined licensing rules, and new software that helps caseworkers identify family connections more quickly.

Kinship caregivers now don't have to complete full foster-parent training before taking in a child, allowing placements to happen faster. Other minor policy changes – bunk beds, once prohibited, are now allowed – are also expediting approvals.

Worcester County's increase mirrors a broader statewide trend: 11 counties in Maryland have doubled their kinship placement rates over the past year, and Worcester saw one of the largest increases.

"We need more children placed with kin because we recognize that, compared to other states, our number of children placed with kin wasn't where it could be," Rice said.

In the child welfare system, "kinship care" means placing children with relatives or other adults they already know, rather than with licensed foster families who are strangers.

Maryland's 2024 kinship care law expanded who can qualify as a "kin." It

now allows social workers to place children not only with blood relatives, but also with trusted adults like neighbors, teachers, or family friends.

Officials say children placed with kin experience fewer disruptions. In one case cited by state officials, a child was placed with a teacher who volunteered to open her home – a placement that would not have been allowed under previous rules.

"Even when you have the best social worker and the best support system, it is still incredibly traumatic, even for our younger kids," Rice said. "This is not a knock on foster families at all, but it's much less traumatic when you come into foster care and you can be placed with somebody you know, that connection to your family and your culture and your community."

Kinship caregivers are now eligible for a \$900 "monthly care stipend" per child. Social services officials said this change removes a major financial hurdle for eligible foster families.

At the same time, a new software tool called Binti helps caseworkers pinpoint potential kin in minutes by scouring databases for family connections, a process that used to take weeks of manual outreach.

While children typically enter foster care as a result of investigations into abuse or neglect, officials emphasized that they want to keep children and parents together whenever possible, and that removal from a home is a last resort.

Still, not every child has a suitable relative available, and traditional foster families remain an essential part of the system.

In Worcester County, the changes are noticeable for the four social workers and one resource home worker, according to social worker Zoey Diskin.

She noted that the job, while fulfilling, can be unpredictable and involves early mornings, late nights, and sometimes travel across the state.

"It really depends on the needs of the children, and that's what we go by," Diskin said. "We just do the best we can to support the kids."

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Opinion

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

Tax break may not be enough for recruiting

The mayor and Town Council of Berlin have the right idea as they contemplate offering property tax incentives to first responders who live in town.

Ostensibly, this idea aims to help the Berlin Fire Company recruit volunteers more than anything else, although police and career emergency services personnel could benefit as well.

Berlin's company, like volunteer outfits in small towns across the country, is facing a crisis. It's been written here before, but overstating the seriousness of the situation would be almost impossible to do, because the public must pay attention now before it's forced to pay big money later.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, volunteer firefighter recruiting numbers have been declining since 2008, while the number of calls for service have increased.

Among the reasons cited for this downturn in recruiting are the demanding training requirements, heavy time commitments, and shifting demographics. In the latter instance, this means those ties to the community that led to greater civic engagement — and volunteer service — aren't as tight as they once were.

Further, the housing situation is almost impossible for young people just starting out. Maryland House Market Data puts the average sale price of a home in Berlin at \$435,000 and the average rent around \$2,500.

That's simply beyond the reach of young would-be fire company recruits and while the \$1,000 tax break proposed by town officials would help, that's nothing as compared to what the cost to taxpayers would be if the town had to switch to an all-paid department.

A rough guess is a paid fire department would cost the town somewhere around \$5 million in salary and benefits a year. That leaves the mayor and council in the position of not having to decide whether to grant the tax break discussed this week, but whether it will be enough to be effective.

Push to stop slashing of DDA budget

Officials urge Moore to restore disabled care service funding

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(March 27, 2026)
Worcester County officials are asking Gov. Wes Moore to protect Maryland's disability safety net after a Stockton woman shared how state-mandated pay cuts could force her brothers' caregivers to quit.

Shana Farlow, 48, is able to hire a team of around-the-clock nurses who care for her disabled adult brothers, thanks to funding provided by the state's Developmental Disabilities Administration, or DDA.

With the state facing a \$1.5 billion dollar revenue shortfall, the governor's budget would slash \$150 million from the Developmental Disability Administration.

While a Senate budget committee this week voted to restore \$23.1 million of that, it still means \$126.9 million in cuts are on the table for the state agency that provides vital home-based care services to the disabled.

The cuts would include reducing state reimbursement rates that support caregiver wages from about



PHOTO COURTESY SHANA FARLOW

Shana Farlow (center) of Stockton is pictured with her brothers Nathan Holland (left) and Andrew Holland. She says the state disability funding that helps pay for their care could be jeopardized by potential budget cuts.

\$37 an hour to \$23, a nearly 40% drop.

A nurse herself, Farlow worries that her brother's caregivers — some of whom have been with her family for years — might seek other jobs if the budget cuts reduce their pay.

"It's hard. Once we find people, we don't have a big turnover rate," she said. "I was fighting for Andrew and Nathan, but I was also fighting for their wonderful staff."

Farlow's brothers Andrew Holland, 43, and Nathan Holland, 34, who live next door to her, both have leukodystrophy. The rare genetic brain disorder leads to a gradual loss of mobility and cognitive function. Those diagnosed often re-

quire constant medical care.

After her mother died, instead of putting her brothers in a care facility or a group home, she picked another option provided by the state: "self-directed" care, or the ability to hire her own medical staff directly.

Farlow herself tracks down potential RNs, and her request for services ultimately goes through a non-profit that makes sure nurses get paid. They also have a case manager who's a liaison between her family and DDA.

Each brother gets a budget of \$180,000 to pay for care — an amount "they don't even come close to," Shana said — and the money
See CAREGIVER Page 23

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Fill the Divots Day planned for Pines

(March 26, 2026) Fill the Divots Day is an opportunity for all interested members to help ensure the Ocean Pines Golf Course is in tip top shape by filling divots in the fairways and tee boxes and reporting any maintenance issues.

This year's event is scheduled for Monday, April 6, at 10 a.m. with a rain date of April 7. These dates correspond to the dates the course is closed for aeration.

On arrival, volunteers should check in with Fred Ellis at the bag drop location for hole assignment and to grab a cart. It is recommended to

bring at least one 5-gallon bucket of your own and a smaller bucket or can to help distribute the sand on the hole. Some large white buckets will be available at the course, but quantities are limited. There will be a pile of sand and shovel near the cart barn to use to fill your buckets before going to your assigned hole. When you're done, bring the cart back and leave it by the cart barn to be cleaned by staff.

There is no need to repair ball marks on the greens during this event, as the greens will be aerated.

The event typically takes 1-2 hours, depending on the number of volunteers. All help is greatly appreciated.

Additionally, the Sand Dawgs, an elite group of volunteers who adopt a golf hole and fill divots, repair ball marks, and report maintenance issues, are recruiting new members. Sand Dawgs typically assist 2-3 times per month from April through October every year. Substitutes who fill in for short periods of time (1-3 weeks) are also needed. For more information or to inquire, contact Fred Ellis at fkellis2014@gmail.com.

Caregiver wages cut 40% in plan

Continued from Page 22

goes to pay the support broker and her nursing staff, or can be used to pay for coursework and certifications.

“It costs the state way less to keep them at home. The state only pays for the staff, that’s it,” she added.

That “self-direction” program is a big part of the governor’s budget math. According to the state Department of Health, the number of families who opted for self-direction surged over a four-year period, from 1,618 in 2021 to 3,632 in 2024.

As participation grew, each new enrollee added to ongoing service costs, and those obligations eventually outpaced available funding. The state claims this is one of the reasons that DDA has fallen into a \$736 million multi-year funding gap.

For Worcester County officials, it was Commissioner Caryn Abbott who brought the budgetary issue to their attention, after she saw Farlow’s updates about her brothers posted to social media.

Abbott (District 1, Southern), a nurse by training, said she was moved by Farlow’s efforts to advocate for her brothers’ care despite feeling overwhelmed.

“As a nurse, I have cared for some of these patients,” she said, “and it’s just heartbreaking for me, when they’re not looking inside the agency at all. They’re just going to cut it from the beneficiaries, the patients.”

Home healthcare RNs and CNAs are hard enough to come by on the rural Lower Shore, Abbott added, and asking them to work for \$23 an hour would be a tough sell. “For \$20 an hour, as an RN, you would have to do this out of the kindness of your heart,” she said.

The commissioners voted unanimously last week to write Gov. Moore, urging him to restore essential DDA funding “for Worcester County’s most vulnerable residents.”

“Maryland has long been recognized for its commitment to protecting and supporting residents with disabilities,” Commission President Ted Elder said in a March 13 letter. “Restoring DDA funding will ensure the continuation of the very services that Marylanders with developmental disabilities need to live with dignity, security, and opportunity. Your support will make this possible.”

For now, Shana Farlow worries that her brothers’ future, and that of their nurses, is being “held hostage” until the state’s April 6 budget deadline.

“It’s just taken its toll on me so bad. I’m a fighter, but I don’t know how to continue to fight this,” she said. “You have to rely on the government, and it sucks. They give it to you, but they can take it away just as fast. I wish we didn’t have to rely on them, but we do.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW OCEAN PINES OFFICER

The Ocean Pines Police Department has announced the addition of Officer Charles Lowery. Ocean Pines Association President John Latham conducted the swearing-in ceremony at the regular board meeting on Saturday, March 28. Lowery previously served with the Elkton Police Department. “I’m excited to welcome Officer Lowery to the Ocean Pines Police Department,” said Police Chief Tim Robinson. “I am confident he will make a great addition to our team.”

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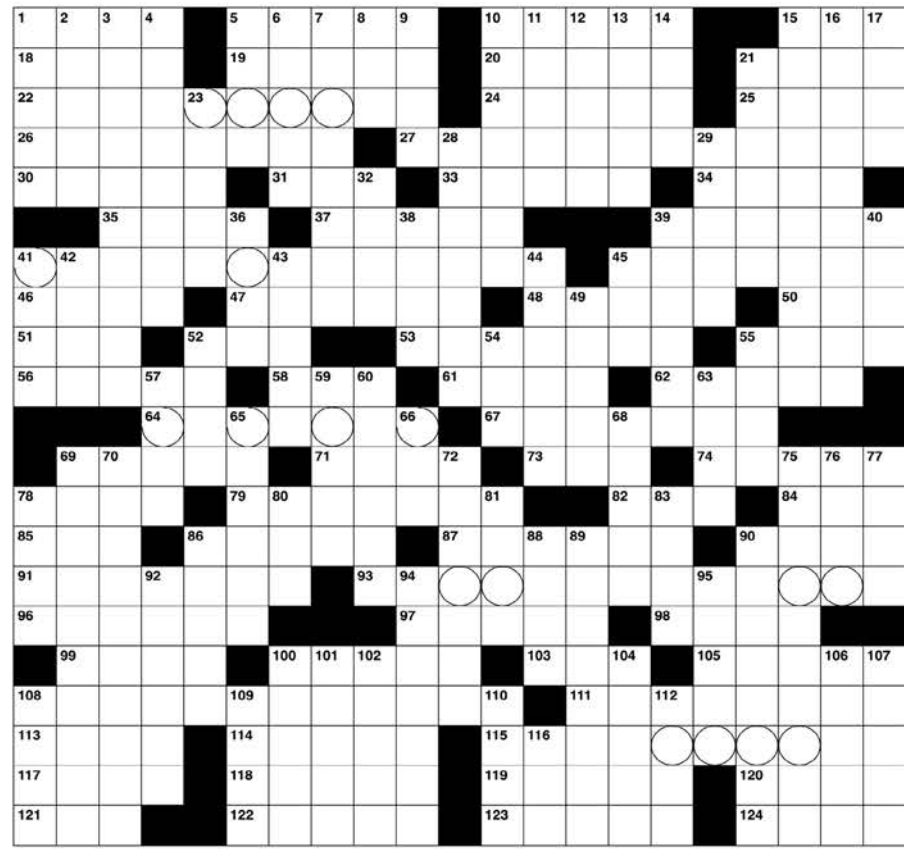
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Puzzles

SOUND IT OUT BY ALEX EATON-SALNERS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Eaton-Salners is an in-house attorney for Sandisk, a technology company headquartered in Milpitas, Calif. This is his 55th crossword for The Times since his first appeared in 2017. He says his best theme ideas occur to him during periods of hypnagogia — the transition between wakefulness and sleep. The starting point for this puzzle was the pairing of 108- and 115-Across. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Catalyst for reckless behavior
 - 5 More than enough
 - 10 Resting places
 - 15 Resin source
 - 18 Tippy-top
 - 19 Green ____
 - 20 Basic tier on a popular ride-sharing app
 - 21 Bygone bird
 - 22 Triangle, for one
 - 24 Prerelease prototypes
 - 25 List-shortening abbreviation
 - 26 Fixed fees
 - 27 The circles in 22-Across?
 - 30 Nauru's capital
 - 31 Digital ID?
 - 33 Canon competitor
 - 34 Island chains
 - 35 Betwixt
 - 37 Eucalyptus eater
 - 39 Liturgical book
 - 41 Modern trend of employees doing the bare minimum
 - 45 The circles in 41-Across?
 - 46 Coffee holders
 - 47 ____ planning
 - 48 Came to a conclusion
 - 50 Enterprise that might offer disposable slippers
- DOWN**
- 51 Power suffix?
 - 52 Harvard extension
 - 53 Big parties
 - 55 Bed liner?
 - 56 Gussied (up)
 - 58 "Totally tubular!"
 - 61 Kind
 - 62 Tony winner ____ Lenya
 - 64 Highchair wear
 - 67 The circles in 64-Across?
 - 69 "____ on you!"
 - 71 Lisa with the 1994 No. 1 hit "Stay (I Missed You)"
 - 73 Liquor-free
 - 74 "No help needed here!"
 - 78 Leave speechless
 - 79 Each of the tiny tufts of a dandelion has one
 - 82 Addams Family member
 - 84 Rowboat blade
 - 85 One of a pair of lines drawn in hangman
 - 86 ____ Haute, Ind.
 - 87 Seven days in San Juan
 - 90 Firework part
 - 91 The circles in 93-Across?
 - 93 On easy street
 - 96 "Secret" holiday figures
 - 97 1980s video game character who hops between cubes
 - 98 MacFarlane who voiced Ted in "Ted"
 - 99 Degrees for C.F.O.s
 - 100 Numbers game
 - 103 Help
 - 105 Altiplano animal
 - 108 The circles in 115-Across?
 - 111 Family members
 - 113 Romeo's last words
 - 114 States for the record
 - 115 Nickname of Oak Ridge, Tenn., built in 1942 for the Manhattan Project
 - 117 Some reds, for short
 - 118 Send payment
 - 119 Nasal cavity
 - 120 Winslet with five Golden Globes
 - 121 Part of E.S.L.: Abbr.
 - 122 Dresden denials
 - 123 Where the Rosetta Stone was discovered
 - 124 Little twerp
 - 10 Cooking vessel used in making angel food cake
 - 11 Excels at Simon Says, say
 - 12 Hashtag that trended in 2017
 - 13 Indiana governor Mike
 - 14 Austin music-and-media festival, familiarly
 - 15 "I guess the time has come"
 - 16 Bulge in some throats
 - 17 Flag bearer
 - 21 Find abhorrent
 - 23 Rehearsed the whole show, in theater lingo
 - 28 Raised designs
 - 29 Admission of duplicity
 - 32 ____ bene
 - 36 Eliminated for not following the rules, informally
 - 38 Start of an encouragement
 - 39 Granola kin
 - 40 Hurdle for an aspiring atty.
 - 41 Difficult ice skating maneuver, in brief
 - 42 Language of Pakistan's national anthem
 - 43 Illegal activity generating considerable interest?
 - 44 Ready to go, with "up"
 - 45 Captain's subordinate: Abbr.



- 49 Component of fertilizer and gunpowder
- 52 Cheese ball?
- 54 Key ____
- 55 Iris holder
- 57 Israel's first U.N. ambassador
- 59 Less incompetent
- 60 Some radio tubes
- 63 "Will do!"
- 65 Attacks from all sides
- 66 "The Fresh Prince of ____-Air"
- 68 Recumbent
- 69 Arrived en masse
- 70 You or me, say
- 72 Film crew assistant
- 75 From Bhutan or Bangladesh
- 76 The right direction?
- 77 "South Park" co-creator Parker
- 78 Exams for srs.
- 80 Settings for some TV dramas, in brief
- 81 Chapeau perch
- 83 Light hits
- 86 Pester
- 88 Actress Sorvino
- 89 Sb, on the periodic table
- 90 Tufted parts of horses' legs
- 92 Equilibria
- 94 Batteries for brains?
- 95 Archaeologist's find
- 100 Surge protector?
- 101 People of the Mexican altiplano
- 102 Bring to a garage for repairs
- 104 Block, beaver-style
- 106 Memorable saying
- 107 To date
- 108 Small, say
- 109 It may be hard to believe
- 110 Freedom from fretting
- 112 ____ bump
- 116 Comedian Notaro



RACETRACK AUTO SALES

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PREVIOUSLY OWNED VEHICLES for SALE



'22 TOYOTA COROLLA



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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 40

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Obituaries

WILLIAM T. GALLAGHER, JR.

Ocean City
William "Billy" Thomas Gallagher, Jr., age 60, of Ocean City, passed away Wednesday, March 25, 2026.



W. Gallagher, Jr.

Born on October 8, 1965, he was the son of the late William T. Gallagher, Sr. and Barbara (Stevens) Gallagher, to whom he was the picture of a perfect son. Born and raised in Baltimore City, in the Mayfield neighborhood with his two sisters, Elizabeth (Todd) and Bridget (Rose).

Billy attended high school at Calvert Hall College. After high school, he followed his passion for life and music with the Grateful Dead. Those who knew Billy have heard countless stories of his amazing times on tour, seeing music and his dear friends he traveled with. In 1990 his life changed when he met "the sunshine of his life", his daughter Amanda.

He eventually relocated to the Eastern Shore, specifically West Ocean City, where he worked in the restaurant business. Whether he was behind

the bar, or in the kitchen, Billy was loved by everyone. He was known for his sense of humor and storytelling. He enjoyed his life in West Ocean City with his long-time partner, Alicia Baker, and his loyal companion, Ty.

Billy's world got even brighter in 2015, when he welcomed his first grandchild. Pop-pop, as he was called, would soon welcome two more grandchildren. Liam, Xander and Wyatt became the light of his life. He was looking forward to welcoming his first granddaughter in September.

Billy loved his family and enjoyed his title of Uncle Billy and adored his nieces and nephews, Billy, Sarah, Ian, Bridget, Molly, Carter and Ava.

Billy was truly one of a kind. A man of passion with a big heart. Whether it was sports, music, animals or friends he cared deeply and loved even more. He was a family man, the best son, brother, father and Pop-pop.

As Garcia would sing, "May the four winds blow you safely home." NFA.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at The Burbage Funeral Home from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A mass will be held

the following day, on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Holy Savior Catholic Church, in Ocean City, at 11 a.m. Letters of condolence may be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home - Berlin.

ROBERT WILLIAM SHAYER, JR.

Berlin
Robert William "Bob" Shayer, Jr., of Berlin, Maryland passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 22, 2026



R. Shayer, Jr.

surrounded by his family. Born on January 30, 1943 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Robert Shayer Sr. and Leona (Roy) Shayer. Robert is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Kathleen (Merbler) Shayer, his sons Kevin (Pamela) of Florida and Brian of Sweden; his five beloved grandchildren — Ryan, Brendan, Oliver, Colin, Jenny, his step sister, Emily Clark of Delaware and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his sister Nancy (Shayer) Ensenat.

Throughout his life Robert was known for his passion for gardening, card playing, and cooking.

A proud graduate of Villanova University, Robert's devotion to the Wildcats was legendary among family and friends. Whether it was basketball season or football Saturdays he never missed a game. His Villanova gear was worn with pride and his enthusiasm for the Wildcats became a cherished family tradition. Robert served in the United States Army for two years in Germany.

Robert spent his career in the insurance industry. In retirement he dedicated his time to family, friends, travel, gardening and the simple joy of being near the ocean.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday April 9 at 1 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 11211 Beauchamp Rd., Berlin, Md. 21811.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Robert will be deeply missed by his family and friends.



OPEN HOUSES

April 2 - 9



| DAY/TIME | ADDRESS | BR/BA | STYLE | PRICE | AGENT/AGENCY |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Fri-Mon 11am-4pm | Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside, Ocean City | 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-2pm | 20 Brandywine Drive, Ocean Pines | 4BR/2.5BA | Single Family | \$449,000 | Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Friday 1-5pm | 14104 Dukes Avenue, Ocean City | 4BR/2BA | Single Family | \$594,900 | Terry Riley/RE/MAX Advantage Realty |
| Friday 2-4pm | 5907 Atlantic Avenue Unit 205, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$459,000 | Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Friday 2-4pm | 9500 Coastal Hwy., Unit 10F, Ocean City | 1BR/1.5BA | Condo | \$440,000 | Katie Hammond/Sunny Beach Houses/Keller Williams Realty |
| Friday 3-5pm | 12971 Inlet Isle Lane, Ocean City | 5BR/5BA | Single Family | \$2,699,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 10am-11:30am | 11324 River Run Lane, Berlin | 3BR/3.5BA | Single Family | \$627,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 10am-Noon | 20 Brandywine Drive, Ocean Pines | 4BR/2.5BA | Single Family | \$449,000 | Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 10am-Noon | 5907 Atlantic Avenue Unit 205, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$459,000 | Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 10am-2pm | 14104 Dukes Avenue, Ocean City | 4BR/2BA | Single Family | \$594,900 | Terry Riley/RE/MAX Advantage Realty |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 16 Marview Drive, Ocean Pines | 3BR/2BA | Single Family | \$399,999 | Power of 2 Team/ Hileman Real Estate |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 5 Freeport Lane, Ocean Pines | 3BR/3BA | Single Family | \$529,900 | Lauren Bunting/ Keller Williams Realty |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 26188 High Banks Dr, Salisbury | 3BR /3BA | Single Family | \$479,900 | Power of 2 Team/ Hileman Real Estate |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 22 Leigh Drive, Ocean Pines | 6BR/4.5BA | Single Family | \$2,649,000 | Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 11am-1pm | 201 S Heron Drive 26B, Ocean City | 2BR/2.5BA | Condo | \$574,900 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 11am-2pm | 11967 W War Dancer Ln #107, Berlin | 4BR/4BA | Townhome | \$474,900 | Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty |
| Sat & Sun, 11am-3pm | 12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC | 2BR/2BA | Single Family | from \$284,750 | Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community |
| Saturday Noon-1:30pm | 1 66th Street #101, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$479,000 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday Noon-2pm | 1613 Mercers Way, Ocean Pines | 5BR/3.5BA | Single Family | \$749,900 | Cindy Poremski/BHHS PenFed Realty |
| Saturday 1-3pm | 26 Mallard Drive West, Ocean Pines | 8BR/8.5BA | Single Family | \$2,299,000 | Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Saturday 2-3:30pm | 204 S Heron Dr 202G, Ocean City | 2BR/2BA | Condo | \$565,000 | Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty |



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., April 2

SCHOOL'S OUT: SPRING CRAFTS DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A variety of spring crafts offered. For ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: EASTER

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

OC CHESS CLUB

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

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. A variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-5622

ROCK CASTLE HOME: MOVIE & DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Hand-built cabins, grist mills and whiskey stills characterized Rock Castle Gorge, a mountain community displaced by the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1930s. Award-winning film & discussion. 410-208-4014

POCOMOKE BRANCH BOOK CLUB: 'THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO' BY STEVEN GALLOWAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. A lively discussion each month. Stop by the Pocomoke Branch to pick up a copy in advance. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

DRY PANTRY

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

Fri., April 3

PREMIER HOME & ARTISAN EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 60+ and for kids ages 4-18 years and free to those 3 years and younger. Admission includes the Easter Kids Fun Fair. Expo. <http://oceanpromotions.info>, 410-213-8090

EASTER KIDS FUN FAIR

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 60+ and for kids ages 4-18 years and free to those 3 years and younger. Admission includes the Premier Home & Artisan Expo. <http://oceanpromotions.info>, 410-213-8090

EASTER EGG HUNT & POOL PARTY

Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 5-8 p.m. Featuring Easter egg hunts, crafts, music, games and food (for purchase). Cost is \$8 for swim members; \$10 for residents; \$12 for non-residents. Pay at the door. 410-641-5255

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

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION: JUNE 2026

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and see the new exhibits by a variety of local and regional artists. Free event. All are welcome. development@artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - THE 7 LAST WORDS

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 7 p.m. All are welcome. 410-641-0270

Sat., April 4

PREMIER HOME & ARTISAN EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 60+ and for kids ages 4-18 years and free to those 3 years and younger. Admission includes the Easter Kids Fun Fair. Expo. <http://oceanpromotions.info>, 410-213-8090

EASTER KIDS FUN FAIR

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 60+ and for kids ages 4-18 years and free to those 3 years and younger. Admission includes the Premier Home & Artisan Expo. <http://oceanpromotions.info>, 410-213-8090

SPRING CELEBRATION

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bonnet parade begins at World Toys at 10 a.m. Easter egg hunt

at Taylor Museum at 11 a.m. Ages 0-3, 4-6 and 7 years and older. Also games & vendors. <https://berlinchamber.org/event/spring-celebration/>

SPRING CELEBRATION & EASTER EGG HUNTS

White Horse Park, Ocean Pines, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Carnival games, food, petting zoo, bounce house, face painting and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Free event. Egg hunts: Ages 1-3 years at 11:30 a.m.; 4-6 years, 12 p.m.; 7-10 years, 12:30 p.m. 410-641-7052

EASTER BUNNY EGG HUNT

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 11 a.m. Kids, ages 2-10 years, hunt for eggs & treats. Fee is \$6 for OC residents and \$8 for non-residents. Advance registration is encouraged: <https://www.ococean.com/event/easter-bunny-egg-hunt/2619/>. 410-250-0125

TOWN OF BERLIN COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Being at 7:30 a.m. Only addresses located within the Town of Berlin limits will be accepted. Rain date is Saturday, April 11. Sign up: <https://berlinmd.gov/berlin-community-yard-sale/>.

THE NEGRO LEAGUES: A CELEBRATION OF HISTORY

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Join Dr. Clara Small and special guests discussing the history of the Negro League with emphasis on the Regional League of Delmara. Reservations recommended: germantown-school@gmail.com, 410-641-0638.

SATURDAY WRITERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop-ins welcome. 410-641-0650

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., April 5

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE AND WORSHIP SERVICES

Assateague State Park, 6915 Maryland 611, Berlin, 6 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at Bethany United Methodist Church at 6:45 a.m. At 10

a.m., a traditional Easter Worship followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. info@bethanyberlin.org, 410-641-2186

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 10 a.m. Rev. George R. Patterson and special music. atlanticumc.org, 410-289-7430

Mon., April 6

STORY TIME: I LOVE THE LIBRARY!

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

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group meets once a month to discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. The group is reading "Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Mondays - Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Champion, 410-641-0157

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. www.Worcoa.org/oceancity

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All ladies who love to sing invited. Elissa, 410-641-8050; on social media; or delmarvachorus.org.

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

Mondays - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7-8 p.m. No dues or fees. 410-459-9100

Tues., April 7

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878

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

Calendar

STORY TIME

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

SECRETS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Delmarva storyteller, Jim Duffy from Secrets of the Eastern Shore and WBOC TV's Delmarva Life, is going to tell true-life tales from Delmarva days gone by. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

MOVIE MATINEE REGRETTING YOU

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come catch a movie you may have missed in the theaters. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

BUILDING BRIDGES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Test your engineering skills. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

OCEAN CITY LIONESS LIONS CLUB MEETING

Ocean City Lions Club, 12534 Airport Road, Berlin, 6 p.m. This community service organization meets the first Tuesday of each month. Any lady desiring to help those in need is welcome. 410-251-5824

CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

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

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive,

Berlin, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

Wed., April 8

BBY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014

AARP MEETING

Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., 10 a.m. Social and refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be from TidalHealth Hospital. Upcoming travel opportunities and more provided. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

BOOK CLUB @ 50PLUS CENTER: 'A RIFT IN THE EARTH' BY JAMES RESTON, JR.

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Stop by Snow Hill Library or the 50plus Center to pick up your book, then meet for a great discussion. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

HOMESCHOOL HISTORY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 12 p.m. Join us to learn facts about different historical time periods through reading, writing, and games. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

SKILLS TO SUCCEED AT WORK

Maryland's Coast - Worcester County Tourism & Economic Development, 107 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 12 p.m. A class about the soft skills that get you hired, work well with others, and grow. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/16533562>. 410-632-5622

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

MARYLAND 250 TRIVIA

Maryland's Coast - Worcester County Tourism & Economic Development, 107 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 2 p.m. Compete to see who knows the most about the state of Maryland. 410-632-5622

PAJAMA STORY TIME

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

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

TEEN TIME: PAINTING POTS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, April 6-30, 3:30 p.m. Decorate your own flower pot for a plant. All materials provided. While supplies last. 410-208-4014

BOOKMARK DESIGN CONTEST

Pick up an entry form and template at any Worcester County library branch. This year's theme is "Unearth a Story." Submit your design by April 30 for a chance to be featured. Winners announced May 13. For families. 443-235-5597

HISTORY HUNTERS BEANSTACK CHALLENGE

Throughout April, pick up a field guide and your paper mascot from any Worcester County library branch, visit historic sites, read books and snap pictures of your adventures along the way. Return your field guide when you're finished or log your activities online on beanstack to enter the drawing for a prize. For families. 443-235-5597

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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

The Plaza Condominium is seeking a detail-oriented **Security and Property Preservation Officer** to conduct vigilant patrols of our parking decks, pool areas, and building perimeter to ensure guest safety and site integrity. You will be responsible for adhering to facility standards, monitoring equipment like the handicap lift, and maintaining a pristine, hazard-free environment through proactive inspections.

Application in person 9800 Coastal Hwy, OCMD
Send resume to: Jlantz.plazaoc@gmail.com
For more information: Josh Lentz, 410-723-3300.

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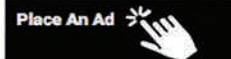
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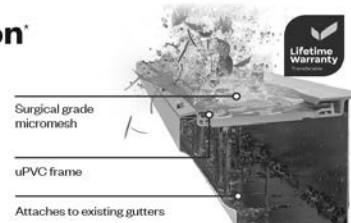


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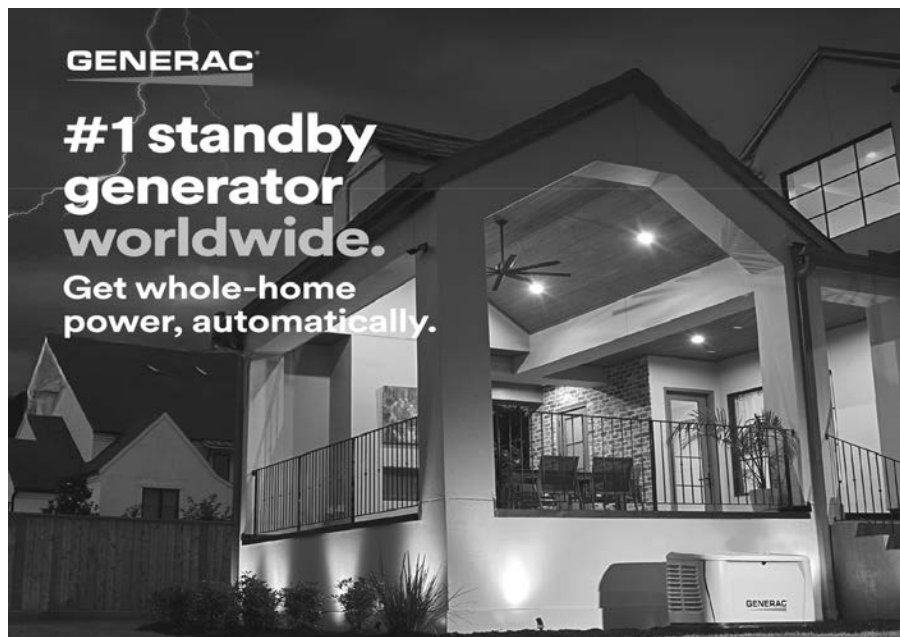
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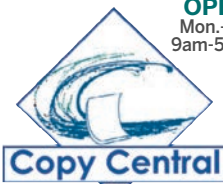
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