

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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Coastal Bays joins Berlin to fix branch

Hudson Branch to receive special care to help bays and watershed overall

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) The Town of Berlin, in partnership with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, will hold a public meeting later this month to present plans for a stream restoration project along Hudson Branch and gather community input.

The meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Berlin Library, with a virtual attendance option available on the Town of Berlin's Facebook page. Officials say all members of the public are invited to attend, ask questions and offer their opinions.

"The goal of this stream restoration project is to reduce the flood risk

See PROJECT Page 8

BUNNY BUSINESS

The Berlin Chamber of Commerce recognized Easter this past weekend with the annual Spring Celebration. The event began with a bonnet parade, featuring a special appearance from the Easter Bunny.

Cheer teams bound for Florida

Competitive cheerleading groups from Berlin area head for championships

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) Just a year after its formation, a cheerleading program in Berlin is heading to Florida for the Allstar World Championship to com-

pete against teams across the United States and beyond.

Clique Athletics was launched by owners and coaches Nikaletta Martin, Jamie Ferguson, and Monica Young last May. The program is registered with the competitive cheer event organization, Open Championship Series, and welcomes cheerleaders of all skill levels, aged 4 to 18, to participate in classic cheer compo-

nents: tumbling, stunting, choreography, and conditioning.

These skills are tested at least once a month when the teams head to local, regional, or national competitions, where they perform their two-and-a-half-minute routines.

According to Martin, Clique Athletics has a total of 33 cheerleaders across a novice group and two elite

See CHEER Page 6

Taylor House pig roast will aid programs

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) Smoke will rise from the lawn of Berlin's Calvin B. Taylor House Museum later this month when it presents its fourth annual old-fashioned pig roast. This year, organizers are adding a twist:

See PIG Page 8

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OP Anglers Club announces flea market to assist events

April 18 event planned for Ocean Pines Community Center to feature vendors

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) In an effort to support outreach programs for children this summer, the Ocean Pines Anglers Club is hosting a flea market this month, offering fishing, crabbing, and boating equipment available for purchase.

The OPAC is gearing up to hold its fifth annual flea market on Saturday, April 18, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center. All proceeds will be spent on organizing the club's "Teach a Kid to Fish Day" and the subsequent kids' fishing tournament.

According to the group's administrator, Frank Tortella, Ocean Pines Angler Club members and private vendors will be on-site on April 18, selling fishing tackle and gear,

boating items, and creations related to the sport and/or the outdoors.

OPAC board member Doug Murphy added that this year's fishing market allowed for 20 seller tables, all of which have been reserved. Six interested vendors remain on a wait list.

"This year we were lucky and filled out fairly quickly," Murphy said. "We have six tables on a wait list. Last year we had 13 tables, and this year we maxed out at 20."

In addition to the items for purchase, the event will include a 50/50 raffle. Ticket buyers should write their name and phone number on the entry slip so they do not need to be present when the winner is announced at the conclusion of the market.

Tortella said that the club hopes to secure about \$300 to \$400 from the flea market for the kids' fishing events. The two programs cost the group about \$2,000 to \$2,200 total to present.

The club's annual expenses run about \$2,500 to \$3,000 when factoring in their yearly project with Believe in Tomorrow, in which about 15 boat captains take Believe in Tomorrow kids and their families out on a boat for a few hours to enjoy the water, and their participation in Bay Day. Bay Day is held in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines each year in collaboration with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

The flea market, however, will help the organization pay for its kid-

friendly events. Teach a Kid to Fish Day is set for June 20, and the children's tournament is scheduled for July 18.

How it works is that, for the Teach a Kid to Fish event, the club will have several display tables organized to teach fishing skills, such as fish identification, knot tying, artificial lures/baits, and how to bait a hook.

In addition, the novice anglers meet with staff members from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to learn water safety and fishing regulations.

"We also have a casting station to teach the beginners how to cast different types of tackle," Tortella said. "After moving through the various tables, the kids are given live bait and can fish the pond for one hour. At the

conclusion there is a raffle for a rod and reel combo."

For the July contest, all contestants must register in their age groups (4 to 8; 9 to 12; or 13 to 16) and are given a card to get their catch certified. Volunteer judges are

stationed around the Ocean Pines South Pond.

A bait station provides both worms and minnows for each angler, and the children are allowed two hours to fish. The top three fishers in each age category win prizes such as a fishing rod and reel, and a tackle box. The biggest fish in each age group wins a rod and reel.

Tortella added that there is a grand raffle at the end of the tournament for a custom fishing rod, and all kids receive a gift set that includes a club hat and shirt.

"These events are certainly among our club's most enjoyable and rewarding annual activities," the club administrator said.

The mission of the kid-friendly activities is to create and inspire young anglers.

"[The events] introduce kids to the sport of fishing and all things great about being outdoors," Tortella said. "They learn about the DNR and Maryland rules and regulations that come with the sport and, importantly, the kids learn how to participate and interact with other kids, organize events, take instruction and supervision from adults, and simply bring families together for a great time."

Fishing enthusiasts are invited attend the community angler club's flea market on April 18 to browse the equipment selection and support the organization's goal of fostering a love of the outdoor sport in a younger generation.

'[The events] introduce kids to the sport of fishing and all things great about being outdoors.'

Frank Tortella
Ocean Pines Anglers Club
Administrator



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Museum seeks to improve annual operations

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) A last-ditch fundraising surge saved the Delmarva Discovery Museum in Pocomoke City from closing its doors, but the non-profit still faces an uncertain future beyond 2026 without sustained public support.

After giving 72 hours' notice, leaders of the Pocomoke City landmark reported a flood of donations and an attendance bump that pulled it back from the brink. The museum will now reopen by Memorial Day weekend, according to a statement released last month.

"This museum is reopening because our community refused to let it disappear," according to a March 26 statement.

Still, the news is hardly a victory lap. While the museum says it's on target to reach its \$100,000 "survivability goal," it still needs another \$100,000 to stabilize operations and avoid another budget shortfall.

The museum's board of directors shocked the community with a March 17 declaration that its financial woes were insurmountable, driven by months of poor attendance, rising costs, and declining revenue. Its final day was set for March 20.

The community responded imme-

diately. Social media lit up with support and more than 300 people visited in person over 48 hours. Online donors contributed nearly \$30,000 through a GoFundMe campaign.

Other anonymous supporters promised another \$60,000 in matching pledges – but those donors expect a reset, not a rescue. Their gifts are contingent on internal changes to museum governance, operations, and long-term business model.

Continued revenue from other sources, like membership, admissions, retail sales, and grants, also will contribute to eventual financial stability, the museum added.

Executive Director Christy Gordon told OC Today-Dispatch that one of the museum's biggest hurdles has been just paying the bills.

With an annual budget of \$350,000 and \$25,000 in monthly costs, she said it's been challenging to stay on top of rising costs for animal husbandry, building operations, wages, and utilities.

"We have a 16,000-square-foot building. Electric is expensive. Fish food for the otters was \$100 – now it's \$140 and it's half the size. Everything has gotten so much more expensive. We do our best with the money that we have to tell everybody that we're here," Gordon said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

With community donations saving the Delmarva Discovery Museum from closure, museum leaders are now seeking ways to keep its doors open beyond 2026.

They've also taken an unexpected financial hit at the museum gift shop.

"One of our biggest revenues is the field trips, where the kids used to shop. The kids aren't shopping now," Gordon added. "We have really felt that."

Moving forward, museum leadership plans to "aggressively examine and improve" its operations, fundraising, grant writing, and community involvement.

Plans now include sending out a community survey asking for ideas about new events and exhibits. A "Friends of the Museum" advisory council will be established. Solicitations are going out for new board members and volunteers.

"We know what we need to do, we know what we want to do," Gordon said, "but we can't do it without funds."

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Clique Athletics, launched in May of last year, is preparing for Allstar World Championship later this month in Florida.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
A new cheerleading program in Berlin has won almost every competition the athletes have attended during the pilot season.

Teams seeking national titles

Continued from Page 1
teams. Both elite squads competed in a two-day contest in Nashville, Tennessee earlier this month, where they earned first place on both days against three to five other teams each.

“Getting to compete against some of the best teams in the whole United States is really a great experience,” Martin said. “And then you get to learn from them. You can see, ‘they’re doing this, let me see if I can do that next year.’”

The cheerleaders also compete in more local competitions. Martin said that for contests closer to home, often around Upper Marlboro, Maryland, they go to around two a month. For those involving travel, the squads will keep it to one a month.

The coach added that the teams have won all but one of the competitions they’ve attended during their first season.

Now, the Berlin cheerleaders will head to Orlando, Florida, for the Allstar World Championship, scheduled for April 16 to April 19. The local athletes will compete against high-performing squads from throughout the

US and internationally.

Clique Athletics earned a paid bid for the contest, meaning that they competed in eligible events hosted by the Open Championship Series and earned high scores.

Martin said that the Berlin-based competition team was launched to “create a positive and empowering space for young athletes.”

“We also wanted to bring more positive after-school activities to the area since there aren’t many around...We saw an opportunity to provide high-quality training while also focusing on personal growth and life skills,” she added.

The coaches also hope that the program will help the young cheerleaders foster character development and self-assurance.

“Our athletes are encouraged to build confidence and practice leadership and support one another on and off the mat,” Martin said. “And we hope these lessons will have a lasting impact far beyond the sport itself. This is just the beginning for us, and I’m excited to see how much we can grow and how many lives we can positively impact.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Clique Athletics teaches the young cheerleaders skills in stunting, tumbling, and choreography. The athletes show off these skills at the competitions they attend throughout the country.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Pig roast fundraiser to benefit Taylor House

Continued from Page 1

using local actors to bring Berlin's past to life.

The Taylor House's pig roast, set for April 18 at 4 p.m., is held each year in partnership with the Burley Building Company to raise funds for the museum and to offer attendees a traditional barbecue meal.

According to Taylor House Executive Director Melissa Reid, the event is sponsored by the Burley Building Company to secure funding to correct carpentry issues and ensure the structure is cared for, with a focus on historical preservation.

The building business often completes repairs to the site, including rebuilding shutters and replacing the roof. Most recently, the company mended sections of rotten wood discovered on the outside of the mu-

seum.

The pig roast was begun to pay for the restorations. Now, however, the goal is to foster community engagement and bring Berlin residents and visitors into the museum to view its exhibits and refresh themselves on the town's history.

Part of that effort is to offer locals and tourists an authentic, old-fashioned barbecue.

Burley Building Company owner Nate Reister said that the pig comes from a butcher in Dagsboro. Reid added that volunteers from Burley Building roast the pork overnight and serve it at the event the next day.

"We started this four years ago," the business owner said. "Initially, we were trying to fill in gaps in funding for the museum to do repairs... When we decided to do the pig roast, we

were looking to do an event that would be historic in nature in terms of the type of thing that we would be serving.

"The goal is to raise funding and awareness... for the most part, we have shifted our understanding to focus on pulling in young families and local people because it's the very beginning of the event season. It's locally oriented. We're trying to get younger families to be involved in what's going on."

The museum is also trying out a new addition this year: actors to remind citizens of the museum's mission. How it will work is that four Berlin residents will come to the event in character and costume, each portraying an influential town figure.

Reid said that citizen Patricia Dufendach will act as Mary White, a Berliner from the 1830s; Nick Purnell will act as the Rev. Charles Tindley, a minister and gospel music composer from the area; Jack Orris will act as Calvin B. Taylor, a humanitarian and the museum's namesake; and Deb Speier will act as Mary Humphreys, a biology professor and doctor.

The project has been labeled "Museum Comes Alive" by Taylor House officials. The actors will be maneuvering between the inside and outside of the facility, introducing themselves as their historical personas to event guests and providing a first-person narrative of the figures' impact on Berlin.

"We're really excited about this

Museum Comes Alive event because we feel it will remind people that we are a museum and we have lots of historical stories that we can tell about Berlin," Reid said.

The director added that the pig roast will be the only time during the season when all four actors are present together. However, each individual will be at other museum happenings throughout the spring and summer.

The pig roast will also include live music by the Zion Reggae Band and beer available by Berlin Beer Co. Reister said that George's Beverage Company will be on-site with a signature mixed drink.

Organizers hope that the pig roast yields as many attendees as in years past. Reister noted that last year, the event sold 500 platters. The team hopes to reach similar numbers this time around.

The Taylor House Museum officially opened on April 1. New exhibits were created in time for the 2026 season kickoff, highlighting the restoration of the Town of Berlin. Reid said that she hopes the event on April 18 will spur interest in the updated displays.

"The nice thing about the pig roast is the museum will be open, so people can come and see those new exhibits that we have done about the restoration of Berlin and things like that," Reid said. "We're glad to have an opportunity for the community to come to the museum."

Project to help with runoff

Continued from Page 1

in the Flower and Bay Street neighborhoods and improve the health of water flowing from Berlin into the Newport Bay watershed," said Jessica McIntosh in a press release, MCBP's Newport Bay partnership coordinator.

Plans for the project include reshaping the stream channel and floodplain to better manage stormwater.

Elevating and widening sections of the stream will help to slow and absorb runoff, which can reduce flooding and filter out pollution and sediment before it reaches downstream waterways.

The effort is part of a broader project to address both flooding in the Town of Berlin and environmental concerns in the Newport Bay watershed. According to McIntosh, Newport Bay is the least healthy of Maryland's five coastal bays, receiving a C minus in the Maryland Coastal Bays' 2023 report card due to poor levels of seagrass and hard clams.

Additional restoration work will include planting native vegetation

and trees along Hudson Branch to stabilize its stream banks and provide shade for aquatic life. Crews also plan to create deeper pools within the stream to improve habitat for fish and other species.

The Hudson Branch project is one of several restoration efforts planned throughout the watershed to improve water quality, restore habitats and strengthen long-term environmental resilience.

\$10 million in funding over five years for these projects has been provided by the State of Maryland through the Whole Watershed Act, the press release reads. The money also supports a coalition of partners led by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, including the Lower Shore Land Trust, Assateague Coastal Trust, the Town of Berlin and Worcester County.

The April 29 meeting will include presentations on the newly formed Newport Bay Partnership, details of the Hudson Branch project design and next steps. Following the presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to share comments and ask questions.

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Berlin to host festival for Record Store Day

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) Music is set to pour out of Berlin's downtown later this month, when the town celebrates Record Store Day with lineup of performances, food and drinks, and vendors selling books, clothes and home decor all aligned with the vintage spirit of the vinyl-inspired festival.

Saturday, April 18, marks Record Store Day, an international semi-annual event celebrated by independent vinyl shops. The intent is to bring together fans and small businesses through the release of special and limited-edition records, fostering appreciation for music and vinyl, a more vintage method of play.

For the third year in a row, the Town of Berlin will recognize the celebration with an all-day musical event kicking off at 11 a.m. and winding down around 4 p.m.

According to Berlin's Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, the musical lineup will begin with The Papers, a duo out of Salisbury, followed by JOURNOS featuring Brian Russo.

Next up is Sketchbook, Gavin Hades' new band. Hades is an Ocean City local and young artist who has played with musicians such as Brett

Michaels. The slate of talent will then wrap up with a performance by national recording artist Brian Sella of The Front Bottoms.

Wells added that this is the first year the festival will be expanded into a "full downtown event."

"We're closing the streets, adding beer and drinks and a full day of live music," she said. "Bringing in a national act like Brian Sella is also new for us, and we were able to do that with support from the Maryland State Arts Council. It just feels like a much bigger experience this year."

Beer, drinks, and food will be available, and vintage vendors will be set up along Pitts Street with clothing, home decor, books, and other items. Wells added that many of the shops will have sidewalk sales.

"You can spend the whole day downtown and not run out of things to do," she said.

Parking will be available at the West Street lot and Stephen Decatur Park. While there is no shuttle service this year, everything is within walking distance once attendees arrive downtown.

Wells said that the event celebrates Berlin's musical and artistic scene. Particularly, the festival recognizes the turntable format, often praised for its authenticity and superior sound quality.

rior sound quality.

"Music has always been a big part of Berlin, and there's something special about vinyl; it's how music was meant to be heard," the community development director said.

She maintained that Berlin has multiple shops that sell new vinyl, "which isn't something every small town can say."

"For us, it makes sense to celebrate that, support those businesses, and build an event around something people genuinely love," Wells noted.

The event is free to enter and made possible by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and

sponsored by the Berlin Main Street Arts and Entertainment District.

Organizers hope that the festival further promotes the spirit of downtown's artistic nature and supports Berlin's economic and cultural development.

"[Record Store Day] supports our small businesses, brings new visitors into town, and gives locals something to be proud of," Wells said. "It's also an opportunity to highlight our arts and music scene, which continues to grow. When people come for an event like this, they don't just stay for the music, they shop, they eat, they explore, and they come back again."

Power outages needed for maintenance next month

(April 9, 2026) The Town of Berlin Electric Department has announced two townwide power outages scheduled in May to allow for maintenance on substation transformers on Schoolfield Street.

The first outage will take place on Saturday, May 9 from 1 to 6 a.m., when one transformer will be removed for preventative maintenance, testing, and painting.

A second outage is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 from 1 to 7 a.m., when the transformer will be reinstalled and a second unit removed for similar maintenance work.

"These outages are necessary to conduct preventative maintenance, which will help prevent future long-term power outages," Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said.

An additional planned outage is expected in fall to complete maintenance on the remaining two trans-

formers.

Maintenance projects of this nature are typically scheduled during the spring and fall when electricity demand is lower due to milder temperatures and reduced reliance on heating and cooling systems.

Outages are also planned overnight and on weekends to minimize disruption for residents and businesses.

All scheduled work is weather-dependent, as much of it must be performed outdoors. If the dates are rescheduled, updates will be issued as soon as possible.

For updates or additional information, residents are encouraged to monitor official Town of Berlin communications.

For questions, please contact Berlin Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence at 410-629-1713 or tlawrence@berlinmd.gov.

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Summer reading challenge registration nears

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) Local kids will have the opportunity this summer to read their way to prizes and fun through the Worcester County Library's annual reading challenge to promote early childhood literacy.

The Worcester County Library system is preparing to host its annual summer reading challenge, with preregistration opening on May 22.

The program's mission is to inspire kids to log the minutes they spend reading books and novels. Activities, performances, and the potential for prizes will accompany the time children are engaged in their stories.

According to System Marketing Coordinator Lexi Orf, the theme for this year's reading challenge is dinosaurs. Officially, library staff have labeled this summer's initiative as "Unearth a Story."

All of the Worcester County libraries are participating in the project. The county's branches include Pocomoke, Snow Hill, Berlin, Ocean City, and Ocean Pines.

How it works is that participants can log the books they read on the library's online challenge platform, Beanstack, or use a hard gameboard, which can be downloaded from the system's website or picked up at any of the five locations.

Hands-on activities related to dinosaurs will be denoted on the game board and in Beanstack and can also be completed in conjunction with the primary goal of the challenge: to read books. Logged stories and tasks allow the children to earn virtual badges.

A challenge T-shirt will be given to those who



Children are pictured at an event for last year's summer reading challenge, hosted by the Worcester County Library. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

complete three main activity badges, and every badge secured also earns kids an entry into the grand prize drawing.

Orf said that the prizes are divided into three age groups: 5 and under, 6 to 11, and 12 to 18. Grand prizes available are as follows: for the under-5 category, kids can win a giant dinosaur stuffed animal and a \$25 Amazon gift card; for 6 to 12, a hatching dinosaur and a \$25 gift card will be up for grabs; and for 12 to 18, the grand raffle item is an HD Amazon Fire Tablet.

"All the activities you do give you points, and those points give you more entries for the grand prize," Orf said.

The library system's community partners funded the awards. These are Candy Kitchen, Fika Coffee Roasting, Jolly Roger, McDonald's, The Christmas

Sweet, Wendy's, and the Worcester County Library Foundation.

The challenge will run from June 1 to Aug. 23. The success of the program is measured by the total number of minutes read by all participants combined throughout the summer. This year's goal is 510,000 community minutes spent with a story.

The initiative's mission was 500,000 minutes last year, Orf said. Participants nearly hit that, with a total of 496,000 minutes read.

The summer reading program is interactive. As such, each week of the challenge will include a performer. The acts will travel between the branches.

"Everyone gets a performer," Orf said. "It's going to be the same one each week, but they're just going to be traveling."

See WINNERS Page 13

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Volunteers sought to maintain town gardens

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) A new volunteer initiative is giving Berlin residents a hands-on way to help maintain the town's public green spaces from now through November.

The Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee last month introduced its "Garden Guardian" program, an adopt-a-garden project designed to make volunteering more flexible and accessible for citizens with busy schedules.

The program allows residents, businesses, nonprofits, or friends-and-family teams to choose a garden in town to oversee for a month during the area's growing season.

Victoria Spice, a member of the committee, said the idea was inspired by residents who were already informally caring for public spaces.

"The idea grew from observing a few dedicated Berliners who naturally incorporated garden care into their daily routines—pulling weeds or watering plants while walking their dog, on a lunch break, or whenever they felt the need to step outside and reconnect," she said.

Spice added that the town's horticultural team is small, with just three members who all juggle full-time jobs,

families, and other responsibilities. As such, the extra hand from the residents has helped the team keep the town's green spaces clean, tidy, and healthy.

"It inspired us to ask: how can we turn this into a broader, more inclusive opportunity that allows more members of the community to participate in a way that fits their schedules?" Spice said.

The result is a program that allows individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit groups to "adopt" one of six designated public gardens throughout town.

Locations are the Memorial Garden at the entrance on North Main Street, Burbage Park at 309 William St., the garden at the post office on Broad Street, the Planning and Zoning office on William Street, the "Main Street Strip" near the Memorial Garden

across from Sterling Tavern, and the Tindley Mural Garden on Commerce Street.

Participants can sign up to care for a garden anytime between April and November, helping with basic upkeep such as weeding, picking up trash, watering, and general maintenance.

Spice said the program is about more than just beautification.

"This initiative strengthens community engagement, beautifies our public green spaces, supports sustainability, and makes volunteering feel easy, enjoyable, and rewarding," she said.

The effort also aligns with Berlin's designation as a Bee City, supporting pollinator habitats throughout town.

"By encouraging individuals and groups to take shared ownership of a garden, we aim to foster a deeper sense of pride and connection to our public

spaces. In doing so, the program helps keep Berlin's gardens clean, vibrant, and thriving—while also supporting pollinator habitats in alignment with our designation as a Bee City," Spice said.

So far, eight residents have signed up to participate across various gardens and months. Organizers said plenty of opportunities remain, however.

"There are absolutely still spots available for individuals, families, businesses, or nonprofit groups to join," Spice said.

Residents interested in becoming a Garden Guardian can sign up online through the program's registration page

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448AAA92CABFBC43-62929559-berlin>.

Winners receive prizes, gift cards

Continued from Page 12

Some highlights include Adventures in Rhythm with Steve Cyphers, the Dino-Sized Magical Circus with Circus Greg, Diggers Digger's Dino Show with the Story Ship, Dino Academy by Brightstar Theatre, and Mobile Zoo Crew by Coastal Winds.

Kick-off performances are set for June 23 to June 25 at the start of the challenge. To conclude the program, the libraries will host wrap-up celebrations from Aug. 18 to Aug. 20.

While preregistration starts on May 22, regular registration will begin on June 1, the first day of the challenge. Orf pointed out that June 1 is coincidentally National Dinosaur Day.

In addition to the kids' program, adults can also participate in the summer literacy challenge. Those over 18 can earn badges to win a Visa gift card by logging reading minutes, writing reviews, and attending library programs. Orf said the initiative's goal is to foster a literate and close-knit community.

"You can read books and learn something new, and you can come into a program, meet other people, make friends, and have that sense of community," she said. "...Worcester County Library is about more than just books; we're all about encouraging a love of reading, connecting our community, and inspiring lifelong learning."

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The Snow Hill Town Council voted this week to finalize the sale of the retired downtown firehouse to buyer Deborah Wayland of Eastern Shore Fine Events.

Snow Hill agrees to sale of firehouse facility for \$300K

Buyer to bring the structure up to code, will be used for small events and storage

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 3, 2026) After months on the market and a sometimes-contentious sales process, Snow Hill officials have finalized the sale of their downtown firehouse for \$300,000.

The three-member Town Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a second reading of the ordinance facilitating the sale.

Deborah Wayland, of Eastern Shore Fine Events, made the offer on the 75-year-old Green Street property. She plans to convert the space into an events venue and will take on the cost of bringing the building up to code.

Wayland reportedly plans to use the space for small events and storage, and is also open to leasing space back to the town for events and storage purposes, according to realtor Clint Bickford, who addressed the issue at a previous town meeting.

The council initially approved the sale Feb. 11 in a 2-1 vote. Councilman Eddie Lee abstained from that vote, saying he couldn't support what he felt was a below-market price.

Officials had previously tabled the decision after some disagreement over how to proceed.

At a Jan. 13 meeting, Councilwoman Margaret Ann Fletcher said she wanted the town to increase the list price to \$375,000.

Realtor Bryan Coates, who handled

the listing, told her that the offer in hand was strong and finding another buyer would be "very difficult."

Councilman Aaron Lumpkins called the offer "the best value for the town."

"I feel like a vote to sell it is a vote to save it. We don't have the resources to bring it up to code. This person is willing to come in and do it to get their occupancy permit," he said Jan. 13.

Snow Hill listed the former firehouse in June 2025 for \$325,000 after determining it would be too expensive to bring it up to code.

The two-story complex, which the council deemed surplus in 2023, served for decades as home to Snow Hill's volunteer fire company, which relocated outside of downtown in 2002. It also served as the town's police headquarters for 20 years after that.

Town Manager Rick Pollitt has stated that community support for the sale of the building has been "overwhelming" and created a buzz for the downtown's future growth.

Also Tuesday, the council approved the sale of surplus property at 301 Willow Street, which property records show has been municipally owned since 2002.

The buyer, Preston Reed, proposed to renovate and convert the 96-year-old residential property into three two-bedroom rental units.

Councilmembers also voted to renew Snow Hill's 10-year designation as an arts and entertainment district.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RED HAT SOCIETY BIRTHDAY PROCLAMATION

On March 8, members of the Red Hat Society, Chapter #74007 in Berlin presented Mildred Briddell of Seaford, Del., with a birthday proclamation from Delaware Gov. Matthew Meyer in celebration of 102 years. Seated are Ambassador/Queen Mable V. Jarmon, Mildred Briddell, and Joyce Harris-Cottman. Standing are Helen Whaley, Josephine Jarmon, and Robin Waters-Moore.

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Snapshots



BERLIN SPRING CELEBRATION

Residents and visitors flocked to Berlin this past weekend to celebrate Easter and the spring season. The Spring Celebration event was sponsored by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and featured a parade, creative games, an Easter Egg Hunt, and other fun activities for children and families to enjoy.

PHOTOS COURTESY GARRETT NEVILLE, GOOD BOY MFG.





OP EASTER CELEBRATION

Ocean Pines celebrated Easter and the spring season this past weekend with its annual family-friendly event. The afternoon featured carnival games, food, bounce houses, face painting, an Easter Egg Hunt, and a petting zoo. The festival welcomed kids and their families and even included a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

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Opinion

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

Reading challenge aids understanding

As the operators of a printed word medium, we applaud the Worcester County Library for continuing to offer its annual summer reading challenge to promote childhood literacy.

All the library's branches — Pocomoke, Snow Hill, Berlin, Ocean Pines and Ocean City — will be participating in this exercise, the theme of which this year is "Dinosaurs."

That's ironic and possibly even appropriate that kids will be reading about dinosaurs while a vanishing species of communication — a newspaper — congratulates them for it.

Of course, both librarians and newspaper people revere the written word, since it is the most effective way to help people understand what they see and why they are seeing it.

Unfortunately, however, it's a fact that more of society's information is transmitted via visual media these days, but it is also a fact that society's understanding of this information has declined: a 2024 study of young adults (18-24) showed 40% could only answer one out of four standard civics questions correctly.

That's according to the National Literacy Institute, which also found that approximately 40% of U.S. students cannot read at a basic level.

Based on those findings, here's a scary thought: as these students reach adulthood, it's likely that nearly half of them will not be able to communicate as effectively as the other half.

Their understanding of or interest in the events and issues of the day will be limited, which means their participation in society will be limited to having decisions made for them.

Childhood literacy is more than a nice, clean noncontroversial goal to support. It's also about giving young people what they need to survive and succeed when their turn at the wheel arrives.

School's welders create training box

Worcester Tech's students designed, fabricated burn box

(April 9, 2026) Students in the Worcester Technical High School Welding program have turned classroom skills into a real-world contribution for emergency services.

David Riddleberger, Tyler Brown, Alina Velasquez Navarrete and Ellamia Nivine, welding students at the school, recently designed and fabricated a fully functional burn box trainer made entirely of metal for use by the local fire school. The project, completed as part of their hands-on training, will help firefighters safely simulate live fire conditions during training exercises.

The burn box trainer is a specialized piece of equipment used to teach fire behavior, ventilation techniques, and suppression strategies in a controlled environment. Riddleberger and his team took the project from concept to completion, applying advanced welding techniques, metal fabrication skills, and safety considerations throughout the build.

"This project reflects the kind of real-world experience our students gain," said Rick Stephens, instructor in the welding program. "The welding team demonstrated not only technical ability, but



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Students in Worcester Technical High School's welding program created a burn box, which is used to help firefighters with training exercises.

also problem-solving and dedication to creating something that will serve the community."

Constructed from durable steel, the burn box is designed to withstand repeated exposure to high temperatures while maintaining structural integrity. Riddleberger, Brown, Velasquez and Nivine worked closely with their instructor and Alex Bean from the Ocean City Fire Department to ensure the design met the needs of the fire school while adhering to safety standards.

Local fire officials expressed appreciation for the

contribution, noting that training tools like the burn box are essential for preparing firefighters for real-life emergencies.

Riddleberger said the project was both challenging and rewarding.

"It's great knowing something we built will be used to train firefighters and help keep people safe," he said.

The project highlights the mission of Worcester Technical High School to combine academic learning with practical skills, preparing students for careers while making a positive impact in the community.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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OC restaurateur, partners in default

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2026) Ocean City restaurateur Peter Elias and his partners in a 17th Street renovation project are facing a \$3.5 million court-ordered judgment after defaulting on a commercial loan.

The Bank of Ocean City is suing The Bistro and Lounge LLC as the borrower and Elias as its managing member. He is being sued both individually and under the LLC, which owns the Cow-

boy Coast restaurant at 1706-1708 Philadelphia Ave.

Court documents show the bank in November 2024 approved a \$4.5 million loan at 7.25% interest, with the restaurant property itself listed as collateral. A schedule included in the court filing indicated the loan had monthly interest-only payments of \$23,000.

Filed Feb. 11, the lawsuit alleges as of Jan. 26, there was still \$3.49 million owed on the note, including \$3.4 million in unpaid principal

and \$98,138 in unpaid interest.

As a result, the bank served a default notice and called back the loan. On March 8, Worcester County Circuit Court Judge Brian Shockley issued a judgment in the bank's favor for \$3.49 million.

That notice was recorded as a confessed judgment, a legal term meaning the business admits to defaulting and may waive its right to a trial.

See COURT-ORDERED Page 19



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Court-ordered judgment issued

Continued from Page 18

For collections, the bank hired the Baltimore law firm of Gebhardt & Smith LLP. In the lawsuit, the borrowers allegedly “continued to refuse” to make payments under the terms of the deal, wrote plaintiff’s attorney Richard DuBose III.

When reached by phone this week, Elias said, “We’re working through that process right now,” but declined to comment further. Bank of Ocean City President Reid Tingle also had no comment.

The bank’s lawsuit names four others as defendants and holds them equally responsible for the default: Karamjeet Singh, Basel Ramadan, and his wife, Shereen Ramadan. Singh’s company Seven Star Hospitality of OC LLC is also named as a defendant.

Singh, Elias, and Basel Ramadan contracted to purchase the property in a lease-to-own deal and Seven Star Hospitality would be the lessee and the liquor license holder, public records show.

Elias and partners acquired the property – formerly the Paddock nightclub, a resort landmark dating to the 1950s – from Rosenblit Family LLC for \$4.5 million, property records show. The site by 2014 had re-launched as Cowboy Coast, a

country music-themed restaurant with live music and a mechanical bull.

Elias is the proprietor of several upscale area restaurants, including Spain Wine Bar and Oyster & Scales in downtown Ocean City. In taking over Cowboy Coast, he had planned to reimagine the space as Bistro Coterie, a 750-seat, French-inspired fine dining establishment.

Plans for the bistro renovation had been shared with the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners dating to December 2023. Elias explained to the board, records show, that the 12,000-square-foot space would feature indoor and outdoor areas, a wine room, a seafood station, and an aging room for steaks.

But municipal zoning hurdles and parking issues have slowed progress by months ahead of a planned summertime opening, and floor plans were amended to shrink the renovation footprint in the interim, liquor board meeting minutes show.

While the liquor board had approved the establishment’s Class B license for beer, wine, and liquor, the partnership for now has opted to withdraw its liquor license application. Elias’ attorney Hugh Cropper confirmed he’ll come back to re-apply at a later date

GARDEN CLUB GETS MOVING

At its March meeting, the Ocean Pines Garden Club (OPGC) let loose with a throwback to 1976, celebrating with music released that year including “Plantasia” and “Shake Your Booty.” The gardeners reveled in the 1976 dance, Electric Slide with amended lyrics including “seed packs” and “plant food” instead of the original. The OPGC focus for its 50th year includes highlighting the skills of its members, fun activities, and continuing traditions.





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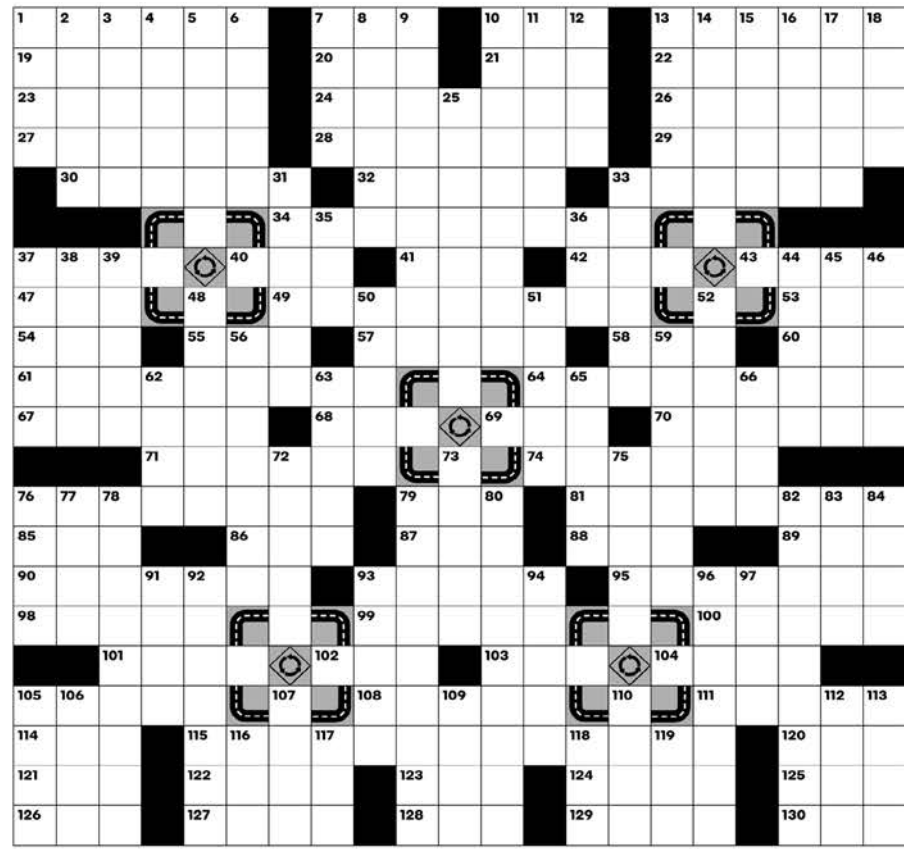
Puzzles

ROUNDABOUTS

BY MICHAEL SCHLOSSBERG AND OLIVER SCHLOSSBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Michael Schlossberg is an internist in Bend, Ore. Oliver is his 15-year-old son, an aspiring artist and musician at Bend's Cascade School of Music. This puzzle's theme was inspired by the large number of roundabouts in their hometown. Oliver wrote a program to generate possible theme entries and the two of them made the puzzle together. Michael says, "Multiple members of our household solve the games in the Times's app and we all help one another when someone gets stuck." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Max
 - 7 Play part
 - 10 Alternative to a .doc
 - 13 In Norse myth, world held up by the branches of the tree Yggdrasil
 - 19 "You sure?"
 - 20 Camera type, in brief
 - 21 Maker of the old Flying Cloud auto
 - 22 Conical dwelling
 - 23 W.W. I helmet
 - 24 At it
 - 26 Seized with the teeth
 - 27 "The Office" accountant who kept a cat in her desk drawer
 - 28 Traveling for pleasure, informally
 - 29 Internet-influenced writing genre
 - 30 Use mouthwash, say
 - 32 Targeted
 - 33 "Rubbish!"
 - 34 Religious title that translates to "ocean monk"
 - 37 Convenience store
 - 40 Stickler for military discipline
 - 41 Anora's nickname in "Anora"
 - 42 Nevertheless
 - 43 Rear end
- DOWN**
- 47 Four Corners tribe
 - 49 Mammals also known as firefoxes
 - 53 20/20
 - 54 Heart on one's sleeve, perhaps, in brief
 - 55 Hotmail alternative
 - 57 Condition treated with a CPAP machine
 - 58 Prefix with dermis
 - 60 English letter that looks like a Greek rho
 - 61 What a pictogram of a man with a walking stick might indicate
 - 64 Xenon and krypton, e.g.
 - 67 Cue
 - 68 The Orioles, on a scoreboard
 - 69 They're cast in November
 - 70 Most prevalent
 - 71 Father of Zeus
 - 74 Long (for)
 - 76 "The Rock"
 - 79 Gray or yellow, perhaps
 - 81 "Are you really gonna make me?"
 - 85 Levi's competitor
 - 86 No man's land, for short
 - 87 Flaky fish
 - 88 Drink suffix
 - 89 Predator that might hunt by electrolocation
 - 90 Classic Andy Warhol subject
 - 93 Turn into logs
 - 95 Show that inspired the famous misquote "Just the facts, ma'am"
 - 98 Yoga pose
 - 99 Cut finely
 - 100 Polynesian title heroine of film
 - 101 Wisc. neighbor
 - 102 Brand from Anheuser-Busch
 - 103 Branch
 - 104 French brandy
 - 105 What not to wear to a wedding, it's said
 - 108 Odd-numbered page
 - 111 Polishes, as text
 - 114 GarageBand platform
 - 115 Unexpected upsides
 - 120 "How neat!"
 - 121 "As if!"
 - 122 What you do when you tour a certain SoCal campus, phonetically?
 - 123 Carnival locale, familiarly
 - 124 Real comedian
 - 125 Purported sighting recorded by Puritan governor John Winthrop in 1639
 - 126 125-Across occupants
 - 127 Hammer part
 - 128 Hither and _____
 - 129 Notice
 - 130 Nickname derived from the Hebrew name Shoshana
 - 1 Flour in Indian cooking
 - 2 "The _____ is ..."
 - 3 Japanese comic style
 - 4 Part of OTOH
 - 5 Common vessel for a cosmopolitan
 - 6 Completely wreck
 - 7 Concerning
 - 8 Pertaining to genetic copies
 - 9 Sporcle or Jeopardy! World Tour
 - 10 Orbitz competitor
 - 11 Response to "Gracias"
 - 12 Geezer
 - 13 In check
 - 14 Alternatives to zippers on blue jeans
 - 15 Unsettle
 - 16 Speed skater Ohno
 - 17 Make over, as a factory
 - 18 Artful
 - 25 Entertainer's creation at a child's birthday party
 - 31 Gertrude who swam the English Channel
 - 33 German rifle maker
 - 35 Had a couple of brats?
 - 36 Many a hedge fund hire, in brief
 - 37 Unlikely best in show winners
 - 38 Company that made Missile Command
 - 39 Mark down, say
 - 44 Tree cluster
 - 45 They're over two feet



- 46 Spot in the Bible?
- 48 Kendo or aikido
- 50 Tots' pops
- 51 "Star Wars" title
- 52 "Mayor Pete"
- 56 "Good heavens!"
- 59 More cheerful and lively
- 62 Early empire builder
- 63 Humming
- 65 Carne _____
- 66 Lead-in to futurism
- 72 Tired old advertising mascot?
- 73 Fancy dress
- 75 It's the end of the world
- 76 Longest book in the Book of Mormon
- 77 Grazing places
- 78 Potters, e.g.
- 79 Purple smoothie add-in
- 80 "A passport to human development," per the United Nations
- 82 Unshakable
- 83 Typical high schooler
- 84 Utah ski town
- 91 Still fighting
- 92 Prepares to skate, say
- 93 Goopy treat
- 94 Leader ousted in 1955
- 96 Mass pardon
- 97 Provoke
- 105 Word with cooler or country
- 106 Real comedian
- 107 One of the Obamas
- 109 Muse of history
- 110 Some expensive suits
- 112 Vegan cooking staple
- 113 Moccasin, e.g.
- 116 Clinch
- 117 Rental on moving day
- 118 Spleen
- 119 Grp. on the right



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su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 39

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

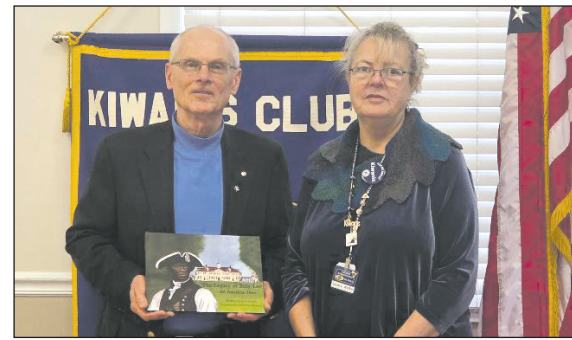
DARE	AMPLE	TOMBS	SAP					
APEX	BERET	UBERX	DODO					
INSTRUMENT	BETAS	ETAL						
SETRATES	AREYOU	WITHE						
YAREN	SSN	EPSON	LEIS					
AMID	KOALA	MISSAL						
QUIET	QUITTING	CUETIPS						
URNS	ESTATE	ENDED	SPA					
ADE	EDU	AFFAIRS	SILT					
DUDED	RAD	SORT	LOTTE					
BABY	BIB	BEELINE						
SHAME	LOEB	DRY	IMSET					
STUN	SEEDLET	ITTOAR						
ARM	TERR	SEMANA	FUSE					
TEASETS	SITTING	PRETTY						
SANTAS	QBERT	SETH						
MBAS	LOTTO	AID	LLAMA					
SESE	YETOEYE	MAFIOSOS						
IDIE	AVOWS	ATOM	CCITY					
ZINS	REMIT	SINUS	KATE					
ENG	NEINS	EGYPT	SNOT					



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women (MFRW) including Republican women leaders from Worcester and Wicomico visited Annapolis for Red Scarf Day, an annual tradition that unites Republican women from across the State to celebrate leadership and advocacy. Pictured, from left, are Gwendolyn Crisafulli; Republican Women of Worcester County Jennie Allen; Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-District 38); Linda Moran; Kelly Kennan; Carol Frasier; and Wendy Ansplacher.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ANDES TALKS NEW BOOK

On March 11, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City hosted author and educator Dr. Jon Andes from Salisbury University to discuss his new children's book, "The Legacy of Billy Lee: An American Hero." Andes, the District 3 representative on the Worcester County Board of Education, recounted the inspiration for his work and the major events in George Washington's life in which Billy Lee had been at his side. Above, Andes is pictured with Kiwanis President Sarah Walker.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RED SHOE BOOK CLUB

The Red Shoe Book Club met on March 10 at the Ocean Pines Library. The book was "Right Wing Revolution" by Charlie Kirk. Front row, from left, are Susan Ostrowski and Liz Mumford. Back row, from left, are Yvonne Babcock, Julie Koehler, Linda Sirianni and Nina Willet.



LIBRARY HONOREE

The Worcester County Commissioners on March 3 had the opportunity to honor Alice Paterra, who is retiring after 28 years of working within the Worcester County Library system. Paterra's expertise and experience as the branch manager were instrumental in supporting the mission of the library, where she carried out all administrative and operational responsibilities, represented the library through professional and community partnerships, and fostering the love of reading and life-long learning for patrons of all ages.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



OPEN HOUSES

April 9 - 16



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
Saturday 10am-11:30am	1 66th Street #101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	37033 Barrington Pkwy, Millville, DE	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$614,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	32 Gatehouse Trail, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$375,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	4 Preakness Drive, Ocean Pines	5BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$899,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	12702 Coastal Hwy Unit 201, Ocean City	1BR/2BA	Condo	\$297,800	Gregg Holland/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	11900 Coastal Hwy., Unit 102, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$629,990	Rick Meehan/Katy Durham/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am -2pm	14104 Dukes Avenue, Ocean City	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$585,000	Terry Riley/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	8500 Coastal Hwy Unit 1108, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$459,900	Terry Riley/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	2817 Tern Drive Unit 28, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$425,000	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	37099 Fairway Dr Frankford, DE	4BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$585,000	Kevin Heselbach/Engel & Volkers Real Estate
Sat & Sun, 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2pm	7710 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$445,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	23 Duck Cove Circle, Ocean Pines	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$499,000	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	13905 Lighthouse Ave, Ocean City	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2:30-4:30pm	30847 E Annie Lank Ave, Milton, DE	3BR/2A	Condo	\$449,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2:30-4pm	201 S Heron Dr #8A, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$499,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-12:30pm	13905 Lighthouse Ave, Ocean City	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	37033 Barrington Pkwy, Millville, DE	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$614,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am -2pm	14104 Dukes Avenue, Ocean City	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$585,000	Terry Riley/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Sunday 11am-2pm	8500 Coastal Hwy Unit 1108, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$459,900	Terry Riley/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	201 S Heron Drive #26B, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$574,900	Nancy Reither/ Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1-3pm	11324 River Run Lane, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$627,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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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 9

CHAIR YOGA

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m. Join Tidal Health Community Health Educator Bobbi McDonald for a morning of stretching and relaxation. Registration required: 410-957-0878

STORY TIME: 'WHERE IS THE GREEN SHEEP?'

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

STORY TIME: 'THERE WAS AN OLD LADY'

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

BINGO

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

MERRY MAKERS: PRESSED FLOWER LANTERNS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Transform plain glass yogurt jars into lovely artful lanterns with pressed flowers. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterialibrary.org

EARLY READERS BOOK CLUB - 'DRAGON'S FAT CAT: AN ACRON BOOK'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. Enjoy a shared reading experience as a group. Afterwards children will play games or do crafts that relate to the story. Best for ages 6-8 years. 410-641-0650, worcesterialibrary.org

PARENT RESOURCE NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:30-8 p.m. Hosted by Special Education Citizens Advisory Council. Vendors supporting students with disabilities. Public welcome. Snacks provided. Pam Green, 410-430-3923

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 10

STORY TIME AT FURNACE TOWN

Furnace Town Historic Site (Nas-sawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Fur-

nace Road, Snow Hill, 10:30 a.m. Listen to stories, sing songs and do activities while learning local history. Artisans demonstrating woodworking, weaving and blacksmithing. Registration required: 443-235-5597.

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, worcesterialibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A great opportunity for babies (0-2 years) and their caregivers to socialize, play, read and explore. 410-641-0650, worcesterialibrary.org

CURRENTLY READING BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Drop in to discuss what you are currently reading and share it with the group. 410-208-4014, worcesterialibrary.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW' BY GABRIELLE ZEVIN

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

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. One crab cake sandwich platter, \$15; two crab cake sandwich platter, \$25; and crab cake sandwiches, \$10. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Bake sale table available.

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

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

Sat., April 11

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Speaker will be Capt. Philomena Cannuli, an experienced commercial long liner and gill net fisherman. Come hear her amazing life experiences. Get charter updates, fishing reports. All welcome. 410-641-7662

MARIO PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m.

Enjoy Mario crafts, play Switch games and come dressed as your favorite Mario character. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterialibrary.org

ANIME AND MANGA CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Stop by to discuss all things anime and meet like-minded people. Best for ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, worcesterialibrary.org

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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 12

FICTION & FIBER ARTS

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 12-2 p.m. Stitch back in time as you sit in the museum parlor listening to a classic novel read aloud and work on your favorite fiber art. All ages welcome. Please bring your own supplies. taylor-housemuseum.org

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread, drink and dessert. Children 4 years and younger eat free. Proceeds benefit Rolling Stones Youth Group. Christina Wilson, 302-519-2993

OCDC SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Shenanigan's Irish Pub, 309 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 4-7 p.m. Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, soft drinks/coffee & dessert. 50/50, lottery drawing and silent auction. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids 8 years & younger. 703-731-6515

NICHOLS SISTERS AND FAMILY IN CONCERT

New Bethel United Methodist Church, 10203 Germantown Road, Berlin, 4 p.m. Host pastor, Rev. Lucille Nichols. All are invited and welcome.

SEWING FOR A CAUSE

Sundays - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to sew while making a difference. 410-641-0234

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., April 13

MOMMY/DADDY & ME CRAFT TIME

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Come read a fun short story and do an easy age appropriate craft. All materials provided. Parents may need to assist child with craft. Participants must pre-register: 410-641-7052, www.oceanpines.org.

STORY TIME: FROGS

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

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

WATERCOLOR BASICS

101 Green St. Gallery, 101 E. Green St., Snow Hill, 2 p.m. Arist Jan Coulbourne teaches this class about creating a piece of watercolor art. 443-783-6164

SENSORY BOTTLES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Create a sensory bag or bottle for calming your mind and stimulating your brain. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

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

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

BRIDGE

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., April 14

STORY TIME: LIBRARIAN'S CHOICE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Crafts,

Calendar

songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES AND VINE: 'BEHOLD THE DREAMERS' BY IMBOLO MBUE

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. An evening for books and wine. Stop by the Snow Hill Library to pick up your book, then meet for a great discussion at Tides & Vine. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-5622

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. Dinner and drinks available for purchase after 6:15 p.m. George Gutthridge will share tips and tricks for wreck fishing. Mid-Shore Electronics will demonstrate the latest in fish finding. Open to all.

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 15

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of Backgammon, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818

SENIOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m.-noon. Spend an hour enjoying relaxed conversation and a cup of coffee or tea. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

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

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER AND GROCERY GIVEAWAY

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 5-6 p.m. Free community dinner and grocery giveaway. Join us for a warm meal and groceries. 410-289-3453

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-7:30 p.m. This round table discussion is all about sharing experiences, building connections, and supporting the Women's Art League Leadership Collective. Light refreshments included. Free

and open to all. 410-524-9433

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

ORIOLES VS. ATHLETICS BUS TRIP

Bus trip to Camden Yards, May 10. Cost is \$150 and includes transportation, section 288 seating, Picnic Perch food and bathrooms, Family Fun Day Sunday, watch batting practice and Denim Crab Cap Gate Giveaway to first 20,000 fans. Depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 9:30 a.m. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Tickets: 410-641-7052.

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

THE STORIES OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., throughout April. Celebrate the author's birthday with a make and take craft kit. Stop by anytime to pick up supplies for your own fairy tale diorama kit. Learn more about Andersen at the Storywalk through a picture book biography at John Walter Smith Park. For families. 410-632-5622

TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND

Trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA to see "Joshua," on June 27, at 3 p.m. Cost is \$200. Pay by May 15. Cash app: calvarychurch8607. Sponsored by Calvary United Methodist Church. Contact Rosie Dennis, 443-614-7518.

HISTORY-TO-GO

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout April. Pick up a History-to-Go kit that is all about Colonial gardening. Includes info sheets, recommended activities, supplies and more. Can be picked up at the Snow Hill Branch. 410-632-3495

OC READS: 'HEARTWOOD' BY AMITY GAIGE

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, April 1-30. Pick up a copy of this month's read. Come in by April 29 to share your impressions and enter into a drawing to win free books. 410-524-1818

TAKE HOME POETRY KIT

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, April 1-30. Take home poetry kit full of fun prompts, ideas, and challenges. Available for both the 6-11 years and 12-18 years age ranges. 410-524-1818

FREE TAX PREP

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

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER 50/50 FUNDRAISER

Drawings are held every Thursday at 8 p.m. Ticket sales open Thursdays at 8:05 p.m. and close the following Thursday at 7:59 p.m. One winner takes home 50% of the total jackpot and the remainder supports the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Tickets: <https://md.505oraffle.org/give/mdfire/50-50-raffles/md5050/charities/ocean-pines/checkout>

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

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

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

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

OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA

Meets the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-4 p.m. A social organization of men and women of Polish or Slavic descent.

Classified

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

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



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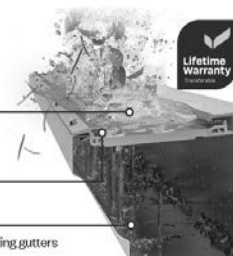
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