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Tilghman Elliott, 2, of Trappe, enjoyed being pulled around the streets of Berlin last Saturday for the Berlin Cruisers event, sponsored by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. See more photos on page 14.

Water line replacement cost goes up

Already exceeding funding by \$463K, project's cost goes up another \$155K

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) Berlin municipal officials will have to close a larger-than-expected revenue shortfall after the Town Council approved an amended motion last week to replace the lead water lines along Williams Street.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the amendment reflects revised figures after further review of funding requirements. Nicholas Bradley of the town's engineering consultant, Davis, Bowen & Friedel, explained that the State of Maryland mandates additional costs to be factored into the project budget, including a 3% administrative fee and a 5% contingency.

With those adjustments, the project's funding gap has increased from the previously reported \$463,005 to \$618,119.

"The intent is to seek funding where we can to make up that difference," Bohlen said. "But this is a project we have to do by law."

Despite the shortfall, officials noted the town has already secured outside funding and will continue pursuing additional assistance through the state. Bradley said the recommendation is to award the base bid contract to Teal Construction Inc., contingent upon obtaining the additional funds.

If support from the Maryland Department of the Environment is not available, the municipality may need to explore local funding sources to

See ANOTHER Page 3

Berlin farmers market returns

Produce, baked goods just part of what has grown into Sunday social gathering

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) The Berlin Farmers Market, one of the town's most popular and anticipated community events, marked the beginning of his eighth season last Sunday.

Held every Sunday from May through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, the market brings together local farmers, food producers and artisans along stretches of Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street.

A petting farm is available from 9 to 11 a.m. Live music is also featured thanks to a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council.

Berlin's Economic and Commu-

nity Development Director Ivy Wells said the market has evolved from just a place to shop to more of a social and community gathering.

"The Farmer's Market is about community, neighbors seeing each other, catching up, and getting outside," she said. "Many walk or bike to the market and it's pet friendly too."

The Berlin market operates as a "producers-only" event, meaning

See MARKET Page 3

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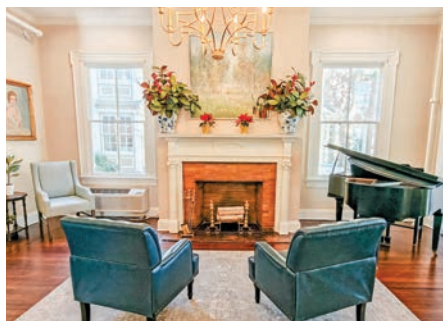


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STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ponies and goats and those who want to see the animals are also a part of the Berlin Farmers Market, which has grown into a community experience.

Market also social gathering

Continued from Page 1
 vendors sell items they grow or create themselves. That includes local farms such as Bennett Orchards, BayBees Farm and Assateague Farm, along with a variety of prepared foods and artisan goods.

Wells said the market has also served as a “launch pad” for several downtown businesses, including Honey Water Candles, Mandala Pies, Colorful Encounters, and Little Green Witch Apothecary.

For the fourth year, the market will run through October, which organizers say remained busy even into the fall.

“Extending into the fall has been a great addition,” Wells said. “Many of the farmers are still growing fall vegetables.”

With strong weekly turnout and a loyal following of residents and visitors alike, the market is something the community looks forward to each

year, Wells said.
 “We’re just excited to have it back,” she said. “It’s become a tradition for a lot of people and the most favorite event in town.”

Attendees can expect to find goods from Bratten Farm, Goat Plum Tree Farm, Splendid Earth Acres Farm, The Bay Mushrooms Farm, Marshall Creek Farm, Berlin Bison Ranch, Dream Catcher Homestead, Reinke Lavender Farm, Sacred Sowings Collective, Quinton’s Quality Products at Truitt Farm, and Salty Acre Farm.

The event will also feature businesses such as Cast 26 Coffee Roasters, Una Bella Salute, baked dessert café, Del’Vecchios Bakery, Honey Water Candles, Lyon Rum, Katherine Belz Pottery, Sweet Tater Pet Treats, Clare’s Nutty Concoctions, Burley Oak Brewery, Boulangerie Gluten Free Bakery at The Inn Berlin, and Forgotten 50 Distilling, among other shops.

Another funding gap to cover

Continued from Page 1
 cover the gap. The approved base bid for the project totals \$1,938,938.

On April 16, the Town Council agreed to accept the base bid for the lead service line replacement project along Williams Street, following a recommendation from Davis, Bowen & Friedel. The base bid, submitted by Teal Construction, covers full replacement of aging lead water service lines and came in at approximately \$1.9 million.

At the time, the project faced a \$463,000 funding shortfall, which officials addressed by transferring \$500,000 from another capital improvement project—the Elizabeth, Maple, Schoolfield, East Branch and Railroad initiative. Town leaders said

that move would delay, but not cancel, that effort.

Now, the town will be required to make up the increased funding gap.

The work is also tied to a Maryland State Highway Administration paving schedule planned for autumn, creating a limited window for completion.

“This is contingent on the SHA because they want to pave this road this fall,” said Berlin Director of Water Resources Jamey Latchum last month. “We likely won’t start until August, and the state wants to have the road paved by November.”

Officials have noted that once paving is finished, the town will be restricted from disturbing the roadway for two years except in emergencies.



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Meeting planned for cable landing initiative

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) Worcester County residents are expected to confront a controversial utility project head-on next month, as a public town hall is set to bring the developer face-to-face with a community already deeply skeptical of what's being proposed.

The proposed facility on Route 611 outside Berlin has drawn sharp push-back from nearby residents and county officials. While developer Globalinx says it's a pass-through station for internet cables, critics say it still looks and operates like an industrial site, with generators, fuel tanks, and round-the-clock activity.

District 3 Worcester County Commissioner Eric Fiori, whose West Ocean City district would house the facility, has made it clear he opposes the project outright. He has questioned the scale of the nearly 24,000-square-foot facility and accuses Globalinx of failing to fully explain what's being proposed.

Fiori pledged on social media to push for a town hall meeting "so the entire community has the opportunity to be heard."

"To date, the responses provided have been vague, incomplete, and lacking in factual detail," he posted April 23 to Facebook. "Our community deserves transparency, accountability,



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The proposed utility facility would be built on Route 611 by developer Globalinx. Residents and officials are seeking more details on the project.

and real answers – not uncertainty and deflection."

Fiori is pitching a town hall-style meeting at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin and says representatives of Globalinx have been invited to attend. The event is tentatively scheduled for May 14 at 6 p.m. and would be open to the public.

The project is also drawing opposition from a group of residents in nearby communities along Route 611. In a letter to Worcester County officials, the Community Coalition of Impacted Property Owners rebuked the

project, citing concerns over potential noise and light pollution, water consumption, and environmental impact.

At the heart of the fight is a basic question: what exactly is this project?

The company has sought to reassure critics, many of whom are referring to the project as a "data center" – a term that's become a lightning rod for controversy, as energy-hungry large-scale computing facilities expand nationwide.

Globalinx insists this is not a data center and even launched a project-specific website to address the issue.

The company says the building would serve as a point where undersea fiber optic cables come ashore and "connect into the wider internet infrastructure," and it would not host data storage or large-scale server operations.

Last month, Globalinx CEO Greg Twitt told OC Today-Dispatch that from the outside, the facility would "look like a normal building," like an office or warehouse. He said only five people would work there, that power demand would be low, and that the fa-

See COUNTY Page 6

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Candidate sign allowance extended in OPA

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors has approved a change to its rules governing political signs and will allow candidates more time to keep their signs on public display.

Board President John Latham said this week the measure passed via an email vote of the board members over the weekend, completing a second reading that allows signs to be posted 45 days prior to an election. The previous rule provided a 30-day window, but this change aligns OPA guidelines with Maryland law.

The adjustment follows the passage of House Bill 855 and its companion legislation, Senate Bill 758, which expand the timeframe during which homeowner associations can permit

candidate and referendum signs. The legislation was approved in April and was intended to take effect ahead of the June 2026 primary election.

OPA officials had introduced the proposed guideline changes during an April 25 board meeting, when Director Elaine Brady presented the amendment to remain compliant with state regulations. At that time, the board indicated a second reading would be required once the bill was signed into law by Gov. Wes Moore.

Latham noted that the change ensures OPA remains consistent with Maryland HOA requirements, though it may result in an increased number of campaign signs throughout the community during election periods.

“We definitely want to stay in line with Maryland HOA law, so that is positive in my opinion,” he said.

“Given there is a local election this summer and the upcoming OPA election, it will definitely create more yard signs throughout our community for a few months. That may not be popular with some homeowners.”

Under both state law and OPA guidelines, political signs must be removed within seven days following an election.

However, the new legislation allows HOAs to set its own rules governing sign placement in common areas.

Brady noted at the April board meeting that in OPA, political signs are only permitted on private property.

“I would like to add that when signs are being put up by politicians, they need to make sure that they’re on the homeowner’s property,” she said last month. “That means from the ditch to the street and along the medians are not allowed. Just want to make sure when you’re giving your signs out to people that they are aware of where they can put them.”

County seeking project details

Continued from Page 4

city’s technology eventually could help lower pricing for Internet access.

Commissioner Fiori disagrees and continues to refer to it as a data center.

“If you get run over by a vehicle, does it matter if it’s a car or a truck?” he said in an interview. “I don’t care if it processes data, I don’t care if it processes A.I, I don’t care if it washes cars. What matters is, it’s industrial use, it doesn’t meet the zoning code, and it doesn’t belong in our county, end of story. I don’t know how I can put it any more bluntly than that.”

In January, Worcester County’s Technical Review Committee reviewed the developer’s application for feasibility. But the project has not moved to the next level of vetting since then, in part because county staff say they have more questions that Globalinx needs to answer.

County Administrator Weston Young said, on the surface, the project “does seem like more of an industrial use” and the county needs to better understand how what’s being proposed would fit into its zoning requirements.

He also said any project that doesn’t comport with zoning likely won’t get

approved – and that locals may be reacting to an idea that might never come to fruition.

“Nobody cares about the fact that fiber running across the ocean is the size of a garden hose,” he said. “They care about, what are the potential impacts? You need to be able to explain that to the people.”

The county also plans to send its planning and development staff on site visits to other similar facilities on the East Coast “to better understand this type of project and its potential impacts,” according to an April 28 statement.

Worcester County isn’t the only local government intertwined with the proposal.

The Town of Ocean City in October entered into a 25-year lease with Globalinx to route cable through its nearby municipal airport, which is located just north of the project site on Route 611.

The fiber lines, originating in Ireland, will be owned and operated by Amazon Web Services and will support “Fastnet” undersea cables that move data between networks in Europe and the U.S., according to the Maryland Department of Commerce.

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Ocean Pines to host events, activities through summer

Community is gearing up for Bay Day, summer bocce, concerts in the park series

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) Ocean Pines is gearing up for a busy summer, with a lineup of live music, recreational sports and a family-friendly environmental celebration scheduled in the coming months.

The Ocean Pines Association has released the schedule for its annual Concerts in the Park, set to run Thursday evenings from June 25 through Aug. 27 at the White Horse Park Pavilion. Performances will take place from 7 -9 p.m. and feature regional acts and bands.

This year's lineup includes Nick Vox on June 25, followed by The Flip Side Band on July 2 and Colossal Fossil Sauce on July 9. Hurricane Kevin Cat 5 will perform July 16, with Shoreline Grooves taking the stage July 23 and Opposite Directions on July 30. August performances include Jada Lee on Aug. 6, String Buzards on Aug. 13, Coastal Country on Aug. 20 and Clockwork Band closing out the series on Aug. 27.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own beverages, and food will be available for purchase at the venue.

In addition to the slate of live entertainment, OP residents can participate in the Ocean Pines Bocce Ball Summer League, with registration now open. The deadline to sign up is

June 1 at 5 p.m.

The league is open to players of all skill levels from beginner to experienced and costs \$25 per person. The fee includes participation in the full season and a tournament championship.

Participants may register as part of two- or four-player teams, with up to four substitutes allowed per group. Matches will be held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club bocce courts. Four-player teams will compete Thursdays and Fridays from June 4 through July 31, while two-player teams will play Sundays and Mondays from June 7 through Aug. 3. All matches are scheduled between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Registration forms are available at the Ocean Pines Community Center and must be submitted in person with payment. Mail-in registrations will not be accepted.

Any questions on the upcoming bocce season can be directed to organizer Mike Galello at mgalello@aol.com.

Kicking off the season, Ocean Pines will also host its annual Bay Day on Sunday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at White Horse Park. The event will feature boat rides, live music, hands-on educational activities, live animal exhibits and a native plant giveaway. The event is open to the public.

More Ocean Pines events and happenings can be found on the association's official website, as well as the community's recreation and parks Facebook page.

County judge proposes paid summer internship program

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2026) Worcester County's top judge wants to build a stronger pipeline for hiring future law clerks by paying summer interns.

Judge Brian Shockley, who oversees circuit court administration in Snow Hill, is asking county officials to fund a \$6,000 stipend for a summer intern position for his fiscal year 2027 budget.

Legal internships often serve as a feeder system for law clerks, a role Shockley called "indispensable" to the court.

"What we're hoping is, if we can get a good intern between their second and third year of law school, indoctrinate them into the court, make them want to come as a law clerk the next year, that may help with this problem," he told the county commissioners during an April 14 budget work session.

Legal intern positions have become increasingly harder to fill on the lower Eastern Shore. Shockley described recruiting as "a very pronounced problem" for myriad reasons.

"We've lost some interns to even Wicomico County and some neighboring counties because they're paying their interns," he said.

Law clerks help keep cases moving by handling much of the research and drafting that supports a judge's decisions. Without enough clerks, much of that work falls back on judges and other staff, which can affect how quickly cases move through the system.

The circuit court has three law clerks, one for each judge, and they work two years for the court. Shockley said it's not uncommon for a former clerk to start their career as an attorney in the county.

Shockley pointed to a recent exam-
See COURTHOUSE Page 8

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Ocean City & Worcester County, Maryland

Assateague lifeguards to return this season

The park's national side will again be guarded fully from mid-June to mid-August

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(May 8, 2026) Lifeguards will be back at Assateague Island National Seashore this summer, after last year's federal staffing issues prevented the National Park Service from hiring.

While the park will staff lifeguards from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, coverage won't be at full strength until mid-June.

For the first two weeks of June, lifeguards will be on duty for weekends only. After that, guards will be fully staffed seven days a week during peak season from mid-June through mid-August. Staffing would drop again to weekends only for the final two weeks of August, according to county spokeswoman Kim Moses.

She also said Superintendent Hugh Hawthorne confirmed with county officials that, for now, the park has hired enough lifeguards to fill two-thirds of open positions, and a second wave of recruitment is expected to fill remaining vacancies.

Worcester County Commissioner Eric Fiori said the National Park Service did confirm lifeguards would be

back.

"They're currently working on the recruiting process for that right now," Fiori said during a District 3 candidates forum for the South Point community on April 30. "They pretty much are full, but they need some substitutes to work in and out, so they've been doing some recruitment."

For the next hiring round, openings will be posted to the federal recruiting website USAJobs. Lower Shore YMCA branches also will assist in the hiring process. Moses said the county would be sharing recruitment postings to social media and supporting outreach.

Online, the Park Service is already advertising openings for seasonal surf lifeguards on both the Maryland and Virginia sides of the park, including training and housing.

"Are you looking for a job with sun, sand, and salt air?" asks the April 30 post on the park's Facebook page.

Last year, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order immediately after his Jan. 20 inauguration, mandating an overall federal hiring freeze. That prevented park leadership at Assateague from hiring lifeguards for the summer season.

It also drew the ire of two dozen Democratic U.S. senators, including

Maryland's Chris Van Hollen, who urged U.S. Interior Department Secretary Doug Burgum to immediately reissue seasonal employment offers to Park Service workers.

By April, the hiring freeze had thawed a bit: The Interior Department clarified that some seasonal and public safety positions would be exempt – but lifeguards didn't make the list.

Without federal hires, lifeguards at nearby Assateague State Park were tasked with monitoring the beach for emergencies. The Berlin Fire Com-

pany took on the responsibility for water rescues in the interim.

Assateague Island National Seashore typically staffs about a dozen lifeguards for both the Maryland and Virginia sides of the park. The lifeguard crew usually drops to eight or nine at summer's end when some go back to school.

Not all 22 miles of the park's Maryland shoreline are guarded: its northern half contains pockets of guarded recreational beach, while the southern end contains the unguarded oversand vehicle area.

Courthouse to receive upgrade

Continued from Page 7

ple: Judge Kristina Watkowski, appointed to the circuit bench last fall, began her career as a Worcester County law clerk under former judges Tom Groton and Ted Eschenburg.

Hiring works differently at the District Court level, where law clerks are not tied to individual judges. Instead, they are hired by administrative judges and shared across multiple courtrooms, according to the Maryland Judiciary.

Alongside the staffing request, Shockley also outlined several

planned upgrades to the historic Snow Hill courthouse.

Those include creating a new law library, converting a former grand jury room into offices for family services and truancy court staff, and adding a vestibule at the Washington Street entrance to improve security.

The commissioners took no immediate action on the request during the work session. The court's proposal will be weighed alongside other departmental requests as the county moves toward a final budget adoption on June 2.



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Hudson Branch site of planned restoration

Stream improvement part of larger push to remedy Newport Bay watershed

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) A stream restoration project along Hudson Branch in Berlin is moving closer to construction as part of a multi-year effort to improve water quality in the Newport Bay watershed.

During a public presentation on April 29, Town of Berlin staff, environmental partners and project engineers shared plans to restore roughly 2,000 feet of the stream, which ultimately feeds into Newport Bay. According to local environmentalists, Newport Bay is graded at a C-minus based on recent water quality data.

The project is part of an initiative funded through Maryland's Whole Watershed Act, which is providing \$2 million annually over five years to support restoration work and community engagement. Newport Bay is one of just five watersheds in the state selected for the inaugural program.

Jessica McIntosh, a coordinator with the Maryland Coastal Bays Pro-

gram, said the effort is designed to address a range of environmental challenges, including stormwater runoff, aging septic systems, agricultural impacts, and marsh decline.

The project is a collaboration between the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Assateague Coastal Trust, Lower Shore Land Trust, Worcester County, and the Town of Berlin.

"The partnership is going to be rolling out even more projects, but this is year one," McIntosh said. "We are doing a lot of different projects because we want to take a holistic approach. We don't want to do this one restoration project and then walk away. This amount of funding allows us to address the issues from all angles."

Engineers outlined plans to reshape the stream into a more natural, meandering system to slow water flow and improve filtration. The design includes reconnecting the stream to its floodplain, raising the streambed slightly, and installing log structures to stabilize the channel and

create habitat for fish and other wildlife.

Currently, portions of Hudson Branch are straight and deeply eroded, which speeds up water flow but reduces its ability to filter pollutants.

"Right now, there is a portion that is straight as an arrow," said Steven Lemasters from EA Engineering.

"That arrow is great for conveying water but it's terrible for treating water. So, what we're trying to do is create more of a natural process. Create some meanderings."

The project will also help manage stormwater from a 480-acre drainage area and reduce flooding risks, including near the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Construction is expected to take 60 to 90 days and could begin this winter, pending permits. Work will be accessed primarily from Bottle Branch Road, with residents advised to expect construction traffic but no road closures.

Officials said the project will use

natural materials from the site and avoid introducing gravel or other non-native elements.

Lemasters added that while there will be tree clearing involved, much of the taken trees will be repurposed into mulch for a mulch access path on the site.

"We want to minimize as much as possible what goes offsite," he said. "Some of the trees we will be taking, we will be mulching up and using for the mulch access path. Some of the more substantial trees that have larger branches, will be using those logs to use for the wood log structures."

"It's really using the environment that's there, putting it back in place... A lot of stream restorations you see gravel coming into the area. Gravel is not natural...So, we didn't want to go out there and put in boulders, gravel, pools out of stone. We wanted to use natural materials that actually exist in this area."

Additional restoration efforts are planned across the watershed in the coming years, including marsh restoration as part of the long-term strategy to improve the health of Newport Bay.

'The partnership is going to be rolling out even more projects, but this is year one.'

Jessica McIntosh

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Burn ban imposed in county due to recent dry conditions

Outdoor ignition sources to halt until local officials say they may safely resume

(May 7, 2026) With the lower Eastern Shore and Worcester County specifically entering the nearly crispy stage because of the extended drought conditions, the county Fire Marshal's office has imposed a countywide ban on outdoor burning.

A release issued Monday by the office begins, "Due to the County's current dry conditions, low precipitation totals, and declining water table levels, the burn ban is effective immediately," Fire Marshal Matt Owens said.

"This ban should reduce the number of out-of-control outside fires, which cause safety concerns for area residents, visitors, and especially responding fire personnel."

The ban applies to all outdoor ignition sources, with the following exceptions:

- Proper use of gas and charcoal grills.
- Campfires at the county's commercial campgrounds.

- Campfires at state and federal campgrounds.
- Permitted official Town of Ocean City bonfires.

Private property recreational campfires that are limited to a fire area of two feet with a height of three feet.

- Public fireworks displays.
- Volunteer fire company training exercises.

The burn ban will remain in effect until the dry conditions improve and county officials determine that outdoor burning may safely resume.

"All existing outdoor burn permits have been rescinded," Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell said. "Conditions remain dry, rainfall has been below normal, and county monitoring indicates that water table levels remain low. These conditions increase the potential for rapid fire spread and support the need for this temporary ban."

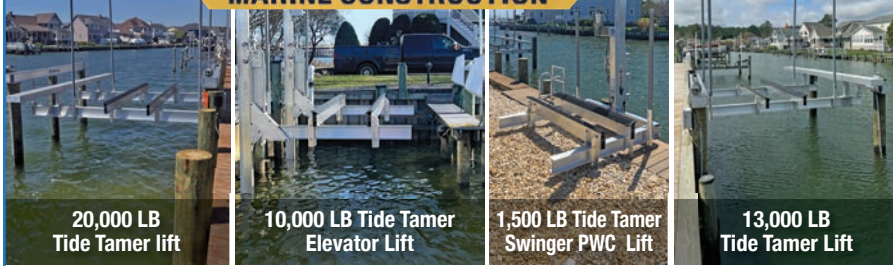
Residents and visitors are urged to use caution with all outdoor ignition sources and to closely monitor future announcements regarding any changes to the burn ban.

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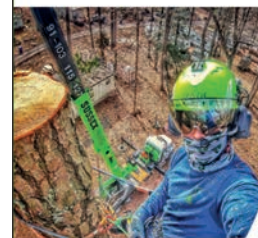
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LIBERTY TREE PLANTED

On Saturday, April 25, the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum celebrated the planting of a liberty tree on its lawn. This planting is part of a larger statewide initiative to commemorate the nation's 250th birthday. Each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City will be given a seedling derived from the only surviving genetically identical Liberty Tree scion in the United States – descended from Maryland's original 1775 Liberty Tree in Annapolis. Maryland's Liberty Tree, a Tulip Poplar at St. John's College, was the last remaining original Liberty Tree until 1999 when it was destroyed by a hurricane. Top, applying the first shovels of dirt to the new addition are, from left, Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Commissioner Diana Purnell, Berlin Councilman Steve Green and Museum President Melissa Reid, also pictured left during the ceremony.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEACH-TO-BAY



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STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CRUISERS VISIT BERLIN
 Streets in the downtown corridor of Berlin were lined with classic cars of all makes, models and years last Saturday morning. The Berlin Chamber of Commerce hosts two classic car shows each year - one in the spring and another in the fall to coincide with the Ocean City event.



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Snapshots



WPS 2nd grader Duke An was thrilled to share his Coral Reef habitat project with his parents, Tae An and Joyce Chin.



WPS 2nd grader Charlotte Cacoperdo was thrilled to share her Coral Reef habitat project with her family.

WPS HABITAT PROJECT

On Thursday, March 26, Worcester Prep's 2nd-grade students hosted a Habitat Fair for fellow lower school students, staff, and families. Attendees learned about the various places where animals make their homes, from the rainforest to the Arctic and all the habitats in between.

In class, the students explored different types of land and water habitats, the animals that inhabit each one, the adaptations they make, and the food chain. They also examined the various types of plants, landforms, and threats present in each habitat. After their lessons, it was the students' turn to teach by spending a month researching and writing about their selected habitat. They chose an animal from that habitat, and with the assistance of the lower school art teacher, Mrs. Roman, they each created a model of the animal in art class. The project also transitioned to computer class, where Mrs. Lyons guided them in compiling their research into a digital presentation. In the end, students learned how each habitat can be conserved and ways they can contribute.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



WPS parents Ben and Julia Shapiro were delighted to visit their son, Harper Caleb to view his Savannah Grassland habitat project.



WPS 2nd grader Gunner Derrickson shared his habitat project on the Desert with his mother, Sarah Campbell.



WPS second-grade student Barney Hall was excited to exhibit his diorama of the Rainforest at this year's Habitat Fair. Barney is pictured with his mom, Samantha Hall.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW CLUB MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club welcomed new members at the April dinner meeting at the Lighthouse Sound on St. Martins Neck Road. Pictured, from left, are sponsor Larry Lawrence, new member Doug Bruner, sponsor Kathy Cater, new member Amy Gallagher, new member Chuck Fuller, sponsor Greg Custis and Optimist President Chris Dolomount-Brown.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LEGISLATIVE WRAPUP

The Republican Women's Club of Worcester County held a Welcome Home for Senator Marybeth Carozza and Delegate Wayne Hartman at their April General Meeting and Luncheon. The elected officials are pictured with club member Jennie Allen.

Obituary

WILLIAM B. TODD SR.

Berlin

William B. Todd Sr., age 88, passed away on April 25, 2026, in Salisbury, Maryland. Born in Washington, D.C. on January 31, 1938, he was the son of the late Claude Milton Todd and Gladys Mae (Maples) Todd.



William Todd Sr.

Bill was the co-owner with his wife Sarah of Ocean City Service Co., Ocean City Service Oil Co., and Ocean City Supply Company in West Ocean City. Bill dedicated over 40 years to the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. Throughout his career as a firefighter, he severed in numerous leadership roles including Captain, Engineer, and as a member of the board of Directors, where he held the position of Vice president. Bill was a true patriarch of a volunteer fire service family, his sense of service before self is something he instilled in generations to come. His son Mike Todd is

a life member, and his grandson Michael Todd currently serves as the 2nd Assistant Chief of The Ocean city Volunteer Fire Company.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife Sarah Frances Todd.

William is survived by his children – William Todd Jr. and Harry “Mike” Todd (Jackie); his grandchildren – William “Billy” Todd III, Sarah Pulley (Wesley), Ian Todd (Jessica), Bridget Todd, Michael Thomas Todd (Gionna), and Amanda Lockwood; and his great grandchildren – Vance William Todd, Carter Pulley, and Ava Pulley.

Cremation followed his passing. No formal services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, 1409 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD, 21842 or the Worcester County Humane Society. Letters of condolence may be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home – Berlin.

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Opinion

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

Berlin must deal with lead pipes issue now

It's not a now-or-never proposition, but it's close enough for Berlin town officials, who really don't have a choice but to continue their pursuit of its water line replacement project along Williams Street.

This is even though the project's \$1.9 million cost to remove and replace lead water lines at around 350 properties is more than the town has set aside for the work.

Town officials know, of course, that preventing lead from leaching into drinking water can be done with certain chemical treatments, filtering, and testing.

But the best solution, as federal and state authorities have made clear, is to remove those lines altogether and be done with it forever.

Doing that, however, keeps getting more expensive, with town officials just learning that they will have to come up with another \$155,000 in funding on top of the \$463,000 they already scrambled to cover.

Complicating the town's plan is that the state plans to re-pave portions of Williams Street in the fall, which gives the town a small opening to get in and get out before the state begins its resurfacing project.

Once that road work has been completed, the street will be off limits to excavations of any kind — including water line replacement work — for two years.

Berlin runs a tight budget, so there's no telling what the town's financial circumstances will be two years from now. What they do know in Town Hall, however, is they must get the water line job done now even if it's paid for by digging behind the government sofa for enough change to cover most recent shortfall.

They simply can't wait until 2028 and reevaluate the situation, because they have no idea what they might find.

County's recycling revenue declines

Plastic, mixed paper, have lost value, as part of market shift

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) Worcester County collected millions more pounds of recycling last year. But generated less revenue — and taxpayers are covering the difference.

The shift reflects a sharp drop in the market for recyclable materials, which has undercut what the county can earn from selling paper, plastic and metal.

County officials say they sometimes hold materials for weeks or months, waiting for a buyer, Public Works Director Dallas Baker told the county commissioners.

"Cardboard still sells really well. Metals sell really well. Plastic is kind of horrible," he said at an April 14 budget work session.

"For most of the year, plastic might not sell at all — like, you have to pay somebody to come take your plastic."

The county is projecting \$150,000 in recycling revenue for fiscal year 2027, against more than \$1.2 million in costs — a shortfall absorbed by the county's general fund, according to Enterprise Fund Controller Quinn Dittrich.

He added that recycling revenue has declined in the last two fiscal years, falling about \$80,000 in 2024 and \$15,000 in 2025.

Low prices for plastics are driving the decline, according to Bob Keenan, the county's recycling manager. Vendors are offering just a few cents per pound for plastic.

"There is simply no market in it," he said. "There are warehouses and warehouses of plastic that (vendors) can't get anybody to buy."

Other materials have also lost value, Keenan said: Corrugated cardboard has fallen from \$125 a ton to as low as \$60.

Mixed paper has dropped from \$120 a ton to \$70. Aluminum sells for \$1.09 by the ton through a broker, though market prices are closer to 80 cents.

At the same time, recycling volume is up. Last year, the county collected 1,985 more tons of recyclables — that's almost 4 million pounds — than in 2024. Totals for 2025 came to 12,236 tons for residential recyclables and 24,707 for commercial, according to Keenan.

He noted that the county has been promoting recycling through outreach, in part by hosting 14 school field trips in the last year to

its Newark processing facility.

"We send them home with a lot of literature about what you can and can't recycle," Keenan said. "I want people to know what we do, and that we're not throwing their recycling away."

Worcester's revenue decline mirrors a broader trend. A March 2026 report from the Northeast Recycling Council found recycling commodity values hit a five-year low in 12 states, including Maryland and Delaware.

Industry reports also show at least five U.S. plastic recycling facilities have closed since early 2025 as demand has weakened.

Ocean City officials faced a similar reality years ago. The resort pulled the plug on its traditional recycling program in 2009 after determining it was too costly to maintain.

In its final year, the city spent \$1.2 million on recycling and brought in \$200,000 in revenue, according to Public Works Director Hal Adkins. Since then, Ocean City has contracted to truck its rubbish to waste-to-energy incinerators outside Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

"It was just not sustainable," Adkins said. "It doesn't make money."

Plats approved for Purnell's project

Berlin planners say yes to phases five and six of project

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2026) The Berlin Planning Commission last week approved plans for Phase Five South of the Purnell Crossing development, following a discussion concerning missing documentation related to prior approvals.

At its April 29 meeting, the planning commission unanimously approved both

the preliminary and record plats for Phase Five South of the Purnell Crossing development project.

The approvals follow a lengthier discussion earlier in April, when town staff and planning commission members struggled with uncertainty concerning setback requirements for Phases Five and Six.

At that time, the confusion was whether the setbacks — 25-foot front yard, 5-foot side yard, 10-foot rear yard — had ever been approved. Developer Troy Purnell maintained that the

setbacks were clearly shown on plans submitted and approved in the spring of 2021.

At the April meeting, however, planning staff said they did not have those full-sized drawings on file.

After reviewing archived meeting footage, the commission voted to affirm the setbacks, concluding they were likely part of the original approval.

"While we can't know exactly what was in those drawings, because we just don't have them, I find it insanely hard to believe that it

See PURNELL Page 19

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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OPA will no longer mow easements in front of homes

(May 7, 2026) Ocean Pines issued a reminder to residents this week that, "per the approved 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget, Public Works will no longer mow easements and ditches in front of homes."

The press release continued, "Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the grass in these areas moving forward. The elimination of mowing easements and ditches was first discussed during the December 18 and 19 budget hearings, as well as the January 15 Budget Town Hall."

General Manager John Viola also addressed the topic at both the January 24 and April 25 regular board meetings, explaining that funding for the service was reallocated to support other initiatives, including drainage and storm-related cleanup efforts following the recent blizzard.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TREE FARM OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

John and Janice Warren of Snow Hill and Warren Tree Farm were recognized by the Maryland Senate and Senator Mary Beth Carozza for being named the Maryland Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year for 2026. Worcester County Forester Ian McGovern also was on hand for the Senate presentation.

Purnell Crossing plans approved

Continued from Page 18
wasn't these documents that we approved," Planning Commission Chair Matt Stoehr said last month. "This is what you would have presented to us."

With that issue settled, last week's meeting focused on advancing the subdivision process for Phase Five South.

Attorney Mark Cropper, representing Purnell, urged the commission to follow staff recommendations and approve both the preliminary and record plats for Phase Five South of the Purnell Crossing development. The planning commission did so without additional discussion.

Phase Five South stems from a proposal first reviewed in September, when the commission supported subdividing land off Prospect Drive into three parcels. Plans include space for an extension of an existing roadway to be turned over to the town, approximately 20 single-family homes, and an area designated for stormwater management, likely including a pond and drainage area.

While Purnell has previously indicated he may choose to sell the property, the approved subdivision allows development to proceed if he moves forward.

The Purnell Crossing Planned Unit Development was originally approved in the early 2000s, with the land in Phase Five long slated for future residential use.

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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., May 7

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

STORY TIME: MOTHER'S DAY

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,

STORY TIME 'BIG FAT HEN'

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

PRAY FOR AMERICA - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Front of City Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 12 p.m. Sponsored by the O.C. Christian Ministers Association.

POCOMOKE BRANCH BOOK CLUB: 'THE RED TENT' BY ANITA DIAMANT

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

PAINT LIKE AN ARTIST

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about watercolors and how artist Georgia O'Keefe used them in her famous flower painting, then create your own. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

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., May 8

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

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. For babies (0-2 years) and their caregivers to socialize, play, read and explore. Drop by and make some friends. 410-641-0650

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS - FREE MONTHLY ART CLUB

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St.,

11 a.m.-1:01 p.m. Free Monthly Art Club for individuals aged 60+. Filmmakers Joan Floyd & Doug Armstrong will talk about making a short film using an iPhone. Register: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/events/16>. 410-524-9433

SURVIVAL SPANISH: KITCHENWARE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Now's your chance to learn another language. Join in as the group learns vocabulary for items around the kitchen. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

HOMESCHOOL INVENTORS FAIR

Snow Hill Train Station, 1 p.m. Showcase original inventions and imaginative ideas. Showcase and reception from 1-2 p.m. with awards and prize drawings at 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THE BANDIT QUEENS' BY PARINI SHROFF

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the Ocean Pines Library circulation desk and then join in for a lively discussion. 410-641-0650

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.

TOAST FOR THE COAST

Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 1 Mumfords Landing Road, 6-10 p.m. Featuring five-course, farm-to-table menu; live music & dancing. Each course is perfectly paired with Italian wines. Tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/toast-for-the-coast-annual-gala>.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. At least \$1,000 in payouts and a chance for a \$1,000 big jackpot at the end of the evening. Light snacks sold. 410-524-7994

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., May 9

ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

White Horse Park, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. Lovely, fresh arrangements by the Ocean Pines Garden Club members ranging

from \$5 to \$10. Held during the OP Farmer's Market.

WE BUILD YOU PLAY BEACHFEST 2

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Beachfest venues include the Ocean City Convention Center, Northside Park and Wicomico Civic Center. Tickets:

<https://ticketbud.com/events/d2d33b30-1734-11f1-b9a7-42010a71700b>.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Jake Evans will be talking about his 3-step guide to catching more fish using artificial baits in both fresh and saltwater. Also updates on fishing regulations, charters and more. All are welcome. 410-641-7662

DIY FAIRY GARDENS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 12-1:30 p.m. Create a miniature garden with live plants and tiny structures. All materials and instruction provided. Cost is \$20. For ages 10 years and older. Pre-registration required: 410-641-7052.

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

OCEAN PINES COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse, 100 Clubhouse Drive, 3 p.m. Guides will take the group on a scenic ride through Ocean Pines. Riders must be at least 12 years of age. Helmets are mandatory of all ages. Free event. Registration required: 410-641-7052.

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., May 10

WE BUILD YOU PLAY BEACHFEST 2

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Beachfest venues include the Ocean City Convention Center, Northside Park and Wicomico Civic Center. Tickets:

<https://ticketbud.com/events/d2d33b30-1734-11f1-b9a7-42010a71700b>.

MOTHER'S DAY YOGA

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 10-11 a.m. Yoga with Maddy. Exchange: \$25 adults and \$10 kids. Sign up at www.yogavibezstudios.com.

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY - SHOSTAKOVICH'S 9TH

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 3 p.m. Featuring the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. Doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets:

<https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/81317193/mid-atlantic-symphony-shostakovichs-9th-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center?gclid=>

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., May 11

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.

BABY TIME

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

STORY TIME: 5 SENSES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

SAINT MARTIN'S CHURCH TOUR

St. Martin's Church, 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, 10:30 a.m. Meet at the property on the junction of Rt. 589 and Rt. 113. Registration required: 443-783-6164, worcesterlibrary.org.

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 21

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

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

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.Worca.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., May 12

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Sing silly songs, play rhythmic instruments and move to the beat. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

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 geared for ages 0-5 years featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-4 p.m.

Bring any questions you have and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING SESSION

Second Tuesday, 1 p.m., via virtual meeting: <https://tidalhealth.webex.com/wbxmjs/joinservice/sites/tidalhealth/meeting/download/bd773f677932425da99b7704c7afc239?MTID=ma62eb0ff8f8cd1debo19210b37d26f3>.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth Neurology, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Held the second Tuesday of each month. Learn more: 410-641-4765, kay.kinnikin@tidalhealth.org.

SHREK PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Celebrate the 25th anniversary of your favorite ogre with a movie, crafts and snacks. For families. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES AND VINE: 'THE FOUNTAINS OF SILENCE' BY RUTA SEPETYS

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

GRIEF VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP

Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-7:30 p.m., via virtual meeting: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/join/register/Mf9LZPTXSNuuCmHOW3WTrA#/registration>. Info: 410-629-6848, lora.pangratz@tidalhealth.org.

CROSS FARMS POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

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

BEACH HEROES-OC

Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page "Beach 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., May 13

60S TRIVIA

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Reminisce about the groovy 1960s and compete to see who knows the most trivia for a far-out prize. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

HOMESCHOOL HISTORY

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

PUZZLE SWAP

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

DIY YOGURT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join Michaela Eggers and learn the simple fermentation process to make tangy, healthy, homemade yogurt. Registration required: 410-957-0878

BINGO

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

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth Neurology, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Held the second Wednesday of each month. Learn

more: 410-641-4765, betty.darby-glime@tidalhealth.org.

TBR JARS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Are you ready for summer reading? Create a "To Be Read" jar of mini books. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27. Wine and crackers included. For ages 18 years and older. Register: 410-641-7052.

PAJAMA STORY TIME

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

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

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

CASH BINGO

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

ONGOING EVENTS

BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

Depart on May 23 from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 5:30 a.m. Time in New York City will be approximately 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$85 for transportation only. Reservations: 410-641-7052.

OCEAN CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

Explore participating restaurants offering special Restaurant Week menus, April 26-May 9. <https://oceancityrestaurantweek.com>, 410-289-6733, susanjones@ocvisitor.com

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.

HISTORY-TO-GO

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout May. Pick up a History-to-Go kit about Colonial gardening. Includes info sheets, recommended

Calendar

activities, supplies and more. Available at the Snow Hill Branch. 410-632-5622

HISTORY HUNTERS BEANSTACK CHALLENGE

Throughout May, 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

OC READS: 'ISOLA' BY ALLEGRA GOODMAN

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, May 1-31. Pick up a copy of this month's read. Come in by May 30 to share your impressions and enter into the drawing to win free books. 410-524-1818

STAR WARS SCAVENGER HUNT

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, May 4-22. May the force be with you as you hunt down all the rebels and discover the clues to the riddle. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014

TEEN TIME: DINOSAUR EYES

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, May 4-29, 3:30 p.m. Create your own dinosaur eye using glass eyes and air clay.

For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

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.

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

#1 standby generator worldwide.
Get whole-home power, automatically.

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*Terms & conditions apply

SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT LOTS ON THE SEASIDE

- LOT 1 \$185,000**
2.76 ACRES
- LOT 2 \$175,000**
2.46 ACRES
- LOT 6 \$165,000**
1.38 ACRES

These amazing seaside properties offer both direct unobstructed frontage on the open bay and incredible ocean views just beyond. Located on Bayly's Neck Road in Accomac, Va. Start building tomorrow, these lots have good soils with well & septic approvals for standard septic systems. You won't find a better value at these prices! The other waterfront lots sold in years past for \$250,000 to \$510,000. See website for maps, videos and pictures.

CALL OR TEXT (757) 709-8916 **WEBSITE: VASEASIDE.COM**



OPEN HOUSES

May 7 - 14



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 3-5pm	119 Old Landing Road #307F, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$350,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	104 William Ross Ln, Seaford, DE	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$330,000	Kim Heaney/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	12702 Coastal Hwy Unit 201, Ocean City	1BR/2BA	Condo	\$279,999	Gregg Holland/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-12:30pm	13307 Wight Street #101, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	403 14th Street Unit 13, Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$1,600,000	Sandra Dougan BHHS/PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	10300 Coastal Hwy #802, Ocean City	Efficiency	Condo	\$258,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	24811 Rivers Edge Rd, Millsboro, DE	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$489,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	8715 Old Ocean City Rd, Berlin	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$439,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-2pm	14107 Laurel Avenue, Ocean City	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$869,900	Claudia Gausepohl/Coastal Life 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-2pm	71 Hingham Lane, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$599,990	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	16 Juniper Court, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$395,900	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-2:30 pm	10300 Coastal Highway #1808, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	201 S Heron Drive #26B, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$574,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	12414 Sea Oaks Lane, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$499,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 2:30-4:30pm	12048 Pimlico Ln, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$899,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 10am-Noon	5105 Atlantic Avenue #101, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,190,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	204 S Heron Drive #202G, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$565,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



HELP WANTED

Blue Fish Restaurant & Sushi Bar
EXPERIENCED FOOD EXPO
Full Time/Year Round
Decorate/make sushi and dessert plates.
Exp. in Expo, will train for our specifications.
Apply to bluefishoceancity@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

Blue Fish Restaurant & Sushi Bar
KITCHEN HEAD CHEF
Full Time/Year Round
Experienced in Wok, Line Cook Station, Fryer Station and Chinese Rotisserie. Salary based on experience.
Apply to bluefishoceancity@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

HARBOUR ISLAND GATE ATTENDANT
needed 10am-10pm
Friday-Sunday
Call **Jimmer**,
240-298-0365.

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

Blue Fish Restaurant & Sushi Bar
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Full Time/Year Round
Salary based on experience.
Apply to bluefishoceancity@gmail.com

THUNDERBIRD BEACH MOTEL
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PT/FT
HOUSEKEEPING
Apply in person
9am-4pm
32nd St., Baltimore Ave.

DUNKIN' DONUTS
AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'
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Production Crew
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Apply online at: www.delmarvadd.com

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted MAINTENANCE PERSON
needed in Harbour Island.
Flexible hours. Daytime, evening & weekends. Great job for retired person!
Call **Jimmer**,
240-298-0365.

CLEANERS NEEDED
Vacation rental cleaners needed for OC. Experience preferred but not required.
OC Purifiers. Call or text 443-397-1189 or email karen@ocpurifiers.com.

MARINE TECH
wanted for West Ocean City well established boat yard. Must have ability to service outboards, launch and lift out boats. Year-round position and competitive pay.
Contact 410-213-1383.

JOLLY ROGER Small Engine Mechanic & Ride Maintenance.
(Must have mechanical knowledge)
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Weekends required.
Apply in person
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RENTALS

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\$2,150 per mo. + utils.
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