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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## DONATION

The OC/Berlin Rotary Club donated playtime products to Showell Elementary School this week to benefit the facility's youngest learners. See story on page 10.

## Berlin repeats tax rate

Council unanimously votes against slight increase

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) The Berlin Town Council voted this week to maintain its current tax rate of 0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value for fiscal year 2027, despite push from town leaders and staff to consider a modest increase of a penny and a quarter of a penny.

Following a public hearing Monday night on the proposed real property tax rate for FY27, the Berlin Town Council voted unanimously to reject a fee hike.

The FY27 rate was proposed at 0.84 cents of \$100 of assessed value, or an increase of a penny and a quarter of a penny over the current rate of 0.8275 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Had the council voted for the change to 0.84, the municipality would have generated \$5.3 million in revenue for the town, compared to \$5.25 million projected at the current, now-FY27-approved rate of 0.8275.

For a \$500,000 home, the new rate would have cost residents an extra \$5 per month, or \$60 per year.

While Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall and Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh advocated for the adjusted real property tax rate, the council maintained that it would not support an increase, citing tight financial times and rising costs residents are facing

See STREET Page 7

## Council balances budget again

Town officials reinstitute cuts after mayor discards council's earlier efforts

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) To balance the Town of Berlin's fiscal year 2027 general fund budget — a spending plan that had been facing a \$280,000 shortfall this week — the Town Council

on Monday axed the proposal to replace an old public works truck and postponed a street paving project.

Despite the Berlin Town Council's successful effort last month to reduce a projected \$400,000 general budget shortfall to \$48,000, a revised spending plan was back on the agenda at the town's meeting Monday night, with an anticipated deficit of \$280,000.

In April, the council had whittled

away at proposed expenditures to balance the budget without raising the property tax rate. At that time, the council members eliminated \$245,000 in spending from the public works department, \$18,000 from a proposed half-a-percent cost-of-living increase for town staff, \$45,000 from a small truck for economic development, \$20,000 for a new playground climber, \$11,900 for

See TOWN Page 3

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# Town Council reinstitutes budget cuts, spares tax rate

Continued from Page 1

Independence Day fireworks, and \$50,000 for the planning legal consultant.

From public works, the council looked to cut a CAT skid loader for \$20,000, a Ford F550 for \$115,000, a Ford F250 to replace an aging F150 for \$65,000, a salt-and-brine attachment for \$25,000, and a zero-turn mower for \$20,000.

The council also said last month that they wanted to remove emergency preparedness radios at a cost of \$10,500. Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, however, was hesitant to do away with the devices. Instead, the \$10,500 will be used as a budget contingency and, if not used, will be returned to the radios.

But some of the previously cut items reappeared in the budget this week, with Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh saying she reviewed the spending plan and proposed her own eliminations and adjustments.

The public works trucks, for instance, were reinstated.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said that the two vehicles needing replacement are a 2001

dump truck and a 2003 truck, both of which are aging out of their useful life. Charles maintained that while the vehicles aren't high-mileage, they're being constantly run, leading to their deterioration.

For example, the public works director explained that the trucks' rocker panels and floorboards are rusted, and the seats need repairs.

"We have done what we can for these trucks," he said. "We have run them until the wheels are falling off."

Councilman Jack Orris asked about the possibility of replacing the vehicles with used models rather than brand-new ones. The mayor and town staff emphasized this practice could be risky.

"You buy something used, you never know what you're going to get," said Tim Lawrence, the outgoing electric utility director. "[One truck], within six months of buying it, we started having issues."

Charles noted that one of the old trucks is used for salting roads in the winter. Without a functioning vehicle, his team could be delayed in returning icy streets to drivable condition.

Councilmember Steve Green expressed his frustrations that items the council agreed to remove from the budget last month were reinstated in the spending plan. He asked what the mayor and staff's suggestion was to balance the budget, given that

the majority of the governing body has said they will not vote to raise the property tax rate.

"Two weeks ago, by consensus, those two vehicles were cut up here," Green said. "And I understand staff and administration pushing back on it. I could be swayed to say it's needed... if the consensus cuts were made, what is the proposal to balance the budget from the administration and the mayor's office if a tax increase is off the table? Four people said last week that a tax increase will not be voted on. We have a \$280,000 deficit. Those two vehicles together are \$180,000... We're saying we're not cuttable anymore, but what's the plan?"

Tyndall maintained that his job as the mayor is to ensure the municipality can provide necessary services.

"When you say it's cut by consensus and then it's back here, it's back here because we heard you, we tried to put it through the push-ups to see if it's something that can truly be removed without impact, and it can't be," he said.

He added that a solution to the deficit is to draw from reserves. Still,

he noted that this isn't a sustainable financial practice and pushed again for the council to consider the proposed tax increases of a penny and a quarter of a penny.

While later rejected at Monday's meeting, the proposed rate hike would have set the real property tax at 84 cents per \$100 of assessed value, an increase from the current rate of \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value. The increase would have generated \$5.3 million in revenue for the town, or an increase of about \$80,000.

For a \$500,000 home, the new rate would cost residents an additional \$5 per month, or \$60 per year.

At the conclusion of the lengthy discussion, the council agreed to a solution proposed by Saleh and Charles that ultimately resulted in a balanced FY27 budget.

To address the \$280,000 shortfall, the Ford F250 at \$65,000 was removed from the proposed spending plan, and a paving project for Esham Avenue, estimated at \$225,000, will be postponed to fiscal year 2028.

However, Saleh noted that the price tag for the Esham Avenue project is not up to date and that the cost is likely to increase the longer the town waits.

The council also agreed to maintain the 2.5% step increase for staff salaries, plus a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment.

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**'We have done what we can for these trucks. We have run them until the wheels are falling off.'**

Public Works Director  
Jimmy Charles

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# Berlin gives six months to repay EDU debts

## Officials, staff say the new window will benefit town administration, residents

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) The Berlin Town Council this week took steps toward being able to collect long-overdue utility payments by providing staff with more time to warn residents of bills before the homeowner must forfeit their Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU).

The change, approved during Monday night's Berlin Town Council meeting, increases the delinquency window from three months to six months. Town officials note that the adjustment will give staff more time to notify residents, pursue collections, and establish payment plans while not overburdening the administrative structure.

Town Attorney David Gaskill said the reason for the change "is to allow staff to catch up."

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the longer timeline also would create a more practical process for both town staff and property owners.

"It's to ease the administrative burden as well as to give the individual time to correct it," Bohlen said.

"Six months just gives a better opportunity for everybody."

Councilman Jay Knerr asked whether property owners would still be responsible for unpaid balances if the town seized an EDU due to non-payment. However, Bohlen clarified that forfeiture would not erase the debt.

During citizen comments, resident Gina Velong asked why Berlin would delay the collections when the town could benefit from the money now.

"What I'm saying is we need to get that money," she said. "...Once we get caught up, why would we still wait six months?"

Bohlen reiterated that the six-month timeframe was intended to create a more realistic collection process. Gaskill added that the ordinance is not only beneficial for staff but will allow a resident to pay off their debts with more ease.

"The reason we are raising three months to six is so that staff have an opportunity to notify people by letter," he said. "And say somebody owes \$10,000. Maybe within six

months they can pay part of it or all of it but in three months they couldn't."

Additionally, Bohlen said the municipality is correcting the errors of former Berlin officials and staff members who neglected to collect the debt. The town administrator added that the town would not allow accounts to accumulate unchecked moving forward.

"We won't get behind because we're collecting it now," she said.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall added that many of the outstanding balances are not recent issues.

"And what we're doing is going through ... this didn't start yesterday," Tyndall said. "A lot of this debt is years and years."

Tyndall argued the ordinance change would help staff move through the collection process more effectively. He noted the town has already begun pursuing legal action against property owners with balances over \$5,000.

"What we have done internally is start a policy that at \$5,000, we start

to evaluate that and then try and seek judgment against folks that owe over \$5,000 because it's not right to carry a bill more than that," he said at the ordinance's first reading in April. "We have seen bills high as \$100,000. We are going through and saying, 'Hey look, that's not right.' We're going to take judgements on these things and pull back those ready to serve EDUs if you're not paying for them."

Tyndall added that the town often attempts to accommodate residents who request payment plans after receiving notice of collection efforts.

"Let's say you notify somebody that you're going to start pursuing the debt," he said. "The first question they ask is can we set up a payment plan. We are usually accommodating."

If those efforts fail, he noted, the town restarts the notification process before eventually seeking legal judgment.

"It does sometimes take six months for us to work through the process," Tyndall said. "If we're going to get it done in three then we're going to get it done in three. But the six-month timeline is probably more realistic."

The amendment passed following the council's discussion.

**'The reason we are raising three months to six is so that staff have an opportunity to notify people by letter'**

Town Attorney  
David Gaskill

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# Assateague Island adjusts size for permitted sand cars

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) The public can now drive bigger, heavier-duty trucks on Assateague Island after the National Park Service approved a regulatory amendment.

The agency overturned rules on vehicle weight and dimensions for the over-sand vehicle area, or OSV, that had been in effect since 1976. The changes were publicized March 3 and took effect April 2.

Gone is a 10,000-pound weight limit for vehicles, one meant to protect old bridges that don't exist anymore or are no longer in use. About 10% of OSV permit applications have been denied in recent years because vehicles did not meet the weight requirements, according to the NPS.

It means heavier trucks – like the Ford F-250, GMC Sierra 2500HD, and Chevy Silverado 2500HD Work Truck – are fair game on the OSV.

A minimum of 7 inches for ground clearance is no longer enforced, and the 26-foot length and 8-foot width limits have been scrapped. The park will instead rely on the width of entrance gates to manage vehicle size.

Core rules do remain, however, that OSV vehicles must be four-wheel or all-wheel drive, and that drivers must partially deflate tires. Vehicles need to carry a safety kit that includes a shovel, jack, and support board. The 145-vehicle cap for the OSV also remains in place.

The rule change, first proposed in January 2025, was open to public comment ahead of adoption. The NPS reported that several commenters expressed concerns about removing the requirements for both

weight and minimum ground clearance.

Losing the gross vehicle weight requirement won't hurt the sand or the soil, the NPS said, noting that the agency has already been driving trucks weighing more than 10,000 pounds on the beach for upkeep like fence mending or moving beached whales.

Commenters also worried that low-clearance vehicles could damage the ecology of the beach and create dangerous and hazardous conditions for other drivers.

To that, the Park Service said there's no documented evidence that seven inches of clearance is a meaningful figure, and that more cars get stuck because they drive into dunes or wet sand.

"Most OSV permit holders are skilled over-sand drivers with sufficient knowledge and experience to navigate sandy terrains effectively," the agency wrote.

Driving on the beach at Assateague has been a tradition that pre-dates the park's establishment by Congress in 1965. The Verrazano Bridge that connects Route 611 on the mainland to Assateague Island was built in 1964.

President Richard Nixon in a 1972 formally authorized the use of off-road vehicles on public lands via Executive Order, and the OSV area has since become a wildly popular part of the park.

There is no limit to the amount of OSV permits the park may issue, though on average, the Park Service issues about 1,000 OSV permits annually, according to the NPS.

New rules for 2026  
Hawthorne also published a new  
See RULES Page 7

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# Street paving initiative postponed in Berlin

Continued from Page 1  
across the board.

Discussion at Monday night's council meeting largely concerned a \$280,000 FY27 budget shortfall. Consensus was ultimately reached to balance the budget by cutting a proposed public works truck at \$65,000 and a street paving project at Esham Avenue at \$225,000.

However, before the agreed-upon solution, Tyndall encouraged the council to consider a tax increase to help bridge the gap. He added that an incremental increase now could protect the town from a drastic hike in a future year. He referred to May 2019, when the council approved an almost 20% increase for FY20 to counter a debt of several million dollars.

"I don't want to raise taxes, I don't want to raise fees," the mayor said. "But we have to be cognizant...I hear it; I know it's uncomfortable, but at the end of the day, we've taken a proposed tax rate in the past and cut it. We've taken another proposed tax increase, and we said we don't want it. I hear that, but at the end of the day, we can't be financially stable...while dipping [into reserves] and cutting and doing those things. They don't jive."

Saleh noted that around 80% of the town's revenue comes from property taxes. She added that an increase will be even more challenging to consider next year, when properties are reassessed, and values are likely to rise.

"If we won't do it this year, what are we going to do next year?" she said. "Next year is a reassessment. A

tax increase won't even be on the table because it will be harder to discuss. And we are dipping into reserves, advancing spending, and not bringing in revenue. What is the source of revenue going forward? That's my problem here."

Despite pressure from the mayor and the finance department, the council maintained its intent to keep the tax rate unchanged.

Councilmember Shaneka Nichols said that many residents likely won't see a salary increase this year, making it challenging to keep up with rising costs.

"Where we are right now, many of us who work for other entities aren't going to get salary increases," she said. "So, asking us to put forth more to pay our taxes and whatever else, that's almost not going to happen..."

Those of us who have lived here for generations and generations, and are working at these jobs we've had for 10, 15, 20, 30 years, we aren't getting the increases to allow us to afford the taxes you're asking us to pay."

While Nichols also acknowledged Tyndall's point that cutting services is not a sustainable financial habit, she emphasized that companies and entities nationwide are being forced to consider budgeted areas to eliminate or delay.

"Right now we're in crazy times in this country and we are having to pull our purse strings in every other area and to sit and think that we can't do that as a municipality, which I know you guys are cutting, but we're going to have to cut some more because I can't see where I can make my paycheck stretch even further to afford

where I live. And I've lived in the same house for 25 years."

During public comments, resident Cindi Krempel noted that while \$60 may be minimal for some, when discussing such an increase, the municipality should acknowledge that many residents rely on every dollar.

"By continuing to say, 'it's so little...it's not a lot...,' that is relative," she said. "\$60 in a year could pay for a pair of shoes for somebody. We may not be able to understand that. But we should deliver even the most minute amount of tax increase for an owner in an empathetic and more understanding way of how that's going to affect someone."

The municipality ultimately voted this week to maintain its current tax rate of 0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value for FY27.

## Rules adjusted for Assateague

Continued from Page 6

set of rules for Assateague Island National Seashore as part of his 2026 Compendium, which was signed March 2.

Parkgoers must now maintain a 40-foot distance from the island's famous wild ponies, including a mandate to maintain that buffer, even when the horse moves closer. It's a response to horses raiding coolers and other unattended food items.

There is now a total ban on the launching, landing, or operating of unmanned drones from within the park without written permission from the superintendent.

Balloon releases and plastic-based confetti or glitter are prohibited, a rule that relates to weddings or large group events.

Class 2 electronic bikes, or e-bikes, propelled without pedal assist are no longer allowed on certain hiking-only trails. Pedal-assist e-bikes are still OK.

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# Maryland launches teacher coaching program for 26-27

Coaches will be placed in schools based on criteria, including MCAP scores

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) A new statewide teacher-coaching initiative that provides educators with greater support in and out of the classroom could benefit Eastern Shore school districts.

Last month, State Superintendent of Schools Carey M. Wright announced a hiring campaign for more than 60 teacher-coaches to support local school systems across the State of Maryland.

As part of the program, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will hire and train 52 school-based literacy coaches, five regional literacy coaches, and four regional mathematics coaches whose mission will be to assist teachers of the state's school systems during the 2026-2027 academic year.

According to an MSDE press release, the recruitment effort was made possible by more than \$14.2 million in state funds for instructional coaching in public schools.

Assistant State Superintendent of Instructional Programs Elise Brown said that state educational leaders hope the program provides "high-quality, on-the-spot, in-the-moment coaching, directly into schools."

The coaches will be pushing educators to improve their lessons. Specifically, one goal of the project is to address third-grade reading proficiency. Brown maintained that this age is an important marker in students' future success.

"We know that third grade is a critical milestone...the coaches will really help students build strong early reading skills and make sure teachers can use their materials well and ensure every child gets the chance to learn grade-level content," she said.

"Really, at its core, what we're hoping is that this initiative improves Maryland schools by giving teachers the support that they deserve and giving students the instruction that they need. A coach really supports creating a steady, reliable system to build that out."

Brown clarified that while the coaches will offer mentorship, they are not there to manage or evaluate teachers.

"To be clear, the coach is not a manager or evaluator of teachers," she said. "Specifically, the coaches will be assigned to schools that they will support weekly."

Brown added that coaches will work directly with teachers in one-on-one sessions and in group settings. This will include non-evaluative classroom observations, co-planning with instructional materials, goal setting, lesson modeling, "so the teacher has a chance to step back and observe and see things in practice with their own students," and co-teaching.

"The goal is to create a productive partnership between the teacher and coach to work through strengthening instruction," she said.

The coach will also collaborate with school principals or a designated facility leader to identify strategies or techniques a teacher would benefit from learning, or an area that may be practiced during team activities.

"Right now, the funding is allocated by year," Brown said. "As many state programs are, we are hopeful that it will continue beyond 2026-2027. We will be making requests to extend, but I can't speak beyond this year."

MSDE will assign the coaches to schools based on three criteria: third-grade student Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) performance in English language arts and mathematics over the last three years; percentage of conditionally licensed teachers among faculty and staff; and performance of special education students and Multilingual Learners.

That information will be released with performance data in June.

The state has already received around 400 coaching applications. Interviews will extend through May and into June.

"I just encourage any interested applicants on the Eastern Shore to access our webpage, apply, and have a greater impact across the state and support other teachers in doing what they love," Brown said.

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**Joe Schanno is your Republican Candidate for District 5 Worcester County Commissioner.**

## Rotary Club uses grant for playtime items at Showell

By Tara Fischer  
 Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) Students at Showell Elementary School now have access to new and upgraded recess products thanks to a donation by local volunteers earlier this week.

On Monday, May 11, members of the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club visited Showell Elementary School, with a truck full of items intended for the facility's playground.

The donations included ride-on trucks and trikes, sand tables, basketballs and a basketball hoop, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and giant blocks. The new products will replace old, weathered goods used by SES students.

Additionally, snacks like chocolate, veggie straws, and cereal were part of this week's donation drop-off.

The contributions were made possible by a \$5,000 grant awarded to the OC-Berlin Rotary Club by Rotary District 7630, the regional chapter encompassing roughly 40 organizations across Maryland's Eastern Shore and Delaware.

The funds were distributed to benefit the six northern Worcester County pre-K3 classes at Buckingham Elementary School, Ocean City Elementary School, and Showell Elementary School.

Towards the end of 2025, the local volunteer team "adopted" the young students, and throughout the current school year, members delivered water bottles, thermoses that allow the kids to pack hot or cold lunches, healthy snacks, art supplies, paper products and cleaning wipes, among other things.

A press release provided by OC-Berlin Rotary Club representative Margaret Mudron said this program revealed each school's continuing necessities and "how many times the teachers reached into their own pockets to supply items needed in the classrooms."

These observations led the club to offer items to BES, including sidewalk chalk and bubbles, Play-Doh, markers, and other essentials like zip-lock bags and art supplies. The local group also purchased seeds and grow boxes to start a garden at Buckingham.

This week was Showell's turn to receive the updated play products. Rotary Club members gathered at the facility's entrance on Monday to present the new items to the pre-K3 classes and teachers for whom the donations are intended.

Mudron said the volunteers also stayed to read to the young learners, an additional aspect of the adoption project. As part of the program, club members periodically read books aloud to the students and leave the stories behind for the classroom library.

The OC-Berlin Rotary Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Library. More information can be gathered by emailing the club at oerberlinrotary@gmail.com.

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# Attendees seek full funding for WCPS, police

### Workers, residents attend county public hearing to support budget requests

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) After five years policing in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, Worcester County sheriff's deputy Shane Cannon moved his family to the Eastern Shore for a better quality of life.

Instead, he's been forced to pull his son out of daycare and sell his wife's car to stay financially afloat.

"We are living paycheck to paycheck," he told the county commissioners at a budget hearing last Tuesday, his voice choked with emotion. "Those are life-changing decisions no family should have to make while serving the community."

Deputy Cannon's testimony was one of dozens of deeply personal appeals from a room full of teachers, parents, retirees, and residents.

They came with an unflinching election-year message for commissioners: fully fund schools and public safety, or answer for it at the ballot box.

Worcester County holds one of its annual budget hearings in the evening – this one started at 6 p.m. –

specifically so the public can directly address elected officials outside working hours.

Last Tuesday night, they did exactly that, with 30 people rising from packed wooden pews to deliver two-minute remarks for more than an hour.

Public school teachers, clad in black union T-shirts, cautioned commissioners that repeated budget battles in the last four years have been wearing down the county's education workforce.

"We are exhausted," said Shannon Bone, a science teacher at Stephen Decatur High School. "Exhausted to have to keep fighting for financial sustainability, exhausted to have so much uncertainty every budget cycle."

Bone also tied school funding directly to this fall's elections, where six of seven sitting commissioners are seeking another four-year term.

"Trust is built through action," she added.

Worcester County educators have repeatedly warned that their salaries lag behind neighboring districts and much of Maryland, harming teacher retention. Union president Beth Shockley-Lynch told commissioners that starting teacher pay falls about \$4,000 below the required \$60,000



BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Deputy Shane Cannon addresses the Worcester County Commissioners at last week's budget hearing.

starting salary under the state's Blueprint legislation.

The school board is seeking about \$13 million more than last year, which would fund a \$4,000 cost-of-living adjustment, raises for substitute teachers and bus drivers, and a behavioral support program for elementary students.

Education accounts for about half of spending in the county's projected \$300 million budget. Superintendent

Annette Wallace told commissioners that 86% of the school board's proposed operating budget is dedicated to salaries and wages, limiting the district's flexibility to reduce costs.

Berlin business owner Hunter Caudill, parent to three kids in county schools, said their accomplishments have been "directly tied to the teachers they've had."

"School is a sacred place. Everyone See WORCESTER Page 14



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# Pines to share information on Portugal trip

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) Ocean Pines is working with travel company Collette to offer community members a 10-day trip to Portugal in September.

The Ocean Pines Association announced this week that the community's recreation and parks department is collaborating with the travel tour business to host an international vacation to Portugal, including hotspots such as Lisbon, the Algarve and Alentejo on Sept. 6 to Sept. 15.

Debbie Donahue, director of Ocean Pines' recreation and parks team, said that she often works with Paul Julia, a representative from Collette, on trip ideas. The pair also determines the ideal time of year for certain excursions.

"We talk about international options as well as stateside options," Donahue said.

For 2026, the two have opted on a trip to Portugal that will include the country's capital, Lisbon, Belem, the Cork Factory, Evora, Alentejo, the Algarve.

Customers who wish to sign up for the vacation can review the details and payment options with Donahue. Donahue will then register the traveler with Collette. Payments must be made to the tour company.

"I register them online with Collette, and payments are made directly to Collette; they do not go through Ocean Pines," Donahue said.

"We are a third party that works with the company to offer these amazing tours for our residents as well as those outside of Ocean Pines

...," she added. "I am not a travel agent. I just help those interested work with Collette to take the vacation of their dreams."

The recreation director added that while the cost will vary depending on the number of people per hotel room, the price tag covers expenses such as airfare, a few meals, and transportation from Ocean Pines to the airport and back at the end of the trip.

An OPA-issued press release notes that 13 meals are included in the vacation price, including eight breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners.

Furthermore, the trip also features an optional three-night Portugal's Templar Tomar, featuring Nazaré and Fatima pre-tour extension, and an optional four-night Madeira Island post-tour extension.

Donahue maintained that the com-

munity's partnership with Collette allows residents to plan their travel experiences with ease, providing access to knowledgeable representatives.

"I feel that this is an amazing offer to the community; they have a local representative that they can talk with and work with them to be able to take these amazing vacations," Donahue said. "It's always nice to have a person to speak with face to face, answering your questions and offering to help register."

More information on this year's Portugal trip and additional upcoming trips will be provided at a travel presentation on May 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Donahue added that her team will have more opportunities to share as they start promoting for 2027.

Upcoming vacation destinations include the French Riviera, Alaska, and Arizona and Utah.

## Worcester budget talks to continue

Continued from Page 12  
here tonight can probably point back to educators who made an impact on their lives," he said. "Supporting those teachers can help ensure Worcester County's brightest days are ahead."

Carol Frazier of Ocean Pines said teachers and police deserve "a decent living wage."

"I'm going to tell you something you don't often hear a conservative Republican say: if you need to increase my taxes to increase the sheriff's budget and the school budget, I'm all for it," she said.

Meanwhile, the sheriff's office is seeking additional deputies and pay raises, a request driven by a boom in police salaries that's sparked a regional hiring arms race.

The department – which has been urging county leaders for months to raise wages – says compensation is a must to stay competitive with neighboring Wicomico County, where rookie deputies will start at \$70,000 by July 1.

Military spouse Alison Hooper said her family chose Worcester County after moving six times, in part because of the school system and support services available for her son with Down syndrome.

A former teacher herself, Hooper said support staff often go overlooked despite the essential role they play.

"My son cannot tell me how his day was, but she can," Hooper said of her son's classroom aide. "And she is making poverty-level wages with no benefits."

Commissioners are scheduled to continue budget deliberations later this month ahead of a final vote on June 2.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
Howard Drewer, above left, is sworn in as the new Berlin police chief during this week's council meeting. The oath of office was administered by Mayor Zack Tyndall, above right.

## Drewer sworn in, takes over as new Berlin police chief

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) Newly appointed Berlin Chief of Police Howard Drewer received a warm welcome Monday night when he was sworn into office surrounded by town staff, government officials, family and representatives from agencies across the Eastern Shore.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall opened this week's mayor and council meeting by administering the oath of office to Drewer and to welcome him as the new leader of Berlin's police force.

During the ceremony, Drewer vowed to uphold the laws and the constitution, and his wife pinned his badge onto his uniform.

Tyndall said the town is excited for Drewer to take on the role. The mayor acknowledged the influence the incoming chief has had on law enforcement teams throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"You've had an amazing impact over your tenure, not just in Worcester but in Wicomico as well," Tyndall said. "I think it's signified by everyone in the room this evening."

As a testament to Drewer's lifelong dedication to public safety, representatives from regional agencies packed the room Monday night to observe the new chief take the oath of office and to mark the occasion as he assumes a leadership position with the Town of Berlin.

Attending the ceremonies were Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser, Ocean City Chief of Police Ray Austin, members of the Salisbury Police Department and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, officers from the Berlin Police Department, and Drewer's wife and family members.

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Howard Drewer, center, is pictured with his wife, Mayor Zack Tyndall and members of the Berlin Police Department during Monday's ceremony.

# Police force gets new leader, ceremony held

Drewer, replaced former chief Arnold Downing and officially assumed his new role on April 20. The new chief hails from the Salisbury Police Department, where he served for 27 years. During that period he held leadership positions in operations and administration. His most recent role was the force's assistant chief of police.

His experience also includes time as a detective with the Wicomico Narcotics Task Force, service on a SWAT unit, and involvement in community policing efforts.

Before entering law enforcement, Drewer served in the United States Army, later continuing in the Army Reserve and retiring as a sergeant major.

His military career included deployments to Bosnia, Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Drewer is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has received numerous awards throughout his career, including chief's awards, meritorious service awards and the Distinguished Service Award. Furthermore, he is recognized for men-

toring fellow officers and emphasizing steady, community-focused leadership.

"On behalf of the Town of Berlin, I am proud to welcome Chief Drewer to our community," Tyndall said last month. "His record of leadership, integrity, and service speaks for itself. Chief Drewer brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community-oriented policing that aligns perfectly with Berlin's values. I am confident he will continue to build upon the strong foundation of our police department while fostering

trust, transparency, and excellence in public safety."

"Serving the Berlin community is both an honor and a responsibility I take seriously," Drewer said in last month's announcement. "I am committed to leading with integrity, building lasting relationships and ensuring our department reflects the values and expectations of the Berlin community."

Drewer succeeds Downing, who retired after more than three decades with the Berlin Police Department, including over 20 years as chief.

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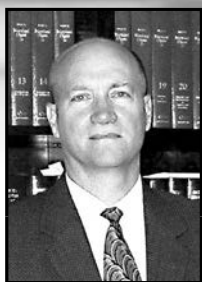
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# User rates will increase to balance water-sewer budget

## County to raise user rates by roughly 5% in 10 of 11 water-sewer service areas

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(May 8, 2026) Worcester County plans to stabilize its \$22.3 million water-wastewater budget with more than \$1 million in taxpayer dollars for the upcoming fiscal year, while raising most customers' user rates.

Several of the county's 11 water and wastewater enterprise funds are under growing financial strain, according to County Administrator Weston Young, who laid out the fiscal 2027 enterprise fund budget at a public hearing Tuesday evening in Snow Hill.

He said water-sewer budgets will be affected in fiscal 2027 by rising utility bills, chemical costs, insurance premiums, aging infrastructure, and long-term maintenance demands. As a result, the county will be raising user rates by about 5% in 10 of 11 service areas.

The combined water-wastewater budget includes \$8.1 million for maintenance and services (36.4%), \$7.9 million for personnel (34.9%), and \$6.3 million for capital costs, supplies, and other charges (28.5%), Young said.

Each enterprise fund, corresponding to a service area, is meant to be self-sustaining and pays for itself through user fees rather than general fund tax revenue. However, four of the water-sewer service areas will require general fund subsidies, totaling about \$1.12 million.

They include Briddletown (\$7,000 subsidy), The Landings (\$411,000), Riddle Farm (\$300,000), and River

Run (\$299,000). The subsidy for Briddletown, a water-only system in Berlin, is dropping this fiscal year from \$23,000, Young noted.

Three service areas propose to balance deficits using reserve funds: Mystic Harbor (\$304,000), Newark (\$17,000) and Ocean Pines (\$404,000).

Customers in Ocean Pines – the county's largest sewerage district at 8,500 customers – also are slated to see a quarterly debt service fee cut in half, from \$36 to \$18, after the county paid down older bond debt.

Based on Young's presentation, the Riddle Farm district, which serves about 600 customers, faces the largest projected FY 2027 deficit, at roughly \$854,000. It would have required both a \$300,000 taxpayer subsidy and a \$554,000 reserve transfer.

However, Riddle Farm may end up with a budget surplus due to new revenue, which Young said will be presented in more detail at the next budget work session on May 12.

Not every system is struggling. Assateague Point, Edgewater Acres, and Lighthouse Sound districts are projected to operate with a surplus and no longer require general fund support.

Also excluded from rate hikes is the West Ocean City district, which is running a surplus of just over \$1 million, so its user fees won't change.

Young also spent significant time explaining proposed changes to commercial billing formulas tied to equivalent dwelling units, or EDUs – the county's standard unit of measurement for water and wastewater usage relative to a single-family home.

He said county staff had determined that some commercial properties were being pushed into higher usage-rate tiers too quickly, and that they'd need to fix the problem by amending their billing structure.

Under the current structure, commercial customers with multiple EDUs could face sharply higher sewer charges after exceeding the usage threshold for just one EDU, regardless of how many EDUs they own.

The proposed billing changes would scale those usage tiers proportionally to the number of EDUs assigned to a property.

As an example, Young noted how a commercial customer with 20 EDUs would see their quarterly bill drop from \$10,700 to \$6,600 under the revised structure, even with a 5% base fee increase.

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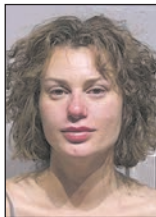
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# Local woman charged after reported stabbing last week

### Police investigating violent attack against two victims that occurred on Saturday

(May 14, 2026) Deputies with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the 11900 block of Majestic Prince Lane in the Glen Riddle development early Saturday morning for a reported stabbing of a man and a woman.

Upon arrival, deputies identified Maria Giuffrida as the suspect in an attack on the two people and took her into custody.



Maria Giuffrida

One victim, the male, sustained injuries believed to be life-threatening and was taken by Maryland State Police Aviation Command (Trooper 4)

to Shock Trauma in Baltimore. The second victim, the female, was transported by EMS to a local hospital for treatment of their injuries.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Maryland State Police and the Ocean City Police Department. The Worcester County Bureau of Investigations responded and has assumed control of the investigation.

Giuffrida, 34, Ocean City, was charged with attempted 1st-degree murder, Attempted 2nd-degree murder, two counts of 1st - and 2nd-degree assault against both victims. She was held with no bond.

The investigation of the incident continues, police said.

Anyone with information related to this case is asked to contact the Worcester County Bureau of Investigations at 410-632-2076.

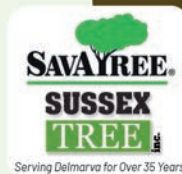
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# Snapshots



## STUDENT ARTISTS

Worcester Preparatory School congratulated six students who were recognized at the Shirley Hall Youth Art Exhibit, held March 6 at the Art League of Ocean City. Sophomore Ellie Phillips of Ocean City, Maryland, earned 1st place in the High School category for her piece titled "Cool Thought." Worcester Prep students also achieved outstanding success in the Middle School division, sweeping multiple top honors. Jaylen Lamb earned 1st place for "The Lighthouse," followed by Alessia Ziman with 2nd place for "Eyeball," and Elena Kappes with 3rd place for "Pretty Bridge." Ronit Poddar ("Ode to Remington") and Tobi Blaska ("Pecker the Chicken") each received Honorable Mention recognition. Pictured, from left, are Phillips; Lamb; Ziman; Kappes; Poddar; and Blaska.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## PHYSICAL THERAPY TALK

On Wednesday, April 22, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City hosted Dr. Erin Kim, a doctor of physical therapy at Hamilton Hand to Shoulder located in Ocean Pines. She is currently pursuing her Certified Hand Therapy credential. Danielle Hines, practice manager, also present, helped launch the clinic in 2019 and oversees billing, insurance, and daily operations. Together, they shared practical insights — and things they wish everyone knew — about physical therapy and navigating health insurance. Pictured are Hines, left, and Kim, middle, with Kiwanis President Sarah Walker.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## FISHING PRESENTATION

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club at their May meeting hosted speaker Jake Evans, a 16-year fishing veteran of the Eastern Shore and owner of FreedomBaitsUSA.com. Jake spoke about his three-step guide to catching more fish using artificial baits in both fresh and saltwater. Jake pictured on left with OPAC Moderator Robert Barrett.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## HISTORY PRESERVATION AWARD

Nancy L. Howard was recognized as the 2026 "Bob and Kathy Fisher Award" recipient at the Worcester County Historical Society's spring banquet in Pocomoke City. The award is given annually to one who has shown outstanding dedication to the preservation of Worcester County's history. She received the honor for her work on behalf of the Ocean City Museum Society and her leadership role in the Henry Hotel Foundation. Pictured with Howard are WCHS board member Bunk Mann and WCHS President Jefferson Moak.



## NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club donated \$2,500 to the Seaside Christian Academy for their new Tot Lot playground, which was installed over Easter break.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Obituaries

## ELIZABETH JACOBS WATSON Berlin

Elizabeth Jacobs Watson, affectionately known as Betty, passed away peacefully at her home on May 7, 2026, surrounded by the love and care of her devoted husband, Roy. Born on November 22, 1938, at the family farm in Worcester County. Betty's life was a tapestry of love, kindness, and abundant joy that touched all who knew her.



Elizabeth Watson

The beloved daughter of Robins and Roselle Jacobs, Betty was raised with a profound appreciation for nature, a passion inherited from her mother. Betty's gardens were a breathtaking display of vibrant flowers and lush shrubs, each bloom a testament to her nurturing spirit and her deep connection with the earth. Her gentle nature created a sanctuary for a multitude of pets and creatures, both great and small, reflecting her boundless love for all living things.

The greatest passion was her family. She is survived by her husband (of 68 years) Roy M. Watson, and they shared a lifetime of memories. Her legacy of kindness and integrity continues through their sons, William R. Watson and Michael L. Watson. Betty enjoyed the blessings of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Michael's daughter Amanda Bradford (David; Kendal and Kadence); and Michael's son Jacob Watson. William and Jeanne have four sons; W. Reed Watson, Ridge D. Watson, Tommy Coates (Jaime and Abigail, Madelyn, and Molly), Christopher Coates (Kate and Carter, Tucker, Tanner, and Tillie). These children brought joy and light to "Grammy's" life, and she delighted in their adventures and accomplishments.

In addition to her immediate family, Betty leaves behind her cherished sisters, Roselle Potoczak, Virginia Barrett, and Carol Jacobs. Being the eighth of ten children, Betty has dozens of nephews and nieces; all shared in the treasure of family life.

The Watson family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the people of Coastal Hospice, and additionally to Tina and Jenna, for their exceptional care and compassion during Betty's final days. Their kindness and dedication provided comfort to Betty and her family, and their support will forever be remembered with deep appreciation. Any donation or contribution to Coastal Hospice will certainly help others in our community and mean so much to the Watson family.

As we celebrate the life of Elizabeth Jacobs Watson, we remember her as a woman of grace, love, and kindness. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who knew her and continue to

inspire future generations. Betty's life was a beautiful journey, and she will be dearly missed by all who were fortunate to have been part of that life.

## SARAH JANE TRUITT Whaleyville

Sarah Jane "Janie" Truitt, age 59, of Wilmington, Del., passed away on May 1, 2026. Born on September 26, 1966, in Whaleyville, Maryland, she was the beloved daughter of Herman "Bunk" and Shirley Truitt and the beloved sister of Thomas and Jennie Truitt.



Sarah Truitt

Janie graduated from Indian River High School and Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

After working in Washington D.C. for a few years, Janie attended the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. After earning an MBA at Darden, Janie worked for Bank of America in Charlotte, North Carolina. Remaining in the banking industry, Janie relocated to Wilmington, Delaware, where she resided for the past twenty years.

Janie's warm smile and compassion were known to many, and she

Continued on Page 23

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# Opinion

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

## Mayor, council look for budget control

Berlin's government wasted an hour Monday night retracing steps taken a couple of weeks ago by the Town Council to eliminate the large gap between revenue and expenses.

Rather than moving on to actual new or unfinished business Monday, council members found themselves having to return to ground they had already plowed so government could go into the new fiscal year without raising property taxes.

This action came about after Mayor Zack Tyndall and staff seemingly looked beyond the council's previous cuts because they disagreed with them. It was felt those adjustments could not be made at this time and would hurt the town.

Whether the mayor as the head of local government has the authority to ignore the council's intentions because he disagrees with it is debatable. But that's what he did and the council's consternation at being dismissed in this high-handed fashion was certainly justified. The mayor felt his job was to explain the ramifications even if it meant repeating himself.

In fact, it's to the council's credit the reaction was not more harsh, having done the job they were elected to do only to have it tossed aside by the mayor, who was not elected to substitute his judgment for theirs individually or collectively.

This applies regardless of the mayor's reasoning for whatever actions he might take. In this instance, the financial assumptions he made in insisting on a tax increase could be correct, coming as they did from the town's finance team, who has advised the council repeatedly that the town's margins are uncomfortably thin and incremental tax hikes are needed.

The real issue, however, has nothing to do with the town's fiscal management. This is simply a matter of the mayor attempting to invalidate the decisions. The council instead stood its ground ... and will probably have to again.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The arts luncheon will feature a raffle auction, giving guests the chance to win a piece painted by artist Patrick Henry.

## Arts Council to celebrate 50th year

### Luncheon to honor creativity, will feature music and auction

(May 14, 2026) The Worcester County Arts Council will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a "Golden Anniversary" luncheon on Tuesday, June 9, from noon-2 p.m. at Worcester Technical High School in Newark.

This milestone event will honor five decades of arts, community, and connections in Worcester County.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$35 per person, with reservations accepted through May 15. Luncheon tickets and additional information are available at worcestercountyartscouncil.org or by calling 410-641-0809.

The celebration will bring together artists, supporters, and community partners for an afternoon recognizing the people and programs that have shaped the Arts Council's legacy.

Guests will hear a keynote address from local artist and founding board member Patrick Henry. Representatives from its funding

agency, the Maryland State Arts Council, will also be in attendance.

The event will feature a raffle auction, live music by Julie Barton and Sally Heden, and a luncheon prepared by executive chef and Teacher of the Year Phil Cropper in collaboration with the Worcester Technical High School Culinary Arts Program.

Since its founding in 1976, the Worcester County Arts Council has played a vital role in strengthening the Worcester County community through the arts. It has provided grants and scholarships, presented exhibitions, supported arts education programs in local schools, and served as an advocate and resource for artists and cultural organizations.

Its impact continues to reach thousands of residents and students each year, fostering creativity, access, and cultural vitality across the region. The council is committed to ensuring access to the arts for all, with a continued focus on serving underserved communities and expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement.

"This celebration is not only about honoring our past, but also about investing in the future of the arts in our community," said Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council. "For 50 years, we've been able to support artists, students, and organizations thanks to the strength of our community connections. We look forward to celebrating this milestone together and continuing that legacy for generations to come."

As part of the anniversary celebration, the council is also hosting a special "Golden Ticket" raffle fundraiser. One winner will receive "Foggy Morning - Ocean City," a framed original oil painting valued at \$7,000, donated by the artist, Patrick Henry.

Proceeds from the raffle will support the Patrick Henry Arts Scholarship established by the Arts Council to benefiting a student pursuing studies in the arts.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each and are available now at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery at 6 Jefferson St. in Berlin. The winning ticket will be drawn during the June 9 luncheon.

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842  
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# County rejects school zone speed cameras

## Commissioner Mitrecic says sheriff enforcement could be a more ideal solution

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2026) The Worcester County Commissioners last Tuesday unanimously rejected a proposal to install speed cameras near schools, despite data showing persistent speeding in one West Ocean City school zone.

In a weeklong study from March 25–31, more than 8 in 10 drivers exceeded the 30 mph speed limit on Center Drive near Ocean City Elementary School, with an average speed of 42 mph, Public Works Director Dallas Baker told the commissioners.

The board's 7-0 vote against the idea came on a motion by Commissioner Jim Bunting and a second from Mitrecic, who instead suggested sheriff's deputies monitor Center Drive during school dismissal times.

"I'm sorry, I can't support speed cameras," said Commissioner Joe Mitrecic. "There is an issue there, but I think we could change a lot just through sheriff enforcement or state police. I'm not a speed camera believer."

When asked why, Mitrecic replied

that, as an admitted speeder himself, he'd rather be caught in the act by a police officer and not get notified after the fact with a citation in the mail.

Baker said his department began looking into the issue after complaints about speeding on Center Drive, a narrow, two-lane straight-away with a posted speed limit of 30 mph.

He asked commissioners whether they wanted to explore automated speed enforcement in the county's school zones, which would require adopting a local ordinance and contracting with a speed camera com-

pany. Worcester County has 14 public schools and three private schools where such enforcement could be applied.

State law allows speed cameras to operate in school zones and construction areas from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Cameras issue tickets when they capture a vehicle exceeding the posted speed limit by 12 or more mph. Violations are civil and do not add points to a driver's license.

Any revenue generated would be shared with the vendor, though Baker said the goal is deterrence, not making money.

Speed cameras are already in use nearby, just not on county roads. Two dual-direction cameras operate on Seahawk Road and Flower Street in Berlin, near Stephen Decatur Middle School and Stephen Decatur High School.

They were installed in 2024 through a Berlin Police initiative that also lowered the speed limit on Flower Street from 30 to 25 mph.

Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, West Ocean City) said he'd like to know whether Berlin has measured the effectiveness of those cameras with their own follow-up speed study.

# OPA extends candidate filing date

## Those wishing to run for OP Board have until May 19

(May 14, 2026) Based on the number of eligible candidates submitted this week for the three seats that are up for election, Ocean Pines Association Secretary and Election Committee Board liaison Jeff Heavner, on behalf of the OPA Board, has extended the filing deadline to submit a candidate application until Tuesday, May 19 at 4

p.m.

In accordance with Resolution M-06, Elections and Referendums Procedures, Section 5, Candidate Applications, subsection a., "When the list of eligible candidates submitted to the Committee is less than two more than the vacancies to be filled, Section 5.02(e) of the Bylaws directs the Board to attempt to solicit additional candidates.

"The Board shall announce that

additional candidate applications may be submitted by those members who wish to submit their name as additional candidates for election to the Board of Directors. Only those candidate applications received by the Secretary prior to the end of Association regular business hours, no later than seven (7) days after the candidate submission deadline, shall be considered as an eligible additional candidate."

# Obituaries

Continued from Page 21

brought warmth and laughter to all who knew her. Fluent in French, Janie spent much time traveling throughout the world, and spending time in France. She loved cats, travel, cooking, and family above all else. Planning and preparing meals for loved ones brought her much joy. Her final passion was helping people live healthier lives through her work as a certified health coach.

Janie is survived by her beloved son, Thomas Weiler; his father,

Steven Weiler; her sister, Jennie Knapp (Bill); nieces Whitney McNamara (James) and Katelyn Knapp; great-nieces, Remi and Claire McNamara; and great-nephew, Caleb McNamara.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026 at Whaleyville United Methodist Church in Whaleyville, beginning at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the National Brain Tumor Society or the Worcester County Humane Society.



### Yoga in the Gardens

Thursday, May 21  
9:30 - 10:30am  
\$10 for Members  
\$20 for Non-Members  
Register at DelawareGardens.org



### Abstract Number Art Class

Thursday, May 21  
11 - 1pm  
\$40 for Members  
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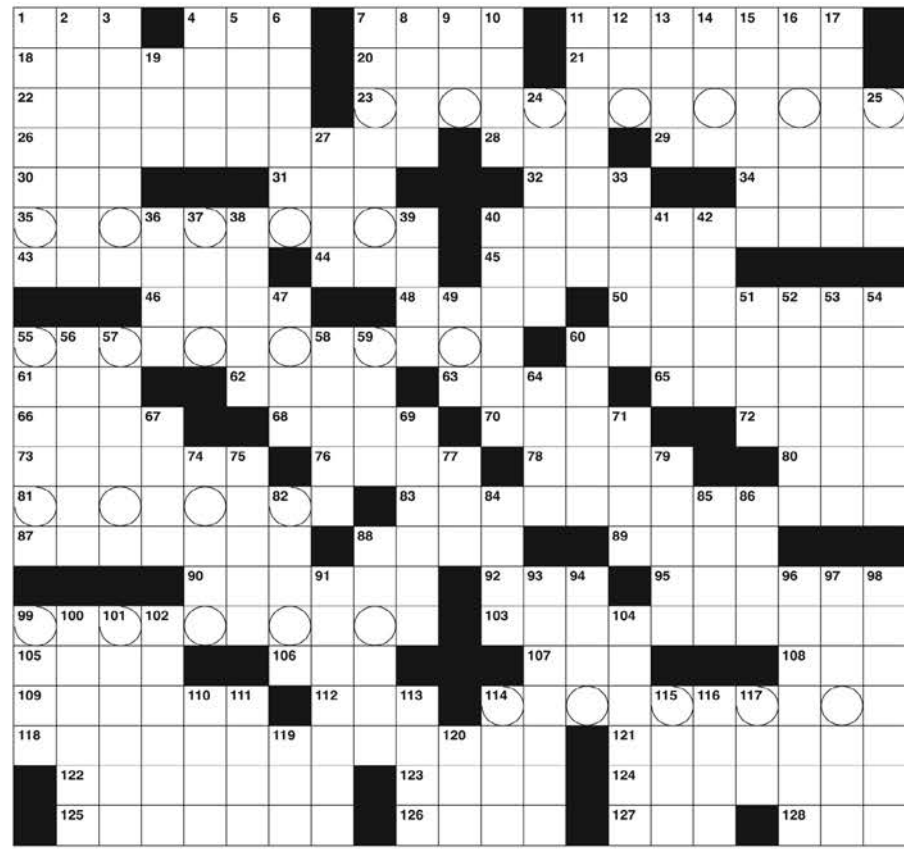
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# Puzzles

## WHAT ARE THE ODDS? BY MARK DIEHL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Mark Diehl is a dentist with the V.A. hospital in Palo Alto, Calif. He reviews and authorizes treatment plans for veterans receiving private dental care when they live too far to visit the V.A. hospital. This is Mark's 77th crossword for The Times since 1984. He is a longtime member of the National Puzzlers' League, where he has won multiple awards for his grid-building skills. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 First person, in Austria
  - 4 Pressing activity, for short?
  - 7 Cleared to proceed
  - 11 Perched on
  - 18 Place for pigs to wallow
  - 20 Shawarma wrap
  - 21 "I'm here to learn"
  - 22 In sync
  - 23 Moisture barrier supplies
  - 26 23-Across, oddly?
  - 28 Vert. counterpart
  - 29 Geological layers
  - 30 They got the votes
  - 31 Saint Barthélemy, par exemple
  - 32 Sugar suffix
  - 34 Father of Deimos
  - 35 A hard job
  - 40 35-Across, oddly?
  - 43 Catch in a sting
  - 44 Cleveland-to-Akron dir.
  - 45 Ryder of "Stranger Things"
  - 46 Office memo starter
  - 48 Leprechaun's land
  - 50 Conflict-averse
  - 55 Fictional diary writer
  - 60 55-Across, oddly?
  - 61 A as in Austria
  - 62 Lock lips, in London
- DOWN**
- 1 "Just picture this!"
  - 2 Rudely interrupt, as a dance partner
  - 3 Man cave fixture
  - 4 Snow jobs
  - 5 Heartfelt ask
  - 6 Website with an alien logo
  - 7 Treat badly, in a way
  - 8 Potter's furnace
  - 9 Uber ride info, informally
  - 10 Small amount in the kitchen
  - 11 Adds with a spoon, say
  - 12 Org. for J. Robert Oppenheimer
  - 13 U.S.S.R. news source
  - 14 Zwei quadrupled
  - 15 What one might take or beat
  - 16 World Golf Hall-of-Famer Mark
  - 17 Caressed
  - 19 Sector of a color wheel
  - 24 "Yer darn \_\_\_!"
  - 25 Pert blurt
  - 27 Cry often accompanied by a sigh
  - 33 Cut-rate, in brand names
  - 36 Parched
  - 37 Named names
  - 38 Belgian battle site in W.W. I
  - 39 "Neato!"
  - 40 Sounding like taffeta, say
  - 41 More than suspects
  - 42 When tripled, "You get the picture"
  - 47 Sicilian spewer
  - 49 Part of A.A.R.P.: Abbr.
  - 51 Loaded (with)
  - 52 When teething might end
  - 53 Produce aisle device
  - 54 Swear
  - 55 Mimic
  - 56 Chewy chocolate candy brand
  - 57 One sporting a onesie
  - 58 Loose-cheeked, as a mastiff
  - 59 Fantastic beast
  - 63 Drive-\_\_\_ menu
  - 65 Like the best bets
  - 66 Abandoned
  - 68 Off-center
  - 70 Time gone by
  - 72 Ending with the name Ann or Nan
  - 73 "Reason" given in a parental "explanation"
  - 76 Spots for grazing
  - 78 Pond scum, e.g.
  - 80 Craven behind the camera
  - 81 "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" author
  - 83 81-Across, oddly?
  - 87 Political understanding
  - 88 \_\_\_ Ed
  - 89 Book before Nehemiah
  - 90 Boot camp shout
  - 92 Stanford and Cal joined it in 2024
  - 95 From the heart, in a way
  - 99 Conan and others
  - 103 99-Across, oddly?
  - 105 "Essays of \_\_\_" (19th-century collection)
  - 106 Summer hours in N.Y.C.
  - 107 You smelt it!
  - 108 Inits. fittingly filling the blanks of Obama \_\_\_re
  - 109 Luxor Temple deity
  - 112 Take an ax to
  - 114 Client's sales agent, in brief
  - 118 114-Across, oddly?
  - 121 Unspoken set of rules between dudes
  - 122 N next to the gearshift
  - 123 Ozzy Osbourne's "\_\_\_, I'm Coming Home"
  - 124 More dimwitted
  - 125 Make more appealing, as something otherwise plain
  - 126 "Glad that's over!"
  - 127 Spot for charity, say, in brief
  - 128 Newsroom staffers, for short



- 60 Jarringly sensational
- 64 "u slay me"
- 67 Day care charge
- 69 Blue blood vessels?
- 71 "What \_\_\_ can I say?"
- 74 German actress Berger with a career spanning eight decades
- 75 Big name in blenders
- 77 Reluctant to mingle, say
- 79 Classic elevator tunes
- 82 Start of a choosing rhyme
- 84 "The time \_\_\_ hand"
- 85 Stage item
- 86 \_\_\_-mutuel betting
- 88 Kick starter?
- 91 Didn't go it alone, say
- 93 Native people of the Southeast
- 94 Magazine fig.
- 96 Fragrant garden hybrid
- 97 Gave consent
- 98 The lords in "The 12 Days of Christmas," e.g.
- 99 Noggin
- 100 Vegan milk source
- 101 Mob scene extra
- 102 French financial institution
- 104 Jazz subgenre for Wynton Marsalis
- 110 Daily grinds
- 111 Puts on
- 113 Chicken (out)
- 114 "I'm in such a fix"
- 115 Metro regions, informally
- 116 \_\_\_ bene
- 117 The Horned Frogs of Ft. Worth
- 119 19th of 24
- 120 "Why, why, why?!"

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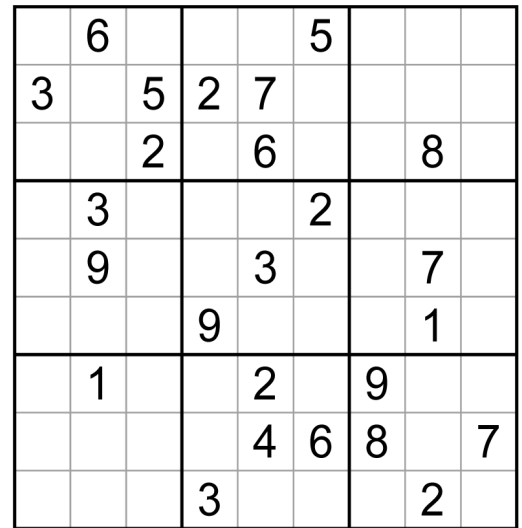
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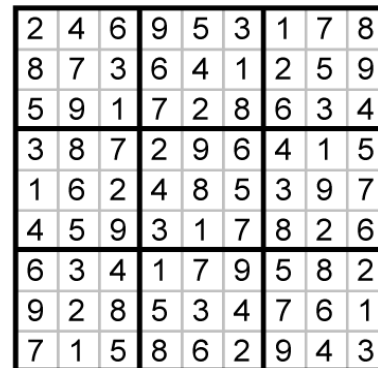
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© Puzzles by Pappocom  
**HARD - 34**

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



### Answers to last week's puzzles





SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**WPS BOOK FAIR**

As part of the week-long Scholastic Book Fair taking place in the Guerrieri Library, Worcester Prep Lower School students shopped with special guests at "Donuts with Grownups" on Friday, March 27. Guests enjoyed Dunkin' Donuts breakfast and coffee, compliments of the Nistazos family, while purchasing books together. Siblings Elsie Booth and Lainie Booth browsed the annual Spring Book Fair with their mom, Sara Booth, and classmate, Camila Prosser.



At this year's WPS Donuts with Grownups, parent and teacher Abby Harrison enjoys breakfast with her children, Carter Harrison and Anna Harrison.



First-grade student Isabel Betz browsed the annual Spring Book Fair at WPS with her mom, Laura, and brother.



Second grader Mia Bunting enjoys time with her mom, Angie Bunting, while shopping at the annual Book Fair.



WPS siblings Parker Moreland (right) and Landon Moreland (left) enjoy donuts and shopping with their dad, Kevin Moreland (center), at the annual Scholastic Book Fair.



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May 14 - 21



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 1-2:30pm	13307 Wight Street #101, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 2-4pm	745 Mooring Road Unit 202, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$393,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	5 73rd Street, Ocean City	2BR/1.5BA	Townhome	\$775,000	Joe Wilson/Coastal Life Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	10103 War Admiral Lane, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$724,900	Kim Heany/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sat & Sun 10am-2pm	19 Fountain Drive W Unit 19U, Ocean City	4BR/4.5BA	Townhome	\$899,000	Terry Riley/Shore4U/ReMAX Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	11964 W War Dancer Ln #107, Glen Riddle	4BR/4BA	Single Family	\$469,000	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/ReMAX Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	62 Newport Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$399,000	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am 1pm	10300 Coastal Highway #1808, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	9167 Old Ocean City Rd, Berlin	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$669,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	9701 Village Ln #5, West OC	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$372,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	6181 Rockawalkin Rd, Salisbury	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$399,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	Madison Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$ 585,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	11834 Man O War Lane, Glen Riddle, Berlin	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$850,000	Marisa Dolbey/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-2pm	9500 Coastal Hwy Pyramid 1J, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$349,000	Kevin Heselbach/Engel & Völkers 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	26740 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$349,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	6201 Coastal Hwy Unit 806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,800,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	12971 Inlet Isle Lane, Ocean City	5BR/5BA	Single Family	\$2,599,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	1465 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$699,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	11324 River Run Lane, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$627,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	13307 Wight St 101, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	37033 Barrington Pkwy, Millville, DE	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$614,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	12353 Meadow Drive, Berlin	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$895,000	Joe Wilson/Coastal Life Realty

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# Calendar

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

## Thurs., May 14

### CONCERT IN THE PARK WITH GREENBACK PACK

Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The park will open at 5:30 p.m. There will be 1 or 2 food trucks for dining options. Bring a blanket, lawn chair or sit on the bleachers. Entrance is free. 410-957-1333, [mshannon@pocomokemd.gov](mailto:mshannon@pocomokemd.gov)

### PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-5622, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME: ROYAL STORYTIME

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

### SENSORY PROCESSING, SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Worcester County Board of Education, 6270 Worcester Highway, Newark, 11:30 a.m. SECAC of Worcester County will host a free lunch featuring speaker Dr. Caryn Horn, LCMFT. Pizza, salad, dessert and drinks will be provided. All are welcome. Pam Green, 410-430-3923

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1-4:30 p.m. Resources available on a variety of topics including housing, food/SNAP, Medicare and Medicaid, health and wellness and more. 410-524-1818

### EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Receive an embroidery kit that celebrates America 250th Anniversary. Participants learn basic embroidery stitches. Registration required: 410-957-0878

### MERRY MAKERS: COLLAGE NEST PAINTING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Create a nest on canvas using paint and collage papers. Registration required: 410-208-4014, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth Neurology, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. Held the second Thursday of each month. Hosted by the Worcester Commission on Aging. Learn more: 410-632-0111, Ext. 727, [heather.atkins@worcoa.org](mailto:heather.atkins@worcoa.org).

### EARLY READERS BOOK CLUB - 'NOTHING FITS A DINOSAUR'

Worcester County Library - Berlin

Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. A book club for new and emerging readers. Enjoy a shared reading experience as a group. Afterwards, play games or do crafts that relate to the story. Best for ages 6-8 years. 410-641-0650

### 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 15

### SPRING FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 8 p.m. Featuring The Minecraft Movie. Free event. Concessions available for sale. Movie begins after sunset. Come early on May 15 for Family Fun Night. <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks>, 410-250-0125

### FANDOM FRIDAY: THEATER AND BROADWAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop in any time for crafts, quizzes and discussions about the monthly topic. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### PLAY TIME

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

### OC MAHJONG CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a fun morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own tile set. All adults are welcome. 410-524-1818, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME AT THE JULIA A. PURNELL MUSEUM

Julia A. Purnell Museum, 208 W. Market St., Snow Hill, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and activities while learning about local history at Julia A. Purnell Museum. For age 0-5 years. 443-235-5597

### SURVIVAL SPANISH: AT A RESTAURANT

Casita Linda, 11021 Nicholas Lane, Ocean Pines, 1 p.m. Enjoy some light tapas (snacks) and learn some basic phrases to use in a dining out setting. 410-208-4014, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### FREE ARTIST TALK WITH CARLY WHITTINGTON

Coffee Beanery Ocean City, 9403 Coastal Highway, 2-4 p.m. Free Artist Talk with

Carly Whittington - Featured Artist in the Coffee Beanery. Advanced registration preferred: <https://canvas.artleague-foceancity.org/events/18>. 410-524-9433

### BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'JOAN IS OKAY' BY WEIKE WANG

Oaked at The Globe/Tiki Tim's, 12 Broad St., Berlin, 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the Berlin Library and then join in for a lively conversation. 410-641-0650, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### KIDS IN THE KITCHEN!

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 p.m. Let's break in the new, mobile kitchen. Summer is on its way and that means it's time for strawberry treats. For ages 6-11 years. Register: 410-641-0650, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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 16

### SPRING FLEA MARKET

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m.-noon. Indoor/outdoor flea market welcomes vendors selling gently used clothing, household items, collectibles and more. Space reservation is \$25 at 410-641-7052.

### WALK WITH A DOC

South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9 a.m. Join a practitioner for a health discussion and then enjoy a walk for the remainder of the hour. Held the third Saturday of each month. 410-641-9238, [kaylee.hanway@tidalhealth.org](mailto:kaylee.hanway@tidalhealth.org)

### BBQ CHICKEN FUNDRAISER

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. 1/2 BBQ chicken, roll and drink for \$12. Proceeds benefit St. Paul United Methodist Church Men's Ministry.

### SPA DAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m. Create a sugar scrub or a bath bomb. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-208-4014, [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org)

### ORIGINALS ONLY - NO COVERS, JUST CREATORS

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. A celebration of original expression across all creative mediums. Free and open to the public. Featuring Brad Allen, Mikel Campbell and The Papers. <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/events/15>, 410-524-9433

### 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 17

### BAY DAY AT OCEAN PINES

White Horse Park, Ocean Pines, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Boat rides, hands-on activities, live animals, music, native plant giveaway, environmental exhibitors, food and drinks. Free admission. Learn how to make a difference in your own backyard and bays.

### BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays (May-October) - Pitts, Commerce and Main streets, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Producers only market, petting farm (9-11 a.m.), live music. [www.TheBerlinFarmersMarket.com](http://www.TheBerlinFarmersMarket.com)

### 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](http://www.jw.org)

## Mon., May 18

### 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](http://www.oceanpines.org).

### DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MD MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. The speaker will be Karen Hughes, Domestic Violence Clinical Services Coordinator at the Life Crisis Center. All are welcome. <https://dwcmd.org/>

# Calendar

## STORY TIME: CATS

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

## UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY: AN INTRODUCTION TO JEWELRY MAKING

Tourism and Economic Development, 107 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 2 p.m. Hands-on workshop for beginners. Learn the foundational techniques of creating your own wearable art. Registration required: 443-783-6164.

## 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.Worcoa.org/oceancity](http://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](http://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 19

### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research. followed by a Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information, if you can. Registration required: 410-208-4014.

### 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, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.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, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.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

### STORY TIME: BUGS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.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, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.org)

### EARLY READERS BOOK CLUB - 'NOTHING FITS A DINOSAUR'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 4 p.m. Enjoy a shared reading experience as a group. Afterwards children will play games or do crafts that relate to the story that was read. Best for ages 6-8 years. 410-957-0878, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.org)

### COMIC BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Create your own graphic novel. No experience necessary. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.org)

### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.htcanglican.org/activities).

## Wed., May 20

### BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of strategy, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.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, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.org)

### SENIOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m.-noon. Enjoy relaxed conversation and a cup of coffee or tea. 410-957-0878, [worces-terlibrary.org](http://worces-terlibrary.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

### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Cancer Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. Held the third Wednesday of each month. Hosted by Women Supporting Women. Learn more: 410-548-7880.

### DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT CLASS

This four-session class, is held from 6-8 p.m., May 20, 27, June 3, 10, via virtual meeting. Provider referral, patient pre-assessment and registration required: 410-543-7061. May be covered by medical insurance.

### 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](http://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

### 'GOLDEN TICKET' 50TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE

Sponsored by the Worcester County Arts Council. Winner will receive a \$7,000 original painting, "Foggy Morning - Ocean City" by Patrick Henry. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the Patrick Henry Arts Scholarship. The winning ticket will be drawn on June 9 at the Worcester County Arts Council's 50th Anniversary Luncheon. Tickets cost \$10 (cash or check) and are available at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery.

### 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: [cashapp.com](https://www.cashapp.com) \$calvarychurch8607. Sponsored by Calvary United Methodist Church. Contact Rosie Dennis, 443-614-7518.

### BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

Depart on May 23 from the Ocean City 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.

### 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 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

# Classified

MARKETPLACE

Call 410-723-6397 or email [classifieds@octodaydispatch.com](mailto:classifieds@octodaydispatch.com)  
by Monday, 5 p.m.

Classifieds appear in **OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette** each week & online at [octodaydispatch.com](http://octodaydispatch.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)



### HELP WANTED

**THUNDERBIRD BEACH MOTEL**  
Now Hiring  
• **FT NIGHT AUDITOR**  
RoomMaster exp. pref.  
Weekends required.  
Apply in person  
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Full Time/Year Round  
Salary based on experience.  
Apply to [bluefishoceancity@gmail.com](mailto:bluefishoceancity@gmail.com)

### HELP WANTED

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

### HELP WANTED

**KITCHEN COOK**  
Ocean City Elks Lodge  
Salary commensurate with experience.  
Send resume to:  
13708 Sinepuxent Ave.,  
Ocean City 21842.  
ATTN: Lodge Secretary.  
email: [ocelks.secretary@comcast.net](mailto:ocelks.secretary@comcast.net)

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

### HELP WANTED

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

### HELP WANTED

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FULL AND PART-TIME**  
positions available at **The Irene Condominium**, 11100 Coastal Highway.  
Great work environment, friendly beachfront building, competitive hourly wage.  
Duties: routine maintenance, minor repairs, light painting, cleaning and grounds keeping. Light physical labor required. **Call or text Ed 443-415-8000 or email irene11100@comcast.net**

**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.**

**JOLLY ROGER Small Engine Mechanic & Ride Maintenance.**  
*(Must have mechanical knowledge)*  
**Technical Support & Installation**  
*(Entry level with knowledge of network systems)*  
**SEASONAL HELP:** Cashiers, Waterpark Attendants, Lifeguards, Ride Operators  
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**Kitchen Help \$17-\$19/hr**  
**Retail Team Member \$16/hr**  
**Merchandiser \$17-19/hr**  
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**5301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City MD**



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Full Time/Year Round  
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Apply to [bluefishoceancity@gmail.com](mailto:bluefishoceancity@gmail.com)

**Royal Plus Electric Electrical Warehouse Manager**

**Reports To:** General Manager  
**Position Overview:**  
Royal Plus Electric is seeking a highly organized and knowledgeable Electrical Warehouse Manager to oversee daily warehouse operations, inventory control, and logistics. This role requires strong electrical product knowledge and the ability to ensure efficient handling of materials to support field operations and project timelines.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Manage all warehouse operations, including receiving, storage, inventory control, and distribution of electrical materials and equipment
- Maintain accurate inventory levels and conduct regular audits to prevent shortages or overstocking
- Coordinate with purchasing and project teams to ensure timely availability of materials
- Ensure proper handling and storage of electrical components in compliance with safety standards
- Track and report inventory usage and discrepancies to the General Manager
- Oversee shipping and receiving processes, including vendor deliveries and job site dispatches
- Implement and maintain warehouse organization systems for efficiency and accessibility
- Enforce company policies, OSHA standards, and safety procedures

**Qualifications:**

- Proven experience in warehouse management, preferably in the electrical or construction industry
- Strong knowledge of electrical materials, tools, and systems (e.g., conduit, wiring, panels, fixtures)
- Proficiency in inventory management software and basic computer skills
- Excellent organizational, problem-solving, and communication skills
- Ability to lift and move materials as needed and work in a physically active environment

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Prior experience working with electrical contractors or supply houses (preferred, but not necessary)

**Work Environment:**

- Warehouse setting with frequent movement, lifting, and equipment operation
- Occasional outdoor exposure during loading/unloading

**Compensation & Benefits:**

- Competitive salary based on experience
- Paid time off and holidays

**Benefits:**

- Paid time off

**Work Location:** In person

Please send resume to: [shellyw@elec-co.com](mailto:shellyw@elec-co.com)

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Now hiring high rise condominium/full time building maintenance techs.  
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**Worcester Preparatory School**  
**Worcester Prep is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of**

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR**

**LOWER SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER**

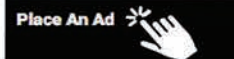
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Decorate/make sushi and dessert plates.  
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## Ocean Pines Neighborhood Pharmacy

410.629.0089

At Coastal Drug Pharmacy, we believe in more than just filling prescriptions — we believe in caring for our community. That's why we're proud to offer the GUIDE Program, developed for Medicare clients living with dementia and their caregivers.

### What is GUIDE?

GUIDE is a program developed for Medicare dementia clients and their caregivers to offer increased support and education to individuals with mild, moderate, or severe dementia. The goal of the program is to provide compassionate, person-centered support for the dementia client and their caregiver that promotes quality of life and reduces stress.

### GUIDE Program Highlights:

- **Services are covered at no additional cost** to the client or caregiver.
- **\$2,563 annually for in-home or adult day center respite (time off for the caregiver).**
- **Comprehensive Assessments:** To understand the specific challenges and strengths of each individual and caregiver.
- **Personalized Care Plans:** Tailored care that adapts as needs evolve.
- **Ongoing Support:** Regular check-ins to help you navigate the complexities of dementia care with confidence.
- **Caregiver services include training on how to best care for your loved one living with dementia, education, and respite services.**

### Who Qualifies?

- If you/your loved one has a diagnosis of mild, moderate, or severe dementia you may qualify.
- You have traditional Medicare parts A&B (not enrolled in Medicare Advantage).
- You live in a home, assisted living facility, group home, or rest home; you cannot live in a nursing home long term.
- You are not enrolled in a SCO/One Care, PACE or hospice.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:



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