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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines hosted its annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday before the rain began.

Taylor leads in fundraising

Commissioner candidates spend roughly \$53,500 on election campaigning

By Brian Shane
 Staff Writer

(May 29, 2026) Worcester County commissioner candidate Lou Taylor has opened a commanding fundraising and spending lead over his competitor and all other candidates in this year's primary election.

According to candidate filings, he has raised more than twice as much as the next-highest fundraiser, state

data shows. Taylor, the former school superintendent running for the open District 6 seat, reported \$27,037 in total contributions, including \$3,487 in in-kind support. He spent \$17,120 during the period, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Maryland State Board of Elections.

Covering activity through May 12, the reports show which campaigns have donor networks, which are already spending to reach voters, and which are running quieter or low-cost efforts heading into the June 23 primary.

Six incumbents are seeking reelection. Candidates reported raised about \$78,225 and spent about \$53,491 for the period, reports show.

The figures are for separate district races, not a single countywide contest, and reporting periods varied by committee. Most continuing committees filed reports covering Jan. 15 through May 12, while several newer committees reported activity beginning April 8.

Most spending went toward the basic tools of local name recognition: newspaper ads, yard signs, mailings, See CANDIDATES Page 4

OP memorial draws crowds to ceremony

By Tara Fischer
 Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) Community leaders, veterans, Gold Star families, and residents gathered at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines on Memorial Day to honor military members who died in the service of their country.

Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors Vice President and Veterans Memorial Foundation President Rick Farr was the master of ceremony. See DAY Page 3

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Members of the Seaside Christian Chorus are pictured performing during Monday's ceremony off Route 589. TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Day of tributes in Ocean Pines

Continued from Page 1

monies for Monday's event. Calling Memorial Day "the military's most sacred day," he reflected on the holiday's origins following the Civil War.

"The day has roots in the aftermath of the American Civil War when communities began holding tributes originally called Decoration Day, placing flowers on the graves of those who have fallen, giving the ultimate sacrifice of our great nation that has been faithfully observed since May of 1858," he said.

Farr acknowledged Gold Star families in attendance—the immediate family members of those who died in the line of duty— and recognized the loss carried by each of them.

"Our Gold Star families here with us remind us of those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom," he said. "We must continue to carry their heavy burden. Please know our hearts are with you and we recognize with profound sorrow all you have endured. You have our grateful gratitude and respect."

Among those attending the ceremony were Ocean Pines leaders state and local elected officials and veterans advocates. Among the notables were State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Del. Wayne Hartman, former Sen. Jim Mathias, Worcester County Commissioners Chip Bertino, Caryn Abbott, Eric Fiori and Ted Elder, Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli, Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan and members of the Ocean Pines Association Board.

The ceremony opened with an in-

vocation by Deacon Charles Weschler of St. Paul Newman Catholic Church and included the posting of colors by a joint color guard representing American Legion Posts 123 and 166 and Knights of Columbus Assembly 2454.

Junior members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the national anthem performed by Melissa Grunewald.

Additional tributes throughout the morning included a reading of "Hello, Remember Me," a poem written by Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez and delivered by Mary Adair; presentation of a female veterans wreath by Diane Tanner, Lt. J.G. NC USN, LTC Susan Schneider, U.S. Army, and Pam Ferinde, Maj. NC USA; and musical performances by the Delmarva Chorus, Seaside Christian Academy, OC Pipes and Drums and Jack Bannon.

Retired U.S. Army Colonel David Carey delivered the keynote address.

The program also featured a POW/MIA wreath presentation, a tribute to Gold Star families, "Last Full Measure of Devotion" performed by board member Patrick Lehnerd and a medley of service anthems by the Delmarva Chorus before concluding with a benediction and raising of the flags.

Farr said preserving the memory of fallen service members remains a responsibility shared by future generations.

"By honoring them, we preserve their legacy and express our deepest appreciation to all who have worn the uniform and defended our country," he said.

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Candidates spend on primary

Continued from Page 1

campaign materials, and fundraiser costs. The reports reviewed showed little evidence of consultant fees, polling costs, or staff wages.

Several donors appeared in more than one candidate report, including Bergey & Company, R.C. Nichols, Mitchell Parker, Reese Cropper, W.T. Brittingham, and Time Inc., the parent company of Thrasher's French Fries.

Taylor (R) saw the largest group of donors giving \$1,000 or more, records show. His campaign saw two \$5,000 donations, from Walter "Macky" Stansell and Alberta Harrison.

Ten other contributors, including developer John "Jack" Burbage and school board President Todd Ferrante, gave \$1,000 each, records show.

The only other candidate to receive a \$5,000 donation was District 1 incumbent Caryn Abbott (R). That contribution was from Paramount Carter Venture of Lakewood, New Jersey, records show.

The Taylor report also logged in-kind contributions of \$3,200 from Elliott's Property Maintenance of Berlin for wooden campaign signage and \$287 for T-shirt printing from Red Sun Custom Apparel of Selbyville.

In-kind contributions are tallied as

the cost of goods or services donated to a campaign, rather than cash.

Coming in second for overall fundraising is Joe Schanno, a Republican running to unseat three-term incumbent Chip Bertino in District 5.

His campaign reported \$11,830 in contributions and \$6,758 in spending over a shorter window that started April 8. Schanno's largest recorded donor at \$2,500 was Time, Inc.

Schanno's report shows spending to gain visibility, with nearly \$5,000 in expenses logged for newspaper ads, yard signs, and smaller amounts on shirts and stickers.

Steve Green, a Berlin councilman seeking the District 4 seat, reported the third-highest fundraising total, with \$7,700 in contributions, and the second-highest spending total, at nearly \$7,000.

His largest donor was Time, Inc., which gave \$3,000. Green (R) also reported \$1,000 from Mitch Parker and several \$500 donations.

The next tier of candidates reporting several thousand dollars in campaign support includes incumbents Abbott and Bertino, as well as District 1 candidate Laura Morrison and District 3 candidate Tim vanVonno, all of whom are running as Republicans.

Several candidates reported little or no campaign finance activity during the period.

Candidate	Running for	Party	Money raised	Money spent
Lou Taylor	District 6	Rep.	\$27,038	\$17,120
Joe Schanno	District 5	Rep.	\$11,830	\$6,759
Steve Green	District 4	Rep.	\$7,700	\$6,995
Caryn Abbott*	District 1	Rep.	\$7,455	\$4,895
Chip Bertino*	District 5	Rep.	\$6,728	\$4,138
Laura Morrison	District 1	Rep.	\$5,090	\$2,051
Tim vanVonno	District 3	Rep.	\$4,890	\$1,222
Shaun Shockley	District 1	Rep.	\$3,145	\$1,669
Eric Fiori*	District 3	Rep.	\$2,100	\$1,368
Sherrie Clifford	District 6	Rep.	\$1,050	\$2,084
Diana Purnell*	District 2	Dem.	\$700	\$2,857
Roxie Dennis	District 2	Dem.	\$500	\$0
Ted Elder*	District 4	Rep.	\$0	\$2,334
Vicky A. Wallace	District 5	Dem.	\$0	\$0
Virgil Shockley	District 4	Rep.	\$0	\$0
Joe Mitrecic*	District 7	Rep.	\$0	\$0
Wayne Taylor	District 1	Rep.	n/a	n/a
Total reported			\$78,225	\$53,491

* indicates incumbent

Incumbent District 4 Commissioner Ted Elder (R) reported no new contributions but spent more than \$2,300 from existing funds. District 2 candidate Roxie Dennis (D) reported \$500 in contributions but no spending.

Some candidates filed limited-activity affidavits rather than full itemized reports.

They include District 5 candidate Vicky Wallace (D), District 4 candidate Virgil Shockley (R), and incumbent District 7 Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (R), who is running unopposed. Wallace and Shockley listed

no prior balance, while Mitrecic's affidavit listed a prior balance of \$73.86.

No campaign finance report for District 1 candidate Wayne Taylor (R) was listed on the State Board of Elections website as of May 26.

Loans were not a major factor in the latest reports. Dennis reported a \$650 loan, while the top fundraisers were fueled mostly by contributions rather than candidate loans.

While District 6 commissioner Jim Bunting is not running for a fifth term, records show his campaign account still carries a balance of \$772.

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Advisory committee offers updates on school system

Board of Education hears overview of group's work, plans to expand scope

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) Members of Worcester County's Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) presented an overview of the group's work to the Worcester County Board of Education last week, emphasizing discussions regarding school safety, teacher retention, scheduling and communication between educators and district leadership.

Kyle Wheatley, a teacher at Snow Hill High School and member of the Educational Advisory Committee said

the committee consists of teachers from throughout the local system. The group makes recommendations to district leaders and the Worcester County Teachers Association (WCTA).

"The EAC is a program to bring teachers across the school district to discuss and make recommendations for the board of education and WCTA," Wheatley said. "We do have quite a few teachers from around the school district.

According to Wheatley, the committee membership includes educators appointed by the superintendent and representatives from the teachers association. Members meet monthly to discuss issues affecting schools across the county.

Topics addressed during the year included school safety, instructional
See ADVISORY Page 7

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Community bike ride scheduled

(May 28, 2026) The annual Ocean Pines Community Bike Ride is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, starting at 3 p.m.

Guides will take participants on a scenic ride through Ocean Pines, beginning and ending at the Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse. Organizers said this is a great opportunity to meet new people in the community and learn about its bike paths.

The ride is free and open to anyone age 12 and older. Helmets are mandatory for all ages.

For safety reasons, a head count is required before the event. To register, call 410-641-7052.

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Advisory group provides overview to school board

Continued from Page 6

materials, teacher and substitute recruitment and retention, professional learning initiatives, special education updates, transportation concerns and support for teachers and staff.

The committee also discussed safety protocols for school events and visitors, elementary school events, pre-kindergarten structures, virtual learning expectations, school calendar scheduling and compliance with state education requirements under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).

“We’re trying to get ahead of any potential issues we may see in the county,” Wheatley told board members.

Committee members also heard presentations from district coordinators throughout the year. Wheatley said Brian Phillips discussed programs designed to support and integrate new teachers into the district, and Jennifer McDowell reviewed implementation of Maryland Senate Bill 425, also known as the “Less Testing, More Learning” initiative aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of student assessments. Other presentations covered updates in special education programming.

Wheatley said the advisory committee plans to continue and expand its work next year.

Board member Elena McComas asked whether any of the discussions became contentious during the year.

“Nothing was contentious,” Wheatley responded. “A lot of it was more sense making and planning ... all on the same page, on the same team.”

Additionally, board members raised questions about school calendar discussions after concerns surfaced over this year’s adopted calendar differing from options previously presented to the public.

Wheatley said teachers on the committee sought clarification on how the calendar decision was made but noted discussions were largely informational.

“The public voting and commenting didn’t come up too much,” Wheatley said. “It was more so, ‘How did we get here?’ Kind of a fact-finding thing for us, really.”

Board member Jackie Cutlip questioned the level of detail included in the committee’s presentation materials, specifically regarding school safety discussions.

“We have our packets and I see school safety, but we have no idea what they actually talked about,” she said. “I would just ask for that.”

Superintendent Annette Wallace responded that the committee follows a specific reporting structure but said future discussions could consider providing more detailed summaries to board members.

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County schools revise policy on employees' social media

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) The Worcester County Board of Education reviewed the first potential revision of employee internet use rules in six years last week when considered an updated social media policy.

At the school board meeting last Thursday, board attorney Heather Stansbury said that a social media committee had created a refreshed policy to guide how teachers and staff may use online platforms.

The committee included Stansbury, board members Jackie Cutlip, Elena McComas and Jon Andes, as well as executive team members such as Superintendent Annette Wallace.

“We worked from the existing social media policy that has been your social media policy since at least August of 2020, but some of it went back much further than that, into the early '90s,” Stansbury said. “A lot of it was obsolete, and there had been discussion by the board over the last several months to try and tighten that policy.”

The committee’s recommended policy draws a clear distinction between personal and professional social media use.

Personal social media refers to any

account or activity by an employee in a private capacity not authorized by WCPS, while professional social media covers any account or platform used to represent or communicate on behalf of WCPS or any affiliated school activity.

Teachers and employees may maintain a professional social media account under specified criteria. The policy says professional use can enhance communication with students, families, staff, and the community and support educational goals.

“Professional social media platforms may be used to share information regarding instructional programs, school activities, events, achievements, and other official WCPS business,” the standards read.

The regulations define the required authorization and oversight for professional social media accounts. For example, employees who wish to create, maintain, or contribute to a school system’s professional social media page must obtain prior approval from their principal or supervisor.

The new policy notes that “professional social media accounts created for school system purposes are the property of WCPS and are subject to review, monitoring, and administrative oversight by WCPS.”

Administrative access credentials must also be provided to supervisors upon request.

Employees overseeing the accounts shall monitor activity often for appropriate content and compliance and “refrain from posting content that is violent or threatening, discriminatory or bias-based, that is profane (stated in a manner that is meant to offend or degrade), obscene or sexually explicit, and/or otherwise inconsistent with the standards of professional conduct expected of WCPS employees.”

Furthermore, the new policy prohibits employees from responding to press inquiries received through any professional social media account regarding school system matters, unless specifically authorized.

The new policy stipulates that if a media request is sent to a WCPS account, it should be forwarded immediately to the WCPS Office of Public Relations and Special Programs for review and response.

Employees should not disclose confidential or personally identifiable student information, including photos and videos, on the platforms, and may only share it in compliance with the school system’s media release permissions. Additionally, staff are not allowed to use social media to communicate with students.

“Direct communication with students must occur only through WCPS-approved communication platforms

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Social media policy updated

Continued from Page 8
and systems designed to support appropriate oversight, transparency, record retention, and student safety (e.g., Schoology),” the new policy says. “Any authorized electronic communication with students must be professional, respectful, ethical, school-related, and accessible to administrators and parents/guardians when appropriate.”

The standards also address personal social media use.

They mandate that “employees shall not author or share social media content...that would likely impair the employee’s effectiveness as an educator and/or role model or likely undermine the educational environment or likely damage the public’s confidence in the Board and/or WCPS generally.”

Prohibited on personal social media accounts are violence or threat-

ening conduct, discriminatory or bias-based content, profanity or obscenity, and representation of WCPS.

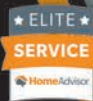
Stansbury said the committee struggled with the terms “author or share” when determining which social media behavior would affect a staff member’s effectiveness as an educator.

“[The policy] says ‘employees shall not author or share social media content that would likely impair the employee’s effectiveness as an educator and/or role model or likely undermine the educational environment or likely damage the public’s confidence in the board and/or WCPS,’” Stansbury said. “Where the subcommittee struggled the most is in the first sentence with the words ‘author or share.’ There was discussion to just have it be author. There was discussion for it to be au-

See COMMITTEE Page 13



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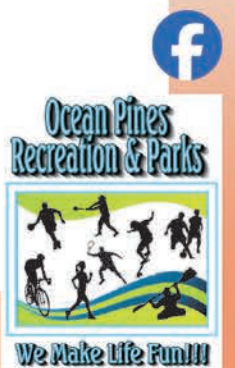
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Random draw held for OPA ballot order; forum planned

(May 28, 2026) Results of the 2026 Ocean Pines Association candidate draw were announced by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee Tuesday.

Drawn at random using a series of playing cards, the results determine ballot order for the 2026 board of directors election, and the order candidates are seated during the election forum.

Results were:

1. Amy Peck
2. John Latham

3. Bill Pickett
4. Pat Lehnerd
5. Elaine Brady

This year, three seats on the board will be up for election: those currently held by Latham, Brady and Lehnerd. The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.

The candidate forum is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

For questions about the election, email elections@oceanpines.org.

Committee proposes changes

Continued from Page 10

thor or share. And there was discussion to have it be author, share, endorse."

However, the board attorney maintained that had the guidelines included the word 'endorse,' it would likely have to extend to even things like likes and emoji usage on personal social media accounts.

"Ultimately, the committee came back with a recommendation of 'author or share,'" she said.

Furthermore, under the personal

social media regulations, interaction between WCPS employees and students is prohibited "unless the communication is regarding a non-school related matter and is between an employee and student who are familially related."

Following the review of the updates last week, the board opted to take the policy home for further evaluation. The topic will again be discussed at the board's meeting on Tuesday, June 16, with the hope of implementation by July 1.

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School board to keep mix of day, night meetings

By Tara Fischer
 Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) The Worcester County Board of Education set its 2026-2027 meeting schedule last week after a brief discussion about attendance at evening sessions.

At last Thursday's meeting of the school board, the body approved its assembly dates for the upcoming year, starting this July. Similar to the current calendar, the group will primarily meet on the third Tuesday of each month. The open sessions will convene at 12:30 p.m.

The schedule has a few days that diverge from the normal time slots, however. Todd Ferrante, the board's president, said that July's meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, rather than the third, for hiring purposes. Additionally, October's board meeting is scheduled for the second Wednesday due to previously set conferences of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Additionally, a budget input meeting is scheduled for the night of Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Before last week's approval, Ferrante asked the other board members for suggestions on additional evening sessions. He also noted that attendance later in the day isn't as high as school system leaders would prefer, likely because families who come out for the daytime recognitions aren't present.

Still, the president maintained that including alternative gatherings offers the community several chances to speak during citizen comments and make their voices heard.

"I have talked to the superintendent. I know sometimes our night meetings have not been as well attended as our day meetings," Ferrante said. "Primarily because of recognitions, we have more families here during the day. However, I think it's important that we continue to have some meetings [at night] so that people can come and spend some time in the evening when they would like to address the board."

Board member Jackie Cutlip said that in addition to December's nighttime budget discussion, she would like to see an evening meeting sometime in the spring.

"I understand the budget meeting will be a night meeting, but that's already a really long meeting with all the principals and everyone coming here," she said. "I would recommend we have an extra night meeting in March or April just so there's something other than the night when it's already kind of jam-packed and with a lot of speaking."

After further discussion, the board decided that the meeting on Tuesday, March 16, will be an evening session beginning at 6 p.m., deviating from the usual afternoon schedule. All board meetings are held in the Sara D. Thompson Board Meeting Room at the Worcester County Board of Education Central Office, 6270 Worcester Highway, Newark, Maryland.

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Ocean Pines transitions to summer amenity schedule

Community ramping up hours of operation, annual events return with dates set

(May 28, 2026) Summer is almost here, and Ocean Pines amenities and departments are gearing up for a season packed with family activities, entertainment, and community events.

All outdoor pools in Ocean Pines opened for the season last Saturday. General hours for each pool are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., seven days a week, with some extended hours on weekends. Pool hours can be found by visiting www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics.

Ocean Pines Aquatics will host a Princess Party at the Sports Core Pool on Saturday, June 13, from 1-3 p.m. Participants are invited to come dressed in their favorite princess dress/costumes and enjoy an afternoon with the Disney Princes & Princesses.

This is a non-swim event. Registration is \$13 for swim members, \$16 for residents, and \$20 for non-residents. There is no charge for parents/guardians. Call the Sports Core Pool at 410-641-5255 to reserve your spot.

Participants can swim like a mermaid and practice splashing their tails at the Mermaid Swim on Saturday, June 20, from 2-4 p.m. at the Sports Core Pool.

Participants must be experienced swimmers age 10 and older who are able to swim in the 12-foot area of the pool. The cost for the event is \$25 for swim members, \$30 for residents, and \$35 for non-residents.

In other recreational pursuits, the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department will lead a Farmers Market Tour of Lancaster on Saturday, June 20. This bus trip will make stops at three of the best markets in the county.

The bus will depart the Community Center at 6 a.m., with approximate time in Lancaster from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The cost is \$70 per person and includes transportation. To register, call 410-641-7052.

In the meantime, "Teach a Kid to Fish Day," sponsored by the Ocean Pines Anglers Club, returns on Saturday, June 20, from 9-10:30 a.m. at the South Gate Pond (near Sports Core Pool). The event is free and will feature a drawing for a free rod and reel. For more information, contact

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Gilmore celebrated after foundation service

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) Longtime veterans advocate Marie Gilmore was honored Monday for more than two decades of leadership and service to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation as she steps down as foundation president.

During an appreciation luncheon at the Ocean Pines Clubhouse following the community's Memorial Day ceremony, local and state officials recognized Gilmore's 21 years with the organization and her role in turning the Worcester County Veterans Memorial into a regional destination for remembrance and education.

"Today, we gather to celebrate Marie Gilmore," said Foundation President Rick Farr, Gilmore's successor. "Marie was instrumental in many of the enhancement projects ... and oversaw construction of the veterans gazebo and the veterans memorial park as a joint project between the Ocean Pines Association and the Veterans Memorial Foundation."

Gilmore joined the board in 2005 and served in multiple leadership positions, including secretary, vice president and president.

Officials credited her with helping guide projects such as the Patriots Pathway, improvements recognizing

POW/MIA veterans, construction of the memorial gazebo and educational enhancements that support annual student visits.

Farr also highlighted recent additions to the site, including the designation of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial as an official Gold Star Memorial site in May 2025, installation of a Space Force wall and flag, and extensive ground improvements including new landscaping and upgraded memorial elements like new cement and new bricks.

State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza praised Gilmore for helping transform the memorial into a gathering place extending beyond Ocean Pines.

"What you've done...has made the memorial itself a unifying place, not just for Ocean Pines but for our whole Shore community and for the State of Maryland," Carozza said.

Carozza said the memorial's educational programming leaves a lasting impact on Worcester County students, noting every fifth grader in the county visits the site, from both private and public schools.

"That's when you know you're having an impact," she said.

Carozza presented Gilmore with certificate of recognition from the Maryland Senate. Additional proclamations and recognitions were pre-

sented on behalf of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Town of Ocean City, Worcester County Commissioners and the Ocean Pines Association.

Del. Wayne Hartman presented a proclamation from the Town of Ocean City on behalf of Mayor Rick Meehan, who was attending another Memorial Day event.

Accepting the honors, Gilmore reflected on joining the foundation.

"When I first went on the board, we were still looking at blueprints and plans [for the site]," Gilmore said. "It turned out magnificently."

Gilmore said one of the greatest outcomes of her years with the foundation has been developing a deeper appreciation for veterans and military service.

"The greatest joy it has given me is that I have a greater appreciation in my life for veterans and service to our country," she said. "It has inspired me to get involved outside of the veterans memorial...doing whatever I possibly could to honor them and their service."

Though stepping down as president, Gilmore said she plans to remain involved with the foundation.

Farr, who now leads the organization, said maintaining the memorial remains a priority.

"It is my goal and the foundation's



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors President John Latham was among the dignitaries who celebrated Marie Gilmore at a recent luncheon held in her honor.

goal to keep the veterans memorial and grounds in pristine condition to ensure it remains a dignified sanctuary of reflection and remembrance," he said.

"Our well-maintained memorial actively honors the sacrifices of those who served, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and preserves the legibility of their names for future generations and protects the physical integrity of the structure against time and decay.

"We will not neglect or diminish the honor owed to our veterans, while meticulous care reflects a community's enduring gratitude."

Cemetery concerns heard over data center

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(May 22, 2026) "Would you allow someone to desecrate your ancestors' graves?"

That message on a handwritten sign was held high during a May 14 town hall about a proposed telecom facility near Berlin, where community members and descendants voiced frustration and fury over the future of a historic African American burial ground on the project site.

Concerns about the future of the 160-year-old Purnell Cemetery overtook much of the three-hour public meeting, held at Stephen Decatur High School, where representatives of developer Globalinx described plans for a cable landing station on Route 611.

The meeting grew raucous and tense at times, with several in the crowd talking over those already queued at the microphone, shouting taunts and obscenities, or interjecting with unrelated concerns.

One of the public speakers, Bobby Purnell, described himself as a direct descendant of people buried in the cemetery, which he said traces to a land purchase in 1866 by his ancestor Littleton Allen. He said family members had not been consulted before the project advanced.

"I'm doing the best I can to keep the place up. I need help to clear it off, to restore it — this place was here before you guys came," he said. "We need help to protect the cemetery."

Purnell also said ground-penetrating radar had recently identified additional unknown graves, raising concerns that the cemetery's recorded boundary may not include everyone buried there.

Aaron Levinthal, an archaeologist, questioned why Globalinx had not contacted the Purnell family earlier, saying the cemetery was clearly documented.

"It's not a mystery," he said. "The cemetery's documented on plats and on project plans. It's an historic site. You can freaking see it on Google Earth. Why hasn't anyone contacted the family about this project?"

Roxie Dennis, whose family is connected to the cemetery, gave a fiery speech demanding to know who authorized the removal tombstones and whether any documents showed the original grave locations.

"This cemetery represents me and my family," Dennis said, her voice rising to a shout. "We're not talking about a pet cemetery. We're not asking for promises. We are asking for transparency, accountability, preservation and legally protection for this historic

burial ground."

Globalinx CEO and founder Greg Twitt ultimately apologized for failing to engage the Purnell family, emphasized that nobody from Globalinx has disturbed the gravesite, and pledged to be a long-term steward of the property, including adding a picket fence and a dedicated entrance for family access.

"I'd like to say that I think we'll be a better custodian of that cemetery than anyone that's been there before," he said. "We are passionate toward it."

Chris St. Claire, a Globalinx engineer, said while the company had been aware of the Purnell cemetery, they were learning for the first time at the meeting that graves could extend beyond the recorded boundary. As a result, he promised that Globalinx would conduct wider ground-penetrating radar work to learn more.

Worcester County officials on hand said the project remains under review and has not received approval. Planning staff reviewed preliminary materials through the Technical Review Committee, an advisory staff-level process, but no permits have been issued.

County officials also said whether Globalinx is a public utility would be relevant to the zoning and permitting progress. Twitt said his company is

not a public utility but that public utilities would be their customers.

County Commissioner Eric Fiori, whose District 3 includes the project site, hosted the town hall. He called the project an unwanted industrialization of the rural and environmentally sensitive Route 611 corridor, telling Twitt he plans to fight it "tooth and nail."

Other meeting attendees also challenged Globalinx about zoning, environmental impacts, and whether the 24,800-square-foot building could lead to future data center development near the gateway to Assateague Island.

He said the proposed 24,800 square foot facility would serve to bring onshore transatlantic cables for client Amazon Web Services. Originating in Ireland, the fiber optic cables would terminate through a manhole cover at the nearby Ocean City municipal airport.

St. Claire also said the facility would not host cloud computing or run artificial intelligence. He maintained noise levels would be low, water usage would be in line with a single-family home, and the power draw would be on par with a big-box retailer. "Is this a data center? Bluntly, no," he said. "The reality is really boring because it is just telecommunications."

Ocean Pines announces summer schedule

Continued from Page 15

Frank Tortela at 443-542-5300.

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks also will host Family Fun Nights on Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., from June 24 through Aug. 19 at the Yacht Club Pool. Music, games, and prizes will be on the menu, along with food available for purchase at the new Tiki Kitchen. Admission is \$5 per person and is only required for those swimming.

Concerts in the Park return to White Horse Park on Thursdays from June 25 through Aug. 27, 7-9 p.m. Food will be available for sale, and BYOB is permitted. This is a free event.

The July 4th Freedom 5K will be held at Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, July 4, beginning at 8 a.m. Awards will be given for top three places in each age division, as well as for the Best Patriotic Outfit.

Registration is \$30 per runner in advance, increasing to \$35 the morning of the race. T-shirts are included for all pre-registered participants; sizes are not guaranteed for registrants on the day of the event.

Later that day, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks will host the July 4th

Carnival & Fireworks from 4-9 p.m. at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park.

The afternoon will feature bounce houses, food trucks, music, games and more. Fireworks will round out the night beginning at approximately 9:15 p.m. The event is open to the public, and unlimited carnival wristbands are \$20 each.

The 30th annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest will take place on Saturday, July 18, at the South Gate Pond near Sports Core Pool.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the contest from 9-10:30 a.m. Registration is free, and trophies and prizes will be given to the top three participants in each age group.

All participants will also receive a prize compliments of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club and local merchants. For more information, contact Frank Tortela at 443-542-5300.

Ocean Pines Aquatics is hosting the Summer Seas Family Splash on Saturday, July 18 from 5-8 p.m. at the Swim & Racquet Club Pool. The night will have a tropical-themed Caribbean atmosphere, feature music by a D.J and have activities through-

out the night. Some food will be available for purchase. Admission is \$9 for swim members, \$11 for residents, and \$13 for non-residents.

The Ocean Pines Police Department will host National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 6-8 p.m. at White Horse Park. The event is open to the public and features free food, family fun, and games provided by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

The Pine'eer Craft Club will present its 48th annual August Craft Festival on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. This indoor/outdoor festival takes place at White Horse Park and the Ocean Pines Community Center and will feature handcrafted items such as prints, jewelry, doll clothes, pottery, stitchery, crochet, knitting, and much more.

The annual Doggie Swim at Mumford's Landing Pool will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, with a rain date of September 19. Dogs under 20 pounds can swim from 10-10:30 a.m., with the swim opening to all dogs from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per dog, with proceeds benefitting the Worcester County Humane Society.

Also on Saturday, Sept. 12 is the

Fall Flea Market at White Horse Park and the Ocean Pines Community Center from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. This event is held rain or shine and welcomes vendors selling gently used clothing, household items, collectibles, and more. Spaces are \$25 each and include one 8-foot table and two chairs. For more info and to reserve a space, call 410-641-7052.

For more information on Aquatics events, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics

For more information on the Ocean Pines Golf Club and golf events, visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market runs every Saturday in White Horse Park from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, including a schedule of market events, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club has a full schedule of live music and events this summer. For a full list, visit www.yachtcluboceanpines.com.

Check out the latest issue of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide here www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/activity-guide.



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Opinion

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Keeping community high schools separate

The subject comes up from time to time just as it did recently during county government deliberations: why must Snow Hill and Pocomoke City continue to have separate high schools, when the combined student body of both schools would be about half of Stephen Decatur's?

The answer to anyone who's been following this discussion over the years is this: it's the way we've always done it.

This response might be viewed as critical and snarky or community-minded and traditional, depending on one's perspective, but these days there's some logic behind leaving things as they are.

As school officials said last week, the cost of demolishing two high schools, acquiring land for a substantially larger one and then building it would be so high that realizing any actual saving might take decades.

In the meantime, the citizens of Snow Hill and Pocomoke would be furious over the loss of these community hubs. Although it might be argued that residents of those school districts would come to accept this loss someday, it's safe to say that the inevitable "someday" won't arrive until after two or three county commissioner election cycles have passed ... if then.

While it is true that numbers alone indicate that a consolidated school would eventually make financial sense, there's much to be said in favor of community involvement in the local school and vice versa. It's also a fact that Snow Hill and Pocomoke high schools are big parts of these towns' identities.

That being the case, there's nothing wrong with asking about high school consolidation, of course, but given the desire of these two communities to keep their schools separate, woe unto the commissioner who disagrees.

Officials delay call on school funding

Commission majority oppose full funding, but amount unclear

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) The Worcester County Commissioners for a second consecutive week failed to agree on how much to fund the Board of Education's fiscal 2027 budget, setting up an 11th-hour vote on school spending and the county's full \$300 million operating budget.

When it comes to the school board's \$157 million funding request, the fault lines between two camps of commissioners continue to grow.

Advocates of full funding say it is crucial to cover negotiated teacher and bus contractor wages, rising health insurance costs, and investments in early childhood education.

Others remain uneasy about giving more than the state-required minimum — known as "maintenance of effort" in budget parlance — before their questions about school finances are resolved, saying they have a duty to scrutinize spending.

"We're looking for what I do in my home budget: trim a little bit here and there when you don't have it," board President Ted Elder (District 4, Western) told school officials Tuesday, noting that other county departments also asked for budget increases. "That's what you do, you make it work, and that's what we're looking for."

Tensions ran so high that Elder, a former school bus driver, and Commissioner Eric Fiori, whose wife is an elementary school teacher, briefly sparred over who had spent more time in public schools. The exchange came as Fiori urged commissioners to visit schools and see classroom conditions for themselves.

The school board is asking for \$12.6 million more than last year, mostly to

meet new state salary minimums. Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) twice made the motion Tuesday to give the school board an additional \$11.1 million, which he said would cover pay increases and other key programs.

Both motions failed 3-4. Commissioners Caryn Abbott, Jim Bunting, Chip Bertino, and Elder voted no. Commissioners Mitrecic, Eric Fiori, and Diana Purnell voted yes.

By law, commissioners must approve a final budget June 2. Elder said he will not convene a previously scheduled "if needed" budget meeting on May 26 because Commissioner Chip Bertino will be out of town.

School funding is the county's largest annual expenditure. Commissioners decide the school board's total funding amount, but line-item spending decisions rest with the Board of Education. That means commissioners can reduce the request, but school officials would ultimately decide how to absorb any cuts.

Mitrecic wanted school funding settled on Tuesday. He called it "a colossal waste of time" to hold an additional budget work session, pushing the decision closer to the June 2 deadline.

"Nobody wants to make a motion because it's an election year," Mitrecic said. "You don't want to fund it, but you don't want to make the motion because it's an election year. So, if you don't want to fund it, stand up, make the motion, and be done with it."

Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville), who is not running for reelection, called the school budget request "ridiculous."

"If I was gonna make a motion — and I know it wouldn't pass — to me, it would be an (maintenance of effort) budget. You have plenty of money. You can do everything you need to do that's important," he said. Bertino (District 5, Ocean

Pines) insisted that the school board hire an outside forensic auditor before agreeing to any budget proposal. His demand follows the April 14 indictment of Denise "Dee" Shorts, a former assistant school superintendent, on theft and embezzlement charges connected to school funds earmarked for low-income families.

"We need to have confidence in the financial management and right now, it's a question mark. It's a big question mark," he said.

Superintendent Annette Wallace pushed back, saying there was nothing "frivolous" in the budget, and urged commissioners not to cut funding for Pre-K programs at Pocomoke City, Ocean City, and Showell elementary schools. She also noted Pocomoke remains a "childcare desert."

"There's no putting these things back after you approve a budget," she said. "Please consider not cutting things from our staff, from our kids, from our community because of a question mark."

Wallace also said the school district had parted ways with its previous auditing firm and planned to select a new firm at Thursday's school board meeting.

School officials said 82% of the budget is dedicated to wages, leaving limited room for cuts outside personnel costs. The Board of Education had been scheduled to review its available budget Thursday, according to Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert.

School board President Todd Ferrante noted that some funding cuts could impact an \$800,000 matching grant from the state for Pre-K funding. He also said the district has not added any new teaching positions in several years despite the need.

"I don't think the action of one person should determine the fate of our students and our staff," he said of the

See MAJORITY Page 19

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
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Schools unlikely to merge, board maintains

Snow Hill, Pocomoke each share community pride, but also logistical concerns

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 28, 2026) Worcester County school officials say combining the area's two southern high schools would not only be a costly endeavor but would also erase the communities' identities and pride.

According to Todd Ferrante, president of the Worcester County Board of Education, the county commissioners asked school personnel in February to study the benefits and drawbacks of consolidating Snow Hill High School and Pocomoke High School.

School Superintendent Annette Wallace said at the board's meeting last week that such a merger would create a school with about 780 students, or half the population of Stephen Decatur High School, and yield potential savings of \$2.8 million a year in a \$152 million budget.

She also said the projection fails to consider the "substantial capital costs" associated with securing land for the new facility, construction, and infrastructure expansion.

"Specifically, at a high school you have the cost of athletic fields," Wallace said.

"Neither of the two sites has the possibility of that many students, so that we would be talking about all of those sorts of things."

She added that as the school system leader, she vehemently opposes the consolidation of Pocomoke and Snow Hill, arguing that despite the schools' small populations, the move would strip each community of its unique identity.

Currently, SHHS and PHS each have a little over 300 students across four grade levels.

"I am strongly against consolidating our schools," the superintendent said.

"As a former Snow Hill High

School student, as a former Stephen Decatur High School teacher, and a former principal and assistant principal of Pocomoke High School, each of our three areas is distinct; they are strong communities, all three of them...The strength of a community is not decided by the size of that community. Those two communities should not lose their identities just because they are a little bit smaller."

She added in the letter reporting the study findings to the commissioners that a more comprehensive feasibility study could be conducted if they wish.

However, as that would cost money not currently available to WCPS, the local government would need to be open to providing additional funding for any evaluation on school consolidation.

"If the commissioners wish to have a further study done, that would cost money," Wallace said. "This is an approximation of the cost savings. If they wish to have something more, that's in the letter as well, then perhaps we would get some funding to do a bigger study that would give us more specifics."

Members of the board of education also said they would oppose combining PHS and SHHS.

Board member Jon Andes, who

served as the county's superintendent from 1996 to 2012, said that when initial conversations started on PHS and SHHS renovation in the early 2000s, there was a brief idea to consolidate Worcester County's two southern high schools. However, the matter was shot down because both communities insisted on maintaining separate facilities.

"I believe our community wants a Pocomoke High School. They want to be Warriors," Andes said. "Our community wants a Snow Hill High School. They want to be Eagles...If we tried to do something different, I think there would be significant pushback from either community because the Warriors don't want to be Eagles, and the Eagles don't want to be Warriors."

He added that constructing a new building to serve both Snow Hill and Pocomoke students would cost around \$150 million.

Board member William Gordy noted that talk of constructing a combined facility may be premature, given that SHHS and PHS were both renovated fairly recently, in 2017 and 2011, respectively.

"It seems like the timing would be extremely poor," he said. "We just put \$80 something million into those two schools..."

Gordy later added, "The Town of Snow Hill rallies behind the Snow Hill High School band and the Snow Hill High School JROTC...those are central sources of pride. To keep our schools number one is to do what we're doing and not combine them."

The board asked the student representatives present at last week's meeting to weigh in on the debate. The students reiterated the school leaders' sentiments.

"Pocomoke and Snow Hill have contrasting communities," said PHS senior Kanye Reid. "Even though they're close together, the overall feel of each school is so vastly different."

SHHS senior Cash Von Marsh added that combining the schools would eliminate the sports teams' longstanding and friendly competition.

"I think it's great having two separate schools," Von Marsh said. "I know the rivalry between Pocomoke and Snow Hill helps foster competition. I have several friends at Pocomoke High School who I try to be a little bit better at sports than. I think it's a valuable experience to have lots of different schools around you, and that's personally where I stand on it. Consolidating the two would be a mistake."

Majority unable to make motion

Continued from Page 18
embezzlement scandal.

"But it raises a red flag," replied Bertino.

Purnell (District 2, Central) noted the commissioners were revisiting the same education budget arguments from a year ago.

"We need to stop, look, and listen at what's happening in our schools," she said. "Our school system is going to suffer a lot. Our kids are going to suffer a lot. And, eventually, we will too."

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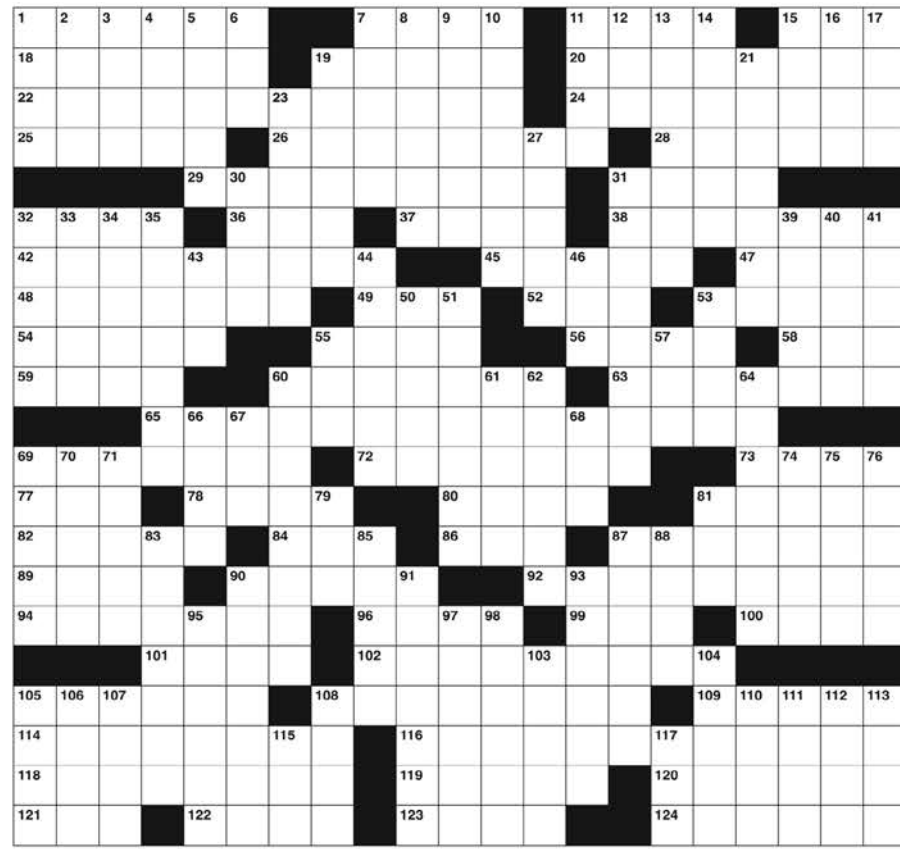
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Puzzles

DOUBLE MEANINGS BY DERRICK NIEDERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Derrick Niederman is a writer, game designer and retired math professor in Charleston, S.C. He's been making crosswords for The Times since 1983. He remembers the paper's puzzle editor at the time, Eugene T. Maleska, marveling that crossword constructors were still capable of coming up with new ideas. Derrick remarks, "All these years later, I find myself thinking the same thing." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Snag
 - 7 Italian sparkling wine
 - 11 John ____, personification of Objectivism, for Ayn Rand
 - 15 Code for Queenslanders?
 - 18 __ polaris
 - 19 Intl. group formed in 1945
 - 20 Purple dish eaten with a spoon
 - 22 Lottery commission?
 - 24 Prison terms?
 - 25 Smell, e.g.
 - 26 University of Alabama rallying cry
 - 28 President's middle name (accented on the first syllable) or California city (accented on the second)
 - 29 Shower stall?
 - 31 Slanted type: Abbr.
 - 32 Get one's feet wet?
 - 36 Dir. from St. Paul to Duluth
 - 37 Guido ____, Baroque painter from Bologna
 - 38 Automates?
 - 42 How mashed avocado might be served
 - 45 Acquire, in a way
 - 47 "Yep, noticed that"
- 48 Battle cry?**
49 PC IDs
52 What regular customers pay less for?
53 A good Wordle starting word, by the looks of it
54 When Memorial Day is observed
55 Grim Grimm character
56 Trounce
58 Bamboozled
59 Upscale shirtmaker
60 Symbol of the American West
63 Former
65 Yellow submarine?
69 Infantile
72 Prepares
73 Put on the line
77 Mien
78 Surname for a family of fictional Kansans
80 One whose pride can be protective
81 "___ a stinker?" (Bugs Bunny line)
82 Affect emotionally
84 Cologne conjunction
86 Freight weight
87 Stolen base?
89 Pelvic parts
90 Love, in Lyon
92 Bit of flooring for a patio, say
94 Blood vessel?
96 Page (through)
99 Org. for pugilists
- 100 Go downhill, in a way**
101 Pizzeria in "Do the Right Thing"
102 Fire starter?
105 Showy kind of push-up
108 Salty cheese made from sheep's milk
109 Creature-friendly org.
114 Padlock?
116 Confidence men?
118 Rock-bottom review
119 1957 No. 1 hit for Debbie Reynolds
120 Demonstrate complete disrespect for, in a way
121 What a clear plastic bag is not
122 "Right now!"
123 "Your point being?"
124 Roxane's beloved, in classic literature
- DOWN**
- 1 Roams (about)
 - 2 Entice
 - 3 Country with many Farsi speakers
 - 4 They often have AAA backing
 - 5 Colonial news source
 - 6 Iconic role for Harrison Ford
 - 7 "You've Really Got ___ on Me" (1960s hit)
 - 8 Deck application
 - 9 Proverbial slowpoke
 - 10 Iconic role for Harrison Ford
 - 11 Display amazement, in a way
 - 12 Star pitcher
 - 13 Mechanism for local funding
 - 14 Feature of the tone-deaf
 - 15 __ Linda (San Bernardino suburb)
 - 16 Verdon of "Damn Yankees"
 - 17 In addition
 - 19 Steakhouse orders
 - 21 Alternative to a bouncy house
 - 23 Direct a smile toward
 - 27 Fizzling out
 - 30 Erelong
 - 31 Skating exhibitions
 - 32 "Holy moly!"
 - 33 Before, in Bordeaux
 - 34 Skin: Prefix
 - 35 Misjudgment
 - 39 Japanese beer brand
 - 40 Crazylegs Hirsch, from 1949 to 1957, informally
 - 41 Greta Garbo, by birth
 - 43 T-Swift, by another nickname
 - 44 Bouncing character in "The House at Pooh Corner"
 - 46 Yep's opposite
 - 50 Trim
 - 51 Seasoning from the ocean
 - 53 What some houses are built on
 - 55 Cask wood




- 57 Prefix with -form or -verse
- 60 Inept sorts
- 61 One source of news
- 62 Burger toppers
- 64 Savings banks
- 66 Lofty
- 67 "Life ___ beach"
- 68 Home for an 80-Across
- 69 Printing technique that uses wax
- 70 Garlicky spread
- 71 Bear
- 74 Packed like sardines, say
- 75 It's a wrap
- 76 Passed, as bad checks
- 79 Brian in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- 81 Experienced a bit of turnover?
- 83 Mary ____, "The Boating Party" artist
- 85 Sweet, in Seville
- 87 Schmooze
- 88 Back in the day
- 90 Malady
- 91 Do something because of
- 93 A score
- 95 Pollster Lou or singer Emmylou
- 97 Polar wear
- 98 Discussion sites
- 103 __ Beach, Calif.
- 104 Hoarse
- 105 Fail to mention
- 106 Intl. group formed in 1949
- 107 Online marketplace with personalized gifts
- 108 "Hey there!"
- 110 Awaken
- 111 Creature-friendly org.
- 112 Prefix in many Ocean Spray drink names
- 113 Regarding
- 115 Reggae relative
- 117 Gamecocks' sch.

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su | do | ku © Puzzles by Pappocom HARD - 32

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

ADSWAB FCC CIG IPAD
SUNSHADE WHO OHO SILO
SPACE INVADER MEGAMALL
ALFA TOES ANTIART NIL
YOUTHFULINDISCRETIONS
TOON DALEK DERN
LEAR REVERES NACL
WHIRR RES DIF CHASM
REF DIAS BOW DIET TEE
AREA NYT ICERES BEET
POST ABS SUNSET ANTE
SITE NAT OLD ADE HIHO
UNO LENO NOS LORD GRR
PERSE SPF MAG ERHUS
YUTZ SOILIED SCAT
CPAS DLIST CLAW
ROCKANDROLLHALLOWFAME
EHH SICARIO LEOS IWAS
AWAYTEAM CLOSETHELOOP
DOSE SRO IMP CHEWELRY
EWES TDS TET HESS SIS

Pine Tones Chorus to hold spring concert on June 5

Community Church at Ocean Pines to host annual event; tickets now on sale

(May 28, 2026) The annual spring concert presented by the Pine Tones Chorus (PTC) will take place on Friday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Community Church at Ocean Pines.

This year's theme, "Pine Tones Goes to the Movies," will feature standards, favorites, and hidden gems from films spanning nearly seven decades. Selections include "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "As Time Goes By," "Hakuna Matata," "Singin' in the Rain," and "When You Wish Upon a Star." As always, audience members will be invited to join in during a sing-along portion of the evening.

General admission tickets are \$20. This year, the chorus is also offering discounted tickets for young music

lovers ages 10 and under for \$10. In an effort to keep costs down and make concerts more accessible, payment at the door on the day of the concert will be accepted by cash or check only.

In the weeks leading up to the performance, chorus members will visit local senior centers to present shortened versions of the concert. These outreach performances allow residents who may not be able to attend the main event to enjoy the music, while also giving the chorus valuable rehearsal experience before live audiences.

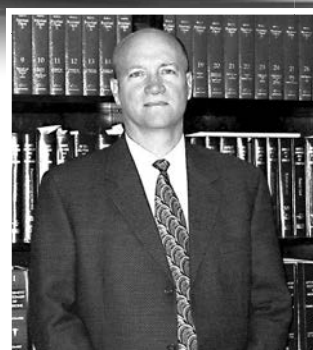
Funding for this event is in part provided by the Worcester County Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating vibrant cultural communities where the arts thrive.

The chorus is on Facebook.

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OPEN HOUSES

May 28 - June 4



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
Sunday 2-4pm	30847 E Annie Lank Avenue, Milton, DE	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	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	Single Family	\$775,000	Joe Wilson/Coastal Life Realty Group
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	1 66th Street # 101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	25 Rabbit Run Lane, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$409,900	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	12971 Inlet Isle Lane, West Ocean City	5BR/5BA	Single Family	\$2,599,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	44 Boston Dr, Ocean Pines	2BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$679,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman 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 1-3pm	9540 Wedge Way, Delmar, MD	2BR/2BA	Townhouse	\$249,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1-3pm	208 7th Street Unit 2, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$685,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	37033 Barrington Pkwy, Millville, DE	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$614,990	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	8715 Old Ocean City Rd, Berlin	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$439,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 11am-1pm	10 135th Street #106, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$415,000	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/ReMAX/Advantage Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1pm	208 7th Street Unit 2, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$685,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	1 66th Street #101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	26738 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$347,500	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	26740 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$349,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	6201 Coastal Hwy, Unit 806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,800,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty



Calendar

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

Thurs., May 28

OCEAN CITY JEEP WEEK

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6:30 a.m. Jeep Parades daily, Sand Obstacle Course, Beach Parking, Light Show, Show N Shine and vendors. Free to spectators. Schedule: <https://ocmdjeepweek.jeepweekoc@gmail.com>, 443-614-0141

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, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

STORY TIME: 'PARFAIT, NOT PARFAIT!'

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, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & LUNCH

Worcester Technical High School, 6270 Worcester Highway, Newark, 11 a.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Liz Mumford, Americanism Chair, will be the featured speaker. Reservations and payment deadline is May 20 at 5 p.m. Jennie Allen, jennie.gopwomenofwc@gmail.com, 410-973-2385

LET'S MAKE ... DRIED FLOWER TABLE DECORATIONS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Using dried flowers and glass jars to create a work of art. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-641-0650, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books you have read and want to share. Come and find your next great read. 410-641-0650, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

ACT - SIP OF SCIENCE SERIES - 'THROUGH TIME' LANGUAGE, LANDSCAPES & THE LIVING SHORELINES

Art Collective at the Factory, 16 S. Main St., Berlin, 5:30-8 p.m. There are stories written into the landscape, not just in what we see, but in what has shifted, settled and sometimes disappeared. Register: <https://www.actforbays.org/sip-and-science-series>.

BAD ART NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 6 p.m. A night of art so bad, it's good. All craft supplies provided. The best bad art

will receive a certificate. Light snacks provided. 410-524-1818, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6 p.m. Speaker will be Victor Guidice, candidate for Md. District 1. 410-208-4014

DRY PANTRY

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

FIT & FABULOUS

Thursdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 4:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

Fri., May 29

OCEAN CITY JEEP WEEK

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6:30 a.m. Jeep Parades daily, Sand Obstacle Course, Beach Parking, Light Show, Show N Shine and vendors. Free to spectators. Schedule: <https://ocmdjeepweek.jeepweekoc@gmail.com>, 443-614-0141

OC MAHJONG CLUB

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

MOVIE MATINEE: 3D EDITION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Catch a movie you may have missed in theaters. 410-208-4014, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

GODSPELL: THE LOWER SHORE PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 7-9 p.m. Eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Cost: \$25. Tickets: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/events/4>. 410-524-9433

Sat., May 30

OCEAN CITY JEEP WEEK

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6:30 a.m. Jeep Parades daily, Sand Obstacle Course, Beach Parking, Light Show, Show N Shine and vendors. Free to spectators. Schedule: <https://ocmdjeepweek.jeepweekoc@gmail.com>, 443-614-0141

jeepweekoc@gmail.com, 443-614-0141

BALTIMORE RAVENS ROOSTS ANNUAL PARADE

19th Street & Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-noon. The parade runs in the southbound lanes of Baltimore Avenue, typically starting around 19th Street (Johnny Unitas Way) and ending near 26th Street to 29th Street.

OCEAN PINES COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, 3 p.m. Guides will take everyone on a scenic ride through Ocean Pines beginning and ending at the Golf Clubhouse. Riders must be at least 12 years of age. Helmets are mandatory. Must register: 410-641-7052.

AUCE BREAKFAST BUFFET

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

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

POCOMOKE NATURE TRAIL WALK: SPRING IN BLOOM

Pavillion at Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your binoculars and journals to look for the new spring birds and blooms. Weather permitting. For families. 410-957-0878, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

FREE KIDS CRAFT SATURDAYS

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring "Welcome Summer Sun Hanger." Guided crafts led by friendly instructors. All supplies provided. Jessica Bauer, development@artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

SERVICE SQUAD

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11 a.m. Worcester County teens can earn service learning hours by helping out with craft and program prep or other activities that help the library. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Also featuring family-friendly activities, music and unique shopping experiences. Open to the public, year round. 410-641-7052, <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>

GODSPELL: THE LOWER SHORE PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 7-9 p.m. Eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Cost: \$25. Tickets: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/events/4>. 410-524-9433

Sun., May 31

OCEAN CITY JEEP WEEK

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6:30 a.m. Jeep Parades daily, Sand Obstacle Course, Beach Parking, Light Show, Show N Shine and vendors. Free to spectators. Schedule: <https://ocmdjeepweek.jeepweekoc@gmail.com>, 443-614-0141

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

SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

Sundays - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10-11 a.m. Youth of all ages learn how to sew while making a difference. 410-641-0234

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., June 1

STORY TIME: DINOSAURS

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, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group meets once a month to discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. Featuring "The Martian" by Andy Weir. 410-208-4014, [worcesterialibrary.org](mailto:worcesterlibrary.org)

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Cancer Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. Held the first Monday of each month. 410-641-2626, nicole.fry@tidalhealth.org

TOPS OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

TidalHealth Atlantic, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) is an educational group that promotes weight loss and a healthy lifestyle.

Calendar

<https://www.tops.org/home>

BRIDGE

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All ladies who love to sing invited. If you plan to visit, please Contact: Director: Ludwig692@outlook.com, 410-641-6876 or Membership Coordinator: ocelissa@yahoo.com, 410-641-8050.

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., June 2

GRAD WEEK ACTIVITIES - FREE SKATE

Ocean City Town Skate Park, Third Street, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Must bring High School ID to participate. A signed waiver is required. Must have your own skateboard and helmet. Free event. <https://www.ococean.com/event/grad-week-activities/2620/>, 410-250-0125

A SWIM SOCIAL

Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 1 Mumfords Landing Road, 6-8 p.m. Theme is "White Out." There will be a DJ, food and drink specials.

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP

Held the first Tuesday of each month, 10-11 a.m. Register to learn about this month's meeting location. Register: 410-641-9725, gail.mansell@tidalhealth.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, worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

STORY YOGA

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Move, stretch and imagine, through a playful blend of stories and yoga. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

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

terlibrary.org

THE OCEAN PINES SOCIAL CIRCLE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m. Mix and mingle and enjoy some refreshments and a fun activity. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-4 p.m. Bring any questions you have and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

FANTASTIC FOSSILS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Time to get messy Make dinosaur fossils using flour, salt and water. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

OCEAN CITY LIONESS LIONS CLUB MEETING

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

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

Tuesdays - Lewes Senior Center, 32083 Janice Rd. Lewes, DE, 7-9 p.m. Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome. No partner required. Info: TangobytheBeach.com.

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:15 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

Wed., June 3

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featured movie is "Surf's Up." Free movies on the beach every Wednesday from June 3 to Aug. 12. Bring blankets, chairs and snacks. Movie lineup: <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/>.

GRAD WEEK ACTIVITIES - FREE DODGEBALL

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Must bring High School ID to participate. <https://www.ococean.com/event/grad-week-activities/2620/>, 410-250-0125

KID'S BEACHY BINGO

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a fun-filled game of bingo. Limit 50. First come, first served. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

ZUMBA PLUS!!

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 4:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community

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

CASH BINGO

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

ONGOING EVENTS

DINOSAUR DIORAMA CONTEST

Throughout June, pick up a kit from any Worcester County library branch (while supplies last), or make one at home using your own materials. All dioramas must be submitted by the end of day June 22 for display and voting. Dioramas should be no larger than a shoe box. Age divisions include 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-632-5622

LAMBEOSAURUS LOOSE IN THE LIBRARY

Pocomoke library, 401 5th Street, Unit 100, Pocomoke City (temporary location), throughout June. Can you find the lambeosaurus loose in the library and answer the question he has for you? Answer correctly and be entered into the prize drawing. Different hiding places and questions each week. For families. 410-957-0878



The Piet Oudolf meadow comes alive in June

<p>Watercolor & Mixed Media Workshop Monday, June 8 6 - 7:30pm \$10 + Garden Admission \$5 for Members Register at DelawareGardens.org</p>	<p>Live Music Thursday, June 4 6 - 8pm Featuring Joe Esham Free with Garden Admission Register at DelawareGardens.org</p>
<p>LECTURE BY DR. IAN STEWART June 11, 6pm-8pm How birds can help you get more out of life. Tickets required.</p>	<p>Guided Welcome Walks Every Friday & Saturday at 10am Free with Garden Admission</p>
<p>NEW EXTENDED HOURS Monday & Thursday 9am-Sunset Friday, Saturday & Sunday 9am-4pm Adults \$15 - Children 16 & Under - Free</p>	<p>Monday Meander Guided Tour 6:30pm - 7:15pm Free with Garden Admission</p>



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



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HARBOUR ISLAND GATE ATTENDANT
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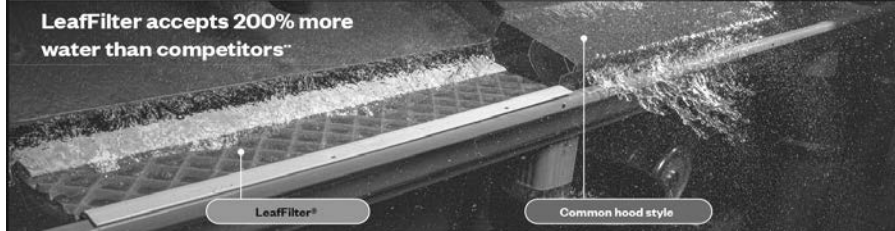
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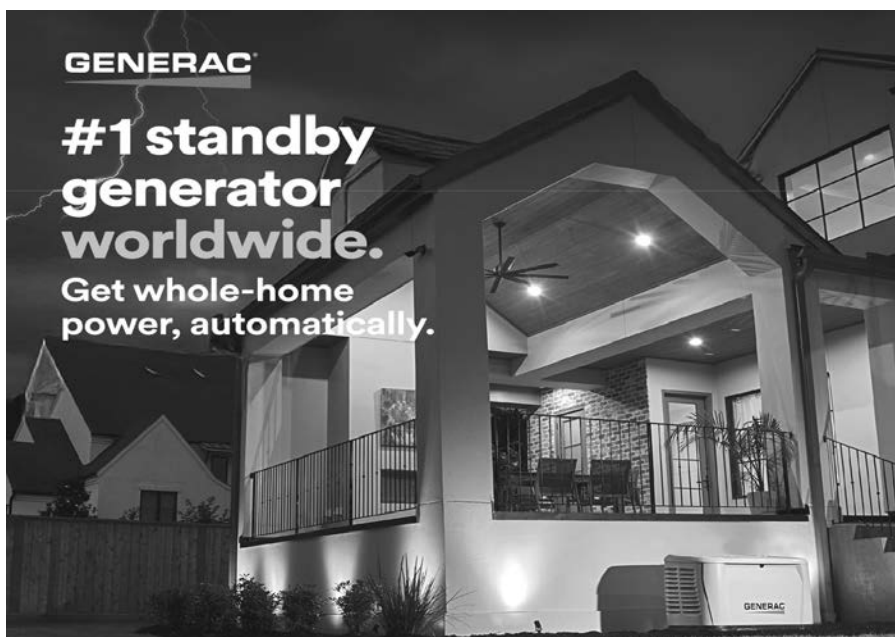
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Ocean Pines Neighborhood Pharmacy

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.

ATTENTION DEMENTIA CLIENTS

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:



📍 11005 Manklin Meadows Lane #1 • Ocean Pines (in front of Headlines Salon)
 📞 410.629.0089

🕒 M-F: 9am-6pm
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