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One of the most popular vendors at last Sunday's Berlin Farmers Market was Bennett Orchards, which was stocked with peaches for the summer.

Heron Park project finally gets moving

No settlement but town has approved site plan for one stage of Tyson plant project

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) A push to transform the dilapidated and dormant Tyson's poultry building on Old Ocean City Boulevard into a vibrant commercial center is finally gaining

some momentum now that the project has received site plan approval. The Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday endorsed the final site plans submitted by developer Palmer Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties (CVP) for the first phase of a project to revitalize land that was once home to a Tyson Foods poultry processing facility. Under the applicant's plans, the 8.64-acre property known as parcel

57, which was part of the Heron Park parcel, will house three buildings and a landscaped community garden. Last week's approval was for phase one only, which includes two of the campus' intended structures. Medical offices are slated for the facility situated at the back of the land, while a retail or restaurant business will move into the front establishment. Gillis, along with his development
See PHASE Page 8

Council gasps at high price of furnishings

New furniture for renovated Town Hall exceeds \$250K

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) A quarter-million-dollar furniture package proposed for Berlin's renovated Town Hall was tabled this week after councilmembers and residents expressed concerns that the expenditure is an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. Up for consideration before the Town Council Monday night was a \$252,773 request to outfit the municipality's Town Hall, a building currently undergoing extensive renovation.

The town is working with OMNIA Partners for the furniture part of the project. The company provides government agencies with competitively priced equipment and, for Berlin's Town Hall remodel, has secured products from the supplier Teknion.

An itemized breakdown of the proposed furnishings were:

- 138 seats for \$55,166 at an average of \$400 a piece;
- 20 desks for \$55,244 at \$2,762 each;
- 12 secondary desks for \$6,326 at \$527 each;
- 10 bookcases for \$4,001 at \$400 each;
- 14 tackboards and whiteboards for \$4,728 at \$338 each;
- six conference tables for \$4,602 at \$767 each; f
- our council chamber desks for \$1,919 at \$480 each;
- three lobby tables for \$1,049 at \$350 each;
- one lectern at \$753;
- 18 filing shelves and pedestals for

See COUNCIL Page 6

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Berlin scales back Henry's Mill Drive work

Complete roadway overhaul scrapped after evaluation found deeper road issues

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) The Town of Berlin will pursue a scaled-back paving project in the Henry's Mill community after discovering that repairing the entire roadway would cost the municipality far more than originally anticipated.

The initiative was presented at Monday night's Berlin Town Council meeting.

The town had initially intended to repave all of Henry's Mill Drive using carryover funds from the 2026 street-paving budget after other scheduled projects were delayed due to aging water and sewer infrastructure that still needed replacement.

The idea was to address sections of Henry's Mill Drive that had buckled, making the street unsafe for motorists.

The plan came to a halt when public works found irregularities in the Henry's Mill roadway. Testing of the showed that the street was built on unstable material.

"We had some testing done, and then when we did, we found the

ground underneath was not solid," Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said. "It's like walking on the beach near the water. If you step on it, it's always mushy ... to do the street correctly, it doubled in price, and we don't have that in our funds."

Instead, Berlin will address the road's most bothersome areas and allocate the remaining 2026 carryover funds to other, less costly streets around town that require repair and maintenance.

The Henry's Mill sections slated for repair include: 5 Henry Mill Drive, an 85-foot by 26-foot area; the Littleworth Road and Henry's Mill Drive intersection, 70 feet by 27 feet; 105 Henry's Mill Drive, 70 feet by 26 feet; and Penders Lane and Henry's Mill Drive, 23 feet by 14 feet.

At each location, contractors will remove the damaged pavement, excavate six inches of unstable material, install a new stone base, and rebuild the road with 3.5 inches of new asphalt, consisting of a 2-inch base layer topped with a 1.5-inch surface layer.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall maintained that while the project will improve the road's conditions, it remains a temporary remedy.

"It'll buy us time, but it's not a long-term solution," he said. "It will reoccur again, but this will help us

buy some time."

Councilman Jack Orris asked Charles when the town can expect the entirety of Henry's Mill to be repaved. The public works director responded that he can't provide specifics, and for now, he and his team are monitoring the roadway.

"Other parts of the road were in fair or good condition, not to the point where they need to be resurfaced like the areas we're addressing," Charles said. "We don't have the funding to do the whole road today...the road could last for years...we're watching, we're maintaining it."

Debbie Ritz, president of Henry's Mill homeowner's association, noted the areas slated for repair are "awful."

"We've been dealing with this," she said. "Are we going to continue to be in bad shape? Every year, is some-

thing going to be going on?"

Charles said that the goal of the project is to maintain the roads as effectively as possible, but public works must work within the confines of available funding.

"If we have another winter, some areas could expose themselves, or they could be solid for a while," he said.

Tyndall added that the issue pre-dates current town leadership.

"The way the road was constructed is leading to some of these problems," he said. "So, we're not able to fix the entire roadway...we don't have the funding to be able to do that."

After the discussion, the Town Council voted unanimously to direct municipality staff to issue a request for proposals for construction contractors.



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Commissioners surprised by pre-K invoice

Private education services bill from MSDE seeking \$406K in reimbursement

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) Worcester County officials this week said they were blindsided by a bill from the state for more than \$400,000 for private pre-K costs under Maryland’s Blueprint education reform law.

“This has been thrown on us, and we didn’t know this was coming,” Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) said at Tuesday’s meeting.

Internal county documents show the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) invoiced Worcester County \$406,662.90 for its share of providing private pre-kindergarten services during the 2024-25 school year.

The March 12 invoice, prepared by MSDE’s Division of Early Childhood, lists the charge as “Thirty-Five (35) Tier I Students at \$11,618.94 each” and gives the county until March 2027 to pay.

An accompanying student list identifies CMA Kids and Berlin Education Station as the providers and lists Worcester County as both the program county and county of resi-

dence for all 35 students.

Under the Blueprint, the state’s sweeping 2021 education reform package, counties are now expected to help pay for eligible private pre-K students who live within their borders. The law expands publicly funded pre-K through both public schools and approved private providers, among other changes.

At the meeting, Mitrecic wanted to know how many schools qualify for funding, and how many students each facility will accommodate, so the cost becomes clearer “and we’re not sitting here with our mouths agape,” he said.

Commissioner Chip Bertino stressed that officials would need verification that all 35 students are Worcester County residents – a key factor in how the state calculated the bill.

He also noted that the invoice won’t come due until next March, giving them time to ask questions before writing a check.

“We don’t have a decision to make right now,” said Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines). “Just to pay this without that sort of information is not in our best interest.”

‘It’s the county taxpayers’ money. We need to know what the checks are on this.’
Commissioners President
Ted Elder

The county had not budgeted for the expense because information provided by MSDE last fall showed Worcester had no balance due, according to Budget Officer Kim Reynolds.

But state officials later said the bill would be based on which children actually used the private pre-K seats, and where those children live. Since MSDE listed 35 students as Worcester County residents, Worcester received the bill.

Officials also said there was early confusion over the payment pipeline: whether Worcester would pay the Board of Education, which would then pay private providers, or whether the county would pay MSDE directly. Staff said MSDE later clarified that counties would pay the state, and the state would pay the private pre-K providers.

That left commissioners questioning not only the current invoice, but how large the county’s future obligation could become as private pre-K expands under the Blueprint.

Deputy County Administrator Candace Savage said the invoiced charge is tied to the Blueprint’s universal pre-K rollout, with early imple-

mentation based on a cost split between the state and counties.

She said the initial implementation involved a 50-50 split, though commissioners questioned whether the county’s \$11,618.94 per-student charge represented half the total cost.

Commissioners ultimately held off on paying the bill and asked staff to gather more information before taking any action.

Mitrecic restated his motion to seek details on which private schools qualify, how many students they can accommodate, whether the listed students are Worcester County residents, and what the county could expect to pay in future years.

He also asked that directors or headmasters of childcare facilities come before the commissioners to answer questions. The board approved the motion 5-2.

Mitrecic added that he wants to assign someone the job of keeping tabs on the Blueprint from now on and alerting commissioners to any changes.

Commissioners President Ted Elder said the county needs more information before money changes hands.

“It’s the county taxpayers’ money,” said Elder (District 4, Western). “We need to know what the checks are on this.”

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Council balks at Town Hall furniture prices

Continued from Page 1
\$7,979 at \$443 each;
• 24 storage configurations for \$32,498 at \$1,354 each;
• eight wardrobe towers for \$5,388 at \$674 each;
• 17 modesty panels for \$2,676 at \$157 each.

Also included in the cost are a \$25,822 art and design package, a \$2,100 specification and design fee, and a \$29,687 delivery and installation fee.

Daniele Haley of Haley Architecture, the West Ocean City firm handling the building restoration, presented some specifics about the equipment her team proposed to install in the updated Town Hall when it's move-in ready.

She said that the planned desks in the 14 administrative offices would be U-shaped and height-adjustable to allow for sitting or standing.

For chairs, Haley said the selected seats are mid-range in quality and price, with an average cost of \$400 each.

The architect added that the proposed office chairs come with a 15-year, 24/7 warranty.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall explained how this replacement deal works.

"A typical office chair, when you go

buy it, the warranty might say, if you use it for eight hours, that is what we will warranty it for," he said. "If you work more than eight hours in this chair, it voids the warranty. So, in areas where we have dispatchers working multiple shifts in the same chair, or if folks are working longer than an eight-hour day, it would void the warranty."

"This warranty, you could hypothetically sit in it every day, every hour for 15 years and it would still be warranted."

The proposal also includes about 45 new seats for the council chambers that Tyndall said are easier to clean.

The price tag for the Town Hall furniture, which the council later postponed for further review until its next meeting, prompted an impassioned response from residents.

Citizen Carol Rose argued that the municipality should have aimed to reuse furnishings where possible, rather than obtain all new equipment.

For example, Director of Public Works Jimmy Charles said about 35 old council chamber chairs are in storage that, while not in prime condition, could be salvaged. However, Monday night's proposal recommended replacing them with all new seats.

"It's a waste of money if we've got chairs that work," Rose said.



A rendering of the mayor's office at the new Town Hall is pictured. The cost for 20 new desks was proposed at \$55,244, or \$2,762 apiece.

Tyndall maintained that the upgraded chairs would be armless for accessibility and easier to sanitize.

Resident Mary Hedlesky maintained that the \$250,000 expenditure is an excessive financial burden on taxpayers, even though the benefits would be reaped primarily by town staff.

"I would rather see us do something else," she said. "We don't spend money wisely. It's time we start taking a step back and looking at how this money is being spent. And I hear... we're looking out for the staff. And I appreciate everything the staff does."

But what about the residents? We're the ones still sitting here dealing with these ridiculous issues. West Street looks like a warzone. And then we're sitting here bouncing around \$253,000 for furniture."

Hedlesky added that not only does the furniture carry a hefty price tag, but it also lacks the characteristics of the town's historic aesthetic.

"This furniture, I think it's ugly," she continued. "...it does not enhance the historic nature of this building at all."

The mayor noted that the historic character was preserved in the actual building renovation. However, the chairs, tables, and desks prioritized staff comfort.

"We're hiring a workforce that is not going to work at a nursing home or a funeral home," he said. "We are trying to attract a millennial workforce ... hey want a standing desk, they want to be able to work in a space that is open and bright. We have respected the historic nature of the building while also trying to make sure it has the things we need for the modern workforce as well as recruitment and retention."

Resident Marie Velong said less money should be spent on furniture and more should be allocated to audio and video capabilities to improve virtual meeting viewing.

Tyndall said that audio and video upgrades will be presented to the council at a later date.

In addition to the citizens' problems with the \$252,000 price tag, council members also had serious misgivings.

Councilman Steve Green took particular issue with the \$400-a-piece chairs.

"When I look at \$400, I think that's very expensive," he said. "I wouldn't pay that, so I wouldn't expect the taxpayers to pay."

Councilman Jack Orris asked Haley to explain the arts and design portion of the project. The architect said this cost includes 61 pieces of art, as well as the enlargement and framing.

Orris suggested that the cost of art

See COUNCIL Page 7



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Commissioners reject Pocomoke solar plan

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) The Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously opposed a proposed solar project on a 54-acre property outside Pocomoke City, rejecting a developer's request for local support before the applicant could make a presentation.

Commissioner Caryn Abbott, whose District 1 encompasses the project site, made the motion to oppose the project and reject a favorable county review, citing the amount of land it would consume. The motion passed 7-0 with no discussion.

"I don't know if the other commissioners are aware," Abbott said, "our growth area there is right across the street. We have four solar farms within a two-mile radius. This would be a fifth. Obviously, it does affect property values, and it will affect attracting people to the area."

The 4.95-megawatt utility-scale solar project is being proposed for 1521 Old Virginia Road. Solar panels would occupy about 20 acres on the property. Internal county documents show Atwell LLC, on behalf of Clean Capital LLC, has been pursuing state certification for the project since January 2024.

The project may still continue because Maryland counties do not have final approval authority over solar projects larger than 2 megawatts under state regulations. But the commissioners did reject the applicant's request to reduce a required 100-foot setback to 35 feet.

If the developer modifies plans to address the setback, they can still move forward with the state review, and then local site plan review, according to Jennifer Keener, the county's director of Development Re-

view and Permitting.

A staff report says the project would be on existing tilled agricultural land, with no proposed impacts to forested areas or non-tidal wetlands.

County staff found the project to be generally consistent with the county's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, but said it either needed the setback modification or a revised panel layout to meet state siting standards, Keener also said.

It's typical for solar developers to personally address the commissioners when asking for local support. But when civil engineer John Gonzalez stood to speak and introduce himself Tuesday, he was cut off by the commissioners, because Abbott's motion was already on the floor.

"There's no need to make a pres-

entation now," Commissioners President Ted Elder (District 4, Western) said after the 7-0 vote.

Gonzalez had no comment after his appearance.

When the commissioners were asked at the close of the meeting why their vote to reject included zero discussion, Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) said it's common to defer to his peers on district-specific matters.

"I think that the commissioner from Pocomoke explained it before we had the vote and the motion," he said. "For me personally, it's a vote for, you know, something that doesn't affect my district and affects another district. I voted with her."

The site is zoned as I-1 Light Industrial, where utility-scale solar projects are permitted by right, ac-

cording to county staff.

Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, West Ocean City) said he voted against the solar farm because the county has very limited industrial land.

"Why in the world would you turn over all your industrial land for solar panels? It makes no sense. To occupy that with solar panels – that, dollar-for-dollar, brings no revenue to the county at all – is just not good government," he said after the meeting.

Keener said concept plans for utility-scale solar projects first go before the commissioners for support or opposition, then they follow a site plan review process before two planning boards. Larger projects are preempted by state regulations and do not require commissioner review.

See COMMISSIONERS Page 8

Council seeking furniture savings

Continued from Page 6
could be reduced by seeking donations from local artists.

"There's no reason someone from the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum can't offer to put a picture in the town lobby for a month or two," he said.

Councilman Jay Knerr added that he would prefer the furniture costs to fall between \$175,000 and \$200,000. Tyndall cautioned that the figure may be unrealistic, given that 24 workspaces in Town Hall will need to be equipped with the appropriate desks, chairs, and storage configurations.

The council tabled the discussion and asked Haley to return to the council's next meeting with a revised cost estimate. The vote to postpone the action item was unanimous, with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols absent.

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- LOCAL TOWN / COUNTY VEHICLES & OTHER:** 2016 Chev. Tahoe (Police Package) (shows 75,197 miles), 2017 Ford Explorer SUV (Police Package) (shows 53,256 miles), 2012 Dodge Charger (Police Package) (shows 50,314 miles), 1986 Chev. 70 Truck w/Meadows Dump Body (shows 26,709 miles), 1995 Haulmark 24' Enclosed Trailer w/ramp dr, 2017 Chev. Silverado Pickup Reg. Cab. (shows 145,254 miles), 2015 Chev Tahoe (Police Package) (shows 150,117 miles).

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Phase 1 plans approved on Gillis project

Continued from Page 1

team, appeared before the Berlin Planning Commission their final plans for the project's initial stage.

Gillis said that Chesapeake Health is likely to sign on as the rear building's tenant upon completion of construction. Developers hope to secure a commercial operation for the front facility.

"The front building, we want to make it a lot more lively with retail or restaurants," Gillis told the Bayside Gazette this week. "Something that the public interfaces with better."

Plans for the garden center and building number three will be designed and reviewed at a later date.

"For building three, we will be coming back to you, and the garden center," Gillis told the planning commissioners. "We are only submitting [plans] for phase one, which is buildings one and two."

According to the elevation drawings, buildings one and two will feature new red brick veneer, a textured concrete block base, large storefront-style glass windows and black metal awnings. Decorative parapet walls will conceal the flat roof and rooftop equipment, while a protective parapet cap will provide a finished appearance along the roofline.

Developers said the red brick will align with the historic elements and colors found in downtown Berlin. Addition-

ally, rather than a flat facade, the brick's placement will have some "ins and outs," or offsets, to provide texture, depth, and sun shading.

The size of building two, where the medical offices will go, is planned at approximately 22,200 square feet. The retail site, building one, will be around 18,777 square feet.

The planning commission unanimously approved CVP's final site plans for stage one of parcel 57's redevelopment, contingent on the applicant completing processes with Worcester County Soil Conservation and other outside agencies and addressing routine planning comments from Berlin staff.

Gillis added that he is nearing the end of talks with the Worcester County Soil Conservation and that he has submitted a stormwater management design to the town's engineering consultant.

The parcel 57 redevelopment project dates back to 2022, when CVP wanted to purchase the land, along with Heron Park's parcels 191 and 410, and create a mixed-use commercial complex. Those negotiations came to a halt in 2023, when the Berlin Town Council decided the municipality needed more time to consider how the land should be utilized.

But in the spring of 2025, CVP entered into another arrangement with the Town of Berlin to buy parcel 57 for \$1.2 million. However, since that agreement



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A rendering shows the landscaping, parking alignment and overall site plan for the new massive renovation planned at the former poultry processing plant property on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

was signed, the project's future has been shrouded in uncertainty amid disputes between the municipality and the developer on the defined property boundaries.

On April 8, Gillis and his wife, Sandy, appeared before the Berlin Planning Commission despite not being included on the official agenda. Gillis complained that parcel 57's property lines had not been agreed upon and that his repeated attempts to confirm the details with town leadership had been denied.

Gillis threatened at the April planning meeting that if an unconditional 12-month extension on their initial study period were not granted by April 20, CVP would terminate its commitment to buy the site.

The extension was ultimately approved, providing Gillis until April 2027 to walk away from the purchase agreement and have \$100,000 deposit returned.

The boundary line debate arose because the town and CVP disagreed over how much of parcel 57 could be relinquished for redevelopment. Gillis asked that the property include 0.35 acres of the land's boundary adjacent to Heron Park's parcel 410.

In May, the Berlin Town Council approved an amendment to the land disposition agreement that incorporates just shy of a quarter-acre of the requested property into the purchase agreement.

Per this week's final site plan approval, the redevelopment project continues to progress. Gillis said that he hopes CVP and the town can officially close on the property sale before the end of the summer.

"We're very excited...our task right now is to keep the process moving so I can go to settlement as soon as possible," Gillis told the Bayside Gazette on Monday. "We're still ready to go to the settlement as soon as possible."

Commissioners opposing solar

Continued from Page 7

In the last two years, five solar farm applicants – two small projects and three large ones – have been heard by the county's planning commission. Seven made it to a vote before the commissioners, and three were approved. Six solar farms are still in the planning process, according to Keener.

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Commissioners will review data center moratorium

Staff to present legislation for one-year pause after unanimous vote last week

By **Brian Shane**
Staff Writer

(July 10, 2026) Worcester County officials are planning to pursue a one-year moratorium on data centers and cable landing stations, even as one such facility is already moving through county review.

In a 6-0 decision Tuesday, the county commissioners approved Commissioner Eric Fiori's motion for the yearlong pause. It would not take effect until the commissioners approve it by resolution, which Fiori said will be brought up for a vote at the board's July 21 meeting.

"We physically don't have the resources in Worcester County to operate any of these facilities," said Fiori (District 3, West Ocean City). "Not allowing them in any district seems like the obvious answer."

Fiori said the pause would give the four new commissioners taking office in December about six months to study the issue before deciding what comes next.

Data centers can generate significant air pollution, run generators at 100 decibels, and could account for 90% of new power demand by 2030, according to Bob Mitchell, the county's head of environmental programs.

He also said they have been known to use massive amounts of water and wastewater at a time when the county is struggling to keep up with wastewater demand.

"We have growth, or we have data centers," he told the commissioners.

For now, county code is silent on data centers or cable landing stations.

In the meantime, one proposed cable landing station remains under county review.

Virginia Beach-based developer Globalinx wants to build a cable landing station on a bayfront parcel outside West Ocean City. The project is scheduled for a hearing by the county's Board of Zoning Appeals on Aug. 19.

Meant to bring undersea telecom lines ashore, the proposed 25,000-square-foot facility is generating pushback from residents along the Route 611 corridor. It's also close to a historic African American cemetery, whose descendants also oppose the

project.

Fiori has been one of the project's most vocal opponents. The proposed facility would be in his district. He hosted a town hall meeting in May where he told attending Globalinx officials he'd fight them "tooth and nail."

Such facilities eventually could be allowed by special exception, a zoning process that would require public hearings, according to Jennifer Keener, the county's planning chief.

She also said commissioners could consider policies addressing design aesthetics, noise dampening, and impacts to air and water quality.

The project has already hit one hurdle: county planning officials last month rejected the developer's argument that the cable landing station would qualify as a public utility, which would make it a permitted use.

In the meantime, the county's planning office will lean heavily on how other Maryland counties already have approached the issue with policies and legislation, Keener said.

Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Calvert, and Prince George's counties all have taken action on the issue. Frederick County just enacted a six-month freeze on new data center applications through the end of this year.

Meanwhile, Maryland is also preparing a comprehensive analytical report on data centers that's due to be submitted to the governor and legislature by Sept. 1.

Earlier in the meeting, commissioners had rejected Fiori's motion to enact a total ban on data centers in all zoning districts.

A full stop on data centers now could set up the county for future legal battles, noted Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City).

Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) said some areas of the county that are zoned heavy industrial could potentially accommodate data centers. He mentioned a defunct chicken processing plant in Showell as one possible site among 10 areas zoned for industrial use.

He said he favors enacting strict regulations instead of imposing a moratorium or outright ban.

"I'm not suggesting I want any of these there at all – I don't – but it will be tested," Bunting said. "We can write something that would probably inhibit it even being considered in Worcester County."



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Berlin weighing changes to site plan review

Revisions aimed at aligning current code with efficient process for staff to follow

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) The Berlin Planning Commission began a review last week of proposed changes to the site plan review process to clarify the commission's role in development projects and define when revised plans must return for additional review.

Emily Morris, the town planning department's legal consultant, said many of the proposed amendments are intended to upgrade the town code to provide clearer direction for developers, town staff, and the planning commission.

"The intent of this revision is to take current code and bring it into reality and how you've been operating," Morris told commissioners.

One of the biggest changes discussed involved the timing of zoning certificates. Morris said the existing code states that a zoning certificate is issued after a building is constructed, a process she said creates unnecessary complications if a project fails to comply with zoning regulations.

To address the concern, Morris

proposed adjusting the process, so a zoning certificate becomes part of the permitting phase before construction begins, followed by a certificate of occupancy after the project is completed to verify that everything was built according to approved plans.

Morris also said the code should more clearly distinguish between preliminary and final site plan reviews, particularly for larger projects.

She said while commissioners review a site's overall layout, technical components like stormwater management, utilities, and engineering, are typically completed between preliminary and final reviews by professionals and reviewed by town staff and consultants.

Commission member Newt Chandler maintained that the commission is not equipped with the expertise to make certain technical determinations.

"We're not professional stormwater people," he said. "Same with electrical utility."

He said the commission has historically focused on whether a development meets zoning requirements such as setbacks, lot lines, and building placement, while relying on engineers and town consultants to ensure technical standards are satisfied before final approval.

Town consultant Sharon Cruz said that in her experience, many jurisdictions follow a multi-stage review process in which stormwater and electrical issues are resolved before projects return for final approval.

"Many of the jurisdictions I represent have a multi-stage process," she said. "Preliminary review handles the original thoughts to get the feedback from the planning commission a basic layout. And then, in between preliminary site plan process and final site plan process, is where the applicant's consultant does the things like stormwater design, the utility design, so by time it comes back for final site plan review by the planning commission, all of those issues are already addressed..."

"So you would not need to be a stormwater professional or an electrical engineer and know that the town's consultants have already handled those things."

A major focus of the discussion centered on what should happen if approved site plans change during the permitting process.

Commission chair Matt Stoehr said the issue has arisen before because the current code does not clearly state when applicants must return to the planning commission after making revisions.

"There have been cases where we have done a final site plan review and something has changed in the site plan and that particular applicant felt like they don't need to come back in front of the planning commission because it is not concrete in our code," he said.

Morris said the proposed revisions include new definitions distinguishing "minor" and "major" site plan

changes. Minor adjustments, such as slight shifts caused by utility easements or changes to stormwater infrastructure, could potentially be handled administratively by town staff, while more significant changes affecting building placement, density, traffic circulation, or open space would require another review by the commission.

Chandler said staff should have flexibility to approve small changes, but major revisions should return to the commission.

"If there's a major one, we can take another look at it. That's what we're here for," he said.

Consultants also recommended establishing clearer procedures for determining what types of modifications trigger another public review.

Planning staff proposed several additional ideas for commissioners to consider, including requiring site plan review for commercial uses that do not involve constructing permanent buildings.

Morris pointed to the former Yaks and Tracks operation near Berlin Beer Company as an example, saying the business began operating without a site plan review, resulting in parking issues and confusion.

"It was total chaos," she said.

She also suggested commissioners consider standards limiting extensive tree clearing along major corridors.

Morris said the commission will hold a work session in August to review the draft in greater detail and develop recommendations before forwarding proposed amendments to the Berlin Town Council.

"The idea is to get your feedback and then it goes to the council," she said. "They want to know you guys are incorporating what you want."

'The intent of this revision is to take current code and bring it into reality and how you've been operating.'

Emily Morris, the town planning department's legal consultant

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Grant-funded project questioned

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) The Berlin Town Council voted this week to proceed with a stormwater management upgrades project that officials hope will increase stormwater storage capacity and reduce flooding.

The vote came despite residents arguing the work fails to address longtime neighborhood drainage problems.

The project, which was approved with Councilman Jack Orris opposed and Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols absent, will be advertised for construction bids before returning to the council for contract approval.

Engineer Steven Lemasters told the council that the construction phase is fully grant-funded through a state Whole Watershed grant, with a focus on improving water quality in Newport Bay. The initiative also hopes to offer flood mitigation help.

The work will modernize and expand two existing stormwater management facilities — one near the end of Upshur Lane and another within Buckingham Estates. Lemasters said both ponds were built to outdated Maryland stormwater standards and will be converted into submerged gravel wetlands.

“The project is incorporating an

expansion of the Buckingham Estates stormwater management facility, retrofitting it to be a more modern structure, in addition to doing the same thing at Upshur,” the engineer said.

According to the construction documents, the project includes excavating and enlarging the existing ponds, installing submerged gravel wetlands, replacing storm drainage infrastructure, constructing new drainage structures, relocating portions of a water main, installing fencing around the facilities, restoring disturbed areas, and resurfacing portions of Westminster Drive and Abbey Lane.

Contractors will also be responsible for erosion control, traffic maintenance, and restoring affected driveways, landscaping and other property features.

One bid alternate would replace an existing 24-inch storm drain pipe along Abbey Lane with a larger 36-inch pipe.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall asked whether the project could also include a pedestrian connection between Upshur Lane and Abbey Lane.

“People do cut in and out,” Tyndall said. “It would be nice to have a defined way.”

Lemasters said a walking path and educational displays explaining how the stormwater facilities improve water quality could possibly be incorporated.

The engineer emphasized the project is designed to retain more water rather than redirect it elsewhere.

“Everything from the school to the Upshur, Tingle area to Buckingham ... all flows out to West Street currently,” he said. “We’re not configuring anything to redirect water. The two stormwater features will hold more water. So, you expect to see a reduction of flooding within the roadways themselves.”

Tyndall maintained that the greatest flooding concerns are typically around the intersection of West Street, Abbey Lane and Westminster Drive.

“This should, hypothetically, hold more of that water in these submerged gravel wetlands as opposed to being in the public right-of-way or in citizens’ yards,” he said.

However, Lemasters cautioned

that the project is not a complete solution.

“This is where we’re doing something to improve the situation,” he said. “It’s not a solution to flooding at Abbey and West since we still have that bottleneck existing.”

Orris asked whether retaining more water upstream could create problems because the existing drainage pipe at West Street remains only 24 inches in diameter.

Lemasters responded that the older facilities were originally designed to manage roughly an inch of rainfall, while the upgraded ponds will be capable of managing approximately 3.6 inches of rainfall over a 24-hour period.

Council Vice President Dean Burrell asked how much additional water the ponds would hold. Lemasters estimated their storage capacity would increase by roughly four times after construction.

Councilman Jay Knerr asked whether residents would notice a significant reduction in flooding once the project is complete.

“I think we’ll have a significant reduction,” Lemasters said.

Questions also arose about downstream impacts east of Route 113.

Lemasters said all stormwater in the watershed eventually reaches that area, but because the new facilities will retain substantially more runoff, he expects flows east of the highway to decrease as well.

Residents, however, expressed concerns that the project fails to consider the longstanding and severe flooding issue many homeowners must endure.

Resident Mary Hedlesky said that while she appreciated efforts to reduce flooding near West Street and Abbey Lane, the initiative does not address chronic drainage issues affecting nearly 30 homes farther upstream.

“I’m still watching my yard flood away,” Hedlesky said.

She argued that years of permits allowing swimming pools, patios, and other impediments within drainage swales have blocked the natural flow of water, causing it to back up into residential properties rather than reaching the stormwater ponds.

“This isn’t going to help any of that

See RESIDENTS Page 14

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The Snow Hill Pharmacy, operated by Jeff Sherr and his family of Apple Drugs, had provided medication service to the Worcester County Jail for 27 years.

Snow Hill, county officials discuss pharmacy change

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) Snow Hill residents are rallying around the town’s only pharmacy after learning the Worcester County Jail has stopped using the longtime local business to provide medication for inmates.

Snow Hill Pharmacy owner Jeffrey Sherr said he feels stung that the county did not inform him the arrangement was ending, and that he only found out secondhand from a jail employee. He said his Market Street business has been the jail’s primary medication provider since opening its doors in 1999.

“Twenty-seven years. Nobody said anything. Nothing. It hurt us,” he said at a Snow Hill council work session Tuesday night.

After the pharmacy announced it would cut hours beginning Aug. 1, closing Wednesdays and Saturdays, residents began raising concerns online. Pharmacy employees have been circulating a petition to garner support, with about 150 signatures so far.

Sherr also said the business was in the red last year despite regularly billing the county more than \$120,000 annually for jail medications.

“Why in the heck would anybody in their right mind who’s losing \$13,000 on a business want to keep it open?” he said at the meeting, extending a pointed finger around the room. “For you all. That’s the reason behind it.”

Worcester County last fall dropped longtime jail healthcare provider Wellpath and its \$1.9 million contract. The county commissioners entered into a renewable 12-month contract with CFG Health that is about \$100,000 cheaper. It took effect Dec. 1.

The county said CFG’s deal also includes services that were pass-through costs under Wellpath, including prescriptions, hospitalizations, medical supplies, and some specialist care, reducing the need to drive inmates off-site for

medical and dental appointments. The local anxiety was enough for Snow Hill’s mayor and council to raise the issue at a work session Tuesday night, where elected officials and residents questioned how the change happened and whether anything could still be done.

At that meeting, Worcester County Administrator Weston Young told town officials he was not aware the local pharmacy relationship was in jeopardy until Sherr reached out. He See PHARMACY Page 14

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Pharmacy set to reduce hours

Continued from Page 13

said he then briefed the commissioners and tried to preserve the arrangement.

"We attempted to fix it. There were good-faith efforts by the county to try to make this work," Young said.

Historically, the jail and the pharmacy operated under a handshake agreement first struck under former Warden Ira "Buck" Shockley – one that Young was quick to note is an outlier among correctional facilities.

"This is not a normal arrangement," he said.

According to Young, CFG Health was open to using Snow Hill Pharmacy but wanted a formal contract in place. Both sides failed to come to terms after a brief negotiation. Without a written agreement, CFG stopped paying the pharmacy. Months passed and invoices got backed up.

By May 20, the pharmacy said it would no longer deliver medicine unless orders were paid cash-on-delivery. CFG immediately switched to Correct Rx, a national pharmacy company that CFG uses at other facilities it manages. Young said he's worked to ensure the pharmacy is made whole on back payments.

Hours of operation became another sticking point. The jail runs 24 hours a day, but the pharmacy does not. After hours – on nights, weekends, or holidays – the jail sometimes had to take inmates to a hospital for certain medication. But inmate transports require two correctional officers, adding to liability and cost, according to Young.

Warden Tim Mulligan said the jail has an obligation to provide immediate medical care when inmates have urgent medication needs, including risks such as seizures or diabetic shock. He said 79 of 133 inmates were prescribed medication as of April 17.

Sherr questioned why the pharmacy was not informed earlier that a lack of around-the-clock service had become a concern, after county officials said the jail had long accepted that arrangement as the status quo.

"Nobody told us that there was a problem with the 24-7 scenario," he said.

Young added that CFG wanted to pay less than Snow Hill Pharmacy had historically received.

But Zack Sherr, the pharmacy vice president and Jeff's son, said the pharmacy offered the jail discounted pricing. He argued rising costs were driven partly by inmates being prescribed expensive name-brand specialty medications instead of generics.

Inside the pharmacy Tuesday, customer service representative Bonny Malin said customers have been coming in just to sign the petition. It's the only pharmacy for miles, with the closest alternatives in Pocomoke City, Berlin, or Salisbury. Some longtime customers come from as far as Delaware and Virginia.

"They prefer to come here because their pharmacist knows them and their history," Malin said.

Town Manager Rick Pollitt said county officials underestimated the value of keeping a pharmacy in Snow Hill and should have acted faster to bring the county, CFG Health, and the pharmacy together.

"Get out there, get in a room, shut the door, and don't come out until you have an agreement," he said. "That's the kind of leadership I think the community's looking for."

Residents seek flooding help

Continued from Page 12

to drain to get into those ponds," she said. "There are bigger issues."

Hedlesky worried the town could spend grant funding improving the ponds only to later discover it must reconstruct them again after addressing the neighborhood's drainage problems.

Lemasters said if water is unable to reach the ponds because drainage has been obstructed on private property, the project cannot solve that problem.

"If there's something impeding flow in the backyards, this project isn't directly helping that, and the impediment would have to be removed on the private property," he said.

Tyndall maintained that pursuing the grant-funded improvements does not mean the town is ignoring residents' concerns.

"We hear these things, but we have to work in the confines of the available funding," he said. "Rather than doing nothing at all, we want to make some meaningful strides to try and improve the area."

He added that the town could explore working with its attorney on future efforts to address structures built within drainage swales.

Resident Carol Rose asked why the town had relied on grants to address flooding that residents have experienced for more than a decade.

"There has to be money somewhere to take care of an issue that's been going on for 10 years," she said.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen explained that the grant's primary purpose is improving water quality entering Newport Bay, with flood reduction serving as an additional benefit.

"The primary focus of the fund is to improve the water quality in Newport Bay," Bohlen said. "At the same time, we can also address some of the stormwater mitigation problems."

Berlin scores \$50K in state grants for market, events

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) Downtown Berlin's festivals, arts programs and streetscape improvements received a monetary boost after the state awarded the town's Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District two grants totaling \$50,500.

The funding involves a \$34,000 Main Street Maryland grant through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and a \$16,500 grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

According to a Facebook post by the town's Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District, the grants will help pay for many of the community events and amenities that have become staples of downtown Berlin.

These grant dollars support the petting farm at the Berlin Farmers Market, entertainment during Oktoberfest and the town's New Year's Eve celebration, seasonal activities such as the Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt, and various downtown beautification projects.

"The Town of Berlin Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District has been awarded two grants that help make so many of the things you enjoy downtown possible," the social media post reads.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Maryland State Arts Council and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community

Development for believing in our community and continuing to invest in Berlin."

The Main Street and Arts and Entertainment Advisory Board, which meets quarterly, will determine how this year's funding will be spent on events, programming and downtown improvements.

Town officials said the funding helps retain community traditions while supporting efforts to bolster the appearance and liveliness of Berlin's historic district.

In other downtown enhancement news, community development leaders this year plan to create a self-guided walking tour highlighting Berlin's eye-catching murals.

The initiative was presented during the annual report of the Main Street Arts and Entertainment District Advisory Board at Monday night's Town Council meeting.

Cassandra Brown, the committee's chair, told the mayor and council that the group intends to create informational brochures directing visitors to the artistic walls.

Berlin's current murals available for reviewing include the inside of 410 Social, Noble Beast on Main Street, the Berlin Welcome Center, the Berlin Opera House Sign, Pitts Street Advertisements, Love Locks on Gay Street, Pollinator Way, Rev. Charles Albert Tindley, Roadie Joes, and the Henry Park basketball court.



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Tindley Day Celebration



The first Tindley Day celebration was hosted by the Germantown School Community Heritage Center, Beach to Bay Heritage Area and the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum on July 7 on the lawn of the museum. The Town of Berlin and the Worcester County Commissioners issued proclamations proclaiming July 7 forever as Tindley Day. The event featured readings about Tindley, who was born and raised in Berlin, as well as the Tindley Quartet performing several of his hymns with audience members joining in. Above, Gregory Purnell reads a town proclamation with Council members Steve Green and Jack Orris.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEACH TO BAY



Berlin police chief's request for records upgrade okayed

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 16, 2026) The Berlin Police Department wants a modernized communication system to streamline cross-agency collaboration and to enhance public safety.

At Monday night's Berlin Town Council meeting, Police Chief Howard Drewer asked the council to replace the department's current Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), Records Management System (RMS), and Mobile Computer Terminal (MCT) platforms.

Drewer said that the agency's existing system is functional but outdated and fails to meet a level of real-time information sharing expected in today's law enforcement industry.

The police chief said that Central-Square, the upgraded software, is used by Worcester County, Ocean City, and Ocean Pines. According to a staff report, "the system will improve communication, data sharing, officer safety, reporting capabilities, and operational efficiency while reducing duplicate data entry and administrative workload."

Additionally, the platform would allow the Berlin Police Department to communicate directly with the Worcester County Emergency Services 911 Center. Berlin dispatchers may currently only view 911 incidents on a read-only basis. Updates must be relayed through separate channels.

"We do not receive 911 calls, and we do not meet Maryland standards to dispatch those same calls," Drewer said. "What happens is they forward the information to us so we can have our officers respond. And we can only view them. With this access, we would be able to work within the same system which is set up with Worcester County, Ocean City, and Ocean Pines."

Drewer noted that right now, the Berlin Police Department's data comes only from the incidents in which Berlin has been directly involved. The modernized software offers video and image sharing, allowing Berlin to view audio and visual materials captured by the law enforcement agencies of Ocean City, Worcester County, and Ocean Pines.

One significant benefit of the updated software is its ability to bolster public safety. Drewer said that gathering information on suspects or suspicious individuals would be as quick as a hat trick.

"Say we had a subject that someone called in that was suspicious in their neighborhood," he said. "Currently, once we run their information through the National Crime Information Center, and they don't come back with any warrants, we can come back, we can call other agencies to find out if they've had contact with that person."

"What happens when we find out that person is a suspect for a rape in

the Town of Ocean City? [With the new platforms] We can work directly with these agencies and pull that information up at the touch of a button. Anyone that uses CentralSquare ... we can get that information from them saying, 'yes, we had contact with that person.'"

Drewer said that getting officers and dispatchers up to speed would take about a week each, with instruction taking no more than a month.

The total cost of implementing the proposed CAD/RMS/MCT platform is \$50,563 with an annual operating cost of \$21,500. The staff report says that industry estimates for setting up and maintaining a standalone CAD/RMS system are about \$500,000. Still, the price tag is reduced by participating in the proposed regional software.

To fund the project, the police department is applying for the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) administered by the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCCP).

However, if the grant is not awarded, the Town Council agreed this week to explore other ways to fund the modernized police system.

"We need to take a hard look at this," Drewer said.

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Opinion

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

Town’s furniture costs can be brought down

Town of Berlin officials, employees and some residents must not have bought furniture recently, judging from their reaction this week to the cost of the proposed re-furnishing of the renovated Town Hall.

The responses to the suggested price tag of roughly a quarter-million dollars for good quality desks, chairs, tables and shelves ranged from shock to a yearning to get it all.

None of that, of course, is realistic. Some employees, for instance, have suggested that the kind of furniture the town buys is a manifestation of the council’s opinion of them and the work they do.

On the other hand, some residents believe that this quarter-million-dollar price tag is excessive and that mixing and matching old and new furniture would be acceptable — even though it would be like wearing broken-down shoes with a new suit.

The one thing everyone should accept, however, is that furniture is more expensive than ever. The cost of materials and labor in furniture manufacturing has increased dramatically in the last five years.

Secondly, this furniture proposal was produced by a design team charged with creating a cohesive professional office theme, not a do-the-best-you-can interior.

Design services, such as PMC Commercial Interiors in Raleigh, North Carolina, say the average square foot cost of outfitting an office is now \$34, with a low end of about \$26. Town Hall is 11,200 square feet, so even at the low end the cost of furnishing it would be closer to \$300,000.

As the critics of this endeavor point out, the taxpayers, not the town, are paying for this. Consequently, the council’s appreciation of its employees has nothing to do with it. But neither should anyone want the town offices to look unprofessional.

Costs can be brought down. Not every desk needs the adjustable height feature and the art might be a do-it-yourself project. Further, the initial price is just a starting point, even if it is hardly surprising given the cost of things these days.

Letter

Crab feast offers candidates

Editor,

In Australia, voting is compulsory, and eligible citizens who fail to vote without a valid reason may receive a modest administrative penalty equivalent to \$20 or more. In the United States, voting is voluntary, and there are no penalties for choosing not to vote. Even so, voting is both a fundamental right and an important civic responsibility. Every eligible citizen should register to vote, learn about the candidates and issues on the ballot, and make their voice heard at the polls.

Worcester County Democrats are holding a Crab Feast July 19 at noon at the White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. This presents a wonderful opportunity for Worcester County voters to chat with and learn more about the following candidates seeking office.

Dan Schwartz – Democratic candidate for Maryland’s 1st Congressional District. Schwartz has emphasized protecting democracy, expanding access to affordable health care, supporting public education, and

defending Social Security and Medicare in his campaign against incumbent Andy Harris.

Lino Cressotti - Democratic candidate for the Maryland State Senate in District 38, is running to give Eastern Shore residents a stronger voice in Annapolis, with a focus on supporting working families, strengthening public education, expanding access to affordable health care, and promoting economic opportunities while protecting the region’s agricultural and coastal communities.

Roxie Dennis – Democratic candidate for Worcester County Commissioner, District 2. Dennis is a longtime community advocate who has focused her campaign on government transparency, responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and ensuring county government serves all residents.

Vicky Wallace – Democratic candidate for Worcester County Commissioner, District 5. Wallace is campaigning on fiscal responsibility, protecting the county’s natural resources, supporting public safety, and encouraging balanced economic development.

Martin Radinsky – Democratic candidate for Worcester County Orphans’ Court. Radinsky is seeking to bring fairness, integrity, and careful attention to the court’s responsibilities in handling probate and estate matters.

Shelley Johnson – Democratic candidate for Maryland House of Delegates, District 38A. Johnson, a Princess Anne town commissioner, has emphasized improving education, strengthening health care access, supporting working families, and creating economic opportunities on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Kathy Cater – Democratic candidate for Worcester County Board of Education. Cater is focused on supporting students and teachers, maintaining high academic standards, promoting transparency, and ensuring responsible stewardship of school resources.

An informed electorate is essential to a strong democracy. Come join us for a fun and informative afternoon. More information is available at DCWC@gmail.com.

Tish Michel
(The writer is a member of the Worcester County Democratic Central Committee.)

BAYSIDEGAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$90/year or \$45/6 mos.
Visit us on the Web at www.baysideoc.com.
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Furnace Town cancels annual Faire

Renaissance event’s success dependent on sponsorships

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(July 17, 2026) Furnace Town has canceled its Renaissance Faire this fall because of a lack of funding, its executive director said, though the event is expected to return in 2027.

The faire has been held annually since 2021 and was scheduled for Sept. 26 and 27. But it costs about \$60,000 to produce, more than Furnace Town Historic Site can afford under its current financial constraints, Executive Direc-

tor Claudia Nagle said.

“No one is happy about it, including us, but the reality is that the funding picture for small nonprofits – it’s a challenging time,” she said.

Nagle said the pause would allow it to concentrate its resources on preserving the historic site and sustaining its primary mission.

Furnace Town operates with two full-time employees, two part-time employees, and about 20 volunteers. Nagle said staging the fair requires significant preparation before, during, and after the event.

The organization also pays performers brought in from across the East Coast, includ-

ing stilt walkers, musicians, fire breathers and an entertainment troupe that covers emcee duties.

Although the fair generates revenue, Nagle said it barely covers its costs without sponsorship support.

She said Furnace Town also does not want to make up the difference by substantially raising admission prices.

“We have to keep our ticket prices reasonable” for families, she said.

Worcester County provides Furnace Town with \$40,000 annually toward its operating costs. The nonprofit’s total annual operating

See RENAISSANCE Page 19

Teen, MSP trooper injured at Route 50 intersection

(July 16, 2026) Maryland State Police continue to investigate a trooper-involved crash that occurred shortly before 8:30 p.m. Sunday in Berlin.

A Maryland State Trooper was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, and later flown by Maryland State Police Aviation Command to a local trauma center for treatment of his injuries. The driver of a Land Rover, a 16-year-old male, was also flown by Maryland State Police helicopter to a local trauma center for treatment of his injuries.

Troopers from the State Police Berlin Barrack responded to the area of eastbound Route 50 at Route 818 for a report of a two-vehicle crash.

According to a preliminary investigation, the Land Rover was travel-

ing north in an attempt to cross the intersection and failed to yield to oncoming traffic, subsequently striking the Maryland State Trooper, who was eastbound on U.S. Route 50. The Maryland State Trooper was in his marked patrol vehicle at the time of the crash.

Assistance on scene was provided by personnel from the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Berlin Police Department, and Berlin Fire Company.

Upon completion, the investigation will be presented to the Office of the State's Attorney in Worcester County to determine whether charges will be filed.

Renaissance Faire postponed

Continued from Page 18

budget is about \$250,000, Nagle said.

Nagle introduced the fair after becoming Furnace Town's executive director in September 2020, and the first, smaller version was held in 2021. It typically attracts about 3,000 visitors.

She said the cancellation brought an unexpected wave of positive feedback from people who had made the faire an annual tradition.

"I knew people enjoyed it," she said. "I didn't necessarily know how much."

Spread across 20 wooded acres in the Pocomoke Forest outside Snow Hill, Furnace Town is a living-history village. The nonprofit preserves the remains of the Nassawango Iron Furnace, where bog iron was produced during the 19th century, along with historic buildings relocated from

around Worcester County.

Its collection includes a church, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, woodshop, broom house and weaving house. Furnace Town uses the buildings for school tours and demonstrations of the trades and daily routines of the former company town.

Furnace Town still plans to host a fiber arts event in November. Nagle said that program is less costly, more closely tied to the site's historical mission and is being organized with help from an outside group providing volunteers and other support.

Looking ahead, Nagle said the Renaissance Faire would return in September 2027, though it may be reduced from two days to one. Furnace Town would first need to secure sponsorship and volunteer support before committing to a format and dates.

Pines Golf Club to host tournament Aug. 1-2 weekend

(July 17, 2026) The Ocean Pines Golf Club will host its Club Championship on Saturday, Aug. 1, and Sunday, Aug. 2, with tee times beginning at 8 a.m. each day.

The Championship Flight will be played from the tips with no handicap. There will be handicap flights from the Green and Orange tees.

This tournament is open to all Ocean Pines residents. Players do not have to be members of the Ocean Pines Golf Club in order to participate.

Registration is \$45 for golf members, and \$90 for residents.

For more information and to sign up, call the Pro Shop at 410-641-6057.



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Puzzles

BOXED SETS

BY RICH KATZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rich Katz, of San Francisco, does freelance work in corporate restructuring. He says crossword construction and his job solving complex problems in the finance world scratch similar itches: Each involves finding the best solution to a challenge within a set of constraints. Rich's favorite clue and answer here is 41-Across. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Firm up

8 Capital city on the Gulf of Guinea

13 Gamer's pursuit

19 Aid for a violin player

20 Crocs and mocs

21 Kind of costume that includes a round hat and kerchief

22 {Elijah, Ruth, Natalie}

24 "Send a quick reminder"

25 "___ it and rip it!" (aggressive golfer's mantra)

26 Org. for those leaving the work force

27 Product displays seen at entrances to store aisles

28 {Kerouac, Dubya, Ginsberg}

35 Colored

36 Org. that accepts returns

37 Grinders

41 {WC, AC, DC}

49 Jewish mysticism, in one spelling

50 Love, in Lima

51 Card game whose name is shouted

52 Knee part often torn by athletes, in brief

53 At any time

54 Small test subjects

57 Enforcer of traveling restrictions, informally?

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords

60 "The Second Coming" poet, 1919

62 Ragú competitor

63 The Shakespearean version of this has three quatrains followed by a couplet

66 {Bonnie, Oscar, Clyde}

70 Some salon tasks

71 "Hammerin' Hank" of baseball

72 Allow someone to pass

75 30-ounce Starbucks size

78 Old Testament patriarch

80 Close by

81 Early email provider

82 Rightmost hour on a grandfather clock

85 Neighbor of an Estonian

86 Evening that a couple spends together, say

88 {Larry, Sue, Emma}

94 Mexican mister

95 Veer, as a ship

96 Org. concerned with plants

97 {Cinnabon, Kool-Aid, Hi-C}

107 Powerhouse in English football

110 Home to Waikiki Beach

111 California's ___ Linda

112 Rested atop

113 {Landfill, goose feathers, junkyard}

119 Pay no mind to

120 Longtime TriBeCa restaurant where some say the Cosmopolitan was invented, with "the"

121 Thousands of binary digits

122 Was overflowing

123 Van Halen of Van Halen

124 Extended voyage

DOWN

1 Angel's ___ (distiller's term for the whiskey that evaporates during aging)

2 Shinbone

3 Completely incompetent

4 Time for Sat. prep?

5 Marshland

6 Suffix for superlatives

7 Unspecified member of a series

8 Nile dam

9 Triad, e.g.

10 Assume

11 Lead-in to River or Rover

12 Dummkopf

13 Broadcaster of many an N.C.A.A. game

14 Called for quiet

15 Penny ___ (miser)

16 Lingerie brand with a Slavic-sounding name

17 Fun time

18 "___ bon!"

19 Bygone N.Y.C. music venue with rhyming initials

23 Wisconsin's ___ Claire

27 Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"

29 Apt name for a conchologist?

30 Ear-related

31 Yank's Civil War foe

32 What has flatter feet?

33 Achieve success, so to speak

34 Chinese instrument with two strings

38 Sound of an approaching subway train

39 Start of a reminiscence

40 Word with confidence or checkout

41 Do some roadwork on

42 Folk religion akin to voodoo

43 Battered by battle

44 Women's areas in old Muslim palaces

45 Last stage of an insect's development

46 "No way, no how!"

47 Neurosurgeons, e.g.: Abbr.

48 Metric unit of weight

49 Map legend

55 Figs. related to car loans

56 Scottish hill

58 Big bunch

59 Eroded

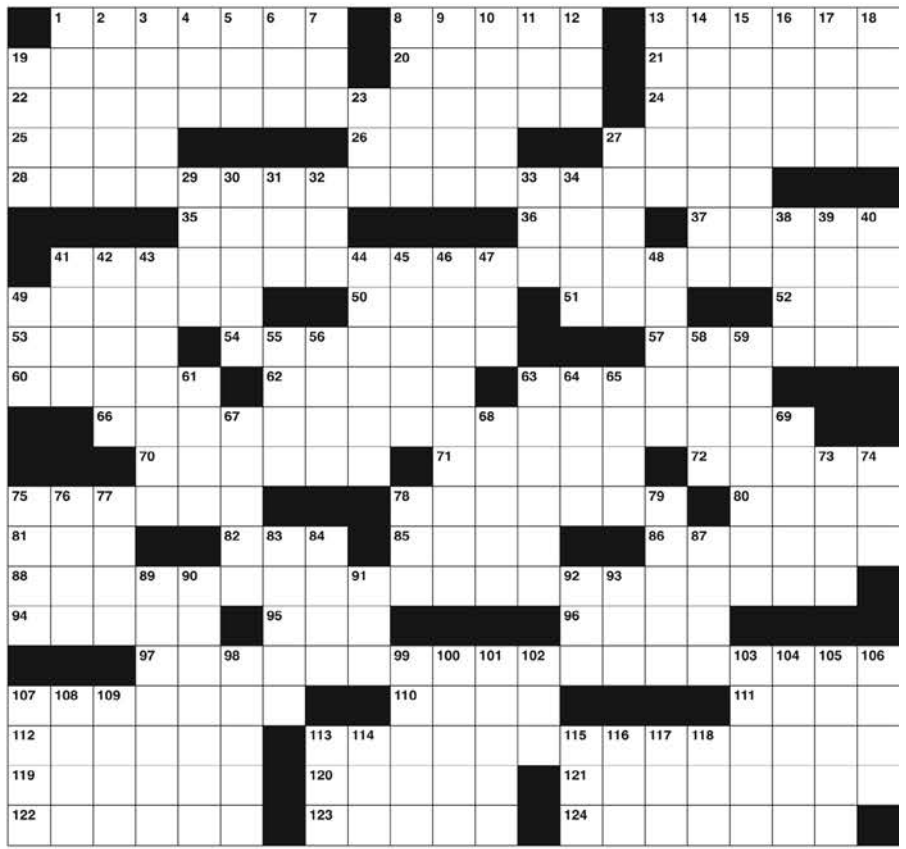
61 Pouty mood

63 Lead-in to sphere, in the atmosphere

64 "Hey! I know the answer!"

65 Atlantic crosser of 1492

67 Sign outside a broadcast booth



- 68 Wayne's buddy in "Wayne's World"

69 Admit

73 Really weak, as an excuse

74 Beats by ___ (audio brand)

75 They might be up in arms, informally

76 T. ___ Price (investment firm)

77 "I bought this before ___ went crazy" (rueful bumper sticker on a Tesla)
- 78 He was né Clay

79 ___ pork (dish in a Chinese restaurant)

83 Tale of rustic life

84 "Vidi," in Caesar's boast

87 Satirist Freberg

89 You won't actually die of it

90 Rocks smelted to make steel

91 Conflict sparked by an archduke's assassination: Abbr.
- 92 San Francisco's ___ Valley

93 Madrid's land, in the Olympics

98 Like Olympic pools

99 Like some cars parked next to "No Parking" signs

100 Vietnam's capital

101 Old-fashioned "your"

102 Soldier for Attila

103 Black suit

104 Good pal

105 Out of gas
- 106 Lip

107 Settled down, in a way

108 All the ___

109 Kind of wave

113 Last name for an unnamed person

114 Curious

115 Ring result, in brief

116 Secreted away

117 Ron who played Tarzan

118 Two in Tijuana

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HARD - 25

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

RAJAH	TEAT	AQUAS	MOSS
OXIDE	ARCO	BURNT	SALON
SOLD	LIKE	HOTCAKES	AKIRA
ANTOINE	ETA	REM	CLEVER
NOSH	SHOOK	LIKE	LEAF
SASSIER	YSL	COLDEST	
VOL	DEET	GAP	OLAV
WATCHED	LIKE	AHAWK	EATS
SPIRE	ODIN	AXE	ILLBET
STOCKS	AWOL	DECO	ORA
STUCK	OUT	LIKE	ASORE
HAD	NASH	ITCH	ASSETS
OREGON	OJS	BEEB	OATHS
ESSO	DROPPED	LIKE	FLIES
OBIE	BYE	LENT	MEN
ANDALSO	ALA	LEAFLET	
BUILT	LIKE	ATANK	ELLA
ARGOTS	DAS	UKR	DIOSMIO
BOISE	WORKED	LIKE	ACHARM
ERRED	ANNIE	ELIE	KAUAI
LAIR	YESNO	SLAP	STINT



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LAWN CONCERT
The Second Sundays concert series on the lawn of the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum continued last Sunday with the State Beach Project featured with other town musicians joining in.

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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
Friday10:30am-12:30pm	201 S. Heron Drive #26B, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$574,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday11am-1pm	12301 Jamaica Ave #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday1-3pm	9900 Coastal Hwy #1409, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$589,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	26738 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$347,500	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	26740 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$349,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	562 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$475,000	Debbie Bennington/ BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	1108 Saint Louis Ave Unit, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Townhome	\$479,000	Taylor Fowlkes/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	5 73rd Street, Ocean City	2BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$720,000	Joe Wilson/Coastal Life Realty Group
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	12301 Jamaica Ave #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	254 Stacy Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$1,595,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	75 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	12089 St. Martins Neck Rd, Bishopville	5BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$945,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	140th Street #3, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$550,000	Danny Taglienti/Keller Williams Realty
Sat & Sun 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2pm	843 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$559,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1-3pm	6201 Coastal Hwy #806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,778,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10:30am-12:30pm	30847 E Annie Lank Ave, Unit 1203, Milton, DE	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	23143 Corsair Drive Selbyville, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$424,000	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	201 S. Heron Drive #26B, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$574,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	9900 Coastal Hwy #1409, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$589,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Monday 10:30am-12:30pm	12301 Jamaica Ave #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm	9900 Coastal Hwy #1409, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$589,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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Calendar

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

Thurs., July 16

SUNSET PARK CONCERTS
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “The Fitz-kee Brothers Featuring Chris Vitarello.” Admission to the park is free.
<https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sunset-park-party-nights/>

STORYTELLING ON THE LAWN
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m. Featuring “Outside In.” Free event. Bring a chair.

OCEAN PINES CONCERTS IN THE PARK
White Horse Park Pavilion, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Free community event featuring “Hurricane Kevin Cat 5.” Food for sale. BYOB welcome. 410-641-7052

FULTONTOWN THEATRE CO. PRESENTING — THE MECHANICALS ATTEMPT ... THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR JOHN FALSTAFF
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 7:30 p.m. Featuring words by William Shakespeare. Excerpts from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” “Henry V,” “Hamlet” and more. Bring a chair or blanket.
www.taylorhousemuseum.org

THE DINO-SIZED MAGICAL CIRCUS!
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. How can Circus Greg make his juggling, rolling-globe walking, plate spinning, and magic trick show more exciting? By adding a dinosaur. But he needs your help to do it. For ages 6-11. 410-641-0650

FANCY NANCY PARTY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Boys and girls, join in for “tea,” tattoos and tutus. Dress fancy and be ready to get messy. Light refreshments available. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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 0-5 years. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Pocomoke City 50plus Center, 400 Walnut St., 11 a.m. Hosted by the Worcester County Health Department. Held on the third Thursday of each month. 410-632-1100, ext. 1113

LET’S MAKE ... BYO CRAFTS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Bring your own craft project and work alongside other adult crafters. Share and exchange ideas,

skills and supplies. A unique assortment of supplies will be provided. 410-641-0650

THE DINO-SIZED MAGICAL CIRCUS!
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. How can Circus Greg make his juggling, rolling-globe walking, plate spinning, and magic trick show more exciting? By adding a dinosaur. But he needs your help to do it. For ages 6-11. 410-957-0878

NAILED IT! DINO EDITION
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Work in a group to complete a food decorating challenge. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

JURASSIC STITCHES
Maryland’s Coast - Worcester County Tourism & Economic Development, 107 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 3:30 p.m. Teens and adults are invited to design your own embroidery Dino craft. There will be dinosaur beads, letter beads, colorful shapes and more. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

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

Fri., July 17

FANDOM FRIDAY: CRYPTIDS
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, <https://worcesterlibrary.org>

KIDS BOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Put on your party shoes and dance along to popular music hits. Glow sticks and light refreshments provided while supplies last. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, 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

UNEARTHING THE PAST: A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO FOSSILS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Held also via Zoom. See real examples from around Maryland and hear what they reveal about the state’s ancient environments. Registration only if joining through

zoom: 410-208-4014.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 6 p.m. Watch the original movie based on the best seller from author Michael Crichton. Light refreshments. Registration required: 410-957-0878. worcesterlibrary.org

Sat., July 18

OCEAN CITY SUMMER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Racquet Center, 104 61st St., 8 a.m. Participants should have experience in playing pickleball prior to entering the tournament. For adults ages 18 years and older. Cost is \$40 per team. Registration: 410-524-8337 by July 16.

ANNUAL ART HANSEN MEMORIAL YOUTH FISHING CONTEST
South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines. Registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Contest from 9-10:30 a.m. Bring rod and reel. Bait and water provided. Ages 4-16 years. Free event. All registrants will receive a prize. Lee Phillips, 410-208-1575

SANDCASTLE BUILDING CONTEST
Ocean Pines Beach Club, 49th Street, 5-7 p.m. Bring your sand tools and your imagination. All ages welcome. Prizes for first, second and third places. Must pre-register: 410-641-7052, Kgoetzing@oceanpines.org.

SUMMER SEAS FAMILY SPLASH
Swim & Racquet Club Pool, 10 Seabreeze Road, 5-8 p.m. A relaxing night in a tropical themed, Caribbean atmosphere. Enjoy music by DJ and activities. Food available for purchase. Cost is \$9 for swim members, \$11 for residents and \$13 for non-residents. 410-641-5255

SNOW HILL RIVER FEST
Sturgis Park, River Street, Snow Hill, noon to 8 p.m. Featuring kayak races, paddle board races, anchor toss competition, corn-hole tournament and the 3rd Annual Pocomoke River Raft Race (build your own raft). Also beer, food, live music, prizes and vendors. Register: www.snowhillchamber.com/river-fest

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BABYSITTERS CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Make crafts inspired by your favorite babysitter and design a kid kit to take with you. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

FREE KIDS CRAFT SATURDAYS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring “Bubble Painting.” Guided crafts led by friendly instructors. All supplies provided. Jessica Bauer, develop-

ment@artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

IT’S BBQ CHICKEN TIME
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. 1/2 BBQ chicken with two sides, roll and drink for \$15 or 1/2 BBQ chicken, roll and drink for \$12. Proceeds benefit St. Paul United Methodist Church Men’s Ministry.

GOD’S CLOSET OPEN
New Hope United Methodist Church, 7348 New Hope Road, Willards, 12-2 p.m. Helping families in need with clothing and t-shirts, underwear, socks, shoes, dishes and basic essentials. God’s Closet will be open the third Saturday of each month.

ORIGINALS ONLY - NO COVERS, JUST CREATORS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Live from the Art League of Ocean City: local musicians and creators perform their original compositions. Free event. Advanced registration preferred: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/events/28>. 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., July 19

OCEAN CITY SUMMER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Racquet Center, 104 61st St., Ocean City, 8 a.m. Participants should have experience in playing pickleball prior to entering the tournament. For adults ages 18 years and older. Cost is \$40 per team. Registration: 410-524-8337 by July 16.

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Making Waves: Upbeat Dance.” Kids’ activities and ice cream for purchase. Followed by fireworks. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sundaes-in-the-park/>

SPORTS CARDS & MEMORABILIA SHOW
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sports cards, Al Bumbry autographs, silent auction (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), collectibles, raffles, 50/50, mystery boxes and more. Admission cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 9 years and younger. 443-978-0680

ANNUAL FOREMAN’S DAY
Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607

Calendar

Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 11 a.m. Foreman Day 2026 “United in Love Stronger Together.” Ephesians 4:1-7. Guest speaker will be Minister Chanté Walker-Beckett. Host pastor is Minister Carolyn Schoolfield.

WORCESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATICS ANNUAL CRAB FEAST
White Horse Park, Ocean Pines, 12-4 p.m. Meet the candidates and enjoy crabs, fried chicken, corn-on-the-cob and side dishes. Bring own beverages and a dish to share if you choose. Cost is \$60. Reservations: 301-615-3384.

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.TheBerlin-FarmersMarket.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., July 20

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

STORY TIME: SPORTS
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, <https://worcesterlibrary.org>

YOU CAN BANK ON IT: FINANCIAL PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND PROVIDERS
Maryland’s Coast - Worcester County Tourism & Economic Development, 107 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 12-1 p.m. The Bank of Ocean City will lead this free workshop providing attendees with some banking knowledge. Light refreshments provided. Pre-register: <https://tinyurl.com/Power-HourJuly20>, 443-783-6164.

MONDAY MOVIES AND MUNCHIES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come sink your teeth into a dino-rrific movie. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 4:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumba-joyceoc@gmail.com

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. Held weekly on Mondays. <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., July 21

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. This 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. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

DIGGERY’S DINO ADVENTURE
Snow Hill Train Station, Snow Hill, 10:30 a.m. Kids will help return the baby dino to its mother in this high-energy show featuring animated dinosaurs, a giant egg, music, magic and plenty of audience participation. For families. 410-632-5622

STORY TIME
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A 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

MINI MAKERS ART MORNING
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Toddlers, preschoolers and big kids can explore, create and imagine with a variety of art supplies. Dress for a mess. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

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

MOMMY/DADDY & ME CRAFT TIME
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 11 a.m.-noon. Featuring a short story and craft. Parents may need to assist child with crafts. All materials provided. Cost is \$4. Pre-registration required: 410-641-7052, www.oceanpines.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

DIGGERY’S DINO ADVENTURE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Kids will help return the baby dino to its mother in this high-energy show featuring animated dinosaurs, a giant egg, music, magic and plenty of audience participation. For families. 410-208-4014

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SEAFOOD NIGHT
Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Steamed crabs, crab cakes, fried seafood platters, and a menu for all is available. You must pre-order crabs by calling 410-524-7994 or visiting <https://koc9053-seafoodnights.square.site/>.

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., July 22

MOVIES ON THE BEACH
Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m., Featured movie is “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie.” Bring blankets, chairs and snacks. Movie lineup: [\[cean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/\]\(http://cean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/\).](https://www.oco-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

KIDS PAINT NIGHT
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5:30-6:30 p.m. For ages 8 years and older. Cost is \$22 and includes all materials and instruction. Pre-registration required: 410-641-7052.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS
Ocean Pines Yacht Club Pool, 1 Mumfords Landing Road, 6-8 p.m. DJ, games and prizes. Cost is \$5 per swimmer at the gate. Food available for purchase. 410-641-7052, oceanpines.org

DIGGERY’S DINO ADVENTURE
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Kids will help return the baby dino to its mother in this high-energy show featuring animated dinosaurs, a giant egg, music, magic and plenty of audience participation. For families. 410-524-1818

MONEY SMART FOR OLDER ADULTS
Review some of the most common current scams, 12-1 p.m. Practice strategies for helping you avoid scams in the future. Register: <https://calvertlibrary.libnet.info/event/16364420>. 443-783-6164

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

‘BRANCHING OUT: VAN GOGH VIBES’
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Join local artist Jean Frank to create a work of art in the style of Van Gogh. Registration required: 410-641-0650. worcesterlibrary.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
TidalHealth Atlantic, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. Held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. 410-629-6848, lora.pangratz@tidalhealth.org

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

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

ZUMBA PLUS!!
Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 4:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumba-joyceoc@gmail.com

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