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BLESSING OF THE COMBINES

Snow Hill hosted more than 8,000 people last Saturday for its annual agriculture celebration, Blessing of the Combines, featuring a parade of historic tractors as well as modern combines of today. See page 20 for more photos.

Stoehr files for Berlin council

Seeks to fill District 1 seat left open by Green's victory in commissioner contest

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) Berlin Planning Commission Chairman Matthew Stoehr has announced he's running for the town's District 1 council seat this fall.

Stoehr joined the municipality's Planning Commission in 2019 and has served as its chair for the past two and a half years. Stoehr, who moved to Berlin in 2015 from Ocean City, now has his sights set on the Town Council.

Stoehr is campaigning for Councilmember Steve Green's position, who was elected to the Worcester County Commissioners in June, but won't take office until after the No-

vember general election. He will vacate his Berlin seat at the end of his term to assume his role as the county board's District 4 representative.

Following his graduation from Stephen Decatur High School in 2006, Stoehr earned an undergraduate degree in finance from Salisbury University. He also received a Master of Business Administration from Wilmington University in Delaware.

See MATT Page 3

Bertino give-back plan fails

Commissioner moved to return excess cash to county homeowners

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino's request this week to explore liquidating the county's \$15.2 million budget stabilization fund to provide rebates to resident homeowners failed Tuesday on a 3-4 vote.

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic responded with a lengthy, heated denunciation, at times raising his voice as he moved from objections to the proposal into personal criticism of Bertino and his motives.

"I was expecting something like this to happen," said Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City). "You have incredibly small-minded people that lost the election, that were voted out by the people, and you're going to go ahead and you're going to bankrupt the county because of that."

Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) lost his bid for a fourth term in the Republican primary and will leave office when the new board is sworn in this December. He stayed quiet throughout Mitrecic's diatribe and for the rest of Tuesday's meeting.

Asked afterward why he remained silent, Bertino said, "I didn't see that there was any reason to respond."

The budget stabilization fund is the county's rainy-day fund. Former

See ABBOTT Page 4

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Stoehr files for Town Council position in October election

Continued from Page 1

He said he has worked in an office setting since he was 22 and owns a home remodeling company called Mast Contracting.

Stoehr believes his professional experience will serve him well as a councilmember if elected. As a business owner, he said, he handles everything from accounting and budget forecasting to sales.

“Although those are a little different than what goes into the public sector, you always have to be able to learn something new because you have to be the expert in everything,” he said. “And on a city council, it’s very hard to know everything. So, your job is to know how to do your own research, ask the right questions, and be able to give people answers.”

The candidate added that owning a business has taught him how to “get comfortable making the tough and unpopular decisions.”

“I think that’s very important with anyone from the town council to have the ability to say, ‘this isn’t going to be popular, but this is what we have to do,’” Stoehr said.

As for the issues facing Berlin, Stoehr emphasized the need to prioritize communication. He maintained that while the municipality is doing a better job of transparency than ever before, the modern era of social media has led residents to feel entitled to constant access to information, sometimes more than town leaders can accommodate.

“With Facebook, Instagram, and social media, people want information continuously,” Stoehr said. “I think sometimes that can be tough to do, but you need to have open and honest communication, and that’s what I plan on doing.”

“If I say something that’s not popular but is the truth, I’m fine with it if people are mad at me. I just don’t want people to get false expectations of an issue that’s happening.”

If elected, Stoehr said he intends to advocate against annexation, noting that he has opposed expanding the town’s boundaries as a member of the planning commission.

Stoehr contend that prioritizing construction on infill lots would do more for Berlin’s residents than expanding its border would, while preserving its small-town character.

“The other thing I hope to accomplish is continuing with infill,” he said. “... We go up, and we fill in the empty lots in town. I want to continue to push for that, whether it’s commercial, mixed residential, mixed commercial, mixed use ... When we infill properties ... it is allowing us to bring in additional tax revenue without expanding our borders and putting an even greater burden on our resources like trash, wastewater, fire, police.”

Stoehr said that as a councilmember, he plans to serve his constituents through open and honest communication and a willingness to listen to alternative perspectives.

He claimed he honed this skill throughout his work on the Berlin Planning Commission.

“Sitting in meetings, there would be other people on the planning commission who had differing viewpoints,” the candidate said. “I would talk to them before, during, and after the meetings, and it was so important to hear a different person’s viewpoint to get out of your own echo chamber. And there were times it absolutely changed my opinion on something because I began to listen to stuff from the other side.”

Berlin’s municipal election is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6 and will determine the town’s District 1, District 4, and at-large delegates. Those elected will each serve four-year terms.

According to the Town of Berlin’s website, polls will be open for voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day. Residents from Districts 1 and 2 will cast their ballots at Buckingham Presbyterian Church, while those in Districts 3 and 4 will vote at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Mail-in voting is also available, and applications must be received by the Town of Berlin Customer Service Office at 14 S. Main Street by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22, if submitted by mail. The deadline for forms delivered in person is 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

Voters may contact the Town of Berlin Customer Service Office at 410-641-4002 or email kdaub@berlinmd.gov for additional election information.

So far, We Heart Berlin founder Tony Weeg has filed for District 4 seat currently held by Council Vice President Dean Burrell. Burrell has said he intends to step down at the conclusion of this term.

Incumbent Jay Knerr has also filed to run for re-election to the at-large seat.

Others interested in throwing their hats into Berlin’s election ring may do so until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8. For write-in candidates, the filing deadline is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22.



Matthew Stoehr

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Abbott switches sides to block Bertino plan

Continued from Page 1

commissioners created the account in the wake of the 2007-08 recession, when the county faced a multimillion-dollar budget shortfall. It is separate from the county's mandatory reserve fund.

Bertino asked county staff to determine whether the fund could legally be divided among roughly 12,000 properties approved for the Homestead Tax Credit and returned through one-time rebate checks. Dividing the full balance equally would amount to about \$1,266 per property.

His motion, seconded by Commissioner Jim Bunting, directed staff to determine whether the county could legally issue the rebates and report back by the commissioners' first meeting in September. It would not have authorized the county to spend the money or issue any checks.

"It wasn't to say that we would do it, but rather that they would come back to us as to whether or not we could do it," Bertino said after the meeting.

The motion failed with "no" votes from Commissioners Caryn Abbott, Diana Purnell, Eric Fiori, and Mitrecic. Commissioners Bertino, Bunting, and Ted Elder voted "yes."

Bertino said he had been told immediately before the meeting that four commissioners would support

his motion.

He would not identify the expected fourth vote, but said Mitrecic's warnings about funding for commissioners' districts appeared to affect "the commissioner that said that she was gonna vote with me."

Mitrecic said he opposed tapping the stabilization fund and argued, if it were to be used, that the money should go toward projects benefiting a broader share of the county, including school construction, a public safety building, and water and sewer improvements.

"We need to use this money to benefit all the people of the county, whether they're tourists, or residents, or renters, or business owners," he said.

He also said about \$11 million of the stabilization fund came from non-resident property owners in Ocean City not shielded by the Homestead.

"You're talking about taking Ocean City's nonresident taxpayers' money and giving it to residents around the county," Mitrecic said to Bertino. "What about the nonresident taxpayers in Ocean Pines? You know, I'm sorry you lost, but you're going to try

to cripple the county because of it?"

Mitrecic also said he would pursue legal action if a rebate were ultimately approved and warned that commissioners who supported the motion could face consequences when the board considers future funding for their districts.

"I'll guarantee you this: Anybody who votes for this, I will do everything I can to make sure their district gets zero moving forward," he said.

Mitrecic later connected the proposal to recent disputes between the commissioners and the Worcester County Board of Education.

"This is direct retribution against the board of education," he said. "That's what this is. And it's petty and small."

Bertino rejected that accusation. "This has nothing to do with the board of education," he said. "It has everything to do with the taxpayers of this county."

Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, West Ocean City) opposed the motion, saying the county had already reduced costs for resident homeowners by lowering the property tax rate

and setting the Homestead Tax Credit cap at zero.

"This is a ludicrous idea that's going to bankrupt the county. I think it's vindictive," he said. "We give it all away, and times get tough, you know what happens? We have to raise taxes. This is a terrible idea."

Commissioner President Ted Elder defended Bertino's request and objected to Mitrecic's past references to the stabilization account as a "slush fund."

Elder (District 4, Western) said the fund had remained unused for years and that returning the money to resident homeowners could stimulate the local economy.

"It's time the taxpayers received it back from where they got it," Elder said. "Plus, it makes a beautiful stimulus package. That money goes to the people who own homes here, who live here, and that kind of stimulus check, they would be spending the money here."

Whether the county even has the authority to issue a rebate would have to be examined first by county staff, according to County Administrator Weston Young.

"The money is there. The legal mechanism to look at for a rebate is probably what's going to take the legwork," Young told the commissioners.

'You're talking about taking Ocean City's nonresident taxpayers' money and giving it to residents around the county'
Commissioner Joe Mitrecic

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Planned skate park waiting for word on three grant bids

Berlin’s proposed skating project hopes to receive thousands in outside funds

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) Advocates of the creation of a skate park in Berlin are waiting to hear if their bids for three six-figure grants that could advance the ambitious project were successful.

Residents and staff members hope to construct a skateboard complex at Heron Park to expand the area’s recreational offerings. According to Kate Daub, Berlin’s Associate Town Administrator, the municipality has three grant applications pending for that initiative: \$487,500 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), \$300,000 from Community Parks and Playgrounds (CPP), and \$100,000 from the Worcester County Health Department Transformation Collaborative.

Daub confirmed in an email to the Bayside Gazette this week that while she has not yet received official award notifications from the LWCF or the CPP program, she has “been advised that both applications have

advanced through each stage of the review process.”

“I’m hopeful that we’ll be hearing of determinations soon,” Daub said.

The LWCF is administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The program, which offers 50/50 matching grants, paves a path for local governments and state agencies to build outdoor recreation amenities, such as the planned skate park.

DNR also manages CCP, which provides funding to municipal governments to expand or construct community parks and/ or install playground equipment.

Daub said she has yet to receive any updates on the grant application for the Worcester County Health Department Transformation Collaborative.

We Heart Berlin, a nonprofit group committed to promoting and creating healthy and sustainable activities in town, has been working toward building a skate park. The campus would provide an additional recreational amenity for Berlin’s younger residents as well as adult skateboarders.

We Heart Berlin Founder Tony Weeg said earlier this year that \$975,000 is needed to construct a skateable facility. However, \$1.3 million is a more realistic figure when accounting for add-on features like shade structures and lighting.

A skate park has been a priority for We Heart Berlin for a few years.

In 2022, Spohn Ranch, a skate park design-and-build company based in Los Angeles, California, was hired to develop concept plans.

The skate park is slated to be 14,000 to 16,000 square feet and is adjacent to the space planned for Berlin’s new public works facility at Heron Park. The site will include a bowl, quarter pipes, and a pump track, which helps skaters learn to transition seamlessly without losing momentum.

Spohn Ranch’s design also incorporates amphitheater steps, a hipped bank, a grind ledge, an A-frame bank, a slappy curb, and a landscape area.

The initiative has been steadily progressing.

In April 2025, representatives from We Heart Berlin and Berlin Public Works Director Jimmy Charles conducted a walkthrough of the future park’s site and noted the structure’s dimensions.

Spohn Ranch is expected to complete the construction of the skate park complex when the time comes. The company will add the Berlin amenity to its schedule when the town cinches the necessary funding.

Project leaders will communicate updates as they become available.

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Annual county fair kicks off Friday

(Aug. 6, 2026) The Worcester County Fair returns this weekend to John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill for three days of agriculture, entertainment, and family fun. Admission is free, and the fair is packed with summer activities for those of all ages. Fair hours are Friday, Aug. 7 from 4–8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m.–8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

"We're thrilled to welcome the community back to the Worcester County Fair for the third consecutive year," said Worcester County Recreation & Parks Special Events Manager Kyle Jarmon. "The fair celebrates Worcester County's rich agricultural heritage while creating new traditions through entertainment, friendly competition, and family experiences."

This year's fair will feature livestock exhibits, 4-H cooking, robot and drone demonstrations, live music, contests, and more. Guests can test their skills in the Farmer Olympics, Pipeline Eating Contest, Turkey Calling Competition, and cornhole tournament, then take in crowd favorites, like the Catfish Races, cake auction, Wheels That Heal Car Show, Ocean City Jeep Club Show, local food, beverages, and interactive exhibits.

The entertainment lineup features the Leo Brooks Band, Ashley Wineland, Earth Jam, Free State Country Band, OCMD Boogiemens, and more performing all weekend long. All concerts are free.

The popular Worcester County Catfish Races return Friday and Saturday, with a \$5 entry fee and a \$500

cash prize awarded for the fastest fish.

Families will find nonstop fun in the Kids Zone, featuring face painting, the Fish-On Fishing Tank, inflatable bounce houses, a straw maze, and free carnival games. Saturday competitions will include watermelon eating, pie eating, greasy watermelon races, sack races, three-legged races, and donut-on-a-string challenges.

Browse more than 50 vendors offering handcrafted goods, local services, food trucks, specialty foods, and adult beverages. Explore indoor exhibits at the Worcester County Recreation Center, featuring entries from local residents.

For a full schedule along with any updates, visit www.worcestercounty-fair.org or follow the Worcester County Fair on Facebook.

The Secret Season: Why Fall is the Ultimate Time to Plant

by Stephanie Graves,
Owner, String and Petals Nursery

Autumn is right around the corner. As the leaves begin to change color, many gardeners pack away their tools for the season. However, experienced growers know a secret: fall is actually the best time to plant.

Why Autumn Planting Works

While spring gets all the attention, fall offers unique conditions that set your garden up for incredible success:

Warm Soil, Cool Air: Soil retains warmth from summer while the air temperature drops. This ideal pairing encourages robust root growth without the stress of scorching summer heat.

Less Water & Maintenance: Cooler weather and reliable autumn rain reduce water evaporation and transplant shock, meaning less time spent holding the hose.

Head Start for Spring: Plants established in the fall focus their energy underground all winter. Come spring, they burst forth with earlier blooms and lush foliage, while spring-planted additions are still trying to settle in.

What to Put in the Ground As The Temperatures Cool

Perennials & Shrubs: Fall is perfect for dividing overgrown perennials or introducing new hardy perennials and shrubs. They'll settle into their new homes with minimal fuss.

Spring Bulbs: Tulips, daffodils, and alliums need a cold winter slumber to flower. Tuck them into the soil before the ground freezes for a show-stopping spring display.

Cool-Season Greens: Garlic, spinach, kale, and radishes thrive in brisk weather and deliver a crisp, late-season harvest.

Fall Gardening Quick Tips

Water Deeply: Give new plants a thorough soak at installation to encourage deep root systems.

Mulch Up: Apply a 2-inch layer of mulch around new plantings to insulate roots against winter frost.

Here's what's blooming at STRING AND PETALS this August:

Buy One, Get One FREE Annuals: Stock up and keep your garden vibrant! All annual plants are BOGO.

End of Summer Sale happening soon, with savings of up to 25% off!

Cut-Your-Own Flowers: Create your own custom bouquet! Fresh blooms are available daily by the cup or vase.

Fall Prep in Progress: Our pumpkin patch is thriving, and fall mums are growing strong! Stay tuned—new perennials, shrubs, and seasonal favorites will be arriving soon.

Custom Garden Sourcing: Planning your fall garden? If you're looking for specific perennials or shrubs, let us know! We will do our best to source them for you so you're ready to plant as soon as the weather cools down.

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Price hikes impacting Berlin Fire Company

Department officials say additional funding needed for required replacements

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) Aging vehicles, rising maintenance costs and limited funding threaten the Berlin Fire Company's ability to replace critical equipment in the future, company officials told the Berlin Town Council last week.

During a presentation covering fire and emergency medical services activity last Monday, officials reported that firefighters responded to 232 fire and rescue calls between Jan. 1 and June 30. Of those, 87 calls, or 37.3%, were within Berlin, while 145 calls, or 62.7%, were outside town limits.

Over the past fiscal year, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the company handled 432 fire and rescue calls, including 161 in-town responses and 271 out-of-town responses.

Officials said fire and rescue crews were busiest on Sundays, followed by Fridays, with the highest call volume occurring between 3 and 4 p.m. A secondary peak came during the evening hours between 8 and 9 p.m.

The department also saw frequent overlapping emergencies. During the first six months of 2026, two fire or rescue calls occurred simultaneously 45 times, while three incidents happened at once on five occasions.

Despite the workload, response times improved. The average fire response time from Jan. 1 through June 30 was 2 minutes, 59 seconds, compared to 3 minutes, 31 seconds during the previous reporting period.

Fire officials attributed the improvement in part to crews becoming more experienced and efficient.

Volunteer firefighters also contributed more than 3,300 hours during the first half of the year, including 1,753.6 hours responding to emergencies and another 1,554.8 hours devoted to training, meetings and fundraising activities.

On the EMS side, the department responded to 1,088 calls during the first six months of 2026. Of those, 643 calls, or 59.1%, were within Berlin, while 445 occurred outside town.

For the full fiscal year, EMS crews handled 2,255 calls, including 1,323 in-town responses and 932 out-of-town responses, representing an increase of 109 in-town calls compared to the previous fiscal year.

Between January and June, EMS

crews completed 511 in-town transports and 132 in-town non-transports. During the full fiscal year, they completed 968 in-town transports and 355 non-transports.

EMS officials reported Mondays and Wednesdays were the busiest days for medical calls, with peak activity occurring between 11 a.m. and noon, followed by 1 to 2 p.m.

The average time from dispatch notification to responding was 1 minute, 25 seconds over the past fiscal year. Officials noted that figure includes delayed responses for third-run calls staffed by volunteers responding from home or ambulance transfers from hospitals.

While operational performance remained strong, officials warned that financial challenges continue to grow.

Fire rescue vehicle expenses exceeded budget by about \$33,000 during the past fiscal year, while building expenses were roughly \$40,000 over budget because of the age of the department's apparatus and station.

Officials said heat exchangers in the firehouse, original to the building, are due for replacement, and repairs to older fire trucks continue to increase.

The department recently com-

pleted replacement of its engine and rescue truck through a \$2.5 million loan that carries annual payments of approximately \$200,000 through Aug. 1, 2037. Those payments are funded with county out-of-town run revenue.

Officials noted the next engine replacement will involve a 1999 model that will be 38 years old by the time it is scheduled for replacement.

EMS officials also outlined future ambulance replacement costs, estimating a 2027 ambulance will cost about \$462,700 and a 2029 unit roughly \$487,200, with prices expected to continue rising.

While Worcester County provides \$75,000 annually toward ambulance purchases, town funding is limited to a \$15,000 contribution in the current fiscal year, with no additional commitment beyond that.

Officials warned that without additional town financial support, the next ambulance replacement cycle is not attainable.

Fire officials issued a similar warning regarding future capital needs, saying additional municipal funding will be necessary to maintain the department's replacement schedule for engines, breathing apparatus, ropes, and other essential equipment.

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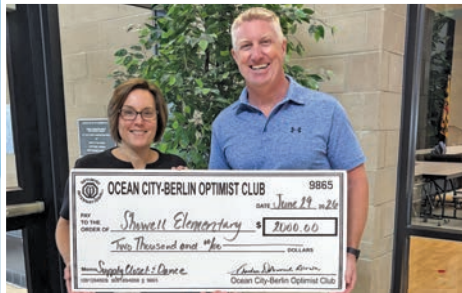
Ocean City Berlin Optimist present \$3,199.00 to Worcester Technical School for Skills USA & HOSA National Competitions. Pictured (l-r) Tony Bevilacqua, Principal, Club Member Gaby Remington (w/ baby Costa), Club VP Jill Anthony



The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club supports the children of Worcester County by providing funding for scholarships, sports, classroom/school events, arts, summer camps, incentive awards and supporting other nonprofits working for children in our Community. We host contest for High School Arts, Visual Arts, Essay and Oratorical; all with cash prizes.

For major fundraising each year the Club holds its Annual Seaside Boat Show and Youth Foundation Golf Tournament. Join us August 26th for the 16th Annual Golf Tournament at OC Golf Club and on Presidents Day Weekend for the Boat Show.

Since the Clubs' incorporation in 1974, and the Youth Foundation in 1992, we have donated over \$3 million to the local youth of our community. To learn more about being a member go to ocberlinoptimist.org.



Club member and Principal of Berlin Intermediate School Amy Gallagher presents \$2,000 to Ryan Cowder, Principal of Showell Elementary for stocking of school supply cabinets and their dance program.



The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club present \$1,000 to Ocean City Power Squadron for a Boater Safety Education program for kids. Pictured (l-r) OC Power Squadron members Fred Stehl, Marie Christensen, Dale Christenson, Doug Fischer; Club Golf Tournament Committee Chair, Susan Sewell.



The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club supports and donated \$2000 to the Buckingham Elementary School (BES) "House Program"! The House Program is a system that is designed to build community, encourage positive behavior, and foster a stronger sense of belonging and investment in the school. Pictured (l-r): Optimist Membership Chairman Roger Pacella, BES Assistant Principal Ashley Miller, BES Social Worker Cameron Runyon, BES Kindergarten Teacher Jessica Grimes, Optimist President Chris Dolomount-Brown, and BES Principal Dr. Danielle Jackson.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF
OUR LOCAL CHILDREN!



The Ocean City Berlin Optimist held a New Members Workshop in June to help new members learn about the numerous programs we offer to the children of our County. Pictured (l-r) Ellen Hench, Donna Smith, Margie Grivaz, Christine Torres, Tinsel Hughes, Peggy Forsythe, Club President Christina Dolomount Brown, Barbara Wasiakowski, Carol Dural, Marian Bickerstaff, Amy Gallagher, Michael Sabine and Dan Rzepkowski. Member volunteer for Club program and events, as well as provide Ushering services at the Performing Arts Center.



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GreatLIFE Golf purchases River Run course

(Aug. 6, 2026) GreatLIFE Golf of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania this week announced its purchase of River Run Golf Club off Route 589, Berlin. The newest addition is the company's 54th 18-hole equivalent golf course and the 21st facility it owns or leases.

"River Run is a fantastic asset for us and we are excited to bring GreatLIFE Golf to the Eastern Shore. The course is in a great location with significant growth potential and a robust golf population," said John Brown, GreatLIFE Golf CEO.

"Our vision for this facility is to combine proven turf management practices with a strategic operational approach to establish it as a must-play course in the region."

A statement issued by GreatLIFE Golf said the company anticipates making capital improvements to en-



Pennsylvania company GreatLIFE Golf this week announced its purchase of the River Run Golf Club located off Route 589.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

hance the property's playability and overall guest experience. The initial plans focus on improving tees, fairways, and greens through agronomic best practices, including targeted cul-

tural, chemical, and fertility programs. Long-term improvements will include evaluating the irrigation system, implementing a multiyear overseed program, and executing a master tree removal and replacement plan.

"River Run already has an outstanding foundation — a beautiful Gary Player design that golfers consistently praise for its layout and scenery. Our opportunity is to build on that by elevating the conditioning, service, and overall experience," said Jason Harshbarger, GreatLIFE Golf CFO.

"As a part-time Eastern Shore resident, I've always believed this region deserves a golf experience that's every bit as memorable as everything else Ocean City and the Eastern Shore

have to offer. We want River Run to become one of those courses that every visitor puts on their itinerary and every local is proud to call their home course."

With a design that reflects Gary Player's signature "bump and run" philosophy, the course offers a layout that creates an accessible golf experience for players of all handicap levels. The front nine is open, with generous fairways and modest bunkering. The back nine winds through classic Maryland pines. Throughout the course, lakes, wetlands, and natural marshes enhance both the challenge and the beauty of the property while showcasing the area's distinctive coastal landscape.



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Funds awarded to shops will expand fresh food options

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) A decades-old open-air produce cooler at Food Rite in Snow Hill held some apples, a few lemons, and one watermelon this week. A curtain of wide, clear plastic strips hung across the front to help keep in the cold air.

It is one of the aging fixtures the store's owners plan to replace with help from a \$90,000 state-administered grant.

Food Rite and Ocean City Organics in West Ocean City will receive a combined \$145,000 through Maryland's new NourishMD program to expand their capacity to stock fresh food. Ocean City Organics was awarded \$55,000.

The program is designed to expand access to fresh and healthy food in food deserts – places where residents have limited access to nutritious options.

The funding will pay primarily for refrigeration and food-storage equipment, improvements that owners of both stores said would allow them to keep more perishable products in stock. Neither store has received the money yet, pending additional paperwork and meetings with grant administrators.

Food Rite owners Gary Singh and his brother-in-law, Raj Singh, will use their \$90,000 grant for new refrigerated display cases, upgrades to a walk-in cooler, fresh produce bins, and improvements to the store's SNAP and EBT checkout equipment.

The Singhs bought the grocery two years ago from former owner Tarak "TJ" Patel and have been steadily renovating the aging building. The morning after the Singhs bought the store, rain came through the roof, eventually forcing them to replace six layers of old roofing material.

Gary Singh said they have already invested close to \$500,000 in the supermarket and expect to spend roughly that amount again during the next several months. The grant will cover only a portion of the planned work.

A new four-door meat cooler can cost between \$45,000 and \$50,000, he said.

"Every bit counts," Singh said. "Pretty much between us, a little bit from the bank, and the grants is how we're funding this operation right now."

Singh said the improvements are intended to give Snow Hill residents a cleaner, more modern place to shop while expanding the selection of produce and other fresh foods.

Singh added that many Food Rite customers depend on the store because they lack reliable transportation to larger stores. Some elderly cus-

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Food Rite owners Gary Singh and Raj Singh will use a \$90,000 grant to increase the community's access to produce and other fresh food products.

Grants will help local markets

tomers walk or bicycle to the grocery store, while the nearest Walmart is about 20 miles away in Berlin.

“Definitely, there’s a lot of needs in this area,” he said.

At Ocean City Organics, sisters and co-owners Kristie Williams and Heather Layton said the store has maxed out its refrigerated storage for produce and other perishable foods.

“What you see is what you get,” Layton said. “There is no back storage. We get it, it’s on the shelves, and we have to wait until the next truck to replenish.”

They plan to put grant funds toward an expanded walk-in refrigerator and freezer, new upright refrigerators and freezers, and an upgraded checkout system.

Employees now weigh produce on a separate scale, manually enter the price, then walk to the register and enter it again. The grant will pay for a scale integrated into the point-of-sale system.

The sisters purchase food directly from several area growers, including Splendid Earth Farms and Delilah’s Farm in Berlin, Chesterfield Heirlooms in Pittsville, Underwood Acres in Stockton, and Herbs and Spice in Selbyville.

Deliveries of organic produce arrive throughout the week, and some items stay fresh for only a few days. Williams said getting the additional equipment will allow the store to keep backup inventory rather than running out between deliveries.

An organic certification means food products are grown using no prohibited synthetic chemicals from pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, and no GMOs, Williams said.

Layton said the new refrigerators and freezers represent large purchases the business otherwise would have made gradually.

“It’s gonna be like Christmas,” she said. “We’re so excited.”

NourishMD awarded \$3.65 million to 44 organizations in 18 counties, with individual awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000, the governor’s

office announced this week.

Eligible businesses had to serve communities the state identified as having limited access to fresh food and devote at least 20 percent of their inventory or sales space to healthy food.

The program is funded with \$2 million in state money and \$1.65 million from the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. State officials said it prioritizes businesses that accept federal nutrition benefits or need assistance adding that capability.

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Saturday's Peach Festival a big hit, organizers report

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) As nearly 4,000 people flocked to the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum on Saturday for another successful Peach Festival, the organization's leaders say they are gearing up to host more fundraisers throughout the fall and winter months.

Taylor House Executive Director Melissa Reid said favorable weather, strong attendance, and several new attractions helped make last week-end's Peach Festival, the 18th annual, a success.

"It was hot but not super hot, and it didn't rain," Reid said. "We had a great time."

One of the event's biggest hits was a giant paper mache peach created by a Taylor House board member that served as a popular social media selfie station for guests.

"It was this huge, spectacular peach," Reid said. "We were so pleased about that, so we hope to figure out a way to store it and bring it back in the next few years."

While entertainment from the Bilenki Duo and the Berlin Airlift was well-received by the festival crowd, organizers were relieved that peach supplies held up despite earlier concerns that an April freeze might have caused a shortage.

"Thank heavens we had our peaches," Reid said. "We had peaches, we had peach preserves."

The executive director added that a new artistic partnership included in this year's Peach Festival exceeded expectations.

Official festival T-shirts designed by local students sold exceptionally well, Reid said. One design, created by a Salisbury University communications major, sold out, while another, created by a Worcester Technical High School graphic design student, proved to be a top seller.

Attendance mirrored previous years, said Reid, who estimated the festival received roughly 4,000 visitors. Crowds began arriving even before the official 10 a.m. start.

"We told all our vendors to be set up by 9:30, and there were [guests] on the lawn at 9:30," she said. "The morning is definitely super busy."

While the festival was successful, Reid acknowledged rising costs have created new challenges. Peaches were significantly more expensive this year, prompting museum leaders to consider ways to ensure the fundraiser remains financially sustainable.

"The cost of everything is going up," she said. "We're definitely going to be looking for ways to improve it and keep it going because we know

See FESTIVAL Page 16



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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Thousands flocked to the Taylor House's lawn last weekend for the museum's 18th Annual Peach Festival. Attendees were met with peaches, peach pie, peach drinks, and more.

Festival brings in nearly 4,000

Continued from Page 15
that it is an integral part of the Berlin calendar.”

The Peach Festival provides the majority of the museum’s fundraising revenue.

“Our museum is in existence because of the Peach Festival,” Reid said. “It only works because people show up and buy peaches and peach preserves and donate money and buy peach drinks. Without the community, this museum wouldn’t exist.”

As the summer starts to wind down, the Taylor House’s attention now turns to its fourth annual Book Festival this fall, scheduled for Oct. 17, the same day as Berlin’s Oktoberfest.

Reid said a partnership with local

publisher Salt Water Media has helped expand the event by handling author and publisher outreach while museum staff focuses on programming and vendors.

“We’re looking forward to having that one grow because there really isn’t a book festival around here,” Reid said. “It’s something Berlin doesn’t have, and we’re really excited to see where that journey takes us.”

The museum is also planning to expand its holiday programming in December. In addition to its annual children’s day and Sip and Shop event featuring handmade gifts from local vendors, officials are exploring additional kids’ activities and specialty holiday tours.



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Fitness, social events planned this month

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks is offering a variety of fitness classes, social activities, and a baseball outing this fall, providing residents and visitors with several opportunities for activity and social engagement.

Family Fun Night Bingo will kick off the September lineup on Friday, Sept. 4, from 6-8 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The event is open to all ages and costs \$5 per player.

As summer winds down, Ocean Pines staff is also encouraging community members to stay active.

Fitness programming includes a six-week Zumba session beginning Aug. 10. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. through Sept. 16 at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The program places added emphasis on strengthening the hips, thighs, arms, and core. Residents may register for one class per week for \$45 or two classes per week for \$82. Non-resident rates are \$50 for one class weekly and \$92 for two classes each week.

Chair yoga also returns with a new session running Thursdays from Aug. 6 through Sept. 10 from 1 to 1:45 p.m.

at the community center. The class will be led by registered yoga teacher Charles Parvis. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat and water, while chairs will be provided. The cost is \$40 for Ocean Pines residents, \$50 for non-residents, or \$10 for drop-in participants.

Adults ages 18 and older can also participate in a six-week line dancing program scheduled for Aug. 6, Aug. 13, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 10, and

Sept. 17 at the community center. No experience is required. Participants are encouraged to wear leather-soled shoes or boots, as non-rubber soles work best for dancing. Registration costs \$60 for residents and \$65 for non-residents.

Sports fans can start the fall season with a bus trip to watch the Baltimore Orioles take on the Boston Red Sox at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Sunday, Sept. 6. The \$150

registration fee includes Section 288 seating, round-trip transportation, access to the Picnic Perch club-level dining area with food included and the opportunity to watch batting practice before the 1:35 p.m. first pitch. The bus will depart the Ocean Pines Community Center at 9:30 a.m.

For registration or additional information on any of the programs, call the Ocean Pines Community Center at 410-641-7052.

Cross agrees to Pines market post

(Aug. 6, 2026) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market has announced Carol Cross of Cross Farms of Berlin has been named Food Access & Community Wellness Coordinator for the Market.

In this volunteer leadership role, Cross will oversee the market's special food access programs, including SNAP/EBT, WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), Senior FMNP, and special dietary and nutrition programs offered in partnership with the state and local health departments.

The position was created to make fresh, healthy, local food more acces-



Carol Cross

sible to all families in Ocean Pines and surrounding communities, and to ensure shoppers who use nutrition benefits have a welcoming, knowledgeable point of contact at the market.

Cross is well known to market customers as part of Cross Farms in Berlin and brings years of experience as a local farmer, a farmers market merchant, and advocate for local food access.

"I believe everyone in our community should have access to fresh,

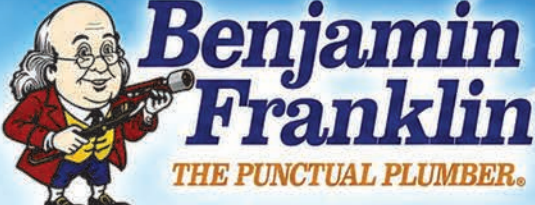
healthy food grown right here," said Carol Cross. "I'm honored to help our neighbors use their benefits at the market and to build stronger connections between our farms, our health partners, and our community."

Market Manager David Bean said the new role will help expand community outreach and strengthen partnerships with health departments and other community wellness organizations.

Shoppers who use SNAP, WIC, or Senior benefits are encouraged to visit the market to learn how to access and use their benefits for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other eligible foods.



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Ocean Pines Association's Annual Meeting announced

Saturday's event provides updates for residents and certifies election results

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) The Ocean Pines Association will have its annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Ocean Pines Community Center, where members will receive updates on association business, recognize a community volunteer, and formally certify the results of the 2026 board of directors election.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center, located in White Horse Park. Association officials encourage members planning to attend in person to arrive at least 30 minutes early to allow time for the verification process. Attendees will be required to present a valid photo identification before entering the meeting.

Members who are unable to attend in person will have the option to watch the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. A link can be found on the OPA website. However, only those attending in person will be permitted to participate in the public comment portion

of the meeting.

The agenda includes the call to order, appointments, presentation of the Sam Wilkinson Volunteer Award, ascertainment of a quorum, approval of the meeting agenda, and approval of the minutes from the 2025 annual meeting.

Association officials will also present reports, address any unfinished business, and consider new business. Additionally, the OPA Elections Committee will validate the results of this year's board of directors election.

Saturday's annual meeting marks the conclusion of this summer's board election process, during which the Elections Committee will confirm the winners of the ballot casting cycle to the community's governing body. Homeowners will also have an opportunity to address the board with any concerns they have during the gathering's public comment period.

The association is encouraging members to participate in the meeting, either in person or virtually, to stay informed on association business and the outcome of this year's election.

For more information about the annual meeting, residents may contact the Ocean Pines Association at 410-641-7717 or by email at info@ocean-pines.org.

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Blessing of the Combines



The 26th Annual Blessing of the Combines returned to Snow Hill last Saturday to celebrate the agriculture industry and local farmers. Approximately 8,000 people attended the event on a beautiful day. A highlight of the event was the annual parade of combines at 11 a.m. The Snow Hill Blessing of the Combines is organized by a small private committee that has been led by the Payne family since its inception. Pictured are scenes from the parade on Green Street.

STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Obituaries

JUDY ASHTON

Berlin
Judith “Judy” Alice Ashton, age 76, born Aug. 10, 1949, a beloved member of the Berlin community and longtime owner of Ashton Gardens, passed away Friday, July 31, 2026.



Judy Ashton

Affectionately known as the “Flower Lady”, Judy touched the lives of countless people through her love of flowers, gardening, and the beauty of nature. As the owner of Ashton Gardens and its greenhouses, she devoted her life to growing plants and flowers and sharing her knowledge and passion with others.

Judy took great pride in helping make Berlin a more beautiful place, through her work planting and caring for gardens throughout the town. Among the many gardens she lovingly tended to over the years, the Memorial Garden held a special place in her heart and was her favorite. She found great joy and meaning in caring for this beautiful space, where flowers served as a lasting tribute to those remembered and welcomed all who visited. Her flowers and gardens brought color, beauty, and joy to residents and visitors alike. Her dedication to gardening, her hard work, and her love for Berlin made her a familiar and cherished presence throughout the community.

Above all, Judy treasured her family. She is survived by her daughter, JP Domenguez de Madrigal; her son, Jeremy Ashton, and his wife, Lindsay Ashton; and her beloved grandsons, Tucker Ashton and Mack Ashton; her brother, Jon Ashton; and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death are her brothers, Judd Ashton and Tim Ashton. Her family brought her great joy, and the love and memories they shared will remain forever in their hearts.

Judy will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the many people

throughout Berlin whose lives she touched. A celebration of Judy’s life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations in her memory can be made to the Berlin Fire Department, c/o Taylor Bank, P.O. Box 5, Berlin, Md. 21811. Please note in memory of Judith Ashton.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com

HAROLD V. HEIDRICH

Berlin
Harold Victor Heidrich, age 84, passed away on July 30, 2026, in Salisbury. Born on June 18, 1942, in Jersey City, New Jersey,



Harold Heidrich

he was the son of the late Victor Heidrich and Mary Elizabeth (Fitzmorris) Heidrich.

Though “Bud,” as he was known by family and friends, often enjoyed solitude, those who knew him best understood how deeply he valued meaningful relationships. His quiet nature was balanced by a genuine curiosity about others and a love of thoughtful conversation. He never sought recognition or attention, preferring instead to listen, learn, and

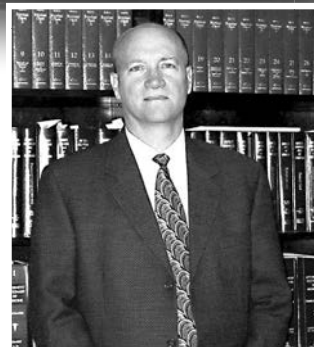
Continued on Page 25

INJURED ON THE JOB, IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT, OR AS A PEDESTRIAN?

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OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary Notices cost \$50 per week for Print and Online Publications.

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Opinion

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

Mean-spirited setup goes down in defeat

“Here’s a lovely parting gift,” Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino might as well have said Tuesday when he tried to saddle the incoming board of commissioners with a choice between making a deeply unpopular decision or creating a \$15 million hole in the county’s bank account.

Bertino, who lost his reelection bid in the June primary, seemed determined to leave office on a sour note in December by proposing that the staff investigate the legality of giving the \$15 million sitting in the county’s budget stabilization fund to resident homeowners.

His proposal failed by one vote after District 1 Commissioner Caryn Abbott withdrew her support because, as a returning commissioner, she had to consider her district’s long-term financial future.

Supporters of Bertino’s motion, on the other hand, had nothing to lose. District 2 Commissioner Ted Elder lost his reelection bid in the primary, and District 6’s Jim Bunting is retiring from politics.

But District 7 Commissioner Joe Mitrecic recognized that Bertino and friends wanted to put the incoming commissioners in the position of having to deplete the budget backup account or explain to 12,000 homeowners why they wouldn’t be getting “free money.”

The level of insincerity on display is breathtaking. Bertino and the backers of his idea were loath to spend any of this budget stabilization money on schools, law enforcement or fire and rescue needs in the past. So suddenly and inexplicably they’re ready to give it all away?

Of course not. This was strictly a matter of Bertino wanting to put the screws to the incoming board. It’s not surprising given the rising level of vindictiveness in politics these days, but it is unfortunate. At least now Ocean Pines voters can see that they made the right decision in June.

Letters

Orphans’ Court judge retirement

Editor,

With my retirement just around the corner I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the citizens of Worcester County for the trust and confidence they have placed in me over the past 20 years as a Judge of the Orphans’ Court.

Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I have been privileged to work on behalf of so many families, and I am truly thankful for the support, respect, and encouragement I have received throughout my tenure. Worcester County is a special place because of its people, and it has been a privilege to serve you.

As we look ahead, my colleague Judge Cheryl Jacobs is the only incumbent and attorney currently running for the Orphans Court position, and with all the experience she brings to the court I sincerely hope the good citizens of Worcester County will bring her back for her third term as judge of the Orphans court.

I encourage all citizens to remain engaged in our community and to exercise one of our most important rights-voting. Your participation ensures that our local government continues to reflect the values and needs of the people it serves.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has been an honor I will always cherish.

*Linda M. Hess
Ocean Pines*

Americans deserve safe, healthy food

Editor,

More than 100 cases of Cyclospora infection have been reported in Maryland since May 1, with thousands of cases reported nationwide. Cyclospora is a parasite that causes severe diarrhea that can last for weeks, along with stomach cramps, nausea, fatigue, and weight loss.

Public health officials have linked recent outbreaks to contaminated fresh produce distributed through major suppliers that serve grocery stores and restaurants used by many Worcester County residents. Because nearly half of foodborne illnesses are associated with uncooked fruits and vegetables, consumers depend on a strong food safety system to identify outbreaks quickly and remove contaminated products from the marketplace.

These outbreaks are devastating for farmers, restaurants, food processors, and distributors, most of whom work hard to provide safe food. Programs such as the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) encourage growers to meet food safety standards that exceed minimum government requirements, but voluntary programs cannot replace effective federal oversight.

Unfortunately, many food safety experts warn that years of underfunding have weakened our nation's ability to detect and prevent outbreaks. The Trump administration has cut staffing for the FDA by 20% and CDC staffing by

25%. This administration has reduced our Surveillance Scientist from 11 to 3. The National Advisory Committee on microbial contamination has been disbanded. The Food Net (joint venture with FDA, CEC and USDA) use to track 8 nasty microbes including cyclospora; now it only tracks 2 microbes. Recent staffing reductions have raised concerns about food inspection, disease surveillance, and outbreak investigations. Experts also worry that reductions in scientific advisory committees and surveillance programs will make it more difficult to identify emerging threats and trace contaminated foods to their source.

Former FDA food safety director Susan Mayne has urged consumers to be especially cautious with bagged salads while current investigations continue. She called the situation "a national wake-up call," saying, "We want our dollars to be spent protecting public health... I haven't talked to a single person from either party that wants to see unsafe foods on their tables."

Food safety should never be a partisan issue. Every American deserves confidence that the food on their family's table has been grown, processed, and inspected using the best science available. Strong food safety programs protect consumers while also protecting the farmers, restaurants, and businesses that depend on public trust.

*Tish Michel
Ocean City*

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

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Guards return to Assateague beach

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Aug. 6, 2026) Lifeguards are back on duty on the Maryland side of Assateague Island National Seashore, but only for five days a week.

The beach will remain without lifeguards on Mondays and Tuesdays, according to Bill Huslander, the park’s chief

of resource management. Lifeguards will now staff the beach from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays.

In a statement, the National Park Service said lifeguard hours might fluctuate later in the summer season, adding that many factors influence lifeguard staffing, including

lifeguard availability, and that “no two years are the same.”

The agency did not respond to emailed questions this week about why Monday and Tuesday would remain off-days for lifeguard staffing. The park generally moves to weekend only coverage from mid-August to Labor Day.

See GUARDS Page 23

Guards stationed five days a week

Continued from Page 22

Earlier this summer, federal hiring delays had left the Maryland side of the park unguarded over the Fourth of July weekend – the summer’s busiest weekend – after the National Park Service failed to bring aboard new lifeguard hires as quickly as expected.

Park Superintendent Hugh Hawthorne said at the time that changing federal hiring procedures had delayed the process.

That led park officials to move all available lifeguards to the Virginia side of Assateague, where the surf is more dangerous and rip currents are more common, rather than divide too few guards between both locations. There were still guards at the nearby Assateague State Park.

The shortage drew more attention after several swimmers were caught in

rip currents over the busy weekend at an unguarded section of beach. Bystanders helped pull eight swimmers from the ocean, according to one of the rescuers.

Worcester County officials were notified that the July 4 weekend would not be staffed on the Maryland side of the park and immediately acted by asking members of Congress – Rep. Andy Harris, Sen. Chris Van Hollen, and Sen. Angela Alsobrooks – to lean on the National Park Service, according to County Administrator Weston Young.

“Clearly, we would love full-week coverage for those beaches,” he said, “but we’re at the mercy of the National Park Service.”

Another wild card, Young added, is how ocean currents have been known to carry unexploded World War II ordnance onto the beach – a landing zone on the border between state and federal

beach that’s precisely where lifeguards are usually posted.

“It is the lifeguards out in the morning who usually discover those first,” Young said. “By them not being out there, that increases the risk that somebody will tamper with it, play with it, take it to their home, which is frowned upon and potentially unsafe.”

Park officials continued to urge swimmers to enter the ocean only near lifeguards and to use the guarded beach at neighboring Assateague State Park when National Park Service guards are not on duty.

Lifeguards monitor only the designated swimming area, not the National Seashore’s entire Maryland shoreline. The Berlin Fire Company historically has been the designated first responder agency in cases of water rescues and emergencies.

WORCESTER COUNTY LIBRARY

To view & register for all programs
WorcesterLibrary.LibCal.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 08
AUG
1:00PM

JURASSIC FOSSIL SOAP
Create your own amber soap. Registration required. For ages 8 & up. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 10
AUG
2:00PM

DINO STARRY NIGHT
Painting class taught by local artist Michael Carmean. Registration required. **107 W. Green Street, Snow Hill.**
- 10
AUG
4:30PM

DIY GEODES
Create your own geodes! Registration required. For ages 12-18. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 11-13
AUG

COASTAL WILDS MOBILE ZOO CREW
Wild animals are coming to the library! Meet five amazing animal ambassadors, learn all about them, and enjoy an unforgettable up-close experience. **Visit our website for additional details.**
- 11
AUG
11:00AM

OCEAN PINES SOCIAL CIRCLE
Get to know your neighbors. Light refreshments. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 12
AUG
4:00PM

JURASSIC ESCAPE ROOM
Test your puzzle skills. **Pocomoke Branch.**
- 13
AUG
2:00PM

BINGO
First come, first served. **Ocean City Branch.**
- 13
AUG
2:00PM

ROY ORBISON
Discover the story behind Roy Orbison's timeless music and legendary voice. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 14
AUG
2:00PM

COLONIAL ERA CUISINE
Step back in time as Washington's Catering demonstrates a colonial-era recipe. Registration required. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 18
AUG
2:00PM

END OF SUMMER PARTY
Celebrate the end of summer with us. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 19
AUG
12:00PM

SAFE SERIES
Scam Awareness & Financial Education webinar. Attend at the **Ocean City Branch** or register to join via Zoom.
- 22
AUG
10:00AM

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE EVENT
The Department of Veterans Affairs connects at-risk and homeless veterans to counseling, health screenings, food, clothing, and other resources. **Ocean Pines Branch.**
- 27
AUG
2:00PM

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
Join our Pop-Up Library at **Buckingham Elementary!** Enjoy music, games, and food, plus free school supplies for families if needed.

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Puzzles

DOWN THE TUBES

BY KIM ALSWAGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Kim Alswager, of St. Paul, Minn., is a choir director at St. Croix Preparatory Academy, in nearby Stillwater. As a child she often lay in bed late at night solving all kinds of word puzzles. "In 2024 I was on a long flight. To pass the time, I randomly started drawing a crossword grid and tried filling it by hand. I had so much fun. Almost all of my free time is now dedicated to constructing." This is Kim's New York Times debut. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 "Joanie Loves ____" ("Happy Days" spinoff)
7 Peddles
12 Chain whose merch includes mulch
17 Encase in protection
18 Something might disappear into it
20 Lacking sense
21 Darlings
22 Yoga style in which each movement is synchronized with a breath
23 Bag
24 Whom this puzzle's subject must save!
26 Source of fries, informally
27 On
28 Nuggets of wisdom
33 Pizza parlor purchase
34 Hough of "Dancing With the Stars" fame
38 Green friend of this puzzle's subject
42 Elitist
43 "____ be an honor"
44 Not say, say
45 "____ right!"
47 Vehicle puller
49 Disqualifies (oneself)
52 "Waaaaah!"
54 Union Army general who was victorious over Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg
55 Texter's caveat

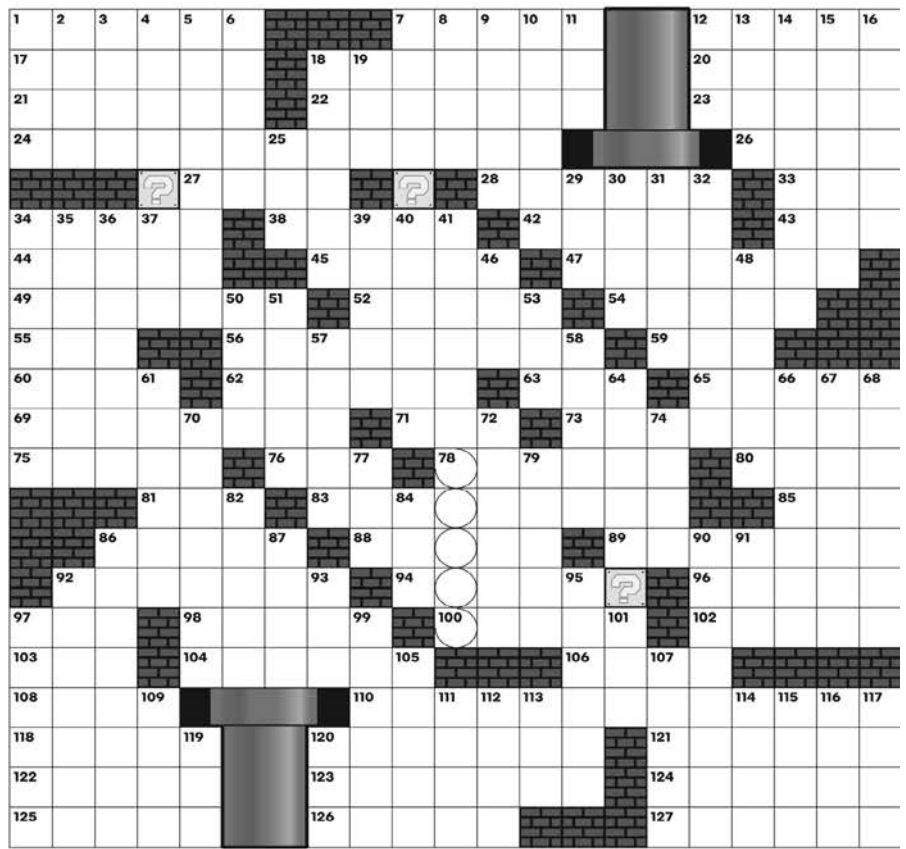
Online subscriptions:
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nytimes.com/crosswords

ACROSS
56 How a "miracle product" is said to work
59 Host of the 2016 Olympics
60 Old pros
62 Primates' realm
63 Batman and Robin, e.g.
65 Many a musical chord
69 Total heat content of a thermodynamic system
71 Platform with a "Super" popular character, in brief?
73 "Kind of"
75 Decorous
76 "Scrumptious!"
78 Way
80 Someone who might put you on a list
81 U.K. military branch
83 Classic kids' toy weapon
85 Sleepover "comfies"
86 Bialik of "The Big Bang Theory"
88 Antagonist of this puzzle's subject
89 Shoe style with a small opening in the front
92 Man whom Jesus raises from the dead in John 11
94 Salmon and coral
96 Takes full advantage of
97 Dot follower
98 "Beau ____"
100 ____ Davis, actor and eulogist for Malcolm X
102 Until now
103 Big name in trucks

DOWN
104 Useful
106 Sportscaster Andrews
108 Excessively uptight
110 Enemy lair where 24-Across is held captive
118 "To me, 'sexy' is a ____ with confidence": Allegra Versace
120 Striking feature of Jessica Rabbit
121 Achieve
122 Brother of this puzzle's subject
123 Author and entrepreneur Huffington
124 Virtual animal companion popularized in the 2000s
125 Secret supply
126 Tabasco, for one
127 Highlight for a QB

DOWN
1 Cyrillic way to write "U.S.S.R."
2 Short hand?
3 When "One Day More" is sung in "Les Misérables"
4 Collectible item from the box below
5 Fried cornbread concoctions
6 ____ map
7 Green transport from the box below
8 Best-selling Irish solo musical artist
9 Image Awards org.
10 Spills
11 Madrid Mrs.

DOWN
12 Word before service or sync
13 Duty
14 What this puzzle's subject uses to travel to a new location
15 Like many primary bathrooms
16 Like teams in March Madness
18 Expensive Super Bowl purchase
19 In
25 ____ lecithin (food additive)
29 Raid target, at times
30 Space
31 Let down
32 Sea connectors
34 Obtains (from)
35 Gold or silver, but not bronze
36 This might be stuffed inside a shell
37 Dot follower
39 Recoiled
40 Jupiter ____, first African American poet published in North America
41 Catchphrase of this puzzle's subject
46 Wilt
48 Scented
50 Carrier that takes its name from the Book of Hosea
51 ____ cup
53 Achieved
57 Excite
58 Job for a stage assistant, maybe
61 Australia's most popular wine
64 "Extra life" item from the box below



ACROSS
66 How a total dummkopf might handle something
67 In jest
68 Like New Jersey among all U.S. states, populationwise
70 In the very recent past
72 Gown fabrics
74 ____ Duncan, education secretary under Obama
77 Razor blades?
79 Cozy corners

DOWN
82 With 31-Down, power-up that lets this puzzle's subject throw flames
84 Alternative to "sparkling"
86 Catchphrase of this puzzle's subject
87 With 30-Down, power-up that upsizes this puzzle's subject
90 Flowed (from)
91 Some film noir figures, for short
92 Give for a time

ACROSS
93 Business address abbr.
95 Popular GMC pickup
97 Proceeds like congested traffic
99 Mount ____, highest peak in the Rockies
101 Mumbled stumbles
105 Daises
107 "Sorry, my calendar's full!"
109 Falls behind
111 "?!?!?!?"
112 Sensible

DOWN
113 ____ für alle Mal (once and for all, in German)
114 What a rest indicates ... or a word after rest
115 Small bite abroad
116 Makeup of a certain web
117 Docs who really get in your face?
119 Medical research ctr.
120 Dorm leaders, in brief

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HARD - 22

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

SEEME	LLION	PEC	BATE
TIDAL	ISSUE	ALLOWED	IN
AGGIE	MULTI	DECLARANT	
THANKSA	ASL	MAILIN	
TRITE	AMC	REDDIT	CPR
TREAT	OMENS	DESREE	
UNEARNED	DRUN	OBEDIENT	
ALUM	DARED	FURS	EDNA
TNT	CROSS	TUTU	RRIER
MACLAINE	OVER	SMART	
EROICA	ESSAY	CABALS	
AARON	GLOM	PHRASING	
VICTO	DROO	ERECT	MAR
ANKH	GOES	ADMIT	NIKE
STEEPENS	GUES	STIMATE	
CORSET	USAGE	MATER	
OWS	NACRES	PIS	LORIS
RTGAGE	ISO	RLWANTS	
SOJOURNED	SINAI	ITSOK	
CHAMPIONS	AGING	NOTME	
HOME	PET	WHAT	GRAPE

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., Aug. 6

53RD ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN
Harbor Island Marina, 419 14th St., Ocean City, 4-9:15 p.m. The World’s Largest Billfish Tournament with over a million dollars in prizes. Open to all anglers. Weigh-ins are held daily from 4-9:15 p.m. Visit the White Marlin Open Store. whitemarlinopen.com

MARLIN FEST
Ocean City Inlet Beach, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Live music, food, drinks, vendors, live stream of White Marlin Weigh-Ins, and White Marlin Open and Marlin Fest merchandise. No pets allowed. <https://marlinfest.com>

BEACH TENNIS MARYLAND - 4TH MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OPEN 2026
Park Place Hotel, 208 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ITF BT200 Qualifying Finals + Main Draw and Mixed ITF BT200. Selected live streaming: youtube.com/c/IDoLivestreaming. 410-708-4261, cmacleod@mlg-lawyers.com

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

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

GREAT POCOMOKE FAIR
Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City, 5 p.m. Exhibits, live stock, harness racing, motorsports, food competitions, Duck & Goose Calling Championships, dog show, tractor pull, various competitions and more. Schedule: www.thegreatpocomokefair.org.

SUPERHERO STORY TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate your favorite superheroes. Join in for crafts and games. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

OC CHESS CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a relaxing game of chess every month at the library. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

DINO ACADEMY: A DINOSAUR DISCOVERY SHOW
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m.

Featuring life-like, colorful dinosaur puppets, this show blends science, storytelling and imagination in the style of your favorite nature programs. For families. 410-641-0650, 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

DINO ACADEMY: A DINOSAUR DISCOVERY SHOW
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Featuring life-like, colorful dinosaur puppets, this show blends science, storytelling and imagination in the style of your favorite nature programs. For families. 410-957-0878

FAMILY GAME DAY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Drop in to play games. From Mario to Monopoly, you’re sure to have fun. For families. 410-208-4014, 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., Aug. 7

53RD ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN
Harbor Island Marina, 419 14th St., Ocean City, 4-9:15 p.m. The World’s Largest Billfish Tournament with over a million dollars in prizes. Open to all anglers. Weigh-ins are held daily from 4-9:15 p.m. Visit the White Marlin Open Store. whitemarlinopen.com

MARLIN FEST
Ocean City Inlet Beach, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Live music, food, drinks, vendors, live stream of White Marlin Weigh-Ins, and White Marlin Open and Marlin Fest merchandise. No pets allowed. <https://marlinfest.com>

WORCESTER COUNTY FAIR
John Walter Smith Park, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, 4:30-8 p.m. Leo Brooks Band, cake auction, livestock tent, kids zone, attractions, 4-H displays and catfish races. Event schedule www.worcestercountyfair.org. 410-632-2144

BEACH TENNIS MARYLAND - 4TH MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OPEN 2026
Park Place Hotel, 208 Baltimore Ave.,

Ocean City, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ITF BT200 Main Draw, Mixed ITF BT200 Finals, 3rd Junior J100 and Players Party at Seacrets. Selected live streaming: youtube.com/c/IDoLivestreaming. 410-708-4261, cmacleod@mlg-lawyers.com

GREAT POCOMOKE FAIR
Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City, 5 p.m. Exhibits, live stock, harness racing, motorsports, food competitions, Duck & Goose Calling Championships, dog show, tractor pull, various competitions and more. Schedule: www.thegreatpocomokefair.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

COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join professional artist and author/illustrator of Gnat: Journey to Coa, and learn how to create your own comic book. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-957-0878. worcesterlibrary.org

PICKLE FOR PAWS
Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 4 p.m. Cost is \$10. Sign up: Venmo, @Kelly-Coyne-3; or Zelle or text, Kelly Coyne, 410-409-5157. Supporting Kenille’s Kupboard Pet Pantry & Rescue. Dog and cat food donations accepted. All ages welcome. 410-409-5157

AUGUST FIRST FRIDAY
Downtown Snow Hill, 5-8 p.m. Vendors, CCH Train Races, DJ Kay, DTSH bar, businesses open late, farm themed activities and more.

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY’S FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d’oeuvres, and see the new exhibits by a variety of local and regional artists. Free event. All are welcome. 410-524-9433

Sat., Aug. 8

53RD ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN
Harbor Island Marina, 419 14th St., Ocean City, 4-9:15 p.m. The World’s Largest Billfish Tournament with over a million dollars in prizes. Open to all anglers. Weigh-ins are held daily from 4-9:15 p.m. Visit the White Marlin Open Store. whitemarlinopen.com

MARLIN FEST
Ocean City Inlet Beach, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Live music, food, drinks, vendors, live

stream of White Marlin Weigh-Ins, and White Marlin Open and Marlin Fest merchandise. No pets allowed. <https://marlinfest.com>

GUY HARVEY MEET-AND-GREET
Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet world-renowned angler, marine artist, and conservationist, Dr. Guy Harvey, at Marlin Fest on August 8 beginning at 11 a.m. at the Guy Harvey booth, in the Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot.

WORCESTER COUNTY FAIR
John Walter Smith Park, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Live music, contests, livestock tent, kids zone, attractions, 4-H displays and catfish races. Event schedule www.worcestercountyfair.org. 410-632-2144

BEACH TENNIS MARYLAND - 4TH MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OPEN 2026
Park Place Hotel, 208 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ITF BT200 Finals, 4th Junior J100, Amateur Round Robin, all categories and Competitions for Amateurs, Pros & Spectators. Selected live streaming: youtube.com/c/IDoLivestreaming. 410-708-4261

GREAT POCOMOKE FAIR
Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City, 9:30 a.m. Exhibits, live stock, harness racing, motorsports, food competitions, Duck & Goose Calling Championships, dog show, tractor pull, various competitions and more. Schedule: www.thegreatpocomokefair.org.

9TH ANNUAL OC FILM CHALLENGE PREMIERE & AWARDS NIGHT
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 7-9 p.m. Watch the films, celebrate the awards, and meet the filmmakers. Bring a chair. If rain, films will move inside the Arts Center. Free event, but donations are welcome. 410-524-9433

PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE, ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION, ORLEANS, & FIREFALL
Roland E. Powell Convention Center - Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. An evening of timeless hits and harmony-driven rock. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/77087557/pure-prairie-leagueatlanta-rhythm-sectionorleansand-firefall-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Glen Odor will discuss his daily virtual fishing tournament for both freshwater and saltwater anglers and his patent pending fishtech.com measuring device. All welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

Calendar

PRE-HISTORIC PLAY: DINO CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10 a.m.-noon. Drop in for dinosaur themed crafts and activities. For all ages. For families. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

FIRST RESPONDERS OPEN HOUSE
US Coast Guard Station Ocean City, 610 S. Philadelphia Ave., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet local heroes, enjoy family-friendly activities, and experience a behind-the-scenes look at life at one of the nation’s busiest Coast Guard stations. Free event.

FREE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CONCERT
First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 11 a.m. Reid and Karpenko families present their annual free concert. Professional musicians present classic Christian music - plus new original music. Everyone welcome. www.sligochurch.org/sligo-by-the-sea

FREE KIDS CRAFT SATURDAYS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring “Colorful Fish.” Guided crafts led by friendly instructors. All supplies provided. Jessica Bauer, development@artleagueofoceancity.org

JURASSIC AMBER FOSSIL SOAP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Long ago bugs were caught in tree resin and it hardened into amber over time. Create an amber soap of your own to keep. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

Sun., Aug. 9

WORCESTER COUNTY FAIR
John Walter Smith Park, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, 10:30 a.m. Live music, contests, livestock tent, kids zone, attractions, 4-H displays, catfish races, awards presentation and more. Event schedule www.worcestercounty-fair.org. 410-632-2144

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean

City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Milk Mountain Band: 70’s-2000’s Rock/Pop Cover Band.” Ice cream for purchase. Followed by fireworks. https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sundaes-in-the-park/

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA FESTIVAL - MUSICAL STROLL
Historic Downtown Berlin, Maryland, USA, 124 N. Main St., 2 p.m. Enjoy a surprise musical selection. Free event. https://www.chambermusicbythesea.com

OC CRUZERS CAR SHOW
Somerset Plaza, Somerset Street, Ocean City, 3-6 p.m. Join the OC Cruzers Car Club for a free, family friendly car show. Each show will feature classic cars, custom rides and hot rods. Also, live music or a DJ. https://www.ocdc.org

BERLIN 2ND SUNDAY ART & VINTAGE MARKET
Berlin Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Art and vintage vendors in downtown Berlin. Just a few blocks down from the Berlin Farmers Market. Sponsored by The Merry Haven and the Town of Berlin Main Street & Arts and Entertainment District.

SECOND SUNDAYS AT THE TAYLOR HOUSE
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 6 p.m. Featuring Berlin Airlift. www.taylorhousemuseum.org

TOP SECRET MISSION 3:16 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Beacon Baptist Church, 32263 Beacon Baptist Road, Millville Aug. 9-12, 6-8 p.m. Get ready for an adventure-packed week of fun, faith, and secret missions that’ll blow your mind. 302-539-1216

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

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

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING
Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., Aug. 10

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA - FREE OPEN REHEARSAL
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. The musicians of the Chamber Music by the Sea invite the public to their open rehearsal at the Berlin library. All are wel-

come. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

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

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

A DINO STARRY NIGHT
Maryland’s Coast - Worcester County Tourism & Economic Development, 107 W. Green St., Snow Hil, 2 p.m. Unearth your creativity in this painting class with local artist Michael Hill. Registration required: 443-783-6164.

DIY GEODES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn all about geodes and create some of your own. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

AMERICA’S BOATING COURSE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. A 3-session course held Aug. 10-12. The course is free. Course registration on first night begins at 5:30 p.m. Michael Alpaugh, 302-218-9474, alpaughmt@gmail.com

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA FESTIVAL - SOUND BATH COLLABORATION
Zenna Wellness Studio - Yoga Studio, 617 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 7 p.m. Sound Bath Collaboration at Zenna Wellness. https://www.chambermusicbythesea.com

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

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

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

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., Aug. 11

COASTAL WILDS MOBILE ZOO CREW
Sturgis Park Garden, 200 River St., Snow Hill, 10:30 a.m. Learn cool facts, ask questions, and get up close with unique animals in this fun and educational event. For families. 410-632-5622, 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

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

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

THE OCEAN PINES SOCIAL CIRCLE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Come get to know your neighbors at the Ocean Pines library. Mix and mingle and enjoy some refreshments and a fun activity. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING WEBINAR
Held second Tuesday of each month, 1 p.m. Join: https://tidalhealth.webex.com/wbxmjs/joinservice/sites/tidalhealth/meeting/download/bd773f677932425da99b7704c7afc239?MTID=ma62eb0ffd8f8cd1debo19210b37d26f3.

Calendar

Continued from Page 27

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

COASTAL WILDS MOBILE ZOO CREW
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Learn cool facts, ask questions, and get up close with unique animals in this fun and educational event. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

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-seafood-nights.square.site/>.

T(W)EEN SWITCH GAME NIGHT: ULTIMATE CHICKEN HORSE
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5-6 p.m. Join in for an hour of switch gaming. This month's game: Ultimate Chicken Horse. Light refreshments provided. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES & VINE: 'REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES' BY SHELBY VAN PELT
Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. Join in for an evening of books and wine. Stop by the Snow Hill library to pick up your book, then meet for a great discussion at Tides & Vine. Must be at least 21 years old. 410-632-5622

PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 6:30 p.m. Join your Stevenson Ladies for a night of cooking, new products, fun and of course fellowship.

VIRTUAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Held second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Join: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/7810281028>

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA FESTIVAL - CONCERT & RECEPTION
Bishop's Stock, 202 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 7 p.m. Music by Grieg, Michelle Ross, and more. <https://www.chamber-musicbythesea.com>

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., Aug. 12

ARTISTS PAINT OC FESTIVAL
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St. Artists will paint throughout Ocean City and the surrounding areas. Also featuring a Wet Paint Sale and Quick Paint Competition. Schedule: <https://artleagueofoceancity.org/events/category/event/list/>. 410-524-9433

SURFERS HEALING
Castle in the Sand Hotel, 3701 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City. A one-day surf camp for children and young adults with Autism. <https://surfershealing.org>

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

KIDS PAINT NIGHT
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$22. All materials and instruction provided. For ages 8 years and older. 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

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA OPEN CONCERT AND WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Following the concert, stay for a workshop at 12 p.m. Musicians of all ages and ability levels, as well as the general public, are welcome to participate in a play-along. 410-641-0650

COASTAL WILDS MOBILE ZOO CREW
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn cool facts, ask questions, and get up close with unique animals in this fun and educational event. For families. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

POKENO @ 50PLUS CENTER
Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. The group will be playing Pokeno and other games at the Snow Hill 50plus Center. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

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

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
TidalHealth Neurology, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Held the second Wednesday of each month. 410-641-4765, betty.darby-glime@tidalhealth.org

JURASSIC ESCAPE ROOM
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 4 p.m. Test your puzzle skills and try to identify the dinosaur before you are attacked and unable to escape. Registration required: 410-957-0878. worcesterlibrary.org

DOOR TO ANOTHER WORLD
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Design and make a door to someplace else using your imagination. Materials provided. For families. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

VIRTUAL DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT CLASS
Four-session class held Aug. 12, 19, 26 and Sept. 2, 6-8 p.m. Provider referral, patient pre-assessment and registration are required. Insurance may cover all or part of the cost. Register: 410-543-7061.

DOG ADOPTION NIGHT
Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Held

trackside during live racing. First post time: 6:40 p.m. Meet the dogs available from local humane societies. <https://www.oceandowns.com/promotions/dog-adoption-nights-2/>

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA FESTIVAL - CONCERT
Atlantic Hotel, 2 S. Main St., Berlin. 7 p.m. Music by Brahms, Michelle Ross, and more. <https://www.chambermusicbythesea.com>

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

CASH BINGO
Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave. Door open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Food available before bingo. 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. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

ONGOING EVENTS

TAKE AND MAKE: BACK TO SCHOOL FOLDERS
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, throughout August. Stop by the library to grab a special monthly take-home craft while supplies last. For families. 410-524-1818

OC READS: 'HUSBANDS & LOVERS' BY BEATRIZ WILLIAMS
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Aug. 1-31. Pick up a copy of this month's read, then come in before the end of the month to share your impressions and enter the drawing to win free books. 410-524-1818

GREAT TRAIN RAFFLE
Win a Charlie Davis wooden hand-crafted train. Valued at \$400. Tickets cost \$5 each or three for \$10. Tickets available at the Pine'er Craft Club, Artisan Gift Shop, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines. Drawing will take place at the end of day at the Annual Craft Fair on Nov. 7, held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Need not be present to win.

ESCAPE THE APEX PREDATOR
From June 29 through August 21, stop by any Worcester County library branch to solve puzzles and clues to escape the anomalocaris in this virtual game. Must register to receive the link, which will stay active until August 21 so participants can play at their own speed. For families. Registration required: 410-632-5622.

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING!
 Local Swimwear Boutique
 looking to hire a year-round
 sales associate. Applicant
 must be experienced in
 customer service.
Contact 443-235-5842.

JOLLY ROGER
**Small Engine Mechanic &
 Ride Maintenance.**
*(Must have mechanical
 knowledge)*
**Technical Support &
 Installation**
*(Entry level with knowledge
 of network systems)*
SEASONAL HELP: Cashiers,
 Waterpark Attendants,
 Lifeguards, Ride Operators
Wage based on experience.
 Benefits available.
410-289-4902

PROPERTY MANAGER
 Century I Condominium
 Association, Ocean City,
 MD. Experienced in facility
 or property management,
 Quickbooks knowledgeable,
 enjoys working with the
 public, good supervisory
 skills. Full time, year-round.
Send CV to
centurycondo24812@
gmail.com.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
 ASSISTANT**
Storefront Travel Agency
 Administrative Assistant
 with excellent
 organizational, computer,
 people, creative skills, and
 the ability to learn a variety
 of systems. Must be
 knowledgeable in creating
 spreadsheets & flyers.
 Position is Monday thru
 Friday with some weekends.
Send resume to:
info@travelwithoasis.com
No Phone Calls

**DUNKIN'
 DONUTS**
AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'
NOW HIRING!!
Production Crew
 for our WOC kitchen facility
 Up to \$20/hr.
Apply online at:
www.delmarvadd.com

Part-Time Office Assistant (Tax & Bookkeeping Office)
 Established tax and bookkeeping firm seeking a reliable and
 detail-oriented assistant. Ideal for someone looking for a
 flexible, seasonal schedule. The position requires part-time
 availability during the summer months and full-time hours
 during the busy tax season. **Summer (May–November):** 3
 days per week, approximately 6–7 hours per day. **Tax Season**
(December–April): 5 days per week, approximately 6–7 hours
 per day. Greet clients and manage document drop-offs and
 pickups. Answer and direct phone calls. Schedule
 appointments and maintain calendars. Assist with basic
 bookkeeping and administrative tasks. Proficiency in
 QuickBooks is required. Email lyndaj0331@comcast.net
 or call 410-723-3436 for interview.

HELP WANTED

**AMERICAN LEGION
 BOOKKEEPER**
 Part-time, familiar with
 Quickbooks on-line.
Apply within.
American Legion Post 166,
2308 Philadelphia Avenue,
OC, MD 21842
410-289-3166

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

RENTALS

SEASONAL RENTAL
1BR/1BA
 120th Street, OC
 Mini fridge, microwave,
 indoor/outdoor pools.
 10 minute walk to beach.
717-261-1692

**Seeking Year-Round
 Rentals!**
 Call Howard Martin Realty
410-352-5555.

Beach House Rental
 3-bed, 3-bath on 26th Street.
<https://bit.ly/3RR214G>

**Extended Spring &
 Summer Stays Avail.**
 Utilities Included
CONTACT US AT
burgundyinn@gmail.com
410-289-8581

**Run your
 business
 card in our
 SERVICE
 DIRECTORY**
**CALL 410-
 723-6397
 for pricing!**

ROOMMATES

ROOM FOR RENT
 Fully furnished, large, clean,
 private room. Full house
 privileges. \$900 per mo.,
 util's included. \$400 sec.
 dep. **Call 443-880-2317.**

REAL ESTATE

**Looking To Buy A Home Or
 Condo** in Ocean City or near
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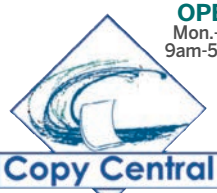
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