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CHECKING IN

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) visited Berlin last week, where he presented the town with a \$1.4 million check towards a community center. See page 4 for full story.

Two senior employees leaving Town of Berlin

Town admin. retiring in Oct., HR director leaving in Nov. to create void in Town Hall

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) Two high-ranking Town of Berlin employees have resigned, with long-time town employee and current Town Administrator Mary Bohlen being one of them.

Also announcing her departure earlier this month is the town's human resources director, Kelsey Jensen. Both will step down from their posts this fall.

Bohlen, who is retiring, confirmed in an email to the Bayside Gazette Monday that Oct. 9 will be her last day.

Bohlen is a Salisbury resident who began working for the town at 25 years old in 1991. Her first job was in Town Hall's front office, where she



Mary Bohlen



Kelsey Jensen

answered phones and rang up utility customers.

Her roles within the municipality have included grants administrator, special projects administrator, deputy town administrator, and, See BOHLEN Page 7

Heavner steps into lead role on OPA board

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) Jeff Heavner will take over as president of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors as the group's former leader, John Latham, steps into the secretary role.

Following this month's OPA board election, the seven-person board held a special meeting last Tuesday to decide which members would preside See HEAVNER Page 6

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Berlin advances in Hallmark Channel's Christmas search

'We're exactly what they're looking for - a small town that looks like a movie set'

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) Berlin's charming aesthetic has earned the town an "Official Christmas Town" title by the Hallmark Channel and the chance to be featured in a holiday movie.

Last week, the Hallmark Channel released its top 25 Merriest Christmas Towns as part of its contest to secure a festive spot for a new holiday flick. Berlin was named among the finalists, the only municipality in Maryland to receive the honor.

The Hallmark Channel spent the last few months searching the country for towns that go the extra mile to create Christmas cheer for residents and visitors as part of the network's 25th anniversary.

These locations, announced last Friday, are now vying for a chance to be named Hallmark's Merriest Christmas Town and be highlighted in an official Hallmark film. The top 25 destinations have

advanced to the competition's public voting phase. Each entry is available for viewing on the Hallmark Channel's website, where voters can select their favorite.

Besides the Eastern Shore spot, other towns in the running for the ultimate prize include Cape May, New Jersey; Carolina Beach, North Carolina; Corning, New York; Hanover, Pennsylvania; Lewisburg, West Virginia; Cullman, Alabama; and Chatham, Massachusetts.

Hallmark approached Berlin to enter the contest, said Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director. The Worcester County municipality has maintained a reputation for picturesque streets and historic buildings, citizen pride, and well-attended, traditional holiday festivities, which caught the network's eye.

Berlin's official description on the Hallmark Channel's website specifically mentions some of the town's popular Christmas celebrations. Among them is the tree-lighting ceremony, with coastal-themed ornaments decorated by the area's students.

"Every December, we gather around a real Christmas tree, cut from a local farm and placed in the heart of Main Street," Berlin's contest entry page reads. "Before the lights

are ever switched on, our schoolchildren decorate it with hand-painted oyster shell ornaments, celebrating our coastal heritage one ornament at a time. When the pipes and drums begin to play at our annual tree lighting, the whole community gathers, and the season officially begins."

Also listed to prove Berlin's commitment to Christmas are the Kringle Cottage, where kids can visit with Santa; the seasonal carriage rides offered every year; the ice sculptures that make up Ice Ice Berlin; the Merry Marketplace for handmade gifts; and the beloved Christmas parade.

"The largest nighttime Christmas parade in Maryland is right here in Berlin," the contest website adds. "More than 85 illuminated floats, marching bands, community groups, and thousands of spectators turn Main Street into a river of light, laughter, and unforgettable memories."

Wells told the Bayside Gazette this week that she believes Berlin would be the perfect setting for a Hallmark movie.

"Berlin already looks like it belongs in a Christmas movie, so

we're going to embrace that and show Hallmark we're exactly what they're looking for," she said. "We know how to do Christmas in Berlin. We're not a movie set pretending to be a small town. We're a small town that looks like a movie set."

If Berlin wins, that recognition will be added to the list of honors bestowed on the community: it was named one of America's "Most Charming Christmas Towns" by "Travel Leisure," one of America's Best Small Towns for Christmas by "Country Living," and was voted America's Coolest Small Town by Budget Travel in 2014.

People who wish to vote for Berlin can cast ballots on the Hallmark Channel's website through Sept. 4. Voters are required to enter their email addresses. A message will then be sent to the email inbox to confirm the selection.

While community participation matters, the town that receives the most ballots does not automatically win. Wells said that upon the conclusion of the community selection period, judges will evaluate the 25 towns based on community spirit, holiday traditions, neighborhood charm, and goodwill to decide which location will be named Hallmark's Merriest Christmas Town of 2026.

'Berlin already looks like it belongs in a Christmas movie, so we're going to embrace that and show Hallmark we're exactly what they're looking for'

Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director

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See CENTER Page 7

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Heavner OPA board president

Continued from Page 1
as the group’s officers.
Heavner was nominated by Latham; Director Rick Farr will serve as vice president and was nominated by Director Patrick Lehnerd; Latham will serve as secretary and was nominated by Director Monica Rakowski; and Rakowski will serve as treasurer and was nominated by Director Stuart Lakernick.

Jeff Heavner

These members will hold their positions until August 2027.
The appointments follow the OPA Board of Directors election in early August, in which incumbents Latham and Lehnerd were reelected for a three-year term each. New director Amy Peck has also joined the board, ousting incumbent Elaine Brady, and will serve two years, ending the tenure of former director Steve Jacobs, who vacated his seat in March.
Heavner offered a few remarks upon his selection as board president. He thanked Latham for his service as leader over the past year, and said he’s excited to guide the community towards further success.
“I’m proud to be part of this winning and thriving team,” Heavner said. “That is a team consisting of the

talented [General Manager] John Viola and his amazing administrative and operational staff. And of course, this board of directors who challenge each other to provide quality governance.”
The board’s new president emphasized OPA’s recent success. Heavner said Ocean Pines is flourishing financially.
“What does a strong Ocean Pines look like? Retained earnings approaching \$3 million,” he added. “Well-funded reserves around \$6.4 million, meeting the requirements of the recent DMA Study...Consistently forecasted positive operating funds, ending last fiscal year around \$450,000.”
Additionally, OPA Senior Director of Administration Linda Martin will act as the board’s assistant secretary, and OPA Director of Finance Steve Phillips will serve as assistant treasurer.
The board will continue to have Bruce Bright as legal counsel and will use the firm UHY LLP as the association’s auditors. Bright will also act as the group’s parliamentarian after former position-holder Doug Parks stepped down.
The board has set regular meeting dates for the next year.

The sessions, approved unanimously, are as follows: Saturday, Sept. 26 at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room; Saturday, Oct. 24 at 9 a.m. in the OPA Community Center; Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse; Saturday, Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse; Saturday, Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse; Saturday, Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse; Saturday, March 27 at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse; and Saturday, April 23 at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse.
To encourage additional participation in the summer, meetings during the warm-weather months will be held on Monday evenings to avoid conflicting with residents’ Saturday morning plans. These sessions will take place on Monday, May 24 at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse; Monday, June 28 at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse; and Monday, July 27 at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse.
Peck requested that meeting attendance be meticulously tracked to plan future schedules.
“I would recommend that we carefully track attendance at these meetings throughout the year so we have some clear data and we can reassess and refine the meeting schedule to when we get the most attendance,” she said.



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Bohlen to retire, Jensen plans to step down

Continued from Page 1
since August 2022, town administrator. Bohlen succeeded former town administrator Jeff Fleetwood.

The town administrator oversees the government's day-to-day operations. According to the Town of Berlin's code, the town administrator supervises all main department heads and central office staff and is responsible for ensuring the overall efficient and effective administration of all of the town's departments.

As for hiring a successor, the town code explains that the mayor may appoint a new town administrator with

council approval. Human Resources Director Jensen will remain on the job until mid-November, according to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, to provide a smooth transition for the town.

She graduated from Frostburg University in 2011 with a degree in social work. She later received a master's degree in business from the University of Maryland University College, now known as University of Maryland Global Campus, in 2018. Initially, she worked as a courtroom clerk for the Circuit Court of Worcester County.

Jensen came to Berlin in 2016 for an administrative job. She then began training to earn certification as a municipal clerk and eventually took over as Berlin's director of human resources.

Tyndall said Tuesday that the town plans to begin the hiring process within the next few weeks, and that the positions will be posted externally.

"We will be pushing out the postings for the vacant positions in the coming weeks and working through the hiring and selection process," he said.

Councilmember Steve Green, also the executive editor of this publication, acknowledged the staff departures and is looking forward to the town moving quickly to bolster the town's administration.

"I have enjoyed working with Mary and Kelsey during my term, and I thank them for their dedicated service to Berlin," he said. "The loss of two top-level administrators around the same time is a big deal for a gov-

ernment of Berlin's size. I am hoping we will immediately begin the search process to continue to move our town forward."

Councilmember Jack Orris also recognized Bohlen and Jensen's contributions to the Town of Berlin during their tenures.

"Losing members of administrative leadership is never easy for any organization," he said. "I'm grateful for what has been learned from both Kelsey and Mary and wish them nothing but the best in their respective next chapters. I also want to recognize and thank Kelsey and Mary for their years of service to the Town of Berlin."

Bohlen said she plans to provide additional remarks regarding her retirement at the Town Council meeting on Monday, Aug. 24.

Center project 1st phase begins

Continued from Page 4
opportunities for the next generation."

The senator thanked town officials and other project advocates.

"You did all the work, you laid out the vision," Van Hollen added. "We at the federal level, we like to take our lead from the folks in the community ... We are very pleased to be here for the start of this project and look forward to coming back one day when this vision rises out of the ground."

Last summer, Daniele Haley of Haley Architecture presented a community center feasibility study. The wish list for the facility includes a pool for high school competitive swim meets, water aerobics classes, and lesson; a gymnasium for events and indoor sports; a fitness room; an indoor walking track; a health services station for physicals, vision, and hearing exams; special event spaces; a technology lab; a community kitchen; Head Start program classrooms and Head Start spaces, kitchen, and offices.

If the building incorporates every desire, the project would cost over \$30 million. Haley noted during her presentation that the wish list would be scaled back from the pricey endeavor but would still meet the community's needs.

The federal funds will allow the project's first phase, or preconstruction, to commence. The town has also found creative ways to raise additional revenue.

Last summer, Berlin auctioned off its retired speed limit, stop, and other road signs to raise money for the center. Sara Gorfinkel, Tyndall's executive assistant, spearheaded the auction, which brought in over \$10,000.

The town hosted another auction over the winter, offering 11 ideal parking spaces for the crowded Christmas Parade. That event raised just under \$1,000 for the proposed community center. °

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Berlin planners presented school overview

Commission requested meeting to learn about full project, details of concern

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) Plans for a new Buckingham Elementary School continue to move forward, as the project's leaders presented their plans last week to the Berlin Planning Commission and community members. The project was presented to the Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday for discussion and public input only. Planning Commission Chair Matt Stoehr emphasized at the beginning of the gathering that the commission has no authority to approve or deny the school project, but because the replacement school will

be located within the Town of Berlin, neighbors and commission members should have the right to ask questions. Under Maryland law, the state's Interagency Commission on School Construction reviews public school construction projects. Worcester County Public Schools has the authority to select and develop a school site, subject to state review and approval. The town and Planning Commission can, however, provide feedback on issues affecting the broader community. These issues include traffic, pedestrian safety, sidewalks, road connections, stormwater, future growth and the project's relationship to Berlin's comprehensive plan. "This meeting is intended to allow the public to hear the presentation,

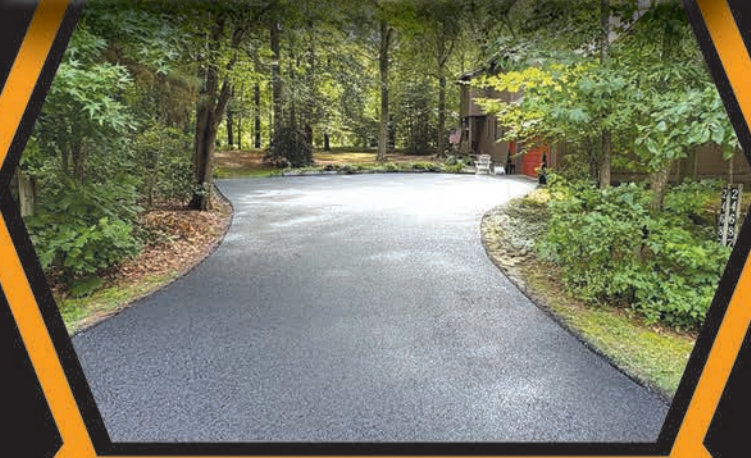


SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The new Buckingham Elementary School, pictured in a rendering, will have all parents utilize West Street for morning drop-offs and afternoon pickups with buses utilizing Main Street.

learn more about the project, raise questions and concerns, and provide feedback on these community planning issues," Stoehr said. The new school has been in development since 2022, when WCPS completed a state-required feasibility study examining renovation and replacement options. A replacement was determined to be the most cost-effective option and would cause fewer construction disruptions. A 25-member conceptual planning committee consisting of school repre-

sentatives, community members, teachers, staff, parents, town representatives and designers was formed in early 2023. The project was later placed on hold while funding was secured, then entered the design phase in 2025. The Worcester County Board of Education approved the design in May 2025, followed by approval from the Worcester County Commissioners in June. Public and committee presentations continued through the

See BES Page 12



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BES school project presented

Continued from Page 10

fall before the project entered the construction-document phase.

The current plans call for a roughly 90,837-square-foot, two-story school on the existing Buckingham Elementary property.

The project team considered three possible locations for the new school on the existing property. The team eliminated one option because of its limited footprint and construction-access challenges. A second option near Buckingham Lane would have placed a large two-story structure and gym close to neighboring homes.

The selected site places the new school closer to Main Street, near the former Buckingham Elementary building.

The existing Main Street entrance will remain and serve as the bus entrance. A new vehicle entrance will be

located off West Street, separating car and bus traffic.

The West Street entrance will include two lanes for entering and two lanes for exiting, allowing more vehicles to queue on school property. Engineers said the proposed layout will increase on-site vehicle stacking capacity by about 60 percent, reducing the likelihood of cars backing onto West Street during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup.

A traffic observation conducted on a rainy school day found about 65 vehicles stacked on the school property and as many as 10 vehicles on South Main Street during the busiest minute. Engineers said the entire pickup period lasted about eight minutes.

Stormwater management was another major focus of last Wednesday's presentation. The existing school site has limited stormwater controls, with much of the property draining without treatment or volume control.

The proposed design includes approximately 18 environmental site design practices, including underground storage facilities. The project will manage stormwater for the two-, 10-, and 100-year storm events, with the 100-year requirement tied to the nearby Bottle Branch.

Engineers said the area receiving stormwater-quality treatment will increase from 1.62 acres under existing conditions to 14.9 acres under the proposed design.

The amount of drainage contributing to West Street will decrease from approximately 3.8 acres to 0.97 acres. Engineers also said roughly two-thirds will reduce peak discharge to West Street during the two-, 10-, and 100-year storm events.

The new school will include classrooms for prekindergarten through fourth grade, a Judy Center, STEM spaces, a media center, music and art areas, a gym, a cafeteria, and a school-based health clinic. Administrative and health suites will be near the main entrance, while the gym and cafeteria will be separate from the rest of the school for after-hours community use.

Pre-K through first grade will be located on the first floor, while second through fourth grades will be on the second floor. An elevator will provide access between floors.

The building's exterior will incorporate red brick, concrete panel, and metal panel materials.

The plans also include sidewalks

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West St. safety plan discussed

along the school’s property frontage on West Street, Buckingham Road, and Main Street, as well as covered bike storage. The project team said it has prioritized accommodating students who walk and bike to school.

Pedestrian and bicycle safety became a major topic during the Berlin Planning Commission discussion, particularly along West Street.

Stoehr said the road is currently unsafe and expressed concern about how many children may walk or bike along it.

“We know 30-plus kids are walking and riding bikes,” he said. “That’s going to be monumental with the way I know people drive on that road.”

Planners said the town could consider designating the area as a school zone with a 15-mph speed limit and additional signage. Commissioners also asked about creating safer routes to school beyond the school property itself.

Construction is expected to occur in four phases. Work on West Street and utility improvements will begin in spring 2027 while the existing school remains operational.

The primary construction phase will run from summer 2027 through spring 2029, with temporary parking and traffic arrangements in place.

Beginning in June 2029, the existing school will be demolished, and the remaining site work will be completed. The new school is expected to be open for the 2029-30 school year, with final site work completed by fall 2029.

Residents and commissioners also raised questions about the temporary parking lot, native landscaping, lighting, solar panels over parking areas, and stormwater.

The project team said it incorporated native plantings based on guidance from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. Solar panels over parking areas were considered but were deemed cost-prohibitive at this stage, although they could potentially be added later.

Berlin resident and Buckingham Elementary teacher Melissa Reid praised the planning process and encouraged the town to address concerns surrounding West Street.

“I have seen the traffic in real time, and I’m proud of the work that’s been done,” Reid said. “This building is crucial for our community.”

The project team is now finalizing bidding documents. Construction manager Keller Brothers is expected to bid the project this fall, with the construction contract scheduled for consideration by the Board of Education in November and County Commissioners in December before being submitted for state approval.

Construction of the new 90,837-square-foot facility will cost around \$52 million.



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Senator Chris Van Hollen, right, is pictured with Diakonia Executive Director Ken Argot and Board members Reid Tingle and Brian Roberts.
TARA FISCHER/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Senator looking forward to more Diakonia partnerships

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) As part of U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen’s (D-Md.) visit to the Eastern Shore last week, he toured Diakonia to see how the organization supports homeless families and veterans in the area and to discuss its plans to expand its supportive housing, food pantry, and other services.

The visit was one of several stops Van Hollen made in Worcester County as he prepared for the Maryland Association of Counties summer conference in Ocean City.

“When you walk in the doors of Diakonia, you can see why we need a place like this,” Van Hollen said. “This is for people who are unhoused. This is a place they can come for shelter and also that supportive and transitional housing and get themselves back on their feet.”

Van Hollen said Diakonia provides a vital service for families, veterans, and others experiencing homelessness.

“It’s essential,” he added. “I mean, this is one of the very few places here on the Shore where people can come and get the kind of help that they provide here for families, for veterans, for others. I mean, if you’re really down and literally out, this is a place that opens its doors for you.”

Diakonia Executive Director Ken Argot said the organization has been serving the area for more than 50 years and has developed its programs specifically around the needs of the Eastern Shore community.

Van Hollen also spoke about a grant request during his visit last week. The nonprofit organization is seeking \$1 million in federal funding for the first phase of a planned expansion.

This initial stage would include a veterans and outreach office, an expanded food pantry, and improvements to Diakonia’s thrift store.

Argot said the expanded pantry would move away from the traditional model of simply handing people preselected food and instead

allow individuals to shop for the items they need. The space could also create employment opportunities.

Additionally, the organization hopes to increase the thrift store’s contribution to its operating revenue. Argot said the store currently accounts for about 10% of Diakonia’s income, with a goal of increasing that figure to between 20% and 25%.

Future phases of the project would eventually include more than 50 housing units across three apartment buildings.

One of the buildings would be dedicated to single-resident veterans, a population Argot said can be particularly difficult to house. The remaining units would include studios, one-bedroom units, and larger apartments.

Argot said the project is intended to address the area’s shortage of affordable housing and provide people with a path from homelessness to permanent housing.

Argot said Diakonia has already secured about half of the funding needed for the overall project, with the organization planning to raise the remaining funds through a fundraising campaign.

Van Hollen said his office reviewed Diakonia’s funding request and supports the organization’s efforts.

“We were able to see what those funds would be used for,” Van Hollen said. “And it’s part of supporting the overall operation. And so, we want to be a partner with them in the good work they’re doing.”

The federal funding request is pending. Van Hollen acknowledged that securing an earmark requires navigating a lengthy process but said he considers Diakonia’s request a priority.

“I’ve heard a lot of positive things about Diakonia, which is why we did submit your request,” Van Hollen said. “We think it’s a priority, so we’re going to try to push it through what is a very tortuous process.”

Diakonia has a fundraising event planned for Nov. 6 as it continues working toward funding the expansion initiative.

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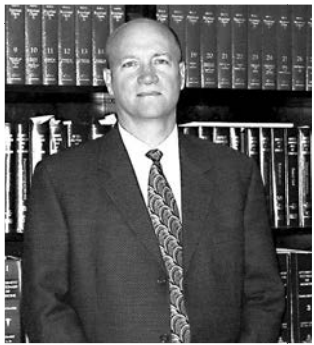
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Obituaries

ALICE J. UNGER
Berlin

Alice JoAnn Unger, age 83, passed away on August 15, 2026, in Berlin, Maryland. Born on April 21, 1943, in Baltimore, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Arthur Flaxcomb and Alice (Kramer) Flaxcomb.

Alice J. Unger

While JoAnn enjoyed a long career in the health insurance field, she found her true purpose in civic duty. She discovered it to be both rewarding and fulfilling in assisting the Mayors of Berlin and the town of Berlin in achieving their objectives. She truly appreciated the people she worked with and formed long lasting friendships with so many. Personally, she took great pride in always being put together from hair and makeup to “just the right amount of jewelry” as well as exercising and staying in shape.

While maintaining an air of dignity, she was thrilled to enjoy a well poured Guinness and unafraid to sing quite loudly, her favorite Irish music. She created purposeful time to be spent with friends, coworkers, her Ya-Ya’s and family. She was steadfast and walked proudly in her faith and in the end, was an example of what we all strive to be, as she moto’d

“works in progress”.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Sherry Palmer and Patricia Liquefatto. JoAnn is survived by her son Christopher and his fiancé Patty, with whom she resided, and her son Mark. In addition, she leaves behind her grandchildren – Blake Unger, Travis Unger (Sharmila), Patrick Unger (Kara), and Noah Unger; and her bonus grandchildren – Brynn Latchum and Keegan Latchum.

JoAnn’s family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Coastal Hospice for the exceptional care, empathy and graciousness shown to mom. Shonda was a light in mom’s darkest times and we are forever indebted.

A viewing will take place at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026, from 1-3 p.m. Interment at Garden of the Pines Cemetery in Berlin will follow the viewing hours. Letters of condolence may be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home – Berlin.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary Notices cost \$50 per week for Print and Online Publications.
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Friday 11am-1pm	6201 Coastal Highway #806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,678,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 1:30-3pm	9900 Coastal Hwy #1409, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$589,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$279,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 10am-Noon	12418 Coastal Marsh Drive, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$657,500	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$279,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday 1-4pm	12353 Southhampton Dr, Lighthouse Sound	6BR/7.5BA	Single Family	\$3,599,900	Greg Erdie/Beth Evans/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 10:30am-12:30pm	953 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$479,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	306 14th Street Unit A, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$899,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday 1-3pm	75 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$829,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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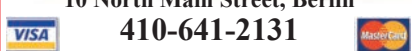


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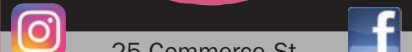
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Data center policy considerations evaluated

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) Worcester County government hit the pause button on data centers and cable landing stations last month. Now comes the harder part: deciding what happens when the pause ends.

County planners got their first crack at that question last Thursday, Aug. 6, as they reviewed public calls for stronger language in Worcester’s new comprehensive plan dealing with the facilities.

“Maybe the question would be, should it be a more generalized concern about large scale digital infrastructure? Maybe not specific to those projects, but just in general, the impact it would have on the county,” Development Review and Permitting Director Jennifer

Keener told the Worcester County Planning Commission.

The county’s 12-month moratorium took effect in July, giving officials a year to study the facilities and develop legislation governing them. Keener said that work is underway.

One project is already waiting for those answers. Globalinx has proposed a cable landing station along the Route 611 corridor outside West Ocean City for Amazon Web Services, but its pending zoning case was put on hold when the county commissioners adopted the moratorium July 21.

Planning Commission Chairman Jerry Barbierrri raised the question while the commission considered comments submitted on the county’s draft comprehensive plan.

He asked Keener whether it made sense to address data centers in the plan while the county was already using the moratorium period to study them.

Planning Commission member Mary Knight cautioned against shutting off future possibilities before the county understands what newer facilities may require.

“I really don’t want to close all the avenues,” Knight said. “It’s so new.”

Keener pointed to solar development as an example of how a new land use can arrive faster than a comprehensive plan anticipates it.

The county’s previous plan did not specifically address solar facilities, she said, and Worcester later developed zoning regulations as proposals began coming forward.

“A lot more research is needed on data centers before we’re ready for that,” Keener said.

Even before the moratorium, county planning officials determined that Globalinx’s proposed cable landing station did not qualify as either a public utility or a data center under current zoning definitions.

Globalinx appealed that interpretation and sought a special exception from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

A hearing on Globalinx’s appeal had been scheduled for Aug. 19. The moratorium halted that proceeding along with other pending approvals involving data centers and cable landing stations, meaning the company’s pending zoning case cannot move forward while the moratorium remains in effect.

Ongoing investigation leads to resignation

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(Aug. 20, 2026) Cpl. Benjamin Berry, the Ocean City Police Department officer involved in an ongoing criminal investigation in Delaware, has resigned.

Police Chief Ray Austin reported Berry’s resignation at last Monday’s meeting of the Ocean City Police Commission. In an update on staffing levels, the chief told members that Berry had been suspended with pay since early June.

“As we talked about in the last police commission meeting, we did have one officer who was suspended with pay,” Austin told commission members. “That officer, Cpl. Benjamin Berry, has resigned from the Ocean City Police De-

partment, pending termination.”

In June, Delaware State Police launched an investigation into the possibility that Berry and his wife, Kimberly – a special education teacher with Worcester County Public Schools – were involved in some sort of child exploitation.

Delaware police offered no information about what prompted the investigation into the Selbyville, Del., couple, although they were contacted by local authorities because of jurisdictional issues.

However, it appeared the two were already in trouble with their respective employers when the Delaware State Police investigation began.

Kimberly Berry, who already faced job performance problems, according to

sources outside the school system, was fired by the board of education last month, while Benjamin Berry was on administrative leave for an unrelated matter within the police department.

The administrative investigation into that latter incident has concluded, Austin said last week, adding that he was prepared to recommend termination to the Ocean City Trial Board. However, he said Berry had since handed in his resignation, effective Aug. 6.

“The second administrative investigation has not been completed at the time of his resignation due to Delaware State Police’s investigation,” he said. “So, he has resigned and is no longer a member of the Ocean City Police Department.”

OCPD Deputy Communications

Manager Ashley Miller said last week that the department would present its findings of the second administrative investigation once it concludes. However, as Berry is no longer employed with the police department, no discipline will be recommended.

Berry, who served as a seasonal officer for two years before joining the force full-time in 2012, worked in the patrol division.

In 2019, the community rallied around Berry and his family when he was diagnosed with advanced testicular cancer. Through a GoFundMe campaign organized by Kimberly Berry, the family received more than \$27,000 in donations to help make ends meet while her husband received treatment.

Annual memorial golf tourney date released

(Aug. 20, 2026) The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation is seeking sponsors for the 19th annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament, scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

This event is the major fundraiser for the Foundation’s education programs, including annual field trips for all Worcester County 5th graders to the Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines.

The tournament is a Captain’s Choice and Scramble format, with check-in beginning at 8 a.m. for a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Registration is \$150 per player and includes greens fees with car and range balls, a grab and go breakfast, door prize entry, lunch buffet, and awards and prizes. Mens, Ladies, and Mixed Teams are welcome.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels, ranging from \$125 to \$2,000.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit, and all contributions are tax-deductible. In addition to sponsorships, the Foundation also welcomes donated prizes, gift certificates, or items for the tournament’s silent auction.

(Aug. 20, 2026) The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) has begun a resurfacing project on Route 12 (Snow Hill Road) from Route 113 Business (Market Street) to Nasawango Road in Worcester County.

The work started Monday, Aug. 10, and is anticipated to be complete by November, weather permitting.

Drivers can expect daytime single-lane closures Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., as crews

begin the milling and resurfacing operations, according to an SHA news release. During work hours, motorists can expect single-lane closures and flagging operations throughout the duration of the project.

The SHA’s contractor, Allan Myers, of Fallston, Md., will use arrow boards, cones, and flaggers to safely guide motorists through the work zone. The single-lane closures will be in place until the project has been completed.

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For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit WoCoVets.org.

appreciates customers’ patience during construction as we work to improve Maryland’s transportation system,” a news release reads. “Drivers are asked to stay alert, stay focused and be aware of reduced speed limits and changing driving patterns in the work zone. Slow Down and move over in work zones. It’s the law.”

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, news and travel information, visit roads.maryland.gov.

Route 12 resurfacing work begins

Worcester eyes marketing spotlight on local shellfish

Campaign on Maryland's Coast Shellfish viewed as expansion of 'Coast' brand

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Aug. 20, 2026) New York City has pizza. Maine has lobsters. Texas does barbecue, and even Virginia has peanuts.

Now, tourism officials on Maryland's Coast say they're hungry for a foodie identity of their own.

Of course, Maryland and blue crabs already go together like Old Bay and newsprint – but oysters, clams, and bay scallops grown in the coastal bays have never enjoyed quite the same recognition.

With that in mind, the county will formally launch a new marketing campaign called Maryland's Coast Shellfish on Aug. 20 at Baywater Landing in Snow Hill. The name builds on the "Maryland's Coast" branding that Worcester County already uses to market the county as a tourism destination.

Tourism officials are hanging that campaign on the one thing they say sets oysters and scallops harvested from the coastal bays apart from the competition: salt.

"The natural salinity of our waters contributes to a brinier, more flavorful product that is highly desirable for its taste and quality," said Brianna Dix, communications and marketing manager for Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development.

The goal, Dix said, is to make local shellfish more recognizable, encourage more people to buy it, and ultimately

make the industry more profitable for growers.

The county has already begun laying the groundwork with a seafood brochure highlighting not only seasonal catches, but the local businesses where residents and visitors can buy them.

Dix also said the county wants to help local growers sell more shellfish by giving consumers a clearer sense of what makes Worcester-grown oysters, clams, and scallops different.

"I would say that all of this is good for the industry," said Ben Mumford, whose roots in Worcester County go back nine generations. He spent years farming and selling oysters locally before joining seafood distributor Reliant.

"There is no drawback – any exposure is good exposure. This is wonderful. I would love to see more oysters on local menus," he said.

Mumford said Canadian growers have cornered the market on salty oysters, even though several local farms produce oysters he considers every bit as briny and flavorful.

He also pointed to Chincoteague Bay, a name widely associated with Virginia even though much of that body of water lies in Maryland. Oysters grown on the Maryland side, he said, benefit from the same water conditions and flavor profile.

Mumford said the county's campaign should promote restaurants serving locally harvested oysters.

"I would say, put all the dollars toward social media, saying, 'go to this restaurant, go to Ocean City – request Chincoteague Bay, Maryland, oysters,'" he said. "Make sure it says Maryland."

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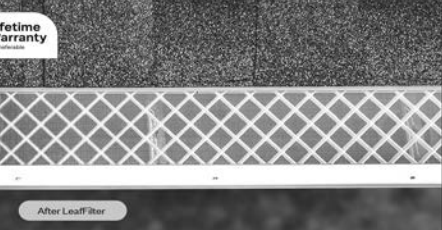
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Opinion

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

County getting behind local shellfish farming

Aquaculture in the coastal bays that stretch along the Worcester County mainland into Virginia could help revive a shellfish industry that disappeared from these waters decades ago.

As Worcester County's tourism and marketing department launches its Maryland Coast Shellfish campaign today (Thursday), it's worth noting that the effort marks the return of a commercial endeavor that had all but vanished by the late 1950s.

That enterprise was the coastal area's oyster industry, which today survives largely through the floating cages and growing systems used by Worcester County's oyster farmers. Although a few wild oysters can still be found at the southern end of Chincoteague Bay, their numbers are insignificant.

The irony is that the absence of oysters in Worcester's waters up this way was first caused by the low salinity of the inland bays before the opening of the Ocean City Inlet in 1933, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

But then, when the inlet did open and brought with it the saltier ocean waters, it also allowed predators such as the oyster drill to enter the bays and devastate local oyster bars. They did not recover.

The growing aquaculture industry, however, is changing all that by producing oysters, clams and bay scallops at commercial levels. And now, with Worcester seeking to do for its locally grown shellfish what successful agricultural brands have done for other food products, this county's shellfish farming business could now be on the verge of a marketing breakthrough.

We hope so, because not only is shellfish farming a growing industry, it's among the most sustainable and environmentally friendly forms of food production in the world, according to NOAA.

Besides, they sure are tasty.

'Food stress' hurting regional osprey

Md. Coastal Bays Program's seeking to collect data on nests

By **Bethany Hooper**
Associate Editor

(Aug. 14, 2026) Starting in May, staff members of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program left the office with one goal in mind – to collect data on osprey nests.

And what they found in the bays was alarming – of the 15 active nests found this season, 10 had failed to produce fledglings.

"What we know is there's a significant drop in the success rate," said Bird Habitat Coordinator Kim Abplanalp.

Dave Brinker, an aviation conservation ecologist with the Natural Heritage Program at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (the agency partnering with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program on the survey), said that failure rate is not normal. In years past, he said, it was common to see just two nests fail to produce young.

But the issue is not unique to Maryland's coastal bays, he said. Communities up and down the eastern seaboard are reporting lower osprey populations, with the decline largely attributed to a decline in the bird's main food source, menhaden.

"It's a sign of an ecosystem that is being severely challenged, and it will have ripple effects into other things," Brinker said. "That's where you start to be concerned."

In 1972, the United States placed a ban on DDT after evidence showed the chemical compound had entered into local waterways, building up in fish and working its way up the food chain to predators like eagles and ospreys, which saw dramatic population declines. The pesticide, scientists found, made eggshells thin, causing them to break before a chick could even hatch.

In the decades following the DDT ban, the osprey population rebounded. And



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

An osprey nest in the coastal bays watershed is examined. So far this season, a reported 15 active nests were located and observed with 10 failing to produce fledglings.

agencies began to shift their focus – and funding – on other issues, Brinker said.

"This [current] osprey issue sort of snuck up on us ...," he said. "We didn't have our fingers on the problem when it started."

In 2023, Bryan Watts, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary, sounded the alarm on the falling osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay. His research found that chicks were starving in their nests.

"There are clear indicators of food stress," he told the OC Today-Dispatch.

The data collected in the Chesapeake Bay found that ospreys were not producing enough chicks to offset the species' mortality rate, Watts explained. While the rate needed to maintain the population is about 0.8 to 1.2 chicks per pair, ospreys in various parts of the bay are producing just a fraction of that – in some nests, about 25% of the "break even" rate.

"The hatching rate is fine. It's above 80%," he said,

"but the chicks are dying between hatching and fledging."

His research was followed up by two more papers on the osprey population. And last year, states up and down the east coast began looking more closely at the issue.

"It looks like this stretches the Atlantic coast," he said. "Maybe as far as Nova Scotia."

Studies have just begun in Maryland's coastal bays, Abplanalp said. But a three-month survey recently conducted by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program showed some nests empty and others with fewer eggs and chicks.

However, Abplanalp said it was too soon to tell just what is causing the local decline in success rates.

"We don't know the full story," she said.

As data collection continues, researchers hypothesize the declining osprey population is indicative of a larger ecological change in waters up and down the seaboard – that the species is struggling

See 'NOT' Page 21

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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‘... Not enough fish coming in’ to aid osprey

Continued from Page 20
to find menhaden, the high-fat fish on which they survive.

“There’s not enough fish coming in,” Watts said, “and what is coming in is of poor quality content.”

This struggle to find food, Watts said, has led to “brood asymmetry,” in which one chick grows faster than the others, or “brood reduction,” in which offspring die or get pushed out of a nest.

“If it’s very severe and adults can’t feed one chick, then the nest fails,” he said.

Brinker added that some pairs in the region are laying fewer eggs, or no eggs at all.

“What’s changed here on the coast is that they were very productive and very successful, and now it’s crunch time,” he said. “Their numbers are going down.”

Watts said researchers at the Center for Conservation Biology have found an 80% reduction in the number of menhaden delivered to osprey nests. The oily forage fish, he said, are a key food source for the species, as well as other predatory fish, birds and whales.

“In terms of why menhaden is not available today is less clear,” he said.

Watts said it could be that the menhaden population is shifting farther north with rising sea temperatures. Or, he added, it could relate to harvesting practices.

Wrapped up in the osprey discussion, officials say, is Virginia’s last remaining reduction fishery, located in Reedville, Va. The commercial operation, run by Ocean Harvesters, catches menhaden and provides it to Omega Protein, which “reduces” or processes the fish into oils, meal and solubles.

Officials with Ocean Harvesters maintain that menhaden are not overfished, and that the Virginia-based fishery is certified sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. However, ecologists and advocates are turning to the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission – which oversees the conservation and management of 27 nearshore fish species along the Atlantic coast, including the menhaden – to implement lower catch limits in the Chesapeake Bay, where the fishery operates.

“The fishery that is out of Virginia is the one processing plant left ...,” James Boyle, the commission’s fisheries management plan coordinator for menhaden, said in an interview last week. “Their catch accounts for the entire Virginia allocation.”

Just last week, the commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board put forth an addendum to its Interstate Fishery Management Plan, listing options to reduce the annual cap by up to 50% for reduction fishery operations in the Chesapeake Bay, and distributing that cap more

evenly throughout the fishing season.

Boyle said the commission, through its board and ad hoc committee, has been studying the issue since 2024, when it invited staff from the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to come in and present the latest information on osprey.

“After that, the board established a workgroup made of board members to consider and evaluate options, including time and area closures ...,” he explained. “Essentially, they made this workgroup to look into it.”

What the group found, the commission reported last week, were declines in menhaden harvests within the Chesapeake Bay. Those declines coincided within an increase in reduction operations during the summer months, and “possible downstream effects on menhaden predators.”

However, when asked about the status of the menhaden population, Boyle said a recent assessment showed that the species is not overfished.

“The bay cap is precautionary,” he said.

The addendum being proposed include options that link the Chesapeake Bay cap to the coastwide total allowable catch, and options to dis-

tribute the cap into three quote periods so as to prevent a concentration of reduction harvesting in the spring and summer.

“There is a 51,000 metric ton cap on how much of the catch can be caught in the Chesapeake Bay ...,” Boyle said. “That is what we’ve been talking about, making it lower, distributing it.”

The menhaden board says it will collect public comments and consider

final action at its November 2026 meeting. In the meantime, researchers say they will continue to collect data on osprey populations.

“The answers aren’t going to be there in a year,” Brinker said. “The answers are several years out.”

Watts likened the osprey issue to the “canary in the coalmine.”

“They are one of the best indicators we have that something is not right in the ecosystem,” he said.

Indoor pool in Ocean Pines to close for annual cleaning

(Aug. 20, 2026) The Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool will close for its annual two week cleaning from Aug. 24 through Sept. 6.

During the closure, the following classes will move to the Swim & Racquet Club Pool:

Early Bird lap swimming: Monday to Friday, 6:00-7:50 a.m. (Drop-ins: Swim Members free, Resident \$9, Non-Residents \$10)

Wet Works I: Monday and Wednesday, 9-9:45 a.m. (Drop-ins: Swim Members \$8, Resident \$9, Non-Residents \$10)

Strength & Tone: Tuesday and Thursday 9-9:45 a.m. (Drop-ins: Swim Members \$8, Resident \$9, Non-Residents \$10)

The following classes will move to Mumford’s Landing Pool:

Aqua Yoga: Wednesday and Friday, 8-8:45 a.m. (Drop-ins: Swim Members \$8, Resident \$9, Non-Resident \$10)

Power Cardio & Core: Aug. 18 and 27 and Sept. 1 and 9, 9-9:45 a.m. (Drop-ins: Swim Members \$8, Resident \$9, Non-Residents \$10)

The Sports Core Pool will reopen on Monday, Sept. 7

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Puzzles

FREESTYLE EXERCISE

BY ERIK AGARD/ EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Erik Agard, of Kansas City, Mo., is a senior puzzle editor for the Andrews McMeel media company. This is his 84th crossword for The Times. Erik says his favorite thing about crosswords is constructing grids — like this themeless one that he packed with fresh vocabulary — and writing “really tricky clues that misdirect.” Some of my favorite Erik originals here are 62-Across and 21-, 32- and 54-Down. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 One bit

6 Bad jobs

12 Target of an annual vaccine

15 x or y

19 Swimmer's invitation

23 One of two in Hawaii

24 Father of the river gods, in Greek myth

25 Overwhelm

26 Jamaican folk song about dock work

27 Ones who've made the team

28 One at the U.S. Mint?

29 Long-handled tool

31 What might pile up during a digital detox

35 Show great fondness, in a way

36 In the lead

38 Cow

40 Oscar winner Hathaway

41 Foxlike

42 Winter pellets

43 ___ forgiveness

44 Say without saying

46 Godsend

47 Up to 150 years, for a tortoise

49 The first "C" of Vietnam's H.C.M.C.

50 Beaver's home

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

51 Communicate through a disagreement

53 Counterpart of 53-Down

54 Display perfect timing, much like dancers

55 Agcy. that protects the right to unionize

56 Some Indian flatbreads

57 First woman to play regularly in a major American men's pro baseball league

58 Bond between Lazenby and Dalton

59 "Let's do it"

60 Setting for Ghasan Kanafani's "All That's Left to You" and Mourid Barghouti's "I Saw Ramallah"

61 Like a lion's coat

62 Reprimand that might be biting, ironically

64 Group of partridges

65 "www" string

66 Honey boo-boo?

67 Like the Taj Mahal and the Hagia Sophia, architecturally

68 Up for the day

70 Named names

71 [Oh God ...]

72 Nurse

75 Many a spacious apartment

76 Stand-up comic ___ Wang

78 Where a band might go

79 "Gimme!"

80 Go undefeated

82 Enterprise letters

83 "Let's put a smile on your plate" chain

84 Lover of Tristan

86 Combine, as resources

88 Nintendo villain with a "W" on his cap

90 Bothersome recurrence

91 Controversial business oversight

96 Amusement park ride in which one's legs dangle high off the ground

97 Lip

98 "___ bodkins!" (bygone oath)

99 Comes clean, with "up"

100 Old Bulgarian rulers

10 Time that's an artist's name backward

11 Did the butterfly, e.g.

12 Co. whose logo depicts the god Mercury holding flowers

13 Dutch city with a namesake jar

14 ___ Major

15 "Because I Got High" rapper

16 12 letters?

17 Magazine for entrepreneurs

18 Good to go

20 Branch with a stem?

21 Number of letters?

22 Ocular affliction

28 Uintah and Ouray reservation people

30 Surpassed

32 Group in support of a queen

33 Rushing around

34 Last Beatles single before Paul McCartney's departure

37 Reality TV icon ___ Leakes

38 Edging, e.g.

39 Title for Macbeth

42 Parts of many combo meals

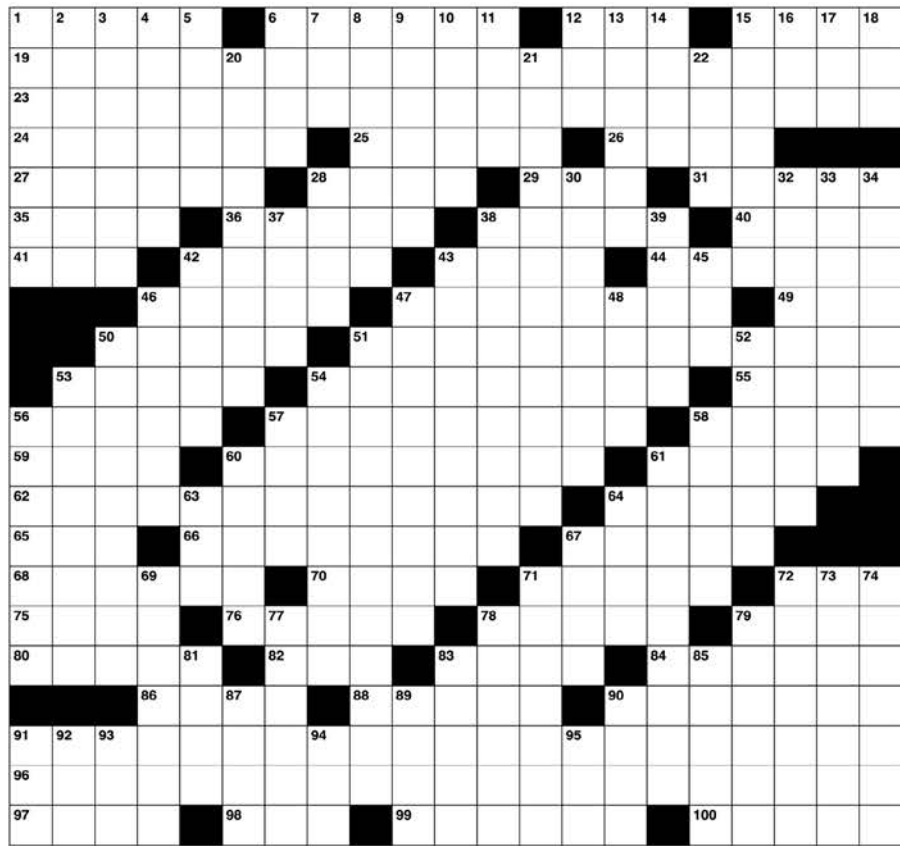
43 Selling off, as stocks

45 Big inits. in Dutch banking

46 Foretelling of

47 Bestowing extravagantly (on)

48 Source of fragrant cones



50 Destiny

51 Something that might not be well received when someone asks, "How do I look?"

52 Was flaky?

53 Counterpart of 53-Across

54 It's not exactly fast food

56 Almsgiving and pilgrimage, for two

57 Bit of folklore

58 Wonk

60 Hammer parts

61 Main ingredient in salsa verde

63 Purple yam in Filipino desserts

64 Sounds from pigeons

67 Simple coffee-brewing method

69 Treeless tracts

71 Pleasing rhythms

72 Diamond component?

73 Gene-activating substance

74 Eyes, informally

77 Danced at a luau

78 Eddie

79 Very complicated situation, so to speak

81 ___ People's Campaign (1968 S.C.L.C. movement)

83 Self-congratulatory declaration

85 One of the Five Pillars of Islam, referring to prayer

87 "___ take arms against a sea of troubles": Hamlet

89 Since

90 Some fan-made literary works, informally

91 Prefix with normative

92 ___ shoestring

93 They're parked in parks

94 Some OT enders

95 Before, poetically

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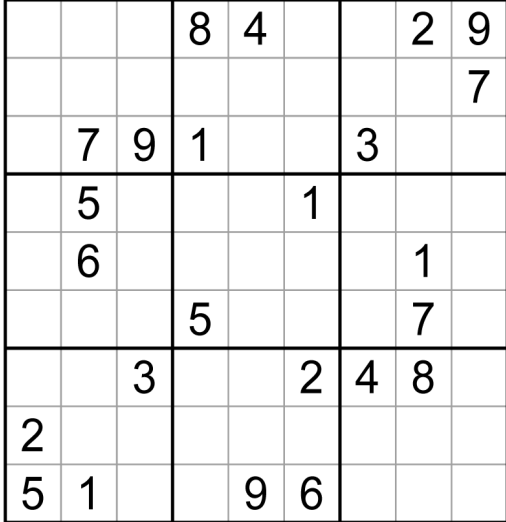
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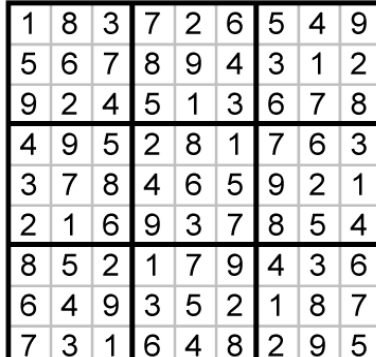
© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 20

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



Answers to last week's puzzles





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. 20

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

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

OCEAN CITY TOURISM POP UP
The Coconut Club, 208 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 1-4 p.m. Stop by to grab a photo in front of OC photo ops, win smile swag and more. Be sure to download the app to play gams and win swag at the pop up. <https://www.ococean.com/events/>

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

STORY TIME: MS. ANGIE'S FAVES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

SNAIL MAIL SOCIAL
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Come write a letter and decorate an envelope to send it in at the Ocean City library. Light snacks provided. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-632-5622, worcesterlibrary.org

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

LET'S MAKE... BYO CRAFTS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Bring your own craft project and work alongside other adult crafters. Share and exchange ideas, skills and supplies. A unique assortment of supplies provided. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

MONTHLY MOVIE MATINEE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Catch

a movie you may have missed in the theaters. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Games, hands-on activities and fun for all ages. Recognizing the top readers and offering a final opportunity to log ready completions. For families. 410-957-0878, 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. 21

SPORT FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP ATLANTIC DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunset Marina, 12911 Sunset Ave., Ocean City. The three-day event offers fans and visitors a chance to experience world-class competitive sport fishing. <https://sportfishingchampionship.com/events/atlanticchampionship-2026>

BOARDWALK EAGLE HUNT
Ocean City Boardwalk, 698 N. Atlantic Ave., 12-8 p.m. Free activity for kids 12 years and younger. Pick up playing cards at participating merchants or the Information Booth. Find the plush eagles, get card stamped and return to receive an 8” plush eagle. 703-731-6515

PE.P CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY
Ocean Pines Community Center - White Horse Park Pavillion, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5-7 p.m. Hot dogs, potato chips and small desserts. All are welcome.

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

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

Sat., Aug. 22

SPORT FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP ATLANTIC DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunset Marina, 12911 Sunset Ave., Ocean City. The three-day event offers fans and visitors a chance to experience world-

class competitive sport fishing. <https://sportfishingchampionship.com/events/atlanticchampionship-2026>

VETERANS STAND DOWN 50 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE EVENT
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The Department of Veterans Affairs connects at-risk and homeless veterans to counseling, health screenings, food, clothing and other resources. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

FREE KIDS CRAFT SATURDAYS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring “Tissue Paper Sun-catchers.” Guided crafts led by friendly instructors. All supplies provided. Jessica Bauer, development@artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

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

Sun., Aug. 23

SPORT FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP ATLANTIC DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunset Marina, 12911 Sunset Ave., Ocean City. The three-day event offers fans and visitors a chance to experience world-class competitive sport fishing. <https://sportfishingchampionship.com/events/atlanticchampionship-2026>

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Mike Hines and the Look: High Energy Dance Music.” Ice cream for purchase. Followed by fireworks. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sundaes-in-the-park/>

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

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

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

Mon., Aug. 24

BOARDWALK EAGLE HUNT
Ocean City Boardwalk, 698 N. Atlantic Ave., 12-8 p.m. Free activity for kids 12 years and younger. Pick up playing cards at participating merchants or the Information Booth. Find the plush eagles, get card stamped and return to receive an 8” plush eagle. 703-731-6515

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9:30 a.m. The speaker is Monica Brooks, President Wicomico County NAACP. All are welcome. <https://dwcmd.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: THE OCEAN
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

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>

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS
Mondays - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7-8 p.m. No dues or fees. 410-459-9100

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center
Continued on Page 24

Calendar

Continued from Page 23
ter, 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.

Tues., Aug. 25

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

STORY TIME: DOWN ON THE FARM
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke
Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Join in
for a variety of stories, songs and activi-
ties. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878,
worcestlibrary.org

STORY TIME
Worcester County Library - Berlin
Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m.
Story time featuring seasonal themes de-
signed to support early literacy skills with
stores, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-
5 years. 410-641-0650, worcestli-
brary.org

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines
Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-4 p.m.
Bring any questions you have and feel
free to show your plants as well. 410-
208-4014, worcestlibrary.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-](https://koc9053-seafood-nights.square.site/)
[nights.square.site/](https://koc9053-seafood-nights.square.site/).

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING
Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jeho-
vah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7
p.m. www.jw.org

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY
Tuesdays - Worcester County Health De-
partment, 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

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.

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE
Tuesdays - Lewes Senior Center, 32083
Janice Rd. Lewes, DE, 7-9 p.m. Experi-
enced dancers and others interested in
watching or learning more are welcome.
No partner required. Info: [Tangobythe-](mailto:TangobytheBeach.com)
[Beach.com](http://TangobytheBeach.com).

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

Wed., Aug. 26

PUZZLE SWAP
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch,
13 Harrison Ave., 1-7 p.m. Bring your gen-
tly 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

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

DOG ADOPTION NIGHT
Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack
Road, Berlin, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Held track-
side during live racing. First post time:
6:40 p.m. Meet the dogs available from
local humane societies. [https://www.oce-](https://www.oce-andowns.com/promotions/dog-adoption-nights-2/)
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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 in-
formation 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 pub-
lic. 443-605-5028

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