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SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

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FIRST DAY BACK

A returning student at Pocumoke Elementary School accepts a pencil as she's met at the entrance by staff and members of the Worcester County Board of Education and Pocumoke city officials.

Comp plan looks at new way of zoning

Advisors say maintaining town's appearances means form should follow function

By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

(Sept. 3, 2026) A discussion on the town's potential conversion to a form-based zoning code dominated this week's work session on Berlin's draft comprehensive plan, with some town planners arguing for a more modern approach and others arguing for the preservation of existing residential areas.

On Monday, the Berlin Planning Commission held a two-hour-long meeting, in which representatives from Mead & Hunt presented the first iteration of the town's draft comprehensive plan, the document that outlines Berlin's vision for growth, investment and preservation in the coming years.

While the presentation touched on a broad range of topics, from transportation and community facilities to water resources and municipal growth areas, the bulk of the meeting focused on one of the plan's recommendations – transitioning to a hybrid form-based zoning code.

“Instead of regulating the traditional type of zoning, regulating the usage of the property – industrial here, residential here, single-family there, multifamily there, business over here – you regulate based on the form,” Project Manager Will White said. “So does this building fit the neighborhood?”

Zoning based on structure's form considers the physical appearance of

State backing Berlin solar project

PSC staff recommending approval of 18-megawatt project north of downtown

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) A proposal to build what would become Worcester County's largest solar farm has won

the backing of state regulators as the state's Public Service Commission moves closer to a final decision.

Public Service Commission staff and the Maryland departments of Natural Resources and the Environment are recommending approval of the 18-megawatt project, proposed for a site just north of downtown Berlin.

Their recommendations for a proposed solar array from New Jersey-based developer Soltage were presented Thursday during a public comment hearing at the Berlin branch of the Worcester County Library.

The project would cover about 113.7 acres of a 157-acre property at
See SOLAR Page 4

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Berlin will discuss data center moratorium

Officials to hold meeting this month on data centers, potential impacts on town

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) Berlin town officials are considering a one-year moratorium on data center applications as they seek to learn more about these facilities and the impacts they could have on the small Eastern Shore town.

At last week's Town Council meeting, Councilman Jack Orris broached the topic of data centers — warehouse-sized buildings that house computer systems and servers to store, process, and transmit digital information — as these structures continue to gain attention nationwide. Orris said he believes Berlin should temporarily reject proposals to build data centers within municipal limits.

"I want to see if there is any appetite for the discussion of data centers in Berlin," Orris said. "The county passed a moratorium ... I personally think we should be proactive ..."

The council largely concurred that pressing pause on these server farms would be beneficial.

"I don't want a data center in the Town of Berlin," Councilman Steve Green said in response to Orris' remarks. "I'm just trying to figure out how we would codify it and if it's needed. To your point, you're not sure if it's needed but you would rather be proactive than reactive if an application comes through planning."

Worcester County passed a 12-month moratorium on data centers earlier this summer, which took effect in July. The ban gives officials some time to research the impacts of these facilities and develop local legislation.

Berlin's consideration of a ban will begin with an educational presentation and discussion at the Sept. 28 mayor and council meeting.

During last week's conversation, Councilman Jay Knerr asked if there were even any tracts of land within Berlin large enough to accommodate a data center.

Orris responded that these controversial structures can range from under 5,000 square feet to much larger. He added that a few parcels

for sale in town could theoretically serve as a data center site.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall noted that strict conditions bind data center builders, and implementing such a facility isn't as simple as opening a brick-and-mortar retail business. He added that Berlin received interest from two data center projects in the past, but neither materialized.

"There are many state requirements," Tyndall said. "... The state has passed electric-wise, you have to be self-sufficient. Water-wise, you have to not create an undue burden."

According to the Maryland Department of the Environment's website, the agency issues permits under the federal Clean Air Act to limit pollutants from data centers, like nitrogen oxides.

"These permits strictly control

how long and at what capacity generators can run," MDE's website reads. "Every permit is a public document and requires a local community meeting and comment period before approval."

Water usage is also a worry.

MDE says that "Data centers requiring water to cool their systems must secure a state permit that sets clear withdrawal limits to protect the local environment under the federal Clean Water Act."

Data centers can alternatively use water from a local utility, including a county system, which operates under its own state-regulated permit.

Berlin resident Beverly Wright asked town officials to clarify their concerns about data centers.

Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh said data farms can create en-

vironmental consequences in the areas where they're placed.

"There are a lot of environmental impacts from data centers," she said. "It's a problem nationwide when a data center comes, especially in a small community; there are a lot of disruptions. A lot of heat is generated, a lot of noise. To that point, I do think we need to be proactive. Not strict, but something in writing is absolutely advised."

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen added that the centers can significantly burden public utilities, including electric and water.

Berlin officials plan to revisit the topic later this month. A possible moratorium on data center applications is expected to come before the Town Council as a discussion item at the group's Sept. 28 meeting.

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Ocean Downs owner, staff reach contract agreement

Union workers, Churchill Downs ratify four-year deal with pay hikes, bonuses

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) Unionized workers at Ocean Downs Casino have ratified a new four-year contract with Churchill Downs Inc., ending months of negotiations during which union leaders had raised the possibility of a strike.

The agreement will lift the casino's lowest-paid workers above \$18 an hour by October and guarantee all non-tipped union employees at least \$20 an hour by the contract's end, Unite Here Local 7 President Tracy Lingo said last Wednesday.

"It was a long fight, but I think it was a fight that was worth it," Lingo said. "I'm proud those are jobs people can count on year-round for a living wage and benefits."

Negotiations began in September 2025, weeks before the previous contract was set to expire. By early June, the two sides had met about 16 times, with union members working under a contract extension.

Wages were the main point of contention. Union members rejected an

earlier offer in May before continuing negotiations through the summer. They ratified the contract Aug. 1 following a two-day vote.

The four-year agreement gives union members 5% pay increases in each of the next three years, starting in October.

It also provides an 8% raise retroactive to Oct. 16, 2025. Retroactive pay has not yet been issued because Churchill Downs is awaiting final signatures, Lingo said. She expected the contract to be signed by the end of the week.

The agreement covers roughly 100 hourly employees, including bartenders, cooks, dishwashers, cleaning workers, slot attendants, casino hosts, and cage cashiers.

It also provides ratification bonuses ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 based on years of service, two additional paid days off for employees with at least six years of service, and fewer blackout dates for covered workers.

Table-games dealers are not covered by the agreement and have been separately seeking union representation. Lingo called that "a separate issue."

"We continue to ask the company to respect the people's right to organize," she said.

Union workers also retained full gratuities charged to customers at banquet events. Lingo said Churchill Downs had sought to replace those gratuities with fixed payments to workers.

The contract contains a successorship clause requiring any buyer of Ocean Downs to honor the agreement, Lingo said. Churchill Downs announced in July that it was considering selling Ocean Downs and other regional gaming properties.

Lingo confirmed last Wednesday that a strike is now off the table.

Asked whether the agreement eliminated the possibility of a strike or other labor-related disruption, Churchill Downs spokeswoman Breck Thomas-Ross replied, "It's business as usual."

Before the new agreement, Lingo said 93% of the workers earned less than \$39,000 annually, with some entry-level jobs paying Maryland's \$15 hourly minimum wage.

The rejected three-year offer provided raises of 6% in the first year and 5% in each of the next two years. The final agreement increased the first raise to 8% and added a fourth year with another 5% increase.

"I really feel profoundly proud of our members for voting down that offer and continuing to stand up for what they felt like they deserved," Lingo said. "Even with this contract, those workers are still behind some of our other members. We are fighting for equality."



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Mead & Hunt's Will White, front right, presented a draft version of the comprehensive plan to the Berlin Planning Commission on Monday night.

Comp plan early draft reviewed

Continued from Page 1

a building and its relationship to its surroundings. The use of that building is a secondary consideration. The first consideration in traditional zoning whether the use of a building is compatible with the other properties around it.

Over the spring and summer months, White said his firm solicited feedback from the town's residents. Results from a community survey, he said, revealed transportation to be a top priority, with 96% of respondents wanting more or better sidewalks.

"That was honestly the closest we'll get to 100%," he said. "I've never seen numbers that high."

But behind transportation, White said, was the desire to prioritize aging infrastructure (83%), prioritize housing renovation and reuse (82%) and preserve the neighborhood character (74%).

"Nobody was really opposed to infill development, no direct opposition to it, nobody opposed to growth in general," he said, "but it was that we want the town's character to remain. We want Berlin to look like Berlin."

White also shared the results of both a community workshop and a popup event. During those outreach events, community members talked about safe walking and biking opportunities, a desire to expand the downtown area, and the lack of affordable housing, to name a few.

"Everything kind of fell into three categories," White said. "What do the residents of Berlin really want? They want to grow thoughtfully, connect safely and protect what matters."

Talking about growth and land use, White said the comprehensive plan focused on infill development and promoting "thoughtful density." He said that includes using more understandable zoning tools that can guide growth without sacrificing the town's character.

Specifically, the comprehensive plan proposes new "character" areas, which include a historic downtown core, a mixed-use corridor, and a neighborhood residential district. It also recommends moving toward a form-based zoning code.

"Form-based code is basically land use zoning as based on the form, or the architecture and design of the development," Mead & Hunt's Allysha Lorber said, adding that use was secondary but could still be a strong element. "The idea is to give more flexibility to developers to be able to implement the kind of development they want to build."

Essentially, the consultants argued the transition could improve walkability, increase housing options and support infill development, so long as it matches the design of neighboring properties. Planning Commissioner Newt Chandler, however, argued that use should be the priority, adding that a form-based code would ruin the town's quality of life.

"Seventy-four percent say they want the character of neighborhoods to be preserved ...," he said. "Form-based neighborhoods like you are proposing here, the way you are talking about it, could wreck that."

Lorber said the town could take a hybrid approach, where form-based zoning would apply to some areas and not others. She added that it could also support infill development in under-utilized areas.

When asked if infill development included accessory dwelling units – which, by law, are now allowed by right on single-family lots – Lorber said it could.

"One of the things we heard over and over is more housing, more affordable housing ...," she told commissioners this week. "What we are saying is there can be more opportunities for infill development in the downtown area, and in the neighborhoods, and in all of these areas really."

Simply put, Lorber said the hybrid zoning could create more housing types, at different price ranges. She said the average house price in Berlin

See STATE Page 9

On behalf of the Berlin Police Department, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the Thirty Third Annual Golf Tournament on August 21st 2026. All of the proceeds from this event go to the crime prevention fund, which supports activities that include sponsored holiday events, little league baseball teams and youth football, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Greater Berlin Minority Scholarships Fund, Worcester County Youth and Family Counseling Services, National Night Out, Coastal Hospice, and a host of other organizations in an effort to encourage community partnerships.

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Pocomoke dispensary site plan reviewed, approved

By **Brian Shane**
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) A proposed cannabis dispensary in Pocomoke City has cleared another round of local review, with its operator hoping to begin construction this fall and open early next year.

The city’s Planning Commission voted unanimously Aug. 27 to recommend approval of plans to convert the long-vacant former Plaza Tapatia restaurant at 1621 Ocean Highway.

The proposal will next go before the city council for site-plan approval later this month. Building and sign permits would still be required afterward.

Kalpesh Shah, CEO of Guru Ventures, the company behind the Pocomoke proposal, told commissioners the dispensary would employ about 30 people. It would be the sixth Maryland dispensary he has helped build and his first on the Eastern Shore.

“We’re planning on starting construction possibly sometime this fall and be open by sometime quarter one of 2027,” Shah said.

Architect Heather Morrison of Fisher Architecture presented plans to salvage the long-vacant building through a major exterior renovation.

Renderings show its red roofs replaced with black ones, gray siding added to the front gable, and the weathered façade redone in shades of

gray, black, and white. So far, no interior plans have been finalized.

The existing parking lot, entrances, and exterior lighting would largely remain. Morrison said the site plan preserves room for a possible drive-through lane, although no drive-through is currently proposed.

Plans also call for a 42-inch black aluminum fence around much of the property, a screened trash enclosure, and two additional accessible parking spaces.

Built in 1988, the roughly 9,500-square-foot building has been vacant since 2013. Before Plaza Tapatia, it housed a Bonanza Steakhouse.

Much of the commission’s discussion focused on security. Shah said dispensaries use electronic locks to control who can enter, with multiple secured doors inside. Protective film makes exterior doors and windows harder to break through.

State regulations also require cannabis products to be secured in a vault within an hour after closing, he said. Surveillance must operate continuously, with 60 days of footage stored on-site.

“In my existing stores, we have about 52 cameras per store,” Shah said. “That covers every square inch of the entire facility from inside and outside.”

Planning Commissioner Nola
See DISPENSARY Page 10

State will review plan update

Continued from Page 8
currently prohibits some young families from moving to town.

“When you talk about affordable housing, in Berlin today, you have a situation where young kids who are growing up to become young adults, a young family, cannot live where they grew up ...,” she said. “Berlin is very difficult for families to start off here, and that’s one of the things we want to address. We want to make housing options attainable for more types of people.”

Chandler, alongside Commissioners Dirk Widdowson and Pete Cosby, shared their concerns over form-based zoning, with Chandler stating he did not want to see a triplex or office built next to his house and Cosby saying he did not want density and compression to affect Berlin’s character.

Chandler and Cosby added they were more concerned about the residents who currently live in town, and not the ones who would want to eventually move there.

“You have people who want to live here and people who can’t afford to live here,” Cosby said. “The people who live here are the ones that matter.”

Commissioners Logan Hall and

Jenelle Gerthoffer said they supported the hybrid approach but had concerns about the staffing needed to oversee it. Hall added that it gave developers more opportunities and put guardrails on future growth.

“We can’t close the gate and say no one is coming into the town of Berlin,” Hall said. “In 10 years, there’s going to be growth. This is defining how that growth is going to go.”

Following a lengthy review of the draft plan, the consultants agreed to come back with a revised document, one that would modify and “subdue” sections where form-based zoning is proposed. Hall said he also wanted to see the plan put more focus on transportation, as sidewalks were a top priority for residents in the community survey.

“Almost 100% of people that gave feedback, safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety is the top priority ...,” he said. “The plan should put that in the forefront, that this is the town’s priority.”

The town’s updated comprehensive plan is expected to go before the town council for approval later this year. The document will also be submitted to the Maryland Department of Planning for review.



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Dispensary site plan advanced

Continued from Page 9
Tullar also asked about the dispensary’s likely customers. Shah said there was no typical demographic, with customers ranging from young adults to people in their 90s. Pediatric medical cannabis patients also visit dispensaries with their parents, he said.

“I have people that are 95 years old that shop in my stores, and I have people that just turned 21,” Shah said.

Maryland dispensaries served only medical patients until recreational sales to adults began in July 2023. Shah said medical cannabis patients still account for about one in four customers at his existing stores.

The project is tied to Worcester County’s only remaining conditional dispensary license, issued to Shreif Shata. The Maryland Cannabis Administration recently granted a 12-month extension to begin operating,

Shah told the commission.
The applicants previously sought zoning relief from Pocomoke City’s requirement that dispensaries remain at least 500 feet from houses of worship and several other protected uses. The property lies 325 feet from New Beginnings Outreach Ministries when measured from the nearest property corners.

The city’s Board of Zoning Appeals granted that relief in a 3–1 vote July 1. Several residents had opposed the request, raising concerns about the location, access to cannabis and the lack at that time of a completed site plan.

Worcester County currently has two cannabis dispensaries, both in West Ocean City. The Pocomoke location would become the county’s third and join 123 storefront dispensaries now operating statewide, according to the Maryland Cannabis Administration.

Court orders Worcester to do better with rezoning nix

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) A state appeals court says the Worcester County Commissioners must take a second look at a contractor’s commercial rezoning bid for a site off Route 113, finding the board failed to meaningfully analyze the evidence or explain its decision.

The three-judge Appellate Court of Maryland upheld a Worcester County Circuit Court order throwing out the denial and sending the rezoning request back for further consideration.

“Because the County Commissioners failed to articulate any factual basis for their denial, judicial review is impossible,” wrote Judge Brett Wilson in the court’s July 24 opinion.

Wilson also wrote that the commissioners’ unsupported conclusions, failure to consider the Planning Commission’s record, and refusal to make required findings rendered their decision “arbitrary, capricious, and unlawful under Maryland law.”

Pin Oak Properties in May 2023 had sought broader commercial zoning for three parcels in the Douglynne Woods subdivision, near where Route 113 meets Route 50. The property contains a contractor’s shop not ordinarily allowed under its neighborhood commercial zoning.

County planning staff found evidence that the property had been mistakenly zoned during countywide zoning updates in 1992 and 2009.

Although the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval, the commissioners rejected the request in November 2023 and later issued written findings supporting the denial.

The appellate opinion noted that the findings ran only two pages, with the second containing nothing but signatures. The court said the record showed no public discussion, debate, fact-finding, or analysis.

During oral arguments before the appellate court on Feb. 2, Worcester County Attorney Roscoe Leslie argued that detailed findings were unnecessary because the commissioners had denied the rezoning rather than approved it.

Under Maryland law, even proof of a zoning mistake does not automatically entitle a property owner to rezoning.

But the appellate court ruled that such discretion did not excuse the commissioners from explaining their decision.

For now, the judges’ ruling amounts to a do-over. It does not require the commissioners to approve the rezoning, but directs them to reconsider the application, make the required findings, and adequately explain whatever decision they reach.

Moving forward, the rezoning application will return to the commissioners for a rehearing at an upcoming meeting, according to county planning director Jennifer Keener.

Notably, the Pin Oak ruling marks the second time in 2026 that Maryland’s appellate court has sent a rezoning case back to the Worcester County Commissioners after ruling that they mishandled the denial.

In February, the court remanded the Black Water Relics case involving a proposed antique store near Snow Hill. After a new hearing and additional testimony in June, the commissioners reversed their earlier decision and approved that rezoning by a 5–2 vote.



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Postmaster sets sights on retirement after 4 decades

Rob Tomko, a familiar face at Bishopville post office, retires from Postal Service

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Aug. 28, 2026) At age 19, Rob Tomko was taking tests for almost any job that might offer him a future. He considered police work and nearly joined the military.



Rob Tomko

Then the post office called. “I didn’t think I’d be working there for my whole career, or most of my life,” Tomko said last week in an interview. “It just happened to work out that way.”

After 40 years with the U.S. Postal Service, Tomko is retiring from his current role as postmaster of the Bishopville Post Office. His retirement becomes official last Monday – which is also his 59th birthday – although last Thursday was expected to be his last day behind the counter.

He started his postal career as a letter carrier where he grew up, around Trenton, New Jersey. He delivered mail for 18 years, served for a time as a union representative, and later moved into management.

“I was looking to better myself,” he said. “There was an opportunity to advance in the post office, so I just put my interest in that.”

Tomko relocated to the Eastern Shore from New Jersey about 20 years ago. He worked in post offices in Ocean City and Salisbury before becoming Bishopville’s postmaster around 2016.

The basic mission of the Postal Service has remained the same throughout his career, Tomko said, but much of the operation has changed behind the scenes.

Automation and package tracking transformed how mail moves through the system, while online shopping brought fewer letters but far more parcels. The Postal Service also collaborates with private carriers such as UPS and FedEx.

The Bishopville operation is smaller than it once was. Letter carriers serving the area now work out of the Ocean Pines post office, leaving only Tomko and a clerk to staff the local office and serve its customers.

Tomko compared running a post

office to operating a small business: it’s been his job to oversee employees, budgeting, building maintenance, grounds upkeep, and customer service.

“Really, we’re just problem solvers,” he said. “I used to say, I work for my employees because if they have an issue, then you’ve got to figure out how to solve it.”

Elsewhere in his career, Tomko worked through floods, tornadoes, snowstorms, and hurricanes. He was a union representative in Trenton when anthrax contaminated a postal facility there, requiring him to enter the building while someone monitored the air around him.

“The post office, they shine pretty much when there’s disaster and bad things are going on,” Tomko said. Seeing a letter carrier during a crisis, he said, gives people “a sense of calm in a time where there’s a lot of stress.”

The job also allowed him to become part of the communities he served. Tomko remembered a time when he joined the search for a missing 3-year-old after encountering the boy’s frantic mother on his route. The child was eventually found safe, hiding beneath a bed.

Some problems were more unusual than others.

On three separate occasions, drivers accidentally crashed into the exterior wall of the Bishopville Post Office. Nobody was hurt. Patches of different-colored brick still show where the wall was repaired. Concrete wheel stops now sit in the parking spaces beside the wall.

“That’s our excitement here,” he said.

Little else has changed in rural Bishopville, where Tomko’s post office has remained a gathering place for the tight-knit community.

“This is almost like a central location,” he said, “so you get the gossip, you get everything else at this post office.”

Tomko leaves with no regrets. He said he could have stayed on the job for years to come, but now he is looking to the future.

He and his fiancée will celebrate his retirement with a trip to Peru in September before getting married in 2027.

“They bleed blue, they used to say,” Tomko said of devoted postal workers. “After 40 years, it’s hard not to.”

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Assateague park tops Md. park revenue list

Camping, beach use lead to beach preserve bringing in \$2.08M in last fiscal yr.

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer
(Aug. 28, 2026) Assateague State Park led all Maryland state parks in revenue during the last fiscal year, bringing in \$2.086 million, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

That was nearly \$472,000 more than Gunpowder Falls State Park, in Baltimore County, which ranked second in revenue.

Buoyed largely by entrance fees and the largest campground in the state park system, the park has consistently ranked among Maryland's top three revenue generators for at least 20 years, said Dana Paterra, eastern region manager for the Maryland Park Service.

"As much as I'd like to say that we're a cash cow," she said, "we spend a lot of money to provide that experience."

Between seasonal staffing, heavy visitation, and the wear and tear of salt air on equipment, Assateague is an expensive park to operate year-

round. Paterra said the 855-acre facility does not generate a profit and its costs are roughly equal to or greater than revenue.

Serving such a high volume of visitors requires substantial summer staffing. Assateague has 12 full-time employees and hires another 40 to 50 seasonal workers each year, Paterra said.

One of the main revenue drivers is camping. With 345 campsites, Assateague has the largest campground in the state system. Among the park's roughly 1.8 million annual visitors, about 350,000 are overnight campers.

Camping demand is particularly high during the summer; Paterra said finding an open campsite on a weekend in July would be "impossible." Midweek vacancies become more common once school starts, while retirees help fill the campground during the shoulder season.

Another driver of demand? For a beach visit, the park is relatively inexpensive. During the summer, day-use admission is \$5 per person, while some campsites with electric hookups cost less than \$40 a night.

"We represent a really economic way for people to experience the

beach and camping," Paterra said. "It is a steal."

Assateague's concession operations generated roughly \$191,000, according to revenue records provided by DNR – more than the total revenue reported by a number of smaller state parks.

Revenue generated at Assateague does not stay with the park. It flows into a statewide general fund that helps support the Maryland Park Service as a whole, including parks that do not charge entrance fees.

Paterra said campers come not just from the mid-Atlantic, but from states as far away as Wisconsin and Michigan. She has even marveled at hearing multiple languages spoken – German, French, Spanish – while walking through the campground.

"These multi-generational families

STATE PARK FISCAL 2026 REVENUE	
1. Assateague	– \$2,086,283
2. Gunpowder Falls	– \$1,614,392
3. Sandy Point	– \$1,328,724
4. Patapsco Valley	– \$1,003,001
5. Deep Creek Lake	– \$895,756
6. Rocky Gap	– \$829,518
7. Cunningham Falls	– \$822,904
8. Greenbrier	– \$646,116
9. Seneca Creek	– \$477,148
10. Fair Hill	– \$475,362

that are vacationing in the United States and choosing Assateague as part of their limited time here, it kind of gives me good goosebumps that we are helping families make these memorable experiences," she said.



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Berlin planning more ADU ordinance talks

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) Berlin officials will continue their work this month to establish a state-mandated policy authorizing the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on properties with single-family detached homes.

On Monday, Sept. 14, at 5 p.m., the Berlin Planning Commission, the mayor, and Town Council will meet for a work session to develop provisions for creating ADUs. The project follows a statewide law that supports the construction of ADUs and requires municipalities to create their own regulations by Oct. 1.

The idea behind the endeavor, which became law in 2025, is that accessory dwelling units —apartment-like structures detached from a property’s primary home — could provide additional affordable residency options.

The Town of Berlin began work on its ADU guidelines earlier this year. Officials had conducted a work session in February, joined by the mayor and Town Council and the community’s planning commission.

At that meeting, the group considered parking requirements, water and wastewater treatment consumption based on equivalent dwelling units (EDUs), short-term rental regulations, and size restrictions.

County government allows ADUs be-

tween 500 and 900 square feet. However, councilmember Shaneka Nichols said at the February work session that she would prefer for the town to reduce the maximum allowable dimensions.

“I think the part that’s hard for me is Worcester County ... can be vast and huge ... I think 900 square feet, that’s a decent size for a first house,” she said at the time. “That’s big...if you’re truly using it as an accessory unit, what do you need 900 square feet for? Unless it’s an income property.”

Nichols added that a more appropriate size for an ADU should land between 500 and 700 square feet.

Parking was also addressed at the

winter work session. Planning Commission Chair Matt Stoehr said Berlin’s residential parking study is outdated and that the municipality should solicit new data before mandating extra parking spaces.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said a new parking study may be impractical, since only a few residents will likely build these accessory units on their properties.

Additionally, the group debated how ADUs would affect water and sewer capacity. Current town policy requires developers to pay an equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) fee of roughly \$17,000 for new connections. Some suggested in

February that this charge is too steep for smaller accessory spaces.

To address this concern, one option discussed was charging a fractional EDU or reviewing water usage annually and adjusting fees as needed.

February’s work session revealed that town officials agreed on several points: ADUs should not be used as short-term rentals, units should be within 100 feet of the main house, and they should match the style and height of the primary dwelling.

The Sept. 14 work session will begin at 5 p.m. A public hearing on Berlin’s nailed-down ADU regulations is subsequently scheduled for Monday, Sept. 28.

Golf tourney seeking sponsorships

(Sept. 3, 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 be-

ginning 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.

Checks should be made payable to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial and mailed to W.C.V.M.F., P.O. Box 1576, Ocean Pines, Md. 21811.

For questions or additional information, contact Marie Gilmore at 410-726-2881 or opmarie@aol.com, or Don McMullen at 443-388-2941 or dmc-mullen1@aol.com or visit WoCoVets.org.

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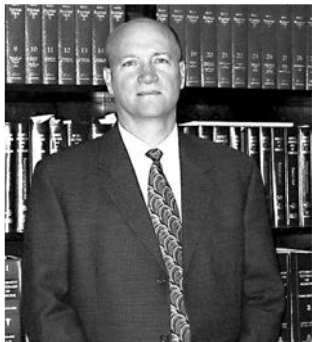
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STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FARMERS MARKET TUNES
The sounds of the State Beach Project filled the air during the Berlin Farmers Market earlier this month. Above, a woman grooves to a Bob Marley tune.

Hardwire inks another fed contract for military armor

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) Pocomoke City defense contractor Hardwire LLC has been awarded an Army contract valued at \$99 million to produce steel and titanium components for armored military vehicles over the next five years.

Hardwire founder and CEO George Tunis credited Pocomoke City, Worcester County, and Congressman Andy Harris (R-1st, Md.) as partners in expanding the company’s manufacturing capabilities on the Eastern Shore.

Hardwire built much of its armor business around lightweight composites made by compressing layers of high-strength synthetic fibers. The contract represents an expansion of the manufacturing work for which Hardwire is best known.

“This capability allows for huge, complex-shaped parts to be made from the strongest metals on planet Earth,” Tunis said in a statement, “and opens the door to all-new, more organically shaped components and armor for our ground, sea, air, and space forces.”

Army records list Hardwire among four companies selected for a 2024 research program seeking ways to manufacture laminated steel, aluminum, and titanium armor at commercial scale.

The Army said those layered metals can provide the same protection at substantially less weight than traditional armor, but have historically been difficult to manufacture, shape, and weld at commercial scale.

Hardwire now lists hot forming of complex metal parts among its manufacturing capabilities on its website.

The contract was awarded through the Army’s Small Business Innovation Research program, which helps smaller companies turn government-backed research into technology and products the military can use.

Hardwire was the only company to submit a bid, according to the Army’s contract announcement.

This contract is what’s known as an “indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity” contract, meaning the Army can place orders as needed. It expires in 2031.

The \$99 million represents the maximum value of those orders rather than a guaranteed payment to Hardwire.

Funding and work locations will be determined with each individual order, according to the Army. The contract was awarded through Army Contracting Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County.

Rep. Harris announced the award this week. “Hardwire continues to create skilled manufacturing jobs and expand defense production in Maryland’s First District,” he said.

Harris also said the components will support military personnel and pledged to continue pursuing defense investments and manufacturing jobs for the Eastern Shore.

In March 2025, Hardwire was one of two companies selected by the Army to produce lightweight torso armor plates under a separate seven-year contract with a shared \$416 million ceiling.

Founded by Tunis in 2000, Hardwire LLC produces armor for the military and law enforcement at its manufacturing facility in downtown Pocomoke City. The company has also produced bullet-resistant shields for schools, including shields designed to double as classroom whiteboards.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Volunteers with the Ocean Pines Grant Task Force are pictured exploring the potential site for a pollinator garden around the North Gate pond area in Ocean Pines.

Pollinator garden eyed for Pines North Gate pond area

(Sept. 4, 2026) The Ocean Pines Grant Task Force is moving forward with plans for a proposed Pollinator Garden near the North Gate Pond. This volunteer-led task force is made up of eight individuals, including Connie Corbett, Nate Douty,

Cindy Hoffman, Steve Lind, Ryan Mello, Tim Peck, Don Wolski, and Board of Directors Liaison Pat Lehn-erd. The goal of the task force is to explore grant opportunities that could support environmental stewardship and beautification efforts within Ocean Pines, building on a long-standing community commitment to maintaining attractive neighborhoods, protecting natural resources, and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

The Task Force is actively exploring the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant Program as a potential funding opportunity for the pollinator garden. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving the region's natural resources through conservation, restoration, and community engagement. Its Mini Grant Program supports projects such as tree plantings, rain gardens, trail improvements, community cleanups, educational outreach, and other initiatives that improve local environments. Eligible Maryland communities may receive up to \$5,000 per project.

The objective of the Task Force is to pursue a Chesapeake Bay Trust environmental restoration grant through the following steps:

- Review grant requirements and eligibility criteria.
- Identify a community-focused project that enhances Ocean Pines' natural resources and/or beautifies shared spaces.
- Develop a project plan, budget, and timeline for review and approval by the executive sponsor.
- Submit the grant application upon approval from OPA

After identifying several potential community projects, the Task Force

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An overhead perspective shows the proposed location for a pollinator garden near the Ocean Pines North Gate pond.

Task force pursuing grant opps

evaluated each using a rubric based on the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s grant application criteria. The pollinator garden emerged as the leading candidate because of its potential for community engagement, environmental impact and alignment with the Trust’s objectives.

While the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors supports the formation and efforts of the Grant Task Force, any resulting grant applications and projects are intended to be community-led initiatives. That said, any community work must be reviewed, approved by Ocean Pines staff and considered within the larger framework of initiatives and maintenance costs.

The task force is currently working to confirm the garden location, finalize the planting list, and develop a project budget. They are also pursuing partnerships with local organizations that may be able to provide technical expertise, materials, or volunteer support, including the Ocean Pines Garden Club, Lower Shore Land Trust, Coastal Bays Program, and area nurseries.

Task Force members met with Ocean Pines staff at the proposed site on Tuesday, August 25, to begin mapping out the potential garden area. The grant application is expected to be submitted within the next month, with the approval process expected to take approximately six to eight weeks following submission. If funded, installation of the garden would begin in the spring of 2027.

“Our goal is to make this a true community project,” said the task force. “We hope to engage civic and youth organizations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, in activities such as providing or building birdhouses. We are also exploring the possibility of adding memorial benches through Ocean Pines. Over

time, we envision the garden becoming an educational destination for local schools, providing students with an opportunity to learn about native plants, pollinators, and sustainable gardening practices.”

More information on the grant can be found here <https://cbtrust.org/community-engagement/>.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Scouts Jack Tignor and Anders Clarke are pictured receiving the Wiessner Foundation grant from Paula Harris. Also pictured is Skip Carlson, assistant scoutmaster.

Local troop receives grant for new equipment trailer

(Sept. 3, 2026) Young people participating in scouting in Worcester County will benefit from a \$6,000 grant from the Wiessner Foundation to Friends of Troop 225 for the purchase of a new enclosed equipment trailer.

Representatives of the Wiessner Foundation recently joined members of Berlin's Troop 225 for a check presentation recognizing the grant and the foundation's support of local youth.

The new trailer will be used to store and transport the tents, cooking equipment, camping supplies, program materials, and other gear required for the troop's camping trips, outdoor programs, and community service activities.

Based in Berlin and chartered by the Berlin Lions Club, Troop 225 provides young people with opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, preparedness, outdoor skills, confidence, and a commitment to community service.

The new trailer will allow the troop to more efficiently transport its equipment to camps, service projects, and Scouting activities throughout the region.

"We are extremely grateful to the Wiessner Foundation for this generous \$6,000 grant," said Gerald "Skip" Carlson, assistant scoutmaster and member of Friends of Troop 225. "This is much more than an equipment purchase. It is an investment in the experiences and opportunities we can provide our Scouts for years to come."

Carlson said the support also provides an important example to the Scouts themselves.

"Having our Scouts participate in the check presentation allows them to see firsthand that people and organizations in their community believe in them and believe in Scouting," he said.

Friends of Troop 225 thanked the Wiessner Foundation and its Board for its commitment to programs benefiting young people and for helping ensure that Troop 225 can continue providing meaningful outdoor, leadership, and service experiences.

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KIWANIS DONATION
The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City recently presented a donation to the Ocean Pines Fire Department in recognition of the vital work its firefighters and emergency personnel do to protect and serve the community. Pictured, from left, are Joe Enste, president of the Ocean Pines Fire Department; Sarah Walker, president of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines/Ocean City; and Dave VanGasbeck, vice president of the Ocean Pines Fire Department and new member of the Ocean Pines Kiwanis Club..

WORCESTER COUNTY
LIBRARY

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR
LIBRARY THIS MONTH?
*Storytimes • Workshops • Crafts •
Programs for All Ages*

04
SEPT

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
11:00AM • Berlin Branch
Kick off Labor Day with **FREE** ice
cream from Island Creamery.

05
SEPT

KARAOKE NIGHT
4:00PM • Ocean City Branch
Sing along to Freddie Mercury classics!

08
SEPT

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
2:30PM • Ocean Pines Branch
Sophie's Choice by William Styron.

09
SEPT

CHAIR YOGA BY SAMANTHA BISKACH
2:00PM • Berlin Branch
Additional dates: Sept. 16, 23 & 30.
Registration required.

10
SEPT

COMPUTER BASICS: A SKILLS SERIES
10:00AM • Berlin Branch
New topic, new skill each class!
Additional classes: Sept. 17 & 24.
Registration required.

12
SEPT

DUTCH OVEN COOKING
11:00AM • Pocomoke Branch
Learn techniques, tips, and recipes.
Registration required.

16
SEPT

DEMYSTIFYING THE SYMPHONY
11:00AM • Ocean Pines Branch
First class of a four session course.
Sponsored by Mid-Atlantic
Symphony Orchestra & FOPL.
Registration required.

16
SEPT

SCAM AWARENESS
12:00PM • Zoom
Registration required.

16
SEPT

WAR OF 1812: EVERYDAY PEOPLE
3:00PM • Ocean Pines Branch
Mike Dixon reveals unpublished
stories.

18
SEPT

THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS: THE GREAT
GATSBY 7:30PM • Ocean Pines Branch
Also: Sept. 19 @7:30PM, Sept. 20 @2PM
Free show. For reservations, call
Community Players at 443-235-3272.

22
SEPT

AMERICAN REVOLUTION: HEROES
2:00PM • Ocean City Branch
Who helped secure victory in 1781?

25
SEPT

OPEN MIC: POETRY OF REFORM
6:00PM • Pocomoke Branch
Themes of change, justice, and hope.

28
SEPT

MANDALA SAND ART
2:00PM • Maryland's Coast Office,
Snow Hill. Registration required.

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CLUB VOLUNTEERS
Members of the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club volunteered for the 16th Annual Golf Tournament that was held on August 26 at the OC Golf Club. Chairman for the event was Doug Fischer. He was assisted by the past chair for 15 years, Charlie Smith. Over \$250,000 has been raised for the Scholarship Fund of the Optimist Club in the past 16 years. This year, 25 members of the club participated in the event. All proceeds benefit youth in Worcester County. Volunteers pictured, front from left, are Peggy Forsythe, Tinsel Hughes and Melva Middleton; and, back, Harry Haag, Charlie Smith, Sharyn O'Hare, Judi Haag, Chair Doug Fischer and Cindy Malament.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Employee voices concerns about new policy

Continued from Page 23
trator would. Terms like ‘role model,’ ‘public confidence,’ ‘likely to impair,’ even ‘profane,’ sound reasonable until we ask who gets to decide that. What makes somebody a role model? What damages public confidence? What counts as profanity? Those answers can change dramatically depending on the person’s politics,

religion, culture, or personal values.”
He added that “a progressive administration could target a conservative employee, and a conservative one could target a progressive employee.”
Hamill asked that the board narrow the language and tie discipline to concrete misconduct like harassment or disruption of school operations.

Still, the board approved the revised social media policy with the understanding it can be revisited.
It emphasized that the superintendent’s role is to act objectively when assigning consequences for violations.
The updated guidelines follow an incident last fall in which a Worcester County educator posted a political

message on his social media account.
The teacher’s controversial sentiment was directed at Charlie Kirk, a popular political figure and Donald Trump advocate who was assassinated in September during a rally at Utah Valley University.
The new policy aims to clarify the school system’s stance on employees’ behavior on social media platforms.

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Seniors Prep For College Apps



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester Prep Class of 2027 hit the ground running in preparation for their college application season this fall. Rising seniors participated in a four-day College Application & Essay Writing Workshop held in the Guerrieri Library, organized by the WPS Office of College Counseling. During the workshop, students engaged in one-on-one sessions with Mrs. Kelly Hawse, the WPS director of college counseling. They focused on writing and reviewing college applications and essays, as well as refining their college lists. In addition, college admissions representatives shared valuable insights and practical advice on the importance of effective communication with colleges and how to convey their unique stories through authentic and well-crafted personal statements. Admissions representatives were Suzie Friedrich from Washington College; Becky Brady, Drexel University; Abbey Murphy, Salisbury University; Michelle Zumpano, Bryant University; Abby Trice, University of Maryland; and Jeff Smith, University of Tennessee. (Above) Rising seniors collaborated with college admissions representatives during the annual College Application & Essay Writing Workshop at Worcester Prep; Suzie Friedrich of Washington College (first from right), Becky Brady of Drexel University (second front from right), Abbey Murphy of Salisbury University (third front from right), Michelle Zumpano of Bryant University (fourth front from left), Abby Trice of the University of Maryland (two front from left), and Jeff Smith of the University of Tennessee (fifth back from left).



Seniors Jacquie Lysenko, Emma Nordstrom, Sydney Parker, Isha Garg and Gabriella Damouni reunited with smiles at the annual College Application & Essay Writing Workshop at Worcester Prep this summer.



WPS rising seniors Chase Burbage, Luke Pitarra, Jack Adkins and Beau Brittingham paused from drafting their college essays to smile for the camera.



Seniors Kyler Phillips and Michael Hall worked side-by-side as they navigated the college application process.



Senior Gabriella Damouni works with English teacher Elana Zambori on crafting her college admissions essay.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SKILLSUSA WINNERS HONORED

Worcester Tech High School winners in the SkillsUSA State and National competitions were honored last month by the Worcester County Commissioners during a meeting. Those students who were able to attend are pictured.

Obituaries

LARRY SHOCKLEY
Whaleyville

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Larry Thomas Shockley, of Whaleyville, a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and community member, who departed from this life on August 22, 2026, at the age of 62.



Larry Shockley

Larry was born in Salisbury on May 28, 1964 to Marylan (Jones) Shockley and the late Sylvester C. Shockley.

Larry was the general manager at Old Pro Golf in Ocean City. A devoted member of Stevenson United Methodist Church where he served faithfully as Treasurer and was actively involved with the Spirit Kitchen, dedicating countless hours to support those in need. He was also a Past Master and past Secretary of Evergreen Masonic Lodge #153, in Berlin, MD showcasing his commitment to community service and brotherhood. In his personal life, Larry was an avid Lego collector, finding joy in creativity and playfulness, which he cherished throughout his life.

In addition to his mother, Marylan Shockley, Larry is survived by his loving wife, Charlene D. Shockley; son, Matthew T. Shockley of Whaleyville; brothers, Jeffrey C. Shockley (Christine) of Delmar, and Michael L. Shockley (Tina Morgan) of Wha-

leyville; special friends, Glenn Bunting and Scott Schoellkopf; and several nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Larry was preceded in death by his

father, Sylvester C. Shockley

A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main Street, Berlin, MD with visitation beginning at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his

memory may be made to Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen, 123 N. Main Street, Berlin, MD 21811 or Evergreen Lodge # 153, 109 N. Main St., Berlin, Md. 21811.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com.

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Opinion

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

Data center in Berlin? Possible but not likely

How much do Berlin residents and town officials have to worry about the possibility of someone building a data center in their midst? Probably not much, since developing even a small facility of this kind would be a significant undertaking.

For one thing, finding enough space to build a comparatively small 5,000-square-foot structure would not be easy. The town's standard zoning designations would place most property off limits, and that is only the first obstacle. This hypothetical data center would require more than standard high-speed internet. It would need Dedicated Internet Access through a commercial fiber-optic line capable of transmitting at least 10 gigabits per second (Gbps).

According to BroadbandNow Research, that is five to 10 times faster than the residential internet service available in Berlin. Although that level of connectivity is available to commercial enterprises in the area, extending that service to a new data center would be expensive because Dedicated Internet Access provides a private connection between a business and the internet.

Then there is the matter of electricity and water. Even a small data center could spend millions of dollars annually on power, assuming sufficient electrical capacity is available. Its operators also could require millions of gallons of water each year for cooling. Again, that assumes the water is available.

Various researchers estimate that a 5,000-square-foot data center's annual water usage would be roughly equivalent to that of 1,000 households.

Companies that specialize in data-center development estimate that constructing and bringing such a facility online would cost about \$10 million to \$12 million per megawatt. This hypothetical facility would require between 1 and 5 megawatts of power, depending on the number of servers it operates.

Given these factors, bringing a data center to Berlin would require a Goldilocks set of circumstances in which electrical power, water, internet access, zoning and financing all align perfectly: not too much, not too little, but just right.



WCPS VISITS
Superintendent Dr. Annette Wallace, joined by school system leaders, visits students at Buckingham Elementary on Monday as part of a first-day tour of Worcester County schools.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Letters

Etiquette for 'Honk and Wave' demo

Editor,

With the November election approaching, political signs, rallies, and "Honk and Wave" demonstrations are becoming a familiar sight along our roads. These events are an important part of our democracy. They give candidates and supporters an opportunity to make their voices heard and encourage people to participate in our elections.

Indivisible Worcester, MD (a non-partisan grass roots political action group) and the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County hosts Honk and Wave demonstrations along route 589 by Memorial Park every Friday from 4:30 to 6 through the election. All are welcome to peacefully participate.

But political enthusiasm should never come at the expense of courtesy, safety, or respect for our neighbors.

For those participating in "Honk and Wave" demonstrations, remember that not everyone driving by will support your candidate or your cause. That is their right. Wave, smile, hold your signs, and encourage people to vote — but please don't taunt, insult, or make hostile gestures toward motorists who don't respond. Nasty and vulgar signs are not welcome! Political differences should not turn into personal confrontations.

Likewise, those driving by should remember that the people standing on the roadside are our neighbors, friends, and members of our community. If you support the candidate, a brief, appropriate honk or wave is a wonderful way to show your support. You might even want to park your car and come over and join us! If you don't support the candidate, simply keep driving. There is no need to respond with an angry honk, an obscene gesture, yelling, or other behavior intended to provoke a confrontation.

And, most importantly, safety must come first. Demonstrators should stay in designated areas, remain clear of traffic, and never step into the roadway. Drivers should slow down, pay attention, and avoid distracted driving. A political demonstration is not worth an accident or an injury.

We can disagree strongly about candidates, parties, and the direction of our country and still treat one another with dignity. In fact, that is one of the things that makes our democracy work.

As we head toward Election Day, let's make our political demonstrations examples of what democracy can look like at its best: enthusiastic, spirited, peaceful—and respectful.

Toot if you agree. Wave if you want. Don't yell obscenities; be safe and be civil.

*Tish Michel
Ocean City
(The writer is a Worcester County Democratic Central Committee member.)*

No insult meant with 'Berlin Uncool' signs

Editor,

I was very interested to read Mr. Reese Cropper III's letter in your last edition ("Berlin Uncool signs way off base"). I suspect that when he wrote, Mr. Cropper III did not realize that the signs in question relate to the (satirical) campaign for mayor of Berlin by Mr. Purnell B. Jarvis Jr. (uncoolberlin.com).

Myself having some small bit of knowledge of the rehabilitation of buildings in downtown Berlin, not limited to personally emptying the upstairs of the Ayers and Odd Fellow's Buildings, carrying my mother's color cards and paint samples to and from for many years, and various other activities, and further being personally acquainted with many of the surviving members of that generation, I would like to assure Mr. Cropper III that no insult to that cohort is intended by Mr. Jarvis, Jr.'s activities and that Mr. Jarvis, Jr.'s advocacy for a revitalization of local culture in fact has found the support of more than a few of them.

*Edward H. Hammond III
Berlin*

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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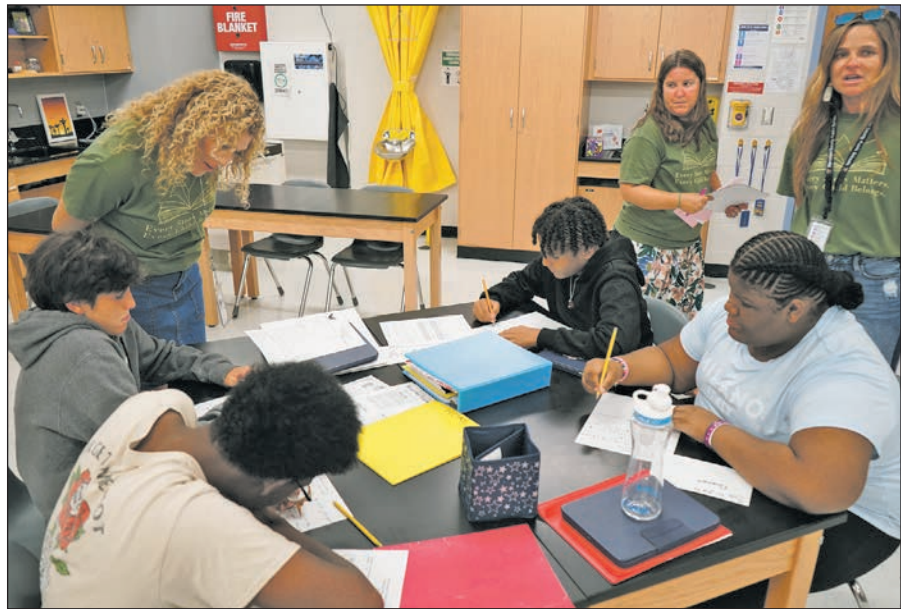
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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

School began Monday for Worcester County's 6,841 public school students at the county's 14 centers of instruction, opening before Labor Day for the first time since the 2013-14 school year.

Worcester's first day of school has bounced back and forth on the calendar going back to 2009, when this county became the last district in the state to adopt a pre-Labor Day start as proponents argued that education was more important than the summer jobs many older students held. The county reverted back to the post-Labor Day start day in 2015. The earlier beginning for the 2026-27 school year does have its advantages. Barring any school closures because of bad weather, the last day of school will be June 11. Should bad weather occur and force schools to close, this year's calendar has built in three makeup days.

Altogether, schools will be closed for 23 days this year, with 10 of those days set aside beginning Dec. 21 for winter break.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



OPEN HOUSES

Sept. 3 - 10



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside, Ocean City	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$279,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday Noon-2pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 4-6pm	119 Old Landing Road #307F, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$340,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	5105 Atlantic Avenue #101, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,190,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	38 Pintail Drive, Ocean Pines	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$799,000	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	8 61st Street, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$524,900	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	6 60th Street Unit 706, Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,399,000	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	6201 Coastal Highway #806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,678,000	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 Noon-2pm	26 Mallard Drive West, Ocean Pines	8BR/8.5BA	Single Family	\$2,100,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	75 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$829,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	5907 Atlantic Avenue Unit 205, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$449,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	10 135th Street #106, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$394,900	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	23143 Corsair Dr, Selbyville, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$414,999	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	20 Frigate Run, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$590,000	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

Puzzles

SMALL CHANGE BY JILL SINGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jill Singer is a filmmaker in Lexington, Mass., working on media for history museums. She and her colleagues recently completed a series of short films and exhibits for the new Museum of Utah. This is Jill's third crossword for The Times. "Like most people, I haven't used this puzzle's subject in years," she says. "But as someone interested in both history and language, this seemed like a fitting way to say goodbye." — W.S.

ACROSS
1 "Awesome!"
4 Many profs
8 What a crush might make you do
13 Predator with dermal denticles
18 Silent film actor Jannings
20 Reclined
21 More intense, as an emotion
22 Early stage of a drug trial
23 Peace symbol
24 Adage promoting thrift
27 Itty-bitty
29 Return filers, for short
30 Barely keeps going, with "along"
31 Fish with leaf-shaped larvae
32 Image on one side of this puzzle's subject
35 Start of a historic triple boast
37 Seminole's rival, in college athletics
38 Liturgical singer
39 Quick cut
40 Subtitle alternative
43 Yogurt drink in Delhi
45 Monklike, in a way
48 Angle variable in geometry

DOWN
50 Where this puzzle's subject was last made for circulation (in November 2025)
53 Periodical, informally
55 Genre for Siouxsie and the Banshees
56 Duck known for its insulating feathers
57 Make smelly
59 One of 12, astrologically
61 "Balderdash!"
62 "It's Your Business" sloganeer, for short
63 "Omigosh!"
64 Drug enforcer, informally
66 "When We Were Young" singer, 2015
68 Its capital is Roma
72 Nursery-rhyme street vendor's cry
77 A failed transaction
78 Good, but not great, grade
79 Tennis great Arthur
80 ___ King Cole
81 Fall asleep, with "off"
82 Word with constrictor or feather
83 Goddess of the dawn
85 Car-pooling convenience
88 Taco bar adjective
91 ___ Féin
92 ___ room
94 Showing less bias
95 Musical staff symbol
96 Aggressive move allowed in some forms of kickboxing
99 "Sounds like a blast!"

101 Mini-gulp
102 Some Ivy Leaguers
104 Meeting that goes above and beyond?
106 Intimate
110 Bitter
112 Image on one side of this puzzle's subject
115 Badge-pinning site
117 Tree where the Buddha found enlightenment
119 Spanish for "wealthy"
120 Get in the game?
121 Offer advice ... or a hint to 24- and 72-Across
125 D'Arcy of "House of the Dragon"
126 Paradise
127 Pucker producer, perhaps
128 Modernists, informally
129 Department store department
130 Vikings, for example
131 Long members of the onion family
132 Nervous
133 Slam

DOWN
1 Discount merchandise indicator
2 Organism that moves using pseudopodia
3 Change the course of
4 ___ del Carmen (Mexican resort)
5 Two farthings, informally
6 Deny responsibility for

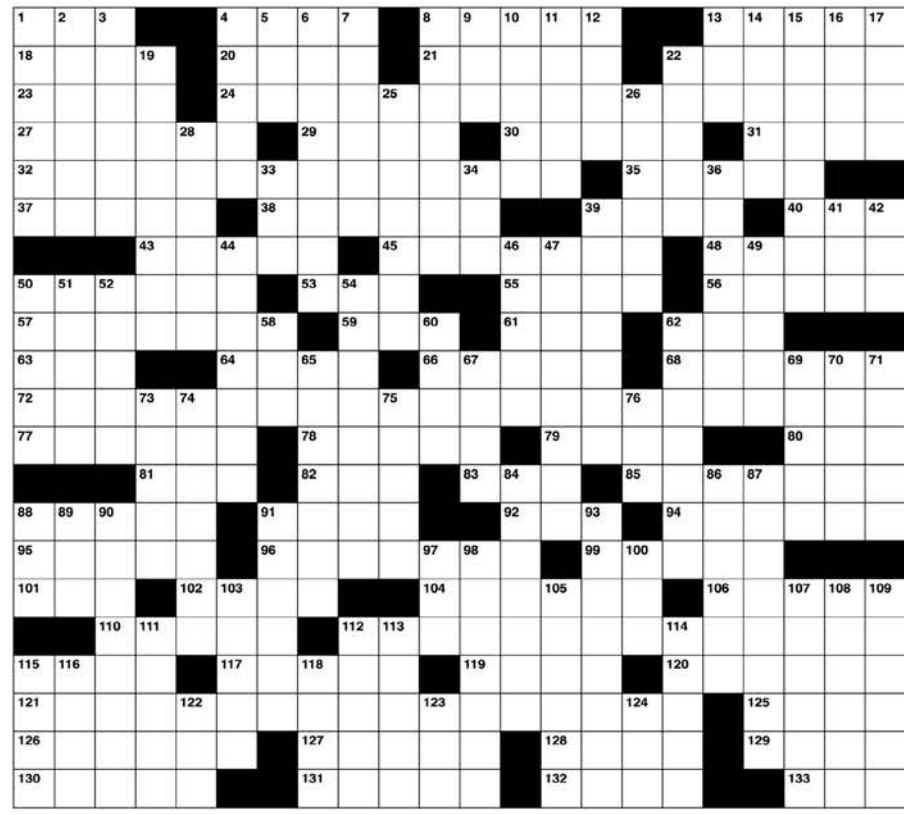
7 Like certain easy-to-install hardware components
8 Much of Diego Rivera's work
9 Young Scot
10 "You can count on me"
11 It can become amber
12 Streetcar
13 Doo-wop's ___ Na Na
14 Protected space for women in the Ottoman Empire
15 If necessary
16 Scottish dance
17 Offspring
19 "Enemies, a Love Story" actress
22 "GoodFellas" Oscar winner
25 Perspective
26 Demonstrate frugality, in a way
28 Got tinier
33 Hosts, in brief
34 Tolkien monster
36 Exams for ambitious H.S. students
39 Date night bookings
41 Indigenous people of the Colorado Plateau
42 Setting for many a New Yorker cartoon
44 Having impeded growth
46 Bird with an S-shaped neck
47 Place for pliers
49 Muslim head scarf
50 Target with, as a pickup line
51 Scribe in a courtroom, in brief

52 Prepares for an interview, say
54 Notorious Chicago bootlegger
58 What a dog uses to shake
60 Island location of Iolani Palace
62 Say something fresh
65 Tom who wrote "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"
67 Information in a prescription
69 Out of this world?
70 Silly

71 Fall bloomer
73 "Hoarders" network
74 Shoe originally known as a "Weejun"
75 Street in Liverpool that has been immortalized in song
76 "Wow!"
84 Like many farm stand purchases
86 "Dodgeball" star Vince
87 Specific charge on an invoice
88 Cooling units, in brief
89 Poli-___

90 Pork-based taco option
91 Snowmobile brand
93 Made cozy
97 Suffix in British English
98 Makeup of a nervous system, largely
100 Layer of a farm
103 Locale for camel racing
105 Christians' ___ Creed
107 Overflowed (with)
108 Reunion attendees

109 Cause for a QB's celebration
111 Fries in England
112 Deuce topper
113 "I'll take another card"
114 Cheeky
115 Like cotton candy
116 Lead-in to pilot or pay
118 Grayish, say
122 Emphatic refusal in Germany
123 Stir-fry staple
124 Dress (up)



- 52 Prepares for an interview, say

54 Notorious Chicago bootlegger

58 What a dog uses to shake

60 Island location of Iolani Palace

62 Say something fresh

65 Tom who wrote "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"

67 Information in a prescription

69 Out of this world?

70 Silly
- 71 Fall bloomer

73 "Hoarders" network

74 Shoe originally known as a "Weejun"

75 Street in Liverpool that has been immortalized in song

76 "Wow!"

84 Like many farm stand purchases

86 "Dodgeball" star Vince

87 Specific charge on an invoice

88 Cooling units, in brief

89 Poli-___
- 90 Pork-based taco option

91 Snowmobile brand

93 Made cozy

97 Suffix in British English

98 Makeup of a nervous system, largely

100 Layer of a farm

103 Locale for camel racing

105 Christians' ___ Creed

107 Overflowed (with)

108 Reunion attendees
- 109 Cause for a QB's celebration

111 Fries in England

112 Deuce topper

113 "I'll take another card"

114 Cheeky

115 Like cotton candy

116 Lead-in to pilot or pay

118 Grayish, say

122 Emphatic refusal in Germany

123 Stir-fry staple

124 Dress (up)

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 18

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

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

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

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Calendar

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

Thurs., Sept. 3

STORY TIME ‘ALL ABOUT FRIENDS’
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-5622, 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. 410-524-1818

STORY TIME: PAJAMA STORY TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. Wear your coziest pajamas. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

PINE TONES CHORUS’ CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS REHEARSAL
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 1:30 p.m. Come to the Pine Tones Chorus’ first rehearsal for the Christmas Traditions concert. Sing along and see if you would be a good fit. 610-213-7472, 443-655-5636

POCOMOKE BOOK CLUB: ‘JANE EYRE’ BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join in for a lively discussion. Books available at the Pocomoke Branch. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

BACK TO SCHOOL BASICS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Create your own canvas pencil case to begin a new school year. For ages 6-11 years. 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., Sept. 4

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for imaginative play and social interaction. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11 a.m. Celebrate the end of summer with ice cream and your favorite toppings. Ice cream donated by Island Creamery. For families. 410-641-0650

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION AND BLOCK PARTY
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Art League of Ocean City’s first Friday opening reception: free food, refreshments, and entertainment! 410-524-9433

FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6 p.m. Admission fee is \$5/player. Parents are requested to play the games with their children. Food and drinks welcome. Ice cream will be sold. No cash prizes. Prize donations accepted. 410-641-7052

Sat., Sept. 5

15TH ANNUAL WALK FOR RECOVERY
Boardwalk South End, 800 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m. Sponsor information booths, raffles, music, prizes awarded and a Memory Wall. Kids 12 years and younger participate for free. Virtually walk from anywhere at any time. Sign up: <https://atlanticclub.org>.

SATURDAY WRITERS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Share your writing, receive feedback and connect with fellow writers. All experience levels and drop-ins welcome. 410-641-0650

FREDDIE MERCURY KARAOKE NIGHT
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Celebrate the legendary Freddie Mercury’s 80th birthday by singing some classics. 410-524-1818

DRONE SHOW
Dorchester Street and Beach, Ocean City, 9:30 p.m. <https://www.ococean.com/event/drone-show/2978/>

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., Sept. 6

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 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, Sept. 7

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

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., Sept. 8

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

STORYTIME: TEDDY BEAR PICNIC
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. Story time featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650

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

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

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will be on “Sophie’s Choice” by William Styron. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

T(W)EEN SWITCH GAME NIGHT: SPLATOON
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join in for an hour of Switch gaming. This month’s game is Splattoon. Light refreshments provided. For ages 12-18 years. 410-524-1818

BOOK CLUB @ TIDES AND VINE: ‘NO SENSE IN WISHING’ BY LAWRENCE BURNES
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 a least 21 years old. 410-632-5622

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 31

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., Sept. 9

CHESAPEAKE ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION INAUGURAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, 9 a.m. Registration cost \$800 per foursome. Rachael Broderick, info@chesapeakeenrichment.org, 302-519-4267, <https://www.chesapeakeenrichment.org/events>

OC ROCK & RIDE BIKEFEST
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City (10 a.m.-7 p.m.) and Ocean City Inlet (9 a.m. to 11 p.m.) Wednesday is free. Enjoy live music, vendors, food, drinks, motorcycles, and more — absolutely free. Event details:
<https://www.ocrockandride.com>.

BOOK CLUB @ 50PLUS CENTER: 'NO SENSE IN WISHING' BY LAWRENCE BURNLEY
Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Stop by the Snow Hill Library or the 50plus Center to pick up your copy. Discussion held at Snow Hill 50plus Center. 410-632-5622

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

CHAIR YOGA
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Certified yoga instructor Samantha Biskach teaches this class. Registration required: 410-641-0650. worcesterlibrary.org

4-H PRESENTS: KIDS STEAM WORKSHOP 'POWER PROTECTORS'
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Learn about renewable energy through an exciting, superhero-themed workshop. All supplies provided. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

RAVENS ROOST #44 ANNUAL BAR-HOP CRUISE
M.R. Ducks, 311 Talbot St., Ocean City, 5:40 p.m. Board the "Explorer" at M.R. Ducks. Stops include Fish Tales, De Lazy Lizard and Micky Fins. Cost is \$40. Reservations: garywm1952@gmail.com. Rain date is Sept. 10.

PAJAMA STORY TIME: TEDDY BEAR SLEEPOVER!
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6:30 p.m. Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite teddy bear to snuggle while you enjoy stories and songs to wind down to bedtime. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650

FREE SQUARE DANCE LESSONS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7-8:30 p.m. Singles and couples welcome. Students will dance with members of the Pines Steppers Square Dance Club. To continue this 14-week series, the cost is \$4 per person, per session. 908-229-8799

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

HISTORY-TO-GO - PUMPKIN CARVING
Snow Hill library, 301 Bank St., throughout September. Learn how Halloween has been celebrated throughout history and get patterns to carve historically inspired pumpkins. 410-632-5622

TEEN & TWEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Pocomoke library, 401 5th Street, Unit 100. Build leadership skills and add something meaningful to your resume. Applications are available in the guidance office at Pocomoke Middle School and Pocomoke High School. Submit application by Oct. 31. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878

TEEN TIME
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, throughout September, 3:30 p.m. Create a festive wreath in time for fall. While supplies last. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

OC READS: 'THE BERRY PICKERS' BY AMANDA PETERS
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Sept. 1-30. Simply pick up a copy of this month's read, "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters. Come in before the end of the month to share your impressions and enter the drawing to win free books. 410-524-1818

STORYWALK TAKE AND MAKE
Snow Hill library, 301 Bank St., Sept. 1-Nov. 30. Stop by the library to pick up supplies to make a fall nature mobile. Then, take a walk while you read the library's newest StoryWalk title at John Walter Smith Park. For families. 410-632-5622

CREATIVITY CORNER
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave. Enjoy the monthly craft, work on the puzzle, add to the community journal or challenge a friend to a board or card game in the Teen Loft. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650

CHECK-OUT CHALLENGE
Visit different branches of the Worcester County libraries, read books and check out items using your library card. For every activity you complete, you get entered in the grand prize drawing. For families. 410-632-5622.

CHESAPEAKE ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION INAUGURAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, Sept. 9. Shotgun starts at 9 a.m. Registration cost is \$600 per foursome until Aug. 31, after \$800 per foursome. Benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Delaware. Rachael Broderick, info@chesapeakeenrichment.org, 302-519-4267, <https://www.chesapeakeenrichment.org/events>

ORIOLES VS. RED SOX BUS TRIP
Bus trip to Camden Yards on Sept. 6. Section 288 seating, transportation, Picnic Perch food and watch batting practice. Cost is \$150. Depart the Ocean Pines Community Center at 9:30 a.m. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Sponsored by the Ocean Pines Park & Recreation.

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.

★

LABOR DAY

★

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20% OFF

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 Leave message
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POSEIDON PLUMBING & HOME SERVICES

is growing and we're looking for an experienced **Finish Carpenter** to join our team! If you're a skilled finish carpenter looking for a great opportunity with a local company, we want to hear from you!
Call the office at 410-251-1096 today!

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Small Engine Mechanic & Ride Maintenance.
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SEASONAL HELP: Cashiers, Waterpark Attendants, Lifeguards, Ride Operators
Wage based on experience. Benefits available.
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 Busy, established **Automotive & Marine Parts Store** is looking for an **Experienced Parts Advisor** to join our team. If you have strong automotive parts knowledge, enjoy helping customers, and are looking for a **stable, long-term position**, we want to hear from you!

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Established, Busy Location Parts experience required.
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HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE WORKER
Harbour Island Condo Association

14th Street, Ocean City
 Seeking a reliable **Maintenance Worker** for general property maintenance.

Hours available:
 • **9:00 AM-2:00 PM, Monday-Sunday**
 • **3:00 PM-8:00 PM, Monday-Sunday**
 • **7 day a week**
 • **Year around**

A great opportunity for a **retiree** looking for flexible, part-time work.
Competitive pay.
 For more information, contact **Jimmer** at **240-298-0365**

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OCEANS CALLING, COUNTRY CALLING NEWLY AVAILABLE
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 Great location, next door to Castle in the Sand, walk to Concerts, close to restaurants, convention center etc...
443-880-8885 or view and book: SeaLaVie
<https://book.vuestay.com/ocean-city-bright-beach-home-near-the-boardwalk-wi-b46jo9>

Extended Spring & Summer Stays Avail.

Utilities Included
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burgundyinn@gmail.com
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RENTALS

WINTER RENTAL

2BR, 1BA
 6 month lease, Start Oct.
 \$1,000 per mo. + elec.
Call Steve, leave message 410-251-3412

WINTER RENTAL

North OC, 1BR, 1BA Condo, 3rd Flr., walk-up. Furnished, W/D, Parking, Walking distance to restaurants.
 \$1,100 per mo. + sec. dep. & utilities. Incl. WiFi.
412-965-4079

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.**

COMMERCIAL

2 Office/Retail Spaces available in West Ocean City. Approximately 1656 sq. ft. and 1728 sq. ft.
Call 443-497-4200

Industrial Space
 Yard and Storage Shed.
 Approx. 10x25+/-
 Route 90/Bishopville.
Call 443-497-4200

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Looking for space, comfort and great views? Spacious, climate-controlled office available, with use of conference room and reception area, in a modern, well-maintained building in prime Ocean City location.
Call 410-524-3440 for appointment.

SERVICES

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICES No job too small, windows, entrance doors, interior doors, storm doors, shower doors, drywall repairs and paint, laminate floors, interior paint. Over 40 years of carpentry experience.

Please call Larry, 410-251-9066
Larryandkim1954@gmail.com

HUNTING ACCESS

HUNTING ACCESS WANTED

Responsible hunter seeking permission to hunt private property during season. Traditional Archery equipment only. Respectful of land and property. Willing to pay for seasonal hunting access.
Call 443-614-1020.

WANT TO BUY

I BUY ALBUMS!
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BOATS/PWC

PONTOON FOR SALE
 2023 Viaggio, 18' Pontoon w/Trailer, Yamaha 90 Engine, 50 hours run time, 2 yr. remaining warranty. Docked in West OC. \$36,000.
Contact 717-428-2121.

BOAT STORAGE

WINTER BOAT STORAGE
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Call Steve, leave message 410-251-3412

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

VEHICLES

FOR SALE - 1991 CORVETTE
6 SPEED MANUAL, MD INSPECTION
\$19,000 ~ CONTACT 443-664-8832



Join the Sea Colony East Maintenance Team!

Now hiring high rise condominium/full time building maintenance techs.

Great Benefit plan/paid time off!

Apply online at troon.com/careers - company location Sea Colony Assoc East

Email bethann.steele@seacolony.com
 Call 302-541-8831 for an interview



CUSTODIAL STAFF

We are currently looking for **Part Time Custodial Employees.**
 Hours are 3:30pm-6:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Apply online at www.worcesterprep.org/careers or submit an application via email to employment@worcestereprep.org or mail/drop off an application to

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