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BRIAN SHANE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of a new volunteer group called Assateague Pony Protectors, which has a Facebook page, stood with safety reminders last Friday as motorists approached Assateague Island.

Horse fatalities prompt plea for help

Small protest group wants big change in traffic control at National Seashore Park

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 11, 2026) An RV driver passing a small rally near Assateague Island raised both middle fingers toward the women holding signs ask-

ing motorists to slow down.

Rally organizer Jodi Sylvester was unfazed.

"If you're not pissing somebody off," she said, "you're not pushing hard enough."

A music teacher from central Massachusetts, Sylvester has become a leading voice in an online movement seeking greater protections for Assateague's wild ponies from mo-

torists.

Sylvester and her online supporters are demanding a uniform 15 mph speed limit at Assateague Island National Seashore following three vehicle strikes this summer that killed two horses and injured another.

A 12-year-old mare named Susi Solé was killed Aug. 13, less than two weeks after a stallion called Dune

See GROUP Page 3

Berlin may see no races this election

Three candidates running for three seats on council

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 10, 2026)

Berlin's municipal election isn't shaping up to be the most energetic of contests, with three candidates officially filing to run for the three Town Council seats up for grabs this fall.

That could still change if a write-in candidate enters the race before the Sept. 25 deadline, but the regular candidate filing deadline came and went Tuesday without any additional contenders vying for chance to serve on Berlin's five-member governing body.

The positions to be determined by the Oct. 6 election are currently held by Vice President Dean Burrell, representing District 4; Steve Green, representing District 1; and Jay Knerr, the council's at-large representative.

Burrell is retiring after 32 years as a Town Council member. His last meeting will be Monday, Sept. 28.

After being unopposed for a council seat, Burrell will be replaced by Jay Knerr, the council's at-large representative.



Jay Knerr



Matt Stoehr



Tony Weeg

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Three Berlin council seats, three candidates

Continued from Page 1

Green was elected to the Worcester County Commissioners in June and will leave his Berlin council seat at the conclusion of his current term this month. Since he is unopposed in the November general election, Green will be sworn in as the county board's District 4 representative Dec. 1.

The three candidates who have filed for the Berlin municipal election are Berlin Planning Commission Chair Matthew Stoehr, who is seeking Green's District 1 seat; We Heart Berlin founder Tony Weeg, who is running for Burrell's District 4 seat; and incumbent Jay Knerr, who is seeking another term to the at-large position.

Unless a write-in candidate files by Sept. 25, the election will most likely be canceled.

Stoehr, who announced his campaign for District 1 earlier in the summer, has served on Berlin's Planning Commission since 2019. He has chaired the group for the past two and a half years.

Stoehr moved to Berlin from Ocean City in 2015. After graduating from Stephen Decatur High School in 2006, he earned an undergraduate degree in finance from Salisbury University and a master's degree in business administration from Wilmington University in Delaware.

Stoehr is the owner of Mast Contracting, a home remodeling company. He has said his background as a business owner has given him experience with accounting, budgeting, and making difficult decisions, traits he believes will serve him well as a Berlin councilmember.

Stoehr told the Bayside Gazette in August that one of his priorities as a councilman would be maintaining open and honest communication with Berlin residents.

Stoehr also said he would oppose annexation and instead support continued development on vacant properties within Berlin's existing boundaries.

During his time on the Berlin Planning Commission, Stoehr said the commission has maintained a firm position against annexing additional land into the town.

"The other thing I hope to accomplish is continuing with infill," he said last month. "... we fill in the empty lots in town. I want to continue to push for that, whether it's commercial, mixed residential, mixed commercial, mixed use. That is one of my main objectives, to try and maximize our empty lots that aren't bringing much to the town."

Stoehr also emphasized the importance of listening to people with differing opinions, something he said he learned through his work on the planning commission.

Weeg, the founder of the nonprofit We Heart Berlin, is running for council for the third time.

He first sought a council seat during a 2020 special election following the resignation of then-councilman-at-large Thom Gulyas. Weeg was ultimately defeated by Knerr.

Weeg later campaigned for the District 4 seat in 2022, losing to Burrell. He is again seeking the District 4 position this year.

Weeg moved to Berlin in 2018 and has said he hopes to bring his background in technology and software development to the council.

Among his proposals is a searchable database of the town's past government meetings. Weeg said he developed an artificial intelligence-based system that compiled records from council, planning commission, and zoning appeals meetings dating back to 2016.

He said that the system allows users to search past decisions and other pertinent meeting information.

Looking ahead, Weeg has identified Berlin's property tax rate as one issue the council will eventually need to address.

The town's current property tax rate is \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value. Weeg has said that while he does not support raising taxes, he believes the council should examine the rate earlier in each fiscal year rather than waiting until budget discussions are underway.

"I am not for raising taxes," Weeg told the Bayside Gazette in June. "I am for making the town run more efficiently with what we've got."

See CANDIDATES Page 7



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Group seeks horse protections

Continued from Page 1
Dancer Jolt died Aug. 1. A filly called Miracle survived after being struck by a vehicle in July.

Park officials said both horses were struck and killed in daylight on Bayberry Drive, the park's main road. The National Park Service has not released information about the drivers or the circumstances of either collision.

Assateague's most devoted horse followers know the animals individually. They recognize their markings, track their family bands and offspring, and circulate photographs and videos documenting their movements around the island.

To her admirers, Susi was not simply another member of Assateague's herd.

Susi left behind a colt born April 25. Park officials determined he was too young to survive without his mother and transferred him to the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company's herd in Virginia.

Sylvester was already the kind of passionate park visitor who would remind people to keep their distance and not feed or touch the horses. Susi's death turned that quiet advocacy into something more public.

Her call to action through a Facebook group called Assateague Pony Protectors drew several women to the Verrazano Bridge by midday Sept. 4. They arrived with signs in hand as late-summer biting flies swarmed exposed arms and ankles.

Sylvester and a companion drove overnight from Massachusetts with a camper in tow, arriving at the island around 7:30 a.m. Sylvester paid out of pocket for signs, stickers, and buttons she shared with supporters.

She remembered Susi as an exceptionally protective mother whose offspring remained together in a close family band.

"Susi took care of her family. She took care of her offspring," Sylvester said.

Rally attendee Angie Tamburo of West Ocean City called Susi "the queen of the island, taken too soon."

Tamburo said motorists should come to Assateague to appreciate the

surroundings, not rush through them. "It's not a speedway," she said. "It's here to enjoy the beach, the nature."

Tamburo supports an islandwide 15 mph limit. Sylvester is also advocating for speed cushions, which she says would force motorists to slow down without impeding emergency vehicles. She said lowering the posted limit would be the quickest step, but would not stop people determined to disregard it.

Linda Smigen, a New Jersey resident who also has a home in Millsboro, Delaware, questioned whether lowering the speed limit would affect motorists already inclined to disregard it.

"People that don't want to follow rules are not going to follow the rules," she said at the rally.

Smigen suggested installing rumble strips along Bayberry Drive or returning the paved road to sand and shell — anything that would physically discourage motorists from speeding.

Assateague Island National Seashore Superintendent Hugh Hawthorne said in an email that park managers are considering some of those ideas, but previous conversations with highway and safety professionals indicate some may be inadvisable or counterproductive.

Current speed limits are 25 or 15 mph, depending on location, and 10 mph in parking lots. Hawthorne said any changes would be made in consultation with law enforcement and emergency-management officials and based on engineering and safety principles.

Hawthorne also noted that Assateague's speed limits are already considerably lower than those at comparable national parks.

The Sept. 4 rally lasted only about a half hour, but it was not the group's only demonstration. Supporters returned Sept. 5 and Sept. 7, according to photographs and posts shared online.

Smigen said they also plan to hold a Sept. 26 lantern vigil for the horses killed this summer and another safety rally Oct. 11.

"Just because we're on social media doesn't mean we're not productive," she said.



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Breakfast at Tiffany's likely to open this fall, owners say

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 10, 2026) The Berlin Historic District Commission approved window decals installed at the downtown Dream Weaver location and the future Breakfast at Tiffany's business following a discussion last week about how the decals were applied to the building.

Tiffany Lackner, who owns the soon-to-be-opened Breakfast at Tiffany's, as well as Dream Weaver with her husband, Sean Lackner, appeared before Berlin's Historic District Commission last week to discuss the installation of white window trim decals at the businesses.

Lackner said she previously brought the design for the decals before the commission when discussing Breakfast at

Tiffany's. It was understood at that time that the trim would be applied to the window on the interior side. After ordering the product, however, Lackner said she was advised that the decals needed a UV protective coating. The decals were ultimately installed on the outside of the windows, rather than the inside as originally understood.

"I had ordered the sticker and the design, which is a white window trim on every window for the building," Lackner told the commission last week. "And my son's friend had called me the week of application and he had said, 'do you want UV protection on it?' I said 'yes.' It was understood that it was going to be put inside. But [we didn't know] the change in UV protection means it has to be an exterior sticker. We got him in the store. We left to go to Dream Weaver in Ocean City, we got back and it was done on the outside."

Commissioner Carol Rose noted that the exterior installation should not be a problem, if that is the correct way to apply the decal.

"If the product is made to be on the outside and that's what you didn't know ... I honestly appreciate you coming ... but I honestly don't have a problem," she said.

Lackner also asked whether she would need commission approval to touch up the buildings' paint. She said the paint would be an exact match to colors previously approved by the commission roughly a decade ago, when Dream Weaver initially opened.

Berlin Planning Director Ryan Hardesty said the town's code already provides some allowance for repairs in-kind and routine maintenance without requiring the work to come before the commission. She added that she would like to clarify that language as part of a future code revision.

"I wanted to do a code revision so that any repairs in kind do not need to come here," Hardesty said. "There actually is something in the code that says that... basically, anything in-kind, any routine maintenance, they do not need to come here."

Lackner said the building simply needed a refresh while maintaining the existing colors and appearance.

Commissioners praised the work, particularly the balance between the historic character of the building and the more contemporary design of Dream Weaver.

HDC member Mary Moore said the white window treatment helped preserve an older, traditional appearance and praised Lackner for capturing the character of Berlin without making the businesses appear overly modern.

"You have a very contemporary Dream Weaver shop, but you captured the traditional...[It's] a wonderful ying yang," Moore said.

Lackner said she hopes to open

See HISTORIC Page 8



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Candidates have no competition

Continued from Page 2

Weeg has also said he wants to preserve Berlin's eastern side from development encroachment, improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, and add more crosswalks throughout the town.

He has pointed to the potential difficulty pedestrians and bicyclists face crossing Route 113 between the east side of Berlin and downtown and said he would favor a network of crosswalks as an alternative to a more in-depth and costly infrastructure project.

Weeg works as a photographer and videographer in addition to his software development work.

Knerr, the incumbent at-large councilmember, joined the council in 2020 following Gulyas' resignation and was elected to a full term in 2022.

During his time on the council, Knerr has highlighted the town's efforts to maintain a steady property tax rate while continuing to provide municipal services, advance development projects, and preserve Berlin's historic character.

Among the municipal projects he has worked on during his tenure, Knerr emphasized the redevelopment of the former chicken-processing plant at Heron Park, which the town sold to developer Palmer Gillis. After a few bumps in the road, the property's revitalization is now moving forward.

Knerr has also highlighted the coun-

cil's efforts to revive plans for a community center at the former Flower Street School site. The town announced this year that \$1.4 million in funding had been secured for the project.

Looking ahead, Knerr has said he wants to continue balancing the needs of year-round residents with Berlin's status as a tourist destination while allowing the town to grow without losing its small-town character.

"We fought off the big developers, we don't see sprawl," Knerr said earlier this summer. "...I think one of the biggest projects is protecting our neighborhoods' community and character. We don't want this massive growth to spread. It would not serve our town well."

Knerr has also cited infrastructure improvements, including roads and sidewalks, continued grant funding, police staffing, and maintaining a stable tax rate among his priorities.

Knerr is originally from Massachusetts and moved to the Eastern Shore in the 1980s before settling in Berlin in 2000. He is the longtime owner of the Ocean City Kite Loft and has served on the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce and the TidalHealth Atlantic Board of Trustees.

Berlin's municipal election is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6, and the three council members elected will each serve four-year terms. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

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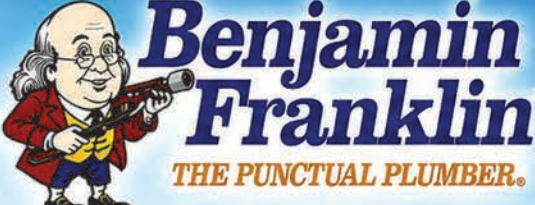




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Berlin's historic commission considering code upgrades

Berlin Planning Director Ryan Hardisty said she has been having the town's code enforcement officer check addresses to determine the status of previously approved initiatives.

Rather than deciding on a specific timeframe immediately, the commission agreed to continue discussing the issue at a future meeting as part of a potential revision to the town's historic district code.

The commission unanimously approved the window decals as installed.

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Ocean Pines looks to create pollinator garden near pond

A task force is pursuing a \$5,000 grant for the work by Chesapeake Bay Trust

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2026) The Ocean Pines Grant Task Force is planning to create a pollinator garden near the North Gate Pond, and hopes to secure up to \$5,000 through the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

According to a press release issued by the Ocean Pines Association last month, the volunteer task force met with OPA staff on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the proposed site to begin mapping out a garden area. Members are now working to confirm the location, finalize a list of plants, and develop a project budget before submitting a grant application.

The task force is pursuing the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant Program, which provides funding for projects that engage residents while improving communities and natural resources. Eligible Maryland organizations can receive up to \$5,000 per project, and matching funds are encouraged but not required.

Potentially eligible projects include tree plantings, rain gardens, stream cleanups, trail improvements, community cleanups, and educational initiatives.

The eight-member task force was formed to explore grant opportunities that could support environmental stewardship and beautification projects in Ocean Pines. The community press release reports that members include Connie Corbett, Nate Douty, Cindy Hoffman, Steve Lind, Ryan Mello, Tim Peck, Don Wolski, and Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors liaison Pat Lehnerd.

After considering several potential projects, the task force evaluated them based on criteria used by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The pollinator garden was selected as the most attractive proposal because of its potential for community involvement and environmental benefits.

"From a science and environmental perspective...having the pollinator garden has a broad, positive impact on the immediate environment by attracting bees and other insects as well as birds," said Pat Lehnerd, the task force's board liaison. "Including native species makes the North Gate and overall Ocean Pines natural environment that much stronger."

Community members hope a new pollinator garden will aid Ocean Pines in its beautification efforts.

"As a member of the task force, I am excited about the possibility of enhancing the North Gate entrance of

our community," Cindy Hoffman said. "A pollinator garden will beautify and welcome residents and visitors to our community, transform a rarely used lawn into habitat for birds, bees and butterflies and create an opportunity for residents to learn more about native plants."

Fellow task force member Connie Corbett noted that North Gate was selected as the garden location because it offers visibility and nearby parking.

She added that "the proposed 40-by-80-foot garden will also build on improvements Ocean Pines has already made in the area, including establishing trees along the pond and the nearby sunflower garden."

Additionally, a planned stone-dust walking path will give Ocean Pines the option to walk around and immerse themselves in the garden atmosphere rather than view it from a distance

The task force is also exploring partnerships with local organizations that could contribute technical expertise, materials or volunteers, including the Ocean Pines Garden Club, Lower Shore Land Trust, Coastal Bays Program, and area nurseries.

Corbett said a small team is meeting weekly to develop the garden's plans and grant application. The submission requires layout drawings, plant selections, signage, materials, an outlined budget, implementation, and a long-term maintenance strategy.

The proposed garden could eventually include birdhouses built or provided by local youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as memorial benches through Ocean Pines. Task force members also envision the garden serving as an educational resource for local schools, giving students an opportunity to learn about native plants, pollinators and sustainable gardening.

The educational aspect will also extend to OPA citizens.

"I know my involvement will help me better understand which plants support pollinators, why they matter, and what I can do in my own yard," Corbett said. "I hope other residents will have that same experience."

Any proposed project still requires review and approval from Ocean Pines staff. Maintenance costs and other considerations would also need to be evaluated.

The task force expects to submit its grant application within the next month. The Chesapeake Bay Trust's review process is expected to take about six to eight weeks after submission.

If the grant is awarded and the project receives the necessary approvals, installation of the garden could begin in spring 2027.

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Amazon aims for power-feed facility in lieu of data center

Cable landing station, data center initiative could be replaced with smaller build

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 10, 2026) Amazon Web Services has a new plan for its transatlantic cable in Ocean City: skip the cable landing station and data center altogether.

The move comes as a proposed cable landing station, or CLS, from Virginia-based Globalinx has been frozen by a Worcester County moratorium on data centers and CLS projects. Amazon instead proposes to build a small, unmanned building at the Ocean City Municipal Airport to carry its cable's signal inland.

"Amazon has no intention to build a CLS or a data center in Worcester County," a company spokesperson told OC Today-Dispatch via email.

Amazon says the structure — known as a power-feed equipment, or PFE, facility — would be no larger than 700 square feet. It would supply electricity to the cable and pass its optical signal farther inland, rather than routing that work through a cable landing station.

"If the PFE building is approved, the additional equipment that would otherwise have been housed in a nearby cable landing station will be placed in an existing AWS facility in the greater Washington region," the spokesperson said. Amazon Web Services is the corporation's cloud-computing division

Virginia-based Globalinx had been developing a 24,000-square-foot cable landing station on Route 611 outside West Ocean City, a facility that would serve Amazon's Fastnet transatlantic cable.

Under the original plan, the cable would have run through airport property before traveling underground to the Globalinx station, where it would connect with land-based telecommunications networks.

Amazon's proposal now casts doubt on the future of Globalinx's cable landing station, but the corporation stopped short of saying that project is dead; it described the airport facility as a separate project with a different applicant.

Globalinx is not mentioned anywhere in Amazon's paperwork, which lists AMCS LLC, an Amazon entity, as the applicant. Globalinx CEO Greg Twitt did not respond to an email Monday seeking clarification about the company's involvement.

Twitt faced pointed criticism from residents when he came to Stephen Decatur High School on May 14 to discuss the project at a town hall hosted by County Commissioner Eric Fiori, whose district includes the Route 611 site.

The project also drew opposition from descendants of people buried in a nearby African American cemetery established in 1866.

In response to concerns about the Globalinx proposal, the Worcester County Commissioners on July 21 imposed a yearlong moratorium on data centers and cable landing stations while directing county planners to develop permanent regulations for such infrastructure.

Because the moratorium applies to pending applications, the Globalinx proposal has been unable to advance. But since Globalinx's county application has not been formally withdrawn, the possibility remains that the company could eventually pursue the station independently.

Draft law submitted

On Aug. 21, Amazon through the law firm Venable LLP submitted a draft zoning law, one written specifically for its proposed airport structure. The company is asking Worcester County to enact it. The amendment would provide a workaround for the moratorium.

The company says the power-feed building would not qualify as a cable landing station or data center and

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therefore would not be affected by the moratorium.

County planning director Jennifer Keener also described the proposed structure as neither a cable landing station nor a data center in an Aug. 21 memo to the Planning Commission.

Amazon's zoning amendment would apply only to the Commercial Airport District at the Ocean City Municipal Airport and would allow no more than one power-feed building there. While the town owns the airport, Worcester County controls the zoning.

The proposed law would permit a one-story building as large as 1,200 square feet within a fenced area no larger than 3,500 square feet. Amazon said its structure would be closer to 700 square feet in size.

Amazon said its power hut would use 300 to 350 kilowatts, roughly as much power as a fast-charge hookup for an electric vehicle. The Globalinx station could have required as much as 5 megawatts.

"These are not comparable projects in any meaningful sense – different facility, different location, different scale, different applicant," the spokesperson said.

Amazon also said the building would contain neither the terminal equipment associated with a cable landing station nor systems used to store, manage, or process data. It could contain backup batteries, generators, and other supporting equipment.

The company described the facility as having "minimal to no impact" on surrounding land or residents. It would use no water and would sit behind a tree line away from residential areas, according to Amazon. It would take six to eight weeks to build.

Amazon's Fastnet cable is expected to connect Maryland to Ireland by 2028.

Company representatives had planned to pitch the project Thursday before the county's Planning Commission but requested a postponement because of travel conflicts.

"It's important to us to be there in person to present our plans openly

and answer the community's questions directly, so we asked for the hearing to be rescheduled," the Amazon spokesperson said.

A new meeting date has not been announced. The proposal must receive a recommendation from the Planning Commission before a county commissioner can introduce it for a public hearing and eventual vote. If no commissioner agrees to introduce the bill, it dies.

Fiori, who pushed for the moratorium, pointed to the Amazon filing as exactly the kind of proposal residents might miss. He said significant proposals can be difficult for residents and commissioners to find before they appear on county meeting agendas.

At his request, the commissioners this week unanimously agreed to begin posting county meeting agendas to social media, along with public notices and press releases.

"I think this is a universal way, with very little effort, to be more transparent in government," Fiori said.

'It's important to us to be there in person to present our plans openly and answer the community's questions directly, so we asked for the hearing to be rescheduled.'
Amazon spokesperson



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Opinion

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

9/11 reverberations

Nine eleven. 9/11. Sept. 11, 2001. No matter how you say or write that date, it is more than a block on the calendar. It is an expression that encapsulates the fear, shock, and dismay Americans experienced when the extremist group al-Qaeda committed the most devastating act of treachery ever visited on this country.

Some 2,900 people died in the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia, as compared to the 2,400 killed during the Japanese assault on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. President Franklin Roosevelt later declared that Dec. 7, 1941, “is a date which will live in infamy.” And it did — until Americans born after that date outnumbered those who were alive before it.

That’s the nature of time and is why citizens born after Sept. 11 may respectfully acknowledge the shock inflicted on the nation, but never truly understand the pain that followed.

How, then, can a population that did not experience an event be made to understand its lasting effect on the American way of life? In the case of 9/11, it must be by doing everything we can to protect what the terrorists ultimately targeted: our national treasure and once greatest export, our democratic principles.

Ironically, our response to the attacks did the heaviest damage to those very principles. As the Council on Foreign Relations observed this week, the subsequent “War on Terror” prompted democracies to pass expansive surveillance laws, restrict civil liberties, and tolerate human rights abuses.

In this country, the passage of the Patriot Act incorporated all of the above. The public went along, willingly giving up personal freedom in exchange for safety and order. It was only six years ago, in 2020, that many of the Patriot Act’s provisions were finally allowed by Congress to expire.

It’s for that reason that people need to realize 9/11’s effect on America continues to reverberate through society. So, when saying “Never forget,” Americans should reflect on that horrible day, but also be reminded to guard against those who would exchange America the Free for America the Secure. As Benjamin Franklin famously said, “Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”

Letter

Remembering 9/11 & what it taught us

Editor,

On Sept. 11, 2001, I had just finished teaching a dance aerobics class and went into the women’s locker room to change. On the radio, I heard what I thought was an updated version of Orson Welles’s famous 1938 War of the Worlds broadcast, based on H.G. Wells’s novel published in 1898.

I quickly realized this was not fiction. It was real life.

I immediately called my child’s school to ask if they wanted me to come and help contact parents about picking up their children early. I was told, “No. School will run the normal course of the day.” I then went to give blood.

Every time the television showed those horrible pictures of the towers collapsing, I turned my head. Once was more than enough. Even 25 years later, I still get tears

in my eyes when I remember watching those images.

But I remember something else about that terrible time. America came together. We were united. We put aside our political differences and focused on what we had in common. We were determined to protect our freedom, help our neighbors and defend the country we loved.

Where are we today? We have never seemed more polarized. Too often, we allow political parties and labels to divide us and forget that, before we are Democrats or Republicans, we are Americans.

This Sept. 11, let us remember not only the nearly 3,000 innocent people who lost their lives, but also the spirit of unity that emerged afterward. Let us share those memories with our young people who were too young to remember September 11, 2001, or who were not yet born.

Let us teach them that

democracy and freedom are not guaranteed. They require citizens who are willing to participate, stay informed and accept the responsibilities that come with living in a free country.

One of those responsibilities is voting. As November approaches, let us do our homework. Research the candidates. Learn where they stand on the issues. Listen beyond the political slogans and consider who will best represent our communities and our country. Do not vote simply because of a political party. Know the issues. Be an informed voter. Be a responsible citizen. And go out and vote.

Perhaps one of the best ways we can honor the spirit of Sept. 11 is to remember what brought us together and work to find that common ground again. We are Americans first. Let us never forget that.

*Tish Michel
Ocean City*

Ocean Pines schedules fall activities

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 10, 2026) The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department’s lineup of fall activities and events will include a flea market, a Washington Capitals bus trip, family programs, and a teen Dungeons and Dragons series.

The Ocean Pines Fall Flea Market will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 12, at White Horse Park, located at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The event will take place rain or shine and will offer both indoor and outdoor vendor spaces.

Admission for shoppers is free.

Sports fans will also have an opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., for a Capitals game this autumn. The rec department is organizing a bus trip to see the Washington Capitals take on the

New York Rangers at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at Capital One Arena.

The cost is \$105 per person and includes transportation and a game ticket. The bus will depart the Ocean Pines Community Center at 3 p.m., with an additional pickup at the Shoppes at Salisbury parking lot at 3:30 p.m. For tickets and additional information, call 410-641-7052.

Families and children will have several opportunities to participate in seasonal activities this fall. The PEP Club will meet 5-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at the Ocean Pines Community Center for a scarecrow-making event. Participants can create their own scarecrows while having pizza, salad, and dessert.

Aligned with the upcoming spooky season, children ages four to 10 can participate in a Halloween-themed craft from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the community center. Here, the kids will gear up for trick-or-treating by making their own Halloween candy bags.

Ocean Pines will also have offerings for the community’s youngest members. “Mommy/ Daddy and Me Story Time” has a series of upcoming sessions, each taking place from 10-11 a.m. The program is scheduled for Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, and April 20.

For teens ages 13 to 17, Ocean Pines will offer a “Dungeons and Dragons: Wildemount” program from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 5 through Dec. 3, at the community center.

For more information about Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks programs, call 410-641-7052 or visit the Ocean Pines Community Center at 235 Ocean Parkway.

BAYSIDEGAZETTE

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County refuses to approve purchase of utility vehicles

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 10, 2026) The Worcester County Commissioners blocked the purchase of utility vehicles for two public safety agencies last week, reversing course on nearly \$70,000 in equipment they had approved in this year's budget.

At last Tuesday's meeting, Worcester County Sheriff's Office Deputy Christopher Larmore asked the commissioners for final approval to purchase a 2027 Polaris Ranger Crew side-by-side utility vehicle for \$35,283.

Worcester County Fire Marshal Matt Owens then presented his agency's planned \$30,000 purchase of a 2026 Polaris Ranger XP 1000, a trailer and a small contingency.

Neither request was approved. Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) questioned the prices and the need for the vehicles, saying he'd missed an earlier budget work session because of illness and would have challenged the line items had he been present.

"I was not given the respect for that meeting that day," Bunting said, "and the vote was taken to push this forward on through."

"Otherwise, I would've been able to ask the questions about this issue that day," he said.

The sheriff's office currently has two aging four-wheelers that each carry one rider. Larmore said secure equipment boxes mounted on the back prevent the department from adding platforms capable of carrying a person or substantial supplies.

The requested UTV – essentially a beefed-up, four-wheel-drive golf cart – could carry four people, transport prisoners and deliver supplies, he said. It also could be used to reach missing or injured people in areas inaccessible to conventional patrol vehicles.

The commissioners voted 6–1 to deny the sheriff's purchase on Bunting's motion.

Moments after that vote, nervous laughter rippled through the room as Owens stepped forward with the fire

marshal's purchase request. "Do I need to repeat myself?" Bunting asked Owens.

Owens calmly explained that his office planned to use the vehicle for unexploded-ordnance calls on Assateague, operations at the county's expanding public safety training center and emergencies in difficult-to-reach locations.

Owens cited a recent EMS call along railroad tracks where responders struggled to reach a patient.

"They had a hard time getting to the person," he said. "These types of vehicles would be useful in those types of calls."

Bunting moved to deny the fire marshal's request, but his motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 5, West Ocean City) then moved to approve it, but that motion also failed to receive a second.

Both purchases had been arranged through Delmarva Power Sports in Salisbury, according to buyer's orders included in Tuesday's meeting packet.

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) sided with Bunting against the sheriff's purchase, questioning whether taxpayers should fund two similar vehicles for county agencies that often work at the same events.

Larmore said sharing one UTV would be inefficient because, while the agencies often work the same events, they have different jobs to do. Owens said his agency's UTV would be available for other public safety departments to use.

Fiori supported both purchases and cast the lone vote against denying the sheriff's request. He called UTVs standard equipment among public safety agencies.

"These items were presented toward budget time, and they're within your budget," Fiori said. "I mean, for \$35,000, if this saves a life, it's a bargain."

Owens declined to comment afterward. Sheriff Matt Crisafulli said his agency would revisit the issue but similarly declined to comment further.

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Puzzles

WRITTEN IN THE STARS
BY DANIEL GRINBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Daniel Grinberg is a user-experience researcher for a consulting company in Philadelphia. He says, “The genesis of this puzzle came to me when I saw Ariana Grande’s name and I thought to myself — André Gide adaptation?” (You’ll understand why when you solve the puzzle.) I don’t know how Danny found the eight elegant examples of his theme. But maybe I don’t really want to. It’s nice sometimes just to sit back and be amazed. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 “Aladdin” villain

6 “It’s yours!”

10 Sarcastic “Sure”

14 Heat setting, in brief?

17 Dutch Caribbean isle

18 Explosive sound

20 Lacking constraints

22 MARTIN SHEEN

24 LIAM NEESON

25 Chef Hussain of “The Great British Bake Off” fame

26 Discount Chinese e-tailer

28 Jumbo shrimp

29 Ben & Jerry’s alternative

31 Pink-slips

33 NORMAN REEDUS

37 GREG KINNEAR

40 Conditions of equilibrium

41 Historian’s division

42 Undying?

43 Offer illegally, as tickets

45 Publicly proclaim

46 Scatters messily

48 MORGAN FREEMAN

55 Class for some recent arrivals, for short

56 Kind of green

59 Chemist Lilly

Online subscriptions: Today’s puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

60 Chilean poet who served as a Communist senator

61 Four to two, e.g.

64 Friar with a famous “razor”

68 Turns on the waterworks

69 Ones making periodic appearances ... or the link between the capitalized clues and their answers

73 2024’s “Joker: ____ à Deux”

74 Alfresco area

75 “Everything cool between us?”

76 Poorly nourished

78 Fill at a fill-up

80 ____ card

81 Rite Aid rival

84 CHRISTIAN SLATER

89 City on the Illinois River

92 Grumpy grimace

93 Discontinued Swedish cars

96 Inauthentic

97 “Catch-22” topic

100 Join, as two metal surfaces

102 ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

104 KEVIN KLINE

107 Erté’s style, informally

108 Canadian fuel brand

109 All-vowel musical refrain

110 Actress Falco with four Emmys

112 Sugary secretion

114 BEA ARTHUR

118 MARLON BRANDO

122 Submitted by the deadline

123 B.L.T. or P.B.J., cutesily

124 Musician/actress Haim

125 Syllable of censure

126 Instant

127 High-protein bean

128 Big name in truck rentals

18 Inuit watercraft

19 Office messages

21 Like some mattresses and offers

23 Mineral that makes cosmetics shimmer

27 Remove an identifier from, as on Instagram

29 Clear

30 Shoulder press targets, to trainers

32 Hit a ____

34 Where a flock may gather

35 Beginning on

36 Attach with a needle and thread

38 Unused

39 Extreme happiness

44 Double-breasted pieces of menswear

47 Trigger

49 Like Scrooge McDuck

50 Right-hand page of a book

51 Made muffs

52 John ____ Day (California commemoration)

53 Citrus refreshments

54 “N.Y. State of Mind” rapper

57 1994 Costner title role

58 Diva’s time to shine

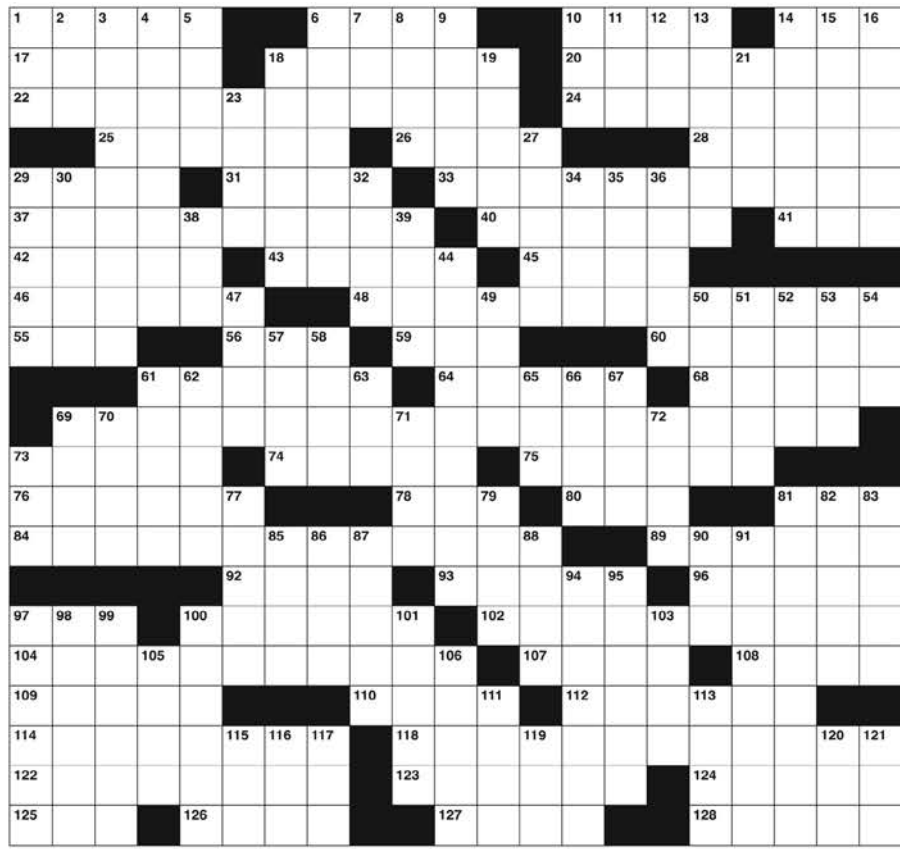
61 “Dune” genre

62 Mary or Elizabeth

63 Towering creature in “The Two Towers”

65 Sound in a cornfield

66 Half brother of Apollo



- 67 Christmas presence?
- 69 Sushi bar serving
- 70 Jazz great Fitzgerald
- 71 Along with “CODA” and “Argo,” the only other four-letter Best Picture winner
- 72 Give gratis
- 73 Shakespearean shout
- 77 That’s the spirit!
- 79 Strike defier
- 81 Part of an intersection
- 82 Barolos e Brunellos
- 83 Turn someone down
- 85 Unshared numbers
- 86 Hostile manner, informally
- 87 Actor and disability activist Christopher
- 88 Like some liquors
- 90 Org. regulating air quality
- 91 “You sure about that?”
- 94 Periods of 730 days
- 95 Withdraw from a union
- 97 Teensy amount
- 98 Feathered fliers
- 99 Shoe brand named for an antelope
- 100 Hybrid tennis bottoms
- 101 Second tries
- 103 El Pollo ____ (chicken chain)
- 105 Creditor’s claim
- 106 Turkish money
- 111 Fad toy of 1996
- 113 Snowboarder’s transport
- 115 Often-illegal turn, slangily
- 116 Cinephile’s cable choice
- 117 Boars and bulls
- 119 Comedian Sedaris
- 120 I, to Augustus
- 121 Smudge or smear, say

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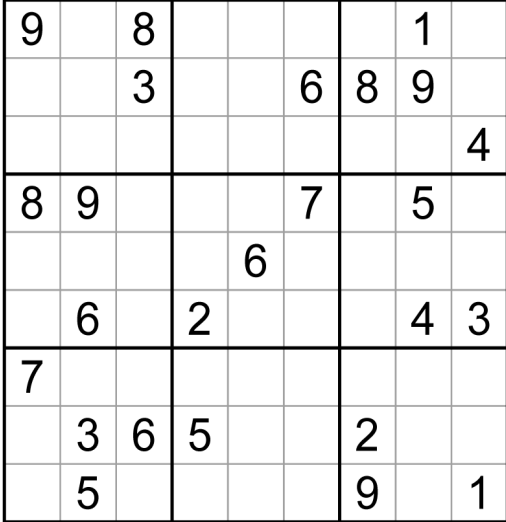
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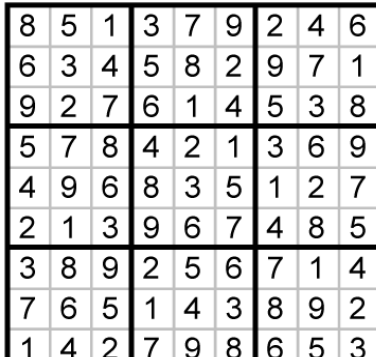
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HARD - 17

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., Sept. 10

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.) Live music, motorcycles, stunt shows, fireworks, vendors, food and drinks and more. Concert tickets and event details: <https://www.ocrockandride.com>.

COMPUTER BASICS: THE MOUSE
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Learn about the mouse and how it is used. Bring a laptop. Bring a mouse if you have one. Registration required: 410-641-0650

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-5622

STORY TIME: 'PINE & BLOOF'
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

BINGO
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Play a lively game of Bingo and win fun prizes. Limited to the first 35 participants. First come, first served. 410-524-1818, worcesterialibrary.org

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
TidalHealth Neurology, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. Hosted by the Worcester Commission on Aging. Held the second Thursday of each month. 410-632-0111, Ext. 727; heather.atkins@worcoa.org

MARYLAND MAKERS: ICE CREAM FACTORY
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 p.m. Learn about Maryland inventions and innovations throughout history with hands-on crafts and STEAM activities. Call ahead with any food allergies for best accommodations. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650

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. 11

RED KNIGHTS ANNUAL 911 PARADE OF BROTHERS BOARDWALK RIDE
Firefighters Memorial, 10 S. Boardwalk, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration

begins at 10 a.m.; boardwalk ride, 11:30 a.m.; memorial service, noon; scenic ride through Delmarva, 1 p.m. Cost is \$30. www.facebook.com/groups/631703077768365/posts/2097174577887867/, 610-470-6071

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.) Live music, motorcycles, stunt shows, fireworks, vendors, food and drinks and more. Concert tickets and event details: <https://www.ocrockandride.com>.

BABY TIME
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. An opportunity for babies and their caregivers to socialize, play, read and explore. Drop by and make some friends. For ages 0-2 years. 410-641-0650, worcesterialibrary.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, worcesterialibrary.org

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS: FREE 60+ ART CLUB
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The September installment of the Art League of Ocean City's free monthly art club for seniors! Registration encouraged, but not required: 410-524-9433.

MOVIE MATINEE IN 3D!
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Catch a movie you may have missed in theaters. 410-208-4014, worcesterialibrary.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'CHELSEA GIRLS' BY FIONA DAVIS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Ocean Pines Library circulation desk. 410-208-4014, worcesterialibrary.org

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. One crab cake sandwich platter, \$15; two crab cake sandwich platter, \$25; and crab cake sandwiches, \$10. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Bake sale table available.

BLAST OFF INTO READING: FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 6 p.m. Explore

space and literacy through hands-on activities, crafts and games. Light refreshments provided while supplies last. For families. 410-957-0878, worcesterialibrary.org

Sat., Sept. 12

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.) Live music, motorcycles, stunt shows, fireworks, vendors, food and drinks and more. Concert tickets and event details: <https://www.ocrockandride.com>.

OCEAN PINES FALL FLEA MARKET
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m.-noon. Indoor and outdoor spaces available (\$25 each). All spaces include one 8 ft. table and one chair. Held rain or shine. Register: 410-641-7052. Free admission for shoppers.

ANNUAL DOGGIE SWIM
Mumford's Landing Pool, 7351 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines. Open 10-10:30 a.m. for small dogs under 20 pounds. Open 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all dogs. Cost is \$8 per dog. Benefits Worcester County Humane Society. Donations collected. Rain date is Sept. 19. 410-641-5255

FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY
Friendship Church, 10537 Friendship Road, Berlin, 9 a.m.-noon. Limit to 3 boxes. 410-713-4701

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

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Speaker will be Morgan (Mike) Mericle, an avid Ocean City Bridge and Jetty fisherman who has been chasing bridge monsters for years. Also, the Flounder Derby awards will be presented. All are welcome. 410-641-7662

DUTCH OVEN COOKING
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m. Learn simple techniques, cooking tips and delicious recipes while exploring the versatility of this classic cast-iron cookware. Registration required: 410-957-0878. worcesterialibrary.org

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

terlibrary.org

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

Sun., Sept. 13

OC ROCK & RIDE BIKEFEST
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Live music, motorcycles, stunt shows, fireworks, vendors, food and drinks and more. Concert tickets and event details: <https://www.ocrockandride.com>.

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

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

USHER DAY
Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 3:30 p.m. Honoring those who serve with faithfulness. Guest preacher is Johnnie L. Palmer Sr., Collin's Temple AME Church, Snow Hill.

SECOND SUNDAYS AT THE TAYLOR HOUSE
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 6 p.m. Featuring music by Colossal Fossil Sauce Trio. www.taylorhouse-museum.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

Calendar

Continued from Page 17

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

Mon., Sept. 14

STORY TIME: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
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

BABY TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

THE HISTORY OF THE OCEAN CITY LIBRARY
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month by learning about the interesting history of the Ocean City Library. Books in banks, lines to use the internet and more. 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. 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. 15

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. This workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research, followed by a Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information, if you can. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

CLAY & PLAY
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Create, squish and play. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

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

TEEN CHEF
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Make some energy bites to power through the day. For ages 12-18 years. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

EARLY READERS BOOK CLUB: 'FRANK AND THE BAD SURPRISE'
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 4 p.m. No need to read the book beforehand, come out and enjoy a shared reading experience as a group. Afterwards children play games or do crafts. Best for ages 6-8 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

FREE MOVIE NIGHT: ORDINARY ANGELS (RATED PG)
Friendship Church, 10537 Friendship Road, Berlin. Light refreshments begin at 6 p.m. Show time is at 6:15 p.m. Movie is approximately 2 hours. 410-713-4701

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

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.

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

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

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

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

Wed., Sept. 16

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn through exploration, curiosity and creativity during the sensory stay and play. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818

BACKGAMMON CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of Backgammon, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

DEMYSTIFYING THE SYMPHONY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. This four-session course familiarizes atten-

dees with contemporary orchestras. Light refreshments. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and FOPL. Registration required: 410-208-4014.

SCAMS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM
Learn how to recognize scams and protect yourself, 12 p.m. Register: <https://allegany.librarymarket.com/event/safe-scam-awareness-financial-education-series-title-washington-street-library-33597>. 443-783-6164

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
TidalHealth John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Cancer Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. Hosted by Women Supporting Women. Held on the third Wednesday of each month. 410-548-7880.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 1 p.m. Hosted by the Worcester County Health Department. Held on the third Wednesday of each month. 410-632-1100, ext. 1113

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

STORIES OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE IN THE WAR OF 1812
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. What was it like for everyday citizens and local militiamen, as well as slaves, freedmen, women? Historian Mike Dixon reveals unpublished stories of unrepresented peoples. 410-208-4014

SERVICE SQUAD
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 p.m. Worcester County teens earn service learning hours by helping out with craft and program prep, or other activities. Call about potential projects. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650

FREE INTRODUCTORY SQUARE DANCE LESSONS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7-8:30 p.m. Singles and couples welcome. 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

Calendar

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

DUCK-TEMBER DECORATING CONTEST
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Sept. 14-Oct. 16. Decorate your duck as your favorite book character. Stop by the library to pick up your duck and get all the official rules. For families. 410-208-4014

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.

GREAT TRAIN RAFFLE
Win a Charlie Davis wooden handcrafted 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.

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA
Meets the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-4 p.m. A social organization of men and women of Polish or Slavic descent.

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER 50/50 FUNDRAISER
Drawings are held every Thursday at 8 p.m. Ticket sales open Thursdays at 8:05 p.m. and close the following Thursday at 7:59 p.m. One winner takes home 50% of the total jackpot and the remainder supports the Ocean Pines Volunteer

Fire Department. Tickets: <https://md.505oraffle.org/give/md-fire/50-50-raffles/md5050/charities/ocean-pines>

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 6 p.m. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

RUNAWAY BRIDE WALKING TOUR
Stroll down Main Street in Berlin and visit the shops where Ike fell in love with Maggie. Visit the Atlantic Hotel where many of the scenes were filmed. Map of filming locations: <https://berlinmainstreet.com/Runaway-Bride-Walking-Tour.pdf>.

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE
On sale every Saturday morning at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One \$20 ticket is good for all 365 drawings in 2025. Benefits the youth of the community.

OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY
Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com



OPEN HOUSES

Sept. 10 - 17



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 11am-1pm	12301 Jamaica Ave #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday Noon-2pm	75 King Richard Rd, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$814,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 1-2:30pm	5 48th Street, Ocean City	5BR/4BA	Condo	\$1,099,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 1:30-3:30pm	6201 Coastal Highway #806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,520,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 4-7pm	12353 Southhampton Dr, Lighthouse Sound	6BR/7.5BA	Single Family	\$3,559,900	Greg Erdie/Beth Evans/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	24 Stacy Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$1,300,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	21 Castle Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$510,500	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	14 Willow Way, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$394,500	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	104 125th Street #203, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$439,900	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 Noon-2pm	12301 Jamaica Ave #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	22 Capetown Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$419,999	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	104 125th Street #203, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$439,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	35596 Gloucester Circle, Millsboro, DE	3 BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$305,000	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	26740 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$349,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	26738 Chatham Lane, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$347,500	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED AUTOMOTIVE PARTS ADVISOR
Ocean Pines, MD
 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!
Competitive Pay - Benefits Employee - Friends & Family Discounts
Established, Busy Location Parts experience required.
Call 302-228-2353

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

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING - ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER
 Busy automotive office in the Ocean View/Clarksville area
Requirements:
 • Microsoft Excel experience
 • Basic bookkeeping experience
 • Dependable and detail-oriented
 • QuickBooks and payroll experience a plus
 In-office position - no remote work
Call 302-228-2353 to apply.

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

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**

Classifieds
410-723-6397
By Monday,
5 p.m.

RENTALS

WINTER RENTAL
 2BR, 1BA, Small Condo.
 5th Street,
 1 block to the boards.
 Absolutely No smoking/pets.
 \$900/mo. + utils. 1-month sec. dep. req.
 Oct. 10-April 10th. OCMD.
Text 410-952-5234

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 2BR, 2BA, SLEEPS 6
 38TH ST AND THE BEACH
 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>

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. Wi-Fi.
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ROOMMATES

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

REAL ESTATE

11 Seafarer Lane in North Ocean Pines, MD for only \$474,900. Three bedroom and 2 full bath home, fully furnished. Great for a starter home or beach getaway. Wooded lot with a lot of privacy, includes a hot tub and firepit. Large 1-car garage with paved driveway for 6+ cars. Owner anxious to sell, come see and make a deal. **Keller Williams Delmarva North, Julie Stefan @ 410-800-7915 or office 302-360-0300**

COMMERCIAL

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

Classifieds 410-723-6397

COMMERCIAL

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

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 Adding value to your biggest investment every step of the way. We do: - Power washing - Drywall - Painting - Caulking - Carpentry - Minor roof repairs ... and more. We don't rest until the job is done right. For a free estimate, efficient response and service with a smile, **call us today on 410-845-8394 or go to our website at www.burcomgc.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.
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