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PUPPY SWIM TO END THE SEASON

Ryan Carnahan is pictured with his yellow lab during last weekend's annual Doggie Swim held at the Mumford's Landing pool, which is now closed for the season. The swim is an annual tradition to mark the changing of the seasons.

Fiddlers: rosin up your bows

Banjos, guitars, mandolins will be heard as well this weekend in annual event

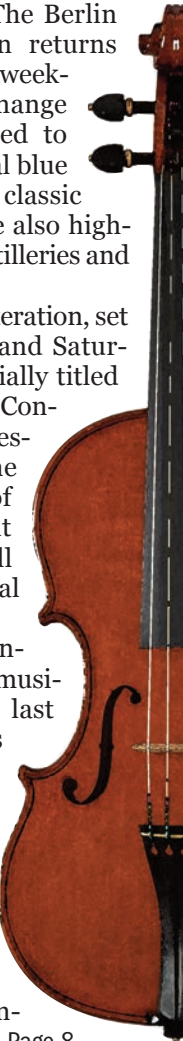
By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2026) The Berlin Fiddler's Convention returns for its 33rd year this weekend with a name change and rebrand intended to feature the traditional blue grass, country and classic old-time music while also highlighting the area's distilleries and breweries.

The event's 2026 iteration, set for Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19, is officially titled the Annual Fiddler's Convention and Spirits Festival. Hosted by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, the event this year also will shine a light on local spirits.

The chamber announced the slate of musical performances last week. Friday night's roster, to play on-stage near The Sterling Tavern, includes Danny Paisley and Southern Grass from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Flatland Drive from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The music convention
See FIDDLERS Page 8



Yacht Club Facebook hacked

Management working with Meta, others in attempt to kick intruders off its page

(Sept. 17, 2025) Touch of Italy Hospitality Group is warning customers and the public that several of its business Facebook pages have been compromised and currently are outside the company's control.

The company said unauthorized individuals have posted inflammatory and inappropriate content on the pages that is unrelated to Touch of Italy Hospitality Group or its affiliated properties.

Company officials stressed the posts were not created, authorized, endorsed or approved by Touch of Italy and do not reflect the views or values of the company, its management or employees.

ment or employees.

Touch of Italy is working with Facebook parent company, Meta, and other parties to regain administrative control of the affected pages and remove the unauthorized content.

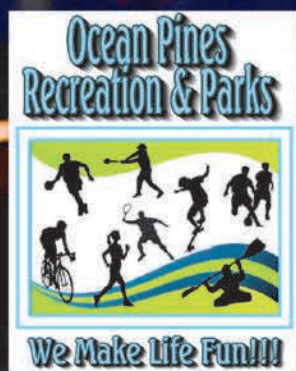
Until control is restored, the company is urging customers and community members not to engage with, respond to or share content appearing on the pages.

See PINES Page 3

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Project to grow Worcester County economy

Study to consider updates to infrastructure, new jobs, and business expansion

(Sept. 4, 2026) Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development in partnership with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore is launching an economic development project to identify opportunities for industry growth, private investment, and job creation in southern Worcester County.

This initiative, entitled Opportunities for Economic Growth and Industry Diversification in Worcester County, Maryland, will be funded by a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and a \$75,000 match from the Tri-County Council.

The study will outline steps to improve infrastructure, prepare workers for new job opportunities, attract and support businesses, and expand the types of industries operating in Worcester County. These efforts are expected to help create a stronger, more resilient economy in Worcester County and across the Lower Eastern Shore.

“Southern Worcester County has tremendous assets and opportunities that we can build on,” said County Commissioner Caryn Abbott, who represents the Pocomoke City area. “This funding will allow us to take a close look at what businesses need to grow and thrive, where new opportunities exist, and what investments can be made now and going forward to convert that potential into good jobs and ongoing economic growth for our com-

munities.”

The study will explore ways to expand manufacturing, aerospace, defense, and technology industries, particularly in Pocomoke City.

Pocomoke offers a 175-acre Pocomoke Industrial Park, access to U.S. Routes 13 and 113, freight rail service, natural gas, and Pocomoke River access. Pocomoke has also government designations that allow tax benefits, investment incentives, and access to certain federal contracting opportunities.

Pocomoke’s proximity to NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility creates further opportunities to attract companies that supply or support the region’s growing aerospace, defense, advanced manufacturing, and technology industries.

The study will determine whether local water and wastewater systems,

electricity, broadband, roads, rail service, river access, and industrial sites can support new and expanding businesses, like Hardwire, while also identifying opportunities to attract suppliers supporting NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Rocket Lab, and other regional employers.

It will also identify needed improvements, examine the types of workers employers are seeking, and recommend ways to prepare local residents for specialized, well-paying jobs.

“The resulting roadmap will identify infrastructure investments, workforce development needs, business recruitment opportunities, and implementation steps to strengthen the local economy and position southern Worcester County for future investment,” the county’s economic development director Melanie Pursel said.



WE HAVE BEEN HACKED!

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The Ocean Pines Yacht Club’s Facebook page was hacked this week. Touch of Italy is working with Meta to regain control of the account.

Pines Yacht Club Facebook hacked

Continued from Page 1
ing on the compromised pages. The public is also being advised to be cautious of messages, links, solicitations or requests for information originating from the affected accounts.

“We understand that people who have followed and supported our businesses may be confused or concerned by what they are seeing,” a Touch of Italy Hospitality Group representative said.

“We want our community to know unequivocally that these posts are not coming from us. We are working diligently to resolve the situation and regain control of our pages as quickly as possible.”

The company said official updates on the situation will be communicated through company-controlled websites and other verified communication channels.

Touch of Italy Hospitality Group operates restaurant and hospitality businesses on Delmarva.

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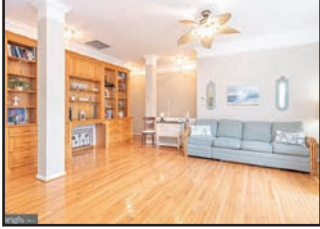
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Town offers EDU financing option for some properties

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2026) About 20 Berlin property owners will receive letters soon notifying them that their water consumption exceeds the amount allocated to them by the town.

The town, however, will give these property owners a way to come into compliance without paying the full cost for the amount used.

Water allocations are measured in “Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs),” which are based on the average water use of a single-family household. One EDU represents an average of 250 gallons per day of usage. When new businesses, specifically, open in Berlin, the town code says there will be a 24-month monitoring period to determine if additional EDUs are required. A two-year review of multiple businesses found around 20 businesses will need to buy additional capacity to continue to operate at current levels.

Under the policy discussed by the mayor and Town Council Monday night, property owners who need to buy additional EDUs will have the option to pay 10% up front, along with a 5% administrative fee, and finance the remaining cost over 24 months for one to three new EDUs or up to 60 months for four or more EDUs.

The provision follows the installation of smart meters, which Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said has made it easier to identify properties whose actual water consumption exceeds their current EDU allocation. The municipality is asking these parcels to buy additional EDUs to ensure records reflect the actual water and sewer capacity being used.

While some of the 20 properties will need only one or two new connections, others will need a more substantial upgrade to fully comply. Tyndall noted that among the 20 properties, bills range from \$17,000 (for one EDU) to \$400,000 for highest user.

The town will provide these property owners a pathway to finance their new EDUs, recognizing that paying the full cost outright could be a burden on residents and business owners.

“You have folks who are using infrastructure, and we need to capture those costs. But we can’t ask for \$400,000 in 30 days,” Tyndall said.

While the Town Council agreed to the outlined financing option for non-compliant properties, not everyone was initially on board.

Before the Town Council amended the administrative fee to 5%, the draft policy set the rate at 3%.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen and Finance Director Natalie Saleh oppose the town offering financing, arguing the municipality is directly competing with private businesses by offering such a low fee, a practice not advisable for government entities.

Additionally, Councilman Steve Green said the 10% down payment is too low. He said he would like to see the initial deposit at around 25% of the full

See BERLIN Page 7

Berlin continues ADU discussion

Continued from Page 4

During Monday night’s regular Town Council meeting, the governing team also established proposed permit fees for ADUs.

Under the updated fee schedule, applicants would pay a \$300 filing fee. New construction ADUs would carry a permit fee of \$500 in fiscal 2027, increasing to \$575 by fiscal 2030.

Converting an existing accessory structure into an ADU would cost \$350 in fiscal 2027, increasing to \$425 by fiscal 2030. An ADU certificate of zoning, occupancy and covenant would cost an additional \$150 in fiscal 2027, increasing to \$165 by fiscal 2030.

Tyndall said that a second work session on ADUs will likely take place ahead of the Town Council’s Sept. 28 meeting, when a public hearing on the proposed guidelines is scheduled.





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Library system seeking new board trustee amid vacancy

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor
(Sept. 18, 2026) The Worcester County Library is seeking a new member to fill a vacancy on its board of trustees.

With member Nancy Howard’s term ending in December, the Worcester County Library Board of Trustees is accepting applications to be her replacement. The person chosen to fill the role will serve a five-year term.

“Someone said libraries are more than books, and they certainly are,” Howard said in an interview this week. “And a board member gets to play a part in all of that.”

The library’s board of trustees governs the library to ensure community needs are met. A trustee’s obligation, according to the library website, is to act in the best interests of the library by advocating for adequate funding, assisting in planning future library services and facilities, and supporting the mission and vision of the library system.

“You want someone that has a respect for the library and what the goals of the library are,” Howard said.

The Worcester County Library Board of Trustees consists of seven members representing various geographical areas of the county and are appointed by the Worcester County Commissioners from nominations submitted by the board of trustees. Howard

currently represents the Ocean City area.

Members serve for a term of five years, for no more than two consecutive terms, and until a successor is appointed. A trustee will also commit to monthly board meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month – except for July and August – at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting locations are rotated among the five library branches.

“One of the most important things is to show up for meetings,” Howard said. “We only meet 10 times a year.”

A trustee must be a resident of Worcester County and act as a liaison between the public and the board. They must also be knowledgeable in library operations and be involved in the continuing effort to improve library services, among other things.

Information, as well as an application, has been posted to the Worcester County Library website, worcesterlibrary.org. Completed applications can be emailed to Library Director Jennifer Ranck at janck@worcesterlibrary.org or sent to the Worcester County Library, 307 N. Washington Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863.

“It gives you a sense of self-satisfaction, that you have a part in forwarding the goals and objectives of the library system,” Howard said. “I know that sounds trite, but it’s true.”

Berlin addresses EDU overages

Continued from Page 6
bill but supports financing to help businesses deal with extreme expenses.

“We have to protect the town,” he said.

However, Tyndall said that for a customer who owes \$400,000, they would be required to come up with a hefty \$100,000 up front.

“We have a healthcare institution that has that bill, and I don’t think that’s right to do that,” the mayor maintained.

The outlined policy also requires that the debt be paid in full before ownership of a property out of compliance can be transferred.

Bohlen said requests for EDU financing will be approved on a case-by-case basis. The option is only available to properties out of compliance. New developments will still need to purchase their water and sewer connections outright and will not be allowed to seek any type of payment plan through the Town of Berlin.



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Fiddlers, pickers will take over downtown

Continued from Page 1
tion will showcase two Saturday stages: the traditional Main Stage located on Pitts Street and a local band stage next to and sponsored by The Sterling Tavern.

Saturday's Pitts Street Main Stage will feature The Stringbuzzards from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Amateur Competitions and The Folk Villains from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and Sons of Pirates from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Over on the local's stage on Saturday, Stevenson's Crossroads will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Berlin Airlift will go on at 3 p.m. and wrap up around 5 p.m.

Chamber President David Fitzgerald said this second stage is intended to feature local bands "and give attendees options if fiddlers' music is not their taste."

Organizers have advertised this year's event as not just a music-only celebration. To support local businesses, Eastern Shore distilleries and breweries will be downtown during the concerts to offer guests a sample of their products.

The regional alcohol businesses planning to appear are Berlin Beer Co, Burley Oak, Forgotten 50, and Lyon Rum.

The chamber president noted that his team hopes adding a spirits component to the weekend will increase attendance and prop up the area's beer and liquor enterprises.

"We hope this change will attract additional attendees to support our local breweries and distilleries," he said.

Food vendors will also be at this weekend's festival. Also, spectators are



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Fans of bluegrass, traditional mountain music and country fill the streets in downtown Berlin as sound of fiddles, banjos, guitars, mandolins and stand-up basses fill the air.

invited to browse booths from non-profits and craftspeople between acts.

Anyone interested in serving on an event committee can contact the chamber's office. Fitzgerald said the organization is currently forming a committee for next year's Jazz and Blues Festival.

In the meantime, the chamber is encouraging residents and visitors to listen to this weekend's music.

"Bring a chair and enjoy the Friday night and Saturday event," Fitzgerald said. "There's lots of great music and vendors, and also support our local restaurants and businesses."



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Redistricting question will go before voters

Court ruling clears way for Question 3 to appear on election ballot this Nov. 3

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Sept. 18, 2026) The battle over Maryland's redistricting rules has moved out of the courtroom and into the hands of voters after the state's highest court cleared Question 3 for the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

Following the ruling, local lawmakers – including state Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), who sued to block the measure – are urging constituents to defeat the constitutional amendment.

If passed by voters on Election Day, it would prevent Maryland courts from applying state constitutional standards to congressional district boundaries.

“To think I’d be a plaintiff in the redistricting lawsuit as the only recourse to protect the constitutional rights of my constituents is a very serious matter,” Carozza (R-38, Worcester) told OC Today-Dispatch this week.

Maryland is part of a national redistricting fight that has unfolded over the past year, with both parties seeking to redraw congressional maps in their favor before the next census.

Seven of Maryland's eight seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are held by Democrats, leaving First District Congressman Andy Harris as the delegation's lone Republican.

Carozza and fellow Eastern Shore Republicans argue that if Question 3 passes, Annapolis mapmakers could divide the First District across the Chesapeake Bay and dilute the Shore's conservative voice by linking its rural counties to metropolitan Baltimore suburbs.

Opponents call that an open door to gerrymandering – the practice of drawing voting districts to give one political party an advantage in elections, a tactic nearly as old as the nation itself.

Carozza rejects the argument that Republican redistricting efforts elsewhere justify Maryland changing its own rules.

“The average person also understands that two wrongs don't make a right, whether it's in Maryland or in Texas,” she said. “If it's wrong, it's wrong. We have an obligation to fight for the voice and representation of our constituents.”

In its Sept. 3 order, the state Supreme Court considered two separate lawsuits brought by Republican voters and lawmakers challenging Question 3.

The plaintiffs challenged lawmakers' decision to bypass ballot deadlines and a public-comment process enacted earlier this year through Senate Bill 29, according to Carozza. Other plaintiffs included Eastern Shore Republicans Sen. Johnny Mautz and Del. Chris Adams.

Although the Supreme Court ruled that the timing problems were not enough to remove Question 3 from the ballot, the challengers won a partial victory.

The justices agreed that the legislature's original ballot description was “misleading” and violated constitutional due process.

The description said the amendment would require congressional maps to follow federal law, but federal law applies regardless of Question 3, and the amendment does not establish any new federal standards.

The court did not change the amendment itself. Instead of throwing out the referendum, it ordered election officials to replace the ballot description.

The new wording tells voters that Maryland's existing standards would apply only to General Assembly districts and that the Maryland Constitution would provide no standards for drawing congressional maps.

States typically redraw congressional

sional districts every 10 years after the national census. In Maryland, however, the state Constitution does not spell out how those districts must be drawn, according to a General Assembly analysis.

But in 2022, an Anne Arundel County judge ruled that standards governing legislative districts also apply to congressional maps. Under those standards, districts must be compact and respect natural boundaries, such as the Chesapeake Bay, and political boundaries, like county lines.

The judge struck down a map approved by the General Assembly as an “extreme partisan gerrymander.” A replacement map subsequently maintained an Eastern Shore-based First Congressional District represented by Republican Andy Harris.

Democratic lawmakers proposed Question 3 during a three-day General Assembly special session in August. The amendment, introduced as House Bill 2100, passed the House 96-38 and the Senate 32-13.

Question 3 would reverse that interpretation by adding language to the constitution declaring that “nothing in the Maryland Constitution provides applicable criteria for the boundaries of a congressional dis-

See DISTRICT Page 12



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Pines fire department seeks golfers for Nov. tournament

Registration costs \$150 a player, proceeds to help OPVFD maintain service

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2026) Golfers can hit the links and give back to the community at the same time later this fall by registering for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department's second annual fundraising tournament.

Proceeds from the event will help the OPVFD maintain its facilities, gear, and equipment. The tournament is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 1 at 9 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. Residents may sign up for \$150 per player.

The tournament has space for 120 golfers. Event organizers reported last week that about 46 people have registered so far.

"We're raising funds to try and help cover the cost of our apparatus," OPVFD President Joe Enste told the Bayside Gazette last week. "And we're trying to make sure we can replace our structural firefighting gear for our firefighters."

According to Enste, gear replacement costs can range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. These suits have a useful life of about a decade, based on standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Association.

"We're constantly having to recycle those things, and each set of gear can cost anywhere between \$2,500 and upwards of \$4,000 to \$5,000 depending on if you need helmets, boots, and/or gloves," Enste said.

See EVENT Page 13

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District changes in voters' hands

Continued from Page 10
tricting plan."

In dissent, Justice Steven Gould argued that the replacement description remains misleading because it does not tell voters that Maryland's Declaration of Rights – part of the Maryland Constitution and similar to the federal Bill of Rights – could no longer be used to challenge congressional maps.

Gould wrote that voters would not understand that "a vote for Question 3 is a vote to eliminate rights he or she currently enjoys."

Statewide Democratic leaders immediately celebrated the court's 5-2 ruling.

In a joint statement, House Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk and Senate President Bill Ferguson argued the amendment would give Maryland the legal tools to respond to mid-decade gerrymandering in Republican-led states. Both are Democrats.

Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, called the ruling a massive victory, saying "the final decision on how we draw our maps belongs in the hands of Marylanders, not politicians."

Moore portrayed the amendment as Maryland's response to Republican-led states that have redrawn congressional districts between censuses to gain seats in the U.S. House.

"We refuse to sit on our hands while Republicans engage in political redlining that guts decades of progress," Moore said. "Today's decision ensures Maryland will not be caught flat-footed against these national threats."

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Event to raise funds for OPVFD

Continued from Page 12

The \$150 sign-up fee includes a grab-and-go breakfast, lunch following the tournament, and door prizes. OPVFD fundraiser coordinator Tracy Jones said the department’s administration team is hard at work securing small gifts so every player has the chance to win one.

The fire department is also accepting tournament sponsorships.

For \$2,000 as a gold sponsor, businesses will get their name on a large tee box sign, four rounds of golf with mulligan packages including a 50/50 raffle and a door prize, and a social media shout-out.

Companies can also sign on as a silver sponsor for \$1,000. At this level, a business will get its name on a tee box sign, two rounds of golf with mulligan packages, and social media mentions. For \$500, a bronze sponsor receives their name on a tee box sign and on-line acknowledgments.

Tournament sponsors so far include Touch of Italy, Midlantic Marine Center, Choptank Electric Cooperative, and Vista Designs, among others.

Last year, the golf event raised \$23,000 for the department. The OPVFD hopes to reach \$30,000 this time around.

Enste said fundraising events like the upcoming tournament are vital to

the fire company’s ability to serve the Ocean Pines community successfully.

“We are a combination fire department, and that means we have both career and volunteer members who are working around the clock to protect this community,” he said. “And while the Ocean Pines Association and the county do great things to help fund the department, there are still gaps that need to be made up. That’s where this fundraising comes in.”

Additionally, events like the golf benefit give the OPVFD an opportunity to engage with residents. Citizens can get to know the individuals who protect their neighborhood, and the department may identify those interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter.

“While we are asking the community for funds, we are also trying to provide opportunities for them to engage with us and our members,” Enste said.

“So not only do they get to know who is protecting the community, but also potentially it might lead to opportunities for them to want to become a member down the road. We like to have those conversations with folks as we go along, and we think that fundraising opens those doors to have those conversations.”

Golfers can register for the Nov. 1 tournament on the OPVFD’s website.



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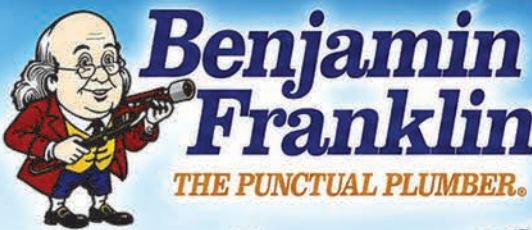
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Obituaries

ADAM MASON POLLIN

Ocean Pines

Adam Mason Pollin, of Ocean Pines, Maryland, was born on June 15, 1971, in Washington, D.C., and passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on August 28, 2026.



Adam Pollin

Adam is survived by his parents, Alan and Alice Sydney. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters, Shane Pollin (Amy), Jill Madone (Mike), Courtney Wade (Justin), Jake Minkoff (Alissa), and Sam Minkoff (Cassie); his nieces, Ella Pollin and Nora Minkoff; and his nephews, Logan Madone, Hunter Wade, and Thomas Wade.

Adam is also survived by his aunt and uncles, Judy and Jonathan Duffie, Richard Pollin, and Robert Loeb; his great-uncle and great-aunt, Morty and Cynthia Zetlin; and his cousins, Jacob Pollin, Matthew Pollin, Jeremy Duffie, Jon Duffie, Justin Duffie, Alex Loeb, Max Loeb, and Chris Loeb, as well as extended family and many dear friends.

Adam will also be deeply missed by his beloved pets, Dickey and Augie.

Adam graduated from Bradley

University and went on to a career in property management. His love of music, particularly the Grateful Dead and Widespread Panic, and his passion for travel helped foster lifelong friendships and countless memories. Adam loved making Ocean Pines his home and could often be found taking a drive through the community or along Coastal Highway with his beloved dog, Dickey, by his side. He was also a connoisseur of Maryland crab cakes.

Adam's funeral was held on Wednesday, September 2nd at B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville, Maryland, followed by interment at King David Memorial Park in Falls Church, Virginia. Shiva was observed by the family following the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Adam's memory to the Worcester County Humane Society.

KENNETH RICHARD BLISS

Berlin

Kenneth Richard "Kenny" Bliss, 64, died unexpectedly on September 3, 2026, following a period of declining health. During the last two years of his life, Ken faced increasingly serious health problems and handled them with grace.

Ken was born on April 13, 1962, the son of Elizabeth (Loveland) Bliss

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REDKEN

Obituaries

and the late Frank R. Bliss Jr. The youngest of five children, he grew up in Maryland and Hawaii before eventu-



Kenneth Bliss

ally returning to Maryland, where he spent most of his adult life. Ken attended Thornton Friends High School in Silver Spring, Maryland before moving to Ocean City, Maryland, where he began a long career in the restaurant industry. Starting as a line cook, he worked his way through the kitchen ranks, becoming a prep chef, sous chef, head chef, and eventually an executive chef.

Although he proved himself capable of running a kitchen, Ken discovered that he preferred cooking to management and was happiest as a sous chef, where he could concentrate on the food and the creative side of his profession. Over the years, he worked in a number of restaurants and also gained experience as a bartender. His final position was as a chef at Riderwood Retirement Community.

For Ken, however, cooking was much more than a profession. It was one of his great pleasures in life. He once won a national Chili contest with his own recipe. He loved experimenting with different foods, spices, ingredients, and cooking techniques. He approached food as an art form and was always interested in discovering a better way to prepare a dish. He loved to cook, and he certainly loved to eat.

Ken had many interests beyond the kitchen. He had a great love of live music and frequently bought extra tickets so that friends or family members could join him at concerts.

Ken's greatest creative passion, however, was his artwork. He considered himself a pulp artist, creating art from colored paper pulp. Through his side business, Create Early Bliss, Ken shared his creativity with others by teaching them how to make paper-pulp art. His work and talents became known and appreciated within the paper-pulp art community.

Those who knew Ken will remember him as honest, generous, creative, and kindhearted. His artistic nature often found its way into the gifts he gave others. At Christmas and on birthdays, he enjoyed creating thoughtful, handmade gifts rather than simply buying something from a store. He cared deeply about his family and had a special affection for his many nieces and nephews.

Ken was the father of three children, Kilion, April, and Clarke Bliss. Although his path through life was not always a conventional one, family remained important to him, and he was loved by a large extended family and many friends.

Ken was predeceased by his father, Frank R. Bliss Jr. He is survived by his mother, Betsy Bliss; his three children, Kilion, April, and Clarke Bliss; his brother, Jeffrey Bliss; his sisters, Karen Stoddard, Diane Atwood, and Susan Landacre; nine nieces and nephews; eleven grandnieces and grandnephews; and many other relatives and friends whose lives were touched by his generosity, humor, creativity, and friendship.

He was well-liked, deeply loved, and unmistakably himself. His family and friends will miss him greatly.

There will be a memorial in the coming weeks. Contact jdbliss333@gmail.com for more information.



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Opinion

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

New ADU rules precise and possibly pointless

As Berlin officials have already discovered, establishing the rules for the state’s new semi-solution to the housing shortage — Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) — is tricky business. Building one could be just as challenging.

That’s because the state law allowing these secondary homes on property zoned for single-family homes offers few clues as to what can and can’t be done.

In essence, the law that goes into effect on Oct. 1 says local governments can’t make zoning and building laws so restrictive that they prevent ADUs from being built or added. Beyond that, the state says the size, placement, materials, design and rental regulations are up to the local authority.

It’s as if the General Assembly was playing *Jeopardy!* when it declared that ADUs might be the answer to the state’s housing shortage, because it called on the towns and counties to come up with the right questions.

Consequently, as Berlin officials consider creating ADU standards, they must do so carefully, especially in areas where subjective calls and personal preferences come into play. They must make clear how ADUs may be used, including whether that would be as traditional rentals, independent living spaces or workforce housing.

But no matter how accommodating the town decides to make its ADU regulations, the greatest obstacle to their development will be the expense.

Maryland legislators failed to reckon with the current construction prices, because the cost of putting an ADU in a backyard is prohibitive for many people.

According to multiple financing models, the total bill for a 600-square-foot detached ADU built on land already paid for would be between \$130,000 and \$290,000. That covers materials, fixtures, labor, permits, and fees.

Considering the price problem, ADUs aren’t likely to be the big solution to the housing shortage, but Berlin officials have acted like they will be as they prepare for an eventuality that may never materialize as its sponsors envisioned.

Berlin advances stormwater project

Construction deal approved this week for about \$605,000

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2026) The Town of Berlin approved a contract with Groundwork Solutions Inc. on Monday to handle its Westminster, Abbey and Upshur stormwater management upgrades project.

The \$605,684 project, approved by the Berlin Town Council in July, will improve water quality in Newport Bay and help reduce flooding.

Groundwork Solutions has worked with the town before, including the ongoing Town Hall renovation project.

The construction phase of the stormwater management upgrades is paid for through the town’s agreement with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, which established a budget of \$650,000.

According to a staff report, this budget includes construction and EA Engineering’s “effort to perform construction administration and part-time inspection services.” EA is the town’s engineering consultant.

Groundwork Solutions’ initial bid was nearly \$625,000. With EA Engineering’s professional serv-

ices, the total exceeded the budget established with MCBP.

To cover the deficit, the installation of perimeter chain link fences was removed from the scope of work, with the option for the Town of Berlin to construct them later.

This move led to a cost savings of \$19,270. EA also offered to adjust the contracted professional services by \$6,000 to close the remaining funding gap.

The project will modernize and expand two existing stormwater management facilities: one near the end of Upshur Lane and another within Buckingham Estates. Project Engineer Steven Lemasters said this summer that both ponds were built to outdated Maryland stormwater standards and will be converted into submerged gravel wetlands.

The work includes excavating and enlarging the existing ponds, installing submerged gravel wetlands, replacing storm drainage infrastructure, constructing new drainage structures, relocating portions of a water main, restoring disturbed areas, and resurfacing portions of Westminster Drive and Abbey Lane.

Contractors will also control erosion, maintain traffic, and restore affected driveways, landscaping, and other property elements.

Lemasters said at the July meeting that the project features will be designed to retain more water rather than redirect it.

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

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

Lemasters responded that the older facilities were originally designed to manage roughly an inch of rainfall. The upgraded ponds will be able to manage about 3.6 inches of rainfall over 24 hours.

Additionally, Council Vice President Dean Burrell also asked at the previous council meeting how much additional water the ponds would hold. Lesmasters estimated their storage capacity would increase by roughly four times after construction.

Lemasters cautioned that the project is not a complete solution.

BAYSIDEGAZETTE

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Town considers open burn exception

Berlin may allow big properties to burn natural yard debris

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2026) Berlin’s outdoor burning policy returned to the council agenda this week as officials try to maintain town safety while acknowledging the needs of large property owners, who require special considerations for disposing of yard and storm debris.

Under a proposed code amendment discussed at Monday night’s Town Council meeting, open burns could be permitted on properties of more than five contiguous acres, provided they meet specific criteria.

The proposed policy revision would limit owners of these large parcels to one open burn per year and require them to notify the Town of Berlin of their intent at least 48 hours in advance. Landowners must also receive approval from the

Worcester County Fire Marshal before ignition.

Additionally, the fire must be attended at all times, means of extinguishing the flames must be readily available, and the burn location must be at least 200 feet from any habitable structure. Landowners must also provide alternative dates in case weather conditions on the scheduled day are not conducive to burning.

The Town of Berlin has been working to tighten its

See BERLIN Page 19

Berlin revisits open burn ban

Continued from Page 18
outdoor burning ordinance for the past few months. A public hearing on a previous policy draft was held during the Aug. 24 council meeting, which included updated language explicitly prohibiting open burning within municipal limits.

However, residents at the August meeting raised concerns that a blanket ban would unfairly affect owners of large parcels who rely on open burning to clear regular yard waste and natural storm debris.

In response to these considerations, town staff revised the draft to develop a compromise that accommodates these large properties while still strictly limiting open burning.

The updated policy was introduced for a first reading on Monday. The proposed guidelines will allow open burns on tracts of five or more acres, provided landowners follow all necessary safety precautions. Berlin Planning Director Ryan Hardesty added that neighbors will be notified ahead of any approved open burns on nearby properties.

The debate over allowing open burning in a reduced capacity was sparked by resident Ed Hammond, who stated last month that he conducts roughly one open burn annually to maintain his 30-acre property.

"I may be in a relatively unique situation in town where I have an agri-

cultural property...I have 30 acres, and it generates a lot of debris, and I need to get rid of it," Hammond said in August.

Hammond maintained that his family has safely conducted open burns for years with official approval from Worcester County. He added that while he could theoretically push his yard waste back into the wooded areas instead of burning it, doing so would leave the land vulnerable to invasive species.

Beyond open burns, the Berlin mayor and council addressed other fire ordinance concerns this week, including a previous debate regarding how close cooking grills can be to houses during use.

Hardesty noted Monday night that most residents store their grills against their homes and only pull them out a foot or two to cook, making a strict distance requirement virtually unenforceable. The council ultimately agreed that the fire code should not include a space mandate for cooking devices.

However, bonfires and recreational fire pits will still be required to maintain a safe distance from all structures.

The proposed outdoor burning code will appear on a future council meeting agenda for a public hearing, at which time citizen comments will be heard.



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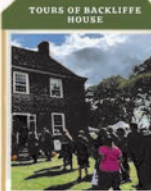
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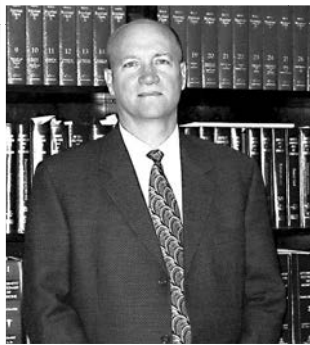
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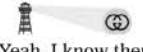
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Puzzles

CROSSOVER FILMS

BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

John Kugelman, of Gainesville, Va., is a software engineer specializing in cybersecurity. This is his 24th crossword for The Times and his first to include visual clues. John's father, who test-solves all of John's puzzles, remarked on this one, "Boy, that's going to get some comments." In a good way, we hope. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Spanish nibbles
6 Do great
13 "Silly me!"
20 Letter in the Hebrew spelling of "Adonai"
21 Closest area to a movie theater projector, maybe
22 Noteworthy
23 
26 Loudmouth's lack, perhaps
27 Director Lee
28 Taylor-Joy of "Dune: Part Three"
29 Word after B or bucket
30 "Rock of Ages" or "Stand by Me"
32 Advantage
36 White of the eye
39 
45 "Yeah, I know them"
46 Burrowing rodent
47 "So-o-o, as I was saying ..."
49 "Mr. Blue Sky" band, for short
50 Banger of a song
51 "Fortnight" singer, to fans
52 Directed
54 "That is ... I mean ..."
55 "Fifty Shades of Grey" author
58 Dog hybrid with thick, low-shedding fur

DOWN
1 Chief justice who remarked, "I don't remember that I ever was president"
2 Mozart's "Rondo ____ Turca"
3 Sext symbol?
4 Newsroom writing standard, in brief
5 "Just listen ..."
6 Group of families
7 Cooking surface
8 Sch. with the second-most N.F.L. draft picks of all time, after Notre Dame
9 Sault ____ Marie, Mich.
10 9-5, say: Abbr.
11 State that's the setting for "American Gothic"
12 Pullover/cardigan combo
13 Down the middle, say
14 "Gaping" feature
15 Latin 101 verb
16 Reasoning that doesn't hold up
17 Texter's "Duh!"
18 Cheers for the Spanish national team?

ACROSS
60 Mr. Knightley's love interest, in classic literature
61 Embed with a hammer
62 
65 Operatic pop group formed by Simon Cowell
67 Sort of person who brings people together
68 
74 Arab chiefs
78 Fruit whose name has three syllables in four letters
79 Panameñas y puertorriqueñas
80 "A.S.A.P.!"
81 Someone who exercises out of habit?
82 Bird store supply
84 "Starter" starter
85 Word combined with "-fetti" in a portmanteau
86 Onetime British Olympian/politician Sebastian
87 Counterparts of troughs
89 ____ Finch, lawyer in "To Kill a Mockingbird"
91 [waving the white flag]
93 
97 ChatGPT's company
98 They never start with 9: Abbr.
99 Word after news or line
100 Famous last words
103 Partner of rave

DOWN
105 Quite the head-turner?
107 Live broadcast
110 
117 Pushing off
118 Rectangular baking container
119 Give it a twirl!
120 Follows the first rule of improv
121 All together
122 Obdurate

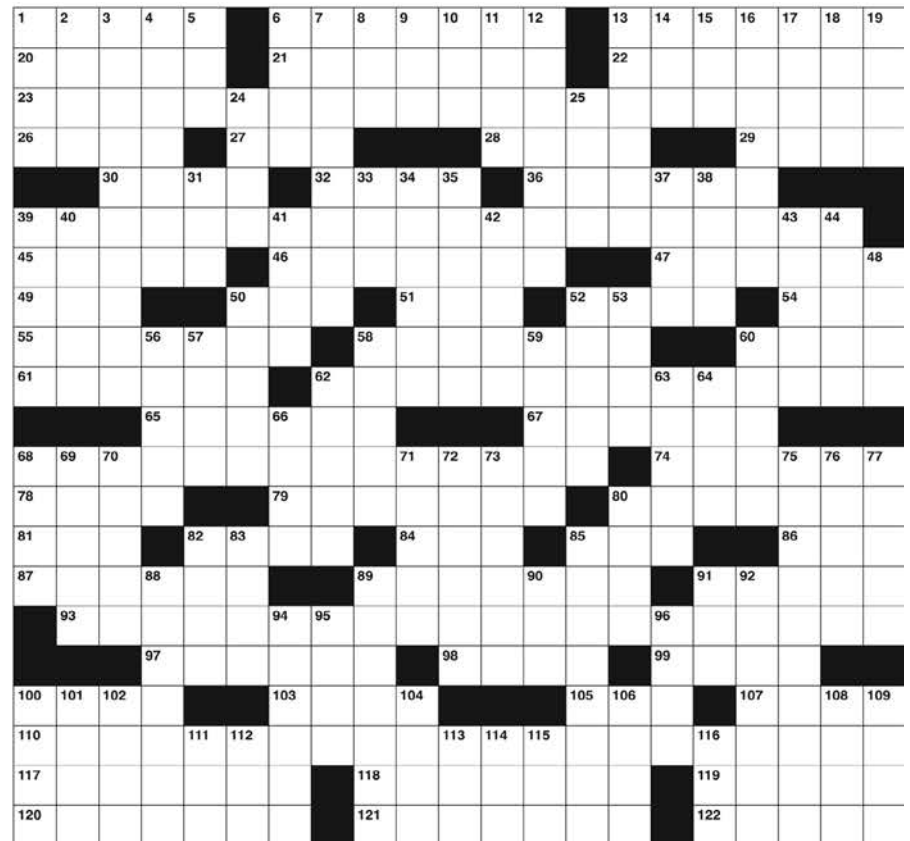
ACROSS
19 For fear that
24 Minced oath
25 Toymaker behind Tickle Me Elmo
31 Lincoln Laboratory operator, in brief
33 Co. with red-and-yellow trucks
34 One of Ralph Waldo Emerson's six "Representative Men"
35 Offerer of a 33-country train pass
37 "Good heavens!"
38 Arcane letter
39 Many a middle schooler
40 Slangy "very"
41 Kaiser Permanente and others, in brief
42 Initiate small talk, say
43 ____ change
44 Black Sabbath guitarist Tony
48 Desert country popular for whale watching
50 Like some novelty straws
52 Lovely, as a lass
53 D.J. and record producer Steve ____
56 Clearing account?
57 ____ Minderbinder from "Catch-22"
58 Minced oath
59 Comes down hard
60 Long-feathered flier
62 Jason Seaver or Ward Cleaver, notably
63 These are fighting words
64 Classic drink brand sold in tall bottles
66 Castaway's setting
68 En ____ (legal phrase)

DOWN
69 Lexus rival
70 People with no word for "please" in their native language
71 Last in the batting order
72 Govt. instruments
73 Coyotes, foxes et al.
75 Vegan brand with the logo of a cow wearing a fake mustache
76 ____ ball (rubbery toy)
77 "Awesome"

ACROSS
80 When many parks close
82 Sign of the cross?
83 90° del norte
85 Fandom identities often with fluffy tails and ears
88 Part of a three-word phrase expressing regret
89 Quivering with excitement
90 John
91 Percentage at a bank: Abbr.
92 Be perfectly supine, say
94 Like Cinderella, initially
95 Aloo gobi go-with
96 Burn unit?
100 Vintage goods e-tailer
101 Overly sentimental, to Brits
102 Hamiltons
104 Ending with Jumbo or beta
106 Fortified stuff, maybe

DOWN
108 Milton Friedman's field, familiarly
109 Big Apple fashion house
111 Info on auto documents, for short
112 Wrap up
113 It has a thick skin
114 Deg. for some writers
115 Mini-albums, for short
116 Cheap shot?

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



- 69 Lexus rival

70 People with no word for "please" in their native language

71 Last in the batting order

72 Govt. instruments

73 Coyotes, foxes et al.

75 Vegan brand with the logo of a cow wearing a fake mustache

76 ____ ball (rubbery toy)

77 "Awesome"
- 80 When many parks close

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- 108 Milton Friedman's field, familiarly

109 Big Apple fashion house

111 Info on auto documents, for short

112 Wrap up

113 It has a thick skin

114 Deg. for some writers

115 Mini-albums, for short

116 Cheap shot?

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 16

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

J	A	F	A	R		S	O	L	D		I	B	E	T		N	B	A					
A	R	U	B	A		K	A	B	O	O		F	R	E	E	F	O	R	M				
H	E	N	R	I	M	A	T	I	S	S		S	A	L	M	I	N	E	O				
		N	A	D	I	Y	A		T	E	M	U				P	R	A	W				
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R	E	G	I	N	A	K	I	N	G		S	T	A	S	E	S		E	R	A			
A	L	I	V	E		S	C	A	L	P		A	V	O	W								
S	T	R	E	W	S		G	E	O	R	G	E	F	O	R	E	M	A	N				
E	S	L			P	E	A		E	L	I			N	E	R	U	D	A				
			S	Q	U	A	R	E		O	C	C	A	M		C	R	I	E	S			
			R	E	C	U	R	R	I	N	G		C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	S	
			F	O	L	I	E		P	A	T	I	O		W	E	G	O	O				
			I	L	L	F	E	D		G	A	S		S	I	M		C	V	S			
			E	L	A	I	N	E	S	T	R	I	T	C	H		P	E	O	R	I	A	
						M	O	U	E		S	A	A	B	S		P	H	O	N	Y		
			W	A	R		S	O	L	D	E	R		B	R	I	E	L	A	R	S	O	
			E	V	E	L	K	N	I	E	V	E	L		D	E	C	O		E	S	O	
			E	I	E	I	O				E	D	I	E		N	E	C	T	A	R		
			B	A	B	E	R	U	T	H		O	R	L	A	N	D	O	B	L	O	O	M
			I	N	O	N	T	I	M	E		S	A	M	M	I	E		A	L	A	N	A
			T	S	K		S	E	C	S		S	O	Y	A			R	Y	D	E	R	

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. 17

KING OF THE WIND KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating. Free event. Wind and weather permitting. kiteloft.com

COMPUTER BASICS: WINDOWS 11
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Learn about Windows 11. Bring a laptop. Bring a mouse if you can. Registration required: 410-641-0650. worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: FIREFIGHTERS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs, stories and very special guests. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014

STORY TIME 'ALL ABOUT FEELINGS'
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

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

LET'S MAKE ... AUTUMN BOTANICAL BOOKMARKS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Use pressed flowers, leaves and other autumn-hued supplies to create a beautiful bookmark. Registration required: 410-641-0650. worcesterlibrary.org

KIDS' KITCHEN
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Create a dish inspired by Hispanic Heritage Month. For ages 6-11 years. Registration required: 410-208-4014. worcesterlibrary.org

HONDO'S GLADIATOR MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-9 p.m. Mini golf tournament benefiting the Art League of Ocean City. 410-524-9433

WORCESTER COUNTY NAACP MEETING
Berlin 50plus Center, 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd., 6 p.m. Speaker Jocelyn Abbott, Director of Worcester County Election Board and speaker Monica Brooks, President of Wicomico NAACP and overseer of Eastern Shore NAACP.

Everyone welcome. 443-359-9240

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. 18

KING OF THE WIND KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating. Free event. Wind and weather permitting. kiteloft.com

TEDX BUTTERFISH COVE
Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Speakers include innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists, physicians, leaders, creatives, and changemakers. Tickets: <https://www.squadup.com/events/tedx-butterfish-cove>. Cost is \$20-\$150. 443-366-5944

BAYSIDE PARK FALL MOVIE NIGHT
Bayside Park at Third St., 202 Fourth St., Ocean City, 7 p.m. Featuring "GOAT" (2026) on the big screen. Movie will begin at dusk. Concessions available for purchase. Free admission. <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/>

33RD ANNUAL FIDDLERS CONVENTION AND SPIRITS FESTIVAL
Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 6-10 p.m. Bring a chair, enjoy the bands on two stages, competitions, food, drinks, vendors and visit the local stores and restaurants. <https://berlinchamber.org/event/fiddlers-convention-2/>

CASH BINGO NIGHT
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Cash prizes up to \$500. 50/50, Pull Tabs and food available. Tickets: \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. All proceeds go to the O.P.V.F.D. 410-641-8272, opvfd.com/cash-bingo/

VOLUNTEER MEETING FOR TRAIL OF LOST SOULS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6 p.m. Volunteers needed for Ocean Pines haunted trail.

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

SURVIVAL SPANISH: DIRECTIONS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Learn how to find your way around town in Spanish. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK DISCUSSION: 'NO SENSE IN WISHING' BY LAWRENCE BURNLEY
Forgotten 50 Distilling, 10103 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book and then meet at Forgotten 50 for a lively discussion. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

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

OYSTER FRITTER SANDWICHES
American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 2 p.m. Cost is \$12 for dine-in or carry-out.

THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY PRESENT: THE GREAT GATSBY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7:30 p.m. Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel. Free event. Donations gratefully accepted. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

Sat., Sept. 19

KING OF THE WIND KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating. Free event. Wind and weather permitting. kiteloft.com

E-VOLUTION EXPO
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Two days of technology, sustainability, health, mobility, innovation, and interactive experiences. Featuring Tesla Light Show, Flying Car, Home Tech and more. Tickets: <https://www.e-volutionexpo.com>. 443-366-5944

33RD ANNUAL FIDDLERS CONVENTION AND SPIRITS FESTIVAL
Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Bring a chair, enjoy the bands on two stages, competitions, food, drinks, vendors and visit the local stores and restaurants. <https://berlinchamber.org/event/fiddlers-convention-2/>

MERMAID SWIM
Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Must for at

least 10 years of age. Must be an experienced swimmer. Fee is \$25 for swim members, \$30 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. Registration: 410-641-5255. Tails provided.

SERVICE SQUAD
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Help out with craft and program prep, or other activities to earn service learning hours. Call for more details about potential projects. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

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

BREWS & ROOS
Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 12-7 p.m. Tickets \$85. Craft beer, kangaroos, live music, food trucks, raffle games and vendors. Sample craft beers, cocktails, seltzers and more (12-5 p.m.). Tickets: <https://www.coastalwilds.org/brews>. Must be at least 21. 302-829-1549

LIBRARY CARD MONTH CELEBRATION
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12:30 p.m. Crafts, free books and games. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

BULL & OYSTER ROAST - OC RAVENS ROOST #44
Burley Oak Taproom & Brewing Company, 10016 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 1-5 p.m. The \$35 fee includes 1 beef sandwich, 6 oysters, 2 sides and 1 drink of any kind. Additional food and drinks available for purchase. Tickets available at Burley Oak or jw-brown302@gmail.com.

PAWS & CLAWS PARTY
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Wear cat-inspired attire and create cat themed art. Item donations for Town Cats will be accepted. Humans only, no pets allowed. For families. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

BALLET ON THE BEACH DANCE FESTIVAL
Assateague State Park, 6915 Maryland 611, Berlin, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Pre-performance activities held 3:30-5 p.m. Performance begins at 5 p.m. Reserve free tickets: <https://www.balletonthebeach.org/tickets>. Rain date is Sept. 20. Parking cost \$5 per vehicle.

LIVE MUSIC & NIGHT HIKE
Furnace Town Historic Site (Nas-
Continued on Page 22

Calendar

Continued from Page 21
sawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 5 p.m. Featuring Callum Toner at 5 p.m. and night hike at 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 for music or hike and \$15 for both. Bug spray and appropriate outdoor attire advised. Hike covers .5 mile in one hour.

ORIGINALS ONLY - NO COVERS, JUST CREATORS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Musicians, poets, comedians, performing all original work. Free and open to all ... snacks included. Advanced registration preferred:
<https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/events/40>. 410-524-9433

THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY PRESENT: THE GREAT GATSBY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7:30 p.m. Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel. Free event. Donations gratefully accepted. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

Sun., Sept. 20

KING OF THE WIND KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating. Free event. Wind and weather permitting. kiteloft.com

E-VOLUTION EXPO
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Two days of technology, sustainability, health, mobility, innovation, and interactive experiences. Featuring Tesla Light Show, Flying Car, Home Tech and more. Tickets: <https://www.e-volutionexpo.com>. 443-366-5944

THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY PRESENT: THE GREAT GATSBY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel. Free event. Donations gratefully accepted. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

PLEIN AIR ART EXHIBIT AND SALE
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5-7 p.m. Enjoy artists painting around Worces-

ter County and competing for cash prizes, Sept. 12-20. Art Exhibit and Sale is free and open to the public.
www.worcestercountyardscouncil.org, 410-641-0809

TEMPLE BAT YAM HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES
Temple Bat Yam, 11036 Worcester Highway, Berlin. Yom Kippur services will be held at 7 p.m. The Reform Jewish congregation welcomes nonmembers. Reservations are requested: 302-448-8697, 410-641-4311.

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. 21

TEMPLE BAT YAM HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES
Temple Bat Yam, 11036 Worcester Highway, Berlin. Yom Kippur services will be held at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Reform Jewish congregation welcomes nonmembers. Reservations are requested: 302-448-8697, 410-641-4311.

BLOOD DRIVE
TidalHealth John H.”Jack” Burbage, Jr. Cancer Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Hosted by The Blood Bank of Delmarva. Register: https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/12592.

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

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

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

TOPS OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
TidalHealth Atlantic, Conference Room

1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) is an educational group that promotes weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. Held weekly on Mondays.
<https://www.tops.org/home>

OPEN REHEARSAL - THE DELMARVA CHORUS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-7:30 p.m. Women of all ages are invited. Learn more about the chorus and enjoy light refreshments. Elissa, 410-641-8050, www.delmarva-chorus.org, or “The Delmarva Chorus” on Facebook or Instagram.

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. 22

MOMMY/DADDY & ME CRAFT TIME
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10-11 a.m. Parents & toddlers (1-4 yrs.) enjoy a short story & craft. Parents may need to assist child with crafts. All materials provided. Cost is \$4. Pre-registration required: 410-641-7052, www.oceanpines.org.

STORY TIME: THERE AND BACK AGAIN STORY ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Celebrate Tolkien Week & National Hobbit Day with crafts, songs and stories about dragons, elves and mythical creatures. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, worcesterlibrary.org

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

PATRIOTIC HEROES AND HEROINES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn about familiar and forgotten men and women who contributed to the prevailing victory of the American Continental Army that defeated the British

forces at Yorktown in October 1781. 410-524-1818

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

AN UNEXPECTED CRAFTING PARTY
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 1-4 p.m. Celebrate Hobbit Day with fun crafts and activities. 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

FUN AND FIBER ART
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Follow a guided project, explore new techniques, or bring along your own fiber arts project to work on alongside fellow creators. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.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.

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

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

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

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

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

Calendar

Wed., Sept. 23

BABY TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Baby bounces, board books and the chance to socialize. For ages 0-2 years. 410-524-1818, worcesterlibrary.org

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

HOMESCHOOL HIATUS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Take a break from learning to explore STEAM activities. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

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

VIRTUAL DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT CLASS
This four-session class is held Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 6-8 p.m. Provider referral, patient pre-assessment and registration are required. Insurance may cover all or part of the cost. Register: 410-543-7061.

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

WASHINGTON CAPITALS VS. NEW YORK RANGERS
Bus trip to Capital One Arena, Oct. 9. Cost is \$105 and includes transportation and game ticket. Bus departs Ocean Pines Community Center at 3 p.m. Game time is 7 p.m. Tickets: Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks, 410-641-7052.

PAINT WORCESTER COUNTY PLEIN AIR
Enjoy artists painting around Worcester County and competing for cash prizes, Sept. 12-20. Art Exhibit and Sale to be held Sept. 20, 5-7 p.m. at Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave. The event is free and open to the public. www.worcestercount-yartscouncil.org, 410-641-0809, curator@worcestercount-yartscouncil.org

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 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

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

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



OPEN HOUSES

Sept. 17 - 24



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	306 14th Street Unit A, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$899,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday Noon-2pm	12702 Coastal Hwy #202, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	6 60th Street Unit 706, Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,399,000	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	104 125th Street #203, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$439,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	582 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$494,900	Kim Heaney/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	211 Williams Street Unit 3, Berlin	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$249,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	63 Chatham Court, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$499,000	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11-1pm	953 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	\$479,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	607A Salt Spray Road, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$1,300,000	Ann Holtz/ Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	22 Capetown Rd, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$419,900	Rob & Anne-Marie Bouse/RE/MAX Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	12089 Saint Martins Neck Rd, Bishopville	5BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$925,000	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$279,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2pm	75 King Richard Rd, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$814,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 12:30-2:30pm	6201 Coastal Highway #806, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Condo	\$1,520,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	12301 Jamaica Ave #351N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	4 84th Street Unit 6, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,000	Ann Holtz/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	104 125th Street #203, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$439,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	35596 Gloucester Circle, Millsboro, DE	3BR/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
Monday 11am-1pm	4 93rd Street #503, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$439,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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