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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HONORING VETERANS
Local students were among the nearly 200 people who attended last week's annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines.

With respect, veterans honored

Veterans Memorial in Pines site of ceremonies saluting members of armed forces

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Patriotic music and military dedications were delivered last week at a ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines in honor of United States servicemen and women.

The county Veterans Memoral Foundation presided over the observance last Wednesday, which began at 11 a.m. with an invocation by Rabbi Arthur Rutberg of Temple Bat Yam. American Legion Posts 123 and 166, along with the Ocean City Knights of Columbus, then led the posting of the colors.

The event drew members from across the community, including some of the area's youngest. In a show of patriotism, students from Seaside Christian Academy led the Pledge of Allegiance and later sang "God Bless America."

Led by its director, Carol Ludwig, the Delmarva Chorus sang the national anthem, the service anthems for each branch of the armed forces, and "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

Michelle Winemiller, technical sergeant with the U.S. Air Force, who

See EVENT Page 8

Welders show real teamwork

Worcester Tech students save school money, make football training equipment

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Snow Hill High School's football team leveled up its practice drills and training plays this season thanks to a piece of equipment constructed by welding students at Worcester Technical High School.

Students in Worcester Tech's welding program put their skills to work this year by creating a football chute for the team. The squad continues to use student-made gear this season as they advance in the playoffs.

'We're able to make it cheaper for them because we're a school and we get the materials.'
Rick Stephens

A football chute is a low-ceiling training structure used to teach linemen to stay low when the ball is snapped.

According to SHHS head football Coach Christopher Miles, the 10-foot-by-20-foot chute is used in offensive and defensive drills. About five to seven players can fit under the device.

"It helps with fundamentals," Miles said.

Worcester Tech's welding instructor, Rick Stephens, said the project took about a month and a half. His

See WELDING Page 10

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Ocean Pines offers events throughout holiday season

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Ocean Pines residents will have several opportunities to celebrate the holiday season in the next few weeks, with the annual tree lighting, a model train display and a concert on the community agenda.

The festivities will begin Saturday, Nov. 28, with the 16th annual Hometown Christmas celebration at White Horse Park. The event is hosted by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

The evening's annual tree-lighting ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., featuring decorated Christmas trees sponsored by Ocean Pines social clubs, businesses and families.

Santa Claus is expected to arrive at 7 p.m. and will be available to visit with children and families until 8 p.m. The ceremony will also include the announcement of the winner of the 2027 Pup of the Pines contest.

The event is free and open to the public. Complimentary hot chocolate and cookies will be provided.

Ocean Pines' Recreation and Parks Department is seeking sponsors for this year's celebration. Tree sponsorships are $100 for new sponsors or returning sponsors in need of a new sign, and $75 for returning sponsors who already have a sign.

Those interested in sponsoring a tree or seeking additional information can call 410-641-7052 or email khunt@oceanpines.org.

Following the tree lighting, visitors can continue the holiday festivities at the Ocean Pines Community Center, where the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department will host its fifth annual model train display.

Presented by Serpone's Pizzeria, the free display will be situated in the Marlin Room at the Community Center at 235 Ocean Parkway. Opening night is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28, following the Hometown Christmas tree lighting.

Regular display hours will be Fridays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The train showcase will also feature a scavenger hunt. Participants can pick up a scavenger hunt sheet upon arrival and search the display for answers to a series of questions.

Completed sheets can be placed in a designated collection box for a chance to win a new Bachmann HO train set. The department plans to select one winner from participants with the correct answers in January.

Admission to the train display is free. However, donations are accepted to benefit the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Music lovers will also have an opportunity to take in a seasonal performance when the Pine Tones Chorus presents its fall concert, "Christmas Traditions," on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. at Community Church at Ocean Pines.

The concert will feature a mix of traditional holiday favorites and newer arrangements, including "Sleigh Ride," John Rutter's "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock" and a jazzy rendition of "O Christmas Tree."

The December concert is free to attend, but advance tickets are encouraged. The online box office at pinetoneschorus.com will remain open through Dec. 1.

Ticket holders will receive early admission beginning at 2:15 p.m., while walk-in admission will begin at 2:45 p.m. Tickets do not guarantee a specific spot. Organizers encourage early arrival for those hoping to secure their preferred seats.

According to the event announcement, the concert is funded in part by the Quillin Foundation, Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council, and National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional information about the chorus and its upcoming performances is available at pinetoneschorus.com and the Pine Tones Chorus on Facebook and Instagram at @pinetoneschorus.

Christmas in the park Nov. 28

(Nov. 19, 2026) Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks department will stage its 16th annual Hometown Christmas at White Horse Park on Saturday, Nov. 28.

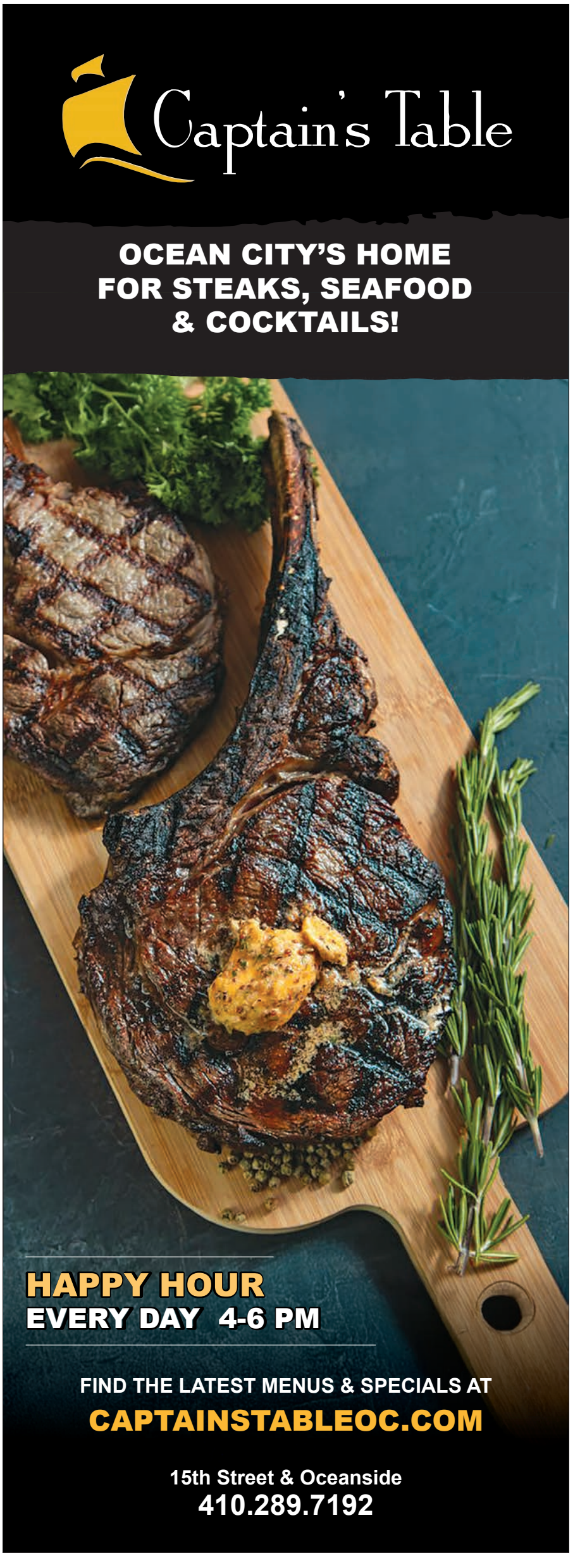
The annual tree-lighting ceremony will start the evening at 6:30 p.m., featuring trees sponsored and decorated by Ocean Pines social clubs, local businesses, and families.

Santa is schedule to arrive at 7 p.m. and will be available for visits until 8 p.m. The 2027 "Pup of the Pines" contest winner will also be announced at the tree lighting ceremony.

The Recreation and Parks Department is seeking sponsors for this year's celebration. Tree sponsorships are $100 for new sponsors or returning sponsors who need a new sign, and $75 for returning sponsors.

Hometown Christmas is free and open to the public. Complimentary hot chocolate and cookies will be provided.

For additional information or to sponsor a tree, call 410-641-7052 or email khunt@oceanpines.org.



Ice sculpture festival back in Berlin Nov. 27

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Berlin will be launching the Christmas season with a series of festive activities and events, aiming to draw thousands of residents and visitors downtown.

Ice Ice Berlin is set for Friday, Nov. 27, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when more than 30 hand-carved ice sculptures will be on display throughout downtown. Each frozen art piece is sponsored by Berlin businesses.

Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, said Santa is also slated to make an appearance. Meanwhile, Calvin B. Taylor House Museum will be selling chocolate on Main Street. Shops will also stay open late that evening to capture the nighttime crowd.

Additionally, the Christmas tree lighting ceremony is set for 6 p.m. during Ice Ice Berlin.

Wells said that the town began the ice sculpture festival during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was inspired by the late Erik Cantine, who was known for his ice carvings at the AGH Penguin Swim (now known as the TidalHealth Penguin Swim) and Berlin's tree lighting.

"Erik Cantine ... and I were talking about how we could do an ice carving event when everyone still had to stay six feet apart," Wells said.

"Instead of having everyone stand around watching one person carve a block of ice, he came up with the idea of having multiple sculptures already carved and placed throughout downtown. That way, people could spread out, walk around and enjoy everything at their own pace. It worked out so well that we've continued it ever since."

The community development director added that several thousand people flock to downtown Berlin for the yearly event. This year, attendance could spike with the Town of Berlin's recent recognition as an Official Hallmark Christmas Town.

Wells said she's heard from "so many people" who plan to visit.

The Hallmark Channel honored Berlin as a hotspot for Christmas and small-town vibes earlier this fall. The network reviewed about 1,500 nominations throughout the United States, and Berlin placed in the top 25.

"We're especially excited this year. Since Berlin was named one of Hallmark's Official Christmas Towns, we've been hearing from so many people who are making plans to visit," Wells said. "Out of 1,500 nominations, being selected is pretty special, and we're already hearing from people who have never been to Berlin before and are excited to experience Christmas here."

The event is just another way Berlin promotes its downtown stores and fosters unity, particularly during the festive months.

"It gives people a reason to come downtown, spend some time here, and support our local businesses during the holiday season," Wells said. "It also brings the community together and creates a lot of activity downtown. Our businesses get involved, people come out to enjoy the evening, and everyone gets to be part of it."

Berlin residents and visitors can also get a head start on holiday shopping starting later this month with the recurring Merry Marketplace.

The markets are held in collaboration with the OC/Berlin Rotary Club, where local artisans sell everything from homemade goods like jams to artwork. Wells said hot cocoa will also be served in limited-edition winter mugs.

The markets are scheduled for Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. Vendors will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Carriage rides are also back in Berlin this holi-

See HOLIDAY Page 6



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin is hosting Ice Ice Berlin next week, where more than 30 hand-carved ice sculptures will be on display downtown. The frozen art pieces are each sponsored by a Berlin business.



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Santa Claus to cruise down Ocean Parkway next month

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Ocean Pines residents can catch a glimpse of Santa Claus next month as he makes his annual Christmastime journey through the community aboard an Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department boat.

The fire department announced that Santa will visit Ocean Pines on Saturday, Dec. 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m., traveling aboard Boat 11 along Ocean Parkway.

This year's journey will kick off at the southernmost point of the Pines, Points Reach, and follow the entire length of Ocean Parkway to the North Gate Bridge before concluding at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Santa will be accompanied by one of the department's fire trucks, which will be decorated with holiday lights and sirens to help spread Christmas cheer throughout the community.

Residents are invited to gather along Ocean Parkway to watch as Santa makes his way through the neighborhood.

Following the tour, community members can head to the Ocean Pines Community Center, where they will have an opportunity to take in the holiday atmosphere and visit the department's fifth annual model train display in the Marlin Room.

The evening will also include the drawing for the OPVFD's 2026 vehicle or cash raffle.

The department brought back its annual raffle fundraiser this year with a new prize format intended to give participants more flexibility and improve their odds of winning.

Rather than offering a specific make and model of vehicle as they've done in years past, the grand prize winner will have the choice between a new vehicle or $50,000 in cash.

OPVFD President Joe Enste previously said the department decided to change the format while also limiting the number of available tickets to 1,500.

"We've kind of spiced it up a little bit where we're offering either a brand-new vehicle or $50,000 cash," Enste said when discussing the fundraiser in September.

With 1,500 tickets available, each participant has a one-in-1,500 chance of winning the grand prize, offering better odds than some of the department's former vehicle raffles.

In previous years, the department partnered with local automobile dealerships to select a specific vehicle for the fundraiser. The vehicle would typically be displayed at the fire station throughout the raffle period.

However, construction at the department's South Station limited the space available to showcase an automobile this year, prompting officials to explore a different approach.

The updated prize structure allows the winner to select a vehicle that better suits their needs and preferences rather than being limited to a predetermined model.

Enste said the department could work with a winner interested in purchasing a vehicle or provide the $50,000 cash prize instead.

Tickets cost $100 each and are available through the fire department's website. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the emergency services company and its operations.

The department's holiday train display will also be open to visitors during the season, beginning Nov. 28 after the Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas tree lighting.

The display is presented by Serpone's Pizzeria and will be located in the Marlin Room at the Community Center at 235 Ocean Parkway. Regular hours are Fridays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission is free. Donations are encouraged to benefit the department.

Holiday events slated for Berlin

Continued from Page 4

day season. Guests and locals can take the old-time transportation through downtown and see the Christmas lights and festive decorations. The rides are available Nov. 28 and every Saturday and Sunday in December from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Carriages will not be in operation on Dec. 12, however.

Wells said that to celebrate Berlin's first season as a Hallmark-recognized Christmas destination, the town will be giving away 300 exclusive Hallmark Christmas Town tote bags for Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28. The bags will feature a design reading, 'I'm Just Here for the Happy Hallmark Ending.'

Those who want a tote bag can stop by the Berlin Welcome Center on 4 S. Main Street on Small Business Saturday starting at 11 am.

However, Wells said there's a catch before you can take the bags home.

"We want to hear what you love about Berlin," she said. "It could be your favorite shop, the people, the history, the holiday magic...we just want what you love about Berlin."

More information about Berlin's holiday events is available on the municipality's website.

Berlin to fund wastewater manual updates

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) The Town of Berlin is proceeding with its update of its operations and maintenance manual for its wastewater treatment plant at a cost of approximately $22,500.

The project was discussed during last week's Town Council meeting, where Berlin Water Resources Director Jamey Latchum presented a staff report outlining the work and its anticipated costs.

According to that report, the updated manual is intended to bring the town's wastewater treatment plant into compliance with new standards set by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and provide a consolidated reference for the facility's operations and maintenance procedures.

The town has received a proposal from Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc. (DBF), outlining the scope of work and an estimated fee of $22,500.

Per the staff report, developing the manual will involve reviewing existing town records and plant documentation, coordinating with personnel from the water resources department, and conducting site visits to gather information about current plant operations and maintenance practices.

The firm will use that information to prepare a draft operations and maintenance manual consistent with updated state requirements. The draft will be submitted to the town and state department of the environment for review and comment before the consultant makes revisions and prepares a final version.

Once the manual receives acceptance and approval from the town and the state, the consultant will provide two hard copies and a digital copy.

In addition to addressing current regulatory requirements, the manual will promote uniform operating practices, aid in the transfer of institutional knowledge among staff members, and establish a documented reference.

The firm anticipates completing the draft and submitting it to the town and state for review within 90 days of authorization to proceed. The final completion date will depend on the review, comment, and approval process.

The estimated expense will be billed hourly based on the actual work performed, with monthly invoices. The firm's fee will not exceed the estimated amount of $22,500 without prior town approval, and any additional services will require authorization, the staff report reads.

The town's approved fiscal year 2027 budget originally included funding to buy a new chipper, but that purchase will be delayed until fiscal year 2028, staff says. The funds reserved for the chipper in FY27 will instead be used to develop the wastewater treatment plant manual.

The staff report notes that Berlin's water resources department will coordinate with the firm on the project, including gathering existing plant documentation, supporting site visits, and reviewing the draft manual with the state.

Avian flu reported in Worcester County flock

(Nov. 19, 2026) State laboratory testing has detected a case of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (HPAI) in Worcester County, state officials said last week.

Following routine surveillance, poultry at an unidentified commercial broiler operation in Worcester County have preliminarily tested positive for the virus.

State officials have placed the affected property under quarantine, and the flock is being depopulated to prevent further spread of the disease. Birds from the affected flock will not enter the food supply chain.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is testing to confirm the disease, with final results expected in the coming days.

"Poultry meat and egg products remain safe to consume, but avian influenza continues to pose a serious threat to animal health," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks.

"It is critical that all commercial growers and backyard flock owners maintain strict biosecurity protocols and report any signs of illness immediately. Our department, along with our state and federal partners, is monitoring the situation closely to protect Maryland's agricultural community."

Avian influenza is a highly contagious respiratory virus that spreads rapidly among birds through nasal secretions, saliva and manure.

The virus can easily travel between flocks via wild birds, contact with infected poultry or on contaminated equipment, clothing and footwear. It affects domestic poultry including chickens, ducks and turkeys, as well as wild bird species such as geese, shorebirds and raptors.

See TRANSMISSION Page 9









Ocean Pines Library branch announces concert, lecture

(Nov. 19, 2026) As the nation's 250th anniversary nearly wraps, the Ocean Pines Library invites the community to enjoy two final programs this December at the branch.

The first event is a free concert scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. at the Ocean Pines branch. "Drive the Cold Away: A Program of Traditional Tunes and Songs" features Ampersand, an Easton-based trio of multi-instrumentalists who perform traditional American music from the 1850s and earlier.

"This concert offers an opportunity to experience the sounds and traditions of an earlier era, while celebrating the warmth and spirit of the winter season," says Adult Services Coordinator Elena Coelho.

The second program will feature a virtual lecture by historian Dr. Richard Bell, titled "America's Birth Certificate: The Declaration of Independence," and will be held on Wednesday, December 9, at noon p.m. at the Ocean Pines branch. Bell will explore the origins of the Declaration of Independence, its often-misunderstood purpose, and its lasting global legacy. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about one of the most significant documents in American history and its enduring impact.

For more information about these programs and other library events, please visit WorcesterLibrary.org.

Event teaches next generation

Continued from Page 1

served from 1992-2004, was this year's keynote speaker. Winemiller serves on the board of directors for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

Major Pam Ferinde, Retired U.S. Army, and U.S. Air Force Capt. Michaela L. Eggers presented the wreath for female veterans.

Officials from local, county, and state offices attended. These individuals included Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli, Commissioners-elect Joe Schanno and Lou Taylor, members of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, and Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola.

President of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Rick Farr maintained the importance of hosting a ceremony on Veterans Day to honor the men and women who have fought for the United States of America and its freedoms. He noted that the memorial grounds have held a Veterans Day recognition since its inception in 2004.

"When we gather at the Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, our veterans and their families can see how much their service means to this community," he said.

Farr added that the event is vital in teaching the next generation about the sacrifices made by armed service members.

"The ceremony also gives our children a chance to meet veterans who served, hear their stories, and understand why we come together each year to thank them," the foundation president said.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines includes curved brick walls that display the names of each branch of the armed forces. The American Flag is located at the center.

The base of the memorial is paved with bricks and pavers inscribed with the names of veterans, from the Revolutionary War to the present. Elementary school students throughout the county visit the memorial on field trips, where they learn about veterans and the contributions they have made and continue to make to protect American liberties.

More information about the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation can be found at https://wocovets.org/.

Snow Hill advances $150K offer for historic firehouse

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Snow Hill has a new offer for its historic downtown firehouse after a previously approved sale fell through.

The Town Council advanced a $150,000 offer on first reading from developer Davis Strategic Acquisitions LLC at its meeting last Tuesday. That's half the price the council agreed to earlier this year from the previous buyer.

Deborah Wayland had planned to turn the firehouse into an events venue but withdrew her $300,000 offer after failing to secure federal financing, according to Town Manager Rick Pollitt.

The developer, Bret Davis, said plans for the two-story property at 212 W. Green Street would include three to four commercial spaces on the ground floor along with one residential unit. The second floor would be apartments.

He described a vision of glass garage doors facing Green Street that function as entry doors when closed, and could be rolled up for open-air storefronts in warm weather or during events.

"That's the initial vision for the project and that's what worked in the past," he told the council. "We did this exact project in Pocomoke [City] and had some great success with their old firehouse."

Construction won't begin until the permitting process is complete, Davis also said. The building would have to be gutted and sprinkled, and the first-floor ceilings would be removed. The only thing held over would be the wood floors upstairs.

"I just want to be realistic: there is no possibility the product is delivered in 2027. It is probably the latter half of 2028 we can deliver a finished product," Davis said.

Town Manager Rick Pollitt said the town was open to a $150,000 offer based on a lack of serious proposals to purchase the firehouse and "restore it to economic vitality."

He also said the council was impressed by Davis' track record of having renovated the Pocomoke City firehouse, and that leaders welcomed plans for a mixed-use project with upstairs residences and a retail element on the ground level.

"We're looking forward to the restoration of the old firehouse and making it part of the magic that defines the downtown area and makes Snow Hill the charming place where people want to be," Pollitt said in a statement.

Pollitt said the council will get a chance at its Dec. 8 meeting to approve the acquisition, which would take effect 20 after the mayor's signatures, followed by a property settlement. The contract of sale gives the buyer an out clause if unhappy with inspections completed inside a 30-day window.

Built in 1950, the structure for decades housed the town's volunteer fire company until the unit relocated in 2002 outside of downtown. The space also served as the Snow Hill Police headquarters for 20 more years after that.

In 2023, Snow Hill designated the building as surplus, after determining it would be too expensive to bring the 75-year-old property up to code. The town put the building up for sale in June 2025 for $325,000.

Town leaders have stressed that a redevelopment of the 13,470-square-foot firehouse property is a crucial part of economic redevelopment for its downtown.

If approved and sold, this would be the second major rehabilitation project in Snow Hill for Davis Strategic. The Salisbury-based firm has already acquired another historic downtown property earlier this year.

Plans for 310 Washington Street include building a new three-story, 23,000-square-foot mixed-use building that could include open-air dining along the Pocomoke River.

Transmission risk low, state reports

Continued from Page 7

The Maryland Department of Health emphasizes that the risk of transmission to the general public remains low. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) strongly urges commercial operators and domestic bird owners to take biosecurity measures.

For more information on avian influenza, visit: https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/AvianFlu.aspx

Rotary Club hosts holiday market in downtown Berlin

(Nov. 19, 2026) The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club will again host the Merry Marketplace, a holiday market, in downtown Berlin.

The market will take place on the four Saturdays after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19) with a variety of local vendors offering handmade items for sale,

In addition, the Rotary Club will be selling cookies and hot chocolate in the "Keeping Warm in Berrrlin' Mugs." The Rotary Club uses the proceeds from the market to fund local projects and scholarships. The market is located next to the Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St. and will be open open 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Rotary Club is accepting applications for spaces at the market. Email the club at ocberlinrotary@gmail.com or call 410-430-5433 for more information and an application.



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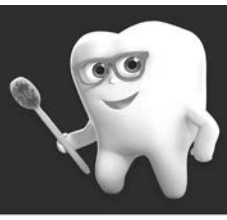

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Snow Hill High School varsity football team are pictured engaging in a drill this fall under the chute created by welding students at Worcester Tech.

Welding class delivers savings

Continued from Page1

students began working on the equipment at the end of last school year and put the finishing touches on it at the beginning of this year before delivering it to SHHS.

The collaboration began when Snow Hill's football team approached Stephens and his trainees to ask if they could make the chute.

"They came to us and said, 'Is this something you can make?'" Stephens said. "The one that they wanted was very expensive online … We're able to make it cheaper for them because we're a school and we can get the materials."

He added that Zion Jenkins, a welding student and a football player for SHHS, was a major contributor to the project's success.

"He took charge of it," Stephens said. "He had some help from fellow students in the class, but he was the main builder."

After getting inspiration from online photos, the students used welding software to design the chute and then ordered the materials. They used one-inch metal tubing to make the frame, fabricated the structure's five legs, and finally installed wheels to make it mobile. Stephens said that the legs are adjustable.

"There are five legs on it, and they're on swivel wheels so they can move it around the stadium whenever they need to," he noted.

This isn't the first time Worcester Tech's welding students have put their skills to the test on a community-based project.

Stephens said his students sometimes work on things like trailers when area residents bring them in for repairs. Last year, the welders-in-training did a bigger job, slightly enlarging a trailer and putting in a new floor.

The welding program also developed a batting cage for Stephen Decatur High School and SHHS about a decade ago.

Stephens said it has been rewarding to watch his students develop the football chute from start to finish and see Jenkins use his welding skills to create something that benefits him and his football teammates.

"The biggest thing was standing back and watching Zion use the skills he's learned through the years to weld and design and fabricate," Stephens said.

In a press release about the project, Jenkins expressed pride in seeing his hard work pay off for his team.

"It was great using my welding skills to build a project that will benefit our football program this year and for many years to come," he said.

SHHS's football team continues to advance in the MPSSAA Class 1A playoffs.

The team will face Boonsboro High School in the quarterfinals on Friday, Nov. 20.

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Solar farm project would help finance new firehouse

Volunteer firefighters ink lease with Pivot Energy for 14-acre Bishopville parcel

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) Bishopville's volunteer firefighters have signed a long-term lease with a solar developer that could help finance a new firehouse.

Pivot Energy plans to build a community solar farm on the department's 14.7-acre property off Bishopville Road. Worcester County's Technical Review Committee heard details of the project last Tuesday.

Fire department treasurer Gary McCabe described it as a 20-year project that could bring in as much as $60,000 a year for the department. If the department takes out a construction loan, the revenue could help cover the interest, he said.

"This project would benefit the fire company by generating revenue rather than having to ask the county or our residents to help," he said. "Although we need help from both those sources, we're trying to find any way we can raise money to support the fire company, and so that new station is our priority now."

The new firehouse is estimated to cost more than $5.5 million and would replace the department's one-story station, which opened in 1965.

Blueprints submitted last year to county planners call for a 12,500-square-foot fire station on its current site in Bishopville. It would have a larger pad out front for fire trucks, spacious engine bays, and a 3,000-square-foot community room.

The department is also seeking a $3 million federal grant through Rep. Andy Harris' office. McCabe said the funding has cleared the House and is awaiting Senate action.

The farmland, located directly across from Bishopville Park, was bequeathed to the department years ago. The volunteers once considered moving their station there, Critical Area setbacks left too little room for a firehouse and enough parking, McCabe said.

The land is now farmed for corn and soybeans, though McCabe described it as sandy and unproductive. About half the parcel lies within the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area. County officials said the project, if approved, would be Worcester County's first solar farm on land with that designation.

Tentative plans call for a 4.75-acre solar array near the intersection of Hotel Road and Jarvis Road.

Ted Hastings, an engineer with Becker Morgan Group, said last Tuesday that the original plans showed a 2-megawatt project, but said Tuesday the site could only accommodate just over 1 megawatt. Hastings said he's excited to be part of a project that will benefit local firefighters.

The State Highway Administration wants the permanent entrance moved to Hotel Road, and Hastings agreed to revisit that with Delmarva Power.

John Shields, a senior manager with Pivot, said the company intends to own and operate the array. He said shovels wouldn't hit the dirt for at least another year.

Delmarva Power customers who subscribe would receive credits on their electric bills. Maryland's permanent "community solar" program generally requires projects to allocate at least 40% of their electricity output to qualifying low- and moderate-income subscribers.

The proposal will next go to the state Critical Area Commission for review. The Worcester County Planning Commission will take up the site plan once Pivot addresses staff comments from last Tuesday's meeting.

The land could still have an agricultural use: Pivot would likely bring in a flock of sheep to graze beneath the solar panels and keep the vegetation down, Shields said.



Planners look at reduced Rt. 589 housing proposal

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 13, 2026) A housing proposal near Ocean Pines that helped spur a one-year freeze on Route 589 rezonings is back – this time, with 59 townhomes, down from the 88 proposed this summer.

Worcester County's Planning Commission agreed at its Nov. 5 meeting that extending Ocean Pines' water and sewer service to the property fits the county's comprehensive plan.

Next, the County Commissioners will hold a public hearing before deciding whether to add the property to the area slated for near-term water and sewer service. The townhome project itself is subject to a separate review.

The proposal covers 15 acres on the east side of Route 589 (Racetrack Road) just outside the North Gate entrance to Ocean Pines. Over the summer, the owners sought to rezone the wooded land, from an R-2 to R-3 designation, to allow for an 88-townhome development.

But the owner's attorney, Hugh Cropper, withdrew the request July 21 midway through a standing-room-only public hearing, as opponents were just beginning to speak. Cropper said afterward that commissioners' comments made it clear the vote wasn't going to go his way.

He also said the family that owns the property also wanted to avoid further animosity with Ocean Pines residents. Neighbors had collected more than 900 signatures in an online petition opposing the plan.

At the next commissioner meeting on Aug. 4, Commissioner Jim Bunting proposed a freeze on rezonings along the corridor, citing worsening traffic on Route 589. The commissioners unanimously agreed and adopted a one-year moratorium on new rezoning applications, effective Sept. 1.

The 59-townhome proposal can proceed through county review, however, because it uses the property's existing zoning.

During Cropper's presentation before the Planning Commission, there was some opposition considered: an Ocean Pines resident submitted a letter with dozens of questions, including whether the utility system could handle more homes.

Cropper pushed back on the letter, saying the Planning Commission need not consider "somebody's – with all due respect – AI-generated letter that asks 47 questions – it should be about the legal standard."

That letter was not included in publicly available meeting documentation, but it was addressed in the meeting by Bob Mitchell, the county's director of environmental programs.

Mitchell said the developer would pay for the water main extension, sewer hookup, and an on-site pump station, plus about $14,400 per home in connection charges.

Once connected, the new townhomes would share in the cost of maintaining the system alongside existing customers. County staff said the development can be served without expanding the water supply or treatment plants.

The county's Public Works office still has to verify that the existing sewer line along Racetrack Road can handle the additional flow and approve the final design.

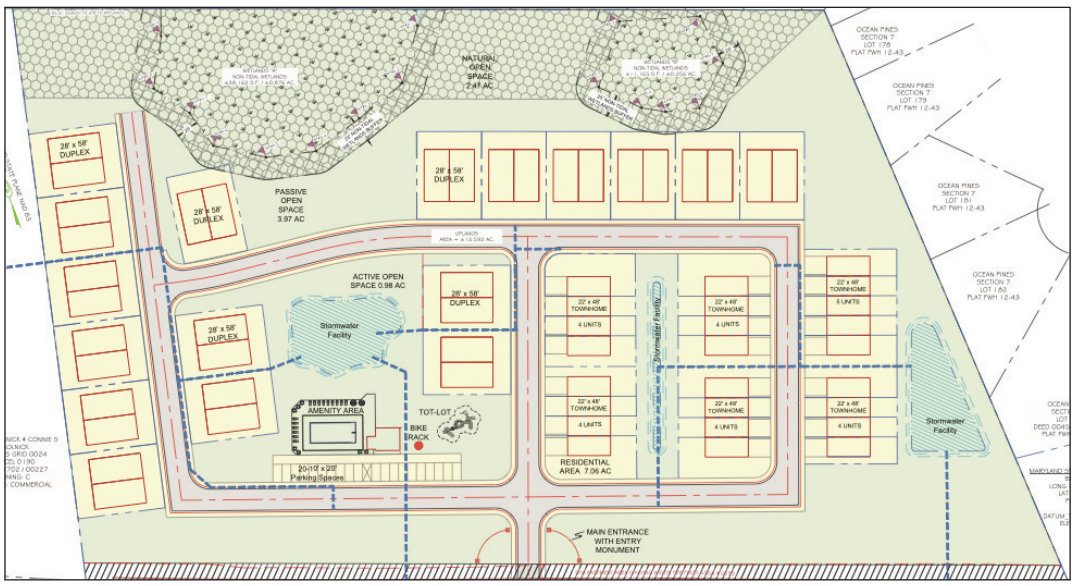
The smaller plan leaves a question of whether a proposed 100-vegetative buffer would be included.

In July, Cropper had noted that the developers would provide the buffer between Ocean Pines neighbors and the 88 townhomes. At the time, he said as many as 59 homes could be built under the existing zoning without that condition.

Moving forward, Cropper said the developer could return as soon as next month for an initial review of the 59-home layout and a public hearing before the county commissioners.

Notably, the property in question used to be zoned agricultural and housed a pig farm, recalled Planning Commissioner Chair Phyllis Wimbrow.

"It was a hot political button and literally got pigs put on it because of a rezoning application. All the calls we used to get about, the pigs were loose and running down 589," she said, adding, "This has long been eventually planned for residential use."



Plans for the scaled-back townhomes project proposed for Rout 589 cuts the 88 units initially planned down to 59 units.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE





Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DIAKONIA SCORES DONATION

Hebron Savings Bank has announced a generous $100,000 commitment over four years to Diakonia's Supportive Living Campus Capital Campaign, demonstrating its dedication to strengthening local communities and supporting individuals, families, and Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness across Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. This significant investment reflects Hebron Savings Bank's commitment to community partnerships and its belief in Diakonia's mission to provide essential services, housing stability, and long-term opportunities for those in need. Diakonia's $15.25 million Supportive Living Campus will transform the organization's ability to serve Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore by expanding its Food Pantry, Veteran Support and Outreach Center, Thrift Store, and administrative offices, with Phase II adding 42 units of supportive housing.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CLUB INDUCTEES

Ocean City Lions Club recently inducted new members. Pictured, from left, are OC Lions President Steve McMillan and newly inducted Lions Katie and Corey Rimel.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CEMETERY RESTORATION

On Nov. 9, the Worcester County Historical Society (WCHS) held its fall meeting, during which board members presented the Historic African American Purnell Cemetery along Route 611 with a $1,200 donation to support ongoing restoration efforts. Pictured at the check presentation are WCHS board member Bunk Mann, WCHS President Dr. Doretha Whittington, cemetery representative Bobby Purnell and WCHS Treasurer Teron Lewis.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MEN WEAR PINK CAMPAIGN

Jill Elliott, American Cancer Society staff partner, recently accepted a $36,000 check from Bruce Mooney, right, and Zach Evans, left, of Mountaire Farms, from their annual Men Wear Pink campaign. Mountaire has donated almost $50,000 to the American Cancer Society this fall to support research and patient support services.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

The Maryland Military Coalition, representing 24 military and veteran organizations, recognized Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-District 38) as a 2027 Maryland Military Coalition Legislator of the Year at its annual awards luncheon held on Nov. 12 in Annapolis. Carozza is a member of the Maryland General Assembly's Veterans Caucus and is a volunteer student guide and storyteller at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. Above, Carozza receives her Legislator of the Year Award from the Maryland Military Coalition President Lynn Nash.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ANGLERS CLUB SPEAKER

Local fishing guru Scott Lenox of Fish In OC was the featured speaker at the Ocean Pines Anglers Club's November meeting. Lenox is pictured with Club Moderator Frank Fiori Jr.

Obituaries

RICHARD NIEMAN
Ocean Pines

Richard Nieman, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and lifelong fisherman, passed away peacefully in his sleep this week in Berlin, Maryland. He was born in 1944 and was raised in Maryland.


Richard Nieman

Richard graduated from Ben Franklin University and put his accounting degree to work at the Department of Energy, where he rose to become Deputy Director of Departmental Accounting and Financial Assistance. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of American Legion Post 166.

Richard and Mariana first met in middle school and spent the rest of their lives side by side. In retirement, the two made their home in Ocean Pines.

He was an avid fisherman and a member of the Ocean Pines Anglers and the ACSA fishing club. At home he enjoyed gardening and woodworking. He was also a member of the Church of Ocean Pines.

Richard was steady, punctual, and thorough in everything he did. He could be as stubborn as they come, but he was just as generous. He spent countless hours of his retirement doing charity work, especially for Believe in Tomorrow. If you brought him a problem, he would work through it with you, helping you sort out and weigh the options. And as if that wasn't enough, he'd keep at it after you were gone and call you days later with additional insight or an angle you hadn't considered.

To his grandchildren, he was the one at the griddle making pancakes or French toast, and he was every bit as particular about getting it right as he was about everything else. He taught them to make it themselves, but doing it without him just won't be the same.

He was preceded in death by his first daughter, his parents, four brothers, three sisters-in-law, niece, and great-niece.

Richard is survived by Mariana, his wife of 62 years; his daughter Judi and her husband Bryan; his son Tommy and his wife Lauren; five grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; an ever-growing number of great-grandchildren, great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

Services will be held on Saturday November 21, 2026, at Stauffer Funeral Home in Thurmont, Maryland, beginning with visitation at 10:00 a.m. with a graveside service to follow at Blue Ridge Cemetery, Thurmont.

A celebration of life for our Eastern Shore friends and family will take place on December 6, 2026, from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. in Ocean Pines.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Believe in Tomorrow House by the Sea, 13 66th Street, Ocean City, Md. 21842, or to Diakonia, 12747 Old Bridge Road, West Ocean City, MD 21842.

Expressions of sympathy may be offered to the family at www.stauffer-funeralhome.com.

GARY LEE TRAVERS
Berlin

Gary Lee Travers, 73, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026, at Tidal Health-Atlantic. Born in Salisbury, Gary was a kind-hearted man with a generous spirit who deeply cherished his family and friends.


Gary Travers

Gary spent more than 30 years working for ED Supply Company, where he developed many lasting friendships.

An avid sports fan, he loved cheering on the Baltimore Ravens and Orioles, especially while watching games with his brother, C.J., and best friend, Bob Connor.

A talented athlete, Gary played collegiate tennis at Georgia Southern and enjoyed playing in a men's softball league in Salisbury his younger years. He also enjoyed hunting, reading the newspaper, and taking peaceful drives through the countryside.

Gary had a special love for his cats, Natural and Hobo, who brought him much joy and companionship. His generous heart extended beyond family and friends, as he was a proud and devoted supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Gary was preceded in death by his grandparents, Thelma and Albert Boston; his parents, Curtis Travers, Sr. and Betty Phippin; many aunts and uncles; and the love of his life, Rennette Porter, with whom he shared many cherished years.

He is survived by his brother, C.J. Travers, and his wife, Melody; his niece, Melissa Powers; his nephew, Brian Brewer; his great-nephews, Zachary and Benjamin Powers and Aiden Brewer; and his great-niece, Abby Brewer. He also leaves behind his dear friend, Bob Connor.

Gary will be remembered for his big heart, his kindness, and the love he shared so freely. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

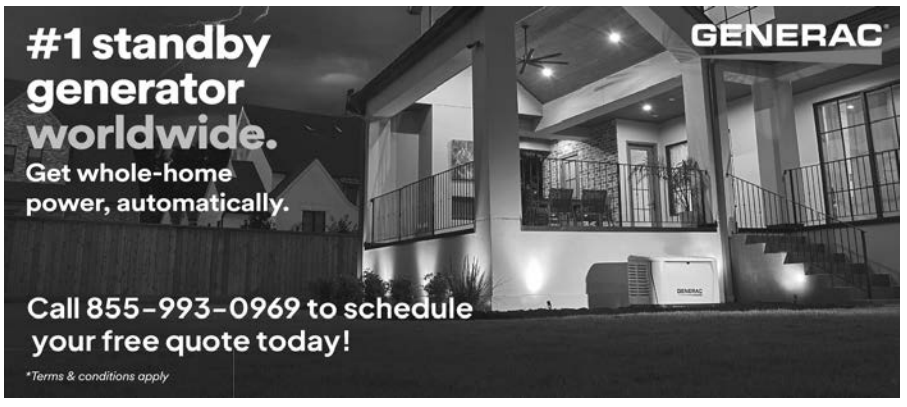
In Gary's memory, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary Notices cost $50 per week for Print and Online Publications.
E-mail: editor@octodaydispatch.com









Opinion

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

Do kids learn from solemn events? Yes!

Whether fidgety children are truly absorbing the messages delivered during Veterans Day ceremonies can seem like a mystery, but kids absolutely get something out of attending — even if they don't grasp every word from the podium.

As Worcester County Veterans Memorial President Rick Farr said last week, these events are "vital in teaching the next generation about the sacrifices made by armed service members."

Although the youngest members of the audience are unlikely to remember specific speeches, studies by the National Association for the Education of Young Children show that kids even in the 4-to-7 age group recognize cultural rituals—and, in this case, the solemn and respectful tone of the gathering.

What registers most with young kids is how the grown-ups act, as this is a prime developmental stage for emulating adult behavior.

So when parents feel anxious seeing their children squirm in their chairs while a speaker recounts a harrowing experience or the personal sacrifices of U.S. service members, they shouldn't assume the moment is lost on them.

As PBS KIDS for Parents notes, young children absorb the emotional weight and community values of shared observances even when they appear distracted. While they may not follow every word of a formal address, simply being there builds lasting civic habits and empathy.

In other words, they may not remember the words, but they will remember the feeling—and, hopefully, carry it with them as they grow into thoughtful citizens.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at $90/year or $45/6 mos.
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Diesel costs impacting bus drivers

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2026) This time last year, Worcester County school bus contractor Alan Hudson would spend up to $250 a week on diesel fuel. Now, it's more like $500.

The school district pays Hudson once a month. His check includes a per-mile payment to help cover fuel and maintenance. When diesel prices rise high enough, the district adds a fuel supplement to that same check.

Now that diesel costs so much more at the pump, "it hurts to put the money out there first, knowing how long it takes to get it back," said Hudson, president of the local school bus contractors' association.

Worcester County Public Schools earmarked zero dollars for the fuel supplement in its fiscal 2027 budget, which covers July 1 through June 30.

But now, two months into the school year, the district has already incurred an estimated $137,000 in extra fuel payments to bus contractors for regular school routes, officials said.

Global conflicts have helped drive up diesel prices. With less diesel on the world market, the United States shipped more of it overseas, drawing down its own stockpiles, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

According to AAA, the national average price of diesel hit a record $6.53 a gallon in September. Maryland's average reached $6.50. By Monday, the national average had eased to $6.17 a gallon.

If diesel prices stay this high, the district estimates it could spend about $600,000 on unbudgeted fuel supplement payments this school year for regular routes alone.

To cover that cost, the district would have to move money around in its budget at the end of the fiscal year, according to Worcester County Public Schools spokesperson Carrie Sterrs.

County Commissioner President Ted Elder (District 4, Western) drove a school bus for 30 years and led the local bus contractors' association for 20. He said the board has stepped in before when the school system needed emergency funding.

"We have to have some cushion built into the budget to take care of that," he told OC Today-Dispatch.

WCPS has budgeted about $7.1 million for bus contracts this fiscal year, up $268,000 from the previous year.

Under their contracts, bus contractors purchase their own diesel fuel, and the district pays $1.92 a mile to help cover fuel and maintenance for regular school routes.

The school district's transportation office checks AAA's diesel price for the Salisbury area every day, transportation manager Kim Heiser said. On Monday, diesel averaged $6.26 a gallon in the Salisbury area, up from $3.74 a year earlier, according to AAA.

The school board uses $3.35 a gallon as its diesel benchmark this fiscal year, Sterrs said. The fuel supplement kicks in when the monthly average diesel price rises at least 10% above that benchmark, to about $3.69 a gallon.

The district estimates fuel supplement payments for regular routes came to about $64,000 in September and $71,000 in October. Contractors got an extra 39 cents a mile in October. A year earlier, the district paid an extra penny a mile in September and no supplement in October.

Fuel supplements come and go with the market. Heiser said during the 2022–23 school year, the supplement hit 32 cents a mile before dropping to 2 cents by May. The district paid no supplement in January 2026, but by June it was paying an extra 19 cents a mile.

The district's 67 bus contractors drive about 1.6 million miles a year on regular school routes, according to finance chief Vince Tolbert.

A contractor can run several buses and hire drivers. Hudson drives the No. 30 bus himself and gets help from another driver on his midday run.

Hudson said when it comes to extra driving, such as after-school activities, field trips, and away games for athletics, individual schools will arrange those with drivers one trip at a time. The district does pay the fuel supplement on those miles, Sterrs said.

Hudson said his bus route covers 150 miles a day through northern Worcester County over three runs, including a midday trip to Worcester Technical High School in Newark.

Even after the fuel supplement, he's still out about 30 cents a gallon.

"We get paid the 25th of every month," Hudson said. "That's the day I look forward to."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED

At a recent meeting, Ocean City Lioness Lions brought a great variety of school supplies to donate to Ocean City Elementary School. Pictured above are Guidance Counselor Linda McGean, OC Lioness Lions President Donna Greenwood and Principal Julie Smith with all of the school supplies.



Worcester County educators were among those recognized earlier this month during a reception hosted by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. Multiple county schools were awarded grants at the event. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Over $125K in education grants presented

(Nov. 19, 2026) Schools across Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties received $125,558 in funding through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's 2026 Education Grants Program, supporting 32 initiatives at 25 schools.

The grants help cover the cost of projects developed by teachers to address student needs in areas including curriculum enhancement, social-emotional learning, and college and career readiness.

"These grants are designed to empower local educators, enhance their creative ideas, and provide new opportunities for students," Community Foundation President Erica Joseph said. "We know that investing in education has an impact far beyond the current school year and is key to building strong communities."

Education grants are awarded annually through a competitive process to public and private schools on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore. The program supports innovative projects that enhance learning and improve students' social, emotional and physical well-being.

Teachers and school district representatives were recognized during a Nov. 12 reception at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury.

The Community Foundation also presented the Mary Gay Calcott Award of Excellence to April Todd of Salisbury Middle School. In addition to recognition, Todd received a $1,000 grant from the Foundation's Mary Gay Calcott Memorial Fund for an archaeology program designed for TAD students.

The program will use interactive lessons to help students build scientific literacy skills while exploring local and global history. Students will research and analyze artifacts, developing critical-thinking skills and a greater understanding of historical preservation.

The award is named in honor of the late Mary Gay Calcott, a Salisbury University English professor who championed critical thinking, clear communication and civic engagement.

Several Worcester County schools were among the grant recipients for the 2026-27 school year.

At Pocomoke Elementary School, $4,812 in funding will be used to purchase curriculum-aligned art supplies and materials to support the "Wit and Wisdom" literacy program.

With a $5,000 grant, Pocomoke High School will establish a makerspace and collaborative study area in the school library to increase student engagement.

Showell Elementary School received $5,000 in funding for two projects. One grant will support the purchase of decodable texts to strengthen kindergarten reading instruction, while another will provide 3-D printing equipment for the school's makerspace and STEM activities.

Thanks to $1,500, Snow Hill Elementary School will create literacy tubs, or portable bins, that incorporate foundational reading skills into play-based learning.

With $4,342 grant, Snow Hill Middle School will purchase materials for its new "Building for the Future" course, which introduces students to careers in the skilled trades.

Stephen Decatur High School will use $1,360 grant to launch the Seahawk Snack Cart, a student-run program operated by special education students to promote learning and social interaction.

Worcester Technical High School received two grants totaling $5,000. One will fund the purchase of SkillsUSA uniforms for a new lending program, while the other will provide classroom supplies to support engineering students with varying learning styles and instructional needs.

"Every great learning experience begins with an educator who sees possibility and finds a way to bring it to life," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Annette E. Wallace. "These grants are a wonderful investment in the creativity and dedication of our teachers and, more importantly, in the students whose lives they impact. We are incredibly grateful to the Community Foundation for helping our educators turn their ideas into meaningful opportunities for children."

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Puzzles

MIXED RESULTS
BY SIMEON SEIGEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

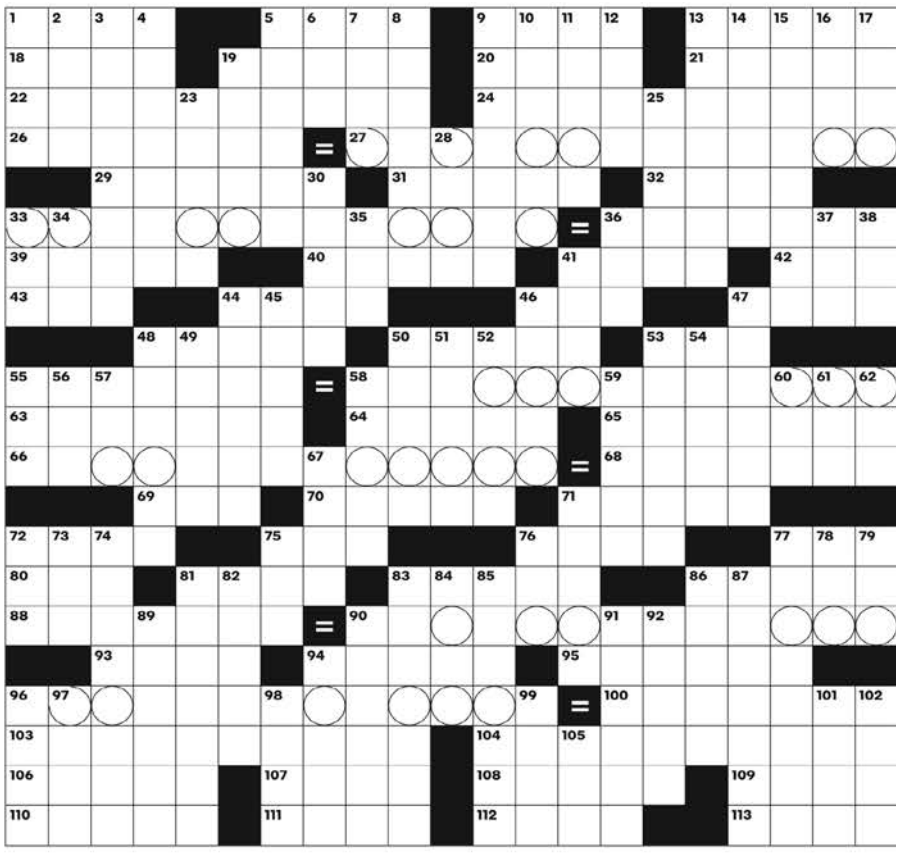
Simeon Seigel is a partner at the Turett Collaborative, an architecture and design firm in New York City. This is his 23rd crossword, and fourth Sunday, for The Times. When I mentioned to him that the inventor of sudoku, Howard Garns, was also an architect, Simeon replied that the same was true for the inventor of Scrabble, Alfred Butts, and Erno Rubik, of cube fame — architects all. Creative design and game inventing must attract similar sorts of people. — *W.S.*

ACROSS

1 Home of India's most-visited monument
5 Ending with hard or soft
9 "___ girl!"
13 Indian silk region
18 Company whose name took off as a verb in the 2020s
19 SoCal N.F.L.'er
20 Letters of qualification
21 "Bumping," as a party
22 Confidential scoop
24 Like threat advisories, typically
26 See 27-Across
27 Potatoes, e.g. + Soothe
29 French stew whose name sounds like an Italian sauce
31 "In case you didn't hear me … "
32 Impaler of note
33 The Great Lakes, e.g. + Computer gurus
36 See 33-Across
39 Encounter virtually, in slang
40 All-star lineup?
41 Internet chuckles
42 Makeup, mainly, of the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office
43 German article
44 Athlete's "juice"
46 Take an inch from a yard, say
47 McDonald's McFlurry flavor
48 More than might
50 Petty cash holder?
53 Habitual overdrinker
55 See 58-Across
58 Remark + Gripping tool
63 Detach, as a gate
64 It's heard during cold season
65 Chart showing almost a third of the world's land
66 Totally over it + Still woolly
68 See 66-Across
69 Pro tip?
70 Washington, but not Lincoln
71 Davis of "Thelma & Louise"
72 Washington or Lincoln
75 One might be "great"
76 Places for shots
77 Morning cuppa
80 Air force hero
81 Squashable, say
83 Life-and-death
86 Bring forth
88 See 90-Across
90 Gym weight + Counted (on)
93 Dregs in a wine cask
94 Colonial-era Indian soldier
95 It's not a one-off
96 Online broadcasts + Obvious
100 See 96-Across
103 Attempt at a royal flush?
104 Meme throwing shade on seemingly attractive boyfriend candidates
106 Like Yves Saint Laurent's "trapeze" dresses
107 Tubelike articles of apparel
108 Author Calvino
109 Exile isle
110 Dangerous places to seek harbor
111 Home of the first family?
112 Place for a window display
113 Astromancer, e.g.

DOWN

1 Ansari of "Parks and Recreation"
2 No longer around
3 Handful of prayers?
4 Query upon entering a packed conference room, perhaps
5 Crumples, as before tossing
6 Certain queer identity, for short
7 Transfixed
8 Honorary titleholders
9 Patriots' group, in brief
10 Third-rate
11 Like many New York subway stations
12 Missing tour dates?
13 Remote power sources
14 Bratislava resident
15 Service entrance, often
16 Claim
17 Bathroom cabinetful, for short
19 Reveal
23 Shirk one's responsibilities
25 Approach in quality
28 Draws on
30 Follow behind
33 "I'm done explaining myself!," to a mathematician
34 Actress Thurman
35 Outdated
36 Render speechless, perhaps
37 Initials for one OPEC member
38 Call from a ref who doesn't count?
41 ___ Lightfoot, former mayor of Chicago
44 2013 Eminem hit that tops out at 9.5 syllables per second
45 Actress/sibling Mary-Kate, Ashley or Elizabeth
46 Bean or gourd
47 Capital in, but not of, Ontario
48 Reedlike
49 C-note
50 Yemeni port with a namesake beverage
51 Complaint during the dog days of summer
52 Mold source
53 Get-togethers, slangily
54 Main ingredient in a German Zwiebelkuchen cake
55 Dubious, in modern lingo
56 Primer número
57 Jon M. ___, director of the "Wicked" movies
58 Social grouping
59 Device in a hydrogen atomic clock
60 Brooding offshoot of punk music
61 Service that hosts the U.K. Space Command, in brief
62 Letters read on a beach
67 Award for an outstanding play
71 Really puts off
72 Elevator unit
73 Place for intubators and incubators, for short
74 Fabulate
75 Director Lee
76 Luv
77 Worthy of some time?
78 Be in for
79 A dead one has a single outlet
81 Breaks through
82 Wipe from visual memory, facetiously
83 Source of a nicotine hit
84 Flatten, in a way
85 "Here's something that might work … "
86 Golfing boo-boo
87 Des ___ (Chicago suburb)
89 Not pass
90 Stump
91 Come upon
92 Mythological lyrist
94 Wasn't overturned
96 Fight (with)
97 Lacking any suntan, say
98 Long (for)
99 Field of inquiry that so far has not had any provable success
101 Garage job
102 Whose name goes first
105 Nickname for Sarah



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su|do|ku

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HARD – 7

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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., Nov. 19

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AND OPENING NIGHT
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Featuring a festive performance by the OC Stars, followed by the official lighting of the Winterfest Christmas Tree. Admission is free on opening night. https://www.ococean.com/winterfest/

NARFE CHAPTER MEETING
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. Meeting is open to federal employees, active and retired. National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association mission is to protect the Federal Employees' benefits. khagannarde@gmail.com, 703-729-2103

STORY TIME: 'THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A TURKEY'
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

COFFEE & CRAFTS: GLASS PAINTING
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in every month for a new craft. Materials provided. Limit 30. 410-524-1818

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

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

BIRDS & BAGELS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 11 a.m. Join in for coffee and bagels while crafting a feeder for birds. Registration required: 410-957-0878. worcesterlibrary.org

AI DISCUSSION
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. A prequel to an upcoming AI literacy series. Express your thoughts, concerns and questions about AI usage. 410-524-1818

WHERE WE GATHER: POCOMOKE HOMELANDS, RESOURCES AND RESPECT
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 4 p.m. A Pocomoke Indian Nation representative will guide you to make an honor bundle and share aspects of connecting natural resources to several native traditions. Registration required: 443-235-5597.

FIRESIDE CHAT
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A lively discussion of books you've enjoyed and recommendations to inspire your next read. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

LOCAL HISTORY: ASSATEAGUE NATIVE AMERICANS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about the history and culture of the Assateague Native Americans, then create a traditional clay pot. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

NAACP COMMUNITY MEETING
Berlin 50plus Center, 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd., 6 p.m. Guests speakers: Davida Washington, Worcester County Housing Rehabilitation Program Administrator and representative from Wrap Around Maryland Inc. Everyone invited. 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., Nov. 20

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/

ST. MARY-HOLY SAVIOR CHURCH BAZAAR
St. Mary Star of The Sea Parish - Holy Savior Church, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Great lunch and dinner menu, many raffles, oyster bar, beer, wine, gift shop, toys, Christmas decorations, jewelry, bake shop, plants and attic treasures.

BIG FEELINGS, BRAVE STEPS
Board of Education, 6279 Worcester Hwy., Newark, 11:30 a.m. Understanding anxiety and building confidence at home and school. Join in for pizza, salad, drink, desserts and great information. Speaker will be Caryn Horn LCMFT. Parents and Partners training opportunity by SECAC. RSVP: text or call Pam Green, 410-430-3922.

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

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'BUNKER HILL' BY NATHANIEL PHILBRICK
Forgotten 50 Distilling, 10103 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the Berlin branch and then meet at Forgotten 50 for a lively discussion. 410-641-0650, worcesterlibrary.org

MOVIE
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. Discover the often overlooked story of an immensely influential figure in colonial American food history during this special documentary screening. 410-641-0650

Sat., Nov. 21

EPOXY CHARCUTERIE BOARD CLASS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m.-noon. Craft your own epoxy charcuterie board. Cost is $46. 410-641-7052

BIKERS WITHOUT BORDERS COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE
Food Lion, 11007 Manklin Creek Road, Berlin, 8 a.m.-noon. Collecting unexpired food, diapers/wipes, cases of water, and monetary donations to support local area food pantries. https://www.facebook.com/share/19zfAJGLZu/?mibextid=wwXIfr, 410-375-1607

ST. MARY-HOLY SAVIOR CHURCH BAZAAR
St. Mary Star of The Sea Parish - Holy Savior Church, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Great lunch and dinner menu, many raffles, oyster bar, beer, wine, gift shop, toys, Christmas decorations, jewelry, bake shop, plants and attic treasures.

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

KIDS CRAFT TIME
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10:30 Two craft options available for kids of all ages. Cost is $10 for residents and $15 for non-residents. Register: 410-641-7052.

KIDS' KITCHEN
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. We're making Italian meatball pockets. Best for ages 8-12 years. Registration required: 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., Nov. 22

OC RAVENS ROOST 44 FUNDRAISER
Panchos & Lefty's, 12911 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 5-9 p.m. Enjoy margaritas and great food while helping raise money for the OC Ravens Roost 44 Penguin Swim Team. All money raised will go to the TidalHealth Penguin Swim.

COMMUNITY'S THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Ocean City Baptist Church, 102 N. Division St., 6 p.m Bring packaged goods, paper products and funds for the offering to be used to help the needy. There will be dessert and fellowship after the service. 410-289-6573

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., Nov. 23

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9:30 a.m. Sharon Blugis, Founder and Deputy Director of Reproductive Justice Maryland, will focus on the upcoming legislative agenda. All are welcome. https://dwcmd.org

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

TOPS OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
TidalHealth Atlantic, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) is an educational group that promotes weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. Held weekly on Mondays. https://www.tops.org/home

ZUMBA
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 4:30 p.m. Zumba

Continued on Page 20

Calendar

Continued from Page 19

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., Nov. 24

STORY TIME: TURKEY TALES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. 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

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 finger plays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, 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

SAT PREP & MATERIALS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 3 p.m. Join in for a study and review session where you can work through practice materials and fine-tune your test-taking strategies before the Dec. 5 SAT. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878

FUN WITH 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. All materials are provided. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wed., Nov. 25

A CRAFTY THANKSGIVING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Enjoy Thanksgiving themed crafts as you celebrate what you are thankful for. For families. 410-208-4014, worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

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

CASH BINGO
Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave. Door open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Food available before bingo. Open to the public. 443-605-5028

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

ONGOING EVENTS

TOYS FOR TOTS DROP OFF
Through the first week of December, donations may be dropped off at Berkshire Hathaway PenFed Realty's West Ocean City and Ocean Pines locations. Monetary contributions may be made by scanning QR code on drop off boxes.

OPEN HOUSES November 19-26

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
Wed-Fri 10am-3:30pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from $279,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday1-3pm	5603 Atlantic Avenue #301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	$1,550,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 2-4pm	24 Stacy Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	$1,249,500	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10-Noon	7 Brush Island Court, Ocean Pines	4BR/3BA	Single Family	$539,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	13400 Coastal Hwy #S503, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	$259,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	203 33rd Street #105, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	$239,000	Kevin Heselbach/Engel & Völkers 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	35596 N Gloucester Circle, Millsboro, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	$289,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	75 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	$798,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	21526 Cattail Dr, Rehoboth Beach, DE	3BR/2.5BA	Townhouse	$799,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1:30-3pm	5703 Atlantic Avenue #2S, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	$569,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	953 Yacht Club Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	$479,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	9900 Coastal Hwy #2505, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	$585,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm	5603 Atlantic Avenue #301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	$1,550,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3pm	75 King Richard Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	$798,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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

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Year Round West Ocean City - 1BR, 1BA, Unfurnished. Recently remodeled, new mini split HVAC, big closet with a loft for storage, new carpet. Reduced to $1,400/mo.
Text or call John, 410-726-0075.

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ESTATE SALE
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