



# SALISBURY INDEPENDENT

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FREE

## DOWNTOWN SALISBURY

# Proposed performing arts center gets \$2M

By Richard Caines  
Salisbury Independent

SALISBURY — A proposed performing arts center for downtown Salisbury is closer to fruition with the recent announcement of \$2 million in state grant funding from Maryland.

The Jan. 13 announcement by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day alongside local officials was made across the street from Wicomico Public Library's Paul S. Sarbanes Branch, which is slated to be the site of Salisbury University's \$100 million project when complete within four to five years.

"At Maryland DHCD, our work is to build great places through smart growth and sustainable economic development including housing, small businesses and community spaces," Day said. "One of the keystones of that foundation is access to

See **Arts** on page 2



**Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day speaks during the Jan. 13 event.** SALISBURY INDEPENDENT/  
RICHARD CAINES



**The site of the proposed development, Salisbury Town Center, is currently a parking lot.** SALISBURY INDEPENDENT/RICHARD CAINES

# Downtown development delayed after mayor vetoes council bill

By Richard Caines  
Salisbury Independent

SALISBURY — A proposal giving a developer the ability to build a downtown apartment complex has been approved by Salisbury City Council, but Mayor Randy Taylor delayed the final process over parking concerns.

Salisbury City Council voted 4-1 at its Jan. 14 legislative session in favor of a text amendment that will grant developers the ability to increase the amount of housing that could be built on new lots in the central busi-

ness district. The passage of the text amendment during the meeting mirrored a Dec. 16 vote by the council.

Councilwoman Sharon Dashiell voted no during both meetings against the proposal, which allows the density of a project to double from 40 to 80 units per acre. Dashiell made a motion during the January meeting to table the final vote until the council received the results of a parking study, but none of the other council members seconded it.

See **Veto** on page 2

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## Arts

• From page 1

culture. A community overflowing with history, heritage, creativity and art like this one needs a safe place.

“A space to offer, honor and foster. Cultural centers are the glue that bonds all of these elements. They are a core component of vibrant communities and great neighborhoods. And if anyone knows that it’s President Carolyn Ringer Lepre and her team at Salisbury University.”

Day said the project was awarded \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2025 State Revitalization Program funds through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The department committed funding for another \$1 million in the Fiscal Year 2026 round.

The performing arts center is slated to have an auditorium with seating for up to 1,000 people, a music and theatre space with seating for up to 450, a convertible dance studio, scenic and costume design facilities, dressing rooms and classroom and rehearsal space.

“This performing arts center will demonstrate the power of the arts to make our community ever stronger as a space where people can express themselves, enjoy the talents of others, being together and learn,” said Maarten Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts.

The proposed performing arts center would be the second largest indoor performance space in the county after the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center when constructed. The facility will join the SU Downtown campus and the Museum of Eastern Shore Culture, which opened last fall.

Demolition of the current library building is expected next year. The Wicomico Public Library has pledged to continue maintaining services downtown at a smaller branch following the relocation of the Sarbanes branch to S. Schumaker Drive.

“This project embodies Salisbury



The announcement was made across the street from Wicomico Public Library's Paul S. Sarbanes Branch. SALISBURY INDEPENDENT/RICHARD CAINES

University’s unwavering commitment to downtown Salisbury,” added Lepre. “And as we look to establish this vibrant hub of culture, education and community connection right here in the heart of our city, you will see much more from us.”

An agreement last year between the county and Salisbury University allows the university to take possession of the library located at the intersection of South Division and West Market Markets to build the performing arts center. In return, the university will lease the former Ward Museum to the county for the downtown library’s relocation.

Terms of the agreement call for a 10-year lease with the county having the option of renewing it for two additional periods of 10 years each. The base rent for the initial term and each renewal period would be \$1.00 annually.

“The collaboration between DHCD, Salisbury University and local leaders exemplifies the power of partnerships in shaping a brighter future for our region,” Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano said. “Today we are creating space that inspires, connects and drives growth.”

Salisbury City Council President D’Shawn Doughty called Jan. 13 a “milestone” moment for Salisbury. The site of the future performing arts center sits next to city hall.

“The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development \$2 million dollar commitment to the performing arts center isn’t just about bricks and mortar,” Doughty

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## Veto

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“This has taken long enough and it’s time that we get all of our facts straight and move forward with the proper decision,” Dashiell said. “And if that is more development as has been proposed, that’s fine. I just want to have all the facts.”

The development, Salisbury Town Center, is planned for three downtown parking lots facing Unity Square and is slated to consist of 222 multi-family rental units within three buildings with commercial aspects when finished.

Taylor used his power as mayor to veto the ordinance Jan. 15, saying increased density would be inconsistent with Maryland planning law as well as Salisbury’s Comprehensive Plan and “could only be passed in the context of a lack of understanding regarding its impact.”

“The potential impact of this change would be devastating to the downtown and has no place on the stage of good planning or common sense,” Taylor said.

By law, Taylor had six days to veto the text amendment. But the measure will now go back before the city council at an upcoming meeting, which can ultimately pass it.

“Any ordinance or bylaw returned by the mayor without his approval shall not become a law unless subsequently passed at a meeting by four-fifths of the whole council within twenty days from the time of the return of the ordinance,” according to Salisbury city’s code.

Gillis Gilkerson’s proposed development has received opposition from Salisbury residents and nearby property owners, who have objected to the elimination of parking lots, the construction’s impact on existing businesses and potential flooding issues. Other members of the downtown business community, Greater Salisbury Committee, Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce and others have offered

their support.

Many spoke up during the Jan. 14 legislative session, both in favor and against the apartment proposal, which was recommended by the Salisbury-Wicomico County Planning and Zoning Commission on November 21, 2024.

“Tonight’s shameful vote on the zoning density amendment will forever change the central business district,” said Salisbury resident Carolyn Wohlgenuth during the Jan. 14 meeting. “You couldn’t even wait till the end of the month to grant a request for the parking study. ... I hope you’ve realized that you’ve shown your true stripes tonight on many fronts on the way that you want to conduct your meetings dictatorially and on who you stand with, the developer.”

Local business owner Alex Scott said the Salisbury Town Center project and others like it are going to help downtown grow. He brought up other newly built downtown features including the traffic circle, the Ross building and Unity Square.

“Our downtown is ready for this,” Scott said. “The infrastructures there. It’s not going to cost us a lot more and it’s going to get a lot more customers my way. It’s going to get more competition my way too. I understand that because with more people being downtown, there’s going to be more businesses.”

Downtown business owner Holly Worthington, who would lose parking spaces to the project, said there are “too many unknowns” with the apartment proposal. She told the council that her building has no street parking, no loading zone and no adjacent parking lot.

“We haven’t seen real facts, formal studies showing how this zoning change would create a positive impact actually for our downtown,” Worthington said. “This project was denied on the basis of the negative impacts it would have on the existing downtown. This density once increased cannot be

See **Veto** on page 5





## Your voice matters

Take a 10-minute survey to help TidalHealth, the Somerset County Health Department and the Wicomico County Health Department better understand what our community needs to be healthier in 2025.

Visit [tidalhealth.org/survey](https://tidalhealth.org/survey)



# 2025 Maryland General Assembly convenes

Special to the Salisbury Independent

ANNAPOLIS — The 447th Maryland General Assembly convened on Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the cold, snow-covered Maryland capital of Annapolis for the next 90 days of intense budgeting, lawmaking and oversight. Over 600 bills have already been introduced in the Senate and House of Delegates, with that number expected to skyrocket by the Feb. 3 bill introduction deadline.

## Maryland's Budget Crisis

"The dominant issue this session will be facing Maryland's \$3 billion budget deficit followed by the urgent need to address Maryland's energy crisis with massive, increased electricity costs starting on June 1st," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. "The Maryland General Assembly has passed, over the objections of Republicans, education and climate change mandates that are simply unaffordable for our constituents and our local governments. The State needs to scale back and live within its means just like our Shore families do day in and day out."

The Senate and House Republicans held a joint press conference on Wednesday to discuss the priorities of the 2025 legislative session and to offer solutions to close the \$300 million deficit in the current budget and the \$3 billion budget deficit for fiscal 2026.

"The governor and the Democrat leadership has made clear that everything is on the table in addressing the budget crisis, including tax increases," said Senator Carozza. "We as Republicans will not stand for taxing our way out of this budget crisis which largely was brought on by the excessive spending of the Democrat supermajority by passing costly unfunded edu-



The Eastern Shore Delegation held a brief organizational meeting in the Old House Chambers on Thursday to elect Delegate Jay Jacobs as the new Vice-Chair of the Eastern Shore Delegation. The leadership position was vacant due to former Delegate Carl Anderton's appointment to Governor Wes Moore's Administration. PROVIDED

cation and climate change mandates."

On Jan. 15, the governor will introduce his initial budget proposal as required by the Maryland Constitution to submit a balanced budget proposal to the Maryland General Assembly by the third Wednesday in January.

## Wicomico County Roadway Solicitation Prohibition Bill

Senator Carozza, Salisbury Police Chief Dave Meienschein; Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis; and Wicomico County Assistant Superintendent Kim Miles testified in strong support of Senate Bill 101 before the Senate Judicial Proceedings (JPR) Committee on Thursday. This was the very first bill hearing of the 2025 legislative session.

SB 101 would prohibit a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle within Wicomico County and is modeled after other local enabling bills that already have passed and are in effect in Carroll, Charles, Harford and Washington counties. Since January of 2022, the Salisbury Police Department has responded to 334 calls for service related to money solicitation, and almost all of these calls involved individuals stand-

ing too close or directly in active lanes of vehicular traffic.

"This is local, enabling legislation that is fully intended to increase public safety by ensuring that solicitation activities are not conducted in areas where it could be dangerous," said Senator Carozza. "Roadway solicitations have become an increasing public safety concern in Wicomico County, and prohibiting this action would allow our public safety officers to protect the public and assist those individuals who may be suffering from poverty and homelessness with programs that can help them get back on their feet."

SB 101 has strong community-wide support which includes the City of Salisbury, the Wicomico County Executive, the Wicomico County Council, Salisbury University, and Wicomico Public Schools.

## Offshore Wind Energy Hearing in Ocean City

Senator Carozza joined with local leaders and constituents to testify against US Wind's air quality permit-to-construct application through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) public hearing held Jan. 9 at the Ocean City Convention Center. Senator Carozza has been a

strong and long-time opponent since 2017 of the proposed offshore wind energy industrialization projects off Maryland's Coast.

In her testimony, Senator Carozza raised new questions based on information gathered from the installation of wind turbines in other locations outside of Maryland and the United States. "We now know that offshore wind turbines are subject to the 'wake effect' which creates less energy in the airflow downwind than the airflow upwind. As turbines are in rows, each turbine reduces the airflow available to the one behind it. Not only does this reduce energy plume making the project inefficient, it increases the ozone levels in the surrounding area as ozone levels increase when airflow is reduced," said Senator Carozza.

Opposition to US Wind's proposed offshore wind energy project continues to mount with a working coalition made up of local residents and visitors, commercial watermen, boaters, environmentalists, hotel, motel, and restaurant operators, small business owners and their employees, elected officials at every level of government, and a growing number of concerned residents from across the State of Maryland.

## Locals in Annapolis

Senator Carozza saw several local officials and community leaders in Annapolis during the first week of the 2025 Legislative Session including Salisbury University Chief of Staff Eli Modlin; Somerset County Commissioner Darryl Webster; Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis; Salisbury Police Chief Dave Meienschein and Salisbury Deputy Police Chief Howard Drewer; Dick Carey of Carey Distributors; and members from the Maryland Federation of Republican Women.

# TidalHealth community clinic on track to open in August

TidalHealth

**SALISBURY** — TidalHealth has announced that the Edward Q. Wilgus Community Clinic, located on the historic grounds of the Hotel Esther at 805 E. Church St. in Salisbury, is on track to open its doors with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony tentatively planned for August 2025.

This state-of-the-art primary care clinic will not only provide vital health services to a community historically underserved but will also carry forward the property's legacy of healthcare innovation.

"The facility itself reflects the neighborhood with its architectural style recreating the glory of the former building that had its roots in medical care over 100 years ago, said Palmer Gillis, founder of Gillis Gilkerson, the construction management firm building the clinic. "Remnants of the former building will be blended in with the new clinic to pay homage to its historical past."

The new clinic is on a 1.8-acre parcel of land with a rich history in Salisbury's healthcare evolution. More than 130 years ago, the property was intended to serve as Salisbury's first hospital, a vision that was never fully realized. In the 1890s, Dr. Robert Naylor, a British physician, purchased the land with



**The TidalHealth Edward Q. Wilgus Community Clinic, pictured, is on track for an August ribbon cutting and opening, officials said. PROVIDED**

plans to build a hospital for the community, but he passed away before that dream could come to fruition.

Over time, the property was repurposed, including serving as the first location for the John B. Parsons Home for the Aged, before being transformed into the Hotel Esther in the 1940s.

Now, the legacy of healthcare on this land will be renewed with the TidalHealth Edward Q. Wilgus Community Clinic. Made possible by a generous donation from the Wilgus family to the TidalHealth Foundation, this new facility will serve as a crucial health resource for the east side of Salisbury, a neighborhood historically impacted by social determinants of health.

The clinic will be staffed by TidalHealth's experienced primary and spe-

cialty care providers, offering essential healthcare services for adult patients aged 18 and over. These services will include telehealth, behavioral health, lab draws, preventative screenings, nutritional counseling, diabetes education, financial counseling, and a variety of support groups.

Additionally, the clinic will serve as a base for TidalHealth's resident physicians specializing in internal medicine and is expected to handle 12,000 to 15,000 visits annually. Four of those residents, who have already completed their training at TidalHealth, have chosen to remain in the area to provide medical care.

"TidalHealth is committed to expanding access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, especially for those who have been historically marginalized,"

said Steve Leonard, president/CEO of TidalHealth. "The TidalHealth Edward Q. Wilgus Community Clinic will be a beacon of hope for our east side neighbors, offering vital care and helping bridge the gap between the community and the healthcare resources they need most."

This ribbon cutting will also mark a significant milestone for the TidalHealth Foundation's "SPARK" campaign, which aims to raise \$5 million to support the resources needed for establishing a Graduate Medical Education program at TidalHealth, further enhancing the clinic's mission. Co-chaired by Dr. Julius Zant, Bryan LeCompte, and Dr. Kurt Wehberg, the SPARK campaign will help provide funding to continue training future physicians who can bring their expertise and compassion to the local community.

As part of the renovation process, TidalHealth has carefully preserved bricks from the old structure. Community members may purchase a personalized brick that will become a part of the clinic's garden. To purchase a brick, visit [tidalhealth.org/pavetheway](https://tidalhealth.org/pavetheway) or call the TidalHealth Foundation at 410-543-7140 to learn more about the SPARK campaign.

## Veto

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reversed."

Worthington said downtown Salisbury is historic, and the apartments would clash with the surrounding area. The plan previously hit a snag when a circuit court judge denied the developer's appeal over a November 2023 Salisbury Board of Appeals decision.

"You're changing the facade of our whole downtown," Worthington said.

"We're going to get it right," said Brad Gillis, developer of the project. "I'm here. There're questions. There're comments. I will take constructive criticism. I will take constructive comments. We have the time, energy and passion to make this project right. Is it going to be perfect? No. Is it going to satisfy everyone's requirements, their expectations? Absolutely not. But what it will do is be a betterment for downtown and it will complete a vision that we've been discussing as a community for a generation."

## Arts

• From page 2

said. "It's about people. It's about opportunity and it's about creating a vibrant downtown that belongs to everyone."

Salisbury Mayor Randy Taylor called the expansion of Salisbury further downtown a "natural evolution which weaves our successes together."

"This facility will open doors to creating great events and cultural opportunities which will serve Salisbury for years to come," Taylor said. "In that effort, we hope that it serves as a beacon of attraction for students to want to attend Salis-


bury University and be part of our community even if only for a season."


Greater Salisbury Committee President and CEO Mike Dunn said the idea of transforming downtown Salisbury began around 1980 with a series of studies. Now projects like the performing arts center are fulfilling that dream.


"At GSC we have begun to call the performing arts enter the golden ticket," Dunn said. "It is the golden ticket because it will be the thing that this community has been looking for since about 1980. (This) will inject life and dynamism into this community."





## CIVILITY CHECKLIST


 **Take the High Road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.


 **Be Respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.

 **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

 **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

 **Listen & Learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.

 **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

 **Respect Privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and in many cases, illegal.

*Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at [baytobaynews.com/pledge](http://baytobaynews.com/pledge)*

## OPINION

# Addressing misinformation circulating regarding involvement with proposed density increase

I am writing to address and correct the misinformation circulating regarding my company's involvement with the proposed density increase. As the Founder of Green Street Housing, I want to unequivocally state that our company is not benefiting in any way from the density increase. Our sole project in the Central Business District, SBY Market Center — an affordable housing community and public-purpose market space — complies fully with existing density requirements. While the density increase would allow us to double our

allowable units, we have deliberately chosen not to utilize this bonus.

As a professional and advocate in affordable housing, I have publicly supported the density bonus legislation. My support, however, is not motivated by personal or corporate gain. I endorse this measure because it represents sound public policy, informed by years of urban planning science and endorsed by the majority of planners both locally and nationally.

Furthermore, as an affordable housing developer, I have witnessed

firsthand how density increases directly contribute to expanding the supply of affordable housing — a pressing need in our community.

This legislation is fundamentally good for Salisbury, and my support stems solely from a desire to see our community thrive. It aligns with proven strategies to address housing challenges and promote sustainable development. That's why I stand behind it.

**Dave Layfield**  
Founder, Green Street Housing  
Salisbury

# Risk of approving increased density without traffic studies

As you have heard from the many public comments, most people support residential housing in the CBD. Many of us also shared concerns over parking and traffic, studies for which are pending. It really makes no sense to increase density without knowing whether or not the number of units chosen, in this case 80, will be supported by the traffic impact and parking studies. The smartest thing Council could have done was to throw opponents a bone by agreeing to table the vote for 30 days until the two studies were completed, then afterwards approve the amendment anyway. I mean, it has been apparent since the summer that the density amendment was a done deal, as the subsequent release of meeting minutes and a letter from Council to the Planning and Zoning Commission have revealed.

The only logical reason in my mind Council did not do this is

because it and the developers were afraid the studies would not support the proposed 80 units per acre and did not want to risk that.

I believe the bigger risk is what Council has done by approving 80 units per acre without knowing the results for the two aforementioned studies.

Salisbury is not Baltimore or Philadelphia or New York, with a large radius of streets on which to park, in addition to parking garages. Our small CBD is an island that is going to lose parking through these developments. The mayor hit the nail on the head that this is a math problem, and the numbers just don't add up. Outside of the CBD, where is there anywhere to park? Cross busy Rt. 50, and park where? Cross busy Rt. 13, and park where? Cross Carroll Street, and park where? Cross Mill Street, and park where? This eventual lack of parking will discourage people

from even attempting to visit the downtown area, the exact opposite of what we all want to see happen.

To the council members who said they did research and voted for this amendment or changed their minds and voted for this amendment, why not share this information with the public? If it changed your mind, maybe it will change some of ours. Citizens have asked for transparency from this Council, and some members have stated they support transparency too, but by not stating your reasons for why you voted the way you did, unlike the lone member who voted no did, those words are empty rhetoric, lip service, worthless.

Lastly, with the possible exception of the Government office buildings, I believe the library is the largest attraction for foot traffic and people in general, in the CBD. To me, it makes no sense to tear this building down

See **Risk** on page 7

# WMDT-47 in Salisbury appoints Willey as new general manager

Special to the Salisbury Independent

**SALISBURY** — Stephanie Willey has been appointed general manager of WMDT-TV, Salisbury.

Willey takes the lead following the retirement of Teri Monahan who led WMDT-TV for over 30 years.

The station said Willey will continue in her role as general sales manager having brought years of sales management experience to WMDT.

WMDT-TV is the Delmarva home of ABC, CW, MeTV and more.

“Stephanie has already demonstrated her leadership skills, and we are excited to see where she will take the station,” said Patrica Lane, CEO of Marquee Broadcasting.



Stephanie Willey

## Risk

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and move this traffic generator all the way out to the Ward Museum site which is really not walkable for people as it will not be centrally located.

Why not leave the library where it is, and instead, build the new performing

arts center on all those lots fronting Rt 13, which would also afford a lot of parking? This crown jewel of the city as I heard someone say, should be visible to as many people as possible, and that means Rt. 13, not hidden in the center of the CBD. Just a thought.

**Joe Schiaffino**  
Salisbury resident

## STOWE ABOARD USS CARL VINSON



Seaman Mason Stowe, of Salisbury, updates a deck log while standing lookout watch on the fantail aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), Jan. 10. Vinson, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group ONE, is underway conducting routine operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ANALICE BAKER

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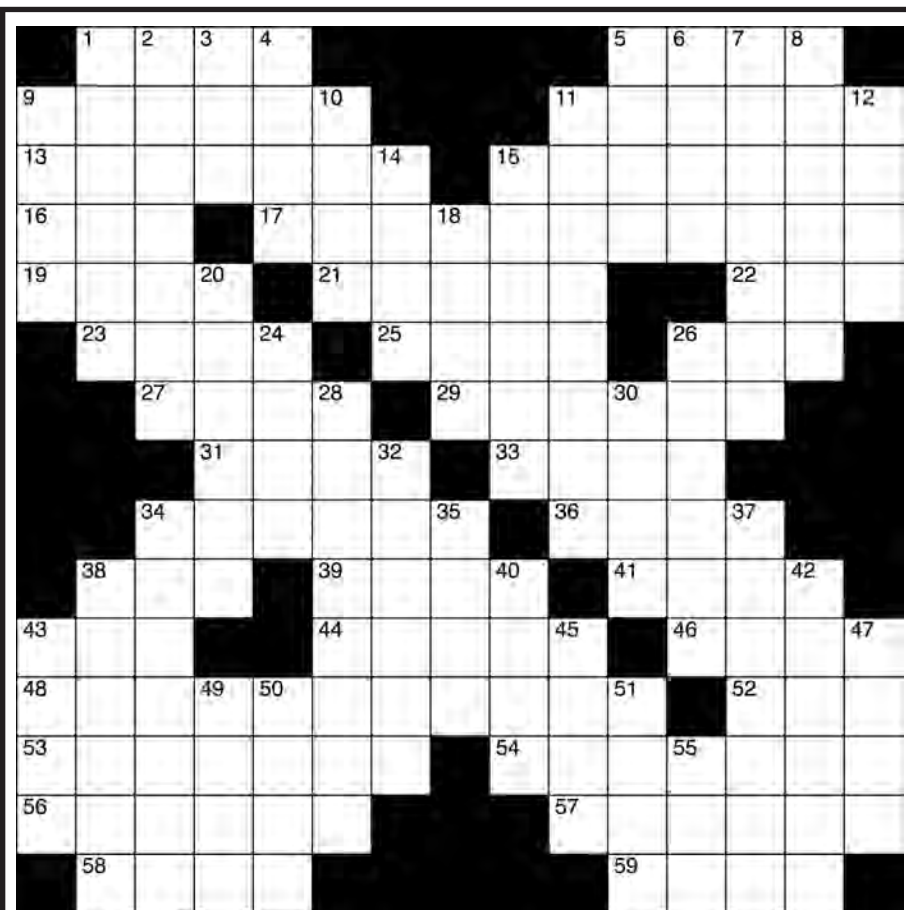


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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. 'Loser' rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame
- 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel
- 33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
- 34. More than one
- 36. Places down purposefully
- 38. Pitching statistic
- 39. Type of sword
- 41. Witnesses

- 43. Body part
- 44. Mixes slowly
- 46. Satisfy
- 48. Strong belief
- 52. One's physique (slang)
- 53. More frightening
- 54. Soup cracker
- 56. Teaches
- 57. One who carries something
- 58. Actor Sean
- 59. Changes

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. \_\_ Aires, city
- 2. Coarse grass
- 3. Type of gene
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition
- 6. Muslim ruler title
- 7. Hunting expeditions
- 8. Large mollusk
- 9. Bind securely
- 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 11. 2-point plays in football
- 12. Breezed through

- 14. Type setting
- 15. Felt for
- 18. Codified rules
- 20. Small dome
- 24. Chevrotain
- 26. Male reproductive gland
- 28. Controversial beliefs
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. One who confines another
- 34. Bishop
- 35. Garlands
- 37. Bird that flies by the coast
- 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are 'Rolling'
- 43. Formerly (archaic)
- 45. Thrust a knife into
- 47. German river
- 49. Atomic #26
- 50. Make a grotesque face
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. Chinese philosophical principle



The Department of Transportation has awarded the Salisbury airport a grant. SALISBURY INDEPENDENT/  
RICHARD CAINES

# Infrastructure grant awarded to Salisbury Regional Airport

Salisbury Independent

SALISBURY — Wicomico County has announced the receipt of a grant award from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Federal Aviation Administration's FY25 Airport Infrastructure Grant program. This funding, made possible through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's expanded eligibility provisions, underscores the federal commitment to advancing critical infrastructure in our region.

The grant, totaling \$126,825, will fund Phase 1: Design for the replacement of equipment in the Sponsor-owned federal contract tower at Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport (SBY). This initiative is a pivotal step toward ensuring state-of-the-art safety and operational efficiency for the region's primary air travel hub.

"This funding is a testament to the federal government's dedication to modernizing local infrastructure," said Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano. "With the support our Congressional representatives, projects like this enhance the economic vitality and safety of our region."

"Salisbury Regional Airport supports the Eastern Shore's economy, serving as a hub for local business and tourism, which is why we have fought to secure key federal investments in its growth and success over the years. This latest investment will help ensure the airport can maintain its high standard of air traffic safety and continue serving regional travelers and businesses efficiently," said Senator Chris Van Hollen.

Senator Angela Alsobrooks added that, "The Salisbury Regional Airport is critical infrastructure and a transit hub that strengthens the Eastern Shore's economy. This is necessary federal investment that represents a continued commitment to Eastern Shore. I will be a staunch advocate for the region alongside my colleagues in our federal delegation."

The grant's impact spans Congressional District 1, further strengthening transportation resources for Salisbury and surrounding communities. The Federal Aviation Administration remains the lead agency disbursing these funds, with Daniel G. Neumann serving as the primary contact for project oversight and implementation.





Perdue's Men Wear Pink campaign delivered \$23,000 through associate fundraising. PERDUE



Perdue was named the American Cancer Society's Northeast Region Team of the Year by generating \$81,210.82 in donations through a variety of Relay for Life fundraising activities.

# Perdue donates \$104,210 to American Cancer Society

Salisbury Independent

**SALISBURY** — Perdue Farms associates in Salisbury recently delivered a record \$104,210 to the American Cancer Society through fundraising efforts aligned with Relay for Life and Men Wear Pink campaigns. Perdue associates have raised more than \$915,000 for ACS since 1998.

The campaigns are part of the company's Delivering Hope To Our Neighbors outreach to improve quality of life and build strong communities where associates live and work.

"Delivering hope to our neighbors is fundamental to who we are at Perdue Farms," said Bill See, senior manager of community relations for Perdue Farms. "In the U.S., and across every community we conduct business, so many of our neighbors and associates

and their families are affected by cancer. We're proud of the compassion and generosity of our associates to raise awareness about a disease that impacts millions of cancer survivors and helps countless others avoid it."

Perdue was named the American Cancer Society's Northeast Region Team of the Year by generating \$81,210.82 in donations through a variety of Relay for Life fundraising activities, including a golf tournament and raffles.

Perdue's Men Wear Pink campaign delivered \$23,000 through associate fundraising. It was supported by a \$10,000 grant funded through the Arthur W. Perdue and Frank Perdue Foundation, the charitable giving partner of Perdue Farms.

Perdue associates' contributions will support the American Cancer So-

ciety's priorities of funding cancer research, providing education on cancer prevention, screening and treatment, and patient and family services for those undergoing cancer treatment.

"Perdue Farms and its associates have a long history of supporting the American Cancer Society," said Deb-

bie White, senior development manager for the Northeast Region. "Their generosity and ongoing support have a direct impact in the fight against cancer while honoring survivors and remembering loved ones lost to the disease, which impacts almost everyone in some way."

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## MARYLAND

# Harris says officials who resist Trump may pay a price

By Paul Kiefer  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — U.S. Rep. Andy Harris (R-Maryland) said Jan. 14 he expects President-elect Donald Trump will withhold federal dollars from those who don't comply with mass deportation and other policies — potentially even in Harris' home state of Maryland.

"After having discussions with incoming members of the Trump administration, they're not going to look favorably upon jurisdictions that, with one hand, ask for federal dollars and, with the other hand, pass it out to illegal immigrants, including protecting them from the reach of federal law, including deportation law," Harris said.

"The fact of the matter is that, when the jurisdiction of Maryland says we're not going to cooperate with deportation policies, why, with the other hand, are they reaching out for federal benefits?" Harris said.

"I think what you're going to see, as part of our efforts to control federal spending," Harris went on, is that "one of the first things we're going to do is go to those jurisdictions that don't cooperate with the federal government and attempt to achieve savings there."

Harris' comments came during a press conference in Annapolis to debut the Maryland House of Delegates' Freedom Caucus, a bloc of half a dozen conservative state delegates modeled after the U.S. House caucus of the same name. Harris, whose district includes Maryland's Eastern Shore, was reelected chair of the House Freedom Caucus last month and is a Trump-friendly member of the House Appropriations Committee.

His prediction on Tuesday echoes similar signals from a handful of Trump's current and former advisers,



Maryland Rep. Andy Harris speaks during a press conference introducing the Maryland Freedom Caucus. GIUSEPPE LOPICCOLO/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

including Steve Bannon and Newt Gingrich, about suspension of federal funding for jurisdictions that plan not to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Harris also made similar comments to WBFF-TV Baltimore last week.

Many Democratic officials across the country have expressed concern about mass deportation in their states. But days before Trump is due to be sworn in, most are currently emphasizing their plans to find ways to cooperate with the new president.

Lawmakers in the state's new Freedom Caucus suggested that Harris' ties to the Trump administration could result in the use of federal funding as leverage to boost other state-level priorities. This could potentially give the small group an outsize voice in the General Assembly.

Del. Matt Morgan, a Republican who represents St. Mary's County, is chair of the Maryland General Assembly's Freedom Caucus. At the press conference, he rattled off a list of Republican priorities he hopes will receive a boost from the incoming administration. This would include rolling back some of the General Assembly's recent criminal justice reform

efforts, he said.

He also expressed optimism that the Trump administration could shut down the construction of light rail projects that Republicans oppose.

Mass transit projects are draining the transportation trust fund, Morgan said, and "right now they're canceling local projects all across the state for roads and bridges, and overwhelmingly, the people that pay into that fund are motorists."

"We believe there's been a void in conservative leadership in this state for quite some time," Morgan said, "and we're going to fill that void."

The group is small, said Del. Ryan Nawrocki, a Republican from Baltimore County and caucus spokesperson, but that's how the Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives got its start.

"You start out with a core group of people that are committed to an ideal," said Nawrocki, "and you demonstrate success, and that's how you grow any group."

Robert Ehrlich, the former Republican governor, also appeared at Monday's press conference, speaking to the assembled crowd alongside members of the group.

"In difficult times, people are challenged, and that means leaders emerge," Ehrlich said, as he stood at the microphone before the news cameras. "Folks behind me are clearly leaders that are emerging in Maryland today."

The new caucus's model is to "equip conservatives to win on issues across the country," according to Rachel Ullmann, communications and community outreach director for the legislature's District 7 delegates.

"We stand firmly with the National Network's policy of 'fighting federal overreach and standing firm against those in both parties who prioritize seizing political power over representing constituents,'" she wrote in an email to Capital News Service.

Maryland's Freedom Caucus has not yet sought formal recognition from their party's House and Senate chamber leaders, Nawrocki told reporters.

"There's a possibility that we might do so," Nawrocki said. House Minority Leader Del. Jason Buckel, a Republican representing Allegany County, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



## THINGS TO DO

# Salisbury Community Band to present winter concert

Salisbury Community Band

**SALISBURY** — The Salisbury Community Band will present “The Wind Band Classics-Oldies but Goodies” on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m. at A Church Called Christ, on Phillip Morris Drive in Salisbury. The concert is free and open to the public.

The program will include lively selections from film, Broadway, familiar British and American classics, and popular music — something for everyone.

The music director and conductor of the all-volunteer band is former local public school band director Howard Snow.

The Salisbury Community Band has a rich musical heritage dating back to 1937 and maintains the tradition of sharing that heritage with local residents. It also provides an opportunity for local professional and amateur musicians, from high school students to seniors, to exercise their talents.

For more information, visit our Facebook page.

# St. Philip’s Episcopal Church to host oyster fritter fry Feb. 8

Special to the Salisbury Independent

**SALISBURY** — St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Quantico is set to host a King Boys’ Oyster Fritter Fry sale on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. until the prepared food is sold out.

The menu will include oyster sandwiches at \$15. Also available for sale will be cole slaw; eat in or carry out chili (chicken or beef) plus baked goods made by the ladies of the church along with the seasonal reopening of The Church Mouse and The Lending Library.

The purposes of offering the King Boys Oyster Fritter Fry are to have a fun raiser (no misspelling) and to invite the public to enjoy a community event with very tasty eastern shore delights.

Besides great food, The Church Mouse and Lending Library, you will get to meet the people of St. Philip’s. St. Philip’s was established in 1845 as a chapel of ease (for convenience of parishioners, a type of satellite church,

attached to the major church in a parish) razed and rededicated in 1914. The church has many unique features. These features include a 17th century font, more than 35 stained glass windows depicting Biblical scenes and even the bounty of the shore (that includes a large, white chicken). Time-worn, wooden pews, varied activities and a welcoming congregation invite you to this Quantico historic landmark. Church services are offered every Sunday at 10 a.m.

The Church Mouse, an opportunity shop on the grounds, will also be open. This little opportunity shop has items that are new and gently used. Items include toys, books, china, linens, jewelry, candles, vases, etc. The Church Mouse is always open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, February-December. Donations are accepted by contacting Nancy Hall at [nancydaviesrdh@gmail.com](mailto:nancydaviesrdh@gmail.com).



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## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

# \$305K in tax credits to Shore development groups

Salisbury Independent

**NEW CARROLLTON** — The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development announced it has awarded more than \$300,000 in tax credits to projects across the Eastern Shore as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Investment Tax Credit program.

The Community Investment Tax Credit program supports nonprofit organizations involved in community and economic revitalization activities. Nonprofit organizations use tax credits as incentives for individuals and businesses to donate money, goods or real property to support operational and programmatic costs associated with projects that serve communities across Maryland.

“The Community Investment Tax Credit program is an important tool for nonprofit organizations to build connections with the communities they serve on an everyday basis,”

said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day. “This tax credit encourages residents and business owners to directly invest with local nonprofit partners to improve the places where they live and work.”

Businesses and individuals that donate to a qualified organization’s approved project can earn tax credits equal to 50% of the value of the money, goods or real property contribution. These tax credits are in addition to the deductions on both Federal and State taxes as a result of the charitable contribution. The program has leveraged nearly \$31 million in charitable contributions to approximately 770 projects across the state since its inception.

DHCD will provide \$305,000 in tax credits to support 10 projects in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties through the CITC program in Fiscal Year 2025.

Some of these awards include:

- Habitat for Humanity Choptank, Inc. for operating support for critical health and safety repairs for the homes of low-income homeowners - \$50,000 (Dorchester);

- Capital Support to Friends of the Grape, Inc. to develop a community venue to foster economic development, recreational activity concurrently with culinary and hospitality job training in the region while extending the Center’s reach across a wider community - \$25,000 (Caroline County);

- Operating support to the Chester River Health Foundation, Inc. to fund “MRI-friendly” office and assistive equipment i.e. contrast injector, wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, workstations, a printer, IV supply cart, chairs and education - \$50,000 (Kent County);

- Operating support to The Parent’s Place of Maryland, Inc. to offer one-on-one assistance, support, train-

ing, and resources allowing families to better advocate for the education and health needs of their children with disabilities - \$10,000 (Queen Anne’s County);

- Operating support to For All Seasons, Inc. to meet the urgent need for rapid mental health access for military-connected individuals and families, providing same-day appointments and culturally competent care to improve mental health outcomes and reduce crisis incidents - \$35,000 (Talbot County);

- Operating support to Habitat for Humanity of Wicomico County, Inc. to serve 20 households in the Aging in Place program with work that includes roof repair, mold remediation, and home safety modifications for seniors - \$25,000 (Wicomico County).

For the complete list of Fiscal Year 2025 CITC awardees and more information on the Community Investment Tax Credit program, visit the Department’s website.

## BUSINESS

# Delmarva Power ranked high in residential customer satisfaction

Special to the Salisbury Independent

**NEWARK** — Delmarva Power achieved the number one ranking for residential electric satisfaction in the East Midsize Region, according to the J.D. Power 2024 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study. This is the third consecutive year and the fourth time in six years that the company has achieved this ranking.

Delmarva Power shared the highest ranking among 11 comparatively sized electric utilities in the East Midsize Region with a score of 703, on a 1,000-point scale. Delmarva Power also ranked highest overall in two of the areas considered for scoring, Cor-

porate Citizenship and Price.

“This award could not have been possible without the dedication of the men and women who go above and beyond to put our customers first in everything we do, and their commitment to deliver safe and reliable service,” said Tyler Anthony, president and CEO of Pepco Holdings, which includes Delmarva Power. “We are honored to receive this recognition and will continue to serve and meet the evolving needs and expectations of our customers.”

Delmarva Power continues delivering on its promise of powering a cleaner and brighter future for its customers

and communities:

- Reducing the frequency and duration of power outages by modernizing the local energy grid with automated equipment, making the grid smarter and more resilient, resulting in some of the lowest frequency of outages ever just last year.

- Leveraging tools to help customers manage their energy use, like high usage alerts, regular energy reports, and user-friendly tools and energy efficiency programs to help customers save money and energy.

- Supporting customers experiencing challenges paying their energy bill by launching the Assistance Finder

tool, which connects them with helpful energy assistance, and offering payment plans and programs aimed at helping to keep every customer connected.

- Expanding support for diversity-certified suppliers by purchasing \$190 million in goods and services, which accounted for 40 percent of the company’s total yearly purchases in 2023.

- Providing approximately \$2.3 million annually to area nonprofits, while 631 employees volunteered more than 17,200 hours with hundreds of organizations across Delaware and Maryland in 2023.



# EDUCATION

# Arts Council offering funding for those interested in the arts

Special to the Salisbury Independent

**SALISBURY** — The Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council has announced upcoming funding opportunities for students in the county who are interested in the arts.

Executive Director Therese Hamilton said the funding are for those who would like to apply for an arts scholarship for higher education in the arts or for younger students who are interested in learning the arts, including music, art, or theater lessons.

Founded in 1967, The Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council was the first arts council in the state of Maryland. The nonprofit organization said it is dedicated to promoting, funding, developing and advocating for artistic opportunities in the community.

## Available scholarships:

Herbert D. Brent and Paul S. Hyde Art scholarships: For those who need financial aid for a career in the arts. Who is eligible?

Anyone who is either a high school senior or full-time college student (12 credit hours per semester minimum), you must be enrolled in formal academic study leading to a certificate or degree in the visual, graphic, performing, playwright, media or communication arts (minor or major). The applicant must either reside in Wicomico County, attend college in Wicomico County or be a legal resident of Wicomico County who is attending college elsewhere. For the Hyde scholarship, the applicant must be a graduate of a Wicomico public school.

How much scholarship money do you receive?

Different and/ or large amounts of financial assistance is available according to qualifications up to \$3,000.



The Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council has a display of art in its office on West Church Street. SALISBURY INDEPENDENT/RICHARD CAINES

Auditions for all awards are hybrid. A video must be sent with your application, and an in-person interview must be scheduled for a date to be determined. See the SWAC website for instructions. Applications must be typed.

## Available grant:

Douglas I. Smith Memorial Grant: For those ages 16 and under who want to pursue the arts or teacher or youth leader who wants to expose or educate a group of students to the arts.

How much scholarship money do you receive?

Different and/ or large amounts of financial assistance are available according to qualifications and/ or SWAC resources, with minimum amount of \$150.

For more information, the application, guidelines, and video instructions please click on the following link: [www.getswac.org](http://www.getswac.org). Go to scholarships, scroll down.

Application, audition video, letters of recommendation, and transcripts of grades must be emailed to [arts4shore@gmail.com](mailto:arts4shore@gmail.com) or postmarked to PO Box 884, Salisbury, MD 21803 no later than March 14. Late submissions will not be considered.

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## On-Line Only Auction – Salisbury, MD!

Personal Property located at: 904 South Park Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804

Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: Tues. January 21st, 2025 Starting at 5 PM

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## On-Line Only Auction – Dover, DE!

A&M Auctions is honored to sell for the Estate of Christopher Aulita!

Personal Property located at: 956 Janeka Lane, Dover, DE 19901

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Personal Property Preview: Monday January 20th, 2025 from 4 PM – 5 PM

## On-Line Only Jewelry & Coin Auction – Parsonsburg, MD!

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Personal Property Preview: Monday January 27th, 2025 from 5 PM – 7 PM

## On-Line Only Auction Sale – Parsonsburg, MD!

Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: Wed. January 29th, 2025 Starting @ 5PM

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Personal Property Preview: Monday January 27th, 2025 from 5 PM – 7 PM

(2) Upcoming Onsite Auctions: 12 Mar. 2025 - On-Line Only Auction – Real Estate & Personal Property! Property/Items located at 11626 Long Point Road, Dames Quarter, MD! A&M Auctions is honored to sell for the Estate of Joseph Yanack! REAL ESTATE: 3.3 Acre Waterfront Home located at the Mouth of the Wicomico River! Personal Property located at: 11626 Long Point Road, Dames Quarter, MD 21821 Auction Held Online Only Ending Wednesday March 12th Starting at 5 PM! New Holland 35HP Tractor, 2009 Kia Forte, Nautical Items, Primitives, Furniture, Tools, Astrology Equipment & more! 7 May, 2025 - Complete Business Liquidation Auction Sale of Regional Builders Inc. – Seaford, DE! Items located at: 100 Park Ave, Seaford, DE 19973. Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: Wed. May 7th, 2025 Starting at 5 PM. Trucks, Trailers, Equipment, Tools, Office Supplies & more! JLG 8042 Skytrak Telehandler, JLG 400S Straight Boom Lift, 2023 Chevy 2500 Utility Body, 2015 Chevy 2500 Utility Body, Enclosed Trailers, Welders, Generators, Metal Brakes & more!

(2) Upcoming Auctions at 8000 Esham Rd, Parsonsburg, MD: 6 Feb. 2025 - 19th Annual Firearm & Men's Night Out Auction – Day #1. Online Only Auction – Held Thur. Feb. 6th, 2025 Starting @ 5:03 PM. Smalls including Ammo, Knives, Swords, Bayonets, Hunting/Shooting/Reloading accessories, Scopes, Bows & much more! 7 Feb. 2025 - 19th Annual Firearm & Men's Night Out Auction – Day #2. Live Auction/Online Webcast bidding – Held Friday February 7th, 2025 Starting @ 5:03 PM. Selection of 380 + Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns & more!

View Website for Additional Information, Terms, Directions & Photographs!



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LEADERSHIP MARYLAND

# Executive Program Class of 2024 graduates

Special to the Salisbury Independent

MARYLAND — Leadership Maryland recently announced that 51 members of the Executive Program Class of 2024 and 39 members of the Emerging Leader Program 1st Class have completed the professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Leadership Maryland honored participants in both programs at its 31st graduation ceremony held on December 3 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport. As graduates, these individuals are now the newest members of Leadership Maryland's powerful alumni network, consisting of more than 1500 esteemed leaders from all industries and regions of the state.

Members of Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program were chosen by a committee to complete the eight-month experiential learning program. The Class of 2024 participated in an orientation and closing retreat that bookended five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions and the most vital issues impacting economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/



Leadership Maryland graduating members, pictured at their graduation ceremony at the Hilton BWI Airport on Dec. 3, 2024. PROVIDED

diversity across the state. More than 100 experts representing Maryland's business, government, education, and non-profit communities served as panelists and guest speakers.

In its inaugural year, the Emerging Leader Program ran from June to November, consisting of monthly day-long sessions that included both interactive training led by a facilitator and panel discussions featuring leaders from across the state as guest speakers. The program's curriculum offered a holistic approach to leadership development, designed to help each applicant increase their self-awareness and gain behaviors, skills, and tools to become more adaptive, inclusive,

strategic, and impactful leaders.

"On behalf of our staff, board, and membership, I congratulate the Executive Program Class of 2024 and Emerging Leader First Class on completing the program and joining our alumni family," said David Fike '16 (LM), president and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "With the launch of a new program this year, Leadership Maryland has doubled our opportunity to meet incredible community leaders and rising stars from around the state, and I am honored to celebrate the 91 individuals who so wholly dedicated themselves to this unique experience."

The Executive Program is open to

senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. The Emerging Leader Program is open to individuals who are advancing in their careers, are actively involved in their communities, and desire to become stronger leaders in both areas. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state.

For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit [leadershipmd.org](http://leadershipmd.org), call 410-841-2101 or email [info@leadershipmd.org](mailto:info@leadershipmd.org).

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**Richard Caines**  
Managing Editor  
[rcaines@iniusa.org](mailto:rcaines@iniusa.org)



**Cathy Koyanagi**  
Marketing Consultant  
[ckoyanagi@iniusa.org](mailto:ckoyanagi@iniusa.org)



**Laura Walter**  
Special Projects Editor  
[lwalter@iniusa.org](mailto:lwalter@iniusa.org)

## Delmarva Leadership

Associate Publisher: Tonda Parks..... [tparks@iniusa.org](mailto:tparks@iniusa.org)  
Editor-in-Chief: Andrew West..... [awest@iniusa.org](mailto:awest@iniusa.org)  
Web & Social Media Editor: Kitt Parker..... [kparker@iniusa.org](mailto:kparker@iniusa.org)

Circulation Manager: Terri Rodgers..... [trodgers@iniusa.org](mailto:trodgers@iniusa.org)  
Inside Sales Manager: Roxanne Brooks..... [rbrooks@iniusa.org](mailto:rbrooks@iniusa.org)  
President & CEO: Charlene Bisson..... [cbisson@iniusa.org](mailto:cbisson@iniusa.org)

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## OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# Accelerant detection canine Zorro retires from service

Special to the Salisbury Independent

MARYLAND — After serving the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the citizens of Maryland for just over eight years, acceleration detection canine Zorro retired Dec. 31, 2024.

During his career, K-9 Zorro and his handler, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal and OSFM K9 Commander John Nelson, have responded to and assisted investigators on countless fire scenes throughout the State. K-9 Zorro has also assisted allied agencies on scenes in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia throughout his career. K-9 Zorro has met thousands of Marylanders through public education events, displays, and demonstrations.

Zorro, a black Labrador retriever, is currently 9 years and 8 months old and began his career at Puppies Behind Bars. This program trains incarcerated individuals to raise service dogs for veterans and first responders, facility dogs for police, and detection canines. Zorro was then acquired by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), where he began training in accelerant detection. Nelson and Zorro graduated in ATF ADC Class #117 in December 2016.

Known for their extraordinary sense of smell



Deputy Chief & K9 Commander John Nelson & K9 Zorro. PROVIDED

and steadfast commitment to their work, accelerant detection canines like Zorro have been instrumental in identifying accelerants such as gasoline,

lighter fluid, kerosene, and even odorless solvents used in arson cases. Zorro is a food-reward canine, which is the standard methodology ATF uses. The daily training and repetitions total over 130,000 times Zorro has eaten from Nelson's hand over the 8 years of service. Now, Zorro can enjoy retirement and continue into the new year with a normal bowl of food.

K-9 Zorro is DCFM Nelson's second ATF Accelerant Detection K-9. His former partner, K-9 Charlie, who passed away in 2018, worked from 2008 until 2016.

"The Accelerant Detection K-9 Program has been one of my job's most rewarding and enjoyable parts. From working with these amazing dogs each day for the last 16 years to meeting some incredible investigators and touching the lives of children and adults alike during this time, I wouldn't change a thing. The work these K-9s do each day to help solve the crime of arson is invaluable, and I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with these two dogs," said Deputy Chief Nelson.

There are currently just under 70 ATF Accelerant Detection Canine teams across the United States & Canada.

## MARYLAND

## Spay and Neuter Grants Program FY26 grant application window open

Special to the Salisbury Independent

ANNAPOLIS — The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Spay and Neuter Grants Program is seeking applications for competitive grant projects that will help reduce intake and euthanasia numbers in Maryland animal shelters. Applications may be for pet-focused projects and/or feral cat-focused projects.

The FY26 grants cycle will award approximately \$850,000 in funds to eligible projects that efficiently and effectively facilitate, promote, and increase spay and neuter services for cats and dogs in Maryland. Appli-

cants may not request more than 25% of their organization/program annual operating budget, with a maximum grant allowance of \$75,000. Organizations with a budget of less than \$20,000 may request a maximum of \$5,000. There is a minimum allowance of \$5,000 for all applicants.

Application forms, instructions, and other materials have been updated for FY26, and are available on the Spay and Neuter Program's webpage as of Jan. 10. The FY26 application window closes April 11, at 5:01 p.m., and late submissions will not be considered. Eligible organizations include municipal or county governments and

501(c)(3) nonprofit animal welfare organizations. Applicants must be in good standing with the IRS, State of Maryland, and local Animal Control Authorities. See the program's RFP document for more information on eligibility and the application process.

This program is funded through fees paid by the pet food industry for each product they register to sell within the state. To date, the program has funded 317 grant projects throughout the state that collectively have completed over 119,565 spay and neuter procedures.

The Spay and Neuter Grants Program was established by the Maryland

General Assembly during the 2013 Legislative Session. A seven-member advisory board, appointed by the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, reviews all grant applications and provides recommendations to the Secretary on how grants should be administered.

More information about the Spay and Neuter Grants Program is available on the department's website. For questions about the program, contact the Spay and Neuter Grants Program Coordinator, Jen Swanson, at 410-841-5766 or [jen.swanson@maryland.gov](mailto:jen.swanson@maryland.gov).

## TIDALHEALTH

# Hales promoted to VP, chief philanthropy officer

TidalHealth

SALISBURY — TidalHealth is proud to announce the promotion of Jessica Hales from senior director and president of the TidalHealth Foundation to vice president, chief philanthropy officer, and president of the TidalHealth Foundation. In her new role, Hales will continue to lead the foundation's philanthropic efforts while expanding its strategic influence across the organization's health services.

The promotion also features elevation to the health system's Executive Team.

"Jessica's unwavering commitment to our mission, coupled with her deep understanding of the power of philanthropy, has been instrumental in the growth and success of the TidalHealth Foundation," said Steve Leonard, Ph.D., MBA, FACHE, President/CEO of TidalHealth. "As vice president and chief philanthropy officer, she will continue to foster meaningful connections between our donors and the transformative healthcare services TidalHealth pro-

vides to our community."

Hales, who has served as president of the TidalHealth Foundation since May 2022, has been a driving force in connecting donors with the hospital's programs, facilities, and services. Under her leadership, the Foundation has secured significant donations that have supported patient care initiatives, medical equipment, and community health outreach efforts.

In her expanded role, Hales will continue to oversee all philanthropic activities for TidalHealth, including major gifts, planned giving, donor stewardship, and fundraising campaigns. A key focus will be ensuring that donors understand the direct impact their contributions make on the health and well-being of individuals and families within the TidalHealth service area.

She will continue to build and deepen relationships with both new and long-standing supporters, guiding them to areas where their gifts can make the most meaningful difference.



Jessica Hales has recently been promoted to vice president, chief philanthropy officer and president of the TidalHealth Foundation. PROVIDED

"Philanthropy is about more than just giving — it's about connecting donors to our mission and showing them how their contributions play a critical role in advancing health care

on the Delmarva Peninsula," Hales said. "Through this partnership with our donors, we can help ensure that TidalHealth continues to deliver excellent care while also enhancing the patient experience, expanding services like our Graduate Medical Education program, and advancing medical innovation."

TidalHealth is committed to meeting the evolving healthcare needs of the community and relies on the generosity of donors to help fund vital programs, cutting-edge medical research, and facilities improvements. The continued growth of the TidalHealth Foundation under Hales' leadership, including an expanded presence with the anticipated spring partnership with Atlantic General Hospital, will further solidify TidalHealth's role as a leading healthcare provider in the region.

For more information about how you can support TidalHealth or learn more about the TidalHealth Foundation, please visit [tidalhealth.org/](https://tidalhealth.org/) ways to give.

# Lewis is TidalHealth's Sunshine Awardee for December

TidalHealth

SALISBURY — TidalHealth Peninsula Regional is pleased to announce that Ivy Lewis, Certified Nursing Assistant of patient care area 3 West, has been selected as its Sunshine Award recipient for December 2024.

Lewis was recognized for her professionalism, kindness, and compassion by both a patient's family member and a fellow coworker on the unit. In nominating her, the wife of a

patient said:

"Ivy is a sweetheart. Very nice, always has a smile on her face and was joking with my husband, which he loved, making him feel at ease. She was always checking to see if he needed anything and how was he doing. When he did need something, she responded immediately. We enjoyed having her as his CNA."

From a Registered Nurse on her unit:

"Ivy is such a compassionate CNA who truly cares about her patients.

For example, recently she was taking care of a deaf patient who unfortunately was in the hospital on his birthday. Ivy logged onto the internet and watched videos of how to sign Happy Birthday. She went in the room and signed it to the patient. The patient's face lit up with the biggest smile. We need more Ivys."

Lewis was honored in a ceremony before her coworkers and presented with fresh flowers, a pin and a certificate recognizing her exceptional devotion to team and patient care.



Ivy Lewis, CNA, is TidalHealth Peninsula Regional's Sunshine Awardee for December 2024. PROVIDED



## MARYLAND

# High path avian influenza identified in wildlife

Salisbury Independent

ANNAPOLIS — The Maryland Department of Agriculture is urging all poultry farmers to remain vigilant and practice enhanced biosecurity on their farms after U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed findings of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in snow geese in Dorchester and Worcester counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

These wild bird detections come in the midst of HPAI cases in two commercial poultry operations in Kent County, Delaware.

"The detections in our region should be very concerning to com-

mercial and backyard flock owners," said Secretary Kevin Atticks. "MDA is monitoring the situation very closely and will continue to provide updates as they become available."

Migratory waterfowl moving through Maryland presents a heightened risk for HPAI, a devastating disease for poultry operations.

HPAI is caused by an influenza type A virus, which can infect poultry (chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quails, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds.

Commercial and backyard flock owners are urged to follow these guidelines to maintain a sanitary, biosecure premise:

- Restrict access to poultry by posting "Restricted Access" signage, securing the area with a gate, or both.

- Take steps to ensure that contaminated materials on the ground are not transported into the poultry growing house or area.

- Provide the following items to anyone entering or leaving any area where poultry are kept:

1. Footbaths and foot mats with disinfectant;

2. Boot washing and disinfectant station;

3. Footwear change or foot covers.

- Cover and secure feed to prevent wild birds, rodents or other animals from accessing it.

- Cover and properly contain

carcasses, used litter, or other disease-containing organic materials to prevent wild birds, rodents or other animals from accessing them and to keep them from being blown around by wind.

- Allow MDA to enter the premises during normal working hours to inspect your biosecurity and sanitation practices.

Report any unusual bird deaths or sudden increases in very sick birds to the MDA Animal Health Program at 410-841-5810 or after-hours to 410-841-5971. Also contact the USDA at 866-536-7593.

For more information on avian influenza, visit the department's website.

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### SOMERSET COUNTY, MD REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REHABILITATION OF EWELL RECREATION CENTER NEW HVAC SYSTEM

The Somerset County (MD) Commissioners are seeking proposals from qualified firms for the replacement of the Ewell Recreation and Community Center HVAC System. The center is located at:

1. 3990 Smith Island Road, Ewell Maryland 21824

Sealed bids from qualified firms will be accepted by the Somerset County Commissioners, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, Princess Anne, MD 21853, until **4pm on Friday, February 7, 2025**, after which they will be opened and read aloud at the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

Request for Proposal documents may be obtained in-person or by mail, from the Department of Technical & Community Services, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 211, Princess Anne, MD 21853, or by calling (410) 651-1424. The documents are also available on the County's Website at [www.somersetmd.us](http://www.somersetmd.us) on the "Bids/Proposals" page. Please note that an **Optional Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Friday, January 24th, 2025 at 10 a.m.** in the DTCS Conference Room in Room 211 at the Somerset County Office Complex 11916 Somerset Ave, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853.

Funding for this activity is made available through the federally-funded Community Development Block Grant Program. Somerset County is an equal opportunity employer, and strongly encourages submissions by minority and women business enterprises and Section 3 businesses.

For more information, please contact the Somerset County Department of Technical & Community Services at 410-651-1424 or email [jdrewer@somersetmd.us](mailto:jdrewer@somersetmd.us)

## HEALTH

# TidalHealth partners with Glytec to improve hospital-based clinical outcomes and insulin management

Salisbury Independent

**SALISBURY** — TidalHealth has announced a new strategic collaboration with Glytec, the pioneer in diabetes and insulin management technology. This partnership will advance diabetes and glycemic management for patients, improving safety, outcomes, and overall cost and quality of care across TidalHealth.

TidalHealth, through its Information Technology team and physician leadership, has spent a significant amount of time speaking with and evaluating potential partners, recognizing the need for a robust solution that would seamlessly integrate with its existing EMR system and improve clinical outcomes for their patients.

Glytec's cloud-based solution was selected for its ability to seamlessly work within TidalHealth's existing Epic electronic medical record (EMR), and for its proven ability to optimize insulin therapy, reduce variability and risk, and improve glycemic control and clinical outcomes for patients.



TidalHealth Peninsula Regional is at 100 E Carroll St. in Salisbury. SALISBURY INDEPENDENT/RICHARD CAINES

"We are excited to partner with Glytec to enhance our ability to deliver high-quality care to our patients," said Angela Brittingham, DNP, MS, RN, TidalHealth's Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Executive. "We have a robust Diabetes Management team, and the integration of Glytec's insulin management system with our EMR will streamline workflows for our inpatient clinical teams and result in improvements across the continuum of care

and among our outpatient community."

TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury and TidalHealth Nanticoke in Seaford, Del., serve as the focal points for healthcare in the region, and improving insulin management, with a direct focus on treatment plans that are customized to each patient, is a critical step in enhancing the overall quality of care they provide.

With Glytec's advanced analytics and automation tools, TidalHealth

will be able to address the challenges associated with glycemic control, reduce the risk of complications related to diabetes and insulin therapy, and improve patient outcomes by specifically tailoring each plan using data-driven best practices.

"We are thrilled to partner with TidalHealth to bring the power of insulin management to their providers and patients," said Pat Cua, CEO of Glytec. "Our collaboration will help TidalHealth deliver superior care while optimizing workflow efficiency and cost."

The partnership will begin with the deployment of Glucommander, with a focus on integrating the solution within the EMR system to ensure a seamless experience for healthcare providers and clinicians.

Over time, this collaboration is expected to expand as TidalHealth seeks to improve the management of additional chronic conditions and elevate patient care across the entire health system.

## THINGS TO DO

## Tickets on sale for spaghetti dinner benefiting MAC programs

MAC Incorporated

**SALISBURY** — Do you love spaghetti?

Meuse VFW Post 194 will hold a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Jan. 25, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the post, located at 821 East William Street in Salisbury.

Proceeds will benefit MAC programs for local seniors.

The cost is \$12 for spaghetti with

homemade meat sauce, garlic bread, mega salad bar, dessert, and one non-alcoholic beverage.

The meal will be available to eat in or carry out. Those ordering five or more carryout meals are asked to call MAC to schedule pick-up times.

Tickets are available on the MAC website at [www.macinc.org](http://www.macinc.org), or by stopping by MAC at 909 Progress Circle in Salisbury.



MAC Inc., Area Agency on Aging recently had a minor mystery on its hands as a snowman showed up on its grounds. COURTESY PHOTO

Ticket sales are limited.

For more information, call MAC at

410-742-0505.

MAC is a member agency of the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore.

MAC Incorporated, the Area Agency on Aging, is a private, non-profit organization, that provides seniors in Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset and Dorchester counties with services that promote dignity, health and independence.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

# Scholarships available for students pursuing chicken careers

Special to the Salisbury Independent

**MARYLAND** — The Delmarva Chicken Association has opened the application period for its 2025 College Scholarship Program.

Applications are being accepted for undergraduate scholarships of \$2,000 and graduate-degree scholarships of \$3,000. Complete applications for these scholarships must be received by DCA no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 28.

DCA's annual College Scholarship Golf Tournament supports these scholarship awards; this year's tournament raised more than \$19,000 for the scholarship fund. Since 1985, DCA has awarded more than \$222,000 to undergraduate and graduate students.

"It's an exciting time to be preparing for a career in the chicken community," said Holly Porter, DCA's executive director. "More than 18,000 jobs on Delmarva are directly tied to our chicken companies, and thousands more careers are supported by the chicken economy. We're excited to be able to help students start journeys toward their chicken careers each year through these scholarships."

The applicant must be a student in good standing at an accredited, de-

gree-granting institution within the United States, or in the case of graduating high school seniors, accepted to an accredited, degree-granting institution within the United States.

A complete transcript must accompany the application, and in the case of high school seniors, proof of college acceptance is required. Applicants must secure a letter of reference from an academic advisor or faculty member. The letter may be included with the application, or the faculty member may email it to the DCA office ([dca@dcachicken.com](mailto:dca@dcachicken.com)) to arrive by the application deadline. Letters must be on school letterhead and must include the signature of the referring faculty member.

DCA membership on the part of the applicant or his/her family is not required and has no effect on the selection process. Scholarship payments are made to the financial aid office at the recipient's school.

### Undergraduate Scholarship

Undergraduate scholarships of \$2,000 are available to residents of the Delmarva Peninsula who are undergraduate students at any accredited, degree-granting institution, with an academic major in a subject relevant to Delmarva's chicken commu-

nity and who are pursuing a career path leading to employment in any segment of Delmarva's chicken community. The program also is open to high school seniors on the Delmarva Peninsula who have been accepted at any accredited, degree-granting institution and who are pursuing a career path leading to employment in any segment of Delmarva's chicken community. Applicants may be pursuing associate's degrees, technical studies degrees or bachelor's degrees. Previous recipients, if still eligible, may reapply.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of DCA representatives using the following 100-point rubric: Scholastic Record (20 points), Answers to Questions (40 points), School/Community Activities &

Awards (20 points), Financial Need (5 points), Faculty Reference (15 points).

### Emerson Morgan Graduate Scholarship

Graduate level scholarships of \$3,000 will be available to graduate students at United States universities who are engaged in research that directly benefits Delmarva's chicken community. Previous recipients, if still eligible, may reapply.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of DCA representatives using the following 100-point rubric: Scholastic Record (10 points), Answers to Questions (30 points), Activities & Awards (10 points), Research Benefits to Delmarva (40 points), Faculty Reference (10 points).

## OBITUARIES

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## This Week's Crossword Answers



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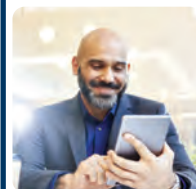
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## Miscellaneous

### WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON:

Tuesday, February 4, 2025  
Commencing at 6:00 P.M.

in the Council Chambers of the Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland, in conformity with Section 311(d) of the Charter of Wicomico County, on the following Bill, which was introduced for consideration at a Legislative Session of said County for the year 2025. The following Bill may be called for final reading and consideration commencing immediately after the aforesaid public hearing.

**Legislative Bill No. 2025-01:** AN ACT to amend Chapter 225 of the Wicomico County Code, titled "Zoning" Part 3, titled "Basic Definitions and Interpretations," Article VI, titled "Terms Defined," Section §225-25 titled "Definitions of Basic Terms"; and Part 6, titled "Accessory and Principal Uses," Article XVIII, titled "Principal Uses," Section 225-67, titled "Table of Permitted Uses-Designations" and Part 8, titled "Special Standards for Particular Uses," Article XX, titled "Uses and Standards Enumerated," Section §225-99 titled "Kennels, Commercial" to amend the zoning requirements for the operation of a kennel.

If the foregoing Bill No. 2025-01 is enacted, it will take effect sixty (60) days from the date it becomes law, subject to the referendum provisions of the Charter of Wicomico County, Maryland.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY

BY: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

## Miscellaneous

### WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON:  
January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

in the Council Chambers of the Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland, in conformity with Section 311(d) of the Charter of Wicomico County, on the following Bill, which was presented for consideration at a Legislative Session of said County for the year 2024. The County Executive approved Legislative Bill No. 2024-13 on January 13, 2025.

**Legislative Bill No. 2024-13-** An Emergency Act To Amend Chapter 225 Of The Wicomico County Code titled "Zoning," Part 6 titled "Accessory and Principal Uses," Article XVIII titled "Principal Uses," Section 225-67 titled "Table of Permitted Uses-Designations," and Part 7 titled "Density And Dimensional Regulations," Article XIX titled "Density And Dimensional Regulations Enumerated," Section 225-70 titled "Setback Requirements," and Part 8 titled "Special Standards For Particular Uses," Article XX titled "Uses And Standards For Particular Uses" to Establish Section §225-103.1 titled "Medical Clinic" To Regulate Outpatient Medical and Dental Care Facilities With three or more Physicians In Wicomico County.

Bill Number No. 2024-13 was adopted by the County Council for Wicomico County, Maryland in Legislative Session and will take effect immediately, subject to the referendum provisions of the Charter of Wicomico County, Maryland.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY  
IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BY: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

## Miscellaneous

### WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON: December 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

in the Council Chambers of the Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland, in conformity with Section 311(d) of the Charter of Wicomico County, on the following Bill, which was presented for consideration at a Legislative Session of said County for the year 2024.

**Legislative Bill No. 2024-12:** AN ACT to add Chapter 99 of the Wicomico County Code, titled "Vehicles, County" to establish procedures for the use and operation of county-owned or leased vehicles.

Bill Number No. 2024-12 was adopted by the County Council for Wicomico County, Maryland in Legislative Session and will take effect 60 days from the date it became law, subject to the referendum provisions of the Charter of Wicomico County, Maryland.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY  
IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
BY: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

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## Public Notice

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### ASSIGNEES' SALE

**UNIMPROVED LOTS W/S WETIPQUIN CREEK**  
4781 HATCROWN POINT DRIVE, TYASKIN, MD 21865

Pursuant to power of sale contained in a Mortgage filed for foreclosure in Case No. C-22-CV-24-000522 in the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, Maryland, the undersigned Assignees will offer the following described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction to be held at the front steps of the Wicomico County Circuit Courthouse, North Division Street Entrance, 101 North Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland, on

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025, at the HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.**

ALL those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in the Tyaskin Election District of Wicomico County and State of Maryland, and located northerly of, but not binding upon Tyaskin Wharf Road and on the westerly side of and binding upon Wetipquin Creek and more particularly described as follows: Being all of Parcels 65 and 20 as more particularly set forth and designated on a plat entitled "Resubdivision for Charles J. Cipolla, II", prepared by Parker & Associates, Inc., dated March 26, 2007 and recorded among the Land Records of Wicomico County, Maryland in Plat Cabinet M.S.B. No. 15, Folio 887.

AND BEING the same land conveyed to James G. Insley and Linda G. Insley, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, by Deed from Charles J. Cipolla, II and Kimmarie Cipolla, dated November 13, 2018, and recorded among the Land Records of Wicomico County, Maryland in Book No. 4404, Page 242.

Tax Account Number: 03-011836 [Tax Map 43, Parcel 65]  
Tax Account Number: 03-008533 [Tax Map 43, Parcel 20]

**TERMS OF SALE:** The property will be sold as a single unit to the highest bidder at public auction. The purchaser will be required to tender on account of the bid price at the time and place of sale cash, certified funds, or check acceptable to the undersigned, in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00). If the party secured by the Mortgage is the successful bidder, no deposit will be required, and the cash deposit or price shall be credited against the obligation. The deferred portion of the bid price shall be evidenced by the Promissory Note of the Buyer, bearing no interest provided settlement is made and the full price tendered on or before fifteen days after the date of ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, Maryland; otherwise the deferred portion of the bid price shall bear interest from the date of sale at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum. Neither the Assignees nor the auctioneer make any representation or warranty concerning the property, the same being sold "as is"; and, if for any reason the Assignees are unable to deliver good and marketable title to the real estate, subject only to easements, rights of way and use restrictions of record, the sole and exclusive remedy of the Buyer shall be a refund of the deposit money. The property is sold subject to the right of the Internal Revenue Service to exercise its right of redemption by virtue of a subordinate federal tax lien. Neither the Assignees, auctioneer or note holder are aware of any violation of any federal, state or municipal environmental law or regulation; however, in the event any such violations exist, they are not responsible for same. All settlement costs, including, but not limited to, document preparation, recordation and transfer taxes, including agricultural transfer tax, if any, recording costs, and title examination, if any, shall be the obligation of the Buyer. State, County, and municipal property taxes and assessments, shall be adjusted as of the date of sale. Buyer shall be entitled to possession upon final settlement and payment of the purchase price in full, which shall occur not later than fifteen days after final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, Maryland, in Case No. C-22-CV-24-000522, time being of the essence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact the undersigned Assignees or Auctioneer.

John B. Robins, IV  
Christopher S. Robins  
Assignees  
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## Notice to Creditors

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### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS ESTATE NO.: 27875

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE  
ESTATE OF **EDITH NAOMI NUTTER**

Notice is given that Jerry Johnson Jr., 2611 Spring Ln., Nanticoke, MD 21840 was on January 3, 2025 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Edith Naomi Nutter who died on October 11, 2024 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 3rd day of July, 2025.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present their claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Jerry Johnson Jr.  
Personal Representative

True Test Copy  
Register of Wills for  
Wicomico County  
Karen A. Lemon  
PO Box 787  
Salisbury, MD 21803-0787

14989 SI 1/21,28,2/4 CT 1/22,29,2/5/2025



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## Notice to Creditors

### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS ESTATE NO.: 27864

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE  
ESTATE OF **VIRGINIA ANN VAN WAGNER**

Notice is given that Keith David Van Wagner, 8827 Greenbrook Way, Santee, CA 92071-2007 was on December 26, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Virginia Ann Van Wagner who died on December 2, 2024 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of June, 2025.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present their claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Keith David Van Wagner  
Personal Representative

True Test Copy  
Register of Wills for  
Wicomico County  
Karen A. Lemon  
PO Box 787  
Salisbury, MD 21803-0787

14198 SI 1/7,14,21 CT 1/8,15,22/2025

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understand the world around you.**

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## Notice to Creditors

**David A. Hall**  
King Hall, LLC  
5300 Dorsey Hall Dr., Ste. 107  
Ellicott City, MD 21042-7819

### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS ESTATE NO.: 26427

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE  
ESTATE OF **ROBERT DWAYNE BREM**

Notice is given that Marissa Brem, 3874 Wilcoxson Dr., Fairfax, VA 22031-3709 was on December 26, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Robert Dwayne Brem who died on September 21, 2022 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of June, 2025.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present their claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Marissa Brem  
Personal Representative

True Test Copy  
Register of Wills for  
Wicomico County  
Karen A. Lemon  
PO Box 787  
Salisbury, MD 21803-0787

14197 SI 1/14,21,28; CT 1/15,22,29/2025

## Notice to Creditors

**Richard Duvall, Esquire**  
Richard M. Duvall, LLC  
112 W Main St.  
Salisbury, MD 21804-4905

### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS ESTATE NO.: 27878

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE  
ESTATE OF **TIFFANY RENEE CAMPBELL**

Notice is given that Kayla Maron, 100 Lakewood Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804-7281 was on January 8, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Tiffany Renee Campbell who died on October 31, 2024 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 6th day of July, 2025.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present their claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Kayla Maron  
Personal Representative

True Test Copy  
Register of Wills for  
Wicomico County  
Karen A. Lemon  
PO Box 787  
Salisbury, MD 21803-0787

14985 SI 1/21,28,2/4 CT 1/22,29,2/5/2025

## HEALTH

# Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates to transition to new medical record system

Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates

**SALISBURY** — Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates, a provider of orthopaedic services on the Delmarva Peninsula, has announced the transition of its current Electronic Medical Record (EMR) of nearly 15 years (Exscribe), to the Epic EMR system on April 1.

As one of TidalHealth's Epic medical record technology Community Connect Partners, Epic allows health systems to extend electronic medical record technology to private practices in their region. Epic has been recognized as the #1 EMR system by KLAS for the last 14 years. This technological upgrade will improve the patient care continuum, streamline operations, and enhance the overall patient experience via a "one chart" for all patients within the Epic EMR platform within our region and beyond.

Epic is a leading provider of EMR systems, known for its user-friendly interface, robust features, and advanced capabilities in managing patient data, scheduling, billing, and clinical documentation.

The transition to Epic will enable POA to provide seamless and efficient care, with instant access to comprehensive patient records and clinical information from providers within TidalHealth.

"We are excited to take this important step in enhancing the care we provide to our patients," said Kemuel Carey, CEO of POA "Epic will help us improve patient safety, optimize

clinical workflows, and ensure that every patient's journey is tracked and managed with the highest level of precision and care."

The transition to Epic will also include specialized training for staff to ensure a smooth and efficient switch. Over the next few months, POA will work closely with TidalHealth and Epic's team of experts to integrate the system into daily operations, and the rollout will be phased to minimize disruptions.

Some of the key benefits of the Epic system include:

- **Comprehensive patient records:** A single, unified system that integrates clinical, administrative, and billing data for a complete view of patient health.

- **Improved communication:** Enhanced communication between healthcare providers, improving care coordination and reducing errors.

- **Patient engagement tools:** New tools for patients to access their health records, schedule appointments, and communicate with their care teams online.

- **Enhanced data security:** Epic offers robust security measures to protect patient privacy and comply with healthcare regulations.

As part of the implementation, POA will continue to work closely with patients to ensure their experience with the new system is as smooth as possible.

POA is committed to making this transition as seamless as possible, with minimal disruptions to patient care.





# SOMERSET COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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