



# Government Affairs Newsletter

September 30th

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## COMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 8TH

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter. The biggest issue on the horizon remains the R-1 Rental Public Hearing which has not yet been scheduled. All signs point to Oct. 22nd as the date for this hearing.

I'm attending an event hosted by Senator MaryBeth Carroza this Sunday. Please send me any particular issues you would like me to mention to her; septic is already on my radar. Again, we're looking to schedule a meeting between her and our Government Affairs Committee in either November or December.

Additionally, I would like to confirm a meeting with the Mayor of Delmar, MD during the next committee meeting in November. He chairs the Lower Eastern Shore Mayor's Association.

Click here to access the [CAR Calendar](#). I'll be posting important dates related to government affairs here for everyone to more easily monitor.

As always, feedback is appreciated - without good feedback from last week, we'd all be staring at giant county seals in this newsletter again.

Thank you.

**Hunter Isaac**

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## OCEAN CITY

**Candidate Interviews: Oct. 8th at 2PM**

**Election Day: Nov. 5th**

Mayoral:

- a. Rick Meehan, 2:15PM.
- b. Peter Buas, 2:35PM.

Ocean City Town Council:

- a. Councilman John Gehrig, 3PM.
- b. Councilman Anthony DeLuca, 3:15PM.
- c. Leslie Smith, 3:30PM.
- d. Larry Yates, 3:45PM.
- e. Jake Mitrecic, 4:00PM.

We'll start our meeting at 2PM on the 8th, The bulk of this meeting will be dedicated to candidate questions and answers.

I thought we should lead things off with the two Mayoral candidates. Then we'll have the two incumbent town council members followed by newcomers. I'm attaching the candidate questionnaire responses to this newsletter in a separate document.

The final filing date has not yet passed.



# Worcester County

## ***OCEAN CITY***

### **Little Salisbury Sports Court Project - 400 94th Street**

Plans created by this project's engineers were shown to the Town Council.



# Worcester County

## SNOW HILL

### Real Estate Ordinance Proposals

Ordinance 2024 – 03.

This amends Chapter 134, Entitled Property Management, Article II, Entitled Vacant and Blighted Buildings.

This amendment enables Snow Hill to better monitor registered vacant buildings.

This ordinance amends the title of the article to “Vacant Non-Residential and Mixed Occupancy Building Registration” and largely changes definitions already in the town code to better fit these changes. There is a requirement to register buildings which fit the description of “Vacant Non-Residential and Mixed Occupancy Building”, starting at \$500 in year one and plateauing at \$4,000 at year four and subsequent years. Unregistered buildings can accumulate a daily fine of at least \$100 but no more than \$500.

This change more broadly applies these penalties and registration fees to unused and unsightly commercial buildings and lots.



# Worcester County

## SNOW HILL

### Real Estate Ordinance Proposals

Ordinance 2024 – 12.

An Ordinance of the Town of Snow Hill Amending Chapter 137, Entitled Rental Property.

Snow Hill is proposing a property rental permit and inspection program to begin next fiscal year (July 1, 2025).

Properties cannot be rented without a valid rental permit, landlord registration, and passed rental inspection. A “resident agent” must also be appointed to a property to serve as the 24/7 point of contact for tenants. This can be anyone (landlord, rental agent, etc.).

Costs associated with this Ordinance 2024 – 12:

Rental Permit: \$125 annually to be renewed on or before June 30th of each fiscal year.

Failure to register as a landlord or agent: \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for each subsequent offense.

Allowing occupancy without a valid permit: \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for each subsequent offense.

Inspection fee: Has not been proposed yet.



# Worcester County

## SNOW HILL

### Real Estate Ordinance Proposals

Ordinance 2024 – 15.

An Ordinance to amend Chapter 170, Entitled Taxation, Creating Article II, Entitled Real Property – Classes of Property for Tax Rates and Article III, Entitled Vacant Property Taxation of the Code of the Town of Snow Hill, Maryland.

This ordinance allows for there to be a new tax rate, as created by the Town of Snow Hill, for vacant property. This largely applies to dilapidated commercial properties and no tax rate has been proposed or approved. This is just for the creation of a new tax rate for qualified properties.



# Worcester County

## **BERLIN**

### **Election Results**

Elections for the Office of the Mayor of Berlin and two Town Council seats were held on Oct. 1st.

Mayor Zach Tyndall was reelected unopposed and the two council seats were won by their incumbents.

I will be drafting and sending a congratulatory letter to the mayor which I will share with you all for approval.



# Wicomico County

## **SALISBURY**

### **HORIZON Tax Credit**

The property (The Ross building in downtown Salisbury) had 90 days to submit application, they submitted in 9 months. There exists statute which would allow for the late application to be approved, that was the topic for discussion and not whether or not the property is entitled to the tax credits as they had met all other requirements. With a vote for three in favor, three against, and one abstaining, the resolution does not pass. The council can amend the HORIZON program to allow the property to have the credit, yet they did not and instead voted to sunset the program.





# Wicomico County

## **BALLOT MEASURE**

### **"Question A"**

"Question A" in Wicomico County asks voters to vote on the removal of the Office of the County Executive.

As we approach November 5th, the measure has appeared more and more in print and during municipal meetings.

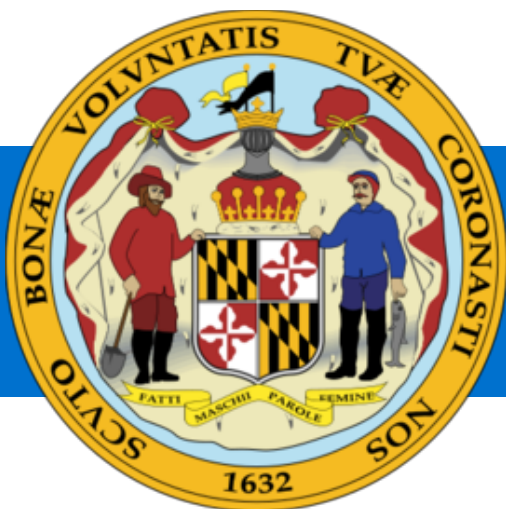
This measure does not expel the current County Executive, rather eliminates the office all together at the conclusion of the current County Executive's term.



# Somerset County

## ***SOMERSET COUNTY UPDATE***

A hearing was held regarding the approval of Commercial Cannabis Zoning changes. It looks like the county is moving to approve an expansion of cannabis related business.



# Homeowner's Insurance

## MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

October 23

This is a reminder about the Maryland Insurance Administration's virtual hearing this month.

Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is hosting a virtual informational hearing on October 23rd regarding the decreased availability of insurance for homes in the lower Eastern Shore.

[Please click here to access MIA's invitation to this hearing.](#)

There will be opportunity for written and verbal public comment at this hearing. MIA asks that you submit a request for comment to [listening.sessions@maryland.gov](mailto:listening.sessions@maryland.gov). This will ensure you have time to speak during the zoom meeting. MIA is also accepting written testimony through November 6th using the same email address.