



# Government Affairs Newsletter

Oct. 21-25

Local • Accurate • Trusted

## LOWER EASTERN SHORE ACTIVITY

Good Afternoon Everyone,

A couple of items I'd like to lead off with. Firstly, the Mayor of Delmar will be joined by Mike Dunn of the Greater Salisbury Committee and Amanda Pollack of the Center for Watershed Protection to discuss septic at our next meeting.

Also, I've heard that a state-level bill addressing septic inspection may be coming to Annapolis. MR is meeting with MDE and I've been asked to answer the following:

1. Inspection and permitting timeframes - are you still seeing significant delays?
2. What are those delays a result of?
3. If you have seen reduced timeframes for septic inspection turnaround, is this due to staffing changes or decreases in home sales?

I feel confident in answering these but in my opinion, the issues we're facing cannot be solved by inspection legislation alone. I'd like to hear more examples you've experienced while working; houses becoming devalued from holding tanks, absurd replacement costs, etc. My goal is to show that our septic issues go beyond a lack of streamlined inspection process.

Also I'm hoping we have some people on this committee interested in becoming an RPAC Trustee. Let me know if you'd like to learn more. There's a few openings this year and those selected serve for three years.

**Hunter Isaac**

Email: [Advocacy@coastalrealtors.org](mailto:Advocacy@coastalrealtors.org)

Phone: (410) 999-4302



**ADVOCACY**

[advocacy@coastalrealtors.org](mailto:advocacy@coastalrealtors.org)



LOCAL  
ACCURATE  
TRUSTED



# Worcester County

## OCEAN CITY

### R-1 & MH

R-1 and MH has a new timeline. Now, the public hearing which we will participate in is on November 19th. We have plenty of time to really perfect our position and I'll have more info from the bill drafters shortly.

I spoke with the OC Planning and Community Development Director and we're looking to set up a meeting. Please let me know your thoughts, questions, and concerns you want addressed then.

We have a chance at input on this ordinance so I plan on taking full advantage of that opportunity.

If you haven't seen, [click here](#) to view the information available to the public on this proposal.

Towards the bottom of the page is the actual bill text. I've read it over several times now and am looking for feedback, particularly on the "enforcement" section.



# Wicomico County

## SALISBURY

### Perdue Lawsuit

On Thursday the 24th, the law offices of Baird, Mandalas, Brocksted, and Federico hosted a town hall regarding the ongoing class-action suit against Perdue Agribusiness.

This is the same firm that helped the citizens of Millsboro, DE receive \$215 million from Mountaire. They're engaged in several environmental suits across the United States.

Key takeaways are as follows:

- The flow of contaminated water moves from east to west.
- Perdue Agribusiness creates nearly 1 million gallons of wastewater a day and 80% of that water flows into Peggy's Branch Creek.
- Environmental investigations into Perdue's PFAS has been ongoing since 2023.
- The extent of the contamination is not known at this time. Perdue has contacted over 500 homes.
- There is fear that contaminated wastewater has entered the Park Well Field, which supplies the City of Salisbury with water.
- Property values will be affected. The firm has real estate diminution experts. Homeowners received compensation from Mountaire in DE, but until testing is complete and the extent of the contamination is known, much of this event's impact on property values cannot be quantified. What is known is that property values will decrease.
- If Perdue comes, don't sign a release.
- Test your drinking water.

[Click here to find more information about the suit.](#)



# Somerset County

## *SOMERSET COUNTY UPDATE*

I'm not seeing anything at the county or town levels.



# Homeowner's Insurance

## MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

October 23

I viewed the MIA's information gathering session on the 23rd. We had Del. Wayne Hartman, Mayor Meehan, and the Ocean City Manager Terry McGean present to represent Ocean City. Something that McGean said that really stood out to me is that Ocean City residents are insured for \$7 billion, and only \$10 million has been paid out for flood insurance since 1971.

The argument for the lack of policies for mobile homes is that because climate change will only get worse, and looking at the devastation in Florida and the Carolinas, it is too risky to insure the mobile home residents of Ocean City.

The representative of the MIA stated this meeting was the first step in fixing this problem, that the lack of insurance issue will grow, to other areas and other building types, and that other jurisdictions have required improvements to MH in order to be insured (e.x. fixing a MH to a foundation or roof braces).

I'll be keeping an eye on this, local leaders have expressed that this issue may have to be resolved in Annapolis.

MIA is accepting written testimony through November 6th using the same email address. You can view the hearing by [clicking here](#).