



Government Affairs Newsletter

November 15th

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LOWER EASTERN SHORE ACTIVITY

I'll first recap our meeting from Tuesday with Mayor Jorden, Mike Dunn, and Amanda Pollack. My goal of that meeting was to better understand other stakeholder's positions and efforts regarding septic here in the Lower Eastern Shore.

Because Mayor Jorden Chairs the Lower Eastern Shore Mayors Association, I wanted to have him understand where our thoughts are with septic. Knowing that his group goes to Annapolis and lobbies for our area I believe is extremely valuable. As they were leaving, I made sure to emphasize that we're here to assist in any way and will be a part of the "unified front" going forward.

The presentation which was shown on Tuesday was very helpful to me and I'll be sharing it with you all.

Please let me know if I have missed anything, what you are hearing, and any feedback you would like to share.

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Elections

R-1

Tuesday at 6PM in the Ocean City Town Hall will be the public hearing for the R-1 and MH ordinance. The public comment portion of this meeting was said to start at 7PM, but I am arriving at 6PM because there is expected to be a crowd. Written comments can be sent to gbendler@oceancitymd.gov. Attached is the agenda for this meeting which includes the staff explanations and recommendations. Following this public hearing, the Commission will make a recommendation to the Town Council and Mayor. From there, it will be worked on, go through second and third readings, and ultimately be voted on.

Also is the statement which I will read, giving our position. Please provide feedback to me and let me know if there are any points which I have forgotten to include.

Here is a link to the Planning and Community Development website:

<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/planning-community-development/proposed-rental-revisions/>

Here is the draft of the ordinance that will be presented on Nov. 19th.:

https://granicus_production_attachments.s3.amazonaws.com/oceancitymd/2045a41d30d384a4acc63625fec1109b0.pdf

The hearing will be at Ocean City Town Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842, in the chamber room.



Wicomico County

COUNTY UPDATE

HORIZON Tax:

A public hearing was held before the county council last week. On December 3rd, the council will form a decision on whether to sunset or keep this tax credit program.

Salisbury Planning and Zoning:

This Thursday, at 1:30PM in room 301 of the Government Office Building, the P&Z Board will have a public hearing addressing downtown density. The subject that day is density: the city is considering increasing the density from 40 to 80 units.

The Agenda can be found here:

<https://www.wicomicocounty.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/11212024-1311>

The Briefing Book can be found here:

<https://www.wicomicocounty.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/11212024-1312>

Comprehensive Plan:

The October, 2024 draft of the Salisbury comp. I will be sending a condensed version of this to you all. Expect a public version to be available in mid-December. Plan can be found here: [https://www.meadhunt.com/client/CityofSalisbury/2024-10-07-SBY-CompPlan-Draft.pdf?](https://www.meadhunt.com/client/CityofSalisbury/2024-10-07-SBY-CompPlan-Draft.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawGjJUNleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHWIu_9KbKp6dVGyXG495PB9dhiOpB-yysfcQbrPvLtAKqCEzwNGNQ5a94Q_aem_rrNqiaixIgxNZv5WSwseyg)

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Wicomico County

COUNTY UPDATE

Update with Perdue PFAS:

The affected area of contaminated water from Perdue has grown in the last several weeks. The ground water flow moves south west and properties that are closer to Salisbury are increasingly more likely to have PFAS in their water. As of this update, the leaking has not been confirmed to have entered the city's ground water supply.

Perdue has distributed water bottles to homes in the contamination boundaries.

An interactive map from Perdue can be found here:

<https://corporate.perduefarms.com/water-testing-resources/>



Somerset County

SOMERSET COUNTY UPDATE

I'm not seeing news in Somerset.



Other News

BAY BRIDGE

Maryland Transportation Authority is having two public hearings, one in Anne Arundel County at Broadneck High School on December 9th and the other at Kent Island High School in Queen Anne's on December 11th. There'll be a public hearing online on December 4th as well. I had seen different news articles on how the state will go about this, but it seems that the state has decided to build new spans, the tear down the old ones. The goal is to expand the lanes crossing the bay from five to upwards of ten and raise the height of the bridge to allow larger ships to navigate up the bay. It's currently slated to be built in "corridor 7" which is almost exactly where the existing bridge is.

This is very much a long-term plan, but it is something to keep an eye on as it could increase access to the lower eastern shore and a smoother flow of traffic can be desirable for vacation goers.

Written Comments can be submitted here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9897TPK>

Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://baycrossingstudy.com/>

A link to the study is here:

https://baycrossingstudy.com/images/public_meetings/2024-

[12/BCS Dec 2024 Open House Boards 40x30 rd40 WEB PQ.pdf](https://baycrossingstudy.com/images/public_meetings/2024-12/BCS Dec 2024 Open House Boards 40x30 rd40 WEB PQ.pdf)