



March 21, 2025

We are looking at quite a few budgets to be proposed in the coming weeks. Wicomico County's budget presentation was this past Tuesday and there are a few different ideas being explored on how to pay the County's Department of Education. Breaking the County revenue cap and raising property taxes to pay for education are on the table.

Snow Hill is looking for a new Council member. The Mayor and Council has to select a Snow Hill resident of the Central District who is a qualified voter to serve out the rest of the vacant seat's term, which ends on June 10th.

If you're in Ocean City for the parade this year, expect to see a protest against the STR ban at the end of the parade route. To view more information on the referendum, visit this site:

<https://ocmdpropertyrights.org/>

Wicomico County's Habitat for Humanity proposed to the County Council a \$40,000 closing cost assistance incentive to first time buyers making under 120% the median income in the County. This is just a proposal but something to watch!

Crossover Day is Monday so Tuesday morning we'll see what is and is not moving. Our Legislators are meeting this weekend to vote on bill to send to the opposite chamber.

The Tax on Service bill was heard this past Wednesday and was met with strong opposition. Bill Chambers from the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce and Chip Bertino representing Worcester County and its chambers of commerce spoke in opposition for the lower shore's business community. Tangier Sound Music Festival is coming back to Crisfield! This signals efforts to improve visitation and tourism in the area.

I'll have a crossover synopsis for everyone mid-next week and will begin compiling budget information to review for our next committee meeting. Once we get a sense of how each municipality and county is doing financially, there may be opportunities for us to suggest ways to improve our areas markets!

In the fall of 2024, PFAS were detected in parts of Wicomico County and 550 homes near Zion Church Road, Zion Road, Parker Road, and Old Ocean City Road were identified as being potentially affected. The Maryland Department of the Environment has begun water testing, free of charge, in the potentially affected areas. Please [click here](#) to view Perdue Agribusiness's website which has updates on their water testing efforts and an updated map of the potentially affected area.

Hunter Isaac, Government Affairs Director

(O) 410-641-4409 (C) 410-999-4302

Advocacy@coastalrealtors.org

coastalrealtors.org

314 Franklin Ave., Suite 106, Berlin, MD 21811