



# The Courier

February 3, 2016 Volume 16 Number 23

## NORTH GATE ENTRANCE SPECIAL MEETING

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors will hold a special meeting on Friday, February 5 at 9 a.m. in the board room. Developer Palmer Gillis will advocate to the board his desire to have access to the North Gate medical complex via Ocean Parkway. The meeting is open to the public.

### Herrick motion fails

An effort to “investigate and provide information relative to the feasibility and value of employing a professional community management firm to provide executive management” to the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) was debated by the board during its January 28 meeting.



Tom Herrick



Cheryl Jacobs

The current employment agreement between OPA and General Manager Bob Thompson contains a renewal notification that requires that in April of this year the board and Thompson agree to provide in writing to each other their desire to extend as is or renew the existing contract for another three years; negotiate a new contract prior to the expiration of the current contract; or, not renew or negotiate the contract.

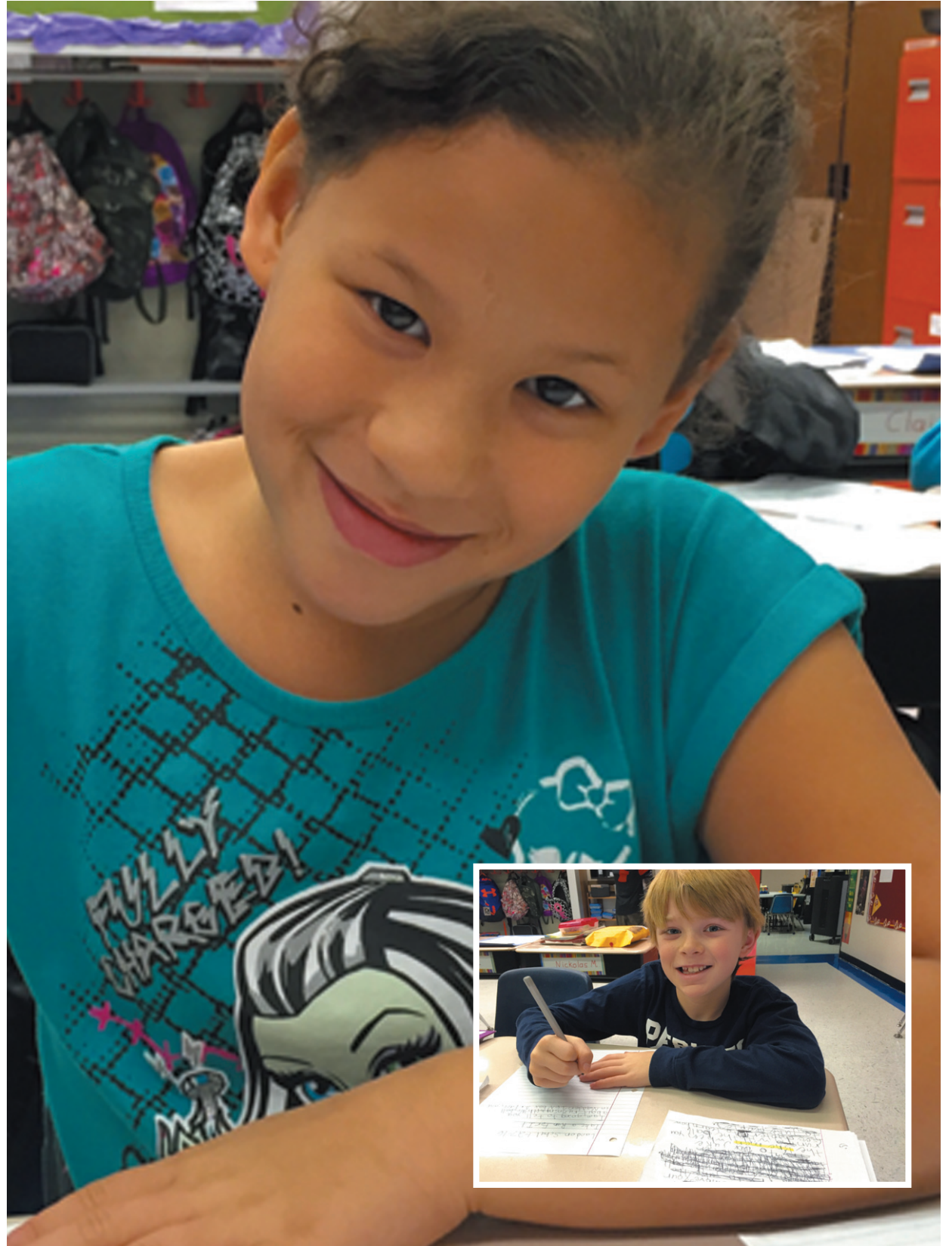
Board Member Tom Herrick, who brought the motion, believes it is an “extremely important decision the board must address in the near future.” He told his fellow board members that the board should act in “the best interest of our entire association.” To that end he said the board should review as much information as possible, ask questions and consider all alternatives relative to how to proceed with the general manager’s contract. Citing the bylaws of the association (section 5.14), Herrick said that should the general manager or the board decide to terminate the contract, the board should have options available to them.

Discussion on the motion drew sharp criticism from several of his board colleagues including Cheryl Jacobs who believed the discussion should have been conducted in closed session. Tom Terry felt the motion was a move to oust the general manager.

The motion failed on a three to four vote: Herrick, Jack Collins and Dave Stevens vote for it while Jacobs, Terry, Pat Renaud and Bill Cordwell voted against.

Thompson’s current compensation from OPA includes a base salary of \$165,000 plus bonus incentives that can increase his compensation to more than \$200,000.

-Chip Bertino



**Writing workshop** - *Landon Schul* (inset), a third grader in Michael Johnson’s class at Showell Elementary is writing an informational book to help readers with the Madden Football video game.

Mr. Johnson has taught his students that revision, editing, polishing and rewriting are the steps all great writers undertake. *Chaniah Bernier* uses these strategies in her third grade classroom.



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## Renaud speaks to Kiwanis

By David Landis, Sr.

Kiwanis had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Ocean Pines Board of Director President Pat Renaud, at their January 27 weekly meeting in the Ocean Pines Community Center.



Pat Renaud

Renaud, a 15 year resident of Ocean Pines with wife Jean, joined the Community Church upon moving to the Pines which is where he first met Kiwanian J. Graham Caldwell with whom the Renauds have been friends. The Renauds have a son Chris who is a motion picture director which enabled the Renauds to attend an Oscar presentation. Pat has served as a docent at the Ward Museum and still does wood carvings.

He spoke about projects within the Ocean Pines community such bridge repairs, the Country Club, the golf course and the Sports Core pool repairs to be undertaken this summer. During his presentation Renaud ac-

knowledged Kiwanian Steve Cohen, who heads the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

He fielded questions from the audience about the proposed food truck and the possible changes to the Community Center to include a workout facility in the Assateague Room, if and when the Administration Building and Police Department are relocated to a proposed new building near the post office on Rte. 589. Should that happen, Kiwanians expressed concerns about having a place to meet and a place to continue to hold fund raisers that require a kitchen facility. Renaud responded there are many proposals that will take some time to hash out and resolve with the interests of all of Ocean Pines as the focus. Many items proposed would require a community referendum.

## Ocean Pines to host youth dances

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is inviting area kids to dance, listen to music and hang out with their friends at two "Fantastic Friday" youth dances scheduled this winter.

The first dance, which is for third and fourth graders only, will be held on Friday, February 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. A second dance, for fifth and six graders, will be held on Friday, March 11, also from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center.



The event will be chaperoned by the Recreation and Parks Department and snacks will be provided. The cost is \$8 for Ocean Pines residents and \$9 for nonresidents. Registration is not required.

Parents are requested to arrive and pick up their children inside the Community Center by 8:15 p.m. For more information, please contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at OceanPines.org.

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**CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES**



Volunteers from the USCG Auxiliary **Dirk Esham** of Ocean City, coxswain **Jim Rosenberg** of Ocean Pines and **Jerry Wilkins** of Ocean City keep a cautious eye on recreational boat movement near the exclusionary zone. Photo by Dan Collins

## OC Maritime Operations Group recognized for Air Show security

By **Dan Collins**

While 50,000 spectators looked skyward last June to see the Navy's Blue Angels, the F22 Raptor and other craft, a coordinated team of maritime personnel kept the water under the flight demonstration area safe.

Maritime Operation Group comprised of resources from USCG Station Ocean City and Indian River, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 12-05, USCG Air Station Atlantic City, Maryland State Police, Maryland Department of Natural Resource Police and the Ocean City Beach Patrol were honored by the Ocean City Council on January 20. Anchored by Coast Guard Station – Ocean City, a dozen assets were involved including the beach patrol's jet skis patrolling the near shore surf and the 87' USCG cutter *Finback* from

Cape May, N.J. anchored at show center. They provided enforcement of the no sail zone and stand-by divers in case of incident for four days.

For their service Coast Guard Sector Baltimore presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation to Maritime Operation Group. The citation notes "over 300 hours of maritime security patrols utilizing twelve separate resources to enforce the nine square mile exclusionary zone." However, the safety issues went much further. The Blue Angels required a five mile no fly zone requiring the Coast Guard to keep all parasail operations at least five miles from show center.

Preliminary planning for this year's visit by the U.S. Air Forces' Thunderbirds is already underway.

## Pines golf club changes walking policy

Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club has announced a change to its policy for golfers who prefer to walk while playing their rounds. Golfers with memberships at the public course will now be allowed to walk Monday-Thursday, anytime. This is a change to the previous policy, which prohibited walking for all golfers in the morning.

According to PGA Director of Golf John Malinowski, the change was made to make membership at the course more appealing to those golfers

who prefer to walk rather than take a cart.

"While most golfers use carts when they play, we know that there is a portion of our golfing community that likes to walk. Although walking has been allowed in the afternoon, it hasn't been in the morning. Offering the option to walk all day is a great incentive for this group of people to purchase a membership at the course," Malinowski said.

*please see **golf** on page 4*

## OPVFD seeks donations

By **Chip Bertino**

In the mail recently residents of Ocean Pines received a donation solicitation from the community's volunteer fire company. The annual drive helps the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department (OPVFD) maintain and purchase new equipment and gear.

The focus of this year's drive is to replace worn-out, non compliant gear for more than 40 members of the department. The cost to outfit one firefighter is \$2,600. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is necessary gear for firefighters who take on fires that can reach 1000 degrees quickly in the case of house fires. Among the gear used are coats (\$1250), pants (\$875), hoods (\$60), helmets (\$175), boots (\$150) and gloves (\$90). PPE should be replaced at least every 10 years. The gear is custom fit to each firefighter.

The department relies on community donations to support its 41 mem-

bers and 12 full time employees.

During 2015 OPVFD responded to a total of 249 fire calls and a total of 1,468 EMS calls.

In addition to donations, the de-



partment seeks new members. Full time residents over the age of 18 are eligible. Training is free to members. Those interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities are encouraged to stop by the South Station or visit the website at OPVFD.com.

OPVFD has been serving the community since 1973.

## OPA, Sam's Club continue membership offer

Sam's Club will continue to partner with the Ocean Pines Association through 2016 to bring a special membership offer to benefit area residents and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

With the offer, applications for a new or renewed Sam's Savings or Sam's Business \$45 annual membership will receive a \$10 gift card. Sam's Plus members receive a \$20 gift card and earn a \$10 reward for every \$500 spent.

Additionally, Sam's Club will continue to donate \$5 for every application to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

For renewing Sam's Club members, 12 months will be added to the current membership expiration date up to 90 days in advance. A free second membership card for a household member is also included.

This offer, which is available to both new and renewing Sam's Club members, is not available for purchase online or at any Sam's Club location.

Sam's Club membership applications are available at the Ocean Pines

Association Administration Building or online at OceanPines.org.

Applications must be returned to Ocean Pines Association, c/o Teresa Travatello, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811, with a check made payable to Sam's Club. No credit card payments will be accepted for this offer. Applications turned in to Ocean Pines are picked up at the end of every month by Sam's Club for processing.

## MBS to hold fundraiser

Most Blessed Sacrament will hold its Denim and Diamonds, A Country Casino Gala on Saturday, February 20 between 6 p.m. to midnight. Music, dancing, blackjack, poker, Texas Hold'em, cash games, live and silent auction are just a part of the fun. The event will take place at the school. Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. For more information email: [mbscasinonight@gmail.com](mailto:mbscasinonight@gmail.com) or call 410-208-1600.



# The Courier

Independently Owned

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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

## 2012 Business of the Year

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This is the first Super Bowl matchup featuring opposing starting quarterbacks who were selected No. 1 overall. Only six quarterbacks selected first overall have won the big game: Terry Bradshaw (4), Troy Aikman (3), Jim Plunkett (2), John Elway (2), Eli Manning (2), Peyton Manning.



Peyton Manning became the only quarterback to take multiple teams to the Super Bowl multiple times. Super Bowl 50 will be Manning's fourth time at the big event, with two appearances each as a member of the Colts and Broncos.

The Panthers are one of 13 teams that have never won a Super Bowl. They only have one other appearance, which was in 2003. No one from that team is still on the roster, and only two (Julius Peppers, Steve Smith) are still in the league.

Cam Newton can become the third quarterback (Joe Montana and Joe Namath) to win a National Championship and a Super Bowl as a starting quarterback. He can also become the first quarterback to win the Heisman, national title, MVP and Super Bowl.

# House of Delegates Session Highlights

By Delegate Mary Beth Carozza, 38C



Delegate Mary Beth Carozza (District 38C) recently released the following updates from the 436<sup>th</sup> session of the Maryland General Assembly today:

**Governor Hogan Releases FY 2017 Budget:** Governor Hogan has officially submitted his Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget to the Maryland General Assembly for consideration. The \$42.3 billion budget includes General Fund spending of \$17.1 billion and leaves the State of Maryland with a projected year-end cash balance of \$449.5 million. Highlights of the Governor's Budget are as follows:

- \$6.3 billion for K-12 education, an increase of \$140.1 million over FY 2016. Every jurisdiction will see an increase in per pupil spending.
- \$231 million in Highway User Revenues, an increase of 18%
- \$53.98 million in core funding for local health departments
- \$48.19 million in direct state aid for Salisbury University
- \$37.82 million in direct state aid for University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- \$7.35 million in direct state aid for Wor-Wic Community College
- \$3.64 million for the Office of Tourism Development and \$8.55 million for the Maryland Tourism Development Board
- First-time funding of \$2 million for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund
- \$775,000 in the Capital Budget for renovations and improvements to

**golf**  
 from page 3

He added, "We've had several people express to us that they would be interested in membership but the no-walking policy was a deterrent. We hope the change will allow us to expand our membership base."

Malinowski emphasized that the new walking policy applies only to members at the course. Other golfers will still be allowed to walk in the afternoon but will have to take a cart to play morning rounds.

Perdue Stadium

"We have made great strides over the past year towards putting Maryland's fiscal house in order and I look forward to continuing to work to achieve that goal while working on this year's budget," Carozza said. "This budget fully funds all our priorities, including education, transportation and public safety, while keeping spending growth under control and leaving us with a strong cash balance."

Delegate Carozza and her colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee are scheduled to begin budget hearings this week.

**Update on Bomb Threat Prosecution Bill:** In response to numerous and continued threats against local schools, Delegate Carozza introduced a bomb threat prosecution bill, which will make it easier for local jurisdictions to prosecute threats in their own communities. The bill, HB 121, will be heard in the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, February 2. Witnesses from both Worcester and

Wicomico counties will be traveling to Annapolis to testify in support of the bill. Senator Michael Hough of Frederick County (District 4) has introduced the bill in the State Senate as SB 287, where it has been assigned to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

**2016 Legislative Scholarship Program:**

Delegate Carozza announced her Legislative Scholarship Program for the 2016-2017 school year today. Under this program, which is administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, current high school seniors and full-time or part-time, degree seeking undergraduate and graduate students from Maryland Legislative District 38C may apply for this scholarship. These scholarship funds must be used towards attending a Maryland college or university (or an out-of-state institution if the student demonstrates he or she has a unique major).

Students who live in Legislative District 38C may apply for the scholarship program by emailing MaryBeth.Carozza@house.state.md.us to request a scholarship application. The deadline for submitting the completed application is April 15, 2016. The staff contact for the scholarship program is Jimmy Williams, who may be reached by calling 410-841-3356 or by the above email address.



**Donation -** The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation was recently the recipient of a \$15,000 gift from the Hal Glick Distinguished Service Award Gala for its commitment to serving the community and its visitors.

The Glick Award started in 2010 with the recognition of Ocean City realtor Hal Glick. The next year, the award, now bearing Glick's name, was given to Seacrests owner Leighton Moore. Over the last five years, philanthropists have been recognized in Hal Glick's name for their support of local community non-profits, including Atlantic General Hospital.

Pictured above from left to right are: **Jeff Thaler**, co-chairman of Hal Glick / Temple Bat Yam committee; **Michael Franklin**, AGH president & CEO; **Warren Rosenfeld**, co-chairman of Hal Glick / Temple Bat Yam Committee; **Toni Keiser**, vice president of public relations.

# Who's actually driving?

Believe me I know that dogs are pretty smart animals. They are trained as guard dogs. They assist people with handicaps. And they can even sniff out illegal substances. They can even fetch a ball, well, not my dog. She prefers to watch me go after the ball as she rests. Be that as it may, I must say I really think a line needs to be drawn allowing

Once you start looking you'd be amazed at how many dogs actually sit on the laps or on the shoulders of their owners as they (the owners hopefully) are driving. One morning at a traffic light I looked over at the car next to me and there sat a perfectly coiffed Shih Tzu on the lap of a perfectly coiffed middle aged woman. Both were fixing their hair and applying mascara.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

The dog looked over at me and gave a look like, "Fella, I'm so far out of your league, don't even try." I recall the same look from a particular cheerleader when I was in high school. When the

dogs to drive cars or for that matter be anywhere near the car's steering wheel or primary controls while it's underway.

light changed they sped off. The car's vanity license plate read "Btchonwls." Appropriate.

Driving to the store not long ago I was following a light blue sedan. Nothing unusual about that until I realized that in the driver's seat, sitting on the lap of its owner, was a chocolate Labrador Retriever. We're not talking a Miniature Pinscher or Yorkie. No, this was a large Lab that was sitting there with one paw on the wheel and the other resting on the sill of the window. He was even wearing a cap, a green one I think; probably had the John Deere logo on the front. The only thing missing was a pack of Marlboros rolled up in his T-shirt sleeve.

Some years ago traveling someplace I don't now recall, I remember seeing an older woman driving a late model Cadillac. She was very well dressed, so well dressed in fact that she was wearing a beige stole around her neck. At least that's



The owner seemed not to have a care in the world. He was busy talking on his cell phone as Rover navigated traffic and howled at the Poodle walking in the park. In Rover's defense, she was a pretty good looking Poodle.

what I thought it was until I noticed it moved and yawned. I kid you not she had her Pomeranian wrapped around her neck. What was even more amazing was that the dog pitched the coins into the toll basket. Talk about a stupid pet trick.

I don't understand why some people allow their dogs to sit with them in the driver's seat while driving. How often have you seen a Chihuahua poking its head out the driver's side window while traveling along the highway? Is it possible the dog has been trained as a navigation device, sniffing the air to determine how to get to a new restaurant or Aunt Millie's? I just don't know.

I like dogs, even have one. But there's just no circumstance I can think of that would prompt me to invite my dog to sit on my lap as I drove. I was somewhat reluctant to allow my children in the driver's seat when they learned to drive. Looking back, given some of the hair raising sessions during that time, maybe having the dog in the driver's seat wouldn't have been so bad.

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11107 Cathell Road Site Number S21052334  
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**No Appointments Taken - First Come First Served -Number system**

**Tuesday:** MAC Center Salisbury Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
909 Progress Circle Suite 100 Site Number S21052331  
Salisbury, MD 21804  
**Phone Number 410-742-8569 for Appointment**

**Thursday** Community Church at Ocean Pines Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
11227 Racetrack Road Site Number S21052401  
Berlin, MD 21811  
**No Appointments Taken - First Come First Served -Number system**

Worcester County Library, Ocean City Branch Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
10003 Coastal Highway Site Number S21052334  
Ocean City, Md 21842  
**No Appointments Taken - First Come First Served - Number system**

**Friday:** Pocomoke City Library Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
400 Walnut & Cedar Streets Site Number S 21052335  
Pocomoke City, MD 21851  
**Phone Number 410-957-0391 for Appointment**

**Saturday:** Community Church at Ocean Pines Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
11227 Racetrack Road Site Number S21052401  
Berlin, MD 21811  
**No Appointments Taken - First Come First Served - Number system**

Worcester County Library, Ocean City Branch Time: 10:00 to 3:00 PM  
10003 Coastal Highway Site Number S21052334  
Ocean City, MD 21842  
**No Appointments Taken - First Come First Served - Number System**

# DAR announces MBS contest winners

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently sponsored Junior American Citizens (JAC) Contests at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Berlin. The objective of the JAC Committee is to instill good citizenship in the youth of all races, creeds, and economic backgrounds, by teaching loyalty to the United States of America and giving practical ideas for service to home, community, school, and country. The theme for the competition was "Celebrate America" and students could enter a poem, short story, poster, stamp design or photographic essay. Individuals or groups could enter a community service project, and groups of at least three could design a banner. Winners were chosen by grade level in each category.

More than seventy participated in the contests and Chapter winners are as follows: Poem – Matthew Engel, grade 6; Paul Vitaliti, grade 7; Karsten St. Amant, grade 8; Short Story – Katherine Abbott, grade 6; Julianna Fohner, grade 7; Mikayla Denault, grade 8; Poster – Tiffany Hayes, grade 6; Morgan

Carlson, grade 7; Caela Berrie, grade 8; Stamp Design – Bridget Cooper, grade 6; Lilly Jones, grade 7; Banner – Katherine Abbott, Emma Berrie and Madison Tipton, grade 6; Ariana Holland-Seda, Eleni Kangas and Maura Vosburg, grade 7; Eric Bontempo, Cooper Houck and Karsten St. Amant, grade 8. Their entries have advanced to the state level and winners will be announced prior to the 111<sup>th</sup> Maryland State Society DAR Conference in March.

The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. For more information, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

## Dual enrollment information night

A free dual enrollment information session for parents of current high school sophomores and juniors will be held on Tuesday, February 9, at 6 p.m., in Room 101 of Guerrieri Hall at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury. High school sophomores and juniors are also invited to attend.

Presentations will be given by a former dual enrollment student and parent. Wor-Wic employees will provide information about how high school students can earn college credits while they are juniors and seniors in high school. Participants will have the opportunity to start the enrollment process and go on a campus tour.

"Wor-Wic's dual enrollment program is an excellent opportunity for high school students to begin their college education early at a highly-reduced cost," said Bryan Newton, vice president for enrollment management and student services at Wor-Wic. "Students can start early on their college education, save thousands of dollars on college costs and begin to learn how to succeed in a college setting."

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Richard C. Webster, director of admissions, at [rwebster@worwic.edu](mailto:rwebster@worwic.edu) or 410-334-2896.

## New voting machines to be demonstrated

Worcester County has purchased new voting machines to be used in the primary and general elections this year. On February 11 at 6 p.m. the American Legion Synepuxent Post 166 located at 2308 Philadelphia Avenue in Ocean City, in conjunction with the Worcester County Board of Elections will provide training on the new voting machines. This training is open to the public. Attendees are asked to use the 24th street entrance of the Main Hall (this is also the handicapped entrance to the Post). This is part of the American legion's "Get out the Vote program" and is completely nonpartisan.



**The American Legion**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
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### FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE 2016



Reverend (Methodist) George L. Fox, Reverend (Dutch Reformed), Clark V. Poling, Father (Roman Catholic) John P. Washington and Rabbi (Jewish) Alexander B Goode.

On February 3, 1943 these Four Chaplains aboard the USAT Dorchester gave their life jackets to four passengers so they could be saved. The Four Chaplains were arm in arm praying as the USAT Dorchester sank in the North Atlantic.

### 73rd ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

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# Optimists sponsor art competition

The Berlin/Ocean City Optimists Club is sponsoring an annual high school art competition and exhibit featuring entries submitted by local Worcester County high schools students. The exhibit will be showcased on public display through the entire month of February at the Worcester County Arts Council gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in downtown Berlin.

The goal of this competition is to encourage, recognize and honor artistic expression of talented art students in Worcester County as well as to emphasize the importance and support of quality art programs.

The exhibit includes 35 paintings and drawings, entered by students representing all four high schools in Worcester County, and competing for a total of \$1,400 in cash prizes offered in this contest. All submitted entries for this contest will be judged by ac-

complished artists and art instructors, Kate Cashman and Karen Letonoff.

Monetary awards and ribbons for the first, second, and third place will be presented to students on Friday, February 12 at 6 p.m. during an open to the public reception to be held at the Worcester County Arts Council's gallery. In addition, two non-cash honorable mention awards will also be given to selected students.

Visitors to the exhibit will have an opportunity to vote for the "People's Choice" award. Voting will begin on February 1 and end February 10. Two "People's Choice" winners will be announced and awarded monetary prizes at the opening exhibit reception.

The exhibit will be on display February 1 through February 29.

The gallery hours are Monday through Friday and some Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Recognition

The Republican Women of Worcester County held their January meeting on January 28 at the Captain's Table in Ocean City. Member Anna Fultz was presented a proclamation from Delegate Mary Beth Carozza honoring Anna's 90th Birthday and thanking her for her continued service to the community. Above are Pat Schrawder, Mary Pat Carozza, Anna Fultz and Carol Rose.

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March 30 and September 21, 2016

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# Survey seeks insight on community health

The Worcester County Health Department released a Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Survey (CTSAS) on January 26 with the goal of collecting health data from residents. The information collected will assist public health officials in crafting the 2017 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

CTSAS will be a key element in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) framework, an interactive process where public health officials and work hand-in-hand with the community to establish useful resources and determine health needs. The survey is open to all who live, work in, or visit Worcester

County. It is online at [www.worcester-health.org](http://www.worcester-health.org) as well as on the Health Department's Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/Worcester-Health/](http://www.facebook.com/Worcester-Health/). Hard copies of the survey will be available at health department locations throughout Worcester County. The survey opened January 26, 2016.

For general information or questions about the survey, or to learn more about the MAPP process, please contact Caroline Green at 410-632-1100, ext. 1230.

## Breastfeeding classes offered

Peninsula Regional Medical Center will offer a breastfeeding class from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 25 in the Hallowell Conference Center at PRMC.

Join Peninsula Regional educators to learn the basics of breastfeeding, proper positioning of baby, how to avoid common problems and how to pump and store milk. This class will prepare parents for a great breastfeeding experience. Mothers are encouraged to bring support members with them, as studies show that breastfeeding is more successful when mom has loving, knowledgeable support. Videos will also be shown to help demonstrate the proper techniques for successful nursing. The fee is \$40 for mom to be and her coach. Pre-registration is required.

For more information, call 410-543-7512, email [lavern.henry@peninsula.org](mailto:lavern.henry@peninsula.org) or visit the Classes and Events section of the Peninsula Regional Medical Center website at [www.peninsula.org](http://www.peninsula.org) for online registration.



## Club inducts new officers

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines inducted their new officers for 2016 at the annual luncheon in December. The luncheon was held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on December 17.

Left to right: **Lois Schultz, Carol Quinto, Jackie Kollar, Linda Brindley, Sharon Puser, Barbara Stillwell, Luz Castillo, Grace McCormac, Barbara Boone and Jane Wolnik.**

## Shelter to hold adoption campaign

Valentine's Day is coming up and Worcester County Humane Society has lots of furry Valentines looking for their forever matches. To promote cat adoptions during the month of February, the no kill shelter will hold its "Two of Hearts" cat adoption campaign. During the entire month of February any two cats that arrived at the shelter together will have a reduced adoption fee of \$100 for the pair. All cats will be spayed/neutered, up to date on vaccinations and microchipped.

One pair of cats that are part of the "Two of Hearts" campaign are Lenny and Boston. The pair, sisters, came to the shelter in June. They are nine months old, very sweet, and love cuddling each other. They also get along very well with other cats.

The shelter just wrapped up a successful cat adoption campaign, "12 Strays of Christmas," that with the help of sponsors, eight of the 12 strays chosen for the campaign found forever families.

"Our shelter consistently houses

over 100 cats," says Jessica Summers, adoption coordinator. "During the summer of 2015 over 100 kittens were



brought to the shelter to be cared for until forever families could be found for them. Many of them are still waiting for families not to mention all of the adult cats who have been waiting for over a year to be adopted. With kitten season right around the corner, we need to be creative and encourage people to help by adopting more than one cat at a time."

The Worcester County Humane Society is a private, nonprofit, no kill animal shelter located on Eagle's Nest Rd. in Berlin. The public can visit adoptable animals at the shelter from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Mondays. Follow the shelter on Facebook and Instagram.

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## Thompson briefs board

By **Kelsey Reichenberg**

Last Thursday, January 28 the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) board of directors held their monthly open meeting in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Following brief remarks by President Pat Renaud, General Manager Bob Thompson gave his General Manager's report.

Thompson began by discussing current capital projects that are underway in Ocean Pines including repairs to the bridges located on Ocean Parkway and Club House Drive. He said he was talking with the utility companies and Worcester County about scheduling to move utility lines as well as water and wastewater lines. He expects to have an RFP for the project prepared within the "next couple weeks." He said the renovation of the Sports Core Complex, which includes pool and deck improvements, is projected to begin in July and last through September 2016.

He went on to discuss the Ocean Pines reserve study, which is com-

prised of two parts. The first part pertains to information about the physical status and repair/replacement cost of the major common area components OPA is obligated to maintain. The second part includes the evaluation and analysis of the OPA's reserve balance, income and expenses. Thompson asked that board members with questions email them to him and then he will provide Design Management Associates with a list of questions and comments. After any necessary corrections are made to the documents, the next step will be to have a working session to focus on the funding plans for each.

As Thompson concluded his report, he discussed damage caused to Ocean Pines as a result of the winter storm. The Public Works team worked to clear the roads and clean up fallen trees. Furthermore, the Beach Club roof was damaged. The insurance company is reviewing the situation, and the roof contractor is looking into repair options.



**Science help** - Members of the local Kiwanis helped Showell Elementary School with their science fair by judging the projects. Pictured from left to right are **Doris Lloyd** and **Irene Daly** as they judge the first grade projects.

## Gudelsky family again donates to Hospice

The Homer & Martha Gudelsky Family Foundation continues to support the campaign to build Coastal Hospice at the Ocean with a \$50,000 donation made in December.

This is the Gudelsky Foundation's third gift to the campaign. The foundation, which has a long history of philanthropic activity in Maryland and the nation, has now donated \$350,000 to the non-profit project.

The projected cost to build Coastal Hospice at the Ocean is \$5 million, and with the Gudelsky gift, the total raised towards the project to date is nearly \$3.75 million.

Coastal Hospice at the Ocean will be a hospice residence and outreach center to be built in Worcester County. It will address a growing and unmet need on the Lower Shore: a residence for hospice patients who are not able to stay in their homes during their final days.

When built, Coastal Hospice at the Ocean will provide a home-like atmosphere where an estimated 100 patients will receive care each year. It will also serve as headquarters for the hospice team that cares for 40 to 60 patients in their own homes each day in Worcester and Somerset counties. In addition, Coastal Hospice at the Ocean will offer a palliative care clinic (to treat the physical, emotional and spiritual pain that comes with serious illness) and facilities for grief support and community education.

Founded in 1980, Coastal Hospice is a nonprofit health care organization that cares for individuals facing life-limiting conditions but who want to remain as active and engaged as possible. Coastal Hospice cares for patients in their home, nursing home, assisted living facility or at Coastal Hospice at the Lake. The organization serves Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester and Somerset counties.

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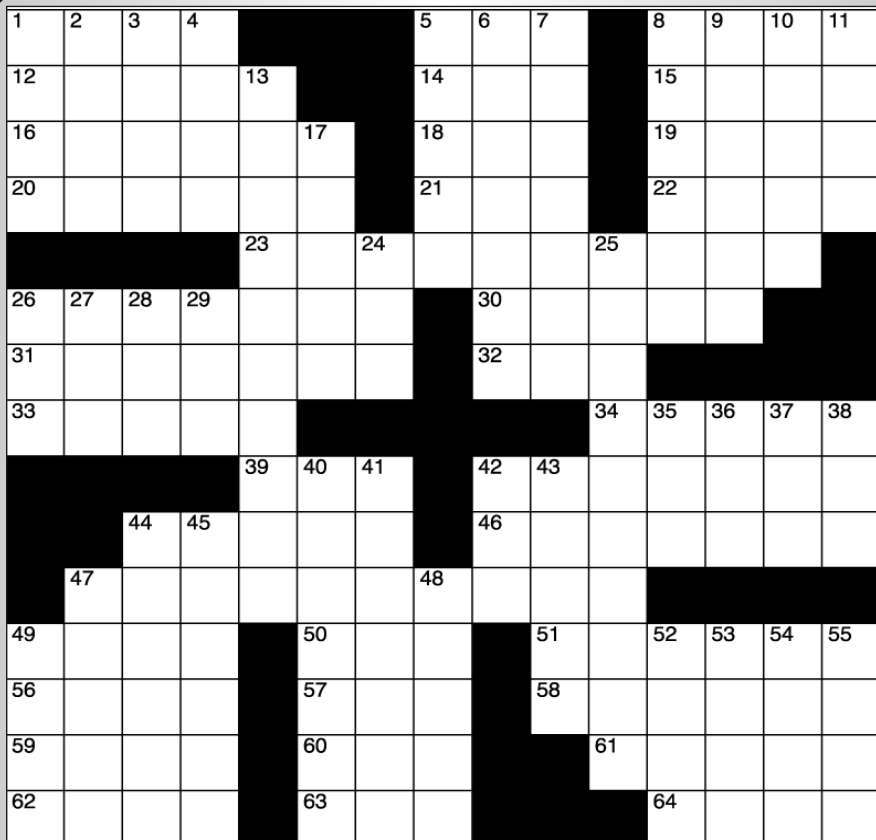
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**ACROSS**

- 1. Soybean paste
- 5. Unit of time
- 8. Watering holes
- 12. Joint
- 14. Certified public accountant
- 15. \_\_\_ Mater, one of the schools
- 16. Resells tickets
- 18. Batter's objective
- 19. Past participle of lie
- 20. State of Islands
- 21. Fed
- 22. Cause cell destruction
- 23. Daily Show host
- 26. Diagrammed
- 30. Cat sounds
- 31. Most sorry
- 32. Do wrong
- 33. Coral reef and lagoon island
- 34. That (Middle English)
- 39. Electrically charged atom
- 42. Nassau is the capital
- 44. Frogs, toads, tree toads
- 46. Marjoram
- 47. Where the Donald lives in NYC
- 49. Whale ship captain
- 50. A way to emit sound
- 51. Comparable
- 56. Isodor \_\_\_, American Nobel physicist
- 57. Businesswoman
- 58. A way to split up
- 59. Solo Operatic piece
- 60. No (Scottish) tears
- 61. In a way, breadth
- 62. Bridge
- 63. Single Lens Reflex
- 64. Thou \_\_\_ protest too much
- 1. Korean War TV show
- 2. South American Indian
- 3. Cape at tip of Denmark
- 4. A podrida cooking pot
- 5. Russian sourgrass soup
- 6. Perfect example
- 7. Supplier
- 8. Unhealthy
- 9. Spanish beaches
- 10. Am. follower of the Mennonite Bishop Amman
- 11. Well-balanced
- 13. Outer surface cells
- 17. Fathers
- 24. Sun up in New York
- 25. Dweller above the Mason-Dixon
- 26. Young women's association
- 27. Tell on
- 28. Bustle
- 29. Poundal
- 35. An ugly, old woman
- 36. Doctors' group
- 37. \_\_\_ Ling, Chinese mountain range
- 38. Volcanic
- mountain in Japan
- 40. Leaves partless
- 41. Existing in or produced by nature
- 42. Inclination
- 43. Extents
- 44. Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
- 45. Language of Nile
- 47. Twyla \_\_\_, US dancer
- 48. Card game
- 49. River in E. Turkey to the Caspian Sea
- 52. Scored 100%
- 53. Tonight's former host
- 54. \_\_\_ and ends
- 55. Notable exploit

**DOWN**

- 1. Korean War TV show
- 2. South American Indian
- 3. Cape at tip of Denmark
- 4. A podrida cooking pot
- 5. Russian sourgrass soup
- 6. Perfect example
- 7. Supplier
- 8. Unhealthy



Answers for Jan 27

*Eyes on the Skies*  
**Recent lunar discoveries**

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



February brings the winter show to a more convenient hour, as stargazers may see seasonal favorites such as Orion the Hunter and the dazzling star Sirius as early as 7 p.m. Folks who brave the chilly air will be well rewarded as the February skies are among the best of the year.

This month continues the theme of solar system exploration with further discussion of the moon. During the six Apollo moon landings from 1969 to 1972, U.S. astronauts had collected

posits.

One of the most fascinating discoveries of both the Clementine and Prospector probes was the presence of "water ice" in the Shackleton Crater at the lunar South Pole. Hydrogen was also detected as evidence of water ice at both the southern and northern Polar Regions, a surprise to scientists. In March 1998 NASA's announcement of the Prospector discoveries outlined the regions with hydrogen and water ice near the southern and northern



**LCROSS Lunar Impact**

masses of new scientific data, and had brought back more than 800 lbs. of samples from the lunar surface. Efforts then shifted toward scientific analysis of the data, the moon rocks and soil.

Astronomers in the post-Apollo era relished the chance to analyze lunar soil and rock samples up close. Comparisons to Earthly materials were made with an eye toward understanding the story of the moon's origin. Striking similarities in chemical components and structures suggested an ancient linkage between Earth and its satellite. Much analysis and debate led scientists to conclude that the moon is not a "captured" object such as an asteroid but is the result of collision of a Mars-sized body, causing the moon to split off from the Earth.

lunar poles, and reaffirmed Clementine's 1996 discoveries at the South Pole and Shackleton Crater.

The basic science question then becomes: How can water or ice survive, when scientists had always regarded it as impossible? The Moon has no atmosphere; thus any water or ice rapidly converts into water vapor and escapes into space. And any sunlight exposure would speed up the process.

Lunar exploration received a jumpstart in 1994 with the launch of an exploratory craft known as Clementine. This probe scrutinized the lunar surface in a variety of wavelengths, took measurements of lunar altitudes, and collected radar reflections searching for ice on the Moon. Next, the Lunar Prospector was launched in 1998. Prospector's instruments included a neutron spectrometer capable of detecting hydrogen and potential ice de-

Here are some answers that astronomers found: The bottom of the Shackleton Crater is permanently shaded from sunlight, allowing for exceedingly cold temperatures, about 100 Kelvin (280 F degrees below zero). Soil and debris from frequent, small asteroid impacts will cover the water ice, also deterring it from escaping into space.

Another bold program was the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing

please see **eyes** on page 11





eyes  
from page 10

Satellite - LCROSS - launched in 2009, and targeted to crash into a large southern polar crater – Cabeus. The LCROSS probe would first intentionally crash its spent rocket section into the crater. Minutes later its instrument probe would observe and fly directly through the debris field kicked up by the initial impact. When the impact took place, it created a pit about 100 feet across the crater’s base and a splash of debris which extended several hundred feet above the crater rim. Spectral analysis of the plume data offered further confirmation of the presence of water vapor.

The presence of water ice offers the possibility that lunar settlements might generate life-supporting water and oxygen, as well as hydrogen for rocket fuel. Extraction of such lunar resources could lead to exciting new adventures in mankind’s future – when science fiction starts becoming reality.

Those venturing outdoors this February at about 7 p.m. may enjoy the entire host of the familiar winter constellations. Stargazers may see Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins. Taurus will appear almost directly overhead. Sirius is located to the east of Orion and slightly south.

Early risers may see an unusual planetary array, with at least three bright planets stretching diagonally across the pre-dawn sky. Beginning about 6 a.m. viewers can trace an alignment of Saturn near the eastern horizon, with Mars and Jupiter appearing much higher up near the bright star Spica. A fourth planet Venus joins the group, after another 45 minutes rising brightly above the eastern horizon, competing with the dawn light. At about 7 a.m., Mercury rises in the east but may elude all but the most tenacious observers. This planetary show will conclude about February 20.

Tide and Sun Chart				
* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide				
DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., February 4	3:49 a.m. 4:04 p.m.	10:10 a.m. 10:10 p.m.	7:03 a.m.	5:26 p.m.
Fri., February 5	4:40 a.m. 4:55 p.m.	11:03 a.m. 11:03 p.m.	7:02 a.m.	5:27 p.m.
Sat., February 6	5:29 a.m. 5:44 p.m.	11:53 a.m. 11:53 p.m.	7:01 a.m.	5:28 p.m.
Sun., February 7	6:17 a.m. 6:33 p.m.	12:39 p.m.	7:00 a.m.	5:29 p.m.
Mon., February 8	7:04 a.m. 7:21 p.m.	12:42 a.m. 1:25 p.m.	6:59 a.m.	5:30 p.m.
Tues., February 9	7:51 a.m. 8:10 p.m.	1:31 a.m. 2:10 p.m.	6:58 a.m.	5:31 p.m.
Wed., February 10	8:38 a.m. 8:59 p.m.	2:20 a.m. 2:56 p.m.	6:57 a.m.	5:32 p.m.



As I sit at my computer and contemplate what I am going to put in my column this month, the snow is falling and thoughts go back to when my children were small and loved to play in the snow. Then they came in the house all cold and anxious for some warming lunch of hot chocolate and grilled cheese. Snow days are delightful days for children and adults too. I especially enjoy cooking on this kind of day and particularly a good pot of soup. One of my favorites is Chicken Noodle Soup. A yummy dessert on a cold day is Rice and Raisin Custard. Enjoy these recipes.

Cook slowly for about an hour. Remove chicken and cut up. Add back into soup. Add more water or chicken broth if too thick. Return to boiling and add noodles. Cook until they are tender. I recently discovered Annie’s frozen noodles and often use them too. Instead of noodles, you can use rice and add that at the end. Taste for salt and pepper.

**Rice and Raisin Custard**

- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 t. nutmeg
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1/2 t. vanilla
- 2 cups scalded milk
- 1/2 cup raisins (washed and drained)
- 1 cup cooked rice

Beat eggs slightly, add sugar, nutmeg, salt and vanilla. Beat until blended. Add hot milk gradually, stirring constantly. Stir in rice and raisins. Pour mixture into 1-1/2 quart casserole or baking dish. Place in pan of hot water and bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until set. (Serves 4 – 6; double for generous portions.)

**Chicken Noodle Soup or Turkey Soup**

- 3 Chicken breast tenders or left over baked chicken or turkey
- 1 whole chopped onion
- 3 stalks chopped celery
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 1 small can V-8 Juice (my secret ingredient)
- Salt, pepper and parsley
- 1-1/2 cups wide egg noodles (add at the end)

**Community Resource Days provide local outreach**

The Worcester County Health Department, in collaboration with other area agencies, has spent the past several years developing the Community Resource Days (CRD). CRD operates through local soup kitchens and provides critical outreach to residents in need. Community Resource Days give individuals the chance to have one-on-one time with groups that provide services such as housing resources, counseling, and health care.

In addition to the regular soup kitchen, people attending the event will also have access to personal hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste and other care items.

There have been two Community Resource Days so far this season. The next scheduled events are as follows:

- March 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Snow Hill Christian Church in Snow Hill
- April 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City

Donations are important for the success of the event. Local businesses and individuals are encouraged to donate personal hygiene products for distribution at future Community Resource Days. Monetary donations are also accepted. Individuals, churches, or other organizations interested in contributing donations are encouraged to contact Amanda Chaffee at Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, at 410-641-4598.

# When it comes to home improvement hire a licensed contractor

By **Steven W. Rakow, Esquire**

Owning a home, townhouse, or condo requires upkeep and maintenance. When you get to the point where you need to hire someone to do maintenance or perform improvements on your property, hire licensed contractors. Obvious home improvement projects range from such work as addi-

tions, decks, new windows, new kitchens and baths, fences, pools and hot tubs, and the like. But did you know that the installation of solar panels, paving and gravel driveways, hardscaping for your yard, carpet installation, roofing, siding, and painting (interior and exterior) require that the contractor, and all subcontractors and sales people, have a home improvement license? There are three types of contractors that do not require a home improvement license: plumbing, heating and air conditioning, and electrical contractors. Each of these three trades has licensing standards set by another agency.

When hiring a home improvement contractor, check with the Maryland Home Improvement Commission to

make sure the contractor is licensed. This can be done online (search for Maryland Home Improvement Commission) or call the Commission at 888-218-5925. Before agreeing to any work or paying the deposit, the contractor must provide you with a written contract containing their MHIC number, complete contact information, scope of work to be performed, start and projected end dates, total cost of the project, and a separate notice of your right to cancel within 3 business days of signing the contract. It is against the law for a contractor to take more than 1/3 of the contract cost as a deposit; however, you may negotiate the payment schedule with the contractor. Without a written home improvement contract, Maryland law does not recognize that a contract exists between the parties. This means that your remedies for using an unlicensed contractor are limited. Likewise, the unlicensed contractor would have no recourse if the home-

owner fails to pay.

Contractors who perform home improvements without a license face civil and criminal penalties. It's a misdemeanor for an unlicensed contractor to sell a home improvement and multiple offenses can lead to up to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Additionally, while a homeowner

may report an unlicensed contractor to the Commission, the Commission may only investigate, fine, or refer the case for criminal charges. The homeowner cannot receive compensation from the Home Improvement Guarantee Fund for using an unlicensed contractor.

A licensed contractor may not, among other things, abandon the work, materially alter or deviate from the contract without the homeowner's consent, misrepresent the work, mislead in advertising, or fail to display their MHIC number on their vehicles. In addition to civil penalties, the licensed contractor

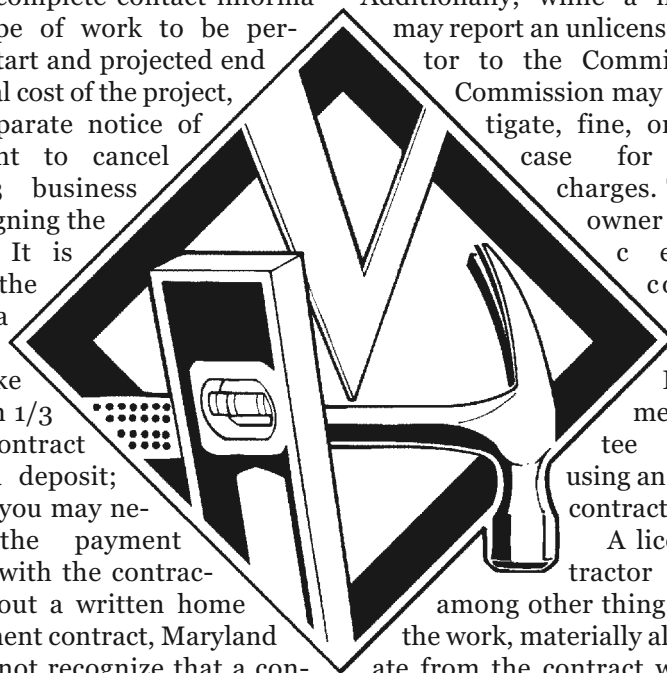
faces a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. In cases where the licensed contractor fails to complete the job or the workmanship is shoddy and the licensed contractor fails to correct defective work, the homeowner may report the licensed contractor to the Commission. The Commission may provide the homeowner with some compensation from the Home Improvement Guarantee Fund.

The bottom line is this – hire reputable, licensed contractors who will do the job right and stand proudly behind their work. When you hire an unlicensed contractor, you could end up losing thousands of dollars. As with most contracts involving large sums of money and your property, buy yourself some piece of mind by having an attorney review the contract prior to signing and making that deposit.

*Steven W. Rakow, Esquire, a former assistant state's attorney and retired Marine officer, practices civil litigation, construction law, criminal law, and general practice matters. He can be reached at 410-600-3075, by email at [steve@steverakowlaw.com](mailto:steve@steverakowlaw.com), or through his website [www.steverakowlaw.com](http://www.steverakowlaw.com).*



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# Community Calendar

When submitting items for the calendar please include the event name, date, where held, time and a little about the event. Items being considered for the calendar need to be in by noon on Friday. E-mail to [thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)

## Mondays

### **Ocean Pines Poker Club**

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928

Open every Monday through October: **Historic St. Martin's Church Museum.** 1-4 pm. 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, MD. For more information, call 410-251-2849

### **Sweet Adelines**

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Call 410-641-6876.

## Mon. & Tues.

### **Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge**

Open bridge games Monday at 12 p.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m. at OP Community Center. Call Mary Stover 410-726-1795

## Mon., Wed. & Sat.

### **Church Thrift Shop**

OC Baptist Church's Thrift Shop by Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon. & Wed., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Call 410-251-6971.

## Tuesdays

### **Families Anonymous**

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at room 37 in the the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Rte. 589. For more information call Carol at 410-208-4515.

### **Take off Pounds Sensibly Meeting.**

Berlin group No. 331, Worcester County Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr., Berlin, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly on Tuesdays. Info: [jean-duck47@gmail.com](mailto:jean-duck47@gmail.com)

## Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Poker players** wanted for Gentlemen's Poker in North Gate area Ocean Pines. Game played

every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Pinehurst Rd. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

## Wednesdays

### **Kiwanis Club Meeting**

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m. October through April.

### **Elks Bingo**

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

### **Delmarva Hand Dancing**

Dancing at The Fenwick Inn in Ocean City from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Contact 302-934-7951 or [info@delmarvahanddancing.com](mailto:info@delmarvahanddancing.com)

### **Rotary Club**

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact [Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com](mailto:Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com).

### **Square Dancing**

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

### **AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin**

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

## Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

### **Church Thrift Shop**

The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church at Ocean Pines is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-641-5433.

### **Diakonia Thrift Shop**

'Used to be Mine' offers clothing, furniture, household items and more. Proceeds benefit Diakonia shelter and pantry. Located at

Rte. 611 and Sunset Ave. Open 10 - 4. Call 410-213-0243.

## Thursdays

### **Story Time**

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

### **Beach Singles**

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577, Kate at 410-524-0649 or Dianne at 302-541-4642.

### **Legion Bingo**

American Legion in Ocean City opens doors at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7. For information call 410-289-3166.

### **Gamblers Anonymous**

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

## Fridays

### **Knights of Columbus Bingo**

Bingo will be held behind St. Luke's Church, 100th St. in Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments available. Call 410-524-7994.

## Sundays

Sunday Night Serenity **Al-Anon Family Group** 7:30 p.m. at The Woodlands/Independent Living Apt. Bldg. 1135 Ocean Parkway-Ocean Pines, Md. 21811

## Third Sunday

### **Sharing Sunday**

Bring non-perishable groceries

and paper goods to the Ocean Pines southside fire hall 1 -3 p.m. to benefit local food banks.

## Third Monday

### **Democratic Women**

The Democratic Women meet 9:30 a.m. for coffee followed by a meeting at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Guests and new members are welcome.

## Third Tuesday

### **Widows & Widowers Social Club.**

Group meets in Ocean Pines at 1 p.m. for luncheon meeting. Call 410-208-1398.

## Third Wednesday

### **Survivors of Suicide Meeting**

Starts at 6 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department. 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Open to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Quiet listening, caring people, no judgment. For more information, call 410-629-0164 or visit [www.choosetoliveinmaryland.org](http://www.choosetoliveinmaryland.org).

## Fourth Wednesday

### **Marine Corps League**

First State Detachment Marine Corps League raises funds for a variety of charities and meets at 7 p.m. in VFW Post 8296, 66th St. Ocean City. Open to all fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen. Visit [www.firststatemarines.org](http://www.firststatemarines.org).



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# Much happens in year's shortest month

February is the shortest month of the year, but many people have no idea why that is. February is the only month to have fewer than 30 days, but there is no scientific reason behind that distinction, though there have been various changes to the calendar throughout the centuries, and eventually February became what it is today.

The Romans developed a ten month calendar that began with the Spring equinox in March and ended in December. There is belief that what is now February was overlooked when this calendar was created, as winter weather had little to do with the harvest in the northern hemisphere, where Rome is located. Romans essentially considered the winter a period of time with no distinctive months.

When the second king of Rome, Numa Pompilius, took to the throne in 713 BC, he had plans to make the calendar more accurate by synchronizing it with the actual lunar year, which is roughly 354 days long. Thus, two new months, January and February, were added to the end of the calendar. Both January and February had 28 days.

At the time, even numbers were considered bad luck, and these months were not looked upon favorably by the king. So he decided to make changes once more and added a day to January to make it 29 days long. February was left untouched,

remaining an "unlucky" month and one devoted to honoring the dead and performing rites of purification, as the word February comes from februaire, which means "to purify." February remained the last month of the year for roughly 200 years until the calendar was reevaluated and February was reassigned as the second month, with January being the start of the new year.

This new 355-day calendar simply could not stay in sync with the seasons because it did not account for the amount of time it takes the Earth to orbit the sun. Therefore, an extra "month" of 27 days was added after February 23 each year to play catch-up. Sometimes this extra month was overlooked or not scheduled in time, continuing the calendar conundrum.

Julius Caesar was responsible for tackling calendar problems further when he was in power. He wished to make the calendar solar-based, like the one Egyptians used, instead of the older lunar-based calendar. This led to the creation of the Julian calendar.

endar. Ten days were added to the calendar year in various months, and February was increased every four years (leap year) to 29 days to coordinate the calendar year to the solar cycle of roughly 365.2425 days.

February remains the shortest month of the year. Through the years there has been no widespread attempt to reorganize the calendar once more to even out the months and give extra time to February. As a result of the shorter number of days, February has some unique attributes. In common years, February can pass without a single full moon. The next time this will happen is in 2018. Once every six years, February is the only month that has four, full seven-day weeks.

February starts on the same day of the week as March and November in common years, and on the same day of the week as August on leap years. February ends on the same day of the week as October every year. In leap years, it is the only month that begins and ends on the same weekday.

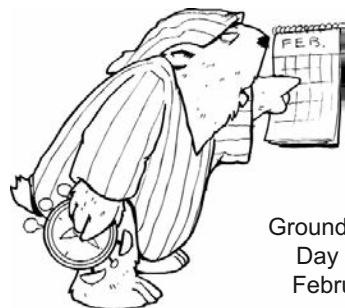
People born on a leap year techni-

cally celebrate their birthday only once every four years, but most observe it on the 28th. Celebrities born on February 29 include Tony Robbins, Antonio Sabato, Jr., Mervyn Warren, and Dennis Farina.

Despite its status as the shortest month, February is packed with many events, including Valentine's Day and Groundhogs Day. Americans celebrate the birth of two presidents in February, as well as Black History Month. Mexicans celebrate Flag Day in February, while residents of St. Lucia celebrate their Independence Day. February is also a time for families, especially in Canada, where Family Day is celebrated on the third Monday of the month in many provinces.

February is also an important month for sports fans, as two teams will face each other in the Super Bowl on the first Sunday of February.

No one really knows for certain why February was relegated to the shortest month. However, with so much trivia and special events surrounding the month, it is still a special time of year.



Groundhog Day is in February



President's Day is in February



Valentine's Day is in February



Black History Month is in February

The Super Bowl is held in February



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