

## OPA elects officers

During its organizational meeting on Sunday, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors elected its officers for the coming year. Doug Parks was elected to another year as president. New board member Steve Tuttle was elected vice president. Colette Horn remains secretary for another term. John Viola, Michelle Bennett and Gene Ringsdorf were elected treasurer, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer respectively.

The board scheduled its orientation meeting to begin at 7 a.m. on Friday, August 24. A work session has been scheduled for Saturday, September 1 at 7 a.m.

The board also agreed on its meeting schedule for the year. Meetings will occur on Saturday and will begin at 9 a.m. The meeting dates are: September 8, October 20, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 16, March 9, April 6, May 4, June 1 and July 6.

The board agreed to consider scheduling Town Meetings at a later time.

-Chip Bertino

## Players debut romantic comedy

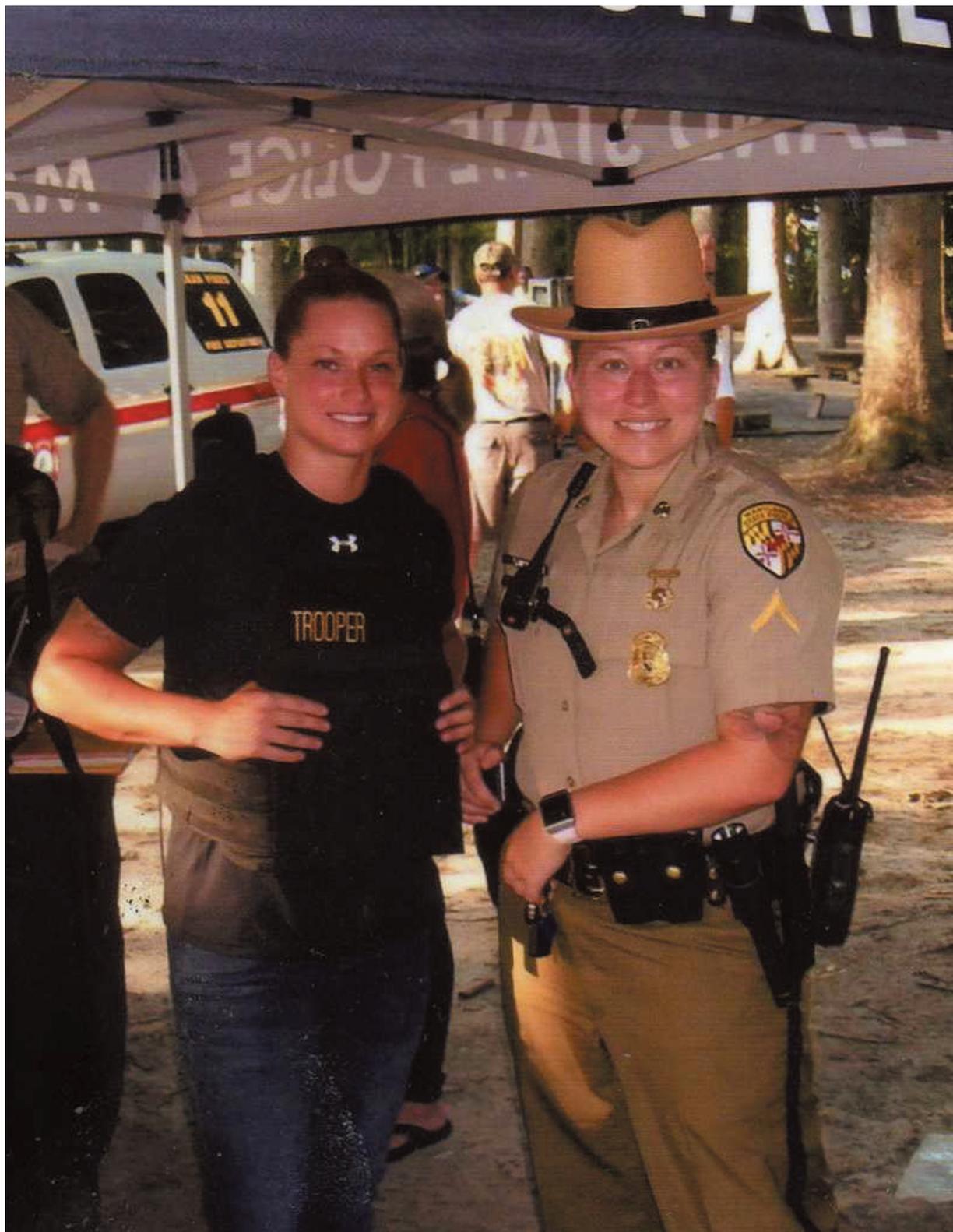
The Ocean Pines Players will open a six-day run of Joe di Pietro's delightful, heartfelt, and very funny play, "The Last Romance," in a six-day run at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Coastal Highway in Ocean City. Show dates for this comedy about the Golden Years and love, loss, memories, and regrets are Friday, August 24 through Wednesday, August 29. Every day but Sunday, doors open at 6:30 p.m., show time is 7 p.m., Sunday matinee, doors open at 3:30 p.m., show time is 4 p.m.

Desires and dreams have a place in this play that asks: Is it ever too late to hope for new love? And Is it ever too soon to let go of the past.

With the aid of a dog park, an aspiring opera singer, and some fine Italian cooking, three lonely seniors come face to face with the realities of their own Golden Years, the choices they have made, and the dreams they struggle to hold on to.

In a departure from past practice the Ocean Pines Players are trying something new this pro-

please see *comedy* on page 15



**On duty** - Maryland State Troopers Meyers and Brittingham enjoyed the recent local celebration of the National Night Out, honoring police. Photo by Anna Foulz

*Raised on the Eastern Shore, she shares our "Shore" values*

By Authority: Friends of Mary Beth Carozza,  
Pat Schrawder, Treasurer

Mary Beth  
**CAROZZA** FOR STATE SENATE



# Community Calendar AUGUST

## Wor-Wic offers express registration

Wor-Wic Community College is offering "Smart Start Express Registration" for students to be able to complete the fall credit or non-credit registration process in one campus visit on Wednesday, August 22, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

Participants will be able to apply for financial aid, take the placement test, talk to an advisor, register for classes, make payment arrangements, visit the bookstore and learn about child care opportunities.

To RSVP, visit the college's website at [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) or call the college at 410-334-2800.

## Duck race tickets available

On Friday, August 24 the Kiwanis Annual Duck Race will take place at 6 p.m. in Frontier Town. For a \$5 donation sponsor a duck and possibly win 50% of sales up to \$3,000. Winners do not have to be present. Call 410-973-1233 or purchase at the Thursday evening Ocean Pines "Concerts in the Park" from the Kiwanis "Dawg Team" that sells hotdogs and other menu items and refreshments. Proceeds benefit Kiwanis Children's programs.

## Free heart screenings in Ocean Pines

Heart disease is the number one killer of Americans, but screening and understanding of lifestyle and risk factors can help to reduce that number. That's why Peninsula Regional Medical Center's Guerrieri Heart & Vascular Institute offers a free Heart Smart heart disease risk assessment for both men and women. The screenings will be held on Thursday,

*please see screenings on page 15*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Flea market scheduled

An outdoor flea market will be held Saturday, September 1, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. There will be more than 35 vendors. Breakfast, lunch and baked items will be offered. Bethany United Methodist Church is located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy, Berlin (Rte. 611 and Snug Harbor Rd.) For information and table rental, contact Bethany Church at 410-641-2186.

## Monday

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

## Sweet Adelines

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

## Monday/Tuesday

**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.

## Tuesday

**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.

## Tuesday/Thursday

**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.

## Wednesday

**Kiwanis Club Meeting**  
Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m.

## 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.

## 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.

## Square Dancing

The Pinestepers 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.

## Thursday

### 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 or Kate at 410-524-0649 for more activities. [BeachSingles.org](http://BeachSingles.org).

## 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.

## Friday

### 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.

## First Saturday

### Creative Writing Forum

Every first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Berlin Library. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction, and creative writing projects. Program includes critiques and appreciation, market leads, and writing exercises.

## Grant review panelists sought

The Maryland State Arts Council is seeking panelists to review grant applications for the 2020 Fiscal year. Each year, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) relies on a diverse array of arts experts from the field to do the important work of evaluating grant applications submitted by Maryland arts organizations and arts programs. Panelists review grant applications, conduct on-site interviews and artistic evaluations, and submit written reports on assigned applicant organizations prior to a mandatory spring Grants Review Panel Meeting. Serving as a panelist is a great oppor-

tunity to learn about Maryland arts organizations and the granting processes of the Maryland State Arts Council.

National arts organizations (National Endowment for the Arts, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Americans for the Arts) have clarified approaches to uncover cultural bias in the procedures and policies of state arts organizations. In response, the Maryland State Arts Council has committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion in grantmaking as all funding mechanisms continue to be examined and updated. The design of the Grants for Organizations FY2020 application is meant to inspire authentic reflection and internal

analysis for each applying organization, with the knowledge that the Maryland State Arts Council is to be seen and utilized as a collaborative partner in the process. The driving goals of this new vision for the granting processes are:

- To acknowledge positions of privilege while questioning practices, shifting paradigms of status quo arts activities, and taking more risks.

- To yield a greater variety of funded projects.

- To eliminate biases that may be found in any part of the granting process (i.e. - applications, panelist procedures, adjudication systems).

- To expand the deliberations about rigor beyond current conven-

tions or Western traditions.

- To aspire to make investments that contribute to social change and demonstrate aesthetic excellence in terms relevant to context and intent.

After applications have been reviewed, panelists are appointed by the Maryland State Arts Council for a one-year term, which may be renewed, and receive a modest honorarium and travel reimbursement for serving.

The Maryland State Arts Council uses Google products for all panelist activities. Applicants must have a Gmail account to apply. You may establish a Gmail account here: ([https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl)).

## A rare childhood pet becomes a conversation piece

By **Gloria Dietz**

Most people grow up with a dog, cat or maybe a pet fish. What if you grew up with a non-traditional pet of which most people were afraid?

Meet George Moniodis, originally from Pikesville but has been living in Ocean Pines for 13 years. In 1962, George was five-years-old when his grandfather brought back a baby alligator from Florida. It was about seven inches long at the time and his parents figured it would just die on its own. Surprisingly it didn't; instead it grew into an eight-foot household pet.

They named it Casey because they were not sure of the gender and it pretty much roamed the house particularly favoring the bathtub and the furnace room. They had a fenced-in yard and Casey spent his summers in the pool and "alligator house" which was really a dog house. Occasionally, Casey would escape the back yard and have to be chased down the road.

People that would come to visit were mostly terrified and knew to leave Casey alone since he didn't bother anyone unless he was hungry. A typical diet would include chicken necks and fish which was twice a week during the spring/summer and twice a month in the fall/winter. "Sometimes I would catch crawfish down in the creek and throw them in the pool as a treat," said George.

You could not pet Casey since it was not domesticated. Previous research revealed that alligators, as much as any reptiles, are incapable of creating bonds with humans. "If people tried to touch him, he would roar so loud it sounded like a car without a

muffler," chuckled George. The family also had three dogs and there was never a problem except for once when one of the dogs had puppies and Casey was interested in them as a meal. George stated that there was a time that Casey became sick and called



a veterinarian to come to the house for treatment. The vet refused to come saying that they must be mistaken and just owned a very large lizard.

George's mother prepared to move Casey to the Baltimore Zoo where a home was being planned. Before the move happened in the early 1980s, Casey died. They had him for approximately 22 years. A taxidermist preserved him and he now lives in George's garage. "Casey has traveled from Baltimore to Vermont to Ocean

City and has been seen on downhill skis and a surfboard, as well as being displayed in our restaurants and bar area; Always a conversation piece!" added George.

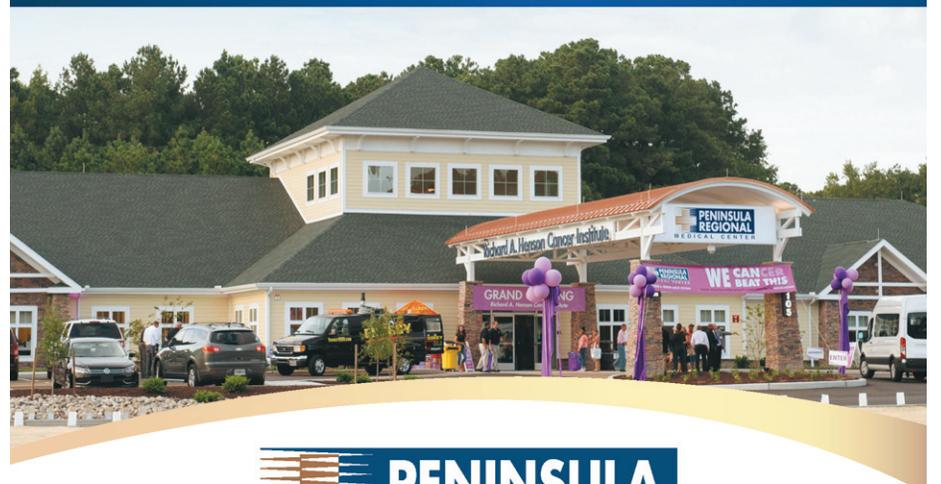
George works for FPC Solutions and has been married for 31 years to his wife, Mary Ann, who is a teacher at Buckingham Elementary School. They have one daughter and a nearly three-year-old grandson named Brady. They love reminiscing about Casey and showing him to all their new friends in the area.



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# The Courier

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## 2012 Business of the Year

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The number of people who smoke is on the decline, as a 2018 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes declined from roughly 21 percent in 2005 to 15.5 percent in 2016. That decline has no doubt helped reduce overall cancer death rates, though the figures regarding smoking-related deaths are still staggering. According to the CDC, smoking accounts for more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. The 2018 report from the CDC indicates that men (17.5 percent) are more likely than women (13.5 percent) to smoke cigarettes. In addition, the report notes a correlation between education and the likelihood of smoking cigarettes. While smoking was lowest among people who had graduate degrees, with only five out of every 100 such adults being smokers, smoking rates were highest (40.6 percent) among adults with graduate education degree certificates, or GEDs. While people who had no high school diploma were less likely to smoke cigarettes than GED recipients, the CDC report found that smoking rates declined the more education people received.



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## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

**Editor:**

I was pleased to hear the Shepards Nook Thrift Shop at the Community Church of Ocean Pines is raising awareness to their customers about the need to reduce the use of plastic bags. A flyer is being given the customers to encourage them to bring their own recycle bags to hold their purchase.



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There is an ever-increasing amount of plastic bags both on land and in the ocean polluting the environment. The American Chemistry Council estimated 8 million tons of plastic enters our ocean every year. Plastic bags cannot be recycled in curbside bins however they can be taken to grocery store bins.

The church is trying with this additional step to improve our environmental footprint.

**Joleen Killinger**  
 Ocean Pines

## Photo contest deadline approaches

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is accepting entries for its 15th annual photo contest until August 31. Photographers of all skill levels can enter online or by mail for a chance to win cash and other great prizes.

This year is shaping up to be a banner year for submissions, with more than 300 photographers already entering their original work.

Contest categories include birds, flora, insects, outdoor recreation, nature in action, scenic landscapes and wildlife. First, second and third place winners for each season, as well as one grand prize winner, will be selected by a panel of judges. An additional "Fan Favorite" winner is selected by popular vote on Facebook.

Winning entries will be posted online and featured in the *Maryland Natural Resource* seasonal magazine and in the 2019 wall calendar.

Visitors to the department's website can learn more about how to enter the contest, and view past entries and winners.



**Luncheon** - The "Ladies of Drawbridge Road" in Ocean Pines recently held their annual summer luncheon at the home of Jackie Choate.

## Student vaccine requirements stated

Vaccines are vital to protect children from potentially serious diseases. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's doctor to determine which vaccines are needed and schedule an appointment as needed. Changes in Maryland law in 2015 expanded the vaccine requirements for schools to include all kindergarten to fourth grade students to have two varicella vaccinations, and students in seventh to eleventh grade to have one Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-attenuated pertussis) and one meningococcal (Menactra or Menomune) vaccination.

Students who do not have the required vaccinations can be excluded from school unless they provide official documentation of a medical contraindication or religious exemption. With proof of an appointment to receive the vaccine(s) within 20 calendar days, a student can temporarily be admitted to school. This portion of the law is not intended to delay vaccination, but instead is designed for extenuating situations, such as a new student who may have just moved to the area from another state or country. In addition to the required vaccines for school, seventh and eighth graders are also recommended to receive the HPV vaccine which helps prevent several different types of cancer.

For those children who remain at risk for exclusion from school, Worcester County Health Department

is offering these vaccines at no charge on the dates listed below. Appointments are not required, but are suggested.

-August 27 - Pocomoke, 400-A Walnut Street, 410-957-2005

-August 29 - Snow Hill, 6040 Public Landing Road, 410-632-1100

-September 6 - Berlin, 9730 Healthway Drive, 410-629-0164

For more information visit the Worcester County Health Department's website at [www.worcester-health.org](http://www.worcester-health.org) or call us at 410-632-1100.

## WCEF to host annual event

Last year the Worcester County Education Foundation (WCEF) along with honorary chairs, Rebecca and Leighton Moore, held an inaugural Charity Event for Education~ An Evening at the Cotton Club. The event featured a lively Prohibition Party filled with '30s flappers, '40s zootsuits, 50's Swingers, Chinese Auction, a delicious spread and fabulous live entertainment straight from New York City's Tavern on the Green. This year's benefit will be a Mardi Gras Prohibition Party.

On Friday, November 2, Seacrets Morley Hall will be transformed into Bourbon St. where guests will enjoy the color, pageantry and entertainment that one would expect to see on

please see **event** on page 15

# The start of a passion

For those of you who have read this column during the past decade, you know that I love boating and that my boat is my mistress. My wife has said that I'd probably pause a little too long before answering whether she or my boat is more important to me. I don't

Brother's Boat." The monikers may not have been terribly creative but they worked for us. As I write this I can still see many of them floating at their moorings on a tranquil summer day.

When the tide went out and the boats were resting quietly on the sandbars, we would walk around them to get a closer look. Occasionally, old man Hap would chase us away. Many of those old boats are now considered classics. I'm sure though that many of them were long ago destroyed.

It pains me when I see an old boat in someone's yard just wasting away and overgrown with vegetation. I can almost hear the boat pleading to be returned to the water one last time. I know that sounds crazy. My wife says I'm a "boat whisperer" and maybe



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

think I'd hesitate when giving the answer; but I would have to sleep on the boat for awhile.

When I was a child I had a fleet of plastic boats that I played with in the tub or on the floor or, during the summer, on the sandbars behind my grandparents' home at the shore. For hours I would play, pulling the boats behind me with a long string or building marinas out of sand and sticks. I would use fishing sinkers as anchors. My grandfather wasn't too happy when I would raid his tackle box for another "anchor" for yet another toy boat.

My favorite toy boat was a blue and green cabin cruiser.

I don't know why, but it was. Although this particular boat was one of several dozen in my fleet, it was first among equals, usually getting the best slip in any marina I constructed. I believe it is drydocked (read: in a bag filled with my old toys) in my attic.

Runabouts under 20 feet have always held a particular interest with me. These are the types of boats with which I grew up. Down the street from my grandparents house was Hap's Pier. In addition to the fishing pier, he had an anchorage that accommodated about 15 or 20 boats that were owned by what we called "weekenders" who came down to go fishing on the weekends. The boats weren't fancy really but to me they each had a personality. My brother and I nicknamed many of them. There was the "Bat Boat," the "Gold Boat," "Baldi's Boat" and "Hap's



she's right. If I could spend my time anyway I wanted, I would love to restore old boats, making them water-worthy again so that families wanting a boat but unable to afford one could enjoy the pleasure that is boating. Boating brings families together in ways that are undeniable and most important. Not only that but boating helps build a lot of family memories. That has certainly been the case with my family.

My first boat was an eight foot wooden row boat built by my grandfather. I loved it and spent countless hours in her rowing, fishing or just sitting listening to the water lap her hull. It was time well spent.

I've had many experiences during the years I've been boating. As a teenager I once got caught in a storm on the Delaware Bay. Black clouds

and wind came up unexpectedly and scared the you-know-what out of me. The episode lasted about fifteen minutes but seemed like forever. I rode it out and in the process got a whole lot smarter about the fury of nature.

I've had more than my fair share of engine problems, especially with the old outboards we had when I was a kid. They usually got me to my fishing destination but conked out on the way in. Thankfully I always had an alternate propulsion system: oars.

There are many memories of experiences and people that come to mind when I think about boating, such as

fishing with my grandfather and father-in-law; my children and my nieces and nephews diving off the bow of our boat, splashing around in the water. I think about a girlfriend who was forced to keep my boat from getting beached after the engine broke down while I sought help. I eventually married that girl just to make it up to her. Lucky her.

It's been a long time since I played with toy boats and constructed marinas in the sand. Oh, but what an influence that time has had on me over the years!

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### AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

## VACCINES ARE NOT JUST FOR KIDS.

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## Police agencies to host citizens police academy

The Ocean Pines Police Department is joining forces with neighboring law enforcement agencies in Worcester County to co-host Ocean City's long-standing Citizens Police Academy.

The partnership with Ocean City and Ocean Pines Police departments, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, and Maryland State Police Berlin Barracks is the first of its kind for the academy.

Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey believes that educating area residents on what happens inside local police departments is critical in building trust and positive future interactions with police.

"The Ocean Pines Police Department is proud to partner with the Ocean City Police Department in the upcoming Citizens Police Academy," Massey said. "I urge all of our residents to consider this unique opportunity to build trust with local law enforcement."

The Citizens Police Academy is scheduled every Tuesday at 6 p.m. from September 11 to November 13 at the Ocean City Public Safety Building, located at 6501 Coastal Highway.

The free ten-week program is designed to heighten the awareness of the public and give area residents working knowledge of police departments through a behind-the-scenes approach.

Students will meet a variety of officers to learn about criminal law, traffic enforcement, evidence collection, firearms, arrest procedures, narcotics enforcement, the mounted and K-9 units, crime analysis and other topics. Those enrolled in the academy will also receive a hands-on opportunity to participate in practical scenarios.

The academy dates back to 1994, when Massey served as the chief of the Ocean City Police Department. Massey said he is proud to see the academy grow into a county-wide initiative.

"One of the most successful programs I've implemented as chief of the Ocean City Police Department was the Citizens Police Academy," said Massey. "This program demystifies the police profession with our citizens by showing them the day-to-day operations of the police department. Studies have shown that 90 percent of police activity with residents is not writing tickets or making arrests, but interacting with and protecting residents on a

daily basis."

Class size is limited to 30 participants and applicants must be 18 years of age to participate. Citizens who are interested must complete an application and give permission for the Ocean City Police Department to conduct a background check. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, September 4.

"We are excited to partner with our allied agencies and welcome citizens from across Worcester County to learn more about law enforcement in our area," commented Ocean City Police Chief Ross Buzzuro. "This program allows police to build relationships with community members and we are looking forward to sharing that experience with our partners."

For more information about Citizens Police Academy or to receive an application, please visit <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/police/programs/> or contact the OCPD Public Affairs Office at 410-520-5395.

## Homeowner, renter tax credit applications due

The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) is urging Marylanders to consider whether they may be eligible to receive a homeowners' or renters' property tax credit and to submit an annual application before the September 4 deadline. Combined, these two tax credit programs helped more than 55,000 Marylanders save more than \$65 million in taxes in 2017. SDAT has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Benefits Data Trust (BDT) to promote these tax credits and help low-income homeowners' and renters' complete their applications.

"Every year, our Department contacts more than one hundred thousand low-income Marylanders who may be eligible for tax relief, and we remain committed to finding innovative and effective ways to encourage them to apply," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "We are excited about our new partnership with BDT, which will make it even easier for individuals and

please see **application** on page 15



**Contribution** - The Delmarva Chorus makes a contribution to the Worcester Gold Back to School program.

## Wor-Wic graduates listed

The following students completed their program requirements to graduate with a certificate of proficiency (CT), associate of applied science (AAS), associate of arts in teaching (AAT), associate of science (AS) or associate of arts (AA) degree from Wor-Wic Community College this past fall and spring.

**Berlin:** Alison I. Alvarado, AA, General Studies; William Anderson, AA, General Studies; Ryan Shawn Bounds, AA, General Studies; Brittany Ocean Bunch, AAS, Radiologic Technology; Shelby Paige Figgs, AAS, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Taylor Morgan Frederick, AAT, Education; Nicholas C. Gerthoffer, AAS, Physical Therapist Assistant; Holly Getchell, AA, General Studies; Bryant Clifford Holbeck, AA, General Studies; Nicholas Robert Holmes, AA, General Studies; Kyle D. Joseph, AA, General Studies; Kaitlyn E. Kahl, AA, General Studies, AAT, Education; Liliia Khmarskaia, AA, Computer Studies; Tess Larie Koller, AA, General Studies; Tifanee Alixandrea Mask, AA, General Studies; Chelsea A. Mitchell, AAS, Radiologic Technology; Hunter K. Morris, AA, General Studies; Tyler Martin Nerret, AA, General Studies; Marisa M. Newcomb, AAS, Physical Therapist Assistant; Brittany Taylor Nilo, AAS, Education; Amanda L. Parsons, AS, Nursing; Amy J. Patterson, AS, Nursing; Bethany B. Poole, AAS, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Clareese Powell, AA, General Studies; Jessica Pulliam, AAS, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Stacy Purnell, AA, Business; Sherwood A. Schaffernoth, AA, General Studies; Trek Schuler, AAS, Physical Therapist Assistant; Gregory R. Staley, AA, General Studies; Ripley

Thumma, AAS, Radiologic Technology; Vincenzo E. Tomaselli, AAS, Emergency Medical Services; and Alexandra N. Tushup, CT, Nursing.

**Bishopville:** Jacob Blosveren, AA, General Studies; Shakiyla Q. Gordon, CT, Nursing; Dylan Kerkovich, CT, Criminal Justice; Erin Sara Summers, AAS, Criminal Justice; Kaitlin M. Thatcher, AA, Education; Nicholas A. White, AA, General Studies; and Allison Paige Willey, AS, Nursing.

**Girdletree:** Christopher M. McLain, AS, Nursing.

**Newark:** Amber Elizabeth Donoway, AA, General Studies, AA, Business; Sarah A. Lewis, CT, Nursing; and Andrew T. Mason, CT, Emergency Medical Services.

**Ocean City:** Jennifer L. Chrzanowski, AS, Nursing; Jake Clapsadle, AA, General Studies; Nicole J. Cookingham, AS, Nursing; Kirsten N. Dembrowski, AS, Nursing; Jamie N. Fuhrer, AS, Nursing; Brittany E. Gede, CT, Nursing; Casie L. Hayes, AAS, Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Management; April M. McCrady, CT, Nursing; Brian T. Nieto, CT, Criminal Justice; Ishra Thapa, AS, Nursing; Matthew Timothy Ward, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; and Katherine E. Witowski, AAS, Radiologic Technology.

**Pocomoke City:** Courtney Baylous, AAT, Education; Rhea M. Bowden, AAS, Manufacturing; Melanie C. Bradshaw, AS, Nursing; Kayla M. Burks, AAS, Radiologic Technology; Courtney Shay Chance, AAS, Business; Tracy Elizabeth Clauss, AAS, Office Technology; Paul Leimbach, AAS, Emergency Medical Services; Seerat

please see **graduates** on page 15

## Program started to assist Pines seniors

During a visit to Ocean Pines, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford and top staff members of the Worcester County Commission on Aging announced the launch of a new program, entitled "Community for



Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

Life," which is designed to help seniors age in place and remain active and healthy.

The Worcester County Commission on Aging through Community for Life aims to enhance the availability of key services that may help seniors cope with aging without further burdening their caregivers or exhausting their financial resources.

The state-wide program with a focus on Ocean Pines offers a variety of services to its members: transportation to medical and vet appointments, the grocery store, the local senior center and social events; home repairs; vendor service referral; assistance with electronics; reminder calls for medical appointments; telephone check-ins; "friendly" check-ins; and much more.

Ocean Pines residents who are interested in the program would have to enroll as a paid member. Executive Director Robert Hart and Community Navigator Shea Wise will provide more information about Community for Life and its membership opportunities at a free informational meeting on Tuesday, September 18 at 9 a.m. in the East Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.



**Donation** - Barbara Purnell, president Germantown School Community Heritage Center in Berlin, accepts a donation presented by Carol Parker Rose, chair Berlin Historical Commission, on behalf of the Casual Day Fund Committee of the Bank of Delmarva. The \$250.00 was collected by employees who dressed casual for a cause.

The Germantown School is one of only two surviving Rosenwald Schools in Worcester County and the only one adapted as a private museum and community center accessible to the public. Call 410-641-0638 for information and event details.






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## New Berlin branch library hosts grand opening

The new Berlin branch library hosted a grand opening on August 7.

Library Board of Trustees President Ron Cascio and Berlin Mayor Gee Williams joined the Worcester County Commissioners and Library Board members, and other state and local officials for the celebration and shared what the new library means to them and to the community.

"As a lifetime resident of Berlin, I don't believe I have ever witnessed as much excitement about a public project as I have seen for this new library," Mayor Williams said during the ribbon cutting.

Last spring, in anticipation of the new library, students in the Kiwanis Kids After School Program at Buckingham Elementary School (BES), initiated an extraordinary book drive, and with support from students in all BES grades collected over 1,000 children's book for the library.

"I trust that this new facility is not only a reflection of the support and appreciation of the citizens of Berlin, but of the hope and aspirations of our young people to build a better future," Mayor Williams said. "It has certainly

been rewarding to witness the genuine excitement this new library has generated among our young people."

The new building is a resource-efficient structure, with a geothermal loop system, LED lighting, triple pane windows, and foam insulation to improve performance and reduce energy costs. Tucked into the two-story structure are generous spaces with comfy seating for children, teens, and adults to study, read, listen to music, participate in programs, and work on computers. There are public computers, a laptop use area, spacious community meeting room, art gallery, and local history room.

"It was our intention from the start to provide this wonderful community with not just a library building, but a learning center, and to keep the project close to the town center," Cascio said. He recognized Library Director Jennifer Ranck and the many other individuals whose vision and ongoing support brought the project to fruition.

"We also wanted to attempt to influence decision makers that there can be a better way to acquire its buildings

and to deliver to the people of Worcester County, Berlin, and visitors the finest, most efficient and affordable, long lasting building we could," Cascio said. "It would be nice to hear from those using it centuries from now, just how well we did."

Funding for the new facility was provided by the County Commissioners, Worcester County Library Foundation, and the County Library Capital Grant Program, Maryland State Library.

"These days we have a lot of elec-

tronic devices at our fingertips," Commission President Diana Purnell said. "But those instruments can't compete with the resources available through the public library. Plus, there's nothing like being able to go to the library, pick up a good book by your favorite author and read. Well done, Worcester County. Well done, Berlin."

We invite you to visit the new branch at 13 Harrison Avenue and discover the many resources, programs, and amenities the new library has to offer.

### Hogan announces funding for Convention Center expansion

Governor Larry Hogan announced last week he has authorized the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) in conjunction with the Town of Ocean City to move forward with funding the final phase of the addition and renovation of the Roland E. Powell Ocean City Convention Center. The \$34 million project cost will be funded via \$20 million from the state through the Maryland Stadium Authority, in addition to Ocean City's contribution of \$14 million.

"This facility has long been an important economic driver for Ocean City, bringing in thousands of visitors for conferences and events like MACo and allowing local businesses to stay open and continue to hire year-round," said

*please see expansion on page 11*

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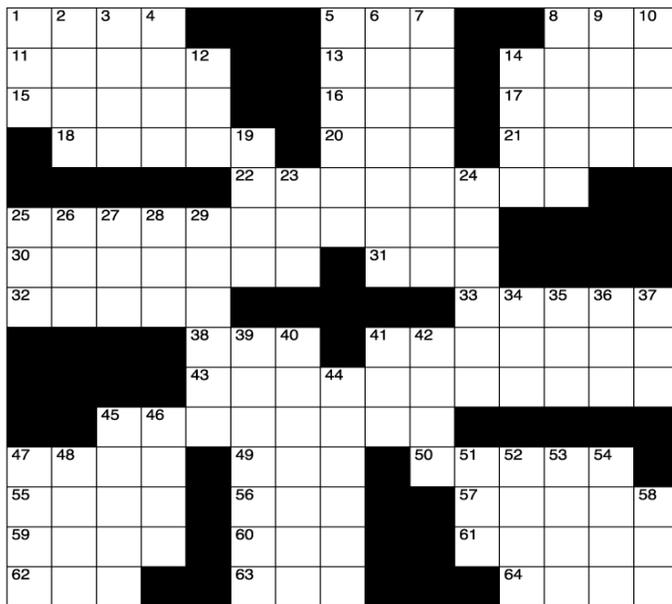
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Sacred bull (Egyptian myth.)
- 5. One-time European money
- 8. Disfigure
- 11. Polish city
- 13. Move quickly on foot
- 14. Landlocked West African country
- 15. Used in aromatherapy
- 16. The greatest of all time
- 17. Type of horse
- 18. Volcanic craters
- 20. Type of graph (abbr.)
- 21. Supporters
- 22. North and South are two
- 25. Spread
- 30. Adjusted
- 31. Vietnamese offensive
- 32. Nazi architect
- 33. Nigerian peoples
- 38. When you hope to get there
- 41. Ridicules
- 43. Allied Powers vs. Central Powers
- 45. Produce
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. "Sin City" actress
- 56. Female reproductive cells
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Garland
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Negative
- 63. Tooth caregiver
- 64. Check

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Form of "to be"
- 2. A hand has one
- 3. Thought
- 4. Physical body
- 5. Removes
- 6. One who perpetrates wrongdoing
- 7. Make one
- 8. Kate and Rooney are two
- 9. \_\_\_ Ladd, "Shane" actor
- 10. Makes fun of
- 12. Space station
- 14. Gene
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Livid
- 24. It comes after "et"
- 25. More (Spanish)
- 26. Electronic data processing
- 27. Buffer solution to separate DNA and RNA
- 28. Primate
- 29. Scattered
- 34. Evergreen tree
- 35. What engaged couples will say
- 36. Barbie's friend
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A position from which progress can be made
- 40. Showed up
- 41. Insecticide
- 42. Type of milk
- 44. Verandas
- 45. Annoyingly talkative
- 46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. "Heat" director
- 48. Plant genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Freedom fighters (slang)
- 58. Criticize



Answers for August 15

# St. Martin's Church, a historical treasure

By **June Freeman**

Just a few minutes' drive from Ocean Pines stands a majestic structure which was built twenty years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1756. The legendary historic St. Martin's Church is a restored 18<sup>th</sup> century Flemish bond brick building situated on over thirty acres of wooded area and surrounded by century old trees.

Sherrie Beckstead, president and board member of St. Martin's Church, said, "Everyone has the same feeling when they walk into the building and step over the threshold. They think about all the parishioners who came by horseback and came by boat and stepped onto the beautiful brick floor that is centuries old. It's an ethereal feeling that you cannot recapture any place else except in a building like this."

Located on Route 113 at the intersection of Route 589, the museum attracts a blend of visitors who come from around the country, including people researching their genealogy, drivers who pull over when they pass by, people who are fond of historical buildings, and locals from the Eastern Shore.

St. Martin's Church is rich in history and there are lots of surprises and stories that are shared when visiting. Volunteer docents from the Assateague Questers, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Worcester County Garden Club are there to greet and to help unfold the amazing history.

Docent Rosie Keech, an Assateague quester, described how "people were impressed from the first to the last when they saw the oldness of the church." Her docent highlight was the time when a delightful gentleman entered the church, and with a huge smile he exclaimed that he had been driving by the church for a long, long

time in hopes of getting to see it. He was from Showell and his family went back many generations. Gazing up at pews in the balcony, he remarked that his ancestors had most likely sat there at one time. After exploring the mysteries of the church, he shared some of the history of the area and the people.



"He was so happy that he made it inside the church. He took photos, walked around, and then sat in the pews. I think he felt like he was coming home," remarked Rosie Keech.

Board Member J. D. Quillin has been involved with the restoration since the inception in the early 2000s. Quillin depicted the beauty of the 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture when describing the rows of hardwood benches with vertical backs, the three-foot-thick walls, the pulpit, and the floor of the sanctuary where three of the early preachers are now buried.

Visitors are not the only ones who spend time enjoying this hidden treasure. Sherrie Beckstead explained that "the goal is to strive to serve as a beacon in the community. It is a place for the arts, storytelling, concerts, and for individuals who wish to use the building for something in the community." Baptisms, a Christmas service, and weddings are exceptional and special times. She described the candlelight wedding ceremonies as magical. Taking vows in a 262-year-old building, walking on the original brick floor, and

*please see church on page 11*

church  
from page 10

hearing the sound of beautiful music reverberating off of the barrel-vaulted ceilings captures a lifetime of memories.

Always having an affinity for historical buildings, Beckstead stated there are many volunteers who unselfishly give their time and resources to this cause. For her and others, it is a part of their life's work. The board, advisors, CPA's historians, docents, and others work tirelessly to bring a piece of history to life.

Beckstead reminisced about the earlier days when the research was being conducted and everything began to fall into place. The community outreach, obtaining their first major grant from Maryland Historical Trust, and finding evidence to confirm the original location of the pulpit made for exciting times.

And the future of St. Martin's Church is looking long and bright. Currently a comfort station and vestry cottage are in the works. Architect David Quillin is donating a lot of his time to designing a spectacular building which will be a rendering of what might have been in the 1800s.

The history, the passion, the architecture, and the love that has gone into this restoration will impact the lives for many generations to come.

*Editor's note. Docent tours are given every Monday from 1p.m. until 3 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled for guided tours at other times. For more information call 410-251-2849 or go to [historicstmartinschurch.org](http://historicstmartinschurch.org).*



expansion  
from page 8

Governor Hogan. "I want to thank Mayor Meehan, as well as the team at the Maryland Stadium Authority, for working with us to make today's announcement possible. With their partnership, we are able to speed up this important project, which is expected to have an economic impact of as much as \$67 million and continue creating jobs right here on the Eastern Shore."

Hogan made the announcement at the convention center at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) 2018 Summer Conference in Ocean City, where he was joined by Ocean City Mayor Richard Meehan, Maryland Stadium Authority Chairman Tom Kelso and Executive Director Michael Frenz, and Ocean City Convention Center Executive Director Larry Noccolino.

Legislation will be submitted for the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly to allow MSA the needed capacity to finance the project. The convention center brings visitors

to Ocean City, especially during the shoulder seasons, allowing local businesses to stay open year-round and provide full-time employment for Marylanders. Currently, the convention center has existing clients whose events have outgrown the facility and may seek out-of-state alternatives.

"The expansion of the Convention Center is important to Ocean City and the State of Maryland. Not only does the Convention Center generate revenue locally but has a positive economic impact on the State," said Mayor Meehan. "We are thankful for the support of Governor Hogan and the partnership with the Maryland Stadium Authority."

Market research suggests that the expansion will allow the convention center to better accommodate existing users, as well as attract new business in niches that are well-suited to Ocean City's strengths, including state and regional organizations, trade shows, and sports competitions that attract overnight attendees who look for affordable family-friendly destinations. The expansion is expected to create

# A look at OPA finances

By Joe Reynolds

The financial info for the month of July and year-to-date is now available. The report states, "We have a negative year-to-date operating fund variance of (\$69,248). Revenues were over budget by \$70,761 and total expenses are over budget by (\$140,009)." In other words, OPA is operating at a loss of about \$70,000 for the first three months of the fiscal year.

Some Highlights:

**Aquatics** was budgeted to make an operating profit of \$51,027 in July. The actual profit was \$11,053. Year-to-date operational profit at end of July 2017 was \$406,477. Year-to-date actual for this year is \$284,472.

So, the net bottom line for Aquatics is about \$120,000 worse than this time last year.

OPA report says, "Shortfall for the year continues to be primarily attributed to the addition of the Parking Only pass for the Beach Club." In other words, association members are apparently seeing the parking-only option as a better choice than when parking and pool were combined. While Aquatics declined as a result of parking change, Beach Club Parking year-to-date profit is ahead of last year

between 470 and 670 new jobs.

"The Maryland Stadium Authority values our successful partnership with the Town of Ocean City and is pleased to partner once again on a project that provides enjoyment and a positive return on investment for Marylanders," said Chairman Kelso.

MSA previously partnered with the Town of Ocean City on two additional expansions of the Ocean City Convention Center, since the original expansion in 1996.

The Roland E. Powell Ocean City Convention Center currently offers approximately 60,000 square feet of exhibit space, 19,126 square feet of ballroom space, 23,295 square feet of meeting space, a 1,200 seat Performing Arts Center and 1,320 parking spaces. The conceptual design documents suggest that the existing site is capable of accommodating an expansion of the exhibit hall space by 30,000 square feet, and will address the resulting parking needs of the facility. The Town of Ocean City will again request that MSA manage design and construction.

by over \$45,000.

Despite the OPA report on shortfall due to parking related income, factors other than Beach Club parking revenue relative to Aquatics are at work. For example, member dues are off by around \$90,000. Coupon sales are off by \$10,000. Cash fees are off by around \$15,000. Labor is \$18,000 more than last year. Utility costs are actually lower by \$3,000 year-to-date.

**Golf** operations continue to do well. Year-to-date operations show a profit of \$105,817 compared to \$107,119 at this time last year. Golf actually made an operational profit last year as noted in the audited financial report.

**Recreation & Parks** is losing \$81,208 at this point, compared to a loss of \$53,740 this time last year.

**Pickleball**, while small in overall dollars is doing great. It is at a net operating profit of \$14,321 compared to \$1,775 last year at this time.

**Beach Club** posted a net operating profit of \$52,336 for the month of July and now stands at an operating profit of \$27,694 for the year-to-date. In 2016 the profit was \$98,327 at this time. July 2015 showed an operating profit of \$98,375. From a pure profit standpoint, the Beach Club is only doing half as well as in past years, other than the outlier of 2017.

**Yacht Club** posted an operating

Please see **opa** on page 15

## Tides for Ocean City (Fishing Pier)

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th 23	Low	12:24 AM	6:22 AM
	High	6:02 AM	7:43 PM
	Low	12:08 PM	
	High	6:32 PM	
F 24	Low	1:02 AM	6:23 AM
	High	6:45 AM	7:42 PM
	Low	12:52 PM	
	High	7:13 PM	
Sa 25	Low	1:38 AM	6:24 AM
	High	7:26 AM	7:41 PM
	Low	1:33 PM	
	High	7:53 PM	
Su 26	Low	2:13 AM	6:25 AM
	High	8:07 AM	7:39 PM
	Low	2:13 PM	
	High	8:31 PM	
M 27	Low	2:48 AM	6:26 AM
	High	8:47 AM	7:38 PM
	Low	2:52 PM	
	High	9:10 PM	
Tu 28	Low	3:23 AM	6:26 AM
	High	9:27 AM	7:36 PM
	Low	3:33 PM	
	High	9:48 PM	
W 29	Low	4:00 AM	6:27 AM
	High	10:07 AM	7:35 PM
	Low	4:15 PM	
	High	10:26 PM	

## Boat parade is Saturday

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ocean Pines Association will take to the water at a celebratory boat parade on Saturday, August 25 beginning at 2 p.m.

"I am looking forward, again, to spending time with the many fellow residents that love to have a good time in a parade," said 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Committee member and event chair Carol Ludwig, who also organized the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade on June 2.

"We had a great one on land, now let's do the land and water together. Along with our residents, those are two more of our greatest assets," she said.

Hosted by the Ocean City Power Squadron, the parade will start at the judges' viewing area at the community's Swim and Racquet Club, located at 10 Seabreeze Road. Boats will continue along the St. Martin River into the Windjammer then Moonshell Drive, Teal Circle, Clubhouse Drive and Harbor Village canals.

Three Judges' Choice awards will be presented. Winners will each receive a personalized plaque and a \$100 Visa gift card.

In an effort to encourage waterfront property owners to join in the fun, a "Landlubber's Yard" decorating contest will also be held. Residents along the parade route are encouraged to decorate their properties and register to be judged by passing boaters.

One Judges' Choice award will be presented in the decorating contest. The winner will receive a personalized plaque and a \$100 Visa gift card. A minimum of five entries are needed to validate the contest.

Parade and decorating contest award winners will be notified on Sunday, August 26 and announced to the public on Monday.

### Rummage sale set

Ocean City Presbyterian Church will host a rummage sale on Saturday, September 8 between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event will occur at 1301 Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City.



**Presentation** - Shore United Bank recently presented Diakonia and the Art League of Ocean City with a check for \$1,000 as part of their sponsorship for the Empty Bowl Project. Left to right: **Sandy Sribnick**, Diakonia board member; **Allyson Church**, Diakonia board president; **Claudia Nagle**, Diakonia executive director; **Terri Johnson**, Shore United Bank; **Rina Thaler**, Art League executive director; and **Marian Bickerstaff**, Art League president. The Empty Bowl Project benefits the two local nonprofits, helping to fill the food pantry at Diakonia and to support the community outreach programs of the Art League. Bowl-making sessions are scheduled at the Ocean City Center for the Arts through the fall and winter with the soup dinner in 2019.

## Strategies parents can use to motivate students

Students may need some time to adjust at the beginning of a new school year. Summer vacations typically lack the structure of the school year, and it might be unfair to expect kids to seamlessly slip back into their more regimented lives as students.

While some early school year sluggishness might be normal, that should wear off pretty quickly. If not, and students appear to be struggling to get motivated for their schoolwork, parents can try various strategies that should help reignite youngsters' passions for learning.

Make your home more school-friendly. Summer is a relaxing time of year when parents have a tendency to relax rules around the house. But come the school year, parents must make sure their homes are as conducive to studying as possible. Resist the urge to turn the television on each night so students are not distracted from their studies. Keep the home quiet so students are motivated to focus on their studies.

Encourage participation in extracurricular activities. Various studies have examined the relationship between extracurricular activities and academic performance. A 2002 study published in the journal *Sociology of Education* found that participation in extracurricular activities is associated with improved grade point average, increased college attendance and reduced absenteeism. The link between participation in extracur-

ricular activities and improved academic performance is still in need of study, but such participation may help children acclimate to the structure of the school year more quickly than they might if they do not participate in such activities.

Encourage curious youngsters. Kids are curious, and fostering that curiosity can be a great way for parents to get their kids excited about learning. Whether it is during the school year and part of their curriculum or on summer break, encourage kids to engage in subjects that interest them. As kids learn more about the topics and subjects that interest them, they may develop a passion for learning that they can then take with them to the classroom.

Express an interest in the subjects children are studying. Another way to motivate students at the dawn of a new school year is to express an interest in the subjects they are studying. Ask questions about their studies and encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions. Engaging students about the subjects they are studying can motivate them to explore those subjects more deeply than they otherwise might.

Motivating kids to be excited about their schoolwork at the dawn of a new school year can sometimes be difficult. But parents can employ various strategies that can help their children readjust to life in the classroom and motivate them to perform to the best of their abilities.

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# How to talk to children about cancer

No parent wants to hear that their child has cancer, but such is the reality for thousands of parents each year. According to the nonprofit foundation CureSearch for Children's

1- to 2-year-olds. Children in this age group understand things they can see and touch, so bring along some items they can safely play with during treatment. In addition, let kids choose the flavor of their medicines when possible. Prepare kids ahead of time if treatment will involve something that hurts, such as an injection. Failing to prepare them in such instances may make them fearful and anxious throughout the rest of their treatments.

3- to 5-year-olds. Help children in this age group better understand their treatment by asking doctors if kids can touch the models, machines or supplies, including tubes and bandages, ahead of time. Prepare

kids beforehand for potentially painful parts of their treatment, and try to distract them by reading to them during procedures. Kids in this age group also may be comforted by holding a favorite toy or stuffed animal.

6- to 12-year-olds. Children between the ages of six and 12 will understand that medicine helps them heal, so such kids will likely want to cooperate when receiving treatment. Kids in this age group will want to know what to expect and will likely have many questions, so parents should try to have as many answers about their children's disease as possible. Parents who are stumped by

kids' questions can look up answers together with their children.

Teenagers. The NCI notes that teenagers who have been diagnosed with cancer may be preoccupied with how their disease has changed their lives and separated them from their friends. Parents can make an effort to ensure their teenage children stay as connected to their friends as possible. Teenagers also should be included in treatment decisions.

Parents can help children diagnosed with cancer understand their disease in various ways. More information is available at [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov).



Cancer, nearly 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer each year.

Survival rates for childhood cancers have improved dramatically over the last half-century, increasing from just 10 percent to nearly 90 percent in that time period. Parents should be encouraged by such statistics, but many may still wonder how to speak to children about their cancer diagnosis. The National Cancer Institute notes that children will learn a lot from their parents' tone of voice and facial expressions, so it is important to remain calm when speaking to kids about cancer. Openness and honesty also are important, as it will inspire children to trust and confide in their parents as they battle their illnesses. The NCI also notes that age-related suggestions may help parents speak with their children about cancer.

Less than one year old. Children who are less than one year old will not be capable of understanding they have a disease, so the NCI advises parents of such youngsters to comfort them by holding them and gently touching them. Skin-to-skin contact is ideal, and during treatment, parents can bring familiar items from home, such as toys or a blanket, to make kids feel more comfortable. Children less than one year old find their parents' voices soothing, so speaking and singing to children during treatment sessions can comfort them as well.

## Walters joins Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College recently welcomed Penny S. Walters of Salisbury as counselor.

Prior to joining Wor-Wic, she was a social worker in family services for the Somerset County Department of Social Services in Princess Anne for the past 21 years. Walters holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Salisbury University and a master's in social work from Delaware State University in Dover.



Penny Walter

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# PRMC ranked among best

Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) is among the nation's best hospitals for 2018-2019, and has been named a Best Regional Hospital on the Eastern Shore of Maryland according to U.S. News, the publisher of "Best Hospitals." The magazine ranked PRMC as the Number. 10 hospital in Maryland. PRMC also scored high in patient safety, demonstrating commitment to reducing accidents and medical mistakes.

The annual Best Hospitals' rankings, now in their 29th year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or for common elective procedures.

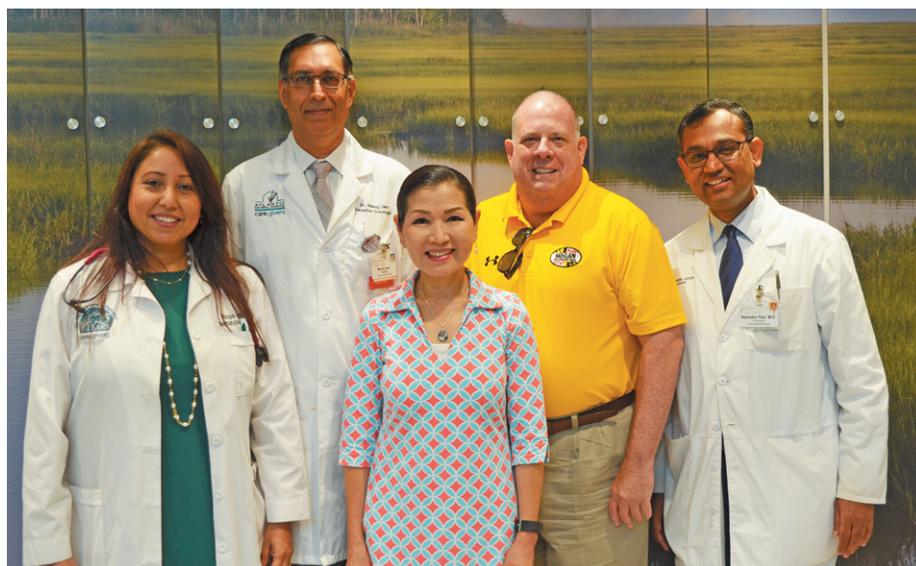
"For nearly 30 years, U.S. News has strived to make hospital quality more transparent to healthcare consumers nationwide," said Ben Harder, Managing Editor and Chief of Health Analysis at U.S. News. "By providing the most

comprehensive data available, we give patients and their physicians' information to support their search for the best care across a range of specialties."

For the 2018-19 rankings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 25 specialties, procedures and conditions. In the 16 specialty areas, 158 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty.

"U.S. News & World Report" named PRMC a national "high-performing hospital" in the treatment of heart failure, colon cancer surgery and hip replacement surgery. To be nationally ranked in a specialty, a hospital must excel in caring for the sickest, most medically complex patients.

"Organizationally, this is another outstanding honor to receive," said Steve Leonard, MBA, FACHE, president/CEO of the Peninsula Regional Health System and Peninsula Regional Medical Center.



**Governor's visit** - Atlantic General Hospital hosted Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan for a tour of the John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center today. The tour included a revealing of one of the First Lady's painting, which is displayed in the center, a demonstration of the center's telehealth technology and a meet and greet with patients.

Above: From L to R **Dr. Roopa Gupta**, medical oncologist and hematologist; **Dr. Manoj Jain**, radiation oncologist; **Yumi Hogan**, first lady of the state of Maryland; **Larry Hogan**, governor of the state of Maryland; **Dr. Rabindra Paul**, medical oncologist and hematologist.

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**opa**

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profit of \$100,300 in July and shows a year-to-date actual profit of \$78,199.

**graduates**

from page 6

Noureen, AA, Business; Nathan K. Stephens, AA, General Studies; Tara Tedder, AAT, Education; Melissa Ann Webster, AS, Nursing; and Ronnie Terry White, AAS, Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Management.

**Snow Hill:** Brittany T. Calandra, AS, Nursing; Rachel Lee Carmean, AA, General Studies; Annette J. Gibbons-Tarr, AAS, Business; Charles A. Hunt, AAS, Criminal Justice; Samantha M. Hunter, CT, Nursing; Kristy A. John-

son, AAS, Radiologic Technology; Erica Marie Jones, AA, Business; Justin DeShawn Taylor, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; Kennedy Thornes, AA, General Studies; Haleigh M. Tingle, AA, General Studies; and Shermita A. Waters, AAS, Office Technology.

**Stockton:** Jamie M. Nock, CT, Nursing; and Lydia Smythers, AAS, Physical Therapist Assistant.

**Whaleysville:** Jacquelyn A. Failla, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; and Myah Michelle Meekins, AS, Nursing.

**event**

from page 4

the streets and in the clubs of New Orleans. Even featured entertainer, James Day of "James Day and the Fish Fry" hails from the great city of New Orleans and promises to have guests up on their feet with a wonderful mix of traditional NOLA Jazz, Cajun and Swing. Guests are encouraged to embrace the Mardi Gras Prohibition theme with carnivale masks, glitter, feathers, flapper dresses (and gentlemen, express your inner "Capone").

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.wced.foundation](http://www.wced.foundation) under "events." The evening includes live entertainment, Chinese, Silent and Live auctions, light hors d'oeuvres, happy hour prices at the bar, beads and Mardi Gras "Street Entertainment" throughout the evening. General admission tickets are \$35. In addition to a basic ticket, a limited number of Ten Top Tables (exclusive reserved seating for ten) are available for purchase online for \$500, and include all general admission benefits for ten guests. Another ticket option for organizations, businesses or individuals who wish to thank our Worcester County educators, may do so by purchasing a \$500

Bronze "Tickets for Teachers" Sponsorship online, which provides two tickets for the sponsor and up to eight complimentary tickets for teachers and/or school staff, to the event.

Proceeds from the Mardi Gras will benefit the Worcester County Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 which is an independent organization that works closely with the Worcester County Board of Education and the business community to identify immediate needs of students and educators and work together to fill periodic budgetary gaps. To date the WCEF has empowered 6,684 students with necessary digital learning tools in 14 county schools, supported teachers by awarding over \$10,000 in grants for creative learning tools, helped to provide a laptop to every high school student in the county, has donated over \$100,000 in order to accelerate necessary infrastructure upgrades in classrooms and has created an Educational Endowment through the Community Foundation.

Visit [www.wced.foundation](http://www.wced.foundation) for more about the Worcester County Education Foundation or contact Patti Miller at [patti@peckmiller.com](mailto:patti@peckmiller.com) or call 443-880-7795 for more information about events.

driving after dark, a Sunday matinee has been scheduled.

This is the perfect summer entertainment. As usual, the Players are offering free beverages and desserts at intermission. If you have any questions, please call the Ocean Pines Players at 703-727-0528. Group rates and reserved tables are available for large groups.

**comedy**

from page 1

duction. Instead of running two consecutive weekends, "Romance" will run for six straight days, allowing players to avoid battling weekend traffic. Showtimes will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. For those concerned about

standpoint, the Yacht Club is only doing about half as well year-to-date as it did in 2015 when the new Yacht Club opened. 2017 was an outlier and not useful for comparisons.

Dollars aside, it should be noted that customer satisfaction must be the highest in decades. Could not ask for much more the first year from Ortt

**application**

from page 6

families in-need to find and apply for the homeowners' and renters' tax credits."

The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program provides tax relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes owed based on their income. If a resident has already paid their property taxes and applies before September 1, any tax credit that the homeowner may be eligible for will be refunded by their county finance office. The Renters' Property Tax Credit Program similarly provides tax relief for eligible renters who pay high monthly rent relative to their total income. This credit is issued in the form of a direct check payment of up to \$1,000 a year.

To determine whether you are eligible to receive a tax credit, you may visit the links above or call 410-767-4433 or 1-800-944-7403 (toll free within Maryland). To receive an application, please email [sdat.taxcredittapp@maryland.gov](mailto:sdat.taxcredittapp@maryland.gov) or call 410-767-4238.

In 2017, approximately 47,000 homeowners received an average of \$1,339 in tax relief, while more than 8,800 renters received an average of \$402 in tax relief. These two tax credit programs alone saved Maryland taxpayers more than \$65 million last year. Homeowners may also be eligible to receive the Homestead Tax

management. Things should improve even more on the financial end as the banquet business is brought back to life over the coming year.

**Marina** numbers continue to be positive. End of July year-to-date shows a \$15,000 improvement in operational profit. Profit for July beat budget by \$5000.

Credit to limit taxable assessment increases on their principal residence. Many counties and municipalities also provide supplemental homeowners' credits, which provide additional tax relief. If a resident is approved to receive the state homeowners' credit, they will automatically receive any local supplemental homeowners' credit for which they are eligible.

SDAT has entered into a partnership with BDT, which is a national non-profit committed to transforming how families and individuals in-need access essential benefits and services in Maryland through the Maryland Benefits Center. Multi-lingual outreach specialists will assist individuals during the entire application process for the homeowners' and renters' tax credits. They will also immediately connect applicants with numerous other state, local, and community programs available to ensure they are able to meet their basic needs.

Additionally, SDAT recently conducted a tax credit awareness campaign to educate Maryland homeowners and renters about the availability of these tax credits. Over 77,000 postcards were mailed to low-income homeowners who may be eligible to receive a tax credit, but have not yet submitted an application. SDAT has also been proactively sharing this information with the public through direct mail, email campaigns, social media, and other forms of community outreach.

**screenings**

from page 2

Aug. 30 and Thursday, September 27 onboard the Wagner Wellness Van at the Delmarva Health Pavilion Ocean Pines, located outside the North Gate at 11101 Cathage Road. Appointments are required.

The comprehensive screenings include:

- Cholesterol, HDL, triglycerides, fasting blood glucose
- Resting 12-lead EKG
- Body fat and body mass index
- Waist to hip ratio

- Blood pressure testing
- Pulse oximetry testing
- 10-year risk analysis
- Review of current medications
- Follow-up care plan
- Exercise/nutrition recommendations

People choosing to participate must not currently be under the care of a cardiologist or have a known history of heart disease. A 12-hour fast is required prior to the appointment. Call 410-543-7026 to schedule your free Heart Smart screening appointment.

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