

The Courier

June 10, 2015 Volume 16 Number 41

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Saturday and Sunday
Noon - 4pm.
16th Street & Boardwalk.

Anglers Club to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, June 13 at 9 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The meeting is a half hour earlier than normal due to OC Air Show. The speaker will be Scott Lennox, 10 year host of the popular TV program "Hooked On OC." He is now also promoting fishing in Ocean City through the new website "FishinOC.com." Scott will touch on all things fishing in Ocean City and share some of his fishing tips. All are welcome.

Smart meters to be topic at meeting

The Worcester County Tea Party will meet Thursday evening June 18. The topics will be "The lies and agenda behind climate change," and smart meters coming to Ocean Pines. The guest speakers will be Pastor John Abent, Choptank Electric Cooperative President and CEO Mike Wheatley and Francis Ruffo, Choptank director for the Ocean Pines district. The meeting will be held at the Ocean Pines library beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information email WCTPPatriots@gmail.com, go to the web site www.worcester-county-teaparty.com, <https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyTeaParty> or call 443-614-7214.

Home repairs workshop offered

The Women's Commission of Worcester County invites you to attend a Suddenly Single workshop "Home Repairs #201" to be held at the Home Depot in Berlin, located at 11408 Ocean Gateway, on Saturday, July 18. Neil O'Callaghan will talk about energy saving tips, use of hand tools and winterization of your home.

The mission of "Suddenly Single" is to assist those living alone, women coping with the loss of a partner's support through illness, death, separation or divorce to move forward, and to achieve social, educational, and economic equality while maintaining health and well-being.

To attend the "Home Repair #201" workshop, call 410-641-6517 or email lin-daknierim@yahoo.com. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited and there is no charge for this workshop. For questions about "Suddenly Single" project, call Beverly Thomas at 410-641-8299.



Grand finale - The Ocean Pines Line Dancers celebrated the end of another successful, fun season at Seacrets in Ocean City on Wednesday, May 27. The members meet at the Ocean Pines Recreation Center every Monday and Wednesday, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Betty's Corner

Couple enjoys Pines living

By **Betty Cianci**

Ocean Pines is home to scores of happy, fun-loving neighbors who maintain healthy lifestyles by participating in the many activities abounding in the community.

One married couple falling into this category is Beth and Tom Hershey. Beth has been an active volunteer with a number of our community organizations, such as, the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library, since the library opened its doors in 2000. She is also a long-time member of the Third Thursday

Book Club. Beth thrives on experiencing new activities such as Zumba, a fast-paced work-out to music. Beth and Tom also enjoy the opportunity



Tom and Beth Hershey

and exercise benefit they receive playing platform tennis on our OP courts. The Hersheys are members of the OP Boat Club and delight in cruising our area's picturesque waterways with family and friends.

Beth was born, raised and educated in Erie, PA. and attended Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. The liberal arts college was founded in 1852 and

is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. After Beth's graduation, she pursued a career as an ele-

please see couple on page 9

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Library director to retire, acting director named

The Board of Trustees of the Worcester County Library has announced that Library Director Mark Thomas will retire on June 19. The board has appointed Jennifer Ranck as acting director for the library system, beginning June 20.



Mark Thomas



Jennifer Ranck

Ranck, the library's deputy director since August 2013, also manages the Ocean City Branch library, a role she will give up with the onset of her new position. She directed the Somerset County Library System from 2009 to 2013 and before that was the training coordinator for the Eastern Shore Regional Library, based in Salisbury. A graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, Ranck earned a Bachelor of

Arts degree at Elmira College and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Thomas has served as library director since 2004. He is a resident of Berlin, where he and his wife will remain after he retires.

Barbecue chicken sale is Saturday

The St. Paul United Methodist Church Men's Ministry will have a barbecue chicken event on Saturday, June 13 starting at 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person for half a chicken and a roll. The event will take place at the church located at 405 Flower Street in Berlin.

Rummage sale set

A rummage sale will be held Saturday, June 20 at Ocean City Presbyterian Church between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event will take place at 1301 Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City.



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Concert on the lawn series begins

The Berlin Heritage Foundation announces that Taylor Bank will sponsor the first performance in the 2015 Concert on the Lawn series on Sunday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, 208 North Main Street. "Such Fools," a trio of Mickey Justice on mandolin, Todd Smith on bass and Dick Morris on guitar, will perform at this first concert.

"For at least 18 years the foundation has been sponsoring these free concerts on the side yard of the Taylor House and they continue to be one of our museum's most popular community events," stated curator Susan Taylor. "We've had some talented musicians perform on the lawn and we look forward to another exciting season featuring all new groups this year.

Bring a chair and a picnic to enjoy these free concerts on the lawn of the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum at 208 North Main Street in Berlin. Concerts in the series are always held at 6 p.m. on the second Sunday of the months of June through September.

The Taylor House Museum is open from Memorial Day weekend through the end of October on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. Group tours are available anytime by appointment.

For more information contact the

Taylor Museum at 410-641-1019 or visit our website at www.taylorhouse-museum.org.

Knitting event is Saturday

World Wide Knit in Public Day is coming to the Ocean Pines Farmers Market on Saturday, June 13. This worldwide event is the world's largest knitter event held every year since 2005. The event is free to everyone, and no registration is required, just join the fun at market. KIP (Knit In Public) participants will gather under the large trees along the Farmers Market main mid-way to knit. Please bring your own lawn chair or blankets to sit on and enjoy knitting together and socializing with other knitters and market shoppers. For more information, visit wwkipday.com.

New PTA program begins this fall

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) program at Wor-Wic Community College was recently granted



"candidate for accreditation" status, which enables the college to admit its first 16 students for classes beginning this fall. Applications from prospective students will be accepted through Friday, June 26.

"Labor market analysis demonstrates that the occupational demand for PTAs between 2013 and 2020 will grow by 24 percent nationally, but by 35 percent on the Lower Shore of Maryland," said Jon C. Waxham, associate professor and PTA department head. "This growth is supported by the increasing number of people who are choosing the Eastern Shore as a retirement destination and the desire of people

reaching retirement age to remain active and healthy."

Wor-Wic's ability to start this new program is due, in large part, to the generous contributions of donors to the college's "Providing for Today While Ensuring Tomorrow" fundraising campaign.

"This has been a goal for Wor-Wic for a long time," Waxham said. "It is very exciting that this program has finally arrived and we can start accepting students into the program."

"Candidate for accreditation" status was granted by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 1111 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria, Va., 22314, (703) 706-3245, (www.capteonline.org<<http://www.capteonline.org>>).

For more information about the program, call (410) 572-8740.

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The Courier

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2012 Business of the Year

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Expect to see a few more flags around your neighborhood this weekend. Sunday is the patriotic, but often under-appreciated, National Flag Day.



Although the look of the American flag has changed since Congress authorized it as the nation's official symbol on June 14, 1777, the American flag still stands as a patriotic symbol of freedom, strength, equality and more.

Despite being established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, it wasn't until President Truman signed an Act of Congress in 1949 that National Flag Day was officially recognized as a day of observance.

Every year since then, the president issues a proclamation encouraging U.S. citizens to fly the American flag during National Flag Week (the week of June 14) outside their homes and businesses to honor the history and heritage that the flag represents.

Nicknamed "Old Glory," "Stars and Stripes," and "Star-Spangled Banner," the flag has remained a powerful symbol of patriotism and unity since 1777.

County adopts FY 2016 budget

On June 2, the Worcester County Commissioners approved the FY 2015/2016 Operating Budget of \$182,450,109 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an increase of \$4,468,976 or 2.5% more than the FY15 budget while reducing the requested expenditures of \$189.8 million by \$7.4 million. The budget includes a property tax increase of 6.5 cents and an income tax increase of one half percent to 1.75%.

Since FY09, the County's assessable base has declined \$5.3 billion dollars or 26%. Multiple years of restructuring, involving cuts to all county departments, maintenance of effort funding for the Board of Education and a lackluster economic recovery, along with the combination of cuts in state funding and absorption of previous state responsibilities have now left the County with no choice but to raise taxes.

The full extent of state cuts and transferred funding responsibilities include:

Dedicated Highway User Revenues reduced from \$4,416,781 in FY09 to \$241,128 in FY10 and has been slightly increased to \$497,452 in FY16. To pave roads, the county must allocate funds from our general operating budget; \$1 million is included in FY16.

The state reduced reimbursement to the county for expenses incurred by housing state prisoners at the local jail from \$419,619 in FY09 to \$50,000 in FY10-FY16.

State Park receipts, roughly \$399,000 in revenue annually were eliminated FY10-FY14.

Teacher Pensions of \$1.271 million transferred to the county in FY13 cost the County \$1.95 million in FY16; in FY17 this will become part of the Maintenance of Effort formula.

Local State Department of Assessment and Taxation operating costs transferred to the county in FY12 in the amount of \$978,315 has continued annually, FY16 includes \$647,986.

The planned use of budget stabilization funds to supplement county revenues as the county recovers from the recession has been re-evaluated based upon the current multi-year revenue projections.

As a result, the commissioners have determined that the useful life of these funds must be extended. The stable but flat economic growth projection and property tax estimates, along with the tax increases, will result in the need for these budget stabilization funds through FY2018 and beyond to supplement other revenues and satisfy projected increases in expenditures.

The commissioners would like to thank county departments and agencies for maintaining and or reducing operating expenses in their FY 16 Budget. While deserved, the commissioners were unable to include funds for a cost of living increase, step increment or longevity pay in salary accounts for county employees and the Board of Education.

Consequently, Worcester County leaders made some hard decisions to develop a balanced FY16 budget, a budget that protects vital taxpayer services and funds the BOE above the Maintenance of Effort level. This fiscally conservative budget maintains funding for valuable public services residents can count on, such as public safety, education, infrastructure and existing social service programs.

Anticipated General Fund Revenues

Based on the Real Property tax rate of \$.835 net property taxes increased by \$9,109,247.

The Homestead Credit cap remains unchanged at 3% and is estimated to be \$1,248,609 for the county's qualified principal resident homeowners effective July 1, 2015.

The local income tax rate will increase from 1.25% to 1.75% beginning January 1, 2016. Revenues are anticipated to increase by \$2,200,000 over the current year based on actual receipts.

Other local taxes, a decrease of \$250,000 due to an increase of \$250,000 in transfer tax and a decrease in recordation tax of \$500,000 based on current year estimates

State shared revenues increased

\$5,917 due to a slight increase in Highway User Taxes.

Distribution from Liquor Control Department decreased \$186,629 based on anticipated revenue reductions

Federal grants project an overall increase of \$148,330. This account category includes an additional \$127,800 in Homeland Security Grants and \$20,492 for the Emergency Shelter Grant

State Grants increased \$593,524; the primary increase is due to additional funds of \$366,154 for the State Aid for Bridges, the State reinstatement of the County's share of State Park receipts with decreases to grants for Tourism, Waterway Improvements and Program Open Space

Licenses and Permits increased \$126,550 due to increased estimates for occupational and environmental permits for \$49,500 and increased estimates of \$50,000 for liquor licenses at the current fees

Charges for Services decreased by \$307,635 mainly due to decreases for Jail use fees

Interest on Investments decreased \$75,000 due to lower outstanding note balances and rates of return below 1%.

Transfers in

Other funds decreased by \$499,352 based on the transfer in of bond premium proceeds. Funds will be used for 2014 Bond interest expense payments & various bond related expenses.

Casino/Local Impact Grant Funds shows an increase of \$2,700 for the debt payment for the Worcester Career and Technical High School in FY16.

Transfers In of existing Budget Stabilization funds decreased by \$6,393,201 due to the use of increased revenues from property and income taxes. This will extend the useful life of the budget stabilization fund to future years to cover revenue shortfalls

Budget decreases are outlined as follows

Recreation Department decreased by \$544,763 due to reduced Program Open Space funds from prior year upon completion of the addition to the Recreation Center.

Tourism Department decreased

please see **budget** on page 10



Childlike diversion

There aren't too many times when as an adult you can again experience a childlike innocence. We're so often weighed down by adult responsibilities that our inner-child rarely surfaces; remaining hidden away like an old pair

suspended just above the ground, swaying gently. Listening to the rustling leaves above or the back and forth calls of birds is as great a tonic as ever there was. It's very easy to fall asleep listening to nature's soundtrack. I've done so often.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

of roller skates or box of dog-eared baseball cards that have been traded among friends countless times.

There are occasions though when we have opportunity to lapse into a sort of child-like experience that rolls back time and once again makes vibrant the Kodachrome hues of our youth. Maybe it's going to an amusement park to again feel the exhilaration of a favorite roller coaster that was first ridden during a teenage outing. Maybe it's enjoying an impromptu catch with your father as you're waiting for your own son (his grandson) to retrieve his glove under the bed. Maybe it's finding an old photograph of you holding a fish you caught one summer day long ago. Or perhaps it's a song playing on the radio that conjures up recollections of a younger you standing beside the dance floor trying to screw up enough courage to ask the pretty girl from homeroom to dance.

Several years ago my children bought me a backyard hammock for Father's Day. I had wanted one for years before they finally got the hint and convinced their mother to make the purchase, promising to pay her back later.

Many a spring, summer and fall weekend afternoon I can be found lounging in the hammock either reading or sleeping. It's one of my favorite places, positioned as it is just under a shade tree and angled to enjoy streaming breezes. Many an hour I've spent

Sometimes I settle into the hammock as evening's twilight emerges. I lay there looking up as the sky darkens to reveal ever brighter stars of blue.

It's during these times when my thoughts and imagination wander unfettered across a universe of anything's possible. It's during these times when thickened adult layers are shed to reveal a childlike center buoyed by wonder and amazement. It's easy to get lost in thought and dreams and all the other things that were once the center of a child's universe. It can be a spiritual experience setting aside what is to



reconnect with what could be. Such are the therapeutic powers of the hammock in our backyard.

I don't know whether my children ever repaid their mother for this gift given on a Father's Day many years ago. I really don't want to ask. I think I already know the answer. I will say though it's the best gift they've ever asked their mother to purchase for me on their behalf.

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Symbolism of the American flag

Did you know that at military funerals, the 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776.

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The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country," in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.



please see flag on page 7



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WCDC looking for golfers

Scratch golfers and duffers alike will have the opportunity to tee up to support adults with intellectual disabilities at the Worcester County Developmental Center's (WCDC) 9th annual golf tournament to be held at the Ocean City Golf Club's Newport Bay Course on Tuesday, June 16.

Sponsored by The Dough Roller, this fun-filled day on the course starts at 12:30 p.m. when registration opens and a deluxe buffet lunch prepared and served by the clients of WCDC is available. Play begins with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. After the round, which will include a hole in one, closest to the pin and longest drives contests, there will be an awards ceremony and heavy hors d'oeuvres also prepared and served by the clients

flag

from page 6

light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are upmost reminding us of our nations motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, Ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

of WCDC. All golfers will receive a door prize and goody bag.

Other major sponsors include Eagle sponsor Cheers of Berlin and Birdie sponsors Macky's Bayside Bar and Grill, The Bank of Ocean City and Sysco.

WCDC provide employment opportunities, residential services and community-based supports for its clients in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties. WCDC is looking for golfers and sponsors to partner with the organization as it strives to help its clients achieve economic and social independence. To sponsor, golf or donate a prize contact Cecil Tull at 443-783-3604 or Jack Ferry at 410-632-2382, ext. 117 or email ferry@wcdcservices.org. Registration forms can be downloaded by going to www.wcdcservices.org.

WCDC is a member of the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, the Berlin, Ocean City, Ocean Pines and Snow Hill Chambers of Commerce and the Berlin branch of BNI.

For information about the WCDC programs, please call 410.632.2382 or visit our website.

Discount park tickets on sale

Amusement park tickets can now be purchased at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill at a discounted price, Purchase your tickets before heading out of town to save your family some money and time waiting in ticket lines.

Tickets are available for Busch Gardens, Diggerland USA, Dutch Wonderland, Hershey Park, Kings Dominion, Sahara Sam's, Six Flags America (MD), Six Flags Great Adventure (NJ), and Water Country tickets are all available.

All ticket prices are discounted below the price you would spend purchasing the tickets at the gate. Tickets can be purchased Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; cash only.

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The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

In the 17th century, goldfinches were popular pets because they could be trained to draw water from a bowl with a miniature bucket. So it is not surprising that a painter of that era, Carel Fabritius, a student of Rembrandt, chose the bird as a fitting subject for his prized little painting. In her Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "The Goldfinch," Donna Tartt focuses on this lesser known work by a 17th century Dutch painter as the catalyst for her latest work of fiction, relayed in the voice of narrator Theo Decker.

He starts writing his story when he

is 13, after suffering a traumatic loss, and finishes when he is 26. He begins with the visit to a special art exhibit at a New York City museum. His mother has brought him here to view a special showing. A bomb explodes in one of the galleries, killing his mother. Theo escapes without physical harm, first

The painting becomes his talisman and helps to assuage the nights of intense guilt and grief he suffers over the death of his mother.

presses on him a family ring while "rambling a bit, under his breath; foreign names, sums and numbers...but then his hand in mine was limp...it was time to leave." Before climbing over the debris Theo scoops up the

priceless painting of "The Goldfinch," which has blown off the museum's wall, and stuffs it in his bookbag.

The painting becomes his talisman and helps to assuage the nights of intense guilt and grief he suffers over the death of his mother. Ms. Tartt shows us how he bottles up his grief only to find release once he pulls out the painting, now perceived as his alone, and is mesmerized by the beautiful, chained bird returning his gaze. But the longer he hides "The Goldfinch" from the authorities the harder it is to part with. So he wraps the painting in cardboard, bubblewrap and yards of masking tape and stashes it in a pillow case. As he eventually moves to Las Vegas and then back to New York – the sequestered painting travels with him.

At one point Theo muses, "The

painting, the magic and aliveness of it, was like that odd airy moment of the snow falling, and flakes whirling in...you just wanted to drink in that speechless windswept moment. When I looked at the painting I felt the same convergence on a single point: a flickering sun-struck instant that existed now and forever. Only occasionally did I notice the chain on the finch's ankle, or think what a cruel life for a little living creature – fluttering briefly, forced always to land in the same hopeless place."

Unfortunately for artist Fabritius, his life was cut short when he was killed in the explosion of the Delft gunpowder magazine in 1654, which destroyed a quarter of the city, including his studio and many of his paintings. It is interesting that Ms. Tartt here leads us to a parallel of Theo's mother and Fabritius – life ending explosions – one real and one fictional. But then again I find

Ms. Tartt to be an author of unlimited scope and interest. She has a fine feel for nuance as well as the written language wherein nothing clichéd or trite passes between her characters in their communication with readers as they firmly hold onto a consistency of behavior.

In particular I see Ms. Tartt as paying homage to certain Dickensian characters of "Oliver Twist" with an Artful Dodger look-alike in Boris, her novel's unrepentant Russian boy. In their teens he and Theo dance with the devil from morning through the night smoking, drinking, doing drugs, shoplifting and skipping school. And she recaptures Mr. Brownlow, Oliver Twist's benefactor, who here appears as look-alike in "Hobie," a kind and caring man with no choice but to look after the orphaned Theo. And of course Mr. Decker might well be the doppelganger standing in for the nefarious Bill Sykes.

As we contemplate the array of subjects tendered in Ms. Tartt's book from furniture restoration to conversations in Russian, we can only guess the amount of research that preceded the book. In a pre-release interview she admitted to spending ten years writing it but within it all she heeds to every author's basic tenet – always tell a good story. And by goodness, she does just that.



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Tenors, diva to perform

June 27 is the day that Coastal Highway will become the "Broadway" leading to the new Ocean City Performing Arts Center for an evening of musical enchantment. The world-famous *Fabulous Three Tenors & A Diva*, just returning from concert performances throughout Europe, will grace the stage of this local venue. You may have watched concerts like this on public television but now you have the opportunity to enjoy the magical live performance starring the three tenors: Antonio Buonauro, Thomas Bethman and James Gafgen, along with the beautiful Diva, Donna Buonauro. The concert will also feature a guest per-

formance by the critically acclaimed soprano, Barbara Wayman.

The performance will be held on Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and will include contemporary pop crossovers, Broadway show tunes, a dash of opera and along with the performers' unique blend of humor. Get your tickets by calling Ticketmaster at 800-551-7328, or by stopping by the Roland E. Powell Convention Center box office (open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) located at 4001 Coastal Highway in Ocean City. The concert is sponsored by the Community Church at Ocean Pines and will benefit the many ministries of the church.

Baseball camp available

Mid Atlantic Shockers have partnered with Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) to offer a baseball camp this summer for youth ages 6 - 16. The 2015 baseball camp will be held at Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin. Camp will run Monday through Thursday, June 22 through June 25, from 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

Campers will need their own gloves. All other equipment will be provided. The cost for the camp is \$85 per camper. Financial aid is available for most youth programs to those that demonstrate a need. Hurry and register today for this

great summer camp.

For more information, call Kelly Rados at 410-632-2144, ext.102 or krados@co.worcester.md.us. Visit our website at www.Worcester-RecandParks.org for a registration form.

Craft club to meet

The Pine'er Craft Club will meet Thursday, June 18 in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. and will be followed by crafts. The cost is \$3. Guests are welcome. For more information call Sharon at 410-430-3032.

couple
from page 1

mentary school teacher. During Beth's college years, she met her future husband, Tom. This month the couple will be celebrating a special milestone, their golden wedding anniversary, highlighting their 50 years as man and wife.

Tom was born and raised in Canton, OH and also graduated from Westminster College. Tom has turned over his business interest in three Arby Restaurants in Salisbury, MD to his son Todd Hershey. The transition has enabled Tom to have more leisure time to enjoy "sun, surf and boat."

Beth happily mentioned that they are proud parents of a daughter and son plus delighted grandparents to seven grandchildren. Mindy, their daughter, lives in Connecticut with her husband, two sons and daughter; ages, 18, 16 and 12. Their son, Todd, lives in Glen Riddle with his wife and four sons, ages 10, 9, 6 and 4. Beth mentioned that fun and mischief abound when all the family is joined together and one that they, as grandparents, thoroughly enjoy.

When inquiring what brought the Hersheys to Ocean Pines, Beth responded by saying that in the 1970s they bought a golf course lot. In 1982, Steen Builders, a major builder in Ocean Pines, then offered the Hersheys a lot on the water in Wood Duck II which they decided to buy. In 1996, they moved into their new home in Wood Duck II built by Steen Builders and still enjoy their home and their fun in the Pines.

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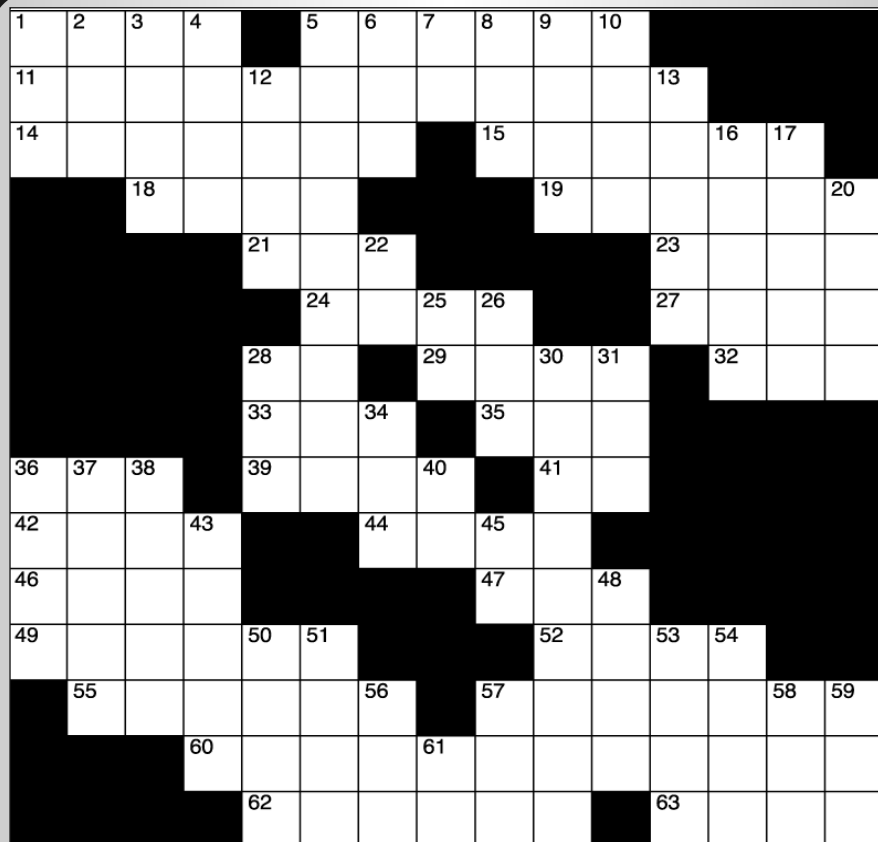


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ACROSS

- 1. Cleopatra's vipers
- 5. Slanted printing style
- 11. DWTS' Italian judge
- 14. Slender tower with balconies
- 15. ___ Aires
- 18. Practice fight
- 19. Forged using a metal bending block
- 21. Male parent
- 23. National Asset Mgmt. Agency
- 24. Not this
- 27. Middle East chieftain
- 28. 7th tone
- 29. A role of insulation
- 32. Midway between S and SE
- 33. The longest division of geological time
- 35. Oolong, green or Earl Grey
- 36. Disorderly crowd
- 39. Children's author Blyton
- 41. A radio band
- 42. Assist in some wrongdo-

- ing
- 44. Measures speed of rotation (abbr.)
- 46. Bring up children
- 47. Mitt's spouse
- 49. Light, narrow paddle boats
- 52. Unstressed-stressed
- 55. Oriental water pipe
- 57. Miser
- 60. "The Hobbit" director
- 62. Traditional German frock
- 63. This (Spanish)

DOWN

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 2. ___ Lanka, country
- 3. Play on words jokes
- 4. Finger click
- 5. Repeating
- 6. Toddler
- 7. Article
- 8. Women's ___ movement
- 9. Promises to pay
- 10. A ball of yarn or thread
- 12. Towards the mouth or oral re-

- gion
- 13. Fatuous
- 16. Old Irish alphabets
- 17. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 20. Defy
- 22. Dear husband (abbr.)
- 25. A blood group
- 26. Make lace-work
- 28. Golf ball support
- 30. Having a particular scientific skill
- 31. Chit
- 34. Head louse egg
- 36. Pomace
- 37. West Indian sorcery cult
- 38. A. Hutton drew this Br.

- comic
- 40. Popular 1950's hairstyle
- 43. A unit of girl or boy scouts
- 45. 3.6% of the earth's crust
- 48. Drug agent (slang)
- 50. Supplemented with difficulty
- 51. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 53. Br. slang for donkey
- 54. Supervisor
- 56. Of she
- 57. Research doctorate in law
- 58. Took possession
- 59. Point midway between NE and E
- 61. Care giver degree



Answers for June 3

budget
from page 4

\$262,944.

Decreased by \$180,000 due to transfer of non-profit budgets to Recreation and Culture.

Decreased by \$51,206 in Tourism State Grant.

Grants to Towns decreased by \$112,000 for pass through fire grants to Municipalities and Ocean Pines Association based on credit runs.

Debt Service decreased by \$1,792,919 due to the anticipated retirement of existing debt and refunding activity

Included in the budget was funding for:

Elections Office increased \$129,858 mainly due to the new statewide voting system mandated by the State to be implemented during the 2016 election cycle.

Other General Government increased \$364,089.

Increased by \$129,500 mainly due to one-time SANS Server core storage and server system auditing software.

Increase by \$30,000 in consulting for tax differential study.

Decreased by \$50,824 for the Shore Transit Capital match request.

Increased by \$34,786 for the transfer of State responsibility for the State Department of Assessment operating expense.

Increased by \$200,000 for a replacement phone system for the Government Center.

Sheriff's Department increased \$245,900.

Increased by \$38,194 for new computers for office staff and road patrol.

Increased by \$165,405 for five replacement patrol vehicles.

Increased by \$31,000 for building improvements to dog kennels for safety and weather protection.

County Jail increased \$154,683.

Increased by \$162,683 in salaries for four new Correctional Officers for inmate coverage and regulating agencies.

Increased by \$22,672 for the inmate medical contract.

Increased by \$14,000 to replace a 20 year old mower and computers.

Decreased by \$42,235 for radios purchased in the current year.

Volunteer Fire and Ambulance increased \$360,620.

Fire Company Grants remain level funded at \$225,000 due to the additional one-time grant and decreased

property assessments applied to existing formulas.

Ambulance Grants increased \$270,476 due to increases for the funding formulas.

Roads Division increased \$1,904,594.

Increase by \$1,000,000 for black-top materials.

Increased by \$457,692 to replace two bridges which will be reimbursed 80% by the state.

Increased by \$247,664 for dump trucks with snow plows.

Increased by \$266,578 for heavy equipment including mower, pipe flusher and milling head.

Parks increased \$409,340.

Increased by \$402,704 for Park improvements of which State Program Open Space funds reimburse 80% to the county.

Insurance & Benefits increased \$573,406.

Increased primarily due to higher rates for medical insurance and prescription drug costs.

Other Post Employment Benefit is budgeted level with FY2015.

Interfund increased \$1,486,583 as a result of the remaining revenue surplus with the completion of expenditures by departments and agencies. In order to provide a balanced budget, the surplus will be transferred to Fund Balance. This transfer of \$1,486,583 will increase the budget stabilization fund for a balanced FY2016 budget.

Board of Education

The county allocation for the Board of Education's operating budget is \$79,171,634, an increase of \$1,203,578 over the current year adopted budget as shown below. School Construction debt is paid by the county on behalf of the Board of Education. It is not reflected in the board's budget; however, it is included in the county's operating budget. The board's approved Operating budget is \$79,171,634 plus debt service of \$10,927,474 which totals \$90,099,108 or 49.4% of the County's total estimated revenue.

Board of Education budget increases

An increase of \$145,613 for additional enrollment of 12 students will fund the maintenance of effort level for FY2016 at the per pupil funding rate of \$12,134.40.

An increase of \$793,000 is included for health insurance cost escalation.

Starting Teacher pay would remain at \$42,433.

please see **budget** on page 12

That's how my garden grows...

By Betty McDermott



Hello Fellow Gardeners,

June is busting out all over and let's all celebrate the end of "The Yellow Dragon;" if you haven't guessed it, I am referring to the heavy yellow pollen we all suffered through this spring. I think it was the worst year for pollen that I have lived with since moving here in 1992.

Before I begin my list of gardening tips for this month, I just have to share with you some little unknown facts about an unsung hero who lives in Ocean Pines who is always going the extra mile for many people and organizations. This energetic man is a marvelous gardener who shares his knowledge, his many plants he grows from seed, is currently and has been for over five years president of the Ocean Pines Community Garden. He is also responsible for the lovely, colorful annuals that surround St. John Neumann Catholic Church. He is full of gardening information, makes his own organic compost tea as great fertilizer, and this year grew over 350 tomato plants from seed, many which he will give away. I happen to be a grateful recipient of his many plants... the Monday following Mother's Day this year, I found four tomato plants

and my favorite cucumber plant on my front porch. All in blossom, all ready to be planted. No note. I knew who they were from, so called immediately to thank him.

From the end of March until Mother's Day, the rear of his house seems to be one big greenhouse with every vegetable and herb plant you can think of growing in flats. Some plants grow so tall he has to tie them to long wooden skewers with twisty ties or strips of cut up panty hose. One day a few years ago, I stopped by his house to deliver an item and his pick-up truck was in his driveway. As I walked past it, I looked in the bed of the truck and there were hundreds of flats of annuals making a kaleidoscope of color. There was not an inch of space left in the bed of the truck. Those many flats of flowers had been picked up at a local greenhouse and were slated to be planted by him and his crew of volunteers at St John Neumann Church.

In case you haven't already guessed who this unsung hero is, it is Lee Phillips. He is the most giving, generous man with his gifts of plants, knowledge, time and whatever help one needs. Mr. Phillips also volunteers

at the local elementary school. Yes, Lee, my Hierloom Brandywine tomatoes, which are my favorite, are doing just great and are in full blossom as well as my cucumber plant. Thank you again for always thinking of me and have a fantastic gardening summer.

The bee population is in dire trouble. The numbers are way down and farmers are worried about their crops not being pollinated. All gardeners are worried about their vegetable plants, their annuals and perennials which may not be pollinated as a result of lack of bees. Please remember to plant colorful annuals in your gardens to attract and which will provide nectar for our bees. The farmers and fruit growers need their help in pollinating for growing peaches, watermelon, apples, and other foods we love. You can also help by not using pesticides or insecticides. Bees pollinate about a fourth of the foods Americans consume. The bee issue is so serious that a task force has been established to study the issue to try to come up with some answers. Be gentle to our bees; they need our help. This very cold winter may have had some effect on the dropping numbers of bees this spring.

Watering plants - On those hot, dry, summer days, your vegetable and

flowering plants may need to be watered every day, preferably in the early morning; water at the base of the plant and not on the leaves. Plants growing in containers tend to dry out faster than those planted right in the ground.

Deadhead - blossoms or flowers that are spent and more blossoms will be generated. I even do my knock-out roses as the spent blossoms are so untidy looking. Weren't the knock-out rose blossoms just beautiful and bountiful this spring and summer? Perhaps they loved the cold winter.

Well, enjoy the month of June and remember get out there early in the morning while it is cooler to do your gardening work.

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever

-Richard Briers

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., June 11	3:16 a.m. 3:59 p.m.	9:36 a.m. 10:19 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:24 p.m.
Fri., June 12	4:17 a.m. 4:57 p.m.	10:32 a.m. 11:22 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:24 p.m.
Sat., June 13	5:15 a.m. 5:51 p.m.	11:26 a.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:25 p.m.
Sun., June 14	6:09 a.m. 6:43 p.m.	12:22 a.m. 12:19 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:25 p.m.
Mon., June 15	7:01 a.m. 7:32 p.m.	1:16 a.m. 1:10 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:25 p.m.
Tues., June 16	7:51 a.m. 8:20 p.m.	2:05 a.m. 1:57 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:26 p.m.
Wed., June 17	8:39 a.m. 9:06 p.m.	2:51 a.m. 2:43 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:26 p.m.

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Easy ways to keep your dog's ears healthy

Many dog owners never give a second thought to the health of their dogs' ears. Unless Fido is not answering the dinner bell, pet owners may fail to recognize signs that man's best friend is dealing with ear trouble.

Though it is easily overlooked, maintaining a dog's ears is something owners must do throughout their four-legged friend's life. Such maintenance is simple, and owners who remember to make it a part of their dog's grooming routine can help ensure their dog stays clean and healthy for years to come.

Why must I prioritize ear maintenance for my dog?

The anatomy of dogs' ears is reason enough for dog owners to make ear maintenance part of the grooming routine they have for their pets. The inner ears of dogs are curvy and provide many spots for bacteria, parasites and yeast to hide and grow. The winding nature of dogs' inner ears also can make it difficult to expel any debris that enters the ear canal, and trapped debris can cause infection.

What are some signs that suggest my dog's ears

aren't up to snuff?

Much like their owners, dogs may suffer from wax buildup in their ears. But unlike humans, dogs who have wax buildup in their ears may be coping with microscopic ear mites, which can infect dogs' inner and external ear canals and lead to infection if left untreated.

Ear mites can be difficult to see, but the presence of a black or brown waxy secretion may be indicative of ear mites. Dogs with ear mites may also rub or scratch their ears excessively, and that behavior can lead to ruptured blood vessels within the dog's ear flap, which will look swollen and cause the dog considerable pain.

Other signs that dogs may be having problems with their ears include redness in and around the ear, swelling, crusty skin, and hair loss. Any of the aforementioned symptoms should be brought to the attention of a veterinarian immediately.

How can I protect my dog from ear troubles?

Simple and routine maintenance is often enough to safeguard dogs from ear troubles. Apply a cotton ball dampened with hydrogen peroxide or mineral oil to dirty areas of dogs' inner ears. The skin inside dogs' inner ears is delicate, so be gentle when cleaning such areas, even asking your veterinarian to show you the proper technique if you are concerned you might hurt the animal.

Some dogs, not unlike some dog owners, may grow hair in their ears. While the hair is relatively harmless, it's still a good idea to discuss its growth with your veterinarian, who can teach you how to remove the hair or even let you know if the hair needs to be removed at all.

It's important that dog owners do not clean their dog's ears too often. The skin inside dogs' ears is

budget

from page 10

The total FY2016 Worcester County Education funding per student based on the estimated student population of 6,654 equates to \$16,483 per student. The following does not include Restricted Program funds of \$12,164,582 from the State and Federal agencies.

County Funding is \$79,171,634 which includes \$1,952,488 for Teacher Pension Shift included for per student estimate. State and Other funding totals \$19,577,630. School Debt totals \$10,927,474. This totals \$109,676,738 or \$16,483 per student.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway.

Call
410-641-6695

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

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

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

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 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.

Church Thrift Shop

Stevenson United Methodist Church in Berlin is open Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sale Fridays. Call 410-641-1137.

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.

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.





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WINE about it

by Jean Marx

Consider hosting a Wine Event at Sisters

The long-anticipated warm, breezy days spent with close friends and family are finally here and with these days comes a beautiful pairing — sipping wine together. You will find a wealth of opportunities to enjoy a glass or two on Berlin's Main Street. One of these opportunities is in the cozy lounge area of the Sisters store that features a bar with comfortable seating and often musical accompaniment.

Now in its fourth season in Berlin, the Sisters store carries the motto "Unique Shopping Experience," offering an extensive array of jewelry, fashion accessories, baby, teen and boutique products, as well as gourmet and home & garden décor items. Additionally, Sisters also offers craft beer and select wines by the glass or bottle. Through their concept of "you can find a gift for anyone," it's an ideal setting to shop for gifts and/or a little something for yourself and then to sip a delicious cocktail to celebrate.

The seed for the store's concept started in December 2011 when the two sister owners, Donna Compher and Michael Ann Phillips, were in BJ's restaurant in Ocean City enjoying what else? You guessed it — a glass of wine. They tossed around the idea of doing something different and their joint venture was the outcome. The sisters are close in age and in heart as they run their business. Donna fo-

cuses on the front end work such as customers and events while Michael Ann does the back-end functions like bookkeeping and ordering.

In serving Maryland and in particular the Eastern Shore, Sisters has partnered with their neighbor, the Maryland Wine Bar, to bottle and sell their own wine produced by the Bordeleau winery in Eden. The

three businesses worked together to create a unique wine label of Main Street in Berlin. Sisters hosts wine tastings during most Berlin Main Street events; typically two red and two white wines are sampled. Available for tastings and for purchase are wines from the Bordeleau winery, Layton's Chance winery in Vienna, Costa Ventosa winery in Whaleyville, as well as from their wine distributors, Reliable Churchill and Dops. Donna's personal favorite wine is Whitehaven by Marlborough; it is a crisp white with a grapefruit flavor. Michael Ann favors Santa Carolina's Cabernet Sauvignon, a velvety smooth red that she refers to as "the best Cab ever." Additionally, the sisters have the wine called Wildflowers on order that is a delicious chillable red wine that they say would be delicious for the beach.

Having lost their mother to lung

cancer, Donna and Michael Ann chose their mother's favorite bird, the hummingbird, as their business logo in her honor. A central way the sisters pay tribute to their mother's memory is to give back to the community. Donna and Michael Ann invite and encourage people — whether individuals, teams, or companies — to host a private function or fundraising event in their lounge. If you're considering an event, you can choose your own guest bartenders and bring in food. Sisters will supply the cocktails, shopping fun, and great music. The entertainment is near to Donna's heart as it is the band Spare Change that consists of her husband Kevin and his friend, Mike Hughes. For the charitable events, Donna and Michael Ann donate 20% of the bar ring and 20% of all store sales that evening. As Donna relates, they have hosted over 40 events since

their opening in 2012 benefitting such charities as American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the K-9 Foundation in Wicomico County, church mission trips, and the Hammerhead Swim Team.

Upcoming events you won't want to miss are Berlin's Bathtub Races on July 17, the annual Peach Festival on August 1 where Sisters will have lots of peach wine on hand direct from Bordeleau's orchards, and a wine tasting on September 19 as part of the Paint Berlin and Fiddlers Convention festivities. As you're strolling Berlin's Main Street this summer, you may want to explore all that Sisters has to offer. You'll come away with an appreciation of their unique concept, some delicious wines to bring home, and possibly even a date on the calendar to host an event of your own.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

pets

from page 12

very sensitive, so overcleaning the ears can cause irritation.

When cleaning dogs' ears, dog owners should never insert anything inside their dogs' ear canals.

Dog owners who let their dogs go swimming from time to time should dry the dogs' ears immediately after they get out of the water. Make sure ears are as dry as possible before letting Fido run off, as wet ears can cause infection and irritation.

Ears may not be the first thing dog owners think of when trying to protect their pets from potentially painful health problems. But ear maintenance should be a part of every dog owner's dog-grooming routine.



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