

The Courier

April 22, 2015 Volume 16 Number 34

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'Vanishing Ocean City' book signing

Dazzle located in Ocean Pines will host a book signing for local author Bunk Mann on Friday, April 24. Mr. Mann's book, "Vanishing Ocean City," is a history of the town from its beginning in the 1870s to present day.

The popular coffee table book is illustrated with more than 500 photos. When the book was reviewed by Dolores Pike she wrote that Mr. Mann "becomes not only a presenter of life in past days and pleasures but a fellow traveler/writer with his readers." Mr. Mann discovered that the story of the town lived in the people who served the visitors and had approximately 90 days a year in which to make a living. And if a storm happened along or property suffered damage, they had nothing and had to rebuild. Some of them even moved out of their homes in order to rent to the visitors. Mr. Mann conducted more than 177 interviews that make this a story that was eight years in the telling.

Mr. Mann will signed copies of the book between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dazzle is located at 11312 Manklin Creek Road in Ocean Pines. For more information call 410-208-4438 or email dazzlegiftshop@gmail.com

Dems to meet

The Democratic Club of Worcester County will meet Thursday, April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library. Matt Heim of the Assateague Coastal Trust will speak about Atlantic offshore oil drilling.

MSSA to meet

The Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday April 28. The meeting will be held at the Lion's Club off Airport Rd. in West Ocean City. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. There will be two guest speakers; the first speaker Don Webster is from Maryland Coop Wye Research who will discuss Aquaculture at the state and national level. The second speaker, Eric Zlokovitz is from DNR and will discuss on artificial wrecks and reefs off the Maryland coastal waters. Eric will also discuss working on a volunteer survey for anglers who fish on these artificial reefs.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information contact MSSA at 410-255-5535 or email fish@mssa.net



Play ball - Mrs. Lori Sullivan's first graders at Showell Elementary welcomed the start of the baseball season with their volunteer Mr. Nathan Hyde. Mr. Hyde read them a book about a famous baseball player, Jackie Robinson, and then revealed that he wrote a letter to one of Robinson's teammates, Carl Erskine, about their class. Erskine wrote Mrs. Sullivan's class a letter back and surprised each student with an autographed photo that includes both Erskine and Robinson. He also reminded them that Jackie Robinson was an important person in American history because he helped our nation accept each other.

Above, pictured from left are **Zac Stevenson, Alexis Peacock, Mr. Nathan Hyde, Gabby Haley, Gigi Sallah, and Payton Richie.**

Just Good Business ...

Enjoying yummy desserts

By **Jean Marx**

As you enter the Yummy Sweet Shop at 11021 Nicholas Lane in the south gate of Ocean Pines, you will be immediately greeted with smiles and the smell of fresh desserts displayed in cheery colorful arrangements. If you're like me, three things are likely to happen all at once. Your mouth will start watering, your brain will conjure up fond memories of going to the bakery as a kid, and your eyes will soak in the fun you know you're about to have as you make your selections.

Yummy Sweet Shop's owners, Julie Cyburt and Kara Johnson, continually look for ways to infuse fun and creativity into their variety of fresh desserts made to order. These ladies, who also happen to be

sisters, opened their doors in August 2010 with a unique look, vibe and atmosphere to their store. The store's attributes were totally new at the time and have scored big with customers. For special events, the ladies custom-make designs that can be applied to their clients' save-the-date cards, invitations and even gift bags. For dessert choices, brides and grooms can select a la carte items such as mini and regular sized-cupcakes, cake pops, small or large wedding cakes, dessert tables and even candy buffets. Dessert tables and candy buffets display an assortment of Yummy's treats that are customized to fit colors and themes for any occasion. Julie and

please see **dessert** on page 7

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MSO to celebrate season's end

Celebrate the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra's Season Finale "A French Connection" on Sunday, May 3, at the Community Church at Ocean Pines located at Rte. 589 and Race-track Road at 3 p.m. The program includes French music by Claude Debussy and Cesar Franck with soprano Janice Chandler-Etème performing solo the Chants d'Auvergne, a collection of folk songs from the Auvergne region of France arranged by Joseph Canteloube between 1923 and 1930. Concert tickets are \$38 per person.

To commemorate Music Director Julien Benichou's 10th anniversary with the MSO, a dinner party will be held after the concert at the Ocean

Pines Yacht Club. A plated dinner (choice of four entrees), cash bar, music, silent and live auctions and raffles will contribute to the celebration of Maestro Benichou and his Orchestra's significant contributions to the cultural life of our community. Dinner reservations are \$60 per person and are required no later than April 26.

Tickets for both events are available by contacting Gale Alford on 410-208-1590 or galenbillalford@gmail.com. Payment should be sent to MSO, P.O. Box 1697, Ocean Pines MD 21811.

MSSA to meet

The Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday April 28. The meeting will be held at the Lion's Club off Airport Rd. in West Ocean City. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. There will be two guest speakers; the first speaker Don Webster is from Maryland Coop Wye Research who will discuss Aquaculture at the state and national level. The second speaker, Eric Zlokovitz is from DNR and will discuss on artificial wrecks and reefs off the Maryland coastal waters. Eric will also discuss working on a volunteer survey for anglers who fish on these artificial reefs.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information contact MSSA at 410-255-5535 or email fish@mssa.net

AARP to meet

The next meeting of AARP will be by May 4 at the Community Center in Ocean Pines. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m.; the meeting starts at 10 a.m. The guest speaker is Jackie Harper from AARP Services. This month canned food is being collected for Diakonia.



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The Parke to hold yard sale

The Parke at Ocean Pines will hold its spring community yard sale on Saturday, June 6 from 7 a.m. to noon in the driveways of its residents. The Parke is an active 55+ Adult community of 503 homes. Parke residents are selling their treasures for others to enjoy. There are clothes, lamps, artwork, household items, electronics, furniture and more.

On June 6, maps will be available at the main entrances of the Parke located at Central Parke West and Chatham, streets located off of Ocean Parkway at the south entrance of Ocean Pines.

For additional information, contact the Parke Clubhouse Staff at 410-208-4994.



Grand re-opening - Deer Run Golf Course owner **Ed Colbert** (holding scissors) and a crowd of fellow golfers and friends celebrated a grand re-opening ribbon cutting and open house April 16 at the Deer Run located in Berlin on Rte. 50. Chambers of Commerce for Ocean City, Ocean Pines, and Berlin helped with the ceremony along with Worcester County Economic Director Bill Badger, Donna Hoy representing Maryland Senator Jim Mathias, Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino, Berlin Mayor Gee Williams and Maryland State delegate Mary Beth Carozza. Deer Run is celebrating 17 years of operations and is currently constructing at new RV Park adjacent to the clubhouse. For more information call Ed Colbert at 410-629-0060. Photo by Ted Page.

OPA Search Committee to host second meeting

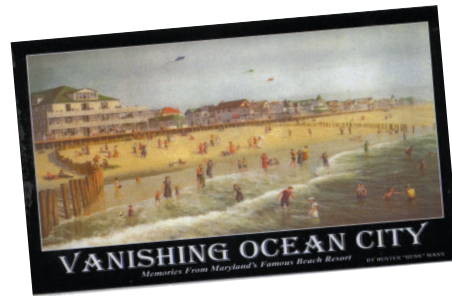
Ocean Pines Association's 2015 Search Committee will host an informative public meeting on Wednesday, April 29 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The meeting will be open to association members and anyone interested in a position on the Board is encouraged to attend. The purpose will be to outline the function of the Search Committee, describe the qualifications of the candidates they search for, outline the responsibilities of OPA Board members, and receive input from attendees about finding interested candidates.

The Committee's function will be to seek at least four candidates to run for the Board of Directors in the next election to fill two openings for directors Clarke and O'Hare who have served the last three years. To be eligible a candidate must be the owner of record of property in Ocean Pines as of January 1 of this year, eligible

to vote as of May 15 and have completed and submitted an application to the Search Committee or Administration Office no later than 5:00pm on May 10. An application form may be printed from the Association's web site www.ocean-pines.org or obtained from a Search Committee member or from the Administration Office at 239 Ocean Parkway. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays (starting April 25). If you have any questions, you may contact any member of the Search Committee or the OPA Office.

The 2015 Search committee members are Chairman Martin Baer 410-491-8350 and members Les Purcell 410-641-7309, Gary Miller 443-618-9972, Diane McGraw 410-208-2569, Bill Lee 410-641-5896, Dennis Faber 410-600-0221, and Herb Roe 410-208-0422.

BOOK SIGNING



This Friday

April 24
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

“Vanishing Ocean City”

By Hunter “Bunk” Mann

The history of Ocean City, Maryland from its beginnings in the 1870s to present day. Over 500 photos in a limited edition 220 page hardbound coffee table book. A “must have” for all who love Ocean City.

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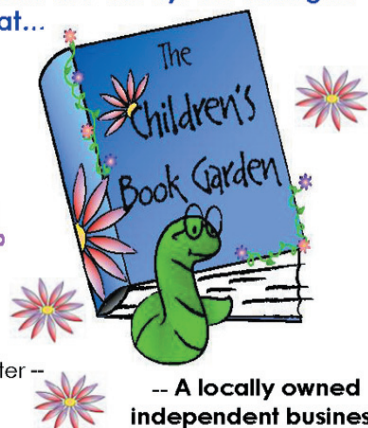


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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

2012 Business of the Year

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Did you know the five most common trees in the United States are the red maple, loblolly pine, sweetgum, douglas-fir and quaking aspen? National Arbor Day – which falls on April 25, 2014 – is the perfect time to plant them! Founded over 135 years ago, Arbor Day is dedicated to planting and celebrating trees across the United States. Trees add beauty and value to our landscapes, and provide many environmental benefits. They help clean the air by absorbing pollutants, provide oxygen that we breathe, absorb rain water and snowmelt, prevent erosion and more!

Plant a tree at home. After choosing one from the many different species of trees that can grow where you live, consider the location of the tree before planting it. Add deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall) on the south, east and west sides of your home to provide shade during the summer, reducing cooling costs. Plant evergreen trees along the north and west sides of your home to block chilly winds.



The love and life of a great man

By **Kim Guy**
Bob Lassahn's granddaughter

On July 14, 1946 a boy was born. Little did he know the impact he would have on the many people who knew him. Born Robert Edward Lassahn, his friends knew him simply as Bob. Some knew him as Lieutenant, Commander, Editor, or Bailiff but his greatest achievements called him husband, Dad, or Pop. Bob married his soul mate, Sherri, on May 4, 1963. Sherri and Bob were meant for each other! He loved her more than life itself! He'd do anything for her and she for him. Even after 52 years of marriage. I don't think I ever heard him speak a cross word to her. They held hands and kissed as if it was the first date. It was the truest love story I know. I can't thank them enough for the example of love that they have both showed me. They are an everlasting love. One that I can only hope other people get to share in. He will always be with Sherri. He is a part of her! He loved her! He just wanted to make "Sher" happy. He lived a full life!

He joined the Baltimore City Police Force in 1970 (he was an inch too short for the state police). He fought crime with MCGruff the crime dog,



Robert Lassahn, 68

Robert Edward Lassahn, age 68, died Sunday, April 12, 2015 at his home. Born in Baltimore, he was the son of the late Ernest Henry Lassahn and Ruth Margaret Hannewald Lassahn. He is survived by his wife Sherron Clarke Lassahn, daughter Carol Clafferty and her husband Shaun, and granddaughters, Kim Guy and her husband Rob, Chrissy Shelby and her husband Ricky, and Kelly Chester, and great-grandchildren Haleigh, Arianna and Madison. Also surviving are two sisters-in-law, Peggy Davis, Robin Boord and her husband Richard, and a brother-in-law John Clarke and his wife Karol, niece Cari-Lynne Cheelsman, and two nephews Christopher



Robert Lassahn

stopped drugs, and protected the streets of Baltimore for 28 years, when he retired in 1998.

After retirement, Sherri and Bob, moved to Ocean City, a dream of both of theirs. Although retirement didn't last long, the two worked hard to build their dream home. With every detail meticulously looked over, they completed the home in 2000. It's here they began to live the best days of their lives, a little less stressful and doing what they loved to do best, spend time with each other. Whether just coffee on the porch or hanging in the office, they just wanted to do it together.

Over the years, Pop enjoyed activities such as boating and traveling. He navigated the waters of Maryland as Captain Bob of the Yankaroo and Yankaroo too. Those boats were his babies, scrubbing and cleaning it any chance he got, keeping it pristine. I would never have expected anything less.

As a Commander in the Dundalk

Cheelsman and Buddy Davis, and adopted sister Yvonne Bossle and her husband Ed. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard Lassahn.

Mr. Lassahn had been a member of the Baltimore Police force from 1970-1998, retiring as a Lieutenant. He was a Commander in the Dundalk Power Squadron, had worked as an editor for *The Courier* Newspaper in Ocean Pines, a pressman with Minuteman Press, and was a bailiff at the Worcester County Courthouse.

A celebration of his life will be held on the Eastern Shore on May 2, 2015 from 2:00 until 5:00 PM at the Lassahn home on 22 Falconbridge Rd. in Ocean Pines. A Baltimore Celebration of Life will be announced at a future date. A donation in his memory may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, MD 21802-1783, www.coastalhospice.org. Arrangements are in the care of the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin.

Power Squadron, he enjoyed weekends in his swim trunks, rendezvousing with his fellow boaters all over the Eastern Shores. He loved teaching



newbies and sharing in the boating experience with his family and friends. I can thank him for my love of boats and the water.

Sherri and Bob were travelers and I am lucky to say I got to experience the most amazing trip of my life to Australia with them both. From Australia to Hawaii to Florida and the Caribbean, Pop loved to get away. His favorite trip was always a Disney Cruise with his best friends and "brother" Ed and his with Yvonne. Castaway Cay was where he was most at rest. Secretly I think he just liked to be closer to his alter ego, Goofy. The trip to Australia allowed me to see a whole other side of Pop. He was fun, adventurous, always wanting me to "see everything". I have him to thank for pushing me to scuba dive on the most amazing reef in the world! He encouraged me. Made me the creative woman I am and gave me a sense of adventure I never knew I had. I'll never forget the panic in his voice when he tried to take me driving in Australia on the "right side of the road" and I was immediately on the wrong. I know he was thinking "Holy Hell! What am I doing?" I'll never forget the fun we had on that trip together and I'll forever be thankful he allowed me to share in the experience with them.

He was a wise man. Always good

Some days are good; Some days aren't

There are some days when I think I should play the lottery because everything is going my way, everything is going right. It's all lollipops and rainbows. I manage to hit all the green lights, I find a shiny, heads up penny in the parking lot and my cigar

of it was positive. When I finally arrived at the post office, I discovered I had forgotten the letters on my desk. My thinking became even less positive.

On a Sunday in the not too distant past, I was in a home improvement store to purchase lumber and assorted items for a project on which I was working. Nearly a half hour was spent ensuring that the four by four posts and two by fours I selected were not warped or blem-



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

burns perfectly as I ponder the great debates of our day, usually solving them all with enough time to spare to enjoy a picturesque sunset.

But, there are other days when it seems absolutely nothing breaks in my direction; when getting out of bed is the starter's pistol for inconvenience, silly mistakes and frustration to befall me.

On a morning not too long ago I reached into the refrigerator for the milk jug only to find that it contained merely a drop or two, certainly not enough to pour over my cereal. This was certainly not an end of the world situation but it was upsetting nonetheless. Eating Raisin Bran dry is torture.

On a pleasant afternoon while performing an oil change on my wife's car I realized while under the car about to remove the oil plug that I had with me the wrong socket. This meant I had to wriggle out from under the car (a process that is simultaneously comical and unpleasant), retrieve the correct socket and once again squirm my way into position under the car. A minor annoyance at best but still frustrating.

On yet another afternoon, somewhat overcast, I drove to the post office to mail several letters. On the way over I was behind a 1990s vintage Toyota Corolla that was driving at best 20 miles under the speed limit in a 35 mph zone. The slower I was forced to drive the more I loathed the car and whoever was driving it. One of the many stickers plastered on the bumper read, "Positive Thinking is Powerful." There was a lot of powerful thinking going on in my car, none

of it was positive. When I finally arrived at the post office, I discovered I had forgotten the letters on my desk. My thinking became even less positive.

Then I waited in the checkout line, getting somewhat irritated as one of the people in front of me was questioning the price he had been charged for something. A price check was needed which meant the checking out process was delayed until the cashier heard back from whomever she had called to confirm the price. Finally it was my turn. With the magic portable device the cashier scanned all that I had and told me what I owed. It was at that moment, as I reached for my wallet that I discovered I had not brought with me the promotional coupon that would have saved me quite a bit of money. Again, there was a lot of thinking going on, none of it positive.

Sheepishly I explained my situation to the cashier who was most understanding as she voided my order. I could sense the glares from the other folks in line behind me but was too embarrassed to meet their glances as I pushed my cart to put back what I had wanted to purchase.

The following day was much better. When I returned to the store with the promotional coupon I found a not-too-tarnished penny on the ground, heads up, as I was about to enter the store. What a difference a day can make.

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Purnell and Elder to host town meeting

Worcester County Commissioners Diana Purnell and Ted Elder invite area residents to join them for a town hall meeting Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Multipurpose Building on Flower Street in Berlin.

Chief Administrative Officer Harold Higgins will give a brief presentation on the FY16 Requested Worcester County Operating Budget. Requested general fund operating expenditures of \$189,825,601 exceed estimated revenues of \$167,485,109 by \$22 million. This difference must be reconciled by reducing expenditures, generating additional revenues or a combination of the two.

A question and answer session will follow the presentation. The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize residents with county finances in advance of the annual public budget hearing Tuesday, May 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Snow Hill Middle School auditorium.

Boat Club to hold Spring Fling

The Ocean Pines Boat Club will hold its Spring Fling on Sunday, May 3 at the Golden Sands Condominiums located at 10900 Coastal Highway in Ocean City. The cost is \$35 for members; \$38 for guests. Two drink tickets are included. Music will be by Bob Hughes. The reservation deadline is April 28. Between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. will be cocktails (cash bar) and appetizers. Between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. will be a buffet dinner and dancing. For more information contact Tom Mullin at 410-641-6139.



Auxiliary honors library

As part of National Library Week, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary recognized the Ocean Pines library staff with a Certificate of Appreciation for their ten years of outstanding service to the boating community. The Auxiliary has been using the library's facilities to deliver the Maryland Safe Boating Class every spring and early summer. The citation reads, "To Patti Hall and staff from Ocean Pines library for providing outstanding services in a professional and friendly manner ensuring the facilities used by Ocean City Flotilla 12-05 in their Public Education classes were ready and 1st class condition."

Shown here at the presentation ceremony on April 14, are (l to r): **Steve Haffner**, Senior Instructor **Bob Cooke**, librarians **Shirley Martelo** and **Pat Barrett**, Branch Manager **Patti Hall**, flotilla Vice-Commander **Art Flora** and **Don Logan**.

Parish announces schedule

St. Luke Catholic Church located at 100th Street and Coastal Highway in Ocean City has announced its summer schedule. Daily mass will be held Monday through Saturday at 9 a.m. The Rosary will be at 8:30 a.m. Confessions will be heard 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Saturday vigil masses will be held at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday masses will be at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. There will be a 5 p.m. mass celebrated on July 4 and September 5 only.

The St. Andrew Mission located at 14401 Sinepuxent Avenue in Ocean City will open May 2. Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. on Saturdays; at 5:30 p.m. on July 4 and September 5 only. Sunday masses will be 8:30 a.m. and

10 a.m. and at 7:15 on July 4 and September 6 only.

The St. Luke's parish office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It can be reached by calling 410-250-0300.

MBS to host fashion show

"A Sea of Summer Style-Our Favorite Things" Fashion Show will be held Thursday, May 14, starting at 6 p.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, located at 11242 Race-track Road in Berlin. The ticket price of \$40 includes all entertainment, dinner by Le Donne Cucina and a complimentary glass of wine. This fun-filled evening will include "Favorites" giveaways, fabulous auction items, vendors, and a 50/50 raffle. Seating is limited. For reservations or for more information, please contact Christina Engel at 3 0 2 - 4 3 6 - 2 9 6 3 or onceler4@gmail.com.

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desserts
from page 1

Kara enjoy making interactive desserts that guests can “grab and go” as they head out onto the dance floor. As Julie relates, “To put a smile on our customers’ faces because our products are part of their special event means the world to us.”

The Yummy Sweet Shop is a true family affair. The recipes for the desserts are a combination of tried and true recipes passed down in their family and others that Julie and Kara have created from scratch. Their mother helped with the website, logo and t-shirts. The carpentry skills of their father and two brothers were put to work in building out the custom design of the store. Julie’s and Kara’s husbands and kids have played an integral part as well. Because the store stays open year-round, the husbands often perform a Mr. Mom role and pitch in along with the kids to work in the shop. “We couldn’t do what we do each day without the tremendous support of our families,” boasts Julie.

Over the past five years, Julie and Kara have enjoyed their location because they say it has helped them figure out their niche, learn what their customers like and to introduce new trendy candies and desserts. The ladies like the increased tourism in the summer as well as the slower pace in the winter months. As Julie says, “There are a lot of owners of second homes here who have a favorite sweet shop at home. We like being their home away from home.” During the off-season months, the ladies focus more on special events. Julie describes, “We are enjoying growing with our customers — starting with their weddings, and then moving to their baby showers, birthdays and anniversaries.”

As with any business, there are challenges that arise. One the ladies have faced is maintaining a successful balance of work and home life. Julie and Kara believe it’s great for their children to see their mothers work hard but also to thoroughly enjoy what they do. The Yummy Sweet Shop gives back to the community especially to children via the schools. As Julie says, “We definitely have a soft spot for the little ones. They are our future as well as our future customers.”

So what’s next for Julie and Kara at the Yummy Sweet Shop? It just so happens that the ladies will be answering that very question in June. They’re not yet ready to let the cat out of the bag but as Julie says, “It is something we always knew would happen.” There’s no need to wait to visit the store until June, however — the Yummy Sweet Shop is a delightful experience to enjoy year-round.

Carozza announces constituent listening hours

Delegate Mary Beth Carozza (District 38C) announced that she will hold Constituent Listening Hours across her district starting in late April and continuing throughout May. These Constituent Hours will be held on weeknights from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and are an opportunity for residents of District 38C to share their views and concerns. The first Constituent Hours will be held at the Ocean Pines library on Wednesday, April 22.

Please check the schedule below to look for a date and location that suits your schedule, then just stop by:

-April 22
Ocean Pines library
1107 Cathell Road

please see **hours** on page 12

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House of Delegates Session Highlights

By Delegate Mary Beth Carozza, 38C



Greetings from Annapolis,

The 435th Session of the Maryland General Assembly and my first session as your State Delegate from Legislative District 38C concluded at 12 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, as the General Assembly adjourned Sine Die (from the Latin “without day”) until January 2016. I am proud to have served as a new member of the Maryland General Assembly during this historic time.

The 2015 session included 62 new members in the House of Delegates, the most new members in 20 years. I am one of 50 Republicans in the new House of Delegates, which is a record high. We also welcomed Governor Larry Hogan to the State House with his Inauguration on January 21. These changes from last year have brought a new level of bipartisanship to state government that Maryland has not seen in over a decade. Working together across party lines, we finished the first session of a four-year term with many accomplishments. Here are some of the highlights:

Fiscal Responsibility/Budget:

On Friday, January 23, just two days after he was sworn in, Governor Hogan introduced a bold state budget for Fiscal Year 2016 that completely eliminated our state’s approximately \$750 million structural deficit in just one year. The Governor’s budget did this while fully funding critical priorities, including K-12 and higher education, school construction and the public pension system; and with no tax increases.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee and its Health Subcommittee, I spent the majority of my time this session working on the budgets of our various state agencies, specifically those of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Department of Human Resources.

On March 19, the Appropriations Committee presented, and the House of Delegates passed, a budget that eliminated approximately three-quarters of our state’s structural deficit in one year, slowed spending growth to a near record low of 1.3%, and fully funded our priorities. While I was opposed to some changes my committee made to the budget, including not adequately funding the public pension system, overall I sup-

ported the result and voted in favor of the House version of the FY 2016 Operating Budget.

On the final day of session, April 13, the House of Delegates voted on the Conference Committee report on the Operating Budget, which resolved the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Operating Budget. This Conference Committee report was not the same budget that the House of Delegates passed on March 19.

Unfortunately, when the budget went into Conference Committee, negotiations broke down and the budget passed without bipartisan support, with all Republicans voting against it. Spending and revenues are further apart, and the legislature added a cumulative \$1.7 billion to the structural deficit – the deficit Governor Hogan eliminated in his original budget proposal. The Conference Committee also neglected to adequately fund state employee pensions, which only worsens our long-term pension obligations. Members of the Conference Committee also mandated more transportation spending that could limit Governor Hogan’s ability to lower tolls.

While I am disappointed that the final budget moved away from Governor Hogan’s original proposal, Maryland is still in much better shape because of the Governor’s leadership. This budget has the second-lowest rate of growth since at least 1968. It is second only to a 0.4% rate of growth in FY 2004. Last year’s budget grew by 8%; this budget grows by 1.5%.

The FY 2016 Capital Budget includes about \$1.04 billion in spending, which is \$50 million under the maximum recommendations of the Spending Affordability Committee for this year. I was very pleased that the Governor and the Appropriations Committee included funding for a number of local projects in this year’s Capital Budget, including Ocean City beach replenishment, Salisbury University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the new Berlin branch of the Worcester County Library, the Delmarva Discovery Museum in Worcester County, the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Wicomico County, and Perdue Stadium in Salisbury.

please see **carozza** on page 15



Recognition - During the Commissioners’ meeting Tuesday, April 7, Commissioner **Merrill Lockfaw** presents a proclamation to Health Officer **Debbie Goeller** recognizing April 6-12, 2015 as National Public Health Week. Thanks to the diligent efforts of employees, students and volunteers, the health department is able to provide a variety of vital community services. These include health education, prevention, treatment and enforcement.



Atlantic White Cedar Tree project

As part of the 7th grade Cobra team’s Service Learning Project at Stephen Decatur Middle School, native tree species now threatened along our eastern seaboard are being reintroduced into Worcester County. Joining an ongoing restoration effort through the National Aquarium’s Wetland Nursery Program, the students planted their personal White Cedar seedlings on school grounds in the fall and cared for them throughout the school year. They recently visited the Nassawango Creek Preserve and planted their trees. Above **Clayton Carter** (left) and **Theo Hobbs** plant their trees.



Getting ready — The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer committee met on April 14 to continue planning for the October 18 Walk/Run that will be held at the Ocean City Inlet parking lot. Those in attendance were **Debbie Clements, Chris Butler, Dawn Hodge, Yesim Karaman, Bean Keagle, Susan Braniecki, Ryan Whittington, Dolores Botts, Susan Childs, Josette Castiglione** and **Pammie Sue Dutton**.



Pictured above are (l-r) the club's Programs and Speakers Chair **J. Graham Caldwell**, President **Carolyn Dryzga** and **Stacey Weisner**.

Kiwanis learns about Discovery Center

Stacey Weisner, executive director of the Delmarva Discovery Center (DDC) was the guest speaker at a recent Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City April 15 meeting.

The DDC is located in Pocomoke City, at 2 Market Street, in the middle of the city's historic downtown. The DDC started 10 years ago with the formulation of plans to use an existing 16,000 square foot building as a cultural learning center. The facility opened to the public on June 25, 2009. It features some museum-type displays like the Delmarva Heritage display about Native American culture in Delmarva, some interactive touch displays with indigenous wildlife and learning centers. School students take field trips to the DDC where they can learn about subjects that parallel their school curriculum. In April there were 23 field trips scheduled. The DDC is open to the public all year. Admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (age 60 and above) and students (with ID) and \$5 for

children ages 4 to 17.

The DDC is a non-profit organization supported by the community through memberships and donations. Volunteers serve as guides at the center. For more information about the DDC, see the website at www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org or call 410-957-9933.

Spring meet and greet set

The Friends of the Worcester County Commission for Women and the Women's Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library. This Meet and Greet is open to the public and women of all ages are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. In the spirit of giving back to our community, we are asking each attending member to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to a local food pantry.

To join the Friends organization, membership dues are \$30 per year, of which \$20 goes toward helping provide books and a book bag to ~1,500 elementary school students in the McGuffey summer reading program. The group seeks volunteers to assist with our community initiatives. This is an opportunity to network with women in Worcester County. For information, call 443-614-3957 or 410-208-0890.

Women's Club to meet

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, **May 7** at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Scholarships and community donations for membership year 2014-2015 will be awarded. Refreshments will be served. For information, contact Dianna Bolyard, 410-208-9326.

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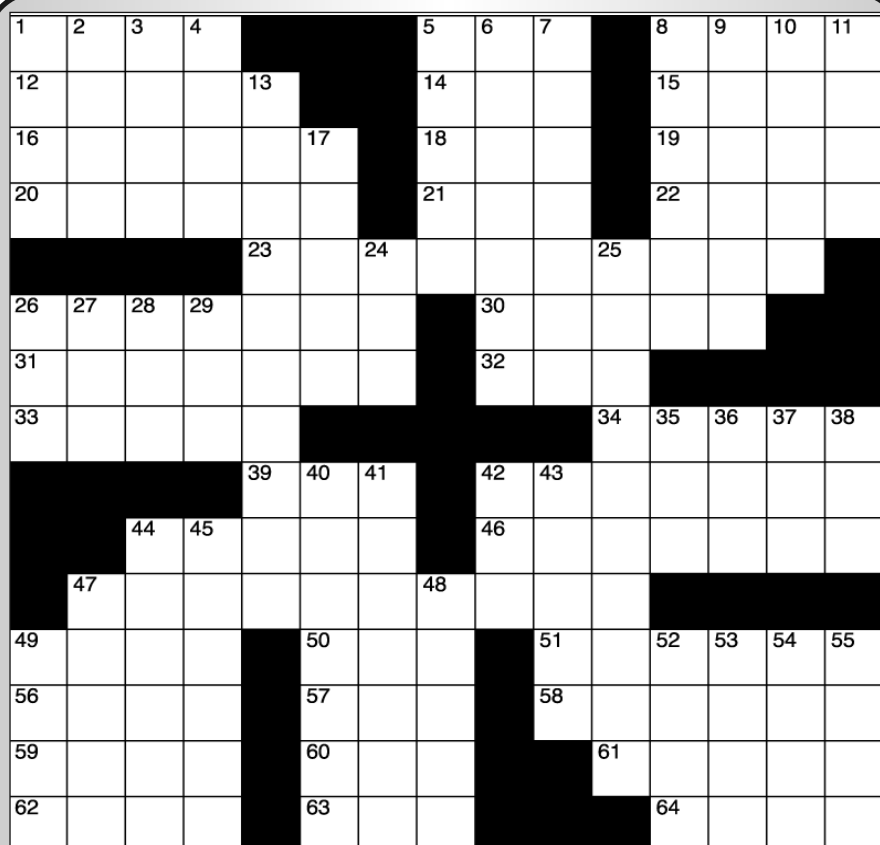
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ACROSS

- 1. Limited period
- 5. PC graphics file format
- 8. Coarse file
- 12. Smooth and lustrous
- 14. Equal, prefix
- 15. Waxplant genus
- 16. One who puts up with
- 18. H. Potter's BFF
- 19. Strays
- 20. Night flight
- 21. Over the counter (abbr.)
- 22. Salt Lake state
- 23. DWTS's oldest judge
- 26. A way to cut off
- 30. Hunted beings
- 31. Sacred tobacco pipe
- 32. Electronic data processing
- 33. # of nativity kings
- 34. Nebraska's largest city
- 39. School spirit rally
- 42. 20th Greek letter

- 44. Belonging to Greek Mother Earth
- 46. Daisy tanacetum
- 47. Skilled in many areas
- 49. Mures river city
- 50. Brew
- 51. Extreme fear
- 56. Ethiopian monetary unit
- 57. Cardboard box (abbr.)
- 58. Esoteric
- 59. Sword similar to a foil
- 60. ___, you!
- 61. Grass tree
- 62. Queen of Sparta
- 63. Major division of geological time
- 64. Supply with nourishment

DOWN

- 1. Czar
- 2. Czech River
- 3. Nev. Senator since 1987
- 4. Person of ancient Media
- 5. Russian meat pie
- 6. Atom with the same atomic #

- 7. Harmony
- 8. Watery discharge from the eyes or nose
- 9. Arteries
- 10. "Breaking the Silence" author Katrina
- 11. Crushing blow
- 13. Florida state dessert
- 17. Della ___, singer
- 24. Meshlike fishing device
- 25. Storage warehouse
- 26. Play a role
- 27. Humbug
- 28. Single Lens Reflex
- 29. Billiards stick
- 35. Parts of an hour (abbr.)
- 36. A.K.A. opt key
- 37. Tool to work the soil
- 38. Not or
- 40. Pain in the middle or inner ear
- 41. Collection of Psalms for liturgical use
- 42. Int'l. news organization
- 43. High Ottoman official
- 44. Equipped with gears
- 45. ___ Doria, ship
- 47. Informal complaint
- 48. Kurt Weill's 1st wife, Lotte
- 49. Cain and ___
- 52. Canadian flyers
- 53. contest
- 54. At some prior time
- 55. Make sense of language



Answers for April 15

For Art's Sake

Marc Chagall, beloved artist

By **Stasia Heubeck**

Marc Chagall, one of the 20th century's most beloved artists, has installations of his paintings and stained glass in cities around the world. From the Hadassah Medical Center and the Knesset in Jerusalem to the Chase Tower Plaza and Art Institute in Chicago, his radiant colors and figurative fantasies have delighted the public, along with stained glass windows in churches in Germany, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The UN building in New York City is proud to have the "Peace Window," a tribute to former UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold. Two of Chagall's murals grace the front lobby of the New York Metropolitan Opera House. But perhaps the work that received the most excitement at its unveiling in 1964, was his gift of the painted ceiling at the Garnier Opera House in Paris.



Born in 1887 in the small Russian town of Vitebsk, Chagall grew up in a Hasidic Jewish home. His father was a fish merchant and his mother sold groceries. Art was not part of his upbringing, but it soon became his vocation. He received some training in drawing and classical art but classes taught by Leon Bakst, a Russian scene and costume designer, made the greatest impression.

In 1911, Paris beckoned, and Chagall fell in love - not only with the city of young painters, poets and writers but with the love of his life, Bella Rosenfeld. After several years of successful exhibitions, he returned to Vitebsk in Russia, married Bella and founded an art school there. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, he soon became disenchanted with the Communist regime and moved to Berlin with his wife and young daughter.

During the period between the two World Wars, Chagall immersed himself in his art, learned engraving and traveled throughout Europe and the Holy Land. He received many commissions which included producing over 100 plates illustrating the Bible. Although Chagall considered himself a Jewish artist, he also painted scenes from Christianity. (Pope Francis chose the image of Chagall's "White Crucifixion" as the cover for his book "Open Mind, Faithful Heart," published by Crossroad Publishing in 2013.)

During World War II, as Hitler's power increased, Chagall and his family escaped to New York. In the US he continued to exhibit and receive commissions until 1948, when he moved to France to the town of Saint-Paul de Vence where he lived until his death at 97 in 1985. Many of his most famous works were commissioned during that time, as he continued to travel. He received an honorary degree in Laws from Brandeis University, the Worthy Citizen of Jerusalem prize, and in 1977, the Grand-Croix de la Legion d'honneur, France's highest honor.

Chagall's style is often called figurative; critics have sometimes called it primitive. He never quite fit into the categories of cubism, surrealism, or abstract expressionism, terms that seem to reflect heavy thought and analysis. Chagall's paintings, for the most part, are happy scenes: lovers flying rapturously, little village houses, lovely horses and cows. But it is the color that he brings to his paintings that really grabs the viewer's attention. In his autobiography, Chagall wrote, "In life there is a single color, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love."

Combine Blessing set for August

It is not too early to save the date of Saturday, August 1 for Snow Hill's Seventeenth Annual Blessing of the Combines celebration. The popular summer event honors the agricultural community while bringing more than 1,500 festival goers into downtown Snow Hill.

There will be craft vendors and food vendors along Bank Street. Information booths will be located along Green Street. Craft vendors and area nonprofits are encouraged to contact Diana Nolte at 443-944-4402 for space reservations.

Festivities begin on Green Street at 11 a.m. with live music and street activities. The Parade of Combines sets off down Rte. 12 to Green Street at 11:15 a.m.. A "throttle thrust" will signal Master of Ceremonies, Steve Hales, to begin the program with the presentation of colors by the award-winning Snow Hill

Italian dinner set

The Kiwanis Italian Dinner will be held Sunday May 3 at DeNovo's Trattoria in the Manklin Station Shopping Center. Tickets for both the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. seatings are on a first come first serve basis. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$3 for children under age 12. The event benefits youth programs in the community. Seating is limited to 100 per seating. For tickets contact Ralph Chinn at 410-208-6719.

Wine tasting event scheduled

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines is holding its annual wine tasting luncheon on Thursday, June 4 at Harrison's Harbor Watch located on the Boardwalk at the Inlet in Ocean City. The cost of \$33 includes lunch and the pairing of a wine per course. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. For reservations, call Kay Hickman at 410-600-0552 no later than May 28.

High School Junior Marine Corps ROTC. After the blessing, the afternoon's lineup featuring area musicians will begin.

Children can visit a variety of animals at the Petting Barnyard then hop aboard a wagon for a hay ride. There will be a Children's Barnyard of activities and the popular Children's Tractor Pull as well as a Scales and Tales presentation from the Pocomoke River State Park. For details contact Becky Payne at 443-783-1715, or email blescombines@gmail.com.

Health Walk headed to OC

OCWalk4Health, a free, one-mile "fun" walk, has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Northside Park in Ocean City. A collaborative project between the Worcester County Health Department and the Town of Ocean City's Department of Recreation and Parks, the walk will be led by Dr. Steven Hearne and will promote the idea of "Exercise is Medicine."

Following the walk, participants are encouraged to visit the onsite local health care providers for free health screenings. Screenings will be provided by the Peninsula Regional Medical Center Wagner Wellness van, Atlantic General Hospital, and the Worcester County Health Department.

As promoted by the American College of Sports Medicine, "Exercise is Medicine." Participation in regular physical activity has many benefits including reducing the risk of developing chronic health problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers. It also helps with weight loss and/or maintenance of a healthy body weight, bone health, strength, and flexibility. Adults should strive to participate in physical activity a minimum of 150 minutes per week.

The OC Walk4Health is a great way to explore a local public park, participate in physical activity, and learn more about how to improve your health. The walk will take place at Northside Park, 125th Street, Ocean City. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the walk starts at 9 a.m. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information about the walk or to register, please call 410-632-0056.



Economics - Mrs. Rebecca Johnson's third graders, **Jack Croll, Addison McDaniel, and Triston Schwind**, explored economic concepts with Junior Achievement's volunteer, Mrs. Hernandez, at Showell Elementary School.

Native plant sale scheduled

The Lower Shore Land Trust will host the 8th Annual Native Plant Celebration, taking place Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ward Museum, 909 South Schumaker Drive, Salisbury. For sale will be more than 60 different native perennials, ferns, ornamental grasses, shrubs and trees, selected for their wildlife and pollinator value, drought tolerance, deer resistance, hardiness, and beauty. Preorders are highly encouraged and should be submitted by April

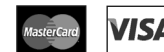
28. The Pocomoke River State Park's Scales and Tales environmental educators will be on hand with live owls, hawks and reptiles from 10 a.m. to noon. Maryland Master Gardeners will answer plant-related questions and the Eastern Shore Beekeepers Association will offer a beehive demonstration. For more information and to download the order form and plant guide, visit www.lowershorelandtrust.org or call the Lower Shore Land Trust at 410-641-4467.

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., April 23	11:52 a.m.	6:00 a.m. 6:02 p.m.	6:14 a.m.	7:44 p.m.
Fri., April 24	12:18 a.m. 12:44 p.m.	6:55 a.m. 6:57 p.m.	6:12 a.m.	7:45 p.m.
Sat., April 25	1:12 a.m. 1:41 p.m.	7:50 a.m. 7:55 p.m.	6:11 a.m.	7:46 p.m.
Sun., April 26	2:10 a.m. 2:42 p.m.	8:45 a.m. 8:53 p.m.	6:10 a.m.	7:47 p.m.
Mon., April 27	3:11 a.m. 3:42 p.m.	9:37 a.m. 9:51 p.m.	6:09 a.m.	7:48 p.m.
Tues., April 28	4:07 a.m. 4:35 p.m.	10:26 a.m. 10:47 p.m.	6:07 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
Wed., April 29	4:57 a.m. 5:21 p.m.	11:11 a.m. 11:38 p.m.	6:06 a.m.	7:50 p.m.

Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

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The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is looking for an Executive Director to plan, organize and direct the Ocean Pines Chamber's membership services, marketing efforts, event coordination and financial resources.

If interested, please contact Lee Ann Gunning at lgunning@worwic.edu for more information.

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love & life
from page 4

with his words and careful to choose them wisely. He was a witty man, always quick to throw out a one liner. He could always break the ice. He was encouraging, loving and caring, with anyone he crossed paths with. I was lucky enough to have had many conversations with Pop. He had a way with words that just made sense.

His second greatest achievement next to Sherri (Mum) was the birth of his one and only daughter, Carol. His baby girl. I know my mom has great memories with him as a child. He was her Daddy, her hero. Even at age 52 she was his baby girl. When he became a Pop when my sisters and I were born I'd like to think we kept him on his toes. We had fun with Pop, swimming and boating. He was a great Pop. The greatest!! He and Mum were young grandparents so it was nice to have him for so long, lucky to have had him from such a young age! Even his great grand daughters got to have him in their lives. I can only hope he had some impact on them as he did on me.

A man of few words or many words (depending on the situation), a hard working man or a man on a mission to relax, a husband, Dad, Pop, or friend. Regardless how you knew him you know Bob (Pop) was a man of much love! He loved all of us as we did him. I'll hold strong to the memories and the hope to maybe see him again one day. I love you forever Pop!!!

Rest In Peace
Robert Edward Lassahn
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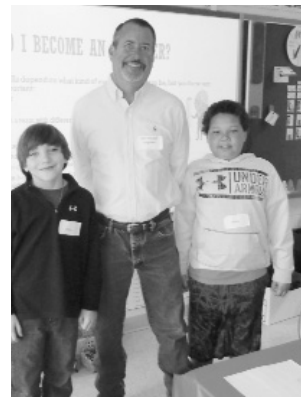
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Careers

Brady Marshall and Jordan King learn what it is like to be an engineer during 4th Grade Career Day at Ocean City Elementary School. Special guest **Terry McGean** taught students how important education is in order to pursue a career in engineering.



hours
from page 7

April 27
Ocean City Public Safety Building
6501 Coastal Highway

April 28
Ocean City Airport, 12724 Airport Road

April 30
Bishopville Fire Department
10709 Bishopville Road

May 5
Salisbury
Tri-County Council Building
31901 Tri-County Way (Right off of Rt. 50)

May 11
Willards Town Hall, 7360 Main Street

May 14
Showell Fire Department, 11620 Worcester Highway

May 26
Powellville Fire Department
5085 Powellville Road

-Newark, Pittsville and Whaleyville hours to be an-



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** 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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from page 8

Legislative Priorities:

As a freshman Delegate, I made the decision to introduce two targeted pieces of legislation that will increase economic opportunities both here in District 38C and across the State of Maryland.

The first, HB 689, Worcester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Limited Distillery License, won unanimous approval from the General Assembly and is now awaiting Governor Hogan's signature. The bill creates a new limited distillery license for Worcester County and will allow Seacrets in Ocean City, whose current distillery operations are based in Delaware, to bring the jobs and revenues related to these distillery operations back home to Maryland. The passage of this legislation is excellent news for our local area. It will boost jobs and also will help increase revenues for Ocean City and Worcester County.

The second proposal I worked on throughout this session was HB 243, Procurement – Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprises – Participation Goal. This legislation, which also won unanimous approval from the General Assembly, will provide more economic opportunities to Maryland veterans by increasing the veteran-owned businesses procurement goal from .5% to 1% of all state procurement contracts.

While working on this proposal, I was glad to be supported by a bipartisan group of legislators who served in the armed forces; Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings; Maryland Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Kelly Schulz; Chris Eccleston, owner of Delmarva Veteran Builders; and Rodney Hudson, an Executive Director of the Elite Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Network.

In addition, the Maryland General Assembly approved repealing the ballistic fingerprinting requirement for firearms purchases and a limited version of the Governor's Charter School initiative which allows more flexibility in teacher certification.

Tax Relief:

Despite the fiscal challenges facing us this session, I am happy to report that we were able to provide some tax relief this year. The General Assembly overwhelmingly supported and passed SB 863, sponsored by Senate President Mike Miller, which revises the "rain tax" to allow counties the option to col-

lect it from residents or to implement their watershed protection programs using existing resources.

We also passed SB 592, which doubles the amount of income a retired member of the military over the age of 65 can exempt from the state's income tax from \$5,000 to \$10,000. I am optimistic that this could be our first step as a state towards ultimately exempting all retirement income from the state income tax.

Finally, we passed a bill, HB 644, which authorizes local counties and municipalities to provide a temporary 20% local property tax credit to qualified elderly individuals or veterans for a period of up to 5 years. This bill, sponsored by Delegate Ric Metzger (District 6), has been called the "Welcome Home, Stay at Home Act" because counties could use it to incentivize seniors and veterans to remain in Maryland.

While serving you here in Annapolis, sometimes the bad legislation we are able to stop is just as important as the bills we are able to pass. This year a number of new tax increases were proposed but did not pass due to our efforts to stop them. Among the worst of this year's proposed tax increases was the so-called "Chicken Tax," which would place a 5-cent per chicken tax on every chicken raised in the State of Maryland.

Another agriculture-related tax increase we were able to kill this year was a proposal to repeal the sales and use tax exemption for agricultural products and equipment, such as feed and tractor fuel, that go into producing a final good for sale. The repeal of this exemption would have increased taxes on our state's farmers by approximately \$212 million starting next year and increasing to \$251.2 million by 2020.

Other taxes which did not pass this year include the "death tax," which would have eliminated the "death tax" repeal passed by last year's General Assembly, a "bottle tax" that places a 5-cent tax on every bottle, a "bag tax" that would ban plastic bags and place a 10-cent fee on paper bags, a \$90 million increase in the tobacco tax, and a tax on utility bills for solar and wind that would eventually ramp up to a \$566 million annual tax.

Regulatory Relief:

I also pushed for regulatory relief during this General Assembly session. Over the last three months, members of the Eastern Shore Delegation successfully worked with the Hogan Administration on the Phosphorus

Management Tool (PMT) regulations which provide flexibility and give farmers more time to adjust while still working to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. These regulations for the first time incorporate the needs of all interested parties, including farmers, community leaders, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Maryland Farm Bureau, and Delmarva Poultry Industry, and are the result of good faith negotiations between all stakeholders on this issue.

Members of the Eastern Shore Delegation also were able to kill another bill that would have increased the regulatory burden on farmers known as the "Farmers' Rights Act." This bill would have required the Attorney General's Office to review all livestock production contracts before they are approved. In order to meet the bill's requirements, the Attorney General's Office would have had to hire three new, full-time Assistant Attorneys General at an expense of over \$200,000 per year. This proposal is another example of an attempt to grow government bureaucracy at the expense of our citizens, especially our farmers.

I also worked closely with the Hogan Administration and local small business owners to pull regulations that would have hurt small arcade businesses in Ocean City and across the State of Maryland. For the last several months, the State Lottery Commission had been attempting to advance a proposal which would regulate these small businesses in the same way the state regulates casinos. I am happy to report that Governor Hogan directed the Lottery Commission to pull these proposed regulations.

Local Priorities:

The final budget included funding for Maryland's tourism programs at the levels requested by the Governor as well as the Governor's proposal to restore \$25 million in highway user rev-

enues to municipalities and county governments to make desperately needed road repairs. The restoration of these transportation funds will be a huge boost for our district and the entire Eastern Shore.

As a member of the Watermen's Caucus, I met on a regular basis with local watermen throughout the session. Between now and next session, we will work together to address the dredging challenges that many of our watermen are facing on a daily basis, and to reduce the regulatory burden on the commercial fishing industry.

Looking ahead to next session, we will need to move forward on legislation to require Maryland's public schools to start after Labor Day. This legislation, which enjoys strong bipartisan support, including the support of Governor Hogan and Comptroller Peter Franchot, did not advance this session. However, I am pleased that Worcester County will begin this school year after Labor Day, and I will continue to work on this initiative.

I also will continue to push hard on my earlier amendment which ensures that it will remain a misdemeanor (not a citation) to smoke marijuana in public space, including Ocean City's Boardwalk and parks across the state. It should not be more lenient to smoke pot in public than it is to drink in public. By working with Governor Hogan and members of the legislature, we will keep public safety in our home community as a top priority.

It has been an honor representing you in the Maryland General Assembly during this legislative session. Thank you for your input on issues throughout this session. I look forward to seeing many of you around the district over the next several months and to returning to Annapolis to serve you again next January.

**Michael B. Mathers, P.A.****Estates, Trusts & Elder Law**

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