

Kid's Market Zone growing, more volunteers needed

The Kid's Market Zone at the Saturday Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is experiencing a busy summer, with dozens of children participating each week.

The zone, under the leadership of Marketplace Features Director Janice Curtis, offers free crafting activities, a weekly story time, and face painting.

"We had over 30 children making a crabby crab craft project this past Saturday morning," Curtis said.

Craft projects are designed to be easy and are often related to the story time book. Mom and dad can join in on the crafting fun or slip away for a few moments of market shopping.

More Kid's Market Zone volunteers are needed to help assist children assemble their crafts and to oversee other activities. For those that enjoy reading, volunteers are needed for story time, held each Saturday at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact the market at www.oceanpines.org or visit the market this Saturday.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market runs Wednesdays, through Aug. 28, and Saturdays, year-round, at White Horse Park. Market hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kiwanis breakfast returns

The Kiwanis Annual Summer Pancake Breakfast will be hosted July 13. Pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, coffee, tea and more will be offered. Kiwanis cooks and you eat. \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and Free for under age 5. The breakfast will take place between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Carryout is also available! Proceeds Benefit the Youth of our Community. See www.kiwanisofopoc.org or Facebook.

Ravens Roost events announced

The Ravens Roost 58 monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. All activities take place at the 28th Street Pit & Pub. New members are welcome. Dues are \$20 per year. Please come to meeting if interested.

Additionally, the Ravens Roost 58 Crab Feast Fundraiser will be held Sunday, July 28, noon to 4 p.m. There will be all you can eat crabs, steamed shrimp, fried chicken, corn, sides, draft beer and soda. Proceeds benefit local needy families during the holidays. The cost is \$40 in advance, \$45 at door. Buy tickets at 28th Street Pit & Pub or call 410-289-2020/410-916-4006.



Children enjoy Kid's Zone activities at the Ocean Pines Farmer's & Artisan's Market, last Saturday.

Community Calendar

MAY

Monday

Ocean Pines Poker Club

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

Delmarva Chorus

The Delmarva Chorus meets every Monday evening at 7PM at the Ocean Pines Community Center in Ocean Pines, Md. Women of all ages are invited to sing with us. Please contact CAROL at 410-641-6876.

Monday/Tuesday

Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge

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

Tuesday

Families Anonymous

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

Tuesday/Thursday

Poker Players wanted for Gentlemen's Poker in North Gate area Ocean Pines. Game played every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Pinehurst Rd. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Meeting

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

Elks Bingo

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

Rotary Club

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

Square Dancing

The 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.

Second Wednesday

The Polish American Club of Delmarva meets at the Columbus Hall, behind St Luke's Church, 100th St & Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. Come join us if you are of Polish or Slavic descent. No meetings.

June, July, August. Call Helen Sobkowiak 410-723-2639 or Maryann Lula 410-250-2548 for more information.

Thursday

Story Time

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

Beach Singles

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577 or Kate at 410-524-0649 for more activities. BeachSingles.org.

Gamblers Anonymous

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

Friday

Knights of Columbus Bingo

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

First Saturday

Creative Writing Forum

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

A Time To Remember

On this day in 1844 fifty-four year old widower President John Tyler married 21-year-old Julia Gardiner. It was his second marriage. At the time, Julia was the youngest first lady in history. Tyler had wooed Julia from the time she was 19, but it took a tragedy and a narrow escape from death for her to accept him.



Earlier that year, Tyler and an entourage, including wealthy New Yorker David Gardiner and his daughter Julia, had cruised the Potomac on board the new steam frigate U.S.S. *Princeton*. During the voyage, the *Princeton* fired off its new cannons in salute as it sailed past George Washington's former home at

Mt. Vernon. At the time, Tyler was below deck raising a toast. The cannon exploded on its third volley, killing Julia's father and several others, including members of Tyler's cabinet. Tyler rushed up to the top deck just in time to catch Julia as she fainted at the news of her father's death. After the ship docked, Tyler whisked Julia off to safety in his arms. Thereafter, her admiration for him developed into love and, in 1844, they were married.

MVA branches to close for upgrades

All Maryland Department of Transportation (MDT) Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) branch offices and Vehicle Emissions Stations will be closed Saturday, June 29 to perform required computer system upgrades. The June 29 upgrade is one of three annual software updates made by MDOT MVA, which coincides with legislative effective dates from the Maryland General Assembly.

The MDOT MVA online store and kiosks will also be unavailable from 9 p.m. on Friday, June 28 until noon on Saturday, June 29.

MDOT MVA will provide information on its website and social media channels to confirm when online transaction services are available.

Community shred event is Saturday

The average victim of elder financial abuse loses upwards of \$120,000. Recognizing financial abuse as the most common type of elder abuse, and accepting responsibility as a first-line defense, AARP Maryland will give Lower Shore residents an opportunity to learn about the many forms of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older adults. On Saturday, June 29, AARP MD along with the Ocean Pines AARP Chapter will provide resources on combating financial abuse and will hold a free community shred at 1 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library. Anyone interesting in shredding their documents should register at: <https://aarp.cvent.com/OceanPinesShredJune29>. Registered attendees are asked to bring no more than five large boxes or bags to be shredded and bring a canned good for the local food bank replenishment. For additional information, please contact: Tammy Bresnahan at 410-507-6972.

Boating courses offered

A Maryland Safe Boating Course will be held July 9 through 11 at the Ocean Pines library.

Boating in heavy traffic areas like Ocean City can be intimidating. Even if you wait for the calmest day to take your boat out, you will encounter boaters speeding by and creating wakes, it is part of the boating experience. Understanding how to handle

your boat under difficult and usual conditions is what boat safety is about. Although piloting a boat is a hands-on skill, much can be gained by an understanding of the forces of nature on your boat. Weather it is wakes, wind, current, or waves causing the boat to feel unstable, knowing how to handle these conditions to minimize the effects on your boat are some of the things taught in the safe boating class. Every time on the water should be relaxing and fun.

The Maryland Basic Boating Class is a great opportunity to satisfy Mary-

land requirements and to get practical boating knowledge from state certified Coast Guard Auxiliary Instructors.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states and required for all ages when operating a boat in Virginia, New Jersey, and other states.

The course will be held at the Ocean Pines library. The three-evening course will begin at 6 p.m. and end no later than 9 p.m. each evening. Space is limited.

A fee of \$15 is required to cover the cost for the course and all course materials. To register, or if you have questions, please contact: Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com

Future classes will be held Saturday, August 3 (all day) and September 3 through 5.



Walk for action - The Eastern Shore MD Moms Demand Action group participated in the 3rd Annual "Salisbury Rainbow Fun Run & Walk" on June 1.

Picture left to right members **Judy Davis, David Shultz, Nanci Osborne, Stephanie Shultz, Judy Burns, Kady Everson and Alfred Beebe.**

Platform Tennis tournament to raise money for veterans

The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Association will host its second annual Fun-Raising Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Tournament proceeds will benefit the Coastal Hospice and Palliative Care "We Honor Veterans" program.

Platform tennis clubs in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are invited to compete and the first 64 applicants will reserve a spot. The cost is \$40, and the entry deadline is Sept. 21.

The tournament will again be held at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex. Players should check in no later than 7:45 a.m. and a welcome ceremony is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. Play generally begins at 8:30 a.m. and, last year, the final match was over by about 4 p.m.

The inaugural tournament raised \$8,500 for the Catch a Lift foundation, which helps post-9/11 combat-wounded veterans recover and rehabilitate, both physically and mentally, through physical fitness, motivation and support. The foundation was started by David and Toni Coffland, both Ocean Pines residents, in honor of their son, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher J. Coffland, who was killed in action in Afghanistan.

Event co-chair Susan Walter said

the tournament this year would benefit the "We Honor Veterans" program. Michael Petito will chair the event.

"Michael and I have met with Coastal Hospice President Alane Capen at the Ocean Pines facility and it is truly a beautiful environment, with a room to be provided for any veteran who needs end-of-life care," Walter said. "Our mission is to raise funds to provide for any veterans, either in this facility, or if their need is for in-home hospice care. We have asked Ms. Capen to earmark our donation to any local veterans in need."

To download a tournament entry form, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-TOURNEY-entry-form-and-donation-request.pdf>.

Registration checks should be made out to "Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Association" and mailed to Susan Walter, 36 Capetown Road, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

Donation checks may be made out to "Coastal Hospice - We Honor Veterans program" and mailed to Susan Walter.

For questions about the event, contact Walter at cbreeze601@verizon.net or Petito at map11946@yahoo.com.

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Fines and legal fees

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**

One must assume Ocean Pines Association board member Frank Daly has the best interests of property owners at heart when he proposes a system that would allow the Board of Directors to impose fines on association members, but his reasoning is seriously



flawed.

In a long, page-filling missive published in the *Ocean Pines Progress* and on *OceanPinesForum.com*, Daly fails to make a viable case for giving board members the authority to fine association members. Daly admits the board has tools to enforce the Declarations of Restrictions when it comes to home maintenance related violations. Any six board members have the authority to direct

public works or outside contractors to go on your property, fix any violations, and send you a bill. Incredibly, Daly says he finds such powerful and unbridled board authority to be “cumbersome, weak, ineffective and costly.”

However, Daly’s concerns go beyond maintenance. He seems obsessed with the fact that OPA needs a court order to remove personal property from a lot... things like unregistered or junk vehicles.

Daly says it can take six months to remove a junk vehicle and cost from \$5,000 to \$50,000 with a typical cost of \$12,000 to \$18,000. This is absurd. Daly is either uninformed or using fear mongering in an attempt to gain support for his proposed changes to the Declaration of Restrictions.

A major problem in the OPA, especially in the last couple of years, is there is no institutional knowledge left at the top management level.

With even a modicum of research, Daly would have found the quotes he claims came from OPA’s new attorney over near Washington, D.C. for obtaining a court order are ridiculous compared to past costs when OPA had local counsel. With regard to having junk vehicles or other personal property removed from

individual lots, the attorney fee to file the paperwork in court was \$195, a part of the retainer arrangement with prior local counsel. Daly would also have discovered that not one of those filings for a court order was ever contested in court by the lot owner. In other words, the court agreed with OPA and granted the junk vehicle or other removal order with no owner contesting.

There were cases where an owner did not obey the court order and OPA had to go to court to have the owner found in contempt. In those cases, the court apparently makes the owner pay OPA’s attorney fees.

It is extremely disappointing when board members fail to do even elementary research prior to initiating something as dramatic as a referendum to change the Declaration of Restrictions and using scare tactics like OPA possibly paying \$50,000 for attorney fees to remove a single junk vehicle to support the change. OPA has full records on our books for every case where a vehicle or other personal property was removed over the last few decades. It is likely the cost rarely, if ever, went over \$1,000 or so.

OPA’s cost of legal services has gone through the roof since a board a few years ago hired a firm across the bridge, a fact pointed out on a number of occasions at

board meetings by John Viola, OPA Treasurer and General Manager. It is time to bring back local legal representation or hire a full-time attorney. Last year the OPA paid about \$150,000 for legal services for across-the-bridge representation.... more money than Worcester County pays for its full-time attorney.

The final ridiculous aspect of Daly’s proposed changes to the Declaration of Restrictions is that the worst offenders, those properties Daly says are the only target of his proposal, will not be impacted because those worst offenders are typically association members who do not pay assessments. Does anyone think association members years behind in paying their assessment, with an underwater mortgage, and no money are going to suddenly start paying fines or OPA court costs?

Give Daly and future board members the authority to fine and it will surely morph over time into much, much more than the issuance of fines for only the non-paying worst offenders. In a few years, the board will be issuing fines for everything as a matter of course. It is the nature of bureaucracy, and OPA is no exception to the natural tendency of a bureaucracy.

Fortunately, the current board put a brake on Daly’s proposal until a new board is elected. Based on candidate responses to the issue during the recent Candidates Forum, Daly may not have the necessary support among board members for a referendum after the election. We can only hope.

What the Board of Directors should do is not mess around with a referendum to change the Declarations of Restrictions, but enforce the current restrictions with the perfectly adequate tools the board already possesses. The problem is not the language of the existing Restrictions; the problem is the abject failure of boards over time to enforce the current Restrictions in a reasonable manner.

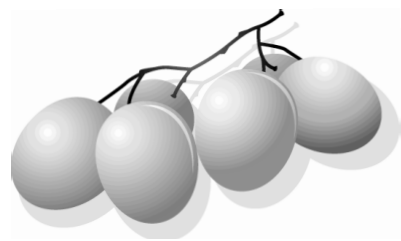
Frank Daly did point out one area of agreement with your correspondent - The existence of properties in terrible condition over years “is a total failure of leadership at both the management and board level.”

Did you know grapes light on fire in the microwave? In 2011, a physicist at the University of Sydney went viral after he placed a grape in the microwave and filmed the fiery aftermath. And oddly enough, scientists couldn’t explain the phenomenon until quite recently. A March 2019 study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported that the fruity fireball occurs as a result of the loose electrons and ions that cluster to form plasma when grapes get hot.



national Academy of Sciences reported that the fruity fireball occurs as a result of the loose electrons and ions that cluster to form plasma when grapes get hot.

-Bestlife



Free metal fabrication course offered

The continuing education and workforce development division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering a free metal fabrication training course that runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., starting July 8 and ending October 14 in Salisbury.

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to secure employment as entry-level metal fabricators. Students will progress from basic blueprint reading and industry math to fundamental fitting practices for a variety of metal shapes. Students will also be taught how to work safely within industry standards and to recognize and avoid hazards. An introduction to hand and power tools is also included.

Tuition is free, but applicants must go through a selection process and space is limited. The training is being funded by grants from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Maryland Energy Administration.

For more information about the course, call 410-334-2815. To be considered for the training, visit the training programs section on the Quality Staffing Services website at www.easternshore-jobs.com or call them at 410-742-2600.

The course is a partnership between Wor-Wic, Arcon Welding Services, Crystal Steel Fabricators, Quality Staffing Services and the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance.

The
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Boating delight

It's a grandfather's delight to spend time with grandchildren. And I was so delighted recently when, because of circumstances one day, I had my grandchildren to myself.

How did we spend our time together? Enjoying one of my favorite

ance as we skip over waves. She's giggling. He's giggling. I'm giggling.

We cruise through the Thorofare toward the Route 50 bridge. I relieve my grandson of the helm. He quickly gets behind his sister and grabs the bow line. Again, we pull back to 6 m.p.h. as we pass under the bridge. I blow the horn which echoes within the underside of the bridge. The kids squeal with joy.

We head out the inlet into the ocean where there are slow, lumbering swells. Back on plane we charge up the coast. Each time we go over a swell the kids are ecstatic. For about a half hour or so we make large lazy circles in the ocean. There are big eyes, big smiles and big laughs. It's a great experience for them and me.

Finally, the decision is made to head back into the bay. There was dis-

pastimes: boating. We dropped the boat in at one of the Ocean Pines boat ramps and headed out, just the three of us. The water as well as the wind was flat.

"Go faster! GO FASTER!" was the recurring refrain I heard as we navigated through the "wake speed" area heading to the bay. As we approached the last speed marker I told the kids to count to three. On three, which they yelled at the top of their lungs, I pushed on the throttle. The bow shot up, the kids screamed with excitement and the boat lunged forward at a quickening pace. The kids were standing in the bow well

arms high in the air screaming and doing what appeared to be a little dance. My granddaughter's golden blond hair was waving in the wind, whipping my grandson's face. He didn't seem to mind too much because he quickly turned to me and asked if he could drive.

I nodded and he planted himself in the captain's chair and grabbed the wheel with determination written on his face. The optics were amusing. Here's this little guy, sitting at the helm. He can't see over the wheel let alone see over the bow. He's not bothered a bit because he has his right hand firmly grasping the throttle, slowly pushing it down, thinking I won't notice. His already wide smile widens each time he hears the engine rev faster.

His sister, who is still standing in the bow well just in front of me, and facing forward is screaming to her brother to go faster. She's holding on to the bow line maintaining her bal-

appointment but reluctant understanding. The kids felt the same way.

At her request my granddaughter took the helm. No different than her brother she hammered the throttle thinking I wouldn't notice. I did but didn't care.

We finally made our way to the Ocean Pines gas dock to fill up. To say a lot of fuel was burned up during our adventure would not be an understatement. But I didn't care until I learned that neither of the kids had brought their wallets and I was stuck with the tab. When I tried to give them the receipt for future reimbursement, they demurred and gave me hugs instead. The tab was covered many times over.

Boating has been a family pastime since I was a child. It's very nice to experience the joys of this hobby with the newest generation – even if they don't pay for the gas.



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By **Chip Bertino**

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Commissioners adopt new county budget

On June 4, the Worcester County Commissioners approved the FY 2019/2020 (FY20) Operating Budget of \$201,285,552 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an increase of \$11,254,833 or 5.9% more than the FY19 budget while reducing the requested expenditures of \$202.6 million by \$1.5 million.

Significant increases in budgeted expenditures for FY20 include an additional \$4.5 million in additional funding for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) to address the requirements of Governmental Accounting Board Statement No. 43 and 45 for County and Board of Education employees, \$3 million for the Board of Education operating expenses and new debt service for the Showell Elementary School, \$1.6 million for waste collection (Homeowner Convenience Centers) and recycling operations, \$1.1 million more for public safety including new P25 radio equipment and increased funding for volunteer fire and ambulance companies, and \$0.6 million for Parks projects, most of which will be reimbursed by State Program

Open Space grant funds.

In order to fund these increased expenses, the real property tax rate will increase by 1¢ to 84.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value effective July 1, 2019, and the County's local income tax rate will increase from 1.75% to 2.25% effective January 1, 2020. Even with these increases, Worcester County residents will continue to enjoy the lowest income tax rate and the 2nd lowest real property tax rate as compared to all other counties in Maryland.

The Commissioners would like to thank County departments and agencies for maintaining and or reducing operating expenses wherever possible. As a result, the Commissioners were able to include funds for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), step increment or longevity pay in salary accounts for County employees and the Board of Education as the need to attract highly qualified staff and retain valuable employees continues to be a budget priority.

Anticipated General Fund Revenues

Based on the Real Property tax rate

of \$0.845 NET property taxes increased by \$5,005,770.

The Homestead Credit cap remains unchanged at 3% and is estimated to be \$1,264,923 for the County's qualified principal resident homeowners effective July 1, 2019

Local income tax rate will increase from 1.75% to 2.25% beginning January 1, 2020. Revenues are anticipated to increase by \$3,500,000 in FY20 based on estimated receipts.

Other local taxes increased by \$549,000 based on current year estimates and includes an increase of \$75,000 in Admission & Amusement taxes, \$250,000 in Transfer Taxes and \$3,000 in Food tax administration. Recordation tax increased by \$162,000 with deeds being processed by the Treasurer's Office beginning in 2020. Room Tax administration increased by \$9,000 and Room Tax receipts increased by \$50,000 for unincorporated areas taking into account the construction and rebuilding of new hotels and the availability of rooms.

please see **budget** on page 11

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CREST

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Horseshoe crab spawning survey underway

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) and the MD Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries and Boating Services are currently conducting their annual horseshoe crab spawning survey to assess the population and habitat availability in the coastal bays.

From early May through late July, horseshoe crabs come to shore to spawn and lay eggs during high tides. Overall, fisheries scientists and managers have determined that there is no clear coast-wide trend in horseshoe crab abundance, but it appears there are cases of localized population declines. More data is needed about horseshoe crab populations, and the information from this survey, as well as similar surveys in other states is helping to fill in gaps in scientific knowledge.

Last year's survey result was recently released revealing that the

horseshoe crab population is stable in the Delaware Bay area that also in-



cludes the Maryland Coastal Bays. Thanks to countless volunteers this

please see **survey** on page 12



A beginning - Late Friday afternoon, June 21, N2BHS-AL ("Ms. Macky") gave birth to a bay pinto colt. The new foal, N2BHS-ALR, and band live most of the year in the very busy developed area and campgrounds. For this reason, the National Park Service expressly reminds visitors that it is essential to remain a minimum of a bus length (40') away from the wild horses at all times.

Everything is new to a foal. N2BHS-ALR will learn how to interact with the environment from his mother and other members of his band. About two-thirds of foals in the National Seashore are born in April, May and June, but it is not uncommon for foals to be born during any month of the year. A mare will be very protective of her new foal and it is vitally important for their well-being that visitors give them, and all of the wild horses, plenty of space.

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Community yard sale is Saturday

The annual Terns Landing Community Yard Sale will take place Saturday June 29 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The entrance to the community is at Ocean Parkway and Alton Point in South Ocean Pines. The rain date for this event is Sunday June 30 from 8 a.m. to noon.



Dems to host picnic

The Democratic Club will host its annual picnic at Fiesta Park in Ocean City on June 29 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$15. Chicken, salads, desserts and beverages will be served.

Call 410-629-9107 for reservations or send remittance. Make check payable to DCOCB and mail to DCOCB, PO Box 3196, Ocean City, Md 21843.

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For the Love of Travel....

Sri Lanka - That which glitters

By **Kelly Marx**

I recently took a trip to Sri Lanka, combining personal leave with three days off I had received for the Cambodian national holiday of the King's birthday. I am happy the United States does not have a monarch; however, I could certainly reconsider for instating paid leave for his or her birthday. I had already booked the tickets to Sri Lanka before the tragic attacks on April 21. I was forced to make the choice as to whether or not I would still go on my trip as planned, amidst a flurry of messages from friends and family that were certain I would, and should, cancel my trip. Being from an area that relies so heavily on tourism, I understand firsthand what a downturn in tourism could look like. While I was afraid of appearing to be insensitive by vacationing in an area that had just suffered from an incalculable loss, in the end, I decided to go and I am so glad that I did.

Part of the reason that the attacks were even more tragic was because Sri Lanka was right on the cusp of international tourism stardom. "Lonely Planet" had recently named Sri Lanka as the number one country to travel to in 2019. While the travel magazine still has Sri Lanka listed at its number one spot, it has now added the amendment, "WARNING: Sri Lanka was hit by a series of terrorist attacks on 21 April 2019. Emergency security measures have been imposed, but flights to Colombo are operating as normal, including during overnight curfews. At the present time, foreign governments are advising caution but are not warning against travel to Sri Lanka. Check the travel advisory information from your government for the latest travel advice."

Because of a single day in the country's collective history, the tourism industry took a hit that is expected to continue for years.

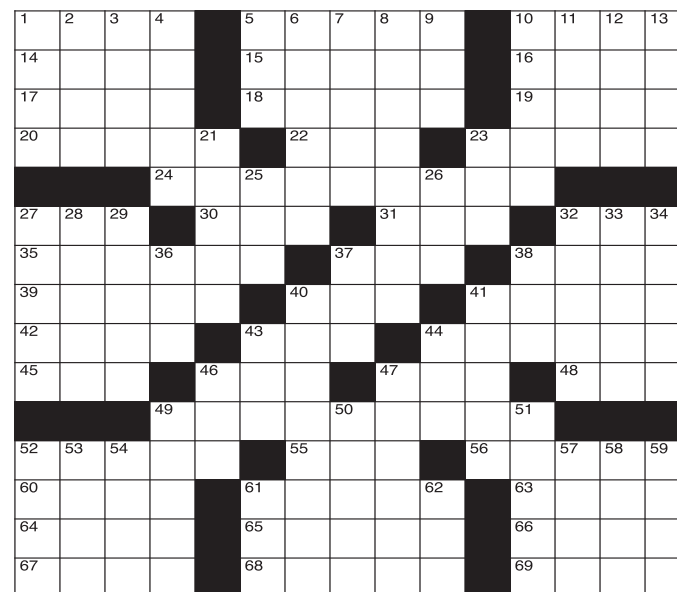
Sri Lanka had a late start to the tourism game due to decades of civil war. The Sri Lankan Civil War lasted from 1983 until 2009, marking 2019 as the 10-year anniversary of the end of the conflict. Even in the face of the new attacks and the previous years of unrest, Sri Lankans are the friendliest people I have met in my travel experience. Their resilient spirit is something

to be admired and I am so appreciative of the welcome I received during the aftermath of one of the country's darkest days.

On the first day I arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport outside Colombo on May 9, my friend and I were not allowed to leave the airport premises to meet up with our driver outside the gates. I had previously arranged a taxi from the airport to the guesthouse outside of Wilpattu National Park where we were staying. Unfortunately, our driver, Michael, was stuck outside the gates waiting in what we later found out were security screenings put in place after the attacks. Once he was allowed through, we started our roughly four-hour journey north to the Dolosmahe Guesthouse. The car was occasionally stopped by police or military members, but as soon as they approached the car and presumably spotted two foreign travelers, they waved us along.

Upon arrival to our guesthouse, we were greeted with tea, coffee, and giant smiles. The husband and wife team repeatedly thanked us for coming and told us we were the only guests since the attacks had occurred almost three weeks ago at that point. They had suffered 30 cancellations, equating to the loss of roughly \$1,500 USD, assuming that travelers were planning on staying for two nights like us. We had realized there would be a slowdown in tourism, but this is when we really started to understand just one of the effects of the horrific terrorist acts, outside of the tragic loss of human lives.

The park entrance was a short walk away from the property; however, most safaris include free hotel pick-up. We booked our full-day (12 hour) safari with Sri Lankan Expeditions. At the time of booking, my friend and I paid \$100 per person. This works out to be less than \$9 an hour. It was more than worth it. Wilpattu is home to leopards, elephants, and sloth bears and we were lucky enough to see all three. Additionally, we saw different species of deer, birds, lizards, monkeys, buffalo, and boar. Wilpattu National Park was certainly the highlight of our trip and, even if we hadn't gone anywhere else for the rest of the trip, it still would have made the entire trip worthwhile.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Drains | 41. Healthy lunch |
| 5. Cleveland baseball team | 42. Greek mountain |
| 10. Leans in for apples | 43. Disfigure |
| 14. Language spoken in India | 44. Ramble on |
| 15. Norwegian parish | 45. Partner to carrot |
| 16. Wings | 46. Figure |
| 17. "Family City, USA" | 47. Mock |
| 18. Prague | 48. Former CIA |
| 19. Tottenham footballer Alli | 49. Salts |
| 20. Cakes | 52. Bleated |
| 22. A way to save for retirement | 55. Never sleeps |
| 23. Good gosh! | 56. Cavalry sword |
| 24. HBO Dust Bowl series | 60. Scottish island |
| 27. ELO drummer Bevan | 61. Cyprinid fishes |
| 30. Kids' game | 63. Italian seaport |
| 31. Computer giant | 64. Fruit tree |
| 32. Luxury automaker | 65. Old World lizard |
| 35. Made disappear | 66. U. of Miami mascot |
| 37. Mandela's party | 67. Gentlemen |
| 38. Greek personification of Earth | 68. Cover with drops, as with dew |
| 39. Semitic lords | 69. Don't stick it out |
| 40. Where to put groceries | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Broken branch | 33. You should eat three every day |
| 2. A distinctive quality surrounding someone | 34. Dips feet into |
| 3. Commoner | 36. Patti Hearst's captors |
| 4. It can be poisonous | 37. Swiss river |
| 5. Recipe measurement | 38. Talk |
| 6. Eager | 40. Humorous conversation |
| 7. City in Finland | 41. Gurus |
| 8. Acting appropriately | 43. Actress Gretchen |
| 9. Pitching stat | 44. Hitters need one |
| 10. Cops wear one | 46. Offer |
| 11. Evergreen genus | 47. Flower cluster |
| 12. Lacking hair | 49. The Navy has them |
| 13. Witnesses | 50. Palmlike plant |
| 21. Supplies to excess | 51. Vaccine developer |
| 23. This street produces nightmares | 52. Guys (slang) |
| 25. Cool! | 53. Jai ___, sport |
| 26. Basics | 54. Assert |
| 27. Type of jazz | 57. Beloved movie pig |
| 28. Remove | 58. ___ Clapton, musician |
| 29. Seaport in Finland | 59. Gamble |
| 32. Large formation of aircraft | 61. Hit lightly |
| | 62. Carpenter's tool |



Answers for June 19

budget
from page 6

State Shared revenues increased \$613,709 based upon estimated Highway User Fees from the State.

Licenses and Permits increased \$449,475, which includes \$329,000 for homeowner convenience center permits; \$29,300 for bi-annual occupational licenses, \$30,000 for rental license fees, and \$50,000 for building permits.

Charges for Services increased by \$275,095, including \$35,000 for Roads department fees, \$180,800 for recycling revenues, and \$61,300 from special events fees for Recreation.

Interest on Investments increased \$425,000 based upon projected rates of return.

Federal grants project an overall decrease of \$2,184 due to declines in estimates for the US Fish and Wildlife revenue.

State grants increased \$1,301,471, which includes \$461,749 from Program Open Space for Parks, \$180,716 in Waterway Improvement Funds for boat landings; \$824,881 State aid for Bridges, and \$239,000 for a State Land and Water grant for Parks. Decreases include \$559,563 for the Transportation Grant which is now included in Highway User Fees by the State.

Transfers in:

Planned use of Casino/Local Impact Grant and Table Games revenue increased by \$831,611 overall; addi-

tional Casino grant funds of \$264,900 will be used to increase the debt payment for the Worcester Technical High School in FY20, and Table Games revenue of \$566,711 will be used for public safety expenditures to benefit the County.

Transfers In of existing Budget Stabilization funds decreased by \$1,698,323 since the Recycling and Homeowner Convenience Center expenses are General Fund obligations beginning in FY2020.

**Major Approved
General Fund Expenditures**

**County Departments
and Agencies:**

A summary of significant increases and decreases in approved expenditures include the following:

County Administration increased \$193,466

Increased by \$180,084 in salaries due to an employee retirement and replacement as well as transfer of the County Engineer from Development Review & Permitting to County Administration

Elections Office increased \$91,385

Increased by \$58,095 for salaries and benefits based on State Elections requested salary upgrades

Increased by \$26,536 for supplies and materials to cover the cost of a Presidential election in FY20.

Environmental Programs increased \$130,736

Increased by \$108,029 in salaries and includes 1 new license permit clerk and interns

Increased by \$20,130 for a Maryland Coastal Bays Grant

Sheriff's Department decreased by \$251,646

Decreased by \$224,862 in capital equipment as compared to the current year and includes 5 replacement patrol

vehicles

Emergency Services increased by \$705,053

Increased by \$96,989 in salaries and includes 3 part time Communications Clerks to assist with coverage.

Increased by \$409,760 for one-time expenses for the following: \$329,211 for P-25 radio equipment which includes \$141,211 for the Board of Education and \$188,000 for public safety and County departments: \$173,344 for the radio maintenance and software contracts; a decrease of \$152,620 in radio supplies from the current year budget of which \$77,265 was rededicated to Federal Engineering for consulting.

Increased by \$118,000 for one-time expenses for P-25 asset software and a radio alignment device.

Jail increased by \$243,905

Increased by \$143,354 in salaries

Decreased by \$52,789 for computers for \$14,096 and inmate medical supplies for \$30,000

Increased by \$145,015 mainly for the medical contract approved in January 2019 with expanded services

Increased by \$5,125 in capital equipment and includes \$30,000 for two tilt skillets, \$43,000 for a vehicle and decreased by \$22,875 for a current year tractor purchase

Fire Company Grant is included for \$2,520,000 based on the current funding formula and \$378,410 additional funds to continue the baseline minimum of \$250,000 for 10 fire companies.

Ambulance Grants is included for \$4,256,592, an increase of \$407,447 more than the current year based on increased rates for base personnel and the additional personnel supplement.

A new Pilot Paramedic Scholarship Program is included for \$8,000 to provide 2 scholarships each year for tuition reimbursement; an enhance-

ment to the LOSAP award and a retention bonus is included in the FY20 budget.

Public Works- Roads Division decreased by \$750,733

Increased by \$95,664 in salaries and includes 5 part-time employees to assist with mowing along County roads

Decreased by \$566,276 as the State Transportation Grant is combined with Highway User Revenue beginning in FY20

Increased by \$156,976 for the following: \$66,976 pass thru to Ocean Pines Association as they maintain their roadways through the annual agreement

Decreased by \$436,422 in capital equipment and includes \$347,000 for a service truck with a crane, dump truck with snow plow, crew cab truck with dump body, trailer and mower

Public Works – Homeowner Convenience Centers increased \$752,017 as a new division in the General Fund for FY20, previously accounted for in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

Public Works – Recycling increased \$816,356 as a new division in the General Fund for FY20, previously accounted for in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

Parks increased \$590,991

Increased by 2 part time parks workers and overtime

Increased by \$504,586 for park improvements from the State Program Open Space funds over the current year

Increased by \$9,500 to purchase a trailer and tractor with attachments for \$48,500 and decreased by \$39,00 for pickup trucks purchased in the current year

Grants to Towns increased \$143,575

Increased by \$32,000 for restricted fire grant to the Towns based on the current formula

Increased by \$111,575 in grants to Towns

Tides for Ocean City (Fishing Pier)

Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise /Sunset
Th	27	High	3:30 AM	5:39 AM
	27	Low	9:41 AM	8:28 PM
	27	High	4:07 PM	
	27	Low	10:22 PM	
F	28	High	4:22 AM	5:39 AM
	28	Low	10:28 AM	8:28 PM
	28	High	4:57 PM	
	28	Low	11:18 PM	
Sa	29	High	5:13 AM	5:40 AM
	29	Low	11:18 AM	8:28 PM
	29	High	5:45 PM	
Su	30	Low	12:11 AM	5:40 AM
	30	High	6:02 AM	8:28 PM
	30	Low	12:07 PM	
	30	High	6:33 PM	
M	1	Low	1:03 AM	5:40 AM
	1	High	6:52 AM	8:28 PM
	1	Low	12:56 PM	
	1	High	7:22 PM	
Tu	2	Low	1:52 AM	5:41 AM
	2	High	7:42 AM	8:28 PM
	2	Low	1:46 PM	
	2	High	8:12 PM	
W	3	Low	2:41 AM	5:41 AM
	3	High	8:33 AM	8:28 PM
	3	Low	2:35 PM	
	3	High	9:02 PM	

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please see **budget** on page 12

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survey
from page 8

program is assisting scientists with monitoring the status of this species.

Horseshoe crabs play a key role in coastal ecosystems and are particularly important to migratory shorebirds. Shorebirds migrating thousands of miles, from Central and South America to Arctic breeding areas, stopover on mid-Atlantic beaches to replenish their energy reserves. The spawning season of horseshoe crabs coincides with the migration stopover of shorebirds, and millions of horseshoe crab eggs provide an abundant and preferred food source for them.

The MCBP encourages the community to keep a watchful eye throughout

the summer and in the event a horseshoe crab gets caught up in certain environments, such as a riprap and marshes, help it find its way back to the water. They do not bite or pinch and can be easily helped by picking them up by the sides of the shell and returning them back to the water or you can flip them right side up if they are turned over. Never pick them up by the telson (tail). The telson is important for the horseshoe crabs' ability to right itself when flipped over; a break will ultimately result in death.

If you are interested in joining MCBP in protecting the horseshoe crab, please contact Amanda Poskaitis at amandap@mdcoastalbays.org or by calling her at 410-213-2297 ext. 103.

Priceless - On Saturday, June 22 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore presented Jim Mathias with a piece of pottery with a history.



In 2005, as part of an international pottery workshop in Baltimore, the Guild was looking for a place on a beach to fire a pot using an ancient technique. According to Guild member Marie Cavallero, former Ocean City Mayor Mathias was "the only mayor on the East Coast who would allow us to do

this." When the Guild presented him with the actual pot that was fired in the sand on the Ocean City beach 14 years ago, Mathias responded, "This is priceless."

From left to right: Clay Guild members **Robbie Johnson** and **Dr. Ernie Satchell** of UMES, **Jim Mathias**, Guild members **Marie Cavallero** and **Dot Truitt**.



Showell School under construction.
Photo by Worcester County Schools

budget
from page 11

Insurance & Benefits increased by \$2,518,833
Decreased by \$162,689 due to the

County medical insurance benefits cost-share for new employees

Increased by \$1,929,000 for Other Post Employment Benefits for a total of \$7,000,000

Increased by \$378,711 for Retirement contributions based upon State rates

Increased by \$134,953 for social security taxes based on the estimated payroll

Increased by \$190,022 for Workers

Compensation insurance

Increased by \$70,188 in property & liability insurance due to a 3% increase in the premium

Decreased by \$26,927 for the

State's retirement administration fee

Interfund Charges decreased by \$1,303,430

Decreased by \$1,033,339 for Transfers Out to Recycling for the Enterprise Fund

Decreased by \$664,984 for Transfers Out to Homeowner Convenience Centers for the Enterprise Fund

Increased by \$394,893 to Transfer to Reserve to maintain the current 10% reserve based on the approved expense budget

Salary accounts increased to include a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for County employees, a step increment of 2.5% and longevity pay for those eligible

Board of Education

The County allocation for the Board of Education's operating budget is \$91,637,706, an increase of \$4,175,931 over the current year

adopted budget. 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 of \$91,637,706 plus debt service of \$11,763,756 totals \$103,401,462 or 51.3% of the County's total estimated revenue.

Board of Education

Salary Increase:

The Board of Education budget includes the following salary adjustments for FY20:

The salary package for the Board of Education reflects a payroll increase of \$2,353,403, which includes a step, longevity step for those eligible and salary scale adjustments as negotiated with a 2% COLA for Teachers and Support Staff employees.

The bus contracts account increase over FY19 is \$83,264 and reflects a 2% increase to bus contractor's hourly, mileage and per vehicle allotment (PVA) rates effective July 1, 2019. The increase includes funding to several contractors to purchase new buses for \$14,000 and \$45,000 to cover increasing costs for athletic transportation.

Starting Teacher pay increase by 2.0% from \$44,700 to \$45,594, and will be adjusted for the additional State Aid for Kirwan Commission-Blueprint funding for beginning teachers pay.

The total FY2020 Worcester County Education MOE funding per student based on the estimated student population of 6,810 equates to \$13,456.34 per student. Total BOE funding per student is \$20,052 when all education funding is included.

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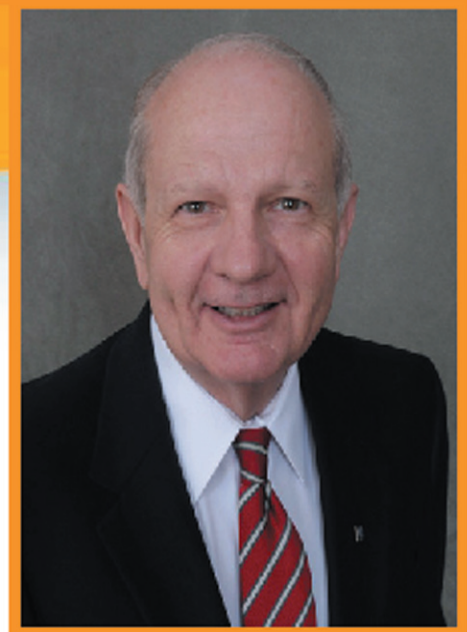
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Ravens Roost raises money for local students

Ravens Roost golf tournaments held in Ocean Pines during the last two decades have raised more than \$187,000 in scholarships for local students.

This year, Ravens Roost #44, based in Ocean City, gave out a total of \$14,200 in scholarships to graduating seniors at Stephen Decatur High School and Worcester Preparatory School, and at Indian River High School in Dagsboro, DE.

Scholarship applications are annually distributed through local schools, and applicants must submit an essay on "The Importance of Athletics in Today's American Society."

"The golf tournament is our major fundraiser for college scholarships to our local high school seniors," Don McMullen, co-chair of the event, said. "The Scholarship Committee reviews applications for the

Scholar Athlete Scholarships and selects recipients based on their SAT scores, GPAs, community service, reference letters from teachers and coaches, and sports team participation.

"We really had some stellar scholar-athletes this year," he continued. "They excelled not only on the sports fields, but also in the classrooms."

Six scholarships for \$2,200 each were distributed to Colin Miller and Chloe Ruddo at Worcester Prep, Brett Derquist and Grace Byers at Stephen Decatur, and Robert Argo and Abigail O'Shields at Indian River. Additionally, Stephen Decatur High School senior Alexis Black was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

The 22nd annual tournament, held last Friday at the Ocean Pines Golf Course, included nearly 70 play-

ers and raised more than \$12,000 for scholarships, to be distributed next year.

A luncheon after the tournament was held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

"[Ocean Pines Golf Director] John Malinowski and his staff had the course in great shape for our annual tournament," McMullen said. "The customer service was outstanding at our course, and the Yacht Club luncheon was very good, as well as the customer service there."

McMullen said the event regularly attracts Ravens Roost members from throughout the state, as well as golfers local to Ocean Pines. The tournament is held at the same time each year, in conjunction with the start of the annual Council of Baltimore Ravens Roosts convention in Ocean City.

Major sponsors for the event this year included Atlantic General Hospital, the Original Green Turtle, and the Matt Ortt Companies. McMullen said Atlantic General CEO Michael Franklin also participated in the tournament.

Many local businesses in Ocean Pines, Ocean City and Delaware sponsor tee signs to support scholarship efforts, while others donate items for a silent auction.

"You name the business in this area and they normally contribute, so it's really a true community support for our tournament," McMullen said. "We also had volunteer members of Ravens Roost #44 that contributed to the success of this year's tournament, as they do every year."

For more information on the Ravens Roost #44, visit www.ocravensroost44.com.

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Tips to make your home more cat-friendly

Millions of people cannot imagine life at home without their cats. Cats make wonderful pets, bringing their own unique personality into a home and providing companionship to their owners.

As great as cats are, millions still enter animal shelters every year. According to the ASPCA, roughly half of the 6.5 million companion animals that enter United States animal shelters each year are cats. And while figures are thankfully on the decline, hundreds of thousands of those cats end up being euthanized. Local animal shelters are home to many cats that would make great pets, and prospective cat owners are urged to visit such shelters to find cats that would make welcome additions to their homes.

For those who find cats to take home, the following are a handful of ways to make a home as cat-friendly as possible.

Take stock of appliances that pose as safety risks. Certain appliances

pose potentially significant threats to cats' safety. For example, International Cat Care notes that open washing machines or tumble dryers, particularly those with warm clothes inside, may be too tempting for cats to ignore. Unsuspecting homeowners may close the doors to washers and dryers, trapping cats inside, or even turn the appliances on without recognizing the cats are inside. Always keep doors to such appliances closed, and check to make sure cats are not inside before using these appliances. Paper shredders and work stations with lots of wires also pose a safety risk to cats, so make sure these appliances and areas are inaccessible.

Watch how cats behave around cat

flaps. Some cats respond positively to cat flaps, while others do not. Cat flaps also may invite other cats into a home,

the cat flap. Let cats' behavior dictate if you will keep the cat flap or not.

Watch how cats drink water. International Cat Care notes that the presence of water near food may deter some cats from drinking enough fluids. That's because cats naturally hunt for food and water separately. Some cats may be fine if food and water are in the same bowl, but if you notice your cat is ignoring its water bowl, try placing it elsewhere in the home to ensure your cat gets enough fluids.

Provide high but safe resting places. Cats want to rest and observe their surroundings from on high. Don't deter cats from resting in such places, but make sure they're positioned in such a way that cats can safely get down when they want to.

Cats make wonderful pets, particularly when welcomed into cat-friendly homes.



which can upset your cat and make it vulnerable to attack. While some cats may want the freedom a cat flap allows, others may be on edge around

Signs your pet has fleas

Fleas are something no pet parent wants to encounter, but they're all too common among companion animals. Unfortunately, once fleas are in the house, they can affect everyone in the household, including people.

The following six signs of flea infestations are not always apparent, especially when they aren't in abundance, but they are something pet owners can watch out for.

Scratching, licking and biting: Fleas set up residence in hard-to-reach places, says PetMD. The head, neck and tail of a pet are common areas where flea infestations occur. An animal that is consistently picking at these areas may have fleas.

Restlessness: Fleas are uncomfortable and can upset pets. If your dog or cat is acting out of sorts, fleas could be to blame.

The presence of "flea dirt:" Black deposits within the fur near the skin are often flea droppings. If you're unsure, drop a little into water and see if they turn it reddish-brown. If so, this

is indicative of fleas.

Raised bumps or welts: Fleas can irritate the skin, causing raised welts on pets and people. People are often affected near the ankles when fleas jump from the carpet onto human skin.

Fur loss: A flea infestation can cause constant scratching and biting, which may eventually contribute to the loss of fur.

Pale gums: Pale gums are a sign of anemia and indicate that a pet has a severe flea infestation. The dog or cat simply cannot reproduce red blood cells as fast as they're drained by voracious fleas.

Sometimes it's possible to see fleas in action, but they tend to jump and scurry so fast that they can be hard to detect. Pet owners who suspect their pets are dealing with fleas infestations should consult a vet. He or she will likely recommend a flea shampoo and preventative treatments to stop future outbreaks.



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