

Positive financial trends continue

Ocean Pines continued its positive financial streak in July, posting a \$54,649 favorable variance to the budget.

After the first three months of the fiscal year, the Association is ahead by more than \$300,000. By comparison, a year ago Ocean Pines was roughly \$7,000 behind budget, General Manager John Viola said during a regular Board meeting on Saturday.

Amenities and departments that overperformed during the first three months included the Yacht Club (\$107,000), Beach Club (\$53,000), Recreation and Parks (\$40,000), Beach Parking (\$37,000), Marinas (\$36,000), Public Works (\$33,000), Finance and Administration (\$28,000), GM Office (\$20,000) and Golf (\$2,000).

Viola described several “headwinds,” or items that will negatively affect the bottom line by the end of the fiscal year. Included were \$30,000 for Golf Course chemicals, a \$30,000 higher than expected cost for an employee compensation study, \$22,500 to remove the crabbing pier, \$12,000 in unbudgeted new capital items, \$5,000 for a Beach Club bathroom attendant, and \$2,500 for a Marina se-

*please see **financials** on page 15*



First day — Ocean City Elementary School Kindergarten teacher **Shelby Ennis** pictured with one of her students, **Liam Fluckey**.

Pines named one of Maryland safest communities

Ocean Pines was once again named one of the safest cities in Maryland, according to Background Checks.org.

According to the online site, “Although it’s overall violent and property crime rates are marred by the high crime in Baltimore, by far Maryland’s largest city, the Old Line State is home to many very safe communities. In fact, six Maryland cities scored a 0.6 or higher on our Safety Index, which rates the safety of U.S. cities on a variety of factors, including crime

rates and the concentration of law enforcement.”

Ocean Pines ranked as the fourth-safest city in Maryland, trailing only Easton, Havre de Grace and Bel Air.

“Ocean Pines is the final Maryland city to score above a 0.3 on the Safety Index (it scored a 0.33), which it did by

managing very impressive crime rates compared to the state, at large: a violent crime rate below 2 per 1,000 and a property crime below 7 per 1,000,” the site said.

Background Checks.org uses the most-recent FBI crime statistics to create rankings for 2,929 cities in the United States with popula-

tions of 10,000 or higher.

“We are proud that Ocean Pines is once again one of Maryland’s Safest Communities,” Police Chief David Massey said. “The efforts of our citizens and police officers to keep us safe is continual. Keeping Ocean Pines safe ensures property values and makes us attractive to future residents.”

To read the full report, visit <https://backgroundchecks.org/safest-cities-in-maryland.html>.



Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

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 7 p.m. 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.

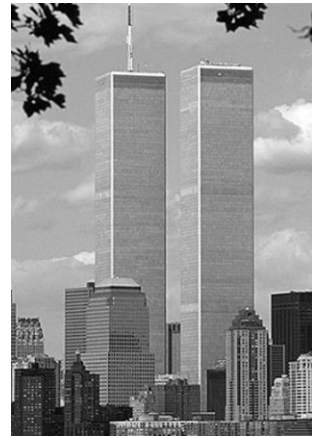
First Saturday

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 2001, at 8:45 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, an American Airlines Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors. As the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcasted live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767, United Airlines Flight 175, appeared out of the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center, and sliced into the south tower at about the 60th floor. The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and the streets below. America was under attack.



Dem Central Committee to meet

The next meeting of the Democratic Central Committee Worcester County will be Saturday September 14 between 9 and 11 a.m. at the Downtown Berlin library located at 13 Harrison Avenue. All interested people are invited to attend. Phone 410-213-1956 for information.

NAACP to meet

Worcester County NAACP will host on Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Denise Shorts, chief academic officer for the Worcester County Board of Education.

An executive meeting precedes the speaker at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Berlin MAC Center located at 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd. All interested persons are invited to attend. Call 443-944-6701 for information.

Dem club to meet

The Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County will host its first fall meeting on Monday, September 16, at the Community Center in Ocean Pines. Coffee and conversation begin at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m. the speaker, Gee Williams, mayor of Berlin, will discuss environmental issues affecting Worcester County and Berlin. Non-perishable food donations will go to Diakonia. For questions, contact Vicky Wallace at 410-208-2969.

County Hazard Mitigation Plan update meeting scheduled

Worcester County Emergency Services (WCES) officials are updating the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan and invite citizens to a September 16, meeting to voice their concerns about natural and manmade emergencies that have the potential to impact the Lower Eastern Shore. The meeting is free, open to all residents,

and will take place at the Pocomoke City Department of Emergency Medical Services, which is located at 137 8th Street in Pocomoke City, from 10 a.m. to noon.

"Public input helps us to better identify hazards and to take steps to reduce their impact, which makes Worcester County a more resilient community," WCES Planner Tina Vickers said.

Residents are also encouraged to share their insights about potential local hazards by completing a 12-

question survey online at <http://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/emergency>. The survey should take no longer than seven minutes, and results will be included in the updated plan. After completing the survey, residents may provide contact information to receive additional information regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The purpose of the plan is to ensure the county is prepared to face diverse natural and manmade hazards, and WCES is placing special empha-

sis on understanding citizens' concerns regarding hazards.

WCES officials extend their thanks to the stakeholders who attended the Hazard Mitigation Plan update meeting in July and identified power outages as a major impact of storm events and emphasized the importance of maintaining power at such times. Local business owners in particular can be adversely impacted by power disruptions, which can lead to

please see meeting on page 15



Ocean Pines Operations Director **Colby Phillips** outlines an action plan and several phases of work designed to improve drainage in the community.

Phillips presentation highlights drainage plan

Ocean Pines' drainage problem "isn't something we are able to fix, but we are working really hard to try and improve it," Operations Director Colby Phillips said on Saturday.

Phillips, during a regular Board meeting, presented a plan of action to help reduce flooding in the community.

The plan includes \$175,000 in budgeted ditch maintenance during the current fiscal year, as well as repairing or replacing four large drainage pipes.

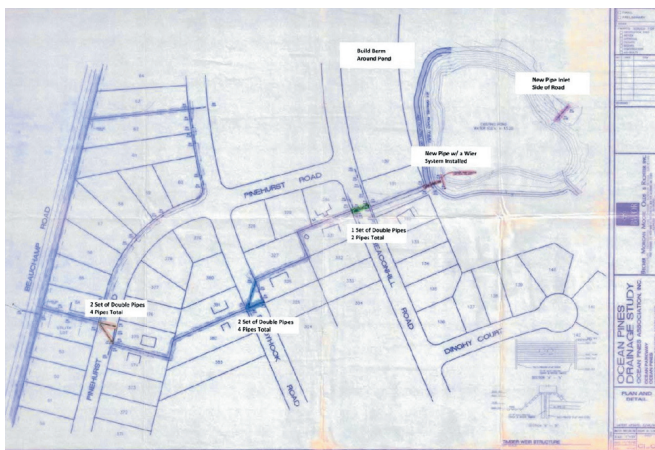
Ocean Pines repaired a pipe on Mumford's Landing Road and replaced a pipe on Boston Drive earlier this year, with the Borderlinks area and Watertown Road also on the list to get new, larger pipes to help improve the out-flow of water.

The estimated cost to repair and replace the pipes is about \$443,000, which includes smaller neighborhood pipe replacements, and engineering and permitting. Repairing, rather than replacing the Mumford's Landing pipe saved the Association \$250,000, Phillips said.

During the last two months, Ocean Pines workers and independent con-

tractors have cleared large drainage ditches along White Horse Park and Somerset Park, as well as near 113 Burr Hill Road, 44 Pinehurst Road, 44 Canal Road and 22 Moby Dick Drive. Work on five more large ditches is slated to start this month.

Phillips said an annual plan of action would include more pipe repairs



Phase one map - A map shows planned improvements designed to help improve the flow of water in Section 3.

and replacements, creation and implementation of a ditch maintenance list, and a public education campaign.

"We're going to continue to educate the public on pieces that ... we're going to be working on, [and] what things you can do to help," she said.

Also outlined were several phases of work designed to help improve drainage in areas most prone to flood-

*please see **drainage** on page 15*

Join Peninsula Regional Medical Center for its annual Party in the Pines!

September 18 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Entertainment
- Food (Catering by Rosenfeld's Jewish Deli!)
- Giveaways
- Tours and more!
- Free and open to the public

Ocean Pines Health Pavilion
Cathage Road (At the North Gate)



Board promises more interaction during public meetings

Association President Doug Parks said the Ocean Pines Board would take a different approach to public comments during future Board meetings.

Parks, during the August 31 regular Board meeting, said directors would now be more responsive. He said he was initially a “big stickler” that public comments were just that – comments – but now recognizes the need for more interaction.

“This year I am going to be a little more flexible,” he said. “If there is an opportunity to answer a question without getting into a 15-minute debate ... then certainly we will do that.

“We’ll be a little bit more open to answering any type of questions that may come up, as long as it doesn’t end up in a long discussion [and turn] a two-hour meeting into a four-hour meeting,” Parks continued. “We’ll try to get some information out to the public when they ask us questions.”

Parks, during his opening remarks, also took the opportunity to welcome new Board members Tom Janasek, Larry Perrone and Camilla Rogers.

“[I’m] looking forward to working

together as a team,” he said. “We’ve had great opportunities to look at a lot of the good things going on in the business of running Ocean Pines ... [and] I’m looking forward to a successful and productive year.”

Board makes appointments

During the August 31 Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting the following appointments were made:

Dick Keiling - Chair - Budget & Finance

James Trummel - 2nd Term - By-Laws & Resolutions

Robert Hillegass - 2nd Term - By-Laws & Resolutions

Keith Kaiser - 1st Term - By-Laws & Resolutions

Bernie McGorry - 1st Term - Strategic Planning

Edgar Purcell - 1st Term - Golf

David Allen - 1st Term - Marine

Karen Matheson - 1st Term - Environment & Natural Assets

Steven Cohen - 1st Term - Recreation & Parks

Steve Habeger - 2nd Term - Elections

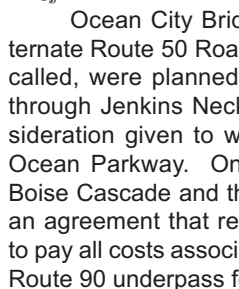
Mark Heintz - 2nd Term - Elections

Tom Piatti - 1st Term - Budget & Finance

In September 1969 Boise Cascade went before the Worcester County Commissioners and the state road commissioner to propose turning over Ocean Pines roads to the county so it could collect state gasoline tax to maintain them.

When the new North Ocean City Bridge and Road or Alternately Route 50 Road, as they were then called, were planned by the state to run through Jenkins Neck there was no consideration given to what was to become Ocean Parkway. On October 29, 1970, Boise Cascade and the state entered into an agreement that required the company to pay all costs associated with providing a Route 90 underpass for Ocean Parkway.

-Bud Rogner, *History of Ocean Pines*



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-Bud Rogner, *History of Ocean Pines*

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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thecourier@delmarvacourier.com



New families welcomed

On September 5, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) Parents' Association hosted a New Parent Coffee to welcome families who are new to the school. Approximately 500 students attend from Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

Above: Head of Middle School **Megan Wallace**, **Mary** and **Ken Southard**, **Marc Bofinger**, and **Chris Harrison**.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee will review Perrone proposal

Ocean Pines Board members said they liked the idea of creating a new capital funding tool, but were not ready to vote on the matter.

Director and Association Treasurer Larry Perrone introduced the new capital motion during the August 31 regular Board meeting, but later agreed to withdraw it for further review.

The original motion would have directed General Manager John Viola “to establish a New Capital reserve fund to be funded as of fiscal year 2020/2021 as provided by Sect 8.03 of the Ocean Pines Association By-Laws.”

Perrone said current practice calls for funding new capital items through the operational budget, which then negatively affects the annual assessment.

According to his formal motion, “Controlling the increase in the annual assessment has and can continue to cause this and future Boards to at-

tempt to control the assessment increases by not making necessary New Capital purchases.”

Perrone proposed to fund the account using “up to 10 percent of the yearly replacement reserves.” He said the account would not exceed \$1 million and the motion would cap annual new capital spending to a maximum of \$500,000.

“A reserve account dedicated to New Capital expenditures will allow for better financial planning and control without directly impacting the association yearly assessment,” Perrone said in the motion. “It will also eliminate the tendency to forego necessary New Capital projects because of the direct impact on the annual assessment.”

Several Directors agreed with the concept, but said the motion needed refinement.

please see **bylaws** on page 14

Finding strength and fortitude deep inside

Author's Note: *It's hard to believe it's been 18 years since the harrowing events of September 11, 2001. The lens through which we view ourselves and our country was forever altered as a result. What follows is the column I wrote in the week after the attacks.*



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

He turned the television off. He had seen enough. Sitting in his favorite chair for several moments he thought about what he had been watching. He removed a red handkerchief from his vest pocket and wiped the tear from his cheek.

He rose slowly and unsteadily. He ambled tentatively across the room and down the hall. On the wall in the hallway hung plaques and proclamations, pictures and tributes, all accolades from his past. He caught his reflection in the glass frames. He noticed he was stooped and his hair was now a silvery gray. His beard was unkempt.

He continued to the room at the end of the hall. He slowly opened the door to the darkened room. His hand hunted for the light switch. It took several moments to find it. When he did he clicked it on and the room quickly flooded with light. Cobwebs and dust seemed to be everywhere. The old man paid no attention as he walked to the closet. He quickly found what he was looking for and left the room.

Now in his bedroom, he laid his clothes on the bed. He walked into the bathroom to wash up. He turned on the cold water, cupped his hands under it and splashed his face. While doing so, he looked into the mirror. His face was weathered, but worn well by a man of his age. It reflected years of laughter, years of sadness, years of uncertainty, years of determination. His beard had grown longer but his eyes were as steely blue as ever. For several moments he watched himself in the mirror. He searched for something deep within himself, yet he could not find it. He washed up, trimmed his beard, combed his silvery hair and went back to the bedroom.

He dressed. His clothes fit as they always had. He spent several minutes shining his shoes and his belt buckle. He

brushed off the lapels of his jacket. When he was finished, he once again looked in the mirror. Again, he spent several minutes scanning the reflection before him. He searched for the confidence he had known from earlier years. Not fully satisfied that he had found it, he tugged on the lapels of his jacket, patted his chest and left the room.

He walked down the hallway to the foyer. He lifted his hat from the hook by the front door and placed it on his head. After several adjustments he tapped the top of it and declared it just right. He picked up his walking stick that was leaning on the wall next to the door. His fingers rested naturally in the worn indentations they had made through years of use. He opened the front door and stepped out onto the white marble steps.

The sky was overcast but the temperature comfortable. To the old man it felt like one storm had passed and another was developing. Instead of walking on the sidewalk, he strode down the middle of the street. Cars cleared a path for him. At first his pace was slow. He walked like the old man he appeared to be. The more he walked the more solid his footing, the more confident his stride. He looked to his left and to his right. Passersby waved at him. His presence stirred others to grab the attention of friends and family to watch what was happening. People were hanging out of windows from the homes and businesses along the way, cheering him on. His gait began to feel much more comfortable. He began to feel the energy of those around him.

He turned down Main Street feeling confident and sure. Behind him he could hear the footsteps of people taking up behind him. Their steps took on a natural, rhythmic cadence. People lined the streets watching him and his entourage. Many left the sidelines and joined the march.

Children sat on the curbs in front of their standing parents waving flags and shouting encouragement. As he passed two children he could hear one child ask the other, "who is that man?"

"That's our uncle, Uncle Sam."

The young child's response lifted the old man's spirits; he straightened his back, puffed out his chest. He had once again discovered the depth of courage, determination and strength he had known to be his many years before.

Fall Classes Now Open

**Fall classes open for
ages 6 months and up!**

email: kwmidcoast1@verizon.net
Online Jack Rabbit Registration

**Gymnastics Dance
Cheerleading Martial Arts**

**New Zumba starting
Tuesday night September 17**

**Adult Functional Fitness Exercise Class
Saturdays 11:00-12:30**

**Wee Ones Wednesday
1st Wednesday of each month
(9:30-10:30AM) \$10**



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Beach Club Parking, outdoor pools start transition to fall

Several of Ocean Pines' amenities have either closed for the season or are transitioning to fall hours.

The Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Club Pool closed for the season as of Tuesday, September 3.

The Beach Club Parking lot will remain open but will be unstaffed for the rest of the year. The indoor bathrooms will not be available, although Ocean Pines will supply portable toilets through the end of the month.

"The bathrooms will not be open because of the lack of staff, as well as the swipe system not working," Operations Director Colby Phillips said. "However, we have already taken preparations to have porta pots brought there, as we have done each fall in the past."

Beach Club Parking members are encouraged to display permits when using the lot.

The Mumford's Landing and Swim and Racquet Club outdoor pools have also closed for the season, although Mumford's Landing was open for the annual Doggie Swim on Saturday.

The Yacht Club Pool will remain open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., through September 22. Pool members may use the pool starting at 9:45 a.m.

"I'd like to thank everybody for another great season in Ocean Pines," Phillips said. "Our dedicated team of pool staff and lifeguards worked hard to ensure it was a successful season and, most importantly, that it was another safe season for all of our pool patrons."

The indoor Sport Core Pool, is

open year-round, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

"All of our indoor pool exercise classes start next week at the Sports Core," Phillips said. "We have some new classes starting and a lot of returning classes getting ready to start the week of Sept. 9, so there should be something for everyone to enjoy."

For more information on Ocean Pines' pools, visit www.ocean-pines.org/amenities/pools.

GOP women to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County will host their September luncheon meeting on Thursday, September 26 at Ocean Pines Yacht Club. The guest speaker will be a representative from the Census Bureau.

The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11 a.m. To make your reservation and/or for more information, please contact Ann Lutz at annlutz60@gmail.com or at 410-208-9767. Reservations are due by September 17.

DAR meet and mingle scheduled

The General Levin Winder Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, will observe Constitution Week during a "Meet and Mingle" at the Ocean Pines library, September 19, between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Women interested in pursuing membership in DAR are invited to join us. For information call 410-213-8238.



Teaming up - The Worcester County Commissioners recently joined with Debbie Smullen, the Worcester Goes Purple event coordinator for the Board of Education (BOE), and team partners from the BOE, Atlantic General Hospital, Health Department, Worcester County Warriors Against Opioid Addiction, and Senator Mary Beth Carozza's office to proclaim September as Worcester Goes Purple as part of National Recovery Month and to echo the theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We are Stronger," recognizing that mental and substance use disorders, including co-occurring disorders, can be overcome with community support, treatment and recovery services.

START to challenge OPA's opinion

On September 3 START (Strategic planning, Transparency, Accountability, Respect and Trust) announced it has signed an engagement agreement with a local law firm with the intent to challenge Ocean Pines Association's (OPA) opinion that the petition did not meet the necessary requirements. According to a press release by the group, some 880 petitioners want a referendum held on changing OPA by-laws to reduce the Board of Directors' spending limit on any single capital expenditure.

"The OPA Board should honor the will of the association members and present the petition question to the en-

tire membership for a "yes" or "no" vote via a referendum," the group stated.

START announced that Marty Clarke, a former Director of the OPA Board and a member of the community, has been appointed treasurer and is assisting Slobodan Trendic with these efforts.

Anyone wishing to support START should contact Slobodan at: strendic@yahoo.com or Marty at: caliban-realty@mchsi.com.

START is a grassroots advocacy initiative launched by Slobodan Trendic in April.



The Courier has a NEW PHONE NUMBER:

410-629-5906

Blood Bank issues urgent call for blood donations

The Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD) is calling for blood donations as Hurricane Dorian has now made landfall in the US. To assist local blood centers in the areas affected by Dorian, BBD has shipped units of blood and more donations are urgently needed in order to ensure blood is available in the aftermath of the storm.

Donated blood is perishable, so the supply must be constantly replenished. The storm comes as the national blood supply was already low following a drop in donations over Labor Day weekend.

Hurricane Dorian is expected to continue moving north, and although the storm's peak winds have dropped from when it was a Category 5, the hurricane has grown in size and its hurricane and tropical-storm-force winds are expected to impact more areas.

Disruption in the supply would impact the health of people suffering from medical emergencies or chronic conditions. Donations are

used to help cancer patients, accident, burn, or trauma victims, newborn babies and their mothers, transplant recipients, surgery patients, chronically transfused patients suffering from sickle cell disease or thalassemia, and many more.

Richard Thomas, senior executive director at the Blood Bank of Delmarva, said, "In times of crisis, local blood centers are called upon to help other parts of the country in need, meaning our already low blood reserves are stretched even further. As Hurricane Dorian makes landfall, it is up to us to ensure that hospitals and patients in affected areas have access to the life-saving blood they need, so we urge all residents to take one hour to donate blood and help those in danger."

For more information on where to donate or how to set up your own drive, visit <https://www.delmarvablood.org/give-blood/or> call 1-888-825-6638.



Donation - The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) donated more than \$200 worth of school supplies to Worcester County Gold for distribution to students in our county's schools for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. RWWC Literacy Committee members **Liz Mumford** on the left and **Marge Matturro** on the right met with **Sandy Sipes**, center, executive director for Worcester G.O.L.D. to say hello and take a tour.

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9936 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, MD 21842 in the Food Lion Shopping Center

MD #2294

Ocean Pines Players sets ambitious schedule

Live theater lovers in Ocean City/Berlin and surrounding areas can look forward to an ambitious and versatile fall season by the Ocean Pines Players (OPP), with a new production each month, September through December. Some of the productions will be seen for the first time in this area.

Up first is a tribute Salute to Elton John," on September 9 and 16 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on 103rd Street in Ocean City. In October the company will perform "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks," the first staging of this poignant work in the Ocean City area. That will be followed in November by the zany "Assisted Living, the Musical." Then, in December, in its first joint production with Pocomoke's historic Mar-VA Theater, OPP will stage the comedy, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Again, this will be the first time this magical holiday play will be performed in the area.

In "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks," by American playwright Richard Alfieri, Delaware residents Victoria Cook and Thom Harris play

Lily Harrison, a self-described "old biddy" who lives alone, and Michael Minetti, her dance instructor who was forced to leave his life as a chorus boy on Broadway behind. The witty dialogue supports the moving relationship that develops between the two. Six Dances will be performed October 4, 5 and 7 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on 103rd Street in Ocean City at 7 p.m.; October 6 at St. Peter's for a 2 p.m. matinee; and in a first for OPP, a performance at the Mar-VA Theater in Pocomoke on October 13 at 2 p.m.

The November production of "Assisted Living the Musical" by Rick Compton and Betsy Bennett is an ambitious project for OPP. It is a vaudeville-style show of songs and skits for as many as 18 characters. For 90 minutes, the audience will be entertained by the residents of Pelican Roost, a "full-service retirement home for those drifting into their twilight years, but further away from sanity." Pelican Roost is home to colorful characters, a

please see schedule on page 15



End of camp - Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) offered a variety of creative children's camps during the summer months. This year's camp themes included Games Galore, Down By the Bay, Game Design with Unity, Storybook Adventures, Mallards in Training Basketball & Lacrosse Camp. WPS full and half-day camps are open to the public and sell out quickly, so mark your calendar now to register in the spring for the 2020 sessions. For questions about future camps, please contact WPS Head of Middle School Megan Wallace at 410.641.3575.

Above: WPS rising sophomores, (L-R) **Brice Richins** and **Bennett Tinkler**, volunteer to assist with the Mallards in Training week-long camp.

Opioid grant awarded

The Worcester County Health Department, in conjunction with Wicomico and Somerset County

Health Departments, has received grant funding from the Opioid Operational Command Center, in partnership with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. This \$532,109 award supports the Crisis Stabilization Project.

The Crisis Stabilization Project is a tri-county effort between Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Health Departments. The health departments are committed to providing prevention and education as well as treatment and recovery resources and services to the

lease see grant on page 15

FARM to PHARMACY

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Worcester Fair returns Friday

The annual Worcester County Fair opens at Byrd Park in Snow Hill on Friday, September 13 and runs through the weekend with a variety of new entertainment as well as traditional favorites from past fairs.

On Friday, the fair will open with a Safe Kids Celebration and an interactive story time set in a hay wagon. Buster Douglas, Mini Horse Wonder will make you believe unicorns do exist. Smoky Bear will be on hand, and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office will put on a K-9 demonstration. Many agencies will be offering giveaways and providing activities for the children. Families can visit the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Ag Showcase, sponsored by M&T Bank, for hands-on learning and crafts. Learn the beautiful art of Rango in the afternoon. Friday evening features the auction of prize winning cakes and closes with the musical sounds of God's Country Crossroads.

A highlight of this year's fair will be the Dunking Booth to benefit Operation We Care, a local grassroots organization that has supported military men and women and First Responders for 12 years. OWC packs over 2,000 care packages a year which are sent to deployed troops. OWC strives to support both active duty and veteran military through care packages, events, and a variety of assistance outlets. Operation We Care also makes donations to local law enforcement and Fire departments in addition to many support and appreciation causes. Sheriff Matt Crisafulli will be among the first to take the plunge on Friday at 11 a.m. Delegate Wayne Hartman will be inviting the crowd to try to dunk him on Saturday at 1 p.m. with Operation We Care founder, Jeff Merritt, Snow Hill postal clerk, Steven Zelechowski, John Foxwell from Worcester County Public Works, and others volunteering throughout the weekend.

Saturday has a full slate of activities including kid's games and contests, livestock shows, salsa and square dancing, karate demonstration, and Drums Around the World with Ted Nichols. After admiring the exhibits in the indoor tent, those feeling inspired to learn to can join Patty Grey in the Crochet Circle.

The featured act on Saturday afternoon is sure to be a crowd pleaser. John "Laughing Wolf" from the Great Cherokee Nation will be putting on a

thrilling demonstration of horsemanship and tricks with Sokie, his trained appaloosa at 2 p.m.

Saturday also features the popular Classic Car & Truck Show. Dash plaques go to the first fifty participants. Fair goers can vote for their favorites to vie for one of the sponsor trophies. The Peninsula Tractor Organization will also be on hand with an antique tractor demonstration. On Saturday evening, come out for the annual Talent Show at 6 p.m. when youth and adult acts will compete for cash prizes and a year's worth of braggin' rights.

A non-denominational church service by Bayside Community Church will be held Sunday morning at 11 am. Sunday also features Lego Building contests, arts and crafts for kids, Rango, and Paint Day in the Park.

Two talented young ladies take center stage on Sunday afternoon. Kira Knappenberger, a member of the Voyagers 4-H Club, will put her two Dobermans through their paces with an exciting demonstration of dog training and agility skills. Then, all are

please see fair page 12

RELIEF... IS JUST STEPS AWAY.



If you're in pain that is making everyday activities difficult...

there's a new Physical Therapy practice in Ocean Pines that you should know about. You may already know Billy and Jenn Hamilton, they've been Doctors of Physical Therapy in the region for over 13 years, and they are both Certified Hand Therapists.

NOW, just around the corner, Billy and Jenn have set up a very special kind of practice in Pennington Commons. So call, email or simply stop in to experience a new kind of physical therapy, it's a breath of fresh air for anyone who is experiencing pain.

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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

Getting ready for fall

Now that the children are back in school, the days are becoming shorter and the evenings a little chillier, our thoughts turn to fall and winter. Summer's not gone yet, but it's best to start thinking about our feathered friends that do not migrate to warmer climates. After a long hot summer, examine your feeders, make sure they are ready for the inevitable cold weather. Clean and disinfect them and check for any cracks or breaks. Make all necessary repairs or replace them if they have seen their better days.

Once the weather gets cooler, you will notice a change in your backyard activity. First, you will be missing some of your summer visitors. Migration is anywhere from August thru October depending on breed, how far they travel and their biological clocks. Not to worry though, plenty of your backyard birds stay put, allowing you to enjoy the pleasure of their company. What you may not notice is the subtle color change of many birds. The male gold finch, for instance, molts its bright yellow feathers for more drab yellow plumage, looking more like its female counterpart. Not to worry though, the bright yellow returns in the spring when his summer feathers come in.

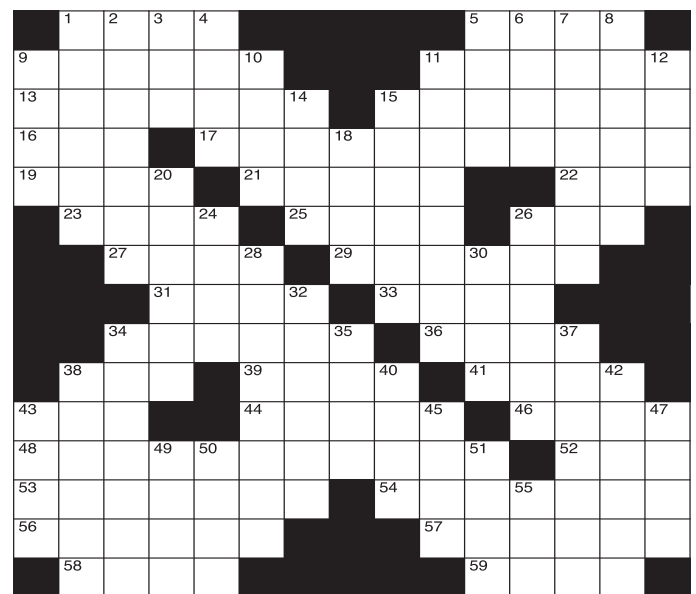
While you are cleaning up the yard this fall, set aside a small corner of your yard where you can put some brush, small tree limbs and leaves so

the birds have shelter from the harsh elements. Put up your roosting pock-ets or roosting boxes too. Another thing to ponder is a water source. Think about investing in a heating element for your birdbath to keep the water from freezing or put out fresh water every day. Finally, consider their food by adding a suet feeder as



well as good quality seed to your backyard smorgasbord. Suet has a high fat content that is greatly needed to replenish the calories used by our wintering birds. Try putting out oranges. Many birds will partake in this citrus delight and who knows, you might even entice a migrating bird to your yard.

Happy Birding.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Babies' eating accessories
- 5. Charge on a coat of arms
- 9. Set of five
- 11. California town
- 13. One who cites
- 15. Elected official
- 16. Japanese delicacy
- 17. Couldn't be happier
- 19. Enormous
- 21. Hunter's tool
- 22. Georgia rockers
- 23. Cold wind
- 25. Beginner
- 26. Where you sleep
- 27. Without
- 29. We all have them
- 31. Spoiled
- 33. Platform
- 34. Drama and horror are two
- 36. In abundance
- 38. Turf
- 39. Inventor Musk
- 41. Negative answers
- 43. French river
- 44. Saps of energy
- 46. Type of sandwich
- 48. Sets apart again
- 52. Engage in a contest
- 53. Sufferings
- 54. Freestanding sculpture
- 56. Digs into
- 57. Fish have them
- 58. Speaks
- 59. Storage unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Spread over
- 2. Dyes
- 3. British thermal unit
- 4. Small city in Maine
- 5. Having an affection for
- 6. Welsh for John
- 7. Plays that ridicule
- 8. Not of your right mind
- 9. A way to get there
- 10. Hideaways
- 11. Relating to neurons
- 12. "Family City USA"
- 14. Proof of payment (abbr.)
- 15. Flew high
- 18. Wreaths
- 20. Got rid of
- 24. Shortly
- 26. Confer
- 28. Monies given as support
- 30. German electric car
- 32. Objects of an earlier time
- 34. Flat-bottomed boats
- 35. Small waterbird
- 37. Willingness to please others
- 38. Military actions
- 40. Brooklyn hoopsters
- 42. Took to the seas
- 43. Romanian city
- 45. What the sun eventually does
- 47. Titans' DC Dean
- 49. Resentful longing
- 50. Ceases to live
- 51. Pouches
- 55. Humbug

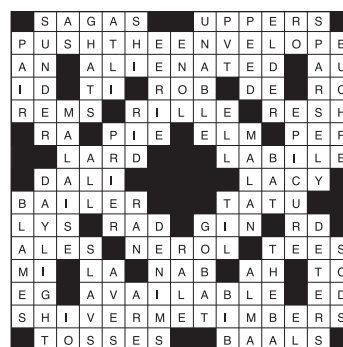


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Answers for September 4



The other knots

Last month I discussed 'knots-the tying type'. As promised, this month I'll discuss 'knots-the calculation of speed'.

In this month's context, the term knots means nautical miles (nm) per hour. Sounds simple enough but what does that mean? What is a nautical mile and how is it different from the familiar statute mile that we use on land? Please read carefully. I've included a pop quiz at the end.

The word mile comes from the Latin expression, mille passus, a thousand paces. The statute mile was established as a standard based on prevailing Middle Age customs by England in the heydays of the British Empire. It was arbitrarily set at 5,280 feet or 1,760 yards.

The nautical system – latitude, longitude, knots, fathoms, etc. - came into existence after the evolution of the early English system and before the establishment of the metric system by the French in 1795. The nautical mile is a precise length based on the distance between the equator and the poles. (I use the word 'precise' with my tongue bulging out my cheek since the earth is not a perfect sphere. It is slightly flat at the poles and pear shaped with the northern hemisphere slightly smaller than the southern hemisphere but hang in there. The smart folks have got the details figured out.)

The nautical mile is actually a measurement of latitude. The smart folks who made charts to navigate the world superimposed an invisible grid – longitude and latitude - on the surface of the earth to give mariners a reference system. Latitude lines are parallel to the equator and equal distance apart. The latitude of the equator is 0° and the North Pole is 90° north latitude while the South Pole is 90° south latitude.

Since the ninety lines of latitude are equal distance apart (about 69 statute miles), each degree of latitude is one ninetieth of the distance between the equator and pole but that is

an unwieldy size for most measurement needs. However, by further subdividing the 90 degrees into minutes (1 degree = 60 minutes), we have 5400 (90 x 60) equidistant units between the equator and a pole. These units are called "nautical miles" because they approximate a statute mile.

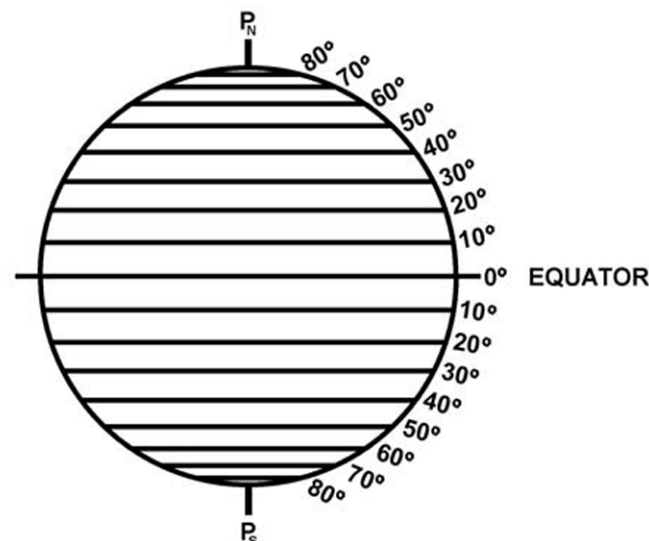
The distance from the equator to the pole is about 6,200 statute miles. Dividing 6,200 statute miles by 5400 equal units you can see that a nautical mile is about 15% longer than a statute mile (6200/5400 = 1.15 statute miles per nautical mile). Expressed in yards, a statute mile is 1760 yards and a nautical mile is 2025 yards (15% longer). This provides the English oriented mariner a relatively close reference to his land based sense of distance.

Since the nautical mile is about 15% larger than a statute mile, a knot, a nautical mile per hour, is therefore

about 15% faster than a (statute) MPH. A boat making 10 knots is travelling at 11.5 MPH. Therefore, you must be careful when you see a speed limit posting and compare it to your speedometer. For example, 6 knots is equal to 6.9 MPH; whereas, 6 MPH is equal to only 5.2 knots. I don't purport to be an expert on speeding tickets but 15% over the posted speed limit tends to get the attention of the lads with the radar guns.

With the

Lines of latitude are equidistant apart. One degree of latitude equals 60 nautical miles and one minute of latitude equals one nautical mile.



maturing of instrumentation technologies and mathematics, a newer, more scientific measurement systems required of English – e.g. a quarter of a mile or 3 feet, 10 and 3/8 inches etc.

has been developed, the metric system. The metric system – meters, kilometers, grams, kilograms, etc. – is


please see knots on page 12

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th 12	Low	1:29 AM	6:39 AM
	High	7:28 AM	7:14 PM
	Low	1:23 PM	
	High	7:53 PM	
F 13	Low	2:01 AM	6:40 AM
	High	8:07 AM	7:12 PM
	Low	2:03 PM	
	High	8:31 PM	
Sa 14	Low	2:33 AM	6:41 AM
	High	8:45 AM	7:11 PM
	Low	2:41 PM	
	High	9:08 PM	
Su 15	Low	3:06 AM	6:42 AM
	High	9:24 AM	7:09 PM
	Low	3:19 PM	
	High	9:45 PM	
M 16	Low	3:40 AM	6:43 AM
	High	10:02 AM	7:07 PM
	Low	3:58 PM	
	High	10:22 PM	
Tu 17	Low	4:14 AM	6:44 AM
	High	10:41 AM	7:06 PM
	Low	4:39 PM	
	High	11:00 PM	
W 18	Low	4:51 AM	6:45 AM
	High	11:20 AM	7:04 PM
	Low	5:23 PM	
	High	11:38 PM	

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Spotlight - *The Pine'eer Craft Club announced that the Crafter of the Month for September is **Jacki Kollar**.*

Jacki moved to Ocean Pines in April 2005 from the Baltimore area.

She has served on the club's executive board for twelve years and has held many different positions. Currently she creates the displays in the club's Artisan and Gift shop in White Horse Park, co-chairs the Winter Wonderland Artisan and Craft Festival, and contributes to the club's Facebook page.

Jacki enjoys sewing items such as purses, pillows, coasters, and eyeglass cases. In addition, she embellishes wine glasses and creates wine gift baskets.

fair
from page 9

invited back to the main tent to enjoy the classic rock and country sounds of Haydyn Ryan before the fair closes out with its awards ceremony.

The Worcester County Fair celebrates our agricultural roots as we enter the harvest season. The Fair highlights accomplishments of both 4-H and FFA youth with awards for their entries and livestock showing. Worcester FFA will be selling local honey at the Fair with four delicious varieties. Voyagers 4-H Club offers a yarn and wool sale with a huge va-

riety from which to choose.

The Worcester County Fair is a family-friendly event open to the entire community. There is no admission charge. Well-behaved pets are welcome and must remain on leash at all times. Other attractions include Scales and Tales Exhibits, Black Acre Farm pony rides, UMES fruit crop display, food and craft vendors, and more! For a full schedule of events, to sign up as a vendor, or for other general information, visit the website at www.worcestercountyfair.com. or call 410-632-1972. Like us on Facebook @WorcesterCountyFair.

Worcester Wellness Weigh to begin

The Worcester County Health Department will launch a new online health and wellness project, Worcester Wellness Weigh (WWW), this September. The program is supported by a grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. WWW is a free, technology-based, healthy lifestyle and weight loss program designed specifically for families who are ready to work together to lose weight, eat healthier, increase physical activity, and improve their overall health. "The Commission is thrilled to support the Worcester Wellness Weigh Program," commented Mark Luckner, executive director, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. "This program will give families tools and information to make healthy lifestyle choices." Worcester Wellness Weigh is open to overweight and obese adults and youth in Worcester County.

This free 12-week program in-

cludes easy-to-use online learning education lessons on healthy eating, cooking, meal planning, grocery shopping, food preservation, food budgeting, physical activity, stress and time management. Participants will monitor their activity and nutrition through the use of technology and apps. Members of WWW will be assigned a personal Physical Activity and Nutrition Coach who will monitor and review weekly goals, successes, and challenges. Individuals will also have the opportunity to participate in group walking programs and fun-filled monthly events.

Worcester Wellness Weigh is offered by Worcester Health in partnership with Chesapeake Health Care, Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Maryland Extension, Wor-Wic Community College, Atlantic Club Garden

*please see **wellnes** on page 13*

knots
from page 11

The base unit is the meter. Like the nautical mile, it is based on the distance between the North Pole and the Equator. Whereas the nautical mile is defined by a fraction 1/5400 of the distance from the equator to the pole, the meter is defined as a decimal number. A meter is defined as one ten millionth of the distance and it follows then that a kilometer (1000 meters) which is approximately .62 statute miles is the metric system's convenient unit for expressing long distances.

A reasonable query may be to ponder whether the world will eventually gravitate to one of these three systems, English, nautical or metric? Metric is clearly the dominant favorite over English for land based measurements. However, maritime measurements deal with solid geometric angles that are defined in longitude and latitude

and the nautical mile is *the* measurement of latitude. The well-established nautical mile can be converted to 1.852 kilometers but that is a very awkward number which may extend the longevity of the nautical mile. Imagine '20,000 Leagues under the Sea' becoming '111,120 Kilometers under the Sea.'

Someday we may totally convert to the decimal based metric system and rewrite the history books. Lew Alcindor, for example, was 7'2". Kareem Abdul-Jabbar now stands 2.18m tall. In 1954, Roger Bannister was the first human to run a sub 4-minute mile and became famous. Today, he'd only have to run 1500m ('the metric mile'). Like Dr. Bannister's magical moment, knots may fade into km/h.

Pop quiz: What's a cubit?

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com



The Courier has a NEW PHONE NUMBER:

410-629-5906



Collection - American Legion Post 166 of Ocean City collected school supplies for students at Ocean City Elementary. The supplies included pencils, markers, glue sticks, folders, loose-leaf paper, backpacks and more. Pictured presenting the supplies to OCES 4th grade teacher, **Lynn Wrench** are Junior Auxillary President **Kendahl Parsons** and Educational Chair **Jessie Parsons**.



Working together

Ocean Pines Executive Secretary **Michelle Bennett** with new board member **Tom Janasek** at a recent meeting. Photo by Anna Foutlz.

wellness
from page 12

of Hope, Atlantic General Hospital Community Garden, Pocomoke Corner Sanctuary Community Garden, and Snow Hill Elementary School Community Garden. Orientation for the program will occur at the times listed below. Registration begins September 4, 2019, and ends on September 12, 2019, for those who wish to participate in the program.

- Snow Hill Health Center
Tuesday, September 17, 2019 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department located at 6040 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, MD.
 - Berlin Health Center
Wednesday, September 18, 2019 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department located at 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD.
 - Pocomoke Health Center
Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department located at 400 A Walnut Street, Pocomoke, MD.
- Space is limited. For more information or to register, please contact Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-1100 or visit worcester-health.org.

National touring stage show returns

For the second year, the Art League of Ocean City will bring an art-inspired national touring stage show to Ocean City. On Sunday, October 6 at 6 p.m., "Catapult Entertainment" will perform for Delmarva at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center.

"Catapult" wowed the judges, critics and millions of viewers when they catapulted to fame on Season 8 of "America's Got Talent," earning their way to the finals of the NBC-TV hit show. The live audience leapt to their feet; the judges gave the group standing ovations, and America was captivated.

"The mission of the Art League is to bring visual arts to our community, and this performance is a fabulous piece of visual art that moves and transforms right before your eyes," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "We are proud to take the arts beyond the walls of our Arts Center and entertain audiences and school children here on Delmarva."

"Catapult" is a theatrical art form about the human body and its ability to transform, an imaginative combination of dance, story-telling, and sculpture. The "Catapult" dancers work behind a screen to create dancing shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us. The dancers morph into a mountain, a full-size elephant, a helicopter, a house with a window and people inside. "Catapult's" show is packed with hundreds of shape transformations and is full of humor, emotion, and engaging stories.

Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30 and available at ticketmaster.com and the Ocean City Performing Arts box office.

Sales benefit the programs of the Art League of Ocean City and also allow for a free performance on Monday, October 7 for more than 1,000 Worcester County students.

The Humphreys Foundation, the Optimist Club, T.E.A.M. Productions, the Town of Ocean City, and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore are funding the special free Monday performance.

"This is the type of opportunity that can change kids' lives," Thaler said. "When children are exposed to the arts at an early age, it opens up possibilities they may not have considered in their lives and gives them an outlet of self-expression."

Video previews of the show are available at www.CatapultEntertainment.com.

More information is available from the Art League at 410-524-9433 or www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org.

Dell'Erba joins Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College recently welcomed Rob Dell'Erba of Frankford, Del., as Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy (ESCJA) coordinator.



Dell'Erba has been working in law enforcement for 30 years, including working as a police academy instructor for the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions.

Recently, he worked part time at Wor-Wic as an instructor in the ESCJA.

He holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of Maryland College Park.

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bylaws

from page 4

Director Colette Horn said the not-to-exceed figure was too high and the total fund amount was excessive, based on the amount of new capital funds spent during previous years.

Association Vice President Steve Tuttle was in favor of a new capital funding tool, but suggested first running it by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Director Camilla Rogers voiced similar concerns.

Association President Doug Parks agreed with reviewing the motion, adding community input could help determine specific new capital items to target during the next several years.

"I'd much rather have a group of folks get together [to get] input from the community," Parks said. "If we had those kinds of things targeted, I'd feel a lot better about the concept of building this capital expense fund.

"I am not in support of the motion today, [but] I am in support of the concept and I think we have to do some homework," he added.

Two other directors, Frank Daly

and Tom Janasek, suggested tabling the motion.

"I wouldn't support it the way it's developed," Janasek said. "I wouldn't say our Board is going to use [the new capital fund] for something extravagantly stupid, but who knows that future Boards won't want to do that.

"To me, it's just another fund that's just going to grow and grow," he added.

Perrone agreed to withdraw his motion and send it to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for review.

"I think it's a very good start on

this, but it proves that it isn't a simple transaction – it requires a lot of thought," Parks said. "It requires some input and some ... future proofing, so we understand how this money, if we create this fund, will be used properly."

A 6-1 vote later defeated the only other "New Business" item on the agenda.

Tuttle proposed a motion to present "a referendum to the Ocean Pines Association membership to have a yes or no vote on whether to change the by-laws such that the allowable single

capital expenditure would be reduced from 20 percent of the current income from annual charges to 12 percent of the income from annual charges."

Although only Tuttle voted in favor of the motion, Horn thanked him for presenting it and said doing so "generated some really useful discussion."

"It really caused us to think about all the larger issues that we need to solve ... [including] trust issues and how we approach our decision making about major spends," she said. "I want to thank you, Steve, for this motion. I think this has been a great discussion."

Pizza fundraiser to help Grace Center

On Sunday, September 15 Piazza Pizza in Berlin will host the opportunity for you to "Eat Out and Make a Difference" to benefit the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. Please join the friends of the Center any time between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. at Piazza which is located at 11436 Samuel Bowen Boulevard (in front of Walmart). When ordering make sure that you tell the waitstaff

that you are there for the fundraiser.

The Grace Center provides services that bring hope and help to many women in our community who have needed assistance with an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy or are in need of help following the birth of their child/ren. The Center offers assistance on many levels including, but not limited to: prenatal and postpartum group and individual classes,

parenting and relationship skills, ultrasound examinations, support groups – including addictions and post-partum depression counseling, an avenue to earn a Maryland high school diploma, and much more.

For questions regarding this fundraiser or available service call 443-513-4124 or via email at info@gracematernalhealth.org.

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Ocean Pines General Manager **John Viola**, with Executive Secretary **Michelle Bennett**, left, and Operations Director **Colby Phillips**.

financials

from page 1

curity guard. Those items total \$102,000.

At the Golf Course, Viola said, the added expense was a case of “cutting costs at any costs and, odds are, it’s going to cost you somewhere.”

Still, he acknowledged the significant financial turnaround, highlighting both food and beverage operational improvements driven by the Matt Ortt Companies, and careful examination of administration and management practices.

“If I look at last year, year-to-date July 31, we were unfavorable [overall] approximately \$7,000,” Viola said. “The admin and management budget was unfavorable \$51,000 year-to-date, last year. This year ... we’re favorable [\$48,000].”

He specifically credited the Budget and Finance Committee and former committee chairman Larry Perrone, who is now a Board member and the Association Treasurer.

“There was a lot of study on it ... to capture and understand what was happening,” Viola said. “We’ve addressed it for this year and, so far, we’ve kept it in line.”

Viola also offered updates on several ongoing projects.

He said the replacement golf clubhouse and cart barn, and police station expansion, continue to be on target and on budget. He said clubhouse construction could start later this month, with the cart barn and police quarters following in October.

The golf amenity is currently working out of portable offices, but numbers for July were strong, Viola said.

“The team down at the Golf Course

has kept everything on track ... even with all the change and the stress on the course,” he said.

Outside contractor work on a new Craft Club building should also start this month.

Viola said Ocean Pines was largely on track with implementation of the new Northstar software systems, give or take a week of potential setbacks. He said a slight delay is unsurprising, given the busy time of year.

He said Association staff is working to diversify its “bench strength,” meaning employees will be more capable or working across departments.

“I believe that with a cross-trained team we’ll be more efficient, [and] that will definitely help as far as our budget and expenses going forward,” he said. “It’s also very good to cross train our employees to make them more valuable, whether it’s with Ocean Pines or wherever else [they go] in their career.”

Other ongoing projects include supplying guest Wi-Fi at the Yacht Club and releasing a request for proposals for an auditing firm, Viola said.

He also acknowledged receiving several calls about a rusty barge left at the bulkhead staging area near Wood Duck. Viola said the watercraft did not belong to any company the Association is currently contracting with, and that Operations Director Colby Phillips has worked to address the issue.

“That was something from another company,” he said. “Colby and her team have worked on it aggressively and I believe they have addressed the situation.”

To view a PDF of Viola’s report, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GM-Oper->

grant

from page 8

counties of the Lower Eastern Shore. The Lower Eastern Shore has been significantly impacted by the opioid epidemic and there is a critical need for crisis and treatment beds in the jurisdiction. The funding awarded by the project will benefit individuals seeking urgent help for substance-use disorders. These individuals will receive access to a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment, along with treatment

schedule

from page 8

place where buffoonery lives next door to screwball, just across the way from cockamamie. The play will be performed at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church November 22 and 25 at 7 p.m., November 24 at 2 p.m., and again at St. Peter’s at 7 p.m. for a full evening performance the same day.

In December, the Ocean Pines Players and the Mar-VA Theater of Pocomoke will present their first joint production, “’Twas the Night Before

drainage

from page 3

ing.

Phase one, scheduled to start next fiscal year, includes replacing four pipes along Pinehurst Road, four pipes on Sandyhook Road, two pipes along Beacon Hill Road, and replacing inlet and outlet pipes at Bainbridge Pond. Other phase-one improvements include building a weir structure (or dam) at the outfall of the pond and enlarging the berm at the Beacon Hill side to help control water levels during larger rain events.

“In looking back through all the studies that have been done [during the last two decades] ... Section 3 ... has been deemed the worst in Ocean Pines” in terms of flooding, Phillips said.

“That doesn’t mean that we’re not going to address other areas,” she continued, specifically naming drainage pipes on Clipper Court and Seafarer Lane. “This is just the first section that we need to start in, based on all the studies [and] based on what we’ve evaluated, and this will actually really help a lot of homes in that area.

“Drainage is something that is really important to us as a team,” Phillips said. “I know it’s important to the Board. We’ve met with county officials We’re really trying to get a jump-

and detox services.

Hudson Health Services will provide a residential crisis house for individuals referred through Worcester and Wicomico Safe Stations, as well as county Peer Support Specialists. Hudson Health offers treatment to patients with co-occurring medical, emotional, or behavioral disorders.

This new program will enhance the system of care for behavioral health clients. For more information, please call 410-632-1100 or visit worcester-health.org.

Christmas” by Ken Ludwig, in which a mouse, an elf, and a spunky girl, Emily, who will not take no for an answer, go on a quest to find out why Santa missed their house last year. The play is a joyful tribute to the holiday season. Performances will take place on the weekend of December 7 and 8, only at the Mar-VA Theater Performing Arts Center.

For more details on these productions and for more information on the Ocean Pines Players follow us on Facebook or our web page at www.oceanpinesplayers.com.

start on anything that we can do to improve the situation in Ocean Pines, because we do recognize it as a problem. And, again, we can’t fix it, but we’re going to do what we can to improve it.”

Phillips also presented a road paving plan and bulkhead plan during her presentation on Saturday.

To view a PDF of the presentation, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Drainage-road-and-bulkhead-reports.pdf>.

meeting

from page 2

potential closures. Being prepared for a power outage not only helps area businesses remain open, but also helps the people who depend on those local businesses.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a Ready Business Toolkit to help business owners and their staff prepare for and respond to a variety of hazards that can impact Worcester County. The FEMA toolkit is available at <https://www.ready.gov/business>.

For more information about the Hazardous Mitigation Plan development process and how you can participate, call WCES Emergency Management Planner Tina Vickers at 410-632-1315.

Youth yoga offered

Kids ages three to nine can practice the popular mindfulness and meditation practice in classes created just for them beginning Saturday, September 14.

Instructor Liz Maratea, who is certified in Radiant Child Kundalini yoga, will lead the classes, which will foster imagination and wellness with a balance of movement and stillness. Bene-



fits include self-empowerment, focus, positivity, empathy, brain-body coordination and the development of self-calming practices.

Sessions will be held September 14 through November 2, November 23 through December 28 and January 11 through February 15 at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Youth yoga for ages three and four will encourage children to embrace their spirit through play and contemplation with songs, games, mantras, meditation and more. Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

In youth yoga for ages five to nine, children will flex and stretch their physical and emotional muscles as they move through games and songs that help them focus as well as enjoy their natural wiggles. Classes will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Classes are progressive for those who want to attend weekly but will be accessible for newcomers and drop-ins. The cost for each session is \$45 for Ocean Pines residents and \$55 for non-residents. Drop-ins are \$8 per class.

For more information or to register, call the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052. Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at OceanPines.org.

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