

Road construction to cause delays

Ocean Pines motorists should expect delays near the North Gate this week because of planned road repairs.

Chesapeake Paving & Sealing, based in Parsonsburg, will start working at the North Gate entrance and exit, according to Operations Director Colby Phillips.

Scheduled construction over the next two-to-three weeks will also include the following roads: Allendale Court, Bimini Lane, Brookton Lane, Burr Hill Drive, La-porte Court, Newport Drive, Clubhouse Road East, and the White Horse Park path to the pavilion.

"The team is looking forward to starting the first phase of our revitalized roads program," Phillips said. "Clint Parks [of the Ocean Pines Maintenance Department] works hard each winter grading all the roads in Ocean Pines based on a 'poor' through 'excellent' rating scale, and we then determine which roads need to be done first. This is done each winter, because the road conditions can change because of many different variables. The work he does gives us the areas we need to focus on for the upcoming year."

The Association uses its share of revenues from the Ocean Downs casino to pay for roads programs. Last year, Ocean Pines received \$347,500.



Discussion - At its September meeting, Worcester County NAACP hosted a discussion with Denise Shorts, Worcester Board of Education Chief Academic Officer, Pre-K through Grade 8. Shorts described the curriculum changes and expectations for this current school year. Testing results were also reviewed. Worcester County NAACP meets monthly on the third Thursday, with meetings held throughout the county. Call (443) 944-6701 for information.

Above: NAACP members and guests, **Denise Shorts** and **Ivory Smith Sr.**, NAACP president, pictured center front.

Pines residents urged to attend hearing on short-term rentals

The Ocean Pines Board is encouraging residents to attend a public hearing on proposed new legislation affecting short-term rentals.

The hearing is Tuesday, October 15 at 11 a.m. at the County Commissioner's meeting room in the government center on 1 West Market Street in Snow Hill.

"The notion of renting a home on a short-term basis is not a new idea in Ocean Pines. However, with the popularity of Airbnb and VRBO, the influx of rental transactions in our area has increase dramatically," Association President Doug Parks said. "There are many more occurrences of short-term rentals that involve far more people than would be in a tra-

ditional family residence. These rentals are now causing problems of noise, parking and other disturbances within our community.

"The county is now looking into this important issue on a county-wide basis. We ask that all interested parties in Ocean Pines attend the hearing to understand what the county is proposing to address the situation and to share their perspectives on the issue," Parks added.

Association Vice President Steve Tuttle also urged residents to attend the hearing.

"Ocean Pines residents have an important opportunity to express their opinions regarding a bill that will be passed by the Worcester

County Commissioners," he said. "The final wording of the bill is not set and now is the time for Ocean Pines to speak up.

"Do you rent your home in OP during the summer season? Do you own investment property that you rent continually? Do you live next door to a property being rented via an online site where 10-15 people are packed into a three-bedroom home and 6-10 cars park in the drive and on the street? Is the rental even registered as required by law with Worcester County? Please, this is your opportunity to share your views on this very important issue that impacts all of us in live in OP. Hope to see you at the Oct. 15 public hearing,"

Tuttle added.

The Worcester County Commissioners introduced the amendment to Bill 19-3 on September 17.

A fair summary of the amendments to the bill are as follows:

§ ZS 1-103(b). (Adds a new definition of "Bedroom" in the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland.)

§ ZS 1-351. (Amends this new section to the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article to regulate "short term rentals (STR)" to specify that the definition of a "family or house-keeping unit" in the County Zoning Ordinance shall not apply in deter-

please see **rentals** on page 12

Community Calendar

OCTOBER

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 1992, 18-year-old Michelle Knapp is watching television in her parents' living room in Peekskill, New York when she hears a thunderous crash in the driveway. Alarmed, Knapp ran outside to investigate. What she found was startling, to say the least: a sizeable hole in the rear end of her car, an orange 1980 Chevy Malibu; a matching hole in the gravel driveway underneath the car; and in the hole, the culprit: what looked like an ordinary, bowling-ball-sized rock. It was extremely heavy for its size (it weighed about 28 pounds), shaped like a football and warm to the touch; also, it smelled vaguely of rotten eggs. The next day, a curator from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City confirmed that the object was a genuine meteorite.

Kiwanis breakfast returns

The annual Fall Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday October 12, between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Fresh hot pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea are on the menu. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 kids under 12 and children under five are free. Carryout is also available. Proceeds benefit the youth of our community.

Christmas bazaar returns

The Community Church at Ocean Pines will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Family Life Center of the church at 11227 Racetrack Road in Berlin. The bazaar will feature Christmas decorations and trees, linens and things, new and gently used clothing, gifts and potpourri, children's books and toys, a bake sale and a food concession stand. Enjoy a photo op with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Proceeds from the event will support the Shepherd's Nook outreach ministry.

Craft club to meet

Pine'er Craft Club will meet, Thursday, October 17, in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. with refreshments available at 9:45.

The October project is "Fall Painted T-Shirt." The cost is \$3

Join the group as they create beautiful Fall stamped clothing using real leaves stamped on your sweatshirt, T-shirt or tote bag, placemats, etc.

Bring whatever you want to stamp on with plenty of fresh leaves. Paint, brushes and cardboard inserts to keep paint from bleeding through as well as instructions will be supplied

All are welcomed.

Please call Carol Quinto 410-208-4317 to reserve your spot.

Harbor Day at the Docks returns to harbor

Join Worcester County Recreation and Parks (WCRP) for the return of Harbor Day at the Docks on Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the West Ocean City commercial harbor.

The Maritime Heritage Festival of Harbor Day at the Docks will take place along Sunset Avenue in the West Ocean

City Commercial Harbor. A complimentary shuttle service will be available for convenient parking from the West Ocean City Park N' Ride.

This family-friendly maritime event is being hosted by WCRP in partnership with Worcester County Tourism, the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, Greater Ocean City, Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Fish In OC, Martin Fish Company, and many other individuals and businesses. This community event is free to the public. So bring your family and friends and get set

for a day of all things maritime.

"This event originally ran between the years of 2008 to 2012," Marketing Program Manager Brianna Dix said. "It was loved by the community and visitors. We're glad to bring it back to life to educate visitors about the rich culture of the harbor, and provide a fun environment for all who attend."

Entertainment, education, and history are on tap for the day. There will be lobster banding and knot tying by local fishermen, fish cleaning demonstrations, a crab eating contest, creative ac-

tivities for children, live music by bands, poster and t-shirt sales, a vendor tent full of local businesses and community organizations, and a touch tank with various marine life for youth to explore. There will also be food and drinks available for purchase. The festivities will culminate with the Blessing of the Fleet at 5 p.m.

For more information visit www.harbordayoc.com, visit the social media pages @harbordayoc, or contact Brianna Dix at 410-632-2144 x2514 or bdix@co.worcester.md.us.

Pines board discusses various issues at recent meeting

Ocean Pines Board members on last Wednesday night entertained amendment changes related to enforcement of architectural guidelines and a creation of a new capital reserve.

Directors, after some debate, sent the former to an advisory committee for further review, while the latter received a successful first reading.

During the “new business” portion of the meeting, Board members had a lengthy discussion on first readings for revisions of four resolutions: M-01 (compliance procedures), M-10 (policy and compliance procedures for declarations and restrictions and ARC guidelines), C-02 (the Architectural Review Committee) and M-04 (maintenance of lots).

According to Director Frank Daly, addressing the M-01 revisions, “The purpose of this motion is to replace the policy and procedures in Resolution M-01 with a new motion, Resolution M-10, that creates timely and effective policies and procedures to address violations of the Ocean Pines Declarations of Restrictions and Architectural

Guidelines.”

Daly recommended revising the resolutions, followed by placing before the Board “a Resolution to authorize counsel to develop the question and instruments required for the Association to recoup the legal fee costs to force compliance to our Declarations of Restrictions.”

Association President Doug Parks suggested Board members seek input from the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, while Director Larry Perrone added it would helpful if the committee could consolidate the resolutions.

“It’s probably a lot easier to do it that way,” he said.

Board members voted 7-0, separately on each item, to refer the resolutions to the committee for further review.

In a related move, Daly motioned “to authorize [legal] counsel to develop the wording and instruments required for Ocean Pines to obtain legal fees for

please see opa on page 12



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Transparency and trust

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Two of the most important ingredients for any governing body - national, state, local or HOA - are exercising transparency, and maintaining the trust of the governed.



Sadly, during the OPA Board of Directors meeting of October 2, 2019 we saw a lack of transparency and an erosion of trust.

The issue revolves around a contract renewal between OPA and Leighton's West End, L.L.C. (O.C. Seacrets, Inc. in prior contract) wherein patrons at Seacrets in Ocean City may use an Ocean City bayside parking lot owned by the OPA, as well as OPA allowing continued use of a section of OPA property near the bay where structures were built some years ago without permission.

The lease is for five years, and con-

tains a nice increase in payments to OPA, beginning at \$63,914 and ending with \$71,935, approximately \$10,000 more per year than the prior lease. At face value, all parties should be happy.

Unfortunately, the positives are clouded by a failure of the OPA president to follow association bylaws, a failure of the OPA Board of Directors to follow Maryland corporate law, and what could well be considered an attempted coverup, resulting in an erosion of trust in our elected board.

At the beginning of the board meeting, OPA corporate Secretary Colette Horn announced that the board had taken action outside a meeting via email on a motion to approve the contract in question. Horn said the vote to approve the contract was six in favor and one opposed.

However, Maryland corporate law requires any action taken outside a meeting of the board may be taken only if a unanimous consent which sets forth the action is:

(1) Given in writing or by electronic transmission by each member of the board or committee; and

(2) Filed in paper or electronic form with the minutes of proceedings of the board or committee.

Asked to clarify her opening statement, Horn clearly said the vote was not unanimous. OPA President Doug Parks then added that while a unanimous vote was required to take a vote on a motion, no unanimous vote was required to pass the motion. Parks and the rest of the board were wrong and violated Maryland corporation law - not the first time an OPA board has done so when conducting business outside a meeting

Former OPA president Dave Stevens faced a similar challenge about needing unanimous consent to take an action outside a board meeting. Stevens, however, asked OPA counsel for an opinion and replied with the following: "Our attorney confirms that under the Maryland Corporation and Associations Article, the decision must be by unanimous written consent." Parks was also

on the board at that time.

OPA Bylaws & Resolutions Committee chairman Jim Trummel says any confusion on this may stem from a slight but important difference in the wording of OPA's Bylaws regarding unanimous consent and the wording in Maryland law. Of course, Maryland law prevails and requires unanimous consent to take any action outside a meeting.

The problem does not end with an improper board vote. It also turns out the contract was signed by the board President back on May 1, 2019, without the required approval of the OPA Board of Directors!

This could easily be written off as a simple error on the part of the board President. Regrettably, there was no transparency and, instead, the subterfuge of the email vote was employed to hide what actually happened. During the meeting, neither the President or any other board member mentioned that the contract had been signed many months prior to the board's subsequent improper approval of the contract in recent weeks via email.

Several board members were asked

if they were aware the contract had already been signed when they voted via email to approve the contract. One board member was aware; one member did not seem to be aware; another said it would require a review of the email stream leading up to the vote. Parks was obviously aware.

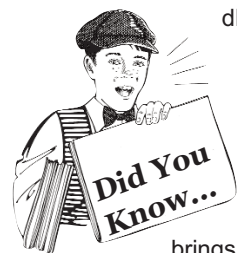
What should have happened? The right thing should have happened. The board President should have been transparent, admitted his mistake at the recent meeting, and board should have then voted on the contract at the meeting, a vote that would have required only four members approving. Regardless of the vote, regardless of the violation of Maryland law, the contract was very likely binding the instant OPA president Doug Parks signed it back on May 1, 2019. After that, it is quite possible even a vote of the board not to approve the contract would be more or less meaningless.

Transparency rarely causes problems; a lack of transparency frequently causes problems and erosion of trust..... even if the underlying issue seems relatively unimportant to some of those involved.

The hourly value of volunteering

Volunteers often note that they benefit more from volunteering than the organizations they're helping. Helping others through volunteering is incredibly rewarding, and volunteers should know that their efforts really help charitable organizations overcome the financial hurdles of meeting their

missions. According to a 2017 study from Independent Sector, a United States-based national membership organization that brings together the charitable community, the value of a volunteer hour is more than \$24. So, for every hour volunteers are working for their favorite charities, they're saving those charities \$24. That money can then be used to help charities achieve their missions. The Independent Sector study was based on data estimates from 2016, when roughly 63 million Americans volunteered about eight billion hours of their time. Calculated at \$24 per hour, that volunteering was worth more than \$193 billion to charitable organizations.



Historical Society to mark anniversary

The Worcester County Historical Society (WCHS) will mark the 60th anniversary of the society's founding at the annual dinner Sunday, October 20, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Dunes Manor Hotel, 28th Street, Ocean City. Following the dinner, the WCHS will give out \$9,600 in grants to a number of Worcester County museums.

This year's speaker will be Hunter "Bunk" Mann, a native of the lower Eastern Shore and author of the book, "Vanishing Ocean City," published in 2014. His second book, "Ghosts in the Surf," is coming out this fall. Mann's talk will focus on Ocean City and its growth during the 1960s. He called it an interesting decade, having worked there from 1962 to 1969. He said that the decade included the 1962 storm and the beginning of the high rises. In 1960 the northern part of Ocean City was an area of "sand dunes and sea gulls." At the end of the decade the high rises and condominiums had been started and Ocean City had expanded all the way to the Delaware line. Also a new bridge into the resort had been completed. His plans include showing some of the pictures from his two books.

The menu for the Historical Society's dinner will include: French style chicken breast, Maryland crab soup, scalloped potatoes, vegetable medley, rolls and butter, Italian lemon cake, coffee, tea, and iced tea. The social hour will begin at 1 p.m. and dinner will be served at 2 p.m.

The dinner is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, MD 21863. To guarantee seating, those who plan to attend are encouraged to make their reservations by Tuesday October 15.

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Upon the cushions of history

It's not often we give much thought to furniture. It's just there. But there are times when a favorite recliner or table occupies our thoughts. Such was the case with me about a sofa we replaced.

Many a pre-dawn morning I spent sitting on the right cushion reading the paper or a book while drinking a cup of tea. It was on this sofa where through the years my sons had lain when they weren't cleaning their rooms or weren't setting the table for dinner or were contemplating the course of their lives through closed eyelids.

It was on this sofa that our dog, Quincy, many years ago would curl up to sleep when he thought no

one was home. Despite being chased off each time he was discovered, he always feigned surprise when told to move.

It was on the back of this sofa that our cat could be found whiling away many afternoons, stretched out beside the window catching some sun.

It was beneath the cushions that could be found compressed popcorn, fallen pocket change, random Lego pieces and the television remote control.

In recent years, although it was a sturdy sofa, its wear began to show. One of the cushions suffered a burn hole from a source my wife and I have never been able to determine although we have our suspicions. The flipside of that same cushion developed a small tear. Through the years, it had been cleaned often. But no amount of cleaning could erase the many years of "love" it had endured. So we finally made the decision to replace it.

It took us several months of on again, off again shopping to find just what we wanted. Selecting a new sofa requires patience and considerable in-store testing. Aside from color and style there are other important factors that weigh heavily on a decision. How does it feel when I sit on it? How does it feel when I lay on it? Can I fit on it lying down? What is the cost relative to the expected life expectancy? Eventually we found a sofa that met all the criteria. And on that Friday afternoon when it was delivered, taking its place in the living room, a new era was ushered in.

Yet in some ways it was as if nothing had changed. For when I came home from work that afternoon my youngest son was already upon it contemplating his life's future through closed lids.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

It was a Friday afternoon when my family and I bade farewell to a dear friend and supporter, bringing to a close a relationship of nearly 20 years. We replaced a well-loved, well-worn living room sofa. A sort of cream color with blue stripes, wide arm rests, matching pillows and wood trim accenting the base and legs, it was as far as sofas go, nice looking and comfortable.

We purchased the sofa not long after moving into our home, replacing one that had been handed down to us several years before. Silly though it may seem, on the days leading up to the sofa's departure I couldn't help reminiscing about the family history that rested on its cushions.

It was on this sofa that my wife fed our youngest baby son. It was also the sofa upon which my wife sat giving our granddaughter and grandson their bottles.

It was the sofa my wife and I turned toward the front door and waited in the wee small hours of a morning when one of our children wasn't home by curfew. There we sat in the dark waiting for the violator to try to enter the house quietly through the front door. The perp was sadly disappointed.

It was on this sofa that I writhed in unparalleled pain when my gall bladder went into horrific spasms. It was where I recovered following surgery.

Many a movie night was enjoyed while sitting on this sofa eating popcorn. It was while sitting upon its cushions that my daughter discussed her wedding plans with me, flipping through her sketch book pointing out designs she wanted created for the backyard reception. It was on this sofa that I sat sadly following my daughter's move with her husband to Arizona.



THE VICTORIAN ROOM

Ocean City Restaurant Week - October 13th-27th

\$40/person includes one glass of wine

Appetizers-Select One

Seafood Gumbo
A hearty warm bowl full of succulent seafood, andouille sausage, and rice

Harvest Salad
Bib Lettuce, shaved brussels, apples, blue cheese, walnuts, and zesty lemon dressing

BBQ Wrapped Shrimp with Bacon
Served with a side of ginger-sesame slaw

Entrees-Select One

Seafood Paella
Mouthwatering shrimp, mussels, clams, and rice infused in a saffron tomato broth

Garlic Crusted Rack of Lamb
Sweet potato mash and grilled asparagus

Tournedo of Beef
Tenderloin medallions topped with crab in a mustard seed demi-glace. Served with a side of asparagus, and duchess potato

Dessert-Select One

Chocolate Creme Brûlée Rich dark chocolate of indulgence, topped with caramel drizzle

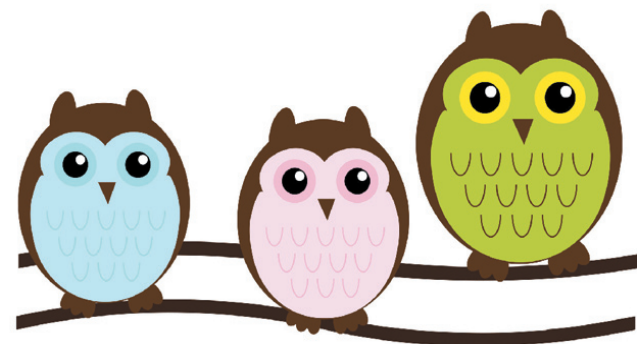
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Pines officials break ground on new golf clubhouse

Ocean Pines Board members, General Manager John Viola, local builders Marvin Steen and Frank Brown, representatives from the Whayland Company and Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., and members of the golf community on Tuesday, October 1 took part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Ocean Pines Golf clubhouse.

Association President Doug Parks spoke first and thanked the several dozen people who attended the ceremony.

"This is a very exciting time," he said. "I wanted to publicly recog-

nize some of the people that have been instrumental in what's going on ... Steve Tuttle has been the Board representative on this project, and he's done a yeoman's work in keeping everything up to date [and] keeping the Board up to date.

"I'd also like to thank everybody else that's been involved," Parks continued, recognizing both "the former Board members who supported this and the current Board members who continue to support this, so we can make sure this project is delivered on time, so we can start enjoying a wonderful new facility here at the Golf course."

Tuttle, the Association vice president, spoke next, joking he's "a man of few words."

"I'm glad this day is finally here. There's been a few bumps getting here and I just want to get the construction started. Let's go!" he said.

Steen, a volunteer advisor on the project, declined to speak, but quipped, "I'm fine!" He drew a big laugh from the crowd.

Viola, last to speak, thanked Board members, as well as Steen, Bill Stamp, Brown, and "all of the other people from the workgroup that have helped out with this and made this possible."

"I want to thank everybody in

Ocean Pines, as well as the golfers that have supported this place over the years," Viola said. "Let's go forward!"

Construction on the new clubhouse will start this week, with the target date to open the new building next spring.

The Board in April approved



construction of the new building at a guaranteed maximum cost of \$1.6 million. The Whayland Company, based in Laurel, Delaware, will oversee construction.

Salisbury architectural firm Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc. developed plans for the roughly 7,200 single-story building, to include a large meeting room and space for the Tern Grille restaurant, along with an outdoor deck, pro shop and club-fitting area. The Matt Ort Company will oversee the Tern Grille.

Absolute Demolition of Ocean City demolished the former two-story Golf clubhouse in May.

Owls, snakes to take center stage

Owls and snakes will be the topic of a Scales and Tall Tales event to be hosted by My Backyard Bird Shop on Saturday, October 26 at 1 p.m. The workshop will explore the sometimes spooky world of owls and snakes and offer a close-up encounter with live birds of prey and reptiles. Folklore and legends of native wildlife will be part of the discussion.

My Backyard is located at 11312 Manklin Creek Road in Ocean Pines.



Stephen Decatur High School officials **Mary Berquist**, Principal **Thomas Sites**, **Jason Pylypczuk**, **Lindsay Putman**, and Assistant Principal **Leland Green** accept the Character School of the Year award on behalf of the school.

SDHS named Character School of the Year

Fresh off a couple of new inclusion activities, Stephen Decatur High School (SDHS) has been named a Maryland Character Education School of the Year by the Maryland Center for Character Education. This is the second time in three years that the school has earned this distinction.

To earn a state Character Education School of the Year award, Stephen Decatur had to submit an extensive application that included several essays with accompanying artifacts as pieces of evidence. School officials accepted the honor during a recognition ceremony on October 3 in Cockeysville, MD.

Principal Thomas Sites said, "The mission of Stephen Decatur High School is not only to create productive citizens and lifelong learners, but also to create compassionate, responsible, and civic minded community members. We accomplish this through instructional excellence in partnership with family and community and by maintaining a safe, caring, and well

maintained environment."

Along with a PBIS program (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports), Stephen Decatur has a host of initiatives that promote character growth. With a longstanding school motto, "The Decatur Way," that includes the principles of pride, achievement, respect, and responsibility, the school begins planning its character education program even before the students enter the building.

Prior to the start of school, SDHS hosts all incoming freshmen to an orientation day where National Honor Society members are paired up with students as mentors. In early September, the school sponsored "Start with Hello Week," an initiative started in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, where students were encouraged to greet strangers in the hallways in an effort to prevent social isolation and promote unity and acceptance. During the first month of school, students have also been greeted with positive



Knights of Columbus Soccer challenge

On Friday, September 27, representatives from The Knights of Columbus Ocean City Council #9053 held their Annual Soccer Challenge at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. For this event, students in grades one through eight, "demonstrate the most important skill in soccer, shooting accuracy on the penalty kick," according to council program director, Tom Pergola. The challenge offers our students the opportunity to compete to reach the international level of competition.

Under its community outreach program, The Knights of Columbus annually sponsor this event to help encourage the values of good sportsmanship and healthy competition. The Knights of Columbus are an international Catholic fraternal service organization with 1.8 million members in over 15,000 local councils who donate volunteer hours and funds to charitable causes.

An awards ceremony will be held early next month to celebrate our students' accomplishments in this challenge.

Pictured are MBS first-grade students **Christian Ouelett** and **Adrianna Sanchez** along with Knights of Columbus volunteer, **Bob Pellenberg**.

Volunteers to honor Foulz by continuing 'Holiday Gifts for Our Soldiers'

Volunteers from Star Charities and other community organizations hope to honor the late Anna Foulz by making one of her final wishes come true – to make the 2019 "Holiday Gifts for Our Soldiers" drive one of the biggest yet.

Foulz and her late husband, Carl, more than a decade ago started the drive, which each year collects nonperishable items to send to men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed overseas.

On October 1, volunteers placed collection containers throughout the community. Drop-off sites in Ocean Pines include the Administration Building, Community Center and Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library.

Collection containers will be marked with a list of the most requested items, which include baby powder and foot powder; black and white cotton socks; chewing gum; powdered Crystal light, ice tea and Gatorade; Slim Jims, nuts and other nonperishable snacks; games

like checkers, backgammon, chess and dominos; tooth paste and brushes; feminine products; and small paperbacks. Do not place any perishable items, glass, hotel samples (as they do not include a list of ingredients that might cause allergies) or pork products in the containers.

Containers will be available until October 31, at which time volunteers will transport them to a central location organized by Barb Peletier of Star Charities. The National Guard will pick up the donations and ship them to various locations, overseas.

A representative from Star Charities said they hope the containers are "bulging with gifts by the end of this drive," adding the collection will mark the final activity of the nonprofit.

To quote Foulz, "Do your part to help the heroes who keep America free, and god Bless all of you!"

For more information about "Holiday Gifts for Our Soldiers," contact Peletier at 443-896-4914.

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GOLD PRICES ARE BACK UP
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Custom Designs
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We buy Gold, Silver & Coins

410-213-7505 410-524-GOLD
www.dakozmajewelers.com

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

Water aerobics classes to benefit breast cancer awareness

Ocean Pines Operations Director Colby Phillips will teach two classes in October to both honor her late grandmother and raise money for the Susan G. Komen foundation for breast cancer awareness.

“My grandmother, Barbara Kleinfeller, died almost 20 years ago fighting a battle against breast cancer,” Phillips said. “And there are several other women I have known in my life who battled cancer, not only from around here in our Ocean Pines community, but also other areas. In honor of them and their courageous fight, I wanted to do something to give back, even if it’s just a small thing.”

“Cancer sucks, on all levels, no matter the type,” she continued. “I definitely pray for the day where the only time we need to discuss the word ‘cancer’ is when we are giving our horoscope.”

On Sunday, October 20, Phillips will teach a water aerobics class at 3 p.m. and a hydro cycle class at 4 p.m., both at the Sports Core Pool.

Phillips said she ordered pink noodles for the occasion, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

“The water aerobics class is one I have been teaching in Ocean Pines for 12 years now,” she said. “It involves all-over cardio and is perfect for all ages. It’s low-impact aerobics and easy on the body, but still provides great cardio.”

“The hydro cycle class is our one-

of-kind, popular, in-the-water spin class. If you have never sweat working out in a pool before, this class is for you,” Phillips continued. “It’s also easy on those with bad knees



Colby Phillips

and backs, because of the buoyancy of the water.”

The fee for each class is \$10, with all proceeds going to the Komen foundation.

Unlimited space is available for the aerobics class, but only 12 spots are available for the cycle class. Those wishing to take either class must sign up in advance by calling 410-641-5255.

For more information on the Komen foundation, visit <https://ww5.komen.org>.



Commendation - On October 1, the Commissioners and Board of Education officials commended Worcester Technical High School (WTHS) students and instructors for their outstanding performances at the 55th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky from June 24-28.

Travel this December

Travel with Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) this winter on four, festive, fun-filled motorcoach trips through Jor-Lin Tour and Charter.

“We are thrilled to offer two new trips this winter season to Colonial Williamsburg and Longwood Gardens” said Brianna Dix, WCRP Marketing Recreation Program Manager and trip host. “Trips will surely be cherished for a lifetime by all participants. Sign up now. All trips are expected to sell out quickly.”

Monday, December 2, visit New York City on your own, or see the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall. WCRP will arrive in the Big Apple around 10:30 a.m. Participants will have the whole day to see shows, tour monuments, or shop til’ you drop. The cost for On Your Own is \$70 per person and includes motorcoach transportation. The cost for the Christmas Spectacular

is \$120 per person and includes motorcoach transportation and one mezzanine-level ticket for the 2:00 p.m. show. Only 20 show tickets are available and will sell out quickly.

Sunday, December 8, take a step back in time by visiting Colonial Williamsburg. Explore the shops and participate in tours throughout the day. When the night rolls in, the group will experience the annual Grand Illumination. The cost is \$75 per person and includes motorcoach transportation and a day pass to enter Colonial Williamsburg.

Saturday, December 14, explore New York City on your own. Spend the day sight-seeing at places like the Statue of Liberty and World Trade Center, or wander through famous neighborhoods. Enjoy the holiday spirit of the city with a carriage ride through Central Park, ice skating, visiting the tree at Rockefeller Center and

lease see **travel** on page 14



The Courier has a NEW PHONE NUMBER:

410-629-5906

Ocean Pines platform tennis holds fundraiser for veterans

By **June Freeman**

Ocean Pines platform tennis held a fundraiser on Saturday, September 28 and raised \$4,105 for the Ocean Pines Coastal Hospice 'We Honor Veterans' program.

Tracey Horan, RN, BSN, MPA, and Vice President of Clinical Services explained that the 'We Honor Veterans' program

Horan said, "The program honors those vets who require hospice services for their service to this great nation. A ceremony is performed for



General Robert Harleston, US Army and one of our patients, Charles Williams, during an in home We Honor Veteran presentation.

was originally developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in conjunction with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Coastal Hospice provides special care to vets who are facing life-limiting illnesses, and often addresses specific needs related to a veteran's military service and experiences.

every veteran which includes the presentation of a certificate of appreciation

please see **veterans** page 11

Atlantic General Hospital's Annual Flu Clinics



For more information on the Atlantic General Hospital Flu Clinics, contact Atlantic General Hospital at **410-641-9FLU (9358)**.

The vaccine is made from eggs. If you are allergic to eggs, consult with your health care provider.

Ages 13 years and older only.

Tues., October 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Pocomoke Fire Department
1410 Market Street • Pocomoke, MD

Tues., October 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Taylor Bank (Snow Hill Branch)
108 West Market St. • Snow Hill, MD

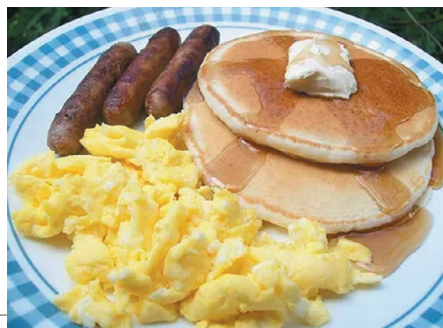
Wed., October 9, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Wed., October 16, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Atlantic General Hospital
(Please use Emergency Room Entrance)
9733 Healthway Dr. • Berlin, MD

Thurs., October 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Holy Savior Catholic Church
1705 Philadelphia Avenue • Ocean City, MD

Sat., October 19, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Health Fair at Ocean Pines Community Center
235 Ocean Parkway • Ocean Pines, MD

Wednesday, October 23, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Atlantic General Women's Health
38394 Dupont Blvd., Unit H • Selbyville, DE

We appreciate your generosity. Donations made during the Flu Clinics will help offset the cost of future Flu Clinics.



THE KIWANIS CLUB OF OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY PRESENTS SUMMER TIME'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

OUR COMMUNITY BREAKFAST TASTES AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS!

WHEN: October 12, 2019

WHERE: OCEAN PINES COMMUNITY CENTER, ASSATEAGUE ROOM

TIME: 8 A.M. – 11 A.M.

PRICE: ADULTS: \$7 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12: \$3.00

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 EAT FOR FREE!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR BY CALLING 410-208-6719

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE ON SITE!

11th Annual Patriot Day Fashion Show Luncheon Honoring



WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Ocean City

Monday, October 21
Doors open at 10:30 am – Program begins at 11:30 am

Fashions by The Dressing Room
Salisbury, MD

\$35

Featuring

*Local vendors with merchandise for sale
Mystery envelopes for a cash prize and
Lucky Surprise Boxes—each with a gift certificate or a gift item valued at \$10 or MORE!*

For information and reservations contact Jean Delcher at jdelcher@comcast.net, 410-641-8927 or 410-746-1612. Send reservations checks to P.O. Box 1292, Berlin, MD 21811. **Group seating reservations must contain checks for the entire party. Deadline is October 15.**

Sponsored by the Republican Women of Worcester County

My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

Winter care

WANTED: BED & BREAKFAST - Family seeks winter lodgings, with regular meals; all-day buffet preferred. Central heating not required, but water a decided plus. Applications now being taken in your back yard.

You might not see the above ad in your local newspaper, but wild birds are already making decisions about which back yards they will visit this winter.

What you do as the days grow shorter lets the birds know that you want their business and invites them to come back when serious winter comes.

People who don't start feeding birds until severe weather arrives may be missing out. Fall is the season to begin, even though natural foods are plentiful and the birds like the tufted titmouse above may not spend much time at your feeder yet. They are out in the fields and woods, feasting on seeds and berries and well-fed insects.

The birds that do visit feeders in the abundance of autumn are scouting. They need to be ready when cold weather hits.

Cold will increase their calorie requirements, right at the moment that food becomes harder to get. Insects stop flying and wiggling. Snow covers seeds. Ice seals away tree buds, wild fruits, and the insects that woodpeckers and nuthatches like to find under the bark of trees.

So they need to be ready. That's when they're studying their resources in advance. Noting where food is available. Locating alternatives. Taking inventory of contingent provisions.

It's good to be included in their inventories. If the birds discover that your yard is worth visiting, they'll remember. And when that first storm hits, they'll show up. Hungry. Chirpy and chattery. Red and blue and black-and-white and yellow. Fun to look at on a snowy day.

On the other hand, if you wait until hard weather arrives, the birds may not

ever realize what you have to offer. Under the stress of freezing weather, they can't afford the luxury of exploring. They must go where they know there will be a payoff. They might not discover your feeder all winter, even though it is abundantly supplied. So, start offering provisions now.

What foods to offer. Seeds: black oil sunflower, white millet, niger, safflower, cracked corn, broken nuts.

Offer suet in hanging baskets, for woodpeckers.

You can try some chopped up fruits.

Don't worry about them if you have to be gone from your home for a while in winter. Birds are used to having a food source disappear. They won't starve because of your lapse. It might take them a while to rediscover your yard when you return, but they'll be back.

Water — the best advertisement. One of the best ways to get the birds into your yard is to provide unfrozen water, replenished daily. Sometimes water is harder to come by in winter than food.

You can get a heating element that soaks in your bird bath and turns on whenever the water begins to freeze, or purchase a bird bath with the warmer built in.

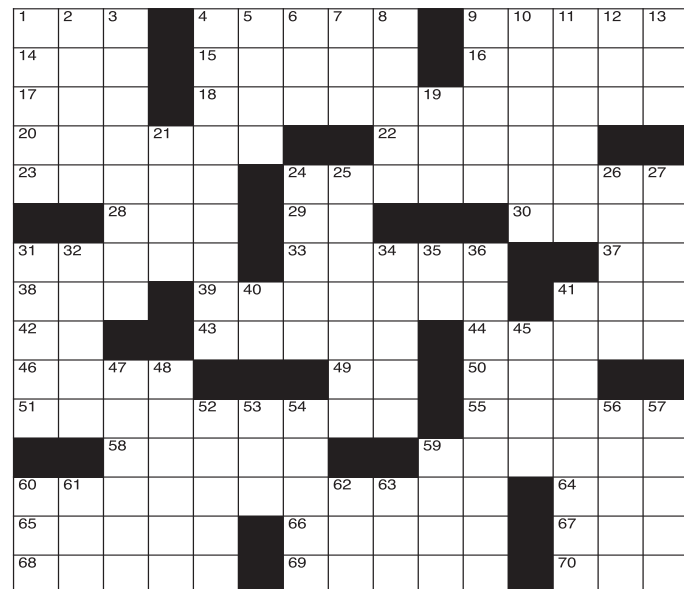
What the best kind of feeders to use? You can go simple or elaborate, depending on how much time, money, and space you have to devote to the subject. All of the following work. Most people who feed birds do several of these things.

The simplest is just to toss the birdseed on the ground. Many birds, such as the white-throated sparrow enjoy eating at or near the ground.

Whatever you use, be sure to put your birdfeeder where you can watch the birds from where you live. Enjoy the chirps of chickadees while you're eating.

And start now. You'll enjoy the birds all winter long.

— Copyright 2006 Diane Porter
Birdwatching.com



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Google certification
- 4. Cloths spread over coffins
- 9. Disorderly
- 14. "Star Wars" hero Solo
- 15. Toward the rear
- 16. The order of frogs
- 17. Alternative pain treatment (abbr.)
- 18. "Wolf of Wall Street" star
- 20. Evoke
- 22. Units of metrical time
- 23. Helps to predict eclipses
- 24. Some say they attract
- 28. Pitching statistic
- 29. Baseball box score (abbr.)
- 30. Force unit
- 31. Repaired shoe
- 33. English theologian
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Exchange money for goods or services
- 39. Give off
- 41. One from Utah
- 42. Computer department
- 43. Begets
- 44. English navigator
- 46. C C C
- 49. Of I
- 50. Pouch
- 51. Add notes to
- 55. A way to fall into ruin
- 58. Cunning intelligence
- 59. Blood disorder
- 60. Disgraced CBS newsman
- 64. Tax collector
- 65. Type of grass common to the Orient
- 66. Cosmic intelligence
- 67. No (Scottish)
- 68. People who rely on things
- 69. Stairs have them
- 70. Mathematical term (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Clarified butters
- 2. Primitive Himalayan people
- 3. Completely
- 4. Steep cliffs along the Hudson River
- 5. Assist
- 6. Language spoken in Laos
- 7. Type of screen
- 8. An attempt to economize
- 9. Volcanic craters
- 10. Still outstanding
- 11. Takes responsibility for another
- 12. California think tank
- 13. Former Rocket Ming
- 19. A pigeon noise
- 21. Central part of
- 24. Academy Award statue
- 25. Distinct unit of sound
- 26. Relative on the female side of the family
- 27. Passover feast and ceremony
- 31. The brightest star in Virgo
- 32. Made with oats
- 34. Subjects to laser light
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Neatly brief
- 40. The Great Lakes State (abbr.)
- 41. Soon to be released
- 45. Swiss river
- 47. Become involved in
- 48. More dour
- 52. They're on floors
- 53. Boxing's GOAT
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Quantum mechanics pioneer
- 57. Facilitated
- 59. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- 60. Regional French wine Grand ___
- 61. Owns
- 62. Tell on
- 63. Precedes two



We're about birds and much more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 26: *Scales & Tales with Live Birds of Prey and Reptiles.*

OPEN Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

South Gate Ocean Pines 11312 Manklin Creek Rd

410-208-1479

Follow us on facebook @ mybackyard.oceanpines

Answers for October 2



veterans
from page 9

for their service, a warm blanket in the patriotic colors of our nation, and a military salute in honor of, and with appreciation for, their service and sac-



Co-chair of fundraiser **Mike Petito**, Coastal Vice President of Clinical Services **Tracey Horan**, co-chair of fundraiser **Sue Walter**

rice. Each service is performed by a dedicated volunteer, who is also a veteran.”

Michael Petito and Sue Walter co-chaired this successful event. The platform tennis community of Ocean Pines traditionally champions the cause of honoring and supporting veterans. Mike Petito stated, “Being able to help our veterans will always have that special little place in my heart.” Last year, platform tennis hosted a tournament for the home-grown Catch A Lift Program. Their two newest courts were dedicated to veterans. Also, the members have a designated area where an engraved bench dedicated to veterans is surrounded by five

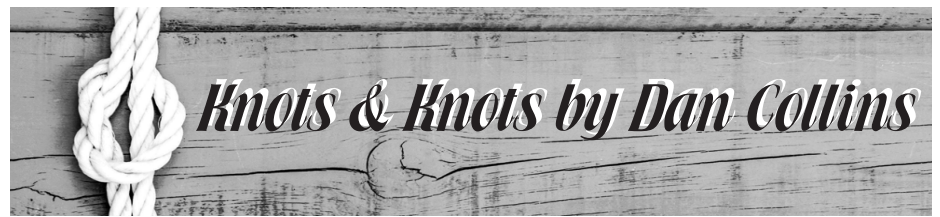
flags representing the five branches of the service, along with the American flag.

Sue Walter explained, “When Michael Petito and I were contemplating holding another platform tennis tournament, we both came to the table with ideas. We already had decided on giving to a local veteran’s group. I had personal experience with hospice care for my mother and my father who was a veteran. The fact that Coastal Hospice was preparing to open their residence in Ocean Pines was another factor that we both embraced.”

Horan stated, “We were delighted that Ocean Pines platform tennis selected us for their fundraising event. We opened in May of this year and the setting provides a warm, serene, and therapeutic environment. We have a comprehensive program which includes physical, spiritual, bereavement, and palliative care, along with social services and volunteers.”

The tournament was an all-day affair which lasted from 8 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sixty-six players competed. The event attracted a lot of talented and high-level players from five different states. The volleys, screen shots, drives, serves, and returns were astonishing. First place winners of the men’s main draw were Brian Phoebus and Reed Hagman from Baltimore. Doug Raihall and Evan Niemkiewicz from the West Chester, Philadelphia area took second place. First place winners of main draw for women were mother-and-daughter team Kylie Kochis and Karin Kochis. Gayle Connelly and Kim Kochis took second place. All four of the winning ladies were from Exton, Pennsylvania.

Putting the tournament fundraiser together required a lot of time, work and caring by many people. Michael Petito commented, “The rewarding part for me was that the hard work that was done by our committee and volunteers was successful, and seeing all the happy faces.” Sue Walter said, “We could not have accomplished this without the support of Chick-Fil-A in West Ocean City, Dunes Manor Hotel, Holiday Inn on 17th Street, the Grand Hotel, the members of Ocean Pines platform tennis, and the many players from Baltimore and Philadelphia area. We thank them and the many others who donated to this cause.”



Ground Ho!

Location, location, location.” That’s the mantra of the real estate world. It’s also the mantra of all good mariners whose key objective is to get where they want to go without bumping into anything such as docks, buoys, bridges, other boats, and solid land. You must be constantly aware of your

ships with professional crews use pilots to maneuver into unfamiliar harbors.

3) If you do want to go into new waters, follow another boat. Hopefully the folks on the leading boat have local knowledge and even if they don’t and they hit the bottom, you’ll be far enough behind them that you can stop and turn around.

4) And finally, if your wanderlust is too much, study the nautical charts for published depths, check the ‘Notice to Mariners’ for recent anomalies like new sandbars or wrecks, and check the tide charts. Then plan your sortie at or just after low tide so that if you do run aground, the incoming tide will help refloat your boat.



Homemade 3-in-1 thingy. It’s a deck brush, a pusher-offer, and a depth gauge.

location and know how to navigate around these threats.

In our back bay waters of Ocean City and, in fact, most back bays from New Jersey to Virginia, avoiding solid land is a really big issue. The land I am talking about is the bottom. I was told when I moved to Ocean Pines that there were two types of boaters: Those who have run aground and those who will run aground. I have yet to find evidence to the contrary. The bottom is everywhere and it sneaks up toward the surface at low tide!

For the most part, my encounters with the bottom have been due to loss of situational awareness – not watching my depth gauge and drifting out of the channel - but occasionally my Christopher Columbus curiosity has seduced me into going where no boat is supposed to go. In general, you can minimize the downside of Columbus curiosity by adhering to a few simple practices:

1) Don’t sail where you don’t see any other boats. Chances are there is a reason no one is there.

2) Take someone along that knows the new waters. Even oceangoing

As for loss of situational awareness, the US Coast Guard lists operator inattention and improper lookout as the number one and two contributing factors to recreational boating mishaps. Many of our Ocean City channels are very narrow and very unforgiving. You gotta remember where those sneaky, unmarked sandbars are lurking. You gotta remember ‘Red, Right, Returning’ when coming up on a buoy. And you must be prepared to react to the careless boater who is not following the rules of the road and may force you out of the channel to avoid a collision.

Regardless of the circumstance, it’s an ‘ah gee wiz’ moment that’s immediately followed by ‘now-what-do-we-do’ moment when you find yourself grounded.

Fortunately, the bottoms of Asawoman, Isle of Wight and Sinepuxent Bays and the St. Martin Rivers are pretty soft, either sand, silt or mud, so when the inevitable grounding does occur, it’s unlikely that you will breach the hull and spring a leak. As such, once you have verified the safety of all

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

| Day | High /Low | Tide Time | Sunrise /Sunset |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Th | Low | 12:15 AM | 7:04 AM |
| | High | 6:21 AM | 6:30 PM |
| | Low | 12:16 PM | |
| | High | 6:43 PM | |
| F | Low | 12:50 AM | 7:05 AM |
| | High | 7:00 AM | 6:29 PM |
| | Low | 12:58 PM | |
| | High | 7:21 PM | |
| Sa | Low | 1:23 AM | 7:06 AM |
| | High | 7:38 AM | 6:27 PM |
| | Low | 1:38 PM | |
| | High | 7:58 PM | |
| Su | Low | 1:56 AM | 7:07 AM |
| | High | 8:16 AM | 6:26 PM |
| | Low | 2:17 PM | |
| | High | 8:36 PM | |
| M | Low | 2:30 AM | 7:08 AM |
| | High | 8:55 AM | 6:24 PM |
| | Low | 2:56 PM | |
| | High | 9:14 PM | |
| Tu | Low | 3:04 AM | 7:09 AM |
| | High | 9:33 AM | 6:23 PM |
| | Low | 3:35 PM | |
| | High | 9:52 PM | |
| W | Low | 3:40 AM | 7:10 AM |
| | High | 10:12 AM | 6:21 PM |
| | Low | 4:17 PM | |
| | High | 10:31 PM | |

Bertino to host Active Shooter Response training

In conjunction with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino will host a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training on Wednesday, October 17 at the Ocean Pines library at 6:30 p.m. The class is free and open to the public.

CRASE training is designed to increase the chances of surviving an active shooter event or other critical incident.

The course is designed and built around the "Avoid, Deny, Defend" strategy developed by ALERRT in 2004. This course will provide strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills.

The course utilizes a Power Point presentation along with instructor led question and answer session.

"My wife and I attended this training earlier this year and it was informative, helpful and really made us think about our surroundings when we're out in public," said Commissioner Bertino. "That's

why I thought it would be of interest to residents of Ocean Pines and others. I appreciate Sheriff Matthew Crisafulli's willingness to offer this opportunity to our community."

Although not required, it would be helpful if attendees RSVP. Email Commissioner Bertino at cbertino@co.worcester.md.us or call 443-783-3248.

Narcan training offered

In response to the growing opioid addiction that has affected all ages in the community, Narcan training will be held at the Community Church at Ocean Pines located at 11227 Racetrack Road in Berlin. The event, sponsored by the United Methodist Men and Women, will be held on Friday, October 11 at 1 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. The trainer is the AOD Prevention Supervisor with the Worcester County Health Department. All are welcome. Call the church office at 410-641-5433 or email Nancy Waters nwaters2@gmail.com to register.

rentals
from page 1

mining the occupancy limitations for licensed short term rentals, but rather that occupancy limitations shall be determined based upon the maximum occupancy of bedrooms at a ratio of one occupant per fifty square feet of unobstructed floor area; and amends the requirement

opa
from page 3

non-collection matters."

He said the current Declaration of Restrictions wording does not allow Ocean Pines to recover the cost of a court order to force compliance with architectural guidelines.

Several directors mentioned issues of cost versus a return on the investment to engage the attorney and, potentially, change the Declarations of Restrictions through a referendum or referendums.

"What's it going to cost us to do this in every section that has to have it done and what's the reality of us recovering any of those fees anyway?" Perrone asked. "Most of these cases, they're resolved before we get to that point [of legal action]."

The motion fell 4-3, with Daly, Tom Janasek and Camilla Rogers in favor, and Parks, Perrone, Director Colette Horn and Association Vice President Steve Tuttle against.

New capital reserve

Perrone later introduced a first reading to amend Resolution F-03 (financial reserve accounts), which he said was a revision of a motion about a new capital funding tool presented during a prior Board meeting. He previously withdrew the motion in favor of a review by By-laws and Resolutions Chairman Jim Trummel.

"Current funding of the new capital requires the Board to budget projects through the operational budget," Perrone said. "Controlling the increase in the annual assessment has and can continue to cause this and future Boards to attempt to control assessment increases by not making necessary new capital purchases."

Perrone said a new capital reserve account would "allow for better financial planning and control, without directly impacting the Association's yearly assessment."

He added the account would be

to provide one additional off-street parking space for short-term rentals to apply only to structures for which a building permit application is received after the effective date of this section.)

For more information, visit http://www.co.worcester.md.us/sites/default/files/bids/19-3-intro-amendments_o.pdf.

funded through a "10 percent draw off the replacement reserves" collection, which would only delay the Association's goal of reaching a 22 percent level of reserves, as compared to the annual budget, by one year.

"In four years, we will be at 22 percent and that percentage [of reserves] will increase as we move forward," Perrone said.

Parks said he was not in favor of creating a new account "without a plan on what we're going to do to use it."

He suggested asking the strategic planning committee for input on the subject, and for them to coordinate with the Budget and Finance Committee and Board. Parks said he hoped a wish list of capital purchases could be created, followed by substantiations through businesses cases and justifications of costs.

"As long as that's happening, I'll feel comfortable," he said.

The Board did not vote on the matter, as it was a first reading.

Other discussions.

Also during new business, Board members discussed replacing 13 marquee information signs with two electronic signs, one at the North Gate and one at the South Gate.

Horn said the Communications Advisory Committee recommended replacing the old signs to promote easier maintenance of information. She said four different departments currently share the job of maintaining the signs, and updating them on weekends and holidays, especially in cases of sudden cancellations, can be difficult.

Board members during the discussion raised concerns about cost, light pollution, and potential legal issues with Worcester County. Parks asked that the matter be referred back to Communications Committee in order to answer questions that

please see **opa** on page 13

BOY SCOUT FUNDRAISER

All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner

Support the Scouts of Troop #2173 and enjoy a delicious AUCE Spaghetti Dinner!

Saturday, October 19

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wilson United Methodist Church Bishopville, MD



Dinner includes salad, spaghetti, one dessert item and a drink.

**Adults \$10 Children \$6
Children under 5 FREE**

PRE-ORDER your tickets for reserved seating or Purchase at the door. *All are Welcome!*

Call 410-213-7505

between 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



The Courier September 14, 2019 Volume 46 Number 37

Positive financial trends continue
 Great news for the region's economy as the third quarter shows continued growth in the labor market. After the first three months of the year, the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.3 percent, the lowest since 2000. The region's economy is showing signs of continued growth, with the labor market showing particular strength. The unemployment rate has fallen to 4.3 percent, the lowest since 2000. The region's economy is showing signs of continued growth, with the labor market showing particular strength.

Pines named one of Maryland's safest communities
 Ocean Pines has been named one of the safest communities in Maryland for the 10th year. The town's low crime rate and high quality of life have earned it this distinction. The town's low crime rate and high quality of life have earned it this distinction.

410-629-5906

opa
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came up.

One new business item did not come up from consideration. Tuttle would have proposed "To ask for the Worcester County Commissioner's to delay a vote on Bill 19-3 that relates to short term rentals," but withdrew the motion because of a meeting held earlier that day with County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting.

"The bill in question is not in final form," he said. "The language is expected to change before being enacted, and I believe the resulting bill will be more favorably define the issues on occupancy limits and some of the other issues that we've been concerned about, so I'd like to withdraw it at this time."

Parks, during the president's remarks part of the meeting, said there would be a public hearing on Bill 19-3 on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 11 a.m., at the County Commissioner's meeting room in the government center on 1 West Market Street in Snow Hill.

Parks reiterated a meeting with Bertino and Bunting occurred earlier

that day, but added the bill still "needs to be fully vetted to the public during that public hearing on the 15th, so I encourage all those who are interested in that topic ... if you can make the time to get up there and attend that public hearing, I ask that you do so."

Also during president's remarks, Parks said the finance team was busy with the transition to the new Northstar financial systems and that may affect monthly financial reporting, typically required by the 13th business day of each month.

"I just ask for people to give them a little leeway with regard to producing the monthly financial reports," he said. "They are under a lot of requests for their time that are associated with things that are normally outside of their regular duties, and [those requests] are temporary in nature. Just an FYI to give folks a little bit ... [of] leeway ... they will definitely get financials out for you, but they might take a little bit longer."

The Board unanimously approved four advisory committee appointments: Ken Wolfe (chairman, Environment & Natural Assets), Morrell "Moe" Delcher (first term, Strategic Planning), and Bryan Reynolds and George Solyak (first terms, Budget and Finance Committee).

The following appointments were made:

- Ken Wolfe - Chair - Environment & Natural Assets
- Morrell (Moe) Delcher - 1st Term - Strategic Planning
- Bryan Reynolds - 1st Term - Budget and Finance Committee
- George Solyak - 1st Term - Budget and Finance Committee

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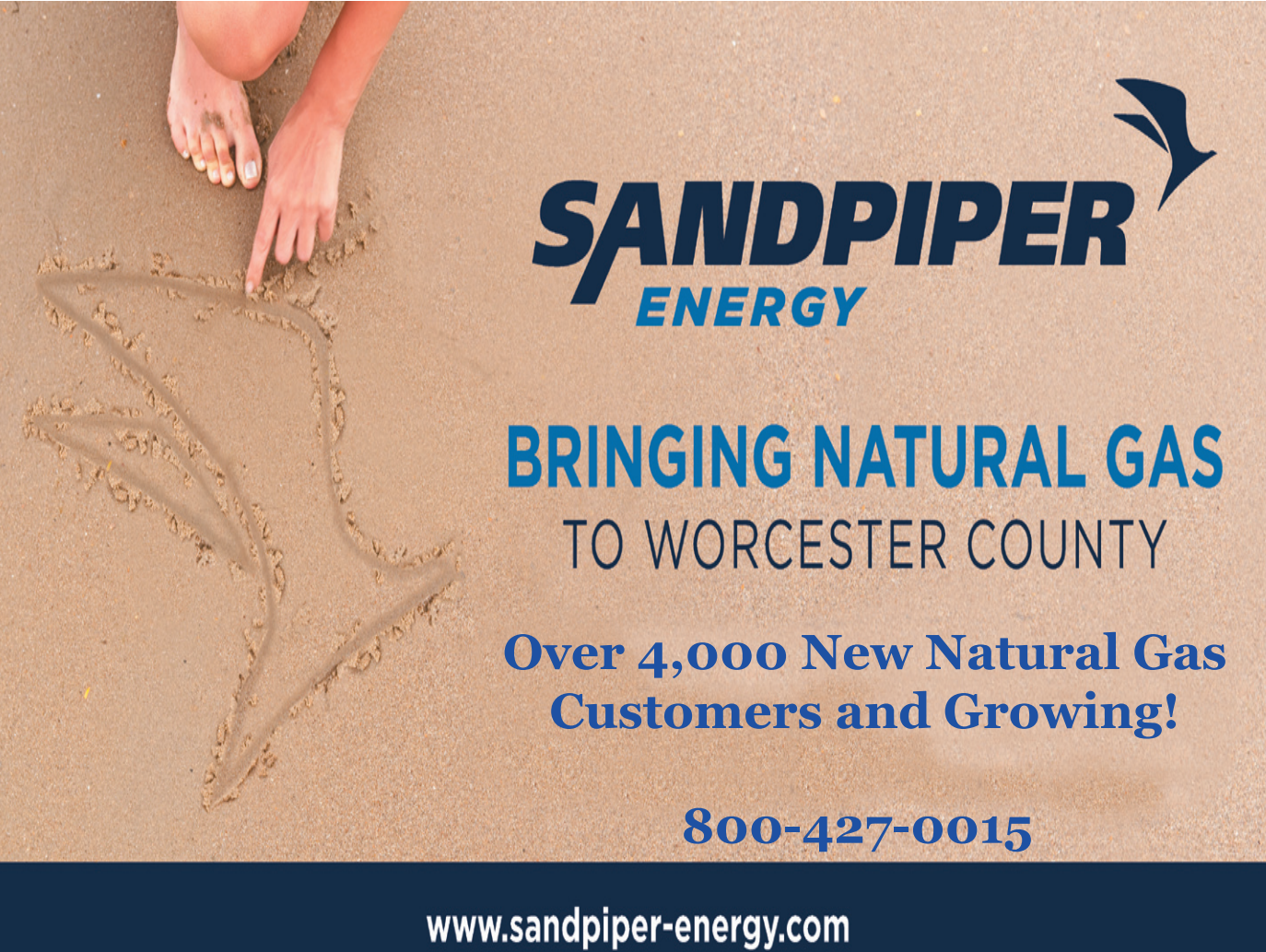
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knots
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passengers and had everyone don a life jacket, and verified the integrity of the boat, it's time to figure out how to get refloated.

There are several techniques. One is to get out a push. Another is called kedging where you walk the anchor out and set it in deep water, then get back on board and pull yourselves toward the anchor. Yet another is to

have another boat, either a good Samaritan or an expensive tow boat pull you off. And an even more expensive technique is to try backing up with your own motor. This runs the risk of sucking sand into the engine and putting a big time dent in your boat maintenance budget.

Probably, the first choice should be to shift the weight to the part of the boat that is still floating and simply pushing off with a paddle or a boat hook. The problem with this approach

is twofold: The four-foot handle is too short and the bottom is so soft that the paddle or boat hook sinks into the gook.

But here is a nifty solution. For less than \$20, I bought a deck scrub brush and handle (\$10), a piece of PVC pipe (\$3), a pipe cap (\$2) and a marine grade 'D' clamp (\$3). With the help of my good friend, Jim Sprows, I slipped the deck handle into the pipe and

drilled a hole through both large enough to fit the 'D' clamp. See the photo. Now I have a wide surface pusher-offer that won't sink too far into the gook at the end of a strong, eight-foot-long extended handle that allows me to stand on my boat and push off with greater leverage.

In essence, it's a 3-in-1 device. I

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sdhs
from page 6

tear-away messages, which are posted throughout the building.

"We value our partnership with the community and embrace every opportunity to teach our students core ethical values as the basis of good character," Sites said. With a strong community connection, SDHS has several service based organizations that run extremely successful drives and fundraisers for community agencies and students often partner with the elementary schools to promote literacy and leadership. Last year, the student body donated over \$7500 to community organizations.

As part of the PBIS program, Stephen Decatur High School recognizes outstanding behavior with positive referrals and recognizes a student of the month throughout the year. The school has earned the gold distinction by the Maryland PBIS program for seven of the last eight years.

travel
from page 8

more. It is all up to you. The cost is \$70 per person and includes motorcoach transportation.

Thursday, December 19, stroll the grounds of Longwood Gardens. The twinkling lights strung for miles and miles, fountain shows, and the holiday music filling the air will make it a trip to remember. The cost is \$60 per person and includes motorcoach transportation and an unguided tour ticket to the gardens.

"I loved my experience traveling with Worcester County," Madeline Goddard, a previous WCRP tour par-

ticipant said. "The spring and winter trips were organized and made my experience even more enjoyable. The trips were smooth and so much fun."

To reserve your seats, a \$35 deposit per person is required. All deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations are non-refundable unless the trip seat is resold. "No shows" on the day of the trip are ineligible for a refund. If WCRP cancels the trip, participants will receive a refund in full.

For more information or to register, contact Dix at 410-632-2144, ext. 2514 or bdix@co.worcester.md.us. Visit www.worcesterrecandparks.org to view all that WCRP has to offer IN Worcester County.

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<https://www.oceanpineschamber.org/events/details/senior-living-expo-11264>



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Polish Club celebration scheduled

The Polish Club of Delmarva 20th anniversary celebration and Veterans Day Memorial Dance will take place Sunday, November, 10 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Music will be provided by "Joy" Polish American Band. Tickets are \$25 per person which includes a hot platter and dessert, beer, wine and soda, coffee and tea. It will be held at the O.C. Elks Lodge located at 13708 Sinepuxent Ave. in Ocean City. For tickets contact Fred at 410 250 8625.

Casino trip set

The Ocean Pines Boat Club and Kiwanis Ocean Pines-Ocean City are sponsoring a Harrington Casino Bus Trip on Thursday, October 17. The cost is \$20 per person and includes \$15 slot play and \$7 food voucher. Bus leaves the Ocean Pines Yacht Club at 10 a.m. Contact Tom at 410-641-5456.

knots

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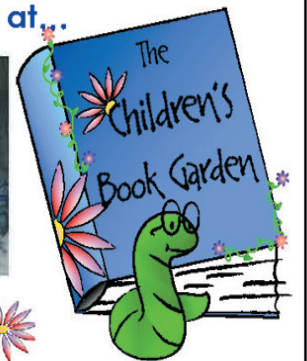
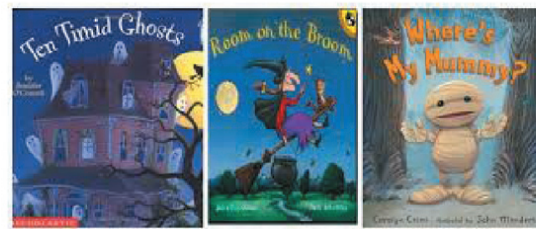
can use the brush as advertised to clean my boat. I can then slide it into the pipe for push off duties. And I've marked the other end in one-foot increments so I can use it as a depth gauge in very shallow water where I don't trust my instruments. Ask yourself have you ever gotten out of a marine supply store for less than twenty bucks?

Grounding may be inevitable, but remember the United States Coast Guard motto, Semper Paratus – always prepared.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com.



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