

OPA offers updates on new Craft Club building

Construction of the new Craft Club building should finish soon and members of the Pine'eer Craft Club hope to move in early next year, just after the busy holiday season.

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola and Recreation and Parks Program Supervisor Debbie Donahue on Monday hosted a meeting for about a dozen members of the club, to supply project updates and answer questions.

The Pine'eer Artisan and Gift Shop was established in 1974 and the organization behind it has a long track

record of giving back to the community, having donated more than \$150,000 over the years to Ocean Pines Police, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks, among other groups.

The Board of Directors in June voted unanimously to award a \$86,826 contract for a new Craft Club building to Ocean Tower Construction, LLC. To help offset those charges, the Craft Club will enter into a 10-year rental agreement, with an annual charge of between \$3,792 and \$5,064, depending on the final construction

cost.

The new 19-by-25-foot building will stand across from the administration building and next to the Ocean Pines Farmer's Market held at White Horse Park.

Donahue, on Monday, said construction was well ahead of schedule.

"We are very close to completion of the project, much sooner than we actually thought," she said.

She said contractors this week would focus on light fixtures, trim and some paint touchup of the building, along with roofing and gutter work.

"I spoke to [a representative] from Ocean Tower this morning and, as long as the weather cooperates, they're hoping to be finished by Friday," Donahue said. "That is way ahead of what

please see opa page 15



Veterans Day - Again this year, **Carol Ludwig** (above) and the Delmarva Chorus performed at Monday's Veterans Day Tribute at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. Photo by Chip Bertino

Viola offers more financial news, project updates

The good financial news continues, and the Association remains track on several major projects, according to updates provided by Ocean Pines officials last week.

General Manager John Viola, during a November 2 Ocean Pines Board meeting, said seven major initiatives currently underway all are still on schedule and within budget.

Construction of the new Golf clubhouse projects to finish by May 2020 at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. The Golf cart barn should finish by January and cost \$400,000, Viola said.

Expansion of the Police quarters is a little further out, projecting to Nov. 2020 at a cost of \$1.3 million, while the new Craft Club building should finish by January 2020 and cost \$85,000.

Also, on schedule are the Northstar software project (May 2020, \$400,000), Sibson Group compensation study (November, 2019, \$50,000) and work on the next fiscal year budget (December 23, 2019).

"There's a lot of initiatives [and] objectives we're working on, and it's a whole team effort," Viola said.

As some aspects of Northstar will

go live this month, Viola said the transition may affect financial reporting due by the 13th workday.

"We will definitely communicate it and update everybody," he said. "But, it will be a few days longer and [we just want to] ensure, with this major change, that we reconcile and are comfortable with everything."

Viola said work on the fiscal 2020/2021 budget, on the other hand, is well ahead of schedule.

"Compared to prior years, I have a budget. I have an estimated assessment number ... It's been a team effort," he said. "We're ahead of last

year by two months, so it should be a good holiday season for the team."

Focusing on the financials, Viola said the Association finished September \$57,788 ahead of budget and \$31,621 better than September 2018. Total revenues were \$48,435 over budget and expenses were \$9,353 lower.

Year to date, after the first five months of the fiscal year, Ocean Pines is ahead of budget by more than \$500,000, and \$422,319 better than at the same time last year.

please see financial on page 15

Community Calendar NOVEMBER

Monday

Ocean Pines Poker Club

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

Delmarva Chorus

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

Monday/Tuesday

Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge

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

Tuesday

Families Anonymous

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

Tuesday/Thursday

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

Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Meeting

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

Elks Bingo

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

Rotary Club

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

Square Dancing

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings AL-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Second Wednesday

The Polish American Club of Delmarva meets at the Columbus Hall, behind St Luke's Church, 100th St & Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. Come join us if you are of Polish or Slavic descent. No meetings. June, July, August. Call Helen Sobkowiak 410-723-2639 or Maryann Lula 410-250-2548 for more information.

Thursday

Story Time

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

Beach Singles

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

Gamblers Anonymous

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

Friday

Knights of Columbus Bingo

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

First Saturday

Creative Writing Forum

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

A Time To Remember

Near the end of a weeklong national salute to Americans who served in the Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on this day in 1982 in Washington after a march to its site by thousands of veterans of the conflict. The long-awaited memorial was a simple V-shaped black-granite wall inscribed with the names of the 57,939 Americans who died in the conflict, arranged in order of death, not rank, as was common in other memorials.

The designer of the memorial was Maya Lin, a Yale University architecture student who entered a nationwide competition to create a design for the monument. Lin, born in Ohio in 1959, was the daughter of Chinese immigrants. Many veterans' groups were opposed to Lin's winning design, which lacked a standard memorial's heroic statues and stirring words. However, a remarkable shift in public opinion occurred in the months after the memorial's dedication. Veterans and families of the dead walked the black reflective wall, seeking the names of their loved ones killed in the conflict. Once the name was located, visitors often made an etching or left a private offering, from notes and flowers to dog tags and cans of beer.



Art yard sale scheduled

The public is invited to a yard sale put on by artists who are cleaning out their studios on Saturday, November 16 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. The sale will be held indoors, rain or shine.

Included in the sale from the participating artists are original paintings and photographs, art books, pottery, prints, fiber art, jewelry, glass, and more plus framing supplies, art supplies, and excess art. In addition, the Art League of Ocean City will be selling as a fundraiser donated art, abandoned pottery, plus some kitchen supplies.

"The prices are amazing, and so are the treasures you'll find," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "This is a great opportunity to buy not only art but also items that inspired the artists. You never know what you're going to find!"

All sales are cash only. Several artists are using the yard sale as a fundraiser, donating proceeds to the Art League.



Rosie Bean, Susan Buyer, and Deborah Fisher-Reynolds.

Honoring the Suffragists

By **Em Hensch**

As we move into the 2020 election year, it's timely to recognize that, just a century ago, not all United States citizens had the one basic right that is the cornerstone of our Democracy - the right to vote. After many decades of struggle, protest, torture and violence, in June of 1920, the brave women that pioneered the suffrage

movement, along with their many supporters (including men), were finally successful in witnessing the passage of Amendment XIX, granting women the right to vote. Sadly, many of the early pioneers didn't live long enough to witness this momentous event.

Members of the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County have formed a spin-off group to recognize, celebrate, and honor these suffragists for their service to our Democracy. The Suffragist Anniver-

sary 100 Committee is reaching out to local folks. They seek first or second-hand knowledge of anyone who has a relative, friend, or ancestor who lived during those tumultuous times, and perhaps know of a woman who voted for the first time after passage of the 19th Amendment. The group is anxious to feature and share these stories in upcoming community awareness programs. Please pass along any and all information you care to share with SA100 Committee Coordinator Linda Linzey at lvlinzey@hotmail.com.

Highlights from board meeting

Ocean Pines Board members on Saturday, November 2, voted 6-1 to set up a new capital reserve account.

The Association will fund the account by using up to 10 percent of replacement reserves each year. The account cannot exceed \$1 million in total, and no more than \$500,000 may be spent in a single year.

Proponents of the amendment said many new capital projects over the years fell by the wayside because prior Boards were fearful of negatively affecting assessments. The goal of the amendment is to be able to fund those projects without raising annual dues.

Treasurer Larry Perrone introduced the second reading to amend Resolution F-03, related to financial reserve accounts.

"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. "It will also eliminate the tendency to forego necessary new capital purchases and projects, because of the direct impact on the annual assessment."

Perrone said among concerns he heard about establishing the new account were that "this will be a slush fund."

"I wholeheartedly disagree," he said. "We already have a 'slush fund,' which is our replacement reserve fund, which has been used in the past – sometimes appropriately and sometimes not appropriately ... This is a much smaller fund, based on the limits we're trying to put on it."

Perrone said there were also concerns this or any future Board could abuse the account.

"The discussion seems to be [that] this money could be used for some grandiose project. If you look at the numbers we're talking about, that's impractical at this point ... \$500,000 is a lot of money, but we're not going to build a bowling alley or a parking garage for \$500,000," he said.

Perrone said the Association spends about \$150,000 each year on new capital projects.

"That does not include the projects that were not approved because we didn't want to raise the assessments," he said, adding over the last five years more than \$1.2 million in new capital projects had been asked for, but not funded. "Of all that money, there was

only one project that was \$200,000, and that was the addition to the Sports Core."

"From a financial standpoint, this is appropriate and provides for better planning and financial control by this Board," he said.

Director Frank Daly agreed that prior Boards often did not fund new capital projects "in the name of keeping the assessment low." He said the same was true for maintenance.

"We need new things, we need a mechanism to fund it, and this is the best method forward," Daly said, although he cautioned there was no guarantee that future Boards would use the account as intended.

Director Colette Horn said the fund

would help improve financial planning, also adding the Strategic Planning Committee could offer input on prioritizing new capital projects. General Manager John Viola said the plan was to engage the committee and include their feedback in the budget process.

Only Association Vice President Steve Tuttle said he was not in favor of the new account.

"I don't like putting all this money aside and not having a real plan in understanding how we might spend it," he said. "If we need to do it, bite the bullet and change the assessment."

Tuttle voted against the amendment, while Perrone, Daly, Horn, directors Tom Janasek and Camilla Rogers, and Association President Doug Parks voted in favor.

Also during the meeting, the Board

voted unanimously to amend Resolution M-02, related to amenity policies. Daly introduced a second reading to the amendment prior to the vote. The changes were minor and vetted by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee.

Board members added three new items to the "New Business" part of the meeting, including a motion to approve a \$710,000 Fisher Marine contract for bulkhead work. The figure fell within the \$1.6 million budgeted for bulkhead replacement, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Daly asked to rescind a prior approved motion to send a request for proposals for an accounting firm.

He cited a preference to keep the current firm, SC&H Group, as the Association is currently busy transition-

*please see **meeting** on page 15*

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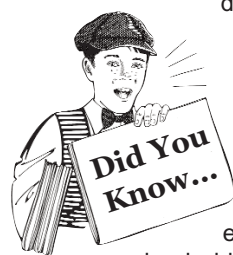
Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Larry Perrone convinced five of his fellow OPA Board of Directors members that his plan to pull \$1 million out of a hat to fund the cost of new stuff, up to \$500,000 for any single item, with no assessment increase is a viable financial approach. It is a scheme worthy of a plot for a Twilight Zone show. Incredibly, Perrone is the Treasurer of the Ocean Pines Association. Only board member Steve Tuttle had the common sense to vote NO to this breach of fiscal responsibility.

"I don't like putting all this money aside and not having a real plan in understanding how we might spend it," Tuttle said. "If we need to do it [something new], bite the bullet and change the assessment." Tuttle deserves a



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says car crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers. Roughly one-quarter of those involve under-



derage drivers who had been drinking. In fact, the NHTSA says that, in 2017, young drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 made up 42 percent of drivers involved in fatal drunk-driving crashes. While the NHTSA estimates that laws that adopted a minimum legal drinking age of 21 have saved nearly 32,000 lives since 1975, the group also notes that young drivers who are legally able to drink still pose a significant threat. In 2017, 27 percent of drunk drivers were between the ages of 21 and 24 while 26 percent of drunk drivers were between the ages of 25 and 34.

medal for exhibiting common sense.

The nitty-gritty is that Perrone, Collette Horn, Frank Daly, Tom Janasek, Camilla Rogers, and Doug Parks voted to raid the yearly assessment funds collected to maintain our existing infrastructure and move that money to a fund for unknown new projects. Call it what you choose, the net result is to steal/take/remove/confiscate up to about \$200,000 every year to create a slush fund called New Capital. The money can be used to fund any new pet board project.

Perrone said in recent years the Association spent about \$150,000 each year on new capital projects. This money was added to the approved budget and included in the assessment, as a review of audited financial reports reveals. Perrone did not like that pay-as-you-go approach. According to OPA, "Proponents of the [reserve] amendment said many new capital projects over the years fell by the wayside because prior Boards were fearful of negatively affecting assessments. The goal of the amendment is to be able to fund those projects without raising annual dues."

Perrone stated, "A reserve account dedicated to new capital expenditures will allow for better financial planning and control, without directly impacting the association yearly assessment."

Think about that statement and how you could rationalize funding new stuff for your home without impacting your personal budget.

Look at OPA's new shell game this way — if the Board can confiscate up to around \$200,000 a year from money allocated to maintain our existing stuff in order to fund some new stuff, then the assessment collection for maintaining existing stuff is too high. If all new capital expenses are to be funded by raiding the reserve fund for existing stuff, then association members should expect to see their assessment lowered in the new budget by about \$25, all other things being equal. Don't hold your breath.

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What will Kirwan mean for Worcester?

Commentary by **Chip Bertino**
Worcester County Commissioner

The examination of the Maryland School system and the subsequent recommendations by the Kirwan Commission illuminate the fact that Worcester County in many ways is a leader in education excellence.

From the time the children of Worcester County first walk through the doors of Showell, Buckingham, Ocean City, Snow Hill and Pocomoke elementary schools we as a community have the responsibility to ensure that by the time they walk out the doors of Stephen Decatur, Snow Hill, Pocomoke and Worcester Technical high schools for the last time they are prepared and equipped to successfully embrace the opportunities of college or career.

Between Worcester County government and the Worcester County Board of Education a working relationship has been forged through openness, honesty and at times speaking hard and uncomfortable truths to one another. This has sharpened our focus on what we hold dear — the future of our county and the future of our education system.

This year the Worcester County school system celebrated 151 years of service to our community. During that time, we as county taxpayers have embraced the responsibility to support our teachers and staff. And we have made the necessary investments to ensure school facilities are maintained properly so that teachers can teach and students can learn in safe, clean and functional environments. To be sure, there's room for improvement, there's always room for improvement. But Worcester County has demonstrated time and time again that it knows how best to allocate resources to foster educational achievement among our students. Often, because of the cooperation and ingenuity of County government and the Board of Education the efforts of our teachers

and administrators, are on the leading edge of education.

Yet, the unfortunate reality is that when it comes to education allocations by the state, Worcester County has been systemically and historically penalized for the very thing that has made us effective — the positive, engaged and results-oriented relationship among those vested with the responsibility to educate the children of our county. Worcester County's best intentions to for years appropriately fund the school system based on local student need and available resources were held against us when Maintenance of Effort (MOE) became law in Maryland.

Because it does not include variables such as poverty levels and demographics, the MOE formula as currently calculated, is unfair to Worcester County taxpayers who are forced to fund about 75% of the Board of Education's operational budget, the highest of any other public-school jurisdiction in the state. By comparison, local taxpayers in the neighboring counties of Wicomico and Somerset fund only about 20% of their respective boards of education budgets. How is that fair?

And then there are the capital investments above the per student investments. There are other necessary school system costs borne by Worcester County taxpayers including school construction and remodeling, replacement of HVAC systems and technology. Allocations for these come from either bonding or the general fund which places an additional responsibility on the county's budget and ultimately taxpayers.

Unfortunately, reviewing and revising the MOE funding formula to ensure fairness of state education funding to all school districts was ignored by the Kirwan Funding Group and by the full Kirwan Commission despite the fact this was a stated ob-

please see kirwan on page 14

**The
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Capturing memories

Months of plans and preparation culminated Friday night and Saturday when family and friends gathered for a rehearsal dinner and the wedding of

ents" invited to the wedding. They wanted "Mom Bertino" there. They didn't seem to mind that I tagged along. It meant a lot to us to be there.

Since then they have lived around the country and the world. We've stayed in touch through the years, watching their beautiful daughter grow up through pictures. They are now stationed relatively nearby and so he was able to be

one of the groomsmen. They introduced us to their soon-to-be five year-old-daughter who knew who we were which was unexpected. At one point during the reception they pulled my wife and me onto the dance floor. I don't think they'll ever know how much that small gesture meant to us.

They're much better dancers than we are.

We also got to see one of my son's high school friends. She now works in the Arlington area. In high school she was a very good friend to my son and my son-in-law. They were all in JROTC at Stephen Decatur High School. Although time has moved on, seeing the three of them

together again was a flashback to those Decatur days. The only thing missing was a request to drive them to



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

my oldest son. Everything occurred seemingly without a hitch. The bride and groom were beautiful and handsome respectively. Many memories were captured this weekend.

My wife and I had the opportunity to see our son's friends from high school and college that we hadn't seen



in years. Some are now married with their own children and scattered around the country. Through the years we've exchanged Christmas cards but it's not the same as sitting across from one another.

One college friend, Mike, and his wife Beth, were a special treat to see. He commissioned into the Army a year before our son. When Mike and his wife married many years ago, we were the only "friend par-



a competition.

There was a special, impromptu gathering that occurred at our house the day after the wedding. My wife and I are very fortunate that our children are close. We have three children: Caden, Matthew and Nicholas, known collectively as The Council of Three. Just over seven years ago, we welcomed another son into the family when Caden married Jake. Somehow, somehow, we also wound up with Jake's brother Alex. On Saturday, we welcomed another daughter into the family, Amanda. So now we have five children; five and a half if you count Alex.

A wedding is about a couple coming together to exchange vows. A marriage is a blending of families that sometimes works and sometimes doesn't. We lucked out seven years ago with Jake's parents. The bar had been set. Could lightening strike twice? It did. We're two for two. The pressure is now on our youngest son.

Getting back to Sunday. Our son and new daughter-in-law came to our house for a visit. Shortly thereafter our daughter and her family arrived. A few minutes later, Alex's girlfriend drove up. Everyone congregated in the kitchen as my wife heated up

homemade soup left over from the rehearsal dinner. Not long after, Alex arrived with a bag of all sorts of tacos which he arranged on the dining room table. We migrated to the living room where everyone plopped down on the furniture and chairs brought in from the dining room.

There we all were chowing down on tacos, soup and then my wife's special cheesecake. Conversations overlapped, there was commentary about the wedding and a lot of laughter and jokes at each other's expense. I sat on a dining room chair watching and listening; seeing the faces of these young people engaged with each other and with my wife and me. How lucky we are!

As is my way, I pulled from the closet the tripod and camera to get a picture. It's not often that we have everyone together. As soon as the tripod was spotted, there was a collective moan – this wasn't their first rodeo. There was also some trash talk when everyone was herded to The Piazza for a group picture. As I headed outside, I heard my wife tell the kids, "if you want to make me happy, make your father happy and take the picture. They did and I was.

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From left are **Amanda Kieseewetter**, CPA with Bergey & Company, P.A., **Caleb Miller**, Branch Manager and Business Development Officer for Bank of Ocean City/Ocean Pines Branch, and **Nicole Selby**, Worcester County Board of Education's Coordinator of Student, Family, and Community Connections.

GOLD board elects new members

The Board of Directors for Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing emergency assistance for Worcester County residents in times of crisis, has elected three new members. GOLD's 12 volunteer board members are charged with overseeing operations and making critical decisions regarding services to meet basic needs, special programs, governance, and financial performance.

Amanda Kiesewetter returns to GOLD's Board, elected to serve as Treasurer, after previously serving from June 2014 to July 2017. Amanda, a licensed CPA, Certified Financial Planner, and Personal Financial Specialist (designated by the AICPA) is employed at Bergey & Company, P.A. in Berlin. She is a member of the AICPA, the MACPA, and the Maryland Society of Accounts.

Caleb Miller is the Branch Manager / Business Development Officer for Bank of Ocean City, Ocean Pines Branch. He is skilled in financial services, lending, sales, marketing, management, and merchant services.

Caleb is a firefighter and the treasurer for the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department and the chairman of the Friends of Bishopville.

Nicole Selby, Worcester County Board of Education's Coordinator of Student, Family, and Community Connections, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge regarding needs and issues of the youth of Worcester County to GOLD's Board. She has worked to provide over 19 years of service in this field including her recent position as case management specialist supervisor for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Worcester County Division.

The dedication of GOLD's Board members, and their willingness and ability to share their expertise from diverse fields, helps to ensure effective services for the Worcester County community.

Craft club to meet

The Pine'er Craft Club will meet November 21 beginning at 9:45 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The November project is beach-themed ornaments. The cost is \$6 each.

Get into the holiday spirit decorating ornaments with beach themed embellishments. The ornaments are already covered with colored sand, just waiting for your creative touch.

Call Carol Quinto at 410-208-4317 to reserve your ornament. All are welcome.

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

Call 410-629-5906

Ocean Pines Chamber continues to move ahead

By **Kerrie Bunting**
President/CEO OP Chamber

I think I must have blinked. Where did 2019 go? I believe I made it to the beach at least once or twice. When you are young, time seems to stand still but the older you get it grows longer and longer wings. Here we are staring down 2020.

The end of the year is when the chamber evaluates the budget, plans for the next year, discusses what worked and what didn't. But before we let 2019 slip away, we must rejoice in some tremendous achievements. That leads us to our annual Director Installation and Award Banquet.

On November 14, at Ocean Downs, we will be celebrating the best of our best and remembering one impossible to forget. Our area is very fortunate in that so many of our business and organization leaders are fully invested in the success of our community as a whole. They donate their time, money and efforts to support each other and those in need. But, some years, some shine a bit brighter.

Our selection for our 2019 Business of the Year was way too easy. Anyone paying half of an attention would know that the Matt Ortt Companies, LLC jumped into the Ocean Pines Yacht Club head on and never lost momentum. Suffering from years of an unfortunate reputation, the Yacht Club needed physical, culinary, financial and training assistance. Matt Ortt and his crew turned that reputation around within the year. He so impressed the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, that they asked him to sign a multiyear management contract! For bringing life back to the Pines' social center, we honor Matt and his staff.

Anyone who had anything to do with the OPA 50th Anniversary year-long celebration, knows about Jennifer Cropper-Rines. Unanimously nominated by the anniversary committee, Jennifer exuded excellence and dedication through every aspect of the year. As the chairperson of the Ocean Pines Communication Committee, she

*please see **chamber** page 11*

Introducing... Dr. Jason Smith

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Oktoberbeast

Last month provided a couple really challenging days for the lingering fall boater. On October 10 and 11, we experienced a Nor'easter that gave us small craft advisories and three really high tides that made Ocean Pines look like Venice.

Then on October 17, we were slammed by gale force winds with gusts to 40-45 mph and another easy call by NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, to post small craft advisories. Both events were the result of big storms passing hundreds of miles from Ocean City well out in the Atlantic.

In reality, they were pretty nominal for this time of year. They won't be remembered like Sandy or Katrina. In fact, they won't even be remembered as long as Ocean City's unauthorized H2O happening but they do deserve to be better understood so that we can strive to be better watermen.

To start with, the wind is a pretty ubiquitous happenstance. Basically, it's caused by air at high pressure moving toward an area where the air is at a lower

pressure in a constant pursuit of equilibrium. Air develops a high or low pressure generally by being heated or cooled by the sun. Since land and water heat and cool at differed rates, highs and lows develop and then are generally pushed around by upper atmospheric winds.

The October 10 and 11 weather saw strong on shore winds coming off low pressure cells. 'On shore' means they were coming from the sea. 'Strong' is a relative term. In this case, strong meant constant wind speeds in the 25-38 mph range with higher gusts. Because of the onshore direction and intensity, the wind kept the water in the bay from egressing at low tide and enabled even more water to 'surge' into the bay at high tides.

'Surge' is the buildup of a pile of water also being pushed by the wind. That's almost the same simplistic definition of a wave. The difference is the source. Surface waves are created and dissipate very quickly by the friction of the wind with the water surface. In a dead calm, the water is flat. In a gentle breeze, small ripples appear. As the wind builds, the surface waves get bigger.

Surge, on the other hand, is created under an atmospheric low-pressure event. The ocean is sucked up in the relative vacuum of the low pressure into a mound. This mound then runs away

from the low-pressure storm event and approaches the shore. Think of it as the ripples you see coming off a pebble that you drop into a pond. These ripples are independent of the wind driven waves that may also be present on the pond. When a storm surge arrives at the shore, it behaves like a huge, slow moving wave that pushes inland until it runs out of water and energy to go any farther.

On October 10 and 11, after two days of pounding, the bottled-up water in the bays and St. Martin River came over the bulkheads at three consecutive high tides. Once the wind subsided, gravity drained the pent-up water back into the sea much

waves in Isle of Wight Bay. Wave height is the measured distance from the trough, the low point between two waves and the crest, the peak of the waves. An easy way to measure this is to observe a piling. Make a mental note of how much of it is exposed at the lowest point between two passing waves. Then make a similar note of how high the passing wave comes up the piling. The difference is the wave height.

The October 17 weather caused NOAA to issue gale warnings and small craft advisories but the duration was relatively short and the direction of the wind was from the west, an off shore breeze. Therefore, the surge did not gather momentum and the water levels did not get a chance to build up in the bays over a period of several tidal circuits. In fact, the bays and beaches experienced levels below the predicted astronomical low tides – the theoretical highs and lows that are published on tide charts – because the wind was blowing the water off shore.

So, what have we learned? Wind is the controlling factor. It causes waves and it pushes surges. This is the crux of the NOAA's Small Craft Advisory which is issued when "sustained winds or frequent gusts between 25-33 knots ... and/or seas or waves five- to seven-feet and greater" exist or are predicted within the next 12 to 24 hours. "Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions." ... "Any vessel that may be adversely affected by Small Craft Advisory criteria should be considered a small craft."

In my own naiveté, I took my 20-foot pontoon boat out under small craft advisories. I didn't get out of the Ocean Pines channels and was back on my lift in 20 minutes. Lesson learned. Hopefully, I am becoming a better waterman.

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



like the retreat of a surf wave on the beach, only in slow motion.

The second event had even higher wind speeds but did not produce the same storm surge. Why? Surge behaves like a big, slow moving wave. Its size is a function of the wind's fetch, duration, intensity and direction. And its impact is greatest if its arrival coincides with a high tide. Fetch is how far the winds traveled across the open water – the longer the greater impact. Duration is how long the winds have been blowing – the longer the greater impact. Intensity is how strong they are blowing – the faster the better. And finally, there is the direction.

In the case of the October 17 weather, the wind was so strong we had three-foot

**The LORD will surely save me
So we will play my songs on
stringed instruments Isaiah 38:20**



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Field learning - First graders at Ocean City Elementary took a field trip to Wright's Market on November 1. They learned about the process of growing corn, pumpkins, and many other fruits and vegetables. They also learned about the different animals that live on the family farm which included goats and a bull named Zorro. Pictured are some students from Danielle Marshall's class.

Prayer Gathering scheduled

Reserve your spot for Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Anglican located at 11021 Worcester Highway in Berlin. Lunch is complimentary and child care is \$5.

If you are a woman who has a heart for prayer or want to learn more about it, come together with others to hear how your personal smaller story fits into God's larger story.

Worship Leader Connie Lindley brings her music to set the tone of praise while author Sara Lewis will share a teaching on your personal script as a part of God's epic tale. You will also have time to pray with others and hear other smaller Bible stories and how they impacted the whole of His Story.

Reservations are required. Call Sara at 443.235.5675 or email sara@calledtopraybooks.com.

Thunderbirds to headline air show

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline next summer's OC Air Show when it returns to the beaches and boardwalk of Ocean City on June 13-14.

they will perform in Ocean City, returning after a two-year absence.

The event will offer three VIP viewing venues, the Penthouse, Skybox and Flight Line Club beach

viewing experience, as well as a premium viewing area on the beach called the Drop Zone where spectators can enjoy the show with professional narration, music, food, beverage and on-site comfort facilities. The Drop Zone

is also limited in capacity to ensure a better viewing experience.

For more information about the 2020 OC Air Show, please visit <https://ocairshow.com/> or follow the show on Facebook to be the first to know about every new performer announcement leading up to the show in June.



VIP and Premium Viewing tickets are now on sale and attendees can save 40 percent off the event day price.

The show will also feature some of North America's premier military and civilian performers including the GEICO Skytypers, who just made an early announcement that

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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

How to care for wild birds this winter

The arrival of winter forces everyone to confront the changes synonymous with the season, and local wildlife is no exception. Low temperatures, harsh winter storms and a scarcity of food can make it challenging for wildlife, including birds, to thrive throughout the winter.



Even though several species of birds are migratory and travel to warmer climates to wait out winter, many others stay put. The Audubon Society says that keeping close to home helps some species of birds maintain their territories.

Some birds will puff up to retain heat; others will seek shelter in dense foliage or cavities to avoid the elements. Many birds will huddle together to share warmth.

Another way of keeping warm is building up fat as an insulator and energy source. The Audubon Society says more than 10 percent of some birds' winter body weight may be fat. That can be challenging to maintain when

common sources of food, such as insects and berries, disappear as winter wears on. This is when some human intervention can prove handy, advise ornithologists. A few simple efforts may benefit birds and other wildlife that may not hibernate winter away or escape to the tropics.

Have a supply of food, bird feeders, houses, and any other bird-related gear at the ready before the storms really rev up.

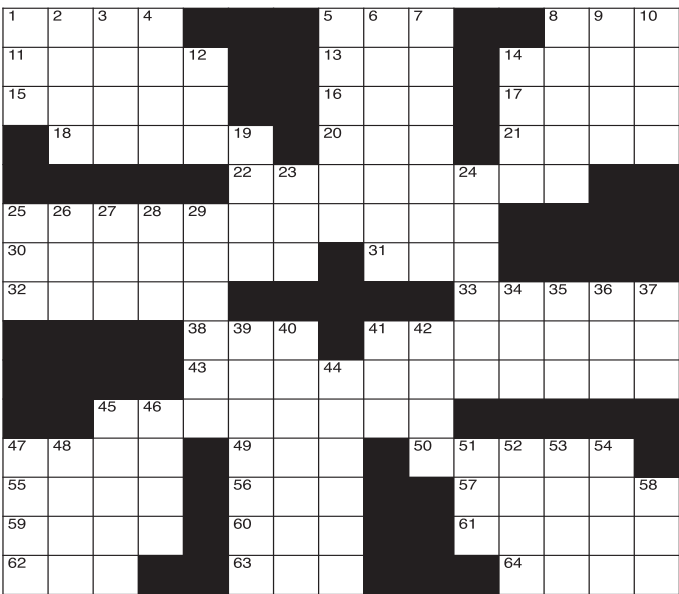
Invest in nutritious food, such as black oil sunflower seeds or blends that are high in black oil sunflower seeds. You also can make available more foods that are high in fat, such as suet, peanut butter or even whole peanuts. Mother Nature Network also suggests adding meal worms if they can be found.

Choose feeders that will keep seed dry; otherwise, it will be prone to bacterial and fungal growth.

Don't discard fallen leaves or any downed twigs or pruned boughs from trees. This will give birds material for creating shelter or hiding away when the weather gets especially brutal. When the Christmas tree is finished for the season, place it in the yard as a windbreak for birds.

Put shallow water sources around so birds can drink. Replace them frequently if water freezes.

Wild birds can benefit from some help when the temperatures start to drop in winter.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Shelter for pigeons

5. Popular lit genre __-fi

8. Used to harvest agave

11. Wintertime accessory

13. "Gandalf" actor McKellen

14. Taxis

15. Political plot

16. Public television

17. Nigerian ethnic group

18. Informal loan clubs

20. "Wheel of Fortune" host

21. C C C

22. North, South and Central make them up

25. In an early way

30. Lied down in rest

31. Female hip-hop trio

32. Improves

33. Genus of mackerel sharks
38. Electronic countermeasures

41. Emerging

43. Balkan body of water

45. A type of delivery

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Title given to a monk

50. Partner to "oohed"

55. "Luther" actor Idris

56. Supporting pin (nautical)

57. Golden peas plant

59. One point north of northeast

60. Unit of measurement

61. Where clothes hang

62. Opposite of night

63. A way to change color

64. Korean independence proponent Syngman

CLUES DOWN

1. Reciprocal of sine

2. Political organization

3. Defunct funk record label

4. Geological times

5. One who drinks slowly

6. Nightclub entertainment

7. Establish in one's mind

8. Restaurants

9. Off-Broadway theater award

10. Requests

12. You don't watch to catch it

14. Intestinal pouches

19. Satisfy

23. Wet dirt

24. Regularly repeated

25. Before

26. The color of Valentine's Day

27. Indicates near

28. Bon __ : witty remark

29. One's holdings
34. Request

35. Prefix meaning "badly"

36. Midway between north and northeast

37. Ottoman military title

39. Teased

40. Happily

41. Pie __ mode

42. Mars crater

44. Sports TV personality

45. Taxi driver

46. Abba __, Israeli politician

47. The sick are sometimes on it

48. Relating to olives

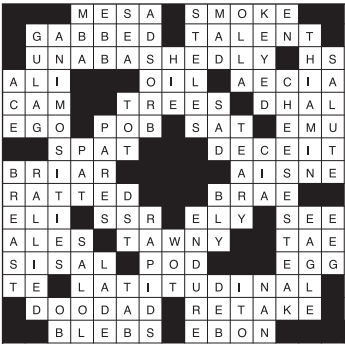
51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. A way to engrave

54. Where Coach K. works

58. Midway between south and southeast



Answers for November 6

We're about birds and much more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 16: Scales & Tales presents the Hawks at 1 p.m.

Nov. 21: Wine & Cheese get together 5-7 pm

Dec 7: Holiday Open House

OPEN Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

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Library to host Ricky Nelson program

Already famous as the wisecracking younger brother on “The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet,” Ricky Nelson found his voice as one of the nation’s first rock ‘n’ roll stars, singing up-tempo numbers as well as dreamy eyed ballads on his family’s sitcom. Nelson’s teen-idol years, plus his latter career as a country-rock pioneer, will be the subject of a presentation on Thursday, November 14, at the Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library. The event starts at 2 p.m.

After “Life” magazine dubbed Nelson a “teenage idol” in 1958 cover story, he went on to record a single, “Teenage Idol,” to accompany his other hits, including “I’m Walkin’,” “Hello, Mary Lou,” and “Travelin’ Man.” Nelson’s wholesome image on “Ozzie & Harriet” helped bring the rebellious genres of rockabilly and rock ‘n’ roll into the mainstream.

His career faltered during the mid-1960s, but Nelson earned respect among his peers for going his own way by the end of the decade, becoming part of California’s burgeoning country-rock scene. His 1972 hit, “Garden Party,” conveyed his frustration with being accepted as a contemporary performer and not a nostalgia act.

Nelson was playing a mix of old and

new songs by the end of his life, which ended tragically when he was killed in a plane crash that also took the lives of his fiancée and fellow band members on December 31, 1985.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th	14	Low	2:11 AM	6:41 AM
	14	High	8:48 AM	4:49 PM
	14	Low	2:58 PM	
	14	High	9:07 PM	
F	15	Low	2:52 AM	6:42 AM
	15	High	9:31 AM	4:48 PM
	15	Low	3:44 PM	
	15	High	9:51 PM	
Sa	16	Low	3:36 AM	6:43 AM
	16	High	10:17 AM	4:47 PM
	16	Low	4:34 PM	
	16	High	10:38 PM	
Su	17	Low	4:26 AM	6:44 AM
	17	High	11:06 AM	4:47 PM
	17	Low	5:28 PM	
	17	High	11:30 PM	
M	18	Low	5:23 AM	6:45 AM
	18	High	12:00 PM	4:46 PM
	18	Low	6:25 PM	
Tu	19	High	12:29 AM	6:46 AM
	19	Low	6:25 AM	4:45 PM
	19	High	1:00 PM	
	19	Low	7:24 PM	
W	20	High	1:34 AM	6:47 AM
	20	Low	7:31 AM	4:45 PM
	20	High	2:04 PM	
	20	Low	8:21 PM	



A little mushy - First grader, **Dylan Eisemann**, getting messy with a pumpkin to pull out seeds for making a group of ten

chamber
from page 7

tirelessly volunteers to make sure that OP residents and visitors stay informed of vital information. Thank you, Jennifer, for your commitment and efforts to keep our community informed and united. You are truly deserving as our Citizen of the Year.

We didn’t ponder too long once Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services was nominated as our Non-Profit of the Year. Founded in 1975, this organization has assisted thousands of children and families in need of counseling, education, assistance and support. Helping to strengthen family bonds and ensure children stay on the right path, these dedicated, compassionate people only serve to make our community better through our citizens. Quietly, and often unrecognized, the Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services staff changes lives. We appreciate their efforts, support their mission and commend them as our 2019 Non-Profit of the Year.

All of this greatness leads us to the incomparable, unforgettable, Energizer Bunny of the Pines, our beloved

Anna Foultz. Her untimely passing has left many with a hole in their hearts. A character to end all characters, Anna lived life to the fullest but did not live it for herself. Her mission in life was to do for others and that she did. When you saw her coming, you just handed her your wallet, knowing that another worthy cause was about to be introduced to you. Dubbed “The Nation’s Oldest Living Girl Scout” before her passing at the age of 93, she exemplified patriotism, respect and duty. Her recently published memoir, “Two Steps Forward,” is rumored to become a movie. A lasting tribute to a beautiful lady. Posthumously presenting her with a Lifetime Achievement Award was a no brainer. Let her charitable nature live on in those who knew her and make sure to take as many photos as you can along the way!

We will present these awards and a few others the evening of November 14 at Ocean Downs beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are still available and are \$60. Go to OceanPinesChamber.org and look under the events tab. We hope you can join us in celebrating Ocean Pine’s best of the best.

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All Italian Dinners are half price 5PM - 9PM*

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MBS hosts steel pan drum artist

On October 28-30, Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School (MBS) welcomed Kevin Martin, local steel pan drum musician, instrument maker and MBS parent, for an artist in residence visit. Martin has served as an artist in residence in many schools across the state of Maryland. During his time with us, Mr. Martin taught our students the art of playing steel pan drums, as well as the process for their design and creation. Mr. Martin has built a set of steel pan drums that he will be donating to our school. Our advanced art students have designed paintings that will be applied to the drums.

Martin taught students in grades three through five a song, conductor cues and music appreciation vocabulary words. There was a true sense of accomplishment among students on the last day as they performed their songs. MBS is thankful to Mr. Martin for sharing his knowledge with our school community.

As a STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts integration and mathematics) school, we emphasize the intellectual, spiritual and

physical development of every child. Project-based educational experiences like this are invaluable to our students.

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School serves students in pre-K 3



through eighth grade school and is located at 11242 Racetrack Rd., Berlin, MD 21811. For information about admissions, please contact Mrs. Amanda Evans, Director of Admissions and Advancement, at 410-208-1600.



Hats off - Ocean City Elementary School held its annual Heavenly Hats Spirit Day on October 25. For just a \$1 donation, students and teachers had the privilege of wearing their favorite hats to school to positively impact the lives of those suffering from cancer. That afternoon, the entire school enjoyed a hat parade outdoors. Ocean City Elementary's Heavenly Hats Spirit Day raised \$494.75. Since 2001, the Heavenly Hats Foundation has donated more than 3,200,000 hats to hundreds of hospitals and clinics across the country. These special hats will provide warmth, comfort, courage, strength and a lot of smiles to Hat Heroes near and far.

Above: Third grade students **Rachel Williams** and **Kaia James**.

AGH to host job fair

Atlantic General Hospital has announced that it will hold a job fair on Thursday, November 21, to help fill open positions in the hospital as well as its health system of physician offices. The fair will occur in the Atlantic General Hospital main lobby between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Positions available include registered nurses, certified nursing assis-

tant, certified nursing techs, medical receptionists, medical assistants, surgical techs, and certified coding specialist among others. On-site interviews will be held throughout the fair.

For more information, contact Atlantic General Hospital Human Resources, at 410-641-9612 or visit www.agh.care/careers.

Cancer event is Friday

There will be a Crop Out Cancer event on Friday, November 15 in the Grand Ballroom at the Grand Hotel on 21st street in Ocean City from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For a \$40 donation to the American Cancer Society, you can bring your scrapbooking (or crafting supplies) and spend a day of uninterrupted crafting. There will be a Silent Auction, 50/50 and special door prizes and gifts for this event. Call 443-235-2926 for more information.

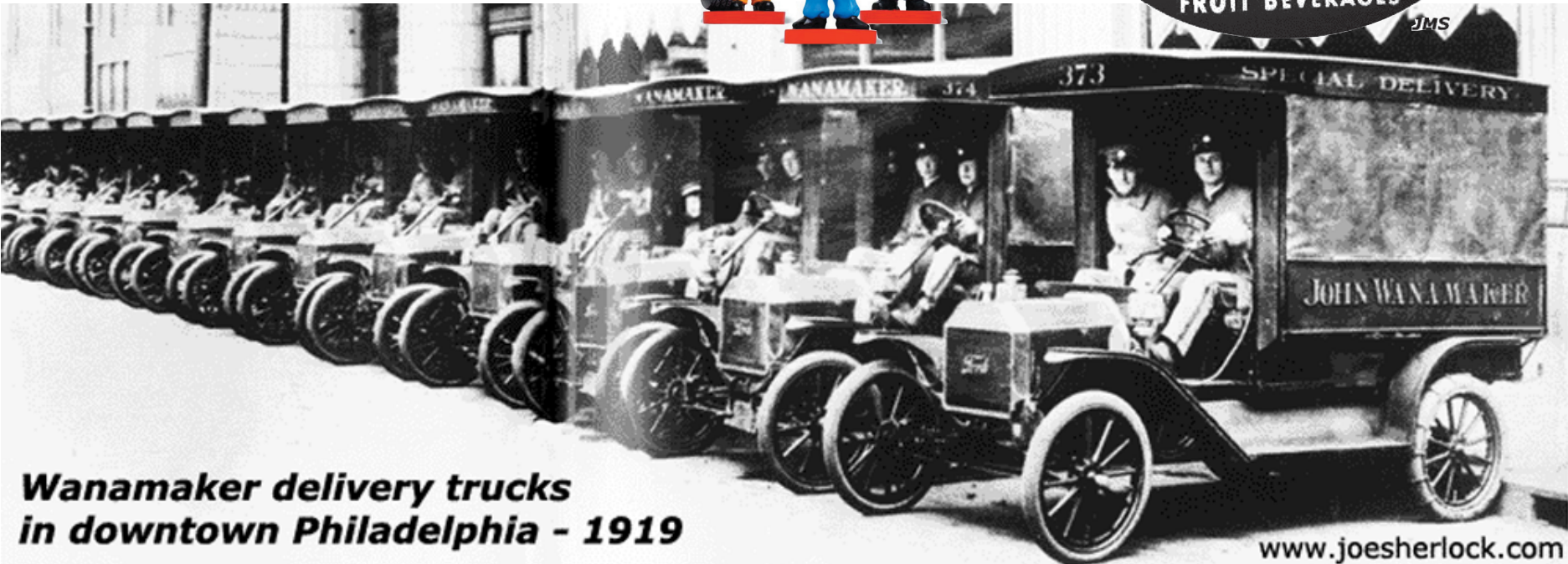


The Courier has a NEW PHONE NUMBER:

410-629-5906

Remembering Philadelphia past

Courier reader Barbara Loffler shared these historical Philadelphia photographs. What memories do they conjur up for you?



**Wanamaker delivery trucks
in downtown Philadelphia - 1919**

kirwan

from page 4

jective at the Commission's inception. Rather than address and fix the inequities of the MOE formula suffered by Worcester and other counties, the Kirwan Commission recommendations bake the inequities into funding projections going forward, thus ensuring no relief for Worcester County taxpayers. That is not right.

Just a quick mention about school construction. State school construction funding for Worcester County does not come close to the average 50%/50%, state to local funding ratio articulated by Dr. Kirwan at a recent Wor-Wic Community College presentation. For example, the state's financial contribution to the new Showell Elementary School currently under construction is just about 19%, with the balance resting squarely on the shoulders of county taxpayers.

A planned \$10 million addition to Stephen Decatur Middle School, will receive only about \$400,000 in state

funding, about 4%, far below the 50%/50% partnership that state officials regularly proclaim.

At Wor-Wic, Dr. Kirwan was asked whether state education funding could be impacted during slow economic periods. He answered that he believed that in such circumstances, state funding could ease up. His answer raises a red flag.

What impact would there be on the county during slow economic times should the state ease up on its financial commitment to education funding? Would reduced state funding be transferred to counties to bridge the funding gap? This ambiguity is troublesome because during the most recent lengthy economic downturn, state Highway User allocations to counties were slashed dramatically, never to return fully. That is just one example of the state cutting local funding and/or foisting state budget items to the counties.

Would Worcester and other counties be susceptible to unfunded mandates?

The financial impact of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations on Worcester County are jarring:

-Mandated increased local spending despite the fact Worcester is already investing more per student than any other district.

-No adjustment to the MOE formula to ensure state education allocations are fairly distributed.

-No flexibility for Worcester and other school districts to apply Kirwan recommendations in ways that make sense for local conditions. One size does not fit all. Worcester County is not Baltimore City.

Should the county be forced to fund at the increased levels stipulated by Kirwan, the money will have to come from other parts of the county budget, either in increased taxes and/or cuts to other services.

Because of the cooperative relationship between the Worcester County Commissioners and the Board of Education, a relationship that can be counted in decades, Worcester County public schools regularly attain

high levels of student achievement and facility care. School facilities are maintained at a high level, ensuring that more than 6,600 students have an excellent learning environment. County taxpayers have allocated and continue to allocate money to ensure that schools and classrooms are maintained. In short, disciplined maintenance plans have positively impacted our schools and students. The same cannot be said for other jurisdictions that receive far higher levels of state financial assistance.

In short – county taxpayers invest more per student than any other jurisdiction in the state and county taxpayers maintain our school facilities at an exceptionally high level without the benefit of a fair state education funding partnership. And the Kirwan recommendations, if adopted in their current form, would deepen the disparity between what is fair and what is not.

Soon the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission will move

please see kirwan page 15

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kirwan

from page 14

through the legislative process. It will become caught up in the swirl of political influences.

None of us knows whether the recommendations made by Kirwan will become law. We don't know what form it will take once the bill is debated in the House of Delegates and

meeting

from page 3

ing to the new Northstar financial systems. Again, the motion received unanimous approval.

Daly also added a discussion item based on several proposed resolution amendments designed to streamline the process of compliance, permit and inspections (also known as CPI) violations.

After a dialog with Board colleagues, Daly agreed to send feedback on the changes from the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee to Parks, who will send them to Ocean Pines' attorney for feedback. The Directors will revisit the issue during a later meeting and after the attorney review.

Board members then voted 7-0 on two committee appointments: Jeff Knepper to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee (second term) and Gary Miller to the Clubs Committee (second term).

To view a video of the meeting, visit <https://youtu.be/8Eztq1bjXg4>.

opa

from page 1

we thought."

Donahue said the Association hopes to schedule a walkthrough the following week, with Ocean Pines Public Works then pitching in on some final additions. She said Public Works would also help in the move from the old to the new building, after the holidays.

"We want to give you time to get through the holidays with your store open, and then still have time to pack it all up," Donahue said. "We are looking for demolition on this [old] building by the end of January."

Along with the fast turnaround, Donahue said the Ocean Pines used several cost-savings measures to help lower the overall price. Local business Sea Floor donating the flooring for the interior, and the Association salvaged

the Maryland Senate. We don't know what deals will be made for or by state representatives of much larger jurisdictions to attract their votes to ensure passage. We don't know whether Worcester County taxpayers will be treated fairly. We don't know whether the Governor will sign a final version of the bill.

What we do know, is that regardless of what happens in Annapolis, Worcester County will do what it has always done – work together to ensure that we continue to provide students an exceptional education experience based on individual student needs, opportunities and county resources.

reynolds

from page 4

Perrone assures association members they should have no concerns. "The discussion seems to be [that] this money could be used for some grandiose project. If you look at the numbers we're talking about, that's impractical at this point ... \$500,000 is a lot of money, but we're not going to build a bowling alley or a parking garage for \$500,000," he said.

Are you reassured that Perrone and this board will not build a bowling alley? Don't be conned. The simple fact is that neither Perrone, or any board member, or any association member have a clue about what this new \$1 million slush fund will finance. It will be used to fund any new project, grandiose or otherwise, desired by any four board members.

several newer components of the former Tern Grille for the Craft Club, including a new HVAC unit and windows and doors.

"That saved a pretty good amount of money there," Donahue said.

Additionally, Donahue said Craft Club members Sharon Puser and Carol Quino volunteered to refurbish some of the interiors from the current building, for use in the new one.

Quinto said the plan was to move quickly, ideally in less than a week, so the club doesn't miss a full weekend of sales.

"We are absolutely thrilled with his," Quinto said. "Our customers are happy, our crafters, our vendors ... we're all just very happy and very grateful."

"That building is 52 years old. It won't be the same to have our own heat and air!" she added with a laugh.

financial

from page 1

Viola said it was notable that, while revenues are more than \$460,000 ahead of budget on the year, expenses were lower than budget by more than \$56,000.

"That's a big one to me," he said. "It shows that we're not just doing better on the amenities."

Showing year-over-year improvements are General Administration (\$142,000), Public Works (\$120,000), the Yacht Club (\$86,000), Aquatics (\$60,000), Recreation and Parks (\$50,000), Marinas (\$26,000), the Beach Club (\$12,000), Tern Grille (\$10,000), New Capital (\$5,000), Golf (\$4,000) and Finance (\$3,000).

Viola cautioned that, while the Association is well ahead now, those numbers would likely come down slightly by the end of the year.

"The next seven months, obviously we have a lot of operating expenses and our amenities more or less start to slow down," he said. "The rest of the year we usually are funding departments, so it will probably come in a little lower than the \$500,000."

Viola added any remaining end-of-year surplus would "go against the deficit and help the assessment."

Treasurer Larry Perrone said the Association as of Sept. 30 had \$10.2 million in reserves, including \$6.3 million in replacement reserves, \$2.6 million in bulkheads, and \$1.3 million in roads. The forecast, by April 30, 2020, is for total reserves to dip to \$5.69 million, because of several major maintenance and replacement projects underway.

"That is a soft number, because I know John's going to bring these projects in under budget -- no pressure -- so that number should be a little higher," Perrone said.

Supplying a "dashboard report," Operations Director Colby Phillips said the Association is working on nearly \$500,000 in drainage improve-

ments, including pipe replacements at Watertown Road and Borderlinks, and other projects near Boston Drive and Mumford's Landing.

"Right now, we are continuing to clean out the ditches in the community," Phillips said. "We're starting on the south end of Ocean Parkway and working our way north, and [at] every intersection we're clearing back the brush and cleaning that out, because



Operations Director **Colby Phillips** and General Manager **John Viola**

we've gotten a lot of people reaching out to us [with reports of issues]."

Phillips said Ocean Pines officials recently met with representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Department of the Environment, and University of Maryland Extension office to talk about funding for more drainage enhancements.

"They look for ways to provide solutions for the community issues that we're having on water, drainage [and] stormwater," she said. "It was a very productive meeting."

Phillips said there was talk of expanding Bainbridge Pond to increase the capacity there and lesson flooding in neighboring areas. State officials also recommended planting vegetation along Wood Duck Park to help absorb more water.

"This is an early stage ... but everybody was really positive," she said.

Phillips said a community workshop on flooding issues and things "that homeowners can do to help protect their property" is also in the works.

"We're going to be looking to offer those workshops after the first of the year," she said.

Phillips also briefly highlighted the restarted bulkhead replacement program, which now includes three contractors working in various areas.

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