

## OPA budget process moves forward, assessment reduced

General Manager John Viola last Wednesday said three days of Budget and Finance Committee deliberations kept the proposed fiscal year 2020/2021 assessment lower than the current year, at \$981.

Viola publicly introduced the proposed budget just days earlier, during a January 4 board meeting.

At that time, he offered a budget reconciliation, comparing his \$978 figure to the 2019 assessment of \$986.

According to Viola, positive numbers from amenities (\$26) and other Association departments (\$23) would help lower the assessment.

He subtracted another \$30 from the annual charge by waiving the operating deficit recovery begun last year. Instead, he proposed to use the current year budget surplus to help offset part of the remaining deficit.

Viola said salary adjustments, based on the recent compensation study by New York based firm Sibson Consulting, would add \$30 to the assessment, including \$7 per homeowner for market adjustments, \$9 for mandatory minimum wage increases, \$9 for a cost-of-living adjustment, and \$5 for merit raises.

Increased medical costs would add another \$9, plus \$13 for depreciation and \$19 for the restored bulkhead re-

serve contribution, Viola said.

Budget and Finance Committee members on January 6 through January 8 met with Viola and Ocean Pines staff to discuss the proposed fiscal 2020/2021 budget on a department by department basis.

Over the three days, that included presentations by Director of Finance and Operational Logistics Steve Phillips, Public Relations Coordinator Julie Malinowski, General Manager of Golf Operations and Maintenance John Malinowski, Public Works Director Eddie Wells, Recreation and Parks Manager Debbie Donahue, Marina Manager Ron Fisher, Police Chief David Massey, and Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips. Additionally, the Ocean Pines Fire Department was represented by President Dave VanGasbeck and Fire Chief Steve Gunewald.

Committee recommendations affecting the annual charge included an assessment holiday for Ocean Pines Fire Department volunteers and a 5% 401k contribution for Ocean Pines Police officers.

Viola, in closing out the sessions on Wednesday, said the Association crafted the proposed budget using a “bottom’s up” approach, meaning the

*please see opa page 14*



### Volunteer of the Month

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines- Ocean City awards monthly “Volunteer of the Month” Certificates of Appreciation. Pictured (L-R) are **Dave Landis** receiving a certificate from Kiwanis Club President **Roy Foreman**. Landis is the Media Public Relations Chair for the club and he, with the help of his wife Rita, chaired the Annual Toy Drive, donating the toys to Worcester G.O.L.D. for distribution in December.

## ‘Penguins’ brave the cold

It was a bright sunny New Year’s Day, and participants hardly even hesitated to jump into the 47-degree ocean for the 2020 Penguin Swim. Although it was held in the middle of the week, the event proved to be successful yet again, with the participation of more than 700 penguins.

“It was a warm and wonderful day to hold our 26th Annual Penguin Swim,” said Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital, and also an annual participant. “It’s always great to join com-

munity members and visitors in supporting one of the most important assets in our community. The swim is a fun and unique way to kick off the New Year.”

Again this year Legacy Sponsor and Emperor Penguin team, Bull on the Beach, paraded down the beach with a giant penguin float that stood out amongst the crowd, stopping briefly for a wedding cere-



mony along the way. The newlyweds began married life with a splash as they joined the rest of the swimmers in the icy cold water.

The success of the event is due, in great part, to AGH Foundation’s staff, the Penguin Swim committee, and event co-chairs Michael Cyle and Phillip Cheung, who devoted a great deal of their time and energy leading up to New Year’s Day. The support of local residents and resort visitors Atlantic General Hospital serves, as well as the many

AGH/HS associates and community volunteers played a large role in the event’s success.

Not all arrived as penguins; this year’s crowd was decked out in all kinds of costumes including the Saved by the Bell cast members, Frosty the Snowman and even a pair of flip flops!

The 2020 Penguin Swim has raised a preliminary gross amount of \$89,063 for the not-for-profit hospital, but that number may increase as final donations make their way to the AGH Foundation.



# A Time To Remember

On this day in 1981, *Hill Street Blues*, television's landmark cops-and-robbers drama, debuted on NBC. When the series first appeared, the police show had largely been given up for dead. Critics savaged stodgy and moralistic melodramas, and scoffed at lighter fare like *Starsky and Hutch*. Created by Steven Bochco and Michael Kozoll, *Hill Street Blues* invigorated television, paving the way for more realistic and gritty fare.

*Hill Street Blues* was set in an anonymous northern city (the exteriors were actually filmed in Chicago) and was the first real attempt by television to portray police officers as fallible human beings. Each episode began with the 7 a.m. roll call led by Sergeant Esterhaus. He closed the roll call with his trademark refrain, "Let's be careful out there."



## Veteran Valentine card program returns

Start the year off by thanking a veteran with a Valentine card that says thank you for your service. For the 18th year, cards will be sent to four veteran rehab medical centers to thank them for their sacrifices and to let them know they are loved, appreciated, and not forgotten. All area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to participate with purchased cards (no youth cards, please), but home-made cards are particularly appreciated. No postage is necessary. Cards are to be addressed to "A Veteran." Through the generosity of Linda Dearing and the Copy Central staff, the cards, plus some candy, will be delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Perry Point Hospital. Drop off locations are: Shamrock Realty Group, 11049 Racetrack Rd, Ocean Pines; Copy Central, Cathell Rd., Ocean Pines; the Ocean Pines library, the Ocean Pines Community Center and Recreation and Parks building, and other locations as they become available. The deadline is Friday, January 31. For more information, call 410-208-9390 or email at ultimateenergy@verizon.net. This project is sponsored by Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County.

## NAACP to meet

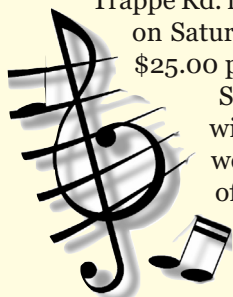
The Worcester County NAACP will host their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 16 at the MAC Senior Center located at 10129 Old Ocean City Rd. in Berlin. The Executive board meeting is at 6 p.m. with the guest speaker, James Jones beginning at 6:45 p.m. Jones is recruiting people to help with the census reporting for Worcester and Wicomico counties. Interested applicants can earn \$18 per hour with the census. Phone 410-213-1956 for additional information.

## Jazz evening planned

Germantown School Community Heritage Center located at 10223 Trappe Rd. in Berlin will present "An Evening of Jazz and Blues" on Saturday, January 18 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person.

Singer and saxophonist performer Everett A. Spells, will be the evening's entertainment. Spells has a wealth of experience in performing for a wide range of audiences along the East Coast, both individually and with other musicians.

Phone 410-641-0638 for tickets.



# Community Calendar JANUARY

## 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

### Quilting Club

Quilters by the Sea meets most Wednesdays at the Ocean Pines Community Center. First Wednesday of the month is Volunteer Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the group sew or tie quilts for charity. The second and fourth Wednesdays are free sewing or workshops from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The third Wednesday of the month is the business meeting, followed by Show & Tell, from noon to 3 p.m. Open to the public.

### 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.

## County offers Christmas tree recycling

The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County will host its annual collection of Christmas trees through January 31. Area residents can drop off Christmas trees at the Central Landfill in Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost.

Businesses and organizations that sold trees will not be permitted to drop off trees at the convenience centers, but may take them to the Central Landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed.

The trees will be ground into mulch for use at the Central Landfill. Remember, you can make a difference by recycling. For more info, contact Recycling Manager Mike McClung at 410-632-3177.



## Watertown Road closed for drainage improvements

On Monday, a planned drainage pipe replacement closed portions of Watertown Road to through traffic for two weeks.

Murtech Marine Division of Salisbury will handle the work at an estimated cost of about \$100,000. The project is part of the drainage improvement plan included in the current fiscal year budget.

Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said the replacement should help enhance the flow of water in the area. She will hand deliver letters to each home affected by the closure.

“We have been working to improve some of our older drainage pipes, and this one is over 40 years old and has been deteriorating,” she said. “It will be replaced with an ADS pipe (poly), which will be a better quality for more longevity. The catch basins will also be replaced.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience that may be affected by this road closure for this important issue,” Phillips added.

For questions about the project, contact Phillips at [cphillips@ocean-pines.org](mailto:cphillips@ocean-pines.org).

## B&F Committee budget review online; more budget meetings scheduled

The January 6 Budget and Finance Committee review of the proposed fiscal 2020/2021 budget is available online.

Committee members, General Manager John Viola and staff discussed proposed budgets for General Administration, Finance, Public Relations, Golf, and Food and Beverage. Additionally, representatives from the Ocean Pines Fire Department supplied an overview of their budget request.

To view the meeting, visit <https://youtube/hcvbez6dO3o>.

Board members will host public budget review meetings on January 15-17, followed by publication of Viola’s recommended budget on January 24.

Key upcoming budget dates include:

February 5: Board conducts hearing on recommended budget (Public Comments accepted.)

February 11: Treasurer and General Manager provides Board with any final recommendations

February 7-14: Board provides Gen-

eral Manager with any motions to amend; General Manager calculates any assessment impact

February 18: Board hears final comments on the budget, considers any motions to amend, and then votes to adopt the final budget. (Public Comments accepted.)

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## Licensing requirements in effect for new rental licensing program

Beginning January 1, new legislation went into effect that requires those who rent or offer to rent property for sleeping accommodations to obtain a rental license from Worcester County Government (WCG).

On August 20, 2019 the County Commissioners passed Bill 19-4, which requires any person or firm who rents or offers to rent any type of real property for any time frame for sleeping accommodations, including single-family dwellings, lots for the placement of mobile homes,

### RWWC to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County will hold its January luncheon and general meeting on Thursday, January 23 at the Captains Table Restaurant at 15<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore Ave. in the Marriott Hotel in Ocean City. The guest speakers will be Pat Schrawder, representing Senator Mary Beth Carozza, and Worcester County Commissioner, Chip Bertino. They will discuss Maryland 2020 Legislative issues and Worcester County issues. The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 11 a.m. To make your reservation and/or for more information, please contact Ann Lutz at [anlutz60@gmail.com](mailto:anlutz60@gmail.com) or at 410-208-9767. Reservations are due by January 18.

recreational vehicles, or tents, to first obtain a rental license from WCG. A copy of Bill 19-4 and the adopted rental license fee schedule are available at [www.co.worcester.md.us](http://www.co.worcester.md.us) under the heading "Important Links."

Currently, Department of Development Review and Permitting (DRP) staff in conjunction with Treasurer's Office staff are finalizing the rental license application and updating WCG financial software to implement the new program requirements. Applications for a rental license are available on the Worcester County website.

For additional information, contact DRP staff at 410-632-1200.

### Pancake breakfast returns

The annual winter Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will take place Saturday, February 22 from 8 a.m. to 11a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center Assateague Room. Enjoy great food while supporting the youth of the community. The cost is adults \$7, children under 12 are \$3 and children under age 5 are free. Enjoy pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, fruit cup and coffee and tea. Carryout is also available.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, notes that it's important for parents of school-aged youngsters to familiarize themselves with the emergency response plans established by their children's schools. Such plans typically include how the school will respond if school is in session during snowstorms or natural disasters, as well as the protocol surrounding lockdown situations where children may be in danger. In such situations, knowledgeable parents who are familiar with emergency response plans and how to communicate with school officials and how those officials will disseminate information to concerned parents can help first responders and educators focus on their responses, which may involve protecting children. Knowledge of these



plans also can calm parents' nerves and reduce the likelihood that school campuses will become chaotic in the wake of potentially dangerous situations, including storms or natural disasters. In addition to learning about schools' emergency response plans, parents can discuss these plans with their children. Such discussions should emphasize the importance of following educators' instructions during both practice drills and when the plans are implemented in response to disasters or other threats.



Habitat for Humanity volunteers

## Habitat for Humanity recognizes volunteers

In December Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County held a holiday gathering at the ReStore facility in order to recognize and appreciate board members, committee members, and volunteers who serve in a regular capacity for the Habitat for Humanity affiliate and the ReStore.

Gary and Shirley German were named the ReStore Volunteers of the Year. The Germans are a true team, volunteering together two days a week since September 2018. They agree that volunteering at the ReStore is both fun and rewarding. "In retirement we have

time to do positive things and to give back to our community. It is a true joy to help and serve others." Volunteers contributed a total of 4020 hours to the ReStore in 2019.

Beach Construction owner Colleen Deptula was awarded Habitat Business Partner of the Year. Deptula took on the role of project manager for the Bishopville new home build. Her invaluable experience and kind heart helped the project run smoothly to completion.

Jim Savage was named Habitat Construction Volunteer of the Year. Savage is a foreman with Beach Construction and gave many Saturdays of his time educating and training volunteers on what needed to be done on the build site. Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County is grateful for all of the hours that volunteers committed to the Bishopville Build project, which was completed on December 19.

Habitat for Humanity is always in need of volunteers with construction experience to serve on the construction committee. In 2020 the affiliate plans to engage in critical home repairs projects. Interested volunteers should contact [volunteer@habitatworcester.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatworcester.org).

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# Say cheese!

You'll find this hard to believe I'm sure but the respect shown to me by members of my family is at times greatly wanting. I know what you're

tripod and hidden it. Despite the overt attempt at sabotage I eventually found the camera.

Given the depth of field, several test shots were necessary. Then I set the shutter action for 10 consecutive shots and the timer for as many seconds. Once set, I attempted to make my way to my place at the far end of the table. Despite the ticking timer and knowing my desire to get

the picture, as I made my way down one side of the table, several folks including my daughter and her father-in-law decided to push their chairs out as I passed. Laughter erupted as I didn't



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

thinking and I agree: how can such a nice, considerate person like me be so underappreciated and dare I say mocked by the very people he cares about most? It defies logic.

The mockery is most present when I attempt to get a group family picture using the Canon camera and tripod. Any time we're together I like to capture the event with a photo so that our descendants will have a better appreciation of their ancestors even if they can't accurately identify the one with the silver hair and big nose standing in the back. But I digress. Back to the topic at hand.

The familial lack of was on heightened display during the recent Christmas holiday.

Several days after Christmas, my wife put together a dinner that included our children and their in-laws. It's a familiar (a little too familiar) group that has gathered through the years. Because of my son's recent wedding, this year's gathering was that much more special because we were all now "officially" family. So, what better way to memorialize the event than with a family photo?

Let me set the scene for you. My wife prefers sit-down dinners so as we have done many times before, we moved the dining room table to the family room and moved the family room furniture to the dining room. A couple folding tables were set up, folding chairs were retrieved from the garage and *presto!* we had a long dining table able to accommodate 16.

Anticipating the "Kodak moment" I set up the camera on the tripod and tucked it out of the way so as not to arouse suspicion or ire, and to forestall the chorus of expected groans.

My plan was to slip away from the dinner table and retrieve the camera unobtrusively. Much to my chagrin, but to the merriment of the kids, my oldest son had removed the camera from the



quite make it to my chair when the camera shutter started clicking and the flash flared.

Okay, very funny! Now we have to do it all over again. Shutter set. Timer set. Head for my chair. I made it. Then I realized everyone was making funny gestures and faces.

Okay folks! Very funny! Have it your way! Let's do it again. Ready. Set. And just as the blinking light turned from orange to red alerting us that the shutter would fire off, my son, who was sitting closest to the camera, and my son-in-law sitting three chairs up from him near my mother-in-law, thought that was the time to, how can I write this without offending anyone? Let me just write that those series of photos exhibited a posteriorial glow.

It took a while for things to settle down after that. Tears of laughter had to be dried and some extra time was needed for the guffawing to wane.

Finally, finally, finally, an acceptable picture was snapped, a picture that I hope will be viewed happily for years to come. However, the Moon Shot will also be a part of the family record and it is that photo I suspect our descendants will enjoy more.

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## Winter turkey season to open

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the opening of the winter turkey season, which runs statewide from January 23 through 25 for hunters who did not harvest a turkey during the 2019 fall season.

Hunting hours are from one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset. The bag limit is one turkey of either sex.

“Wild turkey populations are at an all-time high in much of Maryland,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. “The winter season provides a fantastic opportunity to get outdoors after other

popular hunting seasons are winding down.”

During the winter turkey season, Maryland hunters may only use shotguns loaded with No. 4 shot or smaller, crossbows, vertical bows, or airguns that shoot arrows or bolts.

Hunters are reminded that it is illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait. Hunters are required to check in their harvest via phone at 888-800-0121, online or via the department’s mobile app.

The Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping provides information about winter turkey hunting, including season open dates and regulations.

### Grief support group relaunched

Atlantic General Hospital will be offering a free grief support group once a month beginning Wednesday, January 22.

The goal of the grief support group is to provide participants hope for the future and the skills to help find their way by providing a supportive and safe place, allowing members to share stories confidentially, and spend time with others who understand. There are no sign-ins and no special requirements to attend.

The group will meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month in Conference Room 1 at Atlantic General Hospital from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Gail Mansell at 410-641-9725 or [gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org).



**Finalists** - The top three finalists of the annual Worcester Prep School Geography Bee included: **Ryan Mann** (third place), **Hunter Simons** (first place) and **Vanessa Hall** (second place).

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The Zlotorzynski family poses in front of their new house at the home dedication ceremony.

## Habitat home dedicated

For the past year Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County has been constructing a single-family home in Bishopville. A dedication of this home for the Zlotorzynski family was held December 19.

Ashley Zlotorzynski had the opportunity to cut the ribbon on the threshold of her new house, and officially step inside as a homeowner for the first time with her four children. Welcoming the Zlotorzynski family home for the holidays were members of the Habitat Worcester staff and Board of Directors, construction partners, and volunteers. In addition to offering the family well wishes, Pastor Kyle McDaniel of Shore Community Church delivered a blessing and dedication of the new home.

Zlotorzynski was selected based on the criteria for Habitat home ownership. Zlotorzynski is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School and Worcester Community College and works as a residential counselor for an inpatient treatment facility. Ashley's husband, Neil, passed away suddenly in 2013. Zlotorzynski enrolled in a degree program and worked hard to pursue her dream career to provide for her family.

Zlotorzynski says, "I've lived in Worcester County my entire life. I love it here. I don't want to live anywhere else. Owning my first home is everything to me. It's what I want to do for my children. They've been through so much that they deserve something to call their own. It's more stability. It's a lifelong dream come true."

Construction of the new home was

made possible by Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County's key partners Beach Construction, Russell T. Hammond Surveying, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and Bank of Ocean City. More than 25 real estate and mortgage professionals who contributed donations to the Realtors Rally for Habitat, numerous in-kind sponsor partners and donors, as well as weekend construction volunteers, combined efforts to build this home for the Zlotorzynski family.

### Children's Theater to perform

The Ocean Pines Children's Theater is presenting "Legally Blonde the Musical, Jr." at the Performing Arts Center in the Ocean City Convention Center on Friday, January 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, January 18 at 3 p.m. For more information email [opchildrenstheater@yahoo.com](mailto:opchildrenstheater@yahoo.com).

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## New Year's Resolutions

Twenty – twenty: The Chinese year of the eye chart. Wow! What happened to the teens? 2010 seems only an ebb tide ago and now it's time to make some New Year's resolutions for 2020 but this year we also have the opportunity to make some new decade's resolutions as well.

We probably need long term resolutions for challenges like global warming, maritime pollution and declining fish populations but let's start with a closer horizon and set goals that we can personally achieve. What can we do in the Ocean City waters in 2020?

Here are my boating resolutions for 2020:

**Use the boat more.** It's a bitter sweet moment every year when I winterize my boat. I look at my log book and reflect on the good times of the past season but then I realize there could have been more of them. I love being out there but lazy man excuses like 'it's too windy' or 'I won't have enough time to clean her up when we get back in' often lead to missed opportunities. Life is short but the boating season is even shorter. Shove off.

**Drink more water.** I know that I am supposed to drink 12 ounces of non-alcoholic beverages every hour but I never seem to do more than 12 ounces every two or three hours. I get away with it on cool, cloudy days but I flirt with dehydration on those ideal sunny, 90 degree days when you say to yourself, "It don't get no better." That's when you are living your winter dreams and tend to forget the practicalities but boating is not a dream, you gotta stay hydrated.

**Practice safety.** Get a free boat safety inspection. Read the instructions on the side of the flares. Review the rules of the road for passing close to other vessels. Make sure everyone on board is wearing a life jacket if they cannot swim and everyone else knows where their assigned life jacket is and how to get it on. Watch for bad weather and head home sooner than later.

**Practice boat handling:** If you

only take your boat out under ideal conditions and only perform the minimum tasks, then you are at risk of not being able to handle your boat when a 'situation' develops. You need to practice docking, anchoring, and low visibility piloting and GPS chart navigation before you run over a crab trap and foul your prop or the wind pushes you onto a sandbar or fog catches you in unfamiliar waters.

**Use more sun screen, sunglasses, and hats.** Hats for me are a no brainer. I am bald. I don't get two steps outside the door without a hat but it's the sun screen and sunglasses that I really need to resolve to use in 2020. Although fun in the sun and golden tans are coveted in many circles, there is danger if you are not prudent. Sun burn and eye strain are perceived as temporary but they do have a long term cumulative effect. Stay protected.

**Be more adventuresome.** This almost seems contradictory to my resolution about safety. It is always comforting and safer to go to familiar places and do familiar things. However, there can be excitement and personal satisfaction in exploring and in stretching oneself. If you have never beached your boat at Assateague or gunk holed up an unfamiliar creek, make a resolution to try it.

Just plan to do it at low tide so the incoming tide can help you escape an unexpected grounding. There is an adage in athletics that goes, 'No pain, no gain.' That's fine for 18 year olds running cross country, not for boat enthusiasts. Boat pain can cause financial pain. Make sure your resolution to be more adventurous is tempered with achievable goals and 20/20 vision.

Unlike most New Year's resolutions, mine will last long after January – probably well into the spring when I'll see if the batteries are good, the gas survived the winter and she still floats. Until then, Happy 2020!

*Dan Collins can be reached for comment at [dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com](mailto:dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com).*



**Dance - Betty Daugherty, Dot Danner and Janet O'Brien of Ocean Pines are pictured with Frank Trace (instructor and choreographer) at the recent annual Charity Bootscooter Line Dance Camp in Ft. Myers, FL. Camps are scheduled throughout the country and can be found at [www.dancingforthedream.com](http://www.dancingforthedream.com).**

*Betty Daughterty is one of the volunteer instructors of the local line dancer group that meets in the gym at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 9:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All are welcome.*

## New county attorney named

The Worcester County Commissioners named Roscoe Leslie as the new county attorney. He stepped into his new role with Worcester County Government (WCG) on January 2, bringing with him 14 years of legal experience.



**Roscoe Leslie**

He graduated from Worcester Country School (Worcester Prep), earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from the University of Delaware in 2000 and a law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law in 2006. He served as an associate with Venable, LLP in Baltimore for four years before returning home to the Eastern Shore in 2010 to accept a position as partner at Webb, Cornbrooks, Wilber, Vorhis, Douse, Leslie & Mathers, LLP, where for the past 10 years he has served as a legal advisor to several local government bodies, including Wicomico County, Sharptown, and Pocomoke City.

"As someone who grew up in Ocean Pines, it's an honor to return to Worcester County as its attorney," Leslie said. "I'm excited for the opportunity to advise the Commissioners and look forward to using my private and public sector experience to serve the County."

Leslie, an avid cyclist who in his free time can be found leading his cycling club on rides across the shore, will take over for current County Attorney Maureen Howarth.

Howarth, who accepted a partner position with Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand in Ocean City, graduated from James Madison University, with a Business Bachelor of Arts in Accounting in 2004, and from the University of Baltimore School of Law with a law degree in 2007. Prior to joining WCG in 2015, Howarth served as deputy county attorney for Wicomico County from 2008 – 2015.

The county attorney provides legal advice to the Worcester County Commissioners, all county departments, the Electrical Board, and the Planning Commission in all legal matters.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Kim Moses at (410) 632-1194.

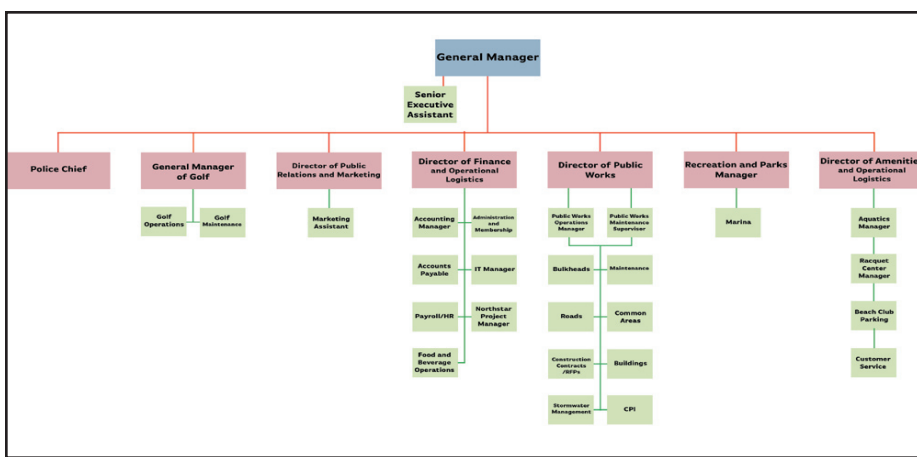
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## Board approves new job titles, organizational chart

The Ocean Pines Board on January 4 unanimously approved several changes to the organizational chart, including title changes for four key staff members.

The new titles include Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips, Director of Finance and Operational Logistics Steve Phillips, Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett, and General Manager of Golf John Malinoski.

In introducing a formal motion, Director Colette Horn said the changes were based on “a comprehensive operations assessment ... conducted by the general manager in conjunction with the recently completed compensation study.”

Sibson Consulting conducted the study, which started late last summer and finished in November.

Horn said only the senior executive assistant position would come with a change in pay.

“This structure has proven its effectiveness, as reflected in operational efficiencies and accomplishments achieved over the past six months,” she said.

Horn said director of amenities and operational logistics would replace the old director of operations position, because “the new position title more accurately reflects the scope of responsibility and authority that has evolved within that position.”

She added the new senior executive assistant title would replace the executive assistant position.

“This new title reflects the expanded scope of responsibility and authority, and carries additional compensation,” pending approval of the proposed fiscal year 2020/2021 budget, Horn said. She added the two other title changes would not come with changes in responsibility.

Director Frank Daly said the new organizational chart was “a long time com-

ing.”  
 “This is embodying a year’s work and, as I told somebody earlier this week, [it’s a] move from a damnable culture of indifference to a culture of operating excellence, and I fully support it,” he said.

Association President Doug Parks credited General Manager John Viola and his team for helping to move the Association forward.

“Looking at operationally what Ocean Pines needs [and] making the necessary adjustments to the staffing and the organizational structure is a byproduct of a year’s worth of analysis [and] a year’s worth of understanding what it’s going to take to run this organization, not only now, but for the long term,” Parks said. “I’m in full support of not only this motion, but [also] the work that’s been done to get us to this point.”

Association Vice President Steve Tuttle agreed.

“I’ve had the privilege over the last year of working very closely with the people involved with this process – the two people whose job descriptions are being impacted as well as the GM – and we’ve got stellar people and they’re doing a great job, and I really think this is a great move on the part of the GM to present this,” he said.

“These guys have done incredible work,” Horn added. “I think the GM has provided incredible leadership with respect to the concepts of cross training and bench strength.”

“These positions have evolved as the duties have been carried out and assigned to the individuals,” she continued. “They’ve done a stellar job as reflected in our bottom line, and in the morale improvements and the overall operational efficiencies.”

To view a video of the meeting, visit <https://youtu.be/6qM2p6qvOXU>.

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Visit [agh.care/laurie](http://agh.care/laurie) for Laurie’s story and to learn how the chronic pain rehab program is different from any other pain treatment offered on the Shore.





**My Backyard...** sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

# The different types of bird feeders

Birds are big business. That may come as a surprise to people who have never given much thought to the warm-blooded vertebrates who fly over their heads every day, but tens of millions of people have a passion for birds.

A 2016 survey from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service found that more than 45 million people in the United States watch birds around their homes and away from home every year. That positively affects the economy, contributing billions of dollars to the tourism industry in the U.S. every year.

While birding trips can help birdwatching enthusiasts see birds they otherwise may never see in person, bird feeders can be a great way to bring more birds into your own backyard. Choice of bird feeder can affect just which birds come to your back yard, and the following are some bird feeder options for birding enthusiasts to consider.

**Window feeders:** Small and easily attached to windows with suction cups, window feeders are easy to maintain and bring birds right to your window. Birds that visit window feeders stand in the seed while feeding, so they must be cleaned and refilled on a daily basis.

**Tray or platform feeders:** The online birding resource All About Birds (allaboutbirds.org) notes that tray feeders attract the widest variety of seed-eating feeder birds. That makes them ideal for birding enthusiasts who

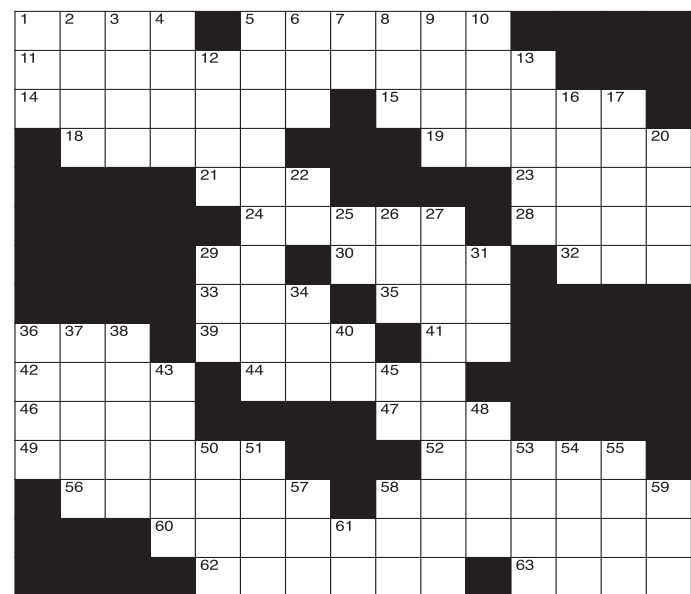
want to attract a variety of birds to their properties. Tray feeders are simply platforms that hold seed and provide a place for birds to stand while they eat. All About Birds recommends tray feeders with screened, rather than solid, bottoms, as these trays promote complete drainage. Frequent cleaning is necessary with tray feeders, as bird droppings can quickly soil seed.



**Hopper or house feeders:** These feeders are enclosed and feed seed out through the bottom. Hopper feeders are great for people who don't want to be bother with daily maintenance, as they can hold several pounds of food at one time, greatly reducing the number of times homeowners will need to refill them. In addition, hopper feeders don't need to be cleaned as often as other feeders. However, All About Birds notes that hopper feeders, which

need to be thoroughly cleaned roughly once per month, are harder to clean than other feeders.

**Tube feeders:** Tube feeders deliver seeds to birds through screens or ports. Small perches attract birds to tube feeders, making these ideal for small birds. Some tube feeders contain perches designed for birds that can feed upside down, potentially attracting a greater variety of birds to your backyard. But All About Birds notes that seed can collect on bottom-most feeding ports, providing a breeding ground for mold and bacteria. As a result, tube feeders should be inspected and cleaned regularly.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Beer ingredient
- 5. Popular FOX TV show
- 11. Recurring from time to time
- 14. Criticized severely
- 15. Musician
- 18. German urban center
- 19. Quenched
- 21. Human gene
- 23. Indian music
- 24. Accumulate
- 28. One who graduated
- 29. Atomic #109
- 30. Semitic fertility god
- 32. Sportscaster Patrick
- 33. Child's dining accessory
- 35. Payment (abbr.)
- 36. Guitarist's tool
- 39. Dabbling ducks
- 41. Commercial
- 42. Style someone's hair
- 44. Biu-Mandara language
- 46. Actress Spelling
- 47. Large hole in the ground
- 49. One-masted sailboats
- 52. Tropical Asian plant
- 56. Concurs
- 58. Latin term for charity
- 60. The number below the line in a fraction
- 62. Reddish browns
- 63. This (Spanish)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Belong to he
- 2. One time only
- 3. Parent-teacher groups
- 4. Puts in place
- 5. Editing
- 6. In the course of
- 7. Helps injured people (abbr.)
- 8. OJ trial judge
- 9. Resist authority (slang)
- 10. Formerly alkenols
- 12. "Cheers" actress Perlman
- 13. Jewelled headdress
- 16. Viking Age poet
- 17. Vanuatu island
- 20. Wish harm upon
- 22. Unit of length
- 25. Blood type
- 26. Drain
- 27. Do-gooders
- 29. Advanced degree
- 31. Business designation
- 34. Chinese-American actress Ling
- 36. Performs on stage
- 37. Slang for money
- 38. Large Russian pie
- 40. The Mount Rushmore State
- 43. Narrow inlet
- 45. News organization (abbr.)
- 48. Scarlett's home
- 50. Micturates
- 51. Monetary unit
- 53. Any customary observance or practice
- 54. Sons of Poseidon
- 55. Facilitates grocery shopping
- 57. Standard operating procedure
- 58. Former OSS
- 59. Midway between south and southeast
- 61. The Wolverine State



Answers for January 8

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# Just a few spots remain for birding weekend

The 2020 Winter Delmarva Birding Weekend invites hundreds of nature enthusiasts to the shore January 24-26 to enjoy memorable winter experiences including a near-shore maritime boat cruise, waterfowl, seal, and eagle-watching trips, and jaunts through some of the most diverse habitats on the East Coast in Delaware and Maryland.

Spots remain on the Chincoteague Bay wilderness trip, Bombay Hook stroll, and Assateague trip on Friday as well as Cape Henlopen and Ocean City over the weekend.

You can sign up for a trip or two on the award-winning weekend at [www.DelmarvaBirding.com](http://www.DelmarvaBirding.com). Last fall, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan issued an acclaimed Transactional Tourism Award for the popular event.

Harlequin Ducks, eiders, Purple

Sandpipers, falcons and more than 25 species of duck, goose and swan are on full display in the mid-Atlantic for about four months a year. More than 100 species were tallied in 2019 during the winter weekend. Seals are a huge draw too for the Lewes Boat Tour with some 65 Harbor and Gray Seals seen during one of our winter 2019 trips.

Guided by fun-loving local birders with decades-long experience on the shore, the walking tours and boat trips accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Last year, birdwatchers from more than a dozen states flocked to the winter event.

“We enjoy such an abundance of bird species in winter and spring that it just made sense to host winter birding trips,” said Worcester County

Tourism Director Lisa Challenger.

“Most folks have no idea how spectacular the winter birding is down here,” said organizer Jim Rapp. “The sheer number of Bald Eagles and ducks is mind boggling. We host the event on the weekend between the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl, so we hope you’ll get off the couch, bundle up, and get outside. Eagles and ravens are best seen outdoors!”

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country’s premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by coastal parks, refuges, and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and some Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

Indeed participants recount the event in terms of experiences rather than simply observing birds – thousands of Snow Geese lifting off a farm field, a majestic Bald Eagle soaring over the marsh, Long-tailed Ducks bobbing on the waves at the inlets, or the lazy nap of a seal on the Delaware Bay breakers. An outdoor experience

is the true draw.

“Delaware is teeming with bird species in winter,” said Southern Delaware Tourism Director Scott Thomas. “And this is a great place to experience them.”

If seeing so many bird species isn’t enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they’ve helped Delmarva’s birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation. Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants, and shops.

Sponsors for the event include Worcester County Tourism, Boardwalk Hotel Group, Jolly Roger Amusement Park, the Delmarva Almanac, and Southern Delaware Tourism. Event registration and sponsorship information can be found at [www.DelmarvaBirding.com](http://www.DelmarvaBirding.com).

## Women’s Club to award scholarships

The Women’s Club of Ocean Pines (WCOP) will award scholarships at its May general membership meeting to promising students who are full-time residents of Ocean Pines. These students must graduate from high school in good standing with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and plan to attend an accredited institution for further education. These awards may be used by the recipient to help defray post-high school expenses at any approved degree of certificate-granting college or university, technical or vocation school.

The WCOP Scholarship committee will consider the applicant’s needs, goals,

scholarship, citizenship, community service, extra-curricular activities and motivation. The club believes in non-discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin or family status, in both principle and practice.

Applications for these scholarships may be found on the Stephen Decatur High School website after January 15. All applications must be returned to a senior counselor at Stephen Decatur High School by March 20. Qualifying applicants who do not attend Stephen Decatur are asked to call 410-641-8046 for information and/or an application.

## SDHS Taco Night returns

It’s been over a decade since Stephen Decatur High School (SDHS) began hosting \$1 Taco Night and the event has sure become a tradition.

“While Taco Night has consistently been one of our biggest school fundraisers, it has also grown into a special community night for many of our parents, business partners, and alumni,” said Thomas Sites, principal of Stephen Decatur High School.

Typically, over a thousand people will attend SDHS Taco Night to congregate and dine.

SDHS owes much of the event’s success to Sonrise Church, whose congregation has organized and volunteered for the event since its inception.

The 11th annual \$1 Taco Night will be held at Stephen Decatur High School on Tuesday, February 4 from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

In addition to chicken and beef tacos, there will also be sides, drinks, and desserts. Reservations are not necessary. Patrons can dine in or carry out. All proceeds benefit Stephen Decatur High School.

For questions, please call Stephen Decatur High School at (410) 632 - 2880.

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	
Th	16	Low	5:57 AM	-0.3	7:16 AM
	16	High	12:19 PM	2.3	5:05 PM
	16	Low	6:33 PM	-0.4	
F	17	High	12:55 AM	2.1	7:15 AM
	17	Low	7:01 AM	-0.1	5:06 PM
	17	High	1:16 PM	2.1	
Sa	18	Low	7:27 PM	-0.3	
	18	High	1:59 AM	2.2	7:15 AM
	18	Low	8:07 AM	0.0	5:07 PM
Su	18	High	2:18 PM	1.9	
	18	Low	8:22 PM	-0.3	
	19	High	3:04 AM	2.3	7:14 AM
M	19	Low	9:15 AM	0.1	5:08 PM
	19	High	3:21 PM	1.8	
	19	Low	9:19 PM	-0.3	
Tu	20	High	4:07 AM	2.3	7:14 AM
	20	Low	10:22 AM	0.0	5:09 PM
	20	High	4:22 PM	1.7	
W	20	Low	10:16 PM	-0.3	
	21	High	5:05 AM	2.4	7:13 AM
	21	Low	11:25 AM	0.0	5:10 PM
Th	21	High	5:17 PM	1.7	
	21	Low	11:11 PM	-0.4	
	22	High	5:57 AM	2.5	7:13 AM
F	22	Low	12:19 PM	-0.1	5:11 PM
	22	High	6:08 PM	1.7	

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## When to hire a dog trainer

People welcome dogs into their lives for many reasons. Some want to selflessly rescue dogs from poor situations and provide a forever home in which the animal can be loved and grow, while others may want to provide a companion for their kids and to teach lessons of devotion and responsibility.

taught how to recognize and interpret the unique language of dogs and educate others so owners can recognize how to interact with their pets more effectively. Dogs are committed to pleasing their owners, but they may not always realize what their owners are asking. Trainers can help bridge this gap more quickly.

Trainers also are more likely than owners to see problem behaviors from an unbiased perspective. A pet owner may think their dog is acting out or being spiteful, while a trainer can explain that is not the case and that boredom or another factor may be behind the behavior. Putting problems in an objective light can make it easier to find solutions.

According to the California-based Break It Down Dog Training, if more pet owners were proactive about seeking professional training from the start of the pet-owner relationship, that could preempt many of the problem behaviors that tend to spring up.

Trainers may specialize in treating certain behaviors, so it's a good idea to seek a recommendation from a veterinarian or speak with a rescue or humane society group. Word-of-mouth recommendations from friends who have had success also is a smart idea.

A number of behavioral problems may indicate a trainer is needed. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Resource guarding of food or toys
- Separation anxiety
- Pulling on the leash
- Door-dashing
- Eating inappropriate items
- Jumping up on people
- Nipping and growling
- Severe fears and shyness

Many trainers can resolve common problems in a few sessions and give dog owners innovative techniques to try.



Sixty-seven percent of households in the United States own a pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association. While most dogs are inherently affable, affectionate creatures, not every puppy is obedient right out of the gate. Many dogs exhibit behaviors that may seem cute when dogs are young, but become problematic as the animal ages. Thanks to a wealth of readily available information, both online and in print, many dog owners can address minor issues on their own. However, when certain behaviors persist, a professional trainer may need to be brought in.

Certified dog trainers have been



**Visual reality** - Students in Eliza Mason-Burt's third grade classes at Ocean City Elementary School are excited to be the recipients of a grant which was awarded to Mason-Burt through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore in November. The grant money was used to purchase ten sets of Oculus Go Virtual Reality headsets. The children have already taken virtual tours of active volcanoes in Russia, helicopter tours of waterfalls and mountain ranges, virtual boat tours of dinosaur-filled swamps, and explored interactive weather applications. They look forward to many more virtual adventures that will integrate their science and social studies curriculum topics this year.

## Steps challenge underway

This spring, the Worcester County Health Department is inviting all residents to join the free Just Walk Program, part of the American Public Health Association's (APHA) One Billion Steps Challenge. The goal of the challenge is to get people outside and walking, with teams working together across the country collectively to log a billion steps by the end of National Public Health Week (April 6-12). Worcester Health is encouraging residents to sign up for Just Walk at [www.justwalkworcester.org](http://www.justwalkworcester.org) no matter your fitness level and self-report your walking mileage.

According to APHA, "walking is one of the easiest things you can do to improve your health." Walking is fun, free, and the perfect activity for any weather. You can walk inside when it's cold and rainy, or head outside to the trails and parks on sunny

days. Enjoy the solitude of a solo walk or get a group together for a social stroll.

Benefits of walking include: Weight loss and weight control, Improved mood and lower risk of depression and, lower risk of several diseases such as heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes and some cancers

The One Billion Steps Challenge began January 1. Join the Just Walk program today and report your steps. You can also explore beautiful walking trails and get information about upcoming Just Walk events. Call 410.641.1100 option 4 for more information or visit [www.worcester-health.org](http://www.worcester-health.org).

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# What is the SECURE Act?

By **Leslie Case DiPietro, Esq.**

The SECURE Act (“Act”) was included in a spending bill approved by the Senate on December 19, 2019, and signed into law by the President on the next day. Standing for “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement,” here are a few things to understand about the Act:

The Act aims to address a pressing issue, which is the lack of sufficient retirement savings among a significant number of Americans. With the decline of traditional pensions, most Americans are now responsible for saving for their own retirement. The Act seeks to redress this problem by incentivizing employers who offer retirement plans to their employees through tax credits and allowing people still working in their 70s to continue contributing to their retirement plan(s). Likewise, distributions from those plans do not have to be taken now until age 72 (rather than age 70.5) allowing retirement savings to be tax-deferred for an additional 1-2 years lasting longer in retirement.

In an effort to generate tax revenue and offset the cost of the Act, the current rule that allows non-spouse retirement plan beneficiaries to “stretch” required minimum distributions (RMDs) from an inherited account over their own lifetime has been eliminated. This tax generating provision of the Act will accelerate the depletion of inherited retirement plans. Now, all funds from an inherited retirement plan must be distributed to non-spouse beneficiaries within 10 years of the original account owner’s death. A few exceptions do exist, including

distributions to a beneficiary who is a spouse, minor, disabled or chronically ill person, and those who are less than 10 years younger than the original account owner.

If your estate plan provides for outright distributions to individual non-spouse beneficiaries, those assets will still avoid probate, but your beneficiaries will be required to take distributions from the account within a 10-year period, paying the taxes as distributions are made and ending the account’s tax-deferred status after 10 years. For most families, this is sufficient planning.

However, if you are worried about protecting the assets from your beneficiary’s creditors, marital influence/divorce, poor money management, or public disability benefits, then you may have reason to refrain from naming the beneficiary directly and instead establish a protective trust that will benefit him/her after your death. Retirement Account Trusts and/or a Supplemental Needs Trusts still offer solutions that can afford both the protection for the beneficiary and ensure that the tax-deferred status is maintained for at least 10 years (or longer in some cases when the beneficiary is disabled or chronically ill).

If you own tax-deferred retirement plans, such as IRAs or 401(k)s, that hold a significant amount of assets, the new law may impact you and your beneficiaries. Consulting with your attorney, financial advisor, and tax-preparer is paramount to ensuring that you have considered all possible planning strategies available to you.



**Holiday break** - The women of “Books by the Bay” book club enjoyed their holiday luncheon at the Inn on the Ocean on the boardwalk in Ocean City.

## DWC to meet

The Democratic Women’s Club of Worcester County (DWC) will meet for the first time in the new year on Monday, January 20 at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation, with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Dr. Adam Hoffman of the Political Science Department of Salisbury University will be the speaker. The DWC meets the third Monday of each month at the aforementioned time and location. New members are welcome.

# Living 50 Plus

A Special Monthly Feature to *The Courier*

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## Ocean Pines Players installs new officers, directors

The Ocean Pines Players, coming off a successful and active 2019 season, held its annual meeting January 11 and elected new officers and members to an expanded board of 11 directors.

Elected president of the community theater group was Jerry Gietka of Ocean Pines. Kathy Wiley of the River Run Community was elected vice president, and Ocean Pines residents Mary Ellen Chilcoat and Steve Haberman were elected treasurer and secretary, respectively.

The new board consists of Gietka, Wiley, Chilcoat, and Haberman, as well as Carol Aikman of Ocean Pines; Patricia Diniar of Berlin; Karen McClure of Ocean Pines; Patty Jo Moore of Ocean Pines; Judy Nelson of Ocean Pines; Ed Pinto of Ocean City; and, Dorothy Shelton of Ocean Pines. McClure is the immediate past president. She served in that post for almost seven years.

The Players are in the process of developing its 2020 season. In 2019, they performed two stage productions and a children's Christmas production. The group also teamed with the Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum to perform an original production on the Boardwalk on Monday mornings in July and August about four women hotel own-

ers with grit and business sense who helped turn a sleepy Ocean City into the thriving tourism center it is today.

The other productions were a Tribute to Elton John on the 50th anniversary



From left to right, **Kathy Wiley**, vice president; **Steve Haberman**, secretary, **Mary Ellen Chilcoat**, treasurer; and **Jerry Gietka**, president.

sary of his first album, "Empty Sky," and the comedy, "Assisted Living, the Musical," by Rick Compton and Betsy Bennett. Both productions were performed on the stage in the community room of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City.

Teaming with Berlin's Red Doors Community Center and local children actors, the troupe performed Ken Ludwig's "Twas the Night Before Christmas," that was based on the original classic poem.

and received," he continued. "At this point, I believe the adjustment will probably add only \$2 or \$3 on the proposed assessment of \$978, leaving us somewhere on a proposed assessment of \$981," representing a \$5 decrease from the prior year.

Viola said Steve Phillips would recalculate the proposed budget based on the recommendations and send the updated draft to both board and committee members.

Committee member Jeff Knepper praised the budget process thus far. Knepper has served on the board twice, both in 2014 and again last year, and is a volunteer on several Ocean Pines committees.

"I've been around this process for a number of years ... and this process this year is far and away better," he



**Donation** - Local author Hunter "Bunk" Mann recently visited Berlin Intermediate School to donate copies of his books to several schools in Worcester County.

"We are so grateful to Bunk for his generosity in sharing his work with our secondary students," Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor said. "The incredible stories he shares in "Vanishing Ocean City" and "Ghosts in the Surf" are great retellings of our local history. Our students will learn so much about our own community through reading his books."

Mann has authored two coffee table books, "Vanishing Ocean City," and its companion book "Ghosts in the Surf." Both titles will be available at Berlin Intermediate School, as well as each middle and high school in the county. More information about these titles can be found at [www.vanishingoc.com](http://www.vanishingoc.com).

Above from left: Berlin Intermediate School Principal **Ryan Cowder**, student **Sophia Ferrante**, Board of Education Member **Todd Ferrante**, student **Caitlyn Crockett**, author **Hunter "Bunk" Mann**, and Superintendent of Schools **Lou Taylor**.

## Essay contest winners announced

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently sponsored two essay contests in area schools. The American History essay contest was open to all students in grades fifth through eighth in a public, private or parochial school, or those who are

home schooled. This year's topic was "The Voyage of the Mayflower." A panel of judges comprised of DAR members and nonmembers selected the following chapter winners: 5th Grade-Allison Baig-Gallegos, Berlin Intermediate School; 6th Grade-Sydney Todorov, Worcester Preparatory School; 7th Grade-Angeline Todorov, Worcester Preparatory School; and, 8th Grade-Vanessa Hall, Worcester Preparatory School.

The Christopher Columbus Essay Contest was open to students in grades nine through twelve in public, private, or parochial schools, or those who are home schooled. The topic was, "A Sailor's Experiences as Part of Christopher Columbus' First Expedition to the Americas." Henna Preet Parmar of Worcester Preparatory School was selected as the General Levin Winder Chapter winner.

The students will receive their awards and be invited to read excerpts from their essays during a luncheon at Worcester Technical High School on April 15. Their essays have been forwarded for competition at the State level.

**opa**

from page 1

Association budgeted for needs first, and then calculated the assessment based upon that figure.

He summarized the three-day meetings with the Budget and Finance Committee.

"The departments and amenities were represented. Every operating and P&L [profit and loss] account was reviewed, explained [and] analyzed, and we responded to all questions," he said. "Reserves were detailed. We presented all the work plans and supported our numbers. Capital projects were also presented and supported.

"We will recalculate the assessment based upon guidance and the reallocations that we have presented





**Honored** - On December 29, the Baltimore Ravens, M&T Bank and the Governor's Office on Service & Volunteerism, congratulated Bill Noah and the Berlin Intermediate

School's After School Academy on being selected as a 2019 - 2020 Honor Rows recipient. They honored and rewarded the students for their amazing community work by attending the last home game for the Ravens against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

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