

Feasibility study next step in effluent water irrigation proposal

Ocean Pines is in the very early stages of considering a Worcester County proposal to spray highly treated effluent on the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

General Manager John Viola, during a public Board meeting Wednesday night, said the proposal came from the Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater Advisory Board. That panel is overseen by Worcester County.

County officials approached Viola in December for preliminary talks, he said. On January 7, the Worcester County Commissioners approved a request from the Wastewater Advisory Board to evaluate the project.

Local newspaper *The Dispatch* last month reported that County Public Works Director John Tustin said the project “would produce both practical and environmental benefits,” and the evaluation would include costs, funding sources, and potential regulatory hurdles.

Tustin later told Ocean Pines the “highly treated effluent” refers to the water meeting current Bay Restoration standards of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Tustin said effluent nitrogen levels would be at or below 3 milligrams per liter (or three parts per million), and phosphorus at or below 1 milligram per liter (or one part per million).

“We are below that requirement on a yearly average, thus avoiding the payment into the state’s Bay Restoration Fund, saving the OPA ratepayers \$15 per quarter on the water/sewer billing,” Tustin said in an email.

“[I’ve been told that’s] very, very low – very good results for effluent water,” Viola added.

Three area golf courses – Eagle’s Landing, River Run and Glen Riddle – already use county effluent in their irrigation systems.

“The project would require a new irrigation system for the golf course,” Viola said. “The current Golf irrigation system is more than 50 years old and would need to be replaced, if we did something like this.”

Funding for the replacement system would almost certainly come from grants and/or slight increases to county water/sewer bills, estimated to go up \$2-\$3 per quarter, according to county officials. This would not affect the Ocean Pines assessment, but would impact Ocean Pines utility bills spread out in small increments, over time. A new system is estimated to cost anywhere from \$1 million to \$3 million.

Viola said the next step would be a feasibility study done by Worcester County.

“Nothing has been decided, nothing’s etched in stone,” Viola said. “They are doing a feasibility study on this use of effluent water.”



Happy Birthday - One of Quilters by the Sea’s founding members, **Light Henderson**, celebrated her 94th birthday with her quilt friends February 5. Light still enjoys making quilt tops for charity.

OPA provides projects updates

The new fiscal-year budget and Golf cart barn building both look to wrap this month, and several other major projects remain on track, General Manager John Viola said during a Board meeting Wednesday night.

“We have some major construction going on ... about \$3.5 million [worth],” Viola said.

He said the biggest of the construction projects, the new 7,200 square-foot Golf clubhouse, should finish by May at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. To date, the Association has spent just under \$600,000 on the project.

“We had a meeting today on all the construction and I think several members of this Board – as well as myself and [Director of Finance and Operational Logistics] Steve [Phillips] – [believe] that it’s on track and definitely under budget,” Viola said.

A fireplace and a handful of other items recently were added to the project without going over budget, Viola said.

He said the cart barn was delayed slightly, but should finish in about a week and stay under budget,

A Time To Remember

On February 12, 1999, the five-week impeachment trial of Bill Clinton came to an end, with the Senate voting to acquit the president on both articles of impeachment: perjury and obstruction of justice.



Safe boating course offered

Learn the skills necessary to be the best boater you can be.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer the Maryland Safe Boating Course March 3, 4, and 5. This class is designed for all boaters, it's a great refresher for experienced boaters and a necessity for those new to boating. History has proven that boating accidents can and do occur to lifelong boaters as well as novice. Complacency and lack of situational awareness are contributing factors.

This course focuses on navigation, day and night, docking techniques, boat handling, knot tying, seasonal maintenance, and trailering. The course also provides information on waves, currents, tides and basic knowledge of the local waters. The updated Maryland "2020" rules and regulations are also included.

Come join us for the Maryland Safe Boating Class given by certified instructors from the United States Coast Guard Aux.

The nine-hour class is required for all Maryland boat operators born after July 1, 1972, and all boat operator's in Virginia waters. A certificate is awarded upon completion of the course. The cost is \$15.00 for materials.

All classes are held at the Ocean Pines library. For more information or to register, please contact Barry Cohen at 410 935-4807 or email: CGAUXOC@Gmail.com

Boat Show returns

Now in its 37th year, the Seaside Boat Show sponsored by the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club returns to the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City February 14 through 16.



The show typically attracts thousands of water and boating enthusiasts and helps to underwrite the club's local youth and service programs.

This year's show will include more than 150 exhibitors, 50 boat dealers and over 350 boats including sports cruisers, sport fishers, and performance models with special show pricing. Again, attendees will have a chance to win a pontoon

boat and motor donated by North Bay Marine owners Scott and Mary McCurdy.

Exhibitors will include marine electronics, trailer, canvas tops, motors, jewelry, art, fishing gear, financing and insurance representatives.

Times of the show are: Friday February 14 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$1 for kids. A weekend pass is available for \$15.

Community Calendar FEBRUARY

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 Pinestepers 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.

Pancake breakfast returns

The annual winter Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will take place Saturday, February 22 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center Asateague 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.

Ocean Pines pursues state aid for drainage improvement projects

The Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously ap-



proved a \$1.5 million state grant application to help improve drainage in Ocean Pines.

The improvements would affect Sections 2 and 3, considered among the worst in the community. The Association applied through the county because of restrictions that normally prevent homeowner associations from receiving certain types of state aid.

Worcester County Director of En-

vironmental Programs Bob Mitchell on Tuesday presented the water quality improvement and flood protection grant application on behalf of Ocean Pines.

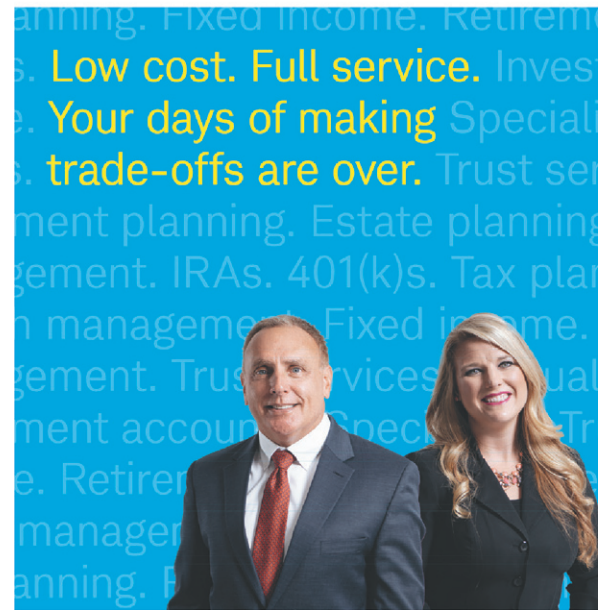
“This is the future and the future is here,” Mitchell said. “These kinds of efforts are going to become more commonplace for Worcester, as we move forward to create resiliency within our communities. This grant application is part of an effort by the Ocean Pines community to

combat drainage and flooding problems.”

Mitchell said most of the community was built before existing stormwater laws required drainage programs for new construction.

“Existing ditching and infrastructure is lacking and need retrofits, aggressive maintenance, and upgrades to

*please see **drainage** on page 4*



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drainage

from page 3

function properly for a development of that size," he said.

For the new project, Mitchell said Ocean Pines and the adjacent Windmill Creek development would collaborate to help improve water flow and water quality. He said 233 acres in total would be affected.

"I've gotta give credit where credit is due: Ocean Pines has done the sweat equity here. They've spent an excess of six figures in engineering this and other retrofit projects for the community. It's what needs to be done to compete with the larger jurisdictions across the state for this limited grant money."

Mitchell said Ocean Pines would commit \$700,000 to the project, with the state fulfilling the rest of the \$2.2 million estimated total price.

"It's a good opportunity to track state money to aid a county community that has done the work to get shovel ready," Mitchell said.

Commissioner Chip Bertino said the grant was "a very long time in coming" and required much effort. He singled out Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips.

"I certainly commend Ocean Pines and Colby and [her] team for putting this together," he said. "I know Commissioner [Jim] Bunting and I have worked with you all, and it's really nice to see this come to fruition."

Association President Doug Parks, during a public Board meeting Wednesday night, credited "a team of folks that did a lot of work" with

submitting the grant proposal.

"I'd like to point out three people that did yeoman's work above and beyond the call of duty," Parks said. "I wanted to point out the work that Colby Phillips has done in leading that team and coordinating all the efforts, contacting the people at the county, at the state, at the Maryland Coastal Bays, and all the other entities that were involved."

Parks also recognized Rich Polk from Showell engineering firm Vista Design Inc.

"His input was invaluable and helped us present a very well thought out proposal," Parks said.

He also credited Mitchell.

"He was also instrumental," Parks said. "Those three folks should be recognized for their efforts."

Phillips, during a drainage presentation on Wednesday, said she has learned a lot about the subject over the last year. During that time, Ocean Pines staff has worked closely with engineers from Vista and experts from Worcester County and the State of Maryland. The effort has also included an ad hoc committee of Ocean Pines residents and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

"Everybody has been onboard and supportive of these efforts, because everybody recognizes how bad [flooding] can be," Phillips said. "It's been a group effort."

Phillips said Sections 2 and 3 include 761 lots and three parks, or about 10% of Ocean Pines. Proposed improvements in the grant application include retrofitting Bainbridge Pond to meet current Maryland Department of the Environment standards and improve downstream

swales, adding additional culverts under Beauchamp Road to aid runoff and conveyance capacity, and removing high points on the southern Beauchamp Road swale to allow trapped runoff to access the new culverts.

A swale is a depression similar to a ditch that's designed to manage water runoff, filter pollutants, and increase rainwater infiltration.

"The good thing with this grant, is it's going to help with the water quality improvements," Phillips said. "Not only are we looking to impact and help improve drainage but, in the process, we're looking to also improve the water quality."

Other drainage improvements currently in progress or already completed this year include culvert replacement on Boston Drive, culvert repairs on Mumfords Landing Road, inlet lowering and pavement milling on Blue Bill Court, culvert and catch basin replacement on Watertown Road, culvert replacement on Borderlinks Road, and installing a new culvert on Harborview Drive. A culvert is a structure that allows water to flow underneath a road.

Phillips said much of the original infrastructure of Ocean Pines is rusting and deteriorated. Because of that, failing pipes are being replaced with high-density polyethylene pipes.

"The good thing with these is they'll last 50-plus years ... and we won't have the rust," she said.

Staff have also compiled a ditch and swale maintenance list, meant to keep clear the areas designed to collect water.

"We're putting the date that we cleaned it or that a contractor came in," Phillips said. "That way, we're

going to be able to keep them on a rotation to stay on top of that."

Phillips said a dry summer helped staff to get a jumpstart on clearing the ditches, adding, "We've had some feedback that it definitely helped improve those areas."

"Nothing's going to fix it, but it's going to improve" drainage, Phillips said.

Lastly, she said an upcoming series of free seminars would help promote public education on drainage and flooding issues.

Three upcoming events at the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway include:

- March 2, 6-7:30 p.m. – Watershed Restoration Specialist Jennifer Dindinger will discuss yard waste and lawn fertilization
- April 20, 6-7:30 p.m. – Watershed Restoration Specialist Jennifer Dindinger will host a hands-on seminar on how to make a rain barrel and rain garden

- May 12, 5:30-7 p.m. – Kevin Wagner, who manages the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Assistance Program for Maryland, will host a seminar on FEMA activities and flooding issues. The event will also include local agencies and vendors that specialize in flooding


For questions about Ocean Pines drainage issues, contact Phillips at cphillips@oceanpines.org or Public Works Director Eddie Wells at ewells@oceanpines.org.

"Ocean Pines is obviously very large and we try to get to everything that we can," Phillips said. "Please ... reach out either to myself or Eddie Wells, the Public Works director, and we can come out and meet with you."

Garden Club to meet

The Ocean Pines Garden Club will meet on Thursday, February 13 at 10 a.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. There will be a presentation by Catherine Winkler of Roots Landscaping on "Secrets for Success with

Succulents." Attendees will be able to make a lovely decorated pot with a succulent inspired gift card. The materials cost will be \$10. A business meeting will follow the presentation. Guests are always welcome.



The modern era is often referred to as the "Digital Age," but mankind's relationship with science and technology dates back much further than the 21st century. According to Wired.com, in 2006 scientists confirmed that a device discovered in 1900 amid the remains of an ancient Mediterranean shipwreck was an analog computer. The device, since dubbed the "Antikythera Computer," was believed to help calculate astronomical cycles so sailors could more easily sail between Alexandria and Athens. The Antikythera Computer has been dated to sometime around the first century B.C., proving that man's fascination with gadgets is an ancient one that has been paying dividends for millennia.

Boat show time

It's a magical time of the year! The boat show is this weekend!

For those of us who are boaters, going



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

to the show is a winter ritual that brings us one step closer to spring commissioning and then boating season. And there's nothing better than that. Am I right?

I've been going to the show for years; not just the one here at home but also shows in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Annapolis. When my children were small, one, two or three of them would accompany me. It was an adventure for them to look at and climb on the boats. My youngest son one year made it his mission to go into the head of each of the boats he climbed aboard.

In one instance, his older brother locked him in.

The first show I remember attending was in Philadelphia. The year was 1973. The place, the Philadelphia Convention Center. My grandfather took my brother and me with him. It was the first time I had seen so many new boats, all shiny and clean. For a quarter, at least I think it was a quarter, you could maneuver remote control speed boats through a course. The boats were in a large shallow pool. My brother and I raced each other. I don't remember who won, but I do remember my grandfather not ponying up another fifty cents so we could race again.

It was at this show that my grandfather, recently retired, purchased his first (and last) new boat; a 1973 Chaparral bow rider with a 120 horsepower Mercruiser. The new boat was delivered a couple months later and we felt great pride heading out on our first ride.

Since then, the only purchases I've made at the shows I've attended is my Boat US towing insurance and some hull cleaning products.

Mostly I go to the shows to see the new models and how much they cost. The cost of a new boat never ceases to amaze me. It's my opinion that the per-

fect size for a family boat (family of four) is about a 19-footer. I should make clear that the only boat I think a person should own is one he can afford. Being boat poor is no fun and detracts greatly from boating enjoyment. But I digress.

As I was writing, I believe a 19-foot boat is a good size for family boating. In recent years though I question how a young family can afford some of these new boats with prices starting at about \$30,000 and going up from there. Don't get me wrong I'm not implying they are not worth it, it's just that, that's a lot of money I think.

In full disclosure, I've never purchased a new boat. Mine have each been preowned, so I've never experienced the pleasure felt by my grandfather and



Cruising in my first "real" boat. G.G. was a 15-foot 1957 Newport. She was powered by a 1958 15 horsepower Johnson SeaHorse.

My grandfather's Chaparral is in the background.

many others when they've purchased a boat off the show-room floor.

I was with my father-in-law on three separate occasions over many years when he purchased a new boat at the show. On the last occasion, and this goes back about two decades, my boys and I and my father-in-law went to the show. At one point, the boys and I went one way and my father-in-law went in another direction. When we reunited, I told him I had seen a really nice boat on the second floor. He told me that he too had seen a really nice boat and not only that, he bought it. When he took me over to see it, it was the same boat I had been looking at.

My son and I continue to go to the show to get ideas for our own boats. And as nice as that is, I enjoy the show more because it's time we get to spend together, even if he does expect me to pay for lunch.

I'll see you at the show.

Publisher's Note: *The Ocean City Boat Show runs from Thursday to Sunday at the Ocean City Convention Center. Doors open at 11 a.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, see the ad on page 10.*



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Aquatics to offer Red Cross certifications

Ocean Pines Aquatics will host a series of Red Cross lifeguard classes, from basic re-certifications to certified instructor courses.

According to www.redcross.org, "The American Red Cross Lifeguarding classes are designed to teach you not only the basics in water safety but also the proper protocol when dealing with any emergencies around water. The Red Cross blends both traditional lecture style along with crucial hands-on training in order to teach you effective techniques to deliver prompt care to those in need. Learn how to respond safely and efficiently to water emergencies with lifeguard classes from the American Red Cross."

Red Cross Lifeguard Blended Learning courses include eight hours of online training prior to the first water session. A pretest is required, prior to class admission.

Classes are scheduled April 17 from 4-9 p.m., April 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., April 19 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 26 from 8 a.m. to

noon.

Those enrolled must attend all sessions and must be 15 or older on the first day of class. The cost is \$250 for swim members, \$300 for residents and \$325 for nonresidents.

Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor classes are available on the same schedule above. A pretest is required and the cost is \$375.

For those looking to renew their certification, a Red Cross Lifeguard Re-certification course will be offered on April 26 from 7 a.m. to noon. Participants must either be currently certified or have certifications expired by no more than 30 days. The cost is \$138.

The registration deadline for all classes is two weeks prior to the start date.

Amenities and Operational Logistics Director Colby Phillips said the courses are "a great opportunity to receive your lifeguard certification, which not only gives you a potential job with Ocean Pines, but also the possibilities of other areas people may live or desire to work."

"Our detailed training includes both testing of hands-on skills as well as comprehension on written tests," Phillips said. "The certification, which includes First Aid, CPR and AED training, is valid for two years upon completion and is accepted nationwide."

For more information, contact Ocean Pines Aquatics at 410-641-5255 or email Aquatics Manager Kathleen Cook at klcook@oceanpines.org.



Excessive reading - Fourth grader readers at Berlin Intermediate School (BIS) are going above and beyond in reading. Each of these students have exceeded 100 hours of reading so far this year. That is more than one hour of reading per day for the first half of the school year, which is in addition to their regular academic requirements. BIS's reading program, 100 Book Challenge, encourages students to read beyond their assignments. This group has read 25 more hours than what was expected of them.

Museum of Art trip offered

The Art League of Ocean City is sponsoring a bus trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) on Wednesday, April 15, and the public is invited to join the excursion.

The bus will depart the Lowe's parking lot on Route 1 in Lewes at 7:15 a.m. and make another pickup at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St., Ocean City bayside, at 8 a.m. The bus will arrive back on the Eastern Shore at approximately 7 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$65 per person and includes the bus, entrance to the museum, plus water and snacks. The bus will be a 56-seater with a restroom on board. Space is limited, and early reservations are recommended. Tickets are available at the Arts Center, by calling 410-524-9433, or online at artleagueofoc

ceancity.org/event/bus-trip-to-baltimore-museum-of-art/.

Lunch is available at Gertrude's, the museum's café, named after Baltimore native Gertrude Stein, an early supporter of Picasso and Matisse in Paris who helped the Cone sisters amass their art collection, now part of the BMA's permanent collection. Lauded by "Food & Wine," "Travel & Leisure," the *Washington Post*, "Edible DC," *The Baltimore Sun*, and a multi-year winner of "Baltimore Magazine's" "Best of Baltimore," Gertrude's serves locally-sourced farm-fresh food that preserves Chesapeake culinary traditions. The main dining room overlooks a sculpture garden featuring works by Alexander Calder, Isamu Noguchi, and Auguste Rodin.

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



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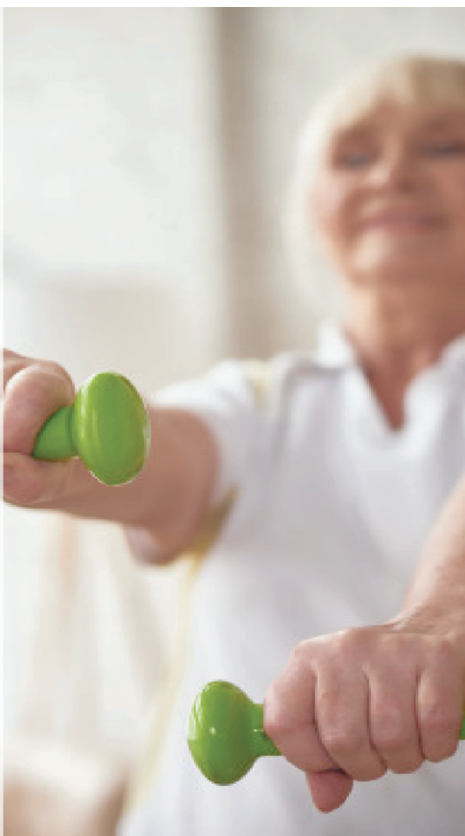


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Keep Worcester Clean campaign underway

Worcester County Government is calling on all community stewards to partner with them, as they embark on a Keep Worcester Clean campaign. The overall goal is to beautify Worcester County by keeping our county byways and unmanned recycling stations clean and litter free. Therefore, the County is reaching out countywide to establish public and private partnerships to encourage community stewardship, to increase awareness about options available to the public for properly disposing of trash and recyclables, and to discourage illegal dumping by both residents and visitors.

Incidences of individuals who illegally dump trash, household furniture, and other debris at the unmanned recycling centers, along county roadways, and in other public places have increased in recent years. Cleanup efforts require substantial time, manpower, and resources, resulting in hefty costs, and, ultimately, taxpayers must shoulder these costs.

Litter dumped illegally on roads, recycling centers, or anywhere in society other than designated sites, isn't just an eyesore, it's a hazard to the environment, the economy, and human health. Those who dump litter in recycling bins spoil recycling efforts, as the aluminum cans, newspapers, cardboard, and plastics, once contaminated by litter, are no longer recyclable and must instead be landfilled. Thus, the efforts of the county and all community stewards to limit waste through responsible reuse are thwarted. So we're asking you, our friends, our neighbors, our visitors to help us keep our communities clean.

Here are a few quick tips you can implement to help keep your commu-

nity and all of Worcester County clean.

Dispose of only approved recyclable items – plastics, cardboard, glass, metal cans, and papers/newspapers – at any of the county's five unmanned recycling stations, which are located in Bishopville, Whaleyville, Ocean Pines, Walmart in Berlin, and Public Landing.

Hire a private trash hauler to pick up your trash or purchase a homeowner convenience center (HOCC) permit. For the HOCC permit cost of \$100, which is for the first two vehicles in the same household, residents and property owners may dispose of household trash at any of the HOCCs, which are located in Berlin, the Central Landfill in Newark, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill.

Properly secure truck or cargo loads containing trash and debris.

Report the illegal dumping of trash, household furnishings, and other debris at recycling stations and littering along county roadways to the Worcester County Sheriff's Office or your local law enforcement agency.

A 2009 "Littering behavior in America" report conducted by Keep America Beautiful found that "The vast majority of people properly dispose of trash in receptacles." What is startling is the finding that one in five trash disposals, or 17%, ended up as litter that was dumped intentionally. Worcester County Government is working to increase public awareness about littering and its damaging effects and to reduce or eliminate instances of illegal dumping and littering.

To learn more about recycling and solid waste operations in Worcester County, visit <http://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/public-works/waste>.

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NAACP to meet

Worcester County NAACP's February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20 at North Worcester County MAC Senior Center located at 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd. in Berlin. Executive Board meeting starts at 6 p.m. General meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The guest speaker is Debbie Smullen, of Worcester Goes Purple.

Worcester Goes Purple is an awareness project to engage the community in preventing substance abuse and promoting healthy life choices. Substance abuse treatment and referral services for adults

and adolescents are available. Please join us. Phone 443-944-6701 for additional information.

Library celebrates anniversary

The Ocean Pines library will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. A reception marking anniversary will be held at the library on Friday February 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a display of pictures about the history of the library and light refreshments.



Sand art - On Monday, Feb. 3, a sunny and warm day on the beach, local artist Randy Hofman used his sand sculpting skills to carve out the Ocean City Film Festival logo in preparation for the 4th annual event, coming March 5 through 8 in the resort. The Art League of Ocean City has announced the full schedule of films, online at OCMD-FilmFestival.com.

Pines Players to celebrate Ronstadt

The Ocean Pines Players (OPP) are kicking off 2020 with "Different Drum: A Musical Tribute to Linda Ronstadt." Show dates and times are Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, at 7 p.m.; and a matinee performance on Sunday, February 23 at 2:30 p.m. All performances will be at St. Peter's Lutheran Church located at 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Parking is free and the location is handicap accessible.

Tickets are \$15 cash and can be

purchased at the door. Walk ins are welcomed. Those wishing to make reservations in advance can do so by going to www.oceanpinesplayers.com and clicking on Tickets&Reservations.

The tribute, "Different Drum," is named after Ronstadt's first hit single recorded in 1967. She became known as the "Queen of Rock" during the 1970s. She reigned for four decades in almost every musical genre, from Rock & Roll, country and pop, to big band,

*please see **players** on page 22*

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Knots & Knots by Dan Collins

The Seaside Boat Show

The Ocean City Seaside Boat Show is once again here. This year it starts on Valentine's Day and runs for three days through Sunday, February 16. Like last year, it will feature about 350 bright shiny boats, over 140 eager exhibitors, a door prize drawing for an 18' pontoon boat, and all the day-dreaming fantasies that you can stand.

I always think of the show as the half time respite in the doldrums of the 'off season' but if Punxsutawney Phil saw ice free water on Ground Hog Day, then we better start planning for an early boating season.

Since it starts on St. Valentine's Day, a loving boat enthusiast can probably find the perfect, if not novel, expression of affection. How about matching his and her monogrammed life jackets or something very personal that fits in a tiny box and shows that

you truly care – a whistle that should be attached to your personal floatation device. And for date night, how about a \$15 gift certificate to attend the Maryland Safe Boat Class. Think about it: Two people for three nights of interesting maritime education/entertainment for \$30 is cheaper and more beneficial than going to the movies and it's rated PG!

There are lots of free give away items at the show. Besides sales literature, there are ball point pens and yard sticks and coloring books and salt water taffies. (You have to pay for the

Girl Scout Cookies and the cute kittens from the Delmarva Cat Connection.) And don't miss stopping by the USCG Auxiliary booth on the second floor where you can get a free 2020 Tide Chart and schedule a free boat safety inspection.

One of the really neat aspects of the Boat Show is the opportunity to talk to others about their maritime adventures. Most folks at the show are happy to share their passion in casual conversations just for asking.



Whether it's a vendor or a fellow show visitor, everybody has a personal story,

please see collins on page 23

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Separating facts from fiction in regard to organ donation

Organ donation is overwhelmingly supported by the adult population of the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 95 percent of adults in the United States support organ donation. In spite of that, the D H H S notes that only 54 percent of U.S. adults are signed up as organ donors. That gap only highlights the need for education in regard to organ donation. Separating the facts and fiction surrounding organ donation might compel more people to sign up as donors, saving untold numbers of lives as a result.

People with medical conditions can still be organ donors. Many people mistakenly assume that an existing medical condition precludes them from being organ donors. However, the DHHS notes that very few medical conditions would prevent people from becoming organ donors. Such conditions include HIV and active cancer. Transplant teams determine at the time of death if a donation is possible, so even prospective donors who have doubts can still sign up.

There is no age limit for organ donors. The health and condition of

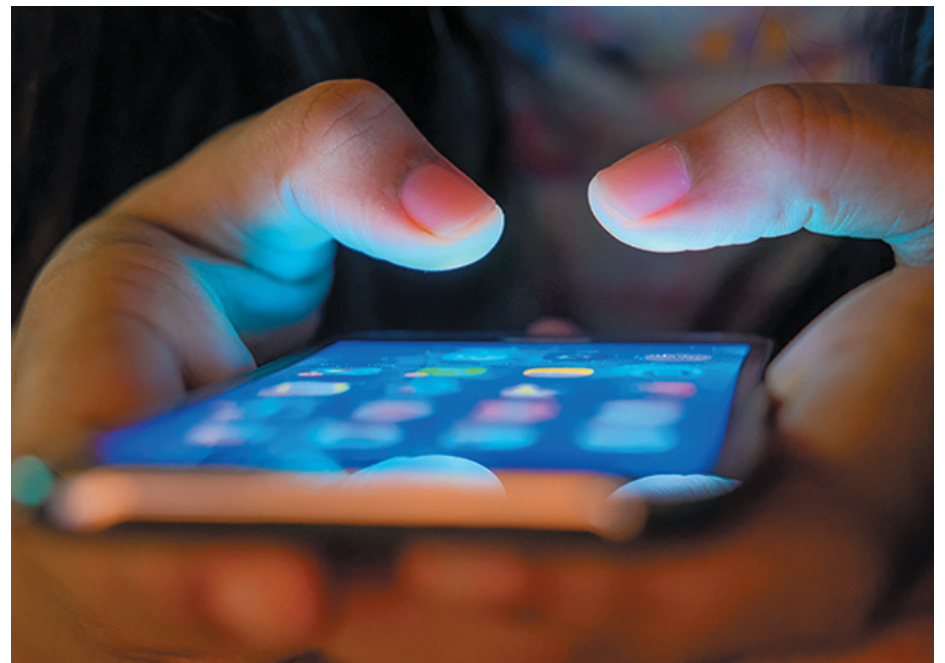
the organs, and not their age, is what matters. In fact, the DHHS notes that the oldest donor in the United States was 93 at the time of donation.

Religions do not prohibit organ donation. The DHHS notes that most major religion support organ donation, considering it a final act of love and generosity. Prospective donors who are uncertain if their religion supports organ donation can visit <https://www.organdonor.gov/about/donors/religion.html> for more information.

Celebrity status, race or financial well-being do not dictate who receives organs. In the United States, a nationwide computer system matches donated organs to recipients. Blood type, geographic location and time on the waiting list are just some of the factors used to match donated organs to recipients. Race, celebrity status or financial well-being are never considered.

Medical personnel will try to save organ donors' lives. Some people fear that signing up as a donor might compel medical personnel to abandon lifesaving methods if they become ill or injured. But that's not the case. Donation is not possible until all lifesaving methods have failed.

Organ donation is a selfless act that saves lives every day. Learn more at www.organdonor.gov.



How to extend the life of your smartphone

Smartphones have become an essential part of everyday life for millions of people across the globe, and the cost of these devices reflects just how integral they have become. Consumer survey data from the market research and consulting firm Parks Associates found that, between 2014 and 2018, the average price paid by United States broadband households for their most recently purchased smartphone more than doubled, increasing from \$258 in 2014 to \$528 in 2018.

As smartphones have become more expensive, it is understandable that their owners have become more concerned with extending the life expectancies of their phones. Extending the life of a smartphone can be tricky, as routine operating system updates can affect device performance. Avoiding software updates can help users overcome that problem, and there are many additional strategies to extend the life of a smartphone.

Remove unused apps. Many smartphones come with built-in apps, some of which users may never open. These apps, even if they are not being used, still take up valuable storage space on a phone. As storage space dwindles, phones may experience lag times that compromise performance and frustrate users. By removing apps they do not use, users can reduce the likelihood of lag times and keep their phones running more effectively for longer periods of time. In addition, users can improve performance by removing apps they use sparingly and simply reinstalling them when the need arises.

Protect the phone's exterior. Damage is another factor that can shorten the life expectancy of a phone. Broken screens can render phones useless or very difficult to use, and few users want to pay the cost of replacing a screen, especially when their phones are more than a year old. Tempered glass protectors can reduce the likelihood of cracked or damaged screens, and such items are inexpensive, especially when compared to the cost of a new phone or new screen.

Use cloud storage. Many smartphones and/or phone plans now include cloud storage as part of the package users pay for. Cloud storage can be useful for users who take lots of photos, allowing them to save their photos onto the cloud and remove them from the phone's memory, thereby making the phone run more smoothly and efficiently, regardless of its age. If a plan does not include cloud storage, users can purchase their own for as little as a couple of dollars per month.

Protect the charging port. Dust in phone charging ports is a common problem for many smartphone users. A dust-filled charging port can make it hard to charge the phone, essentially rendering it useless. Compressed air can be used to clean ports of dust. Users can be proactive and clean the ports routinely with compressed air, or even cover charging ports with small pieces of tape when the phones are not being charged.

Smartphones are significant investments. A few simple strategies can help users protect their smartphone investments so the devices last longer.



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MAIL to Ocean Pines Chamber 11031 Cathell Road, Berlin, MD 21811 \$10/ticket How many tickets are you purchasing? _____

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Address _____ City _____

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Must be 18 or older to purchase, not tax deductible.
Proceeds go to benefit the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, a 501 6c.

Paying for Long-Term Care: the importance of planning early

By **Michele Procino-Wells**
Esquire

We plan to go on vacation. We plan to have dinner with friends. But when it comes to planning for our care as we advance in age, many of us prefer not to think about it, believing it will somehow all work out. Consider the two scenarios below that contrast the different outcomes of planning early and choosing the “wait and see” approach for long term care. The Facts. Steve is 72 and Carol is 69. They have been retired for several years. Recently, their oldest child asked them whether they had made any plans if one of them suddenly got sick. Steve and Carol had not thought much about this since both of them were in good health. However, they agreed to seek some advice to see what their options were. Steve and Carol own a home and they have checking, savings and CD accounts that total \$325,000. They both worked most of their adult lives, carefully watching their expenses and never spending money on extravagant items they didn't feel they needed. Scenario #1 – Steve and Carol planning ahead. Steve and Carol spoke with an elder law attorney, as they knew they should update their will and powers of attorney. While there, they were surprised to learn that they could actually plan now to avoid running out of money in the future should they need long term care. They placed \$200,000 and their home into an irrevocable trust, and named their children as beneficiaries of the trust. If needed, their children would be able to take a distribution from the trust rather than using their own money for Steve and Carol's needs. They kept the remaining \$125,000 in a revocable trust that Steve and Carol would use for their living expenses. The \$200,000 placed into the irrevocable trust would not be counted against them after 5 years, should either of them need long term care and the assistance of state benefits to pay for it. Unfortunately, six years later Steve had a severe stroke and ended up in a nursing home. Carol tried caring for him at home but was simply unable to. Because they had planned ahead and had set up an irrevocable trust, Carol was able to keep all of the remaining cash assets in their revocable trust, and Steve was able to qualify immediately for state

Medicaid benefits. The irrevocable trust (which had now grown to \$215,000) remained in place but did not count against Steve since more than 5 years had passed. Carol was incredibly relieved to know that she did not have to worry about paying for Steve's care and could instead focus on visiting him and providing as much support as possible to him. Scenario #2 – Steve and Carol without planning ahead. Let's assume Steve and Carol did not plan ahead. When Steve had a stroke at age 78, the couple had \$325,000 in checking, savings and CDs. Under the Medicaid regulations in place at the time, Carol was able to keep approximately \$125,000 of the assets, but most of the remaining assets had to be spent for Steve's care. While their home would be protected since Carol was still living there, if she were to become ill the home could be subject to a lien by Medicaid. It took nearly two years to get Steve qualified for Medicaid, and the process was incredibly stressful for Carol and her

*please see **planning** page 22*

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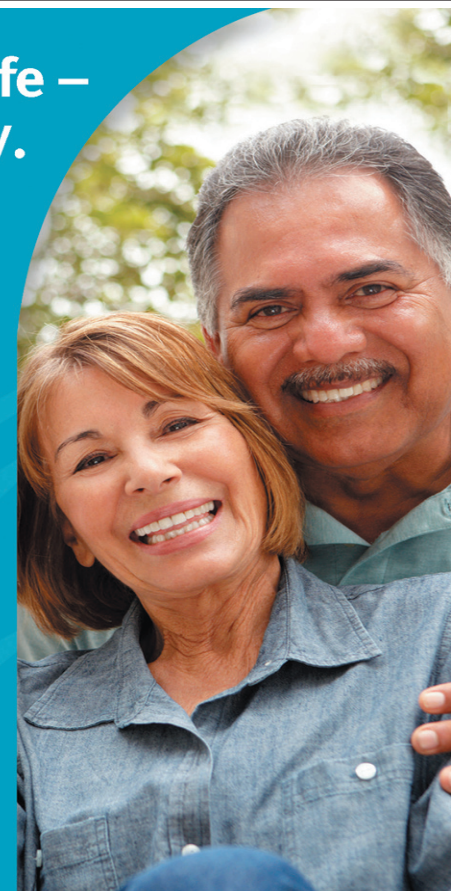
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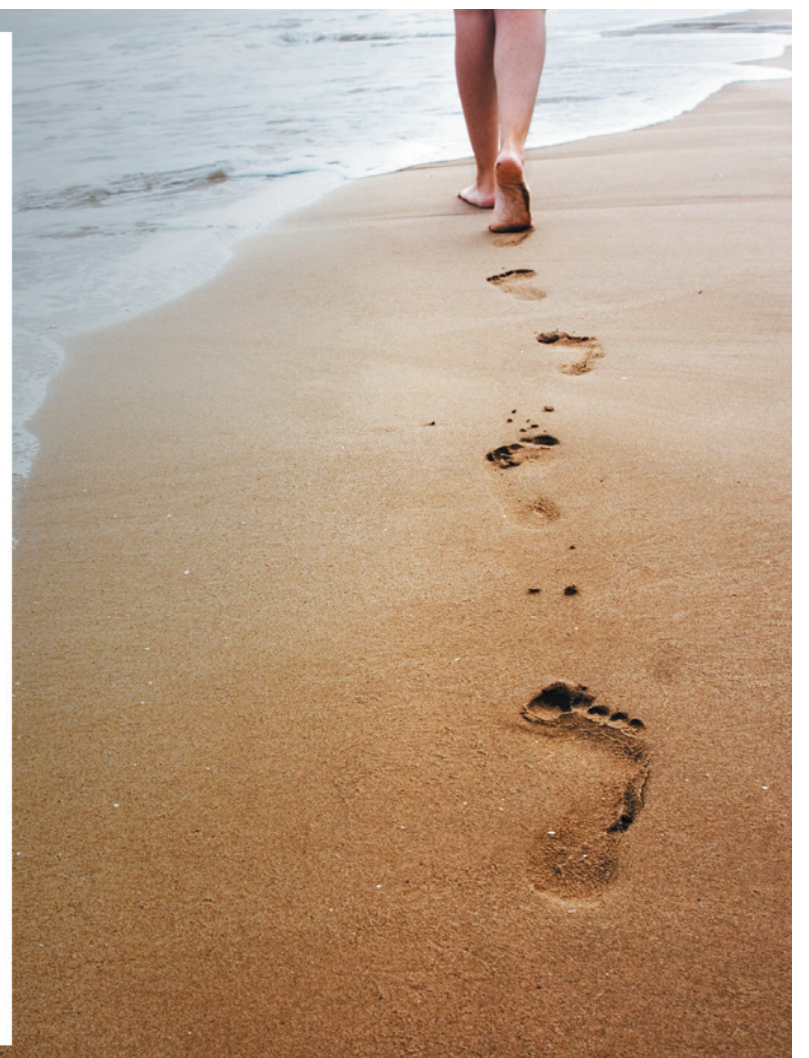
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Beginner's guide to kayaking

Kayaking is a water sport that can be beneficial to the mind and body. Just about anyone willing to spend a day on the water can benefit from learning about kayaking and how to get started with this rewarding activity.

The history of kayaking is interesting. The word "kayak" means



"hunter's boat" and the Inuit used to rely on these small vessels to catch food by sneaking up on their prey from the water's edge. Some people still hunt and fish from their kayaks, but many are happy to use them for sightseeing and exercising.

"Paddlesports are increasing in popularity among Americans who desire to connect with the outdoors," said Christine Fanning, executive director of The Outdoor Foundation.

The Outdoor Foundation and The Coleman Company, Inc., found in a Special Report on Paddlesports that 21.7 million Americans enjoyed paddling on rivers, lakes, streams, and other waterways in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available. Paddlesports include canoeing, rafting, kayaking, and stand-up paddling.

Learning how to kayak does not involve a significant initial financial investment. The outdoor experts at REI say there's a good chance a novice kayaker will not go out and buy a boat immediately. It's important to first get a feel for the sport and then go from there.

Although it is not absolutely necessary, it is recommended that novices take paddling lessons to hone their kayaking skills. Learning the proper technique can help people avoid strain on their neck and back and safeguard their arms from fatigue.

Novices should practice on calm waters until their technique is honed. Lakes are a great place to learn, as rivers and places with mild currents can overwhelm those new to the sport.

One of the easiest ways to get introduced to kayaking is to go with an experienced paddler or tour company. Such companies charge a set price for an excursion that will provide transportation to the drop site as well as the equipment needed for the voyage. Tours may include travel down several miles of a relatively calm waterway, allowing novice kayakers to get a feel for paddling and take in the scenery.

Getting in and out of a kayak can be challenging for beginners. The resource Kayakpaddling.net offers helpful illustrations and animated tutorials about entering and exiting kayaks as well as paddling techniques and safety.

Kayakers should bring some essentials along. A dry pack can keep electronics, food and equipment dry. Remember to wear sunscreen and a hat to keep safe from the sun. A life vest also is essential.

Exercise, fresh air and enjoying the open water are just some of the many draws of kayaking.

Italian dinner returns

Tickets are now available for the return of the Authentic Italian Dinner, prepared by the Francesco Candeloro Family. The event will take place at St. Paul's by-the Sea Episcopal Church located at 302 N. Baltimore Ave. in Ocean City.

Everything is carefully made following old family recipes; beginning with the homemade salad dressing, the pasta, the memorable Bolognese Sauce, even the filling for the cannoli shells. Those attending last year's dinner gave rave reviews and couldn't wait for it to be held again.

The date is Sunday, February 16 from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$7.50 for children ages six to 12; children under five eat for free. Carry out is available

Advance tickets are recommended. For more information, call the church office at 410-289-3453 or by Email at office@stpaulsbythesea.org or call 410-641-8171.





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MAIL to Ocean Pines Chamber 11031 Cathell Road, Berlin, MD 21811 \$10/ticket How many tickets are you purchasing? _____

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Drawing will be at Noon on April 1, 2020. We will Facebook Live the drawing on our Facebook page!
Must be 18 or older to purchase, not tax deductible.
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The best ages to spay or neuter pets

Animal overpopulation is a concern that affects the well-being of pets. The ASPCA says letting animals reproduce unchecked can lead

to pet homelessness that results in millions of healthy cats and dogs being euthanized in the United States each year.



In addition to helping to control homelessness, spaying and neutering companion animals may have medical and behavioral benefits. As valuable as spaying and neutering can be, the procedures are not without potential complications. Responsible pet owners must weigh the pros and cons of spaying and neutering with a qualified animal professional.

Many veterinarians now recommend female and male dogs be spayed or neutered between the ages of six to nine months. Some vets say puppies can be neutered as young as eight weeks old as long as

they are healthy. In fact, it has become the norm for rescue puppies to be neutered prior to being placed with adoptive families. Those who would like to follow the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Life Stage Guidelines should have small-breed

dogs (under 45 pounds projected adult body weight) neutered or spayed at six months of age or prior to the first heat. Large-breed dogs should be sterilized after growth

stops, which is usually between nine and 15 months of age.

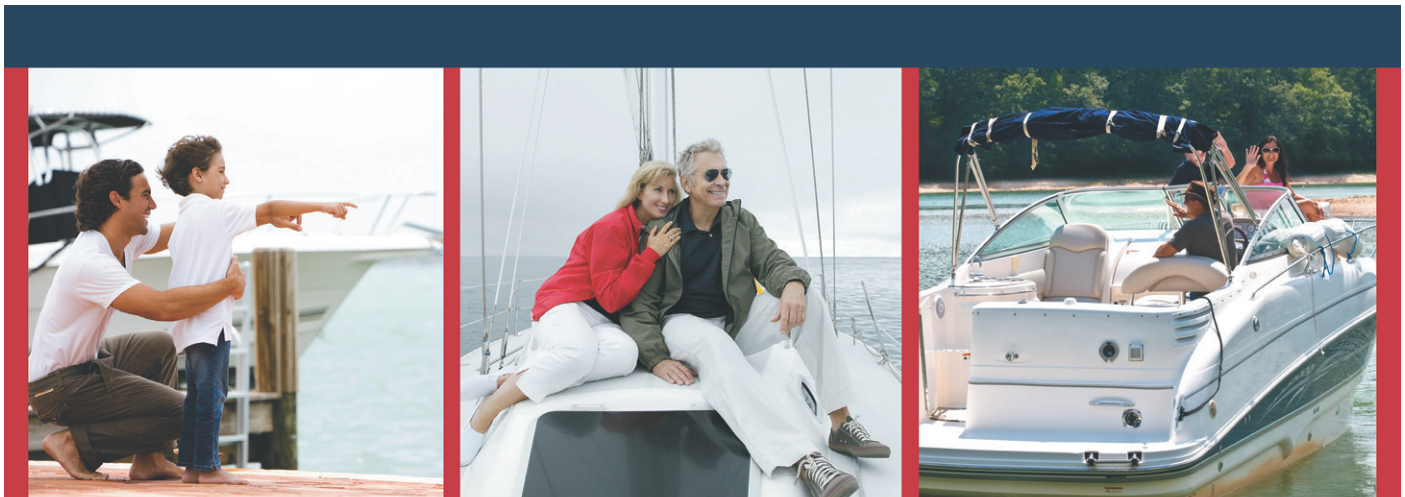
The ASPCA says it is generally considered safe for kittens as young as eight weeks old to be spayed or neutered. Doing so can help avoid the start of urine spraying and eliminate the chances for cats to go into heat and become pregnant.

Spaying and neutering have been shown to reduce risk for testicular cancer and some prostate problems. Sterilization also can protect against uterine infections and breast tumors in many female pets. These procedures may also help prevent animals from roaming to find mates or reduce aggression problems.

Some research has pointed out

that early neutering may lead to certain medical conditions that may be preventable by waiting until a pup or kitten is a little older before having him or her go under the knife. Researchers at the University of California, Davis, conducted a study on golden retrievers in 2013 that found early neutering and spaying appeared to increase the risk of diseases, such as cranial cruciate ligament rupture, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumors, lymphosarcoma, and hip dysplasia.

Working with a veterinarian can help pet owners make informed decisions about the appropriate age for a pet's sterilization.



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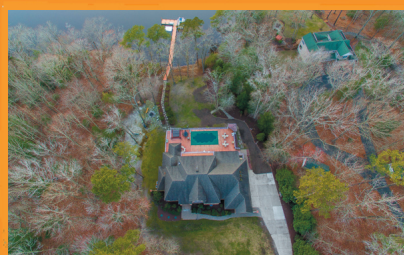
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Carozza introduces local legislation

Senator Mary Beth Carozza introduced three bills with strong local support on Monday, February 3. The bills are Senate Bill 878—Worcester County - Special Event Zones – Prohibitions; Senate Bill 477—Public Health - Emergency Use Auto-Injectable Epinephrine Program – Revisions; and Senate Bill 906—Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Seasonal Temporary Workers. All three of these bills will be heard in the coming weeks.

“At the request of Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan and Ocean City Police Chief Ross Buzzuro, I have introduced Senate Bill 878, a priority local public safety bill which strengthens the current special event zone law by defining and increasing the penalties for exhibition driving,” said Carozza, who also noted that Senate Bill 878 has bipartisan support, with Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, Jr. as a cosponsor.

“As Maryland’s one and only beach town, Ocean City will always be a special place where family memories are made generation after generation. This bill will help keep Ocean City residents and visitors safe and family friendly, and I am encouraged by the support of my Senate colleagues for this legislation.”

Senate Bill 477 would allow restaurants and food service facilities to store and make available auto-injectable epinephrine to be used in emergency situations. This would be a voluntary program with designated employees who would be trained and certified for the handling of the auto-injectable epinephrine. The need for this legislation was brought to Senator Carozza’s attention after the tragic death of community and business leader Chris Trimper after a severe allergic reaction.

“We in our home community are still grieving the tragic and untimely death of our friend, Chris Trimper. Afterwards, local leaders and com-

munity members brought to light that our restaurants do not have the authority to store and use Epi Pens, and that it would require legislation for restaurants to have the option of carrying Epi Pens on their premises,” said Carozza. “This bill gives restaurants and other food service facilities the option to do so on a voluntary basis, and may save lives in the future.”

Senate Bill 906 would provide relief to seasonal job creators by creating a 120-day exemption to the paid leave mandate, which was implemented in 2018.

“Our job creators need relief. They need flexibility when it comes

to staffing, running their own operations, and providing quality services to all groups and visitors,” said Carozza “The paid leave law, even with this 106-day seasonal exemption, hurts the ability of our seasonal job creators to provide jobs to young people and negatively impacts the services provided to visitors.”

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee heard Senate Bill 275—Education - Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act of 2020 - Innovation Schools on Tuesday, February 4. Introduced by Governor Hogan and cosponsored by Senator Carozza, this initiative would establish a program to quickly turn around underperforming schools while maintaining local autonomy and flexibility. Carozza has used her position in Committee to raise awareness about the need for flexibility for local school systems.

Craft Club to meet

The Pine’er Craft Club meeting will be held February 20 in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Refreshments will be available at 9:45 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All are welcome.



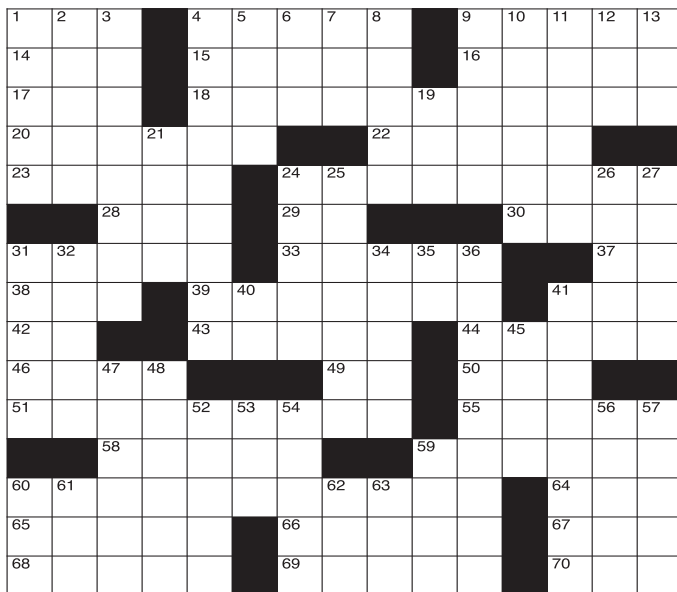
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small deer
- 4. Khoikhoi peoples
- 9. South African statesman
- 14. Keyboard key
- 15. Remove
- 16. A conspicuous constellation
- 17. Data executive
- 18. Retired NASCAR driver
- 20. Tightens
- 22. A picture of the Virgin Mary
- 23. "The Mission" actor Jeremy
- 24. Confidently
- 28. More (Spanish)
- 29. Sports highlight show (abbr.)
- 30. Hand out cards
- 31. Distinctive Asian antelope
- 33. Arabic greeting
- 37. Of I
- 38. Hip hop trio
- 39. Meat roll
- 41. One's mother (Brit.)
- 42. ___-GYN
- 43. Belgian city
- 44. Plucks
- 46. Leak slowly
- 49. Denotes a particular region
- 50. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 51. Divides
- 55. Kid
- 58. Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium
- 59. Engaged in conflict
- 60. Former CBS sportscaster
- 69. Characterized by unity
- 65. Working-class
- 66. Corners
- 67. ___ de plume
- 68. Influential French artist
- 69. "Very" in musical terms
- 70. Financial account

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Long, flat abdominal muscles
- 2. Small Eurasian willow
- 3. Justified in terms of profitability
- 4. Required
- 5. River that starts in Turkey
- 6. Disfigure
- 7. A way of communicating (abbr.)
- 8. Leaks slowly
- 9. Shady place under trees
- 10. Made a speech
- 11. Long, angry speech
- 12. Mortar trough
- 13. Autonomic nervous system
- 19. Southern India island
- 21. Grab quickly
- 24. Ancient Mesopotamian city
- 25. With three uneven sides
- 26. Football visionary Hunt
- 27. Primordial matters
- 31. Facing towards the flow of a glacier
- 32. "A Delicate Balance" writer
- 34. Emits coherent radiation
- 35. Commercial
- 36. Groups of foot bones
- 40. Out of print
- 41. Partner to cheese
- 45. German river
- 47. Concluding speech
- 48. Spanish dish
- 52. Prominent California cape
- 53. Any high mountain
- 54. Ethiopian lake
- 56. Mr.
- 57. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 59. Large, flightless bird
- 60. Oil industry term (abbr.)
- 61. Something one can draw
- 62. Officers in charge
- 63. Greek island



Answers for February 5

My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

What to feed wild birds

Feeding the birds that visit your home is one of the most rewarding ways to attract and observe wild birds. Starting a feeding hobby will take a little time, an investment in a feeder or two, and food to go in them.

In Maryland, the most productive time to hang up bird feeders is November through April when natural foods aren't as readily available.

Bird species have certain tastes when it comes to the food they eat and how it is presented to them. By tailoring the foods you offer to your favorite birds, you increase your chances of attracting them. The best seeds to buy are those that most birds eat.

Black Oil Sunflower. Black oil sunflower seed is rich in fats and proteins needed by a variety of birds. Chickadees, doves, finches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, Northern Cardinals, nuthatches, Pine Siskins, titmice and woodpeckers all enjoy black oil sunflower seed.

Common Seed Mixes. These mixes attract a variety of non-native birds including European Starlings, House Sparrows and pigeons. Many of these mixes also contain a substantial amount of red milo which only a few species of bird in the southwest eat.

Hulled Sunflower. Also known as sunflower hearts, hulled sunflower is chopped up pieces of sunflower seeds without the coats. Chickadees, Common Redpolls, Dark-eyed Juncos, doves, finches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, Pine Siskins, titmice and woodpeckers all like hulled sunflower seed.

Nyjer (formerly known as thistle). Nyjer is an imported seed that comes from African daisies, not thistles. It is a favorite of Common Redpolls, Dark-eyed Juncos, doves, finches, goldfinches, Indigo Buntings and Pine Siskins.

Safflower. Safflower is generally found in higher end bird seed mixes. Northern Cardinals, Doves, Purple Finches and titmice all forage on safflower while "feeder hogs" like grackles and starlings tend to avoid it.

Striped Sunflower. Striped sunflower seeds are a favorite of many birds and

people. Chickadees, doves, grosbeaks, Northern Cardinals, nuthatches, titmice and woodpeckers all eat striped sunflower seed.

White Proso Millet. Both sunflower and millet can be found in mixes or can be fed separately. Most sparrows prefer millet and are not particular about where they eat. Dark-eyed Juncos, doves, Indigo Buntings and towhees also enjoy white millet.

Suet. Commercial suet cakes or fresh suet mixed with sunflower and other seed will make a favored treat for cardinals, woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees. Most commercially available varieties don't melt in the sun, and the best times to feed suet are in the fall and winter months.

Fruit. Oranges, apples, grapes, and fruit cocktails can attract a variety of bird species to your backyard, including seed eating birds like tanagers. Only fresh fruit should be offered to birds as many dried fruits have added sugars that are harmful to birds. Fresh fruit can be placed on railings, nailed to trees or hung from branches. Be sure to clean fruit feeders every few days and remove any moldy fruit that may be left.

Mealworms. Mealworms might not be so appetizing to us, but to many species of birds, mealworms are a very tasty meal. Mealworms provide an excellent source of protein, calcium and vitamins. Bluebirds, in particular, can really benefit from mealworm supplements in the winter and during early spring. Mealworms can be offered in special feeders or on platforms.

Nectar. Nectar, a sugar solution, is a favorite food of hummingbirds. Attracting these tiny, colorful birds is a highlight in any bird lover's experience. Nectar can be bought in packages, or it can be made at home. To make hummingbird nectar, take one part sugar and add it to four parts water. Bring the solution to a boil to kill any potential fungi or bacteria. Be sure to change your nectar solution and thoroughly clean your nectar feeders every two to three days. The fungus and bacteria that accumulate in nectar feeders can kill hummingbirds.

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Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world



Valentine's Day is celebrated across the globe. Come Valentine's Day, candy, flowers and other gifts are exchanged between sweethearts in one of the many traditions associated with the holiday.

The origins of Valentine's Day are largely unknown. Some suggest Valentine's Day was initially a way to honor St. Valentine on the anniversary of his death. Others believe it was the Christian church's way of Christianizing the Pagan celebration of Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture.

Regardless of its origins, Valen-

tine's Day is now celebrated by millions and is one of the retail industry's most lucrative shopping holidays.

Many different traditions can be linked to Valentine's Day. Here is a list of the interesting ways Valentine's Day is celebrated across the globe.

South Korea. In South Korea, men get to enjoy the spotlight on Valentine's Day, as women bestow gifts of chocolate on them. In return, a month later, men reciprocate with gifts for women on White Day. South Koreans take Valentine's Day a step further on Black Day, which falls on April 14. This is an opportunity for all single people who may not have received Valentine's Day gifts to gather at restaurants and eat a dish called "black noodles" as they celebrate their singleton status.

Denmark and Norway. These Scandinavian countries didn't really celebrate Valentine's Day until recently, but have now put their own spin on the traditions. Men write funny poems or rhyming love notes called Gaekkebrev and send them to women anonymously. Women must try to guess their admirers by counting dots that are put on the note that correspond to the number of letters in the man's name.

Estonia. In Estonia, Valentine's Day is a day more devoted to friend-

ship than romantic love. Cards and gifts are exchanged among friends.

Wales. In Wales, Valentine's Day is not celebrated. Rather, the Welsh commemorate St. Dwynwen's Day, who is their patron saint of lovers on January 25. It is customary to gift love-spoons, a tradition that likely stems from the practice of sailors carving intricately decorated spoons of wood and presenting them to women they were interested in courting or marrying.

France. Considered to be one of the most romantic countries in the world, France can be an ideal place to participate in Valentine's Day traditions. The French have an old custom called "une loterie d'amour," which is a drawing for love. Single men and women of all ages once entered houses that faced one another and

took turns calling out to one another to find romantic matches. The men could refuse the match and leave the woman looking for another man to call on. Women who were not paired up would light a bonfire and damn the men who rejected them. The French government eventually banned the practice because of rowdy crowds.

Italy. Italian lovers celebrate Valentine's Day in much the same way as Americans. One interesting Valentine's tradition in Italy is locking padlocks to different structures, which is called "Lucchetti dell'Amore (locks of love)." Couples attach the locks to bridges, railings and lamp posts, inscribe their names and throw away the key. The action suggests the couple will be together forever.

Did you know?

An aphrodisiac is a food, drink or drug that many people believe stimulates sexual desire. Ancient Romans once worshiped the apple as an aphrodisiac, but many other foods have emerged that are purported to have aphrodisiac properties. Consuming these foods or enjoying certain seasonings and spices may be just what is needed to rev up Valentine's Day celebrations.

- Oysters
- Watermelon
- Chocolate
- Avocadoes

- Asparagus
- Celery
- Figs
- Basil
- Cinnamon
- Cardamom
- Ginger
- Vanilla
- Pomegranate

Many of these foods stimulate testosterone, are rich in vitamins and minerals essential for reproductive health, and contribute to increased sexual potency through improved blood flow. Just make sure they are safe to introduce to your diet before consuming.

Enjoy Valentine's Day when the babysitter's busy

Come Valentine's Day, couples are anxious to enjoy time spent with the one they love, whether it involves a dinner at a restaurant or a few hours of uninterrupted conversation at home. Parents who rely on babysitters and caregivers to tend to children while they get a night out may find that their sitters are also celebrating on Valentine's Day. This leaves parents of children of all ages potentially wondering how to celebrate with kids in tow. Here are some ideas to get started.

Breakfast celebration. Who says Valentine's Day love and affection is restricted to the evening? Make use of your time by tinkering with the schedule so that you can enjoy one-on-one moments in the morning or afternoon while children are in school or at daycare. Enjoy a couple's breakfast or brunch, followed by a massage.

Meet for lunch. If you can't spare a day off from work, make a point to meet for lunch at a place halfway between your offices. This is yet another

kid-free opportunity to enjoy meaningful conversation and time spent as a couple.

Let the kids help. Enlist the kids to give you the night off from dinner, or have them select the perfect take-out menu for a Valentine's Day dinner. Children do not always have the opportunity to give back to their parents, and on February 14 they can step up their game. Move up bed times a little so the kids are tucked in early enough to allow you to cuddle on the couch.

Catch up on family time. Children are a shining example of their parents' love for one another. Use Valentine's Day as an opportunity to skip other obligations, including extracurricular activities, and have a family day. Watch a movie together and enjoy a picnic.



On Valentine's Day, there are many workarounds if the babysitter is unavailable.

Great ways to enjoy a day on a boat

Few things can be as enjoyable on a warm day as spending some time on a boat. For many people, the sound of the water lapping beneath a boat and the feeling of a warm summer breeze blowing through their hair is the very essence of summer relaxation.

Boating appeals to people with varying interests, and there are many ways one can enjoy a day spent traversing a nearby river, lake or ocean.

Fishing. Recreational fishing is wildly popular. According to the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, in 2016 more than 47 million Americans participated in fishing at least once during the calendar year. In its Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada, the organization Fisheries

and Oceans Canada found that more than 3.2 million adult anglers actively participated in a variety of recreational fishing activities in Canada in 2015.



The sheer volume of people who enjoy recreational fishing suggests it's an activity that has widespread appeal and it can benefit people of all ages and skill levels. What's more, fishing provides a wonderful excuse to spend a day on a boat.

please see boating page 22

Scholarships offered

Seniors of Italian heritage who attend Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, and Sussex Technical and Indian River high schools in Delaware are eligible to compete for three scholarships offered by the Ocean City lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy.

The lodge is offering three scholarships of \$1,750 each. The stipends to students have been awarded since 2010. As of the end of the 2018-2019 academic year, 32 students have received a total of \$37,750. The awards are granted to students who attend either a two-year or four-year college.

To apply for the scholarship, each applicant must be of Italian descent, submit a completed application, an essay, junior/senior transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, if available, and two letters of recommendations from teachers or counselors.

The students will be evaluated on the quality of essay about their Italian heritage, academic achievement, community involvement, co- and extra-curricular activities, and fi-

nancial need.

An application for and more information about the scholarship program, including current and past winners, can be found at <http://sonsofitalyocencity.com/MemberNews.html>. All applications must be submitted to school counselors by March 16. All applications and required supporting documents must be submitted to the Sons and Daughters of Italy scholarship committee by the student's counselor on or before March 31.

Bishopville Auxiliary to hold dinner

On Thursday, March 26 the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a Carrabba's Dinner for dine in or carry out between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Main Station. The menu is chicken Bryan, penne pasta, broccoli, Caesar salad, brownie and a drink for \$14. Pre-orders are encouraged by calling 619-922-9950.



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The White House: a symbol of the American presidency

Monday is Presidents' Day, a day to honor and remember the leaders of this nation. For more than two centuries the chief executives have resided at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. The White House is a symbol of the American presidency.

George Washington, selected the site for the White House in 1791. The cornerstone was laid in 1792 and a competition design submitted by Irish-born architect James Hoban was chosen. After eight years of construction, President John Adams and his wife, Abigail, moved into the unfinished house in 1800. During the War of 1812, the British set fire to the President's House in 1814. James Hoban was appointed to rebuild the house, and President James Monroe moved into the building in

1817. During Monroe's administration, the South Portico was constructed in 1824, and Andrew Jackson oversaw the addition of the North Portico in 1829. During the late 19th century, various proposals were made to significantly expand the President's House or to build an entirely new house for the president, but these plans were never realized.

In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt began a major renovation of the White House, including the relocation of the president's offices from the Second Floor of the Residence to the newly constructed temporary Executive Office Building (now known as the West Wing). The Roosevelt renovation was planned and carried out by the famous New York architectural firm McKim, Mead and White. Roo-



sevelt's successor, President William Howard Taft, had the Oval Office constructed within an enlarged office wing.

Less than fifty years after the Roosevelt renovation, the White House was showing signs of serious structural weakness. President Harry S. Truman began a renovation of the building in which everything but the outer walls were dismantled. The reconstruction was overseen by architect Lorenzo Winslow, and the Truman family moved back into the White House in 1952.

Every president since John Adams has occupied the White House, and the history of this building extends far beyond the construction of its walls. From the Ground Floor Corridor rooms, transformed from their early use as service areas, to the State Floor rooms, where countless leaders and dignitaries have been entertained, the White House is both the home of the President of the United States and his family, and a museum of American

planning
from page 15

children. Furthermore, no planning has been done for Carol and if her health fails, their remaining assets are at risk. Conclusion. The scenarios above highlight the importance of seniors planning early for the possibility of needing long term care. There are not only financial benefits to doing so, but also numerous non-financial benefits, including reduced stress on the family and peace of mind knowing that the family's needs are taken care of regardless of any health care crisis that may occur.

history. The White House is a place where history continues to unfold.

There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and six levels in the Residence. There are also 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, eight staircases, and three elevators.

The White House kitchen is able to serve dinner to as many as 140 guests and hors d'oeuvres to more than 1,000.

The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover its outside surface.

At various times in history, the White House has been known as the "President's Palace," the "President's House," and the "Executive Mansion."

President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.

-WhiteHouse.gov

boating

from page 21

Sailing. Sailing is a rewarding and demanding hobby. Avid sailors often describe the origins of their love of sailing as "catching the bug." Indeed, few hobbies can be as gratifying as sailing, which the organization Discover Boating notes requires participants to be more active than almost any other type of boating. While sailing can be physically demanding, when the waters are calm, few activities can be as peaceful and relaxing.

Exploring. Of course, even people who do not own their own boats can still enjoy time on the water. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation notes that roughly 90 percent of U.S. residents live within one hour of navigable bodies of water. Many waterfront communities, particularly those with tourism-based economies, are home to small businesses that provide local river, lake or ocean tours. These can be great ways to learn about local history and/or see local marine life.

A day spent on a boat is a great way to enjoy a warm afternoon. And the options are endless when it comes to how to spend such days on the water.

players

from page 10

symphony and opera.

Cabaret Director, Amy Morgan said: "Linda Ronstadt was one of my two greatest idols growing up, the second being Joan Baez. Through my own love of singing, these two ladies brought me up and got me through my teen and young adult years, where love and heartbreak run rampant. I especially loved belting out tunes with Ronstadt to get me thru the most difficult times. I am so very happy and honored to be involved in this tribute. Our tribute will focus on the songs from the 1970s decade of Ronstadt's far-reaching career, centering around the Troubadour Club in West Hollywood, CA, where she

performed with her first band, The Stone Poneys. It's going to be a whole lot of fun with a multitude of great songs to perform!"

The 90-minute all-female cast production, features Morgan and Annabelle Brady of Ocean City; Karen McClure of Ocean Pines; and Brenda Golden of West Ocean City, who is owner of the local online entertainment magazine, the "Coconut Times."

This year has been declared by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as the Year of the Woman. OPP's productions this year will feature women actors and directors as much as possible. Coming next: "The Dixie Swim Club" by Jessie Jones beginning last weekend in May 2020.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	
Th	13	Low	4:43 AM	-0.7	6:54 AM
	13	High	11:06 AM	2.5	5:36 PM
	13	Low	5:12 PM	-0.6	
	13	High	11:34 PM	2.4	
F	14	Low	5:42 AM	-0.4	6:52 AM
	14	High	11:57 AM	2.2	5:37 PM
	14	Low	6:04 PM	-0.4	
Sa	15	High	12:31 AM	2.3	6:51 AM
	15	Low	6:45 AM	-0.2	5:38 PM
	15	High	12:53 PM	1.9	
	15	Low	6:58 PM	-0.3	
Su	16	High	1:34 AM	2.3	6:50 AM
	16	Low	7:50 AM	0.1	5:39 PM
	16	High	1:54 PM	1.8	
	16	Low	7:56 PM	-0.2	
M	17	High	2:41 AM	2.2	6:49 AM
	17	Low	8:59 AM	0.2	5:40 PM
	17	High	3:01 PM	1.6	
	17	Low	8:56 PM	-0.1	
Tu	18	High	3:49 AM	2.2	6:48 AM
	18	Low	10:09 AM	0.2	5:41 PM
	18	High	4:06 PM	1.6	
	18	Low	9:58 PM	-0.1	
W	19	High	4:51 AM	2.3	6:46 AM
	19	Low	11:13 AM	0.2	5:42 PM
	19	High	5:04 PM	1.6	
	19	Low	10:56 PM	-0.1	

opa
from page 1

perhaps coming in at around \$90,000 below the \$400,000 estimate.

A 3,400 square-foot expansion of the police headquarters is “really just starting, but there’s a lot of progress,” Viola said. The foundation is set and much of the brick-wall interior can already be seen in its location, next to the administration building on 239 Ocean Parkway.

The total projected cost of the expansion is \$1.3 million, with just over \$125,000 spent to date.

Viola said Ocean Pines is already generating its monthly financial reports using the new Northstar software systems, although there are several open items remaining in the transition. The software will eventually encompass Association finances, amenity programming, and a new website.

“It is a highly customized software system ... so there is work

there,” he said.

Viola added he formed a work group to oversee the open items list, with Association President Doug Parks and Budget and Finance Committee members Brian Reynolds and Jeff Knepper leading that effort.

“Doug has a lot of background on project planning and open items, and he’s helping us put together the report and we’ll have follow-ups with Northstar,” Viola said. “The team has a very positive attitude and I know we’ll be successful. I’ll continue to update the Association on this.”

To date, Ocean Pines has spent just over \$300,000 on the Northstar transition, against a budget of \$400,000.

Lastly, Viola said the recommended fiscal 2020/2021 budget was posted online on Jan. 24. A public hearing for the budget was part of the meeting on Wednesday evening, and a second hearing and vote to approve the document is scheduled February 18.

collins
from page 11

or rather a tale, they want to tell. Some are believable fish yarns - some are not so believable. Others glamorize herculean feats of rescue at sea or ingenious maintenance solutions. My favorite dialogue is always with the guy who responds, “Oh yea, I can top that one....”

Even if you don’t own a boat, it’s fun to check out the many ways there are to enjoy the water. For the fisherman who wants to do more than cast off the Route 50 bridge, there are skiffs for bay fishing and deep hull, big gas tank boats for deep water. Besides owning a boat, you can rent one for the day, or go out on a party boat or join a time share group ownership. There are also charter boats for the once a year let’s-go-to-the-canyon-for-a-trophy-fish outing – all of which can be found somewhere in the Convention Center.

Now if you prefer your water enjoyment outside the gunwales, there’s water skiing, tubing, parasailing, and scuba diving and they too are well represented at

the Boat Show.

I particularly like to talk to water enthusiasts beyond my realm of experience. For example, I’m told that kayaking in the Ocean Pines canals or on an eco-exploration tour of the shallow waters behind Assateague Island is both invigorating and enlightening. And for the more athletic, there’s paddle boarding – same water but a better workout.

Jet Skiing is another one I haven’t tried. Lots of folks like to go zero to sixty miles per hour, then do a tight three hundred and sixty degree turn and stop. Then do it again and again and again. This is a dream come true for the motorcyclist who is tired of falling off his bike. Personal watercraft (PWC) are meant to get the operator and the back seaters a little wet from time to time.

Then there are those among us that just want to take in the sun, enjoy a cold drink and swim over the side.

Gosh, I can’t wait. Come on Ground Hog, give us an early season!

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

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