

OPA Board approves FY20/21 budget

The Ocean Pines Board on Tuesday voted 6-0, with one abstention, to approve the fiscal year 2020/2021 budget. Association Vice President Steve Tuttle abstained from the vote.

Taking effect May 1, the approved budget preserves the current basic annual assessment of \$986.

Association President Doug Parks praised General Manager John Viola and Ocean Pines staff, as well as the Budget and Finance Committee, for their role in crafting the budget.

“The process, I think, went very, very well this year and hopefully it’s used as a standard as we move forward in subsequent years to prepare the budget,” Parks said. “Kudos to all those involved, and I thank them for their efforts and applaud them for getting us a budget that we [could] work with in a very reasonable and organized way.”

Viola said staff and particularly Association department heads contributed to what was, by all accounts, a smoother than normal budget process that finished several weeks early.

The proposed budget was released in December, followed by a three-day Budget and Finance Committee review and one daylong Board of Directors review session in January. The Board then held a public hearing on Feb. 5 and budget adoption occurred two weeks later, on Feb. 18.

“It was a team effort, we used a bottom’s up approach, held public meetings, prepared analysis, and had work plans support all numbers,” Viola said. “Everybody contributed – Golf, Aquatics, Public Works, Public Relations, Finance, Rec and Parks, Police, Racquet Sports, and the Marina.”

Elaborating on the “bottom’s up” approach, Viola said, “I didn’t start off with last year’s budget and work backwards, and just change some numbers.”

“Everybody started off from scratch, pen to paper, considering what they thought their revenues and expenses would be,” he said. “I just think the review process, the feedback, the communication, the meetings – everything was smooth. We had due dates and we talked about the issues for each department, and then they [staff] went and did it.”

At the center of the entire process, Viola said, was countless hours of work done behind the scenes by the Finance Department, led by Director of Finance and Operational Logistics Steve Phillips.

Viola also singled out Accounting Manager Julia Johnson, Accounts Payable Supervisor Geraldine Tate, and Assessment and Membership Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer.

“This is their time to shine,” Viola said. “Steve

*please see **budget** on page 6*



In the Garden

Catherine Winkler from Roots Landscaping was the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Ocean Pines Garden Club (OPGC). Catherine gave a presentation on the “Secrets for Success with Succulents” and led members in an activity creating a planted succulent in a decorated pot, ideal for Valentine’s Day gift-giving.

*Shown in photo, L-R: **Catherine Winkler**, Roots Landscaping and **Patti Lookner**, OPGC president. The next meeting of the OPGC will be on March 12 at 10 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The speaker will be Allison Schweiger, whose topic will be “Natives, Non-Natives, and Invasives: What’s in Your Garden?”*

New members and guests are welcome.

A Time To Remember

On this day in 1993, at 12:18 p.m., a terrorist bomb exploded in a parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City, leaving a crater 60 feet wide and causing the collapse of several steel-reinforced concrete floors in the vicinity of the blast. Although the terrorist bomb failed to critically damage the main structure of the skyscrapers, six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The World Trade Center itself suffered more than \$500 million in damage. After the attack, authorities evacuated 50,000 people from the buildings, hundreds of whom were suffering from smoke inhalation. The evacuation lasted the whole afternoon.

Wellness Weigh starts in March

The Worcester County Health Department will launch the third session of our online health and wellness program, Worcester Wellness Weigh (WWW), this March. The program is supported by a grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. WWW is a free, technology-based, healthy lifestyle and weight loss program designed specifically for families who are ready to work together to lose weight, eat healthier, increase physical activity, and improve their overall health.

The 12-week program includes easy-to-use online learning education lessons on healthy eating, cooking, meal planning, grocery shopping, food preservation, food budgeting, physical activity, stress and time management. Participants will monitor their activity and nutrition through the use of technology and apps. Members of WWW will be assigned a personal Physical Activity and Nutrition Coach who will monitor and review weekly goals, successes, and challenges. Individuals will also have the opportunity to participate in group walking programs and fun-filled monthly events.

Worcester Wellness Weigh is offered by Worcester Health in partnership with Chesapeake Health Care, Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Maryland Extension, Wor-Wic Community College, Atlantic Club Garden of Hope, Atlantic General Hospital Community Garden, and Pocomoke Corner Sanctuary Community Garden. Orientation for the program will occur at the times listed below. Those interested in participating in the Worcester Wellness Weigh program must register by March 3. Pre-registration is required to participate.

The program will be offered at the following locations:

Snow Hill Health Center

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department located at 6040 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, MD.

Berlin Health Center

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department located at 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD.

Pocomoke Health Center

Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department located at 400 A Walnut Street, Pocomoke, MD.

Space is limited. For more information or to register, please contact Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-1100, option 4 or visit worcesterhealth.org.



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 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.

Bingo Night scheduled

The Lioness Club of Berlin will host a Bingo Night on Saturday, March 7 beginning at 6 p.m. The event will occur at the Berlin Fire Company located on Main Street in Berlin. Tickets are \$25. There will be 20 \$100 games and a special \$250 game. Refreshments will be available for sale. All proceeds go to families in need. For information contact Donna at 410-208-6496 or Email debbiejensen1949@gmail.com.



Every person counts in 2020 census

Census day is right around the corner, April 1, 2020. The Worcester County Commissioners are partnering with the State of Maryland and the U.S. Census Bureau to help increase participation in the 2020 Census. Most individuals are probably aware that the U.S. Census Bureau

wide, including Worcester County. Furthermore, this critical Census data is also used to inform economic development and local planning decisions. That's why every person needs to be counted no matter the age or race.

According to the State of Maryland, every person not counted in the Census results in the loss of \$18,250 in federal funds to the state and local jurisdictions, including Worcester County, over a ten-year period. For example, Census numbers are used to determine the amount of federal funding that flows to Worcester County for programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Head

Start, emergency preparedness, school construction, housing assistance, special education, Infants, and Children, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance, and highway transportation projects.

Participating in the 2020 Census is important, easy, and safe. Information obtained for the Census is also confidential. The law mandates that information collected during the Census may only be used to produce statistics, so residents should not be afraid to respond. Individual information is not shared with federal, state or local governments or private agencies, including but not limited to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other law enforcements agencies.

The 2020 Census is accessible to everyone. This is the first Census in which residents will be able to complete their survey online, by phone, or by mail. Completing the survey takes only a few minutes compared to years in which residents will benefit. Look for an invitation to respond beginning in mid-March.

To learn more about the 2020 Census or to apply for available part-time temporary Census jobs in Berlin and Ocean City, visit 2020census.gov or census.maryland.gov.



conducts a count of every person living in the United States every 10 years. This count, which has been conducted since 1790, is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. The data collected by the decennial Census determines the number of seats Maryland has in the U.S. House of Representatives and other legislative boundaries. What may be less known, however, is that this count is used to determine how \$675 billion in federal funds will be distributed to communities nation-

Pine Tones invites new singers to open house

On Thursday, March 5 at 1 p.m. the Pine Tones Chorus will hold an open house for new singers, along with beginning their weekly spring rehearsals, at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Guest singers, who have vocal talent, will be welcomed with refreshments and a short video showing some of the chorus history. Both ladies and gentlemen of all singing parts, soprano, alto, tenor and bass, are invited.

The chorus musical style can be described as easy listening. Songs from movies, Broadway shows, and traditional tunes from Irving Berlin

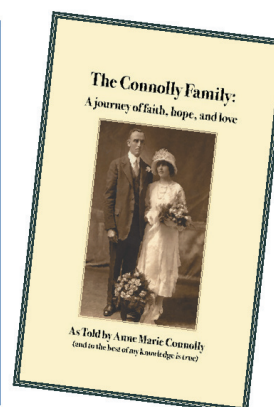
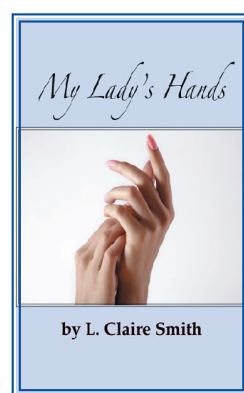
please see *singers* on page 8

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Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin

By **Chief David C. Massey, Ed.D.**
Ocean Pines Police Department

It has been an extended period since our last Crime Bulletin in December of last year, so our statistics shall appear somewhat inflated.

First the good news:

-Ocean Pines is the Safest Community in Maryland for its size, in 2019!

According to one community safety website survey, based upon just recently released FBI crime statistics for 2019, Ocean Pines is the safest community for its size in Maryland. This is one of the best reasons to live in our community. When people re-locate or purchase property in Ocean Pines, public safety is one of their primary concerns. Safety keeps our property values high.

-Elder Abuse Arrest: Some of our most vulnerable victims can be the elderly in managed care. Our police department is an active participant in the recently created Vulnerable Adult Task Force.

This multi-agency task force, headed by our States Attorney, coordinates the investigation of elder abuse. I am happy to report that our police department, in cooperation with the task force, recently convicted a health care worker who victimized an elderly patient by stealing the victim's credit

card and using it for theft. PFC James Brasure of our department was specifically commended by States Attorney Heiser, for his many hours of investigation on this case.

-Burglary Arrests: Vacant homes can sometimes be the target of juveniles seeking property or a hangout for drugs or alcohol. We recently arrested 4 juveniles, ranging in age from 11 to 16 years of age, for 4th Degree Burglary. In these types of cases, the juveniles are typically released to their parents, and the matter is handled from there by the Juvenile Justice Department.

If you are leaving your residence vacant for at least 30 days in a row, the police department can do periodic security house checks.

-Thefts from Vehicles: Unlocked vehicles are the number one target of thieves in Ocean Pines. Many would-be thieves just pull door handles on vehicles, entering the ones that are unlocked, and stealing property. We recently arrested three individuals, who were not from Ocean Pines, for multiple thefts and misuse of stolen credit cards. None of the vehicles they entered were locked. Please lock your car doors. It is just good crime prevention!

please see watch on page 15

The Legislature is at it again

Editor:

It's Deja vu all over again! At least as far as legislation in Maryland is concerned.

Most of the bad legislation that we have fought so hard over the last few years is back again, with the addition of the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation of Kirwan Recommendations" which expands State control over education and requires \$32 Billion in additional spending over 10 years. Please keep in mind that this bill calls for no accountability as to student performance or behavior. Additionally, has anyone noticed how the more involved state and federal governments become with education and the more money spent, the worse the results? The bill numbers for the "Blueprint" are SB1000 and HB1300.

A good bill to support is SB78 which would require County Boards of Education to implement regulations on remedial behavior expectations of students; to require restitution to students and teachers who have been harmed by the offending student; and modify the schedule of the individual who violated so that contact with the person harmed is minimized.

Of course, our Second Amendment rights are under attack in several bills. One of the worst is SB208/HB4 which would require background checks on a person (including family members) to whom you might loan a weapon (such

as loaning your rifle to your cousin to try out). And SB422 requires that every person with a permit issued or renewed must complete on SEPARATE calendar days each year an approved course on situational awareness and a course on competent handling of a firearm. That's two days out of your life and two fees out of your pocket, every year.

Physician Assisted Suicide is back again this year. It was defeated last year by only one vote.

Sanctuary State Legislation is up again this year. SB850 and HB677 would prohibit state and local government entities from entering into agreements facilitating immigration-related detention by private entities and would prohibit government entities from entering into certain agreements to house immigration-related detainees. This would also require governmental entities to terminate existing contracts for the detention of immigration related detainees. I don't know how many times we have to say it before it sinks in: "We are in favor of and enthusiastically support LEGAL immigration. Illegal immigration is exactly that - ILLEGAL". In opposition to this legislation is SB197 which would require a state or local correctional facility to notify the US Dept. of Homeland Security that an individual subject to an immigration detainer is ready to be released - the notice would need to be provided 72 hours before the individual is released. Had this been in place, several terrible crimes with young victims could have been prevented.

I urge my fellow Eastern Shore citizens to take the time to research these bills and others and to let our elected representatives know where we stand. You can find out all about current proposed bills by going to mgaleg.maryland.gov. You can call or email the Senators and Delegates with your opinions.

I hope we can work together to defeat some of these proposed bills which will harm our way of life if passed.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines



Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:
thecourier@delmarvacourier.com



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis, or TB, does not always limit its attacks to the lungs. While the World Health Organization notes that TB most often affects the lungs, the TB bacteria can actually attack any part of the body, including the kidneys, spine and brain. That's



just one of many facts about TB that may come as a surprise to people outside the medical community. Another eyebrow-raising fact about TB is that, according to the WHO, about 25 percent of the world's population has latent TB. That means one-quarter of the global population has been infected by TB bacteria but is not yet ill with the disease and is incapable of transmitting it. While that may seem worrisome, it's important to note that the WHO also points out that people infected with

TB bacteria have between a 5 and 15 percent lifetime risk of falling ill with TB. Those with already compromised immune systems, including people living with HIV, tobacco users and people with diabetes, have a higher risk of falling ill with TB upon being infected with the TB bacteria.

The Courier

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Car battery, plump fingers and me

Author's Note: *This past weekend, we were told by a mechanic that my wife's car needed a new battery. Instead of paying to have the battery replaced, I install a new one myself. This reminded me of a column I wrote several years ago.*



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

A car mechanic I am not. I'll be the first to admit to such a shortcoming. For the record, I can check the levels of the windshield washer fluid and the oil. I can change a tire and there was a time way back when cars were much less sophisticated that I could replace spark plugs. However, I'm not the type to tear down and rebuild an engine. You won't see me in my driveway replacing the brakes or performing a valve job. Nope, that's just not me.

Just the other week my son's car was in need of a battery replacement. Changing out a battery is something I can do because it requires not much technical expertise. So, father and son went outside and popped the hood. Common projects undertaken by fathers and sons are opportunities for quality time. I'm sure back in the days of the caveman fathers and sons enjoyed time spent together hunting and gathering or bringing down a Woolly Mammoth. Fortunately for me, the woolies are extinct.

Under the hood of my son's car we found the things that are expected, you know, like the engine. Just behind the left headlight was the troublesome battery. The terminals were somewhat corroded. In simpler times when my grandfather was the family mechanic, he taught me that battery terminal corrosion could be eliminated by pouring Coca-Cola over them. I shared this little tidbit with my son. Thinking that the corrosion was preventing the car from starting, we cleaned the terminals and reattached them. My son turned the ignition key. And then ... nothing.

Okay, let's pull the battery and get another one. Off to the auto parts store we went, just the two of us who by now had grease smeared hands. The clerk

at the store hooked up the battery to their meter and lo and behold it registered it had no more life to give. It was gone. In fact I think the meter showed negative readings. That will be one new battery, please.

We got the battery home and work began to install it. This operation should and usually is simple. But this particular endeavor was bedeviled by little annoyances. The first one being when one of the long bolts that holds the bracket that holds the battery in place slipped from

my fingers and fell into a shadowy crevice between the radiator and something else of which I don't know the name. I could just see the top of the bolt but was unable to reach it because my sausage-sized fingers were too plump to fit through the opening. My son tried as well but he too failed. Into the garage I went to retrieve a little retractable claw tool that was part of my inheritance from my grandfather.

With a little finesse and a couple swear words, I was finally able to retrieve the bolt. The celebration was cut short when my son dropped the adjustable wrench into the same crevice. Ugh! After a little more finesse and a few more swear words the wrench was rescued just as a clap of thunder broke overhead. Our work took on a new urgency as we raced to beat the down pour.

The battery was in place and the red battery cable was set followed its black cousin. When the negative cable made contact the car's alarm sounded scaring the bejesus out of us. With our heads under the hood the siren echoed and reverberated through our inner souls.

Changing a car battery should really take about ten minutes. Forty-five minutes later we were able to close the hood signifying the job was finished. I had a welt on the back of my head where I banged it on the hood when the alarm went off. Two of my plumps fingers were scrapped up from when I tried to retrieve the bolt and my hands were black with grease. Nonetheless, the job was done and my son no longer had to borrow his mother's car to get around.

A new battery: \$101.95. Time spent with my son: Priceless.



INSPIRATION

MEETS ORGANIZATION.

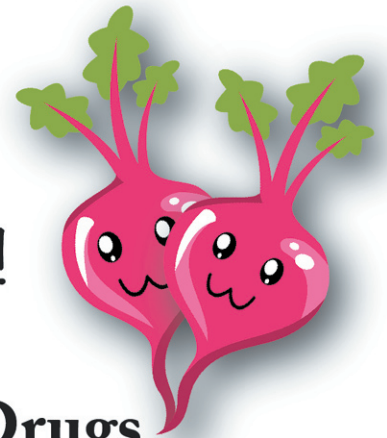
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ASSESSMENT DETAIL			
	2019-20	2020-21	DIFF
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
GENERAL OPERATIONS			
ADMINISTRATION	198	214	16
COMPLIANCE / PERMITS / INSPECT	(5)	(1)	4
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	104	97	(7)
PUBLIC WORKS	194	198	4
FIRE / EMS	82	83	1
POLICE	157	165	8
RECREATION / PARKS	61	62	1
SUB-TOTAL	791	817	26
AMENITY OPERATIONS			
RACQUET SPORTS	1	3	2
AQUATICS	(4)	12	16
GOLF OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE/TURNS	9	6	(3)
BEACH CLUB	(12)	(12)	0
BEACH PARKING	(40)	(58)	(18)
YACHT CLUB	12	(10)	(22)
MARINAS	(22)	(23)	(1)
SUB-TOTAL	(56)	(81)	(25)
RESERVES			
REPLACEMENT	220	231	11
OPERATING DEFICIT	30	0	(30)
ROADS	0	0	0
BULKHEADS	0	19	19
SUB-TOTAL	250	250	19
OTHER			
NEW CAPITAL	1	0	(1)
SUB-TOTAL	1	0	(1)
NON-WATER LOTS	986	986	(0)
BULKHEAD DIFFERENTIAL	465	515	50
WATERFRONT LOTS	1,451	1,501	50

budget

from page 1

redid that entire department and, to do that budget while we're putting in a new software system, plus all the construction going on and the compensation study we did late last year – it was excellent work.”

Viola previously lent a hand during Ocean Pines budget sessions, both as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and as a volunteer CFO, but this was his first budget in the GM's chair. Based on what he already knew, Viola was confident he and the team could meet all the deadlines.

“There was full transparency throughout the entire process, everyone gave detailed plans and benchmarks, we held meetings out in the open, and I kept the Board up to date – and that's a big one,” he said. “Nothing was a surprise, everything was ex-

plained, and we always did reconciliations. Everything was communicated and the Board was kept apprised of everything we were doing.”



It also helped, Viola said, that staff could use real numbers based on work that was already being done, from bulkheads to roads to drainage.

“We didn't reinvent the wheel,” he said. “The analysis we did all year gets rolled into the budget. What everyone is already doing every month is geared toward that process, and that all contributed to our success.”



Challenge accepted - In January, Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) students participated in Kids Heart Challenge Fitness events raising over \$21,500 for the American Heart Association. All students at OCES participated in the initiative which helps educate students about leading an active lifestyle all year long. The second, third and fourth grade students participated in an after-school jump event and the pre-k, kindergarten and first grade students participated in an obstacle course. The money raised each year helps the American Heart Association research new methods to help heart and stroke patients. Pictured with some OCES students who participated in the afterschool jump event, P.E. teachers **Mark Engle** and **Tracey Drocella**.

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.

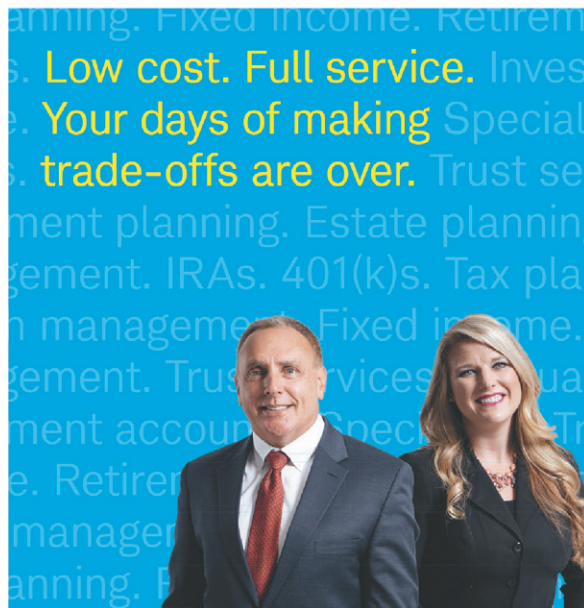
The lodge is offering three scholarships of \$1,750 each. The stipends to students have been awarded since 2010. As of the end of the 2018-2019 academic year, 32 students have received a total of \$37,750. The awards are granted to students who attend either a two-year or four-year college.

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 financial need.

An application for and more information about the scholarship program, including current and past winners, can be found at <http://sonsofitalyoceancity.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.



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Public invited to comment on Bayside Road Bridge project

The Worcester County Department of Public Works is implementing plans to replace the Bayside Road Bridge closest to Public Landing Road beginning tentatively in September 2020. The bridge replacement project is eligible for funding under the Highway Bridge Program. A public comment period is currently open, and the public is invited to comment on this project now through March 4.

The sixteen-span, timber-beam Bayside Road Bridge was scheduled to be replaced after earning unsatisfac-

tory bridge sufficiency ratings during the county's annual bridge inspection program. Access to the bridge will be closed, and detours will be in place throughout the course of the project. The roadway closure is expected to last approximately 180 days.

Please refer all public comments regarding the bridge replacement to Roads Superintendent Frank J. Adkins at fadkins@co.worcester.md.us. For information on detour routes or a complete description of this project, visit www.co.worcester.md.us.



All in the family - Stephen Decatur High School math teacher **Amy Matthews** (middle) poses with her mother, **Kathy Sheehan**, and stepfather **Captain Donald J. Sheehan Jr.**, United States Navy, who conducted the NJROTC annual inspection on February 19.



Card collection - The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) collected over 1,400 Valentine cards that were on their way to be distributed to Veterans Homes and VA Hospitals in Maryland.

Pictured, left to right are **Linda Dearing** of Copy Central who generously boxed and mailed the cards again this year and **Vera Beck**, RWWC Caring for America Chair.

singers
from page 3

and Cole Porter are styles typically included in the Pine Tone' programs.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been presenting concerts in the spring and in December for more than thirty years. The chorus also sings at various community events such as ceremonies at the Worcester Veterans Memorial, and entertains at several local senior-

care facilities. For additional information, phone Dave Holloway 410-641-5672 or June Todd, 410-289-7373.

Funding for chorus activities comes from patrons as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

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Wolf named National Merit Scholar finalist

Stephen Decatur High School announced that senior Grayson Wolf has been named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program, scoring in the nation's top 1% on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Over 1.6 million students enter the program each year and, as a finalist, he is now in elite company among 15,000 top students in the nation.

Wolf will continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered this spring. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2020 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

Wolf is one of three National Merit Scholarship Finalists in a decade from Stephen Decatur High School. In school, Grayson is a member of the National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, the Academic Team, and the Science Olympiad Team. He is also a College Board Advanced Placement Scholar.

Above: **Grayson Wolf** is pictured receiving his National Merit Scholarship Corporation certificate and congratulatory letter from Principal **Tom Sites**.



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McComas addresses Kiwanis

Worcester County School Board member Elena McComas was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting on Wednesday February 18. She's also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. She updated members on Worcester County Schools and thanked the club for its support of students via the six club sponsorships.

According to McComas, the Worcester County school district was named the third best in the state by Niche ranking. All eligible schools received a four or five star rating in the Maryland rankings.

Worcester County has also been honored as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. Also, the district has a 93% attendance rate and a 93% graduation rate.

Above: (L-R) **Elena McComas** with Kiwanis Club President **Roy Foreman**.

Physical Therapy

An alternative to pain medication

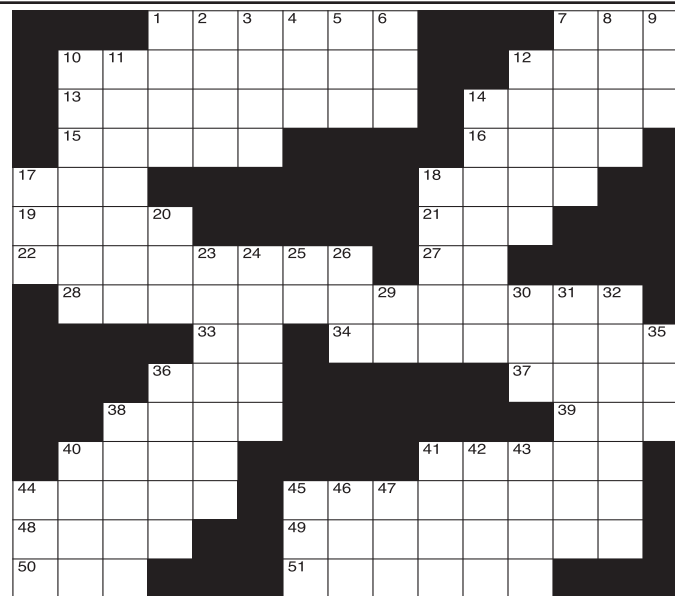
By **Jennifer S. Hamilton, DPT, CHT**

Have you been experiencing pain in your shoulder, elbow or hand? Do you feel pain in your hips or knees when you try to walk around and do your normal daily activities? Do you feel stiff when you first get up in the morning? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions then you may benefit from physical therapy. These are all common complaints that we hear daily. Pain is one of the main reasons people seek help from a health care professional. With the current opioid crisis that our country is facing, physical therapy is becoming a popular alternative to prescription pain medication. Research is proving that early intervention and treatment by a physical therapist can prevent acute pain from turning into chronic pain. Fortunately, it is easier than ever to be evaluated by a physical therapist. Instead of having to make an appointment with your doctor, you can call your physical therapist directly, and can often get an appointment within 48 hours. This is called “Direct Ac-

cess.” Each state has different levels of Direct Access, however in Maryland, there are no restrictions. In addition, these physical therapy visits are covered by your insurance, including Medicare.

What can you expect at your physical therapy evaluation? Physical therapists are trained to evaluate and treat the neuromusculoskeletal system. This means, they will work with the nerves, muscles and bones in your body. This also includes the tendons that attach muscles to bones, and ligaments which connect bones to other bones. Therapists are also trained in differential diagnosis, meaning if you present with an issue that we feel is not something we can treat, such as your heart, lungs or digestive system, we will then refer you to the appropriate medical professional. On your first session, a therapist will listen to your concerns and take your medical history. This information will be used as a guide to assess the area you have complaints about. Using this assessment,

please see **pain** on page 11

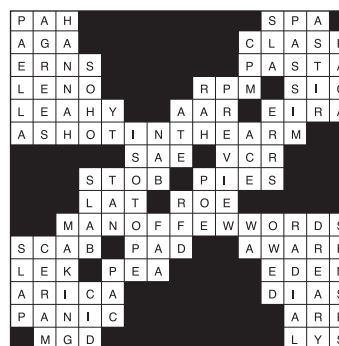


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Stain one's hands
- 7. Subdivision
- 10. A passage to be performed slow
- 12. Invests in little enterprises
- 13. Medians
- 14. Member of the giraffe family
- 15. Makes official
- 16. Choose in an election
- 17. Hill or rocky peak
- 18. Member of an ancient Iranian people
- 19. Crest of a hill
- 21. Small, faint constellation
- 22. Cultivated from crops that yield oil
- 27. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 28. Hollywood tough guy
- 33. Chinese drums
- 34. Merits
- 36. Indicates center
- 37. Increases motor speed
- 38. Mentally fit
- 39. BBQ favorite
- 40. Wings
- 41. Female parents
- 44. Marks left from wounds
- 45. Soften by soaking in liquid
- 48. They resist authority (slang)
- 49. Formats
- 50. Many subconsciousnesses
- 51. Vogues

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mental object
- 2. Blackbird
- 3. Undergarments
- 4. Old cloth
- 5. One from Utah
- 6. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 7. Become less intense
- 8. Developed to readiness
- 9. Defunct phone company
- 10. About Freemason
- 11. Taking everything into account
- 12. Famed Czech engineer
- 14. Impress into silence
- 17. Boxing term
- 18. Marketplaces
- 20. Pounds per square inch
- 23. Locomotives
- 24. Short musical composition
- 25. Football position (abbr.)
- 26. Heavyhearted
- 29. Denotes particular region
- 30. Famed NHLer
- 31. Ingested too much
- 32. Formulates
- 35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 36. Broad, shallow craters
- 38. Thick cuts
- 40. Breezed through
- 41. Breakfast is one
- 42. “Rule, Britannia” composer
- 43. Periodicals (slang)
- 44. Indian title of respect
- 45. More (Spanish)
- 46. Creation
- 47. A loud utterance



Answers for February 19

GOLD board welcomes new member

The Board of Directors for Worcester County GOLD, Inc. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing emergency assistance for Worcester County residents in times of crisis, has elected a new board member. GOLD's Executive Director, Sandy Sipes, announced, "I am pleased to welcome Joel Feldman to our Board of Directors. He has a unique background, with diverse experiences that make him an incredible asset to the Board of Directors and the organization as a whole. We are excited and grateful that he plans to help us grow our annual GOLD on the Green Golf Tournament that is scheduled June 17."



Joel Feldman

Joel Feldman is CEO, and Real Estate Agent with, HergGroup Horizon of Keller Williams Realty. Joel and his team work with clients across the Eastern Shore of MD & DE as well as the Annapolis and Bel Air area. A retired firefighter, Feldman has a long history of community organizing and philanthropy. He has helped to coordinate the Chili Cook-Off to benefit GOLD's Helping Hands for the Holidays Program for the past three years. A Worcester County resident since 2003, Joel has shared his leadership through coaching with both Beach Lacrosse and Berlin Seahawks

Football for over 10 years. Joel's professionalism, and his desire to serve his community, make him a perfect candidate to join in GOLD's mission.

GOLD's 11 volunteer board members are charged with overseeing operations and making critical decisions regarding services to meet basic needs, special programs, governance, and financial performance. The dedication of GOLD's Board members, and their willingness and ability to share their expertise from diverse fields, helps to ensure effective services for the Worcester County residents who face crisis situations while already living in poverty circumstances.

pain
from page 10

the therapist will develop a treatment plan to improve your function and minimize your pain. As physical therapists, it is our job to not only take measurements such as range of motion and strength, but to focus on how those measurements affect the overall well-being of each person. Maybe your pain is keeping you from completing your daily chores, or perhaps you are not able to participate in recreational activities such as golf or pickle ball. It is the therapist's job to individualize each treatment session to achieve your goals, no matter what they are. Your goals are our goals!

In addition to the treatments you receive while in a clinic, you can expect to also receive an individualized Home Exercise Program, or HEP for short. It is important to complete the HEP as prescribed by the therapist as an adjunct to the treatment provided in the clinic. Remember, you often will be seen two or three times a week by your therapist, for one to two hours each session, but that is a small amount of time throughout your week. Therefore, the more compliant you are with your HEP, the faster you may recover. Last, but certainly not least, don't be afraid to ask questions. Therapists want to make sure you understand what the plan is and how you will respond to it.

It has been determined that only 10% of the population that can benefit from Physical Therapy, actually receive it. Now is the perfect opportunity for us to change that and help you get back to living to the best of your ability.

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Health Department seeks community input

By **Travis Brown**
Worcester County
Health Department

Whether you live, work, or play in Worcester County, your health and well-being while here is important. The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) is looking for your feedback through our 2020 Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey. We want to know how you view the current health of the community, any obstacles you see to improved wellness, and what health goals or challenges you think should be prioritized in the years ahead.

“The Community Health Assessment survey is a fantastic tool in our toolbox for really getting the pulse of residents and visitors when it comes to how they view health and wellness in Worcester,” WCHD Health Officer Rebecca Jones said. “We encourage everyone with an interest in Worcester County to take part in this anonymous survey. Your answers and comments will provide us a founda-

tion of information for building future health programs and projects.”

The WCHD will use the results of this survey and other information to identify the most important health issues to be addressed through community action. Our goal is to form a complete picture of residents’ and visitors’ thoughts on all things health-related in Worcester County. This includes physical health, mental wellbeing, safety, living conditions, addiction, and the environment. All information you provide will be kept confidential.

You can take the survey online by visiting WorcesterHealth.org. The survey will be on the front page of the website for the next few weeks and should only take a few minutes to complete. Thank you for helping us keep Worcester County healthy.

For more information, contact Travis Brown at travis.brown1@maryland.gov or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1130.



Challenge - Students at Berlin Intermediate School participated in the Kids Heart Challenge on February 6 and 7 during their physical education classes. The American Heart Association sponsors the event as a fundraiser to help pay for research, medical expenses, and community awareness to combat the epidemic of heart disease in the United States. Heart disease is still the number one cause of death among Americans. This program educates youth on the importance of making healthy choices. Students at BIS participated in a variety of fitness activities including: jumping rope, agility ladders, core slider exercises, hula hooping, climbing pegs, and an obstacle course. The event spanned two days and the total amount raised is still being tabulated.

A little knowledge

When planning spring landscapes, homeowners should always group plants with similar water needs together. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, grouping plants with similar water needs together helps to conserve water, which can be an especially useful strategy if or when drought restrictions go into effect in summer. Homeowners also can embrace additional strategies to landscape with water conservation in mind. For example, aerating soil helps to improve water flow to plants’ roots and reduces water runoff, helping to ensure that plants get all of the water they need while reducing the likelihood that homeowners will have to use excessive amounts of water to keep plants healthy. In addition, using low-water-using types of grass can help homeowners who live in areas prone to drought conserve water while still maintaining lush, green lawns.

Preparing for Lent and Easter

The Christian tradition of Lent is celebrated across the globe by many different denominations of the faith. Lent is a 40-day period of sacrifice that begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

Lent is designed to help Christians prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, denying the ego, and putting an end to sinful practices. Fasting is a component of Lent, as is abstinence from certain behaviors. In fact, in some Western countries, Catholics have been encouraged to adopt forms of abstinence that do not involve food and drink during Lent. All actions serve as forms of self-denial to mirror the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for his people.

Abstaining from alcohol is not mandatory during Lent. That might be traced to ancient times, when wine and other forms of alcohol were safer to drink than pathogen-filled water sources. But many peo-

ple now choose to give up alcohol for Lent.

Today, fasting is primarily reserved for Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. Adherents may opt to fully fast, but most only eschew meat and poultry as a nod to self-denial, opting for seafood and vegetarian fare instead.

While much focus is placed on what is denied during Lent, it can be an ideal time to reflect on what is gained by living a life in which God is first and foremost. Spending more time in prayer and away from trivial distractions can be a way to live a more faithful life during Lent and beyond. In addition, aspiring to be more Christ-like during Lent can make this special season even more powerful. During Lent, Christians can make a concerted effort to help the poor, work with a charity or volunteer at their church.

Lent is a solemn time, but one that can bolster one’s faith.



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Drawing will be at Noon on April 1, 2020. We will Facebook Live the drawing on our Facebook page!

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Improve home storage

Homes are getting bigger, but it seems like people are still lamenting a lack of storage space.

National Public Radio says the average American home has nearly tripled in size during the last 50 years. Despite that, 10 percent of Americans

can improve utility of all closets in the house.

Invest in storage beds. Storage beds typically feature cubbies or drawers within a platform-style bed frame. It's a practical home storage solution, and does not require any building.

Think vertically. Maximize spaces by looking up and down for storage possibilities. Items that are not used frequently, such as seasonal decorations or travel suitcases, can be stored in high spaces. Shelving on walls can go as high as necessary and be put to use in awkward wall areas, such as in corners or under eaves.

Invest in storage benches/ottomans. A stopping area inside the front door replete with a storage bench can house shoes, umbrellas, hats, backpacks, and other items, keeping them tidy and out of sight. In living rooms, look for chests or ottomans that are decorative and functional. Store throw blankets or board games inside.

Recess drawers or shelves. Gain more storage by recessing a chest of drawers into what is called the "knee wall" of homes that have sloped ceilings in attics and upstairs bedrooms. Utilize these short walls in an efficient manner by sinking drawers or shelves into them, without taking up floor space.

Rafter shelving. While in the attic (or a garage), add hanging shelves to rafters or exposed beams to create off-the-floor storage as well.

These are just a few of the handy ways to improve the interior storage space in a home.



still need to rent off-site storage, according to a report in the "New York Times Magazine." Self-storage facilities are one of the fastest-growing commercial real estate segments, and the Self Storage Association says there are more than 50,000 storage facilities in the U.S. alone. The commercial real estate company CBRE, Ltd., says there are roughly 3,000 self-storage facilities across Canada, and 65 to 85 percent of self-storage tenants are residential users.

Improving storage at home can be a cost-effective alternative to renting storage space. With these easy tips, homeowners can maximize space immediately.

Utilize track storage systems. Closets may be plentiful, but if not efficiently utilized, space may still seem lacking. Track closet storage systems often make greater use of closet space than traditional shelf and hanging rod systems. Customizing closets using track systems or other modifications



Language of Love

During the month of February, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) students shared the love of language through their French, Mandarin, and Spanish classes.

As part of her lesson on the Chinese New Year, the most important holiday in Chinese speaking countries, Mandarin teacher Ashley Lin taught her students how to make Dumplings (or jiǎozi in Mandarin). Dumplings symbolize longevity and wealth and are a traditional must-eat food on Chinese New Year's Eve. Prior to making dumplings, her beginner Mandarin students studied about Chinese New Year food, Chinese Zodiac, the 15 Days of New Year and Lantern Festival along with a poster presentation project. In addition to enriching students' cultural knowledge, this activity brings good luck to the students for the coming Rat year.

Above: Mandarin teacher **Ashley Lin**, **Linley Hill** and **Kathy Zhang**.



Recognition - Barbara Entwistle, coordinator for Pillowcase Ministry, was awarded the 2020 Jefferson Award by WBOC TV news anchor, Kimberly Wiggins during an event at the Clarion Resort Hotel & Restaurant in Ocean City,

Since its inception in 2011, Pillowcase Ministry has grown from sundresses made from pillowcases, to shorts, market bags, backpacks, shower and feminine kits, crocheted items and sleep mats. Over 5,600 dresses, 1,500 shorts and 2,700 market bags have been provided to the children and women of impoverished nations throughout the world.

Anyone interested in making items or donating to this project should call 443-944-5868, Shipping fees are very costly.

Above are **Kimberly Wiggins** (left) and **Barbara Entwistle**.

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

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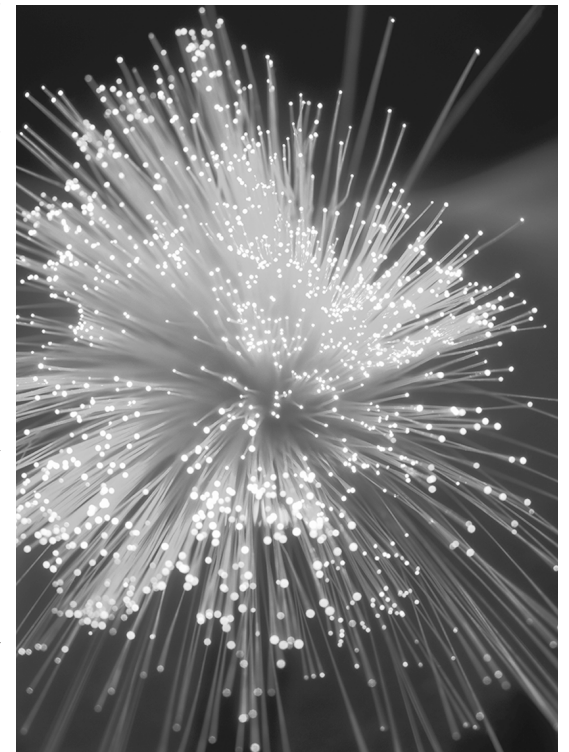
Navigating broadband connections can be a little tricky for the average person. Technical jargon can sometimes make internet connections appear more difficult than they seemingly should be.

According to Xfinity, the phone and internet service provider, various components work together to make

up the best conditions for internet usage. Upload speed, download speed, ping rate, and whether the internet is wired or wireless all play a role in establishing the master equation. In homes where internet is in constant demand, increased speeds are often necessary.

Bandwidth. Bandwidth refers to

the volume of information per unit of time that the connection can handle. Internet connections with a lot of bandwidth can move more data at a faster pace than connections with less bandwidth. The tech information site LiveWire equates bandwidth to plumbing. Having multiple draws on the internet through movie streaming, playing video games, uploading photo files, etc., can slow or stop internet speeds, much in the same way turning on all the faucets in a home will reduce water pressure to each. Too much demand on bandwidth that cannot adequately handle that demand can cause lag and slow speeds.



Upload, download and ping. The abbreviation Mbps stands for megabits per second, or the

rate at which data can be moved in a second. Data travels in two directions through the internet. There is information downloaded from the internet and information uploaded. According to Allconnect, a leading marketplace for comparing home services like cable TV, high-speed internet, energy, and more, downloaded information comes from a server in the form of images, videos, text, or music. Upload speed refers to the data that one sends from a computer to another device or server on the internet. Emails, multi-player video games and video calling are examples of instances when upload speeds are important.

Ping rate is another factor. Ookla, the global standard in network testing, says ping is the reaction time of your connection, or how fast you get a response after you've sent out a request. A fast ping means a more responsive connection, especially in applications where timing is everything, like gaming. Ping is measured in milliseconds. Ping latency can cause a delay in the action of a game. That means your shots may be registered behind another player's in fast-paced fighting games.

Improve speed. Improving an internet experience requiring fast speeds may involve making changes. Here are some handy tips:

-Use a hard-wired connection that involves an ethernet cord connected to a console or computer directly

rather than WiFi. WiFi is convenient, but it almost always runs at lower speeds than a hard line.

-Shut down other programs or devices that may be eating up bandwidth while engaged in the desired activity.

-Test your internet speeds through a reputable third party rather than your internet company's speed meter.-

Consider upgrading bandwidth if you find that your internet speed is continually lacking.

The rise of online casinos

Technology has given people the opportunity to do many amazing things and made life more comfortable and convenient. Technology also can be harnessed for recreation, bringing various forms of entertainment right into one's home.

Much as gaming has exploded in recent years, thanks to the connectivity of the internet, another exciting pastime also has seen a surge in popularity. Streamlined technology and fast data speeds have done much to popularize online casinos. The thrill of gambling, once reserved for traditional casinos, now can be realized at home.

According to WebxconOnlineCasino, the online casino industry has grown by 70 percent in just two years.

Nevada was the first state to legalize online poker. Many other states have followed suit, tapping into substantial revenue as a result. In 2012,

the American Gaming Association, in testimony before a congressional subcommittee, estimated that legalizing online poker alone would generate roughly \$2 billion a year in new tax revenues.

There are various pros and cons to online casinos. People considering online gambling can make informed decisions.

Pros. Online casinos enable any adult with an internet connection and a valid credit card to experience the thrills and infusion of adrenaline that comes with playing games of chance.

Online gamblers can bet as much as they'd like, without feeling pressured to up the ante like they might if playing in a traditional casino. Online casinos do not discriminate against players, and there's no catering to the high rollers.

Privacy and anonymity are another draw. State of the art encryption systems and other privacy policies ensure that gamblers' identities are not shared.

Cons. One of the biggest cons to online casinos is accessibility. The same convenience that brings gambling home can make it far too easy to gamble. It's far too easy to develop dangerous gambling habits when casinos are accessible 24/7 from the comforts of home.

Although some provide immediate cash-outs, the majority of online casinos require players to wait a predetermined period of time before they are paid. Traditional casinos offer immediate payouts.

Lack of personal interaction may be another concern, offers Casino Tops Online. Although many online casinos are choosing to meld home comfort with a "live play" factor.

Online casinos have taken off due to technology, and many people find them appealing.



Tides for Ocean City Inlet					
Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise	Sunset
Th 20	High	5:44 AM	2.3	6:45 AM	
	Low	12:05 PM	0.1	5:43 PM	
	High	5:54 PM	1.7		
	Low	11:48 PM	-0.2		
F 21	High	6:30 AM	2.3	6:44 AM	
	Low	12:47 PM	0.0	5:45 PM	
	High	6:38 PM	1.8		
Sa 22	Low	12:34 AM	-0.3	6:42 AM	
	High	7:11 AM	2.3	5:46 PM	
	Low	1:23 PM	0.0		
	High	7:19 PM	1.9		
Su 23	Low	1:15 AM	-0.4	6:41 AM	
	High	7:50 AM	2.4	5:47 PM	
	Low	1:57 PM	0.0		
	High	7:59 PM	1.9		
M 24	Low	1:54 AM	-0.4	6:40 AM	
	High	8:28 AM	2.4	5:48 PM	
	Low	2:30 PM	0.0		
	High	8:38 PM	2.0		
Tu 25	Low	2:33 AM	-0.3	6:38 AM	
	High	9:05 AM	2.3	5:49 PM	
	Low	3:03 PM	0.0		
	High	9:17 PM	2.1		
W 26	Low	3:12 AM	-0.2	6:37 AM	
	High	9:41 AM	2.3	5:50 PM	
	Low	3:37 PM	0.1		
	High	9:56 PM	2.1		

A little knowledge

The modern era is often referred to as the "Digital Age," but mankind's relationship with science and technology dates back much farther 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.

watch
from page 4

-Domestic Violence Arrests: Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made three arrests for domestic violence. If you suspect a domestic dispute could escalate by overhearing loud arguments in your neighborhood, please call us to check it out. Often, police can calm a domestic situation down by intervening, without having to make an arrest.

-Drunk Driving Arrests: Police made thirteen (13) driving while intoxicated arrests since our last Bulletin. With the winter season in full swing, we have noticed an uptick in the number of drunk driving arrests we made. With Uber and local cabs readily available, there really is no excuse for drunk driving today.

-Death Investigations: Every death that occurs in Ocean Pines requires a police investigation. While majority of these deaths are for natural health causes, other deaths require extensive investigation. Since our last report, we conducted a death investigation of an elderly female who was suffering dementia. In the early morning hours, she wandered off her residence and a full-

scale police search, including our police drone, later located her deceased, in a canal. Death was by accidental drowning.

-Auto Theft Arrest: A 13-year-old runaway from Pennsylvania was charged with auto theft of her parents' car. The Pennsylvania State Police alerted OPPD that the runaway was believed to be in Ocean Pines, and an alert officer observed her behind the wheel in Ocean Pines. Her charges were referred to the Juvenile Justice Department. She drove from PA to Ocean Pines without an accident!

-Drug Overdoses: Ocean Pines is not immune from the opioid epidemic, as we are the largest year-round residential community in Worcester County. Since our last Crime Bulletin, our officers responded to three drug overdoses, two of which were heroin.

-Emergency Mental Health Evaluations: Not every mental health incident requires an emergency psychiatric evaluation by a physician. In those cases where the subject expresses suicidal thoughts, however, police take the subject into custody and transport them to

a hospital for an in-depth psychiatric evaluation by a physician. Since our last Crime Bulletin, police had four incidents in which they took into custody three adults and one juvenile for emergency psychiatric evaluations.

-Suicidal Subject: Police responded to a call of an individual threatening suicide with a knife. The individual had a history of mental health encounters. The individual, who was in mental distress, had threatened his parents with a knife.

When police arrived on the scene, they observed him leaning out of a second-floor window, with a knife to his throat, threatening suicide. After a three-hour negotiation with police, he surrendered, without injury. He was taken to a local hospital for an emergency psychiatric evaluation by a physician.

Take a bite out of crime. Join Neighborhood Watch. Call Jim Hamlin 443-365-0601.

Central Committee to meet

Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County will meet Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Snow Hill library located at 307 N. Washington Street. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Dem speaker announced

The Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County has announced that its guest speaker for the Annual Kennedy King Dinner scheduled for April 26 is Yvette Lewis, chair of the Maryland Democratic Party. Lewis is a lifelong grassroots activist. She was the party chair before, from 2011 through 2015. She has served the party on the campaigns of Bill Clinton, Steny Hoyer, Kweisi Mfume and Barack Obama. In 2018, Lewis created "Shop Talk." Working with local churches, she visited beauty and barber shops encouraging people to register and vote. The dinner will be held at the Dunes Manor from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. For more information, email lannysooner@gmail.com

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