

## Message to Readers

These are unusual times as each of us adapts to changing circumstances surrounding the coronavirus. During the past couple weeks our lives, our community, our interactions with family, friends and neighbors have been altered in ways we could not imagine just a short time ago.

Without a doubt, we'll get through this. We need to be vigilant, patient, informed and adhere to safety recommendations.

The new reality in which we are living and working, requires each of us to think about and change how we go about our daily, even hourly, lives. Some small businesses have had to close or are offering limited services. Banks have gone to drive-through window service only. Restaurants have had to close their dining areas and some have transitioned to offering take-out and delivery services. I had to call ahead from the parking lot at A Bagel And to have my bagels brought to my vehicle. Bill and Mary Jaeger, like so many other area small business owners, are doing what they can to continue serving the needs of customers. *The Courier* is no different.

Many of the locations at which *The Courier* is available each week have been temporarily closed. Consequently, the paper will not be available to readers who each week pick up their copy at those locations. But fear not. *The Courier* is still available.

*The Courier* continues to home deliver to our many free subscribers throughout Ocean Pines. If you live in Ocean Pines and would like to have *The Courier* delivered free to your driveway each Wednesday, call us at 410-629-5906 or email your address to [chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com) (write "DELIVERY" in the memo line) and we'll put you on our delivery list.

Also, each week the paper is available online at [www.delmarvacourier.com](http://www.delmarvacourier.com). While on the site, you can also subscribe for free to get *The Courier* E-edition delivered to your email inbox each week.

And, something new during this period, in partnership with [oceanpinesforum.com](http://oceanpinesforum.com), you can click on a link on [oceanpinesforum.com](http://oceanpinesforum.com) that will take you to *The Courier's* website.

*The Courier* will be available in news boxes at the following locations:

- Walmart
- The Parke at Ocean Pinesmail pavilion
- White Horse Park across from the Ocean

please see **message** on page 2



**Danny Jaeger** (right) takes customer order outside his family's business, A Bagel And... in Ocean Pines. Photo by Victor Fernandes.

## Local businesses do what they must to serve customers

By **Victor Fernandes**

Danny Jaeger is the last line of defense for his family's Ocean Pines restaurant during the coronavirus pandemic.

His family has kept **A Bagel And ...** open behind locked doors since March 16, when Maryland Governor Larry Hogan ordered restaurants to close their dining areas, and bars, gyms and movie theaters to shut down operations, in a statewide effort to stem the spread of COVID-19, or novel coronavirus.

The Jaegers, led by mother, Mary, and father, Bill, continue to serve loyal customers through telephone orders and curbside pickup. Danny has been the store's deliveryman to limit the odds of his parents, who are in their 50s and 60s, respectively, from being exposed to the highly contagious and potentially deadly virus. Older people are especially susceptible to the virus, along with people suffering from pre-existing health conditions.

"Just keeping them safe, that's why I'm doing it," Danny Jaeger said, because it's the best way to keep the family business moving forward during this na-

tional health crisis.

Similar scenarios have unfolded at many local businesses, at a time when owners and employees normally look forward to a profitable summer tourist season in this traditionally ultra-popular resort area. Some businesses have turned to other avenues, such as social media, to serve customers since shutting down as part of Gov. Hogan's mandate, which allows only essential businesses such as grocery stores, gas stations and restaurants to remain open. For example, **CrossFit Ocean City** in Ocean Pines has held online workouts and a virtual happy hour for instructors and clients to connect.

"So far business is far from usual, but I'm happy that we are able to remain in contact," owner and instructor Greta Chapman said. "We are running online workouts, and while it isn't the same as being live in the gym, it does provide accountability and structure to everyone's day, which we need right now. ... I want my members to keep moving for their physical health, but more than that I appreciate the sense of community we have in these isolated

please see **customers** page 4



# OPA Board holds special meeting

Ocean Pines Board members on Friday approved three capital purchase requests and held a closed-session discussion on matters related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

The meeting was held in the Association Administration Building, but without public in attendance because

expand that out into [a] larger and interactive audience, especially in regard to the public comments.

“We’re looking at ways to be creative with regard to making sure that ... whatever virtual meeting that we hold, that we will be able to have public comments and have the audience interact with us,” Parks continued. “More to come on that.”

Parks also encouraged support for local restaurants, many of which were hurt by mandatory closures related to the Coronavirus crisis.

“Whatever we can do to patronize our restaurants and so on and so forth, I’d ask that you do that,” he said. “I know that the Yacht Club is offering delivery and there are also

other restaurants in the area that are offering the same options.”

During capital purchase requests, Board members voted 7-0 to approve two new drainage pipes, for 173 Teal Circle and 80 Teal Circle.

Parks added a third capital request, to buy a generator for the Police station expansion. He said the purchase had been slated for an email vote.

Board members voted 6-1 to approve the purchase, with Director Tom Janasek not in favor. Janasek asked why the generator was not included in the original estimate for the Police station expansion and noted there was an \$11,000 discrepancy between bids. He also said there was a lack of information on installation and other items associated with the spend.

*please see **meeting** on page 12*



of Gov. Larry Hogan’s recent executive order limiting public gatherings to no more than 10 people.

Because of that mandate, Board members allowed write-in public comments by email, as well as through a Facebook Live stream.

Association President Doug Parks said Ocean Pines would continue to explore new ways to involve the public, without putting them at risk.

“This is our first foray into a virtual meeting environment [and] it’s still in its testing phases right now,” he said.

Parks added that he, IT Manager Steve Grabowski and Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis successfully tested a virtual meeting application, Microsoft Teams, one day prior.

“It provides both audio and video,” Parks said. “The challenge is how to



On this day in 1634, the first colonists to Maryland arrive at St. Clement’s Island on Maryland’s western shore and found the settlement of St. Mary’s.

In 1632, King Charles I of England granted a charter to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, yielding him proprietary rights to a region east of the Potomac River in exchange for a share of the income derived from the land. The territory was named Maryland in honor of Henrietta Maria, the queen consort of Charles I. Before settlement began, George Calvert died and was succeeded by his son Cecilius, who sought to establish Maryland as a haven for Roman Catholics persecuted in England. In March 1634, the first English settlers—a carefully selected group of Catholics and Protestants—arrived at St. Clement’s Island aboard the *Ark* and the *Dove*.

## AGH announces policy changes in response to COVID-19

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread, Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) is taking all necessary steps to protect and care for our patients, visitors, associates, medical staff and community. We are following protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and working with experts from across the state and within our county to keep our community safe and informed.

In order to protect patients, caregivers and visitors, AGH is implementing changes to our visitor policy. As this is a rapidly evolving situation, these changes took effect March 20 until further notice.

Highlights of the Enhanced Patient Safety Policy include:

- No visitors for inpatients will be permitted.
- One adult visitor is allowed per patient for Emergency Room visits and must remain with the patient.
- No visitors under age 18 are permitted to visit the hospital, including all waiting areas and common spaces. This also applies to clinics, urgent care facilities and physician offices with the exception of pediatric providers.
- Visitors will be screened for flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and will not be permitted to visit the hospital if symptoms are present.
- Visitors who have travelled internationally may not visit for 14 days after arrival into the United States.
- RediScripts will remain open for patient refills. Please see our web-site

for instructions.

“The coronavirus poses several challenges, including potential spread of the virus to patients and staff by those with asymptomatic or mild infection,” said Sally Dowling, MD, chief medical officer for AGH. “Enacting these changes to visitation is consistent with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding response to the coronavirus.”

“These enhanced visitor limitations are designed to protect the health and safety of the public, our staff and our patients, now that there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maryland,” said Dowling.

Certain exceptions to the policy may be made in particular circumstances and with prior approval including:

- For end-of-life care
- Required caregivers
- Two parents/caregivers of pediatric patients will be permitted as long as neither adult has flu-like symptoms.

In addition to the changes outlined above and under the recommendation of infection prevention experts, AGH is also indefinitely suspending all animal therapy.

AGH experts urge the public to practice vigilant hand hygiene, follow respiratory etiquette (cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing), maintain social distances when possible and avoid shaking

*please see **response** on page 14*

**message**  
from page 1

Pines Association Administration Building  
Food Lion at Pennington Commons  
Food Lion Shopping Center on Route 611 adjacent to Kozma Jewelers  
Southside Deli on Nicholas Lane in Ocean Pines

The situation is evolving and we are committed to continue serving our readers and our community. We appreciate your understanding. Be safe and follow health guidelines.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chip Perkins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

# Blood Bank expands capacity at donor centers

Blood Bank of Delmarva is extending open hours at its donor centers and urging healthy donors to make appointments to help maintain the region's blood supply at this critical time.

"Around 40 percent of our incoming blood supply was interrupted when schools, businesses and religious institutions closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. In response, we've increased capacity at our donor centers by extending hours and opening centers for extra days each week," said Christopher D. Hillyer, M.D., President and CEO of Blood Bank of Delmarva. "These modifications will provide controlled, safe environments for healthy donors. By quickly implementing this sustainable long-term solution we have worked to prevent our blood supply from dropping to dangerously low levels."

Blood is perishable and the supply must be continually replenished. BBD operates four donor centers in Chadds Ford, Pa.; Newark, Del.; Dover, Del. and Salisbury, Md. Donors can schedule appointments by calling 1-888-

825-6638 or visiting [www.delmarvablood.org/coronavirus](http://www.delmarvablood.org/coronavirus).

Blood collection sites are disinfected frequently, and we are taking extra precautions to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 as per CDC recommendations. BBD staff are also practicing health self-assessments prior to presenting at work. As always, people are not eligible to donate if they're experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms.

In order to protect staff, healthy blood donors and the community blood supply, people must avoid donor centers if they are experiencing a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing), have had close contact with someone diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or been diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 until 28 days after their illness has resolved. BBD does NOT test for COVID-19.

It only takes one hour to donate, and a single donation can be used to save multiple lives. About one in seven

hospital admissions requires a blood transfusion. Those in need include: cancer patients, accident, burn, or trauma victims, newborn babies and their mothers, transplant recipients, surgery patients, chronically transfused patients suffering from sickle

cell disease or thalassemia, and many more.

Additional information is available at [www.delmarvablood.org/coronavirus](http://www.delmarvablood.org/coronavirus). Media interviews available at the Christiana Donor Center, 100 Hygeia Drive, Newark or by telephone.

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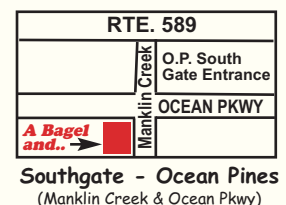
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## Admin front desk closed to public

In light of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns, Ocean Pines has closed the Administration Building front desk to the public and will temporarily accept payments by phone and drop box only.

The closure is effective immediately and will remain in place indefinitely.

During this time, assessments may be paid by calling 410-641-7717, or by

using the drop box inside the Administration Building foyer, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Ocean Pines Administration Building is on 239 Ocean Parkway, in Ocean Pines.

For email questions, email [member@oceanpines.org](mailto:member@oceanpines.org).

## Committee meetings canceled for 60 days

All Ocean Pines advisory committee meetings scheduled for the next 60 days have been canceled, because of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Association President Doug Parks issued the following statement on Thursday:

"In the spirit of being consistent with federal, state and local government positions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board is advising its advisory committees to cancel all regularly scheduled meetings for the next 60 days. We will revisit the issue in the beginning of June to advise further."



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customers  
from page 1

times.”

Some restaurants and eateries have altered their hours of operation and sales methods in hopes of minimizing the pandemic’s negative economic impact. With dining areas closed, they have shifted to carry-out, drive-thru, curbside pickup and home delivery services. **Pines Public House & Eatery** in Ocean Pines has offered home delivery for the first time since opening less than a year ago. Still, owners say business has fallen sharply.

“We’re a small business. We’ve only been open for 10 months, so we’re pretty scared,” said Erin Meyers, manager at Pines Public House & Eatery. “But we’re going day by day and keeping the community fed.”

Mary Jaeger, of A Bagel And ..., said everyone is affected by this health crisis. A CNN report last Sunday indicated three local cases of coronavirus - two in Wicomico County and one in Worcester County.

Schools that shut down two weeks ago due to coronavirus concerns face the possibility of staying closed longer - perhaps for the rest of the scholastic

year. Meanwhile, livelihoods are at stake for local business owners.

“It’s a little harder when you own a business,” Mary Jaeger said last Sunday. “(Business has been) dwindling as the (past) week (has gone) by.”

Alyssa Quintavalle, a hostess, runner and expediter at **Southgate Grill**

ing 90-minute, round-trip commutes to and from her home in Salisbury.

She initially had 10 combined shifts scheduled for last week. After Gov. Hogan issued his statewide mandate, her total shrunk to three shifts. With considerably fewer customers during those few shifts, Quintavalle said, “I’m not making as much money. ... I just want to work. I just want some type of business where I am making money.”

In contrast, some food service businesses have been especially busy, as local residents have grown increasingly aware of being fully prepared for greater governmental restrictions, such as a stay-at-home order.

An employee at **Food Lion** in Ocean Pines said Sunday that the store was very busy. Shelves that once held meat products and household items - including toilet paper, which has been a precious commodity among consumers nationwide during this crisis - were empty at Walmart’s Berlin location. Food Lion had maintained normal business hours as of last weekend, while Walmart adjusted hours of operation to restock shelves and sanitize the store.

Joan Rooney, who owns **Paws & Claws Etc** in West Ocean City with her husband, Jim, and daughter, Jan, said the family has enjoyed an uptick in business, even while keeping customers from entering the store since last week.

The family has turned to curbside pickups and deliveries because devoted pet owners, Joan Rooney said, place the health of their four-legged family members ahead of themselves. “We’ve been very busy,” she said. “They want to make sure they’re stocked up for their pets. We’re trying to reassure our customers that they don’t need to worry.”

Business owners have remained

strong in the face of ongoing uncertainty, as a “United We Will Survive” sign hanging on the front door of **Kitty’s Flowers** in Ocean Pines rein-



Empty shelves in paper product aisle at Walmart



forced to members of the community.

“It was a shock at first and stressful,” Danny Jaeger said. “Then you’ve got to keep going and keep getting stuff done. You can’t really panic too much because you still have the day to go through.”

Community support, he said, has restored a small sense of normalcy at a time that’s far from normal for business owners. “We appreciate all the support everyone has been giving us,” he said. “It’s been pretty amazing seeing everybody come out. Everybody has been so nice.”

Owners will do whatever it takes to halt the spread of coronavirus, including shutting down for a period of time.

“If it would stop it, I think everybody should just close except for those who should be out,” Mary Jaeger said. “I feel like if we just do it it will get shorter, and everybody could go back to their lives as it was before.”

But an extended shutdown that disrupts summer business, or lasts into the summer, could cause irreparable harm.

“We really count on our summer business,” Mary Jaeger said. “I don’t know what’s going to happen this summer. Will we be as busy as we were last summer? I don’t know. I doubt it. ... We’re all in the same boat.”

According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, nurses are the second largest group of licensed professionals in the United States. While laws vary depending on where nurses work, many nurses must have their licenses renewed at certain intervals. State boards of nursing, sometimes referred to as “BONs,” were established to oversee and assure the safe practice of nursing in an effort to protect the public’s health. Part of the responsibilities of a BON is to evaluate licensure applications, and some BONs, depending on the state laws, will handle license renewals as well. The goal of license renewals is to ensure licensed nurses are up to date on the latest best practices and procedures. In addition, nurses who have not practiced in some time but want to return to practicing may need to take a refresher course to ensure they can still serve as competent nurses. In states where renewals are required, nurses who continue to practice without renewing their licenses may be subject to discipline. Nurses are urged to stay abreast of the licensing laws where they practice and to contact their BON if they have any questions about the licensure process.



**The  
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# I got to thinking

A symphony is composed of notes. Brush strokes create a painting. And a life is made unique by moments, shared and personal.

Silly as it sounds, that's what I was thinking about last Thursday evening as I sat on my back deck enjoying an adult beverage and a cigar. It was an unsea-



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

sonably balmy evening. The week had been filled with one virus-related declaration, announcement or foreboding after another. It was time to decompress, to just let go for a little bit, to let my thoughts stray to more happy places.

So there I sat in a blue Adirondack chair listening to Willie Nelson, my right hand absently petting my dog Chooch who was sitting at my side. My thoughts wandered all over the place, landing on family moments happy and sad, but mostly happy.

I got to thinking about the time my kids one year for Father's Day bought me a beach chair and a white Panama hat. They were so excited to surprise me with their gift. I was even more surprised that they had paid attention to the multiple flyers I had taped to their bedroom doors reminding them that Father's Day was approaching. My wife took a picture of me sitting in the chair, wearing my hat and being surrounded by the kids known affectionately as The Council of Three. It's one of my favorite pictures.

I got to thinking about the time my wife, who was my girlfriend at the time, and I went boating. While cruising through the Cape May canal, we encountered engine trouble which although was inconvenient was not entirely unexpected given the chewing gum and wire-repaired condition of the engine. While I went to get the boat trailer, my girlfriend stayed with the boat to ensure it didn't get beached. I was gone about two hours and upon my return was very pleased the boat was fine. Oh, and that my girlfriend was okay too.

I got to thinking about how we joke with our oldest son about his inability to

keep secrets. There was a Christmas morning when he was about seven that he was so excited to give us each the gifts he had purchased at the school Christmas store. He could hardly contain his enthusiasm. While giving his mother his gift, he blurted out, "Did someone say pen?" Which we didn't understand what he was talking about, until my wife opened her gift and it was a decorated pen. Then there was the Christmas when the kids knew I had bought their mother a coat. I wrapped it in a box retrieved from the attic. I think it was

a mixer box or something. Anyway, the kids watched their mother unwrap the gift, each anticipating her reaction. When the wrapping paper had been torn away, uncovering the mixer box, my son looked at me with a quizzical look, "I thought you said you got her a coat?" We all started laughing much to my son's consternation.

I got to thinking about the time I was in the bathroom shaving. My youngest son, about three or four at the time, was bouncing on the bed. I stepped from the bathroom to tell him to stop when he tried to jump to the floor only to bounce off the bureau, then be thrown back to the edge of the bed before falling to the floor. It all happened so quickly. It was one of the funniest things I had seen. Of course I rushed to make sure he was okay, which he was. But have you ever had one of those experiences when you've seen someone do something really comical, and even though you don't know whether they're unhurt you can't stop laughing? That was me. I laughed for I don't know how long. And I laughed again last Thursday evening. Funny is funny.

My drink was drained and my cigar had died out. Chooch was curled at my feet. Willie was singing "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain." I sat looking at the sky. Why these and other memories came to mind that other evening I can't say for certain, but I suspect it had to do with the reality that we're living right now in a new reality, one that forces us to maintain social distance, work from home and worry about how to make ends meet.

But for a time, I had escaped the uncertainty of infection counts and business closings. It was time very well spent. I recommend it for everyone.



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and Jennifer S. Hamilton, DPT, CHT

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## PRHS begins canceling elective surgeries

Peninsula Regional Health System, including Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, began canceling elective, non-emergency surgeries on Monday, March 23, as a part of the overall strategy to conserve and direct resources to the highest areas of need as we prepare for a possible COVID-19 outbreak in our community. Not every surgery will stop on Monday; rather, it means that all surgeries will be evaluated and those that can be canceled will be. Patients will be notified ahead of time.

The medical staff has agreed on a set of criteria to determine which surgeries will be canceled, and when. The criteria we are using mirror those established by other hospital systems with guidance from the American College of Surgeons.

"Delaying elective surgeries –

those that are not urgent – is a tactic that most hospitals around the country have or will use to achieve two goals during this crisis," said Mark Edney, MD, President of the Medical Staff at PRMC. "First, delaying surgeries that are not urgent or emergent saves supplies, personnel and other resources that are needed to be used for those sickened by the virus. Second, it reduces unnecessary exposure of community members to the hospital environment when they don't absolutely need to be here.

"We are sensitive to the need to balance the community need for these important but non-emergent surgeries with the need to conserve resources and minimize unnecessary exposure to the hospital environment. When implemented on Monday, it will be for a two-week timeframe and then re-evaluated on a rolling basis (with potential to extend the timeframe) so that we can deactivate the policy as soon as it is safe based on real-time data on viral spread and the hospital's ongoing experience in treating affected community members."

Patients with questions should call their surgeon's office to verify whether their surgery is still going forward.

## Most Maryland tax payments extended due to virus impact

In recent days, Comptroller Peter Franchot has announced several deadline extensions for income tax and business tax payments and would like to remind Marylanders of these changes. Comptroller Franchot could extend these deadlines further, due to prolonged economic distress caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Extending these due dates for all Maryland state income tax payments and for business tax payments will help Marylanders to keep the cash flowing in our economy and offer small businesses a lifeline to survive this COVID-19 crisis," Comptroller Franchot said.

The Maryland Comptroller's Office will conform with the Internal Revenue Service's 90-day extension of federal income tax payments from April 15 to July 15, 2020. Comptroller Franchot said Maryland individual and corporate income taxpayers will be afforded the same relief for state income tax payments. No interest or penalty for late payments will be imposed if 2019 tax payments are made by July 15, 2020. Taxpayers must file for an extension for the filing of FEDERAL taxes by April 15. Taxpayers should refer to the IRS for further details.

Fiscal year filers with tax years ending January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 are also eligible for the July 15, 2020 payment extension. The due date for March quarterly estimated payments is extended to July 15, 2020.

Comptroller Franchot also extended business-related tax filing deadlines. The June 1 extension applies to certain business returns with due dates during the months of March, April and May 2020 for businesses filing sales and use, withholding, admissions & amusement, alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel taxes, as well as tire recycling fee and bay restoration fee returns.

Business taxpayers who file and pay by June 1, 2020 will receive an automatic waiver of interest and penalties.

The agency has set up a dedicated email address — [taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov) — to assist businesses with extension-related questions. Business owners can also call the Comptroller's Ombudsman at 410-260-4020.

Comptroller's Office employees continue to answer general taxpayer questions on the 1-800-MD-TAXES phone line and via email at [taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov).

**The LORD will surely save me  
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stringed instruments Isaiah 38:20**



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## Small businesses financial help available

Governor Larry Hogan announced that Maryland has received official designation from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which provides low-interest federal disaster loans for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the SBA, the loans will help alleviate financial strain and allow businesses to pay bills, payroll, and accounts payable, with long-term payments stretching up to 30 years. Small businesses and private non-profit organizations can apply directly to the SBA for financial assistance here.

“Our first and foremost priority is protecting the health and safety of Marylanders, but we are also deeply concerned about the economic impact of this pandemic, which is why we worked quickly with our federal partners to apply for this designation,” said Governor Hogan. “This program will offer immediate relief to our small business community and help them to remain afloat during this difficult time.”

In order to receive designation, the state was required to provide at least five examples of companies that have suffered a significant economic injury due to COVID-19. With the recent executive order closing restaurants, bars, fitness centers, and theaters, along

with the prohibition of gatherings of more than 10 people, several businesses across the state have reported substantial impacts and are in need of immediate financial assistance.

“Maryland’s small businesses are critically important to our economy and we recognize the impact this crisis is having on them,” said Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly M. Schulz. “This loan program, combined with other state and federal assistance, will give businesses the support and resources they need to continue to operate.”

“This assistance is available to those businesses who have suffered economic hardship as a result of COVID-19,” said Russell Strickland, executive director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). “MEMA worked closely with local emergency management agencies to expedite the request for assistance from the SBA. These loans will help those hit hardest by the effects of COVID-19.”

For additional business resources available during the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit [businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus](http://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus).

For details on the administration’s ongoing response, visit [governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus](http://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus).

## Broadband bill passes

Legislation to allow Choptank Electric Cooperative to deliver broadband to members on the Eastern Shore passed unanimously in the House and Senate today. Dubbed “an emergency bill,” it becomes effective as soon as Governor Hogan signs it.

“The team here at Choptank Electric will work tirelessly to achieve this life-changing infrastructure deployment for our members,” said Mike Malandro, President and CEO of the Cooperative.

“The artful negotiations of Speaker Pro Tem Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes (District 37A) and Senator Steve Hershey (District 36) really pulled this bill through in the final hours of the General Assembly session,” explained Malandro. “We are grateful for their support and the leadership of Chairman Dereck Davis and Chairwoman Delores Kelley to get this bill passed on the last day of Session.”

“The dedication of the entire Eastern Shore delegation, county elected officials and our grassroots members is what made this happen,” concluded Malandro.

Under the bill, Choptank Electric Cooperative must conduct a vote of its members to become member-regulated. That vote will occur after at least two regional information meetings are held. Planning for meetings and the vote of members will begin immediately, with due regard to the current COVID-19 state of emergency in Maryland.

With a positive vote from members, the Cooperative will quickly move forward with broadband plans. These include meetings with members who desire broadband service to begin laying out the deployment schedule. And, application to the FCC for Rural Development Opportunity Act grant funds to bring down the cost of broadband installation for all members.

Updated information about Broadband plans will be posted on the Cooperative’s website.

For more information about your Cooperative, you can call our Member Service Center at 1.877.892.0001 or visit our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop).

## New Assistant Chief Administrative Officer named

The Worcester County Commissioners named Weston Young as the new assistant chief administrative officer (CAAO). He will step into his new role with Worcester County Government on April 30.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity and eager to apply my local government experience in this role,” Young said. “I look forward to working for the Commissioners of my home county.”

Young brings 12 years of local government experience to Worcester County. He has served as a leader with Wicomico County Government since 2015 where he began as the Public Works director prior to stepping into the position of assistant director of administration in 2017. As a professional engineer and

local government administrator, Young is a fiscal steward with an in-depth understanding of public infrastructure and its critical role on the region’s economic development and overall quality of life.

In 2005, Young earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland and later obtained the professional engineering certification. He will take over for ACAO Kelly Shannahan, who will retire August 21 after 30 years of service to the county.

The ACAO serves as a general assistant to the chief administrative officer (CAO) in areas of county administration and management, including the assignment of independent and broadly-defined missions and special projects, and acts on behalf of the CAO in his absence as directed.

Weston was born and raised in Pocomoke. He and his wife, Anne, are proud new parents.



Weston Young

## County offices closed to public, services still available

In response to the current health emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Worcester County Commissioners have closed the Worcester County Government (WCG) offices to the public. This enhanced measure has been implemented to protect the health of the public and WCG employees.

All WCG offices will continue standard operating hours to continue to provide all public services at this time. The following options are available to those seeking WCG services:

Call WCG staff. A list of phone numbers is available on the WCG website and in the Worcester County Government Center (WCGC) atrium.

Deposit essential documents in drop-off boxes in the WCGC first floor atrium and at the Isle of Wight office building.

Solid Waste Division operations, including the Central Landfill in Newark, and the Homeowner Convenience Centers throughout the county, will remain open during standard hours of operation.

Operating schedules are subject to change throughout this health crisis. A schedule of current WCG closings and the latest updates are available at [www.co.worcester.md.us/covid-19-info](http://www.co.worcester.md.us/covid-19-info).



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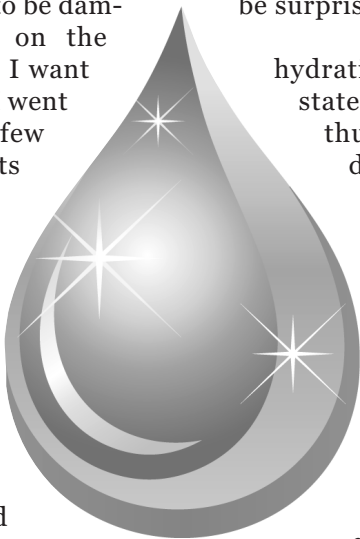


# Water, the best medicine

By **William “Billy” Hamilton Jr.,**  
DPT, CHT

I get asked several times a day by patients, “what can I do at home to help get rid of my pain?”. And up to very recently my response would almost always be, “make sure you’re doing the home exercises I showed you” or “ice and rest” depending on the issue with the patient. However, over the past year I began to have moderate to severe hip pain. Long story short I believe it to be damage to the cartilage on the socket of my hip joint. I want to discuss the process I went through along with a few other interesting facts about hydration.

With respect to my hip pain, it began last spring and was mild at first. Over a few months the pain progressed to severe at times and was always worse after activities like prolonged standing or running. I first tried resting for 4 weeks with no success. I then tried traditional physical therapy in my clinic. I was able to make some progress, but definitely not pain-free. I continued to have episodes of sharp pains in the “groin” area with simple movements such as rolling in bed or pivoting when walking. I was almost at the point where I thought that surgery may be my only option. At that point I performed a little self-reflection on my dietary habits. I realized that I was drinking mostly drinks that are considered diuretics such as coffee and tea. Over the next 2 weeks I would have my morning coffee and then only water the rest of the day. I made a concerted effort to have a water bottle at my desk and drink frequently whether I was thirsty or not. When I tell you that towards the end of that two weeks I was feeling dramatically better, it would be an understatement. My pain went from a 6-7/10 to a 1-2/10 and sometimes no pain at all. I won’t tell you that I have completely cured myself with water because the damage is still there, and I feel it when I am not as vigilant about drinking water. However, this small experiment I performed on myself



has emphasized the role that water plays in healthy joints and muscles. The other example I give my patients about the importance of hydration, think about the difference in how soft and pliable raw meat is vs dehydrated jerky! Now this is an extreme analogy, but still a good mental aid for how important water is in our body. Moving on from my personal experience I’d like to share a few facts about hydration that may be surprising to everyone.

The importance of hydration cannot be understated. The general rule of thumb is to attempt to drink half your body weight, but in ounces. For example, if you weight 200 lbs you must try to drink 100 ounces of water. Research has shown that the average woman should drink around 11 cups of water per day and men 15 cups per day. Of course, these numbers vary up or down according to body size and the amount of water in your meals (ie oatmeal = ¾ cup of water). Another fun fact is that all food and drinks count towards hydration, on average you can count 3-5 cups of water you will be getting from meals. Even coffee, tea, and alcohol add to your overall hydration, WHEN consumed in moderation. Another great source of hydration is whole or skim milk and orange juice. In fact, the “hydration index study” found that these drinks provided better hydration than actual water.

You may be surprised by some of these facts that I’ve shared today. My goal was to highlight how important water is to our overall health and wellness. You may even be able to prevent a trip to your doctor or physical therapist with simply increasing your water intake! If you’d like to know more feel free to stop in some time and have a chat with me.

*William “Billy” Hamilton Jr., DPT, CHT is owner of Hamilton Physical Therapy (Ocean Pines) and can be reached at 410-208-3300 or by Email at Billy@HamiltonPTcares.com.*

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
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47	48				49			50	51	52	53
55					56				57		58
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

### CLUES ACROSS

1. As soon as possible

5. Gateway (Arabic)

8. Doctors’ group

11. Madder genus of plants

13. A team’s best pitcher

14. Ancient Greek sophist

15. Go up

16. Neither

17. Bolivian river

18. Manila hemp

20. Comedienne Gasteyer

21. British School

22. Human reproductive organs

25. Surrenders

30. Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears

31. Sun up in New York

32. Lead alloy
33. Eastern Asian plant

38. Rapid deployment force (abbr.)

41. Japanese warrior

43. Festivity

45. Interruptions

47. Nonsense (slang)

49. Data mining methodology (abbr.)

50. Fencing sword

55. French river

56. Global business conference (abbr.)

57. Afflicted

59. Con man’s game

60. No (Scottish)

61. Jewish spiritual leader

62. Fish

63. Camera term (abbr.)

64. Impudence

### CLUES DOWN

1. A continuous portion of a circle

2. Genus of seabirds

3. Infant’s dining accessory

4. Native Americans from Arizona

5. Popular fruit

6. Poisonous plant

7. Scolded

8. Assists

9. Hand (Spanish)

10. Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)

12. Basics

14. Cain and \_\_

19. Malaria

23. Indicates particular shape

24. Respiratory disease

25. Central Standard Time

26. Imitate

27. Golf score

28. A place to lay your head
29. Three cards of the same suit

34. Not in

35. Human gene

36. Ancient Chinese philosophic concept

37. French river

39. Thinks up

40. Type of geological deposit

41. Helps little firms

42. Area units

44. A device to remove

45. Secret political clique

46. Polite interruption sound

47. Foundation

48. Clare Boothe \_\_, American writer

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Resistance fighters

58. Speak disrespectfully of

	S	Y	L	I		S	T	A	V	E	
E	C	H	O	E	S		P	E	R	I	L
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Answers for March 18





**Donation -** Jerry and Carol Apicella of the Freestate Corvette Club present a check for \$1,144 to Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity). GOLD provides emergency financial aid and items to meet basic needs for Worcester County residents during critical times of need.

**MAC closes**

MAC, Inc., the Area Agency on Aging, will be closed to the public Monday-Friday, March 23-27. The building is expected to re-open on Monday, March 30.

As throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, MAC’s first priority remains the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and the senior community. The closing is for the purpose of disinfecting the building.

The home-delivered meals operation will continue as normal that week. In addition, staff will be available to respond to inquiries from the community and to offer assistance to the senior community, both via telephone.

**Expo rescheduled**

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce has rescheduled its Community Expo for September 12 at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The event will occur between 9 a.m. and noon.

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## A Message from Worcester County Health Officer

The COVID-19 situation globally, nationally, and locally is constantly changing and evolving every day. The Worcester County Health Department will provide consistent updates as new information becomes available to keep residents safe and informed. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers we've seen in our community.

### What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus. This is a virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. COVID-19 is spread just like colds or flu through coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets, close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, or touching an object or surface with the virus on it. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever, coughing, shortness of breath, and in more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs).

### How can I protect myself from COVID-19?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces

### How do I get tested for Coronavirus?

If you develop symptoms such as fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19, stay home and call your healthcare provider. Your doctor will determine if you have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and whether you should be tested. If you do not have a primary care provider or symptoms worsen contact your local emergency room.

### What are the rules regarding crowds, businesses and events

### during the COVID-19 State of Emergency?

Effective immediately and until further notice, all bars, restaurants, gyms, and movie theaters across the State will close beginning 5 p.m. 3/16/20. Carry-out, drive-through and food delivery will remain open. Grocery stores, banks, pharmacies, gas stations and other essential services would remain open. Utilities – including electric, gas, water, sewer, phone, cable TV and Internet companies – are prohibited from shutting off residential customers or charging late fees. No social, community, religious, recreational or sports gatherings of more than 10 people in close proximity anywhere in the State. This announcement comes directly from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. Law enforcement is tasked with enforcing the executive order as it is a criminal offense to violate the Governor's declaration.

An up-to-date list of all of Governor Hogan's declarations can be found at [governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/](http://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/)

### Where can I go for more information?

The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) has a call center operating Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with staff available to answer questions. To reach the center call 410-632-1100 option #8. WCHD also operates an automated public information line 24/7 with messaging about COVID-19 (410-632-4321). Visit [WorcesterHealth.org](http://WorcesterHealth.org) for up-to-date facts and information on COVID-19 locally. Follow @WorcesterHealth on Facebook and other social media for emerging updates. You can dial 2-1-1 any time for information on COVID-19 in the State of Maryland. Practice safe prevention habits and social distancing, check on friends, family and vulnerable neighbors (by phone). We understand that this can be a difficult and uncertain time for the residents and guests, but by using common sense prevention measures, maintaining social distance, and working together we will come out of this event a stronger community.

Thank you and please remember your health department is always working behind the scenes to protect the health of our residents.

**Rebecca Jones, RN, BSN, MSN**  
Health Officer

## Budget work session rescheduled

In ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the March 31 work session on the requested FY21 Worcester County Operating Budget has been rescheduled for April 7 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Worcester County Government Center.

Operating schedules are subject to change throughout this health crisis. For current Worcester County Government closings and notices, visit <http://www.co.worcester.md.us/covid-19-info>.

## Recreation & Parks closed

Effective as of Friday afternoon, March 13, 2020, the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) were closed to the public through March 27 at minimum, and all programs and activities have been cancelled. Worcester County parks will remain open for passive activities until further notice.

For more information or to speak with Recreation & Parks staff, please call 410-632-2144, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or email [recandparks@co.worcester.md.us](mailto:recandparks@co.worcester.md.us).

## Shepherd's Nook closes

Due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus, the Shepherd's Nook and Flea Market at Community Church at Ocean Pines will remain closed through April 1. Clothing and household donations cannot be accepted and processed during this time. The public is asked to hold donations until the store reopens. When the Shepherd's Nook reopens, it will be stocked with spring and summer clothing.

## AGH cancels events

Atlantic General Hospital has announced that it will be canceling the Prostate Cancer Screening event scheduled for April 22, 2020 and the Walk with a Doc event scheduled for April 18, 2020. The Hope in Bloom breast health event scheduled for April 23, 2020 has been postponed to September.

All other community events scheduled for the months of March and April are also cancelled.

For more information and updates on future events, please visit [www.agh.care/calendar](http://www.agh.care/calendar).

### meeting from page 2

Under "new business," Board members voted 7-0 to adjourn to closed session to discuss "potential actions to be taken relative to the COVID-19 pandemic, specially pertaining to employees, personnel and discussion of individuals owner assessment accounts as permitted by the Maryland Homeowners Association Act, Section 11B-111(4)(viii)."

The reason for the closed session was amended from the published agenda. Parks clarified the original intent was to discuss assessments, but a personnel issue was later added.

Following the closed session, Parks issued the following statement:

"The OPA Board of Directors held a special meeting today to dis-

cuss potential options as they relate to payment of the annual assessment. During this time of uncertainty, we felt it prudent to acknowledge the effect the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic is having on many of our resident's financial situation.

"We discussed several possible options and have asked the General Manager to work with his financial team to analyze the financial impact for each of the options. Our goal is to have several fully vetted solutions that can be considered in the effort to assist OPA members that are being impacted by the current economic conditions. A notification with details on viable options will be forthcoming, early next week.

"As your Board of Directors, we will continue to work on behalf of the membership to address these important issues."



# Superintendent reaches out to school community

As we come to the end of this first week of our mandated closure, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to our incredible community for your continued support throughout this health crisis.



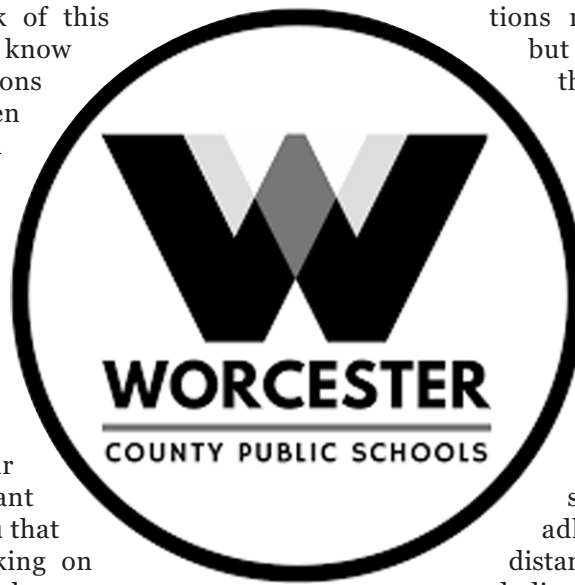
Lou Taylor

I have seen such incredible acts of heroism from the far reaches of our county throughout this time: from our Board of Education, the County Commissioners, the County Health Department, and other government partners sharing their resources to local restaurants, businesses and organizations supporting our efforts to feed our students to our instructional staff and educators sharing resources and learning tools to help our families. It is during times of crisis that we see the true character of people, and I am honored and humbled by the incredible character I have seen from the people of Worcester County.

Now, as we move forward into the

second week of this closure, I know many questions have been brewing in our community. While many unknowns still surround how this health crisis will ultimately impact our schools, I want to assure you that we are working on contingency plans to ensure we have continuity of learning should this closure extend past next week.

Additionally, many of our families have expressed their worry about those important rites of passage that are part of a child's educational experience outside of learning. We want to reassure you that we have every intention of celebrating our students; we may not know what those celebra-



tions may look like, but please know that we will not let these moments of life just pass by.

We want to encourage you all to take to heart the recommendations for your own personal health and safety. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines and disease prevention practices. We will be sharing through our social media some graphics to help remind you of these important practices over the next week.

We also know that these times can be scary for our young people; we want you to know that it is normal to experience feelings of stress, anger or fear at this time. If you need support for your child's social-emotional needs, our school counselors are

available. Please visit our website, [www.worcesterk12.org](http://www.worcesterk12.org) to learn more about this important resource.

Lastly, I want to extend my thanks again for your continued support and partnership as we weather this crisis. We will make it through this, together. Take care of yourself and each other, and God bless you all.

**Louis H. Taylor**  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Pines police implements enhanced telephone reporting

During the current COVID-19 health crisis, it is important to keep our first responders healthy to handle serious incidents. In an effort to reduce the vulnerability of our police officers, the Ocean Pines Police Department will introduce a temporary enhanced telephone reporting system. In minor property crime cases, where there is no suspect, police will take the report telephonically, except in cases where a victim requests the presence of the officer.

Chief David Massey states, "This is only a temporary change, and will not impact police response to all other types of incidents. We recognize that first responders have a duty to the residents to provide our continuing protection, and we shall always be there to provide prompt and efficient service. This change will better protect our police officers, by reducing their vulnerability to health risks during this health crisis."

## Commissioners issue a Declaration of Emergency

The Worcester County Commissioners last week issued a Declaration of Local State of Emergency effective immediately proclaiming the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a catastrophic health emergency in Worcester County.

Public health remains the top priority of the Commissioners, and following executive orders issued by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, the Commissioners implemented special preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the threat to public safety and lives of all Worcester County residents and visitors. The Commissioners and other Worcester County Government (WCG) officials are working cooperatively with the Worcester County Health Department (WCHD), the lead agency in this emergency, the State of Maryland, and other local and state partners to implement preparedness plans to respond throughout the course of this evolving event.

A schedule of Worcester County closings and the latest updates are available at [www.co.worcester.md.us/covid-19-info](http://www.co.worcester.md.us/covid-19-info). While operating schedules are subject to change throughout this health crisis, at this time, the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill, all Senior Centers, and the County Libraries throughout the County are closed to the public. All other WCG departments are continuing to provide needed public services. At this time, the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, the Central Landfill in Newark, and the Homeowner

Convenience Centers throughout the county will remain open during standard hours of operation.

For questions about COVID-19, call the WCHD Call Center during business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 410-632-1100, option #8. General information on COVID-19 is available 24/7 through the WCHD's Public Information Line at 410-632-4321 and [WorcesterHealth.org](http://WorcesterHealth.org).

## Health Department confirms second case of COVID-19 in Worcester County

The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) confirmed the second positive test for a case of COVID-19 in Worcester County on March 21. The patient is a female in her 20s who lives in Worcester County and is recovering at home. This case is a close household contact of the first positive COVID-19 case in the county, reported earlier this week, and has been in quarantine since known exposure. Worcester County Health Department is conducting a contact investigation of this second case and appropriate close contacts will have arrangements made for testing if indicated.

If you are experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) contact your primary care doctor for further

response  
from page 2

hands. These strategies are fundamental to protecting our caregivers, patients and the community.

### Patient and Community FAQs

#### **I am scheduled for surgery at Atlantic General Hospital. Will my surgery continue as planned?**

For the health and safety of our community, patients and caregivers, all non-urgent, non-emergent procedures are being postponed beginning Tuesday, March 17. This follows the US Surgeon General's recommendation to allow for a potential increase in COVID-19 patient volume. This action is designed to provide additional capacity for the hospitals to treat those patients in greatest need. Patients will be contacted by their provider's office to postpone their elective procedure, if it is non-urgent or non-emergent.

#### **I have an appointment or services scheduled at an Atlantic General Hospital or with an Atlantic General Health System Provider. Should I cancel it?**

No. You should come to your appointment as scheduled, unless you are exhibiting any signs of cold or flu-like symptoms, in which case you should call your provider's office for further instructions.

Atlantic General Health System will be providing telehealth access for patient appointments where this type of treatment is appropriate. Patients who qualify for a telehealth appointment will be contacted to by their provider offices be provided with this option and with instructions for this appointment.

#### **What should I do if I have some cold or flu symptoms and I have an upcoming appointment at Atlantic General Hospital or with an Atlantic General Health System provider?**

If you are exhibiting any signs of cold- or flu-like symptoms, like a cough or runny nose, you should reschedule your appointment for the health and safety of those around you. If you feel like you need to keep your appointment, please call in advance to discuss with your doctor's office.

#### **I'm scheduled to attend a class at an Atlantic General Hospital. Will it be canceled?**

All hospital and community events and classes have been canceled through April 30 to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

#### **I frequently visit an Atlantic**

#### **General Hospital location for other events outside of my health care, for example, the cafeteria and the chapel. Can I still continue these activities?**

For your health and safety, as well as the safety of our patients and caregivers, we are not allowing outside visitors in any areas of the facility at this time. The cafeteria and chapel will only be available to those approved in the updated visitor policy.

#### **My children usually come with me to appointments. Can I bring them?**

No. Children under the age of 18 (unless they are the parent of a child) are not permitted to visit the hospital or outpatient centers during these temporary visitor restrictions. Please visit the hospital's Temporary Visitor Restrictions webpage or our social media sites for any updates.

#### **How long will these changes in the visiting policy be in effect?**

Because this is a rapidly changing situation, we cannot predict how long these restrictions will remain in place. We will maintain them as long as necessary to protect our patients, visitors and caregivers. Please see our Temporary Visitor Restrictions or our social media sites for the most up-to-date information.

#### **If I think I have COVID-19 what should I do?**

Unless you are suffering a medical emergency, please do not show up unannounced at an emergency room or other medical facility. You should speak with your healthcare provider, who can alert an emergency room so that its staff is ready with proper protective gear. If you are ill and have a mask, please wear it to your appointment.

If you have symptoms or you have been exposed to the virus, you should contact your health care provider to determine how best to isolate yourself from others and for how long.

If you live in Worcester County you can contact the Worcester County Health Department hotline at 410-632-1100 select option #8 to determine if you are a candidate for COVID-19 screening.

General information on COVID-19 is available 24/7 through Worcester Health's Public Information Line (410-632-4321) and [WorcesterHealth.org](http://WorcesterHealth.org).

These resources about COVID-19, and our response to it, will be updated regularly. Updates regarding hospital specific COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.atlanticgeneral.org/patients-visitors/covid-19-updates/>.

please see case page 15



# Updated Board statement on assessment payments

Ocean Pines Association President Doug Parks this morning provided the following statement, on behalf of the Board of Directors, about annual assessment payments during the COVID-19 crisis:

"As a follow up to the special meeting of the OPA Board on Friday, March 20, we want to provide additional details to the membership as we work towards a solution to address payment of the annual assessment. At that meeting, we directed the general manager and his

case  
from page 14

screening to determine if you should be tested. Unless you are suffering a medical emergency, please do not show up unannounced at an emergency room or other medical facility. You should speak with your healthcare provider, who can alert an emergency room so that its staff is ready with proper protective gear. To

finance team to evaluate the possible payment options we had discussed. Our objective is to address concerns from the membership regarding their ability to pay the annual assessment by the current due date.

"Options regarding pushing back the due date, establishing payment plans and other possibilities are currently being evaluated. While these approaches seem simple in concept, we do need to consider the effect any option has on our ability

protect yourselves and others, wash your hands often, cover cough/sneezes, clean and disinfect surfaces, and stay home if sick. For more information on Coronavirus and prevention tips, visit WorcesterHealth.org or call 410-632-1100 option #8 to connect to our call center (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). For COVID-19 information in the State of Maryland, please dial 2-1-1.

to meet existing financial obligations both in the short and long term. Not only do we need to prioritize the needs of the membership, we also need to protect our employees, the services, the amenities and all the assets of Ocean Pines.

"Knowing that OPA still needs to run its operations, although in a diminished capacity, we ask that all members who are able to pay their assessment on time to please do so as this approach will lessen the burden on determining an alternate funding source during these times. Paying on time also allows additional options to be considered to help our neighbors who are more severely impacted by the pandemic. We will continue to work through possible options for those who have a financial concern regarding the assessment payment and are targeting to have a decision by our April 1 regularly scheduled Board meeting.

"Rest assured that we will have a viable solution to provide the needed flexibility for payment of the annual assessment as well as protecting the current staff employed by OPA to run its operations. We are in this situation together as a community and will get through this situation together as a community."

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## A Message to Our Customers

Hello everyone,

I hope this finds you happy & healthy.

We're living through an unprecedented and challenging period. We all have to do our part to implement social distancing. The less exposure is better. I have decided to do a couple of things that might help.

I know that bird watching, even in our own backyards is relaxing and enjoyable. So, we've implemented a new service. For Ocean Pines residents ONLY, upon request, My Backyard will deliver your birdseed order to your front porch.

Call me at 410-208-1479 to place an order by credit card. Call by noon and we will do everything we can to deliver it the same day. If you live OUTSIDE Ocean Pines, we offer curbside delivery at the shop. For the next couple weeks, just call ahead to make payment arrangements and we will bring your order out to you for your convenience.

No one wants to be sick and we need to do our due diligence while trying to have some normality as well. I hope these new services will help those who still want to watch nature in action while adhering to the government guidelines for social distancing. We will get through this, together.

*Maureen Kennedy*  
Owner



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