

## *This Week's Message to Readers*

It's another week of uncertainty for all of us as we each do our part in defeating Covid-19. I'm sure you feel the same as me: "Enough already!" Everyone, from individuals to businesses, is doing what they can to get through this period.

Many businesses are **going out of their way** to meet the needs of customers and residents. And during times like this it can make a **big difference in the welfare of our community**.

Last week while delivering the paper I spoke with Billy Hamilton of **Hamilton Physical Therapy**. He was on his way to make a house call, something he's now doing to care for his patients during this time when many are sheltered at home. Quite impressive. To schedule an appointment with Billy, call his office at 410-208-3300.

Thankfully, Mary and Bill Jaeger at **A Bagel And...** are offering curbside service Wednesday through Sunday. Call ahead to 410-208-0707.

As the weather is getting nicer, feeding the birds who return to our backyard each spring is an enjoyable and tranquil ritual. Fortunately, Maureen Kennedy, owner of **My Backyard**, is offering curbside pick-up and porch delivery. Call her at 410-208-1479. See her ad on page 7 for more details.

Also, Nancie Corbett of **Bluebird Farms** on Route 589 is providing Porch Pick-up for produce, baked items and plants. Go to their Facebook page: [BLUEBIRD FARMS](#) to find out what's available each day of call Nancie at 410-208-4475.

The law firm of **Procino-Wells and Woodland** is offering a series of webinars. Next Tuesday they'll be hosting an Elder Law series. For more information visit their website at [www.pwlaw.com](#).

And for parent and grandparents who may be looking for something to occupy the attention of children in the house, Michelle Convey and her daughter Allison Barton at **Children's Book Garden** are offering free delivery and shipment. Visit their website at [www.bookand-toyngarden.com](#) or give them a call at 410-641-5800.

And a reminder that we **continue to pub-**

*please see message on page 4*



*Dottie and Ed Pinto*

## *Local couple experience virus precautions at sea*

By **Victor Fernandes**

Ed and Dottie Pinto's personal coronavirus story inches closer to a happy ending every day.

So far, it doesn't include being two of more than 200,000 people infected with the potentially deadly virus across the United States. The couple completed a two-week quarantine at home in Ocean City earlier this week, which hopefully has turned an unforgettable month-long excursion by land and sea into nothing but a memorable experience.

Shows of generosity in response to the Pintos' self-imposed isolation have played a role in how they will remember their 21-day French Polynesian cruise across the southern Pacific Ocean. Members of American Legion Synepuxent Post 166 in Ocean City joined friends to collect food while they traveled home in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're doing just fine," Ed Pinto said by

telephone March 31, as they completed the end of their first full week at home since leaving in mid-January to begin their winter getaway in Key West, Florida. They emptied their refrigerator before leaving, but it wasn't empty when they arrived home. Inside they found chili, pizza, spaghetti, hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls courtesy of Ocean Pines resident and Post 166 Commander Tom Wengert, who donated food from the group's refrigerator. Post 166 members also have helped other local residents during the health crisis, and recently contributed \$20,000 to charities such as Diakonia, St. Paul's by-the-Sea and local church groups.

"We try and look out for all our veterans and also members of our community," Wengert said. "That's what we're really here for, to help those in need and

*please see pintos page 6*



# Let's Keep Our Distance & Keep COVID-19 Under Control



**It's up to each of us to contain the spread of COVID-19. Here's how you can do your part:**

**Please remember, even those who are healthy and not at risk can contribute to the spread and have a devastating effect on the most vulnerable members of our community. Let's work together to keep our friends, families and neighbors safe!**

- **Keep at least 6 feet away from other people**
- **Wash your hands with soap frequently**
- **Avoid group gatherings**
- **Avoid touching your face**
- **Stay at home as much as possible**
- **Use services like delivery and curbside pickup whenever possible to avoid close contact with others**



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# Chambers unite to assist business community

By **Victor Fernandes**

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is a small business, much like businesses they serve in the community.



**Kerrie Bunting**

It has few employees - even fewer than most, with one full-timer and a part-timer. The business has money in the bank in case of emergencies, and **Kerrie Bunting**, the chamber's president

and chief executive officer, is trying to keep the business financially viable in the midst of a historic health emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, and epic economic crisis.

"We are the vast majority (operating as) small businesses. We're Mom and Pop," Bunting said. "We don't have the industry like a more metropolitan area does. We're small business on the (Lower) Shore, so this could be absolutely devastating."

Chambers of commerce across the Lower Shore are especially essential now. They are helping fellow small businesses survive, and once again thrive, as they approach a make-or-break time for all of them, the traditionally profitable summer tourism season.

Initially, Bunting said, she repeatedly faced one question - "Who's essential and who's not?" - before Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's statewide stay-at-home order began March 30. Restaurant owners kept her very busy addressing that pressing concern.

Right now, the work is focused on providing guidance about available loans, grants and other funding sources at a time when information changes daily. Chamber officials are speaking one-on-one with worried business owners, participating in webinars outlining information they need, and disseminating that information on their websites and through social media.

For example, Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce's website features a specific "COVID-19 Assistance Info" page for local business owners that includes links to other pertinent websites, including the

Maryland Department of Labor.

"These are complicated forms. There's a lot of them, and there's a lot of different programs," Bunting said. "Then deciphering which program is most appropriate for your business and employees, it's just very confusing."

Chambers of commerce are, more than ever, a one-stop shop for needed funding on a national and statewide level. Bunting also has turned to the Small Business Development Center at Salisbury University to bridge the gap between overwhelmed owners and the money they need to keep their businesses afloat. Bunting has recommended SBDC Eastern Region director John Hickman's easy-to-follow guidelines to applying for loans and grants, such as from the Small Business Administration.

**Melanie Pursel**, The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce's outgoing president and CEO and Worcester County's new tourism

*please see **chambers** on page 15*

## Bluebird FARMS



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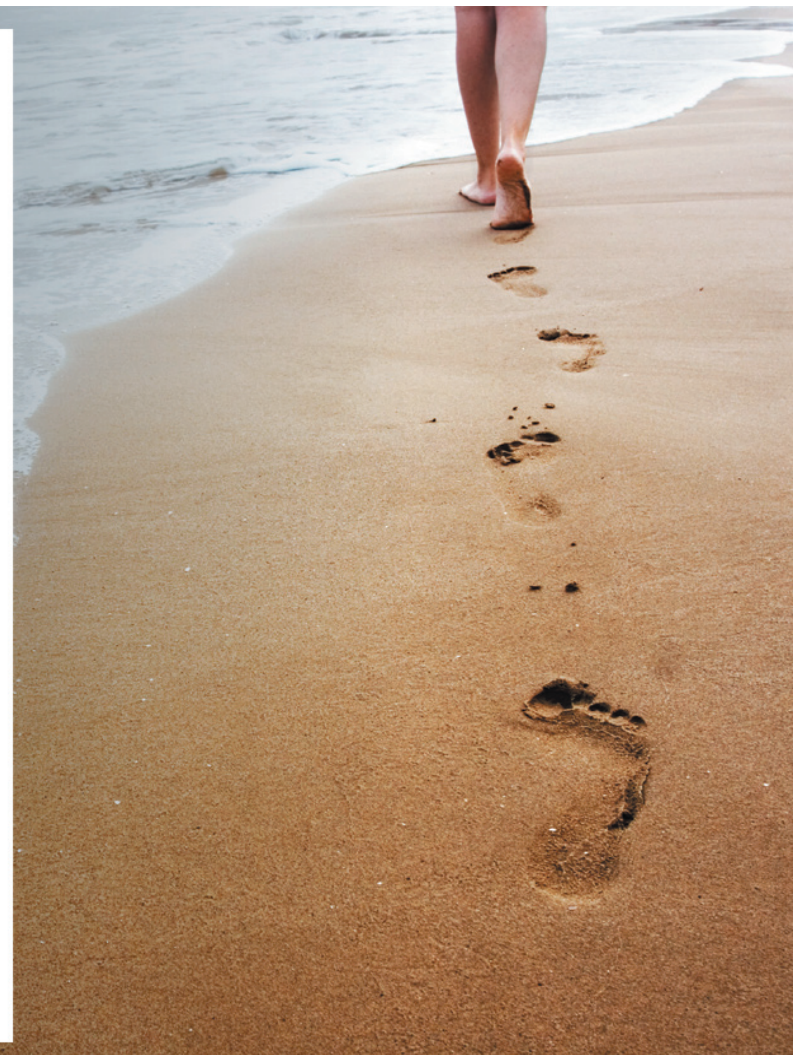


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# Diakonia continues to serve

## Editor:

Diakonia, a non-profit operating in Worcester County for over 48 years, is a shining example of perseverance and kindness in these unprecedented times. Living their motto, "Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow", Diakonia continues to provide services to the neediest of our neighbors.

Twenty-five guests currently reside in Diakonia's emergency shelter located on Old Bridge Road in West Ocean City. Since March 16th, the house has been following Maryland's COVID-19 stay at home directive and practicing CDC's preventive actions. All guests are restricted to the property. Staff are on-site

24 hours a day and are working tirelessly and selflessly to provide meals, ensure the facility remains clean and offer entertaining activities.

Additionally, Diakonia continues to operate its 24/7 food pantry for Worcester County residents, assist with SNAP applications (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), provide resource support to veterans via telephone and work with Ocean City's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to provide necessary supplies to those without shelter.

Diakonia is funded solely through grants, fundraisers and donations. The immediate need is for food and household products. While staying at home, you can participate in Diakonia's "Help for Today" mission.

Monetary donations of any amount are critically needed and would be most appreciated. Please visit [www.diakoniaoc.org](http://www.diakoniaoc.org) to donate online. You may also mail your donation to Diakonia, P.O. BOX 613 Ocean City, MD 21842. To donate food, please call 410-213-0923.

*We are in this together and we will come through this together.*

**Beth Rodier**

*Chair, Diakonia Board of Directors*

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](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)

## Healthy Food Facts

-Apples are more effective than coffee at waking you up in the morning.

-Bananas aren't the only fruits with potassium. Avocados have twice the amount of potassium as bananas and are rich in monounsaturated fat that is burned easily as energy. Green-tipped bananas are better for you than over-ripened bananas. Bananas contain a lot of sugar, if eaten with protein, the insulin levels are normalized.

-Broccoli contains twice the amount of Vitamin C than and orange. It contains as much calcium as whole milk, and is more readily absorbed by our bodies.

-Cilantro is good for digestion and also soothes many common ailments such as headache, coughs and nausea.

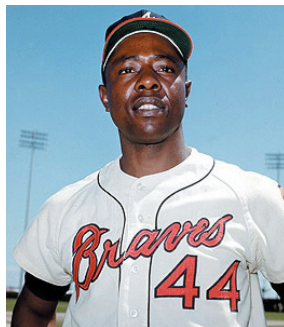
-Onions are great antioxidants, containing anti-allergy, antiviral, and anti-histamine properties. The sulfur compounds found in onions help in the detoxifying the body and aid in cellular repair. Maximum health benefits are seen in raw or lightly-steamed onions.

-Parsley is also great for use as a digestive aid. It is a natural breath freshener, anti-carcinogen, contains three times the amount of vitamin C as oranges, and twice the amount of iron as in spinach.

-mercola.com



# A Time To Remember



On this day in 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run, breaking Babe Ruth's legendary record of 714 homers. A crowd of 53,775 people, the largest in the history of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, was with Aaron that night to cheer when he hit a 4th inning pitch off the Los Angeles Dodgers' Al Downing. However, as Aaron was an African American who had received death threats and racist hate mail during his pursuit of one of baseball's most distinguished records, the achievement was bittersweet.

message  
from page 1

**lish and home deliver The Courier in Ocean Pines.** If you'd like to receive *The Courier* in your driveway, call me at 410-629-5906 or email me at [chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com) (write "DELIVERY" in the memo line) and we'll put you on our delivery list.

You can **pick up a copy** of the paper in news boxes at the following locations: Walmart, The Parke at Ocean Pines mail pavilion, Southside Deli on Nicholas Lane in Ocean Pines, White Horse Park across from the Ocean Pines Administration building, Food Lion at Pennington Commons and Food Lion Shopping Center on Route 611 (adjacent to Kozma Jewelers).

You can **read the paper online** at [www.delmarvacourier.com](http://www.delmarvacourier.com). A link to *The Courier* website is also on the homepage of [oceanpinesforum.com](http://oceanpinesforum.com). And **like us on Facebook at The Courier of Ocean Pines** where we're putting up articles and columns. Which brings up another point.

If you know someone who is living alone consider giving them a call to chat a little. It will make a positive difference in their day and yours as well.

Last week I asked readers to email what they've been doing while stuck at home. **Mary Boyd**, wrote me that her routine is fairly consistent: "Wake up, eat, nap, repeat!" If you want to share how you're spending your time, email me at [chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com).

*The Courier* is committed to **servicing our readers, local business and our community.** Stay safe!

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

**Call 410-629-5906**

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# Keep smiling through

Enduring the constraints imposed upon us by Covid-19 has taken some getting used to. We can't go where we want. We can't see who we want when we want. It's frustrating but necessary.

The situation in which we find ourselves reminds me of the lyrics to song



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

made popular by Vera Lynn during World War II, "We'll Meet Again." The song starts with the following lyrics:

*We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some  
sunny day  
Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark  
clouds far away*

I especially like the phrase, "Keep smiling through."

Writing about smiling reminds me of my grandchildren with whom we have Facetimed quite often during the past several weeks.

The week before last my granddaughter celebrated her eighth birthday. Big plans had been made for her big day including celebrating to event with her grandparents. Unfortunately, that was not to be. Stay at home declarations barred travel so she had a relatively quiet birthday at home. She was disappointed. Her grandparents were disappointed.

However, when there's a will there's a way. No grandparent wants to see a grandchild disappointed. And so, my son-in-law's mother, known to her grandchildren as Em, took it as a challenge to ensure we would celebrate this birthday as a family even if we couldn't be together.

Em arranged for a virtual party via Zoom teleconferencing. At the appointed hour, family members logged in. My granddaughter had no idea until her mother sat her in front of the computer. Thinking it was another remote school session, she was quite

surprised to see the faces of her grandparents, aunts and uncles, great-grandfather and great-grandmother smiling at her. We were arranged on the screen like the opening of "The Brady Bunch."

We sang happy birthday. There was a time delay for some of us so the song had a rather unsynchronized tempo. My granddaughter didn't seem to notice and if she did, she didn't care. We all talked for a while. There were many instances of asking someone to repeat themselves because it was hard to hear. Truth be told the hearing troubles would have occurred in person too.

During a recent conversation with my daughter who has been cooped up in her house with my aforementioned granddaughter and my five year-old grandson, I asked how it was going now that school has been cancelled through the end of the year and she's been required to take up the reins of teacher. "The kids have been expelled twice," she told me.

She then shared with me that my grandson informed her that he has been inflicted with some rather unusual ailments. "Your grandson told me this morning that he has 'Pokey Toes.'" That sounded pretty serious to me. But that wasn't all.

"He also has 'Goopy Eye,'" I was told. "Goopy Eye?" That didn't sound good either.

And then my daughter shared my grandson's latest ailment. He told her, "Mom, I have Sticky Weaner." The less said about that ailment the better.

Last week I shared with you that I was running low on Red Rose tea bags. On Thursday, Ocean Pines resident Paula Gray called me. She offered me one of the two boxes her husband recently purchased. She said she'd leave a box on her front porch for me to pick up. Her thoughtfulness made my day. Fortunately, I didn't have to take her up on her offer. My stock has been replenished through the kindness of my wife, mother, daughter-in-law and friends. Our cupboard overflows with tea bags. It will be a while before I run short again.

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(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has quickly changed our daily lives.

As a trusted health care facility in Ocean Pines - Hamilton Physical Therapy wants you to know that we are **OPEN** as we continue to serve the community. Plus we are offering **IN HOME** service, if you prefer.

As part of our COVID-19 prevention protocol - we have **stepped up the sanitizing** of our facility to more frequent intervals and we have modified our current process to adhere to recommended social distancing protocols.

Please be aware that you **DO NOT need a doctor's referral** to come to Hamilton for Physical Therapy.

To schedule an appointment, call (410) 208-3300.



William Hamilton, Jr., DPT, CHT  
and Jennifer S. Hamilton, DPT, CHT

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# OPA Board extends assessment deadline

The Ocean Pines Board on Wednesday voted 6-1 to extend the 2020 assessment deadline by 90 days, to August 1.

Board members met in a virtual setting Wednesday night to discuss the matter, citing economic hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I considered options that would strike a balance between ensuring we address the financial hardship needs of the membership as well as addressing the Association's financial obligations, including staffing, to keep Ocean Pines up and running in a limited manner," Association President Doug Parks said. "Given the GM and his finance team acknowledged that extending the due date was realistic, albeit with some risk based on not knowing how long our amenities and services would be shut down, I felt that the 90-day extension of the assessment due date was the appropriate course of action."

Board members encouraged anyone who can pay the assessment by the normal May 1 deadline to do so, to help continue to fuel Ocean Pines operations.

"As noted in the meeting last night, if you can pay this reduces the risk of us having to enact some other choices regarding meeting our financial obligations over the next three-to-four months," Parks said.

General Manager John Viola told Board members that he and staff did

an analysis of several scenarios, including pushing the assessment due date back for 90 days, which was his recommendation. Viola said some capital replacement items in the fiscal 2020/2021 budget could be deferred until September, but those deferrals would not affect the safety or normal operations of the Association.

Board members noted not paying the assessment on time would affect homeowners' ability to vote and/or run in the Board of Directors election. According to Ocean Pines bylaws, no member may vote if, 35 days prior to the voting deadline, the member has failed to pay the annual charge. This year, the voting deadline is July 1, 2020.

Board member and Association Treasurer Larry Perrone voted against the 90-day extension, saying he was instead in favor of pushing the date back 60 days.

"As the chief financial officer, I feel that we need to be compassionate while also being fiscally conservative," Perrone said. "My recommendation was to give our members 60 additional days to make their assessment payments, with an option to add another 30 days once we had a little more time to evaluate our financial position. That said, I am satisfied that my Board partners understand all the issues and made a decision with all the available information."

## Candidate filing deadline coming up

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee is reminding homeowners of the May 10 candidate registration deadline for the 2020 Board of Directors election.

This year, two seats are available in the Board election, with the two highest voter getters each earning a three-year term.

The Board of Directors is governing body of the Ocean Pines Association, as established by Ocean Pines Bylaws.

To be an eligible candidate a homeowner must:

-Be a property owner in Ocean Pines as of January 1, 2020

-Be eligible to vote

-Payment of the annual assessment is a prerequisite to vote. No member may vote if, 35 days prior to the voting deadline, the member has failed to pay the annual charge. This year, the voting deadline is July 1, 2020

-Voting rights may be suspended if the member is found in continuing violation of the Declarations of Restrictions

Applications for Board candidacy are available on the Ocean Pines website at the following link: <https://www.oceanpines.org/forms-docs-cat/board-member-application/>.

*pintos*

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in time of need. Whether you're a veteran or not, we will help you."

Friends followed suit, as Joe Schweiger, of Ocean Pines, and Millville, DE couple Joe Tamberino and Judy Mays delivered essentials such as bread, eggs and milk - and of course, what Schweiger jokingly called "essential bourbon."

Schweiger said he was unconcerned not knowing if the Pintos contracted the coronavirus, even after learning they disinfected with Clorox wipes the money the former Ocean Pines residents gave to him for groceries.

Schweiger wanted to help his friends, as he has helped other friends. "They just stepped up," Ed Pinto said.

Pinto reached out to friends and fellow Post 166 veterans as he and his wife were guests on a Norwegian Cruise Line ship in need of an open port to dock in the south Pacific. The Pintos, who began their trek in Sydney, Australia, and spent four days in Fiji along the way, weren't worried about possibly being exposed to the virus.

"When we left on this cruise, China had the virus and there were early reports in Milan, Italy," Ed Pinto said. The middle of an ocean, the couple believed, was the safest place to avoid the disease, especially since the ship's crew did what Dottie Pinto called an "excellent" job of keeping the ship clean and sanitized.

"There were so many safety precautions on that ship that were amazing," she said. "The doors and walls were washed twice a day. Everything you touched they were constantly washing and cleaning. We were not allowed to touch our plates. They had to be handed to us. Utensils wrapped in a napkin were handed to us."

She fondly recalled having crew members working a buffet line place a bun on her plate, hot dog on her bun and mustard on her hot dog to keep her from coming into contact with food. "We had no illnesses of any kind on board, not even the normal cruise ship illnesses," Ed Pinto said, "because of the stringent sanitary processes they put in place."

Still, anxiety grew among passengers, he said, as one south Pacific nation after another turned the ship away. Tahitian officials informed the crew, Ed Pinto said, that the ship couldn't dock at its original final destination while nearing the island. The ship also faced roadblocks in New Zealand and Fiji before refueling in American Samoa.

The ship finally docked in Honolulu because of a damaged propeller. After spending three days staying patient with complex disembarking procedures, Ed Pinto said, the couple left the ship to board a late-night flight chartered by the cruise line that was headed to Los Angeles International Airport in California. That's when nerves set in, because they faced a cross-country trip with the virus looming larger in the United States.

"The majority of us were wearing masks and some of us had gloves," he said. "We were taking care of ourselves."

Meanwhile, friends kept track of the couple's trip back home. Schweiger followed the ship's movements online. He and his wife initially planned to take the same cruise, but chose not to spend 24 hours on a flight to Australia. The Schweigers instead chose a cruise that was set to leave New York City on April 19 but has since been canceled.

While their friends collected food, the Pintos arrived at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport to find the catalytic converter removed from their car and other mechanical damage that cost \$850 to repair.

They may not head out on another cruise anytime soon. Their last cruise, to the Arabian Peninsula four years earlier on the same ship they sailed through the south Pacific, also sustained mechanical troubles.

Still, the Pintos feel very grateful. What they faced was worth it as long as they remain healthy.

"Except for the travel getting home," Ed Pinto said, "it was a better experience than you all were having in the United States with the virus spreading. We were isolated from all that, with entertainment and movies and socializing and food. It was a good experience. We're sorry we didn't get to see French Polynesia, but that's minor in the scope of things."



# 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 know that bird watching, especially in our own backyards, is relaxing and enjoyable. Unfortunately we have closed our doors to the public, but **we will be here answering the phones and taking orders** for porch deliveries within Ocean Pines and curbside pick-ups at the shop. **Call me at 410-208-1479** to place an order by credit card.

Follow us on Facebook or check your email for updates on any changes to our hours.

Like you, I'm hoping this situation is temporary. **I miss seeing all of you and meeting new friends as well.** I don't think anyone likes this new normal but I believe there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Hang in there! We will get through this, together.



*We're about birds  
and much more!*

 *Maureen Kennedy*

Owner

**OPEN** Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

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- 30 Estate Planning  
Mar 10:00 - 11:00 am

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- 6 The SECURE Act  
Apr 10:00 - 11:00 am

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- 13 Elder Law Series, Part 1  
Apr 10:00 - 11:30 am

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- 20 Elder Law Series, Part 2  
Apr 10:00 - 11:30 am

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- 27 Elder Law Series, Part 3  
Apr 10:00 - 11:30 am

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- 4 Professional Education  
Estate Administration  
May 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

**For more information about these individual events, please visit our website.**

Like you, we are embracing changes that help keep our clients, families and friends safe during this time of uncertainty. For our firm that means **working virtually!**

Our elder law and estate planning services are available to new and existing clients through telephone and internet based conferencing.



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*Knots & Knots by Dan Collins*

**The Boatyard**

**Publisher's Note:** This column was written prior to the Governor's Stay at Home Declaration

I stopped by the Sunset Marina boatyard in West Ocean City the other day to see the preparations for the 2020 season in light of the coron-



avirus and I found that the sea was as alluring as ever.

A few boats were already back in the water. Skipper Mike Kelly was taking out a half dozen guys on his vessel, *On Point*, to fish for Tautog but most sat on blocks awaiting their annual spring dose of tender-loving-care in anticipation of another great year.

Brian Tinkler, the general manager, told me that Sunset's spring launching schedule had not yet been significantly impacted by the health crisis but they were taking it day-by-day. He said that boat owners are eternally optimistic and some have expressed the opinion that, "60 miles off of the coast seems to be acceptable safe social distancing."

I'm not sure but I do know walking around the 'fleet' was inspiring. It was cool to see all the iconic Ocean City tourist boats out of the water. The *OC Rocket*, *Judith M*, *Tortuga*, *Angler*, the *Duckaneer* pirate ship, the *O.C. Swim Call*, and the *Misty* - Assateague Explorer were all there.

The owners and maintenance men toiled like obliging yeomen caring for their masters of the sea (and bays and inlet) because King Neptune and the paying public can be hard on these seahorses. Engine overhauls, instrument upgrades, and propeller replacement projects were everywhere while a few were getting power washed, gel-

coat polished and bottom painted and additional amenities installed.

These working boats have soul. They also have personality. You could almost sense their professional camaraderie and rivalry. All were itching to be the first one back in the water and ready to take their sightseers to Assateague or fishermen to the fish or thrill seekers on fast boat rides or parasailing.

Although the tourist industry boats are the most recognizable vessels in the boatyard, they are not the most majestic nor in the majority. They reek efficiency and hard work ready to earn their keep two or three times a day treating our summer visitors to a close encounter with salt water and the 70% of the world that does pitch, roll and yawl with the wind and waves.

Esthetic beauty, real maritime beauty, is in the rest of the stored vessels that were shedding their shrink wrap cocoons. They are the charter boats and private yachts that grace the expensive slips with a tinge of opulence and impeccable attention to detail so lovingly bestowed on these beauties by their stewards during the wet season.

As they contentedly float in their slips throughout the summer, dockwalkers like me admire their polished fittings, upholstered seats, spotless teak and, of course, convenient drink holders. I'm always impressed with the flying bridges and all the sport fishing pennants that claim victory over marlins and dolphins and martinis.

However, right now, laid up high and dry they are breathtaking visions of man's romance with the sea. As they rest with regal patience awaiting

the crane to lift them from their winter stands and lower them back into their natural habitat, you cannot help being a little intimidated by their size and admiring their bottom side naval architecture. The sweeping flare of a designer bow, the definitive precision of the hull's chines and the control-enhancing bow thruster can only be appreciated by walking around these shapely fiberglass beauties on dry land.

There is one other class of melancholy boats in the yard. They are the longtime residents. You can tell by the torn covers and disheveled tackle that no one loves them anymore. Boats, like mistresses, are expensive and demanding. Every boatyard has a few aging mistresses tucked away in a remote corner collecting dirt and stains from disuse and losing memories of happier times with each passing spring.

In the days of wooden ships, the back lot was a grave yard where nature would reduce them to moldy, termite heaps in a decade. Unfortunately, weather beaten fiberglass lingers beyond the dreams and beyond the owner's enthusiasm to pay for storage. Abandoned, these derelicts will still be there in the fall when the others return from their triumphant 2020 season.

In the meantime, the water temperature is inching into the 50s. Pretty



soon the low spring tides, primary presidential debates and coronavirus will give way to crab traps and tow boats and jet ski rentals. Next month you will hear the call, "Boaters, start your engines!"

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

*Photos by Dan Collins*



# Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits



**Protect yourself against COVID-19** and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:

- 1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.**
- 2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.**

**Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:**

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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# New ARC guidelines online

The Ocean Pines Board approved the new guidelines earlier this month, with the changes said to make the document "more practical."

Some minor changes occurred after Board approval, including the addition of page numbers and a table of contents. The Architectural Review Committee also held a final review.

"[There was] a lot of input from a lot of different people, and I think we've got a very good document," Association President Doug Parks said. "I would encourage the membership to make themselves aware of the ARC guidelines, maybe as a refresher."

Association Vice President Steve Tut-

tle said the committee worked on the new guidelines for about 18 months, and that several Board members reviewed the changes, including himself, Parks, and Directors Colette Horn and Camilla Rogers.

Tuttle said the prior guidelines dated back to 2006, with some revisions done in 2010.

"The ARC committee has worked over the past year to update and revise the guidelines. The effort has been to clarify areas where there has been confusion, and to provide a document that assists all residents of Ocean Pines in understanding and utilizing the ARC guidelines," he said.

# Local safety mask makers seek donations

A group of Ocean Pines residents are seeking elastic donations to make face masks for use by Coastal Hospice staff and the Ocean Pines Fire Department.

The group is mostly made up of Ocean Pines Craft Club and Pickleball Club members.

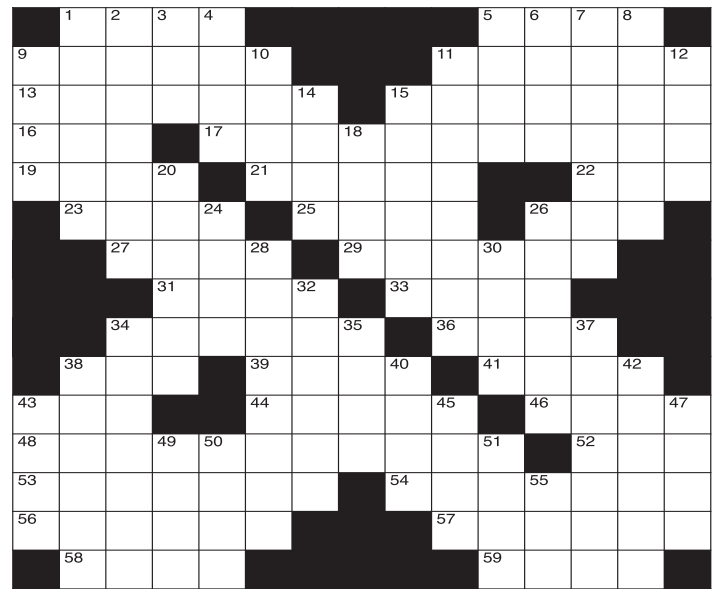
"The masks are for Coastal Hospice and the OP Fire Department, to be used around asymptomatic patients," organizer Neil Gottesman said. "We have folks

currently sewing these masks, but we are in very short supply of the required elastic."

Gottesman said the group is asking for 1/4-inch or 1/8-inch elastic.

"We have been getting donations of elastic from word of mouth, Facebook and the internet, but it is not nearly enough," Gottesman said.

For information on donating, email Gottesman at Ngottes@gmail.com.

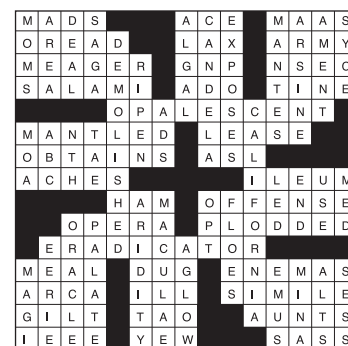


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Canadian law enforcers
- 5. Actor Idris
- 9. Cut or bruise
- 11. Vegetables
- 13. Aircraft delivery
- 15. To make obsolete
- 16. Things similar to those already noted
- 17. Columbus is a famous one
- 19. Age group
- 21. Denotes nature of sound
- 22. Klutz
- 23. Uninteresting
- 25. Computer manufacturer
- 26. 2,000 lbs.
- 27. Genus of seabirds
- 29. Emerges
- 31. Baseball stat
- 33. Witnesses
- 34. Observed
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. Former OSS
- 39. Small Eurasian deer
- 41. Wife of Sparta's king
- 43. Ballplayer accessory
- 44. Temporary cessation of breathing
- 46. Where construction workers ply their trade
- 48. Arguments that justify a religious doctrine
- 52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- 53. Widens
- 54. Detection
- 56. Period of inactivity
- 57. Tomato and vodka are two
- 58. Greek war god
- 59. Urinates

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Churned
- 2. Seal bottles
- 3. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 4. Meat from a pig (French)
- 5. Within
- 6. Walk in a slow pace
- 7. Cries
- 8. About Andes
- 9. Fishermen use it
- 10. Expresses delight
- 11. Shouts
- 12. Feudal agricultural laborer
- 14. Sailboat
- 15. Small Eurasian willows
- 18. S. American native people
- 20. Extreme disgust
- 24. Nonsense (slang)
- 26. Produce male reproductive cells
- 28. Computes
- 30. Pop singer
- 32. Weds secretly
- 34. Having two poles
- 35. Yankee hero Bucky
- 37. Building
- 38. Per \_\_, each
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Makes amends
- 43. Scoundrels
- 45. Baseball's best pitchers
- 47. Some are scrambled
- 49. Emit coherent radiation
- 50. Singer Redding
- 51. Break
- 55. Institute legal proceedings against



Answers for April 1

⊙ \* \* ☐ ☹ ☼ ~ ☾ ☽ ✧ \* ✨ ✕ ✨ + ☸ \* ▲ ☾ \* ♂ ♀ ☿ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

## CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☾ ♀ ✨ ♂ ☸ ~ ♂ \* +

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to car care.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 21 = e)

- A. 13 21 26 8 22 10 21**  
Clue: Car or truck
- B. 17 9 8 12 3 9 8 12**  
Clue: Take care of
- C. 21 12 11 8 12 21**  
Clue: Converts power into motion
- D. 17 21 22 26 9 12 8 22**  
Clue: Fixes cars

Answers: A. vehicle B. maintain C. engine D. mechanic

# An Idle Thursday Morning

By **Erin L. Steele**  
*Elder Law Coordinator*  
*Procino-Wells and Woodland*

My parents purchased a business from my grandparents in 1986 - my dad managed our family, the business and a full-time job for many years. My parents divorced when I was 13. As part of their divorce settlement, they agreed that my dad would keep the business and my mom would keep the home we resided in. The business was solely in his name and remained his livelihood for 33 years.

In the spring of 2018, at 67 years old, my dad decided that it was time to retire and sell his business. Over the next several months, he remained active preparing for retirement. However, in the middle of all this activity, he became ill. The sale of the business and his retirement were suddenly placed on hold.

I once heard Mary Schmich say "Don't worry about the future, or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubble gum. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind, the kind that blindsides you at 4 p.m. on some idle Tuesday." For me, the real worry blindsided me at 11:20 a.m. on some idle Thursday in February 2019. I received a phone call to come home, my dad was not expected to live more than a few days. Needless to say, I was completely shocked and left with a deep feeling of sorrow, helplessness and anxiety. That Thursday afternoon, my husband and I took the most dreadful ride of my life, the five hour journey home to say goodbye and be by my dad's side as he passed from this earth.

Still treading through the darkness of this shock, I began thinking about our next steps. I said to my husband, "I wonder if he has a Will or any type of estate plan? He is in the middle of selling his business - what kind of a mess could we potentially be dealing with?"

Fast forward one year. My father did not have a Last Will and Testament to appoint someone to manage his assets or memorialize his wishes of how his estate was to be distributed. The responsibility of those decisions fell to the laws of intestate succession and probate - another

thing a healthy estate plan could have avoided. At my father's passing, he held his business and the real estate where it operated in his sole name. Once more, he was unmarried with two adult children. Although the intestacy laws protect my father's estate for my brother and me and offer us the first right of being his personal representatives, we renounced that right in favor of his life partner.

Due to the delays of probate, his estate may not settle for another twelve months, creating the possibility that two years will pass before things are resolved. This has intensified our grieving process as we are experiencing a nagging distraction regularly calling our attention to timelines and paperwork, when we prefer to be healing. Even within our friendly family relationships, this process has been a stressor, challenging us to collectively agree on certain steps, and to not be offended when our presumption of my father's wishes isn't carried out.

Having a good estate plan not only appoints someone to manage your assets when you are no longer able, but it also expresses your wishes for how your assets are distributed at your death and who will carry out your wishes. It clearly directs your family and assets once you are gone. The anguish is enough of a burden, but the confusion and uncertainty of dealing with an estate with no Will, along with the probate process, challenges families to remain unified. The tension is avoidable with a good plan.

A comprehensive estate plan should always include an Advanced Health Care Directive, Durable Power of Attorney and either a traditional Last Will and Testament or, for the best planning possible, a Revocable Living Trust. Your plan should be designed by an attorney who specializes in estate planning so she can address any complexity specific to your family and accomplish your life goals. An expert attorney can assist you in meeting your individual objectives and unique needs as well as guide you through the appropriate estate planning process that will take care of your family and legacy after you are gone.

I wish my dad had been able to see the sale of his business and enjoy retirement. I miss him.

## To Our Customers,

We will reopen Tuesday, April 21.

Stay safe and well!

We look forward to seeing you then!



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## Mediacom institutes new installation, repair procedures

In an Email message to subscribers, John Pascarelli, EVP Operations for Mediacom, outlined new installation and repair procedures for the company. In response to social distancing directives issued by federal, state and local government officials working to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Mediacom implemented new precautionary measures related to service installation and repair appointments. The goal with these new measures is to keep both subscribers and employees safe by limiting in-home contact between technicians and members of your household.

**New Appointments:** Before scheduling a new installation or repair appointment, Mediacom will ask if you or someone in the household can assist in completing the interior work related to your requested install or repair. If you answer “yes,” the appointment will continue as scheduled. If you answer “no,” the appointment may need to be rescheduled.

**Pre-call and Appointment Changes:** Before your scheduled appointment, you will receive a pre-call from Mediacom to confirm your appointment. Once at the appointment location, the Mediacom technician will alert you to his or her arrival and then proceed to complete all necessary

work outside the home. Upon completion of the exterior work, the Mediacom technician will ask for your assistance in completing work inside your home.

**Your assistance:** From a position of at least 10 feet outside the entrance to the home, the technician will provide you with instructions on how to activate or repair your Mediacom services. These instructions may include a combination of verbal, written, pre-recorded video or live chat video directions. Your assistance will be critical in these final steps in order to make sure your services are working correctly. Any equipment needed to complete the installation or repair will either be shipped to your home before the appointment or dropped off at your doorstep by the technician.

**Electronic Instructions:** Included with the equipment will also be written installation instructions. Additional instructions and troubleshooting tips can be found using the following links: Please know the company is advising its technicians to enter customer homes only when absolutely necessary and only after the customer has verified that no one in the home has exhibited any signs of illness. Additionally, to help facilitate governmental directives, Mediacom is currently prioritizing requests related to installation and loss of essential services only. If you call to make a service appointment that deals with a non-essential issue, we may not be able to accommodate your service request at this time. As the situation continues to evolve, so will the company’s plans for how it will support you and its employees.

## Telemedicine is becoming more prevalent

Did you know that “tele” is Greek for reaching out from far off or from afar? In these days of COVID-19 healthcare challenges to ensure safety and protection and the rapid changes that occur almost hourly, “tele” is right on time.

Healthcare providers, including the Peninsula Regional Health System, are encouraging everyone to reach out to their physician’s office before walking in or arriving for a previously scheduled appointment. As doctors are trying to keep patients and their staffs safe from virus spread, telemedicine is a viable option, and more and more offices locally and across the country are embracing it as the preferred method.

It can be as simple as a telephone call or one of the many other telemedicine phone apps or video-based options. There are countless ways to communicate electronically between patient and provider. These visits can be done by video on a smartphone camera, laptop with camera, or personal computer with camera. There are even some visits that can be done simply over the telephone.

You will need to speak with the physician/provider and the practice office staff to find out if your visit can be done through telemedicine and by which method. Many of our local

practices are prepared to start doing video telemedicine visits, now. Patients should contact their provider’s office to determine what that office can do.

In fact, the Peninsula Regional Medical Group and Nanticoke Physician Network offices of Peninsula Regional Health System have been conducting telemedicine for over a week. New technology, for both hospitals, is on order and expected early next week that will allow even greater video assessment and communication. The forms explaining how the visit works at PRMG offices can be found on the Peninsula Regional Health System website at [www.peninsula.org/telemed](http://www.peninsula.org/telemed).

If you have need for a medical visit or one already scheduled, please ask if your visit can be conducted by telemedicine. Some can, but some must be in-person. Limiting exposure during this time, helps prevent further spread of COVID-19, keeping you safer as well as everyone around you.

## Patient lab services available by appointment only

On March 20, walk-in services for the outpatient lab and imaging at Atlantic General Hospital were cancelled due to COVID-19.

To accommodate patients of Atlantic General Health System (AGHS) providers who need routine bloodwork ordered by AGHS providers, the following locations are offering lab draws, by appointment only:

Atlantic Health Center – Call 410-641-3340

Atlantic General Primary Care, Berlin – Call 410-641-0430

*please see lab on page 13*

Tides for Ocean City Inlet			
Day		High /Low	Tide Time Sunrise Sunset
Th	9	Low	3:25 AM 6:32 AM
	9	High	9:43 AM 7:31 PM
	9	Low	3:37 PM
	9	High	10:07 PM
F	10	Low	4:17 AM 6:31 AM
	10	High	10:33 AM 7:32 PM
	10	Low	4:24 PM
	10	High	10:57 PM
Sa	11	Low	5:12 AM 6:29 AM
	11	High	11:23 AM 7:33 PM
	11	Low	5:14 PM
	11	High	11:49 PM
Su	12	Low	6:08 AM 6:28 AM
	12	High	12:14 PM 7:34 PM
	12	Low	6:08 PM
M	13	High	12:43 AM 6:26 AM
	13	Low	7:08 AM 7:35 PM
	13	High	1:08 PM
	13	Low	7:05 PM
Tu	14	High	1:41 AM 6:25 AM
	14	Low	8:10 AM 7:36 PM
	14	High	2:09 PM
	14	Low	8:06 PM
W	15	High	2:46 AM 6:24 AM
	15	Low	9:14 AM 7:37 PM
	15	High	3:17 PM
	15	Low	9:10 PM

*Guess Who?*

I am a professional wrestler and actor born in Massachusetts on April 23, 1977. I worked as a chauffeur while pursuing a career in bodybuilding. Although I’m not really a doctor, a previous nickname suggested I was.

*Answer: John Cena*

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

 **We do that!**

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**Church**  
Come join us this  
**Sunday 9:00AM**  
Showell Elementary School- Route 589  
**410-641-6000**

# Annual report and Personal Property Tax return deadline extended

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) announced last week that the 2020 deadline to submit Annual Reports and Personal Property Tax Returns will be automatically extended to July 15 as part of the Hogan administration's response to COVID-19. Expiration dates for trade names and name reservations, as well as entity forfeiture dates, will also be extended to 30 days after the state of emergency is rescinded in accordance with Governor Hogan's executive orders.

Please note that it will take some time for these changes to be reflected on SDAT's website and online searches.

"I applaud Governor Hogan's leadership during this COVID-19 health emergency, and business-related deadlines are being extended according to his executive order," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "Fortunately, nearly all Charter and Business Personal Property transactions can be completed through Maryland Business Express, and we are not currently experiencing any online filing processing delays. I appreciate the business community's patience as we actively explore even more online services that could be made available over the next few weeks, as well as our employees' commitment to providing the best service possible for our customers."

SDAT closed all public access at State Center for Charter, Personal Property, Ground Rent, and Tax Credit filings. The majority of Charter and Personal Property filings can be completed online through Maryland Business Express, and turnaround times for those filings remain unchanged. All tax credit applications can also be submitted online; home-

owners' and renters' tax credit applications can be submitted through Maryland One Stop, and homestead tax credit applications through SDAT's website.

SDAT has also closed all public access to its 24 county-based Real Property Offices. At this time, those offices are only accepting telephone and written real property assessment appeals; all in-person hearings have been suspended.

PDFs of all SDAT filings and applications may also be downloaded, printed, and mailed, although the Department strongly encourages customers to complete transactions online when possible. Any paper-based submissions will take significantly longer to process throughout the remainder of the COVID-19 crisis.

At this time, phone lines have limited staffing or are only accepting voicemails. Please email your questions to the appropriate program below:

## Charter and Business Assessments:

- All Charter inquiries not listed below (most filings can be online) CharterHelp@Maryland.gov.
- Business Personal Property Program: PersProp@Maryland.gov.
- Trade Name Applications and Renewals (can be filed online): TradeNameHelp@Maryland.gov.
- Charter Requests for Certified Copies and Certificates of Good Standing (can be filed online): RequestForCopies@Maryland.Gov.
- UCC Filings (can be filed online): UCC@Maryland.gov.
- Charter Forfeitures: Forfeitures@Maryland.gov.

- Franchise Tax and Public Utilities: UtilityTax@Maryland.gov.
- Ground Rent Filings: GroundRent@Maryland.gov.

## Real Property Assessments:

-Email addresses for SDAT's local offices be found here.

- Tax Credit Programs:
- Homeowners' Tax Credits Program (applications can be filed online): Homeowners@Maryland.gov.
- Renters' Tax Credits Program (applications can be filed online): Renters@Maryland.gov.
- Homestead Tax Credits Program (applications can be filed online): Homestead@Maryland.gov.
- Office of the State Tax Sale Ombudsman (information can be found on-

line): TaxSale@Maryland.gov.

Any Other Inquiries:  
-411@Maryland.gov.

The Hogan administration has taken a number of unprecedented steps to respond to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis. For health resources regarding COVID-19, including case counts and clinical guidance, please visit the Department of Health's webpage. For a list of resources to help businesses whose daily operations are affected during the state of emergency, please visit Maryland Business Express' webpage. For a comprehensive list of ongoing state actions, please visit Governor Hogan's webpage.

## Short term rentals restricted within county

In accordance with Governor Larry Hogan's Stay-At-Home order, the Worcester County Commissioners declared that all non-essential, short-term rentals in West Ocean City, Ocean Pines, and all other unincorporated areas of Worcester County should be cancelled until the Stay-At-Home order is lifted.

These emergency measures have been implemented to stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Worcester County. The latest steps, outlined in a new emergency declaration, restrict short-term accommodations for hotels and rentals to essential lodgers. This includes but is not limited to hotels, motels, condo-hotels, rental properties, inclusive of private renters or management companies and HOAs, Airbnb, VRBO style lodging, and other overnight accommodations.

"We recognize that the actions we are taking here today are unprecedented, in fact many of us have never seen or experienced such restrictions before in our lifetimes," Commission President Joe Mitrecic said. "But these measures are meant to protect the public health by stopping the spread of COVID-19. These measures will, ultimately, save lives. We truly look forward to a day in the not too distant future when we can once again roll out the welcome mat and get back to the business of being a world-class destination that at-

tracts residents and visitors from across the globe. But, today is not that day."

The emergency declaration adopted by the Worcester County Commissioners earlier today states that hotels, motels, and other lodging establishments or short-term rental properties shall not accept new reservations for persons other than essential lodgers. Essential Lodgers as defined by the emergency declaration include *healthcare professionals and/or first responders, law enforcement, National Guard members, State or federal government employees, journalists, others responding to COVID-19, full-time residents of Worcester County, who, for any reason, are temporarily unable to reside in their primary residential home; or persons who must vacate their homes due to exigent circumstances, such as fire or flood, persons sheltering in hotels due to domestic violence or hotel employees, service providers, and contractors.*

"Our goal is to elicit voluntary compliance with the county's latest emergency declaration," Mitrecic said. "However, due to the deadly nature of this health crisis, in instances where these directives are not obeyed, we are prepared to fully enforce this action."

### lab

from page 12

Atlantic General Primary Care & Endocrinology, Ocean Pines – Call 410-208-9761

Atlantic General Primary Care & Pediatrics, West Ocean City – Call 410-390-3341

Atlantic General Primary Care, Ocean View – Call 302-541-4460

Atlantic General Primary & Specialty Care, West Fenwick – Call 302-564-0004

Atlantic General Primary & Specialty Care, Pocomoke – Call 410-957-6622

This is for routine lab work only. None of the locations will offer COVID-19 testing. Officials are asking that patients call the office to schedule a time for their blood work to maintain social distancing efforts.



## PRMC changes procedures

As Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) continues to explore and implement practices to better ensure the safety and well-being of our patients and staff, the Medical Center has chosen to begin a new COVID-19 protection measure.

All patients with a scheduled appointment or procedure inside PRMC, with the exception of our Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute and Guerrieri Heart & Vascular Institute patients, must first report to the Hanna Outpatient Center entrance. The Hanna entrance will be the only entry point for general patients with a scheduled appointment or procedure, including surgeries, at the hospital. The Hanna entrance will be open from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., seven days a week.

Patients of the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute may continue to use the cancer entrance on Business Route 13. Valet services are available at that location or patients may park in the designated lot adjacent to the building. The Henson entrance will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and closed on the weekends.

The Guerrieri Heart & Vascular Institute entrance on East Carroll Street will be open Monday through Friday from 6 to 11 a.m., and only for patients with scheduled cardiac procedures. Vehicles will be valeted at this location, but patients may self-park in the Guerrieri lot. All other times during the weekdays and on weekends, the Guerrieri entrance will be closed.

Guerrieri Heart & Vascular Institute patients with weekday appointments scheduled after 11 a.m. are asked to report to the Hanna Outpatient Center entrance. Escorts will be provided.

Patients entering through the Hanna Outpatient Center will also have the option of valet parking or may choose to park their vehicle in the Visitor Garage. Escorts will be provided to and from the appointment location if patients choose to self-park in the Visitor Garage. All patients will have access to a wheelchair if required.

Every patient, and required and approved escorts, will be screened upon entry including a series of quick questions. If there is a concern, those patients will be asked to wear a protective mask. If there is a concern with the escort's health, they will be asked to leave the building and remain in their vehicle.

PRMC reminds everyone that a No Visitation policy is in effect. Surgical waiting will be allowed but limited to one individual. All other waiting areas are closed to visitors. If you drive a friend or loved one to their appointment, you will be asked to remain in the vehicle until the appointment or procedure has concluded.

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, please call the PRMC/Wicomico County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline at 410-912-6889. It is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

**These were found on Facebook.  
Thought they'd be good for a little chuckle.**



**If they had just called it "the stay at home challenge" and posted it on Facebook, the virus would be gone by now.**

I remember a story about a Rabbi during a natural disaster. He was asked how he could explain such a tragic act of God. The Rabbi answered that the disaster was an act of nature. The act of God occurred when people stepped up to help each other.

**People keep asking me, "Is COVID-19 REALLY that serious?"  
Listen y'all, the casinos and church's are closed.  
When Heaven and Hell AGREE on the same thing, it's probably pretty serious.  
#saferathome**

### Nursing scholarships available

As of April 1, the James G. and Nancy W. Barrett nursing scholarship applications were made available on the Atlantic General Hospital website. The Non-RN to RN Scholarship is available to current AGH employees and those in the community who are pursuing an RN degree. The RN to BSN, or other Advanced Degree Scholarship, is only open to current AGH employees who have an RN. The deadline for both scholarships is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020.

"In a time where healthcare providers are in high demand and short supply, it is incumbent upon organizations to support ongoing healthcare education through scholarship. We are fortunate to be able to provide our associates support to further their nursing education through the James G. and Nancy W. Barrett Scholarship program. All of our current efforts to improve the skills and knowledge of our healthcare team will be garnered in future years of quality healthcare at Atlantic General." said Matthew Morris, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, vice president patient care services at Atlantic General Hospital.

To find the applications for the James G. and Nancy W. Barrett Scholarship programs at Atlantic General Hospital please visit <http://www.atlantic-general.org/scholarships>. If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Warren in Human Resources at [awarren@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:awarren@atlanticgeneral.org).



**chambers**  
from page 3

director, has used webinars and meetings on the Zoom conferencing platform to point owners in the right direction.

**Ivy Wells**, Berlin's Economic & Community Development Director and liaison to the town's Chamber of Commerce, said, "My department has been busier than ever trying to help businesses with the variety of information out there. They're getting bombarded from a variety of different agencies." In conjunction with chamber administrators Nicky Chavis and Larnet St. Amant, Wells said, the goal is "grouping everything together and putting it in an understandable format for (owners) to be able to review."



Ivy Wells

Chavis said chambers of commerce across the Lower Shore have banded together, along with the Worcester County Economic Development Department, "to provide the most up-to-date information possible to all of our members."

Through their tireless work, chambers of commerce face their own financial challenges. Even with two employees, Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce could use help, in the form of a one-time \$10,000 Economic Injury Disaster Loan, to offset the loss of revenue from dues not being collected from its 306 members. Pursel said Ocean City's chamber has deferred payments for its 900-plus members. Events such as the Ocean City Job Fair are canceled, and in-house publications are on hold.

"We are like any other small business," Pursel said. "We have had to close our operations and visitors center to the public. We are still answering emails and phone inquiries. ... We are planning to rebound as soon as possible. But in the meantime, we are

here as a resource to our business community and visitors who call with questions or concerns."

Wells said Berlin's chamber staff is focused on "the resiliency of our businesses." With that in mind, plans are moving forward for the "Over the Rainbow Party," in which chamber and town officials, Calvin B. Taylor House, Worcester County Arts Council and Berlin Arts & Entertainment will bring residents and visitors together for music, food, shopping - and most of all, social interaction.

All they need, Wells said, is to finalize a date once Gov. Hogan lifts the stay-at-home order. Ocean City chamber officials have teamed with the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association on what Pursel called "post crisis messaging, as well as some special promotions to welcome our guests back to OC and Worcester County once people can travel again."

Bunting is confident local businesses again will receive great support from the community, because that support exists now.

Despite the ongoing financial crisis, she said, "everybody has remarked how this community, our Lower Shore, has pulled together like nothing else we've ever seen. They're giving so much love to our small businesses. Whoever is still open and able to operate, they have lines down the street waiting to get food from them. It's just been so heartwarming."

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