

Restaurants step up to the plate to serve community

By Victor Fernandes

Family isn't simply a way of life at **Ocean Pines Yacht Club & Marina**. It's a way to earn a good living, even during historic health and financial crises. Delivering family meals - specifically, generous portions of a Thanksgiving-style turkey meal - began soon after the statewide shutdown order began in mid-March out of necessity. It now headlines the club's new offseason business model.

These popular meals also have helped a full-time staff of 11 general managers, managers and chefs steadily approach their goal of raising \$10,000 in tips for the roughly 40 hourly employees who were laid off in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"The managers, the chefs - they took the orders. They cooked the food. They made the deliveries," said Ralph DeAngelus, co-founder of Matt Ortt Company, which operates the club. "If all 40 of them come back, each one of them gets an envelope with \$250 in cash on their first day of work as a welcome back from all the tips that the managers made while they were gone. And they're pretty close because Ocean Pines knows about this and they're over-tipping. They're super generous here in Ocean Pines."

The newest wrinkle in the club's path to renewed success has lifted the spirit of staff members at a time when local businesses are struggling during the extended shutdown and stay-at-home orders. DeAngelus estimates the revenue loss has reached six figures, namely from canceled banquets and weddings originally scheduled for May and June. He described it as a "total bloodbath."

Still, DeAngelus smiles every time he delivers a meal to an Ocean Pines family because they are pleasantly surprised to come face to face with one of the faces of the company. "They just love seeing my face pop up and it makes me feel so good. It's the greatest welcome I could ever get," said DeAngelus, who introduces himself to customers as their "delivery boy."

DeAngelus and the club's remaining staff have been especially busy with sales and deliveries. They sold a club-record 281 family meals, which fed more than 1,100 people, on Easter Sunday last month. The club also donates dinners to staff members at Atlantic General Hospital's emergency room. They sold 103 meals on April 26, which fed at least 412 people and continued the trend of strong sales that DeAngelus said has led other restaurants to

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Garden Club wins state award for Arbor Day ceremony

The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee has recognized the Ocean Pines Association with the PLANT Bronze Award for the Ocean Pines Garden Club's annual Arbor Day ceremony.

The PLANT - People Loving and Nurturing Trees - Bronze Award is presented every year for a single project or activity that brings together a community and trees. This is the first time the Ocean

Pines Garden Club has received the honor.

"I was looking at the Department of Natural Resources website when I saw the PLANT program. I decided that our Arbor Ceremony is a perfect representation of what they were looking for in the Bronze Award, so I applied in January," said Anita Roberts, Ocean Pines Garden Club and Arbor Day committee

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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!

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- **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**



Business owners look forward to reopening

By Victor Fernandes

Greta Chapman already has a location and times picked out for two-a-day outdoor fitness classes.

Once Governor Larry Hogan begins Phase 1 of his three-phase plan to reopen the state, the owner of CrossFit Ocean City in Ocean Pines plans to resume gatherings that were popular in the two weeks before Hogan's current stay-at-home order began March 30.

Guests can attend daily 45-minute classes at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the South Gate pond in Ocean Pines once the reopening date is set. Chapman has a 6,000 square-foot facility and 4,000 square-foot indoor training floor on Manklin Creek Road at her disposal.

But exercising inside fitness centers must wait until Phase 2 of Hogan's plan, which reportedly also will include larger gatherings and some indoor events at churches, bars, restaurants and other establishments. Those events are expected to include some level of social distancing restrictions that already are in place as part of Maryland's battle against the nationwide coronavirus pandemic.

However, as Hogan unveiled during a news conference on April 24 in Annapolis, businesses and recreational activities featuring fitness training, boating, fishing, golf, tennis and hunting can resume when the stay-at-home order is lifted. Restaurants can offer curbside pickup, and churches with outdoor services, also can resume operations.

Kerrie Bunting, president and chief executive officer of Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, said, "In terms of our local eateries, for the most part they have converted to take-out [orders] and delivery and finding success there. However, it is still far less than if they had done in [person] service."

Local business owners like Chapman are ready when Hogan makes the announcement.

"We are planning for and excited to get back to outdoor workouts," said Chapman, who also serves as a Level 2 and kids instructor at the fitness center. "We were meeting outside twice a day prior to the stay-at-home orders, and are hoping to resume that schedule once we receive the go-ahead from the Governor. ... While being

outside isn't quite as nice as being in the gym, we are all excited to get to work out together again. Like everyone else, we miss each other and working out is more fun with friends."

As Hogan said in an email sent to residents on April 28 through Change Maryland, a nonpartisan grassroots group founded in 2011, the "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery" plan is "based on President [Donald] Trump's announcement that states must have 14 days of declining COVID rates before they can reopen. ... This roadmap allows for flexibility at the regional level, while restoring quality of life improvements for many. It will give hope to small business owners, working families, and citizens across

the state."

According to Maryland Department of Health records, the state began last weekend on its way to 25,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 1,200 deaths. Worcester County had 72 confirmed cases and two deaths as of last Saturday, but the county is surrounded by two fast growing hotspots - to the west in Wicomico County (452 confirmed cases and 10 deaths as of Saturday) and across the border in Sussex County (2,359 confirmed cases and 45 deaths as of Saturday, per Delaware Division of Public Health records).

So, there is no guarantee that each phase of Hogan's plan will unfold in a timely fashion, especially if cases grow

moving forward.

"For now," Hogan's statement said, "we need to continue avoiding crowds, continue to practice physical distancing, and wear masks or face coverings because cases here are still increasing - not decreasing. There is clearly light at the end of the tunnel as the "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery" outlines - but exactly how and when we will get to that light is up to each and every one of us."

Some business owners will wait longer than others before reopening their establishments. Those involving large gatherings will have to wait until the final stage. "We can't do anything

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member.

The event, which has been held in Ocean Pines for the past 20 years, honors residents of Ocean Pines and family members who have passed away during the previous year with the planting of a tree in Pintail Park. Last year's ceremony was led by the efforts of event chair Ann Shockley and then President Linda Baker. Patti Lookner is the club's current president.

"I am thrilled that the Ocean Pines Garden Club has been recognized for this award," Roberts said. "Ann Shockley and her committee and the members of Ocean Pines Garden Club worked hard to make this a beautiful and meaningful ceremony."

A long-standing fixture in Ocean Pines, the club – with the help of its more than 60 members – sponsors a variety of community events, including a May Day decorating contest, a Mother's Day flower sale at the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market, and a garden tour.

In addition to watering and weeding

Pintail Park, the group also purchases and plants flowers at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, and decks Ocean Pines signs and buildings with floral wreaths and swags during the holidays.

Roberts said that their many projects are done with the aid of Ocean Pines Public Works and Kellie Romanowski, in particular.

The Ocean Pines Garden Club's mission is to stimulate interest in gardening, share gardening experiences, promote horticultural enrichment programs to enhance gardens while preserving the natural beauty of the community, and to preserve and protect natural resources and the environment.

It meets the second Thursday of every month at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Meetings feature guest speakers, demonstrations and sharing ideas about gardening. All are welcome to attend.

The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee is a volunteer group of citizens, professionals and government officials. It serves under the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards in a mission to protect and enhance the state's forest ecosystems.

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in Phase 1. We don't have any outdoor activities that don't include food and beverage," said Ralph DeAngelus, co-founder of Matt Ortt Company, which operates Ocean Pines Yacht Club & Marina. "We have to wait until Phase 2. That's what we're looking forward to. We're ready to open up and do everything that we are legally allowed to do."

Even after Hogan formally sets his much-anticipated plan in motion, business owners will have to adjust their normal practices. For example, fitness centers can offer virtual classes that have grown popular during the stay-at-home order.

"Since some of my members are high risk and/or may continue to self-isolate," Chapman said, "I'll continue to provide online classes via [the] Zoom [virtual conferencing platform] as long as there is demand for that service."

The three-phase plan, Hogan said in his statement, "will help every Marylander understand how we will safely and responsibly reopen our great state and begin the path back to economic growth and prosperity."

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implement similar plans to build revenue at this challenging time.

It's an effective way to grow business, DeAngelus said of the plan that will be a staple of the club's wintertime plan moving forward.

"We were the first to embrace family meals. We've since seen everybody else join on the bandwagon because they saw how successful we were at it," he said. "Some restaurants are going to say, 'We've tried everything and nothing has worked. Bring me back to the norm.' I feel for them. I want to come back to the norm too. However, this was a learning experience. We're definitely, without a shadow of a doubt, taking some of the stuff we've learned and incorporating it into our offseason next year."

Mary Jaeger, co-owner of **A Bagel And ...** in Ocean Pines, said her family has learned to adapt in the face of unprecedented challenges for the 13-year-old business. They installed a second telephone line to handle the steady increase in take-out orders, and are delivering orders to customers parked outside. They also have experienced an influx in catering orders, as customers are purchasing food for the staff at Atlantic General Hospital. So, Jaeger is hopeful, even as the family waits for funding through small business loans, and to learn how much the pandemic will negatively impact business in the traditionally

strong summer months.

"[Business is] a lot better. We're not losing money everyday," she said. "We're just trying to keep our store open. I feel like we did the right thing by sticking through [the pandemic]. I've heard from some [business owners] that have said, 'I don't want to do this anymore.' I don't know what you do then. You still have to pay your rent. I'm glad we did. We didn't want to lose our customers."

Kerrie Bunting, **Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce's** president and chief executive officer, marvels at how well residents have turned out to help businesses survive through the financial challenges caused by the pandemic. "In a time of crisis, you see people's true colors. I have seen some amazing colors during this," she said. "Our community truly thinks locally and has done their best to support our businesses. It does the heart good, and I hope that support continues on the other side of this."

DeAngelus is confident about what lies ahead for Ocean Pines Yacht Club & Marina - for the staff and customers.

"We've taken a beating. However, the light at the end of the tunnel is coming," he said. "And the sunny side of this was we figured out right out of the gate that this can be successful enough for us to change our business model going into next year and the year after that and year after that. This whole experience has changed our business model moving forward in the wintertime forever."

A Time To Remember

On this day in 1994, in a ceremony presided over by England's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand, a rail tunnel under the English Channel was officially opened, connecting Britain and the European mainland for the first time since the Ice Age.

The Channel Tunnel, or "Chunnel," connects Folkestone, England, with Coquelles, France, 31 miles away. The Chunnel cut travel time between England and France to a swift 35 minutes and eventually between London and Paris to two-and-a-half hours.

Outdoor living is wildly popular, as more and more homeowners are bringing elements once reserved for home interiors into their backyards. When designing outdoor living spaces, homeowners may learn about biophilic design, an architectural concept that aims to incorporate natural elements into outdoor living spaces. Proponents of biophilic design say it satisfies an innate human need to affiliate with nature, thereby helping to reduce stress that people may experience after being stuck indoors for much of their days. Biophilic design is often part of a home interior design, but many homeowners also embrace it when designing their outdoor living spaces. For example, surrounding outdoor living areas with noninvasive plants, flowers and trees and using natural materials like wood and stone when building such spaces are great ways to embrace biophilic design and create a tension-free ambience in outdoor living spaces.



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The garden gene

Spring conjures up memories of watching my mother kneeling in front of one of her garden beds, her gloved hands working the soil, pulling weeds,

one of the associates. My brother and I lagged behind her enthusiastically stomping in mud puddles between the plant tables, much to our mother's chagrin. Eventually we'd have to help load up the car trunk being careful not to break any of the flower stems. Once home, the process was reversed. Our mother would point to which garden bed we were to place each flower flat.

We boys couldn't wait to be liberated from these duties so we could jump on our bikes and go someplace, anyplace.

My mother was and is always most relaxed when she is in her garden among her plants. She takes great pride in creating and sculpting her gardens, re-inventing them whenever the muse inspires her. When she was making her way up the corporate ladder, her gardening time was limited. Since retiring for the second time a few years ago her garden time is unlimited, just the way she likes it. The results have been breathtaking.

For as much as we resisted and hated raking leaves, digging holes for new shrubbery and going back and forth to this and that nursery, my brother and I too found that we have the garden gene, maybe not in the same way as our mother, but it's there. My brother attractively landscaped part of his backyard with different species of shrubs and trees. He can discuss the names and characteristics of what he's planted and why he planted them where he did. Me? That red flower looks nice so I think I'll plant it over there.

Several years ago, frustrated because grass would not grow in the backyard, I purchased and planted some discounted shrubs and plants. The plants rooted in the soil and a passion for gardening rooted in me. I spend what time I can in my garden, on my knees, my gloved hands working the soil, plant flats at my side. There's something calming, even tranquil, about spending time in the garden, interacting with nature, being one with nature.

Ahhh.

It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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removing dead leaves and making a hole into which to place one of the many flower plants sitting in a tray beside her. She would spend as much time as she could in one garden or another.

I remember a lot of marigolds, begonias and geraniums. There were other flowers too, but the names are lost to time. My mother would attempt to entice my brother and me to assist her in cleaning the winter debris from the garden beds. If memory serves, she paid us a dollar for each Hefty bag we filled. Most of the times we weren't as industrious as she thought we should be, and would tell us so. Her anger flared when she found that we only partially filled a bag. For us to get paid, the bags had to be filled to the point of exploding.

My mother's passion for gardening came from her grandmother, Jeanne, a French immigrant who emigrated to this country in April 1912. Family lore tells that she missed passage on the *Titanic* from Cherbourg, France and thus sailed to the New World aboard another vessel. Don't know definitively if that's true, but that's the lore.

Through the years my mother has told of Jeanne's gardening prowess and her passion for roses, at times creating her own hybrids. My mother certainly picked up the family gardening gene and made it her own.

My mother had a couple of select gardening shops and nurseries she would frequent. Some come to mind more quickly than others such as Gaudio's on Roosevelt Boulevard. There was another one off Red Lion Road (I think) and another one in Feasterville. Mom would walk around looking at different plants, sometimes talking to



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Grace Center continues to serve

The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health located in Berlin has continued to serve the women of the Lower Shore of Maryland and Delaware while following the protocols set by the CDC and state governors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning of the shelter-in-place directives for both states, the center was closed to all walk-in traffic, but consultations continued via phone and virtual meeting connections. For clients in need of products such as diapers and formula, arrangements were made to "deliver" these products on the bench outside the front door.

The Grace Center opened its doors again for pre-scheduled appointments on April 20 for a full range of services. Once again ultrasounds, pregnancy tests and supportive services are being provided with many required safeguards in place for both clients and staff. It is neces-

sary to limit the number of people present at any given time, so no drop-ins are allowed. A strict screening policy is conducted before an appointment is made and before the client enters the facility. Gloves and masks are provided as needed. Please call the Grace Center at 443-513-4124 if you need to talk to or meet with the medical staff to discuss your situation.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary for the existence of the Grace Center (formerly known as the Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center). During this time the center has served many women in the area and continues to look at ways for expanding the services provided. Technology has also changed dramatically during this time period. In recent years it became apparent that a new ultrasound machine was necessary. The Ocean City Knights of Columbus Council #9053 partnered with the center to help make this a reality. They donated all proceeds from their weekly Friday night Bingo games during the month of January (Support Life Month) toward this cause. This money has been matched by the Delaware State Council of the Knights and sent to the national organization for matching. The end re-

sult is that the Grace Center will soon have a brand new \$26,000 ultrasound machine to continue the mission of providing a "Safe haven dedicated to the health and well-being of women in the community."

The Grace Center depends on the generosity of its supporters for its many basic operational expenses. One of the biggest fundraisers of the year (last year raised \$13,500) is the "Bottles of Blessing" conducted annually through many of the area churches from Mother's Day until Father's Day. During this campaign, plastic baby bottles are distributed to parishioners



who then fill them with change or, better yet, a check to be returned to the church or the center sometime around Father's Day or whenever the donor has it ready. With churches currently being closed due to COVID-19 this will put a big strain on the center's budget for 2020. You can help keep services in place by making a donation to the Grace Center either in the form of a baby bottle you fill, by calling 443-513-4124 to make a donation via PayPal or by mailing a check to: 10226 Old Ocean City Blvd., Unit 2, Berlin, MD 21811. You can also visit the website: www.gracematernalhealth.org. Since this campaign is taking place during the month when moms are honored, if you would like to dedicate your donation to your own mom or some other special woman in your life, please indicate that when contacting the center and your dedication will be placed on the center's Facebook page. Speaking of Mother's Day, the Motherhood Walk in the Park which was originally scheduled for May 9 has been rescheduled for September 12 at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin. Please come out to help celebrate motherhood and the 10th Anniversary of the Grace Center.

Farmers Market encourages customers to 'come, shop and leave'

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is looking much different this spring. Gone, for now, are the chef cooking demos, the children's activities and many popular market attractions like the alpacas, adoptable kittens and miniature pony.

Instead this season, shoppers are arriving with their protective facemasks, with some also wearing gloves to gather their market essentials.

Farmers Markets were designed as essential businesses and allowed to remain open under Gov. Larry Hogan's March 23 executive order.

"We have been working from the guidelines set forth by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland State Health Department to provide our merchants and shoppers with a safe shopping environment," Market Manager David Bean said.

Market volunteers are checking the number of shoppers in the marketplace and, if needed, are holding arriving customers in a social-distancing waiting line until the market crowd reduces to a suitable level.

The market has also rearranged its merchants, spreading market stands around the White Horse Park marketplace to accommodate space for everyone to social distance.

"Please come, shop and leave," Lenore Brady, assistant market manager, said. "We are asking everyone to refrain from gathering to socialize. Those days will return but, for now, we need to keep it to an essential shopping visit."

Despite all the changes, offerings found at the market continue to grow. Locally grown asparagus is now being cut, and tender spring greens are available.

"We expect to have the first locally grown strawberries by the end of May for our customers," David Joseph of D. J. David & Company said.

Joy Galicinao, the owner of Essentials by Joy, is offering a line of antibacterial products.

"With store shelves empty of these products, I'm making them available to my Ocean Pines customers," she said.

Other vendors are temporarily changing gears, such as Charlie's Treats, where many pet owners at the market shop for all-natural homemade dog treats.

"We make popular pet bandanas and sell them throughout the year. With the need for facemasks, we're now sewing those and making them available to our Ocean Pines customers," Casey Lemmons, owner of Charlie's Treats, said.

The facemasks are available at the market through Stag Run Farm, as Lemmons is not currently operating her stand.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Saturday, year-round, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.



Board holds meeting

During its virtual meeting Saturday, the Ocean Pines Association Board members voted unanimously to accept the \$1.143 million loan recently granted under the federal Paycheck Protection Program, and to appoint a new trustee for the Association 401k plan.

Additionally, Board members unanimously approved second readings related to minor changes of four different resolutions: M-01 (Architectural Review Committee guidelines and violations), C-02 (Architectural Review Committee), M-04 (maintenance of lots) and C-11 (Golf Advisory Committee).

The board made the following appointments: Joseph Lynch, second term, Golf Committee; Doris Lloyd, second term, Marine Activities Committee; Jenny Cropper Rines, fourth term, Communications Committee; and, Elaine Brady, third term, Communications Committee.

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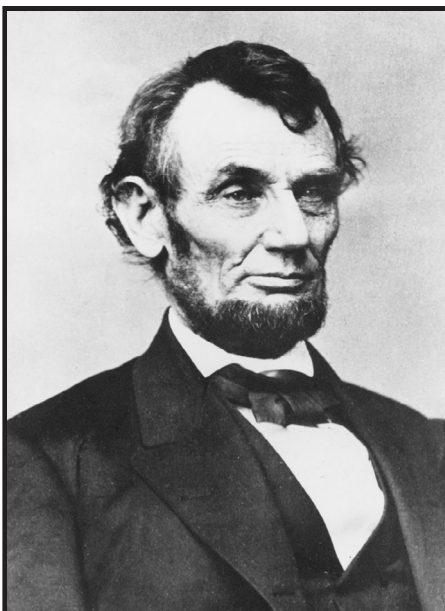
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Association receives federal aid

The Ocean Pines Association announced on April 23 it had received \$1.143 million in federal assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program tied to COVID-19 relief.

The program originated from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act approved in March.

General Manager John Viola said Ocean Pines was among the first locally to apply for assistance.

"When the Paycheck Protection Program was announced, we immediately formed a task force to research the funding, and we were one of the first in the queue to apply through our local lender, the Bank of Ocean City," Viola said.

The work group included Director of Finance and Operational Logistics Steve Phillips, Senior Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett, and Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis.

"The team was instructed to be relentless in their research and they studied the issues, made the necessary calls, and attended multiple virtual seminars and meetings to make sure

that Ocean Pines was timely and prepared when we applied for the funding," Viola said.

Phillips said the Paycheck Protection Program was a detailed and transparent process, and he credited the Bank of Ocean City for their help.

"Ocean Pines was informed today that the application was qualified and approved for a loan to be utilized for full-time internal payroll expenses," Phillips said.

He added Ocean Pines has also applied for funds through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan offered through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Ocean Pines will continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation and review any government programs that are available," Viola said. "Josh Davis will continue to interact and attend conferences and review government communications, to help us apply for any funding/deferral opportunities that would benefit the association financially in this volatile environment."

On Tuesday, April 28, Ocean Pines Association President Doug Parks, on behalf of the Board of Directors, re-

leased the following statement about federal aid received last week:

"We are fortunate to have been approved by the Small Business Administration for a loan associated with the Payroll Protection Program. This funding will be used for its intended purpose of supporting the salaries of Ocean Pines employees during this time of uncertainty."

"A workgroup consisting of John Viola, Steve Phillips, Larry Perrone and Doug Parks was formed to monitor the situation regarding the loan. The workgroup met with OPA attorneys, who confirmed the Association's qualification criteria and expense compliance requirements. The workgroup also met with representatives from the Bank of Ocean City who confirmed, from their perspective, that all requirements for the loan application and authorization had been followed and that OPA had met the rules for qualification."

"The workgroup, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, will continue its due diligence in monitoring this fluid situation as things develop over the next several weeks. While no changes in the status are anticipated, we will be prepared to make any adjustments, should conditions warrant."

"OPA will continue to operate during this time and meet its financial obligations. We are hoping that our amenities and other services affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will open in the next several weeks and we can return to some level of normalcy. In the meantime, we ask all OPA members to abide by the government mandates, and hope everyone stays safe and healthy during this time."



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Answers for April 22

Ocean Pines among 'Safest Cities'

Once again, Ocean Pines is being recognized as one of the safest communities in Maryland.

The latest report from website Safewise, published on April 20, lists Ocean Pines as the second safest "city" in Maryland, just behind Taneytown. Ocean Pines ranked number seven on the 2019 list of "Maryland's Safest Cities."

This year, no other community in the area made the top 10.

Safewise uses FBI crime statistics and U.S. Census data to determine its rankings. The 2020 rankings were based on 2018 FBI crime reports, the most recent available at the time.

In compiling its rankings, the site considers both violent and property crime rates, and then averages those against the total population, per 1,000 people.

According to Safewise, Ocean Pines

had a violent crime rate of 1.1 instances per 1,000 people and a property crime rate of 4.2 per 1,000. Both of those figures are lower than the prior two years.

Taneytown had a higher property crime rate, 7.2, but reported no incidences of violent crime in 2018, according to Safewise.

Nearby Salisbury ranked 34th on the safest cities list, followed by Cambridge at 35 and Ocean City at 38.

"We're proud to serve the citizens of Ocean Pines, where the goal is always to keep crime as low as possible," Police Chief David Massey said. "It's a great community and we get a lot of citizen involvement that helps us continue to be one of the safest communities in the state."

To view the full report, visit <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-maryland>.

First responders invited to register for feed the Frontline Chicken Giveaway

Thanks to a generous donation from Mountaire Farms, Worcester County Recreation and Parks (WCRP), in partnership with Worcester Goes Purple, is giving away 500 free bags of boneless chicken thighs to local first responders. This giveaway will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Friday, May 8 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

First responders, including medical personnel, fire, EMS, and police, are asked to register for a pick-up time through an online form found on the WCRP website at www.worcesterrecandparks.org. Time options are separated by hour windows of either 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Chicken is not guaranteed to those who do not register.

"Many of those in the Recovery Community owe their lives to a first responder," Worcester Goes Purple Events

Coordinator Debbie Smullen said. "We appreciate all of our first responders, and we are happy to give back."

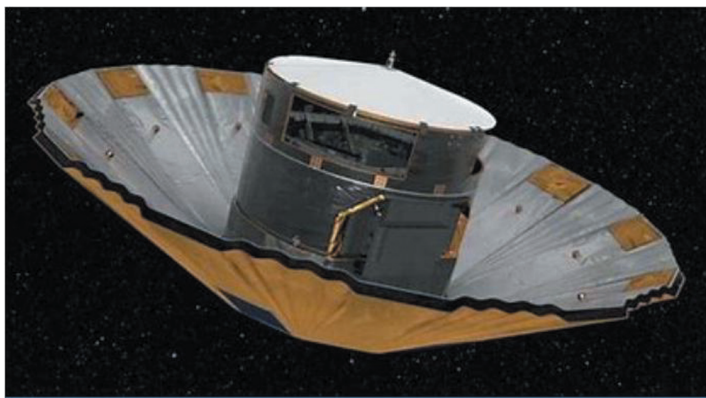
WCRP staff, along with Worcester Goes Purple and other community volunteers, are coming together to say, 'thank you' and to give each first responder who registers a 10-pound bag of chicken that includes approximately 22 boneless thighs.

After the giveaway, a donation of sixty bags of chicken and other potential leftovers will be distributed to the Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen in Berlin, The Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke, and the Snow Hill Food Pantry.

For more information on Feed the Frontline, contact Allen Swiger at 410-632-2144, ext. 2520 or aswiger@co.worcester.md.us. Visit WCRP online for up to date WCRP news and program updates.

warp
from page 10

Eloisa Poggio, said, "based on the obtained velocity, the warp would complete one rotation around the center of the Milky Way in 600 to 700 million years. That's much faster than what we expected." Poggio's group analyzed Gaia's high-precision measurements of 12 million stars.



Artist's Conception of Gaia Spacecraft

The European Space Agency has supported a variety of missions. For example, in 1993, ESA launched the Hipparcos satellite, featuring technologies devoted to "astrometry." The field of astrometry can be described as accurate angular measurement of stars, allowing determination of parallax, distance and velocities of the celestial gems. The Gaia satellite is a

next generation advancement in astrometry.

Both Hipparcos and Gaia satellites were launched from the Kourou facility, located on the Atlantic coast of French Guiana, near the equator in South America. Positions, parallaxes and motions for about 1.3 billion stars have been gathered by Gaia and the satellite's mission is continuing.

Astronomy hobbyists will not be surprised by peculiar phenomena, such as the Milky Way's warp. Most know that the planets are not orbiting the Sun in circular patterns, but are following "elliptical" paths. Also, as the planets spin on their axes, physical forces pull them

outwards, so they are larger in diameter at their equatorial regions. These are examples of aberrant cosmic phenomena; celestial processes are seldom "nice and neat."

Analysis of the Gaia data did not indicate which galaxy might have collided with the Milky Way or when the impact occurred. However, from among the "dwarf galaxies" known to

orbit about the Milky Way, some astronomers suggest the likely candidate is the Sagittarius Dwarf galaxy.

In the remote future, it is possible that this same dwarf galaxy could again pass through the Milky Way's plane, and may eventually become dispersed and absorbed into the galaxy itself.

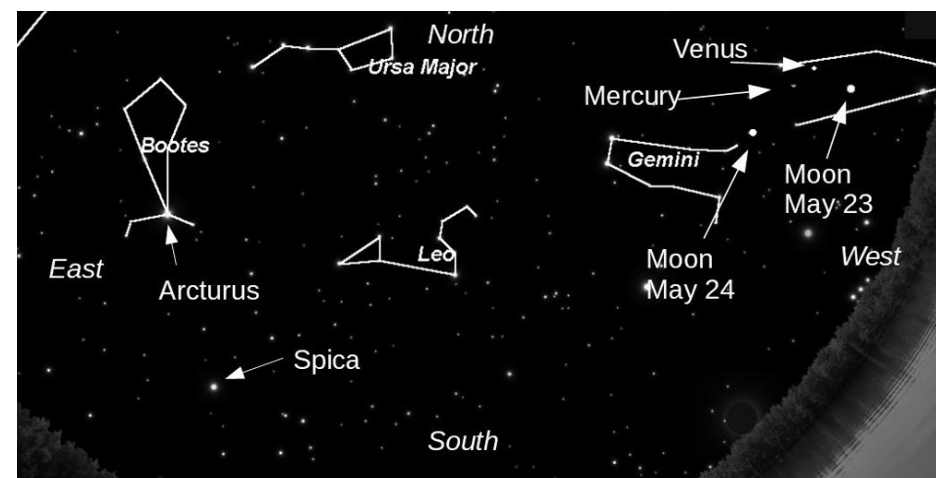
Jos de Bruijne, deputy project scientist said, "With Gaia, for the first time ... we can try to understand the large-scale motions of the galaxy and model its formation history. ... This is really the Gaia revolution."

Venus starts the show early, just as the sun is setting about 8 p.m. The bright planet will grace the skies for the next three hours, setting around 11 p.m. As the stars become fully visible around 9 p.m., Leo the Lion will be flying high overhead. Look for the fa-

miliar "kite shape" figure of Bootes (boh OH teez) the Herdsman as it again returns to the May skies. Towards the northern skies the Big Dipper (Ursa Major) can be seen. After about 10 p.m., Hercules the Hero will be in view over the eastern horizon.

Mercury and Venus have very close encounters on the nights of May 21 and 22. Look for the pair just at sunset around 8:15 p.m., with Venus appearing about one degree higher than the much dimmer Mercury. Binoculars are highly recommended, since Mercury is a dim planet. On May 23, they are joined by the moon, located about four degrees south of Venus, and moving on May 24 to the south of Mercury.

Good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.





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Choptank to credit members

During this turbulent time, the Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors wants to help by giving back. In an effort to relieve financial stress on members caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the Board voted today to retire \$4 million in capital credits.

The unprecedented \$4 million will be returned to anyone who was a member during 2018. "We know that every dollar helps, and we want to be here for our members during this time of crisis," said Jeff Rathell, Chairman of the Board at Choptank Electric Cooperative. "We are activating this equity return six-months in advance to benefit co-op members when they most need it."

To make this as convenient as possible, the funds will be returned to members as a credit directly on June electric bills. The amount received during any capital credit retirement is based on the amount of electricity the member purchased during the retirement year.

"The average residential bill last June was \$130," explained Doug Scott, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. "We expect the average credit generated by today's Board action to be around \$77 per member, which is a huge help particularly for

those who are experiencing financial uncertainty during the pandemic."

Choptank Electric Cooperative delivers electricity to rural homes and businesses in nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. When someone signs up to receive electric service from Choptank Electric, they become a "member" of the Cooperative, not a customer. While investor-owned utilities seek to generate profits that can be returned to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an "at-cost basis." Co-ops return profits to their members. Choptank Electric Cooperative annually allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members. That is the Cooperative difference, where members are first, every day.

Wor-Wic board scholarship deadline extended

Wor-Wic Community College has extended the deadline for 2020 high school graduates to apply for the college's board of trustees scholarship until Friday, May 22.

Applicants must submit an admission application at www.worwic.edu <<http://www.worwic.edu>>, complete the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using school code 013842, complete the scholarship application at worwic.academicworks.com <<https://worwic.academicworks.com>> and submit a copy of their high school transcripts.

The board of trustees provides a two-year full-tuition scholarship for the most academically-talented high school senior applicant from each of the 10 public high schools and two of the four private high schools in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties. Applicants must have at least a 3.25 grade point average on an unweighted 4.0 scale. The scholarships are awarded to the applicants with the highest grade point average from each high school, followed by the highest total number of credits earned and the earliest admission application.

Although the college is currently closed to the public, employees are working remotely Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help prospective students through the application, career exploration, financial aid, enrollment coaching, academic advising and registration processes.

New students who need help with the scholarship application process should call 410-334-2905.

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Henderson remembered

Light Henderson, (1926-2020), was the last of the founding mothers of Quilters by the Sea (QBS) in Ocean Pines. The guild was started when she and a few ladies got together over 35 years ago and formed QBS. Light was still an active member sewing and quilting at the age of 94. She died on April 19.

She is survived by her son, Matt. Until a couple years ago, Light was also an active golfer in Ocean Pines. She loved being outdoors and when she wasn't golfing, she was sewing.

Light made quilts for those in need. She made quilts for the VA, abused children, Quilts of Valor and others. She was very active in QBS volunteer day, when quilts were made for local charities. She also designed quilts. The last raffle quilt, two years ago, was one of Light's designs. She would say that when she couldn't sleep, she would think of different designs. Then would get pencil and paper and do the math and figure out how to make it work. She would make up her own patterns and she used whatever fabric she

had on hand. She would also be commissioned to make quilts for clients.

Light loved being with others, especially if it included ice cream. She will be missed by all who knew her, especially her friends at QBS.



Light loved being with others, especially if it included ice cream. She will be missed by all who knew her, especially her friends at QBS.

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Container gardening tips

Gardening is beneficial in various ways. The AARP states that some of the health perks associated with gardening include improved mood, increased vitamin D levels (which benefits bones and immune system) and reduced risk of dementia. In addition, if gardening efforts include growing herbs, fruits and vegetables, it can be a cost-effective way to eat healthy.



For gardeners without sufficient space or for those with mobility issues, container gardening can be an ideal way to grow everything from flowers to vegetables. Better Homes & Gardens says most plants are not fussy about the containers in which they grow so long as some of their basic needs are met. This means watering correctly for the type of plant, and ensuring sufficient drainage.

The following are some other ways

container gardening efforts can prove successful.

Watch water. Planet Natural Research Center says plants with thin leaves typically need ample water, and plants with thick leaves need less. Use this as a guideline to gauge water needs.

Size correctly. Plants should be sized to the container. Consider dwarf varieties of certain plants if your containers are small.

Choose the right soil. Fill containers with a commercial potting soil rather than soil from the garden. Garden soil can dry into a solid mass, while commercial mixtures have amendments like peat moss, vermiculite, compost, and other ingredients to help with soil texture and moisture retention.

Mix it up. When planting containers of flowers and other greenery, Good Housekeeping says to include “a thriller, a spiller and a filler” as a good rule of thumb. The thriller is the focal point, the spiller a trailing plant, and a filler has smaller leaves or flowers to add bulk and color.

Poke holes. Drainage holes are essential so that soil will not become waterlogged. Holes don’t need to be large, but there should

be enough of them so that excess water can drain out readily.

Select the right container material. Container materials may be affected by gardeners’ budgets, personal taste and other factors. For those who live in hot climates, selecting a light-colored container can help prevent further soil heat absorption.

Container gardening is a healthy and enjoyable activity that can pay dividends in various ways.

Perennial gardening pointers

Gardening is an engaging hobby that can provide a host of benefits, some of which may surprise even the most devoted gardeners. For example, the Harvard Medical School notes that just 30 minutes of gardening activities burns 135 calories, making gardening a fun and simple way to incorporate more exercise into your daily routine. In addition, scientists have long proven that gardening releases the hormones serotonin and dopamine in the brain, each of which are associated with improved mood.

Perennial gardens can be especially attractive to seasoned gardeners and novices. Perennials are plants that come back year after year, and committing to a perennial garden can ensure people stick with gardening for the long haul, reaping all of the rewards that come with making such a commitment.

Before planting a perennial garden, those new to gardening may want to consider these three tips.

1. **Make a plan.** A perennial garden comes back year after year, which means any mistakes you make when planting are likely to haunt you year after year as well. Factors like space and location must be considered before planting. Many gardeners utilize garden planning applications like GrowVeg to make the process of planning a garden simpler and more organized. Such applications can be especially useful for novices.

2. **Consider aesthetics.** Gardens can be awe-inspiring, especially when gardeners consider aesthetics prior to

planting. The DIY Network advises gardeners to consider scale before choosing which perennials to plant. Tall plants and wide beds tend to look best outside large homes, while short



plants in small beds tend to look better outside small homes.

3. **Work with a professional.** Local garden centers can be excellent resources when planning perennial gardens. Representatives at such businesses can offer tips on native plants, which will be more likely to thrive year after year than non-natives. Such representatives also can help you choose the right plants based on the amount of sunlight the plants will likely get after being planted. Each of these factors can be easily overlooked by people without much gardening experience.

Perennial gardens can provide years of joy and inspiration, especially when gardeners give ample attention to certain details prior to planting.

Signs that voles are invading your garden

All sorts of uninvited guests can compromise the look and vitality of a garden. Some gardens are trampled by foot traffic, while others are plagued with weeds. Still others are plagued by small, tunnel-building rodents known as voles.

Voies are often confused with moles. While they do bear some similarities, namely that both travel through lawns and gardens via tunnels, voles and moles are not one and the same. In fact, moles are not even rodents.

The “Old Farmer’s Almanac” notes that voles eat mainly vegetarian diets. That makes vegetable gardens prime targets for these small rodents that some mistake for mice. But Pests.org, a comprehensive resource for anyone looking to learn about pests and the threats they pose, notes that voles’ eyes and ears are considerably smaller than the eyes and ears of mice. In addition, voles’ tails are much shorter than the tails on mice.

Correctly diagnosing issues is essential to maintaining a healthy garden, and identifying vole infestations is no exception. The following are some signs that typically indicate a lawn or garden has

been infested with voles.

Shallow tunnels throughout the property: Voies create shallow tunnels between one and two inches wide, and these tunnels can typically be found all over the lawn. Grass stems and blades are part of voles’ diets, so don’t just look to the garden for signs of vole infestation.

Markings on bark and plants: Pests.org notes that voles may leave small gnaw marks on bark and plants. A careful inspection of trees and other plants may be necessary to uncover this symptom.

Partially eaten root vegetables: Voies may eat root vegetables like carrots and

potatoes by pulling them down into their tunnels. The result is partially eaten vegetables in the garden.

Damaged trees and shrubs: Voies don’t limit their victims to grass and root vegetables. Young trees and shrubs that are leaning over may have fallen victim to vole infestations.

Homeowners can employ various strategies to control and prevent vole infestations. But first they must be certain the unwanted guests tunneling their way through their lawns and gardens are, in fact, voies.

AGH treating COVID-19 patients with plasma from coronavirus survivors

Atlantic General Hospital announced last week that through the Blood Bank of Delmarva, AGH is participating in a Mayo Clinic study to provide convalescent plasma to treat patients with COVID-19.

Hospital officials say the goal is to use the antibodies in the plasma of now healthy coronavirus survivors to help the patients fight the virus.

"Researchers are optimistic about the potential of this treatment for COVID-19," said Matt Morris, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Atlantic General Hospital.

Morris said while the treatment may not be for everyone, the hospital enrolled and transfused their first patient Friday, April 24. He noted that the hospital's medical staff will actively screen future patients with COVID-19 to evaluate the benefits of this treatment for their care.

"Initial anecdotal reports have been

positive across the country," said Morris. "We believe our participation will improve the care we provide to our patients."

The Blood Bank of Delmarva is now accepting plasma donations from those who have recovered from coronavirus and are now asymptomatic.

Morris said plasma donors must have tested positive for coronavirus and been symptom-free for 28 days. He said those who have been symptom-free for 14 days can also donate if they test negative to ensure they no longer have the active virus.

Patients requesting information on becoming a COVID convalescent plasma donor are asked to contact the Blood Bank of Delmarva directly at <http://delmarvablood.org/cpdonor> or call 1-888-8-BLOOD-8 (1-888-825-6638).

Additional information on who potentially would qualify as a donor can be found at

<https://www.delmarvablood.org/give-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation/convalescent-plasma-covid-19-donor-request-form/>.

"It's definitely another resource in our effort to treat patients that are critically ill, and we really hope that it improves the outcomes of these patients," Morris said. "It is affordable, easy to administer and rarely has side effects. The possibilities presented by this treatment are encouraging."

While hospital officials say they are cautiously optimistic about the treatment, Morris stated, "it is very reasonable to be optimistic about this because of the positive results in studies that convalescent plasma has had in prior outbreaks with other respiratory tract infections and its track record with other diseases."

More information about convalescent plasma can be found at <https://www.us-covidplasma.org/>.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day		High / Low	Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th	7	Low	2:18 AM	5:56 AM
	7	High	8:30 AM	7:58 PM
	7	Low	2:23 PM	
	7	High	8:55 PM	
F	8	Low	3:10 AM	5:55 AM
	8	High	9:20 AM	7:59 PM
	8	Low	3:10 PM	
	8	High	9:46 PM	
Sa	9	Low	4:02 AM	5:54 AM
	9	High	10:11 AM	8:00 PM
	9	Low	3:58 PM	
	9	High	10:36 PM	
Su	10	Low	4:55 AM	5:53 AM
	10	High	11:01 AM	8:01 PM
	10	Low	4:49 PM	
	10	High	11:27 PM	
M	11	Low	5:49 AM	5:52 AM
	11	High	11:52 AM	8:01 PM
	11	Low	5:42 PM	
Tu	12	High	12:19 AM	5:51 AM
	12	Low	6:45 AM	8:02 PM
	12	High	12:45 PM	
	12	Low	6:38 PM	
W	13	High	1:13 AM	5:50 AM
	13	Low	7:42 AM	8:03 PM
	13	High	1:42 PM	
	13	Low	7:37 PM	

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Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.

—Unknown

It goes without saying that we're experiencing challenging times. **Family moments** have been shared remotely and **Mother's Day** for many will mean phone calls and video conferencing. During the past many weeks, I've been **encouraged and heartened** by customer comments and the resilience of our community. This has been a **shared experience**.

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

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