

## Resident shares story of generosity

By Victor Fernandes

Jeannette Reynolds grew emotional while recounting her story of a stranger's unforgettable act of generosity.

A few hours had passed since a gentleman standing behind her in a checkout lane at Walmart in Berlin paid her \$112 grocery bill as she searched for a missing credit card. Still, Reynolds choked back tears as she again marveled over what happened the morning of June 3. "I'm not much of a crier, but I just stood there and cried," she recalled. "I'm still overwhelmed, truly overwhelmed."

Reynolds contacted *The Courier* last week in hopes the mystery man could learn, in print if not in person, "what that meant to me at that moment," she said. "Maybe he'll see it in the paper and know what a thoughtful, kind guardian angel he was at the moment. I never expected that. The thought that anybody would do that, and pay that amount of money, just overwhelmed me."

Unbeknownst to Reynolds, she arrived at Walmart that day without her credit card. The Ocean Pines resident later discovered the card at home clipped between a bag and receipt from a local pharmacy, where she had picked up a prescription two days earlier.

As the cashier at Walmart placed groceries into bags, Reynolds dug into her wallet and purse for the card before searching through her car. Then Reynolds called a friend for help. All the while, the man behind her in line presumably watched the scene unfold.

"I wasn't even aware [of the people around me] as soon as I saw my credit card was missing," Reynolds said.

As Reynolds reentered the store to tell the cashier about her friend coming to pay the bill, she learned the man came to her rescue.

"I saw [the cashier] waving my receipts in the air," Reynolds said. "I said, 'Somebody is coming to help,' and she said, 'The man behind you paid all your groceries.' I was stunned. I couldn't move. [Then the cashier repeated], 'He paid for all your groceries.'"

Reynolds wondered if she unknowingly passed the man while walking back into the store. She figures he wanted - and likely still wants - to remain anonymous because such a genuinely thoughtful deed isn't performed to attract attention or receive credit.

please see **generosity** page 14



**Vigil** - The Worcester County NAACP Car Prayer Vigil for George Floyd, held on June 5 was hosted by Rev. Betty Smith of Tyree AME Church in Berlin. Pictured is NAACP President **Ivory Smith** and his daughter, **Natasha Smith**, welcoming approximately 75 cars to the service. Eight racially-diverse religious leaders shared their message of hope and solidarity following the death of George Floyd. The prayer vigil ended with a rendition of "Wade in the Water" sung by Dr. Roxie Dennis Acholonu, Ambassador for Christ International Ministries. All cars then blew their horns nine times in recognition of the nearly nine minutes that restrained and unresisting George Floyd suffered before he died at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer.

## Ocean Pines announces pool reopenings

Ocean Pines' outdoor pools started reopening last week, with new procedures in place to comply with state and federal safety guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Governor Larry Hogan's May 27 executive order, outdoor pools must adhere to 25% capacity restrictions, with "strict physical distancing and sanitization measures" in place.

In Ocean Pines, pool entry will be permitted by a reservation system, with three-to-four-hour time slots. The Ocean Pines Aquatics team will disinfectant each pool, between each time slot.

Pool guests will be responsible for social distancing within the water, while Aquatics staff will define social distancing guidelines on the pool decks

and check-in areas.

"We are excited to be able to open our pools, however, we ask everyone to please be patient as we navigate these new waters," Director of Amenities and Operations Logistics Colby Phillips said. "Safety is extremely important to us."

The Yacht and Beach Club pools will have tables and chairs for food service, while Mumfords Landing and Swim and Racquet Club pools will have umbrellas up.

"At this time, we are asking guests to bring their own chairs to Mumfords and Swim and Racquet, for use until situations change and we can provide our

please see **pools** on page 14



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# Old school out, new school in at Showell

By **Victor Fernandes**

Past met future in surreal fashion last Thursday, as Eric Cropper peered into a gaping hole littered with rubble and debris that a few months ago housed teachers and students at the old Showell Elementary School. To the left stood the new Showell Elementary School, which stands twice as large in physical stature and exponentially more advanced technologically than its predecessor.

"I had an amazing experience here," said Cropper, Worcester County Board of Education president and proud Showell alumnus from nearly 40 years ago. "It shaped who I am today. So, it's bittersweet. I'm full of emotion because I'm so excited to be delivering this new school to the kids. But at the same time, I'm flooded with memories of wonderful things that happened when I was here."

Cropper and leaders from Worcester County Public Schools, led by Superintendent of Schools Louis Taylor, looked on June 3 as construction crews tore down the old 56,000 square-foot building piece by

piece. Yet, four-plus decades of memories will join students, teachers and administrators next fall in the new 104,000 square-foot facility, because the old school has played an integral role within the Ocean Pines and Bishopville communities. The community simply has outgrown what the old school provides.

"This building has a lot of history for a lot of people in our community," said Taylor, whose first teaching assignment 38 years ago was as a student teacher at Showell during his senior year of college. "Although we are extremely excited about the new facility, to see the old facility go down is sad in some ways. We're going to miss it. But in the same vein ... it's all coming together for us."

At approximately half the size of the new school, teachers molded young minds in a cramped environment, including in nine



portable classrooms behind the building that housed the entire second grade among other students. For two decades, fourth graders in the Showell district were sent to Berlin Intermediate School to avoid surpassing the maximum capacity of 531 people in the old building.

In contrast, rising fourth graders will remain at the new Showell for their final year of elementary school, because the maximum capacity in that building stands at about 825 people. Taylor said the new school will open as planned in September, if Governor Larry Hogan allows schools statewide to reopen. Schools have been closed since March due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

On that highly anticipated first day, students will be greeted with "a state-of-the-art building," Taylor said, referring in part to the school serving as a model for the district's new Apple-based technology, which will give everyone "a feel of a school that is in 2020."

"The environment in general will be much more conducive to learning," Taylor said. "The learning spaces will be very up to date. The teaching spaces for our teachers will be so much more user friendly for them in the 21st century than our old facility."

Taylor said the new school also will feature a vestibule between the main

*please see **showell** on page 14*



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# Reflections

How will 2020 change us as a country and you as an individual? Will we turn to our faith for strength and be a positive force now and for the future? Will we even try?

The pain is real and deep. First, COVID-19 has changed our very way of life with the virus taking lives as health care workers risk their lives to save and care for the sick.



At the same time, an unprecedented number of businesses are closed with a historic number of individuals joining the ranks of the unemployed.

Meanwhile, students, parents, and teachers meet the challenges of learning in new ways from home, as many of our elderly are isolated and depressed.

In the midst of many of us working tirelessly for a safe COVID-19 recovery and reopening of our small businesses, we are sickened as a nation with the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. The protests nationwide for justice and to end racism and discrimination are overtaken by violent rioters attacking law enforcement, and burning and

destroying businesses, many owned by minorities in their own neighborhoods.

So, where do we go from here? Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford is one of six black lieutenant governors in the country, and is a former colleague and friend. In a Washington Post interview, he said, "It's time for all of us, no matter what our race, age, gender or creed is, to look deeply within ourselves to acknowledge there's work to be done."

Lt. Gov. Rutherford called it "work that must be done so our nation may finally live up to the ideals of our founding, and ensure life and liberty for every American, once and for all."

Let's each do our part.

In my case, I vow to work to serve all my constituents, focusing on the immediate needs of assisting the unemployed, reopening businesses, and expanding opportunities for all. This can only be accomplished by working together with mutual respect for all and with a true commitment to service for others.

Onward and Upward!

**Senator Mary Beth Carozza**  
Maryland District 38

## Board, GM discuss financials, potential impact of COVID-19

Ocean Pines officials last Wednesday delivered some good financial news on the close of the last fiscal year, while also sounding a note of caution about the likely impact of COVID-19 on the coming year.

First, General Manager John Viola, during his monthly report to the Board, said two major projects had finished below budgeted projections.

He said the new Golf Clubhouse, budgeted for \$1.6 million, had come in at a final cost of \$1,483,562, while the Golf cart barn also finished at a savings, budgeted for \$430,000 but costing \$312,121.

"This will be the last time I report the clubhouse and the cart barn — both are completed," Viola said.

He added two other projects, expansion of the Police station and related renovations to the administration building, remained within budget.

"All indications right now is we're on track," he said.

Less certain was the final cost of Northstar financial software implementation, which is still ongoing, Viola said.

"We've extended it to December

2020. The budget was \$400,000 ... right now we're at \$437,000," he said, adding the spend for Northstar, the company, was below previous estimates, but consultant fees have "come in over budget."

Viola said operations at the Golf Club, reopened under certain restrictions because of COVID-19 on May 9, were going well.

"It's been very positive. We're probably doing about 60% business," Viola said, adding some golfers were turned away because current restrictions limit guests to one person per cart, unless they live in the same household.

"Everything is going well ... it does show that you can open under these restrictions, but I have to say it did take a lot of manpower and having the golf pro there for seven days a week," Viola said.

Overall, for the month, Viola said the Association finished about \$94,000 below budget, largely because of lost revenues related to the pandemic.

"I've said this many times: there's no playbook and there are a lot of

*please see **financials** on page 15*

## A Time To Remember



On this day in 2007, almost 12 million people tuned in for the series finale of HBO's critically acclaimed, multi-award-winning Mob-family drama "The Sopranos."



Foods don't get much more coveted than a scoop or two of delicious ice cream on a hot day. Ice cream comes in scores of different flavors. Just ask Baskin Robbins, which has long touted its own 31 flavors, a different flavor for every day of the month of July. Even though there seems to be a flavor for everybody these days, certain palate-pleasers remain more popular than others. According to an August 2019 survey conducted by ProdegeMR, a provider of people-driven insights for the market research industry, found that in the United States, vanilla is the flavor of choice, perhaps because vanilla goes with everything and can enhance so many other desserts and treats. As popular as vanilla ice cream is, cookies and cream is being scooped up more and more, and is the most popular flavor in 14 different states.

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# Proud lefty

Throw me a ball and I'll catch it with my left hand. Yet, take me golfing and you'll see I use right-handed clubs. I write left-handed, always have. The world in which I live discriminates against me and those like

Barak Obama. And if that's not enough to impress you so were Albert Einstein and Ben Franklin.

When I was learning scales on the piano, it took time for me to coordinate my right hand. On those occasions when I was picked to play ball in the school yard, there was never anyone's glove I could borrow because they were all righties. When I got my own glove, no one asked to borrow it because, well, there were no other lefties on the team.

As a kid, I had an old Evinrude five horsepower outboard on the back of my rowboat. Because of the way the steering arm was positioned (for a right-handed person), I had to adapt, sitting in an uncomfortable position so as not to capsize the boat. In time, it became second nature and I thought no more about it.

Like most, if not all lefties, I've learned to get along in a world that discriminates against me. So accustomed have I become in this right-handed universe of ours that doing some things lefthanded is now uncomfortable. Many years after learning to golf with righthanded clubs, I attempted to play lefthanded, using a friend's clubs. I couldn't get the hang of it. I'd like to say my game was impaired, but in that regard, I'm ambidextrous.

When I go down a list to check off completed tasks, my check marks look to some to be backwards. They are not. When sitting at a dining table among all righties, I've learned to bring my left elbow in when eating so as not to bump the rightie eating next to me. Many times I try to sit at the end of the table so there's plenty of elbow room.

Years ago when I learned to drive stick shift, my learning curve was two-fold. There was coordinating the depression of the clutch with the movement of the gear shift. And, there was learning to "think" with my right arm. The sensation was uncomfortable and unnatural but I eventually got the hang of it.

As a representative of South Paws hither and yon, I am reminded of a quote I once read: "God created a few perfect people, and the rest will just have to live being right handed."



## ***It's All About. . .***

By **Chip Bertino**

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me because I'm left handed.

Right-handed people don't appreciate that the world we share is by default right hand biased. We lefties have to adapt to among other things right-handed scissors, right-handed copybooks, right-handed lawn mower pull starts and laptop touch pads comfortably situated for right-handers.

That I recall, I was one of the few left-handed children in grade school. Despite hearing horror stories of nuns forcing lefties to write with their right hands, that fortunately was not something I experienced. However, I still struggled because I had no place to rest my elbow when writing. I had to learn to keep it level with the desk without the support afforded my right-handed classmates who sat in desks made for righthanders.

At the turn of the century, the last century, the nuns manipulated my naturally born left-handed paternal grandfather, forcing him to learn penmanship with his right hand. Other than him, I was the only lefty in my family, until my granddaughter came along. She's a lefty as well, taking after both her grandfathers. That's why she's my favorite granddaughter.

Interestingly, each of my wife's married siblings married a lefty, exemplifying the adage that opposites attract.

I recently read research indicating that lefthanded people possess more developed right brain hemispheres thus making us more creative and better able to grasp abstract thoughts. It's also believed we're independent thinkers, and don't as easily subscribe to "group think." I rather like that conclusion.

Several presidents have been left-handed including Gerald Ford, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and



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## Census officials focus on secondary homeowners in Worcester County

U.S. Census officials continue to underscore the importance of taking part in the survey this year, which will help determine federal funding to local communities for health care, transportation, education, and other community services for the next decade.

Recent Census statistics show that Census response rates in Ocean Pines and throughout the county continue to lag behind 2010 levels.

The last time the U.S. Census was conducted, in 2010, Worcester County was among the lowest response rates in Maryland, with just 33.2% self-responding, compared to a 69.5% statewide average, according to <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.

Hard to reach populations such as children under 5, veterans, the elderly, and low socio-economic and non-English speaking people are the focus of local Census efforts.

However, Worcester County officials are also focused on reaching part-time residents. Kelly Henry, Worcester County's Complete Count Coordinator, said more than 60 percent of the homes in the county are considered "vacant" or secondary homes, because of the resort nature of the area.

"While the highest number of vacant/secondary homes are in Ocean City, there are also large numbers in South Point, Ocean Pines and West Ocean City," Henry said. "There are still many areas throughout the county where residents, both primary and secondary homeowners, need to respond to the survey."

She added that the deadline to complete the Census was recently extended, from July 31 to Oct. 31, meaning there's more time to try and reach

those who have yet to participate.

"For both primary and secondary homeowners, it is vitally important to complete the 2020 Census survey received at their Worcester County residence," Henry said. "The U.S. Census Bureau wants to assure that all housing units are contacted and the occupants properly counted. So, even secondary homeowners should respond, even though they have completed the Census at their primary residence."

Information on completing the 2020 Census can be found online at [www.mycensus2020.gov](http://www.mycensus2020.gov), or by calling 844-330-2020.

"Please consider taking 10 minutes to complete the survey at your primary residence and respond to the survey received at your secondary home as well. It will benefit our community for the next 10 years," Henry said.

## Elections Committee seeks forum questions

A candidate forum for the 2020 Ocean Pines Board election is scheduled to be held on June 17 at 7 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the community center on 235 Ocean Parkway, in Ocean Pines.

The Elections Committee, who will host the event, encourages Association members to submit questions in advance of the forum.

Questions may be sent via email to [elections@oceanpines.org](mailto:elections@oceanpines.org), or left on the Elections Committee voicemail by calling 410-219-8972.

The committee will consider all questions submitted by Association members.

## Commissioners pass budget, tax rates remain unchanged

On June 2, the Worcester County Commissioners approved the FY 2020/2021 (FY21) Operating Budget of \$204,320,631 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an increase of \$3,035,079 or 1.5% more than the FY20 budget while reducing the requested expenditures of \$221.3 million by \$17.0 million. Early in the budget season, the Commissioners and County staff developed a revised FY21 budget to proactively address the potential financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget decisions were based upon current and historical data. Since the Maryland General Assembly adjourned early on March 18, due to the pandemic, the State budget may be further reduced to address revenue shortfalls, which could result in reduced revenues to the County.

The amended FY21 budget will fund the required Maintenance of Effort (MOE) budget for the Board of Education (BOE), new debt service for the Showell Elementary School, provide funding for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for County and BOE employees as previously committed by using the County's current year local income tax rate increase, and maintain valuable County services by ensuring qualified staff is hired and retained. Most county operating budgets were decreased or level funded, and most requested capital items were removed.

The amended FY21 budget maintains the real property tax rate of 84.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value effective July 1, 2020, and the County's local income tax rate of 2.25%, which became effective January 1, 2020. Worcester County residents will continue to benefit from the lowest income tax rate and the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest real property tax rate as compared to all other counties in Maryland.

### Anticipated General Fund Revenues

Based on the Real Property tax rate of \$0.845, net property taxes increased by \$4,232,386.

The Homestead Credit cap remains unchanged at 3% and is estimated to be \$1,246,265 for the County's qualified principal resident homeowners effective July 1, 2020.

Local Income Tax rate will re-

main at 2.25%. Revenues are anticipated to remain flat based on the current economic uncertainties and the unknown effect of the closure of businesses, those who are unemployed, and the phased-in reopening for businesses and Tourism.

**Other Local Taxes** increased by \$897,000 based on current estimates and includes an increase of \$45,000 in Admission & Amusement taxes, \$500,000 in Transfer Taxes, \$3,000 in Food tax administration and \$338,000 in Recordation Taxes. Effective January 1, 2020 Room Tax increased from 4.5% to 5%. As a result the administration collection increased by \$11,000, and Room Tax receipts increased by \$100,000 for unincorporated areas taking into account the construction and rebuilding of new hotels and the availability of rooms.

**State Shared revenues** increased \$227,094 based upon estimated Highway User Fees from the State by \$31,762 and County 911 fees by \$195,332 based on the Maryland Department of Public Safety's enacted increase of \$.75 for each 911 accessible service rather than per subscriber bill which became effective July 1, 2019.

**Licenses and Permits** will increase overall by \$99,700, based on an increase of \$145,000 for rental license fees and decreases of \$29,000 for the biannual occupational licenses and \$10,000 for vending machine licenses.

Charges for Services decreased overall by \$1,108,711. Increases include \$57,100 and \$127,775 for recreation and special event fees respectively for new programs planned by the Recreation Department. Decreases include \$1,200,000 for Jail use for ICE housing, \$20,000 for Jail work release, \$45,000 for Roads department fees for outsourced contract road work, and \$24,600 for recycling and metal revenue based on market trends.

**Interest on Investments** decreased \$1,050,000 based upon projected rates of return.

**Federal Grants** project an overall increase of \$17,614 due to increased estimates for the Homeland Security Grant revenue.

**State grants** increased \$369,178.

please see **budget** on page 12

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# Lessons learned with voting by mail

By Victor Fernandes

In-person voting for the June 2 Maryland primary unfolded without any real hiccups at Berlin Intermediate School, with the roughly 400 in attendance wearing masks, practicing proper social distancing while waiting in line and needing little time to cast their ballots.

It took an average of about four minutes from start to finish for those Worcester County voters to complete the process. To no one's surprise, President Donald Trump and former Vice President and United States Senator Joe Biden earned nearly unanimous support as the respective Republican and Democratic nominees for the nation's top political office in next November's general election.

According to unofficial results published last Saturday, they tallied 328-of-375 - or 87.4 percent- of in-person votes. The breakdown was nearly identical among voters casting ballots by mail, with Trump and Biden receiving 7,723-of-8,660 votes - or 89.1 percent.

Republican incumbent Andy Harris held a monumental lead for the party's District 1 nominee to the U.S. House of

Representatives, with 83 percent of the 4,820 votes. The margin was much tighter on the Democratic side, with Allison Galbraith leading Mia Mason by fewer than 100 votes. Nominees for the Democratic and Republican national conventions also were on the ballot.

Patti Jackson, Election Director for Worcester County Board of Elections, said last Friday that approximately 12,000 ballots had been returned by mail, which offset the not so unexpected low turnout at the county's lone polling site on election day.

"Historically, not a lot of people vote in a primary," she said. "More people vote in a general [election] than they do in a primary."

Yet voting by mail, which was allowed because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, encountered one noticeable glitch, both across the county and statewide. Jackson said "quite a few" of the county's 42,000 registered voters didn't receive ballots by mail in time, if at all. Published reports indicated that SeaChange, the Minnesota-based vendor contracted by the state, didn't deliver ballots on time. SeaChange officials reportedly claimed delays stemmed from

receiving voter information late from the state.

Local election officials reissued ballots to some voters through the county's Board of Elections office in Snow Hill, Jackson said, while voters who issued last-minute requests received ballots electronically. "We're not sure how the [general] election is going to be conducted in November," Jackson said. "If it is conducted the same way as the primary, I think there's a lot of lessons learned as far as mailing out the ballots, [such as] maybe finding a different vendor because there were multiple problems throughout the state."

Ed Rodier, chairman of the Worcester County Election Commission, called in-person voting "the best solution," and "my gut is going to say, if humanly possible we'll go face-to-face all the way [in November]." Still, voting by mail, as well as utilizing drop-off boxes as the county did at Berlin Intermediate School and the Election Commission's office in Snow Hill, likely will remain a potential option if the pandemic continues into the fall. Jackson said there was a late push from voters placing ballots into drop-off boxes June 1 and 2, with 300-plus ballots received on election day. Mail-in ballots received by Friday will be counted if they were postmarked by June 2.

Still, Jackson was impressed with

how well in-person voting fared on election day. "It was quiet, [and we] really had no problems to speak of," she said. Most people brought masks to wear, she said, while others received masks upon arrival. One voter initially refused to wear a mask, Jackson said, which prompted a telephone call to state election officials because "we went through all this preparation to try and protect everyone. They said maybe we could take a booth outside so he could vote away from the people."

Instead, local officials asked if he would wait for other people ahead of him to vote before casting his ballot. "It wouldn't have taken long because it was a short ballot," Jackson said. "He decided just to wear a mask. So, he did change his mind."

Longer lines and wait times may be the norm in November, when voters head to the polls to elect the nation's next President.

Jackson said election officials may need to consider two polling sites - one each on the northern and southern ends of the county - "to reach more people who would want to vote in person." The county also may need additional drop-off boxes, as well as an earlier start date to mail out ballots if that option is allowed. "I think more people took advantage of voting by mail," Jackson said.

## Golf tournament canceled, but fundraising efforts continue

Organizers last week announced the cancellation of the annual Mary Mac Memorial Golf Tournament in Ocean Pines, but fundraising efforts for the Mary Mac Foundation this year will continue.

Last year, the tournament raised close to \$30,000 for local recreation programs and nonprofits.

Since 2012, the event has raised more than \$125,000 for local and regional charitable causes, according to tournament co-organizer Tim McMullen.

The Mary Mac Foundation, and the tournament, was started to honor McMullen's late wife, Mary McMullen, a Millersville special education teacher and athletics booster who passed away in 2012 of scleroderma after a lengthy illness. She was 64.

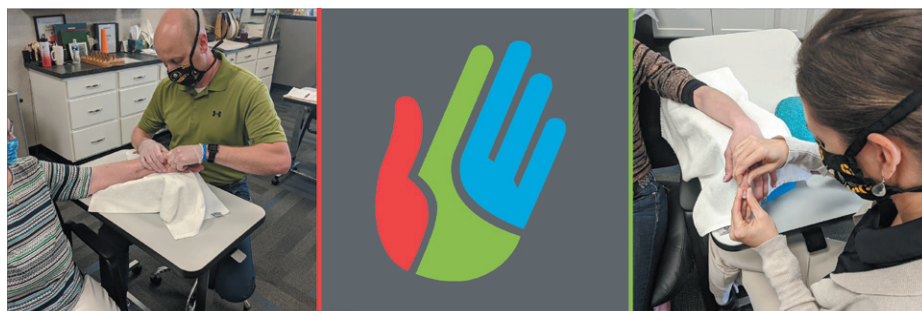
Mary McMullen was also the founder of Ocean Pines' Summer Youth Program, an administrator at the Maryland School for the Deaf, and president of the Booster's Club at Old Mill High School in Millersville.

Tim McMullen, last Tuesday, forwarded the following letter:

*Friends,*

*After consulting with our Board of Directors, volunteers, and the Ocean Pines Golf Club, the 2020 Mary Mac Foundation Golf Tournament has been canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand and share the disappointment that this year's event will not happen. However, it is critical that we consider the safety of our volunteers, golfers, Ocean Pines staff, and the larger community.*

*please see **tournament** on page 11*



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## What's in a name?

Last year I was filling out a government form that requested the name of my boat. I call it *My 20-foot pontoon boat* but that didn't fit into the space on the form. So, I entered the name of my most memorable boat, 'C' Shuttle, and added the suffix, roman number 'II.' 'C' Shuttle brings back fond memories of younger muscles and more discretionary income. She was a beautiful 31' sloop that plowed the waters of Barnegat Bay, NJ, during the waning days of the last century's energy crisis.

Nancy and I thought the name was very clever. It was 1985 and the Space Shuttle was making regular flights. Therefore, Sea Shuttle would have been a cool name but since our last name is Collins, 'C' instead of 'Sea' was even cooler. Unfortunately, we named her 'C' Shuttle in November and the Challenger blew up two months later.

Since it is considered bad luck to change the name of a boat, we kept it despite the fact that her name sake had the worst of all luck.

The practice of appending 'II' to an old name emotes the optimistic expectations for continued fond memories like HMS *Queen Elizabeth II* or "Godfather II" but they have to be a fond memory. Do you think anyone who doesn't have lots of marine insurance would name a boat the *Titanic II*? And when the optimistic expectations fade, it's time to stop the Roman numerals all together before Jason Voorhees makes "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, XIII."

Boat naming says a lot about the owner. A lot of boats are named after girls: *Rebecca-Lynn*, *Tara-Jessica*, *Jezebel*. But like a tattoo that says, "Love forever, Peggy Sue" what do you

*please see knots page 13*



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# Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



## SpaceX flies astronauts to ISS

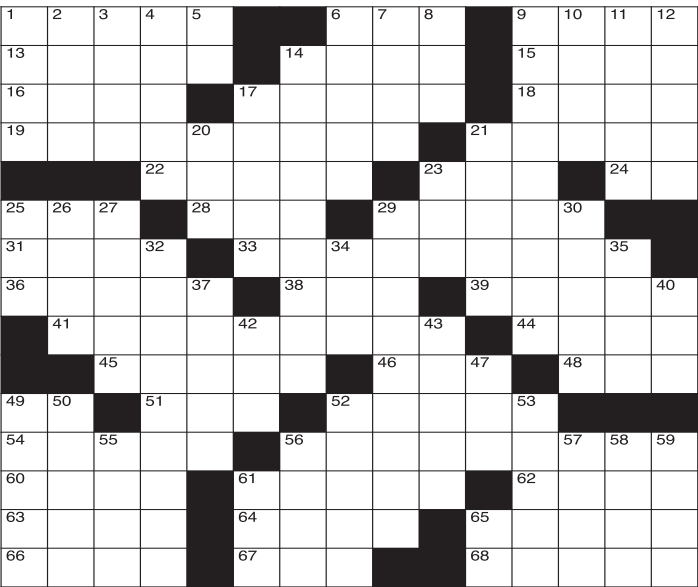
During the final weekend of May, the U.S. celebrated a triumph, as NASA and SpaceX achieved the long-awaited goal of resuming manned flights to the International Space Station (ISS). Although the spotty weather of Wednesday May 27 caused a postponement, on Saturday May 30 the mission successfully blasted aloft. Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken flew aboard the Crew Dragon capsule, powered by the Falcon 9 rocket. Both the rocket and its crew capsule were built by the bold entrepreneur



SpaceX CEO Elon Musk poses alongside his Falcon Rocket

Elon Musk and his company SpaceX. On Sunday, about 19 hours after lift-off, the Crew Dragon craft successfully docked with the ISS. As the astronauts emerged from the air lock into the space station, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine held a welcoming ceremony. Speaking through a TV connection from Mission Control Center in Houston, Bridenstine praised the astronauts and their team's accomplishments, saying: "the whole world saw this mission, and we are so, so proud of everything you have done for our country, and in fact, to inspire the world." Since the Space Shuttle was retired in July 2011, NASA's astronauts have been hitching rides aboard the Russian Soyuz rockets to reach the ISS. With this latest U.S. success, a new alternative is available. Space fans may feel nostalgic, since this mission lifted off from Cape Canaveral's launch pad 39A, the historic site where NASA's Apollo and Space Shuttle missions were launched. In the early eras of the space industry, the government dominated the planning, engineering and building of rockets and spacecraft. Contractors such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin and

Northrop Grumman built and tested rockets based on tried and true blueprints controlled by the federal government. Trusting older designs was the norm, with some schematics dating back to the 1960s. The private corporation SpaceX, which was launched in 2002 by Elon Musk, has successfully introduced major changes into rocket technology. Although Musk may be best known for Tesla cars, his Space X team has made major cost-saving breakthroughs, for example, the recovery and reuse of major rocket components. The SpaceX Crew Dragon flights will cost about \$209 million, compared to the estimated Space Shuttle cost of \$450 million per launch. Prior to this manned mission, SpaceX's Falcon rocket and its Dragon capsule had completed 20 unmanned supply missions to the International Space Station. One of the breakthrough successes pioneered by SpaceX involves recovery of its main stage rocket engines. In the past, the "first stage" elements of rockets have fallen back into the ocean and were never used again. Musk's company has designed first stages which can guide themselves back down to Earth and perform a precision landing. These landings occur either at Cape Canaveral or on specially designed barges at sea. SpaceX first-stage rockets have been recovered in 51 of 61 attempts, an 84% success record. The recovered rocket stages have been refurbished and relaunched a number of



### CLUES ACROSS

1. American composer

6. Very fast aircraft

9. Workplaces

13. A mount on a surface

14. Small freshwater fish

15. Double-reed instrument

16. Canadian flyers

17. Famed astronomer

18. Smooth, shiny fabric

19. Profited

21. Conspiracy

22. Infections

23. Chum

24. Secondary school (abbr.)

25. Resistance unit

28. Sound unit

29. Ancient city of Egypt

31. Crease

33. Polished

36. For goodness \_\_!

38. College basketball tournament
39. Scorches

41. Describe precisely

44. Thick piece of something

45. Frocks

46. Indicates near

48. Senior enlisted US Army member

49. A note added to a letter

51. A nose or snout

52. Clumsy

54. Satisfied to the fullest

56. Display of strong feeling

60. Popular awards show

61. Cuisine style

62. Expresses pleasure

63. Monetary unit of the Maldives

64. Utah city

65. Fight

66. Messenger ribonucleic acid

67. Body part

68. Suspiciously reluctant

### CLUES DOWN

1. Fruit of the service tree

2. At some prior time

3. Mongolian city \_\_ Bator

4. Strongboxes

5. Russian river

6. Gurus

7. Horse mackerel

8. Pearl Jam's debut album

9. Confines

10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year

11. Famed Idaho politician

12. Prevents from seeing

14. Indicate time

17. Male parents

20. Tab on a key ring

21. The Great Dog constellation: \_\_ Major

23. Frying necessity

25. Former CIA

26. The leader

27. Produces
29. London soccer club

30. Closes

32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean

34. Not present

35. Small drink of whiskey

37. Begat

40. Helps little firms

42. Pointed end of a pen

43. Fencing swords

47. Inches per minute (abbr.)

49. Hymn

50. Philippine island

52. Flemish names of Ypres

53. A way to inform

55. Small lake

56. Linear unit

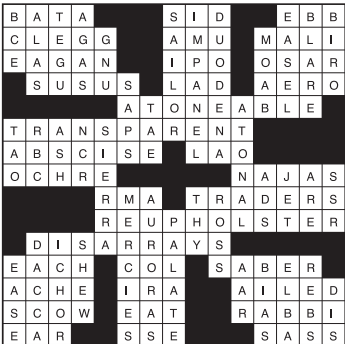
57. Central Japanese city

58. Partially burn

59. Sports award

61. Part of your foot

65. Atomic #21



Answers for June 3



tournament  
from page 8

Last year, we donated nearly \$27,000 to organizations that provide educational and recreational opportunities to youth and adults, including St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, the Ocean Pines Youth program, and Camp Barnes. We also support a scholarship in Mary's name at Severna Park High School.

This would have been the ninth year the Foundation hosted the golf tournament and we set an ambitious goal to make \$30,000 in charitable donations in 2020. However, without proceeds from this year's golf tournament, we will not be able to meet our charitable giving goals for this calendar year.

Many of us have found ourselves asking what Mary would do or say in certain situations. This especially holds true now. Her generosity and unconditional love for her students, family and community bound us together. It is her grace and generosity that guides us and brings us together every year.

We know that this is a difficult time for many, but we ask that if it is still within your means to make a donation to the foundation, please consider doing so. No amount is too small. We will be donating all proceeds to organizations that support low income and homeless

children and their families. A tax-deductible donation can be made to the Mary Mac Foundation at [www.paypal.me/marymacfoundation](http://www.paypal.me/marymacfoundation) or by sending a check payable to the Mary Mac Foundation, 174 Nottingham Circle, Berlin MD, 21811. Please see the attached donation form if you wish to send a donation via check.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
The McMullen, Ansorge and  
Wojciechowski families

P.S. If you cannot make a donation at this time, we also participate in the Amazon Smile program. With every eligible Amazon Smile purchase, 0.5% of the price is donated to the Mary Mac Foundation. Please consider registering the Mary Mac Foundation as your charitable organization today. Click the Amazon Smile logo to get started. And make sure when purchasing through Amazon, to visit the Amazon Smile page so your purchases count!

To download a copy of the letter and donation form, visit <http://www.ocean-pines.org/documents/10184/89280/2020+Mary+Mac+Letter+%25282%2529.pdf>.

For more information on the Mary Mac Foundation, visit [www.marymac.org](http://www.marymac.org).

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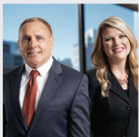
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Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 11	High	12:42 AM
11	Low	7:07 AM
11	High	1:09 PM
11	Low	7:04 PM
F 12	High	1:32 AM
12	Low	7:55 AM
12	High	2:04 PM
12	Low	8:00 PM
Sa 13	High	2:24 AM
13	Low	8:42 AM
13	High	3:00 PM
13	Low	8:57 PM
Su 14	High	3:18 AM
14	Low	9:26 AM
14	High	3:56 PM
14	Low	9:53 PM
M 15	High	4:11 AM
15	Low	10:10 AM
15	High	4:47 PM
15	Low	10:48 PM
Tu 16	High	5:01 AM
16	Low	10:53 AM
16	High	5:33 PM
16	Low	11:41 PM
W 17	High	5:48 AM
17	Low	11:37 AM
17	High	6:17 PM

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can reduce your  
carbon footprint.





**budget**

from page 6

Increases include additional funds of \$139,000 Program Open Space for Parks; \$50,000 Waterway Improvement funds for boat landings; \$155,852 State Aid for Bridges; \$66,547 State Grant for Tourism; and \$126,620 Statewide Special Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) grant for Senior Transportation by the Commission on Aging. Decreases include \$239,000 for State Land and Water Grant in Parks Department only requested in the current year.

Transfers in:

Planned use of Casino/Local Impact Grant funds decreased by \$570,411 as table game revenue is used for the purchase of public safety equipment in the current year to benefit the County.

### **Major Approved General Fund Expenditures**

#### **County Departments and Agencies:**

A summary of significant increases and decreases in approved expenditures include the following:

Other General Government increased by \$267,011

Decreased by \$24,995 in Information Technology network maintenance savings of \$65,000 and \$37,684 more for software maintenance agreements.

Decreased by \$36,472 in the SDAT cost share reimbursement to the State for the operations of the local State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The reimbursement rate of 50% is continued for current year.

Increased by \$330,398 in capital equipment including:

\$15,972 to upgrade the phone system for the State's Attorney building to VOIP (voice over internet protocol), saving the State's Attorney telephone budget \$9,000 annually.

\$314,426 for other capital equipment from the remaining revenue surplus, as a contingency which would be available to replace capital equipment that may fail during the fiscal year. Unspent funds will fall to surplus if not spent during FY21.

**Sheriff's Department** increased by \$168,009

-Increased by \$225,382 in personnel services to include: a full time digital forensic technician by eliminating a part time office assistant, converting

a part time Deputy to full time, additional hours for school crossing guards and a part time investigator. Increased overtime is included for \$56,489.

-Increased by \$112,156 in supplies and materials to replace bullet proof vests, uniforms and law enforcement equipment.

-Decreased by \$180,000 in capital equipment due to the elimination of all capital requests.

**Emergency Services** decreased by \$264,422

-Decreased by \$184,180 in supplies and materials for the following: \$230,961 less in radio supplies and equipment and \$74,652 less for Emergency Management Performance Grant. Increases include \$64,000 to replace AED Units in County buildings, and \$53,392 additional grant funds from the Emergency Number Systems Board.

-Decreased by \$35,650 in maintenance and services, \$19,950 for consulting needed in the current year, and \$13,500 for delayed purchase of vehicle equipment.

-Decreased by \$11,152 for travel and training

-Decreased by \$118,000 in capital equipment due to the elimination of all capital requests.

**Jail** decreased by \$134,208

-Increased by \$187,245 in salaries

-Decreased by \$216,467, with reductions of \$210,000 for inmate food services and pharmaceutical.

-Decreased by \$50,288 in maintenance and services, with decreases of \$89,000 for building operating expenses. Included is an increase of \$39,062 for the medical contract previously approved.

-Decreased by \$54,698 in capital equipment, but includes \$18,302 to upgrade the phone system for the Jail to VOIP, saving the telephone budget \$4,000 annually.

**Fire Company Grant** is included for \$2,520,000 based on the current funding formula and \$321,810 additional funds to continue the baseline minimum of \$250,000 for 10 fire companies.

**Ambulance Grants** increased by \$755,381 for a total of \$5,011,973 based on increased rates for base personnel and additional personnel supplements to Newark and Showell. This also includes funds to cover the Town of Ocean City's expenses for providing EMS services to West Ocean City and to supplement Stockton Fire Department for a full-time paramedic.

LOSAP appropriation increased by \$92,200, with the current year enhancement and retention bonus. The Pilot Paramedic Scholarship Program is included for \$8,000 for a second year to provide 2 scholarships for tuition reimbursement.

**Public Works-** Roads Division decreased by \$255,377

-Increased by \$63,098 in salaries

-Increased by \$25,919 in supplies & materials mainly due to small equipment attachments for vehicles

-Decreased by \$347,000 in capital equipment due to the elimination of capital requests.

**Commission on Aging** increased by \$211,320

=-Increased by \$126,620 for the SSTAP grant for Senior Transportation to be provided by the Commission on Aging rather than Shore Transit.

-Increased by \$88,200 in other charges to include \$50,000 to extend the Community for Life program in the Town of Ocean City and all of Worcester County.

**Recreation** increased by \$306,138

-Increased by \$127,583 in salaries for additional temporary staff to cover increased events

-Increased by \$165,235 in supplies and materials for increased Recreation programs and special events.

-Increased by \$20,870 in other charges for NRPA staff training and Sports Marketing Conferences

**Tourism** increased by \$121,463

-Increased by \$65,913 for the Tourism State Marketing Grant

-Increased by \$46,000 for advertising by combining budgets from Economic Development and Recreation, and \$10,000 for web page enhancements

**Grants to Towns** increased \$205,958

-Increased by \$93,000 for restricted fire grant to the Towns based on the current formula

-Increased by \$122,958 in grants to Towns and includes an additional \$42,854 each to Snow Hill and Pocomoke for infrastructure needs

-Decreased by \$10,000 in Ocean Pines Association grant

**Insurance & Benefits** decreased by \$1,960,376

-Decreased by \$806,384 due to the renewed contract for the County medical and prescription insurance benefit and accounting for the cost-share for new employees

-Decreased by \$1,500,000 for

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for a total of \$5,500,000. Additional OPEB funding is provided to the Board of Education for total County OPEB funding of \$8.1 million in FY21.

-Increased by \$350,063 for Retirement contributions based upon State rates

-Increased by \$36,888 for social security taxes based on the estimated payroll

-Increased by \$42,233 for Workers Compensation insurance

-Increased by \$12,610 in property & liability insurance due to a 3% increase in the premium

-Decreased by \$12,053 for the State's retirement administration fee

-Debt Service increased by \$720,106

-Increased due to the 2019 bond for County projects and existing debt

-Interfund Charges decreased by \$394,893

-Decreased by \$394,893 in Transfer to Reserve given that funds are presently set aside in fund balance to maintain the current 10% reserve based on the approved expense budget

**Salary accounts** increased to include a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for County employees, a step increment of 2.5%, and longevity pay for those eligible

#### **Board of Education**

The County allocation for the BOE's operating budget is \$94,611,239, an increase of \$2,973,533 over the current year adopted budget. as shown below. School construction debt is paid by the County on behalf of the BOE, but this debt is not reflected in the BOE's budget. Instead, construction debt is included in the County's operating budget. The BOE's approved operating budget of \$94,611,239 plus debt service of \$12,494,881 totals \$107,106,120 or 52.4% of the County's total estimated revenue.

Fiscal 2021 County Appropriation is calculated by the escalator provision using the Fiscal 2020 maintenance of Effort (MOE) level of \$91,028,422 as the baseline:

An MOE escalator provision will take effect in FY21 for 2.5%. This provision was enacted as part of 2012 Senate Bill 848, Section 5-202(d)(ii)2 and became effective FY15, but was a negative statewide average in FY15 and FY16. The escalator has affected

please see **budget** on page 13



**space X**  
from page 10

times with no setbacks.

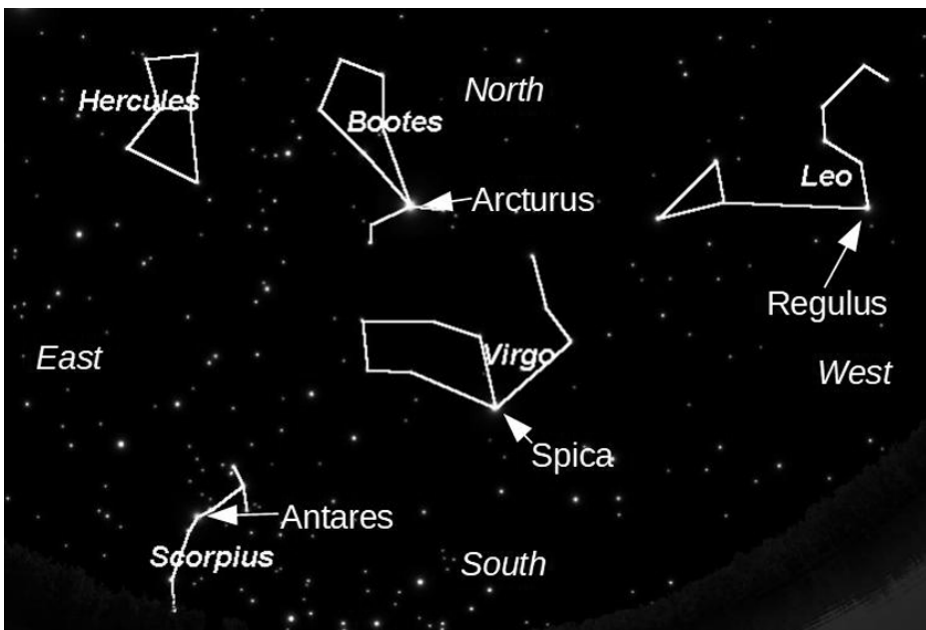
Musk has displayed his sense of levity in the naming of SpaceX components. In May 2012, the Dragon capsule, the first commercial capsule to rendezvous with the ISS, was named after the Peter, Paul and Mary song “Puff, the Magic Dragon.” SpaceX’s fleet of Falcon rockets are named after the fictional “Millennium Falcon” spaceship, commanded by Star Wars’ character Han Solo. The SpaceX specially built ocean-going barge, which provides a landing platform for at-sea recoveries of rockets, has been named “Of Course I Still Love You” (OCISLY). Another style of recovery ship is named “Go Ms.Tree” (pronounce it quickly). This ship

has a large net structure that might be described as a giant version of a trapeze performer’s safety net, and is designed to catch the nose cone fairings, preventing their loss at sea.

Musk is a man with very lofty goals, including building a human settlement on Mars; he hopes also to retire on the red planet. Regardless of whether such goals are achieved, there’s still no doubt about the pivotal contribution SpaceX has made to U.S. space-flight.

As the stars become fully visible at about 9:30 p.m., Leo the Lion appears high in the western sky.

Bootes (boh-OH-teez) the Herdsman is centrally located high overhead. Southwards from Bootes, the star Spica appears in the constellation Virgo the Virgin. Spica is the only bright star in Virgo.



After about 10 p.m., the star Antares and other members of Scorpius the Scorpion begin to appear over the southeastern horizon.

Wishing clear skies and good luck to all stargazers.

**knots**  
from page 9

do when she slips into that ‘fond memories’ category? *Peggy Sue II*?

There is a boat here in Ocean Pines named, *Bravo Zulu*. That is the international signal for a ‘job well done.’



Others express some sequential priority like, *Last One* or *Last Call*. There’s a couple boats named *Second Chance*. I’m afraid to ask what happened to *First Chance* or, more intriguing, why weren’t they named *First Chance II*?

Many names emote the lure of fishing like *Reel Chaos*, *Reel Fun*, *Reel Investigator*, *Reely Movin*, *Got Fish II*, *Fishin Fever*, *My Bait’s Dragon*, *Tail Chaser*, *Hooked Up II*, *Happy Hooker*, and, of course, *Bite Me*.

Some use their boat name to make a mission statement like the pontoon boat over in Ocean City – *It’s got to be 5 O’clock Somewhere* or *Talking Trash*, or *Stalker*, or *Rare Breed* and my favorite, *Broken Wind*.

Other imaginative boat names that

speaking volumes include: “*2 Old 2*, *Vita-min Sea*, *Mucky Waters*, *Rare Breed*, *Bubblehead*, *Never Satisfied*, *Show Time*, and *Short Fuse*. I personally liked Michael Jordon’s boat name, *Catch 23*.

However, this is 2020, the year of the covid-19. Should new boat naming immortalize these seminal times? Do you want to look at your boat in the coming years and say to the world that you were one of the intrepid ones that painted a name on her stern during a pandemic, that you optimistically push forward believing that the light at the end of the tunnel was not a runaway locomotive bearing down on

you?

So, if you’re a souvenir collector and want something to remember that you named your new boat during in the midst of coronavirus outbreak, here are some suggestions:

*Corona V*  
*Corona-nator*  
*Social Distance VI*  
*Six Feet*  
*Mask Man 2020*  
*My Antibody*  
*Floating Quarantine*  
*Washed Hands*  
*Take Out Service*  
*Essential Business*  
*Test-Test-Test*  
*Hot Spot*  
*Drive Thru*  
*Immunity*

*Personal Ventilator*  
*Keepin’ Distant*  
*False Positive*  
*Sequestered*  
*Vaccine*  
*Home School of Fish*

Meantime, keep vigilant. I know that staying six feet apart can save us a fortune in mouth wash and underarm deodorant but I strongly suggest that

you wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds whenever you touch the outside world – for example, after reading this paper. You matter and so does your name.

Happy Father’s Day.

*Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com*

**budget**  
from page 12

FY17-FY21.

MOE requires an increase of \$2,963,717 in FY21 for the following: 47 additional students \$687,997 and 2.5% or \$357.03 for current year enrollment of 6,374 for \$2,275,720.

\*\*FY2021 & FY2020 construction projects for \$633,000 and \$803,055, respectively, are funded through fund balance, and an additional restricted project for \$50,000 is funded through fund balance.

Board of Education Requested Salary Increase:

The BOE budget includes the following salary adjustments for FY21:

The salary package for the BOE reflects a payroll increase of \$2,433,840, which includes a step, longevity step for those eligible, and salary scale adjustments as negotiated with a 2% COLA for Teachers and 2.5% COLA for Support Staff employees. Also included is \$468,104 for 7.5 new positions above MOE, including 2 positions

for behavioral health, and 5.5 positions will be included in Showell Elementary School for the next school year with the transfer of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Berlin Intermediate School.

The bus contracts account increase over FY20 is \$317,098 and reflects a 2% increase to bus contractor’s hourly, mileage and PVA rates effective July 1, 2020 for \$85,098. Also included is the request for several contractors to purchase new buses for \$32,000 and an additional \$200,000 to cover increasing transportation costs for families in transition, after-school and Worcester Technical High School enrollment increases.

Starting Teacher pay will increase 2.0% from \$46,394 to \$47,322.

The total FY2021 Worcester County Education MOE funding per student based on the estimated student population of 6,421 equates to \$14,638.24 per student for \$93,992,139 as compared to total funding as shown below for the estimated total enrollment of 7,015.



**generosity**  
from page 1

So, Reynolds said she plans to “pay it forward” with a generous act that helps someone else in the community. “The only thing you can do in a situation like that,” she said, “is when you see someone else who needs your kindness, you pass it forward.”

But if given the chance, Reynolds would appreciate the honor to thank him in person. For now, she turned to the power of the press to share a heartfelt message about an unexpected gesture that brought joy in the midst of sobering health and financial crises.

“I would say, ‘I don’t know how I could possibly thank you enough for your extraordinary kindness,’” Reynolds said. “The loss of my credit card was stunning at the moment with all the groceries [she needed]. For you to do that has impacted me in such a way that I know I will never forget that moment.’ In the middle of a pandemic, what a kind thing [for him] to do.”

The memory still seems surreal. It will take time to sink in, but it never will be forgotten.

“It’s one of those moments in time that creates an indelible video in your mind that you know you will never forget,” Reynolds said.

**showell**  
from page 3

entrance and the rest of the building that older public schools across the county don’t have. “Those are becoming requirements across our nation because of the times we live in,”



Taylor said. “When [facilities planner Joe] Price and his team put this [project] together, safety was paramount. The way the facility is laid out, and the structure of it even on the

outside of the facility, it’s about the way people enter. Buses will enter in one area. Cars will enter in another. There will be a separate drop-off section that’s not intertwined with a lot. All those have safety values to them.”

The approximately \$90 million project was approved on Nov. 1, 2016 - the day Taylor assumed his current role - while construction began in October 2018. It will move the school district into the future, much like the old school did when it opened 40-plus years ago.

But last week, the school was a shell of its former self - physically, anyway - as demolition of the building continued.

“I won’t miss the physical building itself. All the little memories ... that’s

what I remember,” said Principal Diane Shorts, who has been at the school for 18 years. “I feel like we’re truly a family there. I talk to [the students] about how much we are a family, and I’ve explained to them that the actual building didn’t make us a family. The family comes in with the community - the kids, the parents.”

Cropper still keeps in touch with his elementary school days at Showell. In those days, there was enough room for kids to grow, but times have changed. “It shows you how much the population has grown that the community outgrew the school,” he said.

The old school will always hold a place in the heart of this community. But now, it’s time to focus on the future.

“For the teachers who work in this school, and put up with the lack of space and yet continued to come together every day to educate kids,” Cropper said, “it’s rewarding for them. For the kids to have this brand new state-of-the-art school, it’s amazing. To have the kids inside the school is going to be amazing. All the way around, I think it’s a winner for everybody in the community.”

*Photos by Victor Fernandez*

**pools**  
from page 1

loungers,” Phillips said. “Personal chairs are also allowed at the Beach and Yacht Club pools, if you prefer not to sit in a regular chair provided with the tables.”

Pool noodles and other swim equipment will not be provided by Ocean Pines, but guests may bring their own.

All pools will be restricted to residents-only at this time, to help comply with the current safety standards.

There will not be any changes to pool memberships or other fees related to Aquatics.

“Pool memberships do not guarantee you will get into the pool,” Phillips said. “However, you will receive first opportunity to reserve time slots.”

The following is a brief overview of current procedures, times and opening dates:

**Pool Opening Dates:**  
Yacht Club Pool: June 5  
Beach Club Pool: June 6  
Swim and Racquet Club Pool:

June 12  
Mumfords Landing Pool: June 17  
Sports Core Pool: TBD; details to be announced at a later date

**New pool procedures:**  
Masks are required upon entering the pool, and while walking around deck and utilizing the restrooms. Aquatics staff will post requirements at entry points.

Baby pools and splash pads will not open, per Maryland Heath Department guidelines.

**Reservation System:**  
Pool members may call between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day to reserve a spot for the following day.

Residents may call between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. each day to reserve a spot for following day.

Guests may call the interested pool in the morning to check for openings that day.

Reservations will only be taken by phone through the main Aquatics office at the Sports Core Pool. No email reservations will be taken.

Each guest will be limited to one

time slot per day.

Reservations require names, addresses, phone numbers and time of visit, in case there is a need to reach guests after finding out someone is infected with COVID-19.

Reservations may be made for individuals, couples, or immediate family members only.

All people on the reservation must be present, prior to pool entry.

If reservations are not claimed within 20 minutes of the selected time slot, that reservation will be given to the next person waiting.

All policies are subject to change at any time.

For reservations, call the Sports Core Pool office ONLY at 410-641-5255 or 410-936-0325

**Pool Schedules:**  
Mumfords Landing and Yacht Club pools:  
9 a.m. to noon - 1st Time Slot  
Noon to 12:30 p.m. - disinfect surfaces  
12:30-3:30 p.m. - 2nd Time Slot  
3:30-4 p.m. - disinfect surfaces

4-6:30 p.m. - 3rd Time Slot  
6:30 p.m. to close - disinfect surfaces

Beach Club Pool  
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - 1st Time Slot  
1:30-2 p.m. - disinfect surfaces  
2-6 p.m. - 2nd Time Slot  
6 p.m. to close - disinfect surfaces

Swim and Racquet Club Pool  
7-10:15 a.m. - reserved for Swim Team  
10:15-11 a.m. - disinfect surfaces  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - 1st Time Slot  
2-2:30 p.m. - disinfect surfaces  
2:30-5:30 p.m. - 2nd Time Slot  
5:30 p.m. to close - disinfect surfaces

\*The Swim and Racquet Club Pool will have three lap lanes set up for lap swimmers.

Exercise classes at pools are being scheduled and will be announced, shortly.

For more information or questions, contact Phillips at [cphillips@oceanpines.org](mailto:cphillips@oceanpines.org).



**financials**  
from page 4

unanticipated challenges," he said.

Viola added that the April financial report was likely to be made public by the end of the week.

In brighter news, Viola said the fiscal 2019/2020 year-end estimate shows the Association well ahead, by more than \$570,000. He said Recreation and Parks, General Maintenance, Public Works, Beach Parking, the Beach Club, Marinas and the Yacht Club all finished well ahead of budget. The Yacht Club, in particular, finished more than \$200,000 ahead, despite budget estimates showing a \$100,000 loss.

"Good job there, as well as everybody else," Viola said.

Treasurer Larry Perrone, later during the meeting, added a note of caution about the likely effect of COVID-19 on the 2020/2021 budget.

"As the chief financial officer, I want to make sure everybody un-

derstands what we're talking about dollar wise and the impact on the assessments," he said. "What I need to make sure everybody understands now, and the community understands ... [is that] we believe overall, our operational loss this year could be in the \$1.5 to \$2 million area.

"We don't know for sure, but we certainly know it's going to be a large number," Perrone added. He also said the potential impact on assessments — at worst — could top \$200.

Association President Doug Parks then tried to reassure Ocean Pines homeowners. He said Perrone was offering a worst-case scenario, and that any deficit incurred would likely not have to be repaid all at once.

"I just want to make sure that everybody [understands] ... those are projections," Parks said. "We've had a deficit before — and we didn't make it up in a single year.

"I think the numbers are good,

but those numbers ... are outliers," he continued. "It's important to know the numbers. It's important to know what kind of parameters we're using as we go through our decision-making process. They're not final numbers, but I think it's good so the public understands we've vetted this. We've gone through it.

"We're in uncharted waters right now, so we're doing our best to make sure that we cover all our bases and we get as much information as possible," Parks said.

He said everyone was doing their part — from Director Camilla Rogers researching legal opinions, to financial and operational data supplied by Viola and Perrone, and the oversight provided by the Board.

"Combined, we're in a pretty good position — given these circumstances. Are we going to lose money? Are we going to come in on the red in our budget next year? Yes we will — plain and simple," Parks said.

"Rather than worry about it, our best approach is to manage it ... and understand that we have to put our best effort forward to make sure that we do whatever possible ... to try to minimize those intended losses.

"I just want to make sure that those listening ... don't take those numbers and run away scared. Take those numbers as saying, 'Here are the parameters that we're looking at and the kinds of things we have to think through when we arrive at a decision,'" he added.

To view a video of the meeting, visit <https://youtu.be/zulxbp1wp1U>.

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

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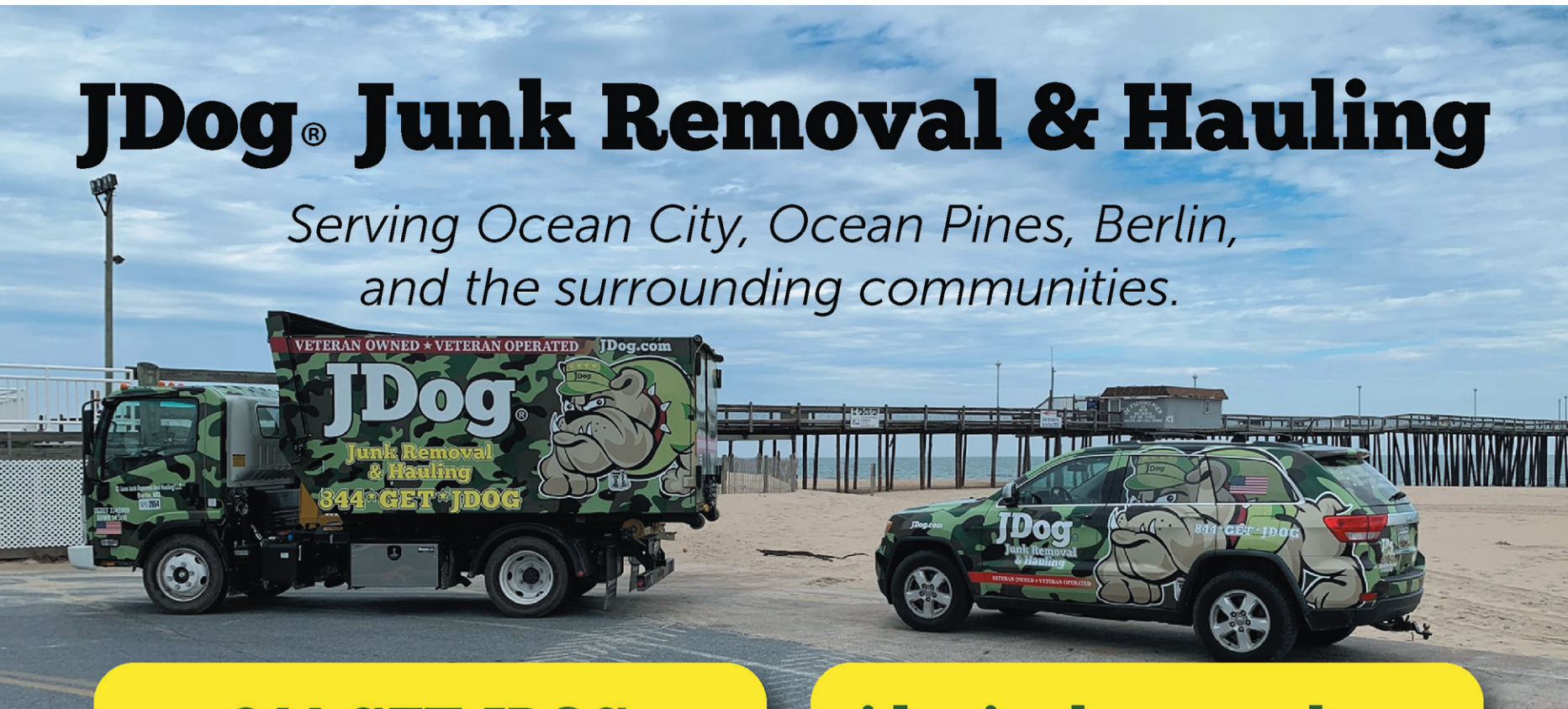
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