

Incumbents, newcomer vie for spots on OPA Board

By **Victor Fernandes**

Times have changed since Doug Parks last campaigned for one of two open seats on Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors in 2017. There were 11 candidates for two seats then, with Parks and Dr. Colette Horn outlasting nine others on the lengthy ballot.



Doug Parks



Colette Horn



Stuart Lakernick

Their respective paths to another three-year term this summer features much less traffic. With Dr. Stuart Lakernick as the only other candidate on the ballot, Parks and Horn may have the inside track to complete a seven-member committee that Horn said has moved past “the drama and vitriol that has been historically present” by blending unique perspectives and solid teamwork.

“I’ve heard in the community that people are really happy with this board,” said Horn, who served as board secretary for the past two and half years. “Perhaps in the past people have run because they felt they needed to fix something [because] there’s something going wrong on the board. That’s certainly why I ran [in 2017]. I saw things that were not going the way they should be, and I felt I had the skills and background that would serve to help correct some of those things. I think when people are

happy with the board, they’re less motivated to run because they’re happy with the way things are going.”

Lakernick, a functional neurologist, chiropractor and community activist from Pennsylvania who lives part time in Ocean Pines, said he’s shocked at being the lone non-board member to enter the election. He appreciates what the board has accomplished in recent years, namely with the community’s past financial struggles. Still, Lakernick said he can provide a new perspective on old issues.

“I want to continue that forward progress,” he said. “I think with me you’re going to get a fresh set of eyes that may have a different perspective on some of these issues and find a better way to respond

*please see **candidates** page 8*



*Ocean Pines Parke resident **Karen Kaplan** enjoying her garden.*

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Directors discuss short term rentals

After some debate, Ocean Pines Board members on Wednesday agreed to further study the issue of short-term rentals in the community, rather than take immediate action.

That decision was made easier, in part, because Board members said the county had already levied fines against several problem properties.

Short-term rentals — and specifically complaints related to noise, trash and other disturbances — were the subject of a previous meeting, when Board members discussed a rental on Abbysshire Road.

During a regular Board meeting on Wednesday night, Director Frank Daly introduced a motion “to direct legal counsel to develop the wording necessary to amend the Declarations of Restrictions in all sections to ban rentals of less than one week and once established to place that question before all homeowners in a Referendum vote.”

Daly said there are roughly 180 homes in Ocean Pines listed on rental websites like Airbnb and VRBO, that

“are embraced by a number of homeowners and detested by others.”

He added Worcester County legislation related to short-term rentals was “largely voluntary” in terms of registration and the county “lacks funding for enforcement.” He later suggested county regulations have “been largely ineffective in handling the problems in a timely manner,” and that municipalities in Worcester can pass and enforce their own zoning laws but Ocean Pines, as a homeowners association, cannot.

“The number of homeowner complaints last summer and the number of homeowners that ascribe to these rental programs makes this a community-wide issue that justifies a referendum,” Daly said.

Daly admitted changing the Declarations of Restrictions might be a hard sell, and said he would also introduce a related motion to ask the county for text amendments.

please see rentals on page 12

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Remember safety when heading to the beach

By Colby Phillips

As someone who spent over 25 years with the Ocean City Beach Patrol, I can say there have been many things I have witnessed and been a part of that to this day I will never forget. As we approach the start of the busiest time of the summer, I want to share some safety reminders if you head to the beach: Ten years ago I held the end of an umbrella sticking out of a ladies thigh while the paramedics sawed the top off after it blew down the beach.

Twenty-five years ago, I was on the scene while the fire/paramedics tried to locate a 12-year-old boy who dug a tunnel in the sand with his friends and it collapsed. When the boys went for help they forgot where the exact spot was. He died after 45 minutes of being under the sand from suffocation and was found almost 90 minutes later.

I came to the beach too many times the morning after to start my shift when a family on vacation lost their child or husband for swimming when the guards were off duty. I was involved in CPR a few times on someone who dove headfirst into the ocean and became an instant paraplegic. I watched the aftermath of a Crew Chief on our Beach Patrol give CPR to his best friend who was struck by lightning on his four-wheeler trying to get people off the beach who wouldn't lis-

ten during a storm (he lived - thank God).

My post is not to scare anyone. My post is to educate. Please take your umbrella down on a very windy day. Make sure it is secure in the sand. There is a reason holes on the beach are only allowed to be dug to the smallest person in your group's knees (the story above is just one of many of those types of incidents). And please fill it in when you leave. When the guards blow you out of the water at 5:25 to let you know they are leaving at 5:30, stay out.

Trust me when I say Mother Nature is stronger than you. (local surfers - thank you for the many rescues you have done before and after hours). Do

not run and dive into the ocean, especially without checking the depth of water you are diving into. And if there is a bad shore break, don't use a boogie board or body surf. Not sure if the shore break is bad? Ask the lifeguard. And please if the guards blow you off the beach for an upcoming storm, leave. And do not sit under your umbrella. An entire family was killed before my guarding days sitting under an umbrella in the inlet. Automatic lightning rod.

Give your children a good identification spot of where you are on the beach. When they move with the current, that "orange" umbrella looks like everyone else's. Also, let them know to go to a lifeguard if they get lost. 100%

of our lost children have been found and located by our awesome beach patrol and Ocean City Police Department. Remind them to never leave the beach if lost. Many of the hand signals you see the guards doing with the flags are on lost and found children.

There are none right now, but if you get a jellyfish sting, rub wet sand on the area. Also, guards carry sting kill for those as well as bee stings, band-aids, etc.

Oh, and wear your sunblock and hydrate!!!

When in doubt, ask a lifeguard. That's what they are there for.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Tournament to support Mary Mac Foundation

Hoping to make up some fundraising ground lost to COVID-19 postponements, the Mary Mac Foundation this week announced plans for a charity pickleball tournament, scheduled next month in Ocean Pines.

Foundation co-founders Tim and Don McMullen previously announced the cancelation of the ninth annual charity golf tournament, because of the pandemic. However, the McMullens said they still hope to raise \$30,000 to keep their pledge to area youth groups, who annually receive donations from the Mary Mac Foun-

ation.

Enter pickleball tournament organizers Daryl and Cathy Noble, and Frank Kramer, who came up with the idea for the inaugural "Mary Mac Foundation Pickleball Beach Fest."

"We had made \$30,000 in commitments to youth groups, and the [foundation] board of directors met and decided we still have to fulfill their commitments," Tim McMullen said. "And, on their own, Daryl, Cathy and Frank stepped up with the idea for the tournament. And I was deeply humbled."

The Mary Mac Foundation each year raises funds for local and regional youth programs to honor Mary McMullen (1948-2012), a special education instructor at Severna Park High School and Ruth Eason School in

Millersville, Maryland. During the 1970s, she also helped established the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

Programs supported by the foundation include Camp Barnes, a residential camp in Frankford, Delaware for low-income children, and Camp St. Vincent de Paul in Baltimore, an organization offering eight-week summer camps for homeless children. The foundation also supports summer youth recreation programs in Ocean Pines.

The Mary Mac Foundation Pickleball Beach Fest is scheduled Saturday, August 8 beginning at 8 a.m. Scattered start times are possible and the rain date is Sunday, August 9. The tournament will have a round-robin format

please see tournament on page 8

Random snippets

- Coca-Cola originally contained cocaine
- The Internet was originally called ARPANet (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) designed by the US department of defense
- The first Burger King was opened in Florida Miami in 1954
- Australia was originally called New Holland
- In 1878 the first telephone book made contained only 50 names
- Coca Cola launched its 3rd product Sprite in 1961
- Paper originated from China
- Instant coffee was invented in 1901
- The word 'testify' derived from a time when men were required to swear on their testicles
- Tennis was originally played with bare hands
- The Olympic flag was designed in 1913
- The electric toothbrush was invented in 1939
- Isaac Newton invented the cat door.



-didyouknows.com

Courier Almanac

On July 8, 1776, a 2,000-pound copper-and-tin bell now known as the "Liberty Bell" rang out from the tower of the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, summoning citizens to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Four days earlier, the historic document had been adopted by delegates to the Continental Congress, but the bell did not ring to announce the issuing of the document until the Declaration of Independence returned from the printer on July 8.

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Seasons of life

A couple weeks ago, fathers were honored with a special day, Father's Day. As a father myself, it's a day I look forward to. I have three children by birth and two children mar-

ried in. So, by my calculations, I have five children. I just happened to be standing beside the car when she was ready to leave so she asked me to join her. We had a very pleasant dinner topped off with cupcakes my daughter-in-law bought to celebrate Father's Day ... er ... my wife accepting



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

ried in. So, by my calculations, I have five children.

I never want a fuss made over Father's Day, much like I don't want a fuss made over my birthday. But, try as I might, through the years, a routine has evolved. I wait by the phone for each of my children to call or text me good wishes and to share their gratitude for having me as their father. Not that it's a contest but points are earned for timeliness, creativity, originality and sincerity. It's not unusual that by the time I awake in the morning a voice mail or a text or two is waiting for me. Every once in a while, one of my kids will call at 12:01 a.m., waking me up to express good tidings, ensuring they are the first to reach me and to gain bragging rights over the others. A couple of the kids, one in particular, just enjoys waking me up.

I'm ambivalent about gifts. They are not required. But should a gift be sent my way, I'm most grateful and make a note of it for reference when I update my will. This year, my daughter sent me a half dozen cannoli from Termini Brothers in Philadelphia. Duly noted. That's why she's the favorite.

Some of my children have a not-

so-nice streak about them. For example, one of my sons called me Father's Day and asked to speak with his mother. He invited *her* to dinner and said she could bring a plus one. I just happened to be standing beside the car when she was ready to leave so she asked me to join her. We had a very pleasant dinner topped off with cupcakes my daughter-in-law bought to celebrate Father's Day ... er ... my wife accepting their dinner invitation.

It should be noted that my son-in-law and daughter-in-law have always made sure to wish me a good day. That's why they rank high on my list, sometimes higher than the original three.



Passing through the seasons of life, single, married, father and now grandfather, there's much more reflection and appreciation on my part, especially about family time. The prospect of becoming a father frightened me until I held for the first time my first child. What I've learned through the years is that much about being a father is riding as steady as possible through the waves of life, enjoying the calm and enduring the rough. I've also real-

ized that as kids grow up, they take notice of how a father reacts to life situations. They learn what to do and they sometimes learn what not to do. Fathers teach through words and actions as well as sometimes just listening.

There have certainly been times through the years when my kids tested my patience, boxed-kicked my last nerve and made my hair turn prematurely silver. At the time the intensity of those situations burned hot, sometimes white hot, but time passes and all that remains are story cues that begin with, "Remember when..." which is sometimes followed by a laugh or two – but only after enough time has passed.

One of the payoffs for enduring fatherhood, is that one day you may become a grandfather, and let me tell you, if you don't already know, that's heaven on Earth. Grandchildren in many ways are better than children in that I have no responsibility for educating them, paying for braces or making sure a bedtime is enforced. My only responsibility is to enjoy them. And I do.

My grandchildren are spending their summer rotating between their grandparents' homes; one week with

my wife and me and one week with their other grandparents. On a recent Saturday the kids and I spent the afternoon on the boat behind Assateague, just the three of us. I sat on the beach watching them swim, look for seashells and jump off the bow of the boat. I couldn't help remember the times when it was their mother and uncles swimming, looking for seashells and jumping off the bow of the boat. Those times seem like only yesterday.

My mind drifted as I sat watching these two children enjoying themselves, giggling and running around. When it's their time to sit on the beach watching their children or grandchildren, I hope they look back fondly on the times they had with their grandfather. Just to be sure, I plan on being there, sitting next to them, reminding them.

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NEWS, LIFE AND POLITICS
Ocean Pines, Maryland

Carozza responds to BPW actions, state budget cuts

Senator Mary Beth Carozza issued the following statement after the July 1 Board of Public Works meeting where state budget cuts were approved to offset the economic impact of COVID-19. Also approved by the Board was a project to support bringing natural gas to Somerset County, and funding for additional District 38 projects. The Board of Public Works is composed of Governor Larry Hogan, Comptroller Peter Franchot, and Treasurer Nancy Kopp, who are responsible for ensuring that significant state expenditures are carried out in a lawful, fiscally-responsible way.

The Board of Public Works voted to cut \$413.17 million from Maryland's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget in order to offset the economic impact of COVID-19. Proposed cuts to State salaries were not voted on during the July 1 meeting, but they were deferred to a future meeting for further discussion.

"COVID-19 has caused catastrophic damage to the entire American economy with dramatic decreases in State revenues. Maryland's road to economic recovery means that necessary and painful budget cuts and decisions will need to be made now and in the future," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza who is a former member of the House Appropriations Committee.

The Department of Budget and Management noted that the fiscal and economic impacts of COVID-19 are worse than the Great Recession, with higher unemployment claims and revenue losses reported. The Rainy Day Fund has not been fully used, and the State has been able to utilize over \$400 million in federal funding to provide assistance for education, eviction prevention, and small business relief.

Senator Carozza joined with Somerset County and other officials to thank the Board of Public Works (BPW) for approving the Maryland Environmental Service's plans to support bringing natural Gas to Somerset County by replacing the current co-generation plant at Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) and the fuel-oil and propane system currently serving the University of

Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

"I consistently have supported local efforts to bring natural gas to this region of the Shore," Senator Carozza said. "The availability of natural gas in Somerset County has been a top economic development priority of local residents and businesses for over 25 years and this supports environmentally-sensitive economic growth as it replaces the dirtier fuels currently in use."

The Maryland Environmental Service entered into a Gas Service Agreement in 2019 to deliver natural gas to ECI in Westover and UMES in Princess Anne by September 2021. Under a separate contract, the facility will complete the necessary fuel conversion and interconnection tasks.

Also approved by the Board of Public Works was a request from the Maryland Department of the Environment for \$23,000 to the Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc. for the Princess Anne Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal Upgrade; a request from the Department of Natural Resources to grant \$67,500 of Program Open Space funding for the acquisition of 26.75 acres in Somerset County to be managed by the Maryland Forest Service for the production of sustainable forest products; and a request from the Maryland Environmental Trust to ratify the donation of a perpetual conservation easement in Marion Station, Somerset County.

Senator Carozza thanked the Department of Natural Resources for allocating money from the Maryland Waterway Improvement Fund to District 38 projects in an effort to enhance public boating access and water safety. The funding for Somerset County includes \$75,000 for Crisfield County Dock repairs, \$150,000 to replace the Rumbley County Dock, \$2 million for Somerset Cove Marina structure replacement, and \$100,000 to replace bulkhead and finger piers at St. Peter's Creek Marina in Princess Anne. Funding for Worcester County includes \$250,000 to install finger piers for boat slips at Public Landing in Snow Hill.

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Changes made to Promise Scholarship

During the 2020 legislative session, changes were made to the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship program. The program was initiated two years ago to make a community college educa-

tion more affordable. This year's changes eliminated the service obligation and the age requirement in an effort to offer more students the opportunity to be eligible for up to \$5,000 a year to attend a commu-

nity college.

Eligible students include those who are high school graduates or GED recipients in Maryland; have a high school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.3 on a 4.0 scale; enroll full time with at least 12 credits per term in a credit certificate or associate degree program, or enroll in a sequence of non-credit courses that leads to licensure or certification; and have an annual adjusted gross income of not more than \$100,000 for those who are single or living in a single-parent household or \$150,000 for those who are married or living in a two-parent household.

The scholarship is "last-dollar" funding, which means that students must apply for federal, state and other financial aid, and all other financial aid must be awarded before these scholarship funds are provided. Students are required to re-apply every year.

Applicants who listed a four-year institution on their Free Application

for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Maryland State Financial Aid Application, who now plan to attend a community college, can change their school of choice prior to the deadline of July 31.

Full regulations for the scholarship, as well as instructions on how to change the school of choice can be found at the Maryland Higher Education Commission website at <https://mhec.state.md.us>, by typing "promise" in the search box.

For more information or assistance, contact Amanda Messatzia, director of student success at WorWic Community College, at amesatzia@worwic.edu or 410-334-2993.

Golf outing canceled

The Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club Foundation Endowment golf outing scheduled for August 7 has been canceled. The club looks forward to hosting the event in August 2021.

tournament
from page 4

based on skill level, with alternating partners.

The cost to enter is \$30, per person.

For questions or to register, email OPSummerClassic@gmail.com.

Checks may be made payable to: Mary Mac Foundation, 174 Nottingham Lane, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

To pay online, visit marymac.org.

Along with the pickleball tournament, McMullen said members of the Ocean Pines Golf and Racquet Sports community, upon hearing news that the annual golf event was canceled, have already pledged to aid the foundation.

That support, he said, should help the foundation come close to its fundraising goals, despite not being able to host what has become its signature event.

"It's because of the generosity of this great community that we are going to be able to fulfill many of our commitments," McMullen said. "I just think it's fantastic, and it means that people understand that the purpose of the foundation is to help homeless and low-income kids. It's always a problem within our society but, now, with the pandemic, it's more important than ever.

"All of this is just a testament to the fact that this community that we live in is so special. It's full of wonderful people and it's just a great community to live in," he added.

candidates
from page 1

to them. I love this town."

Ballots were set to be mailed to voters this week, and they must be returned to the Ocean Pines Administration Building by the end of business hours on August 5. Ballots are counted and announced on August 7 in Ocean Pines Community Center's East Room.

Parks, who has served as board president since August 2017, will join Horn and Lakernick in officially learning their fate the following day, when results are validated during the annual membership meeting in the community center's Assateague Room.

Parks and Horn are confident the board's body of work the past three years will be the deciding factor in their favor.

An operating budget mired in a \$1.6 million deficit three years ago ended the last fiscal year with a \$500,000 surplus. Projects consistently have finished at or under budget, Horn said, while the hiring of John Viola as the homeowners association's general manager in February 2019 has

complemented a now stable board and added to the overall progress being made.

"We need to make sure we continue an upward trend," Parks said, "[with] this area of understanding of what needs to be done with the operation from a budget perspective and a long-term planning perspective. Those are the things we looked at and stabilized."

"In the end," Parks added, "the seven of us are working very well together. Nobody takes it personally if you disagree with them. I think that's been a very welcome change to the makeup of the board. You've got seven different people right now with different perspectives that meld together, and I think that's absolutely made a change for the positive. People for the most part are satisfied with where we are right now. I think that's reflective of the fact that there are three candidates and two of them are incumbents."

Lakernick pointed to the pressing issues surrounding drainage in the community.

"Some [owners] were getting raw sewage [in their homes] after a big rain," he said. "They need to be

replaced, and they need more help in public works, where we can have a dedicated crew doing all the swales and the ditches and we don't have that."

Lakernick also said he can turn to his medical background to provide solutions to pandemic-related challenges.

"I've gotten a lot of good positive feedback," he said. "I'm confident that I can make a positive change."

The board also needs to prepare for Viola's potential departure as general manager in two years, as his contract expires on June 30, 2022. "I want to make sure our board develops a succession plan," Horn said, "and begins the process of ensuring that we have viable options for Mr. Viola's replacement, assuming that there may not be an extension to that date. Over these past two and half years, we have learned much about the characteristics that make for successful leadership of our organization, and I would like to see us consider all options for securing a successor to our current GM."

Parks and Horn said they still have the passion and experience to

represent residents of the Ocean Pines community.

"I have the interest and the energy and the knowledge having been on the board for two and half years," Horn said. "Nothing can really replace experience on the board. That's something that adds value, particularly on a board that has been functioning well. I'm willing to make that commitment, and I'm happy to make that commitment, for another three-year term."

Said Parks, "I've been blessed with the ability to have that desire and that focus, and I think that's my responsibility to use that and give back to the community. That's really what keeps me going. I'm really excited and looking forward to hopefully [another term]."

Ultimately, Parks said, continuity is the ultimate goal. "We've got the right kind of people in there [on the board]," he said, "and I'm really excited to continue to work with the folks we have on the board right now because we're a very good group. That difference of opinion, that different diversity, adds to the overall benefit that we can share amongst one another."

OC Air Show rescheduled

The 2020 OC Air Show has been rescheduled for August 15-16 over the beach and boardwalk of Ocean City, it was announced late last week by show officials.

The U.S. Air Force has scheduled the F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lighting II and A-10 Thunderbolt II demonstration teams to perform at the event.

“This will be the one of the first times aviation fans can see a demonstration of the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lighting II stealth fighters at the same event,” said Bryan Lilley, chairman of the OC Air Show. “We are also eagerly anticipating the release of the Thunderbirds’ updated schedule and we’re hopeful they will be performing as well.”

Originally scheduled for the second weekend of June, the show was postponed due to COVID-19. To that end, show officials will be working with the Town of Ocean City to implement a series of “Stay Safe and Separate Initiatives.” This will help ensure the safety of spectators at the rescheduled August event. For more

details please visit <https://ocairshow.com/>

“The stage for the OC Air Show is 10 miles wide and 1,000 feet high,” said Lilley. “Spectators can watch from their backyard, balcony, boat or the beach, making it the ideal event for the Ocean City community to host in the era of social distancing.”

To receive the latest updates on the rescheduled event as soon as they become available please subscribe to the email newsletter at [OCAirShow.com](https://ocairshow.com/) or follow the event Facebook page.

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Pandemic precautions for boaters

We've reopened Maryland's waters! Recreational boating is back! Happy Days are here again! There is nothing to fear but fear itself! Dam the torpedoes, full speed ahead! Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes! Praise the lord and pass the ammunition!

But in the words of Lee Corso, "NOT so fast."

The novel coronavirus has not yet been defeated. A second wave is still predicted for next flu season and vaccines are still in research. In the meantime, ventilator supplies are growing, convalescent plasma transfusions are being administered, and other on-the-shelf drugs like Dexamethasone (a steroid) are being repurposed to successfully treat the virus in some cases. We will eventually get the upper hand on this covid-19 rascal but, for now, it's still a holding action and it's everybody's fight.

Another quote comes to mind: "We have met the enemy and he is us." My biggest concern is the isolated pockets of covid-19 surge that we are seeing where people let down their guard. Whether it is a party in Florida or a barbeque in Texas, fourteen days later people are saying, "Oops!"

This is not the time to lose the momentum we gathered during our stay-at-home quarantine. Maryland has done a pretty good job at keeping its citizens safe but I'm sure Governor Hogan will shut down recreational boating (or any other hot spot) in a New York minute if we turn our waters into another Texas barbeque.

In order to minimize the threat, we need to make every effort to keep ourselves and fellow boaters safe. Last week I observed eight teenage boys having a good time on a twenty-two foot boat. Stripped to the waist, they were enjoying Senior Week in Isle of Wight Bay like their big brothers have for years. There were no masks, no gloves, and no social distancing. They were oblivious to the danger, a barbeque waiting to go "Oops."

Sunscreen and water consumption will not be enough to keep you safe in 2020. A life jacket is not a surgical gown. The condensation on the side of

your soda can is not hand sanitizer.

Most of us have little experience with pandemics so our remedial responses have an element of trial and error but we have to push forward with the best available thinking. You may want to consider your own boat's preparedness to mitigate the novel coronavirus threat. Here are a couple proposed practices that the USCG Auxiliary is considering to keep our boat crews safe when we are once again permitted to patrol our Ocean City waters:

For the duration of the threat, Auxiliary facilities will carry additional pandemic specific safety gear that will include: disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, 13 gallon disable trash bags, and a supply of disinfectant (e.g. a quart of bleach).

Auxiliary facility owner must sanitize his/her boat before the crew may board.

All crew must pass a temperature test before boarding the facility.

Everyone must wear a mask and disposable gloves while underway.

Every effort to maintain six feet separation must be made while underway.

The radio mike and helm must be sanitized whenever a different person handles them.

Everyone is responsible for his/her water and food.

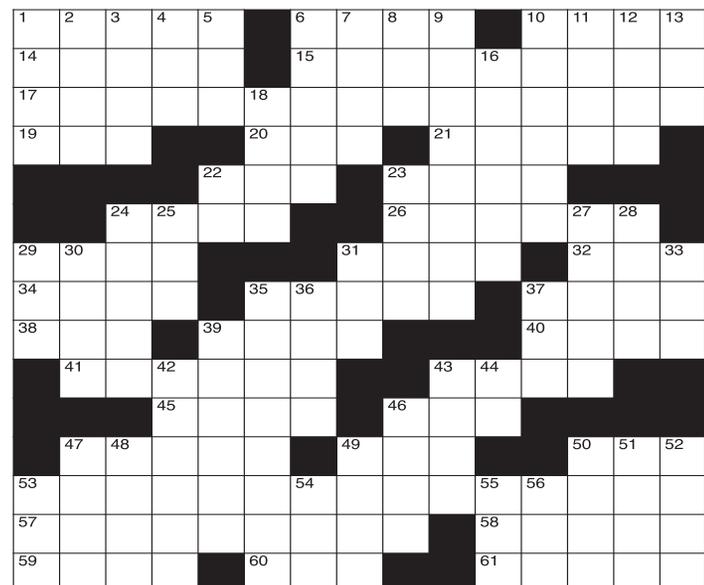
A risk analysis re-evaluation is required after every physical contact with another boat to determine whether it is safe to continue the patrol.

All crew are required to launder their uniforms and mask after every patrol.

If a crew person contracts the coronavirus, all personnel that have been in contact with him/her must stand down for 14 days and test 'negative' before going on future patrols.

On water operations will minimize contact with other boats and mariners. Search and Rescue towing operations will be limited to stern tow only (no side tows). All lines and gear used in a towing evolution will be quarantined in a clean disposable trash bag after

please see precautions on page 11



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Cyprinids | 37. S. American plants |
| 6. Icelandic literary works | 38. Time zone |
| 10. Break in half | 39. Deviate |
| 14. Japanese mushroom | 40. No longer are |
| 15. Have offspring | 41. Moving in slowly |
| 17. Not feeling well | 43. Patrick and Glover are two |
| 19. A very large body of water | 45. Living quarters |
| 20. Witch | 46. Taxi |
| 21. Behemoth | 47. Pancake made of buckwheat flour |
| 22. Speak negatively of | 49. Swiss river |
| 23. Absence of difficulty | 50. Not happy |
| 24. Pampering places | 53. Have surgery |
| 26. Drives | 57. Formal withdrawal |
| 29. Truck that delivers beer | 58. Give way to anxiety |
| 31. Makes | 59. Greek war god |
| 32. A team's best pitcher | 60. 2K lbs. |
| 34. ___ Carvey, comedian | 61. Word of farewell |
| 35. Seas | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. ___ ex Machina | 30. Elvis backup singer Betty Jane |
| 2. WWII diarist Frank | 31. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan |
| 3. Concluding passage | 33. Midway between east and southeast |
| 4. Supplement with difficulty | 35. Most excellent |
| 5. Title of respect | 36. Heat units |
| 6. Cubic measures | 37. Possess legally |
| 7. Remnant | 39. Food items |
| 8. ___ Jones | 42. Skeletal structures |
| 9. Salts of acetic acid | 43. Challenge to do something bold |
| 10. Long, upholstered seat | 44. Blood type |
| 11. Capital of Okinawa Prefecture | 46. Sammy ___, songwriter |
| 12. A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra | 47. Farmer (Dutch) |
| 13. Prefix denoting "in a" | 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer |
| 16. Propels upward | 49. Piers Anthony's protagonist |
| 18. What we are talking about | 50. Malaysian coastal city |
| 22. Prosecutor | 51. Hairstyle |
| 23. Employee stock ownership plan | 52. NY-based department store |
| 24. He brings kids presents | 53. Geosciences organization (abbr.) |
| 25. Burmese monetary unit | 54. Brazilian city |
| 27. Hurries | 55. Niger-Congo languages |
| 28. Injury remnant | 56. Gesture |
| 29. Tooth caregiver | |



Answers for July 1

STEM interns work on COVID-19 related projects

Colleges and universities were among the first institutions to announce closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March. As displaced college students returned home, Worcester County Economic Development (WCED) linked those slated to participate in the STEM Summer Internship Program with opportunities to work in immediate internships supporting local businesses and their response to COVID-19. These internships include working with Hardwire LLC in Pocomoke, which began manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE), Atlantic General Hospital (AGH), which increased awareness of their patient portal, and Ocean City organizations, which developed an app for visitors to find local businesses implementing best health practices.

Interns headed for careers in engineering and health care have been supporting Hardwire's PPE project, all the while learning about manufacturing, safety standards, supply chains, automation, assembly lines, and pivoting business models in a crisis.

"Hardwire's ability to expand and adapt has been incredible to witness and

be a part of," said Alison Snead, a Pocomoke High School graduate and University of South Carolina biomedical engineering major.

"Hardwire is currently in the process of changing their production lines from making their usual inventory to producing tens of thousands of masks each day" said Kaleb Schmuki, a Snow Hill graduate and University of Maryland computer science major. "I've been given the opportunity to see first-hand how they change their machinery to make processes more efficient, and how engineers come up with small tweaks that result in thousands more masks per hour."

Interns at AGH are working with the Information Services team to connect patients with the online patient portal. AGH Patient Portal allows patients to see a quick health summary, request medication refills, and schedule telemedicine appointments to visit their provider over video.

Ocean City.com, Ocean City Hotel Motel Restaurant Association, and Ocean City Development Corporation joined together with a team of WCED STEM Interns to develop an app and

website that list the local businesses in Ocean City that are abiding by Maryland's Back to Business Pledge and implementing best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"These internship opportunities show our students how local businesses and a community come together to respond to and help in the relief of COVID-19," WCED Director Kathryn Gordon said.

For more information about the WCED STEM internship program, contact 410-632-3112 or visit <http://choose-worcester.org>.

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

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com



Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 9	Low	5:41 AM
9	High	11:47 AM
9	Low	5:38 PM
F 10	High	12:09 AM
10	Low	6:25 AM
10	High	12:33 PM
10	Low	6:29 PM
Sa 11	High	12:53 AM
11	Low	7:08 AM
11	High	1:21 PM
11	Low	7:21 PM
Su 12	High	1:39 AM
12	Low	7:50 AM
12	High	2:12 PM
12	Low	8:14 PM
M 13	High	2:28 AM
13	Low	8:34 AM
13	High	3:06 PM
13	Low	9:09 PM
Tu 14	High	3:21 AM
14	Low	9:18 AM
14	High	4:00 PM
14	Low	10:05 PM
W 15	High	4:14 AM
15	Low	10:05 AM
15	High	4:52 PM
15	Low	11:00 PM

precautions from page 10

used and sanitized upon returning to port. All gear passed to a distressed boat and returned such as life jackets, anchors, pumps, first aid kits, fire extinguishers will also be isolated and sanitized. Upon completion of the on water patrol, the facility owner is responsible to sanitize the facility and any gear that has been quarantined in the disposable trash bags.

Anyone brought on board as the result of a man overboard recovery or the evacuation of boaters from a distressed vessel will be isolated and a

risk analysis will be performed to determine whether it is safe to continue the patrol. Likewise, anything that is retrieved from the water, such as debris or personal effects, will also be isolated.

The USCG Auxiliary is looking forward to once again patrolling our Ocean City waters and providing a level of safety to the recreational boating community but everyone has to do his/her part. Viruses are a lot smaller than sandbars but they can do a lot more damage. Stay safe.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com.



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rentals

from page 3

He said county officials made it clear they would support text amendments specific to Ocean Pines short-term rentals, "if so requested."

"The outcome of this referendum will provide guidance to the Board [on] whether or not to request this action," Daly said. "Passage of the referendum and a request for a text amendment regarding short-term rentals will provide the community with the strongest possible regulation and restriction on short-term rentals."

Director Tom Janasek said the issue has come up now, specifically because of the large number of complaints received about the rental on Abbyshire. Not all rentals, he said, cause such problems.

"We're basing it [the proposed referendum] on some properties in the Pines that are blatantly disregarding the rules that the county has put forth, last year, in order to make sure that this doesn't happen with rentals," he said. "My personal opinion is, I don't think we should get involved more than we already have."

Janasek said Board conversations with the county during the last several weeks caused county zoning officials to "actually get off their butts and ... go after these people." He added funding for enforcement comes from the \$200 license fee for each of the many rentals in the county.

"To say that they lack funding for enforcement ... I don't believe it," he said. "I think that, as a community and as a Board, we've done the right thing in going to the county and saying, 'This is your law — you made it, it's time to start enforcing it.'"

Janasek said he would not support the motion because it was not necessary, and because of the expected high cost for a referendum.

Daly countered that on Abbyshire, for instance, homeowners recently complained to the county and were told, "Our hands are tied, we can't do anything."

"That is not acceptable," he said. "[If] somebody at 1:30 in the morning explodes fireworks in front of your house on a Friday, you don't want to wait until Monday morning to file a complaint that says, 'I can't do anything, my hands are tied.' And you don't want a policeman from Ocean Pines ... that says, 'I can go talk with them, but I can't do anything.' And that's the situation today."

Despite the county legislation passed last year, Daly said Ocean Pines was largely "in the same place today that we were last year" with regard to issues of short-term rental enforcement.

"I don't want to be in the same position in 2021 — that's why I want to get this in front of the people [and] let them make the determination," he said. "Not one of us sitting here [on the Board], when we were running for election, had a question asked of us about how we feel about short-term rentals, and I don't think seven of us should try to determine whether we have them or whether we don't, or whether we get the text amendments or whether we don't."

"We have 8,452 possible homeowners affected — let them decide, after they hear from all the stakeholders," Daly continued, adding the conversation should also include realtors and rental agents.

Director Colette Horn said she was interested in exploring reforms, but suggested any reforms need to "include enforcement that is enforceable ... and that is it rapid and [allows for] significant penalties."

Horn was not in favor of the referendum approach, but said a town hall or a survey may be a better way to gauge public interest.

Director Larry Perrone argued that restricting rentals of less than a week is not as important as making sure existing guidelines are enforced on the number of people permitted, per rental.

"All of that leads to the amount of trash and, ultimately, leads to the noise problems," he said.

"[Banning] renting properties for less than one week, I don't think that's the solution," he continued. "But I do agree that we need to do something to try to get control of the properties that are out of control. My real problem is the enforcement issue and how timely it could be."

Perrone said that during talks last year with County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting, and another county official in charge of zoning enforcement, "they made it perfectly clear to us, there would be no enforcement of this."

"They said that from the very beginning — they're not putting funds aside for it," he said. "I was shocked that they jumped all over this particular property we've been talking about [on Abbyshire] as quickly as they did."

Perrone added that Associate Vice President Steve Tuttle has been effective in communicating problem cases related to short-term rentals, to county officials.

Tuttle said he spoke to Bertino after the recent spat of complaints, and he was referred to Ed Tudor and Jennifer Kenner from the Worcester County Department of Development Review and Permitting.

He said Tudor visited Abbyshire as recently as Saturday morning and learned the property in question is being rented by someone living in Connecticut who, in turn, is renting it as an Airbnb without a license. Tuttle said county officials issued a citation and are also looking into fines for another derelict rental.

"They're taking action on these properties," Tuttle said.

Janasek also credited county officials for stepping up, saying they've now "gone after two properties in two weeks." He said that action has now created a precedent.

"Now that that's set, as far as I'm concerned, they've got to start going after the rest of them, if we start bringing it up," he said.

He also said not all short-term rentals create problems.

"No matter how bad these 10 properties [are] ... there's another 150 that bring people into this community and spend a lot of money," he said. "I think

banning short-term rentals is so overblown ... as Larry said, I don't think it solves any of the problems."

Association President Doug Parks agreed.

"I'm not convinced that banning short-term rentals is the solution we're looking for," he said. "Folks aren't worried about the semantics of [short-term rentals] ... they're worried about the things that disrupt them which, in this case, is noise, trash, and parking."

Instead, Parks said he would support "the notion of text amendments" to county code, to allow for "some level of enforcement by our Police Department."

He said Daly, Tuttle and Director Camilla Rogers were part of a workgroup already looking into the issue, and that more coordination with county officials was needed to help improve the urgency of enforcement.

"I think a partnership with the county ... with some level of enforcement is the way to go," Parks said. "I'm not going to vote for banning short-term rentals, but I do want to have some momentum going forward that will allow us to have some enforcement, because we clearly have to address these issues as quickly as possible."

Tuttle agreed the workgroup should continue exploring the issue, rather than going the referendum route. He added one of the biggest problems is with long-term renters who are then offering short-term rentals of properties they do not own.

He asked that residents report problems with rentals in their neighborhood. Board members can be reached at directors@oceanpines.org and contact information for individual Board members can be found at www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/board-of-directors.

"The county will take action if we put enough information in front of them," Tuttle said, adding for those properties that do not have a rental license, "they [the county] have lots of means to bring pressure to bear. So, I think our residents need to help us as well."

"I'm not in favor of this motion as it stands, but I'm very glad to work on a workgroup, to try to come up with ways to improve this situation," he added.

Daly's referendum motion was defeated 6-0 with one member, Rogers, not present during the meeting. Daly later withdrew his motion related to text amendments.

To view a video of the meeting, visit <https://youtu.be/OGSfqCSxmf4>.

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Keener named DRP Deputy Director



Jennifer Keener

The Worcester County Commissioners named Jennifer Keener as the new deputy director of Development Review and Permitting (DRP). Keener joined DRP in 2006, serving as a DRP specialist until being promoted to zoning administrator in 2009.

“I look forward to working more closely with Jennifer,” DRP Director Ed Tudor said. “I know she will be of immense help to me in administration of the department and congratulate her on her achievement.”

Keener, a member of the American

Planning Association (AICP) and a certified planner, brings 15 years of experience in planning and site plan review to this position. In her role as zoning administrator, Keener had oversight of the Technical Review Committee, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning Appeals, as well as review and approval of commercial site plans. She reviewed and issued commercial and residential permits, conducted commercial zoning and nuisance inspections, and helped develop local legislation in response to changes in state planning and zoning laws.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in geography and environmental studies, with a minor in sociology and geology,

from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2005. In 2008, she earned a Master of Science in environmental management from the University of Maryland University College, and in 2018 she earned AICP certification. Keener will take over for Deputy Director Phyllis Wimbrow, who will retire September 18 after 36 years of service to Worcester County.

“I would like to thank the County Commissioners for this new and exciting opportunity,” Keener said. “I look

forward to further expanding my planning knowledge and experience in this position.”

The DRP deputy director is responsible for assisting the director with all aspects of development, review, permitting, and other functions, including staff supervision.

Keener also serves as a member of the Planning Commission for the Town of Pittsville, where she resides with her husband, Dennis, and daughter, Quinn.

Test facility now open

The Worcester County Health Department has begun offering COVID-19 testing from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Wednesdays at the West Ocean City Park and Ride located at 12940 Inlet Isle Lane. This testing is for any resident of Worcester County 18-years-old or older. The project is a partnership between Worcester Health and the Town of Ocean City.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, shortness of breath,

loss of smell/taste, in more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

Appointments are strongly encouraged. To schedule a testing appointment, please call 410-632-1100 ext. 1119, between 8 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

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Wor-Wic announces safe reopening and plans for the fall

Wor-Wic Community College is now welcoming people to campus on a limited basis while preparations for the fall term are being finalized.

Before determining what types of classes to offer this fall, the college surveyed current credit students and applicants who haven't registered yet and asked about their class format preferences. Thirty-eight percent said they want classes on campus with social distancing, 32% said they want online classes and the remaining 30% indicated that they would prefer hybrid or virtual options.

This information was shared with a group of faculty members and instructional leaders who were tasked with changing class formats to meet social distancing requirements while maintaining the highest academic standards and quality of instruction. The end result of this academic planning was the development of six different credit class formats, including on-campus, online, virtual and three different types of hybrid models.

On Campus — Students and instructors meet on campus on set days and times. Instruction could be livestreamed half of the time in order to meet social distancing requirements.

Online — Students complete their coursework online anytime, but assignments have specific dead-

lines.

Virtual — Students and instructors meet in different locations via video conferencing software on set days and times.

Hybrid (On Campus/Online) — Students meet with instructors on campus on set days and times and complete the other half of their coursework online anytime.

Hybrid (On Campus/Virtual) — Students and instructors meet on campus on set days and times and in different locations via video conferencing software on other set days and times.

Hybrid (Virtual/Online) — Students and instructors meet on set days and times in different locations via video conferencing software for half the time, while the other half of the course work can be completed by students online anytime.

As part of the planning for a safe return to campus, the college has instituted new procedures for all students, employees and visitors to adhere to while they are on campus. Before being allowed to park their cars or enter any buildings, everyone will be greeted at a checkpoint manned by public safety staff who will take temperatures, ensure the satisfactory completion of a health self-assessment tool and make sure they have a face covering to wear.

Students are being encouraged to arrive early for classes to allow adequate time to get through

screening, get parked and get to class.

All classrooms, labs and resource centers are being set up for physical distancing. There will be six feet between students and between students and instructors in a typical classroom and there will be fewer students in the classroom than usual.

In those courses where students have to physically interact with instructors and/or other students (e.g., lab work, clinical practice), personal protective equipment (PPE) will be supplied and will be required to be used.

Students will be responsible for cleaning their desks and workspaces with college-provided supplies when entering and leaving class.

To ensure a positive and safe experience on campus, the facilities department will be supplementing the disinfecting that students will be doing when they enter and leave their classrooms. High-touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly with a cleaning agent that kills the coronavirus on contact. Disinfecting machines and handheld devices will be used to disinfect classrooms, office spaces and common areas three times per week. Building attendants will continue to clean and disinfect those areas as well as address high-touch surfaces as part of their daily and nightly routines. Hand sanitizing stations and disinfectant wipes can be found in classrooms and hallways all over campus.

Some student services will be handled remotely by employees who will continue to telecommute. How-

ever, just like with the variety of teaching options that will be available, services - career exploration, financial aid, enrollment coaching and academic advising — can be accessed in person or online. Students can even receive help with some of these steps over the phone.

Employees will work with students however they feel most comfortable.

Appointments are encouraged for either in-person or virtual visits as soon as possible. The earlier students get registered, the better the chances are that they will get their desired classes in the preferred format on the days and times that best meet their needs.

To support student success, the college will continue offering in-person tutoring on campus, as well as online tutoring, known as Brainfuse, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Electronic library materials are also available 24/7 and on set days and times in the resource centers on campus. Students who need special assistance due to a disability can meet with a counselor to discuss any accommodations needed for them to be successful.

Visit <https://youtu.be/igP9ZACjxMo> to view a video of Wor-Wic's fall 2020 reopening plan.

In this changing environment, plans remain fluid and the college will make adjustments as needed to remain compliant with best practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maryland Department of Health and local health departments.

OCEAN PINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Large breed dogs take longer to mature physically into their adult size, which is a boon to anyone who loves the puppy years. As they grow, dogs may experience clumsy movements and struggle to adjust to their bodies as quickly as they would like, says the pet food company Canidae. It's comparable to the awkward teenage years that humans go through. Large breeds may not understand how big they are. As a result, they may try to sit on your lap or fit on a dog bed they have outgrown. Large breed adolescent dogs also may step on your feet and/or fail to understand their own strength as they jump up to offer kisses. Over time, large pups will reach physical and emotional maturity and have a better sense of self.



How to protect dogs from Lyme disease



Lyme disease is a potentially dangerous condition transmitted by the passing of bacteria from deer ticks to their unsuspecting hosts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also is a cause for concern in Canada, parts of Europe and Asia.

Tens of thousands of people are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year. But Lyme disease also affects animals, including popular house pets like dogs. Tufts University says that the Lyme bacterium can cause serious illness in some dogs. Lyme disease can be difficult to detect and cause serious and recurring health problems. That is why it is essential for pet parents make concerted efforts to reduce the risk that their dogs become infected.

The American Veterinary Med-

ical Association says the best way to protect pets against Lyme disease is to emphasize prevention.

Speak with your veterinarian about a tick preventive product that is right for your dog. These can include repellent collars, topical treatments and ingestible medications.

Vets may recommend vaccination against Lyme disease if you live in an area that is home to high tick populations. Recommendations also may be based on your pet's lifestyle and overall health, among other factors.

Address conditions in the yard that are conducive to ticks. Mowing the lawn regularly is one way to make the backyard less attractive to ticks, as is removing leaf litter.

Keep a clean home and landscape. Rodents and other wildlife can carry deer ticks. Securing trash cans, picking up food scraps, removing hiding spots and potential dens, and other strategies can keep these carriers away.

Conduct a daily tick check if your dog spends time outside. Pay attention to bumps on the skin and part the fur so you can see where the coat meets the skin. Don't forget to look in the ears.

When possible, avoid areas where ticks may be found, such as

tall grasses, wooded areas and marshes. Stick to trails when spending time in wooded areas.

Dogs with Lyme disease may exhibit various symptoms. These include loss of appetite, fever, joint swelling, decreased activity, and lameness. Visit the vet promptly if symptoms occur and do not abate, or are causing considerable distress for your pet.

Lyme disease is a concern for pets. Avoidance, preventive measures and outdoor maintenance can help reduce the likelihood that pets will contract Lyme disease.



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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