

# The Courier

November 25, 2020 Volume 21 Number 12



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# GM report highlights positive financials

General Manager John Viola on Wednesday delivered further good financial news for the current fiscal year, as well as an update on efforts to draft a budget for the next fiscal period.

Year to date as of September, Viola said the Association is ahead of budget by \$1.133 million, with both revenues (\$222,000) and expenses (\$911,000) favorable to budget.

A \$1.143 federal Paycheck Protection Program [PPP] loan heavily contributed to the positive financial numbers, Viola said.

"If you would look at it, everything else nets out," he said.

He also credited well-managed expenses, which led to positive year-to-date numbers in Public works (\$316,600), Marinas (\$49,200), Finance (\$43,700), Public Relations (\$36,700), Police (\$31,100), the Clubhouse Grille (\$27,700) and the General Manager's Office (\$5,400).

Hardest hit by the pandemic were Aquatics (-\$211,500), Beach Parking (-\$188,500) and Recreation and Parks (-\$39,200).

"Aquatics, obviously with the 50% [capacity] and all the restrictions they had, they did the best they can," Viola said. "Beach Parking ... that's just a part of the COVID. Otherwise, that one we always make money on."

Viola provided an estimate on October financial numbers, which should be available later this week. For the month, he projected a

\$130,000 positive variance to budget, including revenues favorable by \$20,000 and expenses favorable by \$110,000.

"It's after October where we usually have a drain on cash and a drain on our expenses, so this [month] was actually pretty good – better than I was expecting," Viola said.

Departments positing positive budget variances for the month included Public Works and Maintenance (\$80,000), Recreation and Parks (\$31,000), Golf (\$17,000) and the Clubhouse Grille (\$15,000).

"That's money we're going to need going forward," he said. "We've put off a lot of items, but we are looking at that and certainly looking at ways to save money."

On the proposed fiscal 2021-2022 budget, Viola said every department head will be involved in their budget and use a "bottoms up approach," based on guidance from the Budget and Finance Committee.

The committee will get a draft of the budget on Dec. 18 and is scheduled to review the draft on Jan. 6-8.

Board budget work sessions are set for Jan. 19-20, and Viola will publish the recommended budget on Jan. 29.

An initial Board hearing is scheduled on Feb. 6, followed by a final hearing and formal budget adoption on Feb. 20.

"I can tell you the team is fully engaged [and] on track – if anything ahead of last year," Viola said.

Viola said the Northstar software implementation is still ongoing, currently over budget by about \$48,000. The original budget was \$400,000 and Viola attributed the overage to outside consulting fees.

"All the increase to the budget happened with the outside consultant," he said. "Any system we put in would need a high degree of customization. We are certainly seeing that, and that obviously affects it."

He said there was about six months to a year of additional work to do, and that it is crucial for front-end users, departments, and amenities to embrace Northstar.

"I just need all the other amenities and everybody to embrace this system in order for it to be successful," he said. "It will take more time ... [and] that's not uncommon, as far as I'm concerned, with a system like this."

Viola also took a moment to highlight recent improvements at the Racquet Sports amenity, including concrete replacement, new lighting, repaired and replaced bathroom fixtures, and repaired fence and wind screens for platform tennis courts. A dedicated employee from Public Works is also assisting at the racquet sports center.

"We've done a lot of work ... [and] there is a lot of good stuff going on there," Viola said.

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

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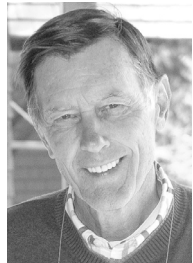
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# Board should obey law

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**  
*OceanPinesForum.com*

Maryland corporate law allows an HOA board to take any action it could ordinarily take during a board meeting so long as the vote to take the action is a unanimous vote by all directors.



The Ocean Pines Board of Directors has violated this part of Maryland law on so-called informal action with impunity over a number of years. Two examples that come to mind are an email vote to build the new bathhouses in White Horse Park and a vote to renew a lease with Seacrets for the use of OPA parking lots in Ocean City.

Why should association members be concerned about such illegal conduct? In the case of taking action outside a board meeting, typically via email among board members, association members have no idea what the board is doing until after the fact. The law attempts to protect the interests of association members by requiring that any action taken outside a meeting must have the unanimous consent of all board members.

For example, the board might conduct an email vote outside a meeting, with no notification to the membership, and decide to spend a million dollars on some project. If all seven members agree, the expense is proper. However, if even one board member does not agree, then the expense cannot go forward legally. This is an important legal protection for HOA

members.

Maryland Corporate Code states:  
*CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS TITLE 2 - CORPORATIONS IN GENERAL - FORMATION, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION Subtitle 4 - Directors and Officers Section 2-408 - Action by directors. (c) Informal action by directors.- Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the board of directors or of a committee of the board may be taken without a meeting if a unanimous consent which sets forth the action is: (1) Given in writing or by electronic transmission by each member of the board or committee; and (2) Filed in paper or electronic form with the minutes of proceedings of the board or committee.*

OPA boards have rather consistently maintained that the law does not really mean what it says. This correspondent has written about the issue numerous times on *OceanPinesForum.com* and most recently corresponded with the board via email in late October.

From my email to the board:

“Can someone give me an answer to what the board believes is required to take an action outside of a meeting? Does the board believe unanimous consent is required only to conduct a vote or that the vote itself on the action to be taken via a motion must be unanimous?”

“Neither OPA bylaws nor Maryland corporate law mentions the word ‘motion.’ The clear intent of Maryland law is that the ‘action’ to be taken must be unanimous. No unanimous consent is required to conduct a vote outside of a meeting. Any board member can make a motion via email and have it seconded. No vote is necessary to make such a motion outside a meeting. However, said motion to be passed must have unanimous consent.”

OPA president Larry Perrone replied, “Our opinion based on the plain reading of our by-laws requires a

unanimous agreement to vote by email. Once there is a unanimous vote to vote by email the motion can be voted on not requiring a unanimous vote.”

Of course, however Perrone decides to interpret OPA bylaws is immaterial when it comes to Maryland law. Maryland law prevails.

Then there are public comments by former OPA president and current OPA Treasurer Doug Parks. In the June 2020 edition of the *Ocean Pines Progress* in an article about a non-unanimous board vote via email to approve a new parking lease with Seacrets, Parks is quoted as saying, “While a unanimous vote was required to take a vote on a motion via email, no unanimous vote was required to pass the motion.”

In other words, the present and immediate past presidents of OPA do not understand Maryland law with regard to email motions outside a board meeting.

Now enter OPA director Colette Horn with a response to my email.

Horn wrote, “The discussion we had as a board months ago when you brought this up was that our practice had been for each director to agree to an email vote only if they expected to vote affirmatively on the motion that is up for consideration through an email vote. If a director expects to vote ‘nay’ on the motion, they would not agree to an email vote on it.”

Apparently, Horn is aware of some policy not known to the present and immediate past presidents of OPA. Who’s on first? Horn even mentioned that Director Tom Janasek was not aware of the board policy when he voted NO on approval of a Secrets lease via email. Regardless, even though the vote was not unanimous, the contract with Seacrets was finalized in violation of Maryland law.

Interestingly, the Secrets lease handling by the board involved two bylaws and/or Maryland code viola-

*please see commentary on page 6*

## Courier Almanac

Three days after his assassination in Dallas, John F. Kennedy was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on November 25, 1963.

Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was shot to death while riding in an open-car motorcade with his wife and Texas Governor John Connally through the streets of downtown Dallas. Ex-Marine and communist sympathizer Lee Harvey Oswald was the alleged assassin. Kennedy was rushed to Dallas’ Parkland Hospital, where he was pronounced dead 30 minutes later. He was 46.

According to Adobe Analytics, Cyber Monday spending reached historic heights in 2019. Online spending on Cyber Monday totaled \$9.4 billion in 2019, which marked a \$1.5 billion increase in total spending from the year prior. A global pandemic figures to compel even more shoppers to shop online in 2020, though economic uncertainty and high rates of unemployment may make it hard for some online retailers to exceed their Cyber Monday sales figures from 2019. Though holiday shopping belts might be tightened in 2020, small businesses with e-commerce capabilities and strong online presences should not let that get in the way of their efforts to capitalize on Cyber Monday. In recognition of the struggles small businesses have faced during the pandemic, many local governments have emphasized the importance of supporting locally owned small businesses.



Communities across the country have answered that call in many ways, and chances are strong locals will continue to do so this holiday season. Small business owners who are ready to meet consumer demands this holiday season, even if those demands are not as great as in holiday seasons past, can capitalize on what figures to be a unique time for shoppers and businesses alike.

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# Thanksgiving this year

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday if ever there was one. Unfortunately, the holiday this year will be markedly different due to COVID. I think we all

through the house is no more.

Restrictions halted my grandchildren joining us for the holiday. They'll be staying home with their parents.

They're disappointed. They're not alone. I suspect we'll Facetime at some point during the day. That will be nice but it won't be the same as having one or both of them sitting on my lap or watching one of them sneaking a finger into the

cheese cake resting on the counter.

When my children were growing up, it seemed like the times of getting them rounded up to sit at the Thanksgiving dinner table would never end. "Did you wash your hands?" "No toys at the table." "Hold your fork correctly." "Don't talk with your mouth full." "Don't chew with your mouth open." "Take your plate into the kitchen." "Help your sister clean up the kitchen." "Help Your Sister Clean Up The Kitchen." "**HELP YOUR SISTER CLEAN UP THE KITCHEN!!**" Those were harried times that I would love to go back and relive, especially this year.

Our youngest son lives in the South now. He's doing very well and we're very happy for him. He'll be doing his own thing on the holiday, working mostly I suspect. At some point during the day we'll talk. But it won't be the same as having him sitting across the table making faces, teasing his older brother and sister and performing antics that on holidays past would have his mother laughing uncontrollably. Truthfully there were times when he would do or say things at the table that drove me to distraction. He could be so irreverent. The more I expressed my dissatisfaction, the more he kept it up. It was a lost cause when his brother joined in. I was a goner and they knew it. At the time those situations were frustrating. The memories of those times make me smile and I need to smile this year.

All is not lost though. We'll be joining our oldest son and his wife at their table. It will be a small contingent so there will be no reason to put the table leaves in. But that's okay. It will be nice to be with them.

Yes, this Thanksgiving will be like no other. We all just have to make the best of it. And we will.

Happy Thanksgiving!



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

feel the same way – angry and cheated.

Ordinarily the holiday is about good food, good company and good conversation. This year, the holiday is about changed plans, not traveling and worries over distant relatives whom we won't be able to see in person. We'll talk on the phone or Zoom but it won't be the same regardless of how often we tell each other it's okay, we'll get through this. Certainly, we'll muddle through, but it's not okay, not by a long shot.

This very un-ordinary Thanksgiving holiday has given me pause to reminisce, reminding me of the ones that have come before when the table was set with a turkey, golden and crisp, dressing and mash potato casserole, a favorite family recipe. Through the years the faces around the table have changed, numbers have ebbed and flowed; life responsibilities and work schedules have sometimes called the shots.

I remember the days when my brother and I watched on television the parade and waiting for Santa Claus to appear; my grandfather picking either my brother or me to help him break the wishbone; my mother putting the turkey in the oven at six in the morning and taking it out when it was "ready" at 4 p.m. (yes, you read that right); throughout the meal, my wife's grandmother asking each of us repeatedly whether we felt a draft; deciding who sat at the kids' table; complaining when I was seated at the kids' table; never eating the cranberry gel that came from a can (no one ever ate it but it was on the table every year); and, falling asleep not long after the dishes were cleared from the table.

We get older. Our children grow up. Grandchildren are born. Family and friends move or pass away. The aroma of food being prepared remains but the sweet aroma of pipe smoke wafting

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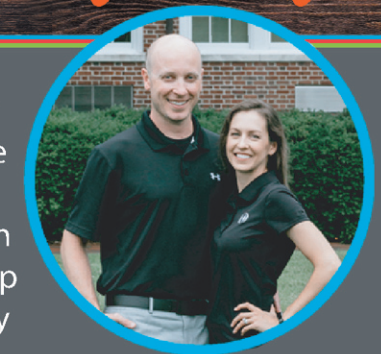
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# Work group to review OPA Bylaws

A small work group will lead an effort to review and cleanup Ocean Pines Association Bylaws, based on a Board of Directors discussion during a public meeting on Wednesday night.

Ocean Pines has not updated the document since 2008, and Board members said certain sections lack clarity.

Association Vice President Colette Horn said the review came up during a recent Executive Council meeting, which are regular gatherings of advisory committee chairs with Board leadership.

Horn said the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, in their annual report, also recommended a review of the bylaws.

"It has been more than 12 years since the current bylaws were approved at the 2008 annual meeting," Horn said. "Areas that the committee suggest bear review and potential revision include various issues related to the election process, the requirement that a Search Committee be appointed, the meaning of 'in good standing' as it

applies to member qualifications for various actions, and the meaning and processes related to 'informal action' by the Board.

"Our legal counsel has over the past several years also suggested need for us to review our bylaws with consideration for revision of sections that require it," Horn added.

To complete the task, Horn suggested the formation of a work group to include directors Camilla Rogers and Doug Parks. Parks is the current Board liaison to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and a former chair of that committee.

"I would relish the idea," Parks said. "We had this as a kind of peripheral discussion for the past couple of years ... so I think it's a very opportune time. Quite frankly, I'm encouraged and would look forward to working with Cami and [current committee Chairman] Jim Trummel, and the rest of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee."

During the last few years, Parks said, there were several times when



## DAR donates books to Judy Center

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently concluded a project to promote literacy skills in the very young and enable them to succeed as future readers. Members either enrolled in a Kellogg's-sponsored Feeding Reading program during the summer that offered credits redeemable for free books with the purchase of participating products or contributed books they purchased. A combined total of 32 books were donated to the Worcester County Judy Center during American Education Week on November 18 in memory of member Beatrice Batchelder Frank. Frank was an avid reader who passed away in February 2020.

The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. For more information, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

Above: (L-R) General Levin Winder Chapter member **Pat Arata** and Regent **Gail Weldin** deliver books to Judy Center Secretary **Suzanne Truitt**.

commentary  
from page 4

tions. In the first instance, Doug Parks unilaterally signed the lease agreement with Seacrets without proper authority, and then that mistake was compounded by a non-unanimous board vote on the lease via email.

Even the board's own Bylaws & Resolutions Committee has addressed this issue of email voting during one or more committee meetings with a board liaison present. Most recently a member of the committee responded to me and the board saying, "I do not much care if the Board thinks it has to

go through a two-step process for Informal Action. However, I do care about compliance with Maryland Code provisions. There is no place in Informal Action for a lack of unanimity in consenting to the action. Unanimity for the action is clearly required in the Code provision copied by Joe."

It is absolutely obvious that all board members are not on the same page on very important bylaws and Maryland code issues.

The OPA Board of Directors should just comply with the law and have a policy that any vote on a motion outside a meeting via email must be unanimous.

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## Scholarship opportunities for local high school golfers

Applications for 2021 college scholarships awarded by members of the Ocean Pines Golf Club are now available through guidance offices at Stephen Decatur High School and Worcester Preparatory School.

Additionally, students from other local high schools who feel they may qualify can request information and an application from Scholarship Chairman Bob Long at [rmlong@aol.com](mailto:rmlong@aol.com).

Long said the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council has awarded more than \$22,000 to 21 local seniors during the last four years. Students receiving these awards have shown an interest in the game of golf and are judged on the totality of their record. Participation in competitive golf is not a requirement.

This year, the golf members of

Ocean Pines — including members of the golf club, the Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association and the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association — raised more than \$12,000 for the scholarship fund, and matched last year's record amount despite having to forgo the annual Ocean Pines Taylor-Bank Scramble and other fundraising events because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our members found creative ways to give generously to this favorite cause in a challenging year," Long said.

Long said members of the men's and ladies' associations chipped in weekly amounts after rounds of golf, and raised a total of \$3,000. Many members also cleaned out their garages and donated unused clubs and equipment toward an online yard sale that raised more than

\$4,000. Several individual members made generous lump-sum contributions as well.

Tee-box advertising signs that are a part of most golf fundraisers were sold to members, friends, and local businesses, and were put on display at the entrance to the new Ocean Pines Clubhouse. This effort raised another \$1,700.

Taylor Bank, title sponsor of the Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Scramble, supported the scholarship fund with an annual contribution of \$2,000. Deely Insurance, a regular platinum sponsor of the event, again contributed \$500.

"We are grateful for the support of our friends and neighbors at Taylor Bank and Deely Insurance, especially in 2020," Long said. "Their contributions

will help fulfill the education goals of deserving local students."

Long said the membership had little idea in March, as things began to close down, how it would be able to raise funds in the coming months.

"After a summer and fall different from any they ever witnessed, the Ocean Pines Golf members are now looking back on how many small contributions turned into something special," he said. "Those receiving Ocean Pines Golf Members' scholarships in the spring will be the beneficiary of these various efforts."

## Jolly Roger Parks announce Black Friday sale

Black Friday is back at Jolly Roger Amusement Parks. Visit the SpeedWorld Building at Jolly Roger on 30th St. on November 27, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kickstart your holiday shopping on the best deals of the year with 50% off all 2021 park passes. At Jolly Roger's Black Friday Sale, masks will be required indoors, and the lines will be appropriately socially distanced.

"We really love the holidays here at Jolly Roger - and no one loves them more than me. It's become a great tradition here in Ocean City and I suppose it's not only because we offer the best sale of the year and decorate the entire park, but we also get to see the locals - our friends, and their families. We all know this year was very different...but we safely had over 1 million people through our parks this season. Rest assured those same protocols will be in place on Black Friday," said Steve Pastusak, VP of Jolly Roger Amusement Parks

Purchase passes for the Pier and their 30th Street location, including Speed World, Splash Mountain, and the Amusement Park. Choose from The BIG Ticket, 2-Hour Armbands, Unlimited Daytime or Unlimited Nighttime Armbands, and more all for 50% off. Give your friends and family the gift that keeps on giving with Season Passes to Splash Mountain so you can cool off all summer long without worrying about the cost.

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks Black Friday Sale is November 27, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the SpeedWorld Building at Jolly Roger 30th St. location, 2901 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City. For more information, please visit <https://jollyrogerpark.com/black-friday/>.



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# AGH halts visitation

Due to an increase in community spread of COVID-19, Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will no longer allow visitors. These restrictions will be in place until further notice.

Individuals receiving care at the hospital, outpatient facilities or physician offices are asked to come alone. Exceptions will be made in special circumstances in accordance with the organization's CARE values, allowing for:

Personal caregivers in accordance with ADA guidelines for all patients with physical, intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities,

One accompanying family member/significant other for patients in the emergency room around the clock (no visitation for those patients known to have COVID-19 or those under investigation for the virus)

Parents of a minor child, and

Special arrangements for visitation of dying patients

"The support of loved ones is very important to the healing process, so the decision to suspend visitation once again was not an easy one," said Matt Morris, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Atlantic General Hospital. "Keeping our patients and staff safe is the primary concern."

According to Atlantic General Hospital and Health System's COVID-19 visitation policy, a seven-day rolling average community pos-

itivity rate of 5% or greater requires closure to visitors. On Tuesday, November 18, the seven-day rolling average positivity rate for Worcester County was 5.7%. For Sussex County, Delaware, the 14-day average was 7.4%.

Loved ones are encouraged to stay in touch with hospitalized patients by phone or video chat. Staff are available to support communication with friends and family.

For more information about Atlantic General's visitation guidelines and COVID-19 response, please visit [www.agh.care/COVID19](http://www.agh.care/COVID19).

# Fall leaf collection scheduled

The Ocean Pines Association has announced leaf collection procedures for its residents this fall.

Public Works will collect leaves and other yard debris from November 23 through December 18, on opposite days from Republic Services collection days.

The department will only pick up leaves placed in paper bags that residents place curbside. Thirty-gallon paper bags are available at Public Works in bundles of five for \$10.

Republic Services will pick up paper and plastic bags on scheduled pick-up days, limit four bags of leaves per scheduled pick up. Republic Services will also accept branches tied in bundles no longer than four feet.

Additionally, Ocean Pines residents may bring leaves and yard debris in bulk or paper bags to the Public Works yard at 1 Firehouse Lane, near the south Fire Department. The yard will be open November 28 through December 31, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be no collection or drop off on Thursday, November 26 or Friday, November 27 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The yard

also will be closed for drop off on Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25 and Saturday, December 26 because of the Christmas holiday.

Public Works will also vacuum leaves. Residents should refrain from blowing leaves directly into the ditches, as this can lead to clogging of pipes as well as difficulty in water flow.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

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# Janasek pleads guilty, apologizes

By **Joe Reynolds**

Charged with violations of the OPA Board of Directors code of conduct by General Manager John Viola, Director Tom Janasek plead guilty during a public hearing of the Board of Directors on 11/20/2020. The hearing opened with a motion to remove Janasek from the Board of Directors. Asked if he accepted the complaint in the motion, Janasek said he did.

Director Colette Horn asked for discussion on the motion. Director Parks asked why have discussion if Janasek accepted the motion. Horn makes her remarks. Janasek says he does not want to make any defense.

Viola's charges against Janasek are then spelled out. An incident is referenced about derogatory remarks by Janasek about Viola in the golf clubhouse on November 5, 2020 while Viola and OPA Golf Operations Director John Malinowski were having lunch. The complaint also lays out a pattern of harassing and abusive comments by Janasek about Viola in front of OPA board members, OPA employees, and OPA members over a 15-month period, actions undermining Viola's efforts to fulfill his contractual obligations to manage OPA.

Apparently, some of these offensive comments were even made at the Yacht Club while Viola was having a birthday party dinner, something that makes him reluctant to even dine there anymore. Some of Janasek's more abusive comments to Viola included "I will have you fired" and "I will fire you" in front of board members, employees and/or association members.

The complaint was investigated by OPA attorney Jeremy Tucker and a report was provided to the Board of Directors.

Viola then took the microphone and said he always tries to take the high road, adding, "I have not threatened to quit. I have not asked for removal (of Janasek)."

Director Doug Parks said he was gratified to hear Viola say that he never said he would quit and never asked for Janasek's removal.

The vote on the motion to remove Janasek then took place. Directors Horn, Brown and Perrone

voted for removal. Directors Parks, Janasek, Daly and Rogers voted against removal. The motion to remove Janasek from the board failed. Of interest is that Brown, an appointed board member, voted to remove a director elected by association members.

Perrone then brought up a motion to censure Janasek. The motion essentially said that Janasek was guilty of the charges and should he make any future inappropriate comments about Viola outside a board meeting then his comments would serve as evidence for removal from the board "for cause." The censure motion contained wording that Janasek agreed with its provisions.

The board then voted on the censure motion. The motion passed unanimously, with even Janasek voting in favor.

Janasek commented publicly. "I want to personally apologize to John. What I did was offensive. This will not happen again. I am loud. I am boisterous. Sometimes doing that gets me in trouble. I hope John doesn't quit. I commend him tremendously."

Viola then rose and asked the chairman for permission to meet Janasek halfway and shake hands. They did.

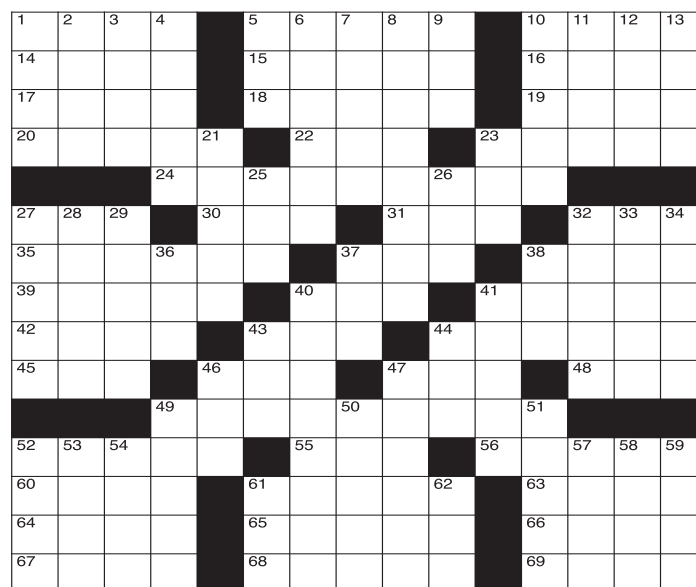
The only remaining question is why Janasek allowed this issue to erupt on the public stage.

## CNA information session to be held

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering a free information session on Tuesday, December 1, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., via Zoom.

Mandatory for anyone interested in registering for certified nursing assistant (CNA) training, attendees can learn the requirements and expectations of the training, as well as about financial aid. The same session will also be held on Friday, December 11, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or for the Zoom link, email [tstevenson@wor-wic.edu](mailto:tstevenson@wor-wic.edu) or call 410-334-6780.

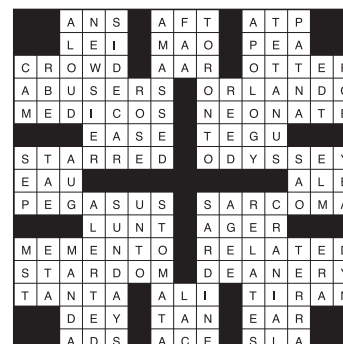


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cold War player
- 5. Flat-bottomed sailboat
- 10. Jamaican tangelo
- 14. Debauched man
- 15. Less covered
- 16. Require to live
- 17. Patrick and Aykroyd are two
- 18. Mixes
- 19. Insurance claim expenses
- 20. Tries to persuade
- 22. Equal (prefix)
- 23. Czech name for Prague
- 24. London soccer team
- 27. Greek letter
- 30. Small Eurasian deer
- 31. Swiss river
- 32. Miller beer
- 35. Less appealing
- 37. 8th month (abbr.)
- 38. \_\_\_ Alto, California city
- 39. Grandmothers
- 40. American time
- 41. NW Chinese people
- 42. "Westworld" actress \_\_\_ Rachel Wood
- 43. Northeastern US university
- 44. Poplar trees (Spanish)
- 45. Hip hop legend Kool Moe \_\_\_
- 46. Not or
- 47. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 48. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 49. Fonts
- 52. Female cattle mammary gland
- 55. Down time
- 56. Spiritual leader
- 60. Small brown and gray American rail
- 61. Trimmed by cutting
- 63. NY Giants owner
- 64. A long narrative poem
- 65. Old World lizard
- 66. Product for sale
- 67. Shut Your Pie Hole (abbr.)
- 68. Pacific Island country
- 69. Whale ship captain

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Language
- 2. Fly high in the air
- 3. Made musical sounds
- 4. Organized again
- 5. TV channel
- 6. Unable to fly
- 7. Get up
- 8. Air traveler
- 9. Married woman
- 10. Take weapons from
- 11. Sicilian city
- 12. Actress Remini
- 13. Thought
- 21. Infections
- 23. Golf score
- 25. Hill or rocky peak
- 26. Witch
- 27. Adjusted
- 28. Succulent plant
- 29. Forearm bones
- 32. Hot fluid in the earth's crust
- 33. Subatomic particle
- 34. Part of an organism
- 36. 007's creator
- 37. Burned material residue
- 38. Brain layer: \_\_\_ mater
- 40. Unable to partake
- 41. Lesion
- 43. Historic railroad company (abbr.)
- 44. Basics
- 46. Scottish port
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Instruct
- 50. Untamed
- 51. Moth genus
- 52. Utilizes
- 53. Foolish
- 54. Fall in small drops
- 57. A place to get clean
- 58. La \_\_\_ Tar Pits
- 59. Metrical foot
- 61. Semiliquid food
- 62. Small crow



Answers for November 18

# How to give safely during the pandemic

Donations are the lifeblood of many charitable organizations. Unfortunately, donations also can be the lifeblood of criminal operations designed to scam would-be donors.

The potential for charity scams could be even greater in 2020. Charities accept donations year-round, but the spirit of giving that prevails during the holiday season makes the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas especially popular times to donate to charity. In addition to being on the lookout for the usual scams, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAGDC) warns prospective donors to beware of potential scams involving the COVID-19 virus.

Recognizing the challenges people in their communities have faced as a result of the economic fallout of the pandemic, donors may be more inclined to donate to charities purporting to help laid off workers, small businesses or others adversely affected by the outbreak. That's admirable, but prospective donors must recognize that their eagerness to support COVID-related charities may

make them vulnerable to criminals looking to exploit their charitable nature. In recognition of that, the OAGDC offers these tips to men and women who are considering donating to charity in 2020.

Be wary of recently launched operations. Operations that were formed in response to the pandemic may be viable, but the OAGDC also warns that many have been formed by scammers looking to exploit the outbreak for their own gain. Be especially wary of crowdfunding campaigns.

Ask questions. The OAGDC says that any charity, even those formed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, should be able to provide you with the same information as charities that have been around for years. Prior to donating, ask for the charity's name, address, telephone number, and mission. In addition, don't feel skittish about asking how your donation will be used and the percentage of each donation that goes to programs that directly help the people you're trying to assist.

Be vigilant before donating via peer-to-peer social networking web-

sites. It's especially difficult to verify how donations made via texts or websites are ultimately used. While these can be convenient ways to donate, the OAGDC urges donors to be especially vigilant about vetting before donating to charities through these channels.

Never donate using cash, gift cards or wire transfers. Reputable charities do not ask for donations to be made in this way. The OAGDC advises donors to use credit cards whenever possible.

The terms "COVID-19" or "coronavirus" do not authenticate a charity. A reputable name or logo does not mean the charity is actually reputable. Prior to donating, donors can confirm a charity is legitimate by contacting organizations such as Charity Navigator, the BBB Wise Giving Alliance or the National Center for Charitable Statistics.

Scammers will no doubt try to exploit the pandemic to take advantage of donors during the upcoming giving season. Savvy donors can employ various strategies to ensure their charitable donations end up in the right hands.

## Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 26	High	5:01 AM
26	Low	11:05 AM
26	High	5:13 PM
26	Low	11:10 PM
F 27	High	5:40 AM
27	Low	11:50 AM
27	High	5:53 PM
27	Low	11:47 PM
Sa 28	High	6:19 AM
28	Low	12:30 PM
28	High	6:33 PM
Su 29	Low	12:24 AM
29	High	6:58 AM
29	Low	1:09 PM
29	High	7:13 PM
M 30	Low	1:01 AM
30	High	7:38 AM
30	Low	1:48 PM
30	High	7:54 PM
Tu 1	Low	1:39 AM
1	High	8:18 AM
1	Low	2:28 PM
1	High	8:34 PM
W 2	Low	2:17 AM
2	High	8:59 AM
2	Low	3:09 PM
2	High	9:16 PM

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## What is Giving Tuesday?

While Black Friday and Cyber Monday are some of the more widely known retail holidays, Giving Tuesday is becoming pretty popular in its own right.

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday helps raise awareness that charity is an important component of the holiday season. The nonprofit services company Neon says nearly one-third of all annual giving occurs in December, with 12 percent happening over the final three days of the year. Giving Tuesday is positioned right in the midst of the most popular time for charitable giving.

What makes Giving Tuesday unique is that it is largely fueled by the

### Yacht Club New Year's Eve plans paused

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club announced this week that it will pause its plans for a New Year's Eve celebration, based on the latest executive order from Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

Hogan, speaking on Tuesday and citing spiking numbers related to the COVID-19 pandemic, ordered that all bars and restaurants in the state close at 10 p.m., starting this Friday.

Ralph DeAngelus, cofounder of the Matt Ortt Companies that manages the Yacht Club, said the new mandate effectively halted plans for a New Year's Eve event in Ocean Pines.

"The Governors' new guidelines as of yesterday told us that a traditional New Year's Eve is no longer viable. Therefore, unfortunately, we will not be able to have a traditional New Year's Eve party," DeAngelus said. "We will, however, continue to serve Ocean Pines as best we can under the guidelines allowed. It's very important we try to keep our services to Ocean Pines as close to normal as possible while adhering to the guidelines, which we have done an excellent job of to date."

DeAngelus added that, if conditions change and Hogan relaxes those guidelines, the Yacht Club will reevaluate its decision on hosting a New Year's Eve event.

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club is currently running under winter hours, open at 11 a.m. on Thursday through Sunday, with lunch and dinner options for dining and carryout.

For more information or to order online, visit [www.opyachtclub.com](http://www.opyachtclub.com).

power of social media and collaboration. The day was actually created by the 92nd Street Y, a cultural center in New York City that has been instrumental in bringing diverse groups of people together with the goals of giving back through service. The 92nd Street Y and the United Nations Foundation came together in 2012 to help form a day that was focused on the generosity of giving during the holiday season. Thus, Giving Tuesday was born.

Technology and social media play a large role in uniting people for Giving Tuesday. Founding partners included Mashable, a technology website, Skype and Cisco. But the success of Giving Tuesday is thanks in large part to the general public, who have both spread the word and made their own contributions to charity.

In 2017, Giving Tuesday soared to new heights when technology mogul Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, announced their foundation would match up to \$2 million in donations to Giving Tuesday fundraisers started on Facebook. Facebook similarly waived its 5 percent fee for U.S.-based nonprofits all day long.

The global Giving Tuesday movement helped raise more than \$300 million online across more than 150 countries in 2017 alone. This year, the Giving Tuesday organization is poised to top their numbers and continue to improve upon the more than 46,000 participating organizations involved in their charitable efforts. Learn more at [www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org).

### Registration open for umpire clinic

Worcester County Recreation and Parks staff members invite all interested participants to join them for the USA Softball of Maryland-DC-Delaware, Umpire Clinic. This clinic will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21, 2021.

Game management, differences in codes, difficult calls, mechanics in a gym session, and an introduction to USA Softball and future plans will be covered fully in this clinic. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is encouraged.

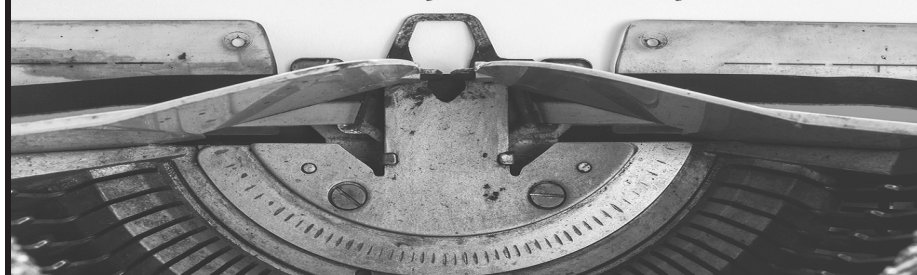
*please see clinic on page 13*

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What's your story?



# The history of Black Friday

Black Friday marks the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season. Come Black Friday, shoppers strive to get the lowest prices on gifts for their loved ones.

Traditionally, much of the focus of Black Friday is on finding the best deals, but it can be interesting to take a breath and learn how this phenomenon developed and how it has evolved over the years.

Black Friday. The term "black Friday" was originally associated with gold prices and manipulation on the part of speculators Jay Gould and James Fisk. This scandal occurred in September 1869. Commodity prices plummeted 50 percent as a result, and the term "black Friday" was coined to refer to that drop.

The phrase black Friday also became famous for all the wrong reasons in 1966. Philadelphia police used it to refer to the Friday traffic jams and crowding in downtown stores from tourists and shoppers who flooded into the city in advance of the Army-Navy football game held the Saturday after Thanksgiving each year. Bigger crowds and rowdiness contributed to long hours and stressful shifts for local police.

*clinic*  
from page 12

aged.

For those who are interested, a host hotel is available to those traveling in for the clinic from out of the area: Holiday Inn Express, which is located at 12601 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. For a discounted price, call 410-250-7800 and use code word "USA Softball."

USA Softball Commissioner Jack Hutcherson and Steve Zawierucha, of USA Softball of MD-DC-DE UIC, will be in attendance for this clinic. The price per participant is \$125 and includes lunch, school shirt, and photo.

The registration deadline is December 11. After this deadline date, the registration fee will increase to \$150. All checks must be made payable to: USA Softball of Maryland DC Delaware.

To register please contact Event Coordinator Ralph Eggen at [rweggen@cablespeed.com](mailto:rweggen@cablespeed.com) or 410-925-2031. The registration form is available at [www.worcesterrecandparks.org](http://www.worcesterrecandparks.org).

Black Friday reinvented. The retail industry started using the term Black Friday in the late 1980s. Spin doctors turned previously negative connotations into positive ones by associating the phrase with stores turning a profit and moving accounting ledgers from red to black thanks to big year-end sales. Retailers and consumers rallied around low-cost "doorbusters" and other discounted prices.

Interestingly enough, according to the National Retail Federation (NRF), Black Friday really hasn't been the most lucrative day for retailers over the years. In fact, greater profits and larger crowds are often seen on the last Saturday preceding Christmas.

Shopping weekend evolves. While Black Friday may have been the catalyst, in recent years shoppers have made the entire weekend of Black Friday a lucrative one for retailers. Before COVID-19 fears many stores opened on Thanksgiving and extended sales through the entire weekend. Small Business Saturday and Sunday promote patronizing mom-and-pop stores. Cyber Monday emerged when online shopping became a popular way to grab deals, and it marks the close of the opening weekend of the holiday shopping season. In 2017, Black Friday weekend attracted 174 million shoppers who spent an average of \$335.47, according to the NRF.

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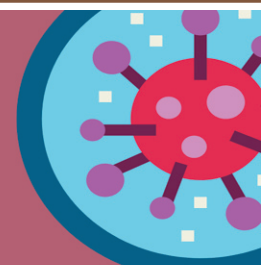


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## Art League of Ocean City announces Artists Sunday

Art League of Ocean City announces their participation in the new Artists Sunday movement on November 29, the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Artists Sunday is a nationwide campaign that responds to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The ArtistsSunday.com website states, "We are an art shopping movement of more than 2,700 artists, local arts agencies, cities, counties, state agencies, chambers of commerce, and organizations coming together to encourage consumers to shop with their favorite local artists and craftsmen during the holiday season."

Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, applauded the national effort. "We felt it was important to participate in Artists Sunday to draw attention to the local artisans who are creating gifts right here in our community, and to bring awareness to their work," she said.

The Art League will celebrate Artists Sunday by offering two one-day-only specials, redeemable only by

calling the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 410-524-9433 or by visiting in-person on November 29 at the bayfront facility at 502 94th St.

The Art League is offering \$5 off a one-year membership and \$10 off a two-year membership. Different levels of memberships are available, including student, senior, individual, family, and corporate.

In addition, everyone — members and non-members — will receive 10% off all purchases on Artists Sunday at the Arts Center. All artwork and gifts available at the Arts Center are original, handmade, and one-of-a-kind, and include jewelry, fiber art, glass art, pottery, original paintings, prints, photographs, and books by local authors. Many gift shop items are available to view online at ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org, but the 10% discount is only available by visiting in-person or calling.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org).

## New youth smoking/vaping awareness campaign launched

The Worcester County Health Department is producing a new series titled, "Be Smart, Don't Start," an educational tobacco and vaping series designed for youth and teens which provides information about the risks of smoking and vaping. This series will walk young viewers through "myth versus reality" when it comes to the truth about vaping and nicotine products. Viewers will be encouraged to "Like" weekly videos and contact the health department to earn free prizes for tuning in.

According to the CDC:

The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.

Tobacco product use is started and established primarily during adolescence.

E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine.

Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes

in the future.

"This is another step we're taking to educate youth about the dangers of tobacco and vaping. It is so, so important to highlight the risks of tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems. We want teens to know the truth and hear the facts," said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor.

Videos will be available on the health department's website and social media. Be sure to follow us @WorcesterHealth. For more information, visit [www.worcesterhealth.org](http://www.worcesterhealth.org) or call us at 410-632-1100 Ext. 1108.

## K of C bingo returns

Bingo, with virus precautions is back. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the games will take place each Friday night through November. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. There will be cash payouts for each game as well as the Big Jackpot. Call 410-524-7994 with for more information.



**Honorable retirement** - Worn out American Flags must be retired in a manner proscribed by law and tradition. In this area Scout units sponsored by Ocean City American Legion Post 166, render the honors and conduct the ceremonial burning of the flags. This was last done on November 16 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, with help from the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. The fire company dug the fire pit, lit the flames and stood by for safety. The flags had been deposited at the Post at 23rd Street and Coastal Highway over many months.

Above: **David Banach** of Pack 261 holds his folded American Flag. Behind him is a table of flags to be folded and retired.

Inset: **Paige Gibson** of Pack 261 prepares to consign her flag to the fire, with **Joe Coleman**, Pack 261 Cub Master in the background left, and **Bruce Travers**, Pack 261 Bear Den Leader watching.

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# Safety first as we prepare for the holidays

By **Jennifer Hamilton**

There are many holiday traditions that may be different this year in light of the global pandemic, but one thing remains, and that is the need to be safe while decorating your home. Many have started decorating early to avoid having to do so in colder temperatures. Others want the added joy that holiday decorating brings. Whatever the reason, it is very important to maintain a few safety precautions.

If you decorate a live tree each year, it is important to keep it away from any heat sources. This would include a fireplace, pellet stove, heat vents, or candles. Live trees are extremely flammable due to the tree sap and pine needles. Between 2013-2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 house fires that were related to Christmas trees. On average one out of every 52 house fires caused by trees resulted in a death. Twenty-five percent of all tree fires were due to the tree being too close to a heat source. It is also important to keep your live tree hydrated. A dried-out tree can catch fire much faster than one that is

properly watered. You should check the water level each day to make sure it has not gone completely dry. The best way to ensure your tree doesn't dry out too quickly, is to start with a green tree. If you find these suggestions to be too tedious, you may consider investing in an artificial tree. There are many options when purchasing an artificial tree, however make sure the label says "fire-resistant."

No matter what type of tree you use, the first thing we use to decorate it is lights. If you're like me, you reuse those strings of lights each year. However, before you take the time to carefully hang those lights, make sure to thoroughly check each bulb and the string for any damage. You want to replace any broken bulbs or sockets, frayed wires, and loose connections. Of course, if there is any doubt on the integrity of the string, throw it out and replace it with a new one. Any new lights that you purchase, or any purchased after 2015 should fall under the new safety guidelines that were instituted by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission. You can check these new

guidelines by visiting [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and searching "seasonal lighting."

Decorating the outside of your home is just as common as the indoor of your home. Many of us hang lights and decorations on our home, which may require the use of a ladder to reach higher areas. When climbing a ladder, remember to have someone with you that can stabilize the base of the ladder as you climb. It is not recommended to stand on the very top of the ladder. If you feel you need to step on top of the ladder to reach your needed height, it is better to use a taller ladder. This will significantly reduce the risk of you falling and sustaining a serious injury such as a broken bone or concussion. As you use electrical cords to light up your house, be careful in how you mount them to a surface. Nails and tacks can damage the cords, therefore using insulated staples or hooks is a better choice. Lastly, as beautiful as your decorations look during the day and evening, be sure to turn them all off before turning in for the night or leaving your home. Leaving them on for extended periods of time could lead to an electrical short and start a

fire.

In addition to electrical issues that can arise with holiday decorating, it is important to consider other causes of injury. This could include glass ornaments that you hang on your tree. These ornaments could accidentally fall off the tree and break. You, your children, or a pet could inadvertently step on this broken glass and cause severe injury to your feet. Additionally, be aware of holiday plants or flowers that could pose danger to your furry friend. Did you know Poinsettias are highly poisonous to dogs? Lastly, if you use an artificial Christmas tree, you may use a scented candle to mimic the lovely Christmas tree smell. Be extra care that your lit candles remain on a stable, fire-resistant surface, and never leave them unattended.

By adhering to these few guidelines, you will be able to enjoy the beauty of the holidays while ensuring your days are safe as well.

*Jennifer Hamilton is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Certified Hand Therapist. She is co-owner of Hamilton Physical Therapy in Berlin, MD.*

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WHERE YOU ARE UNABLE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE.**

\*Offer available In-Store Only. The SpeedWorld® building at 2901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842, Friday, November 27, 2020 from 8am-5pm. Purchase cannot be made over the phone or online. Passes are Non-Refundable and Not For Re-Sale. Management reserves the right to limit quantities. Family 4 Pack not available.

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