

The Courier

June 9, 2021
Volume 21 Number 37

Katie Hofman of Ocean City graduated from the United States Naval Academy this year. She received her degree in English. Marine Corps Second Lieutenant Hofman will now attend Marine Basic School in Quantico Virginia for six months before attending flight school in Pensacola, FL.

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Commissioners approve budget, tax rate unchanged

On June 1, the Worcester County Commissioners approved the FY 2021/2022 (FY22) Operating Budget of \$216,509,211 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an increase of \$12,188,580 or 6% more than the FY21 budget while reducing the requested expenditures of \$218.6 million by \$2.1 million. Budget decisions were based upon current and projected trends along with anticipated fiscal year 2021 revenue surplus. One-time capital and operating expenses that have been previously reduced due to prior years' budget constraints have been reevaluated. Rather than propose additional cuts, the use of surplus funds have been budgeted to fill the estimated shortfall and fund \$1 million in needed supplemental funding for EMS services.

The FY22 budget maintains the real property tax rate of 84.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value and the county's local income tax rate of 2.25%. Worcester County residents will continue to benefit from the lowest income tax rate and the second lowest real property tax rate as compared to all other counties in Maryland. This fiscally conservative budget maintains funding for valuable public services residents can count on, such as public safety, education, infrastructure and existing social service programs.

Anticipated General Fund Revenues

Based on the Real Property tax rate of \$0.845, net property taxes increased by \$3,326,116.

The Homestead Credit cap remains unchanged at 3% and is estimated to be \$1,201,041 for the county's qualified principal resident homeowners effective July 1.

Income Tax revenue increased by \$3,500,000 and is estimated at \$30,000,000 and remains the same at 2.25%. Revenues are based on the market conditions and estimates for the current year. The pass through to municipalities is included for \$2.3 million.

Other Local Taxes increased by \$3,380,000 for the following: \$2,000,000 Recordation Taxes and \$1,500,000 Transfer Taxes both based on actual trends and market conditions. A decrease of \$20,000 in Admission & Amusement Taxes and \$100,000 in Room Tax collections for

unincorporated areas in the county, both estimates are based on the current trends due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

State Shared Revenues increased by \$657,635 and include an increase of \$705,148 in 911 fees based on a raise in the county 911 fee of \$.75 for a total of \$1.50 for each accessible service line which will become effective July 1, 2021. A decrease of \$47,513 is due to the state estimate for Highway User revenues.

Licenses and Permits decreased by \$64,306 overall. Significant changes include decreases of \$25,000 for liquor licenses, \$23,000 for Traders licenses and \$16,606 for health permits. An increase of \$24,000 is included for the occupational licenses which is a biannual license.

Charges for Services decreased by \$2,608,475 with a decrease of \$2,500,000 as the most significant change to Jail Use ICE housing and \$20,000 in jail use work release based on current trends. Other decreases include \$10,000 in Sheriff Paper Service fees, \$15,500 for Library use charges, \$15,000 in Public Works pipe

sales and \$47,000 for Seacrets security by the Sheriff's Office.

Interest on investments decreased by \$650,000 based on current rates of return.

Other Revenues decreased by \$81,718 with a decrease of \$110,000 in Retiree Drug Subsidy and an increase of \$27,800 for rent revenue in Boat Landings.

Federal grants project an overall increase of \$5,671 due to increased estimates for Homeland Security Grant revenue.

State grants decreased overall by \$939,071. Increases include \$450,000 in Program Open Space for Recreation and \$82,107 for Police Protection Grant while decreases include \$670,000 in Program Open Space for Parks and \$980,733 in State Aid for Bridges only requested in the current year.

Transfers in increased by \$5,686,428.

Prior year surplus increased by \$4,325,935 for the following: \$1,210,260 for the purchase of vehicles and equipment for County departments, \$1,006,859 for

supplemental funding for 10 EMS companies, and \$2,108,816 for operating expenses.

Casino/Local Impact Grant Funds increased by \$1,360,493 for the following: \$2,700 for debt payment for the Worcester Technical High School in FY22, and \$1,357,793 for one-time public safety capital purchases.

Major Approved General Fund Expenditures County Departments and Agencies:

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

State's Attorney Office increased by \$231,306

Increased by \$194,150 in salaries and includes a new Investigator and Assistant State's Attorney.

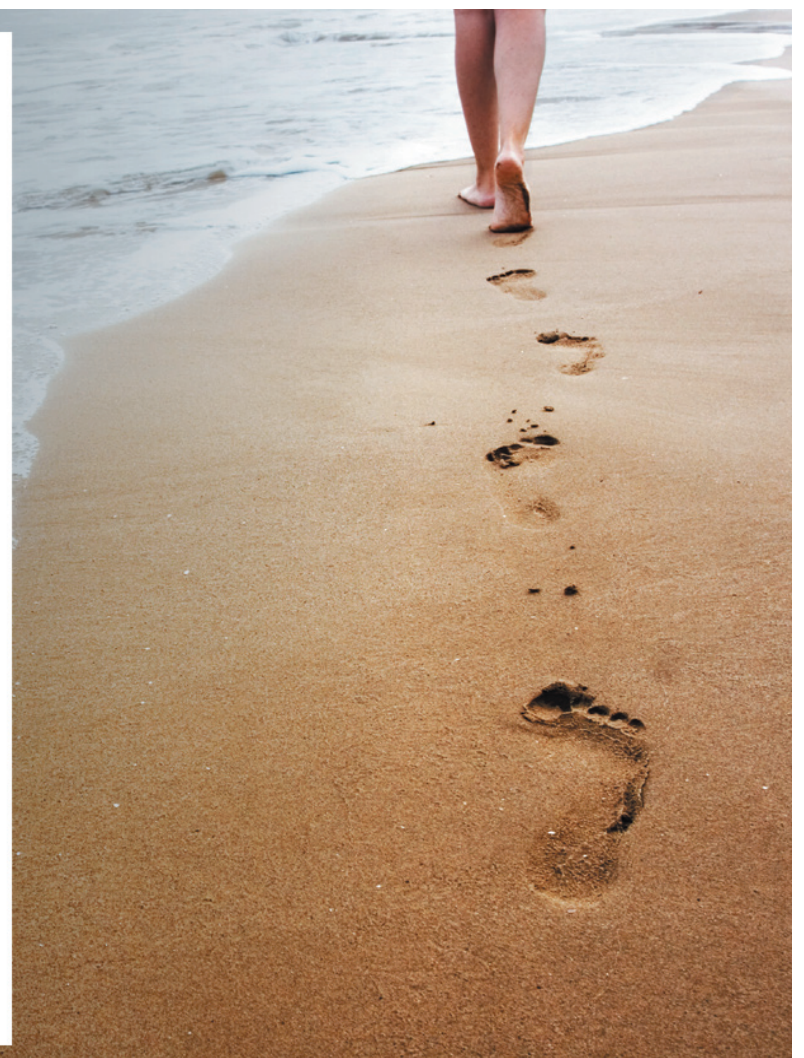
Increased by \$35,000 for an SUV for use by the Investigator to assist with on-call liquor board investigations.

Elections Office increased by \$170,623 and includes a Gubernato-

*please see **budget** on page 14*

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Signs of the times

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Association member Nate Douty wrote to the OPA Board of Directors back in late 2019 expressing concern about campaign signs for candidates for public office on lots in Ocean Pines, as to size, how many, and how long they can remain in place. Apparently, his primary concern related to signs for a presidential candidate on a property for years.

He was not inquiring about signs for OPA board candidates as it seems OPA can regulate these in any way it pleases via ECC/ARC Guidelines, although apparently there is even some question about that topic.



Back to the issue of public office candidate signs - Larry Perrone told Douty OPA had “no authority to intervene” with regard to presidential candidate signs displayed on a lot for years. He wrote, “OPA’s bylaws are only enforceable for our elections.”

First off, any OPA sign restrictions are based on the Declarations of Restrictions, not the bylaws. Secondly, OPA does indeed have the authority to “regulate” signs displayed for candidates for public office, but Perrone even goes so far as to tell Douty, “A legal opinion is not needed.” In other words, Perrone read the laws and made a legal determination.

Then board member Camilla Rogers, an attorney, responds to Douty, writing, “I have reviewed (the HOA Act), and have also put this out to my Real Property list serve (sic). While I respect Mr. Douty’s position, the interpretation is correct as Mr. Perrone has stated which is the intent of this statute. While I have not reviewed applicable case law, the plain meaning of the statute is clear.”

First off, Camilla Rogers is not OPA’s attorney and, as a board member, should not be offering legal opinions on any OPA issue. Secondly, Rogers writes, “I have sent the question out to other members of my legal list serve (sic) and have

learned a lot. The statute only applies to the candidates for the offices that are internal to Ocean Pines.”

That interpretation is the exact opposite of what the HOA Act states! Rogers also said, “However, I believe that your issue went a little further and you were also concerned about the size of all signs for political office. My feeling is that they should be reasonable.”

Back in 2014 I asked then Maryland State Senate member Jim Mathias if he would ask the Attorney General for an opinion on the issue of public office sign regulation in an HOA like Ocean Pines. Jim instead suggested he would contact OPA’s attorney, Joe Moore, and ask Moore to look into the issue and provide a report to the Board of Directors. Moore did so at a public board meeting on May 24, 2014.

The minutes of that meeting include the following: “Joe Moore - Political signs Discussion - Mr. Moore explained Sen. Mathias contacted him because Joe Reynolds said OPA has a limit on the number of campaign signs allowed on a property of a public election. Mr. Moore read Section 11 B-11.02 of the Maryland Act. OPA can restrict candidate signs on common areas and display no more than 30 days before and 7 days after a primary or general public election but cannot limit on size, quantity, etc. on private property. OPA however can regulate its own election candidate’s signs. Mr. Terry thanked Mr. Moore for his at-

tendance today.” Note: the correct HOA Act reference in the minutes should be 11B-111.2. The discussion is also available on video.

So... where are we today? Clearly, if Moore’s opinion as OPA legal counsel was correct, the two board members responding to Douty with their own legal opinions are wrong. OPA does indeed have the legal authority to regulate when public office campaign signs can be placed and when they must be removed.

At this point, sans any board revision of the Guidelines, it could be argued that signs supporting a candidate for public office can go up at any time and remain on OPA private lots for only seven days after an election.

With regard to OPA board elections and candidate signs, based on the current Guidelines, an argument can also be made that ECC/ARC must approve every board candidate sign placed on a private lot! As one informed source explained, “The DR prohibition on signs without approval prevents the Elections Committee, Board, GM or anyone else from issuing guidelines for such signs. The signs are prohibited without ECC/ARC approval.”

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee has urged the board for many years to clarify the Guidelines with regard to signs. To no avail. Board members offering questionable legal opinions only compound the problems.

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

If the 1927 song “I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream” by Howard Johnson, Billy Moll and Robert A. King is correct, then the world has been a noisy place for quite some time. Though the exact origins of ice cream are unknown, historians agree this popular treat has been around for a very, very long time. The International Dairy Foods Association says the origins of ice cream



may reach as far back as the second century B.C. Though he wasn’t around back then, the fifth Roman Emperor Nero, who ruled from 54 to 68 A.D., might have been so fond of iced treats that he routinely sent runners into the Apennine Mountains to retrieve snow that he would then flavor with fruits and juices. That tale might be apocryphal, but there’s no denying ice treats have been enjoyed for a long time. And based on a

2018 report from Grand View Research, Inc. that projected the global ice cream market would reach roughly \$79 billion by 2025, it’s fair to say ice cream will remain popular for a long time to come as well.

Courier Almanac



With a spectacular victory at the Belmont Stakes on June 9, 1973, *Secretariat* becomes the first horse since Citation in 1948 to win America’s coveted Triple Crown: the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes. In one of the finest performances in racing history, *Secretariat*, ridden by Ron Turcotte, completed the 1.5-mile race in 2 minutes and 24 seconds, a dirt-track record for that distance.

The Courier

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The Courier is published Wednesday morning by CMN Communications, Inc. Contents copyright 2021. News release items and calendar entries should reach us Friday noon prior to publication date. The advertising deadline is Friday at 5 p.m. Read **The Courier** online at delmarvacourier.com,

The greener grass

Chip Chops Grass Cheap.

That was the slogan I used nearly 40 years ago for the lawn service I operated while in high school and college. The company's assets consisted of me, a

sense of pity. "Make it \$15 and we have a deal."

From that uneasy beginning, my skills at estimating improved and before long I had about 18 lawns of varying sizes for which I was responsible to mow each week. After school I would load the mower into the old VW and make my rounds. I could usually cut all the lawns in about two days which gave me the time to work my part time job as a kitchen worker

at Pinehill Rehabilitation Center. Things went swimmingly at first but then, but then... there were a few days of rain which wrought havoc to my meticulously detailed schedule. What I

learned quickly was that rain delays had cascading consequences. I wasn't able to mow the lawns on my finely tuned schedule which incorporated the

hours I was expected to work at Pinehill. So, by the time I was able to mow the lawns, the grass had grown taller than normal which took me much more time. Schedule management went right out the window. It was exhausting.

In time I purchased a new self-propelled Craftsman 22-inch mower with a bag. If memory serves, it cost about \$450 which I paid for with cash which gave me a great sense of satisfaction. One thing I learned very quickly was that this new mower was heavier and larger than the one I had been using. Getting it in and out of the VW wasn't as easy and I wrenched my back the first time I tried. Fortunately, not long after, and for reasons unrelated to my situation, my mother purchased a new car, a Dodge Aspen station wagon. And again, she was kind enough to let me use it for my jobs. The mower and the equipment easily fit in the back. I had to keep to the windows open when I drove so the stench of gasoline didn't overwhelm me or worse, anger my mother when she got in to drive.

It's been a long time since Chip Chops Grass Cheap. I look upon that time fondly. But to this day, when it begins to rain when I want to mow my lawn, there's a part of me that still cringes.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

scrawny sixteen-year-old with acne, and a Montgomery Ward 20-inch push mower. When funds were available, a Weed Wacker was added to the inventory. My mother allowed me to use her car, a blue Volkswagen 411, the trunk of which was located at the front of the car, under the hood. The cost? No charge as long as I mowed our lawn weekly.

It was my first foray into the business world. My brother helped me distribute handmade flyers (that my mother copied using the Xerox machine at her office) around the neighborhood. I even had printed business cards designed by my brother.

It wasn't long before someone called to ask for an estimate. *Uh, an estimate? Uh, oh sure. I can give you an estimate.* So naïve and unprepared was I that I never gave any thought to how much to charge. Well, there's something to be said for baptism by fire. I met the homeowner who lived in a twin house on Alicia Street, a couple blocks from my house. She was a kindly old lady. Old? She was probably younger than I am now. She was very nice. Trying to stall for time so I could figure things out, I said I'd have to take a look at the yard which was really a stupid statement especially because the entire yard could be seen from the front stoop. She humored me, "Take your time, dear."

All sorts of non-sensical equations were swirling around in my mind. If I lowballed it, I'd make no money. If I came in too high, I wouldn't get the job. The problem was I didn't know what was too low or too high. Anxiety and perspiration mounted. Eventually, I stammered, "ten bucks." She looked at me for moment and must have felt a



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OPA Board election ballot order set

A candidate draw held last Friday officially set the ballot order for the 2021 Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors election.

The ballot order is:

Frank Daly
Stuart Lakernick
David C. Hardy
Richard Farr

One previously announced candidate, Lisa Romersa, has withdrawn from the race.

Ballot order was decided by a deck of four cards, drawn by each candidate and announced by Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger.

Two seats on the Board will be up for election this year: those currently held by Daly and Frank Brown. The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.

Habeger said the first candidate forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center, on 235 Ocean Parkway.

"The forum will be taped and will be available for replay soon after the forum is finished," he said. "Questions for the candidates can be submitted to elections@oceanpines.org."

Habeger said ballots would be mailed on the week of July 12 and must be received by close of business on August 11.

"Your vote counts and we want to make sure your vote counts. Please make sure your ballot is received by the deadline," he said.

To illustrate the importance of returning the ballot on time, Habeger held up 100 ballots from the recent referendum vote that were received

late, and not counted.

"Because they're after the deadline, they're not valid – we don't even open the envelopes," he said. "We do not want to see an election decided by, say, 10 or 12 votes and have 100 unopened ballots."

Habeger said the postal service continues to move slowly, with reports that referendum ballots "took two weeks to get to lower Pennsylvania and central New Jersey."

"If it takes two weeks for the envelope to get there, the clock is ticking," he said. "Please try to get your ballots in on time. We want to count your ballot."

"The easiest and best way to ensure that that happens is to replace the return envelope with the ballot in the drop box in the lobby of the police department," Habeger added.

To view a video of the candidate draw, visit <https://youtu.be/nn-cTDEKzbc>.

For questions about the election, contact elections@oceanpines.org.

Bainbridge project to cause road closures

The Ocean Pines General Manager's Office announced road closures scheduled during the next several weeks in north Ocean Pines, as part of the ongoing project at Bainbridge Pond.

As work progresses, contractors will close three roads along the drainage ditches coming out of the park. Exposed trenches will be closed each night, but the roads will remain shuttered until work has finished.

Parts of Beaconhill Road will be closed starting on June 11, and parts of Pinehurst Road will be closed starting on



Wreath laying - In observance of Memorial Day, the Worcester County Garden Club placed a wreath at the Veterans Monument in downtown Berlin. The wreath was designed and created by member Sue Ann Hudson. Club President Deb Young said the wreath laying was "a good opportunity to show our pride and respect for our fallen military as well as to our active service members and military families. We owe our freedoms to those who dedicated their lives to preserve our rights and uphold our democracy."

Individuals interested in learning more about Worcester County Garden Club can contact the membership chair at WorCtyGardenClub@gmail.com.

Above are **Sue Ann Hudson, Deb Young, Martha Bennett, Suzy Young and Pat Arata.**

June 18.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said residents would still be able to get in and out, despite the closures.

"All the roads that they're closing, there will be more than one way to get in and out of them," Wells said.

The project at Bainbridge Pond includes replacement of storm drain inflow and outflow pipes, construction of a new forebay, re-grading the perimeter of the pond and installing aquatic benches, and building a new weir to control water

levels and slow flooding during larger storms.

"This is a positive step in the filtration of water that eventually leads to the bay. In addition, the upgrade of pipes has its benefits under the designated roads and ditches for this project." General Manager John Viola said. "Right now, we're on schedule to finish in June, and we're within budget."

For questions, call 410-641-7717 or email info@oceanpines.org.

Short-term rental town hall scheduled

The Ocean Pines Board has scheduled a town hall on proposed short-term rental regulations, on Saturday, June 12 at 6 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

Director Frank Daly, in May, introduced new attorney recommendations for a Declaration of Restrictions amendment about short-term rentals in Ocean Pines.

Daly said a short-term rental workgroup worked with stakeholders to provide a balanced approach to regulating short-term rentals in the community.

He said after many discussions over the last two years, that work group determined that the best solution is to adopt the existing Worcester County Code into Ocean Pines Declarations of Restrictions, with "enhanced enforcement provisions."

To view the proposed amendment, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/Short+term+rental+proposal.pdf>.

To send questions or comments in advance of the town hall, email directors@oceanpines.org.

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Horseshoe crab migration arriving on Maryland shores

Maryland's shores welcome back the annual return of the horseshoe crab, *Limulus polyphemus*, in one of the world's oldest and largest wildlife migrations.

For an estimated 350 million years, these prehistoric creatures have migrated into Maryland's coastal bays from their winter habitats to spawn along the coastline and subtidal habitats. Although called "crabs" they are in fact arthropods.

The height of horseshoe crabs spawning revolves around late spring and early summer high tides, culminating on or around each full and new moon in June. On average, one spawning female horseshoe crab will deposit 20,000 eggs into the sand.

Biologists from the Maryland De-

partment of Natural Resources monitor the returning horseshoe crab population for ecological and scientific research purposes. The department encourages the public to report any spawning activity and sightings of horseshoe crabs to the Horseshoe Crab Volunteer Angler Survey.

The horseshoe crab's blue copper-based blood is critical for biomedical research — the animals are collected by specially permitted fishing operations, have blood drawn in a biomedical facility, and then are released back into the water.

Also, horseshoe crab eggs are a natural part of the diet for migratory shorebirds preparing to return to their summer nesting grounds in northern Canada.

Despite a horseshoe crab's armor and menacing tail, they are gentle creatures that do not bite or sting, and can only survive outside of water for a short amount of time.



Get together - The Worcester Co Commission for Women (WCCW) met in May for their first in-person meeting since COVID at the John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill. The Friends of WCCW joined them for a spring Meet and Greet.

Free platform tennis clinics offered

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center is offering free clinics for new platform tennis players, June 16 and 23.

Platform tennis is an outdoor racquet sport for any age group that combines elements of tennis and racquetball.

The game is usually played as a doubles sport, with players using a solid paddle and a spongy ball. Platform tennis courts are one-third of the size of a normal court, and surrounded by screens to help keep the ball in play.

The free clinics are scheduled from 7 to 8 p.m. Organizers will supply all the necessary equipment.

"Even if you've never played a rac-

quet sport, we will get you playing," Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Association (OPPTA) Board member Karen Kaplan said. "If you used to play, you will love this game that's played year-round on our fenced-in platform courts."

The OPPTA offers four drop-ins each week, along with co-ed, men's and ladies' leagues, and social events.

"It's a very friendly group," Kaplan said. "Come on down and join us!"

For questions or more information, email oppaddle2020@gmail.com, call 516-508-0313, or visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/platform-tennis>.

Teach A Kid to fish returns

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host the annual Teach A Kid To Fish Day on Saturday, June 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. Kids of all ages are invited to "test the waters"

and learn fishing skills and techniques with the members of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and grandparents to introduce a new generation to the sport of fishing. The pond is stocked with several species of fish and participants will have the opportunity to try out their learned skills.

Participants are encouraged to bring insect repellent and a bottle of water. Please bring your own rod. Bait will be provided. There will be a drawing for a free rod and reel. The event is free. No pre-registration is required. For more information contact John McFalls at {610} 505-1697.

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Estate planning for farm families

By **Michele Procino-Wells, Esq.**

As my practice has evolved over the years, I've seen certain trends among my various clients. One that stands out in particular is the difficulty farm families have with putting an estate plan in place. This topic is near and dear to my heart as my maternal grandfather was a farmer, as was his father, and his father before him.

My grandfather died from a heart attack at the age of 64 while operating his tractor and cultivating a cornfield. He had four daughters, none of whom farmed. My grandmother leased the land for years and at her later death, the farm was sold outside the family. I was too young to know, but if my grandfather was like all my farmer clients, I have to imagine that was the last outcome he wanted. Every farmer I've ever worked with has told me the same thing: I want the farming operation to continue after my death and I never want the property sold outside my family. These types of wishes present unique challenges when it comes to estate planning, but also make the need for planning all that more important.

Farmers are some of the best planners I know, when it comes to farming. They plan ahead for each crop and each season and work incredibly hard. But when it comes to estate planning, many procrastinate because of the complexities involved. Farmers are do-it-yourselfers, usually very private and often feel they need to come up with the perfect plan in their minds before they seek help. Too, the demands of the farm make them feel they are just too busy to focus on something that hopefully won't happen for years. These objections are exactly why farmers need to seek help from an experienced estate planning attorney. Our job is to give them planning options, talk through various strategies to help them achieve their goals and to make the planning as streamlined and efficient as possible, letting the farmer get back to the farm.

Farm families experience many unique planning concerns as the current farming generation ages and passes on. These frequently include the following:

Farmers are often "land rich" and have limited cash available. This is a concern if the farmer or their spouse needs long term care which could result in a need to sell part of the farm to raise sufficient cash.

Lack of liquidity is also a concern

upon the farmer's death. Where will cash come from to pay expenses and taxes?

The farm may be subject to significant amounts of debt. Who will be responsible for it after the farmer's death and how will it be paid?

Typically, some family members work on the farm, while others don't. How will farmers ensure harmony is preserved among the entire family while ensuring the continued successful operation of the farm?

All of these concerns can be addressed with planning that not only focuses on planning for the transfer of the farm to the next generation but also preserves assets so the current generation is protected and get the care they need as they age without jeopardizing the future of the farm and the livelihood of their heirs. This planning uses various tools, including the following:

Revocable Trusts to plan for incapacity, avoid probate and set forth instruction for distribution of the farm after the farmer's death.

Irrevocable Trusts shelter assets from the costs of long-term care and can set aside funds to pay death taxes, if applicable.

Limited Liability Companies (LLC) protect the land from liabilities and establish a structure for how the farm will be managed in the future. LLCs can have voting and nonvoting members, set rules for the sale of interests, and provide for centralized management.

Lease Agreements allow the farmer to maintain control during their lifetime and can establish rules for the use of the farm after the farmer's death.

Life Insurance planning is critical for farms with debt and if taxes will be due upon the farmer's death.

Rights Of First Refusal ensure that family members always have the first right to purchase interests in the farm if another owner wants to sell.

Who should a farm family work with for estate planning? It's important to have a good team including the following:

An experienced estate planning attorney will counsel the farm family on how to best accomplish their specific goals, suggest strategies for protecting the farm with one or more of the above-listed tools, and prepare the necessary documents.

A certified public accountant (CPA) will assist with strategies relating to the

farm's cash flow making sure the farmer has access to the income while living. A CPA will also help with planning related to the division of income after the farmer's death between heirs who work on the farm and those who do not.

A financial advisor can help with investment strategies, planning for retirement and assist families with maximizing their social security benefits. A financial advisor will also help with asset alignment as part of the estate planning process and with a smooth transition of assets to the heirs upon the farmer's death.

An insurance advisor has a critical role in protecting the farm against catastrophic loss and with providing a source of funds to pay debt, taxes and other expenses upon the farmer's death.

For farmers, the family farm is not only their livelihood, it's their heritage and their life's work. Preserving the farm for the next generation requires careful planning and requires the right kind of guidance and preparation. Without appropriate planning, years of effort may go to waste and family relationships can be destroyed.

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We're back

The summer excitement is back. Cruising Week and Memorial Day weekend brought the time honor tradition of grid lock to Ocean City. On the water, the price for marine grade gasoline has returned to pre-pandemic levels and the memories of crab traps and shoals have quickly been revived. Boat up restaurants and sand bar picnics are once again welcome destinations while jet skis and parasailing and kayaking and drift fishing in the bay and deep water sporting



fishing or just plain cruising and sunning and swimming off the side in the St. Martin River are all back.

There are so many ways to enjoy our local waters. Tour boats can take you on a guided tour of Assateague Island's environs. Others can treat the thrill seeker to a high speed, rocket of a ride in the open sea along the O.C. beach. Still others can provide inspiring sunset cruises or romantic twilight dining or safe 'booze cruises' for the sober impaired. There's even a pirate ship to treat the kids to a Jolly Roger experience.

I have to confess that I haven't personally tried all these adventures but many are on my bucket list and maybe I'll knock a few off this year.

We also have lots of water events coming up like the OC Air Show, June 19-20, and the White Marlin Tournament, August 2-7.

Unless you're a contestant, you will be joining me on the O.C. inlet north jetty in the predawn darkness to wave at the magnificent fleet of sport fishing boats as

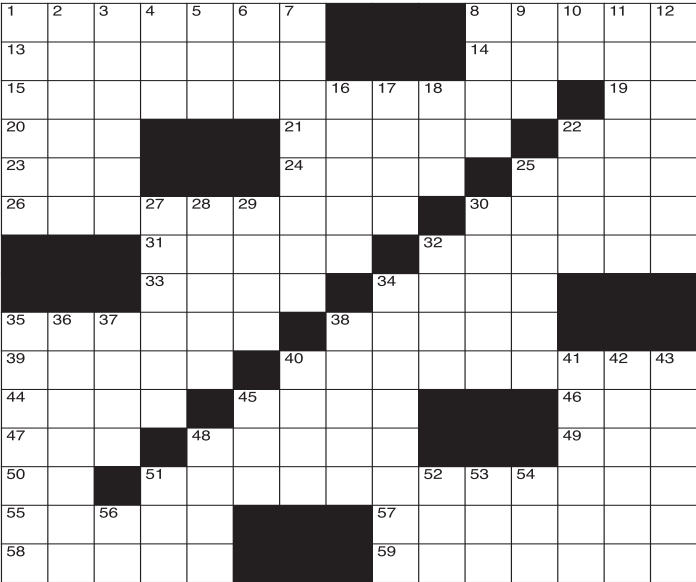
they head out to catch the coveted white marlin and claim part of the six-million-dollar purse. I, like most, will be vicariously with them, wearing my White Marlin Tourney tee shirt and maybe being one of the returning 2021 groupies in the viewing stands at Harbor Island to watch the nightly fish weigh-ins.

But my favorite event is the Father's Day weekend OC Air Show. This year we will be treated to the return of an over the water air show off the beach. The marquee attraction will be the US Air Force Thunderbirds who will be making their bi-annual appearance. This is a spectacular event with great viewing from the board walk and the beach anywhere near 14th to 18th Street.

However, many of us will opt to take in the spectacle from a boat. When the seas are calm, we have had 400 to 500 boats anchored off the beach. When the seas have been rough, we have had that many in the bays. The advantage of watching the show from a boat is field of vision. You can see the performing planes circling over Ocean Pines and the bays as they form up for a pass along the beach so you actually see a lot more and it's a lot more interesting.

The only downside is photography. The Air Show is an afternoon event. Therefore, the sun will be over your shoulder if you are on the beach for most of the performances. That means you'll have ideal lighting and viewing to capture the gravity defying acrobatics if you're hanging around show center. This is opposed to being offshore where you must contend with both the westerly setting sun and the reflection off the water plus the shadowy side of the planes – not the recipe for a Pulitzer Prize, take-home-to-mom quality picture. My recommendation is that if you're anchored with the sightseeing fleet off shore, leave the camera in the bag and just enjoy the air show.

please see *knots* on page 15



CLUES ACROSS

1. Most courageous

8. Insurance giant

13. Small trace left behind

14. In a way, signals

15. The same letter or sound at the beginning

19. The Great Lakes State

20. Engage in a contest

21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)

22. Manpower

23. Undivided

24. Strong, magnetic metal

25. People of Tanzania

26. Sorts

30. Cop car accessory

31. Trade

32. Sullen and ill-tempered
33. Distinctive practices

34. Motor vehicles

35. Electrodes

38. Polish river

39. Human feet

40. Make very hot

44. Toppin and Kenobi are two

45. Blackbird

46. One point west of due south

47. Large beer

48. Third stomachs

49. Rare Korean family name

50. Hectoliter

51. Aquatic invertebrate

55. Where we live

57. Poked holes in

58. Partner to ways

59. ___ Ann

CLUES DOWN

1. Expressions of approval

2. Replace the interior of

3. Not awake

4. Roman numeral 7

5. Sun up in New York

6. Institute legal proceedings against

7. Bugs homeowners don't want

8. Maltese-Italian composer

9. Very long period of time

10. Touchdown

11. Agents of downfall

12. Complacently or inanely foolish

16. Argentina capital Buenos ___

17. County in New Mexico

18. An electrically charged atom

22. New Zealand conifer

25. Type of brandy

27. Comments to the audience
28. Tears down

29. Gifts for the poor

30. More painful

32. Good friend

34. Lying in the same plane

35. Line in a polygon

36. Clouds of gas and dust

37. Norse god

38. Health care pro

40. Close tightly

41. One's holdings

42. Became less intense

43. Wilco frontman

45. Woman (French)

48. Expresses delight

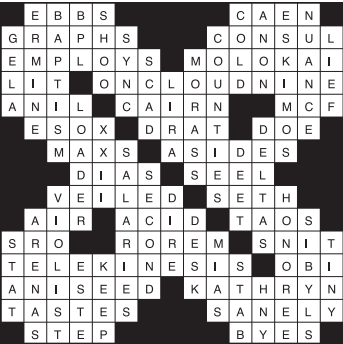
51. TV channel (abbr.)

52. Beverage

53. Unit of work or energy

54. Cleaning accessory

56. Dorm worker



Answers for June 2



Meet and Greet - On May 15, the Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) held a Meet and Greet for Republican Women living in the central part of Worcester County. The get together was held at The River House Inn in Snow Hill. More than 40 women were in attendance. In the photo are left to right: hosts and owners of The River House Inn, **Rick Lesser** and **Dwayne Mease**. To the right is the president of RWWC, **Beth Rodier**, accepting a donation from the Innkeepers. If you would like to know more about the Republican Women of Worcester County, please go to www.gop-womenofworchester.org.

Parke garage sale announced

The Parke at Ocean Pines is holding its community sale on Saturday, June 26 (rain date is Sunday, June 27) from 7 a.m. to noon in the driveways of its residents. The Parke is an active 55+ Adult community of 503 homes. Parke residents are selling their treasures for others to enjoy. There are clothes, lamps, artwork, household items, electronics, furniture and more.

On June 26, maps will be available at the main entrance of the

Parke located at Central Parke West, located off of Ocean Parkway at the south entrance of Ocean Pines.

For additional information, contact the Parke Clubhouse Staff at 410-208-4994.

Fire displaces Pines residents

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office investigated a fire which left nine Ocean Pines residents homeless and damaged three homes. On Tuesday, June 1 the Worcester County Emergency Services (911) received a report of a house fire at 301 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Volunteer fire departments from Ocean Pines, Berlin, Showell, Bishopville and Ocean City responded to the fire. Firefighters remained on the scene for four hours. The house where the fire origi-

nated was occupied by four adults and five children, ages two, four, eight, 10 and 12. Two additional adjacent homes received exterior damage from the fire. All occupants escaped the fire uninjured. An Ocean Pines firefighter received a leg injury and was transported to AGH and later released. Red Cross assisted the nine displaced residents with temporary housing and clothing. The cause of the fire is contributed to juvenile fire play.

Crafter of the Month announced

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Sharon Cooper as the June crafter of the month.

Cooper and her husband, Ray, moved to Ocean Pines 15 years ago from Carroll County, Maryland.

She began making jewelry shortly after moving, and she was encouraged by a friend several years ago to join the craft club and sell her jewelry in the club's shop.

Cooper's goal is to make unique and affordable jewelry. However, some of

her earrings are so popular that she ends up making several in the same style.

Cooper said she's happy that she took her friend's advice, and she is very proud to be a member of the craft club that gives so much back to the community.

View Cooper's projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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eating ice cream &
Doritos minding my own
business,
& Walmart calls the
Cops

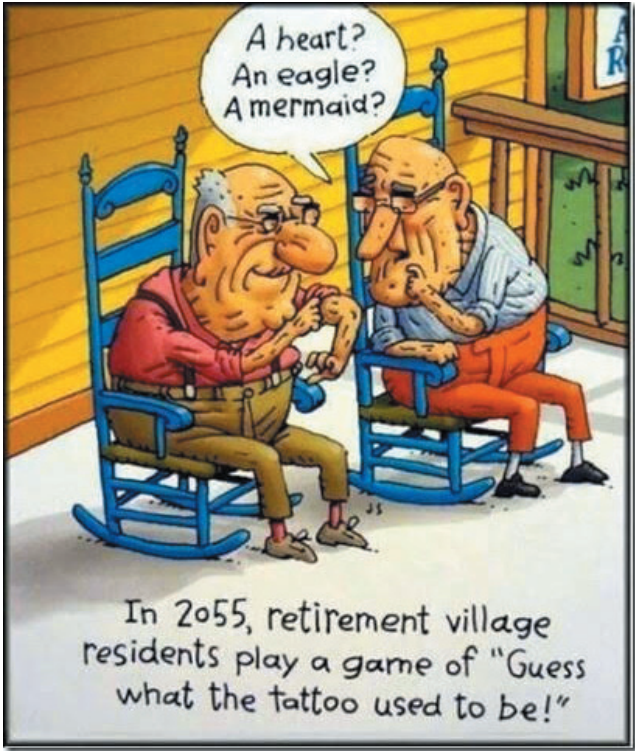


*Some things to
think about*

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

I would never have believed
that a few weeks of uncut hair
would weigh 20 pounds but
that's what the scale says 🧘

A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel
An OPTIMIST sees light at the end
of the tunnel
A REALIST sees a freight train
The TRAIN driver sees 3
idiots standing on the tracks.





Coding fun - Sixth grade students in Victor Hall's Computer Science class at Berlin Intermediate School practice coding their VEX GO robots to prepare for the coding obstacle course challenge. VEX GO is a construction system that teaches the fundamentals of STEM through fun, hands-on activities that help young students perceive coding and engineering along the way. Above are **Miley Cabello-Vargas, Olivia Mongellie, Kami Shump, and Lizzie Thompson.**

Pulled pork fundraiser set

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a Smoked Pulled Pork Carryout on Saturday June 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the main station. The menu includes a half pint smoked pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw and a roll (for sandwich making) for \$12. Additional pint of pork is \$10. Please call 619-922-9950 by June 10 for orders.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. Speaker will be Big Bird Cropper. He will provide a run-down on what is happening in early season fishing and maybe throw in a few useful tips. Also to be discussed are updates on fishing regulations and other fishing issues. All are welcome.

Ball player to be remembered

The Worcester County NAACP will commemorate Negro League Baseball Player, Hall of Famer Judy Johnson, a Snow Hill native, on Saturday, June 19 at 11 a.m. to noon. He will be recognized in front of the Judy Johnson Memorial at the Snow Hill library located at 307 N Washington St. In attendance will be Johnson's long-time friend, James Knott, who will share personal stories about Judy. Rayner "Ray" Banks, ambassador for the Baltimore Negro Leagues will also be present. For more information call 443-944-6701.



Dem club to meet

The Democratic Club of Ocean City/Berlin will have its meeting on Monday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at the Cambria Hotel, 13 St. Louis Avenue in Ocean City. The Honorable Jim Mathias will be the guest speaker. All Democrats throughout the county are invited so we can get to know each other. No fee. Questions/RSVP call Pat Lockett 410-289-4725 (land line) or email at edandpatlockett@net-zero.net.

Winery event is Sunday

The Art League of Ocean City is hosting "Arts Day at the Winery" at Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery on Sunday, June 13 from noon to 8 p.m. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

Arts Day is an outreach event of the Art League, which has as part of its mission to bring the arts to the community.

The event includes an Artisan Marketplace with more than 25 artists, live music all day, and art activities for all ages. Lauren Glick performs from 5-8 p.m. For an additional cost, attendees can take

artist-led art classes and hand paint a wine glass or create an acrylic painting.

"Bring your friends and a chair, and drink in the ambience of the vineyard and the wonderful art," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League said. "If you're not familiar with the Art League, this is a chance to meet us and see what we do around Worcester County."

Windmill Creek is located at 11206 Worcester Hwy. in Berlin. A full schedule of events is posted at ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org. The rain date for the event is July 11.

Artisan, craft festival to return

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines announced last week that the 43rd annual Pine'eer Artisan and Craft Festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 7 at White Horse Park.

"We are looking forward to seeing everyone again," Craft Club President Sharon Puser said. "Our festival last year was canceled because of COVID-19, but what a difference a year has made."

To participate in the festival, contact Jane Wolnik at jane.wolnik63@gmail.com for a vendor application.

For additional information or questions, contact Barb O'Connor at boc2638@yahoo.com, or call 410-726-8062.

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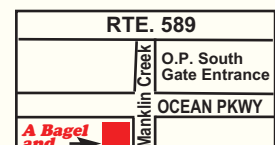
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Southgate - Ocean Pines
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budget
from page 3

rial early voting and Primary Election in June 2022.

Increased by \$17,204 in salaries for reclassification by the State Board of Elections of certain positions in FY22.

Increased by \$148,822 in supplies and materials mainly due to increased voting machine leases, supplies and new poll books.

Sheriff's Office increased by \$1,952,507

Increased by \$564,282 in salaries and includes 3 new full-time Deputies, converting 3 part-time Civil Deputies to full-time, and converting 4 part-time School Security Deputies to full-time.

Increased by \$182,002 in supplies and materials for new hires which includes law enforcement equipment, bullet proof vests, and uniforms.

Maintenance and Services increased by \$84,657 and includes \$63,000 for outside labor to outfit new vehicles.

Increased by \$6,000 for education training for professional development.

Increased by \$1,115,566 in capital equipment of which \$741,000 is for 19 new vehicles and includes \$374,566

for vehicle equipment.

Emergency Services increased by \$1,127,495

Increased by \$341,824 in salaries and includes 4 Communication Call Takers for the Next Gen 911 initiative and 2 Electronic Services Specialist positions.

Increased by \$204,921 in supplies and materials for the following: \$46,500 for radio equipment needs for portables and mobile radios and \$190,523 increase for the Harris radio service contract.

Increased by \$580,000 in public safety equipment for a one-time project for a P-25 radio interference mitigation upgrade.

Fire Company Grant is included for \$2,520,000 based on the current funding of \$250,000 to each fire company and the supplement for \$20,000.

Ambulance Grants is included for \$6,095,632, an increase of \$1,083,659 and includes supplemental funding for 10 EMS companies to assist with staffing.

Public Works Maintenance Division increased by \$310,514

Increased by \$173,134 in salaries and includes a new Plumber position and cross training due to a retirement.

Increased by \$136,129 in capital for three utility trucks and a replacement Toro mower.

Other Social Services increased by \$190,000 for the Cricket Center to be used towards building a new child advocacy center.

Wor-Wic Community College increased by \$112,120. The Worcester County local funding allocation is 28.03%.

Recreation Department increased by \$663,097

Increased by \$118,927 in salaries and includes a new Recreation Program Manager position and reclassifications.

Increased by \$513,570 in supplies and materials and includes \$20,000 additional funds for tournament fees and \$500,000 in Program Open Space grant funds for an addition to the Recreation Center.

Increased by \$43,500 in capital and includes a new vehicle and a retractable batting cage for the recreation center.

Parks Department decreased by \$719,171

Decreased by \$942,487 for Park improvements from the State for Program Open Space funds over the current year and increased by \$12,000 in equipment lease for a GPS paint robot for fields.

Increased by \$59,812 in maintenance and services mainly due to the updated lease payment for the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex.

Increased by \$135,600 in capital and includes two pickup trucks, a zero turn lawnmower, a utility vehicle with field groomer, and a Vermeer wood chipper.

Taxes Shared with Towns increased by \$297,100

Increased by \$300,000 for the pass through of the Income Tax distribution to the Towns.

Grants to Towns increased by \$212,133

Increased by \$259,133 in grants to Towns over the prior year.

Decreased by \$47,000 for restricted fire grant to the Towns based on the current formula.

Insurance & Benefits increased by \$3,254,102

Decreased by \$100,425 due to the renewed contract for the County medical and prescription insurance benefit without an increase allocated to each plan type.

Increased by \$2,731,879 for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for a total of \$8,231,879. Additional

OPEB is provided to the Board of Education for total County OPEB funding of \$11,100,025 in FY22.

Increased by \$425,946 for the retirement plan based on State rates.

Increased by \$177,273 for social security taxes based on the estimated payroll.

Increased by \$10,078 for Workers' Compensation insurance plan.

Increased by \$11,422 for Property & Liability insurance due to an increase in premium.

Decreased by \$2,071 for the State's Retirement administration fee.

Debt Service decreased by \$222,213

Decreased due to the 2004 MDE loan payment as compared to current year.

Salary accounts increased to include a 3.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for County employees and longevity pay for those eligible.

Board of Education

The County allocation for the Board of Education's (BOE) operating budget is \$97,002,221, an increase of \$2,390,982 over the current year adopted budget as shown below. School construction debt is paid by the County on behalf of the BOE. It is not reflected in the BOE's budget; however, it is included in the County's operating budget. The BOE's approved operating budget of \$97,002,221 plus debt service of \$12,469,356 totals \$109,471,577 or 50.6% of the County's total estimated revenue.

**Board of Education Requested
Employee Salary and
Bus Contractor Increase:**

The Board of Education (BOE) budget includes the following salary adjustments for FY22:

The salary package for the BOE reflects a payroll increase of \$1,812,981, which includes a step, longevity step for those eligible, a 1% COLA for Teachers and 1.5% COLA for Support Staff employees.

The bus contracts account increase over FY21 is \$66,393 and reflects a 1% increase to bus contractor's hourly, mileage and PVA rates effective July 1, 2021 for \$43,930. Also included is the request for several contractors to purchase new buses for \$22,463.

Starting Teacher pay would increase 1.0% from \$47,322 to \$47,795.

Freelance features
writers sought.

Interested?

Email
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What's your story?



knots
from page 10

Another great event is watching and photographing the fourth of July fireworks from a boat. Once again, the on water, vista is something very special and the pyrotechnics can be framed with the shoreline or skyline of Ocean City to provide inspiring photogenic perspectives.

The downside (and realistically speaking, there's always a downside, tradeoff, or other side of the story) is operating your vessel at night amongst a concentrated crowd of weekend boaters – many of whom have more experience social drinking by day than they have experience with night navigation. If you do join the Fourth of July armada, please make sure your navigation lights are turned on, your passengers are wearing life jackets, and you have set a 360-degree watch.

2021 is going to be a great year. Let's get out there but:

Stay safe. Stay dry.

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



TheCourierofOceanPines

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 10	Low	2:39 AM
10	High	8:41 AM
10	Low	2:24 PM
10	High	9:04 PM
F 11	Low	3:18 AM
11	High	9:23 AM
11	Low	3:03 PM
11	High	9:45 PM
Sa 12	Low	3:58 AM
12	High	10:05 AM
12	Low	3:43 PM
12	High	10:26 PM
Su 13	Low	4:39 AM
13	High	10:47 AM
13	Low	4:25 PM
13	High	11:08 PM
M 14	Low	5:23 AM
14	High	11:30 AM
14	Low	5:11 PM
14	High	11:51 PM
Tu 15	Low	6:09 AM
15	High	12:15 PM
15	Low	6:02 PM
W 16	High	12:37 AM
16	Low	6:56 AM
16	High	1:05 PM
16	Low	6:58 PM

Safe boating - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member **Timothy Mullen**, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Officer, helped at the National Safe Boating Week tent which attracted hundreds of boaters and non-boaters.

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