

The Courier

July 21, 2021 Volume 21 Number 43



"Shimmer" is a 24" x 36" acrylic on canvas painting. This painting was inspired by a waking dream the artist had, which involved the moon, a mangrove swamp, an overwhelming sense of peace, and an answer just beneath the surface. This painting was the first where Jon became fascinated with pointillism, and the depth that it can bring to a painting.

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Art Matters

First responder makes art that matters

By **Elaine Bean**

Many artists wear several hats. One of Jonathan Nordstrom's other hats is an essential one. He is a first responder, a federal firefighter working in Dover. Another hat is as an author, writing and illustrating four children's books. And during July, Nordstrom is the featured artist in Studio E at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, turning the space into an eye-catching exhibit of personal creativity.



**Jonathan with his wife
Renee**

In August 2020, Nordstrom and his wife, Renee, returned to Ocean Pines to live and work close to where they first fell in love. "My wife and I met in Ocean City 25 years ago when I was in the Air Force and she was working at Seacrets," he recalled. "Members of her family have lived in Ocean Pines for years. There is a magic to the area that we absolutely love. When we had job opportunities arise closer to the Shore, we jumped, and we moved where we have wanted to be for years."

Nordstrom now makes art in his home studio in Ocean Pines and during downtime at the firehouse. But he was exposed to art from an early age and knows why it matters. "My father was an advertising executive, and both my parents love the arts. I was able to

look through thousands of images by brilliant designers, painters, and artists at a young age. As a child, I was exposed to Maurice Sendak, Leo Lionni, Shel Silverstein and countless artists. Every image most certainly made an impression on me over time, and I came to appreciate and empathize with what an artist is trying to convey. That translated later in life to wanting to understand literature, cuisine, cultural differences, the list goes on. I have the distinct pleasure of working with children, some of whom are not necessarily afforded the opportunity

to see and experience art at a young age. To see their faces light up at the illustrations I created is simply a gift. Those illustrations lead to them reading the book. Reading the book leads to another, and the cycle of the quest for knowledge is born anew. Art definitely matters."

Nordstrom paints using acrylic on canvas, with a heavy emphasis on pointillism as a technique. "The depth that comes from layer upon layer of points is hard to come by with a brush stroke, and I feel it adds a signature touch, along with a feeling of movement in the finished pieces." For his book illustrations, Nordstrom uses ink and marker on paper. "I chose ink and marker for a pretty simple reason: I could bring the illustrations with me to work, and work on them on my down time. Much as with my paintings, I believe in great detail and vivid colors to draw the viewer into the

miniature world I have tried to create."

One of Nordstrom's sources of inspiration comes when he sleeps. "When I dream and have nightmares, I do so in technicolor," Nordstrom said. "They are vivid, and evoke so many emotions ... I want to bring the viewer of my art into the universe in my head, and it is a never-ending wellspring of thoughts, some good, some bad, all from a place of emotion."

However, it was a family tragedy that inspired Nordstrom to become a creator of award-winning children's books. On Halloween 2010, his 11-year-old nephew, Nathan, was killed in a car crash. "He was the apple of my wife's eye, my daughter's everything, and a son I will never have," Nordstrom said. "That sentence to this day chokes me up, but it is necessary to explain how the worst thing that can happen can have a profound effect on life, and how our darkest hour has turned into a project of joy."

For months after Nathan's death, Nordstrom struggled to find a way to cope, and his daughter was having difficulty sleeping. "I came to the conclusion I HAD to help her sleep, and immortalize this young man, and the only way I could do that was with my book," Nordstrom said. His first book, *Sometimes Sleep*, earned the Gelett Burgess and Mom's Choice Awards, was selected as a notable indie publication for Shelf Unbound Magazine, and was selected for display at the Klingspor museum in Germany.

With that success, Nordstrom knew he had a good thing going, and his next book was *Shimmer*. Loosely based on the water cycle, *Shimmer* is a young droplet out on an adventure, learning about interpersonal relationships, resilience, and that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

Being a firefighter, Nordstrom said he was constantly asked to write a book about the firehouse. "I resisted



for years, not wanting to just make a cliché story," he said. "However, we had a mouse situation at the firehouse ... and *The Mouse at 61 House* was born. The hero, Mr. Jingles, simply wants to help, but just cannot get out of his own way. The lesson throughout is continuing to do the right things, and only good things will happen in the end."

Nordstrom's latest book is *The Sometimes Silly Saga of Sven the Sailing Swede*. "I simply wanted to do something to make children laugh and think about how their actions can impact the environment in the future," he said.

Nordstrom has become a regular at the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisan Markets on Saturdays, offering his art and books for

sale. "I cannot say enough about that group," he said. "Beyond having a great market, they helped introduce me to many of the people associated with the arts in the area. I am so fortunate to have found the Art League of Ocean City, and have such a wonderful space like Studio E at the Arts Center to display my art."

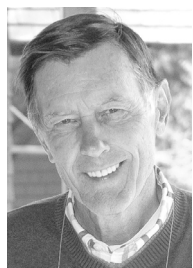
"Knowing where the art comes from in an artist's mind is important to me. So, if you see me, come on in and we'll talk about it!"



Sad day for OPA

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**

If there was ever a public display demonstrating the nonsense OPA's Board of Directors becomes involved with on occasion, the special meeting held on Sunday, July 18 was a textbook example.



The meeting was supposed to go into a closed session after public comments for purposes of legal discussion with OPA's attorney. The board never reached a closed session. In the end, not one of seven board members voted YES on Larry Perrone's motion to go into a closed session. Perrone voted against his own motion.

As it turns out Doug Parks decided to make public comments and spilled the beans - the closed session was to discuss comments made by board candidates Stuart Lakernick and Rick Farr on *OceanPinesForum.com* to the effect that the Election Committee and Election Committee chairman were biased against them and in favor of candidate Frank Daly.

As someone posted to the OPA

YouTube Channel during the meeting — the meeting was a “travesty.”

I agree 100% with Doug Parks and Tom Janasek who both more or less said the same thing — this should not be an issue discussed by the OPA Board of Directors. Camilla Rogers expressed similar sentiments opposing the closed session.

Parks nailed it when he said if the board was going to meet and discuss an issue every time a candidate or a board member made some allegation in a newspaper interview or on an online forum then the board would be meeting most every day. Parks should know. He called fellow director Slobodan Trendic a “turd” in a newspaper interview.

In a somewhat humorous comment, OPA attorney Jeremy Tucker said candidates often lie or misrepresent issues, quickly adding he was not referring to the two candidates in this case. Perrone tried to make the case that it was important for the board to respond to what he suggested were serious allegations that the Election Committee is biased against Lakernick and Farr.

In the abstract, this might seem reasonable. In reality, such an ap-

proach is a land mine of possible lawsuits and other complications, as Tucker pointed out. My take on Tucker's advice was — stay away from this unless there is real evidence the committee actually did act with bias. There is no such evidence. Lakernick and Farr should apologize.

As I wrote in a prior commentary, Steve Habeger is one of the most honorable men I know. Regardless of this nonsensical board meeting, Habeger did not deserve to have charges of bias leveled against him and the Election Committee by Lakernick and Farr.

Thankfully, in the end, Parks and Janasek prevailed and the board did nothing other than to suggest Election Committee chairman Steve Habeger could write a letter to the editor of local papers.

As an aside, Janasek said he does not care what anyone writes on *OceanPinesForum.com*. Not sure what insult he was trying to imply but the comments in question were from two candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors on a public website with thousands of registered members. Janasek should care what they say.

Frank Brown said he has absolutely no idea what anyone says on public websites as he reads none of them.

Janasek also noted that he knew nothing about the topic of the closed session until informed by Tom Stauss, publisher of the Progress. Guess Janasek checks with Stauss on issues but has no use for association members who post to *OceanPinesForum.com*.

Then there was a comment about the news release sent out by OPA from Steve Habeger defending his committee against charges of bias. Board members said the news release was sent out by the Director of Marketing and Public Relations Josh Davis without board approval.

Davis is not a board employee and hopefully does not need a board vote on every news release coming out of OPA. Davis reports to GM John Viola, not the Board of Directors.

All in all, the meeting was indeed a travesty and should have never taken place. It was a sad day for OPA.

See related stories on pages 8 and 9.

Courier Almanac

Music courses can have a profound impact on students, potentially helping them perform better in other subjects. A recent study from the American Psychological Association found that high school students who take music courses score significantly better on exams in subjects like math and science than their nonmusical peers. The improved academic performance was more pronounced among students who learned to play an instrument rather than vocal music. The researchers behind the study examined the records of more than 112,000 students in British Columbia. Among the students whose records were studied, 13 percent had participated in at least one music course in grade 10, 11 or 12.

Researchers discovered that, on average, children who learned to play a musical instrument for many years and ultimately played in a high school band or orchestra were the equivalent of roughly one academic year ahead of their peers in regard to their English, mathematics and science skills.



On July 21, 2007, the seventh and final Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was released, with an initial print run of 12 million copies in the United States alone. Like each of the previous Harry Potter novels, *Deathly Hallows* was slated to be made into a major Hollywood film.

The bespectacled boy wizard Harry Potter is the brainchild of the British author J.K. Rowling, who was born July 31, 1965. Rowling's first novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, debuted in Britain in 1997 (it was retitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* when it was released in America the next year) and went on to become an international bestseller. Children and adults alike were captivated by Harry, his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger and their adventures at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The books, which chronicled Harry's struggles against his enemy, the evil Lord Voldemort, have sold over 400 million copies and been translated into more than 60 languages. The series is also credited with boosting childhood literacy around the globe.



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A bear in the woods

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

"A penny saved is a penny earned."



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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"Give me liberty or give me death!"

It's certainly not a breakthrough statement to write that sometimes a concept or an idea can be best summed up with a colorful yet simple phrase or statement. Such expressions can illuminate, illustrate and inspire. What comes to mind for instance is Ben Franklin's, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" or Teddy Roosevelt's, "Speak softly and carry a big stick!" Despite their brevity, both statements speak volumes and capture one's imagination more quickly and more completely than a thousand words could ever hope to do.

History has recorded one of the greatest and shortest statements ever that was simultaneously emotional and motivating. General Anthony McAuliffe used just a single word to sum up his feelings (and that of his country) when responding to a German overture for surrender during the Battle of the Bulge: "Nuts!" That certainly gets the point across.

Sometimes cobbling together a couple of seemingly simple words can make for a powerful weapon and can instantly make clear an idea too cumbersome or detailed to explain. Franklin Roosevelt, no stranger to turning a phrase for personal or political favor, proved time and again he was a master of the English language. Think of, "All we have to fear is fear itself," which penetrated the public psyche like a hot knife through butter. Then there was "Lend Lease" a term that explained simply a complex diplomatic and military strategy.

I like my great phrases simple, to the point and whenever possible with a little imagery or humor thrown in for good measure. Such expressions can come from anywhere at any time. Fortune cookie messages are a good

source of meaningful expressions. Here's one that is so obvious it makes you think: "And remember, no matter where you go, there you are."

Confucius uttered those words more than a couple millennia ago and it is still relevant. Sometimes though I don't know why I'm where I am but that's a whole other topic.

Many years ago, I was at a hunting lodge in central Pennsylvania where a friend's father had invited me to shoot clay targets. The lodge was, as you might imagine, in the woods, set on over a thousand acres. At one point we hopped in a truck in search of bears that had been sighted in the area. Just before we left, I overheard my friend's father answer a child questioning why we were going: "If you want to see a bear, you have to go look at a bear." Now that comment may sound simple at first yet it struck me. As I lay in bed that night listening to the melody of nature through the open window, the phrase turned in my mind, forward and back. Yes, I know there are probably better ways to induce sleep than over-thinking a simple comment but what can I say? That's who I am.

The phrase has what is required for a comment to be memorable: imagery (the bear) as well as texture and depth (to accomplish something, you have to do something). Little did my friend's dad realize that his simple answer to a child's innocent question would be so analyzed and deemed, at least by me to be powerful rhetoric. Oh, by the way, we never did see any bears.

Politicians and philosophers are good for voicing phrases that have resonance beyond their words. For example, Winston Churchill had a couple that make a person think. Here's one, "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on." Here's another, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

No discussion of phrases and expressions would be complete without an example from that great philosopher Yogi Berra, "If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else."



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WCYFS offers wellbeing resources

In response to the growing needs of our community members, Worcester Youth & Family Services, Inc. founded the SHINE Taskforce. The vision of the taskforce is to provide community members easy access to resources that will enhance the well-being of its children and families. In March 2021, the organization held the first of its quarterly meetings with leaders in the community who helped identify critical needs and resources in their area of specialty.

The information obtained from this meeting was loaded into the website's main page under "SHINE Taskforce" in four main areas:

Medical; Behavioral Health; Education; and Basic Needs (www.gowoyo.org).

On Wednesday, July 28 at 10 a.m., the next meeting will be held and will include speakers Lou Taylor, Superintendent of the Board of Education; pediatrician Dr. Mithila Jegathesan and Yovanda Brown, employment specialist at the Department of Labor. These keynote speakers will information as we move forward in the months ahead.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by July 21 at <https://forms.gle/Sk4uZ2j6eCKQj3vh8>

Boating course offered

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the one-day Maryland Boat Safety course on Saturday, August 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library. This class is designed for the convenience boaters who are not able to attend the three-evening course. It includes all the necessary information to obtain the safe boater certificate. Space is limited register now!

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NAS-

BLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20.00 covers the cost of the course and materials.

Checks should be made payable to: "USGCAUX 12-05" and mailed to: USGCAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811. Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

For more information or to register please contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E-mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

Car show is Saturday

Get out and enjoy the fresh air and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Car Show on Saturday July 24 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial Park. The cost of registration is \$15 per entrant and will take place between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. There will be judged classes, trophies and awards. Food concessions will be offered by Kiwanis "Dawg Team".

OPA Board to meet

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors will at 7 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

Following the meeting, the video will be posted to the Association YouTube channel and links will be announced on the Ocean Pines website, www.oceanpines.org.



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Library book sale returns

The Ocean Pines library is announced that the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library will host their annual Book Sale on Friday, Saturday and Monday, July 23, 24 and 26 at the Ocean Pines library located at 11107 Cathell Road. The sale will feature over 20,000 hard and soft cover books, CDs, DVDs and audio books, all priced 50 cents to \$2 each. Topics include children's, fiction, nonfiction, history, art, music, self-help, biography, science fiction, westerns, animals and nature, foreign language, home school and education, cookbooks, crafts and hobbies and many more. There will also be a specials room where you may purchase antique, author signed, first editions, rare, collections, historical, local interests, reference and more which are all priced individually. Over 100 volunteers are scheduled to assist with setup, monitoring, selling, tear

down and coordinating of the sale with approximately 800 hours of volunteer time.

All proceeds benefit the Ocean Pines library with equipment and other needs that cannot always be included in the Worcester County budget. Recent purchases include new book return boxes on the porch, a smart board used for meetings and classes and an audio-visual sound and projection system for the meeting room.

Between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, July 23, the sale will be open to Friends members only. You may join at the door for \$5. Hours on Saturday, July 24 at 9 p.m. to 4 p.m. On Monday, July 26, everything will be half price including the specials room.

Only cash and checks are accepted. There are no limits and dealers are welcome.



Fishing success - The Ocean Pines Anglers Club hosted another successful Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday at the South Pond in Ocean Pines. The event drew 64 contestants ages four to 16 and at least that many adults. One hundred fifty-five fish were caught and submitted to the judges.

Trophies, prizes and rods and reels were given to first, second and third place winners in each age group for Largest Fish and Most Fish. Every youth that entered received a prize thanks to the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club. A drawing was held for two grand prizes.

Above are grand prize drawing winners **Kylee Middleton** who won the "Angler" deep sea fishing trip and **Mike Vitak** with **Sydney Fowler** winner of the Vitak Custom Rod and reel.

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Farr and Lakernick cry foul, OPA Elections Committee responds

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

OPA Board of Directors candidates Rick Farr and Stuart Lakernick are crying foul over what they see as an OPA Elections Committee bias against them while favoring candidate Frank Daly with regard to the scheduling of the second Candidates Forum held on July 13th. Neither Farr nor Lakernick attended the second forum.



What is going on?

The second candidate forum was originally scheduled for June 19th. In responding to claims of committee bias, committee Chairman Steve Habeger wrote, “There were several reasons for canceling the forum on June 19.” He mentioned the date was the opening day of the Ocean City Air Show and at least two candidates would not be able to attend.

Using the Ocean City Air Show as an excuse is a real stretch. Even on the changed date to avoid air show conflict, only 14 people attended. The issue of only two candidates being available for the June 19th date is a non-starter, as only two candidates were available for the July 13th date. Habeger does not say who was unavailable for the original June 19th date, but one was Daly.

Habeger says Lakernick called him back on June 18 and said he “did not intend to participate in a future candidate forum.” According to Habeger, Lakernick said his decision not to attend was based somewhat on “the low number of people who had viewed the video of the first



Rick Farr

forum.”

Lakernick complains Habeger did not report the full conversation, writing, “Yes, when I told Steve (Habeger) I couldn’t attend because I have a brain rehab patient, I did say that I wasn’t overly concerned because it appears most homeowners don’t come or even view the forums. Let’s explain the FULL reason, not just parts of the conversation.”

Habeger writes about Farr, “On Monday, June 21, Rick Farr sent an email to the EC which said, in part, ‘I have decided that will not be participating the (sic) second candidate forum.’” Farr’s re-



Stuart Lakernick

sponse was he also told Habeger he would not be participating in the July 13th Candidates Forum “due to the recent death of my mother. My family had planned a celebration of her life this week before the forum dates were set.”

Some messages were posted to *OceanPinesForum.com*.

Farr wrote, “Biased election committee or chair? Seems so with accommodations made for the incumbent (Daly).....plus inaccurate reported reason for myself and Stuart (Lakernick) for not attending the forum (Candidates Forum on July 13th).”

Lakernick wrote, “We do not understand why accommodations were not made for us as were made for Frank Daly.”

Before even hearing the other side of the issue, association member Tom Hemmick responded, “A significant development, now becoming public information. Indicates potential bias.”

However, I asked Farr, “Did you and/or Stuart tell the committee via phone or email that neither of you would be participating regardless of the date?”

Farr replied, “Yes - via email.” I then asked, “If you were not participating regardless of date, why is the date now an issue?” Farr has not responded.

Lakernick has a point on Candidate Forum exposure. Out of 8440 or so properties with a potential vote, the first Candidates Forum has been viewed 404 times on YouTube and perhaps 75 people attended in person. Again, out of 8440 or so properties, only 14 people attended the recent July 13th forum. Apparently, most voters decide on what is written by the candidates and included in the ballot package, and to some extent on word of mouth.

Then there is the flap over Habeger’s use of the word “declined” as opposed to “unable” when saying Lakernick and Farr “declined” to attend. I wrote on *OceanPinesForum.com*, that ‘declined’ is a non-neutral word. Farr grabbed that comment and posted the following misrepresentation: “As pointed out by Joe (Reynolds), this is definitely a non-neutral election committee and very partial to the current board member seeking re-election. Accommodations were made by the election committee for Frank Daly to celebrate his wedding anniversary and move the forum date to today. I was not offered the same accommodation afforded to Mr. Daly.”

I responded, “Rick, I pointed out no such thing. All I said was ‘declined’ was a non-neutral word. If you were not participating regardless of date, why is the date now an issue?” There has been no response.

There are reports that Lakernick and Farr have contacted OPA with concerns about ballot security for the ballot box at the police station, and even wanting to have some part in transporting ballots. They apparently have serious concerns as to how the ballots are handled and counted.

However, there is no evidence the committee members or Steve Habeger have shown bias in the conduct of the Candidate Forums. Habeger is one of the most honorable gentlemen I know.

Frank Daly, responding to Farr/Lakernick charges that the Election Committee favors him,

wrote, “The notion that the committee extended any special consideration to me, or that I requested any special consideration, is a flat out lie designed to do nothing more than impugn the credibility of the Elections Committee.”

Board members and board candidates are politicians. They are free to pontificate. Members of the Election Committee are not politicians. If any OPA committee or group must be seen to be beyond reproach, it is the Elections Committee. Even if not intending bias, Habeger’s choice of words and setting tables and nameplates for two candidates he knew would not be attending was a mistake, but certainly not a mistake to warrant

charges of favoritism for Frank Daly and bias against Farr and Lakernick, who ironically campaign on fixing the political divisions on the OPA board. This is not an auspicious precursor should they be elected.

Then there is perception. Perception is everything in politics, and the perception is not good when Camilla Rogers, OPA’s board liaison to the Elections Committee, reportedly displayed signs on her property supporting Frank Daly and David Hardy.

If irony was water, Ocean Pines would be flooded.

Scheduling of second Candidate Forum in 2021 election

Editor’s note: Below is a memo prepared by Elections Committee Chair Steve Habeger and disseminated by Ocean Pines Association.

BACKGROUND: At the Candidate workshop on June 4, it became clear that the planned second forum on Saturday morning, June 19th was unsustainable. There were several reasons for canceling the forum on June 19 and among them were the following:



Steve Habeger

That date was the opening day of the OC Air Show; many people had plans for the day, and

At least two candidates would not be able to attend the forum.

Attempts to schedule the second forum on Saturday, June 26 was fruitless and July 3 was not attempted.

On June 8, Elections Committee (EC) sent the candidates a set of three dates for a second forum.

On Friday, June 18, Stuart Lakernick called me and told me that he did not intend to participate in a future candidate forum. Stuart cited the low number of people who had viewed the video of the first forum. As I recall, fewer than 300 people had viewed the forum at that time.

On Monday, June 21, Rick Farr sent an email to the EC which said, in part, “I have decided that will not be participating the (sic) second candidate forum.”

Both statements of non-participation were clear and unequivocal. Candidates are invited to all election events but are not required to attend. Two candidates did not attend the Candidate Draw for ballot order and a

position was drawn for them.

During all this time, EC was receiving many questions for the candidates. All the questions indicates that association voters want to know where candidates stand on a variety of topics and issues. EC concluded that association voters desire a second candidate forum, therefore EC searched for a date and time when a facility was available, then scheduled the second forum with notification to all candidates. The availability of a suitable location was a severe constraint on producing a second forum. An additional scheduling constraint was a goal of the EC to finish forums before mailing the ballots. If OPA members were to mark their ballots immediately upon receipt of the ballot and then a forum causes them to reconsider their votes, the process seems ineffective.

CONCLUSION: The second Candidate Forum was held Tuesday, July 13 at 7 PM in the Golf Clubhouse.

All candidates were informed and invited.

OPA Board ballots due back Aug. 11

Ballots for the 2021 Ocean Pines Board of Directors election were mailed last week and are due back by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11.

Running this year are incumbent Frank Daly, and challengers Stuart Lakernick, David C. Hardy and Richard Farr.

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

The Ocean Pines website for the first time has a dedicated election section, viewable from the homepage or the direct link: www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/election-2021.

The page includes biographical and contact information for each candidate, links to video of candidate forums, and key upcoming dates in the election process.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger has stressed the importance of returning ballots on time. Ballots received late or not sealed in the envelope provided in the mailing will not be counted.

Habeger also urged voters to follow ballot instructions: Vote for no more than two candidates and fill in the selection box using a dark pen or pencil. Ballots marked improperly will not be counted.

Ballots may be returned either by mail or to the 24-hour drop box in the Ocean Pines Police Department lobby, on 239 Ocean Parkway.

Important upcoming election dates include:

Wednesday, August 11 - Ballot deadline (by 4 p.m.)

Friday, August 13 - Ballots counted and totals announced - 10 a.m. (Board Room, Ocean Pines Administration Building)

Saturday, August 14 - Election results validated at 9 a.m. during the Annual Meeting of Membership (Assateague Room, Ocean Pines Community Center)

For questions about ballots or the 2021 election, contact the Elections Committee at elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989.



Fishing hot spots

Important information: Please remember that fishing the Inlet and Bay areas of Ocean City and Assateague are difficult due to the numerous channels, shallows and shoals. In addition, the bottom contour changes each year with storms that impact the Eastern Shore during the winter months. A depth finder is essential, follow the markers and buoys.

South Bay – Sinepuxent Bay along Assateague: You want to fish here during the high tide. Once the water starts boiling out, it gets dirty, too warm. Best drift is from marker 3 to 11. 3 starts just south of the inlet and 11 ends at the airport. Try to stay in the channel or on the West side. East side very shallow. Also, there’s a good drift from marker 12 to 14. 12 starts just before Frontier Town Campground and 14 ends just below Grays Point.

Inlet: Best on incoming tide. Fish close to the sea wall. Also drift the south side of the Jetty. Don’t overlook a drift close to the entrance of the Commercial Harbor at the end of the Inlet. Stay just to the West of the markers and try a drift from the Inlet to the Rte. 50 bridge. Don’t go too far west or you will be on a sand bar. Watch your depth. As long as you stay just west of the markers you will be okay.

What to use? A three-way swivel with a 30-36” leader of 20-30lb test. Have available 2-4oz sinkers to keep your bait on the bottom when fishing for bottom feeding fish and adjust the weight to tide movement. Use peeler, green crab or sand crabs to catch tautog, triggerfish, and sheepshead close to the rocks. Use a size 1/0 or 2/0 Octopus hook. For flounder use a wide gap hook 1/0 or 2/0 or circle hook and frozen shiners and squid strip or gulp. I prefer frozen shiners over live minnows because they seem to be a better attractor. Also, if you want to catch sea bass and croaker use bloodworm or shrimp with a 4 or 6 long shank hook. At night use live eels or live spot for Rock fish (Striped Bass). Use a 3/0 or

5/0 Octopus hook or circle hook. (See helpful hints below for more details).

East Channel: Lots of action. The water is swift and deep, 20 feet to 30 feet. You need to play the tides carefully here. From the draw of the Rte. 50 bridge to 9th Street is very good through incoming tide and a few hours after. You will notice to the left a protected island followed by a green marker #3 and red #4 marking the entrance to the main channel for the north bay. Drifting just to the West of marker 3 and between the marker and the island is a great spot at the incoming tide. Also, just to the north of marker 4 where the townhouses jut out is a great place to drift back toward marker 3 and 4 and the East Channel. This area also holds croaker and a few trout.

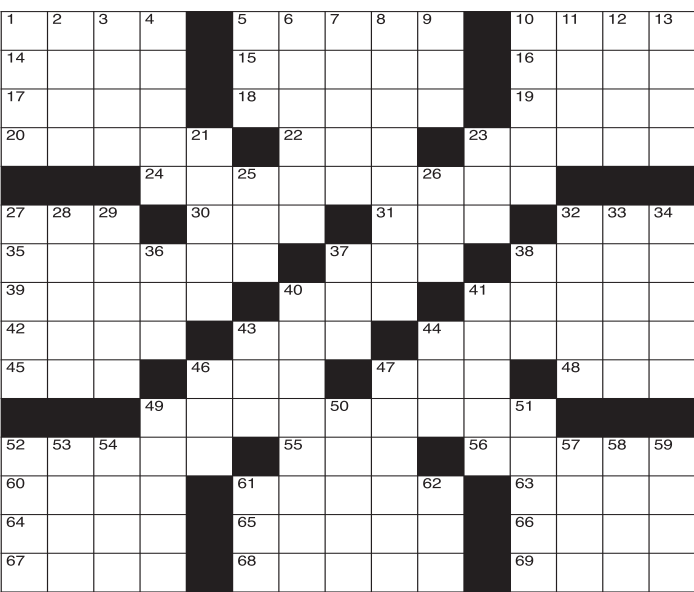
Convention Hall Channel: Around 33rd st. Good for flounder July and August. Stay in the deeper water on the East side of the Markers.

Thorofare: Work the areas around buoys #2, #6, #8 and #10. You can drift on the west side by the marshes all the way to #16. Use your depth finder as the east side of the channel becomes very shallow quickly. Best to fish during high tide.

Helpful hints: Many varieties of fish can be caught in the Inlet and bays. I will concentrate my comments to two of the most popular, Flounder and Rock or (Striped Bass). Obviously, there are many lures and baits for these two species as well as techniques. I will simply give you hints based on my personal experience and preference.

Flounder: Flounder enter the inlet and bays in the early spring usually around mid April when the fishing starts and obviously improves during the heat of summer during the months of June, July, August and September. I usually monitor the water temperature in April and when it hits 54 degrees I go fishing for flounder. During this early season I prefer to fish outgo-

please see **tales** on page 11

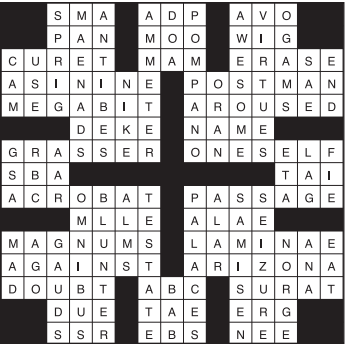


CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion accessory
5. Subatomic particle
10. Ethnic group of the Philippines
14. Popular cookie
15. Fabric
16. Alcoholic liquor
17. Peter __, Dutch portrait painter
18. Longtime Chicago mayor
19. A famous “Lady”
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Rocky peak
23. Polio vaccine developer
24. Songs sung in open air
27. Military movements
30. Male parent
31. Beloved hot beverage
32. Female sibling
35. Tackled the QB
37. Set a dog on someone
38. Long live! (Spanish)
39. Porticos
40. Pouch
41. Smooth fabric
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Institute legal proceedings against
44. Scarred
45. Draw from
46. Brother or sister
47. Body part
48. Commercials
49. London soccer team
52. Satisfied
55. Surgical technique (abbr.)
56. Fencing sword
60. French industrial city
61. Intellectual property organization (abbr.)
63. Helps to carry food
64. “Rule, Britannia” composer
65. One-time Empress of the Roman Empire
66. Intestinal pouches
67. None better
68. “WandaVision” actress
69. Comedic actress Kathryn

CLUES DOWN

1. Fifth notes of major scales
2. Region
3. Your consciousness of your own identity
4. Georgetown athletes
5. They follow A
6. Spoke
7. Hairdressers’ domain
8. Extravagantly theatric
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Members of a priestly caste
13. Southern Ghana people
21. Counsels
23. Body of water
25. Awesome!
26. Calendar month
27. Native of region in Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. Exclusive
32. Alaskan town
33. Covered with ivy
34. Loose granular substances
36. Native American tribe
37. Written American English
38. Holiday (informal)
40. Add up
41. Small brown and gray rails
43. Get off your feet
44. Express disgust
46. Surface of the ground
47. Put into a silo
49. Belief
50. British noblemen
51. Tennis game
52. Dry, protective crust
53. Swiss river
54. Large integers
57. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
58. Every one of two or more
59. “Deadpool” actor Reynolds
61. Earlier
62. Peter’s last name



Answers for July 14

tales
from page 10

ing tide as the water is usually warmer returning from the marshes. I will start with a rig with a three-way swivel 2 or 3oz sinker depending on the tidal flow and 30” of monofilament about 20lb. test using three pearl beads, a white spinner blade, squid strip-split tail and frozen shiner at the end with a wide gap hook 1/0 or 2/0. Remember: Whatever you use you must keep the bait on the bottom. Be certain to use enough weight. If this rig does not attract them, I will go to a pink version with a pink skirt of hair & mylar cut to the edge of the hook. Most of these skirts are too long and include a good look at the minnow. Finally, if neither of these works, I may go to a plain hook or one with just a couple red beads. Drift the same areas described above. In mid-May or certainly June when the bay really warms up, I switch

to a chartreuse color. This rig has three beads, a spinner blade and either a skirt of hair & mylar or a chartreuse artificial squid. Also, use a frozen shiner and strip of squid split for action. Also, don’t forget to try Gulp it’s an excellent bait.

Rock or (Striper): The best time for rock is in the early spring and fall although they can be caught all summer long in deep water usually in the evening. I prefer to fish the high slack tide and first two hours of outgoing. I will usually drift the East Channel or deeper areas of the inlet and next to the Rte. 50 bridge. Although artificial baits work well such as Rattle Trap, Gotcha lures etc. I still prefer live bait usually fished on a 30 – 36” leader with a fish finder rig with 2 – 3 oz weight and a 3/0 to 5/0 octopus or circle hook baited with peeler crab, live eels, or live spot.

Don’t forget the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Annual Flounder Tournament at the Ocean Pines Marina and Yacht Club. Saturday August 7. Applications can be downloaded direct from their web site or obtained at the Chamber Office.

Remember to take a kid fishing,
Capt. Ron



Carroll joins WCYFS
Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services recently welcomed Donald Carroll to its team of clinicians. Donald Carroll is a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor, who earned his Master’s Degree in Clinical Mental Health from Walden University. He has several years of experience working with children, teens, adults and families. He is well versed in trauma counseling and has a special interest in play and sand tray therapy for young children. He is experienced with several diagnoses including ADHD, Autism Spectrum and Mood Disorders.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 22	Low	12:57 AM
22	High	6:52 AM
22	Low	12:45 PM
22	High	7:29 PM
F 23	Low	1:51 AM
23	High	7:47 AM
23	Low	1:40 PM
23	High	8:23 PM
Sa 24	Low	2:42 AM
24	High	8:41 AM
24	Low	2:33 PM
24	High	9:14 PM
Su 25	Low	3:30 AM
25	High	9:33 AM
25	Low	3:24 PM
25	High	10:03 PM
M 26	Low	4:16 AM
26	High	10:23 AM
26	Low	4:14 PM
26	High	10:50 PM
Tu 27	Low	5:01 AM
27	High	11:11 AM
27	Low	5:04 PM
27	High	11:35 PM
W 28	Low	5:46 AM
28	High	11:58 AM
28	Low	5:56 PM



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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Explaining life

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves.

For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family.

For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.

And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information.

I'm doing it as a public service.

If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch.



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When retirement assumptions and reality collide

Presented by **Mark E. Engberg, CFP**

Having spent the first 20 years of my working life sailing on ocean-going cargo ships, I know a thing or two about voyage planning and making corrective actions when needed.



Mark Engberg

Even the most disciplined investors can face unexpected hurdles as they try to reach their financial goals. Sometimes, we presume that we have greater control over our financial course than we really do.

Here are four assumptions retirement savers often make—and how reality can intrude. For each assumption, I offer a course correction to help manage events that you might not anticipate.

Assumption 1: My expenses will be lower in retirement

Reality check: Many retirees find they spend just as much money in retirement as they did while they were still working, with out-of-pocket medical costs a common surprise. Plus, most want to travel and pursue other passions, and those costs can quickly add up.

Course correction: When estimating your retirement savings goals, assume your current expenses will remain the same, minus the amount you're setting aside annually toward retirement. Then calculate your target portfolio size and how much you need to save each year.

Assumption 2: Medicare will cover my health care costs

Reality check: Medicare doesn't cover many of the health-related expenses retirees encounter, including most dental, vision, and hearing care. Perhaps more important, you have to pay out of pocket for any long-term care you need, unless you obtain supplemental insurance in advance.

Course correction: Review what's covered at medicare.gov and estimate what your annual out-of-pocket health care liability might be. Contribute to a health savings account (HSA), if your employer offers one. These provide the best tax advantages for savings that ultimately go to qualified medical expenses.

Assumption 3: I'll be able to

work as long as I want or need to

Reality check: Many people end up retiring earlier than they planned. Sometimes the cause is an unexpected health issue or the need to care for an ill loved one. In other instances, a person loses a job and finds it hard to secure a new one with similar pay.

Course correction: Rerun your savings projections assuming early retirement and/or relatively low-wage work in retirement.

Assumption 4: I should play it safe with my investments in retirement

Reality check: While a conservative retiree's portfolio might be 20% equities and 80% cash and fixed income, a greater allocation to stocks can help offset the risk of outliving your savings.

Course correction: An analysis by the Schwab Center for Financial Research found that a retiree with a 60% allocation to stocks was able to take larger withdrawals than a retiree with

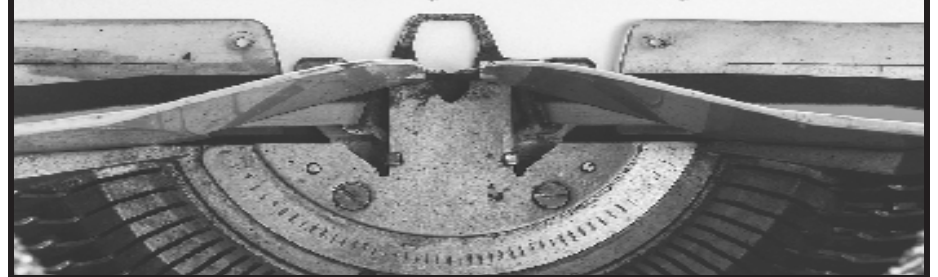
*please see **retirement** page 15*

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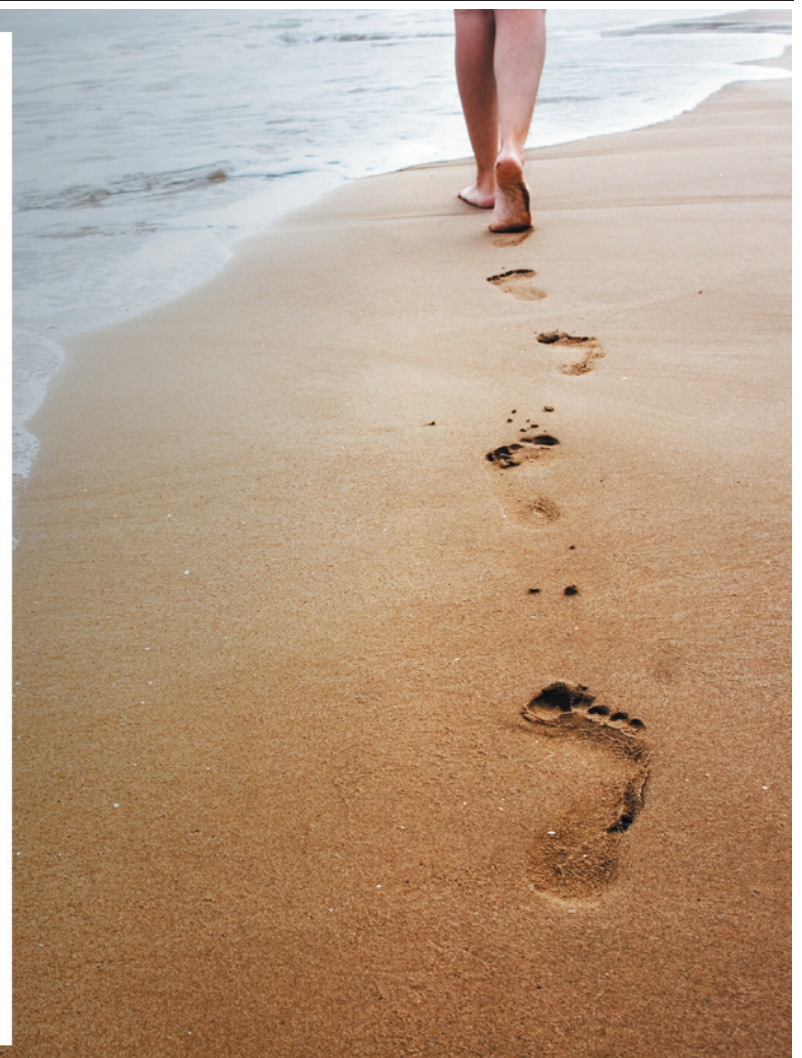
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Securing a trustworthy pet sitter

Welcoming a pet of any kind into a home can be a lesson in love as well as one in responsibility. Pet owners must take various steps to ensure the safety

feeder. Dogs, however, will need daily bathroom breaks and feedings, says the Animal Humane Society. Adult dogs may be able to “hold it” for 10 to 12 hours, but young puppies and elderly dogs likely need more frequent breaks outside.

Feeding and cleaning

and well-being of a companion animal, and that includes providing for that animal while on vacation.



all about
pets

How long pets can remain at home alone depends on the pet, its age and its overall health. For example, an aquarium full

of fish may be able to thrive for a week with the assistance of an automatic

up pet waste is not the only consideration. Some animals require much more socialization than others.

Pet sitters can address pets' needs while their owners are away. But finding one that will care for a pet like he or she is a member of the family can take some time and effort. Hill's Pet Nutrition suggests beginning the process of finding a pet sitter by making a list of needs. Considerations to include are whether the pet sitter should be in one's home or if the pet is to be brought to a pet care facility or a private sitter's residence. The pet may have particular health care require-

ments that also need to be addressed, such as a dog who requires insulin shots for diabetes.

While friends and family may be the first choices as pet sitters, there are benefits to using professional pet sitters. A professional sitter is properly trained in the care of many different animals, according to Pet Sitters International. He or she may have a local business license and be insured and bonded. Professional sitters are likely to make the pet a priority more than hobbyists or well-meaning acquaintances because caring for pets is how

they earn their livings.

Personal recommendations can be an effective means to finding reliable pet sitters. Pet owners can interview candidates, asking questions about experience with this type of pet, how he or she handles the breed and temperament, and what the plan might be if the pet gets sick or injured while in the pet sitter's care.

Pet sitters provide valuable services when pet owners are away from home. Vetting pet sitters takes a little time, but that effort is well worth it.

Protect pets in hot weather

Warm weather brings many changes. Warm weather can make travel more enjoyable and affords people more time to comfortably enjoy the great outdoors.

It's best to keep safety in mind when soaking up the sun. That's important for all members of the family, including pets. Cats and dogs are as susceptible to heat-related illnesses as their human companions.

Recognize heat stroke. Pets can suffer from heat stroke, according to the American Red Cross. Certain breeds of dogs are highly susceptible, particularly those with short snouts, such as pugs and bulldogs. Excessive exercise in hot weather, lack of appropriate shelter outdoors and leaving a dog in a hot car may precipitate an episode of heat stroke. It's important to get the pet out of direct heat right away and check for signs of shock, which include seizures, a body temperature of 104 F or higher, stupor, increased heart rate, or excessive panting. Placing water-soaked towels on the pet's feet, head, neck, and abdomen can bring down its temperature.

Be cautious of hot surfaces. Humans wear shoes on their feet for protection, but pets do not have that luxury. Think about how hot your feet can feel when you scurry barefoot across hot sand en route to the shoreline or to cross a deck to get to the pool. When the sun beats down on surfaces, those surface temperatures rise quickly. According to a 2010 study by Liberty Home and Pet Services, at

peak afternoon sun and an ambient temperature of 95 F in southern Florida, the temperature of cement was measured at 125 F, red brick at 135 F, blacktop at 140 F, and grass at 102 F. Individuals who think a car is safer

for their dog or cat may be surprised the informal study measured 152 F on seat surfaces.

Provide extra water. It's likely you will need to fill your pets' water bowls more frequently in warm weather than during other

times of the year. Be sure to provide constant access to fresh water, even for young puppies who may be learning to house train.

Avoid cutting fur too short. If a veterinarian suggests a haircut may be beneficial for keeping a pet cool or comfortable, resist the urge to shave down to the skin. Having at least one inch of fur will protect the pet from sunburn.

Outdoor hazards. Warm weather may bring out a high number of insects and wildlife. Use a flea and tick preventative product and medication to protect against heartworm, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. Snakes, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and other animals may be roaming around, and a scuffle with your pet can result in injury.

Pets need extra care during the warm weather to avoid damage and sickness from the sun, heat and more.



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What's your story?



retirement
from page 13

20% in stocks while still maintaining the same degree of confidence that their money would last. A more aggressive portfolio isn't right for everyone. A financial planner can help you weigh approaches that account for multiple rates of return and retirement scenarios.

We are not guaranteed safe financial passage throughout this life, but having options and the ability to modify your course is important. At Schwab we can help you create a financial plan that is relevant, comprehensive, yet flexible.



TheCourierofOceanPines

Mark Engberg, CFP® is the Branch Leader at the Charles Schwab Independent Branch located in Rehoboth Beach, DE with over 20 years of experience helping clients achieve their financial goals.

For more information visit the Rehoboth Beach Independent Branch Website at: www.schwab.com/rehobothbeach or call (302) 260-8731.

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Student backpack donations sought

Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is seeking donors and sponsors for their upcoming School Supplies for Students program. The program provides backpacks filled with school supplies to K-12 students in Worcester County who, financially, would have a difficult time getting the supplies. Many students have begun, or will soon begin, the transition from virtual learning to in-person learning. By providing backpacks filled with grade appropriate supplies, GOLD is seeking to make the transition easier and less stressful on families and students in need.

Last year, GOLD provided filled backpacks to 288 students and are anticipating a greater need this year with students returning to school. You can help a child in need by sponsoring a student or by making a donation. For more information visit www.WorcesterGOLD.org. The deadline for donations and sponsorships is August 27th.

Making an investment in a child's education is making an investment in their future. Contact GOLD at 410-677-6830 with any questions on how to contribute to the School Supplies for Students program.

Yard sale scheduled

Worcester County NAACP will sponsor a community yard sale on Saturday August 7 from 8 a.m. to noon at Stephen Decatur High School parking lot. Call 443-513-1745 or 443-944-6701 to reserve your space. The cost is \$20 per space. Spaces are limited.

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