

The Courier

October 13, 2021 Volume 22 Number 6

Jiwa is Crafter of the Month

story on page 6





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Beach Parking attendants offer friendly, familiar faces

By **Josh Davis**

Since the very beginning, the Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Club Parking have been unique and essential selling points for the community.

Just ask the people who work there.

"I think the Beach Club is probably one of the most underrated amenities that we have," longtime Beach Parking manager Dan Batt said. "A lot of people don't realize how nice the place is, until they come there and they see it for themselves. Many are really taken aback."

The combination of the Beach Club Pool, the bar and restaurant, the picturesque stretch of beach along the Atlantic Ocean, and the private parking lot make it truly one of a kind, Batt said.

"You've got everything right there, and it's so close to Ocean Pines," he said. "I've gotten a lot of positive comments over the years."

For the last several years Batt has led a trio of attendants who help answer questions, check in guests, and guide them to parking spaces by the ocean.

Dan Batt

Batt grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland and worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 37 years. Upon retirement, he took a position at the Ocean City Inlet working for the Town of Ocean City, and then inquired about working for Ocean Pines, with Beach Parking.

Batt helped manage pool operators for Ocean Pines Aquatics for several years, during the winter, and for the last 14 summers he has managed Beach Parking.

He said the Beach Parking lot has been basically the same since it was originally developed by Boise Cascade in the late 1960s, with some small improvements. The wall around the Beach Club Pool was a later addition and, three years ago, the Association added a small "welcome hut" for the Beach Parking attendants.

What has been consistent each summer are the interesting sights, sounds, and stories of thousands of beachgoers – many coming from out of town.

"You've got all these people and, of course, they're on vacation. Sometimes the questions can be redundant,

because each week you're dealing with a different group of people, and sometimes they can leave their common sense at home," he said with a laugh. "For the most part, I've met a lot of very, very nice people, and we try to make it very friendly for them and try to make their experience a good one."

Batt said many guests from New York and New Jersey are surprised that "the beach is free."

"Up where they are, they have to pay. So, when you tell them they don't have to here, they're like, 'Really?' They just can't believe it!" he said.

One of his favorite parts of the job, Batt said, is watching the children grow up with each new season.

"You've got these little guys running around, and the next thing you know they're pulling into the parking lot with a driver's license and getting ready to go to college. You just think, 'Wow, the time has really gone by!'" he said.

Batt started the tradition of having attendants wear Hawaiian shirts to greet customers – a universal symbol that one has arrived at the beach, ready for sunshine and fun.

"I said to my wife, 'We need something recreational and beachy.' Of course, Seacrets has their little beach theme over there, so through the years I've tried out little ideas that I've had," he said.

When the Matt Ortt Companies took over Beach Club management several years ago, Batt said they went about cleaning out the stockrooms, which happened to include a large order of Hawaiian shirts.

"The next thing I know, the shirts are over at the Yacht Club and Ron Fisher (who runs the Ocean Pines Marina) apparently saw them. So, I go over to get the shirts and he had already beat me to it – and they were all wearing our shirts!" Batt said.

"I went over to get some Marina gas one day, and it was so comical because when I walked up the lady said, 'Why are you wearing our shirts?' I said, 'No, no, no – you're wearing our shirts!'" Batt said with a laugh. "It was a pretty funny moment."

Although they temporarily moved his shirts, Batt said he was grateful to the Ortt Companies for bringing back former Beach Club Manager Lynda Huettner.

"She was my original boss and I worked for her for many years. She's



Keith Thomas, Dan Batt and Tom Possident

awesome," he said. "We've had a lot of good times and worked with a lot of great, great people."

In prior years, Batt said he enjoyed working with J-1 students, who traveled here thanks to the federal Exchange Visitor visa program. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program hasn't operated normally during the last two years.

On the bright side, Batt said he's gotten to know the two newer Beach Parking attendants: Keith Thomas and Tom Possident. Both have been with Ocean Pines for the last two seasons.

"They really are awesome, awesome guys and they've been really great to work with," Batt said. "It's always been like a family here. You get to enjoy folks' company and everybody pitches in."

"We just try to make everyone's experience as pleasant as possible, and we're there for any questions that people may have," he added.

Tom Possident

Possident grew up in the Baltimore area and worked for the Worcester County Health Department before re-

tiring two years ago. Shortly after, he took a job at Beach Parking.

"I was looking for something to do, and this sounded like something I would be interested in, to keep myself occupied and keep my wife from doing me in," he said with a laugh.

Possident said most of the day is spent checking people in, answering questions, and "trying to be as friendly as you can."

He said business this year picked up after a slight dip in 2020 because of the pandemic.

"It was definitely more crowded than it was last year, and it seemed like a lot more people were coming from further distances," he said. "We saw a lot more from Florida, and of course from New York and New Jersey."

Possident said the workdays are mostly steady, with a small break generally between the morning and afternoon crowds.

"For the most part you're pretty busy," he said. "You get your morning people that come in, and they'll start rolling out usually about 1:30 or 2

*please see **beach** on page 14*

Pines partners with Vista, MCBP and volunteers

Dozens of local people pitched in at Bainbridge Park in Ocean Pines last Monday, helping to plant new vegetation around the pond area.

The planting was among the final phases of Bainbridge Pond improvements, said to bolster water quality and reduce instances of flooding in the area.

Participating on Monday were the Ocean Pines Public Works Department, the Ocean Pines Garden Club, representatives from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Vista Design, Inc., and local college students and other volunteers.

Richard Polk, principal for Vista Design, said the new aquatic landscaping – including 50 trees and 50 bushes – would help remove nutrients and supply stability for the pond.

“It will foster a robust buffer for the improved pond, and also provide some shading through the trees for the water, to keep it from getting so hot in the summertime. It will also provide a habitat for animals,” Polk said.

It was a beautiful, sunny day and Polk said the early October weather was perfect for planting.

“It’s still warm enough and the

water tables are coming back up, and that will provide exactly what these trees and vegetation need,” he said.

Polk said the trees and bushes would go around the perimeter of the pond, and some additional landscaping would be done around the newly planted aquatic benches.

“Those were installed in the pond and the new vegetation will help hold that aquatic bench in place and provide a habitat for small animals. It will also help filter the water and remove more of the nitrogen phosphorus that we’re trying to capture,” he said.

Polk said the plantings were part of the water quality grant awarded by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

“It is really one of the latter phases,” he said. “The improvements were done this summer, and now the landscaping is going in to help preserve and further enhance the water quality improvements that were done,” he said.

Polk added that Vista and Maryland Coastal Bays would watch the area over the winter.

“I don’t envision any issues, but if there are we’ll come back out and do



maintenance in spring,” he said. “At that point, we’re just going to monitor the longtime health of the area and make sure that everything stays stable.”

For Ocean Pines residents, Polk said the work would produce better quality water and some reduced flooding.

“It is a water quality project, and it does that through nutrient uptake in the plants as well as sedimentation of small particles in the plants. It does prevent a lot of the nutrients – phosphorus and nitrogen – from reaching the St. Martins River,” Polk said.

“What it means for the residents is, if you’re downstream of it, you are having better water quality,” he continued. “We’ve also made improvements in the amount of water that leaves here during a storm event, and we’ve given Ocean Pines the ability – if they know a large storm is coming – to pump this pond down in the days

leading up to that event, thereby storing more of that water during a large storm to prevent flooding downstream.”

Maryland Coastal Bays Executive Director Kevin Smith said his organization has been involved with the project from the start, including working with Worcester County and state officials to secure grant funding.

“We went over the plans with them and it’s been a collaborative process with the county and Ocean Pines, to get this thing done,” he said. “Getting the money to get the work done in the pond was the big thing, and we were successful with that.”

Smith said Maryland Coastal Bays also aided in similar activities with the Town of Berlin, including stormwater improvements there a few years ago.

“We like working with communities like Ocean Pines and the Town of Berlin to help get some of their

please see **partners** on page 14

Courier Almanac

On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized construction and administration of the first American naval force—the precursor to the United States Navy.

Since the outbreak of open hostilities with the British in April, little consideration had been given to protection by sea until Congress received news that a British naval fleet was on its way. In November, the Continental Navy was formally organized, and on December 22, Esek Hopkins was appointed the first commander in chief of the Continental Navy. Congress also named four captains to the new service: Dudley Saltonstall, Abraham Whipple, Nicholas Biddle and John Burroughs Hopkins. Their respective vessels, the 24-gun frigates *Alfred* and *Columbus*, the 14-gun brigs *Andrew Doria* and *Cabot*, as well as three schooners, the *Hornet*, the *Wasp* and the *Fly*, became the first ships of the Navy’s fleet. Five first lieutenants, including future American hero John Paul Jones, five second lieutenants and three third lieutenants also received their commissions.



According to a 2011 study published in the peer-reviewed journal the Annual Review of Nutrition, experimental data from animal studies suggests that maternal undernutrition among pregnant women may play a role in preterm birth. The study also reported that a lack of specific nutrients during pregnancy may influence gestation length by increasing the likelihood that a woman will give birth before reaching full-term. Women who are pregnant or hope to become pregnant can speak with their physicians about the role nutrition can play in a healthy, full-term pregnancy.

**The
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A dog named Chooch

Lassie.
Rin Tin Tin.
Balto.
Snoopy.
Chooch.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

You're probably familiar with the first four names. The last one may have you scratching your head. Chooch is my dog. He's part this, part that and a little bit of something else mixed in for good measure. He's 41 pounds of muscle, tongue and goofy attitude. He's a handsome canine despite my brother's remark that he looks like a stray roaming the streets of a Third World country. His tail wags constantly.

He's my travel mate, fishing buddy and take-a-nap-on-Sunday-afternoon companion. He's at my side constantly, always wanting to be in on the action. When I go to the refrigerator, he goes to the refrigerator. When I sit on the deck enjoying a cigar and adult beverage, he sits on the deck. He's not yet old enough for the cigar and adult beverage. When I'm working in the backyard, he sits or lays at the sliding glass door watching me. When I walk around the house, he's right beside me, his wet nose touching my hand. You get the idea.

There have been several times when he's taken himself for a walk around the neighborhood, dashing up the street to introduce himself to whoever's around. He's met more neighbors than I have.

There is a strong bond between Chooch and me which I can't explain. It's existed from the first time we met at Worcester County Animal Control. "BAM!" We've had other dogs but the relationship with this one is different, like none other I've ever had. Don't misunderstand he's been a handful and a downright pain in the neck at times. His occasional frenetic antics and slow understanding that the place to do his business is outside frayed nerves and elevated levels of frustration not felt since my sons were teenagers. But through it all, just like

with my teenage sons, a mixture of love, consistency and a stiff drink overcame the turbulence – eventually.

Chooch is a comedian, a cross between the manic Robin Williams and the subtle Bob Newhart. My wife doesn't find him as funny as I do. There are times, especially when I'm having a less than good day, when he'll do something that cracks me up. He'll cock his head a certain way or give me a look

that melts away whatever's bothering me. There have been times when I've thought he's asleep when suddenly he'll pop one eye open to see me watching him. That makes me smile.

On a recent Sunday afternoon while dozing off in a recliner, I felt pressure on my right leg. Without opening my eyes, I knew what was happening. And before my eyes were open, he had settled on my chest, his nose burrowed under my chin.

When my granddaughter visits, he and she are inseparable. When she's around, he drops me like a bag of dirt. They'll lay on the floor together. He sits by her when she watches television. And he mopes a bit when she leaves. Truthfully though I think their relationship is built on the high number of treats she sneaks him.

He rides shotgun when we travel (when my wife doesn't accompany me). Recently we drove to Newport News, just the two of us. It was he and I in the old blue pick-up listening to Willie Nelson, rolling down the highway, me wearing my favorite cap, him with his face out the window, ears flapping. "On the Road Again."

When we go fishing, he's more an observer. He positions himself beside me, his front paws on the gunwales watching intently the end of the rod. On the few occasions when a flounder is reeled in (always undersized), he becomes uninterested, going to another part of the boat to look out across the water. Once I'm resettled, he returns.

It's estimated that there are 89.7 million dogs in the United States. I hope they bring as much joy to their owners as the one beside me brings.

Chooch celebrated his fourth birthday last week. He didn't make too much of a fuss but he didn't seem to mind the extra attention.



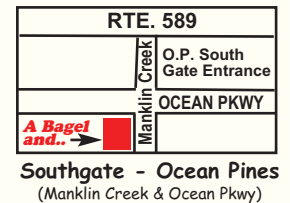
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Art event applicants sought

The Worcester County Arts Council Grants Review Committee is seeking applicants for local art events and projects to be held in Worcester County for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2022.

The Worcester County Arts Council's Community Arts Development

Grants program is designed to assist local, non-profit community-based groups to produce and present arts activities in Worcester County. This program is funded and supported by the Maryland State Arts Council. The deadline for applications submission is October 15, 2021.

In the first six-month grant cycle, the Worcester County Arts Council has awarded \$26,924 in the Community Arts Development Grants program to 10 art projects and events to be presented by local nonprofit organizations in Worcester County.

Application form and Grant Guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website: www.worcester-countyartscouncil.org.

For grant technical assistance, please contact Anna Mullis, Executive Director: anna@worcestercountyartscouncil.org.

Pet blessing to be offered

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who loved all animals and whose feast day is October 4, the Church of the Holy Spirit in Ocean City will hold a Blessing of the Animals ceremony on October 24, from 11:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. Halloween finery would be welcome.

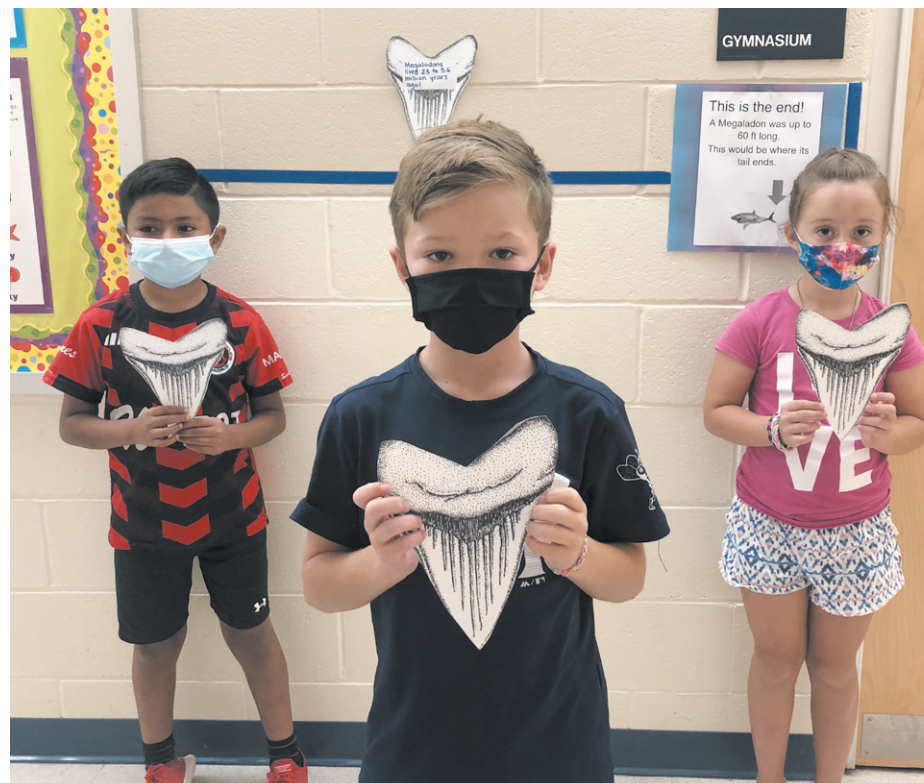


The church is located at Coastal Highway and 100th St. and parking is available in their lot. Pets should be on leashes or otherwise under their owners' control. Any size, shape or type of pet is welcome. You may also bring a photo of a departed pet, or a stuffed animal that means a lot to you.

Call the church at 410-723-1973 for further information.

Rummage sale scheduled

Ocean City Presbyterian Church will host a church rummage sale on Saturday, October 16 between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. The church is located at 1301 Philadelphia Avenue in Ocean City. Parking is available behind the church.



Prehistoric - Students in Jen Spicer's third grade class at Ocean City Elementary are studying how fossilized Megalodon teeth can provide information about the prehistoric species and its environment. Pictured are **Thiago Tirado-Cano**, **Cash Foster** and **Emilia Hovannisyan**.

Controlled burn scheduled

A controlled burn scheduled on Tuesday, October 12 near the Ocean Pines South Gate is expected to cause noticeable smoke in the area for several days.

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department Chief Steve Grunewald said the fire would help get rid of materials collected over the summer at the Ocean Pines Public Works yard, such as yard waste.

The controlled burn is scheduled to start around 4 p.m. on Oct. 12, and Grunewald said there may be visible smoke in the area for 48-72 hours.

At this time, there are no plans to restrict access to the recycling area or the Public Works offices.

Jiwa named Crafter of the Month

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Debbie Jiwa as the October Crafter of the Month.

Jiwa moved from Hot Springs, Arkansas to Salisbury in 1989. She and her then husband ran a successful retail jewelry store in Salisbury for 26 years, before closing shop for personal reasons in 2017.

After working in the demanding retail business, Jiwa suddenly had a lot of free time on her hands. In the summer of 2017, she picked up a paintbrush and started painting rocks, and joined in the fun of the kindness rocks project, painting rocks, and leaving them around town for people to find to brighten their day.

Jiwa next began painting on different natural items, such as shells, ostrich eggs, gourds, and just about anything that had a surface. She is self-taught and takes inspiration from social media such as Pinterest, YouTube and Facebook. Although she has never had any formal training, she would like to learn more advanced techniques.

Jiwa also owns Finish Line Car Wash in Fruitland, where her two adult sons run the day-to-day business. This gives her the time to enjoy painting, and she has a dedicated space in her home office as her art studio.

View Jiwa'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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EOE

BJ's membership offer returns to Ocean Pines

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective October 16 to 30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

With this offer, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Inner Circle Membership for \$25 or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases, for \$50 with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Renewing members can purchase a 12-month Inner Circle Membership for \$55 and receive a \$20 cash award to be used at the register, or a Perks Rewards Membership for \$110 and receive a \$30 cash reward to be used at the register, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Cash awards will be added to the member's primary membership account 24 hours after enrollment and must be used within 45 days from the enrollment date.

In addition to offering special

membership benefits, BJ's will donate \$5 of each Inner Circle membership fee and \$10 of each Perks Rewards membership fee to the foundation.

This offer is not available online, at any BJ's location or for any current Easy Renewal members. Members can check their Easy Renewal status and opt out by calling 1-800-257-2582.

This special promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in April 2022. Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the fall offer.

BJ's membership applications are

available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at ocean-pines.org. Applications must be returned with payment by Oct. 30. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

Applications may be placed in the drop box in the administration building outer lobby, dropped off at the administration building front desk or mailed to Ocean Pines Association, Attn: Marketing, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

For more information, call 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.

Friends meetings return

The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library are back. After 15 months without meetings, the Friends

announced they will hold their first membership meeting of 2021 on Monday, October 18. Coffee and conversation begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the meeting at 10 a.m. At that meeting, the slate of officers for 2022-2024 will be announced, followed by recent projects undertaken by the Friends as well as a short report on the Book Sale.

All are invited and encouraged to

sign up for membership in the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library. This will allow you, among other things, to attend the members-only Friday night (July 22, 2022) opening of the Book Sale.

Following the meeting, and in keeping with the spirit of the season, there will be a live, memorized telling of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Black Cat" by Matt Bogdan of the Community Players of Salisbury.

The Parke garage sale returns

The Parke at Ocean Pines is holding its community sale on Saturday, October 23 (rain date is Sunday, October 24) from 7:30 a.m. to noon in the driveways of its residents. The Parke is an active 55-plus 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 October 23, 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.



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'Redo election' dates announced

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee last Friday announced upcoming dates in the 2021 Board of Directors "redo election."

The candidates, in ballot order, are incumbent Frank Daly, and challengers Stuart Lakernick and David C. Hardy.

The candidates are vying to fill two vacant positions on the Ocean Pines Board of Directors. The Board is the governing body of the Association.

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed to all eligible voters no later than the week of October 15. Ballots must be received – not mailed – by 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 4.

Voters are asked to follow all instructions included in the mailing and to vote for no more than two candidates. Any ballot marked for more than two candidates or that include

write-in candidates will not be counted.

Ballots may be returned either to the ballot box inside the lobby of the Ocean Pines Police Department on 239 Ocean Parkway or mailed to the Ocean Pines post office box in Berlin. Ballots must be sealed and returned in the envelope provided in the mailing.

Key dates in the election process include:

Week of October 15 - Ballots mailed to all eligible voters

December 4 - Ballot return deadline (by 4 p.m.)

December 6 - Ballots counted and totals announced

December 7 - Election results validated

For questions about the election, email elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989

Statement on new balloting for board election

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors put out this statement Friday, October 8. This explanation statement will also be included with the ballot mailing to eligible voters.

On September 30, 2021, the Ocean Pines' Board of Directors voted to redo the balloting of the 2021 Board of Directors election to allow OPA's Members to vote on the three candidates who have been deemed eligible to be a candidate for election to the Board of Directors.

As many of you may be aware, in late July 2021, after election voting commenced, the Ocean Pines' Secretary determined that one of the then candidates, Richard (Rick) Farr, was ineligible to be a candidate for election to the Board of Directors based on the qualification requirements contained in Section 5.02(a) of the Bylaws. Based on this determination, the Board of Directors previously voted to proceed with the election, but deem the votes for Mr. Farr as invalid.

Approximately one week later, and prior to the conclusion of the election, Mr. Farr filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Worcester County, Maryland, challenging the decision on his eligibility and the Board's subsequent decision to move ahead with the election. Thereafter, several OPA Members joined Mr. Farr's lawsuit, asserting the disenfranchisement of their votes. Beyond those participating in the lawsuit, a number of other Members have expressed their feelings that the ballot voting should be held anew to allow all Members the opportunity to vote on the three eligible candidates.

Given the above considerations, on September 30, 2021, the Board of Directors decided it was in the best interest of OPA to proceed with allowing the Members the opportunity to cast their election ballots anew. Hence, the Election Committee has issued a new ballot with the three candidates deemed eligible for your consideration and submission.

For your vote to count, you must cast the new ballot you received listing only three candidates and you must vote for no more than two candidates.

OPA will retain, in a secure location, the ballots cast this summer pending the outcome of the lawsuit. But, these previously cast ballots will not be counted in this new balloting. Only the newly issued ballots listing three candidates will be counted as part of this process. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



History — Ocean Pines hosted a History Panel Sunday afternoon in the Asateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Speakers talked about their early experiences living in the community. Above are speakers **Sharyn O'Hare**, **Gloria Richards**, moderator **Jenny Cropper-Rines**, **Alta Weiss**, **Ed Moran** and **Jack Barnes**

Tournament is a success

The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club helped raise more than \$17,000 for the American Cancer Society during the fourth annual Pickleball Pink Ribbon Classic, held October 1 at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

Nearly 100 players on 12 courts participated during the event, and three dozen players received gold, sil-

brackets to make the best fit possible," Tournament Director Chris Shook said. "We also could not have asked for a more beautiful day. The weather was definitely on our side."

Shook also credited tournament sponsors and volunteers.

"Once again, Chick-fil-A came through by providing the players with a delicious lunch. Wocken-fuss provided chocolates, and we even had home-made cookies in the players' boxed lunches, and Southside Deli provided a platter of subs to help keep the volunteers going throughout the day," she said. "The volunteers worked very hard and did a wonderful job keeping the event running smoothly."

"Overall, it was a great event and a fun day for a great cause," Shook continued. "Our request for those who read this: please have all of your screenings completed! Early detection saves lives, so don't be afraid of 'E.D.'"

To learn more about the American Cancer Society, visit www.cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345.



ver, and bronze medals. The event also featured 27 volunteers, 22 sponsors, and 51 additional donations.

"The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club worked very hard on organizing this event. With 96 players and many levels, we had to carefully group the



Findings - Berlin Intermediate School sixth grade students in Kelly Powell's Enrichment class toured downtown Berlin for different electrical elements. Students then applied their findings towards the discovery and creation of a light circuit. Pictured are **Mackenna Foreman, Emory Jack, Catrina Donmoyer, Donavon Robbins, Israel David, Aiden Buchheit and Tanner Edelmann**

Governor announces plans for state surplus

Governor Larry Hogan announced last week a five-point framework for how the State of Maryland will utilize the \$2.5 billion surplus, the largest in state history, reported by the Bureau of Revenue Estimates.

"The entire mission of my administration has been to leave our state in a stronger fiscal position than when we found it, and that is exactly what we have done," said Governor Hogan. "With this budget framework, my message is simple—as long as I am governor, I will continue to fight for fiscal discipline, I will continue working hard every single day to make it easier for Maryland families, small businesses, and retirees to stay in our state, and I will continue fighting to allow Marylanders to keep more of their hard-earned money in their own pockets so that we can continue changing Maryland for the better."

This is the first time since Fiscal Year 1999 (FY99) that the State of Maryland is projecting a long-term balanced budget.

The governor's five-point plan to invest Maryland's record surplus includes:

Increasing the Rainy Day Fund. The governor's plan will bolster and increase the state's Rainy Day Fund to at least 7.5%, or \$1.67 billion, in order to have extra revenue available for potential recessions and future crises.

Major Tax Relief for Retirees. The governor will again seek to address the crippling tax burden on retirees, which continues to hurt Maryland's ability to compete effectively with other states. The Hogan administration has introduced legislation each year to provide this much-needed relief, but the legislature has failed to take action.

Direct Tax Relief for Marylanders. Governor Hogan's plan includes additional direct tax relief for working families across the state. This would build on the success of the RELIEF Act of 2021, which included the largest tax

*please see **surplus** page 14*



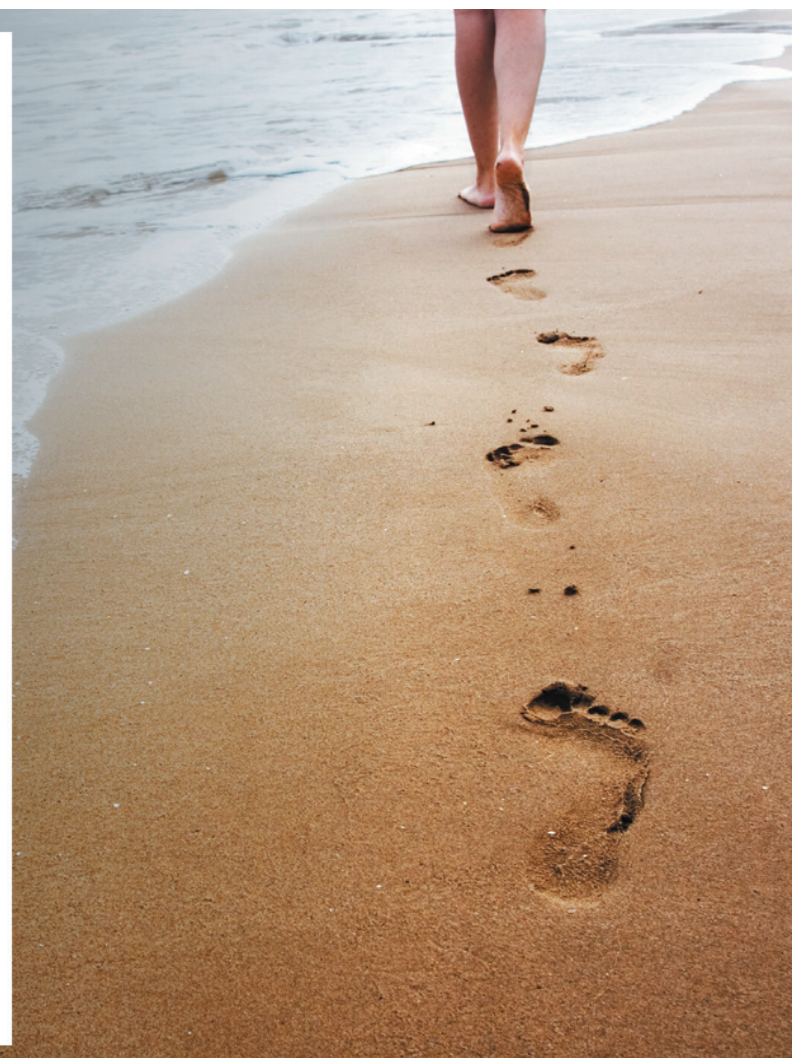
Kallarakal joins Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College recently welcomed **Dr. Andria Kallarakal** of Salisbury as human services department head and associate professor of social science.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology from the Madurai Kamaraj University in India, a master's degree in international development and social change from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Kerala in India. She has taught college courses since 1989 and most recently worked as the director of public and social services at Esperanza College of Eastern University in Philadelphia, Pa.

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Harbor Day

After a Covid-19, one year hiatus, Harbor Day is back! If you thought Ocean Pines Big Truck Day was a thrill, especially for the kids, then you gotta’ plan to visit ‘Harbor Day at the Docks’ on Saturday, October 16.

The event will include an “Education Tent” where lectures will be conducted all day, a live music stage, great marine demos, arts and crafts for the kids, maritime artists’ vendors, and specialty foods that will make you wish you skipped breakfast.



Tides permitting, the US Coast Guard will have its 47-foot Motor Life Boat (MLB) moored along the dock and available for touring. Coast Guard Station – Ocean City maintains two 47-foot MLBs for off-shore search and rescue missions and two 24-foot boats for back bay operations.

The USCG Auxiliary will address recreational boating interests such as boat safety classes, proper use of life jackets, free boat safety inspections, marlinspike (knot tying), and a marine environmental awareness game for the children.

The Harbor Day at the Docks event is arguably the biggest on-land maritime event that folks can enjoy on the Delmarva Peninsula. The event had grown to unmanageable proportions for local organizations to handle so, despite its enormous popularity, the event was not put on for seven years. Then, in 2019, the Worcester County Department of Recreation and Parks stepped up to revitalize the effort to everyone’s great halleluiah.

If it’s like past years, Harbor Day will be great fun and very educational for all. For more information, visit the event website: <https://harbordayoc.com>

See ‘ya there. Meantime, stay safe, stay dry.

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

Education Tent, includes presentations by the Ocean Beach Patrol, the USCG Auxiliary, lobster banding, horse shoe crabs, crabology, and a crab cake eating contest. Elsewhere, there will be fish filleting technique and seafood cooking demonstrations, recreational fishing clinics, touchy-feely with live marine animals and a crab picking contest, a little messy but a lot of fun.

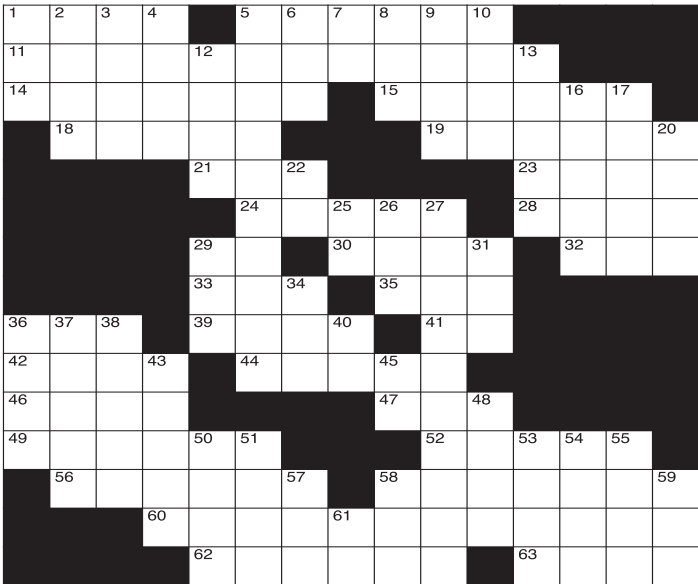
There will also be a really cool ‘Virtually Hooked Interactive Fishing Simulator,’ presented by Captain Dan where young and old, novice or waterman, can experience the excitement of reeling in a big game fish without the mess of baiting a hook or chartering a boat.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The location will be in that big parking lot on Sunset Boulevard in West Ocean City alongside the commercial harbor channel.

Admission is free but you better come early. Historically, the event attracts over 2,500 folks and parking is limited. However, free parking at the Ocean City Park and Ride facility on Route 50 and a free, complementary shuttle service will be available to get you to dockside when the immediate parking areas become filled.

Another good reason for coming early is to witness the blessing of the fleet at 10 a.m. A local clergy person will recognize the contribution of the commercial fishing fleet to our Ocean City economy and pray for their safety and good fortune. Then a very lucky lobster will be ceremonially released into the channel thus avoiding a close encounter with drawn butter.

The all-day live music will include the “Trinidad and Tobago Baltimore Steel Orchestra,” “the Permill Project,” and “Still Surfin’”. The itinerary in the Ed-



CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat-topped hill

5. Move upward

11. Admiration

14. It’s useful for serving food

15. Kidnap

18. One of the Greek Muses

19. A type of media

21. Sunscreen rating

23. Former Michigan coach Brady

24. German town devastated in WW2

28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two

29. Leave

30. Forearm bone

32. Very fast airplane

33. Helps little firms

35. Defunct economic organization
36. Science-based students organization (abbr.)

39. Feels ill

41. Indicates position

42. Beverage containers

44. Assists

46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)

47. Purpose

49. Group of elected officials

52. Hebrew prophet

56. They help you drink

58. Lawmaker

60. Charitable

62. Doctrines

63. Footwear

CLUES DOWN

1. Where wrestlers work

2. Dueling sword

3. Practice fight

4. Genus of clams

5. Fear of heights

6. What some tell their dog

7. The Golden State

8. When you expect to get there

9. Pointed ends

10. Extinct flightless bird

12. Feeds

13. Nape of neck

16. Descendant

17. Small boats found in Turkey

20. To avoid the risk of

22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)

25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

26. Brew

27. Feeling of anxiety

29. Young girls group
31. Perform on stage

34. White clerical vestment

36. Popular musical awards show

37. Bumpkins

38. One who acts on another’s behalf

40. Direction

43. Look at with fixed eyes

45. One who helps professors (abbr.)

48. A large number of

50. Type of powder

51. Large jug

53. ___ Christian Anderson, children’s author

54. American state

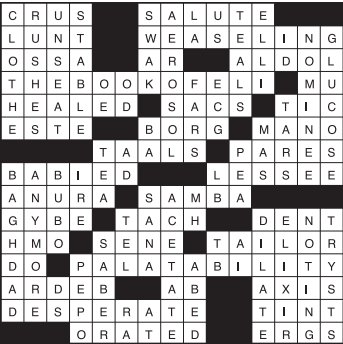
55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines

57. Witness

58. Landscapers lay it

59. Type of bread

61. Of I



Answers for October 6

What does retirement security mean to you?

Submitted by **John Bennish**
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones



John Bennish

October is National Retirement Security Month. But what does retirement security mean to you? And how can you work toward achieving it?

Here are some suggestions:

- Build your resources. While you're working, save in tax-advantaged accounts such as your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. In your 401(k), contribute at least enough to earn your employer's

match, if one is offered, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. Remember, especially early in your career, time is often your biggest asset. Be sure to save early, since the longer you wait, the more you'll need to save to help reach your goals.

- Look for ways to boost retirement income. When transitioning to retirement, you can take steps to align your income with your needs. For example, consider Social Security. You can start collecting it as early as 62, but your monthly payments will be much larger if you can wait until your "full" retirement age, typically between 66 and 67. (Payments will "max out" at age 70.) So, if you have

sufficient income from a pension or your 401(k) and other retirement accounts, and you and your spouse are in good health with a family history of longevity, you may consider delaying taking Social Security. You also might want to explore other income-producing vehicles, such as certain annuities that are designed to provide a lifetime income stream.

- Prepare for unexpected costs. During your retirement, you can anticipate some costs, such as housing and transportation, but other expenses are more irregular and can't always be predicted, such as those connected with health care. Even with Medicare, you could easily spend a few thousand dollars a year on medical expenses, so you may want to budget for these costs as part of your emergency savings, and possibly purchase supplemental insurance. You may also want to consider the possibility of needing some type of long-term care, which is not typically covered by Medicare and can be quite expensive. The average annual cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000, and it's about \$55,000 per year for a home health aide, according to Genworth, an insurance company. To address these costs, you may want to consider some form of protection, such as long-term care insurance or life insurance with a long-term care component.

- Do your estate planning. It's hard to feel totally secure in retirement if you're unsure of what might happen if you have an unexpected health event, become incapacitated or die earlier than expected. That's why you'll want to create a comprehensive estate plan – one that might include documents such as a durable power of attorney, a

will and a living trust. A review of your insurance coverages and beneficiaries can also help protect your assets and ensure they are distributed the way you want. In creating your plan, you will need to work with your financial advisor and a legal professional, and possibly your tax advisor as well.

Thinking holistically about your retirement security and developing and executing a strategy aligned with your goals may help free you to enjoy one of the most rewarding times of your life.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor John Bennish, Ocean Pines. He can be reached at 410-208-9083. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

AGH formulates search committee

The Board of Trustees for Atlantic General Hospital/Health System has announced a search committee to assist with the appointment of its next President and CEO.

The search committee includes the following individuals:

Charlotte Cathell, Chair – Charlotte was elected the Register of Wills for Worcester County in 1998 and served in the role until December of 2018. A lifelong resident of Worcester County, Cathell is married to retired Judge Dale R. Cathell. She is secretary for the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees as well as a general member of the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation. Cathell was a founder and president of Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), is a former long-time member and president of the Worcester

County Commission for Women, and is on the board of directors of Taylor Bank. Cathell has resided in Ocean Pines for over forty years.

Aaron Finney – Aaron Finney was appointed to the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees in 2020 and now serves on the Finance Committee and the Information Technology Steering Committee. A native of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Finney returned to the area in 2000 with his family to live in Ocean Pines, Md. He is president and CEO of TRGroup, Inc., a United States SBA certified information technology and security consulting firm that is focused on helping government and commercial institutions operate more efficiently and securely in today's marketplace.

*please see **agh** on page 13*

Passwaters to fill BOE vacancy

The Worcester County Commissioners appointed Nathaniel "Nate" Passwaters to the Board of Education (BOE) to fill the remainder of a four-year term through November 2022.



Nate Passwaters

This vacancy was created by the sudden passing of former BOE President Eric W. Cropper, Sr.

"This has been a difficult process because I lost a dear friend, Eric Cropper," Commissioner Jim Bunting said. "While several excellent candidates expressed interest in filling the vacancy, we agree that Nate is the right fit for this position."

Passwaters, a captain with the

*please see **boe** on page 14*

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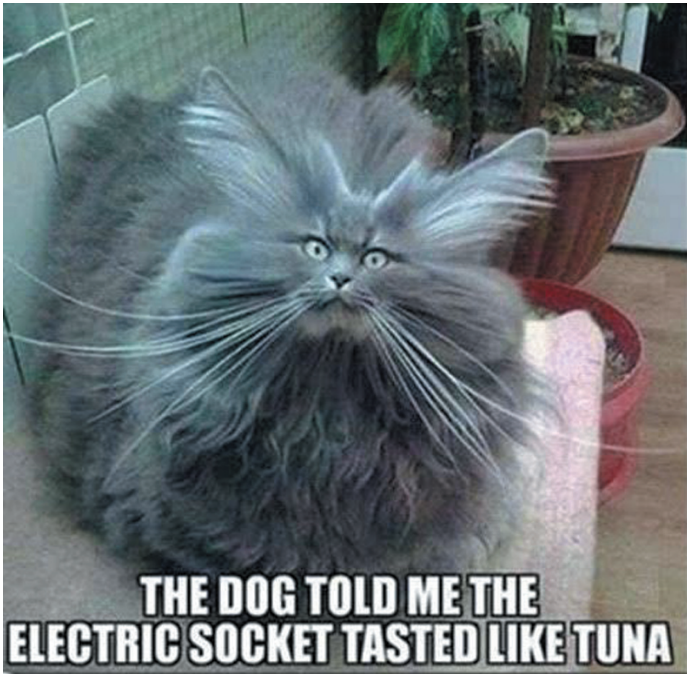
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Veteran Owned

Some things to think about

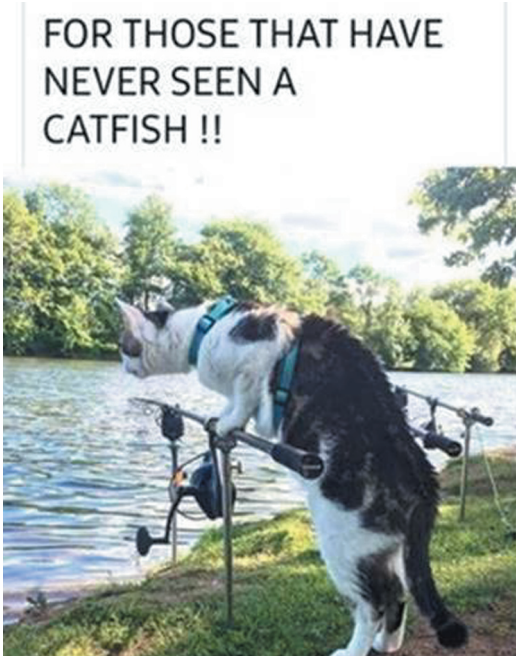
Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



Like i was saying, the circus is just one of my careers. The real money comes from frosted flakes



WHAT PETS THINK ABOUT QUARANTINE



MY DOG'S NEW MASK



agh
from page 11

Finney began supporting the hospital as an Atlantic General Hospital Foundation member, before serving on the Foundation Board of Directors for six years.

Oswaldo Nicastro, MD – Oswaldo Nicastro, MD, joined Atlantic General Health System in 2017 from St. Francis Healthcare in Wilmington, Del., where he was medical director of outpatient family medicine and charity services for nine years. He completed a residency at St. Francis Family Practice in Wilmington, Del., and obtained his medical degree from University of Guadalajara in Mexico. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and is board certified in family medicine. Nicastro practices at Atlantic General Primary Care in Ocean Pines.

Andi West-McCabe – Andi West-McCabe, R.N., M.S., has more than 24 years of experience in healthcare leadership and management. She serves as the director of emergency services at Atlantic General Hospital, a role she has held since 2001. She holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Salisbury University and a Master of Science in healthcare administration from Wilmington University.

Stephen Waters, MD – Dr. Stephen Waters is a primary care physician at the Townsend Medical Center, in Ocean City, Md. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School in Washington, D.C., and completed his internship and residency at Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Waters is board certified by the American Board of Family Practice and was elected as the first chief of the medical staff at Atlantic General Hospital. He filled the position of interim President and CEO for the organization in 2005. Waters also served as a member of the Board of Directors and as medical director for Atlantic General Hospital for 15 years.

Janet Mengel – Janet Mengel is a past president and current board member with the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary where she serves as membership and recruitment coordinator. She also served as a volunteer for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program

for children on the Lower Shore and a member of The Cricket Center Foundation for the past 5 years. Before moving to the Eastern Shore, Mengel worked for the Howard County Office on Aging as an activity director for a Senior Plus program.

Jonathan Bauer – Jonathan Bauer is the vice president of information systems for Atlantic General Hospital. He joined Atlantic General in 2017 from Somerset Hospital, in Somerset, Pa., where he first led a healthcare organization through all the stages of meaningful use and achieved Most Wired status, the premier award program for healthcare IT. Jonathan holds a bachelor of science in physics from Slippery Rock University and an MBA from Waynesburg University, in Pennsylvania.

Michael Marshall – Michael P. Marshall is president and CEO of Marshall Hotels & Resorts, headquartered in Salisbury, Md. During his 35-plus year career he worked in virtually every position within a hotel before overseeing the company’s current portfolio of managed properties. Marshall regularly speaks at the industry’s leading conferences, providing candid insights into hotel management and investment. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., and completed the Advanced Management Program at Cornell University.

“While the Board of Trustees will ultimately appoint our new President and Chief Executive Officer, the search committee will be instrumental shaping criteria for our candidates and in the review and assessment of applicants” said Greg Shockley, Chair of Atlantic General Board of Trustees. “With the help of our search committee we are committed to finding candidates who will lead our AGH caregivers in advancing our coordinated care system as an independent community hospital to provide access to quality care, personalized service and education to care for the residents of and visitors to our community.”

A formal timeline has not yet been established, but it is expected that a search firm will be identified in the coming weeks with the goal of assessing candidates through this fall.

Your family might not want your stuff

By **Mindi K. Cooper**
Estate Planning Coordinator

A few months ago, my family and I were visiting my 92-year-old great-grandmother. Her health had started to decline, and we wanted to spend some time with her while we still had the chance.

Mommom Jeanne was an interesting lady and loved all things fashion. She worked for Strawbridge and Clothier Department Store in the shoe department and always had the trendiest new shoes. While we were visiting, Mommom insisted that I look through her closet and said I could have anything I wanted. I tried telling her that I didn’t need anything, and the time spent with her was what mattered most to me.

She went on and on about other things she had that she wanted me, my sister, and my mom to take. With Mommom working in the retail industry most of her career, she had accumulated a lot of stuff! Despite our profession, we all do that – we accumulate so much stuff over the course of our lives. Mommom’s tried and true sparkly blazer isn’t quite my style, but she thinks I’d look amazing in it. And those loafers from 1989 were probably the hottest shoe back then but not something I’d like to have in my closet today.

In our work we see so many younger generations who are faced with their loved ones’ tangible stuff and who are so often uninterested in keeping it. Although they appreciate the love in the gesture of passing it down to them, they rarely find the same value in the items that the original owner felt. Their disinterest in the items reflects different hobbies, different lifestyles, differing amounts of storage space at home, or a discomfort with what it takes to maintain the item. We’ve experienced our clients not wanting to receive “stuff” such as baseball card collections and fine china-ware to lawnmowers.

It’s important to have a conversation about the things you would like to leave to your loved ones while you’re still able. An experienced elder law and estate planning attorney could help you incorporate a Personal Property Memorandum into your planning. This estate planning tool is used to list tangible personal property like furniture, jewelry, décor, clothing, etc. and assign the specific person or people you want to receive it. This document can be edited over time without the need

for signing formalities like witnessing and notarization.

We encourage our clients to work on the memorandum with family members. The activity serves the purpose of documenting the owner’s wish for what happens to the item and might capture feedback about a recipient not being interested in keeping the item. Some families find both perspectives helpful. More importantly, it gives the older adult an opportunity to share history on the items, which can so often mean more to the loved ones than the physical item itself.

Mommom Jeanne did this with us. She shared stories about specific pieces, and even though I didn’t want the sparkly black blazer, I enjoyed hearing about her wearing it and loving it. She was always the best at telling stories and would remember every possible detail. Mommom Jeanne passed away just a few weeks after our last visit. I’ll always remember her sass, spunk, and very stylish shoes.

Have the conversation. It’ll make for good memories while you’re rummaging through old things.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet			
Day		High /Low	Tide Time
Th 14	14	High	3:14 AM
	14	Low	9:06 AM
	14	High	3:56 PM
	14	Low	10:18 PM
F 15	15	High	4:28 AM
	15	Low	10:14 AM
	15	High	5:02 PM
	15	Low	11:18 PM
Sa 16	16	High	5:30 AM
	16	Low	11:19 AM
	16	High	5:57 PM
Su 17	17	Low	12:08 AM
	17	High	6:21 AM
	17	Low	12:16 PM
	17	High	6:44 PM
M 18	18	Low	12:50 AM
	18	High	7:04 AM
	18	Low	1:06 PM
	18	High	7:25 PM
Tu 19	19	Low	1:27 AM
	19	High	7:44 AM
	19	Low	1:50 PM
	19	High	8:03 PM
W 20	20	Low	2:01 AM
	20	High	8:23 AM
	20	Low	2:30 PM
	20	High	8:41 PM

Worcester GOLD seeks donations

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is seeking donations to fill their V A U L T (V a s t



Amount of Useful Little Things). GOLD's VAULT is located in the Worcester County Department of Social Services where their community partners, who are caseworkers in the county, can grab basic needs items for infants and children, vulnerable adults, children in foster care, those who are homeless, and families living with low-income.

GOLD stocks new items to meet the urgent needs of those they serve. These items are available at no cost thanks to the graciousness of the community. If you are interested in donating new items to GOLD's VAULT visit their website or email worcestercountygold@gmail.com

For more information about GOLD's programs and services visit www.WorcesterGOLD.org.

partners
from page 4

stormwater management issues done. Obviously, that's a big need in the area and it's not going to go away," he said.

"What we're hoping in Ocean Pines, is that we're going to be able to retain some more water here and get better water quality leaving Ocean Pines and going to the coastal bays. So far, it looks great." Smith continued. "We've got a lot of volunteers here today and it's a great day for it."

Ocean Pines Public Works Director Eddie Wells said about eight members of his staff took part in the planting.

"Public Works is doing their part to help out, and we've been involved throughout the whole process, starting all the way back with the planning," he said.

Wells said the improvements at Bainbridge have already started to pay off.

"It's doing what it's supposed to do in improving the water quality – that's the main thing," he said. "This is basically the last phase, and after this we just have a little bit of paving to do."



boe
from page 11

Worcester County Sheriff's Office and 28-year-law enforcement veteran, was appointed to represent District Six, the Northern District.

"We are very excited to welcome Nate into the Worcester County Public Schools family," said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor. "With his background and unique role in our community, he will bring a new perspective to the Board when he joins them later this month. While we all still feel Mr. Cropper's absence, I am confident that Nate will step into this role with the same dedication and love for Worcester County's children that Eric so easily embodied."

Passwaters is an active community

surplus
from page 9

cut in state history.

Additional Relief for Underserved Marylanders. As the state continues to recover from the COVID-19 emergency, Governor Hogan announced his intention to continue to provide additional targeted relief for Marylanders who are struggling to make ends meet.

The State of Maryland has already sent more than 420,000 direct relief checks to Marylanders in need and more than \$100 million in additional

member whose work with the Sheriff's Office has made him an outstanding partner with the public schools. He also serves on the Hudson Health Board of Directors.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity and humbled to be able to continue Eric's legacy," Passwaters said. "I'm also looking forward to serving on the board to advocate for the outstanding staff and students of Worcester County Public Schools."

The BOE is made up of seven members who serve staggered, four-year terms. Each member is elected from one of the seven election districts. BOE members meet the third Tuesday of each month at the BOE office in Newark, Maryland. Vacancies that occur between elections are filled by the commissioners.

grants to small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Maryland has committed more federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 than nearly any other state, distributed more than \$14.1 billion in unemployment aid, and committed more than \$248 million in rental assistance.

Enhancements for State Employees. With fall negotiations for collective bargaining for public employees about to begin, Governor Hogan has directed the Maryland Department of Budget and Management to explore how to best utilize some of the available funds to benefit state employees.

beach
from page 3

p.m., and then you have the afternoon people who come in to replace them," he said.

That's not to say everything goes smoothly all of the time. He remembers one family frantically using a fork to fish out their Beach Parking pass after it got stuck in their car.

"The pass had fallen and gotten stuck between the dashboard and the front windshield, and they were renters and were worried about having to get it out of there, so they wouldn't have to pay a fee to their landlord," he said.

There are also plenty of questions to answer throughout the day.

"We get a lot of people who come up off the street that want to know if you have to pay to park on the street. We're constantly answering that question, and things like where does the boardwalk start, and even 'Where is Ocean Pines?'" he said.

"But I think we all get along and work well together. It's a good retirement job to keep me occupied," he added.

Keith Thomas

Thomas is originally from Chester County, Pennsylvania. Like Batt, he worked for the Postal Service before retiring several years ago.

"Most of the people here are pretty nice and it's been a great experience," he said. "You see a lot of families, and it's generally people who love the beach and the pool."

Thomas said Beach Parking is successful because it offers a solution to a common problem for vacationers – where do you park at the beach?

"There's a lot of tight parking, so this is just a great place to park where you can go to the beach and use the pool. That's kind of a rare bird in Ocean City," he said.

A year ago, Thomas said many of the Beach Parking visitors were peo-

ple who "just wanted to get outside" because of the pandemic.

"With COVID last year, I'd say we had less cars and less people. We had a little more cars this year," he said.

Aside from their normal duties, Thomas said the parking attendants can be something of a "lost and found" for the hundreds of customers who pass through.

"There's always stuff getting lost. We get a lot of car fobs and driver's licenses and IDs. We're always glad to get that stuff to people, when we find it," he said.

There are also some funny questions and encounters.

"I had two guys who came up to me because we had to scan their permits, and they were going to walk over to Seacrets and asked me if I had to stamp them so they could come back, like we were in a bar," he said with a laugh. "I said, 'No, you guys are free to go!'"

All three attendants said they gen-

uinely enjoy the work. It helps keep them busy, and the usually sunny disposition of the clientele makes for a positive atmosphere.

"We're all retired, so we're not under the gun and it's a pretty loose environment," Thomas said. "And it's great to see all the people having fun. They're happy to get there, and most of them are in a really good mood and enjoying their vacation or their time at the beach."

"That's why I like the job – it's pretty stress free and we're just moving people along, so they can go about having fun and having a good time," he added.

The Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Parking are open each Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Membership passes are available to homeowners, renters, and the general public.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/beach-club.

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