

The Courier

December 1, 2021 Volume 22 Number 13



Santa Claus arrives at the Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas celebration last Saturday evening.



Open Enrollment for 2022 Health Plans November 1, 2021 – January 15, 2022

The Lower Shore Health Insurance Assistance Program is hosting **in-person** events to assist Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester County residents with enrollment into health & dental plans!

Somerset County **Health Department**

8929 Sign Post Road, Westover, MD 21871

Friday, November 5th, 4:00pm-8:00pm
Friday, December 3rd, 4:00pm-8:00pm
Friday, January 7th, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Lower Shore **American Job Center**

31901 Tri-County Way
Salisbury, MD 21804

Saturday, December 4th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Saturday, January 8th, 9:00am-4:00pm



Berlin

Health Department

9730 Healthway Drive
Berlin, MD 21811

Saturday, November 6th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Saturday, December 4th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, January 9th, 10:00am-3:00pm

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Enroll today at MarylandHealthConnection.gov

Report touches on reserves, financials and North Gate Bridge

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola addressed subjects including the recent reserve study, upcoming budget, North Gate Bridge, and more positive financial reports during his monthly presentation to the Board of Directors on Saturday.

On the updated reserve study, Viola supplied an overview of the November 10 public work session with the Budget and Finance Committee.

Viola said work on the updated study was “a total team effort,” led by Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin.

Martin said Design Management Associates delivered a first draft of the updated study in July, and department heads reviewed that in July and August. Additional drafts came on August 24 and September 15.

She said the committee, during the working session, approved department expenditures for the next five years, along with a 3.08% inflation rate factor and a “fully funded average percent” of reserves of 20% over the next five years.

“DMA also recommended ... an in-

crease of contributions to general reserves, and recommended considering a funding source for road reserves,” she said.

Viola said he appreciated the hard work done by the committee and staff.

“This is a valuable tool to me [and] to this Association, where it puts everything into perspective as far as our fixed assets [and] a review of when everything needs to be replaced. It gives us a guide so that we can get an understanding of where our reserves are, which is a big number and a big part of our balance sheet and what we do here. It ties it all together,” he said.

Viola said the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget was “progressing very nicely.” He said staff used a “bottoms-up” approach to the budget, with some “top-down” input from the general manager.

Next in the process, he said budget binders would be delivered to Budget and Finance Committee members before the Christmas holiday, and staff would make public budget presentations to the committee on January 4-6.

“When I present the proposed

budget, it will be probably a little different this year. I will be addressing a surplus that we have ... that we realized last year,” he said. “That will all come to play, and I will certainly analyze that and present that to [the committee], the Association and the Board, and I think we have a few options this year that we haven’t had in the past.”

Viola said headwinds including inflation and mandatory minimum wage increases were among the factors that would impact the next budget.

“With the inflation [and] ... with the increases in the minimum wage it is prudent – and I have and we are – looking at [proposed] pricing and pricing increases for our amenities,” Viola said, including Aquatics, Golf and Racquet Sports.

Viola referenced a car accident on the North Gate Bridge in October, and said Association staff are in the process of maintenance efforts to both spruce up the bridge and bring the approach up to Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland State High Administration standards.

“The county has recommended some contractors that they use, and we’re talking to them to get that done,” he said.

Following up on recent life-saving efforts by Clubhouse Bar and Grille staff, Viola said Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are currently in place at Public Works, the Racquet Center, Yacht Club, Community Center, Administration Building, Marina, and all five pools.

All departments have had initial AED training, and Aquatics, Marina, and Recreation and Parks staff are certified to use AEDs in case of an emergency.

He credited Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook with leading the charge, both in training and maintenance of the AEDs.

“It’s a very valuable training and we’re lucky to have somebody like Kathleen and the rest of the people here to carry that out,” he said.

On the financial side, Viola said the Association was favorable to budget

please see report on page 14

It's the most Wonderful time in Ocean Pines!



Breakfast with Santa
Dec 4 | 8-11am | Community Center
\$5 ages 4-10 | \$7 ages 7+ | Free for ages 3 & under!
Pancakes, sausage, pastries & more. Santa will join us at 8:30am for photos! Please bring unwrapped gift or canned food for families in need.

Reindeer Lane Gift Shop
Dec 4 | 8-11am | Community Center
Kids ages 12 & under can shop for family & friends. All gifts \$5 & under. Donations of new & gently used items needed!

Gingerbread Man Decorating
Dec 10 | 4-6pm | Community Center
\$8 per child
For ages 3-12. Make Santa the best cookie ever! Materials & instruction provided.

Kids' Craft Time
Dec 11 | 10am-12pm | Community Center
\$10 per child
For ages 4-10. Craft a cute Christmas gnome! Materials & instruction provided.

Holiday Movie Night
Dec 17 | 7pm | Community Center
Free event!
Wear pajamas, bring a chair or blanket & watch a holiday movie on the big screen. Popcorn, candy & drinks for sale!

Santa in White Horse Park

Dec 18 | 5-8pm
Dec 19 | 2-4pm

Info: 410.641.7052

Presentation highlights resilience project at Jenkins Point

A Maryland Coastal Bays Program presentation on Saturday was a step toward launching a new resilience project at Jenkins Point in Ocean Pines.

Steve Farr, the watershed coordinator for Maryland Coastal Bays Program, said addressing the Association Board was part of the process of applying for a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant to get the project started.

Farr said Jenkins Point is on the Isle of Wight Bay, just offshore of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

"There's been significant erosion all along that area ... Jenkins Point was once a solid peninsula," Farr said, adding the area is now barely visible and has "almost disappeared."

"Last year, we approached ... [Ocean Pines Board member] Doug Parks to consider some opportunities for resilience projects, because we knew that Maryland DNR had put out this [request for proposals] and they were looking for opportunities to protect community assets as well as pro-

tect habitats," Farr said. "We looked at several opportunities in Ocean Pines, and Jenkins Point really popped out above anything else."

Farr said Maryland Coastal Bays Program submitted a proposal to DNR about this time last year, but the project was not selected.

"We were given indications that it was very close. It was on the edge [and] if they had more money, they hopefully would have approved it," he said. "We have since had discussions with DNR and they have encouraged us to submit another proposal for this project. In the interim, they also said one of the main reasons why it did not rate higher relative to others was that there was no local cost share offer."

Farr said he brought that to Parks' attention, and the Board last summer approved \$10,000 in matching funds.

"That's always a big help with grants like these ... to show local skin in the game," Farr said.

He said the project budget is roughly \$80,000, which would be limited to design and permitting.

"It would not involve actually moving forward with implementation," he said. "If design and the permitting is achieved, what happens with these grants is that DNR will provide funding for construction without necessarily any participation from the local community ... there's no financial commitment from Ocean Pines Association beyond the \$10,000 that was approved last year."

Association President Larry Perrone asked if DNR would later expect Ocean Pines to contribute a substan-

tial amount of money for what he said could become "a multi-million-dollar project."

"My answer would be that we are working with DNR ... with a similar grant program for a project in Chincoteague Bay, and they are fully funding" that program, Farr said. "But we would work with you to seek other grants if the DNR funding was not enough to move forward with the project ... there are other opportunities to get money for project like this."

Perrone addresses water quality, mailbox clusters

Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone on Saturday said an anomalous test was to blame for false reports that elevated levels of human waste were found in community ponds.

Also on Saturday, Perrone gave an update on mailbox clusters, and thanked outgoing Elections Committee Chairperson Steve Habeger for his years of volunteer service.

About a month ago, Perrone said former Environment and Natural Assets Committee member Marty Clarke "made an allegation on social media that this Board was hiding test results from the community regarding testing that had occurred in the ponds."

Perrone said he addressed the matter this week with the committee, but also wanted to supply an update to the larger community.

"This board receives a lot of allegations on a routine basis and normally we just don't respond to them, but this one I think was a little more serious," he said.

Perrone said he and Association Vice President Colette Horn received a call from former Board member Tom Janasek last December, "advising us that a recent test done on the ponds indicated that there was a high level of human waste in the pond." Janasek had been the liaison to the Environ-

ment and Natural Assets Committee.

"The initial report indicated that it was most likely an anomaly because the number was so high," Perrone said. "We agreed at that point to go ahead and have the test redone, and we would wait and see what the second test result showed."

He said a second test was done, but the Board never received the results.

"About a month ago, coincidentally the day after Director Janasek had resigned, Marty Clarke made these allegations on the Ocean Pines Forum that the Board had the results and that the Board was hiding these results. And in fact, in one email [Clarke] indicated that the Board was negligent for not putting up barriers or fencing around the ponds," Perrone said. "Clearly, the Board had not received the results."

Perrone said he received environmental reports this week from testing done on Sept. 19, as well as from initial testing done last year.

"And as expected, the second report indicated that ... there was an anomaly and there was no problem regarding human waste in the ponds," he said. "It was very disappointing that these allegations were made against this Board and the general manager that we were hiding these results. I wanted to clear that up with the com-

*please see **perrone** on page 14*

Courier Almanac

On December 1, 1955 in Montgomery, AL, Rosa Parks was jailed for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man, a violation of the city's racial segregation laws. The successful Montgomery Bus Boycott, organized by a young Baptist minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., followed Park's historic act of civil disobedience.."



A small study from researchers at University College London found that black tea drinkers had significantly lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol than non-tea drinkers within 50 minutes of experiencing a stress-inducing event. The study also found that black tea drinkers expressed themselves in a more relaxed way than non-tea drinkers within 50 minutes of a stressful experience.

The Courier

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The decorating fanatic

It's that most wonderful time of year once again when my wife turns into a Christmas decorating fanatic. The transformation occurs shortly after the Thanksgiving leftovers are

inches to the left one year so there would be room for the Christmas tree. My pride in this accomplishment was as short lived as my breathing was short, when informed the



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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put away and lasts until just about Christmas Eve. The time in between is a nail-biting experience for those living in the house or who get anywhere near her. In short, that's me.

No fool am I. I learned a long time ago that there is no practical way to interrupt the process that unfolds more grandly each year. During the early years of our marriage, I attempted to make suggestions, even offering to assist in putting up decorations. These entreaties were met with either blank stares or, if I had attempted to, for instance, arrange a manger scene, comments like, "this looks nothing like a manger scene, you idiot." I added those last two words for dramatic effect. Because even though the words weren't uttered, my wife was no doubt thinking them. It would come as no surprise if in a previous life my wife was at the original manger scene orchestrating where the Holy Family should sit, where the camels should graze and when the little Drummer Boy should begin playing. Cue the Wise Men.

We have celebrated 38 Christmases together, a reality that makes me happy. Yet early on, it became apparent that my attempts to assist in decorating were akin to swimming against a raging current. A lot of effort was expended but when all was said and done, I got nowhere. So, I resign myself to sitting in a corner chair waiting for instructions to either retrieve or return a box in the attic.

During the early years, I have made some contributions. For instance, it was me who moved the 700-pound television armoire two

tree was to go in another room.

Most families enjoy the process of decorating the Christmas tree. It's supposed to be a fun time when everyone comes together, singing Christmas carols, as they place ornaments on the tree. At our house when the tree goes up, I'm banished to another room. My wife is a stickler for how the lights should be placed on the tree. It's frightening how she becomes unrelenting in her pursuit for the perfectly lit tree. One year, I

think it was 1992, I thought I would surprise her by putting the lights up myself. She walked into the room, looked at the tree and then looked at me with a look that would have melted Frosty the Snowman regardless of the outside temperature.

She then proceeded to undo what I had done, rearranging the lights, making sure they were not just on the tips of the branches but also inside the boughs as well. This gave the tree depth I was told unlike my concept of throwing the light strings in the air and letting them land on the tree.

For about 50 weeks out of the year my wife is a very kind, decent and understanding person. However, during the two-week process of decorating the house, she can become Imelda Marcos on steroids as she displays, among other decorations, at least nine different nativity scenes, places a dozen pieces of lighted ceramic pieces given to us by my grandmother, erects and decorates five differently-themed Christmas trees and prepares to bake treats for family and friends.

In the end though our home always looks wonderful. Despite her difficult manner during the decoration periods, my wife is tremendously talented and it shows. The fact I only emerge from behind the sofa after she is finished in no way diminishes my respect for her abilities.



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Inside Ocean Pines South Gate

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Season's Greetings

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.



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Financial Advisor

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Ocean Pines, MD 21811
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Board meeting briefs

The Ocean Pines Board discussed the following items during a regular meeting on November 20.

FlightTurf grounded

Director Amy Peck said a proposal to install FlightTurf, a grass developed for airfields to deter local wildlife, was not suitable for use in Ocean Pines.

The Environment and Natural Assets [ENA] Committee had proposed a test run of FlightTurf near the North Gate Pond. Peck, the committee liaison to the Board, said the cost to do so was estimated at \$120,000.

"I'm very proud of the committee and the work that they did and the research that they did," she said. "Once we got more information from [General Manager] John Viola and [Golf Superintendent] Justin [Hartshorne] and [Public Works Director] Eddie Wells, it became apparent that this was a very cost prohibitive approach."

Peck said the committee would next explore other alternatives.

According to Peck's entry in the Board meeting packet, "The ENA Committee will re-examine past options including getting more information on a vegetation buffer around the ponds which produces a less attractive atmosphere for the migratory Canada geese thus discouraging their becoming permanent residents."

Short-term rental update

Director Frank Daly said a prior Board vote to change the Declaration of Restrictions regarding short-term rentals in the community had targeted a public referendum in the fourth quarter of 2021.

"Now we're in the fourth quarter, and I think we need a discussion on how to do that and how to move that process forward," Daly said.

"The Board passed a resolution that requires a vote in each section that would give Ocean Pines the ability to regulate short term rentals and fine owners not in compliance with the proposed regulations. The purpose of this discussion is to see what the plan is to begin the voting process," he added.

Based on discussions with Ocean Pines attorneys, Daly said his understanding was the Board would work with the Elections Committee on an initial mailing.

"And then, the way this process works, is there can be subsequent

mailings until we achieve the 50% plus-one that's required in the bylaws to change the Declarations of Restrictions," he said. "It seems to me that we could have an initial mailing, still in the fourth quarter."

Daly said additional voting materials could be included in the assessment mailings, next spring, as well as a "bounce-back card" in the Ocean Pines Report quarterly newsletter.

He said the committee could also consider print ads and emails to homeowners.

"All of that has a tendency to suppress the cost that we have ... to get the votes in each section," Daly said.

Association Vice President Colette Horn said a recent community survey gathered more than 1,800 responses and wondered if electronic voting may be useful for the short-term rental proposal.

"I think the concern is that this is not a survey, this is an actual vote," Association President Larry Perrone said.

"From a communications standpoint, I think we have two issues here: the communication to the community to let them know what this is all about and to explain it, but then I think the Elections Committee has to be involved in the actual vote," he continued. "I'm not sure if we have the capability at this point to vote electronically."

Perrone went on to say, "this is not a small project." He appointed a Board workgroup of himself, Daly, and Association Secretary Josette Wheatley to look into the matter further.

Second readings

Board members approved one and rejected two proposed changes to the Association's Book of Resolutions.

Changes to Resolution C-03, on the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee, were approved unanimously, 7-0.

Changes to resolutions F-02 (Annual Budget Development) and F-03 (Financial Reserve Accounts) were each rejected by a 4-3 vote. In both cases, Board members had issues with changing some of the language from "shall" to "should."

North Gate entryway

While Daly said Viola and his team

*please see **briefs** on page 14*



Tree lighting - *Maureen and Butch Kennedy of My Backyard stand beside their decorated tree during the Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas celebration last Saturday evening at White Horse Park.*

Maryland's Coast campaign wins awards at Tourism Summit

Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Tourism, and Economic Development (RPTED) took home the Best Media Campaign and Best Website Awards at the 40th annual Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit in November.

In the midst of a pandemic, RPTED professionals devised and launched a complete rebranding of these recently consolidated departments. This fully-integrated campaign was completed in just over a year and includes a media, marketing, and PR campaign, Welcome to Maryland's Coast – Worcester County. This rebranding won the Best Media Campaign Award.

"We initiated a strategic planning and branding process to strengthen the county's identity and integrate destination marketing and business attraction/retention," Tourism and Economic Development Director Melanie Pursel said. "Despite a nationwide quarantine that shuttered travel and restricted business, the team moved forward and developed Maryland's Coast...Naturally Cool. With the

official brand launch in October of 2020, the real work began. All of the television, radio, outdoor, print, and web needed to be completely updated with the new brand. We are still expanding to other parts of our county, truly embodying the Live, Work, Play concept!"

Under the umbrella of RPTED, county staff also created a new website, which won the Best Website Award. This site redirects visitors to each of the three RPTED sites. These are 'Visit' to the tourism website, 'Choose' to the economic development website, or 'Play' to the recreation and parks website."

In addition to providing visitors with people, places, activities, and events of interest, the sites are important tools for county staff. For example, the tourism website alone provides analytic reports that identify the number of visitors who are viewing the new website. During May 2021 there were over 8,300 visits, with over 15,700 views. Also accompanying the new website and newly-branded Visitor's Guide is a new Go Coastal app.

Pearl Harbor had its ironies and paradoxes

By **Robert Adair**

Tuesday will mark the 80th anniversary of the “day that will live in infamy.” On December 7, 1941 Japan launched two devastating attacks on U.S. forces in Hawaii and the Philippines. The attack on Pearl Harbor was one of the most brilliant tactical feats of World War II. Six carriers had crossed the vast Pacific to a point 200 miles north of Oahu and launched 350 aircraft to attack the fleet at anchor at Pearl Harbor. It achieved total surprise and sank a major portion of the U.S. Pacific fleet. Sortie after sortie attacked the harbor while others strafed aircraft lined up at Wheeler Field and Hickam Field.

On the same day (although it was December 8 in that longitude) Japanese bombers flying out of bases on Formosa bombed the U.S. Far East Air Force that was lined up on Clark Field and Iba Field, just outside Manila, virtually destroying it.

At Pearl Harbor all eight U.S. battleships were sunk or badly damaged, along with numerous other vessels. Two hundred aircraft were destroyed that day and there were 3,600 casualties, the great majority being killed. The Japanese lost 29 aircraft and five midget submarines.

The Joint Committee investigating the attack called it the “greatest military and naval disaster in our nation’s history.” The irony of that day was that after all the careful planning on the part of the Japanese and with all the damage inflicted by the surprise attack, two very significant targets were missed.

First, the three aircraft carriers of the fleet were not at Pearl Harbor. The reason for that is a whole other story. It would be the carriers that would bring Japan’s military strength to its knees. The second vital target left intact was the major ship repair complex located at the port. These repair shops would be responsible for returning the majority of the fleet to combat duty in record time. Had they been destroyed the time lines for taking the war to Japan would have been quite different.

In Gordon W. Prange’s volume, “At Dawn We Slept,” a statement in the Preface states, “Pearl Harbor resulted from a vast combination of inter-related, complicated and strange historical factors: on the one hand, bountiful human errors of great vari-

ety, false assumptions... on the other, precise planning, tireless training, plain guts and uncommon luck.” It also identifies factors such as weather, quirks of personality, prejudice and accident that impacted events. History is not made in a vacuum.

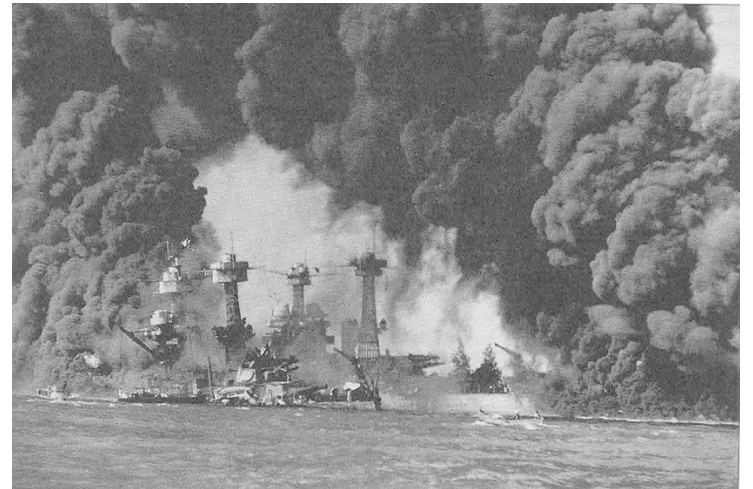
Twenty years before the attack the U.S. took steps to call the world’s sea powers together at the Washington Naval Conference of 1921-1922 to develop an agreement on capital ship construction and a limitation on total tonnage for a period of ten years. The strategy was to limit the powerful navies of the world so that no one fleet could pose an international threat. The agreed ratio of ships among the United States, Britain and Japan was 5:5:3. This treaty was extended another five years under the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

Just after World War I, even before the Washington Naval Conference, U.S. military planners had begun to develop a series of “Color-coded plans.” Each color represented a potential adversary of the United States. Each plan was developed to contain

plausible courses of action in case military involvement was required.

Plan Orange dealt with war against Japan. The supposition was that Japan would capture U.S. assets and bases in the Philippines and the Pacific islands, and that force would be necessary to retake the bases. Whatever scenario was used, it pointed out the vast distances involved and amount of shipping needed to project a force from the U.S. to those locations. Variations of Plan Orange were studied and war-gamed during the 1920s and 1930s.

There appears to be a paradox involved in these historical events. On one hand the Joint Planners identified Japan as the major threat to the U.S.



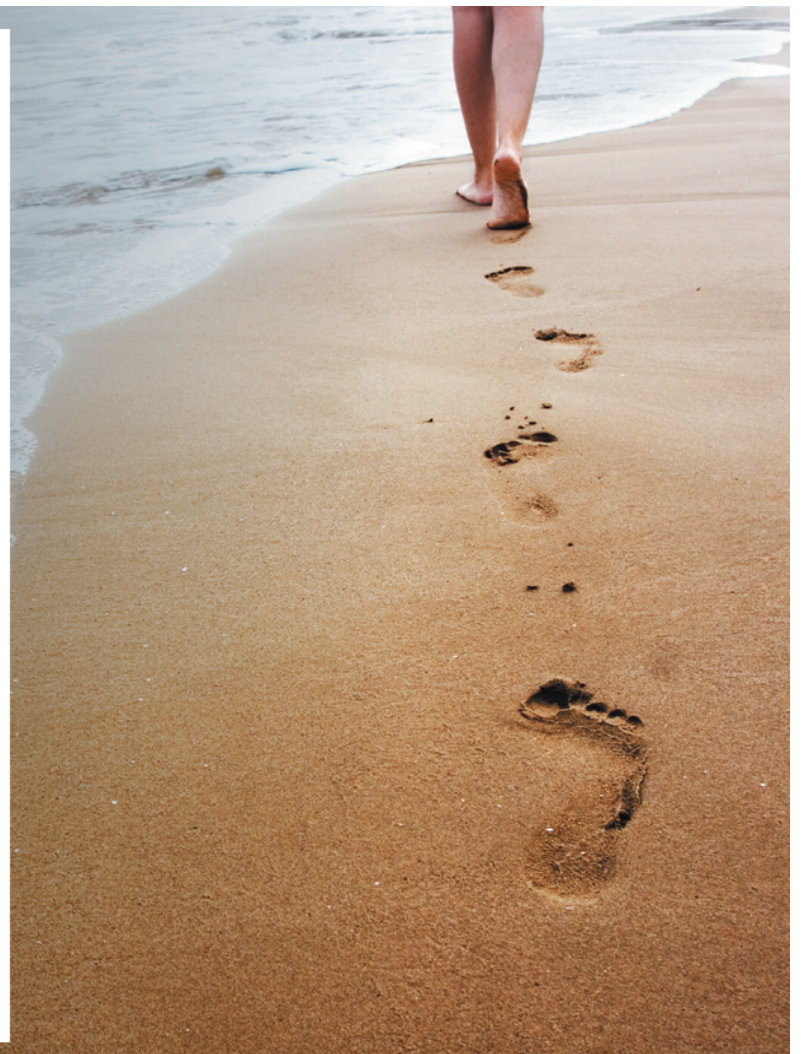
interests in the Pacific and that it would take maximum effort on the part of naval assets to engage the enemy and move forces to the islands and the Philippines. At the same time Washington hosted a conference that would limit the total tonnage allowed.

Many other factors played into the history of Plan Orange and the Naval Treaty. The limit on ships was designed to keep each nation in check.

*please see **pearl** on page 13*

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Virtual Holiday Sand Castle Home Tour offered

The Art League of Ocean City invites everyone to enjoy some holiday cheer and take the 2021 All-Virtual Sand Castle Holiday Home Tour. The online tour is free to all, and available to view at SandCastleHomeTour.com.

“We wanted to make this tour free to all as our holiday gift to the community, to thank everyone who has supported us over this year,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “We hope the tour brings joy and a little sparkle and art into everyone’s life.”

The special holiday tour follows the format of the successful Virtual Sand Castle Home Tour in October. The Holiday Home Tour features a video tour of Kathy Marshall’s holiday-decked home in Glen Riddle, along with an interview with Marshall sharing what inspires her about Christmas.

The tour continues with three short videos demonstrating holiday decorating ideas. Virginia Pappas demonstrates how to make a centerpiece for the dining table. Thaler and Jamie Albright show the fun side of

Hanukkah with vodka and latkes recipes. Amie McCaslin of Salt & Co. shares ideas and tips for a holiday-ready mantle.

“If you enjoyed the tour and want to help us, do it again, there is a spot on the tour site where you can donate,” Thaler continued. “We’re a nonprofit, so it’s tax deductible, and very appreciated.”

Light Up the Pines returns

Ocean Pines residents and property owners interested in adding holiday cheer to the community are invited to participate in this year’s “Light Up the Pines” outdoor decorating program.

Those who register with the program will be featured on an online Google map, which will include locations of the decorated properties.

Participants will also be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50

please see lights on page 13



Donation - Carol Rose of We Heart Berlin Inc., accepts a \$100 donation from Worcester County NAACP President Ivory Smith, to use toward the painting of the Henry Park Basketball Courts.



Pine’er Crafters visit Kiwanis

The guest speakers at the weekly Kiwanis Club meeting on Wednesday November 10 were co-managers of the Pine’er Artisan Gift Shop in Ocean Pines, **Diane Denk** (also a Kiwanis Club member) and **Kim Perrone**, pictured (L-R) with Kiwanis Club President **Tim Lund** in the center behind a table of some of the items for sale. The gift shop is an extension of the Pine’er Craft Club started in 1974.

Members create handmade gift items, home decor, jewelry and so much more and then sell it in this retail store. Profits from these sales are donated back to the Ocean Pines community in the form of donations to the police and fire departments, Parks & Recreation Department, free summer Concerts in the Park, Veterans Memorial and more. More than \$160,000 has been donated since the club was founded.

Meetings of the Crafters Club are on the third Thursday of the month in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Open to the public at 9:45 a.m. with the meeting starting at 10 a.m. Contact Diane Denk at 410-600-4237 or Kim Perrone at 614-270-3275 for information.

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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Technologies to assist moon explorations

Many space fans are closely following the new technologies being developed to assist the upcoming lunar explorations of this decade. In recent months this column has covered information about the new SLS super-heavy-lift rocket, lunar habitats featuring 3-D printing technology, and the near-rectilinear lunar polar orbit.

This month will feature exciting and creative technologies addressing the production of landing pads and mining of water-ice.

One challenge is the fact that new landers of the Artemis program will weigh between 20 and 60 metric tonnes, compared to the Apollo era landers, at just 10 metric tonnes. Greater rocket thrust to cushion those heavy landers would mean stirring up significantly more lunar dust, creating hazards for the landing craft and nearby equipment.

A company called Masten Space

allow the rocket exhaust to produce a launch pad by raining down heated pellets onto the lunar surface.

The process works as follows. The descending landing craft brings itself to a hovering condition above the lunar surface, at a height of about



On October 21, the Orion Space Capsule was "stacked" on the SLS rocket, preparing for Artemis 1 launch in February, 2022.

1,000 feet. The pellets are injected into the exhaust where they are melted and accelerated downwards. Upon striking the regolith surface, those pellets will cool and harden, creating an instant landing pad.

Masten's tests indicate that typical landings could use 410 lbs. of alumina pellet compound, making a landing pad of about 6 meters in diameter. The deployment process could be completed within 10 seconds during the landing sequence.

Masten's technique allows great savings in cost. Construction of land-



Masten's Rocket Mining System for water-ice recovery

Systems has produced an innovative design to alleviate this problem. Under its contract with NASA, Masten is designing and testing a system to

please see space page 14

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How to care for wild birds this winter

The arrival of winter forces everyone to confront the changes synonymous with the season, and local wildlife is no exception. Low temperatures, harsh winter storms and a scarcity of food can make it challenging for wildlife, including birds, to thrive throughout the winter.

Even though several species of birds are migratory and travel to warmer climates to wait out winter, many others stay put. The Audubon Society says that keeping close to home helps some species of birds maintain their territories.

Some birds will puff up to retain heat; others will seek shelter in dense foliage or cavities to avoid the elements. Many birds will huddle together to share warmth.

Another way of keeping warm is building up fat as an insulator and energy source. The Audubon Society says more than 10 percent of some birds' winter body weight may be fat.

That can be challenging to maintain when common sources of food, such as insects and berries, disappear as winter wears on. This is when some human intervention can prove handy, advise ornithologists. A few simple efforts may benefit birds and other wildlife that may not hibernate winter away or escape to the tropics.

Have a supply of food, bird feeders, houses, and any other bird-related

gear at the ready before the storms really rev up.

Invest in nutritious food, such as black oil sunflower seeds or blends that are high in black oil sunflower seeds. You also can make available more foods that are high in fat, such as suet, peanut butter or even whole peanuts. Mother Nature Network also suggests adding meal worms if they can be found.

Choose feeders that will keep seed dry; otherwise, it will be prone to bacterial and fungal growth.

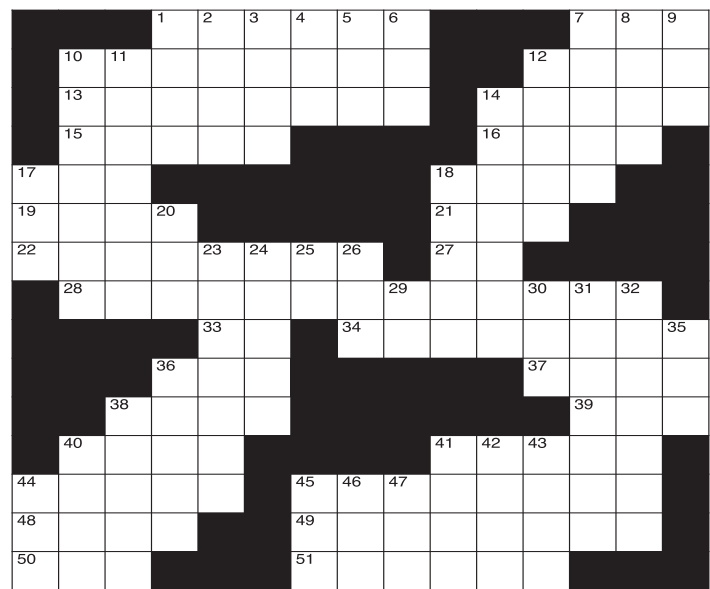
Don't discard fallen leaves or any



downed twigs or pruned boughs from trees. This will give birds material for creating shelter or hiding away when the weather gets especially brutal. When the Christmas tree is finished for the season, place it in the yard as a windbreak for birds.

Put shallow water sources around so birds can drink. Replace them frequently if water freezes.

Wild birds can benefit from some help when the temperatures start to drop in winter.

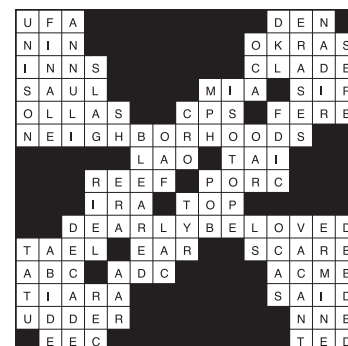


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Topsides
- 7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 10. A Sultan's court
- 12. Maine city
- 13. Largest living land animal
- 14. Appetizer
- 15. Encounters
- 16. Leader
- 17. The source of bacon
- 18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
- 19. Celery (Spanish)
- 21. Pie ___ mode
- 22. Eye disease
- 27. Hello (slang)
- 28. Those in their 80s
- 33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 34. Business organizations
- 36. Mimic
- 37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
- 38. Feeling
- 39. Visual way to interact with computers (abbr.)
- 40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- 41. Essential oil used as perfume
- 44. Norwegian composer
- 45. Coast
- 48. ___ lang syne, good old days
- 49. Gland behind the stomach
- 50. Tooth caregiver
- 51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN

- 1. N. American indigenous people
- 2. Fascinated by
- 3. Root of out
- 4. Patti Hearst's captors
- 5. Atomic #50
- 6. Habitual drunkard
- 7. Arabic for "peace"
- 8. Trickery
- 9. One's physique (slang)
- 10. Not quite there
- 11. Wistfully mournful
- 12. Popular dance
- 14. Cut of meat
- 17. A way to stand
- 18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
- 20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 23. A way of jumping
- 24. Utah town
- 25. Of I
- 26. Actress de Armas
- 29. Silver
- 30. Play a role
- 31. ___ Falls
- 32. Attaches to
- 35. Japanese title
- 36. Expressed pleasure
- 38. Buckets
- 40. Dirt
- 41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
- 42. Restaurant drive-___
- 43. Digs up
- 44. He voices "Olaf"
- 45. Relaxing place
- 46. Body part
- 47. Pesky house critter



Answers for November 24



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How to winterize a vacant home

A vast migration takes place when the temperatures begin to drop in the northernmost areas of the United States and even parts of Canada. No, it has nothing to do with feathered friends finding new roosts or certain mammals getting ready to hibernate. This migration involves the thousands upon thousands of people who retreat from one residence to head to another.

Snowbirds, as these migratory people are often called, are primarily retirees who split their living arrangements based on weather. Many spend the spring and summer months in one residence, generally in the northern portion of the country. Once the mercury begins to drop there, they trade that home for another in a more temperate locale, such as Florida, Louisiana, Texas, or even overseas. *The Palm Beach Post* reports that about 145,000 snowbirds flock to Palm Beach County alone each winter, raising the population by around 11 percent, according to the county's official figures. Across Florida, an estimated 900,000 to one million seasonal residents stay a month or more every winter.

When snowbirds or other people leave their homes for extended periods of time, it is essential that they winterize properties that will sit vacant for months.

Consider turning off the water supply completely if you will be away for an extended period of time; otherwise, a burst pipe may result in significant damage.

Drain all water in pipes by opening the faucets and flushing the toi-

lets to clear the water from the tanks and bowls. Place non-toxic antifreeze in the toilet bowls to prevent any remaining water from freezing.

If you will not be draining pipes and turning off the water, set the heating system to 55 F or higher to help keep the interior and wall cavities warm.

Keep room and cabinet doors open to allow heat to circulate to areas where pipes are located.

Shut off the water to outdoor faucets as well as the washing machine.

Close up openings to the house so that rodents and insects cannot get inside and use a home for shelter.

Make sure that gutters are free of debris, which can lead to potential ice dams and water collection around the foundation of the home.

Hire someone to clear the sidewalks and driveway of snow and ice.

Remove any tree branches that can be weighed down by snow and ice and fall onto the property.

Forward mail to your winter address, stop newspaper delivery and arrange to have any package deliveries picked up while you're away.

Put motion-sensitive exterior lights and interior lights on timers. Set lights to come on at various times to discourage thieves or squatters.

Ensure the alarm system is in good working order.

Use deadbolts to secure doors and windows.

These steps and others can help protect a home while residents are away.

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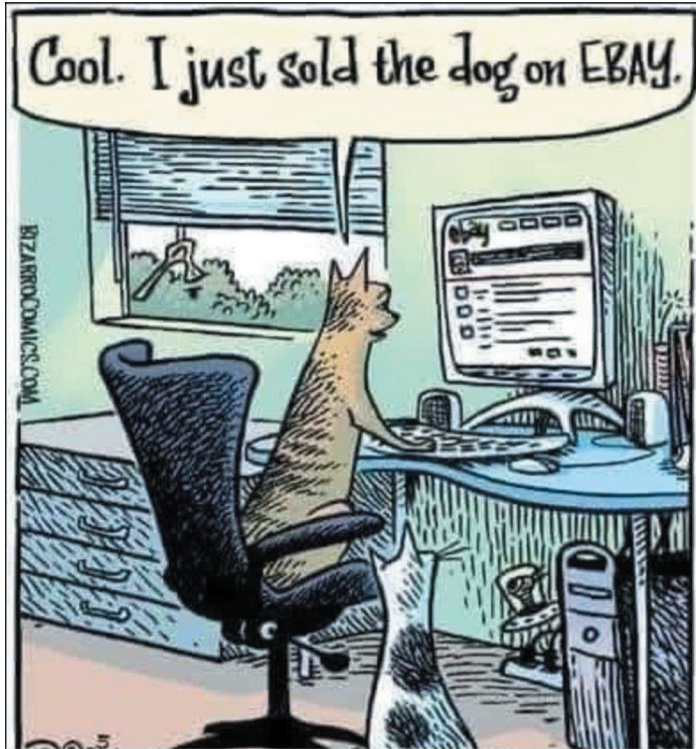
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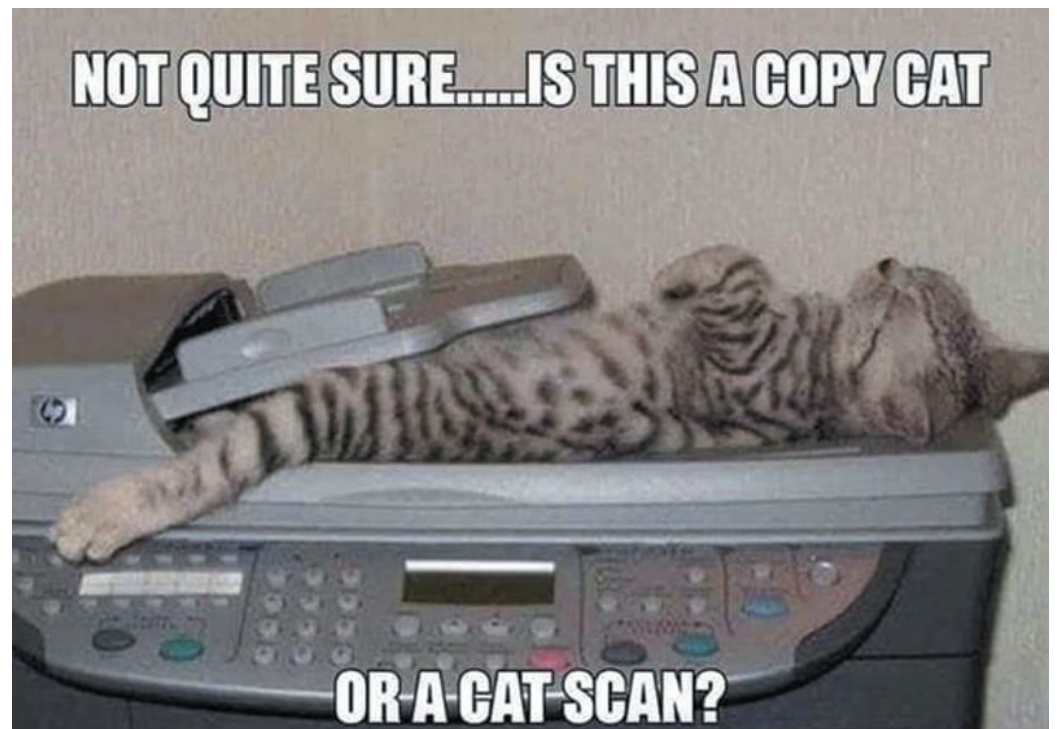
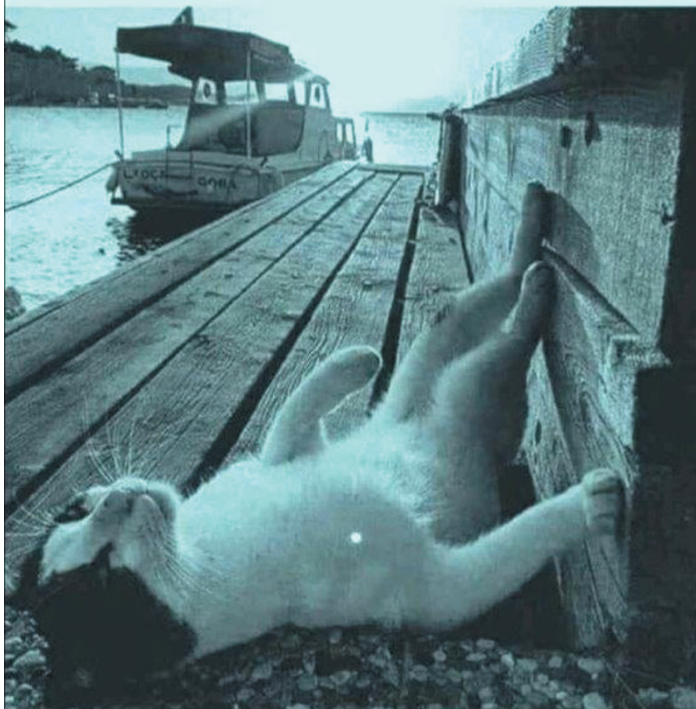


Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



When you're child, you want to be a teenager. When you're a teenager you want to be an adult. When you're an adult you want to be a cat



pearl
from page 7

By agreeing to the treaty, the United States was able to divert funds away from fleet modernization. All strategic war plans are based on potential events and plausible scenarios. If the nation is not at war or about to be pulled into one, the historical response from the government is to reduce the cost of the armament program because it is politically astute. Planning is one thing; financing and providing necessary assets is another.

With the Manchurian Incident of 1931, which could be viewed as the initial steps of expansion on the part of Japan, Plan Orange received more attention. Ironically, the Japanese military planners, in their war-gaming exercises, mirrored the thinking of the Americans. They anticipated the U.S. would cross the Pacific to reclaim its bases and possessions. This provided additional argument for the large group of Japanese naval officers who were bent on military buildup and territorial expansion through use of force.



They convinced the Japanese government that equal parity with the U.S. and Britain was necessary. The alternative was to abrogate the treaty when it ran out in 1936. When the other powers refused Japan's request, it withdrew from the agreement.

The irony found in this event is based on the personalities involved. The Japanese naval officer who, under orders, forced the talks to fail at the London preliminary naval talks in 1934 was Rear Admiral Isoroko Yamamoto, who later planned and executed the operation against Pearl Harbor. Personally, Admiral Yamamoto thought withdrawal was a mistake, however, the Japanese naval shipbuilding program had already exceeded the treaty limitations.

The paradox involved in this turn of events is that the actions of Admiral Yamamoto to remove Japan from the bounds of the Naval Treaty allowed the "battleship supporters" to immediately build the super dreadnaughts *Yamato* and *Musashi*, even though Admiral Yamamoto believed strongly that emphasis on aircraft carrier development was much more important. During the 1930s he did everything possible to make the carrier-based pilots the best trained in

the world. They were flying 700 hours a year compared to the U.S. pilots who could only fly 305 annually.

Perhaps the ultimate paradox involved with the attack on Pearl Harbor is that after all the millions of dollars spent on the launching of a fleet of super dreadnaughts and the attendant support vessels, the Japanese sent six aircraft carriers to sink the American battleships of the Pacific fleet. No Japanese battleship ever committed a hostile act anywhere close to the U.S.

The overarching irony of the events of that day may be the absence of the three carriers, which had been sent to

sea to improve their readiness level. It would be these three carriers, along with others that would break the back of the Japanese navy, both their battleship and carrier fleets. The Japanese planned an attack against the American fleet, with no contingency plans to follow up on the outcome of the major event, the attack on Pearl Harbor. They had no plans to search the surrounding waters for the American carriers. They carried no landing force to follow up on success. What they did accomplish was prophetically summed up by Admiral Yamamoto after he learned the Japanese envoys to Washington had not delivered the declaration of war to the American government prior to the attack. He said, "I fear we have awakened the sleeping giant."

Irony or paradox, the reality was that the nation had suffered the loss of thousands of men, the Pacific fleet was severely crippled but the admiral was correct. The sleeping giant awoke with a fierceness never expected by the Japanese. History has recorded the American reply.

Robert Adair was editor of The Courier between 2000 to 2005. He passed away in 2007. This article has been updated since originally published.

lights
from page 8

bill credits donated by Choptank Electric Cooperative, which sponsors the program. Additionally, the first 25 registered participants will receive a small goody bag, also courtesy of Choptank.

"Choptank Electric Cooperative is pleased to be part of the holiday spirit in Ocean Pines with the 'Light Up the Pines' event," said Elizabeth Hallett, manager of marketing and communications. "We hope our members enjoy bringing holiday fun to the neighborhood!"

Households interested in participating should submit a name, address and phone number via email to info@oceanpines.org or by calling 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.

The initial deadline to register is Friday, December 3, although residents may continue to sign up through the holiday season to have their homes included on the online map.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 2	High	5:43 AM
2	Low	11:56 AM
2	High	6:02 PM
2	Low	11:58 PM
F 3	High	6:34 AM
3	Low	12:50 PM
3	High	6:54 PM
Sa 4	Low	12:47 AM
4	High	7:26 AM
4	Low	1:43 PM
4	High	7:46 PM
Su 5	Low	1:37 AM
5	High	8:19 AM
5	Low	2:36 PM
5	High	8:39 PM
M 6	Low	2:29 AM
6	High	9:13 AM
6	Low	3:30 PM
6	High	9:33 PM
Tu 7	Low	3:22 AM
7	High	10:06 AM
7	Low	4:26 PM
7	High	10:28 PM
W 8	Low	4:19 AM
8	High	11:01 AM
8	Low	5:24 PM
8	High	11:25 PM

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space

from page 9

ing pads by alternative methods are estimated at \$120 million higher per pad.

Most space fans are aware that scientific efforts are being pursued to find water sources to support astronauts for extended visits on the moon. In fact, NASA's lunar explorations have located significant quantities of water-ice near the moon's south pole. Masten is addressing how to recover the water-ice buried in the lunar regolith.

Masten's new Rocket Mining System consists of a large hemispherical metal dome as well as a filtration system. After reaching the preselected location for mining, the first step is to forcefully drive the dome into the regolith, creating a sealed chamber. Next, a series of half-second rocket pulses are fired into the regolith. At this point a vacuum system inside the dome collects the fragments, and forces them through a series of separating filters and centrifuges. The water-ice is stored for subsequent uses, including splitting into its hydrogen and oxygen components.

report

from page 3

roughly \$175,000 in September, thanks to organic growth in Golf, Racquet Sports and Aquatics, and expense reduction across the Board.

"The entire team, we scrub all accounts. And where we can rebalance or reallocate, we do that," he said.

Year to date, Viola said Ocean Pines is favorable to budget just over \$1.3 million. However, he cautioned that number is likely to change.

"The next four or five months, it's basically expense," Viola said. "It's the winter months and the revenue is down, but we still have ... expenses that are needed. So, obviously these numbers will come down."

Viola also briefly touched on new pickleball courts. He said permitting for the courts is now waiting on signature at the state level.

"Hopefully, I [will] have good news on that coming forward," he said.

Viola also said filtration improvements at Bainbridge Pond were finished, but there are some remaining utility issues before the overall project can wrap up.

"We're working with the county. We had a meeting with them over the last two last two weeks, and hopefully that [work] will get started in the near future," he said.

Testing on simulated regolith indicates that the Rocket Mining System could mine up to a dozen craters per day and collect about 220 pounds of ice from each 6-1/2-foot-deep crater. The system runs on oxygen and hydrogen, so it can effectively produce its own fuel.

Masten Space Systems is located in California's Mojave Desert. In its 15-year history, the company has been a leader in the rocket industry with over 600 successful missions including recoveries for reuse.

NASA has contracted with Masten for an unmanned landing on the moon scheduled to launch in November 2023. This lunar lander will carry eight scientific instrument packages all designed to collect data and measure the harsh conditions near the lunar south pole.

Currently, NASA's efforts at Florida's Kennedy Space Center are focused on launching the new super-heavy-lift SLS rocket. This first stage of the Artemis program is scheduled to launch as soon as February 2022. The unmanned mission will verify that all systems of the SLS rocket and the Orion space capsule are functional. Later phases of the Artemis program will involve crewed flights, and

perrone

from page 4

munity."

Perrone said he gave copies of the reports this week to Horn, General Manager John Viola, and Director Amy Peck, who is the current liaison to the Environment and Natural Assets Committee. He said additional copies would be made available to any Board member who requested them.

"I wanted to make sure the community understood that this Board did not hide anything from anybody, contrary to Mr. Clarke's allegations," Perrone said.

Also on Saturday, Perrone gave a brief update on mailbox clusters.

"There's been a lot of discussion in the community, and rightfully so, about the conditions of the mailboxes," Perrone said. "The issue with the mailboxes at this point has been turned over to Congressman Andy Harris's office to address.

"We submitted a constituent's authorization form yesterday to Congressman Harris's office, [and] he has a staffer who will work directly with the United States Post Office," Perrone continued. "We sent them the constituent form along with a spreadsheet of all of our cluster boxes, and then in addition a group of photographs ... showing the current conditions of the boxes."

astronauts landing on the moon.

In December, the planet Venus can be spotted very early, beginning at 4:45 p.m. Note that best viewing is before 5:45 p.m. and early in the month, prior to about the 15th.

When the sky grows fully dark at about 5:30 p.m., Venus forms a line with Jupiter and Saturn, while high overhead the Great Square of Pegasus takes center stage.

At about 7 p.m., Taurus the Bull will be coming into view, followed hours later

briefs

from page 6

have had "an absolutely unprecedented, outstanding year and years together" in terms of strong financial results, he added the community as a whole has

Perrone said the Post Office would next survey the boxes with representatives from Ocean Pines Public Works, "and see if we can put a plan together to try to get these things either replaced or properly maintained."

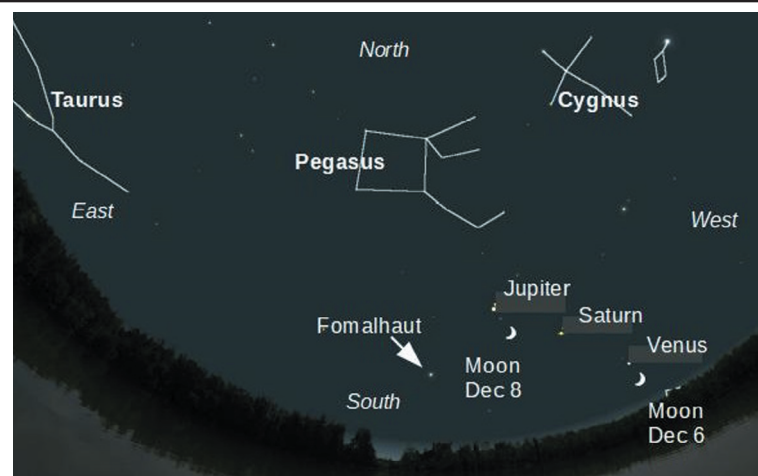
"At this point, this issue lies with Congressman Harris's office, and we'll see what they're able to do for us," he said.

Perrone also thanked Habeger, who has led the Elections Committee since 2018. On Friday, Habeger announced that his term was up, and that Carol Ludwig would become the new chairperson.

"I wanted to express the Board's thanks to Steve Habeger, who as of yesterday turned over the reins of the Elections Committee to Carol Ludwig. Steve's been the chairman for the last five years and he has done an outstanding job and [is] a man of the highest quality and integrity," Perrone said.

"While we understand he wanted to move on to other things, he's going to be sorely missed as the chairman of the Elections Committee," Perrone continued. "I saw Steve yesterday and thanked him, but again wanted to officially and formally thank him on behalf of the Board and the community."

Mark Heinz, who was appointed at the same time as Habeger, also announced last week that he had completed his committee tenure.



by the popular winter attraction, Orion the Hunter.

On December 6 the crescent moon appears just two degrees south of Venus and on the 8th, it will form a triangle with Saturn and Jupiter.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

struggled during the pandemic.

"Last year, when we were sitting here at this team, we were in masks. We were unvaccinated ... we couldn't meet with our families. If we went out to someplace it looked like a group of hostages meeting together. Everybody was wearing masks and sitting far apart. It was just a lousy year for people," he said.

With the recent emergence from COVID restrictions, Daly said it was now time to make the North Gate entryway more welcoming. He said the bridge is structurally sound and is not scheduled for replacement until 2034, but instead suggested cosmetic changes.

"Given the lousy year that most of the people in this community have had, I would be in favor of shutting down the North Gate entrance for several days, power washing it, staining it, making sure the light stanchions are perpendicular to the horizontal deck, making sure that the lights all match, put up some Christmas decorations ... and make it welcoming.

"Make it a little fun and joyful this year, coming out of what I would say is probably the worst year that Ocean Pines has had from impact on individual people ever. We're emerging from a pandemic. Let's lighten the place up," he added.

Viola said regular maintenance was already scheduled, and that he's open to further cosmetic upgrades.

"Obviously, I'll march to whatever the Board says," he said. "I think I've proven before that, if you give me the budget and the time ... and you give me an escalator, I'll take care of it."

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