

The Courier

March 16, 2022 Volume 22 Number 26

Collaborative *Efforts*

Eric Roache
Rebekah Simonds

Art Matters on page 8



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Committee shares survey results during town hall

A recent community survey sought to gauge overall community satisfaction, what is most important, core values, and feedback on key issues and opportunities for Ocean Pines property owners.

Strategic Planning Advisory Committee members who conducted the survey led a town hall to present the results on March 2. Members of the Communications Committee helped moderate the event.

In total, 1,832 property owners completed the hybrid survey (using both online and hard copies), with 96.5% of surveys being completed online. Of those, 61% of respondents were full-time residents and 37% were part-time residents.

According to Strategic Planning Committee Chairman Bernie McGorry, survey respondents were very satisfied overall and likely to recommend Ocean Pines to others. A wide majority, 95.2%, were either somewhat, very, or extremely satisfied, and 68.5% said they were either very or extremely satisfied.

McGorry said what was most im-

portant to residents was: 1. safety, 2. maintenance of infrastructure, and 3. community appearance. Safety was either very or extremely important to 95.2% of survey takers, followed by maintenance of infrastructure (94.2% very or extremely important) and community appearance/aesthetics (89.8% very or extremely important).

The largest gaps in importance versus overall satisfaction were in maintenance of infrastructure, community appearance, and the assessment fee value for the money. Just 23.6% rated maintenance of infrastructure as slightly or significantly above expectations, while 24.7% said the assessment value was slightly or significantly above expectations. Overall, safety was rated very positive, with 58% rating safety as either slightly or significantly above expectations.

Five potential core values received some of the highest ratings on the survey. All were rated as being very or extremely important: integrity (86.4%), accountability (82.2%), collaboration (76.3%), respect (74.4%) and sustain-

ability (74%).

The top-three issues identified were transparency, infrastructure, and collaboration between the Board of Directors and the General Manager. All three issues were rated very or extremely important by more than 80% of respondents. Another concern for survey respondents was traffic on Route 589.

The top-two opportunities were electronic voting and increasing amenity fees for nonresidents. The survey revealed 64.7% of respondents either slightly or strongly agreed with support for electronic voting.

Property owners also showed a preference for investing in current amenities rather than creating new ones, with 58.7% slightly or strongly agreeing that Ocean Pines "should invest in improving current amenities." Just 35.7% slightly or strongly agreed that Ocean Pines should invest in new amenities.

McGorry said the survey results

will be the most important input used in development of long-term, three-to-five-year plan for Ocean Pines. The committee's target for completing the long-term plan is Aug. 30, 2022, which would be prior to the start of the next budget cycle.

Safety was either very or extremely important to 95.2% of survey takers, followed by maintenance of infrastructure and community appearance/aesthetics

Survey results were viewable in the slide presentation during the March 2 town hall, and are available online at <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/79823/OP+Survey++Town+Hall+3-2-22.pptx>.

A video of the Town Hall is available at <https://youtu.be/Nv8XYZsZBKc>.

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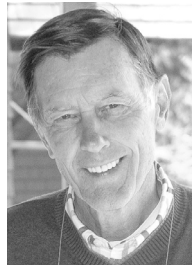
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Commentary

Horn's obstinance

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com



The Ocean Pines Board of Directors voted against the appointment of Stuart Lakernick to the Strategic Planning Committee during its meeting on February 23, 2022. This action was covered in a February 25, 2022 *OceanPinesForum.com* commentary titled "Disgraceful Vote on Lakernick" where the vote was reported factually as Doug Parks and Rick Farr voting to appoint Lakernick; Larry Perrone, Frank Daly, and Josette Wheatley voting to reject Lakernick; Amy Peck and Colette Horn not voting. President Colette Horn even announced on video the result of the vote was "three/two" against Lakernick.

An official OPA news release two days later, on Friday, February 25, 2022, included the following: "Board members also voted 4-3 against appointing Stuart Lakernick to the Strategic Planning Committee. Horn said Parks, Farr and Director Amy Peck voted in favor."

On Monday, February 28, 2022, I emailed the following to the Board of

Directors:

"A recent OPA news release last Friday has information contrary to public statements by Amy Peck about her vote on the Lakernick committee appointment. OPA president Colette Horn does not seem to know how Peck voted, or even how she voted herself. We are reaching levels of absurdity. Horn stated on video the vote was 3-2 against Lakernick. The news release says the vote was 4-3 against. This would indicate Horn also cast a NO vote, in addition to Peck casting a YES vote she says she did not make. Peck states publicly and categorically she did not vote. Hopefully, the meeting minutes will not reflect this blatant attempt at propaganda or a rewrite of the facts."

As of March 3, 2022, there had been no correction of the OPA news release, and no response was ever received from any board member about the news release error.

I again wrote to the board, "On March 3, 2022, *The Bayside Gazette* published the misinformation presented in the OPA press release regarding the vote on Lakernick. This goes to the very credibility of OPA president Colette Horn, as well as the entire board. A correction should be published asap that reflects the vote

result announced at the meeting by Horn - a 2-3 against Lakernick."

On March 4, 2022, *The Dispatch* newspaper printed the same misinformation from the OPA press release. Author Bethany Hooper was professional enough to also ask Horn about the discrepancy in the vote as she announced it during the actual meeting and the vote reported in the official press release.

Horn is quoted as saying, "My intention had been to vote against the application of Stuart Lakernick." She also acknowledges, in an obtuse way, that Amy Peck abstained and did not vote in favor of Lakernick, as Horn was quoted as saying in the OPA official press release.

Interestingly, the OPA bylaws give committee appointments authority solely to the OPA President - Colette Horn - with the consent of the Board of Directors. How could she appoint Lakernick, and then vote against him? Answer - she never complied with the bylaws to appoint Lakernick in the first place. If Horn, as she stated to *The Dispatch*, had no intention of voting for Lakernick in a consent process, why was the appointment of Lakernick even on the agenda? Why would Horn even vote in a consent process for one of her committee appointments? Does anyone believe Horn did not know Lakernick would be rejected prior to the meeting?

I asked Horn after the March 12, 2022 Town Hall meeting if she intended to have OPA issue a correction to the original incorrect press release. She said, "That's old news." Amy Peck was also listening and said something to the effect that she was not concerned that the official news release misrepresented her vote. Larry Perrone was there as well. He remarked that perhaps the board can address a needed correction at the next board meeting.

Good grief. Let's assume the original official news release was a mistake. People make mistakes. What on earth would be any harmful consequence to issuing a corrected news release? What could possibly be gained by not correcting an obvious error? The answer, of course, is petty politics - no matter any denials.

Board members need to recognize the complete loss of credibility they could suffer among association members when allowing official OPA news releases containing incorrect information on a hot political item to go uncorrected.

It all goes back to transparency. Transparency rarely causes problems; a lack of transparency frequently causes problems.

- See more commentary and letters on page 6 -

Courier Almanac

On March 16, 1802 the United States Military Academy, the first military school in the United States, is founded by Congress for the purpose of educating and training young men in the theory and practice of military science. Located at West Point, New York, the U.S. Military Academy is often simply known as West Point.

Located on the high west bank of New York's Hudson River, West Point was the site of a Revolutionary-era fort built to protect the Hudson River Valley from British attack. In 1780, Patriot General Benedict Arnold, the commander of the fort, agreed to surrender West Point to the British in exchange for 6,000 pounds. However, the plot was uncovered before it fell into British hands, and Arnold fled to the British for protection.

The Parkinson's Foundation estimates that 10 million people worldwide have Parkinson's disease. However, the exact number of people who have PD is difficult to determine because many people do not get diagnosed in the early stages of the disease. ParkinsonsDisease.net reports that several studies have found PD is more common among Hispanics and non-Hispanic white individuals than black and Asian populations. The risk of the disease among men is twice as high as in women, but women have a higher mortality rate and experience a more rapid progression of the disease, according to a 2019 study published in the *Journal of Parkinson's Disease*. The Parkinson's Foundation predicts there will be 1.2 million people living with PD in the United States by 2030. Parkinson Canada says more than 100,000 Canadians live with Parkinson's currently, and 25 more are diagnosed every day. Parkinson's is the world's fastest growing neurological disease.



The
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Up, up and away

Like faded Kodachrome photos in a long put away album, memories of rocketing gas prices at the pump have been on my mind of late. Yours as well, I suspect.

The year was 1974. I was nine, my brother was six. Richard Nixon was in the White House. Archie Bunker ruled

even license plate numbers dictated on what days you could purchase fuel.

While my parents, and ever other car owner, worried whether there would be enough gas available to fill the tank, the concern rattling around in my eight-year-old head was whether there would be gas available for my grandfather's boat so we could go fishing. It was important to keep priorities straight. When Gramps visited, he assured me there would always be gas for available for the boat. Not to worry he told me. And I believed him.

It wasn't until years later when I learned that after coming home from the gas station, Gramps would siphon fuel from the car to use in the boat. Then he'd head back to another gas station to refill the tank. When Gramps had the will, he always found a way. No boating time was missed that summer (or any other) because of a lack of fuel.

Through the lens of nearly fifty years, it's hard to understand all the hubbub about spending fifty-two cents for a gallon of gas. Yet, a fuss was made. It seemed like overnight that car commercials went from touting large highway cruisers (think Cadillac Eldorado) to authoritatively discussing the frugality of four-cylinder puddle jumpers (think Ford Pinto).

A memorable ad from Bell Telephone encouraged people to "let your fingers do the walking." This was during the days before deregulation broke up Ma Bell which makes me wonder whether it was still cheaper to drive out of town than it was to place a long-distance call.

There was a joke at the time that went something like this. A guy was filling up his car and the gas price changed three times as he was doing so. I've been feeling like that guy lately, noticing that the price per gallon at the local station increases between a nickel to a quarter between dawn and dusk, only to be repeated the next morning. Unlike my childhood experiences, to date, I've not witnessed any lines at the pump.

When they get to be my age, I wonder how much my grandchildren will pay for fuel (if cars are still powered by internal combustion engines). I'll have to remember to tell them about the times when I paid upwards of five dollars a gallon. Then I'll have them take me to lunch.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

the airwaves and Walter Cronkite each evening used words like OPEC, rationing, miles per gallon, Saudi Arabia and carpooling.

The family car at the time was a four door 1970 Oldsmobile Delta 88, sea foam blue with a black vinyl top and black cloth interior. It was a behemoth that got about eight miles to a gallon heading downhill with a tailwind. To save money and reserve fuel for weekend trips to Villas, NJ, my mother started riding her bike, with a big basket attached to the handlebars, to the grocery market. Living on Verree Road in Northeast Philadelphia, the market wasn't all that close but she did it anyway.

I remember one morning waiting for the school bus; the other kids and I marveling at a new, bright yellow Datsun B210 sitting in the Griegle's driveway on the corner. It had two doors and looked puny parked beside the family's other car, a Ford LTD station wagon. The family had five children. As an eight-year-old, I couldn't fathom how all the kids were going to fit in this new car.

Despite efforts to employ alternate modes of transportation, biking, walking and taking SEPTA, there were still times when the old Olds needed to be gassed up. With Mom behind the wheel and my brother and me in the backseat with Matchbox cars to keep us occupied, off to Walt's Gulf gas station on Krewstown Road we headed. And in line we waited and waited and waited a little time more. Once we inched our way up to the pump, there was a limit to how many gallons could be purchased, and it wasn't enough to fill the 25-gallon tank. So, the exercise was repeated two days later to ensure there was enough fuel to get to the shore. Odd-

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F R E E A D M I S S I O N

Sports complex concerns

Commentary by **Chip Bertino**, *Worcester County Commissioner*

There has been much talk about building a multi-million-dollar sports complex in northern Worcester County to attract national and regional lacrosse and soccer tournaments to the area. The Town of Ocean City has expressed interest in some way being a part of the project which is forecast to attract thousands of visitors who will fill hotel rooms and restaurants in Ocean City and West Ocean City, especially in the shoulder seasons. It's been said the County will reap increased tax revenues.

The idea of a sports complex being built in our county is appealing to me, more so if it were built in the southern part of the County. I recognize the economic possibilities of such an endeavor. Yet I have concerns, especially because taxpayer money will be involved.

Two of my greatest concerns are these: First, I don't believe taxpayer money should fund the project because doing so mitigates any revenue growth the County treasury will realize. This should be a private sector endeavor.

Second, our road system would struggle, even more than it already does, with increased traffic volume.

I respect those advocating for this project, believing it will be a boon, a relatively easy way to increase tax revenue. That sounds pretty good to me. But when I look beneath the sur-

face, the financial and quality-of-life realities associated with a taxpayer subsidized sports complex concern me.

Last month, a majority of Commissioners moved another step closer to a taxpayer subsidized County sports complex by voting to bond about \$11 million for the purchase of land and the construction of a facility, effectively making this a county taxpayer responsibility. This amount does not include the expenses of additional personnel necessary to manage, market and maintain the facility nor regular maintenance costs, still to be determined.

The term of the bond will be 15 years with an annual debt service of about \$750,000.

I voted against this as did Commissioners Bunting and Elder.

As I write this, no business or marketing plan has been made available. No partnership details or discussions between the Commissioners and Ocean City have occurred or been outlined, discussed or agreed upon. And there is no land acquisition contract.

Under these conditions, I have concerns about moving forward at this time. Let me explain why.

The County collects a 5% tax for all room rental activity in the county and earns a 1% collection fee on room tax collections on behalf of incorporated towns such as Ocean City and

Berlin.

Room Tax collections in the unincorporated areas including West Ocean City are retained by the county.

So, for example, if there was a \$1 million increase in overall lodging revenue in West Ocean City because of the new facility, the County would receive an additional \$50,000 in direct room tax revenue.

If a guest decides to stay in Ocean City and the overall increase in lodging for the season is \$1 million, the additional revenue to the County would be \$500.

So, using this example, a sports complex would generate \$50,500 in additional room tax revenue for the County.

The County also collects a one half of one percent tax for food sales only in Ocean City and retains a 5% administrative charge for the collection fee.

So, an increase in food sales of \$100,000 for the season attributable to the sports facility would yield the county \$25.

Combined, the county would net about \$50,525 in additional tax revenue which is much less than the annual \$750,000 bond debt service.

It has been said that Program Open Space (POS) grant money could pay for most, if not all, of the land acquisition and construction costs thus re-

quiring little or no County taxpayer funding. That would be a good thing. But let's look at that for a moment.

For those unfamiliar with Program Open Space, it is a state program that provides grant funding to local subdivisions for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas.

Assuming that all POS grant funding available to the County was applied to the sports complex *and* the project met all grant requirements, which has yet to be determined, as of this date, there is just over \$2.6 million in grant funds available including \$733,000 in funds the Commissioners have already earmarked for other projects.

That isn't nearly enough to cover the \$11 million the County has already committed to purchase land and build the complex.

Let me be clear, the idea of a sports complex is appealing but not at taxpayer expense under these conditions.

Thousands of additional visitors coming to northern Worcester County should concern us all. Think for a moment about traffic congestion on routes 589, 90 and 50 on any summer day. Consider event weekend backups during the off-season. Think where GPS may route thousands of vehicles to avoid congestion: Cathell Road? Ocean Parkway?

*please see **complex** on page 14*

One pill can kill

Editor:

"The fentanyl crisis is getting worse, not better. Fake pills with deadly amounts of fentanyl are popping up everywhere. It's in fake Xanax and Percocets, it's being laced in cocaine and ecstasy. A single pill can kill,"

Families Against Fentanyl founder James Rauh, who lost his son to fentanyl poisoning (from a Feb 5 article on Foxnews.com.)

I attended an information session sponsored by Worcester Goes Purple and the Worcester County Sheriff's office. The event, entitled "One Pill

Can Kill", was aimed at educating parents of school-age children about the dangers of fentanyl poisoning.

Sadly, there were no parents in attendance.

There were sessions in Snow Hill, Pocumoke City and Berlin also and very few, if any, parents, attended those either.

The three grandparents who attended the Ocean Pines session were given a lot of information regarding the dangers of fentanyl. The following are some of the facts we learned:

1. Fentanyl is laced into OTC medications as well as prescription drugs such as Zanax and Percocet, as well as illegal drugs that are not fatal, but become so with the addition of Fentanyl.

2. Fake pills are being mass-pro-

duced and sold as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American Public.

3. Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and are often sold on social media making them available to anyone with online access (we were also given a handout entitled "Fifteen Apps Parents Should Know About").

4. As little as 2 mg of fentanyl can be lethal.

5. In 2021 there were 60 opioid overdoses in Worcester County - 10 of them were fatal.

6. Preteens and teens experimenting with drugs are the most at risk. One time is all it takes to end a life if a person receives a counterfeit pill or a laced drug.

Young people today are more at-risk than ever before. Adults who

work with them (teachers, counselors, first responders, etc.) are extremely concerned about their mental and emotional health. These issues make young people much more vulnerable.

I encourage parents to please contact Debbie Smullen at Worcester Goes Purple (410-870-5161) to obtain the information we were given at the session. Please start a dialogue with your friends, neighbors, church members and co-workers. And please, please talk to your kids about this.

We parents and grandparents have been bombarded by one crisis after another for the last two years, but this is one crisis we simply must address.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines



Police chief visits Kiwanis

Nobody was arrested, but a lot of Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City members learned about scams that have been happening in Ocean Pines and elsewhere. Sometimes, residents believe that relatively little crime happens there; however, Ocean Pines Police Chief, Lou Ehrisman advised that Ocean Pines has been a target for many years for computer and telephone scams. Chief Ehrisman, after a career as a professional musician touring the U.S., began his career in law enforcement in 1986 as a patrol officer. He rose through the ranks and succeeded retiring Police Chief David Massey on August 1, 2020. Ehrisman has been to the FBI Academy and Forensic School for training.

Pictured (L-R) are **Chief Ehrisman** and Kiwanis Club President **Tim Lund**.

OPVFD holding training sessions along Route 589

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department is holding training sessions in the Seasons Plaza commercial building on Route 589, through April 9.

Chief Steve Grunewald said the fire department acquired the rights to the commercial building, near the snowball stand and Walgreens on Route 589, between Cathell Road and Race-track Road.

It's the future site of a Royal Farms store, and Grunewald said the company granted rights to use the property for training.

He said Ocean Pines residents may notice fire department personnel and vehicles in the area. That also includes neighboring agencies.

"It is very rare to have an opportunity to train in a commercial structure, so department leadership has offered to share our access with neighboring fire and police departments," he said. "To ensure the highest level of safety, a representative from the OPVFD will always be on-site while neighboring agencies train. Most trainings will

occur on Tuesdays. However, you may see action on other days and nights."

At the end of the training period, the building will be used for controlled burn training, followed by a complete burn tentatively scheduled on April 9.

"We would like to thank the ownership of Royal Farms for this amazing training opportunity, and to officially say, 'Welcome to the Neighborhood!'" Grunewald said.

Boating course scheduled

Boating is all about safety and understanding the rules of navigation. Certified instructors from the Ocean City Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer the Maryland Safe Boating Course virtually on April 6, 7, and 8 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. All the required material is covered along with time for questions.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born

please see training on page 11



March
18 • 19 • 20
2022

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Artist Rebekah Simonds and writer Eric Roache first worked together during “Shared Visions” at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, an annual show where artists and writers collaborate to produce an image accompanied by words. It’s a collaboration that inspired them both and is continuing.

“Several years ago, I became acquainted with Eric’s work as a filmmaker through the Ocean City Film Festival and subsequently as a poet through Facebook,” Simonds said. “I think what he creates with film and writing is incredibly moving. Recently, I was able to meet Eric in person when he returned after living abroad for many years. Initially, we collaborated for the Art League of Ocean City’s Shared Visions event.”

“For me, while we don’t work together per se, I’m inspired by our joint efforts, because it’s like having a mysterious conversation with someone. Sometimes Eric starts the conversation with a poem, and I answer with a painting. Conversely, sometimes I start with a painting, and Eric answers with a poem. However, because we don’t work together, in the end it’s a surprise. It’s delightful!”

Roache also finds their collaboration inspiring and motivating.

“I have been fascinated by the idea of bringing art and poetry together in collaboration with other artists for a while now,” Roache said. “I think it is a beautiful way to demonstrate what my experience has taught me, that any two people, no matter their background, can connect and relate to one another if they take the time to listen and understand. What better way to listen and understand another person’s story than through their art?”

“So, when I came back to the Shore and found out about Shared Visions, it was serendipitous timing and a chance to explore this newfound desire to collaborate. Becky and I really only knew each other through our respective art, and there was a kinship and an understanding just from that. Thus working together became very easy and natural. After our collaboration in Shared Visions, we decided to keep collaborating every month because the collaborative process inspired us with fresh ideas and helped to motivate our work. And for me, it is helping me to design and develop a future project involving collaboration between writing and art.”

Becky Simonds was born in Baltimore and raised in Coopersburg, Pa, where she earned degrees in computer science, psychology, and instructional technology. After a career in real estate, she moved to Ocean Pines in 2008 to help her mother. She is currently active in the Democratic Women’s Club of Worcester Co., the Sierra Club, the Worcester Co. Arts Council, and the Art League of Ocean City.



Art Matters

Artist and writer collaborate to share their visions

By Elaine Bean

Simonds is an accomplished painter who works primarily in acrylics, oils and watercolors. When the weather is good, she enjoys painting outside with friends who are artists. “They also inspire me,” she said. “Usually, I start with a sketch. However, inevitably, the painting becomes something totally different.”

Simonds is always inspired by the natural beauty of the water, beaches, marshes, and trees, and also by three personal passions. “First, I love to experiment. Second,

I’m fascinated by trying to capture light. However, most recently, I’ve been inspired by Eric’s poetry.”

Eric Roache was born and raised in Bowie, Md. and holds a BA in economics from the University of Maryland. He currently works as a freelance filmmaker and writer and has recently returned to the Shore after living for six years in Vietnam, unable to leave for two years because of the pandemic.

“I visited the Shore for summers and New Year’s throughout my childhood to see my extended family who have lived here my entire life,” Roache said. “I spent a summer living and working here during college. My parents retired here in 2006 ... I have always had fond memories of Ocean City and the surrounding area because of its beauty, and felt it would be the perfect place to recharge. Since returning, I have been getting involved with the Art League and a local writer’s group to grow my writing skills and collaborate with other local writers and artists as I develop future projects.”

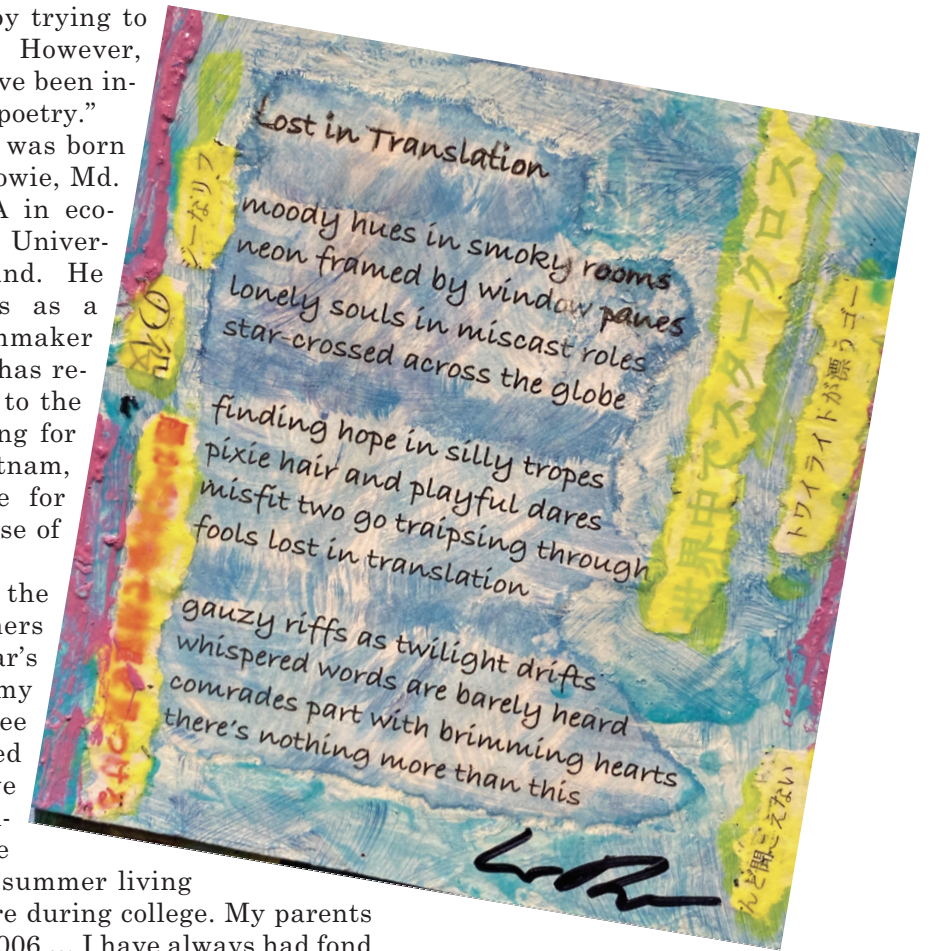
As a writer/poet and filmmaker, Roache combines those passions with a love for travel, meeting people, and sharing their stories. “Film has taught me more about the world than I could ever learn in school, and it was the impetus for me to travel and live around the world for the last 14 years. I decided to try filmmaking as a way to learn and share more stories that could impact others the way film impacted me.”

“We see and hear so much division in the news and on social media, but my experience has been that if you take time to listen and to understand, you can relate to and connect with anyone, no matter how different your upbringing or cultural background. That is what inspires me, focusing on what brings us together as humans,” he said.

Both Simonds and Roache are passionate about art and why it matters in our daily lives.

“For me, there are two sides to this question,” Simonds said. “First, observing art matters to me, because it often elicits strong emotions. Second, I enjoy creating art because it is the most quintessential problem-solving activity. Not only do you have to discover the answer, you also have to conjure up the question.”

“Art matters because it is how people share stories, and stories are how people connect to one another emotionally,” Roache said. “Stories make us feel less alone. They make us feel seen and understood when we can relate to them. No matter the medium, art always has a story to tell. And in the scariest and most difficult of times, like the pandemic, we need the power of art and stories most of all.”



inspiration...motivation...imagination...collaboration



Captain Ron's Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

It's not too early to think about spring flounder fishing

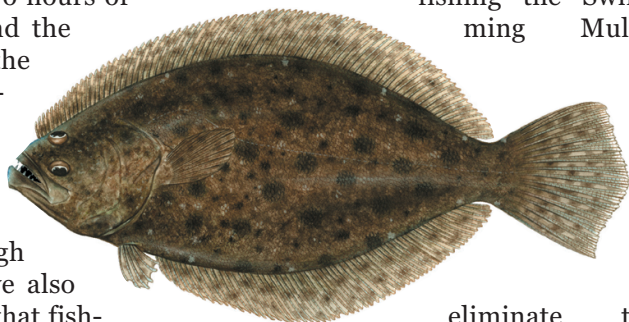
Fishing report: Some nice Tog are being caught offshore on the party boats. Trout have been stocked at Shad Landing and reports are that they are hungry.

When to fish: You can spend all day fishing but to really target big flounder you should make it a point to check the tide charts. Flounder fishing is best the last two hours of the incoming tide and the first two hours of the outgoing tide. Also remember the tides flow two hours behind in the bay so if the beach high tide is 1 p.m. the bay high tide is 3 p.m. I have also found over the years that fishing is even better with a mild North-east or Easterly wind. A South wind seems to dirty up the South Bay and a West wind brings out the biting flies.

What bait should you use? Any good flounder fisherman will tell you that to catch big flounder you will need to fish with big bait. Talk to your tackle shops about bait but when targeting the big fish use frozen smelt two to three inches long with a squid strip as an attractor. You can also use big minnows if you can find them and I will still use frozen shiners but will put two on a hook with a squid strip. If you are using frozen shiners hook them through the eyes. Another option is strip bait. This time of year, it can be a fillet of a blue fish, sea robin, or flounder belly cut into strips three to four inches long. Taper the strip bait so it moves well through the water. Another hot bait is 5" Pearl White Swimming Mullet Gulp dressed with a frozen shiner or live minnow. A pink Swimming Mullet Gulp is also good in the spring when flounder are feeding on grass shrimp.

What kind of rig should you use? There are many options for rigs but the following are what I prefer. A simple rig of a 4 foot 20 or 30lb. test

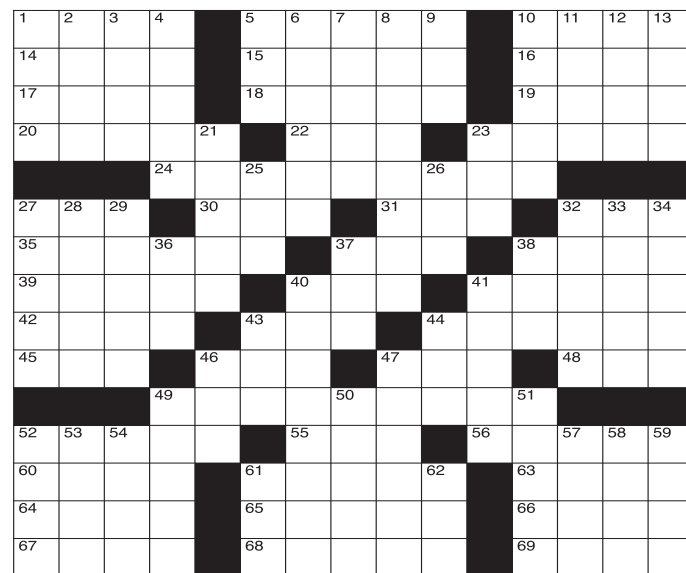
leader with a three-way swivel at the top to which is attached a 2oz or 3oz bank sinker depending on how fast the tide is moving. At the terminal end use a single wide gap hook dressed with two beads of red or chartreuse. To this hook attach either the smelt, minnow, frozen shiner or strip bait along with a strip of squid or fishing the Swimming Mullet



eliminate the beads. Another option is a plain leader to which is attached a 2 oz. or 3 oz. bucktail. Dress this hook preferably with strip bait described earlier. These are attached to a four foot 20 or 30lb. test leader with a three-way swivel and 2 oz. or 3 oz. bank sinker. This time of year, the Chartreuse and the pink work well. I will dress these with frozen shiners and a squid strip.

Where should you fish? In the South bay from Buoy 6-12, From the Rte. 50 bridge along the bulkhead past the Coast Guard Station to the fishing pier, the inlet along the south jetty and on the inlet side of the West O.C. Harbor, The East Channel Buoy 8 to 14 and along the shallows at Bird Island, At Harbor Island along the hard shoal, along the bulkhead where the townhouses jut out and from the townhouses to the 9th st. fishing pier, In the Thoroughfare, work just above the bend up against the marsh and drift from 4' of water to the drop off at 25' at the bend, and in the North Bay from Buoy Marker #14 at the convention center. Drift inside the channel markers to keep clear of the boat traffic.

*Remember to take a kid fishing,
Capt. Ron*

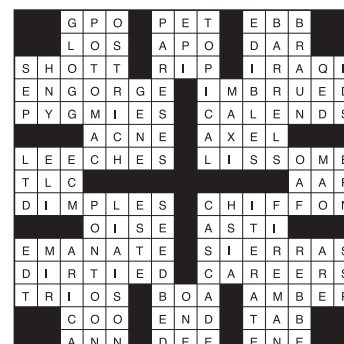


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of footwear
- 5. Studies a lot all at once
- 10. Adventure story
- 14. Hundred thousand
- 15. Former U.S. Vice President
- 16. Ruler
- 17. Indian city
- 18. Similar
- 19. Ship as cargo
- 20. Volcanic craters
- 22. Boxing's "GOAT"
- 23. Bullfighting maneuvers
- 24. London soccer team
- 27. Score perfectly
- 30. No (Scottish)
- 31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
- 32. Woman (French)
- 35. Unwanted attic "decor"
- 37. Peter Griffin's daughter
- 38. Broad, shallow crater
- 39. Large instruments
- 40. Low bank or reef
- 41. ___ and Venzetti
- 42. Oil group
- 43. Father
- 44. Aggressive men
- 45. Pairs well with green
- 46. Travelers need it
- 47. Digital audiotape
- 48. Midway between northeast and east
- 49. Chemistry descriptor
- 52. S. China seaport
- 55. Sound unit
- 56. Heavy cavalry sword
- 60. Thick piece of something
- 61. Spa town in Austria
- 63. Boyfriend
- 64. Norse personification of old age
- 65. Type of box
- 66. Tie together
- 67. Fiber from the coconut
- 68. Chicago mayor
- 69. Old English letters

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of sauce
- 2. Pattern of notes
- 3. Plant with long seedpods
- 4. Map out
- 5. Numbers cruncher
- 6. Make a mental connection
- 7. Italian tenor
- 8. N. America's highest mountain peak
- 9. Witness
- 10. Arabic given name
- 11. Music awards
- 12. "The Immoralist" author
- 13. Area units
- 21. Units of loudness
- 23. Political action committee
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Witch
- 27. A theatrical performer
- 28. 2-door car
- 29. ___ and flowed
- 32. Papier-___, art medium
- 33. City in Georgia
- 34. Irregular
- 36. College sports conference
- 37. Angry
- 38. Partner to cheese
- 40. S. American mammal
- 41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 43. Split pulses
- 44. Disfigure
- 46. Cow noise
- 47. Erase
- 49. Chadic language
- 50. Reward for doing well
- 51. Paid TV
- 52. Millisecond
- 53. Other
- 54. Colombian city
- 57. Necklace part
- 58. Every one of two or more people
- 59. Regrets
- 61. They come after "A"
- 62. Horse noise



Answers for March 9



Welcome - New members of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club **Steve Howse, Kathy Cater, Irene Kordick and Lynn Barton.**

St. Joseph's Festival returns this weekend

Finally, two years after Covid caused cancellation of the Annual Ocean City St. Joseph's Festival, the gala family food and fun Saturday is returning this weekend.

This weekend, Ocean City's largest Italian-American festival will reopen its doors for the first time in two years, offering homecooked Italian foods to visitors from the kitchens and recipes of local Italian-American home cooks.

The festival will be at St. Andrew's Hall, Sinepuxent Avenue and 144th St., and doors open at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. The St. Joseph's

Tortoise and Hare Dare returns

The 25th Annual Tortoise & Hare Dare 5K walk/run will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, at Pocomoke River State Park-Shad Landing in Snow Hill, Maryland. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a warm-up at 8:45 a.m. This is a free event and is pet friendly. The first 100 runners/walkers to register for the event will receive a free commemorative T-shirt.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while getting some physical activity with friends, family, and other community residents. Pre-registration is encouraged. Participants can register by visiting annualtortoisehare5k.eventbrite.com or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 for more information.

Festival is sponsored by the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy. Proceeds are used to fund scholarships and charitable causes.

As in past years, the St. Joseph's Festival will feature raffles for overstuffed gift baskets, silent auctions with local bargains from restaurants, local stores and grocery stores, the sale of specialty Italian items, and St. Joseph articles for sale. Also available to bid on will be tickets from area professional sports teams, as well as team-themed gift baskets. All of this will come with a backdrop of Italian music provided by Baltimore's Mario Monaldi band.

training
from page 7

after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

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

Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USGCAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811

Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

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

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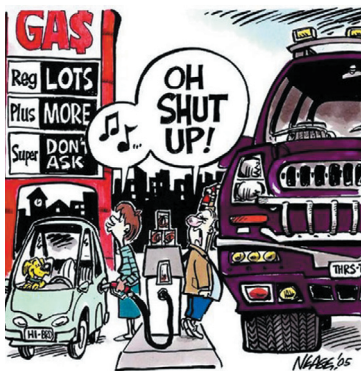
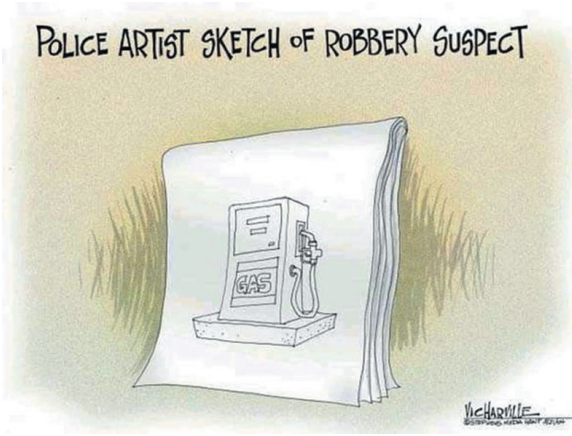
Worcester County Maryland Library

Books are just the beginning.

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Recognizing the reality that we're all facing at the gas pump, this week Jack collected cartoons that illustrate what we're all thinking.



The history of St. Patrick

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17. St. Patrick was a larger-than-life figure who has been ingrained in Irish culture and was the catalyst for a holiday celebration that now stretches around the world.

Much of what is shared about St. Patrick is based on folklore and exaggerated storytelling, according to historians. Snakes famously banished from Ireland? Snakes have never existed on the island to even be banished! Getting to the truth of St. Patrick the man takes a little digging through the fanciful tales.

St. Patrick wasn't Irish. St. Patrick was born to a wealthy family in modern-day Great Britain near the end of the fourth century. There is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family, and History.com says it was likely Patrick's father became a Christian deacon because of tax incentives and not religious devotion.

Patrick only arrived in Ireland after being taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who attacked his family's estate. He spent ages 16 to 22 in captivity and was likely held in County Mayo.

Finding religion. Patrick spent many hours working outdoors as a shepherd during his imprisonment. Being afraid and likely lonely, he found comfort in his religion and became a devout Christian. As Ireland was largely pagan at this time, he began dreaming of converting the Irish people to Christianity.

Even though Patrick escaped imprisonment, believing it was the voice of God telling him it was time to leave, once he returned to Britain, he had a second revelation that he should return to Ireland as a missionary. It was then his religious training began, and it lasted more than 15 years. Eventually Patrick was ordained a priest and began ministering to Christians already living in Ireland and converting others.

St. Patrick wrote an autobiography. Much of what is known about St. Patrick comes from two works that he wrote about his life, known as "Confessio" and "Epistola." In "Confessio," Patrick responds to the fact that he was on trial for mysterious reasons, although he never names the crimes for which he was accused. Historians surmise that he took bribes because

Patrick mentions returning or paying for gifts given to him.

St. Patrick didn't introduce Christianity. Although Patrick played the most influential role in spreading Christianity to Ireland, he wasn't the first to do so. However, he did organize the followers who already existed and converted kingdoms which were still pagan. St. Patrick also connected Ireland with the Church of the Roman Empire.

St. Patrick helped the shamrock become a symbol of Irish nationalism. The shamrock, also known as a three-leaf clover, and formerly the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant that symbolized spring. St. Patrick, according to legend, used this familiar plant as a visual guide to explain the Holy Trinity of Christianity. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism, according to History.com.

St. Patrick is well known in Ireland and elsewhere in part because of the legends about his days on earth. The true history sheds even more light on the man behind the legend.

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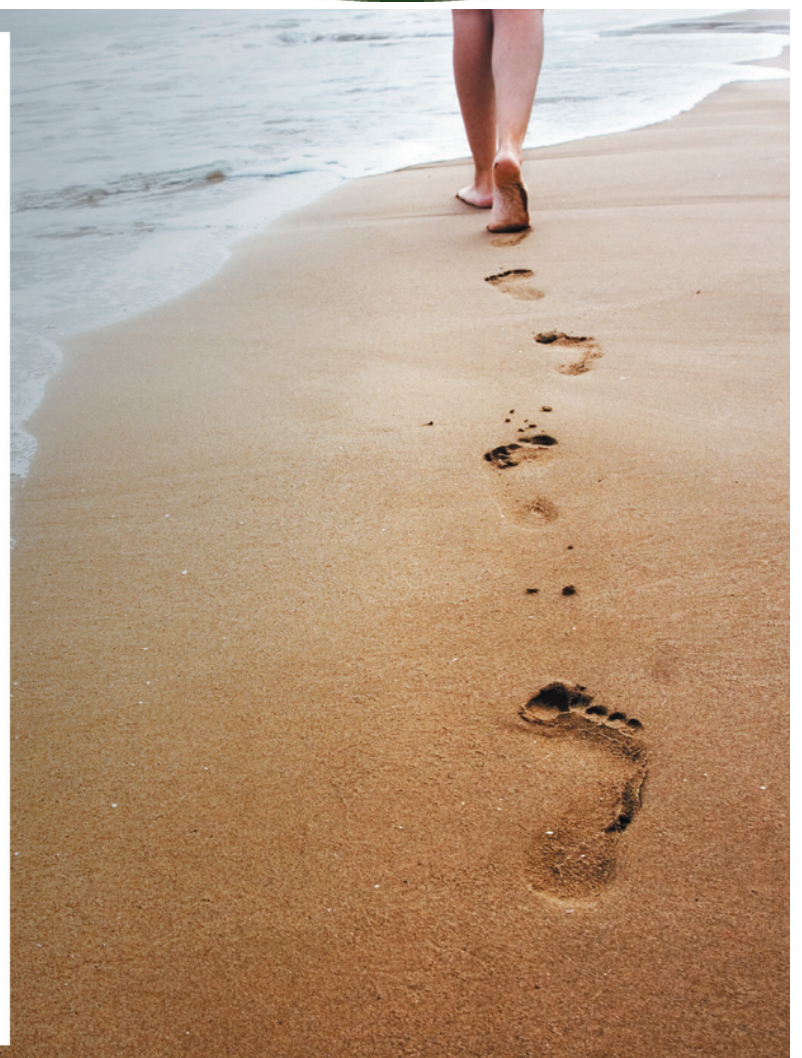
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Use your financial strategy like GPS

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



John Bennish

When you're driving these days, it's pretty hard to get lost because your smartphone's Global Positioning System (GPS) can get you just about anywhere. And as an investor, you can have a similar experience by employing another directional tool – a personalized financial strategy.

Let's look at the parallels between your GPS and this type of strategy.

To begin with, your GPS pinpoints your exact location at the start of your trip – in other words, it tells you where you are. And when you create a financial strategy, your first step is to evaluate your current situation by answering these types of questions: *What are your assets?*

How much do you earn? How much do you owe? How much are you contributing to your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement accounts? Once you've got a clear picture of your finances, you'll be

ready to begin your journey toward your long-term goals.

Once your GPS has identified your starting point, it will then show you where you want to go and the routes to help you get there. And it's the same with your financial strategy – you want it to help lead you to a particular place in your life. In fact, a well-designed strategy can show you the steps you need to take to help reach more than one destination – to a place where you can send your children to college, a place where you can retire comfortably, a place where you can leave the type of legacy you want, and so on.

Here's another element of your GPS that applies to your financial strategy – the warnings. You're certainly familiar with those thick red lines your GPS shows to indicate traffic slowdowns ahead. And while they're annoying, they're also useful in cautioning you that you may arrive at your destination later than you had originally planned. Your financial strategy can also express "warnings" about events that could hinder you from reaching your goals. These obstacles might include an illness or disability that could keep you out of work for a while, or the need for

some type of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay or the services of a home health aide. Your financial strategy can not only identify these threats, but with the guidance of a financial professional, suggest potential solutions.

In addition to providing warnings about things such as heavy traffic and road construction, your GPS can change your route if you miss a turn or if you decide, for whatever reason, to go a slightly different way. Your financial strategy can also show you alternatives, if it's comprehensive and overseen by a financial professional, who, using specialized software, can create hypotheticals – illustrations that provide alternative out-

comes for different steps, such as retiring at various ages, investing different amounts each year or earning different rates of return. These hypotheticals can be quite helpful to you as you chart your course toward your goals, especially if you need to change your plans along the way.

Your GPS and your financial strategy are two great tools for helping get you where you want to go.

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.

Virtual poetry reading to be held

Wor-Wic Community College invites the public to a free virtual reading with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon on Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

Muldoon has been described by "The Times Literary Supplement" as "the most significant English-language poet born since the second World War." The recipient of dozens of awards, including the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, he is the author of fourteen full-length collections of poetry, the most recent of which is "Howdie-Skelp." Muldoon served as professor of poetry at the University of Oxford from 1999-2004 and as poetry editor of "The New Yorker" from 2007-2017. He has taught at Princeton University in New Jersey since 1987.

Visit the events section of www.worwic.edu for more information.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 17	Low	1:43 AM
	High	8:15 AM
	Low	2:15 PM
	High	8:29 PM
F 18	Low	2:27 AM
	High	8:56 AM
	Low	2:52 PM
	High	9:11 PM
Sa 19	Low	3:11 AM
	High	9:37 AM
	Low	3:31 PM
	High	9:54 PM
Su 20	Low	3:57 AM
	High	10:19 AM
	Low	4:11 PM
	High	10:38 PM
M 21	Low	4:45 AM
	High	11:02 AM
	Low	4:54 PM
	High	11:25 PM
Tu 22	Low	5:37 AM
	High	11:48 AM
	Low	5:42 PM
W 23	High	12:15 AM
	Low	6:34 AM
	High	12:38 PM
	Low	6:35 PM

complex
from page 6

How can our roads accommodate thousands of additional sports complex visitors when they can't handle current traffic volumes? State Highway Administration officials recently told the Commissioners that improvement funding is nowhere in sight. Road improvements are necessary to limit the negative impact of increased traffic on our already burdened roadways.

You may think this sports complex would be open to the public, similar to our many parks like Showell Park. It's likely not to be the case. It's hard to imagine that a multi-million-dollar facility with tournament fields costing many hundreds of thousands of dollars each to construct and maintain will be open to the public for pick-up games or dog walking, jogging or bicycling. When taxpayer money is involved, the public should have access to it, which is one of the requirements of POS mentioned earlier.

Several years ago, a study concluded that a sports complex would compete with established complexes in nearby Wicomico County and Delaware. How

will competition impact bookings for a Worcester complex?

One final point. Who in County government would be responsible for the success of this undertaking? Who would be the person held responsible for the management, maintenance and marketing of the complex? Who would be the person held accountable to ensure that the conceptual financial assertions currently bandied about are achieved?

Based on available information, here's my take of what will happen if a taxpayer-funded complex continues to move forward: responsibility and accountability will be murky, promised results will be elusive and future subsidy allocations will be necessary. Eventually, the financial performance of the operation will be folded into the County's general fund budget, becoming another line item for which taxpayers will be responsible.

This is certainly a project that begs for questions to be asked and answers to be supplied *before* taxpayer money is spent.

If this were a private venture, with no taxpayer involvement I could support the project. And, if traffic improvements were made to routes 50, 589 and 90 to

accommodate more vehicle volume I could support the project.

Government has neither the expertise nor the entrepreneurial passion to sustain a business effectively and profitably. Inevitably, taxpayer subsidies become part of the operation. Several years ago, I wholeheartedly supported Worcester County getting out of the liquor business for this very reason.

I support economic development. I like the idea of a privately owned and managed sports complex. But I cannot support a multi-million-dollar, taxpayer funded facility that to date has no property, plan or partnership, that will be a drain on the county treasury, that will congest our roadways and whose success is dependent on government bureaucracy. It's not in the long-term best interests of taxpayers.

With so many blanks yet to be filled in, it would be interesting to learn whether a private lending institution would spend its money for this project as taxpayers may soon do.

If you share my concerns or if you think otherwise or still aren't sure, I urge you to ask questions and request answers and participate when a public hearing is scheduled.

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