

# The Courier

April 6, 2022 Volume 22 Number 28



## Spaziani honored for membership milestone

Post 166 Legionnaire **Charles Spaziani** (L) receives a plaque from 2nd Vice Commander **Bob Paul**, recognizing his 50 years of continuous membership in the national veterans' organization. Spaziani, who served in the Army, received the plaque at the March meeting of Ocean City American Legion Post.

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# GM report: bridge lights, pickleball courts and online payments

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola and his staff supplied updates to several ongoing initiatives, including bridge lights, new pickleball courts, and online assessment payments during the March 23 Ocean Pines Association board meeting.

Viola said efforts to improve the North Gate Bridge continue. The latest round of upgrades will include pole lights at the four corners and six smaller lights on each side of the bridge.

The Board unanimously approved a capital purchase request for the lights at a cost of \$39,995 from Denney Electric Supply in Millsboro.

Board members voted 7-0 to authorize \$175,244 for new pickleball courts at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center. In-house site work will add \$40,000 to the project.

"A lot has gone into this and I'm just happy that we're able to [move] forward," Viola said, adding it was a team effort to get to that point.

Viola also asked the Board to approve \$260,908 for 76 new Yamaha golf carts, and he again received unanimous support. He said the proposal was vetted by both the Budget and Fi-

nance and Golf advisory committees.

The old carts are in year six of a seven-year depreciation cycle, Viola said, and are out of warranty and starting to show their wear. He said the new carts would be quieter, more fuel efficient, and cheaper to maintain.

"We're trying to be proactive on this," he said. "This is for something almost 15 months down the road, but that's the lead time that's needed to ... purchase golf carts."

The meeting on Wednesday featured the use of new "hybrid" audio/visual equipment in the Clubhouse Meeting Room, allowing homeowners for the first time to attend either in-person or virtually. Several dozen homeowners took advantage of the new feature.

Viola said the new system, purchased for \$13,157 from Milton based Mid South Audio, could also be used in other venues. The Association installed a "budget" version of a hybrid system in the small conference room in the administration building, for use during committee meetings.

"We can see how this has evolved ... [from] where we were three or four years ago," Viola said. "We're certainly moving [forward] ... and we continue

to enhance this process."

Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin presented an overview of customer service calls, which Viola called "one of the most efficient processes and initiatives that we've put in."

Martin said she and staff, which also includes Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski, fielded 115 calls and emails to info@oceanpines.org in February.

Of those, 44 were related to CPI (compliance, permit and inspections), 41 were general questions, 18 were about amenities, nine were questions for Public Works, and three were about drainage. The Association continues to push the use of info@oceanpines.org for all general questions.

Also, during her report, Martin said Ocean Pines is considering the use of solar lights around the South Gate Pond and at some street intersections.

"Currently, we're trying to work with a local supplier who is out of Fruitland, Maryland, and we're just waiting on a quote," she said.

Finance Director Steve Phillips

said homeowners can now pay assessments online, thanks to a new feature on the Association website, www.oceanpines.org, which is run using Northstar software.

"We continue ... to work toward utilizing the different capabilities and functionalities within North Star, and we're excited to say that we actually launched our online payment portal on Monday," Phillips said. "The members can actually log in [and] make payments on their assessments.

"This is hopefully the first step in many different utilizations of the online features," Phillips added.

On the financial side, Phillips said the Association had another positive variance to budget in February, bring the year-to-date positive variance to more than \$1.5 million.

To view video of the entire General Manager's report, visit <https://youtu.be/8ErpeEFSb9E?t=358>.

To view slides from the report, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/217738/3-23-22+Meeting+Power+Point+%25283%2529.pptx>.

## Board meeting briefs

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors discussed the following items during a regular meeting on March 23:

### Second readings approved

Board members voted unanimously to approve second readings of Resolution M-09, related to the Search Committee, and Resolution M-09 "Attachment B," related to Board candidate applications.

Association President Colette Horn said the changes were necessary because "It has become evident to the Board that we need to improve our processes for candidate verification for our board elections."

"The proposed revisions to Resolution M-09 aim to do this. These revisions have undergone two prior readings by the Board and discussion by the Board of the language changes noted," she said, adding the documents were also reviewed by the By-laws and Resolutions Committee.

Also, during the meeting, Board members reviewed resolutions B-07 (petitions), M-05 (animal control) and

M-07 (bulkhead and waterway maintenance) but did not vote on any specific changes.

### Mission and vision

Board members reviewed the current Association mission and vision:

**VISION:** Ocean Pines will be a premier resort community, offering exceptional value and quality of life to property owners who are diverse in age, economic status and interests.

**MISSION:** Provide the governance, administration, facilities, services and amenities that are necessary to make Ocean Pines an attractive, affordable, safe and enjoyable place to live and work.

"This is being brought up primarily because it's kind of old," Horn said. "Secondly, some discussion came up in the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee ... that perhaps, based on the recent property owner survey ... we may want to revisit this."

*please see briefs on page 6*

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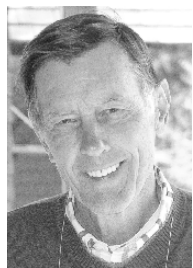
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# Commentary

## Shut them down?

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**  
*OceanPinesForum.com*

Association member Sherrie Clifford tells the OPA Board of Directors there is a “Need to shut down (social media) groups that have their own agendas behind them!” Draconian? Appalling? An early April Fools joke?



This incredible statement took place during a meeting of the Board of Directors with the Strategic Planning Committee on March 29, 2022.

Association member George Alston wrote on *OceanPinesForum.com*, “I don’t believe what I just read. Sounds like the book Animal Farm.”

Former board member Esther Diller wrote, “Wow, just when you thought it couldn’t get crazier.”

*OceanPinesForum.com* member Robert Enderle wrote, “I don’t think there’s any legal way for OPA to ‘shut down’ a Facebook group, unless it were demonstrated that the page was somehow libelous... and good luck with that. Anyone suggesting this as a viable option — in public, no less — is either outside of their mind or seeking to manipulate people through easily-

punctured rhetoric.”

Clifford, a relative newcomer to Ocean Pines, is the founder of a Facebook group whose members have been battling online with another Facebook group created by Diller.

Board member Amy Peck seems to be central to the inter-group animosity, having initially supported the Diller group created about a year ago and then recently switching her alliance to this new Clifford group. Clifford, says her group intends: “To provide oversight, transparency, trust and positivity with the OPA and its residents. Centralized location for information and conversation.”

Clifford also wrote, “Ocean Pines currently has a Social Media crisis on their hands right now and the OPA needs to get this under control vs always being on the defense!” A crisis? Yes a crisis, Clifford says.

Dinah Hoffmeister, a Diller supporter, wrote, “Now this is funny. The troubles didn’t start until (the Clifford group) wanted to oversee the board of directors by having said board of directors in her group!”

Let’s backtrack a bit to examine three things that took place at the board meeting of March 23, 2022. First, Hoffmeister attacked board members Amy Peck and Frank Daly in

public comments, publicly exposing private communication from Peck regarding former board member Esther Diller. Hoffmeister also revealed some private communication from former OPA employee Colby Phillips that was negative about Peck. This was all the topic of a prior commentary, “A Matter of Trust”

Second, director Doug Parks brought up for discussion the possibility of some sort of board policy regarding board member participation on social media sites. Director Rick Farr was apparently ready with some sample policy but never provided the details. Director Larry Perrone wisely suggested dropping the entire topic. Incredibly, president Colette Horn then appointed Peck to look into the issue and report back to the board.

Third, Horn appointed Clifford to the Search Committee but rejected the application of Stuart Lakernick, Diller’s husband. I know. I know. The players in the cast can become complicated.

Not many days later the board meets with the Strategic Planning Committee and Clifford makes her

outrageous comment. However, her comments to the board did not end with suggesting the need to shut down some social media groups. Clifford wants the board to establish a Social Media Committee and she wants it “ASAP!”

There is more. Clifford also writes on *OceanPinesForum.com*, “If the OPA potentially were to have their own Paper and/or Social Media Group the residents might be more likely to read & communicate where centralized factual information is being shared.”

Asked about her “paper” idea, Clifford did not respond. As a relative newcomer, Clifford may not be aware that OPA tried an official community forum social media site a few years ago. It failed miserably. OPA does, however, maintain an official page on Facebook and an extensive website loaded with factual information. It is not enough for Clifford.


Hoffmeister wrote to Clifford about her Facebook group, “When asked by many people the purpose of an (Clif-

*please see commentary on page 14*

## Courier Almanac

Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey* debuted in theaters on April 6, 1968.

Kubrick, whose 1964 Cold War satire *Dr. Strangelove* had been popular with audiences and critics alike, was intrigued by science fiction but felt the genre rarely produced interesting films. He became determined to make one, using the sci-fi story *The Sentinel* as source material and enlisting its author, Arthur C. Clarke, as his co-writer. The film does feature a coherent plot, involving two scientists and a highly-intelligent computer sent to investigate a mysterious event near Jupiter, but several scenes, including the film’s now-legendary opening, which seems to depict hominids learning to use tools after the appearance of a mysterious monolith, are surreal and highly open to interpretation. Filming required the construction of a giant centrifuge to serve as the spaceship’s interior and numerous expensive visual effects, including a groundbreaking psychedelic sequence near the end of the film so complex that staff referred to it as the “Manhattan Project.” Kubrick is said to have removed over 15 minutes from the final cut, which nonetheless ran well over 2 hours.



According to a 2019 Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of baby boomers, the average number of jobs held in a lifetime is 12. Women spend slightly less time in companies than men. In its 2018 Employee Tenure Summary, the BLS reported that the median tenure for women is 4 years and 4.3 for men. However, women hold nearly as many jobs as men across their careers, despite some taking time off to raise children. Comparatively, women hold 12.1 jobs to men’s 12.5. Certain industries lend themselves to higher rates of tenure. Federal government employees, for example, have long rates of tenure, while the shortest average tenure belongs to workers in the leisure and hospitality sector, according to the career experts at Zippia. Columbia College Calgary reports similar trends in Canada, where the average individual has about 15 jobs in a lifetime. Studies suggest that Canadians in Generation Y tend to hold positions for 2.7 years, Generation X at 3.4 years, and Baby Boomers for 12 years.

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# The joy of grandparenting

If you were to talk with my three grown children, they would tell you that as a father I did not accommodate (not often) their requests to take them to the toy store to buy them a toy or two or three. And they would be

ful place for any child. The birthday girl and her seven-year-old brother scanned the treasures before them. My grandson, who brought no money with him, was eyeing Play-Doh toys, most specifically a pizza maker.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

correct in their recollections. It was enough that their mother and I put a roof over their heads and food on the table. We paid to have their teeth straightened. We purchased athletic equipment for sports they played only a season, maybe two. My wife and I paid with our youth and sanity to ensure our children grew up to be responsible adults, enduring their teenage moods and attitudes. We did all that and were very glad to have done so. Really we were.

Why were we glad to do so? Because children beget grandchildren. And grandchildren are wonderful!

On a recent Sunday that happened to be our granddaughter's tenth birthday, my wife and I were unexpectedly able to drive to Newport News to share the big event. We didn't know until the last minute that we'd be able to visit. But we could and we did.

The kids were unaware that we'd be able to join them. The same was true with their other set of grandparents. When we pulled into the driveway and got out of the car, the kids exploded through the front door, jumping into our arms with unabashed joy. Oh, what a feeling for grandparents.

After catching up with our daughter and son-in-law as well as our son-in-law's parents and brother and watching our granddaughter open her gifts, the kids asked if we would take them to Target. Our granddaughter had birthday money she wanted to spend. Much to the amazement of my daughter, I immediately said yes. So off to the store went my wife and I with our grandchildren who chattered during the entire drive.

Once through the store doors, we were pulled, scratch that, dragged, to the toy department, the most wonder-

"Doesn't this look like fun, Nino."

"Yes, yes, it does."

"Yeah, I think so too. How much is it?"

He was baiting the hook. He knows how to read and is Johnny-on-the-spot when it comes to

money.

"Well, let's take a look," I responded. "\$14.95."

"Oh, \$14.95. Hmm."

He was getting ready to set the hook.

"You know Nino, I really like Play Doh. I play with it all the time."

"Really?"

"Yes, all the time. It would really be nice to be able to make Play Doh pizza."

"Really?"

"Yes, it would," he tells me slowly and with just the right amount of humility.

"Would you like to get this," I ask earnestly, with just the right amount of wonder.

"I'd like to but I don't have any money."

The game is afoot.

"Oh, well, that's a problem, don't you think?"

"Yeah, I guess it is," said with dripping faux melancholy.

He begins to slowly, very slowly put the toy back on the shelf. Cocking his head toward me, hoping to hear me utter the magic words he seeks.

"Well, you know, how about we do this. How about I buy it for you? Will that be okay?"

"Yes, that would fine," he responds with mock surprise as he quickly pulls the toy toward him, knowing he had reeled me in, hook, line and sinker.

In that wonderful relationship that exists between a grandfather and his grandson, there is certain amount of give and take even though we both know that the grandson is more often than not going to get what he wants.

After Diamond Jim hustled his grandfather, we made our way over to where the Birthday Girl was carefully looking at different dolls and acces-

sories as well as Polly Pockets. Her parents had given her \$30 to spend from her birthday money, so she was doing a lot math equations calculating how many toys she could buy, including tax. She asked her grandmother to use her phone calculator to figure out different combinations. There was a lot of figuring going on involving several toys that were buy one get one half price. This went on for about 10 minutes or so. Finally...

"How about if Nino pays for these extra toys?"

"Well, they are buy one get one half price Nino," says the blue-eyed, blonde hair angel.

"Such a deal. We can't pass that up, can we?"

"No, I guess we can't," says the

newly-minted ten-year-old.

Everyone was satisfied.

It was an afternoon when Nino and Q were enjoying the prerogatives of grandparenthood. And why not?

We worked hard to get there.

Not to leave anyone out, we stopped by the baby section and bought a Pack and Play to keep at our house for our grandchild who will arrive six months from now.

Yes, it's true my wife and I rarely spent time in the toy department when our children were young. Money was tight and there were those braces to pay for. Well, we are no longer responsible for teeth straighten-

ing and a host of other expenses. Our time can now be spent doing what all grandparents enjoy – spoiling our grandchildren and then giving them back to their parents. How wonderful!



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**briefs**  
from page 3

Director Amy Peck, the current committee liaison, said the committee would review the statements and make a recommendation to the Board “no later than July 2022.”

**Social media policy**

Director Doug Parks introduced a discussion topic on the development of a Board policy on social media, but Board members decided the subject requires further study.

Parks said social media can be a “source of confusion as to where the official pieces of information regarding Ocean Pines reside.”

“I think it’s very important that we make sure ... that everybody is aware that there is an official OPA information source,” he said.

Director Larry Perrone said most people know the difference between official statements and nonofficial ones.

“The Board has agreed that official statements will come out through the president, and we also agreed that any postings that we put on any social media site would be factual,” he said. “I’m just loathe to start making procedures because a couple people – 1% – are confused.

“Establishing more policies, just for that reason, I don’t think it’s necessary,” Perrone added.

Director Rick Farr said he submitted a draft policy to Board members for review and possible future discussion.

“I think it’s something that we should definitely take a look at,” he said.

Horn suggested having a conversation with the Association attorney about future inclusion in a Board resolution.

“What I’m proposing is that we do further study on this ... and maybe come back with a more concrete proposal,” she said. Horn asked Director Amy Peck to lead that effort.

**Tree removal policy**

After a lengthy discussion on improper tree removal, Board members asked the Architectural Review Committee to craft a recommendation on procedural changes.

Director Rick Farr, the committee liaison, said there are currently “inconsistent practices regarding tree removal requests, permitting application process and apparent widespread abuses by both homeowners and tree service companies.”

“There is a lot of tree removal going on that is not going through our proper protocols,” Farr said, adding that some tree-removal companies were using permits “that actually haven’t gone through the whole process.”

Committee Chairperson John Dilworth said he wanted the matter brought to the Board “so you would be aware of how completely out of hand this is getting.”

He said the committee was working on an updated set of guidelines, but, “this can’t wait.”

“We need something to beef this up right now,” he said.

Josh Vickers from Public Works also said the issue was a big one, with tree removal taking up the bulk of his time and as many as 18-20 removals coming up each day.

“I think what we really need is the committee to work with the staff to come forth with any recommendations that they have that are doable, within our governing documents,” Horn said.

**Board endorsements**

Board members opted not to endorse Maryland HB 882, which would authorize expanded wetland bound-

aries and planning for a walking and biking trail in Snow Hill.

Parks said the Recreation and Parks Committee recommended the endorsement, because it might have a future impact on similar projects in Ocean Pines.

“The way Ocean Pines ... might fall into this project, is that in the future it could allow a future trail between Snow Hill and Berlin,” Peck said. “My concern in sending the letter of support is that HB 882 does not impact Ocean Pines directly.”

Instead, she recommended sending a letter to the state endorsing expansion of the Route 90 Bridge.

“It does directly affect OP, as the Route 90 Bridge has a major crossing at [Route] 589 in what essentially is the middle of Ocean Pines,” she said. “Without a safe walkway, it’s unsafe for our homeowners to cross this intersection and go to the library, post office, stores, elementary school, etc.”

**Mailboxes**

Director Josette Wheatley did not receive support for her motion to “to investigate and recommend three locations for the design and construction structures to cover existing mailboxes.”

Perrone said General Manager John Viola had, many times, looked at the cost of feasibility of such a project.

“We have determined that putting structures around the mailboxes is going to be millions of dollars,” he said. “I just don’t see it.”

Viola said there is a program in place to clean up the boxes and replace the existing pedestals.

“We have a program. Let’s finish that out ... let’s see what happens and what we learn from that,” he said.

**Intersection lighting test**

Board members also vetoed a plan to install lighting and reflectors at six intersections.

Per the motion by Frank Daly, “Two locations must be between the Route 90 Bridge and the Northgate, two between the Route 90 Bridge and Manklin Creek, and the third set of two locations between Manklin Creek and the Southern end of Ocean Parkway.”

Peck said the recent community survey found only minimal support for street lighting, with 60% showing “no interest or only a slight or moderate interest in street lighting.”

“The majority have no interest in any streetlighting whatsoever,” she said.

The motion did not receive a second.

**Referendum items**

Board members approved three motions related to the upcoming by-laws referendum:

To adopt the recommendation from the Bylaws and Resolutions Advisory Committee to have Counsel develop the appropriate wording for a referendum to amend the By-laws to a new Section 1.11 of the By-laws to read as follows: Section 1.11 “Owner of Record” means, the person(s) listed on the deed recorded in the Land Records of Worcester County as the owner of property (grantee/party in second part) within the Subdivision to which votes are attributable. If a trust is listed on the deed recorded in the Land Records of Worcester County as the owner of the property within the Subdivision, then the Owner of Record shall be the trustee(s) or co-trustees of the trust who is/are listed on the recorded deed to such property. \*(Passed 6-0-1, with one abstention).

To adopt the recommendation of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee to have Counsel develop the appropriate wording for a referendum to amend the By-laws Section 5.02(a) to add the following to the criteria for eligibility for candidates for election to the Board of Directors: No Corporate entity (including but not limited to a Corporation, LLC, Partnership or agency) that is listed as the owner of record may have an individual be a candidate for the Board of Directors. This subsection does not apply to a Trustee or Co-Trustee. \*(Passed 6-1).

To have Counsel develop the appropriate wording for a referendum to revise By-Laws Section 5.02(a) adding a paragraph (iv) to read as follows: Article V. Section 5.02. Candidates for Election. (a)Eligibility (iv)No member shall be a candidate for election as a Director if he or she is an employee of the Association as of the date the candidate’s application is submitted for consideration by the Secretary. \*(Passed unanimously, 7-0).

**Committee appointments**

Board members unanimously approved three committee appointments:

- Sherri Clifford – 1st Term – Search Committee
- Michelle Stewart – 1st Term – Search Committee
- Vicki Eckenrode – 1st Term – Strategic Planning Committee.



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**Helper visit** - First grade students at Ocean City Elementary recently enjoyed a visit from a tooth fairy helper, who taught them all the healthy ways to take care of their teeth. Pictured are: **Cora Handel, Emma Stallings, Noelle Fritzsche, Wyatt Brown, Charlie Hammond and Amelia Purnell.**

## Proposed sports complex hearing scheduled

The Worcester County Commissioners will host a public hearing on a proposal to purchase 95.521 acres of property in the Berlin/West Ocean City area and identified on Tax Map 25 as Parcel 89 to develop a sports complex, using a portion of the proceeds from general obligation bond funds of \$11,198,830 in FY23 to fund acquisition, design, and development costs. The public hearing will take place in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium in Berlin on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6 p.m.

The main purpose for the sports complex, which is included in the FY23-FY27 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), is to provide county residents and guests with more recreational programming and event opportunities by providing additional field space. Conceptual plans for this project include multi-purpose fields, with restrooms, parking, and concessions for recreation and travel sports. Additional park amenities would include walking trails, ponds, and a playground.

The sports complex is one of many

projects in the CIP totaling \$200,321,677 that are proposed over the five-year period. A separate public hearing will take place during the commissioners' regularly-scheduled April 5 meeting to receive comments on proposed bond bills for additional CIP projects to be completed in the near term, including the Stephen Decatur Middle School addition, Snow Hill Middle School and Cedar Chapel Special School roof replacement, public safety logistical storage facility design and development, County Jail Phase 2 improvements, and a belt filter press water and wastewater project in the Ocean Pines Sanitary Service Area.

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**Tuesday**  
Chicken Parmesan ... \$11.95 (soup or salad)  
**DINE IN ONLY** Choice of a large House, Caesar, Spinach, Chef, Greek or Antipasti Salads... \$8  
*\$3.50 Rails & HH 11-7pm Restaurant Wide*

**Wednesday**  
Pasta Night... \$11.95 (soup or salad) Selections vary  
**DINE IN ONLY** \$3 OFF Cheesesteaks  
*Wine Wednesday \$15 Bottles/ HH 11-7 Restaurant Wide*

**Thursday**  
Sweet & Sour Chicken... \$9.95  
**DINE IN ONLY**  
Comfort Food Night! 2 selections. Vary weekly  
*\$2 Natty BOH or Light & HH 11-7pm Restaurant Wide*

**Friday**  
Fried Shrimp served with cole slaw & FF... \$16 (soup or salad)  
**DINE IN ONLY** Meatloaf Platter served with mashed potatoes & a veggie... \$12.95 (soup or salad)  
*HH 4-7 Restaurant Wide*

**Saturday**  
SEAFOOD SATURDAY... fresh catch announced!  
**DINE IN ONLY** Large Cheese Pizza (toppings extra), get a Caesar or House Salad for ONLY \$2.99  
*HH 4-7 Restaurant Wide*

## OPA Board election process underway

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee has announced important dates for the 2022 election process, including filing and voting deadlines, and dates for two candidate forums.

This year, three seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election: those currently held by directors Larry Perrone, Amy Peck and Josette Wheatley. The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines' Resolution M-06 calls for at least two more candidates than open seats, meaning the Association is seeking five or more candidates in 2022. The deadline to file is by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10.

"If you're thinking about applying as a candidate for the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, there's a wealth of information at [www.oceanpines.org](http://www.oceanpines.org)," Elections Committee Chairperson Carol Ludwig said. "We also recommend that you establish contact with the Ocean Pines Search Committee, and educate yourself about the Ocean Pines community and governance through the bylaws and Book of Resolutions.

"Pay particular attention to Resolutions C-08 and M-06, as they pertain to candidate activities and elections procedures. Previous Board of Director meeting agendas, meeting materi-

als and minutes are available at [oceanpines.org](http://oceanpines.org), and videos of previous Board of Director meetings can be viewed via YouTube and [www.oceanpines.org](http://www.oceanpines.org)," Ludwig added.

Applications are available at the administration building or on the Ocean Pines website at <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/53744/OPA+Board+candidate+registration+form.pdf>.

Important upcoming election dates include:

- Eligible Candidate Draw and Workshop (to determine ballot order and seating during candidate forums) - Tuesday, June 7 at 2 p.m. in the East Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center

- First Candidate Forum - Wednesday, June 22 at 6 p.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room

- Second Candidate Forum - Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room

- Ballot Deadline - Wednesday, Aug. 10 by 4 p.m.

- Ballots Counted and Vote Totals Announced - Thursday, Aug. 11 starting at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room

- Annual Meeting - Saturday, Aug. 13. Time and Venue TBD

For questions about the election, contact [elections@oceanpines.org](mailto:elections@oceanpines.org).

## New family run and day of fun coming to Ocean Pines

Families of all ages are invited to enjoy a day of fitness fun as the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department hosts its first 1-mile fun run/walk on Saturday, May 14 beginning at 10 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park.

The event, which will include a 1-mile walk or run around the South Gate Pond and a variety of other fun activities, is designed to encourage families to exercise together, according to event supervisor Katie Goetzinger.

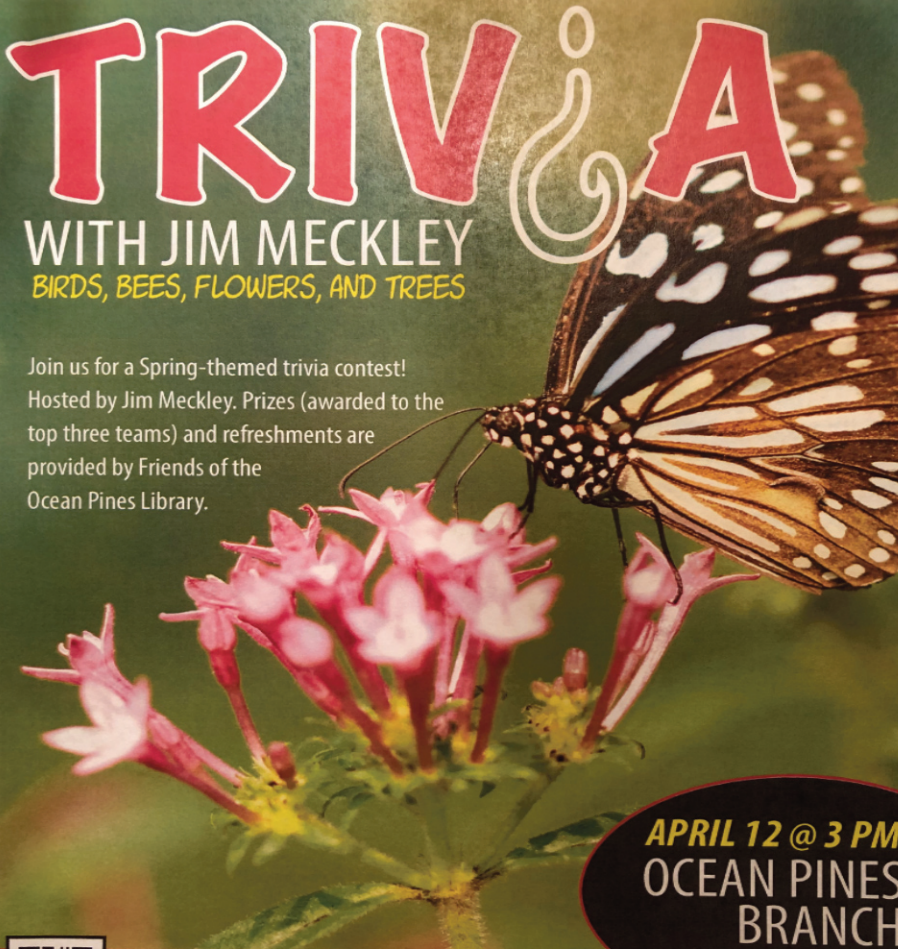
"Recreation and Parks wanted to hold an event where the whole family could participate and get active," Goetzinger said. "The South Gate Pond is a great place to both get exercise and enjoy the beautiful scenery our neighborhood has to offer."

The after-walk party at the park will last until 2 p.m. and will feature moon bounces, face painting, music, vendors and giveaways, all of which are included in the registration fee. Food will also be available for purchase.

The cost to participate is \$10 per person before the event; day-of registration is \$15 and begins at 9 a.m. Those who pre-register are guaranteed an event t-shirt, and all participants will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a new bicycle.

"Event vendors will include the Get Baked food trolley and Ray's Wraps, which offers sand art, hair wraps and airbrush tattoos. Recreation and Parks will also have a concession stand with

please see **family** on page 14



**TRIVIA & A**  
WITH JIM MECKLEY  
BIRDS, BEES, FLOWERS, AND TREES

Join us for a Spring-themed trivia contest! Hosted by Jim Meckley. Prizes (awarded to the top three teams) and refreshments are provided by Friends of the Ocean Pines Library.

**APRIL 12 @ 3 PM**  
**OCEAN PINES BRANCH**

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# Cashman named Teacher of the Year

In a celebration of excellence in education, tonight Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) announced the 2022 Worcester County Teacher of the Year: Kristin Cashman of Pocomoke High School.

During its annual Teacher of the Year celebration, Worcester County Board of Education Vice President Todd Ferrante made the announcement following a program honoring all fourteen school-level teachers of the year and their commitment to providing a high-quality education to the young people of Worcester County.

"I am so proud of both Kristin and all of the incredible teachers we have honored this evening," said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor. "Kristin will be a fantastic representative not only for her school, but our entire school system as she progresses to the state-level program. Her passionate advocacy for equity in education is to be commended."

An English teacher and leader of Pocomoke High School's equity team, Cashman takes pride in creating a safe space in her classroom for all who

enter. "No matter your race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation or identity, once you cross the threshold into my classroom, we become a family," Cashman said in her portfolio. Through reading important historical texts like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail, Cashman endeavors to create a space for healthy discourse and dialogue among her students. Lessons like this are indicative of how Cashman values and amplifies student voice as they connect with and explore different pieces of literature.

Cashman is a graduate of Salisbury University, where she is also an adjunct professor in the education department. Beyond her work in the classroom, Cashman is also a coordi-

nator for the Worcester on Wheels program, a mobile engagement and outreach program that won \$1 million in the state's competitive program to support innovative education solutions and learning recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Cashman also facilitates Women Who Rise, a program developed with Worcester's local higher education partners to create a pipeline for future female educators, particularly those who are historically underrepresented in education.

"A champion for all her students and colleagues, Kristin ignites the entire building with energy and enthusiasm for this work," Pocomoke High School Principal Jenifer Rayne said.



"Every school, every county, and every state needs a Kristin Cashman!"

Cashman was one of four finalists announced on March 18, who were in the running for the prestigious title. The other outstanding finalists were Steven Deakyne of Stephen Decatur High School, Lindsay Harrington of Stephen Decatur Middle School, and Michael Levy of Worcester Technical High School.

Cashman was selected by a panel of judges representing experts in the field of education including higher education partners, retired Worcester County Public Schools' personnel, and the current reigning 2021 Worcester County Teacher of the Year. All candidates were judged based on a rigorous set of criteria in alignment with both the state and national level Teacher of the Year programs, which include instructional abilities, collaboration, building connections with our community, leadership and innovation both in and out of the classroom, and the ability to articulate their education beliefs and advocate for how to better this field.



**AMERICAN REDCROSS**





## Lifeguard Certification Class

<b>April 8</b>	5pm-9pm	<b>\$200</b>	<i>OP Swim Members</i>
<b>April 9</b>	9am-6pm	<b>\$250</b>	<i>OP Residents</i>
<b>April 10</b>	9am-6pm	<b>\$275</b>	<i>Public</i>

*Participants must be age 15 by last class.*

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Looking for a **GREAT** summer job?  
 Class fee waived for those hired as Ocean Pines lifeguards!

**My Backyard...** sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

# Bluebirds

Most of the country drives during an eastern North American summer will turn up a few Eastern Bluebirds sitting on telephone wires or perched atop a nest box, calling out in a short, wavering voice or abruptly dropping to the ground after an insect. Marvelous birds to capture in your binoculars, male Eastern Bluebirds are a brilliant royal blue on the back and head, and warm red-brown on the breast. Blue tinges in the wings and tail give the grayer females an elegant look.

This species may visit backyards if food is offered. It doesn't often come to feeders, unless you have feeders that provide mealworms.

Eastern Bluebirds are a great prospect for nest boxes if you have the space to put one up in your yard, and if your yard isn't too hemmed in by trees or houses. Consider putting up a nest box to attract a breeding pair. Make sure you put it up well before breeding season. Attach a guard to keep predators from raiding eggs and young.

The male Eastern Bluebird displays his nest cavity to attract a female. He brings nest material to the hole, goes in and out, and waves his wings while perched above it. That is pretty much his contribution to nest building; only the female Eastern Bluebird builds the nest and incubates the eggs.

Eastern Bluebirds typically have more than one successful brood per year. Young produced in early nests usually leave their parents in summer, but young from later nests frequently stay with their parents over the winter.

Eastern Bluebirds occur across eastern North America and south as far as Nicaragua. Birds that live farther north and in the west of the range tend to lay more eggs than eastern and southern birds.

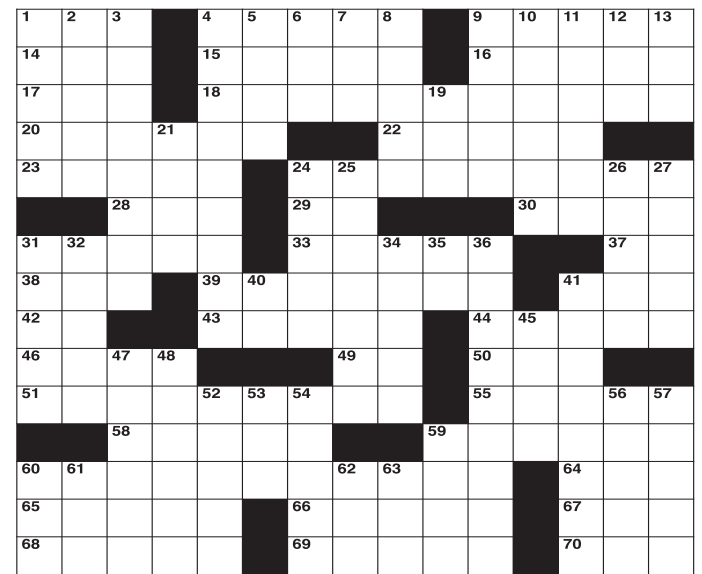
Eastern Bluebirds eat mostly in-



sects, wild fruit and berries. Occasionally, Eastern Bluebirds have also been observed capturing and eating larger prey items such as shrews, salamanders, snakes, lizards and tree frogs.

The oldest recorded Eastern Bluebird was at least 10 years, six months old. It had been banded in New York in May 1989, and was found dead in South Carolina November 1999.

*-The Cornell Lab, All About Birds*



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Celebrations
- 9. Pulpits
- 14. Pin
- 15. Rare laughing
- 16. Parts of the circulatory system
- 17. Financial term
- 18. Pearl Jam frontman
- 20. Cores of vascular plants
- 22. Strong sharp smell or taste
- 23. City in S. Korea
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Short message at the end of an email
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Boys and men
- 37. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. A way to arrange
- 41. Body cavity
- 42. The Great Lake State
- 43. A type of seal
- 44. Stop for a moment
- 46. Ancient kingdom
- 49. Of I
- 50. White clerical vestment
- 51. Songs to a lover
- 55. Prices
- 58. Sun-dried brick
- 59. Where to park a boat
- 60. One who values reason and knowledge
- 64. Partner to feather
- 65. Sailboats
- 66. Actress Zellweger
- 67. Type of screen
- 68. Country singer Haggard
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. When you hope to arrive

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. PA transit system
- 3. Leaves a place
- 4. Sweet greenish fruit
- 5. Lends support to
- 6. Chap
- 7. Singer Di Franco
- 8. Water at boiling temperature diffused in the atmosphere
- 9. Asserts to be the case
- 10. Doctor (Spanish)
- 11. Auction attendee
- 12. Characterized by unity
- 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 19. Way to analyze video (abbr.)
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Tree resin
- 25. The academic world
- 26. Khoikhoi peoples
- 27. Infer from data
- 31. Arrives
- 32. Apart
- 34. Takes on cargo
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Takes apart
- 40. Dorm official
- 41. Secondary or explanatory descriptor
- 45. Relating to wings
- 47. Speaker
- 48. Situated in the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Alaska nursing group (abbr.)
- 54. Beloveds
- 56. Establish by law or with authority
- 57. Border river between India and Nepal
- 59. Millisecond
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They \_\_\_
- 62. ESPN broadcaster Bob
- 63. A place to stay

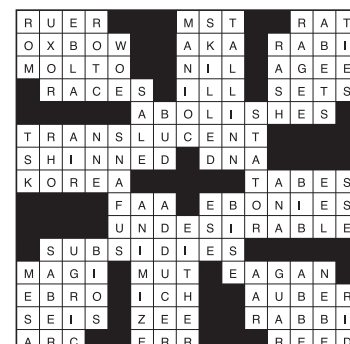
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Answers for March 23

# Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



## Artemis-1 to include lunar water probe

When the Artemis-1 mission blasts off later this year, it will carry onboard a small probe designed to investigate water resources on the moon. NASA's "Lunar IceCube" is a small secondary payload to be released in a low orbit about the moon while collecting detailed information about water deposits on or near the surface. Scientists will use this data to create a detailed map to aid future missions in their use of this critical resource.

The mission will also be conducting basic research. One of these is designed to detect lunar hydrogen, while another, examines the effects of space radiation on living organisms. Two of the ten Cubesats were built by Japan and one by Italy.

The class of satellites called Cubesats are small space probes intended to minimize rocketry propulsion needs and produce cost effective ways to conduct studies. IceCube weighs 31 pounds and is about the size of a carry-on travel bag. An earlier Cubesat is the CAPSTONE (discussed here last October), which weighs 55 lbs. and is about

*please see **probe** on page 14*



Artist's rendition of Lunar IceCube probe

The Lunar IceCube has been built under a \$24 million NASA program headed by Morehead State University, Morehead, KY. Others participating include Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD. and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA. Previous lunar missions have discovered evidence of water ice in frigid regions such as the lunar south pole. Lunar IceCube will investigate how much water is there and identify where these deposits are located.

Last year, on October 12, NASA announced completing the installation of 10 Cubesats, including mounting the IceCube unit onto the SLS rocket, a step in preparation for launching Artemis-1. This occurred during the stacking operation, when the Orion Stage Adaptor containing the 10 research probes was lifted into place and attached, as a part of the final assembly procedures.

The other Cubesats on the Artemis-



We can help that ache or pain *NOW*..not later.

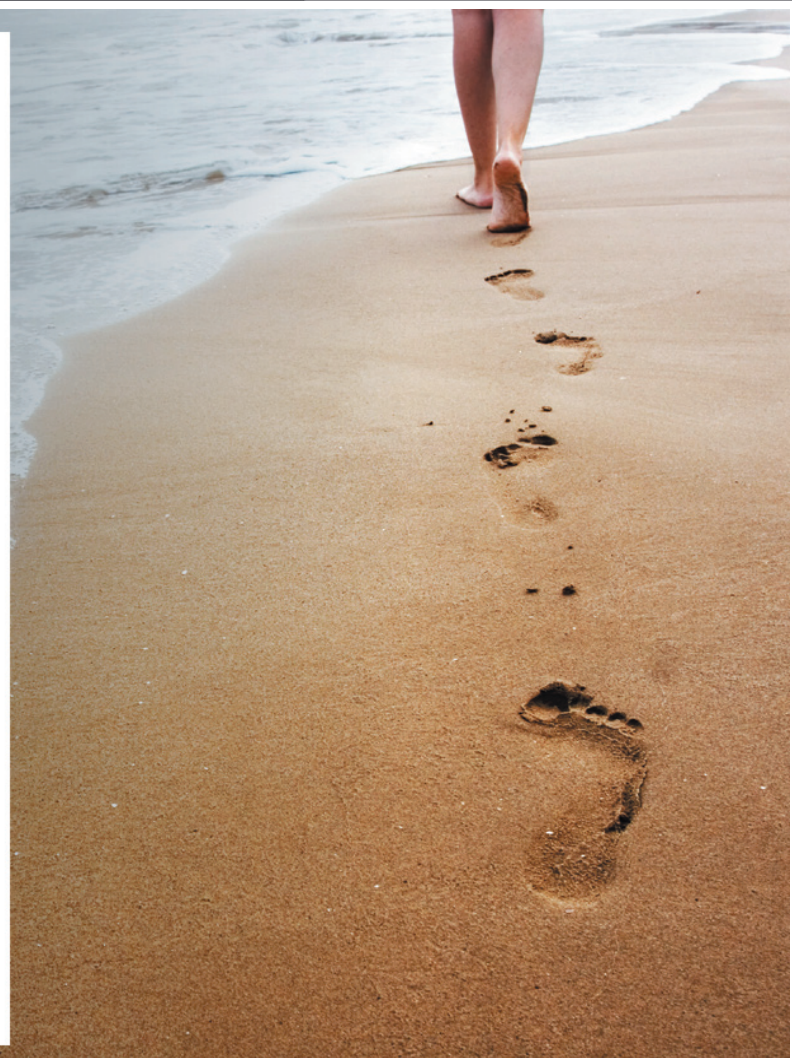
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# Bauer receives prestigious Carnegie Hero Fund award

Town of Berlin and Ocean Pines Association officials on March 23 presented Jonathan Bauer with a 2021 Carnegie Hero Fund award, considered North America's highest honor for civilian heroism.

The award was established by industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1904 to honor acts of extraordinary heroism. In 2021, 71 Americans received the honor.

According to the Carnegie Hero Fund website, Bauer was involved in a multivehicle accident on the Route 50 Bridge in Ocean City on May 2, 2021. During the accident, a 23-month-old toddler was ejected from her family's pickup truck, "causing her to land in the cold water of the bay."

"Bauer ... climbed over the bridge's guide rail and jumped 30 feet into the shallow water. He swam to the girl, who was unresponsive. Holding her over his shoulder, he tapped her back until she coughed, spit up water, and opened her eyes. Bauer held her above the surface of the water until a pontoon boat arrived to take them to shore. The toddler was airlifted to the hospital and was released the following day. Bauer was sore, but he did not require medical treatment," the website said.

Bauer is an Ocean Pines resident. The Town of Berlin received the physical award through the Carnegie Hero Fund.

During a brief ceremony at Berlin Town Hall on Wednesday, Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall presented Bauer with the award. Also attending the ceremony were Bauer's wife, Wendy, daughter, Ava, Town of Berlin Mayor's Assistant JoAnn Unger, and Ocean Pines Association Public Relations Director Josh Davis.

Bauer said the award was a true honor, made even more special because he's originally from Pittsburgh, home to the Carnegie Steel Company that launched Andrew Carnegie's fortune.

"Growing up there and being awarded the Carnegie Hero Fund is just amazing," he said. "It absolutely was a life-changing moment, not only for me, but for my entire family."

Bauer's daughter, because of the incident, was inspired to volunteer with local EMS.

Tyndall reflected on his own EMS experience, and said it was a great honor to present the Carnegie Hero Fund award.

"You work here and you live in Ocean Pines, so I think it's very awesome to have somebody receive that locally," he said. "I also think that what you did impacted a lot of people, including your own daughter and her aspirations, and I think it will forever change you."

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola said Bauer is an inspiration to the entire community.

"When I read and heard what Mr. Bauer did, I said this person is a hero," Viola said. "What a wonderful and well-deserved thing for him to receive that great honor."

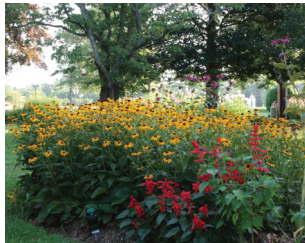
"We couldn't be prouder to call Mr. Bauer one of our own," Davis added. "What he did was truly heroic, and people like him are what make it so wonderful to live and work in this area."

For more information on the Carnegie Medal and the history of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, visit [www.carnegiehero.org](http://www.carnegiehero.org).

## Workshop series offered

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area, a tri-county non-profit organization will host a series of Lunch & Learn workshops this spring. "Pollinator gardens and how to attract more visitors to your site,"

will be held Thursday, April 7 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Berlin branch library. Kate Patton, Lower Shore Land Trust Director, will leading this fun, fast-paced hour. Come learn how to get a pollinator garden started and learn about other pollinator initiatives. Bring your own lunch, refreshments and snacks will be served. This workshop is free and open to the public. To reserve your spot email [info@beachesbayswaterways.org](mailto:info@beachesbayswaterways.org).



# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes



# Local developer gift launches land fund

The stretch of forested buffer situated to the north side of the Ocean City airport is not just a pretty view along



Route 611. This property serves as a buffer to the airport and now will no longer be at risk of development.

Jack Burbage is a well-known local developer, philanthropist, and out-

doorsman. Burbage is also well known for supporting worthy causes on the Eastern Shore and for his extraordinary generosity in philanthropic giving. His name adorns hospitals as well as other local buildings, and he is a past recipient of the Hal Glick Award. True to his reputation, Burbage bestowed the ultimate gift on the Lower Shore Land Trust in 2019. The gift of commercial real estate was the first of its kind for the Lower Shore Land Trust, and according to Hugh Cropper, chairman of the Board of Directors, prompted the organization to review gift policies and asset management before accepting the generous gift.

Suzy Taylor, Lower Shore Land Trust Treasurer, noted that the organization thought they may have to hold the land for some time, waiting for the

right conservation minded buyer, so it came as a pleasant surprise when the Town of Ocean City determined that this was a parcel critical to satisfy their need to buffer the airport.

The proceeds from the sale of the property will be managed by the Board of Directors for the purpose of long-term stewardship of protected lands, and more significantly, will launch the Jack Burbage Conservation Land Fund. The new fund will allow the organization to seize opportunities to protect vulnerable conservation lands across the Lower Shore. Furthermore, this generous gift of property and recent sale will allow the Lower Shore Land Trust to address stringent accreditation goals for stewardship of the organization's land portfolio.

Mr. Burbage has been a friend of

the Land Trust for some time. All of his previous support has been important and impactful, but this one gift will cement Burbage's legacy as one of our most important donors. is one of those truly significant gifts that leaves a lasting legacy. According to Kate Patton, executive director of Lower Shore Land Trust, "This is the type of gift we dream of, and now we can set our sights on utilizing the new Jack Burbage Conservation Land Fund to expand our land preservation programs".

For information about the Lower Shore Land Trust and how to support the Jack Burbage Conservation Land Fund, contact Kate Patton at [kpatt@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:kpatt@lowershorelandtrust.org) or 443-234-5587.

## Homeowners can now pay assessments online

Ocean Pines homeowners can now pay assessments online by logging onto the Association website at [www.oceanpines.org/login](http://www.oceanpines.org/login).

Once on the site, users can click on the "login" tab and then follow onscreen instructions:

- To log in to the members' side off the website, enter your member number as your username. This can be found on your physical assessment mailing. Your initial password will be your last name in all lowercase letters.

- You will then be prompted to enter

a new password. New passwords must be at least eight alphanumeric characters and include at least one uppercase, one lowercase and one special character, such as an exclamation mark (!) or "at" symbol (@).

- Finally, you will be asked to select a security question, which can be used to reset your password.

- To view or pay the assessment, click on "HOA Payments" at the top of the page.

To make a payment, first select a payment option by creating a new ACH-EFT account or creating a new credit card entry. ACH accounts draw directly from a bank account and require an account number and routing number.

There is a 3.5% charge for credit/debit card payments, but no fee for paying through a checking account (ACH).

For questions about membership, contact the Membership Office at 410-641-7717 x 3031 or email [rmeyer@oceanpines.org](mailto:rmeyer@oceanpines.org).

For general questions, email [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org).

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**family**  
from page 8

snacks and drinks for sale,” Goetzinger said.

Sponsors are needed for this family-friendly event. Sponsorship levels range from \$50-\$200 and include race entries, promotion on event t-shirts and recognition in event publicity and banners. Businesses interested in sponsorships should contact Goetzinger at kgoetzinger@oceanpines.org or 410-641-7052.

This program is open to the pub-

lic and pre-registration is suggested. For more information or to register, call at 410-641-7052.

Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at oceanpines.org.

**commentary**  
from page 4

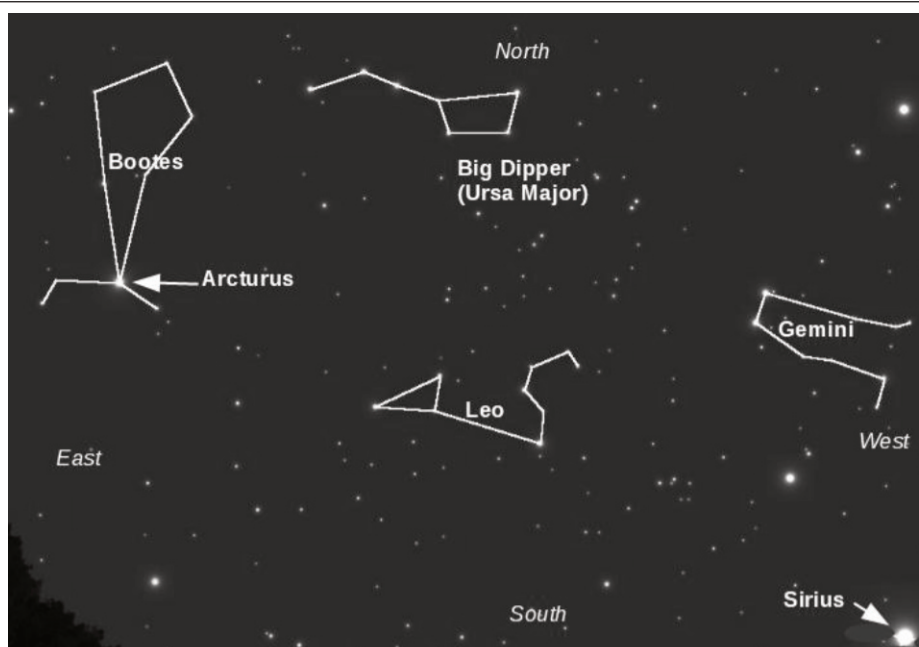
ford’s) overlook group, why the logo was very similar to Ocean Pines logo, why the mugs and business cards, etc., you would delete their comments, turn off comments, put people on admin approval or worse yet, remove them from group. That is not transparency, that is control.”

Others have made similar charges of deleted posts and lock-outs regarding the Diller group.

God forbid any board members with half a brain even think about becoming wrapped up in all this nonsense. Trying to control social media would be like trying to catch mosquitoes with a crab net.

### Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, April 9 in the Ocean Pines Library at 9:30 a.m. It’s Flounder time! The club will present Flounder fishing videos followed by discussions by expert club flounder fishermen Budd Heim and Frank Tortella. In addition, Allison Barton from the Worcester County Developmental Center will discuss a program to teach fishing to their clients for which she is seeking club support. All are welcome.



**probe**  
from page 11

the size of a microwave oven. Both IceCube and CAPSTONE have solar panels which remain folded down during their rocket launch travel to conserve space. The panels are unfolded and deployed later, a typical sequence for space probes.

The IceCube probe operates using near-infrared imaging to find water in ice, liquid, and vaporous forms. Its central instrument is a spectrograph called the Broadband InfraRed Compact High-Resolution Exploration Spectrometer (BIRCHES). The BIRCHES instrument breaks down near-infrared wavelengths – between one and four microns. Water can be identified at wavelengths around three microns.

This spectrometer will also examine the lunar “exosphere.” The exosphere is a very thin atmosphere-like volume which surrounds the Moon. Scientists are interested in understanding the absorption and release of water from the lunar regolith. Gaseous components such as CO<sub>2</sub>, Ammonia, and Methane can also be identified.

The Lunar IceCube satellite will trace out a seven-hour elliptical orbit around the moon. During each orbit, the probe

will spend one hour observing the lunar surface. The reason for this limited duration is to protect its sensitive instruments. Permanent damage might occur if the sun should shine directly into the IceCube’s view. To prevent this, the design team developed a small panel (like a garage-door), designed to open and close to protect it from harm.

Leader of the IceCube project, Dr. Benjamin Malphrus of Morehead State University predicted: “When we go back, we’re going to stay, build outposts, set up science stations, learn how to live in that environment and then go on to Mars.”

NASA has reported that the launch of Artemis-1 is scheduled for this coming summer. The enormous SLS rocket which powers the mission, weighs in at a record-setting 3.5 million pounds.

In April, stargazing begins at about 8:30 p.m., with Leo the Lion seen riding high. Leo resembles a reclining lion, with its backward question mark representing the head and mane, and an elongated triangle as the hind legs. Look northwards to spot the popular Big Dipper (Ursa Major).

After 9:30 p.m. Bootes (boh-OH-teez) the Herdsman appears, featuring its bright orange star Arcturus.

The Lyrid meteor shower will be visible between April 20 and 22, with a peak in the late evening hours the 21st and into the wee hours of April 22. Best views take place after about 1:30 a.m., fine for night owls. The meteors will appear to streak outwards from the star Vega. Under ordinary conditions, observers could expect to see about 10 “shooting stars” per hour. However, the first quarter moon will interfere somewhat with the display.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

### Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 7	High	12:41 AM
7	Low	7:01 AM
7	High	1:02 PM
7	Low	6:53 PM
F 8	High	1:32 AM
8	Low	7:55 AM
8	High	1:54 PM
8	Low	7:47 PM
Sa 9	High	2:30 AM
9	Low	8:50 AM
9	High	2:54 PM
9	Low	8:45 PM
Su 10	High	3:33 AM
10	Low	9:46 AM
10	High	3:56 PM
10	Low	9:44 PM
M 11	High	4:32 AM
11	Low	10:40 AM
11	High	4:53 PM
11	Low	10:42 PM
Tu 12	High	5:25 AM
12	Low	11:29 AM
12	High	5:44 PM
12	Low	11:37 PM
W 13	High	6:12 AM
13	Low	12:14 PM
13	High	6:30 PM

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