

The Courier

April 13, 2022 Volume 22 Number 29

Ocean Pines family shares 'Only Positive Stories'

Sharing good news has become a family affair for Ocean Pines residents Sharon and Rick Simons and their two teenage sons, Dylan and Hunter.

Last year, the Simons family started a website, www.onlypositivestories.com, along with a campaign to spread good news and raise money for local causes during the trying times of the COVID age.

The website highlights acts of kindness both locally and globally, and supplies links to several fundraisers for area youth and homeless.

Originally from New Jersey, Sharon and her husband, Rick, moved to Points Reach in Ocean Pines 16 years ago. The couple adopted Dylan, 16, and Hunter, 15, shortly after.

please see family page 6

Dylan and Hunter Simons

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Meet the Team

Ocean Pines Police Ofc. Jon Marton-Rollins

By **Josh Davis**

Jon Marton-Rollins grew up dreaming of being a police officer. He never expected to start his career during a once-in-a-century pandemic.

Originally from Westchester, New York, Marton-Rollins worked as a seasonal officer in Ocean City in 2019 and



Jon Marton-Rollins

joined the Ocean Pines Police force the following year.

Marton-Rollins joked he initially picked the area because “somebody told me it was warm.”

In July 2020, he entered the police academy and started working for the Ocean Pines Police Department, which at the time was headquartered in trailers behind the administration building. The new police station would open a few months later.

“I never knew the old building at all, but I heard a lot of interesting stories. It didn’t sound like there was a lot of space,” he said with a laugh. “But, coming in, I graduated from the academy and then we moved into the new building, and that was a very nice transition.”

Ocean Pines Police “have to do a little bit of everything,” Marton-Rollins said. That includes using his prior training as an emergency medical technician, where he’s spent 12 years as a volunteer, including almost a year as an EMS associate with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

“My focus was on tactical emergency medicine, because I’ve wanted to be a police officer since I was 6. I really enjoy being able to integrate that into what we do,” he said.

“A lot of working in the backs of ambulances is talking to people, so I’m

very comfortable with my people skills and walking people through their problems,” Marton-Rollins continued. “Ocean Pines is kind of a cool environment because, most of the time, if EMS is called to something I’ll actually be on the scene well before they are, just because I’m already out on the road.”

On a daily basis, Marton-Rollins said police duties can range from basic traffic enforcement to “whatever they need us to do.” It’s a balancing act that keeps officers on their toes.

“What I tell everybody about Ocean Pines is that it’s just like every other town or city. You’re going to see a little bit of everything that goes on, wher-

ever you get a population of people together,” he said. That includes everything from theft and drug use to occasional violent crime or domestic disturbances.

“We see a lot of family matters, because there are a lot of families around here. What we have to remind ourselves, is that we see people on their worst day,” he said. “Nobody likes calling 911. A huge responsibility as a police officer is just understanding that. They’re calling you because they don’t have any other options and it’s our job. No matter how serious or mild, we have to help that person get to a place where they’re comfortable and they no longer feel in extremis.”

What was unusual, Marton-

Rollins said, was starting police work in 2020. While going through the academy, he said, “it was abundantly clear that our lives as police officers were going to be very different.”

“It was wild. 2020 was such a crazy time to be a police officer that it’s almost hard to articulate,” he said. “In 2019, people were a little more willing to talk to police in general. When 2020 happened, we came in with masks and with people rioting in other parts of the country. A lot of people would see me in uniform and automatically assume things about me, and that personally breaks my heart, because I’ve wanted to be a cop for as long as I

*please see **marton-rollins** on page 14*



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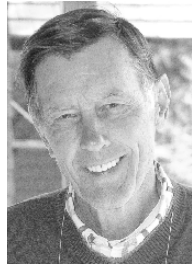
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Commentary

Change is coming

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Most association members are not aware of it, but change is coming. Major change.



OPA is advertising to hire a new general manager. Deadline for applicants in this nationwide search, costing around \$25,000, is May 1, 2022.

Following General Manager John Viola's notice to the board of his intention to leave and current day-to-day employment agreement, expect this Board of Directors to hire a new general manager to replace Viola prior to the upcoming election in August. This alone will signal a major change in operational aspects of the Ocean Pines Association. Viola's time as General Manager, while fraught with political disagreements at the board level, saw some of OPA's best financial results in decades. Viola will be missed. Sorely missed.

Board political wrangling, unfortunately, dominated the news, yet had very little impact on Ocean Pines overall. Sadly, there is a substantive change in the behavior of association members regarding

their likes or dislikes of individual board members. Personal attacks, as opposed to serious discussions of issues, have become more common on social media sites and at board meetings.

Association members are now also attacking each other personally, in addition to individual board members. Important issues impacting the OPA are forgotten in the din of personal attacks flying around Ocean Pines. The often nasty war of words is between those who support the current board majority and those who want to "throw the bums out."

Extreme animosity, at a personal level, is rampant among some relative minority who believe Colette Horn, Larry Perrone, Frank Daly, Josette Wheatley, and Amy Peck are personal representatives of the Devil, out to make our lives a living hell.

What percent of voters actually agree with this very vocal minority will not be known until we see the election results. Of the current sitting board members, Frank Daly, Doug Parks, Colette Horn, and Rick Farr are the four members returning. Three seats are open in the upcoming election. Larry Perrone is not running for re-election. Appointed board member Amy Peck

indicated she will not run. Appointed board member Josette Wheatley is thought to be a sure candidate. Only time will tell.

Let's do a little political speculation - always fun.

Depending on who decides to run in the election, it is quite possible Colette Horn and Frank Daly find themselves moving from members of a five-person board majority to a two-person or three-person minority with the control of the board resting in the hands of Doug Parks, Rick Farr and two or three winning candidates who support their view of OPA's future. Should that happen, look for the board to select Rick Farr as president. Otherwise, the president will be Horn or Daly.

Stuart Lakernick, Rick Farr's apparent running mate in the last election, is a potential candidate with an excellent chance of winning a seat. Josette Wheatly, typically voting with the current majority, also has an excellent chance. With three

seats vacant, majority control of the Board of Directors is up for grabs. The possibilities will become more clear as we see who throws their hat in the ring for election to the board. Deadline to file is May 10. At this point, not one association member has filed.

The consequences of any major change in board control are obviously unknown now. However, over the past two years, disputes among board members and various factions in the community over control of the Board of Directors were common. Those seeking change may see their hopes realized. Whether any desired change will bring peace and harmony in the months after election day is another issue.

Speculation aside, the stars are indeed aligned for a potential sea change in Ocean Pines Association management at the board level and operations level. Hold on to your seat belt.

Boat Club to meet

The Ocean Pines Boat Club's annual Spring General Meeting is set for Thursday April 21 in the Ocean Pines Community Center Assateague Room. Doors open at 6 p.m. for socializing and light refreshments. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. The speaker is Michael Castoro and his subject is *The History of the Pride of Baltimore* and his subsequent crewing on the *Pride of Baltimore II*.

Courier Almanac

On April 13, 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Actor, for his role as a construction worker who helps build a chapel in *Lilies of the Field* (1963).

Poitier was born in 1927, while his parents were visiting the United States from the Bahamas, where his father was a tomato farmer. As a teenager, Poitier dropped out of school and returned to America to enlist in the U.S. Army during World War II. After his military stint, he became interested in theater and applied to the American Negro Theatre in New York City. Rejected initially because of his strong island accent, Poitier trained himself in American enunciation and reapplied, this time successfully. He debuted on Broadway in 1946 in an all-Black production of *Lysistrata*, and by 1950 he was appearing in Hollywood films, beginning with *No Way Out*.

Easter eggs are decorated in many hues before they're ultimately hidden for youngsters to find. While pastel-colored eggs are the norm, one color has particular religious significance for those who want to go a bit bolder with their egg displays. It is



tradition among Orthodox Christians to exchange red eggs. According to History.com, red eggs are associated with Mary Magdalene and her role in Christianity. After the Ascension of Christ, Mary Magdalene went to the Roman emperor and greeted him with "Christ is Risen." He then stated, "Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red (pointing to an egg on his table)." After making the statement, the egg turned blood red. Mary Magdalene then began preaching Christianity to him, and the red egg has come to symbolize the blood of Christ redeeming the world.

The Courier

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Picture puppy

Her name is Pyper. She's eleven weeks old. She has an ebullient personality, and seems to fear little. She's inquisitive and roams our home like it's hers, which in fact it now is. She has let Chooch know

enough.

More than thirty years ago, as young parents we made a similar trip. Our daughter was six months old. An ad in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* caught our attention: border collie puppies for sale. Growing up my wife had a border collie, Duchess, so she was familiar with the breed. On an April Saturday, piled into our Ford Mustang, our daughter content in her car seat, we headed to Princeton, NJ.

These were the days before GPS and Mapquest. Following a folded-out paper map, we made our way with several wrong turns. All these years later, I don't remember every detail, but I do remember walking to a barn, my daughter in my arms. Inside was a corral with several pup-

vious. The fatter of the two climbed all over our daughter who was giggling as the puppy nosed her and licked her and kept jumping into her lap. Brandy came home with us that day. She was tri-color possessing

the innate characteristics of a border collie: she was smart; she liked to herd the kids; and, was a loyal family companion for fourteen and a half years.

Since saying goodbye to Bailey, our most recent dog, about two months ago, we knew it would only be a matter of time before we welcomed another addition to our family. And it wasn't likely to be a long matter of time. My wife talked frequently about her love for border collies and her desire for a puppy, not an older dog. Before long each of us was scrolling

through websites. Of the many hundreds of border collie puppies we viewed from as far away as Ohio and New England, only two captured my wife's interest, both in Pennsylvania. Inquiries to one breeder went unanswered. The other breeder was very helpful and informative.

The picture puppy was one of

three in the litter. The two males had already found their forever homes. The picture puppy was still available. If we wanted to send a deposit, the breeder said he would hold her until we were able to make the 125-mile trip to meet her. We weren't comfortable doing that. Our experience has been that ultimately dogs pick you. That was our experience with Brandy, Quincy, Bailey and Chooch.

We told the breeder we'd take our chances and call him Friday night to see if she was still available. For four days, although we really didn't talk about it, my wife and I were apprehensive the puppy would find another home. Late Friday afternoon, a call to the breeder revealed she was still available. "We'll be up tomorrow morning," I told him.

We were out the door by 7 a.m., rather excited I admit. This time we had the benefit of GPS and made our way just fine, pulling into the long driveway of a bucolic farmhouse. The moment had arrived. Would there be a connection with the puppy? Would she be interested in us? Anxiety permeated those last few minutes. Finally, the picture puppy was running toward my wife's open arms. BAM! That was it. Connection made.

Before long, we were on our way home, a happy puppy resting on the lap of my very happy wife.

Pyper has brought an energy to our home not felt in a while. And we are certainly okay with that. But I do miss the kids being around to clean up after the puppy.



It's All About...

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

that he may be the older brother but she's the little sister, intent on getting her way.

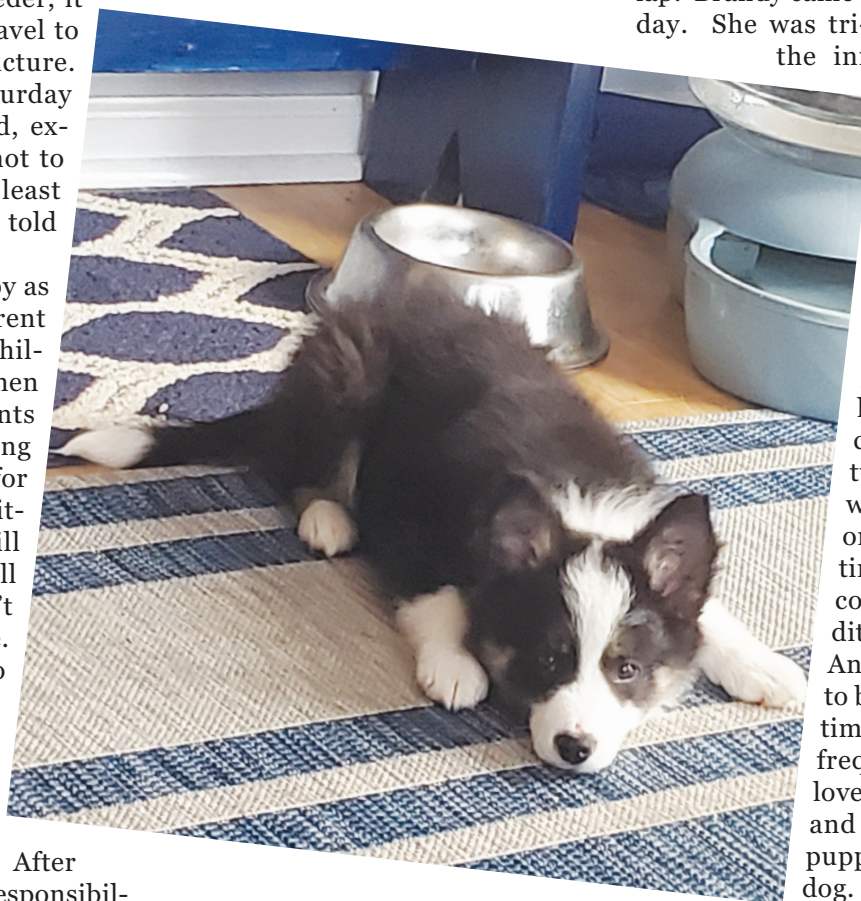
After a search far and wide, my wife was attracted to the online picture of a border collie puppy in Pennsylvania. After much contemplation and several long-distance discussions with the breeder, it was decided we would travel to meet the puppy in the picture. Early on a recent Saturday morning, we hit the road, expectations muted so as not to be disappointed. Or at least that's what my wife and I told each other.

Deciding to get a puppy as Empty Nesters is a different experience than when children are in the house. When the kids are home, parents have to be adults, stressing the importance of caring for a dog, extracting commitments that the kids will take the dog for a walk, will clean up after it and won't let it get on the furniture. Kids promise anything so ensure they get a puppy. But when kids are not part of the decision equation, parents don't have to act like adults and can let their inner child show. After all, we already know the responsibilities of caring for a dog so, we can concentrate on the sheer joy of bringing home a puppy.

During the days leading up to meeting the "picture" puppy, we set up a kennel, my wife washed and prepared blankets and we started throwing out names. The anticipation was enjoyable. Admittedly, Saturday morning couldn't come soon

pies. The breeder told us to watch the puppies for several minutes and then decide which one we'd like to meet. There were two that caught attention.

The two were fetched and we interacted with both puppies in a side area. The two were sisters, one being a little fatter than the other. In short order the choice became ob-



BJ's Club membership offer returns

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective April 15-29, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

With this offer, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Inner Circle Membership for \$25 and \$10 in cash awards to be used at the register, or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases, for \$75 and \$20 in cash awards, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Existing Inner Circle members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$55 and receive \$10 in cash awards to be used at the register. Existing Perks Rewards members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$110 and receive \$20 in cash awards, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Cash awards will be added to the member's primary membership account 24 hours after enrollment and must be used within 30 days from the membership enrollment date.

In addition to offering special membership benefits, BJ's will donate \$5 of each Inner Circle membership fee and \$10 of each Perks Rewards membership fee to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

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

This special promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in October. Current BJ's members whose

memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the spring offer. Members can check their current expiration dates by checking their BJ's receipts or the BJ's app, or by calling 1-800-257-2582.

BJ's operates over 200 clubs in 15 states from Maine to Florida, including a location in Millsboro, Delaware. The wholesale club offers a large assortment of products for home and business, savings of up to 25% off supermarket prices, a mobile app with digital coupons and online shopping at BJ's.com.

BJ's membership applications are available at the Ocean Pines Associa-

tion Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at ocean-pines.org. Applications must be returned with payment by April 29. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

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

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



family from page 1

"We're very open with our story," Sharon said. "We adopted them from Siberia, Russia, when they were just 23 months and 16 months old. They've attended Worcester Prep since preschool and have thrived there."

Both are now in tenth grade. Hunter plays soccer, basketball and lacrosse, and Dylan is a gymnast, tennis player and cross-country runner.

"We're very thankful and we're very appreciative to be a family. And we always try to give back in different ways, so that's when we came up with the idea to create Only Positive Stories," Sharon said.

"We wanted to help other people look at the bright side of things," Dylan added. "We were watching the news, and there were just a lot of negative stories happening during quarantine. Our mom always asked us to look for one positive thing every day, so we decided to attempt to spread positivity to other people."

Dylan and Hunter built the website themselves, along with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

"We find the positive stories from online and social media sources. We also post positive quotes on our social media," Dylan said.

The website includes links to several fundraisers started by the family.

"One of the things we just completed was donating a game room,

with the Scopp and Lennox families, to Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services," Hunter said. "Our current fundraiser is aimed at helping the homeless population in Worcester County."

The families raised more than \$3,000 – on a \$1,000 goal – to furnish the game room for local at-risk children. The room now includes an Xbox, smart TV and a popcorn machine, along with other kid-friendly games and activities.

The homeless initiative, done in conjunction with the Worcester Goes Purple nonprofit, will support 15 children from 11 local families. Dylan and Hunter teamed with fellow Worcester Prep students Ava and Gavin Conway, Jaden and Dillon Scopp, Ryan Lennox, Aleskey Klimins, Claire Windrow, Moorea Phillips, Izzy Huber, Vanessa Hall, Connor Ferguson, Sara Freih, and Cole Meyers to supply a washer and dryer in two locations "to help the homeless have an opportunity to have clean clothes."

They're also soliciting donations for food, clothing and gift cards.

"This campaign will be ongoing," said Debbie Smullen, president of Worcester Goes Purple. "The homeless population sees a big increase in Ocean City in the summer, so donations are always needed. Worcester Youth and Family will act as a permanent drop-off site."

Also on the website is a merchandising line based on the "Find Your

Strong in You" motto, with proceeds benefiting several charitable endeavors. As part of that, the organization held an essay contest to give away \$250, as well as "Find Your Strong in You" t-shirts, where the "O" in "Your" becomes an object of inspiration.

Hunter said all the efforts of Only Positive Stories have focused on helping the less fortunate in the Worcester County community.

"We feel like we're making an impact on the community around us," he said. "It's really nice to see the impact we're creating, even early on. Instead of being passive, we can be active and make a difference."

The Simons family will take part in Worcester Youth's annual Pirate Party in May, which raises tens of thousands of dollars for programs and services benefiting local children.

They also have plans to grant the wishes of local children, including arranging for free guitar lessons and donating art supplies.

"We hope this all just becomes contagious," Sharon said. "We've already had other families asking, 'How did you get your kids involved in that? Can I do something next?' We want more kids to join us. The more, the better!"

Sharon said Only Positive Stories recently became a nonprofit, which she hopes will open doors to more funding opportunities and "help us do even better things."

"What we want to do is give back to local youth," Sharon said. "Anything to

make them happy or succeed is what we're trying to do."

In the future, Sharon said they will continue to host contests and promote the "Find Your Strong" campaign, as well as continue to work with Worcester Youth and other local nonprofits.

"We're just getting started. The hardest part was coming up with the name and building the website," she said. "There's a lot of people here who want to give back and help others – they just don't know where to start. There are so many other kids at Worcester Prep that have the ability and the funds to help other kids, but they just don't know how. So, if it's our two that start something that grows, that's what matters."

"I also think having the kids do it is better than having the parents do it. And hopefully, this will continue to grow with the children when they go to college, and it will be something that could one day spread to other states," she added.

Dylan said the brothers will continue the campaign, with the hope that it spreads positivity during tough times.

"We have a lot more people helping out now. It feels good to know we're helping out those who are less fortunate," he said.

Visit www.onlypositivestories.com for more details, or to get involved or donate.

OPVFD announces state grant funding for south fire station

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department recently received a \$1.35 million grant from the State of Maryland to renovate and expand the south fire station.

Fire Department leadership plans to discuss more details about the project with the Ocean Pines public during a town hall, tentatively scheduled for May.

Fire Department Chief Steve Grunewald and President David VanGasbeck said the renovation is necessary because the current building, constructed in 1981, is undersized and does not meet the needs of the department and the community.

Among the issues with the current space, VanGasbeck said the kitchen floods during heavy rains, there is mold throughout the building, and the living quarters are “totally inadequate.” He compared the living area to a sardine can.

“Two years ago, we had gas lines that literally fell out of the ceiling,” VanGasbeck said, adding the building also does not meet National Fire Protection Association and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

VanGasbeck said the project is part renovation and part new construction. The existing bays, where fire and EMS

vehicles are housed, will remain intact.

“It is a renovation in the sense that we are retaining the existing three bays,” he said. “We are adding a two-story building ... and we are going to add another bay and a work area.”

VanGasbeck said the extra bay would house a third EMS vehicle, which currently stays at the north fire station. The two-story building would house the rest of the operation, which includes storage, office space, and living quarters.

Grunewald said the bottom line is that expanded quarters would last the fire department roughly 50 years and allow firefighters and EMS to keep their six-minute response time within the Ocean Pines community.

“That’s very important when you’re looking at any type of medical emergency and even any type of fire,” he said. “Time is the essence and, in this business ... thirty seconds to a minute makes a huge difference.

“If you look at the fires that we’ve had [and] the quick response, if we didn’t have a fire department here [in Ocean Pines], you’re looking at 15-20 minutes,” Grunewald continued. “Instead of burning one house down, you’d burn a block down.”

He added, in case of a medical emergency like a cardiac arrest, a pa-

tient would have “no chance of survival” with a 15-20-minute response time.

“Time is important. We also need to have the appropriate living spaces to actually provide these jobs,” Grunewald said, adding that competition from other agencies is fierce.

“Statistically in the United States, 5% of individuals that join a fire department actually stay with that department until they retire. So, if we’ve got 10 cadets maybe we’ll [keep] one, at best,” he said.

Grunewald said the older demographic in Ocean Pines means calls are likely to increase in the future, while the department continues to struggle with workforce issues. Both he and VanGasbeck said a renovated station is essential to help recruit and retain staff.

In November, VanGasbeck said

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola recommended that fire department officials meet with local and state representatives. That eventually included Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Del.



David VanGasbeck

Wayne Hartman, County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting, and a representative for U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, along with Larry Perrone

please see *station* on page 14

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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Special Easter market in Ocean Pines

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market will offer an egg-celent selection of seasonal items during the annual Easter Market, Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

Market Manager David Bean said a highlight of the market this year will be Brightman Egg Farm.

“Brightman will offer colorful eggs from its flock of Easter Egger hens, which are a hybrid or mixed-breed combination of chickens carrying the blue-egg gene with ones that lay brown eggs,” Bean said. “Eggs from these birds may be any shade of blue or brown, or occasionally pink or pale yellow.”

Synder’s Produce & Beautiful

Things will feature potted Easter flowers and hanging baskets for the home and garden.

Additionally, country music artist Sarah Campbell will perform on the marketplace stage starting at 9 a.m., and the Poddar Brothers will twist and turn balloons into fun animal shapes for children.

Bean said many merchants will accept special orders at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, this Saturday, April 9, for pickup at the Easter Market.

The market is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Controlled burn moved to mid-May

A planned controlled burn of the Seasons Plaza commercial building on Route 589 has been moved to mid-May, because of permitting issues.

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department held training sessions at the site last month.

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. The opportunity was also extended to neighboring agencies.

“It is very rare to have an opportu-

nity 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.”

A controlled burn and demolition of the building was tentatively scheduled for April 9, but Grunewald said requirements related to demolition and removal permits would postpone that activity until the middle of next month.

He said the fire department would continue to use the building for training exercises for the next several weeks, until the actual burn.



Support - Recently, representatives of the Knights of Columbus Ocean City Council #9053 and their Lady Knights Auxiliary, visited the Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health (GC) in Berlin to present a \$5,000 donation as a result of efforts to raise money to support Life. Throughout the month of January, the Knights designated any profits from their Annual January Bingo for Babies to go to the Grace Center. Thanks go out to all who supported this effort through working or attending the Bingo nights, especially because two nights had to be cancelled due to weather. Pictured are: **Joann Manole**, executive director of GC, **Tom Anderson**, bingo chair, **Kay Windsor**, administrative assistant at GC, **Dee Matthews**, president of the Lady Knights Auxiliary, **Tom Herwig**, Grand Knight and **Joe Kostelac**, Faithful Navigator.

Blood Bank to donate to Ukrainian refugees

Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD) is partnering with Global Blood Fund (GBF) to support their efforts in Ukraine. Through April, presenting donors can register their interest and BBD will donate \$1 to GBF’s efforts to support Ukrainian refugees looking for a new home across the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America.

“This campaign just began and already we have received a tremendous response — our donors show up not just for their neighbors, but for the people around the world who need help,” said Patty Killeen, Senior Executive Director at Blood Bank of Delmarva. “We’re proud to work with Global Blood Fund and to help support Ukrainian refugees in need of sanctuary.”

GBF is a charity dedicated to reducing worldwide inequities in blood safety and sufficiency. They are partnering with blood centers around the country to support Ukrainian people fleeing war.

“The terrible situation in Ukraine means that millions of its citizens are displaced and in need of a new home. We are grateful to Blood Bank of Delmarva and to its blood donors for supporting our initiative to help Ukrainians find safe refuge,” said Gavin Evans, Executive Director at Global Blood Fund.

Donors can visit delmarvablood.org/ukraine, where they can sign up to donate and confirm they want their donation to count towards the charitable proceeds.

To make an appointment at a blood drive near you, donors can call 1-800-933-2566 or visit delmarvablood.org/ukraine.

Donating blood is safe, and we have taken extra precautions to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19. As always, people are not eligible to donate if they’re experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms.

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Free Timeless Tennis lessons

The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club will offer free Timeless Tennis lesson clinics on Saturday, April 23 at 11 a.m. and Thursday, April 28 at 4 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

Timeless Tennis is played with a regular tennis racquet and a lower-bounce tennis ball. Equipment will be provided at both clinics.

The clinics are free, but email registration is required. To sign up, email OPpaddle2020@gmail.com.

Timeless Tennis Director Araceli Popen said both new and seasoned players are welcome.

“If you have never played a racquet sport, we will help you develop your skills. If you used to or still play tennis, and you have limitations playing on a regulation-size tennis court, Timeless tennis is for you!” Popen said. “The sport is played on the fenced platform tennis courts that are one-third the size of a regulation tennis court, so it’s never too far to the ball.

“New players typically are able to join a drop-in after a lesson or two, and we are conveniently located at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on

Manklin Creek Road. There are drop-ins, and ladies’, men’s and co-ed groups that play,” she continued. “It’s really a fun-loving group of people. Just come on down, and we will get you playing!”

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/timeless-tennis.

Golf scholarship deadline approaching

Members of the Ocean Pines Golf Club and the Ocean Pines Golf Members’ Council will award several scholarships of \$2,000 or more to 2022 high school graduates in support of their college plans.

The Scholarship Committee of the Golf Members’ Council will begin meeting in early May to review scholarship applications. The committee will announce scholarship awards later in May.

“Those who have an application should return it to their school’s college guidance office by the April 29

*please see **scholarship** on page 12*



Donation Ocean City Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1091 members **Bob Gilmore** (l) and **Chuck Porter** (r) presented a check for \$1,000 to **William Kozma** to help finance his Eagle Scout project, building a gazebo at Most Blessed Sacrament School for the students and teachers to use. The gazebo will be dedicated in memory of Mark Record, former Principal and William’s mentor.

Kozma is a member of Selbyville Scout Troop 2173. He is a junior at Stephen Decatur High School.

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The Round Earth

Even if you are not an astronaut, we all accept the fact that the earth is round. The question is how does the curvature of the earth effect our boating.

I, for one, didn't give it much thought when I was a landlubber. For all practical purposes, the world was flat with lots of peaks and valleys. I can't see very far in a valley but I can see forever from the top of a mountain so the relative flatness of mother earth was irrelevant. However, that well-grounded foundation becomes ungrounded when you look at the ocean.

Have you ever stood on the beach and tried to guess how far away a ship was? It may be five or 10 miles away; but, if it is, you will not see the whole ship because it is over the horizon. All you can see is the upper portions. In fact, the reality is if you are six-foot tall and standing at the water's edge, you can only see about three miles of water. So, as a rule of thumb, if you can see the bow wake, it's within three miles. If you cannot see the bow wake, the ship is over the horizon and more than three miles away.

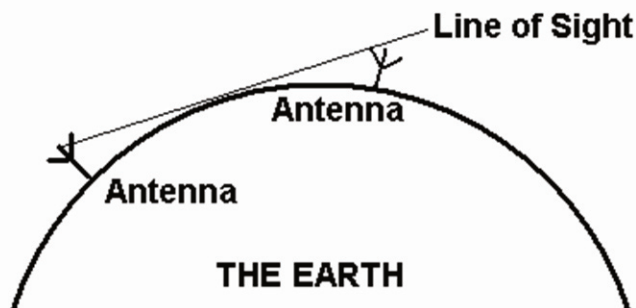
Here's another example. If you were on an island beach and there is another island six miles away, you could see the island but if your friend on that island is also standing in the surf like you, you would barely see his/her hand wave over his/her head.

At first, this is a difficult concept to grasp. How often have we driven into a city and seen the skyline from 10 or 20 miles away or have caught sight of a mountain 30 or more miles ahead? That's because they are high, well above the horizon, and the reverse is also true. If you stand on Pike's Peak in Colorado with an elevation of 14,115

feet you can see 145 miles, almost to the Kansas border.

How does that relate to recreational boating? Well, if you're six-foot tall and standing on the deck with four feet of freeboard, you can see about four miles of water. Beyond that you can only see the upper portions of what you are looking at. For example, the view from the top of a 10-story building (~100 feet) to the horizon is about 12 miles. So, if you are approaching from the sea, you would see the top of the 10-story building when you were 16 miles out (your four miles to the horizon plus the 12 miles over the horizon to the building).

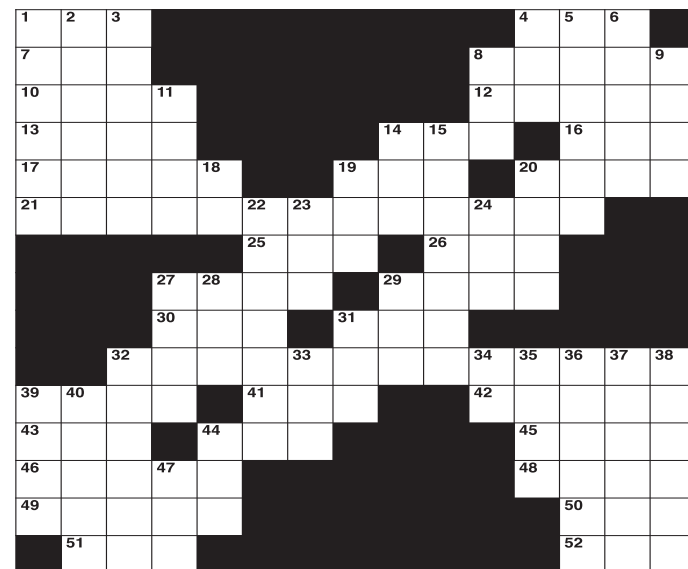
This is called the optical 'line of



sight.' However, to see someone waving from the top of the building 16 miles away requires really big binoculars which is a subject for another column.

Marine radios are also line of sight communication devices. However, the radio 'line of sight' is slightly farther because radio waves can be refracted and appear to bend around the curvature of the earth and therefore be picked up by sensitive antennas a little over the horizon but don't bet the farm on it.

Refraction means that an indeterminate amount of energy (radio signal) can be deflected off particles in the atmosphere and bounced over the



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Runs PCs
- 4. An entertaining, eccentric person
- 7. Small, faint constellation
- 8. Indigo bush
- 10. Not excessive
- 12. African antelope
- 13. A way to fly a glider
- 14. Tough softly
- 16. In the course of
- 17. Early Mesoamerican people
- 19. A way to drop down
- 20. Mistake!
- 21. Housing developments
- 25. Baseball stat
- 26. No (Scottish)
- 27. Type of cuisine
- 29. British Army infantrymen (abbr.)
- 30. Marry
- 31. Buffer solution
- 32. Legendary rock band
- 39. Recording industry show
- 41. A way to consume
- 42. Lake in Botswana
- 43. Political action committee
- 44. Field force unit (abbr.)
- 45. Very eager
- 46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 48. Nocturnal insect
- 49. Challenged to perform
- 50. Thus far
- 51. Famed NYC arena
- 52. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Small, purple-black fruit
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. Split pulses
- 5. Northwestern Mexico town
- 6. Edible fruit
- 8. Upper-class southern young woman
- 9. Sums up
- 11. The most worthless part
- 14. Dash
- 15. Sufferings
- 18. Clearinghouse (abbr.)
- 19. Indian title of respect
- 20. Poems meant to be sung
- 22. Actor Cooper
- 23. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- 24. Clumsy person
- 27. Figures
- 28. Polish Baltic coast peninsula
- 29. Old cloth
- 31. Explosive
- 32. Automobiles
- 33. 007's creator
- 34. The Volunteer State
- 35. Old Irish alphabet
- 36. Japanese city
- 37. Portrayed emotion
- 38. Observers
- 39. Mimicked
- 40. Polite reference to a woman
- 44. Male parent
- 47. Peter Griffin's daughter



Answers for April 6

Delmarva Birding Weekend returns

The 2022 Delmarva Birding Weekend has evolved into Delmarva birding week when hundreds of nature enthusiasts will flock to the shore April 20-25 to enjoy the full array of mid-Atlantic birds as the region welcomes warblers, tanagers, and other spring migrants and prepares to say goodbye to its loons, falcons, and waterfowl as they head north. Registration for the expanding event is now open at www.delmarvabirding.com.

bot St. in Ocean City, and a day-long trip to Smith Island will include their world-famous cakes in the form of crab and confection.

Spring Birding Weekend staples continue to include an Ocean City inlet and Berlin Heron Park trip, the Chincoteague Bay Landings trip, and Ayers, Pocomoke, and Nassawango paddles. Nature lovers can register for just one field trip, or multiple field trips each day.

New this year is a new walk into the depths of the 60,000-acre Nassawango woodlands where songbirds still cling to the vestiges of the once-mighty eastern forest. Trips will again include birding the Harriet Tubman Byway, a jaunt around the wildlands by Phillips Landing near Laurel, De., and a stroll through the Delaware Botanic gardens where folks will be fascinated by the profusion of feathers and flowers.

Guided by local fun-loving birders with decades-long experience, the trips will accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Every year, birdwatchers from surrounding states descend on Delmarva for the event.

"This is one of our biggest nature-oriented weekends," said Melanie Pursel, Tourism Director for Worcester County, Maryland. "People go crazy over the number of warblers and shorebirds, but they will see a lot more

*please see **birding** on page 13*



Outreach - Local seamstresses from Dress Ministry (formerly Pillowcase Ministry) recently met at the Snow Hill library with Tom and Beverly Brumbley of Evangelistic World Outreach, EWO, for an update on their Haitian ministry. EWO has served the people of Haiti since 1972. Dress Ministry supplies dresses, shirts, sleep mats, shower kits, dignity bags, and backpacks to EWO. For more information email Barbara Entwistle, project director, at bentwistle47@gmail.com or contact the Brumbleys at delmasgent@yahoo.com.

Taste of Finer Things returns

On Wednesday, May 11, Coastal Hospice will host their annual signature event, Taste of Finer Things! This event features a pairing of fine wine and delectable food from local restaurants. This evening is a chance to sample some of the best that the Ocean City area has to offer. Reservations for this sell out event are \$100/person and includes open bar, wine & food pairings, live entertainment and dancing by "On the Edge" Band, free play, and so much more at the Ocean Downs Casino between 6 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Bistro, Seacrets, Sello's Italian Oven & Bar, Sunset Grille, Taste Events / Off the Hook, Touch of Italy, and Wockenfuss Candies.

To learn more about Taste of Finer Things, sponsor or attend, please visit www.coastalhospice.org/taste/.

Participating Sponsors will include Atlantic Hotel, Barn 34, Candy Kitchen Shoppes, Crabs to Go, Desserts by Rita, Fins Ale House & Raw Bar, Fish Tales, Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill, OC Wasabi, Poseidon's Pub at Ocean Downs, Rice House

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

When your wedding is sponsored by Sherwin Williams ...



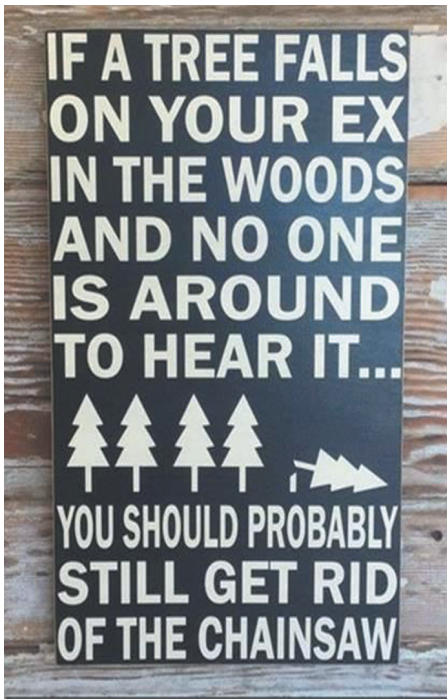
Wife: I have a bag full of used clothing I'd like to donate.

Husband: Why not just throw it in the trash? That's much easier.

Wife: But there are poor starving people who can really use all these clothes.

Husband: Honey, anyone who fits into your clothing is not starving.

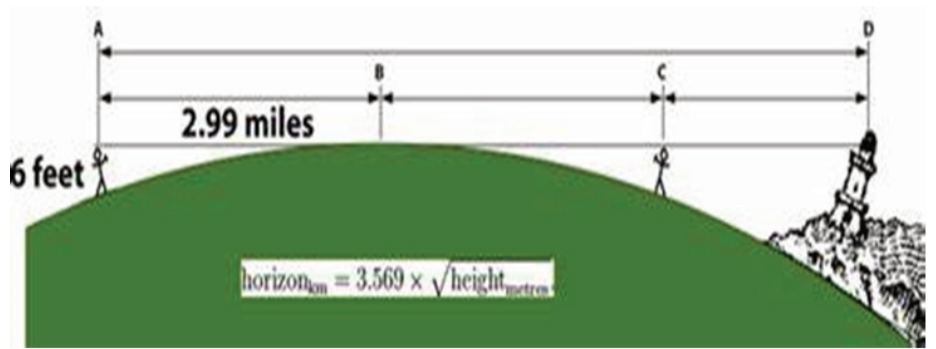
Husband is recovering from a head injury now 😂😂



I'm best man at my buddy's second wedding... Is it appropriate to open my dinner speech with "Welcome back everyone"

Laughing at your own mistakes lengthens your life.

Laughing at your wife's mistakes shortens it.



knots
from page 10

horizon producing a weak signal. This is analogous to seeing the reflection of an approaching car's headlights around a bend in the road on a dark night before the car actually comes into sight. It's hit or miss so to speak.

Officially, marine radios can only communicate if both antennas are within sight. That's why they have a typical published range of 20-25 miles and why manufacturers recommend that you transmit on the one-volt level even though the radio may have a six-volt transmission option. More power does not help the signal bend around the earth for more range. More range is a function of the antenna's height, quality and atmospheric conditions.

Obviously, we have a need and solutions for communicating further than 25 miles at sea. Technologies such as single sideband radios (short wave) refract signals off the ionosphere and there are phone services that relay signals through geostationary satellites but the marine radio is usually adequate for the recreational boater.

This line-of-sight restriction caused by the curvature of the earth can be problematic. That's why it is required that you monitor channel 16 whenever you are underway. Someone may be calling for help that is too far away for the Coast Guard to hear, but you hear

it. In that case, you should notify the Coast Guard and offer to act as a communication relay until the Coast Guard can establish direct communication and put an assistance plan in place.

So, in summary, Christopher Columbus could have maintained ship-to-ship communication between the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria* with marine radios but he would have needed a short wave, single sideband radio to inform Queen Isabella that he wanted to stay in the Bahamas and open the first all-inclusive resort and casino.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

On a personal note, I hope some of you are enjoying reading this column as much as I have enjoyed preparing it. I checked my files and this is my 50th effort. I've covered quite a few of the recreational boating topics that I find of interest. Let me know if you have any topics that you want me to address in future editions.

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

scholarship
from page 9

deadline," Scholarship Committee Chairman Bob Long said.

Students seeking an application may download one online, here: <https://oceanpines.org//documents/10184/89280/Scholarship+Application+2022.pdf>.

"These scholarships are intended for local students who have shown an interest in golf – active participation in competitive golf is not a requirement," Long said. "Golf team members and recreational golfers, along with those interested in golf management and turf science, are encouraged to apply."

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council has awarded more than \$35,000 to local seniors during the last six years.

For more information, contact Long at rmlong@aol.com.

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birding
from page 11

than that birding with our guides around Assateague Island and our cypress swamps near Snow Hill. Newport Farms and Ayers Creek are especially beautiful this time of year.”

“The April weekend is spectacular,” said Southern Delaware Tourism Director Scott Thomas. “Imagine hiking a trail at Redden State Forest to be met with one of the most beautiful crimson reds you’ve ever seen in the form of a Summer Tanager. Or spend an afternoon at Prime Hook or Bombay National Wildlife Refuges followed by happy hour in Lewes. That’s what the weekend is all about.”

Social events for new and experienced birders are scheduled throughout the weekend. These socially distanced “Tally Rallies” are held at local breweries, bars, and restaurants, and allow participants to add to the species checklist and swap nature stories with new friends.

Indeed participants recount the event in terms of experiences rather than simply observing birds – a majestic Bald Eagle soaring over the marsh, a Tri-colored Heron in breeding plumage catching fish, or the eerie hoot and shadow of a Barred Owl at dusk. An outdoor experience is the true draw.

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country’s premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by our coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and previous Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

If boasting that many species isn’t

enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they’ve helped Delmarva’s birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation. Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants, and shops. Participants are encouraged to remind local businesses that they are here to enjoy Delmarva’s natural areas and the birds that inhabit them. This is more important now than ever.

“It’s our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and bald cypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation,” said guide and organizer Dave Wilson. “During the Weekend, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are normally off-limits to birders, and our waterborne trips go where the birds are.”

Wilson added that most trips are not physically taxing and that the event provides a rare opportunity to tally 100 species in a day in places that are normally inaccessible to the public.

Sponsor and registration information, field trip descriptions and other resources for Delmarva Birding are available at www.delmarvabirding.com. To become a sponsor or for additional information, please call 443-614-0261 or email dmvbirds@gmail.com.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway.

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Recognized

The Pine’eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Charlie Davis as the April crafter of the month.

Originally from the Glen Burnie area, Davis spent three years in the Vocational Technical Center in the Anne Arundel County School system, where he majored in cabinet making.



After graduating from high school, Davis worked for his father in a family-owned construction business building houses. During that time, he realized that woodworking would be a lifelong passion.

Davis later saw an opportunity for a career change. He took a position with the federal government as a cabinet maker and held that role for three decades, until his retirement.

Today, Davis continues his love of woodworking at the Ocean Pines Artisan Craft Store, where he makes crafts using a scroll saw, and wood-turning projects with a lathe. His work expresses themes of patriotism, support for the military, religious faith, and his love of the sea and animals.

“I have no scrap wood, I just have wood I haven’t used yet,” Davis said.

View Davis’s projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Currently, the gift shop is seeking new crafters who would like to sell their handmade crafts in the shop. For more information about joining the Pine’eer Artisan Gift Shop, contact shop managers Diane Denk at dianedenk@comcast.net or Kimberly Perrone at perone4499@gmail.com.



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OCEAN PKWY	
	

Southgate - Ocean Pines
(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

marton-rollins
from page 3

could remember.”

“I grew up with a sense that police are here to help, and I’m here to try to help as many people as I can. And for people to truly, deeply believe that police officers are here to do anything other than help, sometimes it’s tough,” he added.

Marton-Rollins said he was working for Emergency Medical Services in Westchester County during the off-season in 2020, when COVID first arrived. The area was among the first in the nation to experience the pandemic. “I was there when we were first figuring out what COVID was – we had no idea,” he said. “We were told, ‘Here, we have this new respiratory virus running around. And, oh, by the way, we’re running out of masks and we don’t have anything for you guys.’”

He remembers calling a friend who was working as a nurse in New York City, and finding her in tears.

“She was actually crying and said, ‘I don’t know what I’m doing anymore. We don’t have ventilators. I have people dying all the time and I don’t know why I’m in this career right now,’” he said.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 14	Low	12:29 AM
	High	6:56 AM
	Low	12:56 PM
	High	7:15 PM
F 15	Low	1:18 AM
	High	7:40 AM
	Low	1:36 PM
	High	7:59 PM
Sa 16	Low	2:05 AM
	High	8:24 AM
	Low	2:17 PM
	High	8:44 PM
Su 17	Low	2:52 AM
	High	9:09 AM
	Low	2:59 PM
	High	9:30 PM
M 18	Low	3:41 AM
	High	9:55 AM
	Low	3:43 PM
	High	10:18 PM
Tu 19	Low	4:31 AM
	High	10:43 AM
	Low	4:30 PM
	High	11:08 PM
W 20	Low	5:26 AM
	High	11:33 AM
	Low	5:21 PM

Along with the obvious safety risks, Marton-Rollins said policing during a pandemic is difficult because body language is a key part of investigation. He remembers a conversation with Det. Sgt. Joseph Bailey, one of his mentors in Ocean Pines.

“He has law enforcement experience all over the place and he’s an absolutely incredible investigator. And he turned to me and said, ‘How in the world are we supposed to do an investigation with masks on?’

Half of what you see about a person is their facial expressions and having an interaction with somebody.” Marton-Rollins said. “There are a lot of challenges, and it’s just a learning curve.”

Marton-Rollins said the Ocean Pines community has largely been very supportive of police, something that he’s grateful for.

“As a police officer, you’re not allowed to have a bad day. No matter what your opinions or views or emotions, or any fights you’ve had with your significant other or family member, you have to check that at the door, because when you put on the gun and the badge you are the objective party now,” he said. “That by itself is an incredibly stressful role. Add, on top of that, what we respond to. When that call comes in, we have to expect the worst, so it’s constant stress.

“But the public for the most part

station
from page 7

and Doug Parks from the Ocean Pines Board and Bank of Ocean City President and CEO Reid Tingle.

“The chief and I have been working on this for over a year, getting our feasibility study ready,” VanGasbeck said. “In November, we got to the point where John recommended to us ... that we should probably meet with the politicians to start talking about funding.

“The whole idea of that was to show them [the state of the facility] ... and to talk in terms of how we could get funding,” VanGasbeck added. “The product of that meeting was people going back and looking to see what they could do.”

The current estimate for the entire project is roughly \$7 million.

VanGasbeck said Carozza and Hartman reached out last week to share the news that the fire depart-

ment would receive \$1.35 million through Gov. Larry Hogan’s supplemental budget. There is also a bond initiative through the Maryland State Legislature that could add more state funding.

“Del. Hartman and Sen. Carozza worked extraordinarily hard to get this money, and they continue to work extraordinarily hard,” VanGasbeck said. “This is not something that the chief or I could do ... that was their effort that did it.”

Fire department officials hope to come close to matching that amount with in-house funds.

“We’re trying to match it out of our savings, and we’re going to get very close to that,” VanGasbeck said. They said the rest of the funding could come from the Ocean Pines assessment, spread out over the course of a 30-year period.

“The process from here on in is, we’re going to have a town hall, probably in the May timeframe,” VanGas-

beck said. “We have a presentation ... that the chief and I are working on, as well as our vendor.”

He said Carozza and Hartman also agreed to take part in the town hall.

“Subsequent to that, there will be a referendum because it’s over \$1 million,” VanGasbeck said. “It would be very difficult for me to think that the community would not support that level of funding, when the state government – our delegate and our senator – worked so hard to get that part of the funding.”

“I think we’ve done a real good job planning for the future with this building,” Grunewald said. “It should have been done a while ago, but Dave and I have spent hundreds and hundreds of hours planning strategically to make sure that this building, and the community, is set” for the future.

VanGasbeck and Grunewald said an announcement of the date, time and location for the town hall would be made in the next several weeks.

forcement will bring, but his present focus is on learning as much as possible.

“The police world is so crazy, and you don’t know what tomorrow brings,” he said. “Right now, I’m just trying to soak up all the experience that I have around me.”

“You don’t have the opportunity to work side by side with a detective in Ocean City,” he continued. “Being able to pick their brain and see how they operate and learn from them – you’re really not going to find that anywhere except for a place like Ocean Pines. Det. Sgt. Bailey has been a wealth of information and I’ve loved working with him.”

Marton-Rollins said he also enjoys the community policing approach of working in Ocean Pines, which means interacting with people each day.

“They’re genuinely lovely people here,” he said. “And everyone is stressed out right now with the pandemic and everything else that’s going on, but I don’t want people to think that Ocean Pines Police are here to do anything but help.”

“I work with a lot of great, young officers just starting out their careers here. They want to have that honorable, respectable career in law enforcement, and they’re using Ocean Pines as that building block,” he continued. “So, we get that opportunity to foster that really cool relationship. It’s a cool place.”

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