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General Manager updates board on operations

General Manager John Viola provided updates on the following items during his monthly report to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors on March 18.

Police Department

Viola said there is still an ongoing investigation of theft from a storage shed used by the Ocean Pines Police Department. The Board originally released a statement on the matter on Jan. 3, and Viola said there are no updates that could be made public at this time.

In terms of recruitment, he said there are five or six open positions for Police officers. The good news, he said, is the department has received at least 20 resumes and 10 job applications for those positions.

Police salaries were recently increased to be more competitive with neighboring agencies, and the Association is looking into enhancements for Police pension programs.

More on open positions

Viola said the Association is also working to fill open positions for Aquatics, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks, as well as one position at the front desk and a management position at the Racquet Center. Ocean Pines hosted a job fair on March 11 and staff will attend a job fair at Stephen Decatur High School on April 27.

More on public safety

Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin said an outside Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been installed at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center. The cost was \$2,900.

She said an additional unit was ordered for the Police Station, and staff training for the units has been scheduled.

Use of an AED unit helped save a customer's life at the Clubhouse Bar & Grille in 2021. The units are available at virtually every Association office and amenity building.

Racquet Center

The Racquet Center has seen significant upgrades during each of the last four years. Viola said this year's schedule of work includes tennis court resurfacing, clubhouse repairs, and a new shade structure.

In addition, he said former Board member and architect Frank Brown is working on design sketches for a new clubhouse. He said those designs would be presented to the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee for feedback.

"I would hope to have something worked through the advisory committee and the [Board] liaison ... by September," Viola said, adding if a need is determined, the building could be part of the next budget cycle.

Dog Park

Viola said the Association has "done a lot" at the dog park, including cleaning the walkway, applying new mulch, and adding a new storage shed. He said items for a four-piece agility course for dogs have also been ordered.

Marina

Viola said replacement of the gas lines and Marina fuel "C Dock" are underway and should be finished, weather permitting, by early May. The roughly \$500,000 project was approved by the Board last September and was required by new environmental standards of the Maryland Department of the Environment.

"We will have a top-notch Marina dock when done," Viola said.

Leaf program

Martin said changes to the leaf collec-

tion program are coming, after Board and budget approval in February.

Because of the high operational cost, she said leaf vacuum trucks would be used for drainage ditch maintenance only, and not for widespread cleaning of the ditches. Property owners will be responsible for clearing out drainage ditches on their properties.

The Public Works yard will be open for drop-off of yard debris, but users must first get a sticker from Public Works to display in their car. Stickers will be free this year. To get a sticker, call Public Works at 410-641-7425.

Martin said Public Works would continue to pick up bagged leaves in November and December, and Republic Services would also continue their normal collection programs.

Financial updates

Viola said the Association was favorable to budget by about \$34,000 in February. Year to date, Ocean Pines is positive to budget by roughly \$1.1 million.

On the favorability, Viola added, "90% of it is revenues."

"We hear about open positions and that is a number that's in there ... but the bulk of our favorability is organic revenue generated by the team [and] the amenities," he said.

Banking questions

Viola said the national and global banking crisis has been well publicized. However, he said conditions are more stable locally and with the Bank of Ocean City, the Association's primary banker.

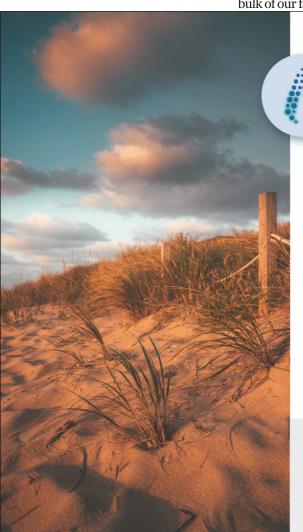
"I assure everybody that we have met with our bankers. They were in the GM's office first thing Monday morning," he said. "And everything is secured."

Viola said Association dollars are safely invested in CDARs that are FDIC insured by the U.S. Federal Government.

"We reviewed that [and] we're comfortable with that," he said. "We are also opening another bank account with another bank, and we are transferring some money there, working with the Bank of Ocean City so that we have money in another place, as we cover operations throughout [the year]."

Other questions

For additional questions, email info@oceanpines.org any time or call 410-641-7717 during normal business hours



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Ridgely named Teacher of the Year

education, Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) announced the 2023 Worcester County Teacher of the Year: Jaimie Ridgely of Stephen Decatur Middle School. During its annual Teacher of the Year celebration, Worcester County Board of Educa-

tion President Todd Ferrante made the announcement following a program honoring all 14 school-level teachers of the year and their commitment to providing a highquality education to the young people of Worcester County.

"I am so proud of both Jaimie and all of the incredible teachers we have honored this evening," said Superintendent of Taylor. Schools Lou "Jaimie 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 building student literacy is to be commended."

A National Board Certified teacher, Ridgely prioritizes writerly identity exploration, joy, and agency in her Enrichment and Technology Education classes at Stephen Decatur Middle School. She believes community, voice, choice, and reflections are the cornerstones of building a student-centered classroom.

"Writing has transformational properties for both writer and reader. When one discovers their voice and their ability to capture their ideas with words, then they hold the power to make a difference in the world. When students learn that their words can have a lasting impact, then they become aware of the value of their gift," Ridgely said in her portfolio. "In this way, teaching students to write well becomes an act of service to the world, one writer at a time."

Ridgely has earned a bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Salisbury University, where she also serves as an adjunct professor. With over 21 years of teaching experience,

In a celebration of excellence in Ridgely also serves on her school improvement team, is a peer mentor and professional learning facilitator, and Worcester LEAD teacher. She also dedicates time afterschool to stoking the interests of her students through programs like her Book Club, Dungeons & Dragons, and tu-



Jaimie Ridgely

toring sessions.

Ridgely was one of four finalists announced during the program, who were in the running for the prestigious title. The other outstanding finalists were Michelle Bradley of Pocomoke High School, Silviya Gallo of Worcester Technical High School, and Wendy Macrides of Ocean City Elementary School.

Ridgely was selected by a panel of judges representing experts in the field of education, community leaders, and the current reigning 2022 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, Page | 2 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.



Back again - After several years of Covid and the pandemic, the Drawbridge Diners of Ocean Pines are once again enjoying their monthly get together. On March 27, twenty-two neighbors on Drawbridge Road gathered for dinner at Taylors Restaurant thanks to the efforts of Jackie Choate who coordinated the dinner.



Evening of celebration

Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club members attended attendance the Worcester County Teacher of the Year Banquet held March 24.

From Left to Right: Charlie Smith (former president of the Optimist Club); Cheryl Brown (member and also the Library and Media Specialist at Stephen Decatur Middle School): Todd Ferrante (member and the president of the Worcester County Board of Education); Christina Dolomount-Brown (Optimist Club president); Lynn Barton (member and principal of Stephen Decatur Middle School); Mark Shipley (member and assistant principal of Stephen Decatur Middle School).

'Vote' sign contest to help spread word on OPA Board election

The Ocean Pines Communications Committee will host a design a "vote" sign contest to help spread the word for the 2023 Ocean Pines Board of Directors election.

Homeowners and residents are asked to design an 18 x 24-inch lawn sign. The contest is open to all age groups.

The winning sign(s) will be announced by the Communications Committee on June 2. The winner(s) will receive a \$100 Yacht Club gift card.

Winning signs will be displayed around the community as part of the voter turnout effort.

"We hope our homeowners and residents will show off their artistic talents and send us their best work!" Committee Chairperson Cheryl Jacobs said. "The committee feels strongly about increasing voter turnout in Ocean Pines, and we believe this is a fun and hopefully effective way to help spread the word for the upcoming Board

Sign submissions may be sent to Jenny Cropper-Rines at jcrines@gmail.com. All submissions must be received by May 15. Submissions must be in either jpg, png, or pdf formats.

Up, up and away

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



It's All About. . . By Chip Bertino

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

The year was 1974. I was nine, my brother was six. Richard Nixon was in the White House. Archie Bunker ruled the airwaves and Walter Cronkite each evening used words like OPEC, rationing, miles per gallon, Saudi Arabia and carpooling.

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

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

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

While my parents, and ever other car owner, worried whether there would be enough gas available to fill the

tank, the concern rattling around in my eight-year-old head was whether there would be gas available for my grandfather's boat so we could go fishing. It was important to keep priorities straight. When Gramps visited, he assured me there

would always be gas available for the boat. Not to worry he told me. And I believed him.

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

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

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

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

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





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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds OceanPinesForum.com

HOA closed meetings

Berlin resident Jason Walter filed a complaint with the Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board claiming the Berlin City Council violated open meeting provisions of state law when it went into closed session to discuss a contract between Berlin and the Berlin Fire Company. The Compliance Board sided with Walter.

This issue of closed meetings may be of interest in OPA, where the Board of Directors frequently meets in closed sessions under sometimes questionable circumstances.

Municipalities are governed by a different set of rules than private entity HOAs. However, given the nature of the Compliance Board's response to Waters' Berlin complaint, there may be some applicability to consider.

For example, the Maryland HOA Act governing closed board meetings allows specific issues to be discussed in closed sessions. For example, two frequently used by the OPA Board of Directors are:

- -Consultation with legal counsel on legal matters;
- -Consideration of the terms or conditions of a business transaction in the negotiation stage if the disclosure could adversely affect the economic interests of the homeowners association;

The issue, of course, is how such language is interpreted. In the Berlin case, the Compliance Board said Berlin's use of a municipality's legal advice exception covers only the interchange between the lawyer and the public body. Once the advice is given, the body must return to an open session.

Regarding business transactions or contracts, the Compliance Board said going into a closed session was only appropriate to discuss competitive bids, not non-competitive contracts. Past OPA boards, as one example, have met in closed sessions to discuss non-competitive parking contracts with Seacrets.

We do not know how the Consumer Protection Division of the Maryland Attorney General's office, the entity handling HOA complaints, would decide on a complaint from an association member making charges similar to those made by Walter.

It should be noted that any decisions of the Consumer Protection Division or the Maryland Open Meeting Compliance Board are only advisory opinions. Anyone seeking a binding legal decision on some issue must seek redress in Court, and those advisory opinions may not even be used in a court case. Fighting "City Hall" is no romp in the park.

Schools should be hardened

When will the Worcester County Board of Education harden our schools? All federal facilities are hardened having armed security as well as the Supreme Court, Capital Building, airports, the TSA sporting events, local police stations, etc. etc. etc. Even the recent Board of Education meeting had armed police stationed in the hallway. How is it that our children are not secured with armed personnel?

I believe that an armed, uniformed person will be taken out first by a deranged shooter allowing him/her to proceed, freely in the carnage. Volunteer school staff members can be trained in the proper, safe use of a firearm and be permitted to conceal carry in our schools. This would be the greatest deterrence to an assassin for he/she will not know where return fire will come from. The National Rifle Association has a program specifically designed to train school personnel and a program called "School Shield" which will help defray the cost of this security. Many schools throughout the country have signed on to this program. Some shallow thinkers claim that this would lead to a shoot- out. Yes, of course, but the difference is that the bullets will be going the other way greatly shortening the carnage. These shallow thinkers don't and will not understand that a bad man with a gun is always stopped by a good man with a gun. They cannot get past the emotion and thought of guns in our schools will make them SAFER for our children. They are also consumed with

the optics of gun toting staff members. Hey, how does the optics of our children's blood all over a classroom and children hysterically crying appeal to you?? Trained staff members in our schools will be able to save lives by saving the precious minutes it will take for the police to arrive, carrying guns, to stop the killing. How is it that it is ok for the police to arrive with guns in the "gun free zone" but it is not ok for school staff volunteers to already be at ground zero ready to save lives??

The other suggestion I have is to take down those maniac attracting signs that read: "THIS IS A GUN FREE ZONE". More gun violence has taken place in gun free zones then in any other areas of our country. They are danger zones! Again, shallow thinking people feel good about these signs. Now, think deeper and try to get into the mind of a psychotic would-be mass murderer. Do you really "think" that a nut will be persuaded in any way shape or form not to kill a dozen or so of our beloved children because he or she read this sign??? The people that are persuaded are the very people that could shoot back and stop the mayhem. These signs give the assassin a secure feeling that they will not be

Let's do this NOW before it becomes our turn to cry. Let us learn from others' horrible misfortunes!! Keep in mind the Boy Scout's motto, "BE PREPARED!" because right now we are not!!!!!!!

> Dennis W Evans Berlin



A good joke can liven up any social engagement, but the value of humor goes well beyond breaking the ice at parties and other get-togethers. According to the Cleveland Clinic, laughter can activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which helps to lower heart rate and help people breathe more easily. Given such benefits, it's no surprise that laughter has been linked to a host of medical benefits, including stress relief and

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II, retired as prime minister of Great Britain on April 5, 1955.



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Putters Club, instructional programs spread goodwill at Golf Club

Club recently pitched in during a putting league started by members of the Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association.

Those who took part said the willingness of staff to lend a hand has led to a surge of goodwill at the Golf Club.

The Putters Club meets every other Tuesday to practice their short game. Colette Horn, a member of both the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and the Putters Club, said the group was put together by OPLGA Treasurer Norma Kessler.

"It was formed to provide a fun event for the winter months that would give an opportunity for golfers to meet new people and practice their putting and chipping," Horn said. "It was open to any women golfers interested in participating, regardless of their status as golf members."

She said the club started in January and met on the putting and chipping practice greens.

"We also had two tutorial events," Horn said. "For the initial event, [Golf Director] Bob Beckelman gave us instruction and drills to improve our putting."

Beckelman said his staff also set up a special nine-hole putting course, and the OPLGA members played twice through and recorded their scores.

"For our final event, instead of the competitive challenge, Matt Ruggiere gave us tips and guidance to improve chipping and putting," Horn said.

Ruggiere has been leading the new Golf Academy at Ocean Pines since March. The program features adult and junior golf programs, along with private lessons.

"I met everyone last week and told them I would come out to give some tips and set up a few practice stations for them," Ruggiere said. "They typically do not have any instructors with them, but they usually meet to have a putting contest and some challenges for fun, with small prizes at the end."

Horn said groups like the Putters Club, along with the OPLGA and the 9-Hole Ladies League, are helping make the game of golf more accessible to local people.

"We are seeing members returning who had not been members in recent years," she said. "Several of the members of this year's Putters Club are women who don't play golf anymore, but wanted to participate in golf at a level that is possible for them and to

Instructors at the Ocean Pines Golf have the social benefits of spending time with other women on an activity they enjoy."

> Horn said instructional programs offered at the Ocean Pines Golf Club have also helped to attract new and returning players. That includes lessons led by Beckelman, Ruggiere, and Brian Davis.

> "All of them came to us with reputations as good teachers," she said. "However, their willingness to work with the golfers in informal tutorials during our clinics exposed the women to them and their abilities as golf pros and instructors.

> "Furthermore, the changes Bob has put in place in the Pro Shop and his approach to managing the operation and interacting with the member groups has resulted in many positive comments from golfers, from both the men's and women's leagues," Horn continued. "This reflects the goodwill toward and positive expectations of our pro and assistant pro."

> For those interested in further improving their putting and pitching skills, Ruggiere will host a new program called "Ocean Pines Scoring Club" starting on April 4.

> "That will run every Tuesday at the same time, and the focus will be entirely on the short game," Ruggiere said.

> The cost is \$20 per class, and the Scoring Club can have a maximum of 12 people.

> Classes run from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Tuesday, with the following topics scheduled:

-April 4 – Chipping and pitching -April 11 – Putting

-April 18 – Wedge shots -April 25 - Sand bunkers

For more information or to register for classes, visit www.ruggieregolf.com.

Women interested in joining either the Putters Club or OPLGA may call OPLGA President Ann Shockley at 410688-1975 email rexerann@gmail.com.

The Putters Club is free to join. The OPLGA annual fee is \$60, with \$30 applied to the handicap fee.

For more information on the OPLGA, search "Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association" on Facebook.





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Obituary

John "Jack" Ferry, Sr.

John "Jack "Francis Ferry, Sr. passed away on February 10, 2023, at Coastal Hospice by the Lake in Salisbury. At the time of passing, he had been living in Ocean Pines with his son Jack Jr. and his wife Cathy



Gallagher. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 68 years Mary (Ortwein) Ferry.

Jack was born in Bethlehem, PA, to Patrick and Stella Ferry. He attended Holy infancy grade school and graduated from Bethlehem High School.

After high school, he enlisted in the Navy and served during the Korean War as a Hospital Corpsman. He was stationed at Bethesda Naval Medical center and served on the aircraft carrier *USS Ticonderoga*.

After his discharge, he and Mary returned to Pennsylvania and settled into a home in Fountain Hill. The majority of his working years were spent at the Bethlehem Steel where he advanced from a laborer to General Foreman of the Rolling Mills. After retiring from the Steel, he moved to Chadds Ford and worked at the Kaumagraph Corporation in Wilmington. He and Mary were also owners of the Fountain Hill cleaners and The Chocolate Emporium in Chadds Ford.

While living in Fountain Hill, Jack was a member of borough council for 18 years, 14 of them as president. His crowning achievement was securing a \$3.5 million federal grant for the construction of

> housing for senior citizens. He also served as commander of the Fountain Hill American Legion and President of the Fountain Hill Exchange Club. He was honored with the Fountain Hill Distinguished Service Award, and the Fountain Hill Legion Community Service Award. He and Marv volunteered for United Rehabilitation Services. agency that provides supports for adults with intellectual disabilities in Hazleton, PA. Upon moving to Maryland, they volunteered at the Worcester County Developmental Center. He was a member of the Ocean Pines Clubs' Committee and served as president of Ocean Pines AARP. He and Mary were honored as Maryland AARP Volunteers of the Year

as well as the Ocean City Knights of Columbus Citizens of the Year award.

He was an active Catholic parishioner. As a member of St. Ursula's in Fountain Hill, he served as President of the Holy Name Society and President of the Catholic Youth Organization. He was also an active parishioner at St. John Neumann in Ocean Pines.

He is survived by children Jack (Cathy Gallagher), Kathleen Sweet, Karen Neglia (Frank dec.), Jeffrey (Carmen), Marguerite Picucci (Michael) and Patrick (Colette), 12 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Rummage sale schedule

A church rummage sale will be held April 15 between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Ocean City Presbyterian Church located at 1301 Philadelphia Avenue in Ocean City.



Elks essay contest winners recognized

This year's Worcester Preparatory School's (WPS) Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 essay contest winners were recognized on March 28, and presented their awards.

Collin Hastings achieved 1st place, Ava Holland earned 2nd, and Elle Wilsey received 3rd in the 6th Grade division. In the Grade 7 division, Sarah Williams won 1st place and Vivian Ruggerio received 2nd. In the 8th Grade division, Jacob Lev won 2nd place and Isha Garg received 3rd. Collin Hastings and Sarah Williams will advance to the district level.

Ocean City Elks Lodge Americanism Essay Contest Chairpersons, Allen and Gretchen Meyer, presented each student with their award on Tuesday during lunch, as they were cheered on by their peers. This year's Elks National Great Americanism essay contest theme was "What is your American dream?" Each student submitted an essay of close to 300 words expressing dreams they hope to come true by living in this country.

"We received 122 essays to review," Allen Meyer said. "It wasn't easy to get it down to three finalists in each age group."

Above Ocean City Elks Lodge Americanism Essay Contest Chairpersons **Gretchen** (left) and **Allen Meyer** (second from left), and WPS Head of School **Dr. John McDonald** (right), stand with student **Isha Garg** (center) who received her first-place prize in the 8th Grade division.

Stickers required for yard debris drop-off

Ocean Pines Public Works announced changes to its leaf collection program.

Starting on May 1, residents will need a sticker to display on their vehicle when dropping off leaves or other yard debris at the Public Works yard on 1 Firehouse Lane. The stickers will be free for the first year (2023).

To obtain a sticker, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

Residents with a sticker may use the Public Works yard to drop off yard debris May 1-27, Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The yard may also open on an as-needed basis, but residents must call Public Works prior to dropping off debris outside of normal operating hours.

Ocean Pines will continue to pick up bagged leaves in November and December, and Republic Services will continue their leaf collection program.

However, Public Works will no longer operate the vacuum truck and homeowners will be responsible for bagging leaves in drainage ditches on their properties.

Ocean Pines residents are asked to not drop off any yard debris at the Worcester County Recycling Center, which could result in fines or violations from the county.

The Worcester County Recycling Center accepts newspaper, mixed paper, magazines, glass, plastic, aluminum and bi-metal cans, cardboard, and textiles (clothing).

All other items are not allowed. The recycling station is not staffed, but does have security cameras. Violators may be ticketed.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

Memorial basketball tournament celebrates Redding

At the tip-off for the Ronald Redding Memorial Basketball Tournament, athletes, sports lovers, family and friends will join to watch great basketball, and remember the contributions of Ronald Redding that made the community a better place.

The tournament, featuring 20 vouth teams from elementary to high school ages, is on Saturday, April 8, beginning at 9 a.m. The action takes place at the Salvation Army courts, 407 Oak Street in Salisbury. All funds will be dedicated to the Ronald Redding Memorial Scholarship and the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program. General admission is \$10, kids under 6 can watch the fun for free.

Redding dedicated his 61 years to service, starting with over 12 years in the US Navy. After discharge, he spent 25 years in Correction Services at the Department of Social Services and elsewhere. When not at work, Ronald coached and refereed youth basketball, umpired girls' softball, served in the Princess Anne VFD, the athletics department at UMES, and was active in his church. His passing was a loss to the wider community of the lower Eastern Shore.

"This gathering of young athletes, friends and suicide prevention activists is exactly what Ronald would have wished. A fitting memorial, and worthy causes, Ronald would have seen this as an extension of his years of service," said Walt Stevenson, Redding's uncle.

In addition to great basketball, the tournament will feature a great food selection, and lots of information and freebies from the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, the region's leading nonprofit mental health and suicide prevention outreach organization. "Our goal," said JKMF Executive Director Jennifer LaMade, "is to ensure that other families don't suffer as the

Reddings and Klumps, by preventing tragic and unnecessary losses to suicide."

To learn more about the Ronald Reddding Memorial Basketball Tournament, and other tournament events on the Eastern Shore, visit www.teamtricounty.com.

Art League deadline is Saturday The Art League of Ocean City retions may be sent to katie@artlea-

minds high school seniors the deadline to apply for college art scholarships is April 8. The nonprofit will award several scholarships to students seeking a degree in art, continuing a tradition that began in 1991. To date, the Art League has awarded 75 college scholarships to Worcester County students.

Students must be graduating high school seniors who are residents of Worcester County, Md., including public and private school students and homeschoolers. The scholarship recipient must be pursuing a higher education in the creative arts from an accredited institution. Previous Art League scholarship winners may also reapply.

The Art League will consider applicants for the Sidney M. Beckstead \$5,000 scholarship; the multiple Katherine Ellen Brown \$1,000 scholarships; and the Eva Fox \$1,000 scholarship. The Art League is also offering a new \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Inga Tuvesson. Scholarship winners will receive a one-year membership to the Art League.

Applications are available online at OCart.org/scholarship, at the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th St., or through high school guidance offices. With the one application, the Art League will consider students for both the \$5,000 and the \$1,000 scholarships. Questions on applicagueofoceancity.org or 410-524-9433.

The scholarships are funded by contributions from the Art League as well as from the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund administered by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and from private donors.

The Art League scholarship programs adhere to a nondiscrimination policy, in both principle and practice, and will not discriminate against candidates on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or physical challenge.





My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

Hummingbirds

The Hummingbird is a very small species and one that many people are familiar with. There are 343 species of them that have been identified. They live in regions found in North and South America. With such a large number of species, the hummingbird ranks as the second largest bird family in the world.

The size of these Hummingbirds does vary though based on species. The smallest species is about 2.2 grams and the largest is about 20 grams. The smallest is the Bee Hummingbird which is noted to be the smallest bird in the world.

These charming birds get their names from the fact that the rapid



movement of their wings makes a humming sound. Hummingbirds are the smallest type of animal in the world with a backbone and as a result have been studied intensely by researchers.

Another reason the Hummingbird is so well loved and researched is because it has the ability to move in ways that other birds cannot. It is the only species of bird that is able to fly in all directions. This includes backwards and even upside down.

During colder times of the year the Hummingbirds migrate up to 500 miles. They can travel great distances daily. The Gulf of Mexico is one area where they are seen during the migration period.

The mating rituals of the Hummingbird are interesting. Known as the courtship dive, the males will go at least 60 feet in the air and then rapidly shoot down, make a U turn, and do it again. They will continue this process until they have the attention of a female with whom they want to mate.

There are many types of food Hummingbirds consume, mostly sugar and sap. They also like pollen and will eat small insects as a way to get protein. These birds can eat up to three times their own weight in food every single

There are rumors that Hummingbirds hibernate. While these birds

don't have a typical season for hibernation they will do so if they need to conserve energy due to a lack of food. Their metabolism will slow to an extremely low speed so they can continue to survive.

Many people keep bird feeders in their yards where Hummingbirds can feed. It is a great way to help the birds thrive. When mixing a food solution use only granulated white cane sugar and water. You must be careful not to give them too much sugar as it can harm their liver and kidneys. Do not use honey, artificial

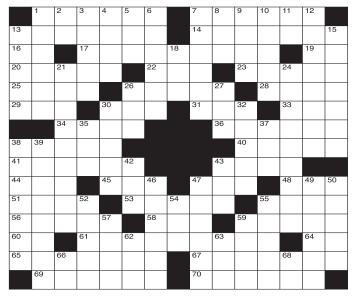
The life span for the Hummingbird is often very short, many not surviving more than a year. For those that do survive, they can live up to four years.

sweetners or food coloring.

In many locations these Hummingbirds are having trouble surviving due to their habitat being taken away. Problems with trees being removed, a lack of food, and chemicals and other elements in the environment have resulted in some serious declines in numbers for some of the species.

Adapted from HummingWorlds.





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. "The First State"
- 20. More aged 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. "Dallas Buyers' Club"
- actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian) 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period

- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

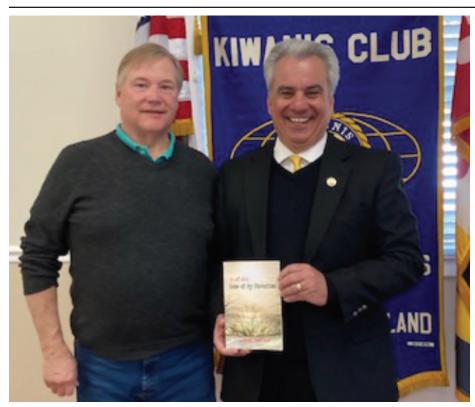
- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice
- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended 59. Oblong pulpit
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south
- and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo

- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish) 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages 55. Siskel's partner
- 57. Skinny
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position

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Answers for March 22



Author visit - Publisher of The Courier newspaper and author of "It's All About—Some of My Favorites," Chip Bertino was the guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club meeting on March 8. The book is a collection of some of his weekly columns published during the last 22 years. It is a humorous and often poignant chronicle of raising children, getting older, being (and staying) married and just living life.

Bertino is an award-winning columnist who writes about his experiences in a way that readers can visualize themselves and their lives. He has lived in Ocean Pines for more than 30 years and is currently serving as president of the Worcester County Commissioners

Above from left to right: Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing and Chip Bertino.

Childrens summer program to be held at Wor-Wic

The on-campus child development center at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury is accepting registrations now through May 29 for Camp Jordan, a summer day camp program for children from five to eight years old that runs from June 19 through August 11.

Camp Jordan features a different theme for each week and consists of instructional, indoor and outdoor activities. Parents can register their children for all eight weeks or choose which weeks work best for them.

The children have an opportunity to learn about art, science and geogra-

phy. Themed weeks include "Wizards, Dragons and Magical Things," "Lego Mania," "Touring Europe, "Elements of Art," "Outer Space," "Adventures in Oceanography" and a pirate-themed "Aargh Matey!" week. Campers can take part in arts, crafts, games, science experiments, swimming and field trips throughout the summer.

Weekly programs run Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.worwic.edu or call the child development center at 410-334-2962.

Mini golf fundraiser scheduled

Women Supporting Women, a local non-profit organization that has dedicated the last 30 years to providing awareness, education and support to individuals who are affected by breast cancer, announced its first "Putt the Night Away" miniature golf fundraiser.

The event is scheduled for Friday, April 21, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Old Pro Golf – Under the Sea indoor course on 68th Street in Ocean City. Family and friends are invited to an evening of unlimited mini golf play that includes a Hole

Nonprofit launches fundraising campaign

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emergency financial assistance to Worcester County residents with low income, has launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$16,000.

According to GOLD, many Worcester County residents are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet. Unexpected expenses, such as medical bills or car repairs, can push these individuals into financial hardship, making it difficult to afford basic necessities like food, rent, and utilities.

"We see firsthand the relief that even a small donation can offer," said GOLD's Executive Director, Nicholas Cranford. "Our Emergency Financial Assistance Program is designed to help those with a verified need live a decent life with dignity and avoid falling into a cycle of poverty."

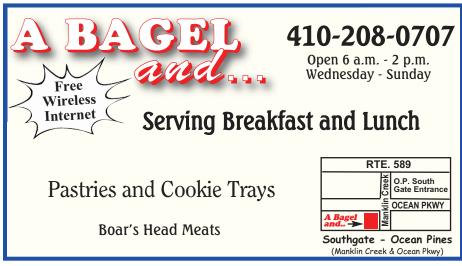
GOLD partners with eight local

Worcester County GOLD (Giving agencies to provide immediate her Lives Dignity), a nonprofit assistance for their clients facing patients and dedicated to providing potentially tragic outcomes like ergency financial assistance to homelessness and hunger.

"We know our community is incredibly generous, and we believe we can reach our fundraising goal," said Cranford. "People should donate to GOLD if they want to maximize the local impact of their charitable contributions."

To donate to the campaign or to learn more about Worcester County GOLD's Emergency Financial Assistance Program, visit WorcesterGOLD.org.

Worcester County GOLD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emergency financial assistance to Worcester County residents living with low income. Founded in 1997, GOLD is committed to helping individuals and families facing financial crises relieve stress and achieve self-sufficiency. For more information, visit www.WorcesterGOLD.org.





From Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Maryland General Assembly Update

Die (from Latin "Without Day"), some bills are clearing both chambers and



Mary Beth Carozza

making their way to Governor Wes Moore's desk for his signature. The full Senate also voted on Friday, March 31 to confirm Lt. Col. Roland Butler as the Marvland State Police Superintendent.

"Three of my local bills already are on track to make it to

the Governor's desk," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. "I was honored to work on these bills to help my constituents and my community on the Eastern Shore."

Senate Bill 68 would allow members of the Crisfield Police Department to participate in the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System, which is absolutely essential to recruitment and retention. "This is Crisfield's top local legislative priority this session," said Carozza.

Senate Bill 244 would ensure that Lena Williams, the widow of Correctional Officer Gregory Collins, is allowed to apply for the special death benefits established in Senate Bill 198. Due to a time restriction, Ms. Williams was left unable to apply after Correctional Officer Collins' death was ruled a homicide in the line of duty.

Senate Bill 246 would enable Wicomico County to create a Sanitary District Commission which is the first step for Wicomico County to implement its Water and Sewer Master Plan.

Legislative Prayer Breakfast

Senator Carozza was honored to deliver the opening remarks at the Maryland Legislative Prayer Breakfast held on March 31. Throughout the history of the State of Maryland, prayer has played a vital role in strengthening the fabric of our society. The Maryland Legislative Prayer Caucus was founded by a bipartisan group of Marvland State Senators and Delegates who believe in the power of prayer.

"As I continue along my own faith journey, I have become more and

that all of us share here together, a gift that is meant to be shared with others," said Carozza. "As a 5th grade Sunday School teacher, I especially appreciate life's lessons with my students, how they have opened up my eyes of faith on the subject of trust. On our faith journey, let us trust in the Lord and then we won't miss the little miracles that God sends us each day."

House Bill Hearings

Behavioral Health Programs for Food Service Facility Requirements

The House Health and Government Operations Committee held a hearing on March 28th on Senate Bill 794, which would allow the Maryland Department of Health to adopt regulations that are appropriate to residential treatment programs for substance use disorder that have under 17 beds. In practice, this would allow these residential programs to not have to install an elaborate and expensive commercial kitchen usually seen in large industrial settings.

"Requiring a commercial kitchen in a residential home that houses one of these programs could severely disrupt the program, destroy the comforting and supportive atmosphere of a small home these programs often require, and would be cost-prohibitive to many who run these programs," said Carozza.

Discount on State Park Pass for Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders

The House Environment and Transportation Committee held a hearing on March 29th on Senate Bill 823, which would create a \$40 discount for law enforcement officers and first responders, including firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and 911 specialists who are Maryland residents, on the annual State Park pass. The pass currently costs \$75 for a Maryland resident. SB 823 received House subcommittee approval on Friday, March 31st and is on track to be considered by the full House E&T committee on Monday. April 4.

"We learned during the COVID-19 pandemic that access to the outdoors is essential for health and wellbeing,"

With only 10 days left before Sine more grateful for the gift of faith, a gift said Carozza. "Our first responders and law enforcement officers are on the front lines every day protecting our communities in high-stress environments, and providing this discount is a simple, meaningful way to promote their health and well-being."

> Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding

> The House Appropriations Committee held a hearing on March 29 on Senate Bill 493, which would establish a task force to study the adequacy of trauma funding across Maryland for operating, capital, and workforce costs. Trauma centers often require significant resources to operate effectively as they specialize in swiftly treating life-threatening conditions and promptly providing resuscitative care.

> "Unfortunately, the reason this legislation is necessary is because we know the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund is not effective anymore," said Carozza. "TidalHealth Peninsula Regional is the Eastern Shore's only trauma center, a linchpin in Maryland's Trauma Center System, and it is critically underfunded. At last estimate, the Fund provides less than 10 percent of the total cost that Tidal-Health requires to keep its doors open."

> Senator Carozza also has been advocating for additional trauma funding in the Fiscal Year '24 budget to be targeted to TidalHealth's trauma center. "TidalHealth officials have told me that the trauma program is at a critical juncture," said Carozza. "Without this funding, the Eastern Shore's only trauma center could be in jeopardy."

Negligent and Reckless Driving That Causes Death Must Appear in Court

The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on March 29 on Senate Bill 252, which would require a person charged with negligent driving involved in a fatal accident to appear in court. A person convicted with reckless driving would be subject to up to five days imprisonment or a \$1,000 fine or both. A person convicted with reckless driving already is required to appear in court.

Under current law, a person charged with negligent driving is subiect to a misdemeanor and a maximum fine of \$1,000, which they can pay without ever appearing before a judge or facing the loved ones that are left behind.

"Being able to face the person who caused such pain often plays a major role in the healing process and requiring that person to show up in court provides accountability," said Carozza. "These types of cases, where there is a victim, should not be treated the same as victimless vehicle accidents."

Committee Work

The Education, Energy, and Environment Committee heard testimony on House Bill 119, which would enshrine sexual health education curriculum standards into State law by mandating that County Boards of Education must implement the State of Maryland's sexual education framework, including discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation, or lose funding from the State Superintendent.

"I have heard from hundreds of Maryland parents in full opposition to this bill," said Carozza. "The House bill is even more devastating with financial penalties levied against local boards of education."

Under House Bill 119, a County Board of Education must revise its health curriculum to align with the State curriculum within 30 days of being notified by the State Superintendent or the State Comptroller would be authorized to withhold 10 percent in State funding for that Board of Education for the current fiscal year. An additional 10 percent would be withheld from a County Board of Education if it does not make changes to the county's curriculum within 90 days of notification by the State Superintendent.

Executive Nominations

Senator Carozza was humbled and honored to introduce and support the nominations of retired Perdue Farms Executive Carlos Ayala of Salisbury to serve as a member of the State Board of Elections and Pocomoke City Council Member Todd Nock to serve as a member of the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays.

"Carlos Ayala is a very well-re-

Ocean Pines sewer bills to increase as state considers fate of exemption

First quarter water and wastewater bills for residents of the Ocean Pines Sanitary Service Area (SSA) will include a \$15 quarterly Bay Restoration Fee (BRF), while state officials consider whether to grant the area an exemption from the fee for calendar year 2023. In the event that MDE issues the exemption prior to the release of water and wastewater bills on Friday, March 31, the \$15 fee will not be included.

In January, Worcester County officials provided evidence to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) officials that the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) had met all state requirements for the prior calendar year and, therefore, requested SSA ratepayers be exempt from the BRF for 2023. If MDE officials confirm the Ocean Pines SSA is exempt from the BRF after the first quarter bills are sent out, a refund will

be issued to these customers.

Commonly referred to as the Flush Tax, the BRF is a dedicated fund financed by residents and businesses and used to upgrade publicly-owned WWTPs throughout Maryland, with enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology. This technology drastically reduces nutrient discharges to the state's waterways.

The Ocean Pines WWTP meets the criteria for the fee exemption, which requires a maximum effluent concentration of 3 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorous and was not constructed using federal or state monies. Nitrogen and phosphorus are natural elements found in the earth and in the atmosphere. They are vital components of life for many organisms, but too much of either in area waterways can be harmful. Excess nutrients, such as

nitrogen and phosphorus, can cause algal blooms, which deplete the oxygen from the river that fish and other aquatic life need to survive. In addition to the environmental benefits, the plant's ENR technology saves Ocean Pines SSA ratepayers more than \$550,000 annually for each year

nitrogen and phosphorus, can cause that MDE grants the BRF exemption.

BRF exemptions are valid for one year and must be renewed annually. For more information, please contact the Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater Division at (410) 641-5251.

Waterline system flushing schedule announced

The Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works will begin its semi-annual program for flushing waterlines in Assateague Pointe, Edgewater Acres, Nantucket Point, Deer Point, Landings, Mystic Harbour, Newark, Ocean Reef, and West Ocean City Service Areas between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The following proposed spring 2023 dates for the flushing of the waterlines are subject to change.

-April 24 thru May 5 – Assateague Pointe, Deer Point, Mystic Harbour, Ocean Reef, and West Ocean City

-May 9 & 10 – Newark

-May 11 & 12 – Edgewater Acres and Nantucket Pointe

Routine flushing of the water system helps to reduce the frequency of discolored water. Public Works crews

Wetland assessments in the coastal bays planned

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is currently planning their fifth year of assessing the health of tidal wetlands in the Coastal Bays watershed. MCBP conducts wetland assessments throughout Chincoteague, Sinepuxent, Newport, Isle of Wight, and Assawoman Bays, and on the St. Martin River. The goal of the

fundraiser

from page 11

in One Contest, basket raffle and a meet and greet photo op with Mermaid Tasha, the Marlin Mermaid. Entry for adults is \$15 and \$10 for children 12 and under which includes unlimited mini golf play, one slice of pizza and a bottle of water.

"We wanted to plan something fun for the whole family to enjoy," said Cindy Feist, executive director for Women Supporting Women. "We are looking forward to reconnecting with our survivors, volunteers and supporters at the event and welcome anyone from the community to join us for a good time, friendly competition and the opportunity to win some great prizes."

Stop by the WSW office at 1320 Belmont Ave. Suite 402 in Salisbury to reserve your spot or call 410-548-7880. Sign up is available at the event.

assessments is to determine the current condition of tidal wetlands by looking at the quality of habitat, hydrology, and surrounding land use. Wetlands provide many essential services to both humans and the environment including improving water quality, providing protection from flooding and storm surges, and providing habitat for a variety of wildlife.

These assessments are based on Mid-Atlantic methods and rely on maps and field visits which take less than a few hours and are a great way to look at marsh health in a rapid, "leave no trace" way. Data from the assessments are grouped by sub-watershed, so individual properties are not identified in the analysis. MCBP is reliant on the help and support of private landowners that allow access to their properties to collect this important data. These assessments help MCBP focus on tidal wetlands in need of tidal restoration and resiliency efforts.

Property owners with tidal marsh in the coastal bays watershed that wish to learn more about MCBP's Wetland Assessment initiative, or to discuss scheduling a tidal wetland assessment should contact MCBP's Environmental Scientist, Billy Weiland, at 410-213-2297 ext. 109, or email bweiland@mdcoastalbays.org.

Safe Boating Course offered

The 2023 boating season is about to begin, and the best way to prepare is by taking the Maryland Safe Boating Course. Certified instructors from the Ocean City Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer this comprehensive class on April 11, 12 and 13 at the Ocean Pines library. All the required material is covered plus information on local waters and nautical navigation.

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

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

Checks should be made payable to USC-GAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment via PayPAL is also accepted.

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

open and close the hydrants, flushing out the built-up iron deposits. Sometimes, this can lead to temporary increases in suspended iron, which should settle out within a few hours of the flushing.

Please be aware that, even on dates the water lines in your section are not being flushed, it is still possible to experience discolored water. If area residents notice that their water becomes cloudy during these times, please allow the water to run for a few minutes until it becomes clear. For more information, please call the Water and Wastewater Division at (410) 641-5251.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet Day High Tide

/Low Time Low 2:38 AM High 8:58 AM Low 2:48 PM High 9:14 PM Low 3:19 AM High 9:37 AM Low 3:24 PM High 9:54 PM Sa 8 Low 4:02 AM High 10:17 AM Low 4:02 PM High 10:36 PM Su 9 Low 4:47 AM High 10:59 AM 9 Low 4:44 PM High 11:21 PM M 10 Low 5:38 AM High 11:44 AM 10 Low 5:31 PM Tu 11 High 12:10 AM 11 Low 6:33 AM 11 High 12:34 PM Low 6:26 PM 11 W 12 High 1:06 AM Low 7:34 AM 12 12 High 1:32 PM Low 7:28 PM

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes

PARKING/ATCHURCH



Make a Meme+







update

from page 12

spected business and community leader. He has had key roles with Perdue Farms since 1989, including Director of International Operations, General Manager Perdue China, and Vice President International," said Carozza. "He also has served as a Di-

rector of Rebirth, which focuses on aiding migrant communities, he's been involved with the Maryland Cancer Society, and been a Big Brother as part of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program."

"Todd Nock brings a variety of experiences to this appointment. Todd already has experience with Maryland Coastal Bays doing oyster replenishment work, and he's also a teacher, Ranger with As-Island sateague National Park, a Pocomoke City Councilman since

2018, and on April 11 he will become the Mayor of Pocomoke," said Carozza. "He comes from a family of strong women, women of faith, and I have been honored to celebrate with his grandmother on her birthday before."

Other nominees under discussion by the Executive Nominations Committee this week include Edward Rodier, Martina Barnes-Wharton, Terry Smith, Thomas Butler, and Jeff McMahon to the Worcester County Board of Elections; Aundra Roberts, Katrina Purnell, Sharon Morris, Woodland Willing, and Carsten Wendlandt to the Wicomico County Board of Elections; April Tyler, Ernest Satchell, Joy Hall, Stephen Flaherty, and Clarice Mathies to the Somerset County Board of Elections; Charles Meeks to the Elevator Safety Review



a former Park Senator **Mary Beth Carozza** (R-District 38) presents **William** Ranger with Assateague Island National Park, a Program during the 2023 Legislative Session.

Board; Kimberly Gillis and Russell Blake to the Wor-Wic Community College Board of Trustees; Ralph Lusk, Van Muir, and Robert Murphey to the Somerset County Board of License Commissioners; Rondall Allen to the Maryland Technology Development Corporation Board of Directors; and Tracey Boss to the State Board of Examiners in Optometry.

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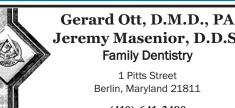


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