

# The Courier

April 12, 2023 Volume 23 Number 26



**Catch a Lift** - Worcester Prep's Head of School, Dr. John McDonald, with the help of students, presented a \$1000 donation to the Catch a Lift Fund (CAL). The funds were raised through a Super Bowl Friday event.

CAL enables veterans to recover and rehab both physically and mentally through physical fitness programs. CAL was founded in memory of Army Cpl. Chris Coffland, who lost his life in Afghanistan while

serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in November 2009. CAL's mission is rooted in Chris' lifelong belief that, through fitness, one can reach their highest potential both mentally and physically. The fund was started by the family of Army Cpl. Coffland, who lives near WPS. His niece, Tony Phillips, graduated from WPS in 2005. Cpl. Coffland was also a teammate and roommate to Head of School, Dr. John McDonald, while attending Washington and Lee University.

For more information on CAL visit their website at <https://catchaliftfund.org/>.

On Monday, April 3, Worcester Prep's Head of School **Dr. John McDonald** (back right), with the help of students **Ava Wilsey** (front center) and **Caitlyn Hoen** (front right), presented a \$1,000 donation to Army Cpl. Chris Coffland's parents, **Dave and Antoinette Coffland** (left), who represent the Catch a Lift Fund.



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# Worcester County Developmental Center turns 50

For fifty years, the Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) has helped local people with intellectual disabilities find meaningful employment, gain independence, and increase their self-worth.

WCDC's headquarters is in Newark, Maryland, and the center also operates seven group homes in Ocean Pines.

Executive Director Jack Ferry is an Ocean Pines homeowner. Ferry said the center first opened in September 1973.

"The center was started by families who saw that there was nothing for

abilities, and many also have secondary issues including physical disabilities and other medical issues.

The original WCDC building in Newark burned down in 2007. Ferry said it was a blessing in disguise that fortunately happened on a day when no clients were in the building.

"It was an in-service day, so there were no clients and only a couple of staff there, and luckily nobody got hurt. At that time, it was an 87-year-old single-story schoolhouse that was crumbling," Ferry said. "So, they were able to build a brand-new center and today we're able to do so much more because of that."

Ferry started working for WCDC in 2008 and became the executive director in 2014. He's aided by a staff of 144 and supported by state and federal Medicaid programs.

He said the clients are so successful "because of our hard-working, dedicated, talented staff."

Those workers, he added, also help boost the local economy.

"Last year, our budget was \$6.3 million. That's all-new dollars that we're bringing into Worcester County, and about 80% of our funding goes into staff salaries," Ferry said.

"That's money that our staff are using to buy groceries and rent homes or pay mortgages and things like that. So, we're bringing a significant amount of money into the county."

About a decade ago, the center was a vital part of the resort industry, with clients helping to run a linen laundry service that served many Ocean Pines restaurants and hotels. A lawn-care service was also utilized by many in the Ocean Pines community, and clients also worked for a catering service through WCDC.

More stringent federal guidelines shuttered those programs around 2016. Ferry admitted it was a difficult transition.

"When we sold our laundry equipment and I watched it going out the

building, I had tears in my eyes, because that was such a tremendous program," he said. "Not only were we able to hire our clients, but we had so much business that we worked with the Worcester County Schools, with their special ed department and their summer school, and we even hired some of their students. We also hired clients from other agencies, so we had a lot of people involved."

Now, WCDC operates in part as a center for the arts.

"When we found out we weren't going to be successful in fighting the federal changes, we sat down and we thought about what we were going to do next," Ferry said. "The work we had been doing was significant, and it was also something that set us apart. We had a variety of jobs where we could train clients to have them work and earn a paycheck.

"We were looking for two things. One, what's going to be best for our clients and, two, what's going to set us apart and keep us a little bit different, so that we stand out so that we can attract more people and grow," he added.

Ferry said almost all clients struggle to communicate in one way or another. Some have physical limitations and others have intellectual difficulties.

"We tried to think about nonverbal ways for our clients to communicate. And we said, through the arts, everybody can do that," he said. "We looked into it a little bit and decided that's what we're going to do. So, we become a center for the arts and the clients are having a great time."

WCDC partnered with the Art League of Ocean City, with clients able to visit for classes, or attend remotely through online programs like Zoom.

"That's been a nice relationship," Ferry said.

While Ferry is unhappy that some of the center's prior programs are no longer viable, he said the timing was extremely fortuitous.

"I think it was a case of God watching over our clients, but also you kind of make your own luck," Ferry said. "When COVID hit, it was very fortu-

*please see center on page 13*



their adult children after they got out of school," Ferry said. "At the time, there really wasn't anything in Worcester County for individuals with disabilities, and they needed activities for them to do."

Fifty years ago, WCDC had nine clients. Today, they have about 85.

"There also were no residential homes at that time, and now we have 14 operating homes throughout Worcester County, and one more that will be opening within the next couple of months in Ocean Pines," Ferry said.

Ferry said clients are referred to WCDC by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration, a state agency that oversees and licenses the center, and provides funding.

All the clients have intellectual dis-

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# Howard Webb works diligently behind the scenes

By **Josh Davis**

It's easy to take things for granted when they work well. A phone call that reaches an actual person. Paying a check at a restaurant or buying a pool pass. The accounting system that runs a community behind the scenes. Vir-

“One of my real estate clients happened to own a small computer company in Arlington, Virginia, and he offered me a job selling computer hardware and software to the real estate vertical market.

“I got in on the ground level and I just liked it. I had an aptitude for it and it was a small company, so you could get your hands dirty and dig in,” he continued. “It was really kind of happenstance, but I'm glad it happened.”

Webb later moved to Ocean Pines because his parents owned a house here, and he continued working in the technology field, running network and audio cables for new homes.

Four years ago, he joined the fledgling IT Department in Ocean Pines.

“They had a hodgepodge of equipment and software that was kind of pieced together, and a lot of the stuff was obsolete. We were really just starting to have an IT department,” he said. “When I started working here, we were trying to get some kind of order and cohesiveness and, you know – a plan.”

Webb said one of his first tasks was stabilizing the enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that, basically, helps organize and automate the various computer systems.

“The big thing was the infrastructure as a whole – connecting our amenities so that we can communicate with each other,” he said. “Another big problem was that we really had no redundancy as far as our connection to the internet, or to each other.”

A few years ago, it was common for the internet to go down for several hours at the Yacht Club, one of the pools, or even in the administration building. When that happens, no transactions can be processed, and no money can be made.

The introduction of Comcast as a second service provider, along with Mediacom, meant that outages still happen, but now they last minutes instead of hours.

“We've incorporated Comcast with Mediacom and now we have redundancy in our locations so that, if the Yacht Club or the Beach Club doesn't have internet access, one of the other providers kicks in as soon as one goes down. So, for the customer it's seamless and you don't even notice it. That's much better than it was.

“That's what IT does behind the scenes – it's the glue that holds everything together,” Webb added.

Overall, Webb said the IT Department has become much more organized and is able to work more efficiently.

Of course, when all that work to update and modernize systems was going on, suddenly IT also had to help the Association navigate through a pandemic that meant working virtually was often a necessity.

“People actually fell into the flow pretty quickly,” Webb said. “Most of the staff here at the Admin Building had laptops. And then we started implementing Microsoft Teams that allowed us to work a lot more cohesively together. In general people don't like change, but our people caught on pretty well.

“Now we're doing committee meetings and Board meetings via Teams, and I'm really pleasantly surprised, because we used to struggle to get any attendance and now we have a whole bunch of new people attending these meetings,” Webb continued. “So, I think we've managed to pull some positives.”

The other big IT project was the Northstar software that runs all of Ocean Pines' financial systems, as well as the oceanpines.org website.

Webb said there were definitely growing pains, but things have mostly stabilized.

“It's a lot better,” he said. “We used to have 1,000 outstanding tickets to Northstar about issues at any given time, and there were new issues every day. There are problems with any new system, but it's toned way down. Overall, it's much more stable.

“I don't get anywhere near as many calls now and, when I do, it's stuff that I can handle,” he added.

Webb said the next big project for the IT Department is going paperless, and moving data storage into a cloud-based system that is easier to use and more accessible.

It will also allow staff to be more flexible.

“Right now, our finance director and a couple of people work from home, and they have to use a VPN to attach to our files and access our resources on our server, which is kind of cumbersome. They occasionally have problems with it, and they have to call me to reconnect,” he said. “Now, they'll be able to access it from anywhere from any computer, because it'll all be in the cloud.

“We'll also be more paperless with our document management, so we can



**Howard Ward**

tually everything that plugs into a wall and makes our modern world go.

In Ocean Pines, for the last four years, Howard Webb has been the glue that holds all that together.

Webb is originally from the Washington, D.C. area. He worked in the real estate business before moving to IT.

“It was totally by accident,” he said.

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# Primitive toys

On a recent quest to find a gift to place in my soon-to-be seven-month-old grandson's Easter basket, I discovered a reality that disappointed me somewhat. It's

I were in full play mode, our living room was a developmental center for our imaginations. To outsiders it must have looked like a mess. To us? It was sheer heaven.



## *It's All About. . .*

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

been a fairly long time since I've perused the toy section for children under the age on one. So, I was surprised by the selection of the toys as well as the prices.

My objective was to find a toy boat or two that he could play with in the bathtub. No luck. So, I shifted my efforts to something he could play with while sitting on the floor or in his walker. That's when I realized most toys are now electronic. Whether in the shape of zoo animals, locomotives, telephones or cars, they light up, sing songs, make various noises and/or all of the above. There was even a Nintendo-looking handset toy rated for children ages six to twelve months. I'm old school I know, but I just could not bring myself to give my grandson an electronic toy. Right or wrong, I believe toys should motivate a child to exercise his or her imagination without the assistance of flashing lights and metallic tones.

Back in the day, and I'm talking about the days when sneakers were Keds, bikes were Schwinn's and televisions were bulky, toys were not as fancy by today's standards. You could even say they were primitive. However, they were imbued with something timeless: creative opportunity. My brother and I played hour after hour with our blocks and Matchbox cars. We created villages, combining buildings manufactured with Lincoln Logs and Legos. We constructed marinas for our many toy boats.

One year for Christmas we each got Erector sets. That really upped our creative impulses. We spent time screwing and bolting together all sorts of contraptions such as cranes and motorized vehicles. Looking back, when my brother and

Admittedly things started changing the Christmas my brother received an electronic football game and I received something called Merlin, an electronic toy that prompted the user to follow and memorize flash-

ing light patterns. It was mesmerizing. There was also a handheld electronic auto race toy we received. It used lighted electronic dashes to represent race cars. The user's car was distinguished by a brighter electronic light. With your thumb on a throttle stick, you'd navigate your car around other cars. There were different ability levels – amateur and pro. You competed with other players working to get the lowest time and fewest crashes. That game too was mesmerizing.

Still, those toys didn't have the same imaginative opportunities that Legos offered, allowing my brother and me to assemble the Legos anyway we wanted to create anything imagined.

Getting back to my quest for a gift for my grandson. I settled on a Fisher Price turtle that had a transparent bubble shell in which colored beads rattled around. When I gave it to him, he did what all babies do, he put it in his mouth and then started shaking it violently. He seemed to like it. I enjoyed watching him. My quest was successful.

Historical footnote: In the deep recesses of my attic, in a box aged with time, are my toy boats and Matchbox cars. Also nearby are the toy blocks my brother and I played with for hours. Soon, when my grandson is old enough, I'll bring these "primitive" toys downstairs for him to play with. I look forward to watching his imagination ignite.

What happened to the Merlin and the electronic race car toy? I don't know. Although mesmerizing at the time, they just didn't stand the test of time I guess.



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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
OceanPinesForum.com

## Daly to resign

OPA Director Frank Daly today confirmed he is moving to Florida and will soon be resigning his position as a board member.

This is big news on the OPA political front. There are several options regarding his replacement, including the possibility of a six-member new board of directors appointing someone within about a month of the new board's Organization meeting next August.

Given Daly is in the current three-member board minority group with another year left on his term, and with majority group member Doug Parks and current minority group member Colette Horn both leaving the board, this has major significance on what group controls OPA in the near future. Make no mistake. This is a major political event in OPA.

Use the following link to see what others are saying and also to review the three options to replace Daly, depending on when he resigns, and the potential impact on what group controls OPA.

Odds are, Daly leaving will greatly benefit the Get Involved group whose members so strongly support the current board majority.

## New anti-bullying site

Seems Esther Diller and Colby Phillips, creators of the successful

Get Involved Facebook page whose supported candidates now control the Ocean Pines Association are into a new joint Facebook venture to combat "bullying" on the entire Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Based on reporting in the Progress, this looks like a direct result of what Diller and Phillips apparently see as various forms of bullying of the Ocean Pines Association and Matt Ortt Companies by individuals seeking justice for Gavin Knupp.

Of course, unmentioned in the article is the bullying and disgraceful comments made on another Facebook site by a man attacking a number of women in Ocean Pines, a site that even includes support by some sitting board members who apparently take pleasure in seeing the site owner call women "hags" and other despicable words because they have a different view of OPA politics than the board majority.

Phillips reportedly ended an active role on Get Involved. However, given the current control of the OPA Board of Directors by people supported by Get Involved, is it too much of a stretch to see Colby Phillips, who was "mentored" by Diller when Phillips was an OPA employee, return to OPA as GM should Viola leave?

All things are possible these days in OPA-Land.

## Bay Day returns in Ocean Pines

The fourth annual Bay Day event returns to White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bay Day is a collaborative conservation effort of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Ocean Pines Association and is aimed to help improve the health of the waterways that shoulder the residential shores of Ocean Pines.

This free, family-friendly event caters to all age groups through hands-on activities, free boat tours, live music, food trucks, live animal exhibits, and more.

"We are excited to bring Bay Day back this year for the fourth time," MCBP Education Coordinator Liz Wist said. "Bay Day is a great way for community members to learn more about how they can make changes that, over time, have a strong positive impact on our Coastal Bays.

"People should feel welcome to come and stay all day," she continued. "They can learn from environmental organizations, take a boat tour of the St. Martin, eat lunch, listen to music, pick up a native plant, and participate in various hands-on activities."

The event this year will feature more than 30 conservation partners, includ-

ing Go Green OC, Ocean City Surf Club, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Assateague Coastal Trust, Protectors of the St. Martin River, and many more. The first 400 attendees will receive a canvas bag, hand-painted by students from Worcester County Public Schools.

The recycling station will be back this year. Community members can bring their plastic grocery bags, alkaline batteries, old phones and more to drop off for recycling. Go Green OC will also collect compost.

## GOP to welcome returning legislators

The Republican Women of Worcester County will welcome home Republican State Legislators at their April 27 meeting and luncheon. Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Delegate Charles Otto will give updates on the Maryland's 2023 General Assembly. The event will occur at Harrison's Harbor Watch located at 806 S. Atlantic Ave. at the Inlet in Ocean City. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 11 a.m. To register for the luncheon, please go to [gopwomenof-worcester.org](http://gopwomenof-worcester.org). Deadline to register is April 19.

## Courier Almanac

On April 12, 1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed away partway through his fourth term in office, leaving Vice President Harry S. Truman in charge of a country still fighting the Second World War and in possession of a weapon of unprecedented and terrifying power.

On a clear spring day at his Warm Springs, Georgia, retreat, Roosevelt sat in the living room with Lucy Mercer (with whom he had resumed an extramarital affair), two cousins and his dog Fala, while the artist Elizabeth Shoumatoff painted his portrait. According to presidential biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin, it was about 1 p.m. that the president suddenly complained of a terrific pain in the back of his head and collapsed unconscious.

The American College of Gastroenterology reports that irritable bowel syndrome affects almost twice as many women as men. That echoes an earlier survey from the International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders that found as much as 65 percent of individuals who report having IBS are women. The reasons behind the greater prevalence of IBS remain a mystery, though the American College of Gastroenterology reports that the higher incidence does not appear to be because women have different hormones than men. Rather, the school notes that the higher incidence rates seem to be because women feel sensations from the intestines differently than men.



The  
**Courier**

Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller

Linda Knight Advertising Representative

Contributors

Jack Barnes, Dan Collins, Ron Fisher, Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx, Joe Reynolds  
Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

98 Nottingham Lane Ocean Pines, MD 21811

410-629-5906

[thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)

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# Garden Club's efforts have spanned more than four decades

By **Josh Davis**

Since 1976, the Ocean Pines Garden Club has played a major role in how the community looks and feels.

The group of volunteers first formed to help plant flowers, shrubs and trees around community signs, buildings and parks, and in the median along Ocean Parkway.

In the more than four decades since, the Garden Club has run a series of elaborate garden tours and collaborated with local artists, and have helped to maintain Ocean Pines parks and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial grounds.

The Garden Club hosts an Arbor Day ceremony each year, and their gifts and donations have included the Civil War era anchor at the Yacht Club in 1995, the gazebo at Pintail Park in 1998, the two stone benches at the community center in 2009, and two plaques for the Gold Star Program of the Veterans Memorial Foundation in 2014.

## Current Leadership and Activities

Co-presidents Ann Shockley and

Patti Lookner collaborate with Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola on new projects, and Gail Philippi puts out a robust regular newsletter, cataloging the club's many activities.

All three helped to plan the garden tours that once doubled as an annual club fundraiser.

"People would let their gardens be used for the tour, and we would advertise it all over the county," Shockley said. "People could buy tickets and get a map in the morning of all the different properties, and then we usually had a luncheon afterwards with a silent auction. It was a big, big production."

Shockley said the event was scaled back during the pandemic. It's no longer ticketed, and now features a handful of member gardens and gardeners.

"Although the Garden Club loved showing off the gardens in Ocean Pines and the funds it raised for the club, we decided that we would rather not continue to take it on," she said. "It's still fun to see people's gardens and what they've been doing, so it's worked out really nicely on a smaller

scale."

Along with the tour, club members collaborate each May to create dozens of floral arrangements, which are then sold for Mother's Day at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market.

"We sell those arrangements on the day before Mother's Day. It's been very profitable, and people are excited that we're there – especially those who forgot to get something for their mother!" Shockley said.

## Growing Local

All three women said there are unique growing challenges in Ocean Pines, from the saltwater air to the



local wildlife out looking for a tasty snack.

"The soil is one of the biggest challenges, but you find things that work here," Philippi said. "A lot of us are getting really into pollinators and native plants, and maybe moving away from some of the older varieties that we had used."

She said the climate can be different "year to year, plant to plant, yard to yard," and there's a lot of trial and error involved.

"I just read that you don't plant tomatoes in the same spot every year – which is what I've been doing and it's probably why my tomatoes don't look that good anymore," Shockley said. "It's also the salt air. And right now we've been having amazing water, but this summer we'll probably go through a dry spell."

Lookner said last year, for the first time, she had to deal with a vole invasion in her garden.

"I lost all my hostas and some coneflowers," she said. "For years, I would hear people talking about mole and vole problems and would think, 'Oh that's terrible' – and then I found out it is terrible. You just never know."

Lookner said many people who move to Ocean Pines look for insights on what works and what doesn't, and which kinds of challenges they might face in a local garden.

"You can't guarantee anything, really," she said. "But you can focus on the natives [plants] – and then you cross your fingers."

## Club Activities

Philippi said club activities have in-



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## Geriatric kayaking

Nancy and I took an exciting one-week cruise around the southern Caribbean islands – the ABCs, Grenada and St. Vincent. However, it was on our seven-hour port of call at Bonaire (the ‘B’ in ABCs) where the excitement exceeded the advertised expectations and provided us with a self-effacing reality check.

We signed up for the glass bottom kayak and snorkeling shore excursion – pretty standard cruise ship stuff. The tour was rated strenuous and called for a demanding one-mile, open water paddle to a beach, a half hour snorkel swim and a one hour return.

It started innocently enough with a walk to the tour operator’s shack where a pile of well-worn life jackets and scratched up transparent bottom kayaks awaited. Bob, the tour operator, knew the wind was building. In his pre-launch briefing, he danced around the fact that today’s trip would require more physical stamina and expertise than the advertised level. He looked directly at Nancy and me, the group’s senior citizens, and taunted us to chicken out but I was on vacation and, that morning, lacked enough coffee to pick up his subtle, in-your-face nudge to stand down.

So, situational awareness be damned, we shoved off and immediately established our position as the slowest of the nine 2-person kayaks. Weary, we were last to arrive at the snorkeling beach and last to complete the short swim.

After that, there was the dreaded return trip but by then we were tiring and the offshore wind was roaring. I don’t know the exact wind speed but we could see a second cruise ship approach the island, make two attempts to dock and then put back to sea, bypassing Bonaire because they were unable to handle the conditions.

Our return float plan called for us to set out about 50 yards from the shore and paddle the one mile back to the starting point paralleling the shoreline. Unfortunately, the offshore winds were overwhelming and Nancy and I didn’t have the energy - despite the million calorie per day shipboard dining extravaganza - to paddle as well as Charlton Heston could row in Ben Hur. Exhausted we took on water, lost control and rolled the boat.

Two of the other kayaks came to our assistance. We righted ours but didn’t have the strength to climb back onboard. So one of our rescuers, a

lovely young lady named Sonia, got into our boat and I held on with Sonia at the paddle. Nancy then held onto the rescuer’s boat manned by the assistant tour guide named Ben. By the time we got organized, both boats were blown about 200 yards off a rapidly fading shore. The thoughts of Ernest Hemingway’s Old Man in the Sea and Cuba only 900 miles down wind went through my mind as that second cruise ship slipped over the horizon.

Thank goodness for life jackets and warm Caribbean waters. Our lives were never in immediate danger but the row back to shore was impossible because of the stiff offshore wind and, secondly, someone hanging on the back of a kayak acts as a sea anchor that slows the forward progress even more. Not good. I kept looking over my shoulder for Cuba.

As we made feeble progress toward the shore the kayaks got separated. Sonia could barely keep ours from losing anymore distance so we drifted along the island. Finally, a local fisherman in an open boat went by and I hailed him. He didn’t speak English and I doubt his boat would pass a free recreational boat safety inspection.

At first blush, we could have been taken for a couple ya-ha tourists having water fun. So, despite all my USCG Auxiliary training on how to signal for help, the best I could do was raise one arm and put out my thumb like I was hitchhiking. Apparently, that’s an international signal. He came over, threw us a piece of frayed clothes line and towed us the half mile back to the beach where we had snorkeled.

After I got ashore, caught my breath and steadied my balance, the tour operator who watched the whole episode from the beach lectured me like a benevolent drill sergeant. I’ll spare you the details but I assure you they were delivered with enthusiastic sincerity.

His enthusiasm was partly motivated by his ongoing concern for the other boat. Ben was also trying to row his rescue kayak with Nancy hanging onto the side to shore. Our boats had gotten separated and the second one had gotten even closer to Cuba. Correctly evaluating the situation, the tour operator declared a ‘May Day.’ When the Bonairie Coast Guard arrived, they scooped up Ben and Nancy and their kayak and delivered them safely ashore at the original kayak dock.

After rolling a kayak in heavy wind and unable to re-board, I now have a much greater appreciation for life jackets. They really do work.

I also had one other epiphany. While the local fisherman was towing our kayak and I was hanging on with both hands behind it, my bathing suit slipped down towards my knees. I couldn’t let go to reach down so I crossed my legs to avoid a 30 day stay in Bonaire’s all-inclusive, no-frills house of ill repute for indecent exposure.

Lesson learned: Wear suspenders when trolling for sharks.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

*Dan Collins can be reached for comment at [dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com](mailto:dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com)*

### Central Committee to host author

The Worcester County Republican Central Committee presents “Character Matters” with guest speaker former USMC Lt. Col. Stuart Sheller, who served in Afghanistan, and is the author of “Crisis of Command: How We Lost Trust and Confidence in America’s Generals and Politicians.” The event will be held Saturday, April 29, between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Ocean City Golf Club located at 11401 Country Club Drive in Berlin. Tickets are \$50 and includes a Happy Hour Buffet/Cash Bar. Tickets will be sold for a Two-day Concealed Carry training raffle, a \$1500 value. Seating is limited. Send checks to WCRCC, P.O. Box 1432, Berlin, MD 21811. Or con-

tact [WorCoRcc@gmail.com](mailto:WorCoRcc@gmail.com) or 443-668-8864.

### The Parke garage sale set

The Parke at Ocean Pines is holding its community sale on Saturday, June 3 (rain date is Sunday, June 4) from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in residents’ driveways. The Parke is an active 55+ Adult community of 503 homes. Parke residents are selling their treasures for others to enjoy. There are clothes, lamps, artwork, household items, electronics, furniture and more.

On June 3, maps will be available at the main entrance of the

Parke located at Central Parke

West, located off of Ocean Parkway at the south entrance of Ocean Pines.

For additional information, contact the Parke Clubhouse Staff at 410-208-4994.

### 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 68<sup>th</sup> Street in Ocean City.

Family and friends are invited to an evening of unlimited mini golf play that includes a Hole 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 competi-

*please see fundraiser on page 14*

# Financial tips for blended families

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



John Bennish

Becoming part of a blended family can certainly be rewarding. Of course, as is the case in all families, there will be challenges, one of which is financial. A blended family must deal with some specific financial issues, so it's a good idea to become familiar with them.

In particular, consider these areas:

**Separate or joint accounts?** – Should your two family units combine all your finances or maintain separate accounts? There's no one correct answer for everyone, because this issue has emotional and psychological components to it, as well as financial considerations. But the nature of your new, blended family might guide you to a choice that makes sense for your situation.

So, for example, if you are remarrying at a later stage in life, and you and your new spouse have adult children, you might think the best move is to keep separate accounts. But if you are joining households with a spouse or partner with younger children, you may want to merge accounts to pay for household expenses and work toward your new, shared financial objectives. And it doesn't have to be an "either-or" approach – you might decide to blend some accounts and keep others separate.

**Debts and credit ratings** – It's likely that you and your new spouse or partner, and perhaps even some children, will bring debts into your blended family. As these debts can affect your family's finances in several ways, including your ability to borrow and your credit ratings, you will want to know what everyone owes, and the amount of monthly payments needed to meet these obligations. After that, you may be able to find ways to consolidate debts or find other ways to reduce or eliminate them.

**Legal issues** – When you establish a blended family, you may want to review, and possibly update, the

beneficiary designations on your life insurance policy and retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k). These designations can supersede instructions you may have left in your estate planning documents – including your last will and testament – so it's important to ensure they reflect your current wishes. And speaking of your estate plans, you may well need to revise them, too, in consultation with your attorney.

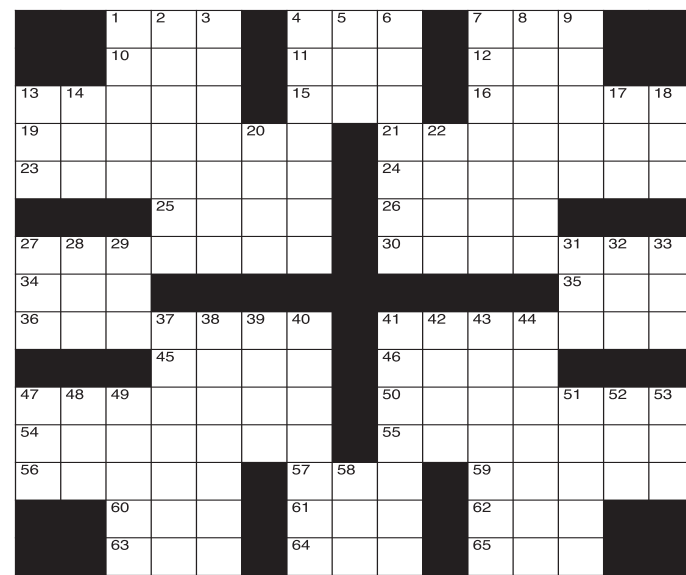
**Attitudes toward money** – Attitudes toward money – yours and those of your new spouse or partner – should be addressed when starting a blended family. Is one of you more of a saver while the other spends more freely? As investors, does one of you favor taking more risk while the other is more conservative? It's important to reconcile these differences as best you can, especially if you plan on merging your finances. This means that you both may need to compromise somewhat, but you should strive to avoid having either of you feeling uncomfortable in your choices. In any case, open and honest communication is the first step in achieving a harmonious financial strategy.

These aren't the only financial considerations involved with blended families, but they should give you some things to think about – and the earlier you start thinking about them, the better.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor John Bennish, Ocean Pines. He can be reached at 410-208-9083. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.*

## Kiwanis event scheduled

On Wednesday, April 19 the Kiwanis Club will host an early evening at the Southgate Grill Pavilion beginning at 3:30 p.m. The event is an opportunity to learn more about the club and its support of the community. Attendees can enjoy half price burger night, Happy Hour Drinks between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., \$1 appetizers.



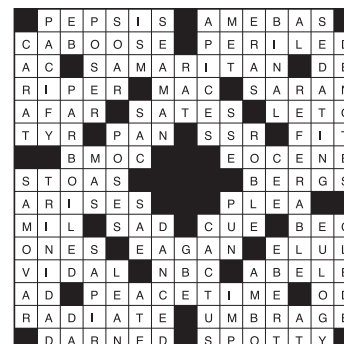
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Atomic mass unit
- 4. Criticize mightily
- 7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 10. Stand in for
- 11. Everyone has one
- 12. Brew
- 13. Rectify
- 15. Popular Dodge truck model
- 16. Beef or chicken intestine
- 19. Satisfy
- 21. Of a particular people or localized region
- 23. Movements in quick tempos
- 24. Able to pay one's debts
- 25. Fleshy bird beak covering
- 26. Dueling sword
- 27. Helps
- 30. Court is in it
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Airborne (abbr.)
- 36. Of one
- 41. Baked good
- 45. Jai \_\_, sport
- 46. About aviation
- 47. Low oval mound
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges
- 54. Compel to do something
- 55. A way to carve
- 56. Sao \_\_, city in Brazil
- 57. Mustachioed actor Elliott
- 59. American Idol runner-up Clay
- 60. A way to soak
- 61. Car mechanics group
- 62. Born of
- 63. Time zone
- 64. Sea eagle
- 65. Even's opposite

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sharp mountain ridge
- 2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
- 3. Provides new details
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Ottoman military title
- 6. Banes
- 7. Horse-riding seats
- 8. Arms of a shirt
- 9. Narrow path along a road edge
- 13. Viper
- 14. Disfigure
- 17. Variety of Chinese language
- 18. Portray in a show
- 20. Wrongful act
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. State of agitation
- 28. \_\_ Diego
- 29. One point east of due south
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. The NBA's Toppin
- 33. Midway between north and northeast
- 37. Examples
- 38. \_\_ Gould, actor
- 39. The habitat of wild animals
- 40. Artful subtlety
- 41. Infielders
- 42. Keep under control
- 43. Herb
- 44. Distressed
- 47. A way to go down
- 48. Type of acid
- 49. Take by force
- 51. Collected fallen leaves
- 52. Shout of welcome or farewell
- 53. Monetary unit
- 58. Swiss river

Answers for April 5



**club**  
from page 8

cluded bus trips to tour major gardens and garden centers such as the Hillwood Estate in Washington, D.C., Winterthur in Delaware, and Longwood Gardens and the Philadelphia Flower Show in Pennsylvania. The group also visits many local and regional gardens.

“There’s quite a big educational component to what we do,” she said. “We also have speakers who come in to talk to our members about a number of topics.”

That includes regular appearances by Ginny Rosenkranz, who since 1994 has served as the University of Maryland’s commercial horticulture educator for Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties.

Lookner said she’s championed the educational component of Garden Club meetings.

“We really try to focus on learning something about gardening at our meetings,” she said. “That’s why I joined the club – to give to the community and to learn. Because there’s always a lot to learn.”

Shockley said there has also been a big emphasis on conservation and proper environmental practices.

“We have talked a lot about what are good practices in gardening – like recycling and composting – and all those things that we can do to help the earth and ourselves and our community,” she said.

**Giving Back**

Along with the club’s mission statement of stimulating interest in gardening while encouraging friendship within the community, Philippi said there’s an unstated goal of providing community service.

In the past, the club has offered scholarships to local high school students. More recently, the club has given back to the Association in the form of donated plant materials and help with beautification projects.

That has included annual Christmas decorations at the entrances of each neighborhood in Ocean Pines and on street signs along Ocean Parkway. It’s a big task that Lookner said is accomplished with plenty of help from Eddie Wells, Clint Parks, and others from the Ocean Pines Public Works Department.

Each April, the club hosts an Arbor Day ceremony at Pintail Park to honor former club members, friends and relatives who passed away in the previous year, and to plant a tree in their honor. The event is well attended and frequently

includes many local political figures.

Shockley said the club also helps to manage Pintail Park.

“Ocean Pines Public Works, with Tony Howard and his crew, are the main caretakers of Pintail Park, but we also lend a hand with clearing gardens, weeding, some light pruning and setting up a watering schedule with volunteers in the summer,” she said.

“This year, our gift is going to be to donate money to do the plantings at the North Gate, and we’re working with John Viola on that,” Shockley continued. “We’re going to help with plant materials, and we’re actually going to go with Tony and the Public Works staff when they go to pick out the plants.”

She said perennials and other plants grown by Garden Club members would be added to the North Gate plantings.

Philippi again emphasized that giving back and community service is a big part of what the club does.

“We love living here and we want our community to be beautiful,” she said. “Giving back just seems like a natural thing – especially for a garden club.”

“Gardeners like to plant stuff, so if we run out of room in our own yards, we start looking for other places to plant things,” Shockley said. “And I know when I drive around and I see something out of place I think, ‘Oh! We need to do something about that.’ But it’s because we all live here and we’re all proud of Ocean Pines.”

**Growing New Members**

Philippi said none of the club’s many projects, programs and charitable endeavors would be possible without the dedication of the club members.

“Everyone works hard and cooperates willingly in making sure our projects are successful,” she said.

“It’s really teamwork that makes our events fun and successful,” Lookner added.

Lookner said the club is always looking for new members.

“We’re a very welcoming group and we’re very friendly,” she said. “So, if you have any interest in gardening, come on over.”

The Ocean Pines Garden Club meets on the second Thursday of each month. Guests and new members are welcome. For more information, contact Shockley at 410-688-1975 or Lookner at 410-973-1243.

For more information or to join the Ocean Pines Garden Club, visit [bit.ly/OceanPinesGardenClub](http://bit.ly/OceanPinesGardenClub) or [www.facebook.com/groups/oceanpinedgardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/oceanpinedgardenclub).

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From Senator Mary Beth Carozza

# Maryland General Assembly Update

The Maryland General Assembly has only three more days to wrap up the session before Sine Die (from the Latin "Without Day") on Monday, April 10 at midnight.



Senator  
Mary Beth  
Carozza

"We're on the home stretch to Sine Die. Several of my bills have either made it to the Governor's desk or are on track for final passage," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties.

## Executive nominations/General Birkhead of Snow Hill to lead Maryland military

As of April 7, the Senate is moving forward with two of Governor Moore's key nominees including Brigadier General Janeen L. Birkhead to lead the Maryland Military Department and Paul Monteiro, Jr. to be the Secretary of the new Department of Service and Civil Innovation. The Senate Executive Nominations Committee, of which Carozza serves on, held a hearing and voted to confirm both nominees on April 6.

During the hearing, Carozza highlighted Birkhead's long-time ties to Worcester County and her strong leadership. "I strongly support this nomination. General Birkhead has been a leader her entire life, and whether it's serving overseas, whether it's been taking on the difficult assignments during COVID and actually going into the local neighborhoods, she leads by example," said Carozza, who seconded the nomination of Birkhead to serve as Maryland's Adjutant General. "On a personal note, I know your Mom, Fannie Mae Ward Birkhead, is smiling down, and you are following in her tracks as she was the first African American elected to a countywide office in Worcester County and the first African American to drive the Boardwalk train."

The Maryland National Guard consists of almost 6,000 Army and Air National Guard members and supports Maryland's domestic homeland capabilities and U.S. Army and Air Force operations around the globe.

## Local nominations

Senator Carozza introduced and supported the nominations of Michael Chandler of Snow Hill and Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce President Hitesh Patel to the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays on Monday.

"Michael Chandler grew up on the Eastern Shore on the Virginia side and now lives on the Eastern Shore on the Maryland side. He has a strong sense of how the environment can be impacted on a regional scale," said Carozza.

"Hitesh Patel is a community and business leader and has taken on the role of Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce President just this year. He is deeply committed to moving Crisfield and Somerset County forward, and he's very excited to be a part of such an important and locally-crucial commission," said Carozza.

Senator Carozza also was honored to introduce and support the nomination of Dr. Sandeep Gopalan to the Maryland Economic Development Commission. Dr. Gopalan currently is the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

"The University of Maryland Eastern Shore has the only four-year aviation degree program in Maryland," said Carozza. "Dr. Gopalan served as the Chair of the Arizona Aerospace and Defense Commission from 2006-2007. His experience would be vital to the development of not only UMES and the Eastern Shore, but for Maryland at large."

Other nominees under discussion by the Executive Nominations Committee this week include Bill McCain of Salisbury to the State Commission of Real Estate Appraisers, Appraisal Management Companies, and Home Inspectors; Donald Ewalt, Melodie Carter, and Jeanette Taylor to the Wicomico County Liquor Control Board; Leif Hancock of Wicomico to the State Board of Plumbing; and Sherry Williams of Ocean City to the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists.

## Budget highlights

The Maryland General Assembly has passed a \$63 billion operating budget. Again, Maryland benefits from

the lingering influx of COVID-19 relief funds, however, mid-way through the Session, "the Budget Committees were thrown a curveball in the form of a \$480 million budget write-down due to lower tax revenue projections. While not entirely unexpected, the write-down is a warning sign and call for fiscal responsibility as the State could face a structural deficit in the coming years," said Senator Carozza.

FY24 Budget Highlights include:  
-\$2.5 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, which is double the recommended amount of 5% of general fund revenues  
-\$8.78 billion for Maryland public schools  
-\$900 million down payment on future costs of implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future education plan

-\$200 million in tax relief for low-income families and veterans  
-\$421 million for salary increases and bonuses for state employees  
-\$35 million for Maryland's emergency medical systems  
-No new tax increases

## BOOST Program

The operating budget also restored \$1 million for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today budget, also known as the BOOST Program, which provides scholarships to low-income and at-risk youth to attend a non-public school. According to the January BOOST report, 3,268 students received scholarships during the 2021-2022 school year. Over half were students of color, 247 were special education students, and 1,030 were English language learners.

"This program provides low-income families the same choice that high-income families have in deciding how their children should be educated," said Senator Carozza. "Every child has a unique learning style, and while we need good public schools, we also need to give every child the chance to learn in their optimal environment, and the BOOST Program has been an effective option for many Maryland students."

## Capital Budget

As of April 7, the full Senate is considering the Capital Budget this week which includes several local legislative

bond initiatives in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset.

\$250,000, Atlantic General Hospital, Worcester  
\$75,000, Diakonia Campus Project, Worcester  
\$75,000, Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department South Station Renovation, Worcester  
\$150,000, Salisbury Regional Airport Terminal Rehabilitation Design/Construction, Wicomico  
\$100,000, Perdue Stadium Boiler Replacement, Wicomico  
\$95,000, Horizons Delmarva Program/Salisbury School Amphitheater, Wicomico  
\$45,000, Crisfield Elks Lodge, Somerset

## Maryland 529 Program

The Maryland General Assembly is moving forward with legislation to transfer the current Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust Board to the Office of the State Treasurer. Senate Bill 959 would place the State Treasurer in charge of a claims settlement process where cases would be prioritized and each case would be individually investigated.

The Trust was intended to allow parents to lock in tuition rates for in-state schools by purchasing semester credits when children are still young. However, certain challenges recently came to light when account holders who tried to withdraw the accrued interest that they were promised were unable to do so due to an interest calculation problem.

"As a member of the committee with oversight of education, I joined with my colleagues in pressing the 529 officials for specific recommendations on how to fast track fixing and resolving this problem for all those who in good faith set up these accounts years ago to help pay for their children's college expenses," said Senator Carozza. "This legislation will allow parents to file claims and have their individual cases reviewed and resolved."

Nearly \$8.45 million has been set aside in the operating budget to complete an IT upgrade and complete the transfer of the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust program to the Office of the State Treasurer.

**center**  
from page 3

nate that we were becoming a center for the arts. If we had still been doing work at the center, all of that would have been gone.

“Because of the change in focus, we were able to keep our doors open and provide support for the clients,” he continued. “Our staff would pack up two weeks’ worth of art supplies, drop them off at the client’s houses, and we would do Zoom lessons with them either through the Art League or through our staff here. So, we ac-

tually did OK during COVID because we were able to keep our clients very active and engaged because we had made those changes.”

Along with helping clients learn how to communicate better through the arts, Ferry said jobs programs continue to be a major focus of the center.

“Our goal is to help everybody get a job in the community who wants a job,” he said. “We have a job coach who will help them find a job, and then follow along with them to make sure they’re able to do that job properly.”

**update**  
from page 12

Offshore wind

The Maryland General Assembly approved Senate Bill 781 which deals with the procurement and transmission of wind energy projects and threatens to potentially add massive high voltage power lines and dangerous cable landfalls in Ocean City. Carozza voted against SB 781 and offered an amendment in committee to prohibit cable and transmission infrastructure landfall on the Town of Ocean City.

Senator Carozza noted that “as SB 781 is being pushed by members of the General Assembly, offshore wind developers in New Jersey are seeking more funding from ratepayers and several dead whales and dolphins have washed up on beaches along the East Coast. This should be a wake-up call for Maryland.”

While Senator Carozza supports exploring alternative solutions to meet our energy needs and environmental requirements, she consistently has raised questions and concerns about several potential negative impacts that continue to go unanswered since attending the first public meeting held by the Public Service Commission on the development of offshore wind industrial-size turbines off the Maryland coast in 2017.

“There simply has been an insufficient study of the impact and unintended consequences of these proposed offshore wind projects on navigation, marine life, and activities of both commercial and recreational fishing, views of turbines from the beach, homeland security risks, military communications, vessel collisions, decommissioning plans of turbines, and the true costs to ratepayers and taxpayers,” said Carozza.

The proponents of offshore wind energy often point to the New Jersey projects and the Block Island project in Rhode Island as positive role models for offshore wind energy development in Maryland. However, the underground high voltage electric cables of the Block Island project were installed so poorly that they were exposed on the beach, resulting in beach closures, power outages, shutting down production from the offshore wind project, and cable repairs that took over five years, costing Rhode Island utility customers \$31 million.

Carozza offered an amendment to SB 781 in committee to “ensure that the transmission infrastructure will NOT locate or interconnect in the municipality of Ocean City.” The amendment was not approved.

Just this week, the Eastern Shore Delegation called for a Congressional public hearing in Ocean City, Maryland on the development of offshore wind energy projects off the coastline of Ocean City, including the effects on marine and mammal life. A similar Congressional hearing was held in New Jersey last month. Carozza and other members of the Eastern Shore Delegation will continue to press to keep offshore wind transmission infrastructure out of Ocean City and push for transparency of the true cost of offshore wind energy to the ratepayers and taxpayers.

**Joint Republican Caucus calls for action on crime bills**

Senator Carozza joined with the Leadership of the Joint Republican Caucus to implore Democratic colleagues and Governor Moore to take action on legislation to address Maryland’s out-of-control violent crime crisis. Several pieces of commonsense legislation to address violent crime have been introduced but not received

Ferry said working for WCDC has been one of the most rewarding experiences of his life, and that feeling is shared by many of his staff.

“When we have an in-service day and the clients aren’t here, everybody just feels like something is missing. You really miss their life and their vitality, their energy, their enthusiasm,” Ferry said.

“I’ve been in this field for 30 years now, and they teach me more every day than I’ve taught any of them in 30 years. They’re just the best people in the world,” he continued. “They love to learn, they love

the courtesy of a committee vote:

SB 564 Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun

HB 750 Gun Felony Act of 2023

SB 744 The Violent Firearms Offenders Act

HB 753 Juvenile Gun Offenses Accountability Act of 2023

“As the violent crime crisis continues to plague our State, we must continue to push for legislation that increases penalties against repeat, violent offenders,” said Carozza. “All Governor Moore would have to do is call on the Senate President and Speaker of the House for violent crime legislation to be sent to him for his signature. We still have a few remaining days in this year’s session, and we on both sides of the political aisle should make it a priority to pass these crime bills now.”

Republican crime bills are not the only crime legislation that have stalled in the General Assembly. A bill requested by Baltimore City States Attorney Ivan Bates has not moved either.

**Broadband funding**

Governor Moore announced on Wednesday that nearly \$92 million would be awarded to Internet Service Providers across Maryland to expand high-speed internet access. Over \$10 million of those funds have been awarded to providers within Wicomico and Worcester counties which has been estimated to expand broadband access to almost 2,000 households and businesses.

Since the Office of Statewide Broadband was created in 2017, more than \$270 million has been invested into broadband infrastructure and programs as part of the State’s efforts to ensure that all Maryland households have access to broadband.

to be active, they love to be engaged. And it just really is a joy and a pleasure to be able to work with them.

“I always like tell our new staff, ‘You’re gonna have the best job in the world. And you know why? You’re gonna be able to go home at night and get a good night’s sleep because what you did today made somebody else’s life better,’” Ferry said. “I can’t think of a better job than making somebody else’s life better, and helping somebody who appreciates it and somebody who just needs that little bit of help.”

Ferry said the Worcester County Developmental Center is always in need of financial support, as well as local businesses and nonprofits to partner with.

“If people have businesses that they think can work with us, we’re always looking for new opportunities for our clients,” he said. “Any way that we can get them involved in the community is a plus. We’re also hoping to restart our volunteer programs where our clients would go out and volunteer in the community very soon.”

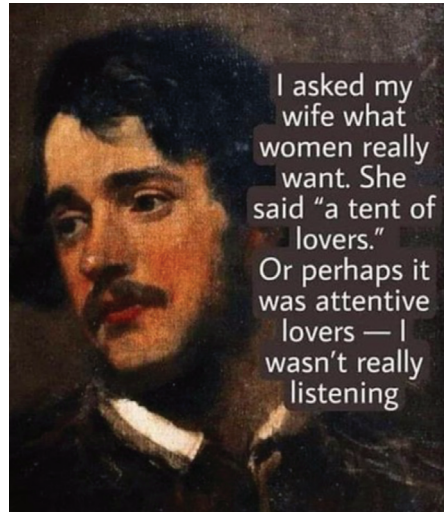
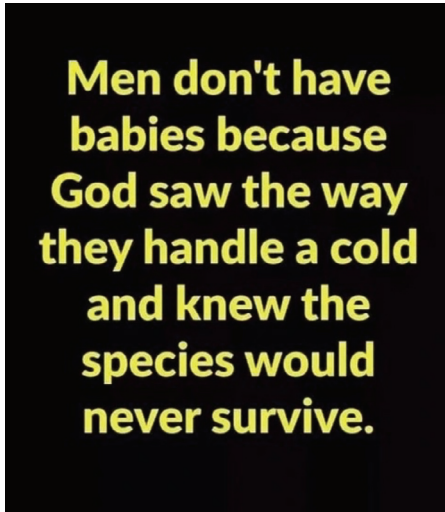
For more information or to donate, visit [www.wcdcservices.org](http://www.wcdcservices.org) or email [ferry@wcdcservices.org](mailto:ferry@wcdcservices.org).

**Tides for Ocean City Inlet**

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 13	High	2:10 AM
	Low	8:38 AM
	High	2:39 PM
	Low	8:35 PM
F 14	High	3:20 AM
	Low	9:42 AM
	High	3:50 PM
	Low	9:44 PM
Sa 15	High	4:29 AM
	Low	10:43 AM
	High	4:57 PM
	Low	10:52 PM
Su 16	High	5:31 AM
	Low	11:40 AM
	High	5:56 PM
	Low	11:56 PM
M 17	High	6:26 AM
	Low	12:30 PM
	High	6:49 PM
Tu 18	Low	12:54 AM
	High	7:16 AM
	Low	1:16 PM
	High	7:38 PM
W 19	Low	1:47 AM
	High	8:03 AM
	Low	1:59 PM
	High	8:25 PM

# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



**webb**  
from page 4

share documents among each other, and it'll be searchable," he continued. "And it should help cut down on the mountains of paper that you see in some of our offices."

Overall, Webb said Ocean Pines is much closer to where it needs to be, from a technology standpoint.

"For an organization of our size and our resources, it's always going to be hard. But, we're coming into the 21st century as far as technology is concerned. And we're a lot better than we were four years ago," he said.

Webb is now the senior support associate for the Ocean Pines IT Department.

Last year, Keith Calabrese took over as the IT manager. He's the third person to helm that position in the last four years, but Webb said Calabrese has brought a level of stability to the department.

"Keith is great," Webb said. "He's kind of an easygoing guy. He depends

on me and pretty much gives me free rein to do what needs to be done. He kind of takes care of the administrative part, dealing with the Board and with future planning, disaster recovery plans – all the stuff that I did not want to do!"

Through it all, Webb has always maintained a healthy sense of humor. When he walks into any office in Ocean Pines, you know he's there to fix a problem, and he almost always has a way of making people smile and laugh.

"My grandmother always told me there's two ways to look at everything: There are people that have everything and they're unhappy, and there are people that have nothing and they're happy every day," Webb said. "It's really just a matter of perspective."

"I'm not happy all the time, but you only get one life. Whatever you do with it, that's all you got," he continued. "So, even if things are sometimes hard, you might as well make fun of it or laugh about it. I think that's where it comes from."

**schedule**  
from page 9

tion 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.

## Tortoise and Hare Dare returns

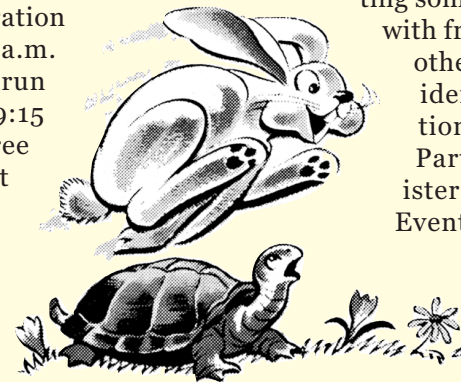
Welcome back spring with the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tortoise & Hare Dare 5K walk/run. The 5k will take place at the Pocomoke River State Park-Shad Landing in Snow Hill on Saturday, April 15. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 9:15 a.m. This is a free event and is pet friendly. The first 100 runners/walkers to register for the event will receive a free commemorative T-shirt. This 5k is sponsored by The Worcester County Health Department, Worcester

County Department of Recreation and Parks and Pocomoke River State Park.

"The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tortoise and Hare Dare 5k is the perfect opportunity to get out and get active in our county and explore the lovely Shad Landing," said Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services for Worcester County Health Department. "Whether you walk or run, this event is a fun, accessible way to welcome spring back to Worcester."

After the walk, participants are encouraged to visit local health, recreation, and community vendors. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while getting some physical activity with friends, family, and other community residents. Pre-registration is encouraged. Participants can register through Eventbrite or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 for more information.

You can also register for the free Just Walk program at any time, by visiting [justwalkworchester.org/](http://justwalkworchester.org/).



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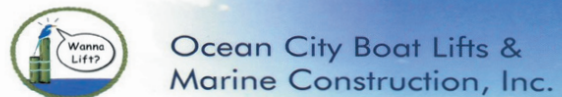


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