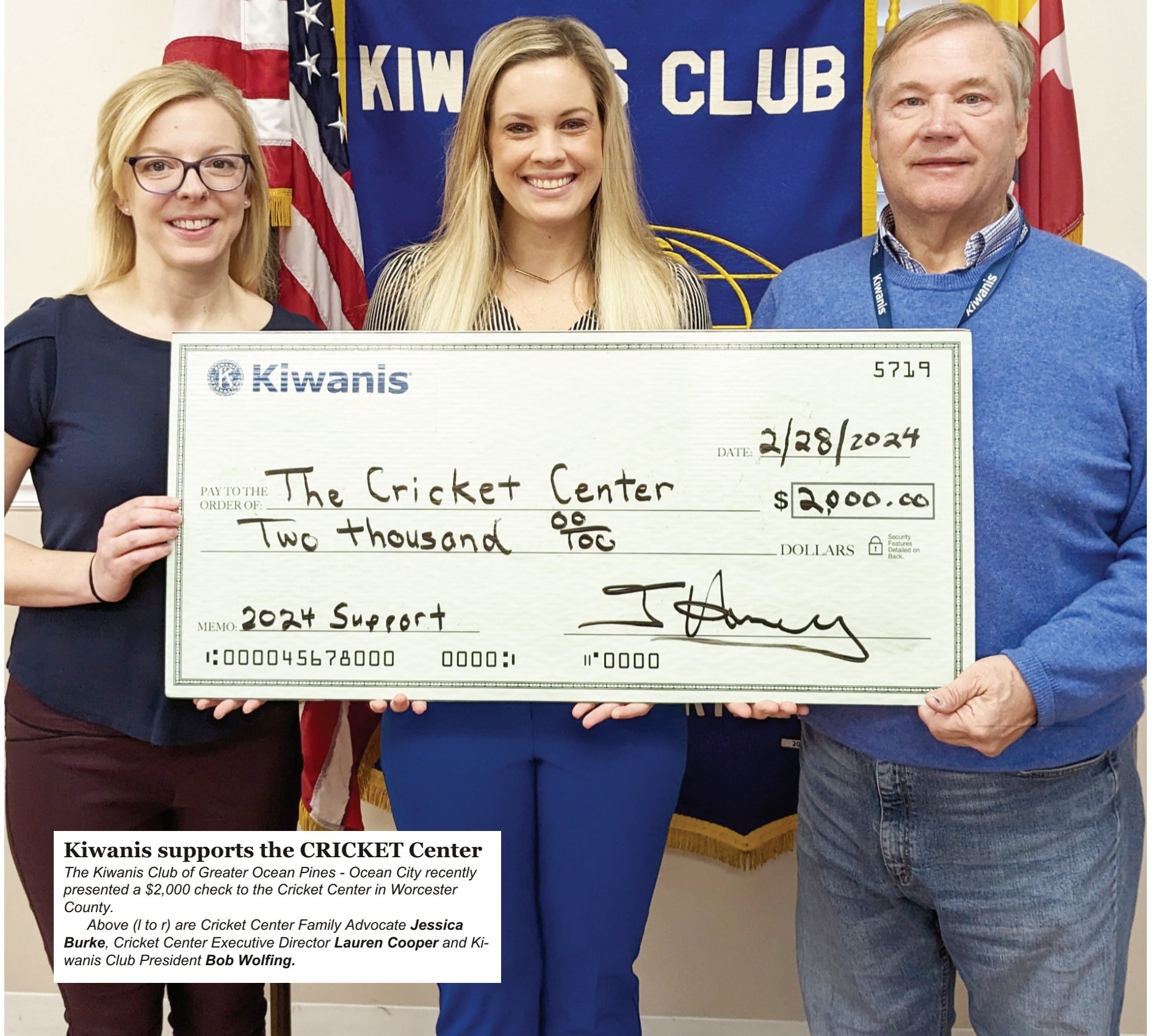


The Courier

March 6, 2024 Volume 24 Number 24



Kiwanis supports the CRICKET Center

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City recently presented a \$2,000 check to the Cricket Center in Worcester County.

Above (l to r) are Cricket Center Family Advocate **Jessica Burke**, Cricket Center Executive Director **Lauren Cooper** and Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing**.

African American Women lecture offered

Interested in finding out more about Influential African American Women? Dr. Clara Small, Professor Emeritus of Salisbury University, will discuss their history on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to noon in Germantown School's lecture series. The lecture is free, but reservations are recommended. For more information or to register, email germantownschool@gmail.com or call (410) 641-0638. The Germantown School is located at 10223 Trappe Road in Berlin.

Angler flea market scheduled

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club is sponsoring a Fishing Flea Market on Saturday April 6 between 7 a.m. and noon. Buy or sell fishing, boating and other household items. The table cost is \$15 for 10'x10' space which includes one table. The event will be held indoors at the Ocean Pines Community Center gym in White Horse Park.

Admission is \$2. There is free parking. For information and to reserve a table contact Laura Leuters at 240-818-2864 or email; dorado1045@yahoo.com.

Historical Society seeks nominations

The Worcester County Historical Society is currently seeking nominations for the 2024 Bob and Kathy Fisher Award.

It is given annually in honor of the late Bob Fisher and his wife Kathy, each of whom were involved in the preservation of local history for many years. The award honors someone who has shown a dedication to Worcester County history in the form of written and visual documentation, public education, or the maintenance or care of historic sites.

The Bob and Kathy Fisher award will be presented on May 3 at the annual meeting of the Worcester County Historical Society in Pocomoke City.

Nominations should be sent c/o Cara Downey to 302 Park Row, Snow Hill, MD 21863 or emailed to caram.downey@gmail.com. The deadline for nominations is March 25.

Summer Scholars adds new options

Parents of gifted and talented children entering the third through tenth grades in the fall of 2024 can register their children for Summer Scholars at Wor-Wic Community College.

New age groupings will offer courses for third- and fourth-graders, fifth- to seventh-graders and eighth- to 10th-graders. This year, participants of some courses will have access to the tools and high-tech training devices in the new Patricia and Alan Guerrieri Technology Center, with new courses being added on STEM topics such as wind energy.

Talented teens will also find culinary arts and business courses. Returning favorites include "Korean Culture and K-Pop," where students learn Korean language, dance and traditions, and "Rockets and Robots," in which participants put technology to work in exciting ways. Other courses focus on 3D printing, acting, animals, cooking, crime scene investigation, photography and "Star Wars."

One-week courses are offered Monday through Friday, beginning July 8 and ending August 2. Students can take full- or half-day courses. Full-day courses are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a one-hour lunch. Half-day courses, which are offered from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., can be taken back-to-back to create a full day. Before and after care will be offered.

The courses are designed for public, private and home-schooled gifted and talented students. A student's gifted and talented status is determined by the school they attend, based on the student's abilities in the areas of general intellectual capabilities, specific academic aptitudes, or the creative, visual or performing arts.



Above are Carol Frazier, Sandy Zitzer, Kayla Figueroa and Lauren Cooper.

RWWC speakers discuss children in need

The Republican Women of Worcester County held their February luncheon meeting at the Ocean City Golf Club. Guest speakers were Kayla Figueroa, director of Worcester Connects, Worcester Youth and Family Counseling. "Worcester Connects" is a youth mentoring program designed to help students who need a positive role model in their lives. Their mission is to support Worcester County students by providing a positive role model for students and increasing community involvement. Mentors are needed to fulfill this goal. For more information, call 410-641-4598 or email shine@gowoyo.org or go to

www.gowoyo.org.

The second speaker was Lauren Cooper, director of the CRICKET Center, a Worcester County Child Advocacy Center. The center teams up with Atlantic General Hospital, the Board of Education, Department of Education, the Life Crisis Center, local law enforcement and the State's Attorney's Office. Their mission is to generate a community response where children and families experience hope and healing while holding abusers accountable through the team effort. For more information, call 410-641-0097 or email LCooper@worcester.md.us or go www.thecricketcenter.com.



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EOE

Bay Day returns in Ocean Pines

The fifth annual Bay Day event returns to White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on Sunday, May 19 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 another year,” 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, including Go Green OC, UMES 4-H STEM, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Assateague Coastal Trust, Protectors of the St. Martin River, and many more. The first 200 attendees will receive a canvas bag, hand-painted by students from Worcester County Pub-

lic Schools.

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

For more information on the compost and recycling program, and for weekly Bay Day updates, visit the “Bay Day in Ocean Pines” event on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/gLUqXVBtk>.

OPA Board election process gets underway

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee has announced important dates for the 2024 election process, including filing and voting deadlines.

The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines. Terms for elected directors are three years.

This year, two seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election: those currently held by directors Rick Farr and Jeff Heavner.

The deadline to file is by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8.

“We encourage anyone who is thinking about running to do their homework, read up on the Association’s governing documents, attend the regular meetings, and volunteer,” Elections Committee Chairperson Tom Patti said. “Volunteers have helped make this community what it is today, and there’s no better way to give back than to serve on our Board of Directors.”

Applications are available at the administration building or on the Ocean Pines website.

Important upcoming election dates include:

- Eligible Candidate Draw and Workshop (to determine ballot order and seating during the candidate forum) – Friday, June 7
- Voter eligibility deadline – Tuesday, July 2
- Candidate Forum – TBD
- Ballot deadline – Tuesday, August 6 by 4 p.m.
- Ballots counted and vote totals announced – Thursday, August 8
- Annual Meeting – Saturday, August 10

For questions about the election, contact elections@oceanpines.org.



Winners - At the Republican Women of Worcester County February luncheon meeting, the Valentine raffle winners were drawn. The lucky winners were, standing left to right, **Tamara White** and **Mary DiBartolo**.

Scholarship deadline nears

Members of the Ocean Pines Golf Club and the Ocean Pines Golf Members’ Council will award several scholarships to 2024 high school graduates in support of their college plans.

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

“Those who have an application should return it to their school’s college guidance office by the April 12 deadline,” Scholarship Committee Chairperson Dave McGregor said.

“These scholarships are intended for local 12th-grade students who have shown an interest in golf – active participation in competitive golf is not a requirement,” McGregor said. “Golf team members and recreational golfers, along with those interested in golf management and turf science, are encouraged to apply.”

The Ocean Pines Golf Members’ Council has awarded more than \$53,000 to local seniors over the last seven years.

For more information, contact McGregor at david.b.mcgregor@gmail.com.

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Docent training, upcoming Veterans Memorial Foundation events

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines is looking for a few good docents to help with educational programs.

The Veterans Memorial Foundation each year sponsors field trips to the memorial for all fifth-grade students in Worcester County.

Students learn about the history of the American flag, and how to properly fold and display it. While touring the memorial grounds, they will learn about the different branches of the U.S. Military and a brief history of U.S. armed conflicts.

“Our Educational programs begin May 10, with a field trip to the memorial from Most Blessed Sacrament School. It’s the first of many field trips by fifth grade students in Worcester County. Before the month is over, more than 650 students will have been met by docents and learned the stories of veterans and their sacrifices for our

freedom,” Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said.

Docents who assist with those trips don’t have to be veterans or teachers – they just need a desire to engage students in a fun and interesting way.

“Please consider becoming a docent,” Gilmore said. “It’s a great way to give back to the community and help connect local school children to our wonderful Veterans Memorial.”

Docent training is scheduled on Wednesday, April 24 at 3 p.m. at the memorial. For more information on volunteering, call Susan Pantone at 410-430 1040 or Don McMullen at 443-388-2941.

Coming up, the Veterans Memorial Foundation and Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club will co-sponsor the return of “Flags for Heroes” from May 18 to July 4.

During that period, a display of flags will proudly fly in Veterans Me-

morial Park along Route 589 to honor heroes.

“A ‘hero’ is defined by anyone who has made a difference in your life. Living or deceased, veteran, teacher, doctor, parent, or child,” Gilmore said.

Individuals and local businesses can be part of this tribute by sponsoring a flag for just \$50. The sponsor’s name and their hero’s name will be identified on each flag on a medallion. Medallions may be removed at any time by the sponsor.

Proceeds from this project will benefit education outreach projects.

The cutoff date to sponsor a flag is May 11. Forms are available on Veterans Memorial Foundation website, WoCoVets.org.

Additionally, the annual Memorial Day ceremony returns to Veterans Memorial Park on May 27, starting at 11 a.m.

The event each year draws thou-

sands of people and features music, demonstrations, and public speakers honoring U.S. Military men and women who gave their lives in service.

“Memorial Day honors all who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our county,” Gilmore said. “This year’s ceremony, as those before it, will honor the brave men and women who served our country and lost their lives in doing so.”

Public parking will be available at Veterans Memorial Park on Route 589 and Cathell Road in Ocean Pines. Limited seating will be available during the Memorial Day ceremony and guests are encouraged to bring chairs.

The ceremony will include a special dedication for a new gazebo.

“The Worcester County Veterans Memorial, along with the Ocean Pines Association, will be constructing and dedicating a large gazebo in Veterans Memorial Park. This joint project will provide the sheltered space we need for our educational programs as well as a space for visitors to Veterans Park to enjoy some shade for a picnic lunch,” Gilmore said. “We are very excited to see the finished project, which should be in place for this year’s educational programs.”

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit WoCoVets.org or www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyVeteransMemorial.

OPA announces promotion for Hitchens

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola last week announced that Aquatics Manager Michelle Hitchens was promoted to Aquatics Director, effective March 1.

Hitchens has over a decade of experience in the Aquatics Department.

rectly to General Manager John Viola.

“Michelle has taken on a leadership role in the Aquatics Department and stepped up accordingly,” Viola said. “Credit to her, and credit to Linda for helping to develop her skillset as a director.”

Martin mentored Hitchens over the last five months, helping with budget development and financial accounting, among other things.

“Michelle has been a dedicated Aquatics employee for many years, and we’re excited to see her take on this new role,” Martin said.

Hitchens said she is looking forward to new challenges and new opportunities in her expanded role.

“I am very thankful and excited for everything between the position and what we are trying to bring to the Aquatic Department,”

she said. “We want everything to run as smoothly as possible, so everyone has a fun and relaxing time at the pools.”

Viola said Hitchens stepped up in

September and was looking for more responsibility, and Ocean Pines had a need in Aquatics.

“Michelle has earned this and, as I structure the organization to meet the needs of the coming year, I hope to be able to make a few more announcements like this down the road,” he said. “Please join me in wishing Michelle continued success.”

Arbor Day ceremony returns to Pines

The Ocean Pines Garden Club will host its annual Arbor Day Memorial Ceremony on Thursday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Pintail Park in Ocean Pines.

The club will plant a tree in the park to honor friends and family members who passed away in 2023.

The ceremony will also include the Pine Tones choral group, bagpiper Mike Castoro, dignitary declarations, and poetry and historical readings. All are welcome.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

Additionally, the Garden Club will hold its annual Mother’s Day flower arrangement sale at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market on Saturday, May 11

in White Horse Park.

Club members create very affordable, small-to-medium-size flower arrangements perfect for a Mother’s Day celebration.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Garden Club, contact Gail Philippi at gailphilippi@gmail.com.



She was promoted to Aquatics Manager in September and reported to Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin.

As a director, she will report di-

*If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway.
Call 410-629-5906*

A warm February day

As I write this, on the twentieth-seventh day of February, the temperature outside is about sixty degrees. Think about that for a moment - February 27th and it's sixty degrees! This is not a complaint nor a comment about cli-



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

mate change. It's simply a statement of disbelief.

This season of the year is usually attired in heavy coats, gloves and scarves, not shorts and a tee shirt. Where's the winter bluster, the frigid temperature, the early morning frost-covered windshield? Don't get me wrong there was a time when a forecast for snow excited me. Now? Quite the opposite. Those Kodachrome days of yearning for, praying for, looking out for, snow accumulations are long gone like my jet-black hair. I am not disappointed nor am I waxing nostalgic. The image of a Currier and Ives winter tableau outside my window is attractive but the reality of such a scene - shoveling snow, navigating ice patches and bundling up in layers - is not.

My winter memories of a Philadelphia childhood include many experiences involving significant snow fall. I recall my brother, mother and me standing in the kitchen during pre-dawn hours listening to KYW News Radio 1060 report on school closings (public and parochial) hoping to hear the magic announcement that St. Albert the Great grade school was closed. Upon the news, my brother and I would bolt from the kitchen to the foyer grabbing our coats and hats. Our mother would slip Stroemann bread plastic bags over our socked feet so they'd slide more easily into our boots and repel melted snow from our feet. Then we'd explode through the back door where our snow escapades would begin.

Snow days were an opportunity to make some scratch by shoveling neighbors' sidewalks and driveways. My mother was a big proponent of entrepreneurship but only after my brother and I had shoveled our sidewalk, the walkway to the front door and our long driveway. Once this was done we had to make a pathway from the back door to

Mom's car which also had to be cleared of snow. If there was still daylight and we weren't exhausted from the forced labor, then we were able to hustle around the neighborhood. These many years later, I can't remember how much we made, maybe twenty or twenty-five bucks, a fortune for us. We usually slept well after those days of labor, dreaming of what our loot would buy at Kiddie City.

How true this is I don't know but I remember a rumor circulating in grade school that if it started snowing the day after Thanksgiving then we could expect a lot of snow during winter resulting in multiple days of canceled school. When I was nine or ten my brother and I were dragged along with our mother and grandmother to Gimbel's department store in Center City on Black Friday. At one point, while trudging begrudgingly from one department to the next, through the big glass entry doors I saw flurries of snow and got excited. I don't remember whether the theory of a lot of snow proved true that year but I do remember never wanting to go back to Gimbels.

In a nod toward getting older, several years ago I purchased a snowblower. I couldn't wait to fire that baby up and put it in action. Admittedly I was excited that morning I awoke to several inches of snow on the ground. I cleared the driveway in no time at all without even a hint of short breath. I was a kid once again. In the years since, the snowblower has been silent in the shed for lack of snow. One of the best investments I've ever made.

If it were possible to schedule when snow would fall, I'd be more enthusiastic about each occurrence. For instance, if I had my druthers and if it were within my power, snow would fall beginning around noon on Christmas Eve continuing overnight and finishing up after the gift exchange providing ample time for snowball fights, making a snowman and a sleigh ride. I would not mind the snow hanging around the following day but by the twenty-seventh I'd want it all gone.

Whatever the reason for the mild temperature on this day, the twenty-seventh of February, I'm going to climb over the snowblower to grab the rake so I can do some work in the garden. Just my luck, tomorrow it will snow.

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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Chamber Hijinks

A decision by the Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce to change the organization's name to the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce may prove costly, in more ways than one. Pushback came quickly from the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors. Even Worcester County Commissioner President Chip Bertino expressed concerns at a county meeting.

A quick reaction by the newly named chamber was to adjust the name slightly to Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines. The "in Ocean Pines" was added with a smaller font size. It is a curious and inaccurate sales pitch since the organization is not in Ocean Pines.

The latest newsletter from the Chamber does not include OPA as one of its "Corporate Sponsors." There are

now only four listed. If OPA is no longer a corporate sponsor, it is a major loss for the newly named Chamber. Strangely, OPA has been rather obtuse when asked about the official status of any current or future Chamber membership.

While defending the name change on OceanPinesForum.com, chamber Executive Director Kerrie Bunting, perhaps inadvertently, made a good case for keeping the old name. She wrote, "Speaking of Ocean Pines...The year round population base of our county reside in between the north and south gates. That's a fact." In other words, potential business members have their greatest potential customer base in Ocean Pines. Given that "fact," would not any business be more apt to join a chamber named Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce?

The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines would be wise to admit its mistake and return to the name Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce.

Pickleballers Win

The OPA Board of Directors gave complaining pickleballers virtually everything they wanted during a special board meeting... and they were still complaining.

The board voted 6-1 to reverse the budget and membership categories it passed back on February 17 after pickleballers saw the budget for Racquet Sports as life-altering. Eliminated during the special meeting was the single Racquet Sport membership in the budget, and instead the board backtracked to maintain the divisive individual memberships for each of the three racquet sports. There are now 23 different racquet sports memberships.

Interestingly, pickleballers had talked of a boycott - not refusing to use the facility, but to pay the day rate of \$10. Goofy, in that paying the day rate could end up costing players much

more than the "life-altering" membership cost as originally passed.

OPA board backtracking on what it originally approved in the budget means the turf wars will continue unabated. Some people will continue to pay for one sport and then use the other facilities as well. Of course, OPA can hire a few full-time folks to make sure that does not happen.

OPA director John Latham made the most intriguing comment during the special board meeting. The now resigned (for the second time and likely gone for good) Director of Racquet Sports, the fellow the pickleballers begged OPA to bring back at any cost after he walked off the job the first time, was still in that position during the board review of the budget for fiscal 2024-2025.

Latham said the gentleman told the board there were too many pickleball players or words to that effect. According to Latham, the man pickleballers could not live without suggested raising the cost of a pickleball membership in order to "thin the herd."

You gotta love this place.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday

Each March, Daylight Saving Time (DST) is welcomed by millions of people in the northern hemisphere, especially those who lament the lack of sunlight when leaving their offices in the evenings throughout winter.

The future of DST is an open question in the United States and elsewhere, but the clock switching that is synonymous with DST will again take place in participating locales this Sunday, March 10. At 2 a.m. at which time clocks will be moved forward one hour. That means sunset will take place one hour later that night, providing that much-loved extra hour of evening sunlight.

The tradition of DST could soon end in the United States. That's because the United States Senate passed the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021, which makes DST permanent, thus removing the need to change clock times twice a year. However, the bill stalled

in the U.S. House of Representatives, and thus never became law. So, while Americans could one day soon stop changing their clocks twice a year, they will still be doing so this year, and perhaps beyond.

The reason the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021 stalled in the House can be traced to a debate regarding which time should be permanent should DST be abandoned. Some support making DST time the permanent time, while others insist standard time is the safer option. In addition, certain advocates for abandoning DST simply say that changing clocks is the real threat, and that any fixed permanent time, be it DST or standard time, is a favorable alternative to switching clocks twice per year. Among the concerns on both sides of the debate are the effects of DST on human health and its potential link to traffic acci-

please see dst on page 7

Courier Almanac

Georgia O'Keeffe, the artist who gained worldwide fame for her austere minimalist paintings of the American southwest, dies in Santa Fe at the age of 98.

Though no one can completely eliminate their risk of developing cancer, the World Health Organization estimates that between 30 and 50 percent of all cancer cases across the globe are preventable. That's a significant assertion with a wide-ranging assortment of consequences, including ones with social and economic implications.

One example that can illustrate how preventable many cancers may be surrounds alcohol consumption. According to the WHO, alcohol is causally linked to seven types of cancer and associated with 740,000 new cancer cases each year. Though excessive alcohol consumption is often, and rightfully, associated with cancer, the WHO points out that even light to moderate alcohol consumption was associated with nearly 23,000 new cancer cases in the European Union as recently as 2017. Alcohol consumption is just one of many known risk factors for cancer, so eliminating alcohol consumption will not eliminate a person's cancer risk. However, a decision to avoid alcohol could greatly reduce an individual's cancer risk.



The
Courier

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Applications sought

*The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club is accepting scholarship applications from Stephen Decatur High School seniors. For more information email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com Pictured are last year scholarship recipients **Natalie Canhan** and **Emery Busco** with Rotarian **Steve Gragert**.*

Wor-Wic Foundation welcomes new members

The Wor-Wic Community College Foundation recently welcomed Marcus Beal of Lewes, DE and Al “Hondo” Handy of Ocean City to its board of directors.



Marcus Beal



Al “Hondo” Handy

Beal is bay region leader – governmental and external affairs for Delmarva Power, where he is responsible for building and maintaining community, business and government relationships in central and southern Delaware and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He serves on the business advisory board of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the executive committee of the Greater Salisbury

executive Advisory Committee. He holds professional memberships with the Public Relations Society of America and the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Beal is also an alumnus of the Arthur Page Society Diverse Future program. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware in Newark, where he studied computer science. He also completed coursework at Villanova University in Pennsylvania in project management, completed a Leading Strategic Growth certification program at Columbia University in New York, and is a Prosci certified change management practitioner.

Handy recently retired as the recreation manager of the Ocean City Recreation and Parks department after nearly 40 years. In November 2023, he received the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Mary Gladys Jones Volunteer of the Year Award for outstanding community service. He is a two-time Citizen of the

Committee, and is a member of Pepco Holdings Inc’s African American Ex-

please see members on page 8

*dst
from page 6*

dents.

The issue of DST and health is not insignificant, as AARP reports that a 2020 analysis of more than 6,000 patient admissions at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York found that admissions for atrial fibrillation, a type of heart arrhythmia often referred to as “AFib,” surged in the days following spring DST. The American Heart Association suggests that spike could be linked to a disruption in the body’s circadian rhythm caused by DST.

The debate in the U.S. is not isolated and has even prompted discussions in other locales, including various areas of Canada, where DST is observed in nine of ten provinces and two of three territories.

Though the future of DST is in doubt, remember to move your clocks ahead one hour this Sunday.



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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



New space station plans

With the International Space Station scheduled to be decommissioned at the end of 2030, NASA has begun some preparations. In 2021 funding was awarded to design and build several smaller space stations, also capable of hosting astronauts.

The largest of three NASA grants, \$160 million, was awarded to the “Starlab” project being developed by the U.S. company Voyager Space, in partnership with Airbus of Germany. Last October, Northrop Grumman also joined the Starlab collaboration.

An important consideration in creating a new space station is to avoid a break in service after the current station gets decommissioned and before the new one is ready. NASA

hopes for continuous service, circumventing a “space station gap.” Smaller space stations have an advantage in that they could be launched into space using just one mission. The relatively large ISS, by contrast, required 40 launches and then a complex assembly process in orbit. Clearly the single launch alternative saves on cost, as well as time.

These new “one piece space stations” must be large enough to host the astronauts and their scientific cargo. For this reason they will be larger than the individual components of the ISS and will need larger rockets to reach space.

Fortunately, there are several modern rockets available for the task.

These include the SLS for NASA’s Artemis project, and SpaceX Starship rocket. The Starship is to be used for lunar landing missions and other space explorations. This potent engine may be needed for ambitious journeys such as carrying astronauts to the planet Mars.

Voyager Space’s new Starlab space station will consist of two modules: a habitat module including its scientific laboratories and a service module providing power from solar panels and propulsion.

Airbus will build the habitat module designed to accommodate four astronauts. Compared to the International Space station (ISS) Starlab’s pressurized atmospheric volume will be about half that of the ISS. However, its scientific capability will match that of its larger brother.

The advanced technology goals

include upgrading the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, which detects cosmic rays. This instrument could offer clues about dark matter and also antimatter galaxies.



Starlab Space Station
Artist's rendering

On January 31, officials at Voyager Space and Airbus companies announced that their new Starlab space station will be launched aboard a SpaceX “Starship” rocket.

Dylan Taylor, CEO of Voyager Space, said: “SpaceX’s history of success and reliability led our team to select Starship to orbit Starlab. SpaceX is the unmatched leader for

please see plans on page 9

members
from page 7

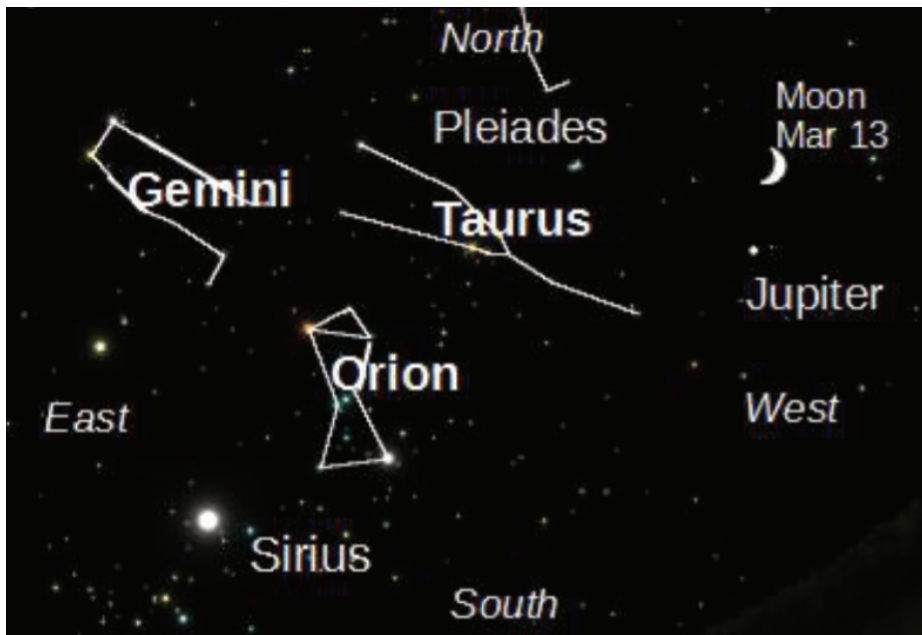
Year of Ocean City and was named the Best Youth Organization Director by Coastal Style Magazine. He received the highest Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Citation award and many Maryland governor’s citations. The Stephen Decatur High School graduate was named Athlete of the Year in his senior year, and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Salisbury University, where he played basketball, baseball, soccer and ran indoor track. He presently serves as the Mid-Atlantic regional representative for the National Alliance for Youth Sports. He is a member of many local boards, including the Worcester County Education Foundation, Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Atlantic General Hospital corporate and foundation and the Art League of Ocean City. He is the author of “Defying Expectations: Family, Sports and Recreation.”



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plans
from page 8

high-cadence launches and we are proud Starlab will be launched to orbit in a single flight by Starship.”

In total, NASA is supporting three independent space station projects and grants have also been given to Blue Origin and Axiom Space groups.

About two weeks ago, on February 22, the Odysseus lunar probe landed safely on the moon, in the south polar region. This marked the first successful U.S. moon landing since the Apollo-17 astronauts in 1972, more than 50 years earlier. The probe also made history as the first ever commercially sponsored lunar vehicle to land safely. The Odysseus moon lander was built by the Houston company, Intuitive Machines, and was propelled by the Space-X Falcon 9 rocket.

For stargazers venturing outdoors the March sky will grow dark at about 6:45 p.m. Orion the Hunter appears prominently, well above the southern horizon. Orion will be surrounded by its usual companions, Taurus the Bull to the northwest, Gemini the Twins to the

northeast, and the brilliant Sirius to the southeast. The bright planet Jupiter appears within the western region of the sky.

Daylight Saving time begins on March 10, and this changes things for sky watching. Clocks should be set forward one hour, so the times of celestial observations will move forward one hour.

The moon and the planet Jupiter come into conjunction mid-month. On March 13, the two dance together over the western horizon.

Alert stargazers who don't mind the wee hours may observe the moon's penumbral eclipse on the night of March 24-25. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are "imperfectly" aligned, as compared with a full or partial umbral eclipse. During an umbral eclipse, the lunar disk receives a dark "bite region" cutting into it. Best observations are at maximum dimming at 3:13 a.m. (or at times perhaps an hour before or after). The event is rather subtle and might not be as noticeable as an umbral eclipse, but those who appreciate the full moon may enjoy the challenge.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



Recognition - On February 26, the Worcester County Garden Club recognized Worcester Prep Lower School students for their artwork in the National Garden Club's annual Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl Youth Poster Contest.

Above (l to r): Worcester County Garden Club representative **Joanne Kirby** is pictured with **Hristina Gjoni**, **Aaralyn Lillquist**, **Tobi Blaska**, Head of School **Dr. John McDonald**, **Nicole Sebastian** and Lower School Art Teacher **Cathy Roman** after presenting the students with participation certificates for entering into the National Garden Club's annual Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl Youth Poster Contest.

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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

Bluebirds

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

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

Eastern Bluebirds are a great prospect for nest boxes if you have the space to put one up in your yard, and if your yard isn't too hemmed in



by trees or houses. Consider putting up a nest box to attract a breeding pair. Make sure you put it up well before breeding season. Attach a guard to keep predators from raiding eggs and young.

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

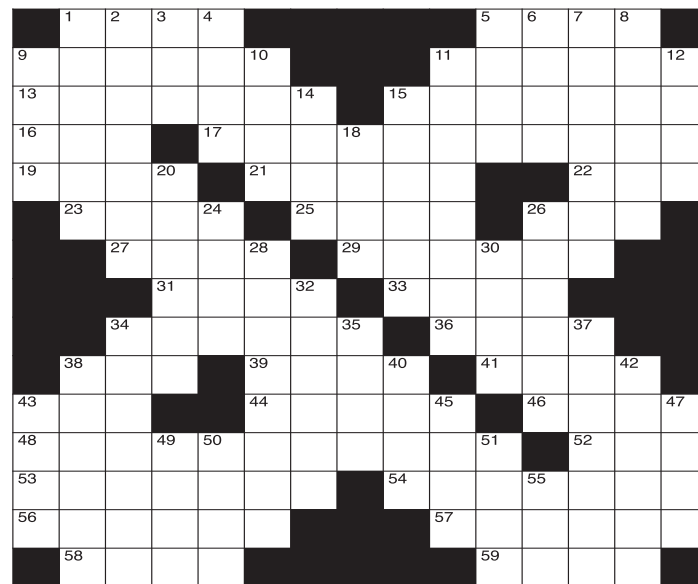
Eastern Bluebirds typically have more than one successful brood per year. Young produced in early nests usually leave their parents in summer, but young from later nests frequently stay with their parents over the winter.

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

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

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

-The Cornell Lab, *All About Birds*

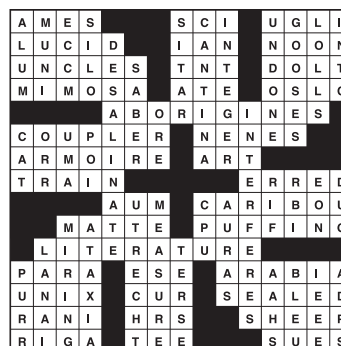


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one
- 57. Ointments
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court
- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants
- 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat
- 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
- 12. Actor Gosling
- 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo
- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Sick



Answers for February 28

We're all about the birds and more!

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

There is some wisdom here...

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Just once, I want the prompt for

username and password to say, "Close enough."

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's five and it's past his bedtime.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was three, I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Now, I'm wondering . . . did I send this to you, did you send it to me or have I only sent it to myself.

You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you.

Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

"On time" is, when you get there.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.

It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free...and three sizes smaller.

Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.



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EASTER ACTIVITIES



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Ocean Pines Community Center

Sat., March 23 | 8am-11am

The Easter Bunny will arrive at approximately 8:15am. Menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, eggs, pastries, fruit, juice, milk & coffee. **All ages welcome.**

Breakfast is FREE for ages 3 & under!

Ages 4-10 \$6 Ages 11 & older \$10

Purchase photos with Easter Bunny for \$5 donation to OP Recreation



Easter Egg Hunt & Pool Party

Sports Core Pool

Sat., March 23 | 12pm-3pm

Who knew the Easter Bunny likes to swim? Well, he does! Splash on in & gather up as many Easter eggs as you can - treasures inside!

Ages 12 & under

Non-residents: \$15 Residents: \$10

Swim Member: \$6 Non-swimmer \$2

Easter/Spring Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt

White Horse Park Pavilion



Sat., March 30 | 11am-2pm

Come celebrate Easter & spring in White Horse Park. Enjoy Carnival games, a petting zoo & food!

Volunteers are needed. If interested please call 410.641.7052

Easter Egg Hunt

Kids (10 & under) can join Bugsy O'Hare in a hunt for Easter eggs.

Egg hunt times: ages 1-3: 11:30 am, ages 4-6: 12pm, ages 7-10: 12:30pm.

Easter Bonnet Parade Contest

1pm

Kids (10 & under) can bring their decorated Easter bonnet for a chance to win a prize bag of Easter goodies!

All ages. FREE EVENT.

Easter Saturday Egg-stended Swim

Sports Core Pool

Sat., March 30 | Open 10am-6pm

Get your egg-stra hour of swim on Saturday before Easter Sunday. Sports Core Pool will be open for recreational swim until 6pm!

Fee: 10am-5pm regular daily fees apply

4:45pm-6pm only:

Non-Resident \$4 OP Residents \$6

For more information:

OP Recreation & Parks: 410-641-7052

Sports Core Pool: 410-641-5255