

# The Courier

April 17, 2024 Volume 24 Number 30



**Appreciation** - *Jeannette and Joe Reynolds attend the Ocean Pines Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Yacht Club last week. Photo by Josh Davis*



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# OPA Board honors nearly 200 volunteers

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on Thursday hosted its Annual Volunteer Dinner at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

The event is meant to honor the many volunteers, from advisory committees to social and civic groups and public safety organizations, that help make Ocean Pines what it is. This year, roughly 200 volunteers were invited.

Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr acted as the event's emcee.

"This event is meant to recognize with appreciation our dedicated volunteers who selflessly donate their time, skills, and passion to support Ocean Pines," he said. "Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the community we serve. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am truly grateful for your invaluable contributions, enthusiasm, and dedication to serving our great Ocean Pines community."

Farr separately recognized Ocean Pines Advisory Committees: Aquatics, Architectural Review, Budget and Finance, Bylaws and Resolutions, Communications, Elections, Environmental and Natural Assets, Golf, Marine Activities, Racquet Sports, Recreation and Parks, and Strategic Planning.

He also recognized the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, including President Joe Enste and Fire Chief Joe Widgeon, along with the Women's Club of Ocean Pines, Pine'er Craft

Club, and Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Farr and Association Secretary John Latham are Memorial Foundation Board members.

Farr also recognized fellow Ocean Pines Board members Latham, Dr. Stuart Lakernick, Monica Rakowski, Steve Jacobs, Elaine Brady, and Jeff Heavner, all of which serve as volunteers.

Farr also thanked Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola and attending staff, including Police Chief Tim Robinson, Senior Office Manager Linda Martin, Senior Manager Ruth Ann Meyer, and Administrative Assistant Michelle Lane Ross.

"I would like to give special thanks to Linda Martin and Michelle Ross for their incredible assistance in planning and putting this event together," Farr said. "Thank you also to Lia Isel and the Matt Ortt Company for the food and beverage service this evening."

Also in attendance and recognized were Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Maryland Del. Wayne Hartman, Worcester County Commissioner President Chip Bertino, Ocean Pines Forum founder Joe Reynolds, and Bayside Gazette reporter Tara Fischer.

After the event, Farr again stressed the vital importance of Ocean Pines' many volunteers.

"The volunteer dinner was an absolute success, and we received won-

derful feedback and gratitude from our county and state leadership for the invitation to share in the celebration. I and the rest of the Board felt it was our responsibility to not only recognize the advisory committees for their dedication and service, but also the other organizations and clubs that serve our great community," he said.

"It was important to us to recognize the Fire Department for their selfless and dedicated service and for keeping us safe, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation for their recognition and dedication to all our veterans who have served our great country," Farr continued. "We also wanted to recognize the Women's Club, Garden Club, and Pine'er Craft



OPA President **Rick Farr** welcoming volunteers

Club for their many scholarships and outreach programs. All these men and women who volunteer and dedicate their time and service to Ocean Pines help to make our community the best – because they are the best."

## Arts Council calls for entries

The Worcester County Arts Council invites artists to participate in a juried art competition - "Seasons"- culminating with an exhibit to be presented during May and June at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery. All entries will be juried in and judged for the c o m p e t i t i o n . Entries will be accepted April 23 to 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arts Council's Gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

To Everything There Is a Season. How are the seasons reflected in your art? Do you have a favorite season or time of year? How do the seasons of nature influence all things including your desire and inspiration to create and aspects of your personal seasons in life?

Artists are encouraged to submit their artwork and share their unique vision of the seasons. Open to artists from all backgrounds, mediums, and locations. Whether you specialize in painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, or any other form of visual art, we welcome your submissions.

Detailed guidelines for the competition and entry form are available on the Arts Council's website: [www.worcestercount-yartscouncil.org](http://www.worcestercount-yartscouncil.org)

Winners will be announced and monetary awards presented during an open-to-the-public reception on Friday, May 10 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibit will be displayed from May 1 through June 30.

**Worcester County**  
**Board of Education**  
**District 5 Candidate Forum**

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 is hosting a Board of Education  
 candidate forum among the three  
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**ELENA MCCOMAS**  
**DOROTHY SHELTON-LESLIE**

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**  
**6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Library**

For information call 717-448-1741

By Authority of Worcester County Republican Central Committee,  
 Elizabeth A. Rodier, Treasurer

## Boating course offered

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a one-day Maryland Safe Boating Course on Saturday, May 4, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A Safe Boating Certificate is required for all boat operators born after July 1 1972, and is awarded after successful completion of the course. The class includes piloting in local waters, tying nautical knots, foul weather tactics, legal issues, updated Maryland regulations, and common marine maintenance. Cost is \$20. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or Email: CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

## Brick dedication for Bruce Moore is June 18

Friends of Bruce Moore will host a brick dedication ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines on Tuesday, June 18 at 11 a.m.

Moore, who passed away last June, served in the U.S. Army and retired from active duty with the rank of captain.

A Laurel, Delaware native, Moore founded Moore, Warfield and Glick Realtors in 1981 and was a past president of the Ocean City Board of Realtors.

He was also a past president of the Ocean City Paramedics, past member of the Worcester Preparatory School Board of Trustees, board member of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, and served on the board of Ambassadors for Beebe Healthcare and was a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

The ceremony will include a brief dedication and placing of the new brick into the existing memorial.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines each year draws thousands of people for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, along with hundreds of local schoolchildren for annual educational programs.

The Veterans Memorial broke ground on Veterans Day, 2004. The main part of the memorial is a large circle of brick pavers honoring U.S. Military men and women, surrounded by brick-wall monuments for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and flags for each branch flying high in the air. Under each brick wall is sand from the beaches of Normandy.

"The bricks and pavers tell the story. Those are the veterans that local families wanted to honor," Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "Anyone can purchase a brick for \$75 and it's inscribed with the name of someone who has served, or a paver for \$150, which allows four lines of information."

Proceeds help support the memorial and its education and outreach programs.

For more information, visit [wocovets.org](http://wocovets.org).

## Holocaust author to speak at library

Most accounts of the Holocaust focus on trainloads of prisoners speeding toward Auschwitz in the summer of 1944, but a largely overlooked chapter is a prequel to those gas chambers: The face-to-face mass murder of Hungarian Jews in the summer of 1941.

Dr. George Eisen, author of *A Summer of Mass Murder: 1941 Rehearsal for the Hungarian Holocaust* (\$39.99/Purdue University Press), will examine these atrocities on Tuesday, April 23, at 2 p.m. in a presentation at the Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library.

Within a six-week period, approximately 23,600 Hungarian Jews were forcefully deported to Galicia, modern-day Poland and Ukraine, and summarily executed. Two of Dr. Eisen's uncles were among those killed in the unfolding genocide. A professor of political science, Dr. Eisen has discussed his work throughout the United States and Europe. His book incorporates extensive archival research, interviews, and corresponding literature, along with previously unexplored documents and testimonies.

*A Summer of Mass Murder* goes beyond conventional history to explore the politics, culture, and particularly the psychology of both the victims and executioners.

For information on all Worcester County Library programs, check out the Events page at [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org).



**Book club** - On March 19, the Republican Women of Worcester County held their Red Shoe Book Club Meeting at the Ocean Pines library. The selected book for March was "The Puppeteers" by Jason Chaffetz. Seated left to right are **Susan Ostrowski**, RWWC Literacy chair, **Marge Matturro** and **Yvonne Babcock**. Standing, left to right are **Jennie Allen**, **Linda Sirianni** and **Nina Willett**.

## WCPS recognized for music education

Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) has been honored for the sixth consecutive year with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 25th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, WCPS answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instructional time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"Music Education is integral to a well-rounded education for all students. Years of research have proven that students who regularly participate in music demonstrate enhanced cognitive skills, improved academic achievement, and advanced social and emotional development," says WCPS Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator Tamara Mills.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill bene-

fits for children who make music: After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school but also to attend college as well. In addition, everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than in those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to the ability to: perceive speech in a noisy background, pay attention, and keep sounds in memory.

*please see music on page 8*

### NOTICE TO READERS

Home delivery of *The Courier* within Ocean Pines has been limited because of illness of our delivery person. The paper is available at bulk locations including the Ocean Pines Food Lion, the Ocean Pines library, Walmart, Southside Deli, 7-11, Royal Farms and Ocean Pines White Horse Park.

You can also read each edition online at [www.delmarvacourier.com](http://www.delmarvacourier.com).

We regret any inconvenience.

# A \$2 apple pie

Walking through a supermarket recently I came across a display of Tastykake apple pies. Growing up these were a favorite treat. We didn't have them often but when we did, it was a good day.

that there were occasions when we'd take cold showers because the expense of turning on the hot water heater was too high. I must tell you, at the time we thought nothing of it. We never viewed ourselves as poor or



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Aside from the memories conjured up by the display, I was more than a little taken aback when I noticed each pie cost \$2. Thinking it was a mistake, I moved closer to the price tag believing, hoping, the \$2 was for multiple pies along the line of four for \$2. It wasn't. The price was \$2 for one pie. The realization of this fact prompted one of those, "I remember when" moments. I'm at that age when I can remember a past that doesn't seem so long ago to me, but in reality, actually is, at least in terms of Tastykake apple pie prices.

As a kid growing up in Philly, the price of Tastykake pies was two for twenty-five cents. When I could, I'd get an apple and cherry pie. I'd also get a pack of Topps baseball cards for fifteen cents. Then I'd sit on the curb outside the 7-11 eating my pies while unwrapping my baseball cards with the bubble gum scent. I'd flip through the cards hoping to get a Phillies player or Hank Aaron. After finishing the pies and shoving the cards in my pocket and the gum in my mouth, I'd hop on my bike to head home.

With so much talk about inflation and the sticker shock that comes with it, it's unsettling to be old enough to remember when gas was 60 cents, the *Philadelphia Daily News* was 15 cents and a Hershey bar cost 20 cents. It won't be long before you'll hear me mumbling in the check-out line, questioning what this world is coming that a loaf of bread costs \$2.99?

All this talk about "remember when" reminds me of other memories of my youth. Cue the harp music, we're going back in time.

There were periods growing up when money was extremely tight. I mean tight, very tight. So tight in fact

wanting, nothing of the sort. This was just something we were going through. It wasn't who we were. My mother made these times seem like an adventure. And although I now know those experiences were tough for her,

my mother made the best of what we did have and used humor to get us through the rough patches. There was a lot of humor.

Every once in a while, to get out of the house, my mother would take my brother, sister and me to the buffet restaurant in Neshaminy Mall. This was always a treat. We'd go down the line, pushing our one tray, seeing all the food and desserts. It was exciting. We'd get the fried chicken platter which came with four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes (a lot of potatoes) and a vegetable, usually green beans if memory serves. My mother would get a cup of hot water and we kids would each get a carton of milk, if we were lucky, chocolate milk.

We'd find a booth and settle in. We'd each get a piece of chicken and share the potatoes and vegetable. My mother would take from her a purse a tea bag brought from home and steep it in the hot water. Sometimes, we'd each be able to go back through the line to get a dessert. Those were wonderful times. And I have to tell you, we thought we were living large. And in a very real way we were. As tough as it was for her to make ends meet, my mother never once complained or made my brother, sister or me feel like we were missing out on anything. We developed survival skills, a sense of humor about life's setbacks and an appreciation for those around us.

Time went on. My mother rose through the corporate ranks. Money loosened up. We grew up. I married and had a family.

Who knew the sight of a two-dollar Tastykake apple pie could resurrect so many happy memories? Although I still think \$2 is a lot for an apple pie.



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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
OceanPinesForum.com

## Another sign flap

Once again, some outsiders are trying to stir up controversy in Ocean Pines. Once again it is about placing signs on lots within the HOA subdivision. This time around it is related to signs saying "I support public school education." Such signs are a violation of the OPA Declaration of Restrictions.

Someone using the name Kate Hulme is posting to Facebook and urging association members to get involved in seeking permission to place these signs on their property at an upcoming Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meeting - aka Environmental Control Committee (ECC).

Hulme wrote: "If you have received a violation for displaying this sign, please know we are working to understand what is needed in order to allow these to be displayed. We submitted the paperwork we believed was needed and are hoping for further clarification at the ARC meeting on Tuesday April 16th. We ask if you would like to speak to support your ability to display this yard sign on your property, that you please attend the ARC Committee meeting on April 16th at 1pm for the public comment section."

Normally reliable sources say Hulme is not a property owner in Ocean Pines. If so, her references to

"we" are misleading at best.

First, it is important to understand the sign restrictions in Ocean Pines. The language in the Declaration of Restrictions is clear. No signs may be placed on lots without the permission of the ARC/ECC.

That said, Ocean Pines never enforces the sign rule regarding OPA Board of Directors candidates' signs on lots in Ocean Pines. The same restriction that applies to the school support signs applies to OPA board candidate signs. OPA inspectors do not issue violations for unpermitted board candidate signs. Thus there exists an obvious double standard that should be addressed by the OPA Board of Directors.

Any signs on Ocean Pines residential lots without a permit, including board candidate signs, "may be removed by an authorized agent of the Association" according to the ARC Guidelines.

ARC Guidelines say: "Political signs supporting the election of a State or National candidate, or for the vote of a referendum, do not require ARC approval in writing before posting." This is essentially based on Supreme Court rulings and Maryland law, but note that none of the allowed "political" signs apply to OPA elections or

referendums. OPA is a corporation.

The school support signs are politically motivated. The Worcester County Commissioners and the Board of Education are involved in, for lack of a better description, a disagreement that surfaced last year over the County Commissioners' requests for detailed information about the Board of Education's budget. However, relations between the County Commissioners and the Board of Education have improved somewhat from last year.

Some Worcester residents see such information requests as somehow damaging to the school system. Others see the Commissioners as addressing their responsibility to make sure all funding requests for taxpayer dollars are justified.

The State of Maryland mandates certain minimum funding for County school systems. For Worcester, it is currently around \$100 million. Last year the Worcester County Commissioners approved a Board of Education budget of around \$100 million. This year the Board of Education is requesting a nearly \$9 million increase. The Board of Education also is expected to receive direct state aid of about \$25 million.

*please see commentary on page 8*

## Courier Almanac

The Ford Mustang was officially unveiled by Henry Ford II at the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, New York, on April 17, 1964. That same day, the new car also debuted in Ford showrooms across America and almost 22,000 Mustangs were immediately snapped up by buyers. Named for a World War II fighter plane, the Mustang was one of the first vehicles that came to be known as a "pony car." Ford sold more than 400,000 Mustangs within its first year of production, far exceeding sales expectations.

Pets generally may seem like carefree animals with nary a worry, but the truth is that companion animals may suffer from many of the same mental health issues that affect humans. ASPCA Pet Insurance says that pets experience certain mental health issues, including anxiety, obsessive-compulsive behaviors and fears or phobias. Some pets also experience depression, with similar symptoms of social withdrawal, lethargy, loss of interest in food or activities, and more. Some animals are predisposed to mental health conditions. For example, small dog breeds generally are more inclined to exhibit signs of anxiety. Other pets develop mental health issues over time. Compulsive behaviors may start out as a way for an animal to self-soothe during a fearful event or trauma, such as licking a toy or at paws. But these behaviors can become harmful, repetitive actions that may cause physical health problems. If a pet is acting out of character or is displaying behaviors that are concerning, pet owners should seek the advice of the animal's veterinarian.



## I support public education

**Editor:**

I have noticed a lot of orange signs in the area saying "I Support Public Education". To see so many people supporting public education is good to see. Everyone should support Public Education. It is one of the critical components of our founding fathers. A good education for all our citizens is absolutely necessary for our country to thrive. Yes, I support public schools.

My question is, why would anyone run for the board of education in this county if they did not support public education? Why is it necessary to have

a sign saying this attached to their signs. These bright orange signs do not state where they came from or what group had them printed. This concerns me. Is there a hidden meaning to these signs? Is the group that had the signs made and posted want to keep their identity a secret? These signs attached to only one candidate's signs seems to make the public believe that this candidate is the only one who care about public education. I certainly hope not. Election signs or any election material without the source listed, are illegal. Attaching these signs to election signs makes them election signs.

Yes, I support public education. I

*please see education on page 8*



**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  
www.delmarvacourier.com  
facebook@TheCourierofOceanPines

The  
**Courier**

art matters art matters art matters art matters art matters art matters art matters art matters art matters art matters

# Artist was inspired by the Shore from childhood

By **Elaine Bean**

“Truly, I consider living here, 20 minutes to the State and National Parks on Assateague, a major gift in my life,” Mary Noel said, who has loved the barrier islands from when she was a child.

“When I was 11 years old, my



later years, I became a regular visitor to both islands.”

Noel is a painter and mixed media artist who works in a small home studio that faces the woods in Ocean Pines. “Once I enter that realm, I am in my comfort zone,” Noel said. “I turn on classical or jazz and set myself up for a session. I love walking in there when there is a partially finished piece on the easel so I can get right down to business. While I have dabbled in collage, mostly I paint in acrylics because I can be pretty messy (read ‘slob’) when I am deep in my work, so I need the easy clean up with acrylics.”

Noel is new to the area, and exhibiting in art shows at the Art League of Ocean City and volunteering her time with the Ocean Pines Library, the Worcester County Humane Society, and the Art League is helping her make friends and social connections.

“The best thing I did when I moved here was joining the Art League of Ocean City,” she said. “I have sold several pieces there and have been very happy to feel welcomed each time I walk in the door ... I love that it holds open shows — non-juried events that allow me to both participate and to see what other artists are doing. Sometimes, seeing a piece that may not check all the boxes for great art can have a strong impact, can trip a wire for me and send me in another productive direction.

“I really enjoy attending these shows and meeting other artists of all

kinds,” Noel continued. “I find it enriches me artistically, culturally, and socially. I am also glad that they have the juried shows to challenge and reward its active members and provide safe access for selling their work. The variety of classes and artistic opportunities it provides are a life-line for all artists in the community, giving us a place to show and get to know other local working artists.”

Noel grew up in northern Virginia but spent most of her time in the Frederick, Maryland area where she was Associate Professor of English at Frederick Community College. Her education includes an

AA in Animal Science from Pierce College in Los Angeles and a BA in English and two MLAs, one in Language and Literature and one in Creative Writing, from the University of Maryland in College Park and Baltimore County. When she was younger, Noel worked in the animal welfare field at

animal shelters and at both the Los Angeles Zoo and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

Noel places a huge importance on the impact of art in our lives.

“You can feel my passion for nature in my account of that early experience in Chincoteague. To me, sharing that passion is essential to my well-being, and I feel I can best do that through



the visual arts ... When we share art, our passions, no matter the subject matter, we are all served. Hockney’s urban landscapes, Picasso’s Guernica, O’Keefe’s flowers — these works bring us together as feeling human beings and make us better-informed, and just better people.”

mother took my brother and me to Chincoteague Island during Pony-Penning Week,” she said. “This was 1961, and we stayed in the tourist home on Main St. where Marguerite Henry wrote *Misty of Chincoteague*. I think we actually stayed in the room where she worked. I remember vividly being able to walk down to the five-and-dime to buy postcards and a plastic pony that wore a plastic bridle that said ‘I am Misty.’ On Pony-Penning Day, we stood on the shore and watched the ponies swim across the channel, their shaggy manes dripping salt as they came ashore. We visited the Beebe Farm where the real Misty still lived — there she was, right in her small stall, fragrant with hay. At that time, there was no bridge for cars from Chincoteague to Assateague, but in



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## Ocean Pines Garden Club hosts annual Arbor Day ceremony

The Ocean Pines Garden Club hosted its annual Arbor Day Celebration of Life ceremony on Thursday in Pintail Park.

Roughly 100 people attended, and the event featured proclamations from Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr and Worcester County Commissioners President Chip Bertino.

Garden Club Co-President Ann Shockley emceed the ceremony and Anita Roberts spoke on the history of Arbor Day.

Roberts said the holiday originated in Nebraska, which was “once a treeless plain.”

“It was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s,” she said.

Roberts said journalist and politician J. Sterling Morton filled his homestead with trees, shrubs and flowers. He later used his forum as the editor of the state’s first newspaper to share his love of agriculture and trees.

“Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organizations and groups of every kind to join in,” she said.

Because of Morton’s enthusiasm and advocacy, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska in 1885. Roberts said Arbor Day is now celebrated across the United States on different dates to coincide with the best tree-planting weather.

“Since 1991, the Ocean Pines Garden Club has participated in Arbor Day by planting a special tree in loving memory

of family and friends who passed away during the recent year,” she said.

Also during the ceremony, Garden Club Co-President Lilanie Geiger recited the poem “There’s a Very special Garden,” and the Pines Tones and bagpiper Mike Castoro performed music.

Additionally, Sandy Kelley read a description of this year’s memorial tree, a Christmas jewel holly.

“You’d be hard pressed to find a house where I live here in the Pines ... that does not have a stalwart holly tree standing regally at every corner,” she said. “For centuries, across continents, they’ve been a source of inspiration for artists, landscapers and Hallmark.”

She said the Christmas jewel holly is a relatively new variety, “perfect for most homes in Ocean Pines.”

“Like most hollies, the Christmas jewel will adapt to almost any soil [and] is good for sun or shade,” she said. “The stunning evergreen glossy-dark leaves share the view in spring with clusters of white, fragrant flowers – perfect there to nourish the bees that follow.”

She said the trees also come with a history of legend and witchcraft.

“Druids believed the holly tree possessed protective qualities, such as guarding against evil spirits and bad luck,” Roberts said.

To close the ceremony, Garden Club members read the names of family and friends who passed away in 2023 and presented flowers to their friends and loved ones.

*education*  
from page 6

worked my entire career in public education. My family and my children all attended public schools. I have a son who is an administrator in a public school system and two daughters-in-law who are special education teachers in public schools. My five grandchildren attend or graduated from public schools. My 2-year-old granddaughter will attend a public school. Yes, I support public education.

I want to keep Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) strong. Our public school system educates the majority of our children, influences our children, and prepares them for their future and ours. It needs to be the best that it can be. Yes, I support public education.

I am running for the Worcester County Board of Education (WCBE) because I love and support our public school system. I want to be certain that Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) remain healthy and the best experience it can possibly be for our children, our teachers, and our community. I want to see WCPS hire and retain the highest professionals possible. I want WCPS to keep all within the walls of our district safe and successful. I want to see our district working with our entire community and all support services available. I want to see consistent discipline throughout all the schools, grounds, and buses. The quality of discipline in a district is directly related to quality teaching and learning. I want to see safety protocols followed consistently throughout the district.

*music*  
from page 4

Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound: young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Not to mention, social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

“Being in the school band is really fun. It challenges me to learn how to read music. Reading music is like learning another language. Band and other music classes are important because they allow us to be creative and expressive,” says McKenna Browne, Pocomoke Middle School music student.

I want to see the best interest of our students the forefront of all decisions, I want to see our parents participating in our schools and supporting their children’s learning. I want materials in our schools to be age and subject appropriate and instructionally sound.

I do not want our school district to go in the wrong direction. I do not want our district to fall into the woke trap so many districts have fallen into of late. I do not want any decisions made for a few people that puts the majority or any of our students in jeopardy. In that case there should be solutions to meet the needs for one group while keeping the other group safe. I want to see our district continue its fine reputation as a great school district because it is the truth, no because it is perception. I want to see our district to continue to improve in all areas and not rest on past achievements. We need to do this for our children, our community and our future. Yes, I support public education.

**Dorothy Shelton-Leslie**  
*Board of Education Candidate*  
District 5

*commentary*  
from page 6

Vince Tolbert, the school system’s chief financial officer, recently told the Commissioners that the bulk of the school system’s spending is related to people. Over the last two years, the Board of Education added 108 or so new employee positions while the school enrollment numbers declined, according to one source. Thirty-five positions were added in the last six months.

Returning to the issue of signs in Ocean Pines supporting public schools, the overwhelming majority of lot owners surely support public school education. Do we need signs supporting motherhood and apple pie? On the other hand, an overwhelming majority may not support a blank-check policy without a proper and careful review of a fully documented and transparent school board budget request by the elected Worcester County Commissioners responsible for managing taxpayer dollars.

These two independent bodies need to work together for the benefit of all Worcester County residents.

What is certainly not needed is some politically motivated sign campaign within Ocean Pines in violation of the Declaration of Restrictions.



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EOE



## Board of Elections releases ways to vote for primary

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) released important voting information for the 2024 Primary Election, including the three ways Marylanders can cast their vote and important deadlines to ensure every voter can exercise their right to vote.

“It’s never too early for Marylanders to learn about the three ways to vote in this year’s primary election and make a plan to vote,” said State Administrator Jared DeMarinis. “Whether voting early in person, voting by mail, or voting at their local polling place on Primary Election Day, I encourage every Marylander to familiarize themselves with the important election deadlines to ensure their voices are heard.”

Marylanders have three ways to cast their vote in the primary election: in-person early voting, mail-in voting, and in-person voting on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, May 14, 2024. The key dates below will help Marylanders register to vote and cast their vote.

### Important deadlines

**Vote Early In-Person:** In-person early voting begins Thursday, May 2, 2024, and ends Thursday, May 9, 2024. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters who are in line by 8 p.m. will be able to cast their vote. A list of early voting locations can be found online. Please note that some locations have been changed or added since the last election.

**Mail-In Voting:** Requests for a mail-in ballot via mail or fax must be received (not just mailed) or submitted online by Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Requests for a mail-in ballot via email must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. Friday, May 10, 2024. Learn how to request a mail-in ballot online (English and Spanish). Mail-in ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by or before 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. If returned by hand, ballots must be dropped at a ballot drop box or local board of elections by 8 p.m. on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, May 14, 2024. The first batch of mail-in ballots began to be transmitted to Maryland voters who requested them on Monday, April 1.

**Vote in Person on Primary Election Day:** The final day to cast a vote

is Primary Election Day, Tuesday, May 14, 2024. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters who are in line by 8

p.m. will be able to cast their vote. Find your polling place online (English and Spanish).

The last day to register to vote, update voter registration or change party affiliation online or by mail is Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Registrations being mailed must be post-marked by this date. Residents not registered to vote can do so using the online registration system. Those who prefer not to register to vote online may print the registration form (English version and Spanish version) and submit it at the local board of elections office.

If you miss this deadline, you can still register the same day you vote in person. Make sure to bring a document that proves where you live when you visit your local polling place. You cannot change your party affiliation after the deadline Maryland is a closed primary election, only registered voters of the Democratic and Republican parties can vote in those primary elections. Be sure to check your party affiliation prior to the deadline if you are a registered voter.

### Ballot drop boxes installed

SBE has completed the installation of 286 ballot drop boxes in all counties and the City of Baltimore. A list of locations is available online (in Spanish). Voters may submit their completed mail-in ballots at any official drop box until Primary Election Day, Tuesday, May 14, at 8 p.m. Ballot boxes will be locked at 8 p.m.

Additional information about Maryland’s Primary Election can be found at [vote.md.gov/vote2024](http://vote.md.gov/vote2024). Part of the SBE’s VOTEIMD campaign, the website includes a voting checklist, important deadlines that can be added to your calendar, and information on how to apply to be an election judge.

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*Captain Ron's*  
**Fish Tales**

By Ron Fisher



# Where should I fish

**Important Information:** Please remember that fishing the Inlet and Bay areas of Ocean City and Assateague are difficult due to the numerous channel shallows and shoals. In addition, the bottom contour changes each year with storms that impact the Eastern Shore during the winter months. A depth finder is essential, follow the markers and buoys. Also, remember to check the DNR website for any changes in fishing regulations.

**South Bay – Sinepuxent Bay along Assateague:** You want to fish here during the high tide. Once the water starts boiling out, it gets dirty, too warm. Best drift is from marker 3 to 11. Three starts just south of the inlet and 11 ends at the airport. Try to stay in the channel or on the West side. East side very shallow. Also, good drift from marker 12 to 14. 12 starts just before Frontier Town Campground and 14 ends just below Grays point.

**Inlet:** Best on incoming tide. Fish close to the sea wall. Also drift the South side of the Jetty. Don't overlook a drift close to the entrance of the Commercial Harbor at the end of the Inlet. Stay just to the West of the markers and try a drift from the Inlet to the Rte. 50 bridge. Don't go to far west or you will be on a sand bar. Watch your depth. As long as you stay just west of the markers you will be okay.

**What to use?** A three-way swivel with a 30" to 36" leader of 20 to 30lb test. Have available two to four ounce sinkers to keep your bait on the bottom when fishing for bottom feeding fish and adjust the weight to tide movement. Use peeler, green crab or sand crabs to catch tautog, triggerfish, and sheepshead close to the rocks. Use a size 1/0 or 2/0 Octopus hook. For flounder use a wide gap hook 1/0 or 2/0 and frozen shiners and squid strip. I prefer frozen shiners over live minnows because they seem to be a better attractor. Also, if you want to

catch sea bass and croaker use blood-worm or shrimp with a 4 or 6 long shank hook. At night use live eels or live spot for rock fish (striped bass). Use a 3/0 or 5/0 Octopus hook. (See helpful hints below for more details).

**East Channel:** Lots of action. The water is swift and deep 20' to 30'. You need to play the tides carefully here. From the draw of the Rte. 50 bridge to 9<sup>th</sup> street is very good. Good through incoming tide and a few hours after. You will notice to the left a protected island followed by a green marker #3 and red #4 marking the entrance to the main channel for the north bay. Drifting just to the west of marker 3 and between the marker and the island is a great spot on the incoming tide. Also, just to the north of marker 4 where the town houses jut out is a great place to drift back toward marker 3 and 4 and the East Channel. This area also holds croaker and a few trout.

**Convention Hall Channel:** Around 33<sup>rd</sup> st. Good for flounder July and August. Stay in the deeper water on the east side of the markers.

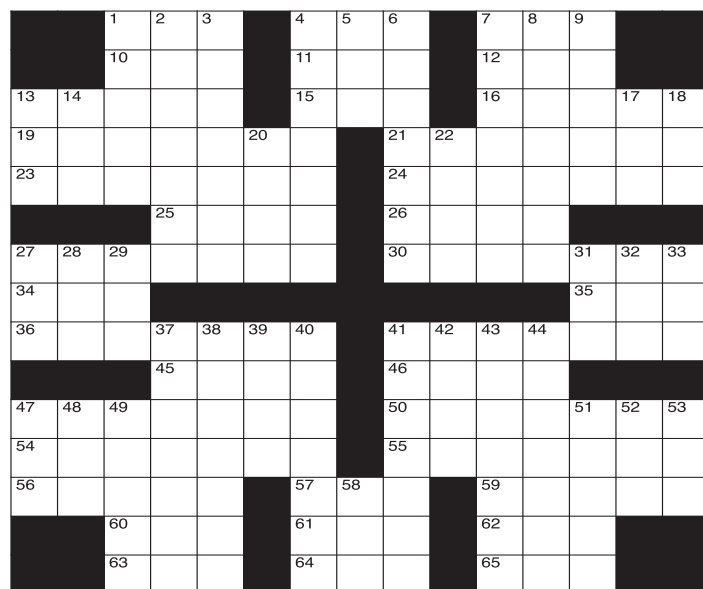
**Thorofare:** Work the areas around buoys #2, #6, #8 and #10. You can drift on the west side by the marshes all the way to #16. Use your depth finder as the east side of the channel becomes very shallow quickly. Best to fish during high tide.

Helpful Hints

Many varieties of fish can be caught in the Inlet and bays. I will concentrate my comments to two of the most popular, flounder and rock or (striped bass). Obviously, there are many lures and baits for these two species as well as techniques. I will simply give you hints based on my personal experience and preference.

**Flounder:** Flounder enter the inlet and bays in the early spring usually around mid April when the fishing

please see **fishing** on page 14



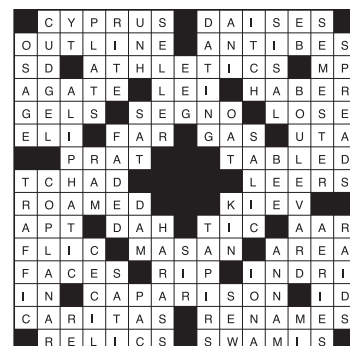
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. For each
- 7. Airborne (abbr.)
- 10. Photographs
- 11. They \_\_\_
- 12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 13. Monetary unit
- 15. Cool!
- 16. A son of Jacob
- 19. Cut off
- 21. Devour
- 23. Agent of one's downfall
- 24. Best
- 25. Network of nerves
- 26. Partner to "oohs"
- 27. Origins
- 30. Sewing utensil
- 34. Alias
- 35. Swiss river
- 36. Greek mythological figure
- 41. Type of whiskey
- 45. Lay to rest
- 46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 47. Select jury
- 50. Feeling
- 54. Action regarded as morally wrong
- 55. Makes angry
- 56. Act incorrectly
- 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
- 60. To what degree
- 61. Buzzing insect
- 62. The human foot
- 63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
- 64. A place to stay
- 65. Sun up in New York

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. Earnest
- 3. Cuts out surgically
- 4. Can't move
- 5. Baseball stat
- 6. British soldier
- 7. Traditional medicine plants
- 8. Political party controlled by managers
- 9. Hebrew prophet
- 13. Supporter
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Liberty Mutual mascot
- 18. Georgia rockers
- 20. A place where building is done
- 22. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 27. Clothing retailer
- 28. Supplement with difficulty
- 29. Annoy constantly
- 31. Founder of Babism
- 32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- 33. Sea eagle
- 37. Leave behind
- 38. Time of day
- 39. Colorless crystalline compound
- 40. They lay out course requirements
- 41. A diamond has three
- 42. Algerian coastal city
- 43. Remove cover
- 44. Rechristened
- 47. Distinctive practice
- 48. Defunct phone company
- 49. Turkish officer of high rank
- 51. Eliminate from the body
- 52. Witness
- 53. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Founding Father Franklin

**Answers for April 10**



Trails & Waterways

# Get outside and celebrate Worcester County trails

By **Laura Scharle**

My old supervisor had a sign in his office that said something that has stuck with me for over a decade. It said “Roads divide. Trails unite.” It’s a simple message but extremely powerful and over the years I’ve learned that it seriously speaks the truth.

I’ve been a full-time resident of Worcester County for over 12 years, but spent over 15 years working for Delaware State Parks. I remember in 2011 when Governor Markell announced his priority of building “a world-class interconnected trail network in Delaware.” He was an avid cyclist and saw the incredible value of having safe trails for cyclists and pedestrians all across the state. He saw trails as a way to create local jobs, link communities to support sustainable economies, boost tourism and economic development, and provide a safe and affordable form of recreation to improve Delawaricans’ overall health.

As an employee in the eastern Sussex region, I saw trail improvements firsthand in my own workplace. Trails were being built and improved within

the parks, but trails were also being constructed between towns. The Gordons Pond trail connected Cape Henlopen State Park to downtown Rehoboth. The Junction & Breakwater trail created a completely off-road connection between Rehoboth and Lewes. A safe bike and pedestrian lane was constructed with the new Indian River Inlet bridge. Delaware Seashore State Park is now connected to the town of Ocean View with a trail. The trail along the Assawoman canal provides a safe route for J-1 students to get around town in the summer.

Although here on Maryland’s Eastern Shore we don’t have even a fraction of Delaware’s established trails, I’m thrilled to know that efforts are underway to change that. An Eastern Shore Trails Network, led by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), is working diligently to develop a plan to improve the trails we have, create connections between communities, and build safe bikeways. In fact, ESLC is organizing a shore-wide effort to celebrate the trails that we do have on Saturday, April 27, as part of the national Celebrate Trails

Day, a movement started by the Rails to Trails Conservancy. Trail walks and gatherings will occur in each Eastern Shore county, with the Worcester County walk to take place in Snow Hill.

The event will kick off at 9:30 a.m. in Sturgis Park where participants will convene before walking to Byrd Park. At 10 a.m. various exhibitors will be set up at Byrd Park to promote trails and outdoor recreation

within Worcester County. At 10:30 a.m. everyone will be invited to explore the newly constructed Summerfield Trail system, a three-mile trail network within the Pocomoke State Forest, directly adjacent to the town at the end of Dighton Street.

I can’t help but notice US-113 bisects the entire county, completely dividing

towns like Berlin and Pocomoke and making it unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians to get from one side of town to the other. This limits access to jobs, essential services, and recreation. It’s an exciting time in Worcester County though, as efforts are clearly being made to build trails and reconnect our communities with each other and with the great outdoors. And thanks to the Worcester County Bike & Pedestrian Coalition; they have been facilitating these efforts through grants and advocacy for the last four years.

More information on ESLC’s Celebrate Trails Day can be found at

<https://www.eslc.org/celebratetrails/>

*Laura Scharle enjoys all things outdoors and is an avid kayaker. She resides in Ocean Pines with her husband and son. During the pandemic, Laura developed [www.DelmarvaTrailsandWaterways.com](http://www.DelmarvaTrailsandWaterways.com) to connect people with trails, beaches, piers, and public lands across the peninsula.*



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Health Watch

# Spring into summer with healthy feet

By **Mary Mullins, RN, MSN**  
*Atlantic General Hospital*

As we head into the warmer months, most of us are looking forward to shedding the shoes and socks to go barefoot or wear flip-flops. However, for a diabetic person, summer sandals and barefoot walks on the beach could lead to disastrous results. The nurses at Atlantic General Hospital have advice to get through the summer months with happy and healthy feet.

Remember that if you or someone you love has diabetes, the disease can lead to a loss of feeling in the feet known as diabetic neuropathy. Imagine walking around all day with a stone in your shoe. Most people would feel it right away, stop and remove the stone before it caused damage. A diabetic could have a stone or shell in the shoe and walk all day on it without knowing it's there. By the end of the day, the diabetic person has an open wound in the foot, and

healing times are much greater for someone suffering from diabetes.

Prevention is key for good diabetic foot care. Daily self-checks are vital. You can use a mirror to see under the foot or seek help from a loved one. Look for areas of irritation caused by ill-fitting shoes as well. Those raw areas could lead to a blister and eventually an open wound.

Moisturize your feet and legs regularly since dry skin can lead to cracked skin. The skin needs moisture to maintain its integrity. You don't need to use fancy or expensive lotions. A simple moisturizer that contains petroleum jelly is fine to use - the main thing is to use it regularly.

One of the hardest recommendations to follow in the summer months is to always, always, always wear shoes and socks. Many people love the sensation of walking barefoot, but diabetics need to make sure they are wearing properly fitting shoes and, if possible, diabetic socks. Some insurance companies will cover special diabetic shoes as well. Remember, prevention of wounds is critical because it is hard for diabetics to heal.

Try to keep feet washed well, but never soak the feet. Soaking can make wounds harder to heal because skin gets waterlogged. Diabetic people should also make sure to dry between the toes. Test the temperature of water as well since many diabetics have limited sensation. You don't want to suffer a burn from water that is too hot. If you trim your own toenails, make sure to trim them straight across and not too short so you don't cause a wound. If in doubt, consult a podiatrist who can cut your toenails.

So, for those who are not diabetic, here are a few tips to keep your feet in tip-top shape.

Inspect your feet regularly. You didn't answer this question. Even if you are not diabetic, daily foot inspections can spot problems early. Dry, scaling skin or inflammation of the skin may indicate athlete's foot. Blisters, corns and calluses are caused by friction, usually by shoes that do not fit properly or by wearing shoes without socks. Warts are caused by a virus that infects the skin.

Trim your toenails straight

across. If you trim them in a curve, the edges of the nail can grow into the skin, according to the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society. Make sure you don't trim your toenails too short, because this also can result in an ingrown nail. Cut them so that you can see a bit of skin just above the nail edge. Don't let them grow so long that they extend past your toes.

You shouldn't wear the same pair of shoes for two or more days in a row. You didn't answer this question. Alternating shoes to let them dry out before wearing them again can help eliminate foot odor. Make sure you change socks daily, as well.

High heels frequently cause foot problems in women because they force most of the body weight onto the toes and disrupt the natural stride.

Years of wearing narrow shoes that squeeze the toes together can cause bunions. You didn't answer this question. This is why women tend to develop bunions more than men. A bunion is an enlargement of the joint at the base of the big toe. People who have flat feet or low arches also are more at risk for bunions, according to the American Podiatric Medical Association. People, such as ballet dancers, whose jobs or professions place stress on their feet are at higher risk, as well.

If the unfortunate happens and you do get an open wound this summer, please call Atlantic General Hospital's Wound Care Center at 410-629-6863.

## RWWC to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County will hold their April Luncheon and General Meeting on Thursday, April 25 at the 32 Palm Restaurant in the Hilton Hotel located at 3200 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City. The speakers will be Maryland State Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Delegates Wayne Hartman and Charles Otto with updates on Maryland's 2024 General Assembly. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11 a.m. All inclusive cost is \$35 per person. To request more information, please go to [gop-womenofwc@gmail.com](mailto:gop-womenofwc@gmail.com).

## A brief history of Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated each April and draws attention to a range of issues affecting the environment. Earth Day aims to raise awareness in the hope of inspiring change.

Earth Day is observed on April 22. According to National Geographic, the first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson was inspired to begin a national celebration uniting the environmental movement after witnessing environmental activism in the 1960s. With the help of Denis Hayes, a graduate student at Harvard University, Nelson organized the first Earth Day. Twenty million people participated in events across the United States and strengthened support for environmental legislation like the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Earth Day was expanded to a global initiative in 1990 under guidance from Hayes. Nearly 200 million participants in more than 140 countries now join together in the name of protecting the planet. Awareness continues to be raised each year regarding renewable energy and climate

change.

One of the hallmarks of Earth Day celebrations is the planting of trees. Researchers estimate roughly 15 billion trees are cut down each year across the globe. By planting a tree every Earth Day, people can make a difference. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen and bolster ecosystems for wildlife. Shade trees can reduce reliance on fans and air conditioning systems.

The main message of Earth Day 2024 is the need to commit to ending reliance on plastics, says EarthDay.org. The goal is a 60 percent reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. Plastics are bad for the environment a growing body of research indicates they have an adverse effect on the major systems of the body, including immune, respiratory, digestive, and hormonal systems.

Everyone can do their part to promote the ideals behind Earth Day. For 54 years, millions of people have been advocating for change to benefit the planet and human and animal health, and that fight is ongoing.

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### Post 166 opens new rooftop tiki bar

Designed to be used during Ocean City's warm and sunny peak season, American Legion Post 166 opened its long-awaited Rooftop Tiki Bar on April 1. The day was dreary and overcast but that didn't stop hardy patrons from visiting the Post's biggest improvement since the Post building on Coastal Highway and 23rd Street opened in 1954.

At its soft opening Monday, many firsts happened. Bartender Sherree became the first Post bartender to pour a drink. Post member and Navy veteran Patrick McAleeman was the first person served. Gene Fosnacht was the first member of the Sons of the American Legion to buy a beer. Teri Souder was the first member of the Auxiliary to patronize the Tiki Bar. She brought with her Will Buckley visiting from Post 175 in Severna Park, and he became the first guest, and first American Legion visiting member to the new amenity.

The formal opening ceremonies and dedication of the Tiki Bar will be held on April 19.

Above are (L-R) **Gene Fosnacht, Patrick McAleeman, Teri Souder, and Will Buckley.**

## Art League offers summer programs

The Art League of Ocean announces the addition of two 3-day camps for children to be held at the Ocean City Center for the Arts July 1 through 3. One camp will be art related, and the other will be geared towards acting.

The camps are for ages 6-12 and will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Space is limited to 20 campers per session.

These mini camps are in addition to the regular summer Art Adventure Camps run by the Art League in partnership with the Ocean City Recreation & Park, which are sold out for 2024.

In the art camp, art teacher and pro-

fessional artist Joanne Guilfoil will help kids create fun read-to-hang animal-themed art pieces with painting, drawing, clay and mixed media techniques.

In the acting camp, Katherine Redden, artistic director of the Lower Shore Performing Arts Company, will lead children in group acting exercises, fostering teamwork and cooperation and teaching public speaking skills.

Campers are asked to bring a lunch and snack for each day. Costs are \$95 for Art League members and \$120 for non-members with registration due by May 14, 2024.

More information is available at [OCart.org](http://OCart.org) or by calling 410-524-9433.

### fishing

from page 10

tarts and obviously improves during the heat of summer during the months of June, July, August and September. I usually monitor the water temperature in April and when it hits 54degrees I go fishing for flounder. During this early season I prefer to fish outgoing tide as the water is usually warmer returning from the

marshes. I will start with a rig with a three-way swivel 2- or 3-ounce sinker depending on the tidal flow and 30" of monofilament about 20lb. test using three pearl beads, a white spinner blade, squid strip-split tail and frozen shiner at the end with a wide gap hook 1/0 or 2/0. I will also use The Deadly Double that comes in various colors and is an excellent rig for flounder. Remember: Whatever you use you must keep the bait on the bottom. Be certain to use enough weight. If this rig does not attract them, I will go to a pink version with a pink skirt of hair and mylar cut to the edge of the hook. Most of these skirts are too long and occlude a good look at the minnow. Finally, if neither of these work, I may go to a plain hook or one with just a couple red beads. Drift the same areas described above. In mid-May or certainly June when the bay really warms up, I switch to a chartreuse color. This rig has three beads, a spinner blade and either a skirt of hair and mylar or a chartreuse artificial squid. Also, use a frozen shiner and strip of squid split for action. Also, don't forget to try Gulp it's an excellent bait.

Rock or (striper): The best time for rock is in the early spring and fall although they can be caught all summer long in deep water usually in the evening. I prefer to fish the high slack tide and first two hours of outgoing. I will usually drift the East Channel or deeper areas of the inlet and next to the Rte. 50 bridge. Although artificial baits work well such as Rattle Trap, Gotcha lures etc. I still prefer live bait usually fished on a 30" to 36" leader with a fish finder rig with 2- to 3-ounce weight and a 3/0 to 5/0 octopus or circle hook baited with peeler crab, live eels, or live spot.

Remember to take a kid fishing,  
**Capt. Ron**



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# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by *Jack Barnes*



I don't understand why people have to "get ready" for bed. I'm always ready for bed.

I think the proper term for 'senior' women should be: Queen-agers. That is all. Carry on.

You Know You're Getting Old When "Friends With Benefits", Means Having Someone Who Can Drive At Night.

Some call it multi-tasking, I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

I don't know how to use TikTok, but I can write in cursive, do long division and tell time on clocks with hands... so there's that.

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