# The Courier

April 24, 2024 Volume 24 Number 31





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**Dedication** - Ocean City American Legion Post 166 dedicated its new rooftop Tiki Bar April 19, with a crowd of about 100 invited guests and dignitaries. The addition to the existing Post at 23rd Street and Philadelphia Avenue was the most ambitious project since the construction of the Post building was completed in 1954. Helping to dedicate the facility were officers of the Department of Maryland American Legion, States Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan, and former Mayor Jim Mathias.



**Tale -** The Art League of Ocean City recently hosted a free event, The Art of Storytelling, at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. The talk was given by three acclaimed local storytellers: Gwendolyn Lehman, Stephanie Fowler, and Bryan Russo.

Above is **Gwendolyn Lehman**.

# OPA announces promotions for Wells and Swift

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola last Thursday announced a pair of promotions to staff members.

Viola said Eddie Wells, currently the Public Works Director, will be promoted to Senior Director of Public Works.

"Eddie will take on enhanced responsibility for strategic planning, DMA Reserve Study, and pivotal initiatives in addition to his existing Public Works duties," Viola said. "With a proven track record of driving operational excellence and implementing innovative solutions, Wells is well-positioned to lead the Public Works department to new heights."

Additionally, Mark Swift, currently the Accounting Manager of the Finance Department, will be promoted to Assistant Controller.

"Mark brings a vast range of knowledge to OPA, and he continues to develop his skills," Director of Finance, Controller Steve Phillips said. "He has taken on increased responsibility over the past two years and continues to be a key employee of OPA."

Viola emphasized the significant contributions of both Wells and Swift to the Ocean Pines Association.

"I am very pleased to make this announcement. Recognizing our staff continues to be one of my favorite parts of the job. Eddie and Mark both earned this, and as I structure the organization to meet the needs of the coming years, I hope to be able to make a few more announcements like this down the road," he said.

By investing in the professional growth and development of its staff, OPA aims to continue providing results in customer service to the community.

# **County seeking Spirit Award nominations**

To honor volunteers whose contributions help improve the quality of life locally, Worcester County residents are invited to nominate individuals, organizations, and businesses for the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards. The nomination period is open April 1 to May 31 at 4:30 p.m.

"When residents volunteer in Worcester County, they are contributing to the community's well-being as well as their own," Human Resources Specialist Kelly Brinkley said. "Volunteers who give of their time to local nonprofits have a sense of joy and positivity in their lives whether they volunteer virtually or in-person. Volunteers are creating a stronger connection in the community. It's a win-win for everyone."

Volunteer Spirit nominations will be accepted for each of the following eight categories, with one winner to be chosen from each: individual, group/team, emerging leader, faith-based, nonprofit volunteer program, local business, veteran, and lifetime achievement.

Nominees should reside in and represent the volunteer spirit of

Worcester County. Nomination forms are found online at www.worcestervolunteer.org. Once there, click on "News." Completed forms may be submitted to the Human Resources Office, Room 1301 in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, or by contacting Brinkley at 410-632-0090 or kbrinkley@co.worcester.md.us.

To highlight the outstanding services of the volunteers, the Worcester County commissioners will be presenting the award winners at their August 20 meeting.



#### **Artisan vendors sought for Arts Day**

The Art League of Ocean is seeking artisan vendors for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts Day in the Pines, to be held on Saturday, June 2 at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines. The event is free to the public.

Arts Day will feature more than 50 artisans offering original arts and crafts including pottery, paintings, glassware, fiber art, jewelry, photography, sculpture and more. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artisans and buy directly from them.

"Last year, Arts Day in the Pines drew more than 2,000 attendees," Aubrey Sizemore, Art League Event Coordinator, said. "So this is a great opportunity for talented artisans to share and sell their creations."

The event, which will take place rain or shine, will also feature food trucks, a multicultural talent show, a kids' zone with bouncy houses and face painting, art projects all day. Radio OC giveaways, and wine, beer and soft drinks.

Artisans will provide their own tent shelters, displays, signage, and transaction processing. The Art League will actively promote the event and coordinate during the day.

More information is available by contacting aubrey@artleagueofoceancity.org.

#### **Artists sought for juried competition**

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 by talented artist and Salisbury University Art Professor Jinchul Kim for the competition.

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? Whether you're inspired by the vibrant colors of spring, the sun-kissed landscapes of summer, the golden hues of autumn, or the serene beauty of winter, 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 are available on the Arts Council's website: www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org

Artists are requested to complete a juried exhibit entry form (available on the WCAC's website) and deliver it along with their entries for the competition.

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.

#### **County budget hearing is May 7**

The Worcester County Commissioners invite the public to attend a hearing on the requested FY25 County Operating Budget and the proposed real property tax rate of \$0.845 per \$100 of assessment. The hearing will take place at the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill on Tuesday, May 7, at 6 p.m. The meeting will also be streamed live at https://worcestercountymd.swagit.com/live.

Public testimony, either in-person the night of the hearing or written in advance, is welcome. Speakers may address the commissioners for up to two minutes.

Written comments may be sent by email to wchearing@co.worcester.md.us or by mail to the County Commissioners' Office at Room 1103 Government Center, One West Market Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863. Written comments must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6. Commenters must include their full names and addresses to be included in the public record. Written comments received by the deadline will be read into the record by Worcester County staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.



**Donors** - The Jack Burbage Foundation is a top donor to the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City. Above are **Jack Burbage** and **Virginia Pappas** at the Art League's reception honoring donors and corporate partners on April 17 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts

### Wor-Wic offers new risk management, insurance degree

Wor-Wic Community College has added a new associate degree concentration in risk management and insurance.

Registration is open now for the program, which prepares students to work in the field of risk management and insurance and to earn relevant industry credentials. Students will learn about the insurance industry, fundamental insurance and financial services concepts and will develop the professional skills necessary to succeed in the insurance field.

Successful completion will lead to an associate of applied science degree in business management with a concentration in risk management and insurance. It can lead to a career in insurance sales,

claims, investigations, underwriting and more. Classes will cover property and casualty insurance state licensure exams as well as life and health insurance state licensure exams. Students will also gain real-world experience through an internship in the field. The degree is suitable to launch a career or transfer to a four-year institution.

Registration is open for the new program. Visit www.worwic.edu for more information. New students who need help should call 410-334-2895 or email admissions@worwic.edu and include their name and a phone number where they can be reached.

#### WCDC to hold job fair

Join Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) in Newark for their 2024 Spring Job Fair to be held Tuesday, April 30.

Spruce up your resume and plan to come ready to interview. WCDC is holding a career fair for open jobs in many different departments across our or g a n i z a t i o n . Visit www.wcdcservices.org "About" and "Employment" tabs for more job information.

The event will occur Tuesday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments, raffles, and giveaways while learning more about available benefits, growth opportunities and a thriving work environment within WCDC.

Please bring your driving record as well as professional references. This event will be held indoors and outdoors (in the back parking lot).

The Worcester County Developmental Center is committed to empowering adults with developmental and physical disabilities to be productive, responsible, and participating members of the community by identifying, enhancing, and creating opportunities so all individuals can achieve their highest level of economic and social independence.

If you seek employment and are unable to attend the Job Fair, please email your resume to kjones@wcdcservices.org or fax to 667-288-6064.

WCDC will conduct walk-in interviews every Tuesday, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., until fully staffed.

WCDC is located at 8545 Newark Rd. in Newark.

#### Small talk

Attending a banquet not long ago, I was seated at a table with people I had not met before. They all knew each other as co-workers and though they were more than cordial when I was seated, I was a fifth wheel, at least that's



It's All About...
By Chip Bertino

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

how I felt. I always feel on my left foot when in a group of new people. The conversation seems stilted and disconnected. I've always been challenged when having to exchange small talk. Speaking publicly before large groups of strangers — no problem. In a group of three or four strangers, for reasons I can't explain, I'm shy and uncomfortable. I'd much rather listen than speak.

Through the years, I've learned to ask questions to spur other people to talk, taking the pressure off me. What they have to say is more interesting to me

than I fear what I would say would be to them. Sometimes I'll ask, if I'm with a couple, "how did you two meet?" Or "what brought you to this area?" Usually, these questions ignite a conversation that allows me to ask follow-up

> questions. Some of the best conversations I've had with strangers I have hardly spoken

> Getting back to my story. After the invocation and before we were called to the buffet, something very interesting occurred. I overheard

a stray comment from the person sitting next to me who was talking with a person across the table. She mentioned her dog. I asked what kind of dog she had (Labradoodle) and we were off to the races in conversation about our dogs. Eventually everyone at the table was sharing dog stories. Pictures soon circulated around the table. We shared tips on dog food brands, chew toys and training techniques.

I don't know which topic ranks first with people: talking about their dogs or their grandchildren or their latest health ailment. I prefer talking dogs and grandchildren. Call me old fashioned but health ailments are best discussed with your doctor, not strangers at the supermarket checkout counter.

In our family, it's common that we'll send each other photos of our dogs when they're doing something cute or wild or silly. My oldest son and his wife have three dogs and from time to time he'll send a close-up photo of their Manchester Terrier, looking straight into the camera with her big eyes, and a message such as "What's up?" It's sort of silly and is good for a chuckle.

Our youngest son will send video of his dog jumping and howling at the front door. It's funny to watch, especially when she loses her balance.

We usually get pictures of our daughter's dog, a German Shepherd mix, when he comes home from the groomer. He always looks quite spiffy with his bandana.

Dogs are family and their characteristics and antics become etched in family lore. My wife fondly recalls the border collie she had growing up. The story that's been told repeatedly was when, in a protective response, the dog tackled a neighbor who, while mowing his lawn, came too near my wife and her

siblings with the lawn mower.

The Dobermann Pinscher I had growing up looked very intimidating. He stood tall and had a stance that made people think twice about going near him. He was wary of strangers and could express a sort of a Clint Eastwood glare, "Are you feeling lucky, Punk?" In reality he was a real mush who loved sprawling on the sofa even if it meant pushing me off. Not long after my wife and I started dating, I brought her to my house. Black Jack heard me coming through the front door and ran to meet me. He stopped in his tracks when he saw me with someone he didn't know. He went into his stance. Without missing a beat, my wife went right over, got down next to him and gave him a big hug and started talking to him, making a big fuss over the fact that it was his birthday. He started licking her and they were friends from then on, sometimes displacing me.

Dogs are a gift. They keep us company, listen to us when we need someone to talk to and offer affection at all times. They're also a great conversation ice breaker when sitting with strangers. Maybe next time, I'll bring my dog as my Plus-one when invited to a future event. Although, he may get a better offer and go home with someone else.



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#### **Board dissolves Racquet Sports Advisory Committee**

Addressing the OPA Board of Di- to discontinue a committee is the oprectors during public comments, association member Bernie McGorry

posite of what's in the Strategic Plan.

"Work with committees as they



lectured board members, at one point asking, "Are you being leaders?"

McGorry, one-time chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, was among several meeting attendees at the April 20, 2024 board meeting who were upset with a proposed board motion to eliminate the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee (RSAC).

He told board members, "I am concerned about the board's alignment with the strategic plan. We surveyed the community and the number one issue was the lack of core values in this community. A motion represent the association membership. There are five core values, all agreed upon: Integrity. Collaboration. Respect. Transparency. Sustainability.

"You as board members really need to ask yourselves if you demonstrate these core values. Don't be like some of your predecessors. Those that kept Rick (Farr) off the board. Stuart (Lakernick), the board that kept you off my committee when I agreed to put you on my committee. Don't be petty. Don't be punitive. Be a leader. I urge you to be honest with yourselves. Demonstrate the core

values. Reconsider the motion you have on the agenda today to eliminate the RSAC Committee."

McGorry's plea, as well as public comments from others, failed to deter the board from passing the motion to eliminate the RSAC Committee.

During subsequent board discussion of the motion to eliminate RSAC, director Jeff Heavner seemed especially upset with what McGorry had to say. Heavner minced no words, saying, "I would be disingenuous if I did not say I struggled with this opinion since I believe in the value of an advisory function. I support this motion to dissolve the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee, RSAC. Our **RSAC** abandoned has mission. Why?

"A racquet sports manifesto was read at the Board Meeting on March 23rd, during public comments. This manifesto contained inaccurate information that was alarming. Alarming at many levels."

Heavner then continued and specifically addressed McGorry's admonishment of the board about leadership:

"First, let me talk about leadership. The RSAC was aware of the content of this manifesto and remained silent. Content that supports the mis-aimed cause of a few that are far left from center. Content that does not represent those to which they represent. "This silence is complacency. This silence is passive agreement. This silence is a dereliction of duty. A complete lack of leadership. This alarm provoked our General Manager (John Viola), supported by the Board, to take action to protect our association. This alarm was promptly answered. It was a job well done. Thank you, John!

"This committee has abandoned us. We have not received sound advice based upon expertise, research, or analysis."

Heavner's referenced "manifesto" were public comments made at the March board meeting by an RSAC member accusing the board of ignoring mold and other problems threatening the health and safety of staff and members at the racquet sports clubhouse, resulting in the closure of the building and what the board said was an expenditure of over \$10,000 to find no mold. This was essentially the culmination of months-long open warfare between the committee and OPA

A motion to eliminate the RSAC passed on a 6-1 vote with Director Steve Jacobs voting no, after making an eloquent plea to keep the committee - even while expressing his serious concerns over recent committee

The OPA Board of Directors took the appropriate action.

President Harry S. Truman learned the full details of the Manhattan Project, in which scientists were attempting to create the first atomic bomb, on April 24, 1945. The information thrust upon Truman a momentous decision: whether or not to use the world's first weapon of mass destruction.

Electrical fires are more common than one might think. The Electrical Safety

Foundation says home electrical fires account for an estimated 51,000 fires each year, nearly 500 deaths, and more than 1,400 injuries. Certain conditions can lead to electrical home fires. The National Fire Protection Association indicates home fires can result from overloading electrical outlets and inadequate distribution of lighting equipment. When this occurs, these fires most often originate in a bedroom. Another common cause of electrical home fires is faulty wiring and related equipment malfunction. It is important for homeowners to be

aware of potential electrical issues and remedy them quickly to avoid home fires. Ensuring electrical systems are up to code and addressing issues with the help of a qualified electrician can reduce the risk of electrical fires.



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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

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#### **Arts Council accepts** scholarship applications

The Worcester County Arts Council's Student Art Scholarship award program is underway. The Council will provide awards that range in the amounts from \$500 to \$2,000 to qualifying high school seniors and art majors who are Worcester County residents.

The Worcester County Arts Council's Student Arts Scholarship program is designed to identify, recognize, and encourage talented students who demonstrate excellence in Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Dance, Music, Theater, or Visual Arts. The number and amount of the award are determined by the quality and artistic merit of the application and are based on fund availability.

Graduating seniors majoring in the visual, performing, music, or media arts, are encouraged to apply for the Worcester County Arts Council's Art Student Scholarship. This is a merit scholarship, and award decisions are based on evaluation of talent, dedication, and potential, not financial need. The deadline for application submission is May 3.

In 2023, a total of \$5,500, including the John Sisson family's contribution, was awarded to four Worcester County students pursuing an education in the arts.

Scholarship Guidelines and Application Form can be accessed online at: https://www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org/arts-scholarship-2024

For more information or technical assistance, contact Anna Mullis, Arts Council's Executive Director at: anna@worcestercountyartscouncil.org

#### **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.

#### Italian dinner scheduled

St Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church will host a free community Italian dinner on Sunday, April 28 between noon and 2 p.m., in the church hall. The menu will include baked spaghetti, salad, hot bread, tea and coffee. The meal is free to everyone, though an offering is always welcome. Call the church at 410-289-3453 with any questions.



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chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com



#### St. Joseph's Day festival successful

The Ocean City, MD Lodge of the auction? Sons and Daughters of Italy had another successful St. Joseph's Day Festival despite a spring storm that brought blustery winds and heavy rain to the resort city.

Organizers were concerned about the impact of the weather on festival attendance. The festival, which took almost half a year to plan, is the main fund raiser for the Lodge charitable giving and scholarship programs. Several thousand dollars had been invested in the festival's main attraction - its cornucopia of homestyle Italian cooking. The meatballs, sausages, ravioli, cannoli, breads, zeppoli, cookies, wines, beer and other beverages were already purchased. Also waiting for festival goers were dozens of gift baskets and silent auction items filled with donations from local merchants. What do you do with them if no one showed up to buy raffle tickets or bid in the

The storm hit as forecast on the morning of Saturday, March 23, the day of the festival. Anxiety was high before the festival doors were opened. Would the storm keep everyone home, with the Lodge having to eat the cost of food and beverages? That didn't happen.

The annual festival is so popular that every year it attracts well over a thousand food lovers who also buy the basket raffle tickets and bid on silent auction items. Singing and dancing to Italian music every year adds to the festivities. They came this year also, despite the storm.

Organizers reports that attendance was down from last year's 1,600 plus, but not so much that the festival could not raise the money it needs to fund its charity and scholarship programs. The St. Joseph's Day Festival was, once again, a success in Ocean City despite Mother Nature.

# Courier

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Wild Blue Yonder

#### The P-51K fragile but agile

By Ralph Ferrusi

At some point I read with great interest accomplished aviation writer Sarina Houston's *Why the P-51 is Still the Most Beloved Airplane at the Air Show*. Sarina's well-written, well-researched article nails it. I've been a "Mustang nut" for as far back as I can remember.

Though married and with two young children, my dad, Corporal Ralph Ferrusi, served in the United States Army in the Pacific in World War II. One of my favorite war stories he told was that on his way to the Philippines in 1945, he spent some time in Hawaii, and though he was in the US Army, somehow ended up at Hickam Field attached to the Seventh Air Force as a mechanic. Where, he once took the carburetor off a P-51 Mustang. Corporal Ferrusi was Honorably Discharged from the USAAF 15th Fighter Group on July 29,

The 2015 New York Air Show was at Stewart International Airport. The United States Air Force Flight Foundation Heritage Flight that year paired an F-22 Raptor and a P-51 Mustang. WOW!

Thanks to my wife's public relations job, we ended up in a VIP tent, and at some point she noticed two guys seated nearby with Heritage Flight coveralls on. One of them had "Mustang" written on it. She approached them. Tommy Williams was piloting the Dallas-built P-51K "Fragile But Agile." He came over and sat down at our table, and I was awed: I was having lunch with a guy who actually flies a Mustang! I was babbling my Mustang stories: Pop and the carburetor, the differences between the Inglewood-built P-51Ds and the Dallas-built P-51Ks, etc, etc. Tommy said, "Would you like to come out and see the plane close up?" I nearly fainted. He gets on his phone.

Note: 6,600 P-51Ds were built in Inglewood, CA. 1,600 P-51K's were built in Dallas, TX. The Ds had North American Aviation-recommended Hamilton Standard propellers. Due to shortages, the Ks had less-efficient Aeroproducts props.

Brian Lilley, director of the air show, turned up in a golf cart and scooted us down right across from where the *Fragile*. was sitting all by itself, on the other side of the fence,

unapproachable by the masses. He opened up the fence and escorted us out to the Fragile where Tommy greeted us, and asked if we'd like to sit in the cockpit. I glanced at my wife, and she said to starry-eyed me, "Why don't you go ahead."

Tommy then demonstrated the right way to get into the cockpit of a Mustang. Right foot on the tire, left foot on the strut, then right foot on the wing. Go to the cockpit and step over the side and stand on the seat, then sit. My gawd, I'm in the cockpit, feet on the rudder pedals, hand on the stick, looking out over the OD anti-glare panel at the long nose. It's surprisingly roomy. Tommy has me wiggle the rudder, and move the ailerons up and down. I'm acting casual, but my head is spinning.

When the Heritage Flight takes to the air, the Fragile But Agile takes off first, and does a high-speed low-level fly-by along the runway. I *know* the guy flying that plane, and I just sat in it. I watch it go by, slack-jawed; the snarl of the Merlin gives me goose-bumps.

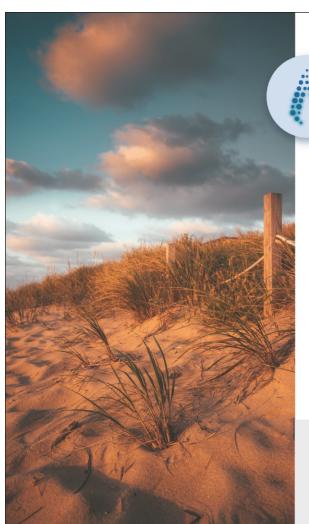
Tommy told us that particular P-51 flew in the Pacific during World War II. Mmm, the Seventh Air Force: could it just possibly be the self-same plane Ralph Ferrusi is a World War II aviation enthusiast. His all-time favorite aircraft is the North American P-51D Mustang. He has actually flown



that Pop took the carburetor off of? Yuppers, it's just possible.

And, unbeknownst to me at the time, I had just collected my second P-51 Mustang.

in a P-51D, and, a B-17G and B-25H. Born and raised in New York, he and his wife currently reside in Ocean Pines. Questions, comments; rjferrusi@frontiernet.net



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#### **Understanding seasonal** hand dermatitis

By Jennifer Hamilton D.P.T., C.H.T. of emollient-rich creams or ointments

It is that time of year again when the cold, gray days are being replaced with warm sunshine



Jennifer Hamilton

and budding trees. While the vibrant hues of spring paint the world anew, a not-so-welcome guest often the accompanies season's arrival: seasonal hand dermatitis.

Commonly referred to as eczema, this condition manifests as itchy, inflamed, and sometimes painful skin on the hands, and can pose a significant challenge for individuals seeking relief amidst the season's delights. As spring unfolds, understanding the nuances of this condition becomes paramount to mitigate its impact.

Springtime hand dermatitis presents with an array of symptoms, often varying in severity from mild irritation to debilitating discomfort. This condition is characterized by itchy, red patches of skin, often accompanied by dryness and flaking. In severe cases, these symptoms can escalate to painful cracks or fissures, making even simple tasks agonizing. The dorsal surface of the hands and fingers are commonly affected areas, though the condition may extend to the palms in some instances.

Several factors contribute to the onset of seasonal hand dermatitis during spring. Environmental allergens, such as pollen from blooming flowers and trees, play a significant role in triggering allergic reactions in susceptible individuals. Additionally, frequent hand washing, often necessitated by spring cleaning endeavors or outdoor activities, strips the skin of its natural oils which can exacerbate dryness and irritation. Furthermore, exposure to harsh chemicals present in gardening supplies or household cleaners can also aggravate the condition, rendering individuals more prone to flare-ups.

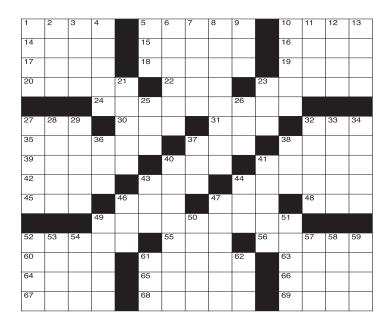
Effectively managing springinduced hand dermatitis requires a multifaceted approach aimed at alleviating symptoms and preventing recurrence. Moisturization stands as the cornerstone of treatment. The use can be instrumental in restoring the skin's moisture barrier. Moreover, minimizing contact with known irritants, such as detergents or abrasive substances, helps mitigate exacerbations. In cases where symptoms persist or intensify, consultation with a dermatologist may be warranted to explore prescriptionstrength treatments, including topical corticosteroids or immunesuppressing medicines.

Prevention remains key in mitigating the impact of seasonal hand dermatitis. Employing protective measures, such as wearing gloves while engaging in outdoor activities or utilizing mild, fragrance-free hand soaps, serves to minimize exposure to potential triggers. Also, adopting a proactive skincare routine that encompasses regular moisturization and gentle cleansing practices, fosters resilience against the condition's onset. Educating oneself about common allergens prevalent during the springtime can facilitate informed decision-making regarding environmental exposure. Despite its disruptive nature, spring-induced hand dermatitis does not need to impede one's enjoyment of the season's offerings. Implementing lifestyle adjustments, such as avoiding prolonged exposure to hot water and opting for lukewarm showers, can aid in preserving the skin's natural moisture balance.

In conclusion, as spring unfolds its splendor, vigilance against seasonal hand dermatitis becomes imperative. By fostering awareness, implementing preventive strategies, and seeking timely intervention when needed, individuals afflicted by this condition can navigate the season with greater ease, reclaiming the joy of springtime without the burden of hand woes.

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#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.) 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk
- 40. Partner to cheese
- **CLUES DOWN** 
  - 3. Annov
- 5. Japanese title

- southeast
- 1.0 Staffs
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman

- 41. Slang for sergeant 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan
- 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part 46. Halfway
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Consume 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
- 56. Cavalry-sword
- 60. Symbol of a nation
- 61. Frocks
- 63. Used to carry food
- 64. Portuguese folk song 65. Sharp mountain ridge
- 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin
- 68. Greek mythological sorceress
- 69. Fluid suspensions
- 1. "Mad Men" leading man 2. Water (Spanish)
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south and
- 11. Turkish title 12. Type of acid

- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment

- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title 59. Whiskeys
- 61. Adams: founding father
  62. Rody of water

**Answers for April 24** 

#### Don't let investments take a vacation

Submitted by **John Bennish** 

Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

Summertime is almost here — and for many people that means it's time



John Bennish

to hit the road. But even if you decide to take a vacation, you'll want other areas of your life to keep working — especially your investments.

So, how can you prevent your investments, and your

overall financial strategy, from going on "vacation"? Here are a few suggestions:

Check your progress. You want your investments to be working hard for you, so you'll need to check on their performance periodically — but be careful about how you evaluate results. Don't compare your portfolio's results against those of a market index, such as the S&P 500, which tracks the stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies listed on American stock exchanges. This comparison may not be particularly valid because your own

portfolio ideally should include a range of investments, including U.S. and foreign stocks, corporate and government bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other securities. So, instead of checking your progress against a market index, use benchmarks meaningful to your individual situation, such as whether your portfolio is showing enough growth potential based on a compounding rate of return to keep you moving toward a comfortable retirement and other long-term goals.

*Invest with a purpose.* When you work intensely at something, it's usually because you have a definite result in mind. And this sense of purpose applies to investing, too. If you buy a stock here, and another one there, based on "hot" tips you might have seen on television or the internet, you may end up with a jumbled sort of portfolio that doesn't really reflect your needs. Instead, try to follow a long-term investment strategy based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, asset accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon, always with an eye toward where you want to go in life -

how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

Be strategic with your investments. Over the years, you will likely have a variety of competing financial goals — and you'll want your investment portfolio working to help achieve all of them. That means, though, that you'll likely need to match certain investments with specific goals. For example, when you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, you're putting away money for retirement. But if you want to help your children go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary education or training, you might want to save in a 529 education savings plan, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. Or, if you want to save for a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, you might choose an investment that offers significant protection of principal, so the money will be available when you need it. Ultimately, this type of goals-based investing can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

When you take a vacation, you will hopefully be more relaxed and refreshed. But if you let your investments stop working as hard as they should, the results could be stressful. So, be diligent about your investment strategy, monitor it regularly and make those moves appropriate for your situation. By doing so, you can't necessarily guarantee a long day at the beach, but you'll have a good chance of enjoying a sunny outlook.

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

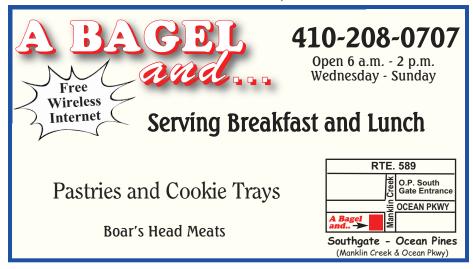


The University of Maryland Extension Worcester County 4-H Youth Development Program has five exciting day adventures planned as the "Wonders of a 4-H Summer." These fun experiential learning opportunities are open to all youth ages eight to 13. Online 4-H enrollment is required prior to registration for a Summer Wonder at https://4honline.com/#/user/signin. Youth may enroll independently for just \$10 per calendar year. If interested in joining one of Worcester County's community or specialty clubs, please call Barb Barga at 410-632-1972 for more information or visit https://extension.umd.edu/locations/worcester-county/4-h-youtheducation/.

Registration for any or all of the Wonders of a 4-H Summer is first come, first serve through Eventbrite, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wonders-of-a-4-h-summer-2024-tickets-879219518247. All sessions run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents are responsible for timely drop off and pick up. Transportation and lunch are not pro-

vided. Youth should dress appropriately with closed toe shoes, or water shoes if indicated. Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, insect repellent and water

please see **programs** page 12





#### **OPPD** welcomes new officer Freddie Howard

The Ocean Pines Police Department on Saturday welcomed its newest officer, Freddie Howard, during a swearing-in ceremony at the Ocean Pines Clubhouse.

Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr conducted the ceremony during a regular Board meeting that included many of Howard's family members in the audience.

"This is something new and something that is going to be a tradition in Ocean Pines," Farr said. "We are delighted, as a Board, to be able to do this and have the swearing in ... and have Mr. Howard take the oath of office."

Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim

program

from page 13

bottle are suggested for most outdoor activities.

June 18: The 4-H Wonders of Marine Science at the Sinepuxent Bay. Meet at the Paul S. Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center, behind the Assateague Visitors Center, to discover the wonders of water and the watershed at the Sinepuxent Bay. Participants will do a dissection and make coastal craft. Pack a lunch and prepare for fun. Bring your super soaker, water shoes, towel and a change of clothes. The fee is \$19.

June 25: The 4-H Wonders of a 4-H Summer at Shad Landing. This will be a fun-filled day exploring the Pocomoke River, fishing, and learning about the environment and local animals that live at Shad Landing. Participants will create special fair quality pieces to include squirrel feeders and more. Pack a lunch and a super soaker. Bring a towel and change of clothes. The fee is \$19.

June 26: The 4-H Wonders of Assateague Island. Participants will explore the natural beauty of Assateague Island, learn about the creatures in the bay, and create beautiful natural keepsakes. Bring a change of clothes, towel and water shoes. Pack a lunch and don't forget your super soaker. The fee is \$19.

July 9 and 10: The 4-H Wonders of Food and Fiber. Meet at the Snow Hill Fire Department located at 4718 Snow Hill Rd. in Snow Hill for "Make It, Bake It and Take It!" Kids will make and bring home baked goods that they can share with their fami-

Robinson said Howard comes to Ocean Pines following a distinguished 25-year career with the Ocean City Police Department.

According to a Town of Ocean City release, Howard served as a seasonal police officer for three years before becoming a full-time officer with the Hurlock Police Department in 1997. He returned to the Ocean City Police Department as a full-time officer in August of 1999.

During his two-decade-plus career in Ocean City, Howard worked as a K-9 handler, domestic violence investigator, and police recruitment member. Howard received the Excellent Police Performance Award in

lies. Additionally, participants will create quality items you can show in the Worcester County Fair in August. Try your hand at constructing a kitchen item, learn how to make a table decoration or beautiful mosaics. You will take home a madefrom-scratch pie and other baked goods. This two day adventure will be jam packed with creativity and fun. Pack and lunch and bring your imagination to explore your culinary and creative talents. The fee is \$40.

July 15: The 4-H Wonders of STEAM! What is so amazing about science? You can create cool stuff using scientific methods and take things home that you've made, which are actual science experiments. Explore your creative side like you never have before. The projects you will be making are Fair worthy entries that could garner a blue ribbon. Meet at the Berlin Library on Harrison Ave to learn about electricity, chemistry and more. Pack a healthy lunch and come find the scientist in you. The fee is \$19.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any 4-H event or activity, please contact Barb Barga at 410-632-1972 two weeks prior to the event.

2002. The following year, he received the Meritorious Service Award and the Worcester County Commissioners Award, and in 2005 Howard was named the Neighborhood Watch Police Officer of the Year. Howard also received the Excel-Police Performance Award in 2018.

Also, during the meeting on Saturday, Robinson said the Po-

lice Department was in the process of reviewing signage in the community, including median strip signs.

"They're at every single crossover," Robinson said. "They seem to be a little bit superfluous ... so we are going to be cutting back on those signs."

Robinson said removal of some of the signs would help with beautification efforts along Ocean Park-



OPA President Rick Farr (right) swears in new officer Freddie Howard (right). **Chief Tim Robinson** is in the background

way.

He also asked motorists to not block traffic crossovers, especially during times when traffic is backed up.

"If traffic is backed up for whatever reason, try to make sure you keep those crossovers open so people can get through there," he said.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Police Department, visit www.oceanpinespolice.com.



**Presentation** - The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club presented a check for \$3,000 to Berlin Intermediate School at the Junior Seahawks on The Move breakfast April 18. The breakfast honors sixth grade students who have made significant progress as students, and as people, during this past school year. Pictured are Optimist members: **Sharon Sorrentino; Melva Middleton; Charlie Dorman; Charlie Smith; Christina Dolomount** and BIS principal **Dr. Amy Gallagher**.

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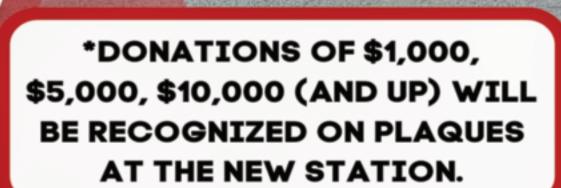
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# Ocean Pines mixed bowling league season-ending roll-off

By **Barb Hartman** 

There was a great competition at the Ocean Lanes Bowling Center on Friday, April 12. It was the championship roll-off between the Monday Champions and the Tuesday Champions of the Ocean Pines



Champions left to right are **Donna Kelly, Pam Barkett, Dick Topper and Brenda Littleton** 

Mixed Bowling League. The Monday Champions were the Herons (aka Dick's Chicks) with team members Pam Barkett, Donna Kelly, Brenda Littleton and Dick Topper. The Tuesday Champions were the Killdeers with team members Sue Larue, Bob Mathers, Lynne Waugh and Paul Wollschlager. The Herons became the official 2024 League Champions winning the best two of three games.

Congratulations goes out to all for a well-played season.

The league will begin their next season in late September 2024. A kickoff meeting will be held on Monday, August 26, at 1 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Current and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

The league has been active for more than 25 years. This year there were 24 teams divided between Monday and Tuesday. It is a mixed league with four people on each team. Please

feel free to contact Barbara Harman at 301-980-7798 should you have any questions or need more information.



Seasonal allergies crop up at certain times each year, particularly in spring and fall. In 2021, approximately 81 million people in the United States were diagnosed with seasonal allergic rhinitis, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Tree and grass pollen are notable contributors to allergies, as is mold. Verywell Health says allergies can be worse in certain areas. In the U.S., certain areas of the East Coast have high rates of allergies, while cities on the West Coast tend to be less harsh on those with allergies.

Since allergies can make life uncomfortable, people want to know all they can do to overcome seasonal allergies. These strategies can help.

Know the pollen count. Information is key, and knowing when pollen or mold counts are particularly high can help people take certain steps to avoid allergic reactions.

Close the windows. When pollen levels are high, closing windows to prevent breezes that can bring pollen inside a home can be an effective strategy. You also can utilize a HEPA filter on the homeÕs air conditioning system.

Remove clothes worn outdoors and shower to rinse pollen off of skin and hair. While it can reduce energy usage, hanging clothing to line dry during high pollen counts can cause pollen to stick to freshly laundered items.

Avoid gardening or other outdoor activities when pollen is high. If you must be outdoors, wear a mask.

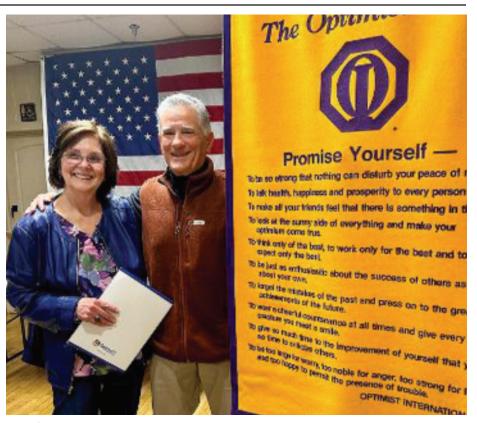
Try an antihistamine product that will reduce your body's reaction to the seasonal allergen. WebMD says butterbar as well as a plant-based Phleum pratense could be natural alternative antihistamine products.

Use a nasal rinse to clean allergens out of your nose. This can help ease congestion and itching. Select sterile saline solutions or carefully follow directions for preparing rinses in neti pots.

Corticosteroid nasal sprays can improve nasal symptoms. Speak with a doctor about how to use these products and how long to use them.

Consider allergy shots, also known as allergen immunotherapy. These shots can help desensitize the body to common allergies by using very small amounts of allergens over time. Eventually the immune system will produce a reduced reaction to the allergen.

Allergies can be troublesome. However, various strategies can help to diminish the often unpleasant effects of seasonal allergies.



**Welcome - Roger Pacella** (right) membership chairman for the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, welcomes new member **Margie Givarz** at the April dinner meeting.



**Inducted** - As part of the Worcester Preparatory April Honor Society Inductions, six students were inducted to the WPS chapter of the International Thespian Society, and 18 students were inducted to the National Art Honor Society on April 17.

The National Art Honor Society recognized Worcester Prep students who have shown outstanding ability in art, character and service. Pictured are:

Front Row (L-R): Angeline Todorov, Lindsay Bruner, Maggie McCabe, Moorea Phillips, Lebby Becker and current member Natasha Richter.

Second Row (L-R): Vanesska Hall, Madilyn Nechay, Jayden Scopp, Sydney Tingle and Esi Mehilli.

Third Row (L-R): Middle/Upper School Art teacher George Zaiser, William Mumford, Briar Parsons and Sara Frieh.

Back Row (L-R): Dylan McGovern, Adam Hafez, Hunter Simons, current member Mason Williams and Luke Hopkins.

# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by *Jack Barnes* 



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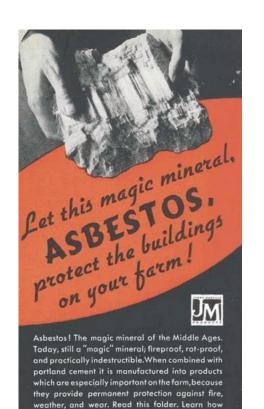
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- Public Schools provide more educational support for IEP and other special needs students!
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