

The Courier

July 10, 2024 Volume 24 Number 41



Helping - Tim McMullen of the Mary Mac Foundation was the guest speaker at the June 26 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, MD. Mary Mac Foundation is named for Tim's deceased wife. The mission is to aid low-income and homeless children and families. Through local generosity, the Foundation supports vital summer camps like Camp Ocean Pines, Camp Barnes in Delaware and Camp St. Vincent in Baltimore. Additionally, Mary Mac supports food banks and shelters such as Diakonia, the Cricket Center and Cold Shelter in Ocean City, Mid-Shore Meals in Cambridge and the Bayside Shelter in Millsboro, Delaware. Mary Mac is an all-volunteer organization of about 30 people. In 2023 the Foundation donated \$25,000 in support of their mission. See www-MaryMac.org for more information including how to make tax-free donations.
(L-R) Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing** and **Tim McMullen**.

GOLD IS AT AN ALL TIME
RECORD HIGH!

It's Never Been A Better Time to Sell
WE BUY Gold & Silver Coins Gold Jewelry
Silver Jewelry Silverware

D.A.KOZMA JEWELERS Rt. 50 & 611 in the FOOD LION SHOPPING CENTER WOC 410-213-7505 KOZMAJEWELERS.COM

Zweemer's

PAVING & SEAL COATING

Residential • Commercial • Licensed & Insured

Berlin and Ocean Pines Most Trusted Source For All Your Paving Needs For Over 20 Years!

**Low Maintenance
Cost Effective
Driveways
Installed Quickly
CALL TODAY!**

DRIVEWAYS & PARKING LOTS INSTALLATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Black Top
- Millings Grading
- Seal Coating
- Patching
- Stone
- Tar & Chip

We Fix Pot Holes, Root Problems and Install Drains

**Zweemer Landscaping Bundling Package • Complete Property Services
Call Today for ALL Your Landscape & Hardscape Needs
888-Zweemer**



10% OFF ANY JOB

Mention This Ad

**Call Us Today For Your
FREE Estimate**

15% OFF ANY JOB

for All First Responders & Active Military

SERVING DELMARVA FOR OVER 20 YEARS

888-ZWEEMER • 302-363-6116



Guest speaker - On Thursday, June 27, the Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) held their June Luncheon and General Meeting at the Lighthouse Restaurant. The guest speaker was Deborah Brocato, RN of "Health Not Harm MD." She is part of a coalition of concerned parents, health and medical experts and faith leaders in Maryland. Their actions are hoping to preserve parental and constitutional rights. Standing with **Jean Delcher**, president of RWWC on the left is **Deborah Brocato**, RN on the right.

Tax bills can be paid online

Worcester County property owners will begin receiving their tax bills during the first week of July.

"Tax bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 have been sent via United States Postal Service," Finance Officer Phil Thompson said. "For those who would like to pay their tax bills online, visit the County website at co.worcester.md.us."

On the home page, below the photo marquee, click the icon entitled \$ Taxes Online to access the Citizen Self Service page. Once there, click Real Estate Taxes or visit the site directly at selfservice.co.worcester.md.us/css/citizens/RealEstate/Default.aspx?mode=new

Customers can use their name, address, or property account identifier number, which is assigned by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), to find their accounts. The website also allows taxpayers to make payments on their accounts subject to a processing fee. A link is also provided on the website which allows taxpayers to access the SDAT website to view their properties and related assessment information.

Payments may also be made in person as well at two locations: the Isle of Wight Center at 13070 St. Martins Neck

Road in Bishopville and the Worcester County Government Center at 1 West Market Street, Room 1105 in Snow Hill.

Taxpayers with additional questions can contact the Worcester County Treasurer's Office directly at (410) 632-0686, ext. 3 or email at askthetreasurer@co.worcester.md.us during business hours for assistance with their current tax bills.

New ARC guidelines available online

The Ocean Pines Association recently announced that the updated Architectural Review Committee (ARC) guidelines are now available to the community. Homeowners and residents can access the updated guidelines on the Ocean Pines website under Applications and Documents at <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/cpi>.

The updated ARC guidelines have been meticulously re-crafted to enhance the community's aesthetic appeal, while ensuring that all property modifications comply with the highest standards to maintain maximized property values. These guidelines are based upon the original Declaration of Restrictions as

well as current federal, state, and Worcester County requirements, and provide clear, concise, and comprehensive instructions for property owners planning any exterior changes, renovations, or improvements.

Homeowners and residents are encouraged to visit the website to review the guidelines and ensure compliance with the new standards. Copies of the Association's restrictive covenants and the ARC guidelines are also available at the Compliance, Permits & Inspections office in the Public Works Building.

For more information, contact Director of Business Administration Linda Martin at 410-641-7717 ext. 3002 or lmartin@oceanpines.org.

Now Available



Each week for more than two decades, Chip Bertino has written his column, *It's All About...* which is published weekly in *The Courier*. *Some of My Favorites* is a collection of Chip's favorite columns in book form.

To purchase a copy call **410-629-5906** or email chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com



Phragmites

NOW!

is the best time to control Phragmites

Improve Your View! Reduce Fire Hazard!

Call **Weed PRO** Today!

410-742-2973

LICENSED INSURED CERTIFIED IN MD & DE
48 Years Experience

NEW CUSTOMER DISCOUNT

\$25 OFF For First Time Customers

Call **Weed PRO** Today!
Expires 10-15-24

Call Today

FREE ESTIMATES!

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, July 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will cover bowfishing for the elusive snakehead. There will also be discussion on local fishing, charter trips and regulation updates. All are welcome.

Crabcake fundraiser is Saturday

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Ocean City, announced a fundraiser featuring crabcake sandwiches set to take place on Saturday, July 13, between noon and 7 p.m. This carry-out only event promises will support ongoing mission and outreach efforts.

The crabcake sandwich, complete with lettuce, tomato, and a savory sauce, will be accompanied by a side of chips, is \$12. For those looking to enjoy crabcakes at home, uncooked crabcakes will also be available for purchase at the same price. They are ideal for freezing to eat at a later date.

The fundraiser will take place in the parish hall of St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, located at 302 North Baltimore Avenue in Ocean City. Walk-in service will be accessible through the Third Street entrance, providing convenient access for patrons on foot. Additionally, a drive-thru pick-up option will be available in the alley on the north side of the church building.

For more information or to place an order, please contact the church office at office@stpaulsbythesea.org.

Kiwanis breakfast is Saturday

The Kiwanis will host its pancake breakfast on Saturday, July 13 between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The cost is \$9. Children under 12 eat free. You can pay at the door. Carryout available. Proceeds benefit local youth.

Latest 'PinesCast' features Dockmaster Ron Fisher

The latest episode of the Ocean Pines Association's exclusive podcast, "PinesCast," features an interview with Dockmaster Ron Fisher

Hosted by veteran journalist and podcaster Tony Russo, PinesCast each week will celebrate the region, the amenities and, most of all, the people that make and keep Ocean Pines a special place to live.

In this episode, Fisher shares his background, from working as a physician's assistant and becoming the executive director of Peninsula Regional Medical Center (now Tidal Health), to managing Ocean Pines' Marina operations.

Fisher sheds light on the growth and changes he has witnessed in Ocean Pines over the past two decades. He emphasizes the importance of fulfilling the environmental and safety requirements for operating the marina, proudly mentioning the marina's Clean Marina award from the Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, Fisher delves into the day-to-day responsibilities of his staff and the significance of customer service in the marina industry.

This episode also features the introduction of Tidal Health as the Official Healthcare Sponsor of the PinesCast.

The PinesCast is available on all major podcast platforms.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/pinescast.



Combines, crab races, fairs celebrate Maryland's Coast

Celebrate farm life with Agriculture Week on Maryland's Coast – Worcester County from August 3-11.

"From combines to crab races to countywide fairs, farm life will take center stage for this weeklong celebration," said Melanie Pursel, director of Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED). "We invite everyone to come out and discover the people, places, and festivals that make up the heartbeat of our vibrant, rural Worcester County farming community."

August 3 two events will kick off Agriculture Week. The 24th annual Blessing of the Combines begins at 11 a.m. in Snow Hill. The grounds will rumble, as fleets of 13-ton combines and farm equipment roll into town. Celebrating local agriculture and honoring farm families, this event is packed with family fun, including a petting barnyard, live music, pedal tractor pull, hayrides, food, and beverages. View the schedule



at www.blessingofthecombines.org.

That same day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the scent of peaches will be in the air for the annual Peach Festival on the Taylor House Museum lawn in Berlin. Enjoy live music and kids' activities. Peach pies, peach slushies, and more will be available to purchase. Learn more about this sweet event at www.taylorhousemuseum.org.

August 4 two events will take place. Experience beekeeping at BayBees Honey, at 11244 Hall Road in Whaleyville. Learn why everyone should be a beekeeper and how to make honey products. The cost is on special for \$35 per person. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/BayBeesHoney>. Available spots are first come, first served.

Then from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., take a behind-the-scenes tour of ice cream making operations at Worcester County's last working dairy farm, Chesapeake Bay Farms, at 4111 Whitesburg Road in Pocomoke. All participants will receive a free waffle cone upgrade with any ice cream purchase.

August 5 two events will take place.

From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., cheer the fastest decapod to victory during the crab races, learn about scallops and bivalves, and paddle out on the bay at Baywater Landing, at 3908 Bayside Road in Snow Hill. Visitors will learn about the seafood industry and this aquaculture business.

Then at 6 p.m. children ages eight to 12, can dive into STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) at Peach Oak Farm, at 10839 St. Martin's Road in Berlin. Participants will explore the process of the four chambered stomach. Space is limited.

at [443-397-2113](tel:443-397-2113).

August 6, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. see a Japanese kokedama making demonstration and shop the pottery studio at Libelle Homestead, at 8152 Libertytown Road in Berlin. Parking is limited to 20 vehicles. Wear comfortable shoes. Heels are not permitted in the greenhouse.

August 7 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. view life on a working horse farm at Rusted Star Ranch, at 8616 Cedar Lane Road in Berlin. There will be an open house and free kids' activities. Children must wear closed-toed shoes for pony rides in the arena.

August 8 two events will take place. From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. take part in a fiber processing workshop at Marshall Creek Farm, at 9048 Marshall Creek Road in Newark. Signature cocktails and light refreshments will be provided. The cost per person is \$55. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/Fiber-Processing-Workshop>.

Then at 6:30 p.m. indulge in Practice Where You Peach yoga at Bennett Orchards, at 31442 Peachtree Lane in Frankford, DE. Afterward enjoy com-

please see **coast** on page 6

Trek to the beach

While sitting on the beach the other day I watched a young family setting up their site for a day of fun in the sun. They had three small children, the oldest no more than five or six years old.

to find a place fourteen and a half blocks away, where parking was free. That's when the frivolity kicked into high gear.

The car was unloaded. The trek to the beach began. My wife and I each took a handle on each side of the cooler on top of which were the duffel bags and the multi-colored beach umbrella. Our arms strained to carry the folding chairs and the playpen. The kids were in the stroller which we pushed

alternately with our hips, knees and feet. We took up the entire width of the sidewalk. By the second block, I would alert other walkers to our arrival by declaring, "Watch the tram car, please." People bolted into the street or pressed themselves against the buildings as we passed.

By the third block we normally received an escort from the police bicycle patrol who ran advance for us so we could proceed with few injuries to passersby.

By the time we reached the boardwalk, we were exhausted. Panting and thirsty, we opened the cooler to suck on a couple of ice cubes. Sufficiently rehydrated, we continued on the hot sand to locate a prime beach site. It always seemed the tide was low meaning we had to walk at least a mile to get to the surf. There's never a camel around when you need one.

Location found we spent the next 45 minutes setting up camp. Up went the umbrella around which everything was arranged. This was normally done twice. I did it first and then my wife showed me how to do it correctly.

Despite the challenges, we always had a good time. The kids loved playing in the sand and by the water's edge. Watching a baby experience the sand and the ocean for the first time is a joy.

By day's end our Hallmark moments faded to reality when the time arrive to go home. We were weary. Everything was sandy including the kids. We managed.

Those days were a long time ago. Now going to the beach is relatively easy: towel around the neck, a small cooler and a chair. It's easier but it's not necessarily better.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

While the kids frolicked, the parents' facial expressions were not unfamiliar to me.

I could tell they were mentally asking themselves whose idea it was to go to the beach with three small children and a truckload of gear. I gave them an understanding nod.

When our children were infants and toddlers, it would have been helpful to have had two, if not three, moving men to help get all our stuff to the beach. Our stuff included an umbrella, a large cooler filled with ice, food and drinks that weighed 75 pounds at least, folding chairs, a stroller, a playpen and two duffel bags containing towels, diapers and multiple changes of clothes for each child.

Departure preparations began in the predawn hours. The car was loaded and then reloaded. You may ask why that was. I'll tell you. I loaded it the first time and then my wife showed me how to do it correctly so as to leave room for the kids. What? The baby couldn't ride on the dashboard?

Once the car was loaded, we ensured the kids were fed, burped and properly attired. This process took at least two hours because the baby never quite understood that once he/she was changed, he/she was not allowed to spit up his/her food. I guess in their minds, the cute little grin they gave was compensation for us having to go back into the house and change their clothes, again. You just have to love them. Right? You do have to love them?

And we were just starting out. When we got to the beach, we drove around the block several times to find a parking space. Sure we could park closer to the beach if we wanted to spend \$10 on parking. No way. I had

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Health Equity Related to Tobacco

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Community-based organizations,
- churches,
- private entities,
- non-profits, and
- workplaces.

APPLICATIONS DUE TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY AUGUST 2, 2024



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- ☎ 410-632-1100 EXT.1108
- ✉ crystal.bell@maryland.gov
- 📍 6040 Public Landing Rd.

APPLICANTS CAN REQUEST:

- up to \$10,000
- a total of \$20,000 is available to support these efforts.

Award amounts based on the number and quality of applications received.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION PACKET



NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Community Tobacco Cessation and Enforcement

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CAN REQUEST:

- up to \$4,000 for community-based activities and;
- \$7,000 for tobacco retailer education.

Awards will depend on the number and quality of applications received.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Community-based organizations,
- churches,
- private entities,
- non-profits, and
- workplaces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- ☎ 410-632-1100 EXT.1108
- ✉ crystal.bell@maryland.gov
- 📍 6040 Public Landing Rd.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION PACKET



APPLICATIONS DUE TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY AUGUST 2, 2024



AGH appoints new chair, corporate members

At the AGH Corporation's annual meeting in June, the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees elected Doug Cook as its new chairman.

Cook, who most recently served as the vice chair for the AGH Board of Trustees, has also served on the finance committee for Atlantic General Hospital and the board for Atlantic ImmediCare. He is also a trustee member for the Life Crisis Center and serves on the Board of Directors of the Ocean City Golf Club. Cook is the chief lending officer and executive vice president at Calvin B. Taylor Banking Company. He served in the United States Army for six years and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Salisbury University and a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Regis University. Cook and his wife, Lisa, have two sons, Garrett and Austin.

"Doug has dedicated his time and energy to Atlantic General Hospital and Health System for many years. We're thrilled to welcome him as chair of the Board of Trustees," said Don Owrey, FACHE, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital. "We're also tremendously grateful for the two years Charlotte Cathell served as our board chair and the contributions she has made."

Charlotte Kerbin Cathell, the outgoing board chair, served in the position from June 2022 to June 2024, after joining the Board of Trustees in 2017. Cathell retired as register of wills for Worcester County after having served for 20 years. A lifelong resident of Worcester County, she is married to Judge Dale R. Cathell (retired). She is member of the Atlantic General Hospital Corporation and the AGH Foundation and was a founder and president of Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving

Other Lives Dignity). She is a former long-time member and president of the Worcester County Commission for Women and is on the board of directors of Taylor Bank. Cathell has resided in Ocean Pines for more than 40 years and was the first countywide-elected official from Ocean Pines. She was named the Citizen of the Year by the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce in 2019.

Additionally, the Board of Trust-

ees welcomed its slate of new members to the AGH Corporation: Hilari Ashton-Auxer; Cory Carpenter, M.D.; Ed Castaneda, M.D.; Bill Corey; Caitlin Evans; Maureen Howarth; Max Hutsell; Ryan Kirby; Shawn Kotwica; Matt Kraeuter; Jill Leiner; Gigi Lekites; Christine Neto, M.D.; Oswaldo Nicastro, M.D.; Michael Pennington; Melanie Pursel; GW Smith, PA-C; Dave Stallings; Rich Toth; Emily Tunis; and Chris Williams.

coast
from page 4

plimentary gather alfajores and pick-your-own 1/4 peck bag of peaches. Space is available for 75 individuals. The cost is \$45 per person. Tickets are available at <https://tinyurl.com/Bennett-Orchards>.

August 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. savor fresh, delicious tomatoes and learn about the harvesting process at Cross Farm, at 9933 Pitts Road in Berlin. An heirloom tomato tasting event will be hosted by The Blacksmith Restaurant.

The grand finale of Agriculture Week includes not one, but two fairs. August 8-11 visit the Great Pocomoke Fair, at 2037 Broad Street in Pocomoke. Witness Bullride Mania Rodeo Company cowboys tame their steeds. Then take in carnival rides, games, live entertainment, and more at this iconic country fair.

August 9 to 11, take in the Worcester County Fair, at John Walter Smith Park at 6022 Public Landing Road in Snow Hill. This fair celebrates the fruits of harvest, handiwork of local artisans, and the prowess of farmers, young and old alike, who raise crops and blue-ribbon quality livestock.

Both fairs will include live entertainment, kids' activities, farm animals, and farm-fresh food and beverages. View the schedule of events at www.thegreatpocomokefair.org or www.worcestercountyfair.org.

Agriculture Week in Worcester

County – hosted by WCTED in partnership with the Worcester County Department of Recreation and Parks – is also a great time to explore the local farmers markets.

"Shopping at area farmers markets is a great way to eat healthy and support local farm families," WCTED Advertising and Destination Marketing Specialist Brianna Dix said. "Discover fresh farm-to-table foods and crafts from local artisans at the farmers markets that operate in each of the seven districts within Maryland's Coast."

Farmers markets schedules are as follows: Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market takes place at White Horse Park. Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Berlin Farmers Market takes place on Pitts, Commerce, and Main Streets. Thursdays from 12-5 p.m. the Snow Hill Farmers Market takes place at the Green Street Parking Lot. Fridays beginning at 7 a.m., the Pocomoke Farmers Market takes place at 3 Market Street. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. the Ocean City Farmers Market takes place at Gold Coast Mall.

Learn more about Agriculture Week activities at www.visitmarylandscost.org or visit the individual Facebook event pages. For additional information, contact Dix at bdix@co.worcester.md.us or 410-632-3112 x2123.

Courier Almanac

On July 10, 1893, trailblazing physician Daniel Hale Williams successfully performed one of the world's first open-heart surgeries at Provident Hospital in Chicago. Not only is he a pioneer of the procedure; he is one of just three African American physicians practicing in Chicago at a time when many white-run hospitals refused to treat Black patients—much less hire Black doctors.

A cataract is a clouding of the naturally transparent lens of the eye that can occur as one ages. Natural proteins in the lens clump together and can cloud the eye. The National Eye Institute says most cataracts develop with age, as more than half of all Americans age 80 or older either have cataracts or have had surgery to remove them. But cataracts can occur for other reasons, such as after an eye injury or after surgery for another vision problem. The American Academy of Ophthalmology says cataracts can make it seem like a person is looking through a foggy or dusty car windshield. Everything is hazy, blurry or less colorful. Additional vision changes associated with cataracts include extra light sensitivity; seeing bright colors as faded or yellowed; seeing double or a ghosted image; and difficulty seeing at night.



Using brighter lights at home or getting a new eyeglasses prescription can help manage cataracts in their early stages. An eye doctor may suggest surgery if cataracts are getting in the way of daily activities. Surgery removes the clouded lens and replaces it with a new, artificial lens.

Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller

Linda Knight Advertising Representative

Contributors

Jack Barnes, Dan Collins, Ralph Farrusi Ron Fisher, Douglas Hemmick, 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](https://facebook.com/TheCourierofOceanPines)

The
Courier

CLIFFORD & PECK



**CLIFFORD & PECK FOR
OCEAN PINES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WE LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY
WE WORK FOR YOU**

**WE BELIEVE IN ACCOUNTABILITY
A CODE OF ETHICS & CONDUCT
INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION
RESPECT, COMPASSION
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Moore reports record sales during first year of cannabis legalization

Governor Wes Moore announced last week that total medical and adult-use retail sales surpassed \$1.1 billion in the first 12 months following legalization. According to the Maryland Cannabis Administration, monthly retail sales surpassed \$95 million in June, with the adult-use market accounting for more than \$67 million in sales. Since cannabis was legalized for adult consumers on July 1, 2023, adult-use sales totaled more than \$700 million and medical sales totaled nearly \$400 million.

“Our new adult-use cannabis market isn’t only generating extraordinary economic activity – it’s also helping us build new pathways to work, wages, and wealth for all,” said Gov. Moore. “Making Maryland more competitive means ensuring that everyone can reap the benefits of Maryland’s economic growth. This important milestone proves how our administration continually – and repeatedly – honors our deep commitment to that mission.”

One year into cannabis legalization, the Maryland Cannabis Admin-

istration, the Office of Social Equity, and the cannabis industry in Maryland continue to grow and evolve. Agency and industry highlights for the past year include:

- Administering the first cannabis business licensing round in the nation that was reserved exclusively for social equity applicants.

- Of the 205 selected applicants, 53.7% self-reported majority black or African American ownership, and 76.2% self-reported majority minority ownership; these businesses will more than double the number of licensed cannabis businesses operating in the state.

- Establishing a first-in-the-nation state cannabis reference laboratory dedicated to cannabis oversight and managed by a state cannabis regulatory agency.

- Collecting more than \$40 million in fees from licensed cannabis businesses to support the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, which provides funding directly to local jurisdictions to support community-based initiatives that benefit low-income

communities and communities that were disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization.

- In partnership with the Maryland Department of Labor, establishing a first-in-the-nation Cannabis Workforce Development Program, which will prioritize training individuals with a history of cannabis-related offenses.

- In collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, launching a comprehensive public health and safety campaign, “BeCannabisSmart,” which promotes safe and responsible cannabis use and educates the public on important topics such as the dangers of drugged driving, smoke-free spaces, and safe storage of cannabis products.

- Launching a “Medical and Adult-Use Data Dashboard,” which provides public access to key program and industry metrics.

- Growing the Maryland Cannabis Administration from approximately 50 staff members to more than 100 to meet the additional responsibilities of an expanded medical and adult-use industry.

- Establishing the Office of Social Equity, an independent executive agency that serves to promote economic opportunity and equity in Maryland’s adult-use cannabis market.

- Hosting technical assistance sessions for more than 1,400 registered participants; financial forecasting sessions for more than 600 registered participants; and application writing clinics for more than 700 registered participants to support aspiring cannabis business applicants.

- Obtaining more than 1,250 responses on the potential uses of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, 74% of which expressed strong support for the reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue into communities disproportionately harmed by the War on Drugs.

“I am proud of the efforts of the Cannabis Administration staff who worked in collaboration with our governmental and industry partners to implement a safe and equitable market in Maryland, while simultaneously building a new regulatory agency,” said Maryland Cannabis Administration Director Will Tilburg. “As exciting as the past year has been, we expect the year ahead to be even more so, as new social equity businesses bring their passion and innovation to the Maryland market.”

“This milestone reflects the dedication and hard work of countless individuals who believe in the transformative power of equitable cannabis policies,” said Office of Social Equity Executive Director Audrey Johnson. “Our focus on social equity has paved the way for a more inclusive industry, and we remain committed to ensuring that all Marylanders benefit from this growing market. I am incredibly grateful to the Office of Social Equity team for their remarkable efforts, in support of diverse individuals and businesses aspiring to participate in Maryland’s cannabis economy.”



Using natural gas
in your home or at
your business
can reduce your
carbon footprint.

Learn more at
sandpiper-energy.com



Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

Since
1978

D.A. Kozma Jewelry & Coins

OUR
46th
YEAR

**GOLD IS AT AN ALL
TIME RECORD HIGH!!**

**It's never been a
better time to sell!
COME IN TODAY!!**

Prompt, friendly & Affordable Service

BUYING & SELLING GOLD, SILVER, COINS & CURRENCY

FREE APPRAISALS - 1 COIN OR AN ENTIRE COLLECTION
BUYING GOLD, SILVER JEWELRY & FLATWARE

D.A. Kozma Jewelry & Coins

410-213-7505 410-524-GOLD

www.kozmajewelers.com

9936 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City Route 611 at Route 50 in the Food Lion Shopping Center



Offshore boat racing

Ocean City hosted a spectacular offshore boat race last month. About 40 loud, colorful entries put-putted out of the West Ocean City Commercial Harbor June 8 and 9 and screamed around a four-mile course just off the beach in an awesome display of raw power.

Six classes of boats – Super Cat, Stock 450, Modified V, Super Vee, and ‘bracket classes’ - competed over a two-day regatta culminating in a victory party at Seacrets.

The race course for the Ocean City



Grand Prix, a Race World Offshore circuit event, laid just off the beach and stretched between 4th and 37th streets with the best viewing near the finish line at 16th street. The races were quite easy to see from the boardwalk or beach. In fact, they were so close that swimming off the beach was curtailed during the races.

What the casual sightseer could not fully appreciate while viewing from the boardwalk was the thrill and intensity of the competition. OC was experiencing five- to seven- foot swells that weekend which made for a choppy ride. This led to mechanical failures and caused one boat to flip totally out of control as chase helicopters recorded the scene.

While TowBoatUS pulled race casualties home on Saturday, other teams scurried to make last minute modifications back in the launching area in preparation for their races. A

giant crane spent the day lifting the competitors on and off trailers and in and out of the water while engineers and mechanics and owners reconfigured the boats with different ballast and propellers. It gave me new appreciation for the standing joke that a boat is a hole in the water that one pours money into.

I watched the teams switch out very expensive propellers to better handle the large swells. They were trading off straight away speed for more acceleration. The issue is recovering after the boat gets airborne as it goes over the top of a wave. Although it looks great for the spectators, the powerboat actually slows down because the prop is out of the water. That’s why the smaller, lower pitch propellers were chosen to reaccelerate when the boat returns to the water. It is analogous to stick shift automobiles (if

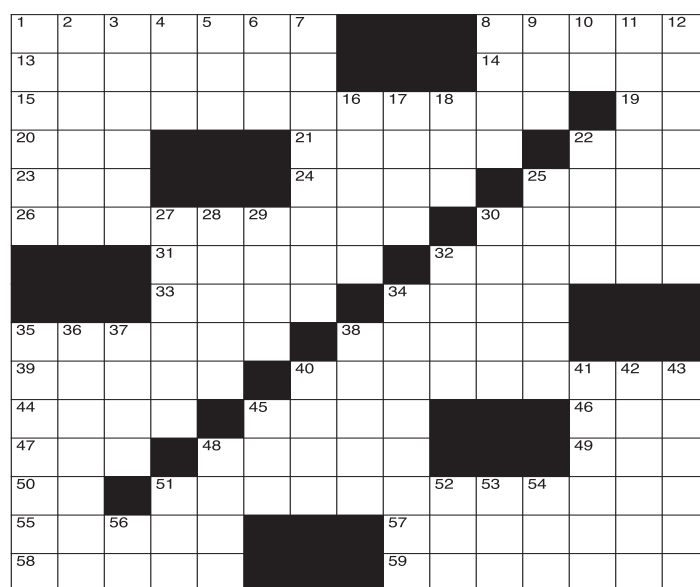
anyone can remember) where first gear gave you the best acceleration but poor top end speed.

Some of the propellers had six blades and some had five and all had aggressive pitch inclinations to bite the water at high speeds. One team was so secretive that they asked me to stop photographing their lower unit until they put a cover over the prop.

In one case, the *Gladiator* changed from a 15” in diameter with a 32-degree blade pitch to a 14 3/4” diameter and a 31-degree pitch. That subtle change apparently can make a big difference in torque for their two 450 HP outboard engines. Unfortunately, it didn’t help *Gladiator* as it failed to get credit for even one lap in the Stock 450 class.

I don’t know how much of a difference it makes, but one race team engineer told me that they were hitting

please see **racing** on page 12

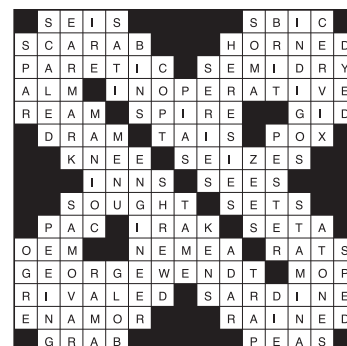


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Book size
- 8. Indonesian Island
- 13. “The Sopranos” character
- 14. Plants often found in stews
- 15. Stern
- 19. Atomic #52
- 20. Often seen after a company name
- 21. Silk garments
- 22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
- 23. Type of beer
- 24. Margarine
- 25. Throw lightly
- 26. Explains again
- 30. Raccoon-like animal
- 31. Sneaker parts
- 32. Platforms
- 33. Scored perfectly
- 34. One’s essence
- 35. Strikes with a firm blow
- 38. Makes tractors
- 39. Music term
- 40. Lack of energy
- 44. Vestments
- 45. ___ and feathers
- 46. Total
- 47. Gobbler
- 48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
- 49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
- 50. Home of Rudy Flyer
- 51. Manageable
- 55. Lugged
- 57. Irritated
- 58. Sea eagles
- 59. Warm seasons

CLUES DOWN

- 1. About visual sense
- 2. Part of a horse’s saddle
- 3. In a way, interchanged
- 4. Rocker’s accessory
- 5. Very important person
- 6. It precedes two
- 7. Flavored
- 8. Musical notes
- 9. String instrument (slang)
- 10. Mister
- 11. Fine, light linen fabric
- 12. Absence of bacteria
- 16. Discounts
- 17. Area units
- 18. A description of one’s life
- 22. Gazelles
- 25. Plumbing fixture
- 27. Makes especially happy
- 28. One side of something many-sided
- 29. Frosts
- 30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
- 32. Female animal species
- 34. School terms
- 35. Written law
- 36. Unpleasant aroma
- 37. Nuclear weapon
- 38. One who challenges
- 40. Opposite of first
- 41. Able to be utilized
- 42. Less interesting
- 43. Implants
- 45. Canister
- 48. Gestures
- 51. After B
- 52. Romanian monetary unit
- 53. Long-term memory
- 54. Cash machine
- 56. The Volunteer State



Answers for July 3



**FUN
GIVEAWAYS
ALL MONTH
LONG!**



**WITHOUT JOLLY ROGER®
IT'S JUST ANOTHER
DAY AT THE BEACH!**



**SCAN HERE
FOR PARK HOURS**



**DAYTIME &
NIGHT TIME
ARMBANDS**



#MyJollySummer

**AT THE PIER & 30TH ST.
www.JollyRogerPark.com • 410-289-3477**

Pony Penning tradition continues

Pony Penning is a magical time of year on Chincoteague Island, Virginia. Some call it Christmas in July. It's a time of homecoming, a time to reconnect with old friends and a time to make new friends. It is a time to experience the place where renowned children's author Marguerite Henry wrote the award-winning "Misty of Chincoteague" in 1946 about a Chincoteague Pony and two children who loved her. It is a time to celebrate a 99-year tradition whose roots are as deep as the marsh mud. Whether you have lived on Chincoteague your entire life or only for a short season, the last week of July is a pilgrimage home during this exciting week of pony fever. Visitors from around the world experience an event like none other. Thousands line the shores of Veterans Memorial Park and Pony Swim Lane to watch the world-famous Chincoteague Ponies make their annual swim from Assateague Island, VA to Chincoteague Island. Charter boats and kayaks filled with eager onlookers line the Assateague Channel creating a pathway for the ponies as they make their yearly swim from shore to shore. Festivities begin with the South Herd roundup on Saturday, July 20 and the North Herd roundup on Sunday, July 21. The North Herd of wild Chincoteague Ponies will join

the South Herd to await the big day in the traditional Beach Walk on Assateague Island on Monday, July 22. Vet checks will be given on Tuesday. The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company has announced that the swim on Wednesday, July 24th will be between noon-1 p.m. The auction of foals takes place on Thursday morning July 25 at 8 a.m. at the Carnival Grounds located at 3648 Main Street. Online bidding will also be available and can be accessed from the Chamber website on Auction Day. The week's events culminate with the return swim of the South Herd adult ponies to Assateague Island on Friday morning, July 26 (time to be determined after the swim on Wednesday). The Town of Chincoteague will provide enhanced viewing of the event on a large Jumbotron located at Veterans Memorial Park and provide free shuttle bus service to the event beginning at 7 a.m. on July 24th. The Pony Express Trolley will operate extended hours on July 24 to 26 to assist in transporting everyone to all the activities. Visit www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-penning and the chamber's Facebook page for any updates, shuttle map, and information including where to park if you are a day visitor, helpful hints and full schedule of events.

racing

from page 10

speeds of 130 mph in a freshwater lake in the Ozarks the week before while their top end speed was only about 110 mph in the choppy Atlantic Ocean. (FYI, my top speed in my 20-foot pontoon boat is about 18 mph with the favorable wind over my stern.)

Besides speed, the next biggest challenge is endurance. On Saturday, J.J. Turk and Nick Buis crewed their #74 boat, *Xinsurance*, to a victory in the Mod V class. When the checkered flag dropped, there were only two boats still racing. Four others fell to mechanical problems and the swells of Ocean City's demanding sea conditions. Elijah Kingery who had two boats in the Mod V class said the biggest factor to being crowned the 2024 world champion is keeping the boats from breaking down on the various 13 lap/4-mile courses as the summer racing circuit bears down on Key West, Florida, for the championship this November.

Don't lament if you missed this year's Ocean City Grand Prix. The Race World Offshore race will be returning for the next two summers. So you will have two more opportunities to see these dazzling powerboats on display at the Roland Powell Convention Center, watch the crews prep and launch them at the West Ocean City Commercial Harbor, view the competition from the boardwalk, and join in the victory celebration at Seacrets. Meantime, ...

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com



Recognition - The commissioners presented a proclamation recognizing this month as Park and Recreation Month to Worcester County Recreation and Parks (WCRP) Director Kelly Rados and other recreation professionals to recognize the profound impact of WCRP programs and parks on the community. Last year alone, 57,812 residents and visitors participated in WCRP activities.

Art League of Ocean City announces summer membership drive

The Art League of Ocean City is kicking off their summer membership drive with the offer of a gift of art with all new and renewing memberships.

The nonprofit Art League, which runs the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St., is offering limited-edition art prints, signed and numbered by artist Randy Hofman, with all new or renewing memberships, while supplies last.

The art print is taken from an original painting by Hofman, now on exhibit at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, and features the Assateague ponies on the beach with the Ocean City skyline in the background. Hofman is renowned for his art on the Ocean City beach, where he carves sand into intricate sculptures, and is also a prolific painter.

"This is a rare and historic opportunity to collect a work of art by an iconic Ocean City artist, as Randy Hofman does not usually offer prints of his work," said Rina Thaler, Executive Director of the Art League. "Start your collection of our annual membership prints or add to the collection you already have."

Members receive a 10% discount on purchases made at the Arts Center, including the original art on the walls and pieces from the gift shop and artists' studios, and 20% off class fees. Members are also notified personally of special events, including the monthly First Friday opening receptions, and other opportunities, including special events, theater performances, music, and classes.

The Art League offers tax-deductible memberships in several levels for individuals, students, seniors and families, starting at \$25 per year. Corporate memberships are also available.

"Art matters," Thaler said. "If you engage in the arts, you are benefitting not only yourself but the entire community. Your membership helps us keep the doors open and free to all. Your support has a direct and tremendous impact on the lives of artists by encouraging and mentoring young talent and providing a safe outlet for creative ideas. We hope you will become a part of the arts."

The Art League currently has more than 1,200 members and a long history in the Town of Ocean City. Founded in 1963 and originally housed in the current City Hall building, the Art League moved into their new state-of-the-art home on 94th St. in 2013 and is celebrating 61 years in the resort.

The Art League's mission is to promote the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, classes, programs and community art events. The Arts Center and the Art League are supported by memberships, corporate and civic funding, donations and sales of art.

Complete membership details are on the Art League's website at OCart.org/belong, by calling the Arts Center at 420-524-9433, or by stopping by the Arts Center at 502 94th St.

Get on the water with the right kayaking gear

Kayaking is a wildly popular paddlesport. Paddlesports offer people unique ways to enjoy nature while getting up close and personal with expansive waterways. Kayaking is remarkably accessible for people of all skill levels and interests.



According to the Outdoor Foundation's 2019 Special Report on Paddlesports and Safety, kayaking has seen a consistent upward trend in participation for the last five years. Today, recreational kayaking is the most popular paddlesport, with more than 11 million participants in the United States. And the activity is almost

evenly split among men and women (51 percent and 49 percent, respectively).

Many kayakers can enter the water with relatively no instruction in kayaking and take to the sport like a duck to water. Of course, the right gear can make all the difference for both experienced and novice kayakers. Anyone who plans to be a consistent kayaker should probably invest in a kayak of his or her own.

The right kayak depends on where kayakers plan to use it. Sea kayaks can sail easily through choppy conditions. Tandem kayaks carry two or more people and have more storage space. Touring kayaks are designed for long distance kayakers. Sit-on-top kayaks are ideal for beginners and casual paddlers.

Some additional supplies also can help kayakers get the most out of this

rewarding activity.

Paddle: Many kayaks are sold with compatible paddles. However, it is always a good idea to have a spare. Be sure to choose one made from sturdy materials, especially if it will be used in saltwater or brackish water.

Life jacket: A life jacket is a must when on the water. While kayaks are relatively stable, should a tip-over occur a life jacket can keep you afloat and safe until you are able to reboard the kayak.

Kayak racks and carriers: Kayaks can be transported to the water on roof racks that strap on to SUVs and cars. Kayak carts and trailers can help you comfortably move the kayak to the water's edge or dock, as kayaks can be heavy and cumbersome to move on your own.

Spray skirt: A kayak spray skirt keeps water from splashing up and onto your lap/legs while in the kayak. Staying dry can make kayaking more comfortable in all seasons.

Dry storage: Dry bags and containers keep items like a phone, camera and GPS devices dry and secure. These containers are designed to be

water-tight when splashed or submerged.

Other kayaking supplies include dry shirts, special shoes, hats, and gloves. Coordinated fishing gear can even be purchased for those who want to catch some fish while kayaking.

Kayaking makes for a great day on the water. The right gear helps enthusiasts sail with ease.

The
Courier

e-subscribe **FREE** to
The Courier and get it
delivered to your
computer each week!



delmarvacourier.com



The Choice is Yours.
CHOOSE AQUACARE FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY.

Schedule a **FREE** consultation with Aquacare now before you receive a physician referral and start feeling better faster!

AQUACARE - BERLIN OFFERS:

Gym & Aquatic Therapy | Orthopedic Rehabilitation
Pelvic Floor Therapy | Pregnancy/Postpartum

AQUACARE
PHYSICAL THERAPY

**WHEN YOU'RE HERE,
YOU'RE FAMILY.**

Call 443-513-3910 or go to www.aquacarephysicaltherapy.com

The Courier

e-subscribe **FREE** to *The Courier* and get it delivered to your computer each week!

delmarvacourier.com



Prevent back injuries while golfing

By **Dylan Niblett**
Aquacare Physical Therapy

No matter your age, golfing can place a lot of unwanted stress on your body and especially your lower back. Whether you are an avid golfer or a weekend warrior, Aquacare wants to help you prevent lower back injuries and enjoy your favorite game free from pain.



Dylan Niblett

When looking to prevent injuries on the course, it is important to warm your body up first.

Warmups should include five to 10 minutes of gentle stretching to ensure readiness to swing. After 10 minutes, swing the club. Start at 25% power and work your way up to wherever you feel most comfortable, which does not have to be 100% power.

During your round here are a few more tips to avoid injury:

- Try to avoid standing and swinging on uneven surfaces, which can affect spine stability.
- Enter and exit bunkers at the lowest point available to avoid unnecessary strain on your back.
- Avoid excessive bending or staying in one position too long (walking, standing).

After your round, proper rest and recovery is just as important as the warm-up. When you arrive home, ice any sore or painful areas. If the pain persists for two or more days, then switch from ice to heat.

If you find yourself with a back injury sustained on or off the course, you may feel anxious to get back out there. Make sure you are healthy enough to return to playing.

The first step is to build up your core and lower extremity strength, and overall flexibility. A physical therapist can help you create a personalized strengthening plan, which may include free weights, standing and sitting stretches, body-weight exercises, and flexibility movements.

If you are still feeling some pain, instead of going out and play 18 holes, consider starting slow with some chipping and putting. Then gradually add back in distances.

As you start to do more, pay atten-

tion to your body so you can identify aggravating factors in your game.

With many back injuries, you may need to consider modifying your swing. Using a shorter backswing and limiting rotation could give your body the time it needs to heal while also preventing worsening an existing injury or creating a new injury.

For recovery or returning to golf, physical therapy can help you achieve your goals with a personalized golf warm-up, home exercise program, and manual techniques to help you play to the best of your ability.

Schedule a free 30-minute evaluation with one of our physical therapists: www.aquacarephysicaltherapy.com/contact.



Did you know we also offer Assisted Stretching to help athletes of all ages reach their goals? Learn more by calling Aquacare – Berlin at 443-513-3910 or online: www.aquacarephysicaltherapy.com.

A BAGEL and...

410-208-0707

Open 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday - Sunday

Free
Wireless
Internet

Serving Breakfast and Lunch

Pastries and Cookie Trays

Boar's Head Meats

RTE. 589	
Manklin Creek	O.P. South Gate Entrance
	OCEAN PKWY
A Bagel and..	

Southgate - Ocean Pines
(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

Come See Us!



Tracy K. Jones
302-316-6565
tjones@averyhall.com

Our office in Selbyville, Delaware is open

AVERY HALL

INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR TODAY'S WORLD

33195 Lighthouse Road, Unit 11 | Selbyville, DE 19975

AveryHall.com



The Courier

e-subscribe **FREE** to *The Courier* and get it delivered to your computer each week!

delmarvacourier.com

OPA board candidates answer Courier questions

The five candidates running for the two positions on the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors were questioned by The Courier. The candidates' written responses are published here in the order of ballot placement. The answers are published in their entirety. They have not been edited for grammar or spelling or in any

way altered.

The voter eligibility deadline was July 2. The deadline for ballot submission is Tuesday, August 6 at 4 p.m. The ballots will be counted

and total announced on Thursday, August 8. The annual meeting will occur Saturday, August 10. For questions about the election, email elections@oceanpines.org.

Sherrie Clifford

Are you a full-time resident of Ocean Pines? Yes

How long have you been an OPA member? Aug. 2020

What motivated you to run for the OPA board?

The Ocean Pines governing board requires Directors who actively listen and promptly respond to homeowners, encourage input from both residents and committees, and foster transparent communication without any fear of reprisal. As a Director, I will lead by example and adhere to our governing documents without compromising them for personal interests.

I bring a unique combination of experience, dedication, and proven leadership that sets me apart from other candidates. My extensive background in project management, contract negotiations, software development, and database management demonstrates my technical proficiency and attention to detail. As an entrepreneur, I have a track record of identifying needs and effectively addressing them, showcasing my innovative and solution-oriented approach.

My hands-on experience includes building and maintaining cohesive team environments, advanced technology skills, informed decision-making, and the ability to collaborate with individuals at all organizational levels. My diverse skill set ensures that I can effectively lead and serve our community.

Additionally, my work in founding a successful Data Management & Software Development firm highlights my capability to provide reliable and accurate services to high-stakes clients, earning their trust and respect. This background ensures I bring integrity, dependability, and precision to the board.

As the founder of the Ocean Pines ROC Facebook group and the ROC BUZZ podcast, I have demonstrated my dedication to keeping residents informed and involved. My initiatives have fostered open communication and accountability, which I believe are essential for effective leadership.

If elected, what OPA issues would you address and why?

In alignment with the Ocean Pines Vision & Mission Statement, my vision encompasses a welcoming, vibrant, and sustainable community where every resident feels valued and engaged. Our community should foster a culture of respect, encouraging all residents to participate in volunteer opportunities and embrace diverse ideas.

Board Governance should be characterized by integrity, accountability, and collaboration, with a commitment to adhering to governing documents and prioritizing community needs over self-serving projects. Board members must understand the importance of "minutiae" recognizing that attention to detail is crucial for achieving success and realizing the community's vision. As a successful entrepreneur, I bring the experience needed to contribute effectively to such a meticulous and informed decision-making process.

There is a significant difference between being an employee who follows directions and commands versus being an employer. As a past employer with visionary experience, I see the vision, execute it, direct others toward it, and unite the team to accomplish it.

By focusing on our Vision and the Strategic Plan along with key areas, we can ensure that Ocean Pines remains an attractive, affordable, and safe community that sets a standard for excellence, innovation, and respect.

A vote for Clifford means restoring accountability, collaboration, compassion, and confidence in a Board that our homeowners deserve.



Jeff Heavner

Are you a full-time resident of Ocean Pines? Yes

How long have you been an OPA member? Since 2017

What motivated you to run for the OPA board?

The success of Ocean Pines depends on the combined leadership from the general manager and board of directors, relentlessly focused on our shared vision. My motivation is team success. My motivation for re-election is to continue aligning our leadership team to spend wisely to protect our safe and wonderful way of life, our strong financial position, and our values. After a year of service, I am even better prepared to address the needs of our community.

Boise created Ocean Pines with an incredible vision to combine a unique Maryland coastal location with a resort lifestyle focus. A vision that has evolved for over 50 years. Future prosperity is dependent on the decisions that the board and general manager make now. Decisions on policy and planning to ensure that we have professional operational management, provide exceptional fire, medical and police safety, maintain and invest in our top tier amenities, execute smart infrastructure maintenance, sustain beautification, and fund our reserve replacements.

I am a native of Dundalk and I spent summers working at my parent's business on the Ocean City boardwalk. This is where my leadership started and was developed at the Naval Academy, serving in the Navy to protect Arabian Sea global shipping lanes as an intelligence officer, developing future intelligence officers as an instructor, managing for decades in a broad range of positions at ExxonMobil and serving as a member of a leadership team that directed the safest and most prosperous lubricant business.

I feel motivated to protect the future of the lifestyle that we enjoy. This takes leaders that work well with others, motivate others, communicate effectively, decide on facts, listen to association members, avoid drama, govern with ethics, and trust and focus on our shared vision. I have demonstrated these skills.

If elected, what OPA issues would you address and why?

The general manager and the board of directors work collaboratively to execute our strategic plan. The plan rests on a foundation from data collected from a property owner survey conducted by the strategic planning advisory committee in the Fall of 2021. The plan points to a shared vision to keep Ocean Pines a premier resort and residential community, committed to exceptional safety, value and quality of life. The plan uses attributes or categories of success that guide us towards our vision. These include quality governance, safety, five-star amenities, infrastructure maintenance and community appearance, all striving to make Ocean Pines an attractive, affordable, safe, sustainable, and enjoyable place to live, work and visit. They are the cornerstones of the foundation.

We bring this plan to life with priorities or issues within each of the attributes that address what is important to the association, both near and longer term. As we make progress, priorities evolve, and the general manager and board must keep looking ahead. It is the board's responsibility to provide oversight to ensure the ship remains pointed in the right direction with prudent spending. I will continue listening to residents and collaborating with the board and general manager to prioritize the issues that lead us to our exceptional safety, value, and quality of life vision. The issues that we need to address include:



Rick Farr

Are you a full-time resident of Ocean Pines? Yes, I am a Fulltime resident

How long have you been an OPA member? I have been a member since 1999



What motivated you to run for the OPA board?

As a board member for the past three (3) years, I have served in the positions as a committee liaison; as Vice President and current President of the Ocean Pines Association where I have provided effective executive leadership that has been proven and has provided tangible positive results for our community. I humbly ask for your vote for my re-election. I have effectively led the board in partnership with our General Manager in making tactical and strategic decisions in enhancing our community amenities and infrastructure from a corporate governance and budgetary standpoint along with my commitment in upholding high ethical standards. I currently lead a very strong cohesive board of directors that collaborates effectively, professionally, and successfully with unwavering dedication to Ocean Pines success. I have partnered with local and county officials presenting Ocean Pines annual budgets requests to county officials for public safety (Police), roads and bridge improvement and funding for our parks and recreation department to meet the needs of our residents, visitors, and tourists. My executive leadership experience and skill set in the military, corporate and the government industries, has given me the financial acumen, discernment, collaboration, and motivation necessary to be successful in a second term leading the Ocean Pines Association. I appreciate your vote for my re-election. Promises Made - Promises Kept.

If elected, what OPA issues would you address and why?

I would like to ensure our reserves remain properly funded (which they are) in anticipation of the upcoming DMA reserve study analysis. Our General Manager has done an outstanding job funding our reserves in anticipation of the study. Secondly, I will ensure the Fire Department in partnership with OPA and the Board of Directors get what they need for a new building and funding for new apparatus. The relationship between the Fire Department and the Ocean Pines Association remains very professional. Ensure that our Police Department continues to receive all the resources they need to protect the residents of Ocean Pines; to include personnel, safety equipment and vehicles, Ensure all our amenities remain in great shape and remain affordable to all our residents. Ensure our beautification efforts throughout Ocean Pines are well managed. Ensure all our roads, drainage and mailboxes are properly maintained. Ensure our General Manager as well as The Matt Ortt Companies have signed to long-term contracts to keep our Association financially strong and our Food and Beverage services throughout Ocean Pines the best in the business.

Amy Peck

Are you a full-time resident of Ocean Pines? Yes
How long have you been an OPA member? Since 2002



What motivated you to run for the OPA Board

Since 2002, I have been passionate about Ocean Pines and safeguarding its legacy. Service is a core value for our family, so we've volunteered countless hours in Ocean Pines. Over the past several years, our GM and operations team have implemented initiatives that yielded positive financial results. While I believe these successes will continue, I think a change on the Board is necessary; therefore, I am running for the Board of Directors.

Ocean Pines should not be governed by a 6-1 or 7-0 Board that lacks transparency in decision-making and votes in lockstep. Effective governance involves respectful open discussion with diverse perspectives, ideas, and solutions. We need a Board that values committee expertise, listens to the homeowners, and is committed to partnering with Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Directors are not actively researching, listening, or questioning. For two years, the Board disregarded operational and committee advice during budget votes. This year, the Budget had to be amended because Directors were unaware the Budget had been changed. Committees matter, yet their advice has been ignored, there was no Search Committee and the Racquet Committee was eliminated. The Board's exclusionary approach removed hybrid public comments, making it harder for working families and part-timers to participate. Additionally, the Board hasn't partnered effectively with OPVFD. Negotiations shouldn't begin with an all-or-nothing stance, and partnerships don't happen at a Tiki Bar. All Directors must be included and there shouldn't be alleged handshake agreements. Our President needs to understand OPVFD does have skin in the game.

As an independent thinker, I thoroughly examine issues from all angles, avoiding silencing other opinions. I seek information from experts and analyze data before making decisions. I believe my inclusion on the Board would benefit Ocean Pines. I'm asking for your vote.

If elected, what OPA issues would you address and why?

If elected, I would address the following issues:

SAFETY remains my top priority. I have actively supported initiatives such as the police take-home car program, bodycams, and increased salaries. Moving forward, I will continue advocating for funding to maintain a fully staffed department. Unfortunately, the Board's negotiations with our Fire Department have fallen short. It's crucial to restore that relationship and collaborate closely with OPVFD. To ensure first responders safety and ours, the entire Board must explore various funding scenarios. Having personally toured their facility and attended their Town Halls, I understand OPVFD's needs. OPVFD does have "skin in the game" and we must provide them with essential resources, including a decontamination station. Additionally, addressing cell phone coverage and improving biking and walking conditions in Ocean Pines are other safety priorities.

TRANSPARENCY: There has been a lack of transparency. Frequently, decisions are made in lockstep, often via email and behind closed doors. There is minimal discussion. To address this, we should promptly post committee meeting videos and minutes. Additionally, the final budget should be redlined and made available to homeowners, ensuring awareness of any last-minute changes. For greater accountability, board packets should be posted well in advance of meetings and include three bids for projects. Lastly, we must adhere to our governing documents. I will start discussions, ask questions, and research issues.

LISTENING: We require a Board that actively engages with homeowners. We must include not exclude. I've consistently emphasized the importance of conducting another comprehensive community survey. During my tenure as a Director, our last survey garnered 1832 responses and provided invaluable data for our strategic planning. Unfortunately last October, the current Board did not release the new survey. When a Board genuinely listens to homeowners, it

The Courier

e-subscribe **FREE** to
The Courier and get it
delivered to your
computer each week!

delmarvacourier.com



Jerry Murphy



Are you a full-time resident of Ocean Pines? I have been a property owner in Ocean Pines since 1973.

How long have you been an OPA member? I have been a full time resident of Ocean Pines since 1994.

What motivated you to run for the OPA Board

My reason for running for the BOD: I say in jest, if at first you don't succeed, try again!

If you fall off a horse, get back on! Every time I open my garage door, I see lots of "Vote Jerry Murphy" signs.

My motivation for running for the board is my desire to serve the community which has been, and is, such an integral part of my life.

I believe my longevity and familiarity with Ocean Pines is unique. I currently, and for the past 12 years, served as VP of the BOD of the Distinguished Washington Park Apartments in Baltimore. It is a 120 year old historic build-

ing. We have ample reserves and is well maintained. My knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors.

If elected, what OPA issues would you address and why?

At this time, I feel that all of our amenities are in a positive, profitable, position. The current board of directors and John Viola, our general manager, have done an excellent job thus far. I support the current direction.

Enhancing our recreational facilities, supporting local businesses, and fostering a vibrant community life are essential to maintaining the high quality of life we all enjoy.

I will work to improve amenities and create more opportunities for residents of all ages to connect and thrive.

In closing, I want to reiterate my commitment to serving this community with integrity, transparency, and dedication. I believe in the potential of Ocean Pines and in the strength of our community. Together, we can build a future that honors our past, while embracing new opportunities.

I thank you for your consideration and your support. Let's work together to make Ocean Pines an even better place to call home. I would appreciate your vote, thank you, and God Bless.

peck
from page 16

avoids wasteful spending on pet projects —such as the proposed \$650,000 dedicated Board room—and prioritizes the needs of our members. The Board should heed input from Committees and our Operations Team. Ocean Pines possesses a wealth of expertise that remains untapped.

INCREASE INVOLVEMENT: When a Director, I was proud to bring forth hybrid technology. I'm alarmed that this Board eliminated homeowners' ability to comment at Board meetings remotely. Our focus should be inclusion, not exclusion. Leveraging technology can enhance involvement, particularly for part-time residents and busy families. Our ROC BUZZ Podcasts were launched with the understanding that many people use this medium for information. When homeowners perceive transparency and their opinions are valued, they are more likely to be involved.

IMPROVE REC AND PARK OPPORTUNITIES: Our last survey showed homeowners are interested in walking trails, biking, and fitness. The Swim and Racquet old hardtop courts

could be used for outdoor fitness opportunities accessible to homeowners and summer campers. Recreation and Parks has introduced exciting programs; however, there's a genuine need to expand our summer camp which could also boost revenue. Additionally, I recommend exploring options for increased indoor recreational space, another revenue source.

FINANCES: I am dedicated to prudent fiscal management, with a focus on safety, maintenance, and drainage. I recognize the distinction between essential needs and discretionary wants. It is crucial to obtain three bids for any project and contract negotiations should prioritize Ocean Pines' best interests. Transparent discussions about return on investment and data-driven justifications for proposed initiatives are essential. I firmly believe that maintaining healthy reserves contributes to a thriving community. I am optimistic that the DMA study will affirm the positive trajectory set by past Boards has put OPA in a good position.

I promise to listen to the homeowners, work hard, and serve with transparency and accountability. I appreciate your vote.

heavner
from page 15

General Manager:
-New signed contract retaining John Viola; Current contract has matured, and he has demonstrated the winning skills needed to continue working with this board to advance our vision.

-Succession planning identifying our next future talent; We could be able to incorporate significant shadow experience, reducing risk.

Safety:
-Competitive pay and benefits enabling recruitment, retention, and modernization of Police; We are in a position of strength to attract talent and we must keep this advantage.

-Getting a deal done to construct a new Southside firehouse enabling the Volunteer Fire Department to provide exceptional emergency services for decades.

-New Fire Department Memorandum of Understanding ensuring we work together for long term mutual success.

Amenities:
-New signed contract with the Matt Ortt Companies for third party food and beverage management enabling us to continue winning at our clubs.

-Soft Yacht Club dining room renovation providing a resort feel.

-Getting the racquet sports center clubhouse renovation completed delivering on our promise to continue investing in more function and appeal.

-Repurpose unused swim & racquet tennis courts providing additional recreation and parks choices.

-New community center providing more space for existing and new rec-

reation and parks venues, improving association satisfaction and revenue.

-New camper, RV, trailer, and boat storage yard generating new revenue opportunity.

Infrastructure Maintenance:
-Primary and more secondary drainage focus protecting property and value.

-Multi-year golf irrigation replacement enhancing play appeal for decades.

-Reserve funding securing favorable financial future and risk.

-Continued focus on general maintenance avoiding costly future repairs and downtime.

Community Appearance:
-South pond erosion restoration enhancing entrance beauty and protecting water quality.

-Swim and racquet club grounds beautification to provide expected resort experience.

-Yacht club parking grounds beautification to match resort appeal.

-Compliance, permits, and inspection focus and education reducing violations, continuing beautification journey.

This is only a snapshot and I have not wavered in my support of the plan, the management of the plan, the execution of the plan, and the thoughtful funding of the plan. I have been clear in my communication and actions. It is also clear that others are not so clear. Others do not have the discipline to use data effectively to make the decisions that continue making things better for us all and uniting our community.

The Courier

e-subscribe **FREE** to
The Courier and get it
delivered to your
computer each week!

delmarvacourier.com



Signs it's time to replace your tires

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years, as the cost of everything from groceries to gas to housing has increased considerably since 2019. Cars are no exception to that phenomenon, and anyone who has purchased a new car over the last half decade likely experienced some sticker shock when they started their search for a new vehicle. Data from Kelley Blue Book indicates the average cost of a new car was \$37,590 in 2019. By 2023, the average cost had risen to \$47,899. That marks an increase of more than 27 percent in a four-year period.

Cars are indeed a significant investment, which underscores the importance of vehicle maintenance. Maintenance is more than just tending to what's under the hood. Tires also require drivers' attention, as aging, damaged tires pose a safety risk that also compromise vehicle performance. Tires are easily overlooked, but the following are four signs tires need to be replaced.

Worn tread: The automotive experts at AutoZone note that tread depth is the most prevalent indicator that a tire needs to be replaced. AutoZone notes that tread depth should always be at least 2/32 of an inch throughout the tire. Depth should be measured across the tread and around the circumference. If the tread is at or below 2/32 of an inch, the tire should be replaced.

Bulges, gouges or cracks: Geico notes that a deflated tire bulges at the sides, and that can compromise the

safety of everyone in the vehicle. AutoZone says bulges occur when air gets between the inner liner and outer rubber layers, which can happen after hitting a curb or driving over a sizable pothole. A gouge or cut that is deeper than the outer layer of the tire also necessitates replacement.

Poor grip: Drivers may be able to feel certain tire problems, including poor grip, while driving. In such instances, tires may feel as though they are slipping. The tire experts at Firestone note that low tread can reduce tire traction and cause wheels to slip, which may be more noticeable when accelerating from a stop or driving on wet roads. Drivers who feel their tires are slipping can test the tread and replace tires that are low.

Vibration: Vibration is another issue drivers may feel rather than see. And identifying the cause requires noting where the vibrations are felt. Geico notes that a feeling of vibration or thumping that feels like it's coming from under the seats may indicate the tires are not balanced. A suspension issue could be to blame if the steering wheel feels like it's vibrating. Either feeling should be brought to the attention of a mechanic immediately.

Tire issues affect vehicle performance and compromise the safety of drivers, their passengers and fellow motorists. When vehicles are not performing at peak capacity, drivers should not overlook various tire issues as a potential cause of such troubles.



Tips to make a yard less attractive to ticks

Backyards are ideal places to spend warm afternoons soaking up some sun. Lazy days in the yard are a big part of what makes warm weather seasons like spring and summer so appealing. But those afternoons can quickly go off the rails when an unwelcome visitor makes its presence known.

Ticks can be found throughout the world, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that only a select few types of ticks transmit bacteria, viruses and parasites, or pathogens, that cause diseases in people. But even if the number of tick species that transmit diseases to humans is relatively low, ticks that can infect humans are a notable threat. Such ticks carry pathogens that the CDC notes can cause a number of diseases, including Bourbon virus, Ehrlichiosis and, of course, Lyme disease, among others.

Human beings can come into contact with ticks in their own backyards. But humans can take various steps to make their lawns less welcoming to ticks.

Cut your grass short and keep it that way. Black-legged ticks are transmitters of Lyme disease, which the CDC notes is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also poses a growing threat in Canada, where data from the Public Health Agency indicates human-reported Lyme disease cases increased from 144 in 2009 to more than 2,100 in 2022. Black-legged ticks do not like environments that are dry and hot, so short grass makes lawns less attractive to this type of tick. Consumer Reports advises homeowners

who have let their grass grow a little too high (around five or six inches) to bag their clippings when cutting the grass. Lots of clippings on the grass can provide a respite from the heat for black-legged ticks.

Create a tick barrier if your property abuts woods. Woods provide a cover from summer heat that black-legged ticks crave. So properties that abut the woods may be more vulnerable to these unwanted guests than yards that do not border woodlands. A barrier of dry mulch made of wood chips between a property and a bordering wooded area can help repel ticks, who won't want to settle in often dry, hot mulch beds.

Plant with infestation prevention in mind. Some plants can help to repel ticks because they boast certain characteristics that ticks cannot tolerate. The fragrances, textures and oils of plants like garlic, mint, lavender, marigolds, and others create less welcoming conditions for ticks. Homeowners can speak with local garden centers for advice on tick-repellant plants that can thrive in their particular climate and on their properties.

Remove yard debris. Piles of wood, leaves and brush can make for good conditions for ticks that transmit disease. After raking leaves and gathering brush, discard the resulting piles immediately.

These measures will not necessarily prevent all ticks from establishing themselves on a property, so individuals are urged to inspect their bodies and the bodies of their pets after a day in the yard.



Advertising Sales Professionals

The Courier, a weekly community newspaper seeks experienced advertising sales individuals with strong interpersonal skills to build advertising relationships and assist in publication growth.

You must be professional, well-spoken, deadline and customer oriented, and highly motivated with strong communication and organizational skills. Work from home.

This is a commission-based position with considerable income growth potential. Enjoy flexible working schedule.

Send cover letter and resume to
Chip Bertino at
chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

EOE

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

Seamus went on a Safari with his wife and Mother-in-law. One morning the wife awakes to find her mother missing. In a worried state, she wakes up Seamus and they both go looking for her! Suddenly they come to a clearing, where they find the mother-in law, standing face-to-face with a ferocious lion... "Quick darling, do something!" screams the wife! "Oh no, no says Seamus... The lion got himself into this mess.... He can get himself out!!"

I BURN ABOUT 2000 CALORIES EVERY TIME I PUT ON FITTED SHEETS BY MYSELF.

Once I went to a party with my husband, full of people he knew (from work) but I didn't. A guy came up to us, turned to me and said "You must be his wife." I turned to my husband and said "You have a WIFE?" Should've seen the guy's face!

BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!
I RECENTLY CALLED AN OLD ENGINEERING BUDDY OF MINE AND ASKED WHAT HE WAS WORKING ON THESE DAYS. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS WORKING ON "AQUA-THERMAL TREATMENT OF CERAMICS, ALUMINUM AND STEEL UNDER A CONSTRAINED ENVIRONMENT." I WAS IMPRESSED UNTIL, UPON FURTHER INQUIRY, I LEARNED THAT HE WAS WASHING DISHES WITH HOT WATER UNDER HIS WIFE'S SUPERVISION.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GROUCHY OLD PERSON. THE TRUTH IS, ONCE YOU GET OLD, YOU STOP BEING POLITE AND START BEING HONEST.


My girlfriend left a note on the fridge:
"It's not working. I can't take it anymore. I am going to my Mom's place."
I opened the fridge. The light came on. The beer was cold... What the hell is she talking about?

HUSBAND HACK:
Next time you're in a fight with your wife, start undressing. She will instantly have a headache and fall asleep.

Support Local Businesses

To place your business card call
410-629-5906

BOAT LIFTS



Ocean City Boat Lifts & Marine Construction, Inc.

Jessica Short
12010 Industrial Park Road Unit 11
Bishopville, MD 21813


oceancitylifts@aol.com
410-352-5095
MHIC 133392



Place your business card here!
Call Linda Knight
443-366-4184



DENTISTRY



Gerard Ott, D.M.D., PA
Jeremy Masenior, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry

1 Pitts Street
Berlin, Maryland 21811

(410) 641-3490
ott.masenior@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Consulting & Business Services



- Tax Debt Relief
- Credit Repair
- Tradelines for Individuals & Businesses
- Tax Lien Removal
- Full Service Accounting
- Business Credit

We get results!
434-219-6692
www.AMAconsultingbusiness.com

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

FINANCIAL SERVICES



MITCHELL AND HASTINGS FINANCIAL SERVICES
STEVEN E. SWEIGERT, CRPC®
CHARTERED RETIREMENT PLANNING COUNSELOR®
INVESTMENT ADVISOR

9927 STEPHENDECATUR HIGHWAY, SUITE 18, OCEAN CITY, MD 21842
410-213-2150 800-647-8727 Fax 410-213-2151

MEDICAL

Chesapeake UROLOGY

Leading Providers.
Convenient Locations.
The Superior Care You Need.

chesapeakeurology.com

Seaford, DE
220 Pennsylvania Ave.
Seaford, DE 19973
302-628-4222

Berlin, MD
314 Franklin Ave, Ste 302
Berlin, MD 21811
410-641-3735

PATIO

PAVER PATIOS & DECKS

Brick Paver Patios Fire Pits Decks
Call for a FREE ESTIMATE
Decks, Patios & Improvements - Family Owned & Operated

410-390-1499

SPONSORED BY:
OCEAN PINES
ANGLERS CLUB

28th Annual ART HANSEN MEMORIAL YOUTH

FISHING Contest



SATURDAY JULY 20, 2024 | 8:30AM-10:30AM

*Bring your own rod & reel * Bait & water will be provided

HEY KIDS! put your fishing skills to the test!

Participants will be divided into 3 age groups: ages 4-7, ages 8-11 & ages 12-16

ENTRY FEE: FREE

- AGES: 4-16
- EVENT SUPERVISOR:
KEVIN POWELL
- REGISTRATION BEGINS: 8:30 AM
(ON-SITE), CONTEST: 9AM-10:30AM



Trophies & prizes
will be awarded to
the first 3 runners
up in each age
group.

ALL participants will receive a prize
compliments of the
Ocean Pines Anglers Club & local merchants



**SOUTH GATE POND NEAR THE SPORTS CORE POOL
FOR MORE INFO CALL JERRY LEUTERS AT 240.427.8929**

