

The Courier

August 21, 2024 Volume 24 Number 46



Art Matters - Father and son artists Kevin (r) and Evan (l) Fitzgerald. See story on page 12.

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Annual GM report: Operations continues to thrive

General Manager John Viola, in giving his annual report on August 10, highlighted how investments in the community continue to pay off.

Viola said he's been speaking at Association annual meetings since 2016 or 2017, dating back to his volunteer service as the Association's treasurer and chief financial officer, prior to becoming general manager in 2019.

He said it was "the worst of times" during those early addresses, following a \$1.6 million budget deficit, but better times were ahead.

"The bulkheads, drainage and roads [programs] were not on track. There was no mailbox initiative. Golf, Aquatics, Food and Beverage [and] Racquet Sports all operated with losses," Viola said.

Since then, a multiyear recovery period has turned into an unprecedented string of budget favorability and successes.

"Last year I spoke about [Ocean Pines] having something special here, and I still believe that's true," Viola said.

Today, Viola said the Association has an operating favorability, drainage spending has increased, bulkheads and roads replacement are part of an active strategic plan, and membership revenue is up 13%. He said the Association needs to stay the course.

Viola said the Association has totaled just over \$7 million in budget favorability since 2018. That money was reinvested and repurposed in the form of maintenance to strengthen amenities and beautify the Association, and public safety to keep the community thriving.

"We put it back into the Association," Viola said.

Director of Business Administration Linda Martin supplied an overview of amenity and support operations over the past fiscal year.

Martin said the Aquatics Department has benefited from fresh blood in a new Aquatics Director, Michelle Hitchens, and the replacement of the splash pad at the Swim and Racquet Club for \$36,040.

Racquet Sports also got a new director, Terry Underkoffler. Improvements at the center included \$25,000 worth of maintenance to the pro shop, replaced structural supports and new screens for platform tennis, and safety measures including a mold review and new line striping and speed bumps. A renovation of the Racquet Center is scheduled this winter.

Martin said the Beach Club received repaired and replaced decking, new

paint inside and out, and extra palm trees this year.

Maintenance at the Yacht Club included replacement of ceiling and floor tiles and new paint throughout the building, and the tiki bar was expanded to enhance the customer experience at a cost of \$197,500.

The Yacht Club Marina was designated a Maryland Clean Marina for the second straight year. Docks and decks at both the Yacht Club and Swim and Racquet Club marina were repaired, and bathrooms were improved.

Phase one of a multiyear irrigation project will soon start at the Golf Club, with the initial phase estimated at \$934,000. Martin said the course also benefited from a thatch management project program, and the addition of a new driving range building.

Recreation and Parks saw trail maintenance and several improvements to the dog park, as well as a new recreation pier and ADA kayak launch at Pintail Park.

Extra lighting and security measures were installed at the Veterans Memorial, and a new pavilion will be built prior to Veterans Day.

Support departments also contributed.

Martin said Public Relations and Marketing started a new podcast and secured an annual sponsorship. The department oversaw the first electronic sign, increased its social media reach, cut expenses, and set a record for newsletter advertising revenue.

Martin said safety was a major focus, especially rebuilding the police force.

Two new officers were sworn in, two cadets are currently in the academy, and one graduated from the police academy in December.

Maintenance efforts included 2,300 linear feet of bulkhead replacement, with buoys being repaired and replaced through Ocean Pines' waterways. Three miles of roads were paved at a cost of \$356,618.20.

Drainage investments, on top of normal annual maintenance, included ditch maintenance and \$210,637 in new pipe liners. Martin said work was shared by Public Works and outside contractors. Over the last five years, the Association has spent roughly \$1 million on new drainage improvements.

Beautification efforts included landscaping at the North and South gates, new banners, new fountains at the north gate, and increased holiday decorations.

The community also saw new and replaced entranceway signs, including the iconic sail sign at the Yacht Club. Martin said the Association continued phase one of the mailbox replacement project, which has included cleaning and replacing mailbox pedestals.

She said operations worked with Board advisory committees, at the direction of the Board, on projects ranging from trail improvements to tree trimming and new plantings.

On the customer service front, 1,380 Compliance, Permit and Inspection (CPI) violations were initiated over the last year – 900 more than the prior year. More than 1,000 violations were closed and just under 300 remain open. There were also 1,424 new work orders and

1,236 closed orders.

Martin said there were 1,649 emails received through the info@ocean-pines.org email address, including 749 general questions, 484 about amenities, 209 about CPI issues, 191 on Public Works, and 16 about drainage.

On the financial side, Viola said budget favorability for the last fiscal year was approximately \$1.2 million. He recognized Finance Director Steve Phillips, as well as the Budget and Finance Committee for their assistance.

Again, he said several years of investments into amenities is paying off.

"Golf is driving [the favorability], but so are all our amenities," Viola said. "We have very good amenities, we build them up, we support them, they're turnkey ... and they're all positive."

Viola said the Association has invested in public safety through increased salaries, a pension equivalent, and investments in the Volunteer Fire Department. He said public safety used to make up roughly 20% of the budget – now it's closer to 40%.

"That money came from organic growth, as well as expense reallocation," Viola said.

Reserve levels have risen to approximately \$7 million, which Viola called "a goldilocks situation."

The budget favorability also helped lower the assessment over the last several years. The basic annual assessment was \$921 in 2018. It rose to \$996 in 2022, and today is at an eight-year low of \$850.

"Again, I would term that a goldilocks situation," Viola said.



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FOPL offers end of summer concert

On Thursday, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library will present "A Classical Concert for the End of Summer." The one-hour program, to be held at the Ocean Pines library, will feature seven regional professional musicians on piano, flute, voice, oboe and also feature a flute duet, a vocal duet and a piano duet. The concert is free with a good will offering to be taken. All musicians have taught and played or sung with professional orchestras, choirs and ensembles. Please notify friends, neighbors and family and come relax and enjoy the music of Handel, Faure, Tchaikowsky, Chopin, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Haydn, Pessard and others and the talents of our musicians.

WCDC to host quarter auction

Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) will host a Quarter Auction on Tuesday, September 17 at their facility located at 8545 Newark Rd in Newark.

Proceeds from the event will go toward purchasing mobile notebooks to help direct care staff provide up-to-date support to clients daily.

Tickets are \$10 each. Each ticket includes one paddle. Each additional paddle can be purchased for \$5. If you are unable to attend and would like to participate, you can purchase an All in Paddle for \$50.

Doors open at 5:30 pm with the auction beginning at 6 p.m. Bring your quarters, but rolls of quarters will also be available for purchase. There will be a 50/50 raffle, a table of raffle items and vendors. Light refreshments and beverages will be available for purchase. Limited WCDC merchandise will be for sale.

Tickets can be purchased at WCDC or on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wcdc-quarter-auction-tickets-9-80189612517?aff=oddtcreator>.

Donations from local businesses are being sought in return for advertising at the event. Donations can be sent to WCDC at P.O. Box 70 Newark, MD 21841. If donation items cannot be mailed, please call and the item can be picked up. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Smullen 443-497-3875.

All donations to the Quarter Auction are tax-deductible. Worcester County Developmental Center, Inc. is exempt for federal taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A tax-exempt determination letter is available to you upon request.

Spoken word artist Frohman to perform at Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College is inviting the public to a free event featuring Denice Frohman, a Philadelphia-based poet and performer, on Friday, September 6, at 6 p.m.

Frohman's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the Academy of American Poets' "Poem-A-Day," "The BreakBeat Poets: LatiNext," "Nepantla: An Anthology for Queer Poets of Color" and elsewhere. A former Women of the World Poetry Slam Champion, she has performed on hundreds of stages from the Apollo Theater to the White House. Her poetry has been commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, ESPN, Indeed, mitú, the City of Philadelphia and others. Her work was featured as part of the #HereWeAre campaign by Twitter to uplift women's voices, which aired during the Academy Awards on national television in 2018. Currently, she is developing her one-woman show, "Esto No Tiene Nombre," which centers the oral histories of Latina lesbian elders. She has received support from the Pew Center for the Arts, Baldwin for the Arts, CantoMundo, Headlands Center for the Arts, the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Frohman's performance will take place at Guerrieri Hall on the college campus, located at the corner of Walston Switch Road and Route 50 in Salisbury. No registration is needed. The reading is a kickoff to an inauguration celebration of Deborah Casey, Ph.D., that will encompass various events through Sept. 20. Visit www.worwic.edu/inauguration for more information.



Visit - Governor Wes Moore visited the Eastern Shore for the 2024 Maryland Association of Counties Conference in Ocean City giving the closing remarks. "Our administration is data-driven and heart-led. That's why we've been able to work together to invest in proven programs that move Maryland forward – and ones that matter most to Marylanders," said Moore. "The road ahead will be tough, but after connecting with so many of our partners at this conference, I know we have what it takes to secure Maryland's future and win the decade." Photo by Chip Bertino.

OPA, OPVFD give brief update on South Fire Station

During the Annual Meeting August 10, Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola highlighted construction of a new South Fire Station among the top upcoming initiatives.

The Ocean Pines Board in July approved a new memorandum of understanding with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, including provisions for fire protection and EMS services, funding of the Fire Department by OPA, and construction of a new South Fire Station.

Viola said he recently met with OPVFD President Joe Enste to discuss the project.

"We've had many meetings, [and] I believe we're on track," Viola said. "I've seen a lot of positive work. It's been a very constructive time."

Enste said there have been several productive meetings recently, both with Ocean Pines, and with OPVFD leadership and membership.

"We are making a lot of great progress," he said. "We're going through the initial phases of getting

everything sketched out [and] making sure that we have all the needs covered in the drawings."

Enste said OPVFD officials are making a list of their needs for the building, so those can be incorporated in the design, and so members of the community can eventually see those designs.

"It's been a pleasure working with OPA, going through this whole entire process," he said. "There's ups and downs with anything and we're learning how to work together, so it's really a great learning experience for myself and Chief [Joey] Widgeon, as well as the rest of the fire department."

Enste thanked Viola, as well as Association President Rick Farr, the Ocean Pines Board, and the support team.

Widgeon also thanked OPA staff and Board members.

"Everything is going good," he said. "I do appreciate everything going smoothly, and hopefully we'll have a new firehouse within a couple of years."

Commentary

Worcester County is being disrespected

By **Chip Bertino**,
Worcester County Commissioner

Worcester County continues to be negatively impacted by decisions of the state legislature and state agencies that are usurping local autonomy and threatening our community's way of life. It's a frustrating situation.

Individualism and determination have illuminated the spirit of Worcester County for nearly three centuries. We are blessed with unsurpassed natural resources: the golden sands of our beaches, the fertile soils of our fields, our bays and rural landscapes. They define our community and beckon those from beyond our borders.

Our county is small in comparison to its neighbors. Our year-round population is less than one percent of the entire state. However, our visitor spending share is third highest in the state. Each summer our county generates \$2.5 billion in tourist spending, which accounts for more than 13% of statewide visitor spending annually.

Each year more than eight million visitors are attracted to what Worcester is, what Worcester has created. Whether it is dining on fresh seafood and locally grown produce, imbibing

shore craft beer and local wines, searching for seashells, paddleboarding or fishing, Maryland's Coast creates lifetime memories.

We know tourists can go other places. Delaware and New Jersey beaches are to the north. Virginia and the Carolinas are to the south. All nice destinations, but they don't offer what Worcester does – a more relaxed way of life, a natural beauty, and an economy and environment that Worcester has worked hard to protect and promote.

Our county is founded on three economic drivers: tourism, which generates state and local revenues; commercial and recreational fishing, which are served by the West Ocean City harbor, the only commercial harbor in the Mid-Atlantic region with ocean access; and finally, agriculture, which is dependent on healthy soil to grow crops and to nourish livestock that feed the county, the state, and the nation.

Today, all three of Worcester County's primary economic drivers that earn billions of dollars for the state treasury, that employ thousands of workers here and across the state and nation, and that attract millions of tourists annually are falling prey to

greedy, external predators.

Concerns and requests made by the County Commissioners for assistance and input have been ignored repeatedly by those most in a position to help and by the institutions of government that so far have smiled upon the promises of foreign business interests that rely heavily on taxpayer subsidies to fund their uncertain startups, while turning a blind eye to the disastrous consequences that result locally.

Our seaside horizon has been auctioned for windfarms. Wind turbines – that tower nearly three times the height of the Statue of Liberty above the ocean surface and stretch the length of one and a half football fields per turbine – are proposed to be erected within sight of Ocean City's coast.

The impact of these monstrous structures should prick the conscience of all of us who value the splendor of the environment. Testing procedures are wreaking havoc on fragile aquatic life. Dead whales on the beach. Disoriented dolphins washing ashore. The threat to horseshoe crabs, which are critical to cancer and other medical research, is said to be unknown.

How will endangered sea turtles,

sturgeon, and right whales survive the navigational impacts of the electromagnetic fields generated by the underwater transmission lines? I believe they will be irreparably harmed.

The negative impact on our fishing industry is unconscionable. Plans to construct an oversized concrete pier in the West Ocean City harbor – established specifically as a commercial marine zoning district in 1999 – will obliterate local fishing industries.

Like many rural counties across the state, Worcester's farmlands are under attack. The state is approving solar fields for large companies while denying the rights of local governments to apply their own zoning codes that reflect local values, objectives, and ways of life. Fertile farmlands are being plowed under by major companies who seek unfettered profits on historically low-taxed fields.

The people of our county are being disrespected by entities outside our county that are forcing their will upon us without regard to local ramifications. Finding a cooperative path forward that respects Worcester County's way of life, environment and commerce has been offered by County officials. To date, unfortunately, we have been ignored.

Legal report: no litigation and \$144,000 in collections

Included in the Ocean Pines Annual Meeting reports on August 10 were an overview of legal services by law firm Ayres Jenkins Gordy & Almand, and the yearly audit report from UHY LLP.

Attorney Bruce Bright of Ayres Jenkins Gordy & Almand spoke on the firm's history and current duties with Ocean Pines, while Chris Hall summarized the annual audit process.

Bright said the firm was founded in 1973 and includes eight partners, three associates and 11 full-time support staff.

The firm has represented the Town of Ocean City since 1983, and currently represents the Town of Snow Hill and Worcester County Board of Education, along with several other homeowners' associations.

"We're very proud and pleased to have been given the opportunity to represent Ocean Pines," Bright said.

He said the firm was appointed to serve Ocean Pines in May 2023. Bright serves as general counsel with assistance from Maureen Howarth, the former attorney for both Worcester and Wicomico counties, along with other partners, associates and staff as needed.

The firm provides general legal advice to the Board, general manager and the various departments of the Association, and engages with contract negotiations, litigation and delinquent assessments and other violations. Bright noted the Association had previously contracted with a second firm for both collections, and Compliance, Permit and Inspections

(CPI) violations.

"We handle employment issues, compliance and regulatory issues, and really all other legal matters and needs that arise for OPA," he said. "We're trying to be a one-stop shop for all the legal needs of Ocean Pines, rather than Ocean Pines having to use more than one firm, as it has in the past."

Over the past year, he said the firm helped revise the CPI process by "making it clearer, more linear and easier to understand." He said the process also now complies with new state laws.

Bright said there were also improvements to the process of collecting unpaid assessments.

"The collections are getting to our office a bit earlier than in the past," he said, adding the firm has taken some of the administrative burden from Association staff.

Between Aug. 1, 2023, and July 15, 2024, Bright said collections have to-

taled more than \$144,000.

"This service that we provide is at no cost to OPA, because when we collect the unpaid assessment, we also collect the attorney fee that goes along with that," he said.

Bright said the firm assisted with the new memorandum of understanding between Ocean Pines Association and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, which he called "a very important step toward the future." The firm also aided in the contract extension for General Manager John Viola, along with several recent revisions to Ocean Pines governing documents.

"I'm happy to report that, in the year that we've been general counsel, there's been no litigation against the OPA," Bright said, adding, "We've been able to reduce overall legal fees for the OPA for the fiscal year 2023-2024, as compared to prior years."

Also during the meeting, Hall sup-



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Dump internet voting

It is amazing how the OPA Board of Directors election process has waffled back and forth regarding Internet voting.

The first use of Internet voting took place when Colette Horn was OPA president during the 2022 election. Subsequent issues related to so-called “weighted” ballots required by the election contractor for owners of multiple lots created havoc, resulting in as many as 200 or more valid ballots not counted in an election where about 13 votes decided a board seat.

The entire election committee resigned. A new committee was appointed with a fair number of association members concerned over the appointment process. Eventually, the committee was formed under the capable chairmanship of Tom Piatti.

The committee recommended, and

the board under the presidency of Doug Parks agreed, that the 2023 election would not include Internet voting.

In a supplemental report from the Elections Committee issued on January 19, 2023, Piatti wrote: “Based on the processes OPA underwent and our in-depth research, the EC (Election Committee) desires to not just temporarily suspend online voting, but to discontinue online voting altogether. The results of online voting cannot be audited.”

Piatti correctly pointed out that Internet voting requires OPA to “trust” totally in any company handling Internet voting. He wrote, “Perhaps ‘trust’ is why we do not vote electronically in Federal elections. Thus the EC cannot ensure a secure, safe and valid online and phone-in option for voting. However, that is not the case with paper

ballots that can be tabulated by scanning or secured in the Admin Bldg. and rescanned and/or manually recounted or both if election results are challenged.”

So, what happened in the recent 2024 election? The Election Committee and/or the board ignored the recommendation regarding the elimination of Internet voting. Nothing new, absolutely nothing, regarding the very valid concerns over trust originally addressed by Piatti has changed.

Internet voting is of little significance unless the election results are very close. That was certainly not the case this year. However, in any election with very close results, or if a candidate challenges the results, any recount could only be done with paper ballots.

By any reasonable measure, the election contractor, MK Elections in Pittsburgh, performed a professional job counting the paper ballots this year. Association members could view the process via an online ZOOM call that, as a practical matter, added nearly \$7,000 to the cost of the election.

Interestingly, an MK Elections manager commented that they could

do the counting right here in Ocean Pines. The counting and scanning process took a few hours with several MK people and several hired “temp workers.”

The OPA Board of Directors should consider eliminating Internet voting. Bring the entire paper-ballot-contracted counting operation back to an OPA facility where Election Committee members can supervise the process - as they are charged to do. Allow observation of the process by association members - something long sought by many individuals over a decade or more, including former board member Slobodan Trendic. Eventually gained, the in-person observation option for association members ended when the process was moved to the West Coast two years ago.

Return the OPA election process to the KISS principle. Allow only paper ballots. Have a qualified contractor count the returned ballots in an OPA facility, allowing association members to observe. Most importantly, this would permit a full recount or verification of every ballot cast in the event of a close vote or an election result challenge as allowed in OPA’s governing documents.

Courier Almanac

On August 21, 2004, American swimmer Michael Phelps won his eighth medal of the 2004 Athens Olympics in spite of sitting out his eighth scheduled event, the final of the 4 x 100-meter medley relay. Phelps left Athens with six gold and two bronze medals. His eight total medals tied him with Soviet gymnast Aleksandr Dityatin for the most medals ever won by a competitor at a single Olympic Games.



School sports participation continues to grow. According to the High School Athletics Participation Survey, conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the 2022-2023 school year, participation in high school sports was quite high. A total of 7,851,833 girls and boys were involved in school sports during the 2022-2023 academic year. That number marked an increase of 232,779 participants from the previous school year. Among the surveyed participants, the most popular boys’ programs were football and outdoor track and field. For girls, the most popular programs were outdoor track and field and volleyball.

Thank you!

Special thank you to the two diligent women and two teens who found my missing cell phone on an asphalt drive near the Ocean Pines Southgate Pond. What kind role models demonstrating a good deed. And the time and trouble that they have saved me is immeasurable!

Thanks again,
Judy Davis



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The Courier

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The woes of upkeep

“Wishing doesn’t make it so.” Easy to utter; difficult to learn.

As any homeowner knows owning a house is more than paying a mortgage and the utility bills. It’s about upkeep. Or at least it should



It’s All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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be about upkeep. I think about upkeep many times as I lazily flop on the sofa to watch television or read a book.

I know that upkeep is out there and it’s important but I often find ways to put it off to another time. So successful have I become at this that at times I’ve convinced myself that wishing actually does make it so. That by believing the gutters are clean, they actually are and I don’t have to climb the ladder, get on the roof and keep from falling while removing collected leaves and pine needles. Despite evidence to the contrary and my wife’s subtle comments that we have trees sprouting in the gutters, I happily continue on my merry way with nary a care in the world.

Usually, it takes a rainstorm to jostle me from denial. As I sit in the sunroom and watch the rain water cascade off the roof like a waterfall it is then that I know I have to clean the gutters.

There are a number of other projects around my house that I know require attention. Some are easier than others yet I find, just like with the gutters, that when I have spare time, I’d rather do something else like go out on my boat.

You would think that after all these years I’d learn that this frame of mind accomplishes nothing. You would think that, but you would be wrong. For instance, for more than a year I knew I had to repair a step on the back deck. Each time I used the steps I would say to myself, “I really need to fix this.” Then as soon as I went through the back door the thought would completely pass. That is until the next time I used the steps and nearly tripped.

Finally, I gave in and decided to fix the step. What I thought would take just a half hour at most wound up taking several hours as I had to replace a riser, remove several patio blocks to get to the base of the steps and had to spend 45 minutes looking for the bits to my electric screwdriver. That’s the problem with upkeep. It’s never as easy as you think it will or should be.

By the time I was done I was perspiring as if I had run a marathon which proves household upkeep is too demanding.

Over the years we have allowed stuff (more accurately junk) to collect behind our garage. We practice “out of sight, out of mind.” It really was a mess so I finally ventured back there one Saturday morning and began cleaning it up. Before I could actually get to the junk that I intended to throw out, I spent two hours removing leaves that had collected over time.

About two weeks ago I had to replace the handle of the toilet in the hallway bathroom. It had actually broken four weeks before that and required removing the porcelain top in order to flush. But because it wasn’t the bathroom I use I felt no rush to fix it. But when I finally did attempt to fix it, I had to make two different trips to the hardware store to get the right parts. What should have taken 15 minutes took two hours and a break at McDonald’s.

I love my home and I know that maintenance and upkeep are important. But I’d gladly pay a few dollars more a month to my mortgage company if they would send someone out to handle such things as painting the trim around the garage door or pulling the weeds that grow between the bricks in the front walkway.

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Farr highlights FY24 Board accomplishments

During the August 10 Annual Meeting, Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr highlighted Board of Director accomplishments over the last fiscal year and thanked the many staff and volunteers who helped make those possible.

Among the biggest achievements, he said, was lowering assessments while continuing to support and improve Association amenities.

“That’s a collective effort with the Board, as well as the GM and his staff to make sure we’re making the right decisions in the best interest of all membership,” he said.

Speaking of the GM, Farr said the Board met one of its top priorities when it signed John Viola to a four-year contract extension.

The Board also approved a new memorandum of understanding with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

“That is historic,” Farr said. “The Board worked well with the leadership of the Volunteer Fire Department to make this MOU come to realization and [become] the next

step in furnishing a new firehouse that’s going to protect the community.”

The Board further supported public safety by increasing police salaries and approving the purchase of two new police cars.

In aiding amenities, Farr said the Board approved the first phase of a multiyear plan to replace the aging irrigation system at the Golf Course.

“We’re a destination Golf Course and it continues to be improved,” Farr said.

Farr said an expanded Yacht Club tiki bar will help enhance the customer experience and boost revenue.

He said the Board also approved Racquet Sports building renovations and funding for new clay courts, along with hiring new directors for Racquet Sports and Aquatics.

The Board approved a refresh of the Beach Club interior, the first electronic sign in the community, and a new kayak launch at Pintail Park. Other park improvements in-

cluded increased handicapped accessibility at playgrounds, and additions to the dog park.

Board backed beautification efforts focused throughout Ocean Pines, but especially at the iconic North Gate, Farr said. He credited Viola for the eye-catching field of sunflowers currently in bloom.

The Board oversaw more aggressive collection of past assessments, bringing back \$140,000 at no cost to Association members. Investments in drainage continued, as did annual road resurfacing.

Farr said the Board approved changes to several government documents, including those on advisory committee policy, and the Budget and Finance and Elections committees.

Farr thanked prior Association President and current Parliamentarian Doug Parks, current Board members, Assistant Secretary Linda Martin, and all the administrative staff.

He also recognized committee members for working through their

respective liaisons to recommend new ideas and bring up important issues to the Board and Ocean Pines operations.

“I really do appreciate the time and effort for your volunteerism. It’s very important for the Association,” he said.

NAACP to meet

The Worcester County NAACP monthly meeting will be on August 22 at 7 p.m. This is a general membership meeting to be held at the Berlin 50+ Center located at 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd. in Berlin.

The NAACP Executive Committee will meet an hour earlier at 6 p.m. Phone 410-213-1956 for more information.

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Trails & Waterways

Paddling the EA Vaughn Water Trails of Chincoteague Bay

By **Laura Scharle**

The southern end of Worcester County does not get enough credit. I've spent almost my whole life living in Maryland but until I moved to Worcester, I had never even heard of the towns of Pocomoke City or Snow Hill, let alone the villages of Girdletree and Stockton. But now that I've spent time hiking the EA Vaughn Wildlife Area and paddling Chincoteague Bay, southern Worcester County needs to be on every outdoorsman's bucket list.

For those that follow this column, you may recall the article that my counterpart, Ralph Ferrusi, wrote about hiking the EA Vaughn Wildlife Area back in March. While he thoroughly covered visiting by land, I recently got the chance to visit by water.

After the remnants of Hurricane Debby passed through our area, the weather cleared up into perfect paddling conditions. Not too hot, clear skies, and super calm winds. I chose to launch from Taylor Landing, located just east of Girdletree on Chincoteague Bay. At the landing, there is something rare - a water trails map! There are very few official water trails in Worcester County, but this is one of them. I had launched here before with my family to go clamming and paddle around Mills Island, but I had never before explored the creeks that lead inland from the bay.

I set out with hopes to paddle the Pikes Creek trail, a seemingly narrow, super windy creek with lots of twists and turns through the marsh. Please note that although these are water trails marked on a map, there is no signage along the trails. I paddled south along the edges of the marsh for about 1.5 miles to where the mouth of the creek would be - or rather, *should have been*, based on the trail map. Luckily, I only had to backtrack about a half mile to find the true entrance to Pikes Creek and once I got in the creek, it was stunning. Terrapins popped their heads above the water, green herons soared overhead, and a bobwhite called in the distance. Conditions were so calm that the pinkish-blue early morning skies reflected perfectly on the creek, even though it was only a few yards wide.

I was paddling close to low tide though, and I had to cut my exploration of Pikes Creek short, as one section was too shallow to navigate. I then decided

to head back and explore Scarborough Creek instead. Scarborough is much wider and is about two miles long, but it is still quite shallow, and I was only able to paddle about 1.5 miles before I had to turn around. But the creek was still packed with wildlife - double crested cormorants, great egrets, great blue heron, willets, and even more green heron were enjoying the creek right alongside me. I didn't spot any turtles in Scarborough Creek, but there were a few splashes and wakes created by something, I'm assuming fish, just beneath the water's surface.

I also noticed some PVC pipes in the wetland grasses, which, after a little in-

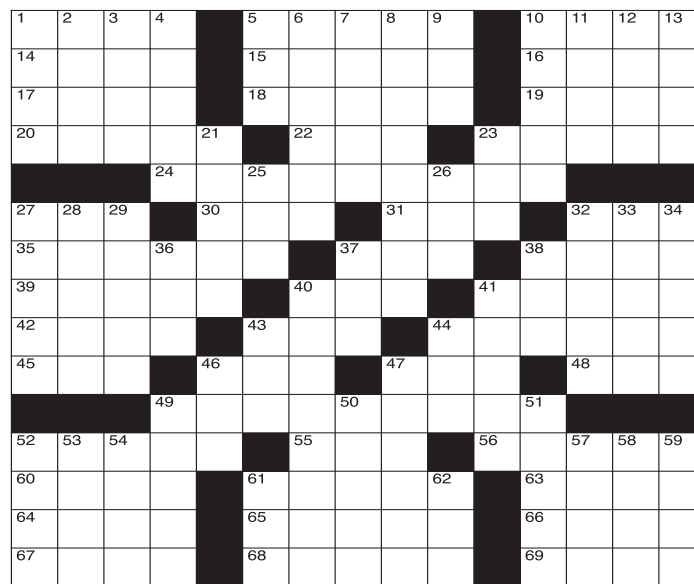


vestigating through the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, I learned were from some prior PhD research on marsh elevations. And another PVC pipe on the very edge of the marsh turned out to be a data logger measuring water levels. It was very cool to see that scientific condition monitoring happens even in the most remote place like this.

Another unique thing about the mouth of Scarborough Creek is that there's an oyster farm lease. I've done a lot of work promoting oyster farming for VirginiaWaterTrails.org and I was thrilled to see this in my home state.

After about two-and-a-half hours of exploring, I had to head back to the ramp and return to the real world. But I will definitely be back on another day, at high tide, to see the rest of Pikes Creek.

Laura Scharle enjoys all things outdoors and is an avid kayaker. She resides in Ocean Pines with her husband and son. Laura developed www.DelmarvaTrailsandWaterways.com to connect people with trails, beaches, piers, and public lands across the peninsula.



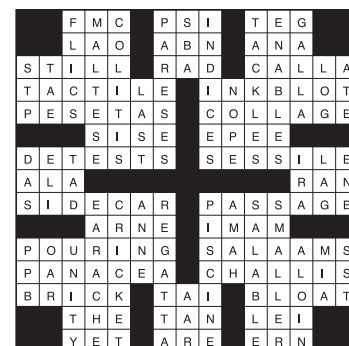
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mongolian city — Bator
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Japanese city
- 15. Type of sandwiches
- 16. A type of shape
- 17. Son of Shem
- 18. French modernist painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Mammary gland of female cattle
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Secret political clique
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Restrict the number or amount of
- 35. Combined into a single entity
- 37. Brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit
- 39. Materials in the earth's crust
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Of the sun
- 42. Baseball great Ty
- 43. After B
- 44. Place to relax on the beach
- 45. Folk singer DiFranco
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Small dog breed
- 48. Japanese honorific
- 49. Salts
- 52. Beard moss genus
- 55. Mountain pass
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Albanian language
- 61. Metric weight unit
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. Wading bird
- 67. Days in mid-month
- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Accuses
- 5. Corrie
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Collection of sacred books
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Arm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. ___ fide: legit
- 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Corporate bigwig
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Small Milky Way constellation
- 28. Satirical website
- 29. Border lines
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Six-membered ring (chemistry)
- 36. Bar bill
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Notable Bill Murray character
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Gurus
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Reduce
- 46. Spy organization
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. Lose
- 54. Former Brazilian NBAer
- 57. Baseball great Ruth
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. CNN's founder

Answers for August 14



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

The Fitzgerald artistic legacy lives on

By Elaine Bean

Kevin and Evan Fitzgerald are father and son. Both are painters. Both reside in Berlin. And both share a studio in an old warehouse in Newark. But on first glance, their art seems to inhabit different worlds of thought.

Kevin paints large, dreamy landscapes that make one recall the feeling of land and the experience of entering it. “Kevin Fitzgerald’s painting take the time that we don’t allow ourselves,” Deborah McLeod, director of Chromas Projects in Charlottesville, VA wrote. “They do the

artists have combined their talents into one art exhibition during August at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. Entitled “Lasting Legacies,” the show displays several works where the artists painted on the same canvas as well as individual pieces. This exhibition hosted by the Art League of Ocean City is the first time father and son have collaborated on paintings as well as the first time they have exhibited together.

While their artistic approach could not seem more diverse, they are very similar in aim. Both are concerned with exploring the earliest phases of humans’ reactions to the

world around them – the first emotional reactions felt in a dawning landscape; the earliest awareness of adornment in the creation of personae. These early sensibilities are with everyone, and both painters - in their own way - are exploring the connection.

The concept of legacy is important to both Kevin and Evan, and they named their show “Lasting Legacies” to not only emphasize their own connection as father and son and the intentional passing of the torch, but also as an honor to the previous generations of Fitzgerald’s who were artists.

Represented in the show are artworks from a family legacy of artistic talent and productivity that goes back more than 100 years. John R. Fitzgerald, Kevin’s grandfather and Evan’s great-grandfather, was the first on an artistic path, graduating from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1910. Kevin’s mother and Evan’s grandmother, Frances Jeanette Fitzgerald, attended the Corcoran School of Art and Design and was also a painter. Kevin and Evan both attended the



hard work of patience, stillness, and quietude for us.”

Evan Fitzgerald paints figuratively, showing people wearing elaborate headdresses made from various animals and flowers. Evan said, “The people I am depicting have adorned themselves with so many things that much of their face and even their vision has been obscured by the persona they are aiming to embody.”

These two strongly individualistic

Maryland Institute and went on to receive master’s degrees from prestigious institutions.

Kevin’s paintings are “living, breathing capturings of place ... [they] are very old souls with knowledge to impart,” according to McLeod. “They are imaginings of the slow way that nature experiences itself, without human intrusion.”

Evan’s work is heavily influenced by the Eastern Shore of Maryland,

depicting animals that are found locally. “For me, it is important for art to communicate something about the time and place that it was made,” he said. “I will always have elements of the Shore in my work partly for that reason.”

The Fitzgerald exhibition runs through August 31 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bay-side. www.OCart.org.

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BREAKING NEWS!



Chamber launches National Civics Bee

The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines announced the launch of the 2025 National Civics Bee, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

Hosted in partnership with The Civic Trust of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the competition in across Maryland's Eastern Shore will inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American democracy, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

Middle school students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades from public, private, charter, and home schools are invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition. After a panel of judges reviews the essays, the top 20 students will be selected to advance to their local competition: an in-person live event featuring two rounds of civics questions followed by a Q&A round to test their civics knowledge.

The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines will host its local competition in the spring 2025. The local finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including prizes worth at least \$500 for the first-place student.

Participants in the National Civics Bee will have the chance to gain recognition for their civics knowledge and skills and compete for prestigious prizes throughout the competition. The competition enables students to explore issues that matter to their communities, furthering their understanding of civic engagement and fostering responsible citizenship. Winners from each of the local competitions across Maryland will be invited to take part in the state finals. The first-place winner of the state finals will receive a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete for prizes worth at least \$50,000 during the national championship in the Fall of 2025.

"This will be the very first time Maryland's Eastern Shore middle schoolers will have the opportunity to take part in this competition. We are extremely proud to have been selected by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and look forward to this being an annual thing, said Kerrie Bunting, President of the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines.

"Fostering a deep understanding of civics and government among our young students is critical to the vibrancy of democracy and civic life in America. The National Civics Bee® provides a unique platform for them to not only showcase their knowledge but also become active and engaged citizens of the future," said Hilary Crow, vice president of civics at the U.S. Chamber Foundation.

For more information on entering the National Civics Bee on Maryland's Eastern Shore visit: <https://www.worcestercountychamber.org/2024/08/14/56487/> or nationalcivicsbee.org.

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Wild Blue Yonder

I've always wanted to fly a flying box car

By **Ralph Ferrusi**

I'm an "airplane nut. I've loved airplanes ever since I can remember. I like to see them sailing through the sky, read about them (I have a *lot* of books), look at pictures of them and go to air shows to see and take pictures of them. An interesting aside: I once took a flying lesson in a Cessna. I expected to love it, but did not like it at all: go figure.

In all my readings, and personal encounters, anyone who joins the US Air Force and wants to fly, surprise, surprise, fly fighters, be they P-51 Mustangs back in the day, or F-100 Super Sabres, or F-22s. But, everybody, for a lot of reasons, isn't qualified to fly fighters. So, many of these folks end up in the next best thing: in the left seat (or right seat) of bombers, lumbering along, while the spiffy fighters do S-turns up above.

I don't think I've ever read of anyone, or heard anyone say, that they always wanted to fly cargo/transport planes. "Boy, I've always wanted to fly a C-82 Flying Box Car." And, how many C-82 Flying Box Cars have you ever seen at an air show, or in a War Birds book? Fighter

planes are glamorous. Bombers do what has to be done to win wars. But if it wasn't for the unsung workhorse transport planes, back there behind the scenes, none of the bullets, bombs or beans would get flown to where they have to be.

I do have a bit of a history with modern day transports. We once flew to Quantico in a loud Marine Corps KC-130 Hercules. And I once sat in the radio operator's seat in a 105th Airlift Wing C-5A, heading for Lackland AFB, a Brigadier General in the left seat, a full bird Colonel in the right. I was like a kid on Christmas morning when they pushed those throttles forward.

Over the past several years we've passed Dover Air Force Base many times. For a long time, there were lines of huge, grey C-5As parked on the tarmac. They've been replaced by huge, grey C-17s. At the southern end of the base there's a big collection of older cargo/transport planes parked outside a big Air Mobility Command Museum hangar.

One day we turned off Exit 91 on DE1/US 113 and followed the brown museum signs. Admission is free, and after we parked I practically ran out of the car towards the planes on display

on the tarmac. There are over 30 airlifters, refuelers, jets, helicopters, gliders, a one-time Vice Presidential jet, and a B-17G and C-47 inside a hangar. Hey, isn't that a C-97? And a C-119? A huge C-124 Globemaster! Wow, an A-26 Invader! A C-54 and a Lockheed Super Constellation.

The B-17G in the hangar was one of the last B-17s on active duty in the Air Force. In 1957, it was retired to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. It was disassembled at the museum and flown to Dover in a C-5 in 1989. It was restored over a seven-year period as the 381st Bomb Group "Sleepy Time Gal." It's a beauty.

The AMC museum C-47A Skytrain was rejected by other museums as "beyond salvage." It's been restored as the World War II 61st Troop Carrier Squadron "Turf & Sport Special" that on D-Day, June 6, 1944 delivered 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers

to St. Mère-Église.

This was a great visit, and I was so glad we finally stopped in to pay homage to the Air Mobility Command. If you're an airplane nut and are ever near Dover Air Force



Base, stop in. You'll be glad you did.

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 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.

report

from page 5

plied the annual auditor's report.

As the auditor, Hall said UHY audits and renders an opinion on the Association's financial statements each year.

Hall echoed Bright's sentiments and said UHY attempts to be "a one-stop shop," offering a variety of auditing and accounting services.

He said the auditing process starts each April, with internal control documentation and risk assessments, and continues through the spring and early summer with inventory counts, balance sheet and income statement testing of accounts and transactions, and other fieldwork.

The process generally wraps up in July with a review of the final fiscal-year financial statements.

Once again, Hall said Ocean Pines earned a "clean" and unmodified opinion.

"That's the highest level of assurance that any accounting firm can on a set of financial statements," he said.

Election results official, as Board certifies 2024 OPA election

Ocean Pines Board members affirmed the results of the 2024 Board of Directors election during a special meeting on August 12.

Elections Committee Chairperson Steve Ransdell said the results of the voting were as follows:

Rick Farr: 1,933; Jeff Heavner: 1,868; Amy Peck: 1,270; Sherri Clifford: 936; and, Jerry Murphy: 293.

The top-two vote-getters, Farr and Heavner, each earned a three-year term on the OPA Board. Both were incumbents.

Ransdell said there were 19 blank ballots, and 13 that were ruled invalid.

During the annual meeting on August 10, Association Secretary and Elections Committee liaison John Latham thanked committee members for their hard work.

"I wanted to make sure that we congratulate Chairman Steve Ransdell

[and committee members] Cheryl Jacobs, Fred Robinson, Patrick Lehnerd, and Ken Petrini," he said.

Latham also thanked outgoing committee members, including former Chairperson Tom Piatti, and members George Alston, Tom Schwartz, and Nanci Osborne.

"They handed off a playbook that truly contributed to our success," he said.

Latham thanked General Manager John Viola, Director of Business Administration Linda Martin, Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis, Marketing Coordinator Nancy MacCubbin, IT Manager Keith Calabrese, IT Support Associate Howard Webb, Administrative Assistant Michelle Lane-Ross, and Assessments and Memberships Manager Ruth Ann Meyer.

"I just want everyone to know that

this thing doesn't happen in the backroom," Latham said. "There's a lot of moving parts, and we feel it was a very successful election."

Latham said committee members would meet over the next few weeks to discuss the election and make recommendations for the following year.

"The goal, each year, is to try to make it a little bit better," he said.

Ransdell also spoke during the Annual Meeting, thanking Ocean Pines voters.

"I wanted to thank the membership for the great voter turnout," he said. "The number of ballots cast ... in the last five years, it was the highest that we've had."

He added that 27.7% of votes were cast online.

"Clearly, a large portion and a

please see **results** page 18

Health Watch**Facts and myths about imaging and radiation**

By **Brooke Williams**
 Director of Imaging Services
 Atlantic General Hospital

Imaging tests are used to look inside the body. They help doctors diagnose conditions and determine the best treatments. There are various types of imaging tests, many of which use radiation. The type of imaging recommended for you will depend on the goal of the test, your condition and the part of your body being examined.

You should avoid all radiation. Myth.

We're exposed to radiation every day. We get it from the air, outer space, the ground and even the food we eat. Scientists measure radiation in millisieverts (mSv). It's estimated that the average person in the U.S. receives a dose of about 3 mSv per year just through natural means.

For comparison, the radiation you receive from an x-ray of your ankle is 0.001 mSv. That's equal to 3 hours of natural radiation. A CT scan of your lungs imparts 1.5 mSv, or the equivalent of six months of natural radiation. Even that amount is considered a very low health risk.

If you need imaging that uses radiation, the radiologist will ensure that you're exposed to the lowest amount possible for an effective test.

All imaging tests use some form of radiation. Myth.

Plain x-rays, CT scans and nuclear scans use radiation. But ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans don't.

An ultrasound uses sound waves to create an image. MRIs use a large magnet and radio waves.

Imaging tests that use radiation are considered safe. Fact.

Many activities we think of as safe—like taking a walk—carry some degree of risk. Similarly, imaging tests that use radiation are considered safe. Radiologists use the lowest radiation possible to get effective images.

Still, you want to minimize your exposure to radiation when possible. If you're worried that your imaging test will expose you to unnecessary radiation, discuss your concerns with your doctor or the radiologist. Maybe you've had a similar test done recently that could provide the information they need. Or you may have the option of a different test that wouldn't expose you to radiation.

Radiation tests can make you infertile. Myth.

Very high radiation doses can harm eggs or sperm. But the amount of radiation used in diagnostic radiology is very low.

You can lower your risk from an imaging test by letting your doctor know if you are—or think you could be—pregnant before having the procedure. Your doctor might want to postpone or modify it to lower the amount of radiation you'll receive.

How does AGH practice radiation safety?

Atlantic General Hospital assures adherence to federal, state and local regulations regarding the safe and effective provision of ionizing radiation-based imaging examinations to our population. Our practices are evaluated to ensure exposure to ionizing radiation is minimized to patients and associates.

Dosimeter badges track occupational radiation. These badges must be worn at all times by associates (OR surgeons, OR Nurses, OR techs, Imaging, RCCC...) working in an environment that emits radiation. If an associate exceeds monthly, quarterly or annual dose limits then corrective action is taken.

As Low as Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) is the guiding principle in radiation safety. It means making every reasonable effort to prevent unnecessary exposure as well as overexposure.

Patient shielding will occur as long the shield does not obstruct the part being imaged. For example; using a thyroid shield for a chest x-ray may obstruct the patients' lung apices thus requiring a repeat exam resulting in double radiation.

Imaging gently/ Imaging wisely pledge - Online pledge and annual education completed by imaging employees that work in radiation.

PowerShare - Secure electronic sharing of patient images to a facility, physician or to the patient may reduce repeat testing/radiation. The most common facilities that we send to are: TidalHealth, Peninsula Imaging, Peninsula Orthopedics, Beebe, Johns Hopkins, Chesapeake Urology, BayHealth, Children's National.

Annual Physicist Testing - All equipment is registered with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and tested annually by a physicist.

DC bus trip planned

The Art League of Ocean City announces a bus trip on Wednesday, Oct. 16 to the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Carter, the Art League's Robinson Fellow and herself a working artist, will guide the tour. The tour will begin at the National Portrait Gallery and include exhibitions such as "Brilliant Exiles: American Women in Paris, 1900-1939," "Star Power: Photographs from Hollywood's Golden Age," an installation about 19th-century activist and Eastern Shore native Frederick Douglass, and Oprah Winfrey's commissioned portrait.

After the guided tour, guests may spend the day exploring modern and contemporary art at the Smithsonian

American Art Museum where exhibits include Tuan Andre Nguyen "The Island," "Sightlines: Chinatown and Beyond," and "Artist to Artist" pairings. Guests may also enjoy lunch in the Courtyard Café. The Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery are linked together, making for easy exploration.

The bus will depart the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. at 8 a.m. on October 16, and leave the Mall in Washington, D.C. at 4:30 p.m. to return to the Arts Center that evening by 8 p.m. Tickets are \$89 for Art League members and \$110 for non-members. Tickets are available at OCart.org/events or by call 410-524-9433.

Safe boating course offered

The Ocean City Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will present a comprehensive safe boating course beginning Monday, August 26.

This is a three-session course and will be given on three consecutive nights at the Ocean Pines library starting on Monday, August 26 and continuing on August 27, and 28. This includes a review and exam on the last night. Registration can be made online at alpaughmt@gmail.com. The course will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night.

There is a \$25.00 fee for the course material. Middle and High school students age 18 and under can take the course, including materials, for free.

Anyone born after July 1, 1972, is

required to satisfactorily complete a safe boating class to operate a recreational vessel or personal watercraft in Maryland. (January 1, 1978 in Delaware). Successfully completing this class also satisfies the requirements nationwide.

This course covers basic boat handling, rules of the road, navigation, federal and state regulations, aids to navigation, and required equipment, among other topics.

Statistics show that in 82 percent of boating fatalities, the captain had no formal boating education. The Ocean City Power Squadron encourages all boaters to complete a boating safety class.

For information and early registration, call 302-218-9474.

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Scholarships ease the path from Wor-Wic to UMES

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Wor-Wic Community College have renewed an agreement that creates a financial incentive for recent graduates of the two-year school in Salisbury to continue their studies 17 miles south in Princess Anne.

Dr. Heidi M. Anderson, president of UMES, and Deborah Casey, Ph.D., president of Wor-Wic, signed a memorandum of understanding that provides every Wor-Wic graduate continuing their education at UMES with \$3,500 annually toward their in-state tuition bill for up to six semesters at the university. In addition, three Wor-Wic applicants will qualify for a full-ride Presidential Scholarship worth \$8,585 annually. As an added incentive, the application fee is waived for Wor-Wic students applying to UMES.

“Education has a transformative effect on people’s lives, and this agreement helps eliminate some of the financial barriers that might have kept our students from fulfilling their potential,” Casey said. “We are grateful for this valuable partnership with UMES.”

“When we signed our most recent MOU with Wor-Wic three years ago, we

results
from page 15

growing portion of our membership likes the online voting option,” he said. “A large number of folks are being served and online voting does save the Association money” because it saves on paper and postage.

Ransdell said the election was something of a challenge, because he was the only committee member with prior experience. He thanked the four new members for stepping up.

“It was a great, great help,” he said.

Ransdell joked that he and Latham “are on speed dial now” after a busy election cycle.

“I only have to press one button to get his phone, and it’s almost always answered right away ... that’s essential to getting answers to some questions,” he said.

He also thanked Association staff for their help.

“I don’t think most people really understand the customer service that we, as members, get from the staff,” he said. “I want to add my thanks to all of them.”

wanted to ensure that the dream of an affordable college education would be a reality,” Anderson said. “Since that time, we’ve seen the overwhelming success of Wor-Wic students who transfer to UMES – their graduation rates are 12% higher than the average rate based on National Student Clearinghouse data. This scholarship program is another step in the seamless transition to receiving a bachelor’s degree and soaring toward future success.”

Both Lower Shore colleges offer instruction in such fields as hospitality/hotel-motel-restaurant management, physical therapy, early childhood education, construction (management) and law enforcement that could ease the transfer path for scholarship recipients to earn a bachelor’s degree.

In addition, Wor-Wic recently instituted a pharmacy pre-transfer process to help students interested in pursuing the UMES doctor of pharmacy degree.

Talbot on PinesCast

The latest episode of the Ocean Pines Association’s exclusive podcast, “PinesCast,” features an exclusive interview with longtime resident John Talbot.

Hosted by veteran journalist and podcaster Tony Russo, PinesCast each week celebrates the region, the amenities and, most of all, the people that make and keep Ocean Pines a special place to live. The PinesCast is available on all major podcast platforms.

This week, Talbot talks about the rich history of the community from the perspective of a man who witnessed the growth from ground zero.

Talbot shares captivating stories of his time as a real estate agent, selling properties in the early days of Ocean Pines. From getting lost in the Pines at night to the fun-filled social life of the 1970s, Talbot paints a vivid picture of the community’s evolution.

The PinesCast features Tidal Health as the Official Healthcare Sponsor of the PinesCast.

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



Veterans group donates to groups

American Legion Post 166 Leathernecks approved donations totaling \$10,000 to five local community organizations and the national Semper Fi & America’s Fund at its recent membership meeting.

The local organizations receiving the funds were Believe in Tomorrow, Easterseals of Delaware & Maryland Eastern Shore, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, Worcester County Gold, and the Cricket Center. They each received \$1,000.

A donation of \$5,000 was earmarked for the Semper-Fi & America’s Fund. The Fund provides financial assistance and lifetime support to combat wounded, critically ill, and catastrophically injured veterans of all branches of service and their families.

Post 166 Leathernecks is involved fund raising and volunteer activities in Ocean City, and Worcester County and Southern Sussex County. The veterans group recently celebrated its first anniversary as a member of the Ocean City American Legion family.

Above: Posing with the ceremonial check are **Marie Gilmore**, president, Worcester County Veterans Memorial; **Lauren Cooper**, executive director, the Cricket Center; **Linda Forte**, community marketing representative, Easterseals of Delaware and Maryland Eastern Shore; **Bob Broderick**, commander, Post 166 Leathernecks; **Amanda Koontz**, program advancement associate, **Mary Decker Brown**, program manager, Believe in Tomorrow and **Milt Warren**, Leathernecks Sergeant-at-Arms.



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EOE

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

Things you learn if you live long enough!

Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.

I choked on a carrot this morning, and all I could think of was, "I'll bet a doughnut wouldn't have done this to me."

Nothing spoils a good story more than the arrival of an eye witness. (Mark Twain)

It only takes one slow-walking person in the grocery store to destroy the illusion that I'm a nice person.

Sorry that I'm late. I got here as soon as I wanted to!

It turns out that when asked who your favorite child is, you're supposed to pick out one of your own. I know that now.

It's fine to eat a test grape in the produce section, but you take one bite of rotisserie chicken and it's all, "Sir, you need to leave!"

One thing no one ever talks about, when it comes to being an older adult, is how much time we devote to keeping a cardboard box because it is, you know, a really good box.

I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's seven years in a row, now.

If you drop something when you were younger, you just picked it up. When you're older and you drop

something, you stare at it for just a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

I like to make lists. I also like to leave them laying on the kitchen counter, and then guess what's on the list when I am at the store.

My kids say they want a cat for Christmas. Normally I serve turkey, but, hey, if it will make them happy.

Ask your doctor if a drug with 32 pages of side-effects is bad for you.

I just read a book about marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on your first date. So tonight, after dinner I'm dropping her off at her parent's house.

The best way to get back on your feet is to miss two car payments.

I love bacon. Sometimes I eat it twice a day. It takes my mind off the terrible chest pains I keep getting.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I am sure of is that it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?" Officer, "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle."

I asked a supermarket employee where they kept the canned peaches. He said, "I'll see," and walked away. I asked another and he also said, "I'll see," & walked away. In the end, I gave up and found them myself, in Aisle C.

I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places.


I put our scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think, "That can't be accurate!"

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