

# The Courier

August 13, 2025 Volume 25 Number 42



**Recycling** - Children made piggy bottle banks out of recycled plastic bottles at the Art League of Ocean City's free kids' crafts on July 26. The free art event is held every summer Saturday at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and all are welcome. Above are **James and Flynn Howarth**.

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## **AGH golf classic returns**

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation announced the 2025 Robert E. Warfield Memorial Tournament, benefiting Atlantic General Hospital, will take place Thursday, September 18, rain or shine, at Ocean City Golf Club.

As a favorite tradition for many local golfers, last year's tournament raised an impressive \$135,000 to help expand healthcare services and programs for our community hospital. The event will feature a scramble format, with all players enjoying nine holes on both the Newport Bay and Seaside courses.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Player entry fee includes golf cart and greens fees, lunch, snacks and beverages on the course, and an awards reception with light fare and cocktails. Deluxe giveaways, tournament awards and team photograph are also included. Addi-

tional excitement includes a variety of on-the-course challenges with fabulous prizes.

Team reservations are available now at [www.agh.care/golf](http://www.agh.care/golf) and must be received by September 11th. Space is limited and entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Non-golfers can join in the excitement through the Big Bucks Raffle, with a grand prize of \$2,500! Tickets are open to the public and the winner does not need to be present to claim the prize. Raffle tickets can also be purchased online at [www.agh.care/golf](http://www.agh.care/golf).

## **Brandywine Museum bus trip offered**

The Art League of Ocean City announces a bus trip to the Brandywine Museum in Chadds Ford, PA on Friday, September 12. The trip coincides with the special exhibit, Andrew Wyeth at Kuerner Farm: The Eye of the Earth.

The bus will depart the Acme park-

ing lot at 94<sup>th</sup> St. and Coastal Highway in Ocean City on Friday, September 12 at 8 a.m. and return at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$95 for Art League members, \$115 for non-members and covers the bus and admission to the museum. Water and snacks will be provided on the bus. A side trip to Kuerner Farm is available for \$12, paid at the museum.

More information about the bus trip is available by calling the Arts Center at 410-524-9433 or at [OCart.org/](http://OCart.org/).

## **Community proposals sought for education projects**

The Worcester County Health Department requests mini-grant proposals from community-based organizations, workplaces, churches, or other interested organizations for youth teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention education. To be eligible for up to \$9,000 in grant funding, your program must be an organization that serves young people in Worcester County. Funded organizations will be expected to deliver the Promoting Health Among Teens-Com-

prehensive education program to a minimum of 30-35 Worcester County youth ages 14-19.

"We're encouraging groups that work with youth in Worcester County to apply for the Teen Health education grant funding to help us spread awareness about comprehensive sexual health education and teen pregnancy and STI prevention," said Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services, Worcester County Health Department.

A virtual pre-proposal orientation meeting will be held through Google Meets on August 8th at 2:00 p.m. If you plan to attend this orientation session, RSVP to Kelly Shockley at [kelly.shockley1@maryland.gov](mailto:kelly.shockley1@maryland.gov).

Proposals should be submitted to the Worcester County Health Department (6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD.) by 4:30 p.m. on August 22. Digital application packets can be found at [worchesterhealth.org/mini-grant-applications](http://worchesterhealth.org/mini-grant-applications). For more information or to request a paper application packet, please call the Worcester County Health Department Prevention Services at 410-632-1100 ext. 1103.

If your organization has an event to promote, send your press release to *The Courier* at [thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)



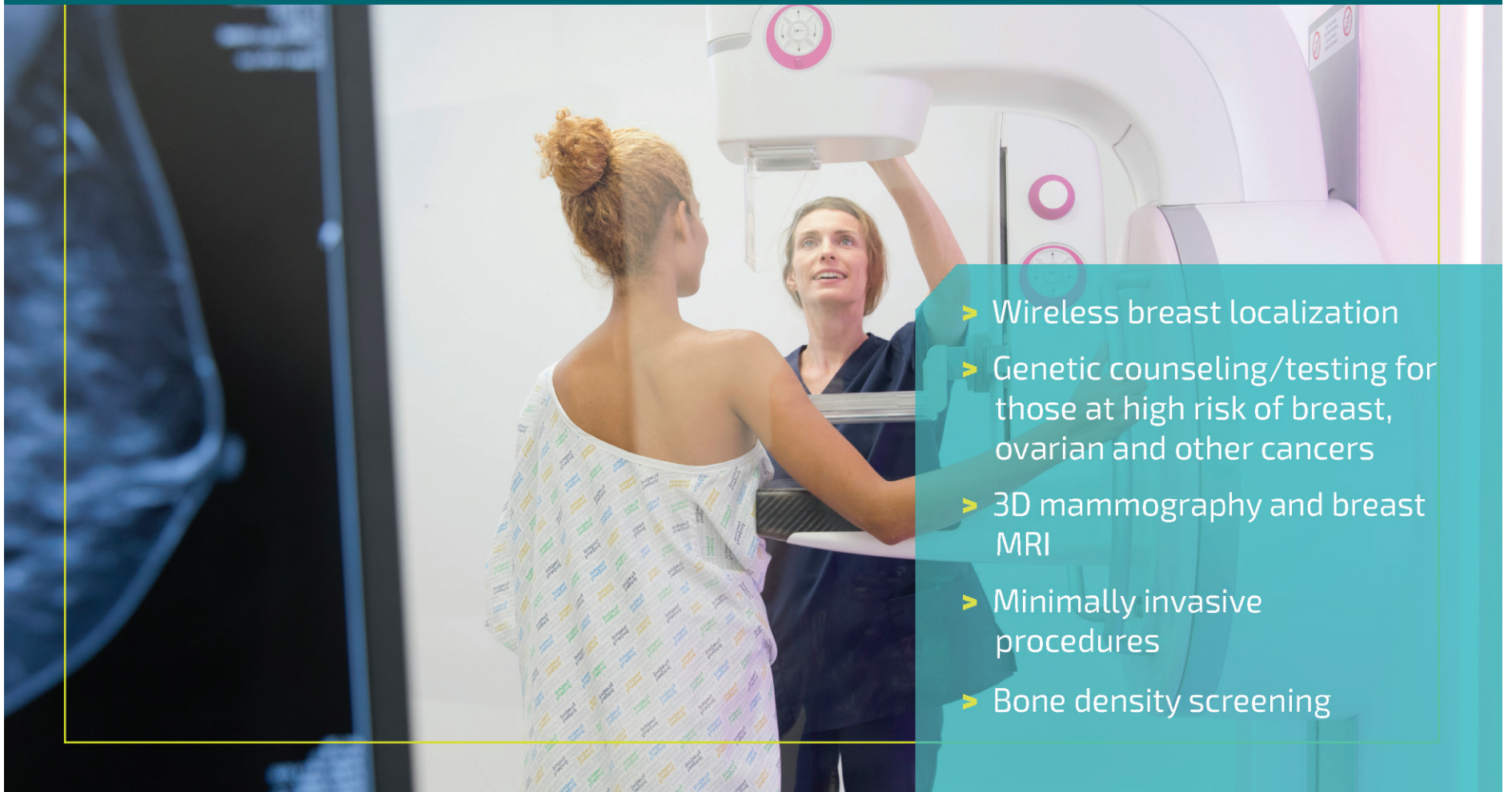
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# Health Dept. hosts Cooking Up Health classes

The Worcester County Health Department, in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension and the Worcester County Library, announced a new series of “Cooking Up Health” classes. These no-cost classes will be offered at the Berlin, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill library branches. Participants will learn valuable skills related to healthy eating, food budgeting, financial management, growing food, preparing nutritious meals, and food preservation.

The first program kicks-off on Wednesday, August 27, at the Snow Hill Library, located at 307 N. Washington Street, Snow Hill. Classes will run weekly from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and will conclude on October 1. Participants will receive weekly incentives to help them apply their newfound cooking, healthy eating, and food preservation skills.

The “Cooking Up Health” program will also be offered at the upcoming locations and times:

-Pocomoke Library: 401 5th

Street, Unit 100, Pocomoke - Mondays, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., September 22nd through November 24

-Berlin Library: 13 Harrison Avenue, Berlin - Mondays, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., November 10 through December 15.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. To register, please call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 or email [crystal.bell1@maryland.gov](mailto:crystal.bell1@maryland.gov). For more information, visit the Worcester County Health Department’s website [worcesterhealth.org](http://worcesterhealth.org), and follow them on social media, @worcesterhealth.

## Flea market scheduled

A flea market and bake sale will be held Saturday, August 30 at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin. The outdoors event will take place from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Vendors, to reserve space, contact 443-641-2186 and/or [bethany21811@gmail.com](mailto:bethany21811@gmail.com).



**New officers** - The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club installed new officers for 2025-2026.

Pictured from left to right are **Jay Warrington**, Sgt. at Arms; **Cliff Berg**, co-president; **Margaret Mudron**, co-president and treasurer; and, **Tom Sweeney** president-elect. The club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at Don’s Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines. For more info email [ocberlinrotary@gmail.com](mailto:ocberlinrotary@gmail.com).

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# First memories again

How interesting and exciting it would be to again experience special and meaningful events in our lives for the first time. As if everything old was new again.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

There are many life memories I hold close and dear, recalling them at times when I need a little pick-me-up. It would be enjoyable, and maybe a little disconcerting, if some sort of contraption existed that could transport me to specific events so they could again be experienced in real time. There's never a time-traveling DeLorean available when you need one.

When my daughter, my first child, was born my heart skipped a beat or two during the very emotional moment when I first saw her. How nice it would be to again stand in that delivery room at Burdett Tomlin Memorial Hospital in Cape May Court House, NJ holding my little girl for the first time imagining what her future, our future, would be. She was so small. She was so beautiful. Those first few moments were a powerful, once in a lifetime experience. Remembering it now gives me goose bumps. Alas, more than thirty-five years have passed. She was a great kid then and a great kid now. Kid? She's a mom herself now. No matter how much time passes, she'll always be my little girl.

On a warm, sunny afternoon on the first day of October in 1984 my wife and I kissed for the first time while standing on a large rock in the middle of meandering stream adjacent to a shady lane. The afternoon was special and one that I wouldn't mind enjoying again.

Another moment worthy of another go around was when I disembarked from an American Airlines jet in San Diego and saw my grandparents in the waiting area. They bought me a ticket so I could visit them during their winter vacation on the west coast. The year was 1978. I was 12. (I know some of you are doing mental math to figure out how

old I am now). I had never flown before. And as much as flying was a new experience, it paled in importance to seeing my grandfather, tanned, wearing his big sunglasses, waving at me and calling my name as I maneuvered through the throng of adults. What I wouldn't give to hear his voice calling my name just once more. He was a wonderful man who left us too soon.

Many, many holidays have come and gone since we got married. And there have been many enjoyable ones. But there's one that I wouldn't mind experiencing again. It was the Thanksgiving before we moved to Ocean Pines. We lived in North Cape May, NJ. Our second child had just been born. We didn't travel that holiday; it was just my wife and me and the two children. Our daughter had celebrated her second birthday the month before. As my wife prepared dinner, my daughter and I played in the backyard, raking into piles leaves into which we enthusiastically jumped. There was jumping. There was rolling. There were giggles. Our Border Collie Brandy got into the action as well. When my wife finally called us in, we had leaves clinging to our clothes and our hair. Even Brandy had leaves randomly stuck to her. Inside, dinner was on the table. The baby was in his seat, positioned at one end of the table. Our daughter was in her

high chair. At the time I remember telling myself that it doesn't get much better than this. And in some ways it never did.

Another once in a lifetime experience occurred the day after my sixteenth birthday, the day I got my driver's license. My mother had taken me to the State Police Barracks off Roosevelt Boulevard where I took my driver's test in the 1972 Volkswagen 411 we had at the time. After driving through the course with the stoic officer (a large man with no apparent sense of humor) in the passenger seat, we stopped in front of the barrack's building. The officer scribbled something on my application. Had I passed? Did I fail? Time stopped as I waited to find out. It seemed an eternity before he finally detached a portion of the form, handed it to me and said, "Congratulations."

"YEAH!"

Pulling into the driveway my grandparents and brother were wait-

ing for me to learn if I had achieved a major milestone. My mother got out of the car. Seeing that I was still sitting behind the wheel, she leaned through the open window, "I guess you have someplace you want to go?"

"Uh huh!" I replied. I really didn't. Would she let me take the family car out by myself? She looked at my grandfather who was standing beside my window. He must have given her a nod.

"Okay. Be back in a half hour." I already had the car in gear and my brother was pushing past my mother to ride shotgun. My adrenaline was pumping as we backed down the driveway and onto Verree Road. "Yeah Baby!" I've traveled many miles, perhaps more than a million miles since backing down that driveway for the first time by myself, but that first experience was thrilling, even if my younger brother was with me.

No time machines. Just memories. They'll have to do.

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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
*OceanPinesForum.com*

## OPA annual meeting

The 2025 OPA Annual Meeting of the Ocean Pines Association members is over.

First, the board election results to fill three open seats:

-*Monica Rakowski* – 2,085 votes (elected to three-year term)

-*Steve Jacobs* – 1,935 votes (elected to three-year term)

-*Stuart Lakernick* – 1,730 votes (elected to three-year term)

-*Amy Peck* – 1,464 votes  
Congratulations to the three winners.

Fire Department Referendum:  
Yes – 1559; No - 389

The vote count process in Pittsburgh, streamed live, went smoothly.

Election turnout was disappointing, to say the least. Less than 3,000 lots even voted.

Only around 700 voters used Internet voting. This is costly and board should vote to go to all paper ballots in the future. It certainly points out the uselessness of those Monkey surveys indicating a large percentage of association members want Internet voting. I like paper. Paper can be recounted on a close vote. There is no recount possible of Internet voting, as pointed out by the election contractor. Comparable to when the Pope speaks *ex cathedra* on matters of Faith and Morals, Internet vote results are infallible!

About 464 ballots were taken to the drop-box at the Police Department.

As for the Annual Meeting itself, extremely disappointing as well.

Yet again, the meeting was not even attended by the required 100-lot association member attendance to produce a quorum. Only 67 lots were represented at the Annual Meeting, out of 8,500 or so!

A special board meeting should convene this week to formally confirm the election results, and possibly vote on election of OPA, Inc. corporate officers for the coming year at the same time. Odds on favorite to assume the position of OPA President is board member John Latham. An excellent choice, should that prove correct.

Some interesting OPA board politics in the election results:

Monica Rakowski speaks the least at board meetings and received the highest number of votes among the three winners.

OPA's sitting President and Chairman of the Board of Directors Stuart Lakernick received the least number of votes among the three winners

Steve Jacobs received more votes than Lakernick. Why is the above politically significant? Jacobs was a one-man minority on the board for the last three years. He was occasionally derided at board meetings by some of the six-member majority. At one time there was even an attempt to potentially reprimand or throw him off the board on bogus charges of leaking attorney-client privilege information. He was not exactly Mr. Popularity with the other six board members.

Suddenly, during this 2025 elec-

tion, the other six board members more or less supported Jacobs' reelection. Why? Patently obvious to anyone closely following OPA board politics. Some sitting board members are so totally obsessed with dislike of losing candidate Amy Peck that they suddenly saw Jacobs as the better alternative of those two candidates.

You gotta love this place.

Back to the Annual Meeting, the important highlight was OPA General Manager John Viola's yearly operational report, with assistance from Senior Director of Administration Linda Martin. Martin's increasing role in the OPA's administration is most welcome - a highly competent woman, and a potential future General Manager.

The stunner, however, was Viola's financial report. Another terrific financial success. The primary stunner? In fiscal year 2013 the base assessment was \$873. In fiscal 2022, it peaked at \$996. In fiscal 2026, only \$875. This is an incredible financial success story, given all the major improvements to infrastructure in OPA, as well as reserve contributions.

Viola must be viewed as the financial mastermind but he correctly credits the Board of Directors for staying out of operational issues and allowing him and his team to run OPA as stipulated in the bylaws.

Two open positions on the Board of Directors are open next year as the terms of Elaine Brady and John Latham expire.

## Courier Almanac

Former New York Yankees star Mickey Mantle dies of liver cancer at the age of 63 on August 13, 1995. While "The Mick" patrolled center field and batted clean-up between 1951 and 1968, the Yankees won 12 American League pennants and seven World Series championships.

When it comes to getting to work, Empire State residents spend more time getting from home to the office than any other people in the United States. The most recent data from the United States Census Bureau indicates that the average New York worker spends 33.5 minutes getting to work each day. Among those workers, 28 percent take public transit while roughly 53 percent drive solo. On the opposite end of the commuting spectrum sits South Dakota. The average worker in the Mount Rushmore State, where 81 percent of people drive solo to work, spends just 17.3 minutes getting to the office each day. Perhaps surprisingly given the state's reputation as a haven for traffic jams, California does not even crack the top five longest average commutes. But the Golden State is sixth on the list of longest commutes in 2025, with residents spending an average of 29.8 minutes getting to work in sunny California.



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## Knowledge is good

Most boaters don't fully appreciate the wealth of information that is available to mariners and how little they know as rookies. Sadly, many folks buy a boat and think 'it can't be that hard to drive' and blithely shove off.

I must admit that I was one of these when I bought my first one, a used 16 foot sail boat but after rolling it once, being stranded once and sinking it once, I realized there was more to sailing than just hoisting sails. Remedy: I bought a bigger boat. Eventually after 14 years of trial and error and buying a constant stream of bigger boats (22' then 27'), I ended up with a beautiful 31 foot sloop that I could take out and get back to the dock without scratching the gelcoat.

Unlike me, more astute new boaters start off with far less naivety. They go out on a friend's boat to see if they like it and then take a Safe Boat-

ing Class (SBC) which covers the very basics of boat handling, maritime rules and the handling of emergency situations.

Although the SBC is extremely valuable, it's only a start. There is still a lot to learn on the journey to becoming an accomplished waterman. Graduates should not come away from the class with the notion that they are ready to single handedly circumnavigate the world. Relying solely on a beginner's class, innate good judgment and luck inevitably leads to expensive boat repairs.

The US government is probably the best source of the additional information that will make you a better skipper. Let me review some of what your taxes provide:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is responsible for maintaining the nautical charts for

all US waters. These charts, such as 12211 which covers Fenwick Island, are available online for free downloading. Third party vendors have merged these chart files with GPS and Google Earth to create state-of-the-art navigation tools that are the heart of today's chart recorders and 'nav' apps.

NOAA also produces up-to-date tide tables and tidal current tables for all NOAA stations.

These tables predict the time and speed of maximum flood/ebbs and the timing of slack water. They are especially vital when navigating inherently shallow water such as our back bays. Locally, the NOAA datum point for the Ocean City Inlet is the Oceanic Fishing Pier at 75.091 degrees west longitude and 38.328 north latitude. How this data is used to predict conditions elsewhere in the bays will be the subject of a future *Knots & Knots*.

Still other entrepreneurs who may not even own a boat have used these

NOAA charts and tables to make expensive placemats that can be found in boardwalk souvenir shops but that won't be the subject of a future column.

Next, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) maintains the marine radio band and defines the use for each channel. Channel 16 (156.800 MHz) is the hailing and emergency



*Helm of the Peter D where knowledge is good.*

channel. It is reserved to call another boat or a land based station or to broadcast a need for help. Vessels equipped with a marine radio must

*please see **knowledge** on page 12*

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**Law enforcement class graduates**

Twenty-one law enforcement officers from Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline and Queen Anne’s counties graduated in the 94th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy (ESCJA) operated by Wor-Wic Community College.

Graduation exercises, which were held in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, featured a commencement address by Aaron Ritter, a retired U.S. Navy explosive ordnance disposal technician and founder of LIMB-itless Outdoors.

Worcester County law enforcement officers who graduated are shown, in the front row, from left, **Elizabeth Peasley** of the Pocomoke City Police Department; **Gena Donalds** and **Timothy Stedding Jr.** of the Ocean City Police Department; and **Matthew Swistak** of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office. In the back row, from left, are, **Cole Bennett** of the Pocomoke City Police Department and **James Lerch Jr.** of the Ocean City Police Department.

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**Healthy Worcester Families  
Lifeskills program offered**

With a new school year on the horizon, Worcester Health is helping parents and guardians set their children up for success through the Healthy Worcester Families Lifeskills program. This no-cost, nine-week program is designed for the families of sixth to ninth grade students, and focuses on reducing the risk of youth substance use while strengthening self-management, social skills, and positive family communication. By equipping parents and guardians with practical tools, the program empowers them to guide their children in making responsible choices, building healthy relationships, and resisting negative peer pressure.

The Healthy Worcester Families Lifeskills program begins on Tuesday, August 26. Classes will be held weekly at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church located at 405 Flower Street in Berlin from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. During each session, class

participants will receive a nutritious meal along with many opportunities to earn exciting prizes that the whole family can enjoy.

To register your family or for more information, please call 410-632-1100 ext. 1109 or visit worcesterhealth.org. Stay connected and get updates by following Worcester Health on social media, @worcesterhealth.

**Special buffet to  
help flood victims**

On Sunday, August 17 the Knights of Columbus will host a special buffet breakfast to benefit the victims of Texas Flooding. Please come out and support the effort and the people in Texas. The cost of breakfast is \$19. The event will occur at 9901 Coastal Highway behind St. Luke’s Church in Ocean City between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Call 410-524-7994 with ques-



## Public invited to free ‘Wet Paint Art Sales’

The Art League of Ocean City’s annual “Artists Paint OC Festival and Competition” is August 13 to 17 when 54 professional plein air artists paint local landscapes in the area. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the outdoor painting event in the resort with special celebrations planned throughout the festival.

The public is invited to view the art and take home their masterpiece during the Wet Paint Art Sales on Saturday, August 16 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, August 17 between noon and 3 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts located at 502 94<sup>th</sup> St. bayside. Admission is free.

“Fifty artists will be capturing a moment in time on canvas, and this is your opportunity – one that only happens once a year – to purchase these beautiful original paintings of iconic local scenes that are hot off the easel at very affordable prices,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “And this year, we’re celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year of our plein air festival with some special events, including a collectible poster, now on

sale at the Arts Center and around town.”

“En plein air” is a French expression that means “in the open air,” used to describe the art of painting outdoors. The annual Artists Paint OC Festival brings in more than 50 plein air painters to the resort, all professional regional artists. Artists will paint Wednesday through Saturday and compete for more than \$11,000 in cash prizes, with \$2,500 going to the first-place winner.

On Saturday, August 16, the artists will bring their best work to the Arts Center to be judged by juror Sara Linda Poly. The Wet Paint Art Sale begins at 5 p.m., a free celebratory event that brings the artists together with the public with opportunities to purchase more than 250 just-painted landscapes. The party goes until 7 p.m. and includes live music, complimentary hors d’oeuvres, and a cash bar.

Sunday morning’s Quick Paint on the Boardwalk on August 17, sponsored by the Ocean City Development Corp., is an easy opportunity for the

public to watch the artists paint. Artists gather on the south end of the Ocean City Boardwalk near Thrashers to paint against the clock from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. They then bring their work to the Arts Center to be judged by plein air artist Kirk McBride where winners will be announced.

“This is an intense competition where artists are given two hours to capture a scene on the Boardwalk in paint, battling weather, subject matter that moves, and painting among crowds of onlookers,” Thaler said. “It is amazing to see what they capture.”

The public may purchase the Quick Paint artwork or select from hundreds of other paintings from noon to 3 p.m. at the Arts Center. The party begins at 1 p.m. with live music and complimentary refreshments. Admission is free.

For the first time, on Sunday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Art League table on the Boardwalk near Thrashers, art activities for children will be available with opportunities to win prizes, sponsored by Dough Roller.

Sunday also features the third annual Kids Paint OC event, featuring the plein air artwork of youth ages six to 17. The children painted outdoors during the month of July and brought their work to the Arts Center to be exhibited. Kids Paint OC artwork will be on display on Sunday, August 17, from noon to 3 p.m., and \$575 in cash prizes will be awarded by judges Tamara Mills, fine art coordinator for the Worcester County Board of Education; artist David Simpson; and Sasha Mete, a 2025 Art League scholarship winner. The event is made possible by the Art League with support from the Worcester County Arts Council and John Sisson.

The plein air exhibit and sale continue at the Arts Center until September 27.

More information is available at OCart.org or by calling 410-524-9433.

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MD #2294



# MSCHE reaffirms Wor-Wic's accreditation

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) recently reaffirmed the accreditation of Wor-Wic Community College after a rigorous process that examined the college's practices, ethics and outcomes to ensure that Wor-Wic meets its comprehensive accreditation standards.

"Our accreditation reaffirmation is not merely a milestone — it's a moment of triumph, built on years of collaboration, integrity and hard work," said Deborah Casey, Ph.D., president of Wor-Wic. "This achievement reflects our shared dedication to academic excellence, student success and the mission that has guided us since our initial accreditation in 1980. The reaffirmation of our accreditation en-

sure our students can continue to pursue their educational goals with confidence and pride in the value of a Wor-Wic degree."

The accreditation process takes place every 10 years through MSCHE, an independent accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that establishes equitable standards for accreditation with member institutions. As an institutional accreditor, MSCHE requires evaluation of all aspects of the institution, including all academic programs and services.

As part of the accreditation process, Wor-Wic completed an institutional self-study report evaluating its educational programs and services, with particular attention to student learning and achievement, and deter-

mined how well these programs and services accomplished its goals, fulfilled its mission and met MSCHE standards. The standards include: mission and goals; ethics and integrity; design and delivery of the student learning experience; support of the student experience; educational effectiveness assessment, planning, resources and institutional improvement; and governance, leadership and administration.

In its final report, the peer evaluation team commended Wor-Wic for several highlights:

- Building a stronger campus community through its diversity planning committee

- Revising its general education outcomes through campus-wide collaboration and establishing a committee to address its general education outcome plans

- Designing classroom spaces for specific learning goals

- Designing easier access to financial aid information, advising and resources

- Demonstrating comprehensive implementation of the assessment

process and embedding assessment into its culture

-Fiscal responsibility demonstrated through a history of unmodified audits, a strong budgeting process tied to strategic planning and assessment and the offsetting of high energy costs through its use of solar power.

"The classrooms designed for technology courses, medical training and other areas of academic work, including general education offerings, are impressive," the report said.

## Obituary

### Ralph Irvin Frazier

Ralph Irvin Frazier, age 76, of Berlin, died Monday, August 4, 2025, at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin. He was born in Fairfax, VA, and was the son of the late Russell H. Frazier Sr. and Florence Mae (Jewel) Frazier.

He was a master carpenter and owned and operated R. I. Frazier Construction. Ralph was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Berlin, where he served as co-leader of children's ministry for many years. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and was a member of the American Legion.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Carol M. Frazier; five children, Jennifer Beesley of Berlin, April Simmons of Marshall, VA, Laura Masten and husband Chris of Milford, DE, Matthew Dillard of Arlington, VA, and Jamie Frazier of Fairfax, VA; two brothers, Randy Frazier of Charleston, SC, and Rusty Frazier of Virginia Beach, VA; one sister, Cherry Fortune of FL; six grandchildren, Bailey Cashman, Sarah Beesley, Liam Masten, Noah Masten, Jessica Garcia, and Samantha Alford; and a dear sister-in-law, Ginny Felin. He will be greatly missed by dear friends, Pastor John and Laurene Abent.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Charlene Minnick, and two grandchildren, Lily Grace Masten and Greg Simmons, Jr.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at Ocean Pines White Horse Park Pavilion, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306

Condolences may be sent by visiting

## DNR introduces new 'MD Outdoors' app

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is introducing a new free mobile app — MD Outdoors — which will be the official app for the state's outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, and anglers.

The MD Outdoors app replaces the AccessDNR app, which will no longer be supported. Users will need to remove the old app and download an updated version from the DNR website.

*please see **dnr** on page 13*

**knowledge**  
from page 8

constantly monitor 16 while underway.

A boater in serious trouble such as an onboard fire or sinking or a medical emergency will transmit a "Mayday, Mayday" on channel 16 to summon help. If the problem is less critical such as out-of-gas or a broken engine, a boater can broadcast a "Pam-Pam, Pam-Pam" and the US Coast Guard and others will assist the stranded vessel through the issues.

There is a third call you sometimes hear on channel 16. It is initiated by the USCG to announce that they have some important information for everyone who is underway. The announcement begins with "Sécurité, Sécurité ..." and instructs boaters to temporarily switch from 16 to channel 22A (now being referred to as 1022) where the message is read. These scripted messages are designed to give the floating public a heads up about unusual situations such as a search and rescue operation in progress or a no sail re-

stricted area for a boat race or the report of a navigational hazard like a partially submerged rouge piling floating in the inlet.

Beyond the real-time sécurité broadcasts, the USCG also provides the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) and Light Lists (LL) publications.

The Light Lists is a complete listings of all lights, buoys, daybeacons, ranges, fog signals, radio beacons, and radar beacons with detailed information including position, shape, color, and characteristics. The LL is an annual publication that is continuously updated via the Local Notice to Mariners.

The LNMs are published weekly and are available on the internet. These notices are essential for keeping charts and other nautical publications such as the LL up to date. The LNM is the primary means for disseminating information concerning aids to navigation (AtoN) anomalies and hazards to navigation such as a missing buoy or the ongoing workarounds at the site of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.

If you have never checked out the LL or LNM, here are a couple web

sites to get you started.

For the Eastern Region (formerly named 'District 5') which includes Ocean City, here's the Light List:

[https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/lightLists/LightList\\_V2\\_2025.pdf](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/lightLists/LightList_V2_2025.pdf)

For the Local Notice to Mariners that covers Ocean City, see:

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Featured-Content/Mariners/Local-Notice-to-Mariners-LNMs/District-5/>

And finally, there are seven dedicated channels in the marine radio spectrum that are set aside to constantly broadcast the current and forecasted weather and water conditions. These are produced by NOAA. Channel 3 (162.475 MHz) covers the waters surrounding the Delmarva Peninsula. You should always check the weather and sea conditions before casting off that last dock line.

I'm reminded of the inscription on the statue of Faber College's founder in the movie 'Animal House.' "Knowledge is good."

Stay safe. Stay dry.

*Dan Collins can be reached for comment at [dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com](mailto:dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com)*



# County appoint new Emergency Services Director

The Worcester County Commissioners announced the appointment of Chris Shaffer as the new director of Worcester County Emergency Services (WCES).



**Chris Shaffer**

He will step into his new role with Worcester County Government on August 11. Shaffer will oversee WCES, which includes the 911 Communica-

tions Center, Emergency Management, and the P25 800 MHz Radio Division.

"Chris is a seasoned and highly respected public safety professional who has established strong working relationships with all of the fire stations in the county," Commissioner President Ted Elder said. "His skills, training, and professionalism make him ideally suited to lead WCES."

Shaffer brings more than 38 years of experience in public safety and over a decade of emergency management leadership to the position. A graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, Shaffer began his career in 1987 with the Ocean City Fire Department (OCFD) as a fire/EMS dispatcher. He rose steadily through the ranks, becoming assistant fire chief of the Career Division in 2008 and deputy chief in 2016.

In addition to his extensive field

experience, Shaffer holds an Associate of Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services from Wor-Wic Community College (2006) and an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University (2008).

"I'm honored to step into this role and lead the exceptional men and women who make up Worcester County Emergency Services," Shaffer said. "This team plays a critical role in the safety and wellbeing of our communities every single day. I look forward to working closely with our county fire companies, law enforcement, and partner agencies to enhance our emergency preparedness and response capabilities."

As director of Emergency Services, Shaffer will be responsible for coordinating emergency management efforts, overseeing the County's 911 system, maintaining the public safety radio infrastructure, and serving as a liaison to local police, fire, and EMS agencies. He will also guide the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and related emergency plans in collaboration with the County's GIS Department to maintain an accurate and comprehensive address system.

Shaffer's appointment follows a period of interim leadership by Fire Marshal Matt Owens, whose service ensured continuity and stability within WCES during the search for a permanent director.

"We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Matt who stepped up when we needed him most to temporarily lead WCES," Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said. "On top of his duties as director of the Fire Marshal's Office, Matt guided every aspect of WCES until we found the right person to take the helm. His dedication and leadership made all the difference, and we're truly grateful for his commitment to our community."

Owens will continue to oversee

all aspects of the Fire Marshal's Office, which serves as the local enforcing agency for the County and three municipalities, carries out all provisions of the Maryland and Worcester County laws relating to fires, fire prevention, protection, inspections, investigations, and explosive incidents. Both the Fire Marshal's Office and WCES coordinate with multiple local, state, and federal public safety agencies to prepare for and respond to emergencies.



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EOE

**dnr**  
from page 12

The new MD Outdoors licensing system went online in June for residents and visitors to purchase Maryland hunting and fishing licenses as well as associated stamps and permits, boat and off-road vehicle renewal registration, and other services. The new MD Outdoors app can also be used to display an individual's hunting or fishing license as well as boating or off-road vehicle registrations when needed.

The MD Outdoors app will continue to include:

- Maps and directions to Maryland State Parks, trails, Wildlife Management Areas, boat launches and water access sites

- Maryland State Parks' activities and amenities by location;

- Hunting season information by date;

- An option for hunters to report their harvest directly to DNR;

- A location-based sunrise/sunset display;

- Maryland fish and shellfish identifier;

- Tide time tables and state fish record information;

- Hunting, fishing and boating regulation guides; and

- More features to be added.

DNR's mobile app has been downloaded by more than 253,000 users since first introduced. The MD Outdoors app was developed alongside the department's new licensing system, which provides an easier-to-navigate interface, auto-renew options, and other upgrades in a convenient one-stop shop.

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Travel

Why booking early with a travel agency sets you up for vacation success

By **Cindy McCabe**

There’s something magical about planning a vacation. The anticipation, the daydreams, the countdown. It’s part of the experience. But while the idea of a spontaneous get-away might sound exciting, the reality is that the best vacations are the ones booked early and backed by a strong support system.

Booking your trip well in advance offers a number of key advantages that go far beyond simply securing your spot. One of the most traveler-friendly perks is the ability to use payment plans. Instead of having to pay everything upfront, you can put down a manageable deposit and pay over time. This makes dream vacations feel more accessible and budget-friendly, allowing you to spread the cost over several months rather than stressing over a lump sum at the last minute.

Early booking also means better availability. Whether it’s the perfect cruise cabin with a balcony, that resort room with an ocean view, or convenient non-stop flights, planning ahead gives you the first pick. Waiting until closer to departure usually means fewer options and higher prices. You’re often left with what’s left over, not what’s best. Planning early allows you to craft your vacation around what *you* want, rather than settling for what’s available.

But perhaps the most overlooked part of planning a vacation isn’t *when* you book, but *who* you book with.

While many travelers may work with a single agent or try to do it all themselves online, the real value lies in partnering with a full-service travel agency. When you work with an agency, you’re not just working with one person, you’re gaining a team. A team that can assist, adapt, and step in when life throws curveballs.

Because life happens. Flights get delayed, weather shifts plans, emergencies arise. And when they do, having a full agency in your corner means you’re never on your own. If your

agent is away or unavailable, there’s someone else ready to help, whether it’s rebooking a flight, changing hotel arrangements, or navigating insurance claims. It’s the peace of mind that comes from knowing someone has your back.

Agencies also provide something



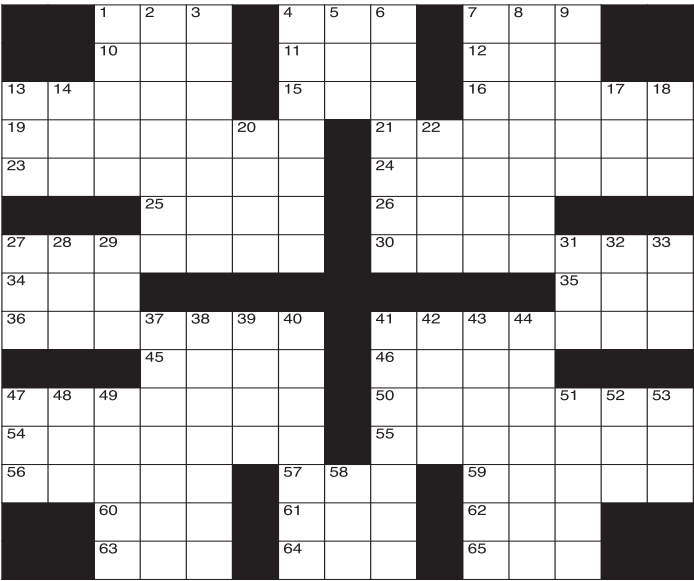
The Bethany Travel team  
Front row: **Tammy, Krista**  
Back row: **Kelly, Cindy, Brandon, Bonnie and Ashley**

that’s hard to replicate: backup plans. They don’t just book your trip; they think through the “what ifs.” If there’s a cancellation or disruption, agencies have direct relationships with travel partners and suppliers to quickly find solutions. While a single agent might do their best, an agency has depth—more resources, more contacts, and more support to keep your trip on track.

In the end, booking early isn’t just about saving money or grabbing the best deal, it’s about giving yourself time, options, and confidence. It’s about starting your vacation with excitement, not stress. And booking with a travel agency means that excitement lasts, even if the unexpected happens.

A great vacation doesn’t start the day you leave—it starts the moment you plan it. Make it count. Plan early. Travel smart. And bring a team with you every step of the way.

Cindy McCabe is owner of Bethany Travel and can be reached at 302-933-0955. Bethany Travel is one of the top 10 travel agencies in the world selling Sandals & Beaches.

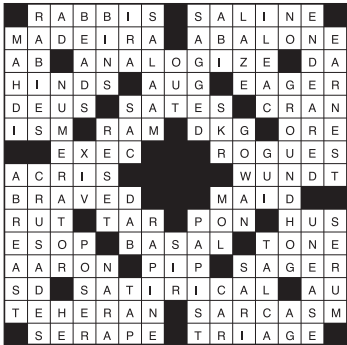


CLUES ACROSS

1. Auto manufacturer  
4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet  
7. Two-year-old sheep  
10. Member of indigenous people in Asia  
11. Airborne (abbr.)  
12. Actress de Armas  
13. Not moving  
15. Cool!  
16. Plants of the arum family  
19. Perceptible by touch  
21. Rorschach test  
23. Monetary units  
24. Art  
25. Cardinal number  
26. Dueling sword  
27. Hates  
30. Fixed in one place  
34. Pie \_\_\_ mode
35. Moved on foot  
36. Passenger’s spot on a motorcycle  
41. A way through  
45. “Rule, Britannia” composer  
46. Leader  
47. Flowing  
50. Common greetings in Arabic countries  
54. Solution for all difficulties  
55. Soft clothing fabric  
56. Building material  
57. Sea bream  
59. A way to cause to be swollen  
60. One and only  
61. Skin color  
62. Wreath  
63. Nevertheless  
64. They \_\_\_  
65. Sea eagle

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)  
2. Toy dog  
3. Inflamed colon disease  
4. Muscular weaknesses  
5. Helps little firms  
6. References  
7. Takes down  
8. Facilitates  
9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire  
13. Engine additive  
14. Chemistry solution  
17. Written account  
18. Consumed  
20. Coming after all others  
22. No (slang)  
27. Government lawyers  
28. Super Bowl winner Manning  
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future  
32. A way to travel behind  
33. Midway between northeast and east  
37. Head pain  
38. Loud lawn insect  
39. Actress Hathaway  
40. Boat race  
41. About fish  
42. Nursemaid in India  
43. Marketable  
44. Tinier  
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)  
48. Paddle  
49. Oneness  
51. Bitter compound  
52. Not around  
53. Very fast airplane  
58. Swiss river



Answers for August 6



## Some things to think about

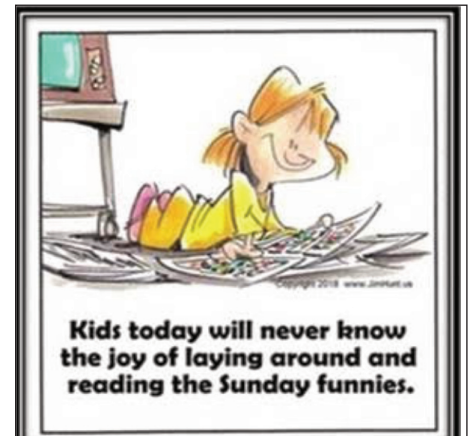
Gathered from the internet  
by **Jack Barnes**



So I was at Walmart earlier  
A lady was looking at frozen turkeys, but she couldn't find one big enough.  
She asked the stock boy, "do these turkeys get any bigger?"  
He replied with a straight face, "No ma'am, they're dead."  
Made my week



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