

The Courier

June 15, 2016 Volume 16 Number 42

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Grocery store tours offered

Curious about how to get the healthiest foods for the least amount of money? Would you like to learn how to better understand labels and nutritional information so you can make informed, healthy choices? If so, you should sign up for one of Worcester County Health Department's upcoming grocery store tours.

During the month of June, the Worcester County Health Department will be sponsoring free, Grocery Store Tours. These tours will be led by a Registered and Licensed Dietitian who will help participants navigate the grocery store aisles and select the most nutritious foods. These tours will be offered on the following dates/locations:

-Thursday, June 16, 2 p.m., Food Lion-11007 Manklin Creek Road, Berlin, Maryland 21811

-Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 2 p.m., Snow Hill Food Rite- 308 East Market Street, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

Pre-registration is encouraged. All participants will receive a free, reusable grocery tote. For additional information or to register, please call the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-0056.

Dem to collect food

On Sunday, June 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County will collect non-perishable food, toiletries and paper products at the Ocean Pines South Fire Station on Ocean Parkway. Supplies will be shared with a local food ministry. Call 410-641-8553 for additional information.

RWWC to hold luncheon

The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) will hold their Annual June Red, White and Blue luncheon meeting on Thursday, June 23 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. The club will honor three charter members of RWWC: Margaret Smith Grant, Margaret Hudson and Margaret Rehkemper. In addition, Delegate Mary Beth Carozza, (38C), Delegate Charles Otto (38B) and Commissioner Chip Bertino will inform the club of happenings in the state and county. The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11 a.m. To make your reservation or for more information contact Pat Addy at 410-208-0171 or gorpataddy@aol.



P.E.O. holds fundraiser

The Ocean Pines local Chapter AK of P.E.O. raised over \$4,000.00 at their fundraiser. P.E.O. is dedicated to promoting educational opportunities for women and has raised over \$234 million towards scholarships, grants and loans. The concert was held at Ocean City Performing Arts Center. "America's Sweethearts," a musically versatile group, performed a 50s and 60s review. The performance and turnout made for an outstanding evening of entertainment. Special thanks goes to P.E.O. members Karen Gerhart, Marian Bickerstaff, Ginger McGovern and Anita Roberts who spent countless hours organizing this ambitious and highly successful event.

Above left to right: **Karen Gerhart, Ginger McGovern and Marian Bickerstaff**

Local firefighter featured in statewide diabetes prevention effort

If you are pre-diabetic or at risk for type 2 diabetes, “Eddie the Firefighter” has important information about diabetes prevention that you should hear. Ed Carman, Captain of the Snow Hill Fire Department, is featured this summer in a statewide, Power to Prevent Diabetes Campaign, run by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). As part of the campaign, Carman tells his personal story about being prediabetic in a television ad and discusses the importance of staying healthy and active, as well as the benefits of joining a diabetes prevention program, like those offered by the Worcester County Health Department (WCHD).

Carman lost roughly 45-pounds, increased his fitness level, and drastically reduced his diabetes risk by taking part in the *Lifestyle Balance Program*. The *Lifestyle Balance Program* offered by WCHD is a year-long, healthy eating, physical activity, and weight loss program can help participants make lifestyle changes and reduce risk for diabetes. In Maryland, 1.6 million adults are estimated to have prediabetes. Only about 408,000 or 10.5% are aware that they have prediabetes. Nationally, 1 in 3 adults is at risk for type 2 diabetes.

To hear Carman’s story and to learn more about prediabetes, including a test you can take to find your own risk-level, visit powerto-preventdiabetes.org. If you believe that you might be prediabetic and would like to learn more about *Lifestyle Balance* in Worcester County, including how to enroll in the next session of classes, call 410.632.0056. To view the diabetes prevention TV spot, visit worcester-health.org.



Pictured l to r: Worcester County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent **Lou Taylor**, WCEF Chairman **Todd Ferrante**, **Judy Tremellen**, **Jon Tremellen**, WCEF Board member **Patti Miller**, Worcester County Superintendent **Dr. Jerry Wilson**.

Tremellens donate to education

Local education advocates Jon and Judy Tremellen recently made a donation of \$50,000 in support of the Worcester County Education Foundation’s (WCEF) goals, which include supporting teachers and providing equal access to a first class education for every student in Worcester County.

As Judy Tremellen explained, “So many people in our county are beginning to understand that if we provide the tools necessary to teach excellence

in the early years, our community reaps the benefits of well educated adults who contribute to our community down the road. We know that education is key to anyone’s success and by providing equal access to a great education, we all win.

Our boys were fortunate to have experienced a wonderful education from both the private and public school systems in Worcester County. Jon and I have always been especially strong advocates for education and the arts and were inspired by the article about Pam and Macky Stansell’s generous contribution to the Worcester County Education Foundation. We hope that our support for great education will also inspire others in the community to give generously so that every child in our county has an equal opportunity to succeed.”

The Worcester County Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) 3. It was established in 2013 in order to link community resources with the educational needs of our students, as well as create a perpetual fund that provides grants to teachers and provides Worcester County students with the necessary learning tools in order to succeed.

Contact the WCEF at 410-632-5076 for more information.

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Wednesday: 1/2 rack of Baby Back
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soup or salad \$12.95

Thursday: Steak Night with choice
of side plus soup or salad \$12.95

Friday: Fried Shrimp with fries,
cole slaw and soup or salad \$14.75

Saturday: Crab Cake Platter served
with 2 sides and soup or salad \$15

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County approves FY 2017 budget, no tax increase

On June 7 the Worcester County Commissioners approved the fiscal year 2016/2017 (FY17) Operating Budget of \$188,872,655 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an increase of \$6,422,546 or 3.5% more than the FY16 budget while reducing the requested expenditures of \$193.9 million by \$5 million.

The approved FY17 budget maintains tax rates at their current levels of 83.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value for real property taxes and 1.75% for the County's local income tax rate. Due to increasing assessments, Real Property Tax Revenue is projected to increase by \$2,625,098 in FY17.

This fiscally conservative budget maintains funding for valuable public services residents can count on, such as public safety, education, infrastructure and existing social service programs.

Anticipated General Fund Revenues

Based on the Real Property tax rate of \$.835 net property taxes increased by \$2,748,906.

The Homestead Credit cap remains unchanged at 3% and is estimated to be \$1,243,925 for the County's qualified principal resident homeowners effective July 1, 2016.

Local Income Tax rate remains the same at 1.75% which began January 1, 2016. Revenues are anticipated to increase by \$3,400,000 over the current year based on actual receipts and increased estimates for a full year of local income tax revenue.

Other Local Taxes increased by \$287,500 and includes an increase of \$250,000 in Transfer Taxes and an increase in Room Tax of \$97,500 based on current year estimates.

State Shared revenues increased

\$22,061 mainly due to a slight increase in Highway User Revenues.

Federal Grants projects decreased by \$30,800 which includes a decrease in funding of \$31,990 for the Emergency Shelter Grant.

State Grants increased by \$105,128 mainly due to Waterway Improvement Grant funds for Shell Mill and Public Landing boat ramps.

Licenses and Permits increased \$2,250; changes include increased estimates for Liquor Licenses of \$25,000 which reflect the amended fees enacted by the State. Also included are decreases to the bi-annual Occupational Licenses of \$28,000.

Charges for Services decreased by \$50,918 mainly due to reductions in Community Service Fees of \$23,000 and First Offender Program Fees of \$65,000 both due to the State legalization of medical marijuana.

Interest on Investments decreased by \$50,000 due to lower outstanding note balances and rates of return below 1%.

Transfers in:

Other Funds decreased by \$1,147,279 based on the final transfer in of bond premium proceeds that occurred in the current year FY2016.

Transfers In of existing Budget Stabilization Funds increased by \$1,167,799 which will be passed through to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to cover the cost of Recycling at \$663,294 and Homeowner Convenience Centers at \$504,505.

Planned use of Casino/Local Impact Grant Funds decreased by

\$13,101 for the debt payment for the Worcester Career and Technical High School in FY17.

Major Approved General Fund Expenditures

County Departments and Agencies:

Significant increases and decreases are outlined as follows:

-Elections Office increased \$129,858 mainly due to the new statewide voting system

-Sheriff's Department increased \$477,787. Increased by \$274,265 in salaries and includes three new Deputy Sheriff positions. Increased by \$11,424 for new computers for office staff and road patrol. Increased by \$164,990 for a total of eight new and replacement patrol vehicles. Increased by \$84,635 for public safety electronic equipment for new vehicles. Decreased by \$31,000 due to the animal control building improvement to be completed in the current year

Emergency Services increased \$202,395. Increased by \$59,440 in salaries and includes a new Electronic Services Technician position which will assist the County and multiple agencies with mobile and desktop radio installations and support. Increased by \$112,621 mainly due to radio maintenance contracts and supplies and software maintenance agreements. Increased by \$24,000 for a van to equip with radio supplies for the Technician

County Jail increased \$465,259. Increased by \$218,677 in salaries and includes a new Correctional Officer for inmate coverage and other

please see budget on page 4



(Left to right) Front Row: **Jack Collins, Doug Parks, Patricia Supik and Slobodan Trendic.** Back Row: **Tom Janasek, George Simon, Larry Perrone, Steve Lind, Sharona Ezaoui, Frank Daly and Brett Hill.**

Candidates draw ballot position

The candidates' drawing that determines the order of the names on the ballot and order of seating at the Ocean Pines Association Candidates' Forum was conducted on June 9. The order results were as follows: Frank Daly, Slobodan Trendic, George Simon, Tom Janasek, Sharona Ezaoui, Doug Parks, Steve Lind, Brett Hill, Ray Unger, Patricia Supli, Jack Collins and Larry Perrone.

Residents are invited to attend the Candidates Forum on Wednesday, June 22 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines

Community Center in the Assateague Room. This is an opportunity to meet the candidates who are running for three open seats on the OPA Board of Directors.

The Elections Committee is seeking questions from residents. Residents are invited to submit questions by calling the Elections Committee Telephone Hotline on 410-208-3989 or sending questions by email to bwentworth104@verizon.net. The deadline for submitting questions is June 15.

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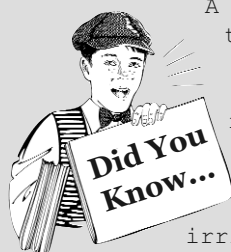
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2012 Business of the Year

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Pearl is the birthstone for the month of June. It is also the accepted anniversary gemstone for the 3rd and 30th years of marriage.



A pearl is the product of an oyster's defense mechanism. When a foreign irritant is introduced either by man (cultured) or naturally, the oyster immediately surrounds it with layers of a substance called nacre. This forms the exquisite gemstone known as pearl.

Alexandrite the traditional birthstone for June is a beautiful, but very rare stone. It is very difficult to find natural alexandrite. Most alexandrites on the market are synthetic or created. Alexandrite rings are very beautiful. If alexandrite is set in a ring, the wearer can watch the color change from green to red, mauve or brown in incandescent light.

Health, weight programs offered

Interested in losing weight? Need more information about reducing your diabetes risk and controlling pre-diabetes? The Diabetes Education Program at Peninsula Regional Medical Center is offering a Weight Management/Pre-Diabetes Program class session on three consecutive Wednesdays on July 13, 20 and 27 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Peninsula Regional Medical Center. The program has been designed to provide



participants information on developing healthy eating habits and leading a more active lifestyle. The program is taught by registered dietitians and registered nurses of the PRMC Diabetes Education Program. The fee is \$50.00.

For more information on this class session or if you have questions about diabetes, please call the Diabetes Education Program at Peninsula Regional at 410-543-7061. Register online at www.peninsula.org in the Classes and Events section.

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adjustments. Increased by \$140,712 for the inmate medical contract with additional medical coverage. Increased by \$136,185 for a new transportation vehicle, replacement of the camera system and replacement equipment for the Jail's sprinkler system.

Volunteer Fire and Ambulance increased \$198,247. Fire Company Grants increased by \$100,000 due to an increased base grant of \$235,000 for each volunteer fire company (additional \$10,000 per fire company) which also reflects increased property assessments applied to existing formulas. Ambulance Grants increased \$64,828 based on the funding formulas and additional personnel staffing

Public Works - Maintenance Division decreased \$159. Increased by \$96,024 in salaries and includes 2 new Building Maintenance



Book delivery - Students from Seaside Christian Academy received reading books and book bags from the McGuffey Bookworm Club, a summer reading program sponsored by the Worcester County Commission for Women and Friends of the Commission. Pictured above are **Diane McGraw, Janet Balbo, and Cindi Roman** with the first, second, and third grade students.

Arts Center to host garden day, open house

The public is invited to the free Community Garden Day and open house on Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th Street bay-side.

The planting of the community garden in front of the Arts Center is the culmination of the Free Family Art Days grant from PNC where families gathered throughout the winter and spring to make a garden-themed project.

Anyone interested in gardening and art is invited to this free community celebration.

The event will begin indoors with a welcome and short video presentation about monarch butterflies then everyone will gather outside for a ribbon cutting/dedication. There will be make-and-take art stations for kids and complementary refreshments. The Lower Shore Land Trust will have information about their organization.

Support comes from the Town of Ocean City, Lower Shore Land Trust and the PNC foundation.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street is the home of the Art League of Ocean City, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, programs and community art events. The arts center is supported by memberships, donations, sales of art, and corporate and civic funding.

please see **budget** on page 6

Men and fathers

It a few days it will be Sunday. That's certainly not a revelation that will surprise anyone. It will be like every other Sunday, coming after Saturday and before Monday. This particular day though has a unique designation. It's Father's Day. And for that reason it is an exceptionally



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

extraordinary twenty-four hour period.

Fathers come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. They are unique individuals who bring their own perspective to the family dynamic. Children learn all sorts of things from fathers, sometimes without them even realizing it. Fathers can extol about experiences, life lessons and how to throw a ball or bait a hook. Their words are listened to, not always willingly, and their actions are watched and sometimes mimicked.

Fathers are role models and they aren't always a biological parent. Regardless, they are men who inspire and encourage children. Each of us has had some male figure in our life who has filled that role. That's what this Sunday honors.

My earliest childhood memories are of my grandfather, my mother's father. He was a huge presence in my life from a very young age. He was a handsome Italian man, muscular from his many years working the fields as child, and later as a laborer and carpenter. His fingers were as round as rolls of nickels, thick but roughly soft. He didn't get past the sixth grade having had to leave school to work in the fields to help support his family. Yet, he possessed an innate understanding of things and people. He could add and subtract fractions in his head. As a second generation American, he lived the American life that his parents dreamed when they decided to leave Italy, voyage across the Atlantic, landing with so many others at Ellis Island.

He experienced his share of struggle, disappointment and sadness. At a young age he became a widower with two young sons. A few years later, he married my grandmother. He was not a man to talk about sadness or disappointment. His was quiet about such matters.

However, he was never quiet when a good time was at hand. He was the first

on the dance floor and always seemed to have a full dance card. His laugh prompted others to do the same. He loved sports and for a time played minor league baseball, very minor league. He was never a stuffed shirt and even when dressed in his Sunday best, he relished

getting on the floor with the kids for horseplay. Often other men in the family scoffed at his antics but he didn't care and that's what made him so endearing.

He had a strict code about certain things. Maybe it was old fashioned but it was his

way and that was that. Yet he wasn't above bending the rules, especially when it suited his purposes. I learned so much from him. The older I get the more appreciative I am of my time with him.

I cried uncontrollably for days when he died at age 70. I was 19 at the time. His memory remains vibrant. He is known by my children because of well worn stories retold countless times. Admittedly the stories have been embellished somewhat through the years. He has become a part of them even though they've never met. And that makes me happy because each time a story is told, each time one of my kids asks for a "Gramps" story, he receives the honor and respect he richly deserves. A simple, but expressively attractive pencil portrait of him hangs in our home so he's always part of the action. Our youngest son's middle name is a tribute to the man known as Gramps.

The middle name of our oldest son is a tribute to another man who was a large presence in our lives, my father-in-law, a man who served his country as a career army officer and who could tell jokes like no one I ever met. My children were quite fortunate to have such a grandfather. He had an infectious sense of humor that was, also fortunate for my children, passed along to my wife.

He too endured his share of setbacks and disappointments. But like my grandfather, he was quiet about such matters. He never talked in detail about his two tours in Vietnam. When the ravages of a despicable disease took hold of him during the last two years of his life, he carried on the best he could with a laugh and a smile. With great dignity, courage and no resentment, he showed those around him exactly what made him so special.

My sons could not have been named after two more uncommon, exceptional men.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

	FY2017 Approved Budget	FY2016 Approved Budget	Dollar Variance +/- FY2017
County Appropriation	\$81,193,802*	\$76,766,472	+4,427,330
County Appropriation - Retirement Expense for Non Teachers	\$456,337	\$452,674	+3,663
County Appropriation – County Share of Teacher Pension	0*	\$1,952,488	-1,952,488
Sub-Total County Appropriation	<u>\$81,650,139</u>	<u>\$79,171,634</u>	<u>+2,478,505</u>
State and Other Funding Sources	19,759,725	19,795,178	-35,453
Sub-Total Unrestricted Budget	<u>\$101,409,864</u>	<u>\$98,966,812</u>	<u>+2,443,052</u>
Restricted: State and Federal Programs	\$ 5,865,000	\$6,087,000	-222,000
Restricted: State funded Teachers Retirement & Pensions	\$6,937,419	\$6,863,885	+73,534
Total	<u>\$114,212,283</u>	<u>\$111,917,697</u>	<u>+2,294,586</u>

*Fiscal 2017 required Maintenance of Effort (MOE) level of \$79,480,752 is affected by two changes:
MOE calculated under Section 5-202(d) of the Education Article must be based on the total per pupil appropriation for FY16 including the amount added into FY16 for the Local Share of Teacher pension, enacted as Section 18 of BRFA of 2012, special session #1.
The required 1% increase equates to an additional funding estimate of \$761,792 for FY2017.
An MOE escalator provision will take effect in FY17. This provision was enacted as part of Senate Bill 848 of 2012, Section 5-202(d)(ii)2. Although the escalator was set to take effect in FY15, the statewide average was negative for FY15 and FY16.

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to cover Public Landing boat ramp improvements and increased by \$50,000 for Shell Mill parking lot resurfacing, both to be reimbursed by Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 100% to the County. Decreased \$30,000 due to current year funding for Taylor Landing crabbing pier

Wor-Wic Community College increased \$143,719. Increased by \$143,719; Worcester County local funding allocation is 29.2%

Recreation Department increased \$20,315. Increased by \$39,253 in salaries and includes a Recreation Program Manager I. Decreased by \$49,651 in Program Open Space grants from the State. Increased by \$31,460 in various Recreation Programs and the new fitness center

Taxes shared with Towns increased \$343,500 for income taxes passed through to Towns.

Grants to Towns increased

\$97,000. Increased \$134,000 in grants to Towns and Ocean Pines Association. Decreased by \$37,000 for pass through fire grants to Municipalities and Ocean Pines Association based on actual credit runs

Insurance & Benefits increased by \$1,957,340. Increased by \$398,529 based on an estimated increase of 4.6% for health benefits. Increased by \$1,000,000 for transfer to Other Post Employment Benefits. Increased by \$272,830 for Retirement contributions due to increased State rates. Increased by \$158,598 for Workers Compensation insurance. Increased by \$26,714 in property & liability insurance due to a premium increase. Debt Service increased \$221,013. Increased due to 2015 bond for County projects and existing debt. Interfund Charges decreased \$318,784. Increased by \$663,294 for Transfers Out to Recycling for the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Increased by \$504,505 for Transfers Out to Homeowner Convenience Centers for the Solid Waste Enter-

prise Fund. Decreased by \$1,486,583 for Transfer to Budget Stabilization Fund in the current year

Salary accounts increased for eligible employees with a step increment of 2.5% in July 2016 and a mid-year step increment of 2.5% in January 2017. Also included is a longevity bonus for eligible employees with at least 20-years of County service.

Since July 1, 2008, County employees have only received one step increment over the past seven fiscal years due to the economic downturn. Providing a mid-year step increment will benefit seasoned employees in recognition of their years of experience with the County.

Board of Education

The County allocation for the Board of Education’s operating budget is \$81,650,139, an increase of \$2,478,505 over the current year adopted budget. See chart above.

School Construction debt is paid by the County on behalf of the

Board of Education. It is not reflected in the Board’s budget; however, it is included in the County’s operating budget. The Board’s approved Operating budget of \$81,650,139 plus debt service of \$10,765,450 totals \$92,415,589 or 49% of the County’s total estimated revenue.

Board of Education budget increases:

The salary package for the Board of Education reflects a payroll increase of 2.3%, which includes a step, longevity step for those eligible and 1% for those beyond steps.

The bus contracts account increase over FY16 is \$40,132 and reflects a 1% increase to bus contractor’s hourly rate and mileage rate effective July 1, 2016. An additional \$56,064 is included for contractors purchasing 7 new buses.

Starting Teacher pay will increase 2.2% from \$42,433 to \$43,384. In FY17 step 1 will be increased by \$951 to be the same pay as step 2.

Fixed Charges increased \$2,847,011 over the current year budget

Increased by \$2,111,321 for the Board of Education’s Local Share of Teacher Pension now included in the MOE calculation

Increased by \$735,690 for health insurance and social security

The total FY2017 Worcester County Education funding per student based on the estimated student population of 6,660 equates to \$16,843 per student, an increase of \$360 per student over the current year budget.

Opiate meeting scheduled

On Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m., the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction will have a meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City located at 1301 Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City. For further information contact Heidi at 302-381-0569.

Pine-eer Craft Club to meet

The next meeting of the Pine’eer Craft Club will be Thursday, June 16. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and take place at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Courier Bookshelf

by Dolores E. Pike



Brooklyn

by Colm Toibin

Books for review come under my radar through a variety of antennae. In this instance there was “Brooklyn” a novel by Irish author Colm Toibin, which was made into a motion picture and shown in movie theatres last year. It was a low key movie – wasn’t given much hype, so it travelled mostly by word of mouth. But people liked it as evidenced the night I saw it because there were few vacant seats remaining by the time I slid in after the previews had finished. It is a standard boy-meets-girl movie with setting in the 1950s and for all those who fondly remember the times Mr. Toibin’s attention to every detail is smack on, including a nod to “Singin in the Rain.”



When a novel strong enough to curry interest from a movie producer surfaces, there must surely be something of note and thus I couldn’t wait to read the book. As such it was my introduction to, for me, a new author; always an exciting adventure for any reader. And I was apparently way behind the curve since this is his sixth book which, by the way, was under consideration for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction (known simply as the Booker Prize, a literary award presented each year for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the United Kingdom).

The story told in “Brooklyn” is deceptively basic. Eilis (pronounced “Alelish” and meaning God’s own) lives with her widowed mother and older sister in a small town in Ireland. There are few jobs to be had and her brothers have already left home for greener pastures. At age 20 Eilis can

only find part-time work with a snoopy-gossipy shop owner, when a hometown priest now serving a parish in America finds her a job, sponsor and place to live – Brooklyn, New York. Working as a salesgirl by day and attending bookkeeping classes at night she manages to overcome her initial homesickness. When the parish begins sponsoring Friday night dances, Eilis meets Tony, a nice young man, who is a plumber by trade and

son of Italian immigrants. And thus the serious courtship begins and flourishes until Eilis must make a trip back to Ireland and becomes reacquainted with a young man of means and strong promise. In its plot of simplicity, immensely complex characters are revealed.

Mr. Toibin glides with us pleasantly through what used to be the ritual of a courtship, the highs and lows of a young man and woman exploring a possible future together. They go to the dances, to dinner, to the movies, to Coney Island and to a Dodgers’ game – the man who lives with his parents dating the woman who lives with strangers in a boarding house. We are given eye and ear into the familial relationships at Tony’s dinner table and then juxtapositioned against the catty bickerings and testy relationships of

the women who gather for an evening meal at Eilis’s boarding house.

If you are looking for swift action – this is not the book for you. But if you are looking for probing examples of human nature at its best as well its worst, you might just start here. Mr. Toibin renders simple settings and then segues into deeper relationships where all of a sudden everything becomes complex. For example on the return to Ireland Eilis’s old employer endeavors to maliciously embarrass Eilis, only to, unwittingly, help the young girl recognize the obstacles that have clouded her mind, allowing her to finally make the decision she has been putting aside.

Only a skilled writer can transform everyday experiences encountered, or

*please see **brooklyn** on page 11*

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Early in my practice years, a woman came to my office complaining of abdominal pain. She seemed to be in considerable distress and appeared to have early jaundice. I felt her abdomen and felt a mass that was tender and ominous. I suspected she had an abdominal tumor of some kind. Further examination revealed numbers tattooed on her left arm. Tests showed she probably had carcinoma of the pancreas, and it was already widespread and almost certainly terminal.

She told me she was a Jew from Poland. When the Germans invaded, her whole family was arrested and put into the Warsaw Ghetto. A catholic Polish woman smuggled her out of the Ghetto by hiding her in a cart under a blanket. The woman had a dog that she had trained to bark at the sight of a uniform. The dog always barked loudly when she went in and out of the gate to the Ghetto. The soldiers didn't want to get involved with the dog, so she was able to save many children before her home was raided.

The Polish family was arrested and Bella was sent to Treblinka, a

Bella

By Dr. Joseph Palmisano

combination work and extermination camp. Over one million people were executed there. She never saw her family again. The Ghetto was razed, and the inmates were either killed or sent to extermination camps.

She received her tattoo and was put to work cleaning kitchens. A guard took a liking to her and let her live, although she was starved and contracted lice and ringworm. She managed to survive until she was liberated by the Russians. Somehow she got to America as a displaced person. She lived in foster homes until she got older, then she married and had a son.

Here I was, face to face with the reality of history. Not something you read in a book, but an actual person who had lived it. People like her didn't go to doctors unless they were very ill. They mostly knew what doctors did to prisoners in concentration camps. She explained her past and begged me to look after

her eight year old son when she was gone. She knew she was going to die and refused further treatment except for pain relief. She didn't seem to have much confidence in her husband.

I visited her weekly as she was dying and explained to her husband what was going to happen. When she died I took care of her son and husband until they finally disappeared. I never saw them again.

Several years later, on a trip to Europe, I decided to visit several of the Death Camps. There is Auschwitz in Poland, and Dachau, only ten miles from Munich, known as the fun city of Germany, and the home of the Oktoberfest. Those visits were among the most moving experiences of my life. There were whole rooms filled with hair, glasses, suitcases with names on

them, and anything else the Nazis thought they could use. We saw the gas chambers, ovens, gallows, barracks, and thousands of poignant letters and drawings from doomed inmates. And, over the entrance of each camp was a large sign in wrought iron,

"Arbeit Macht Frei," meaning "Work Makes Freedom" and meant to keep the inmates from rebelling. I am so glad General Eisenhower

forced the local populous to see this, so it couldn't be denied. After this experience, it was clear to me why we had to have such an enormity as the Second World War.

Bella remains a true memory of the Holocaust to me.

Dr. Joseph Palmisano is a new columnist who will be featured monthly in The Courier. He will share insights about World War II.

He resides in Ocean Pines and is the author of "Doctor Joe, A Family Doctor in the Twentieth Century."



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Welcome

Ocean City Aviation Club
President **Ray Unger**
(seated) welcomed new member **Teresa Obesan** as well as the other members at the Ocean City Airport. Photo by Anna Foults.

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Club to meet

Ocean City Parrothead will hold a club social on Tuesday, June 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All current members and anyone interested in becoming a member are invited to join the group at KY West on 54th Street Coastal Highway for food and drink specials, raffles, games, prizes, and fun. Email ocphc@comcast.net for more information.

Dems open headquarters

The Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County announced the opening of the Worcester County Democrats Blue Election and Learning Center. The center is located in the Village Plaza Business Center on Nicholas Lane in Ocean Pines.

"The center will provide a one step service for Democrats and those that are not Democrats to gain information, signs and opportunities to engage in the process of electing Democrats and turning Worcester County blue," said Josh Nordstrom, chair of the Central Committee.



Rackliffe House Trust board president **Carolyn Cummins** welcomes donors, docents, and friends to the dedication of the new Ann Showell Mariner Memorial Garden at Rackliffe House. Ms. Mariner's grandson, **Garrett Neeb** (left, inside the fence), represented the family at the ceremony.

Rackliffe House dedicates memorial garden

On Sunday, June 5, the Rackliffe House Trust dedicated the new Ann Showell Mariner Memorial Garden in a ceremony at historic Rackliffe House in Berlin. Rackliffe House Trust board president Carolyn Cummins welcomed 60 guests, including donors, docents, and members of the Mariner Family. Father Michael Moyer of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, blessed the kitchen garden, which is named in memory of local resident Ann Showell Mariner, and made possible by her family and friends.

"Ann loved gardens and historic places," said Susan Mariner, Ann's sister-in-law and Rackliffe House Trust board member. "Her husband, A. Reginald (Reggie) Mariner II requested donations to this garden in living memory of Ann, who passed in 2013." Family members in attendance included Jennifer Mariner Neeb and Garrett Neeb.

The Ann Showell Mariner Memorial Garden is an interpretive recreation of the typical kitchen garden Colonial American homes would cultivate, including herbs (for seasoning and preserving food, dyeing cloth, and medicinal uses), as well as vegetables and fruits. This garden includes: flax, used to spin linen; lamb's ear, for wound dressing; several varieties of mint, for medicinal and flavoring purposes; and a number of common culinary herbs, such as rosemary, sage, thyme, and dill.

Kitchen gardens sometimes were located adjacent to kitchens which, in

the 18th and early 19th centuries, often were outbuildings separated from the main house. Enslaved and free servants planted, weeded, watered, and harvested the gardens and also worked

*please see **garden** on page 11*

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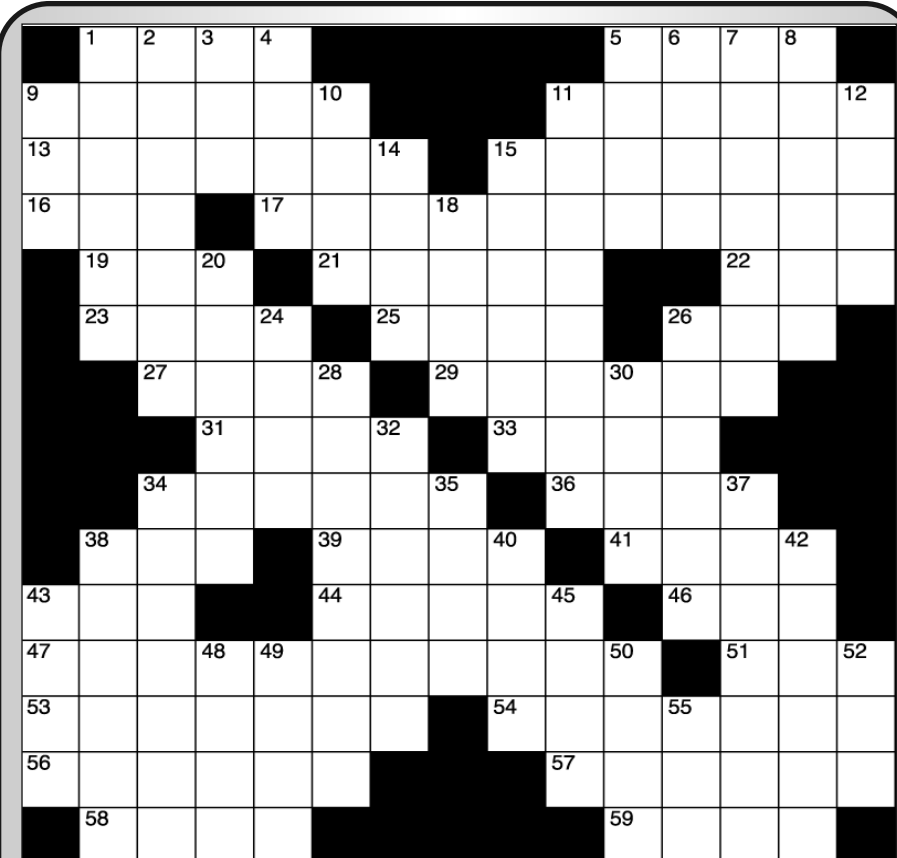
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1. Marvin __, journal-ist
5. Man
9. A fast gait of a horse
11. Stream-lined
13. Rope fastener
15. They get you places
16. Ma
17. Filling sandwich
19. Move away from land
21. Sounds of boredom
22. Tax collector
23. Days (Spanish)
25. Predatory reptile (abbr.)
26. Hengyang Nanyue Airport
27. AJA camera
29. A computer language
31. Blare
33. Prevent from seeing
34. Long-haired dog
36. Turfs
38. Villain
39. At the peak
41. Macadamias are some
43. Chum
44. Not slender
46. Fido is one
47. Acidify with this
51. Before
53. Guided
54. Ex-tended
56. Units of weight
57. Bedding
58. Greek portico
59. De-scended

DOWN
1. Knocked out
2. Vessel that purifies
3. Bachelor of Laws
4. Loud noise
5. __ Sagan, astronomer
6. Mound
7. Coming to light
8. Extreme poverty
9. Jewel
10. Com-moner
11. Disas-ter, com-poser
12. Adult females
14. Mineral
15. Regards with dis-gust
18. Water-proofed canvas
20. Teased
24. Carbon particles
26. Delay
28. Lumi-naries
30. Boxing champ
32. A set of four
34. Most noticeable
35. He played Milton Wad-dams
37. __ Fos-ter, com-poser
38. Succu-lent plant
40. Two
42. Run naked
43. El __, Texas town
45. Female deer (pl.)
48. Art __, around 1920
49. Com-pound
50. Breaks to sleep
52. Doctor of Educa-tion
55. Group of vine-yards

A	R	B	S			M	B	D		A	F	A	R
N	A	O	M	I		C	E	E		D	O	P	A
A	P	L	O	M	B		C	T	N		O	V	E
		A	L	G	A	L		O	A	T		N	E
				G	A	R	Y	K	U	B	I	A	K
		O	C	A	R	I	N	A		E	R	A	S
		A	R	D	E	N	C	Y		N	E	B	
		S	T	O	M	A				Y	E	A	R
				B	M	W			M	A	L	A	R
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		P	O	M	E	R	A	N	I	A	N		
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		R	E	T	E		L	E	D		N	I	D
		D	E	E	S		S	R	O		C	A	K

Captain Ron's Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

Sponsored by Peninsula Rehab and Sport Medicine

Fishing report:
Fishing has been hit or miss between the rain, wind and fog. There are a few reports of some big blues being caught in the bay. Flounder fishing has been slow because of the weather with cloudy water and also quite a bit of grass and slimy algae in the bay. Offshore the head boats are doing well with quite a few good catches of sea bass and also a few flounder. Let's hope this weather pattern soon breaks and we can get in some good flounder fishing in the bays.

In my last column I discussed beginning surf fishing, surf fishing equipment and bait. In this column I'll discuss catching flounder in the surf, where to fish and how to read the water so that you are improving your chances of catching that big one. Also, don't forget you will require a fishing license for surf fishing.

Catching flounder in the surf:
When going surf fishing take along a standard freshwater rod of 6-7 feet with a typical flounder rig at the terminal end of your line. I also prefer to use a fish finder rig with as little weight as possible, just enough weight to allow me to cast a reasonable distance. I will usually use live minnows with a squid strip as an attractor. Once your surf rod is set into your sand spike you can begin casting for flounder. Cast out and slowly retrieve your line the bite will likely occur during the slow retrieve. When you do get a bite, lower your rod to give the flounder time to consume the bait and then raise the rod slowly until you feel the fish and then set the hook. You might also pick up some bluefish using this technique. I have caught quite a few flounder using this technique while surf fishing.

Where to fish:
Almost anywhere along the Ocean City and Assateague shore line is good fishing but remember that there are rules. Check at the Assateague visitor's center for surf fishing rules for the Assateague Surf. In Ocean City during the time the lifeguards are on duty you can only fish before 10 a.m. and after 5:30 p.m. when the lifeguards are off duty.

Also give it a try at Homer Gudel-sky Park on Old Bridge Road in West Ocean City where you can fish any-time.

How to read the water:
Reading the water is a very important part of surf fishing if you want to improve your chances of catching some nice fish. If you think you are going to try fishing, first get yourself a local tide chart which is available from most tackle shops. Next walk the beach in the area you are going to fish at low tide. You are looking for sandbars and cuts between the sandbars indicating deeper water when the tide is in. This is where you will want to fish as the bait fish tend to frequent those areas which are what attracts the big stripers and blues, etc. Also, look for diving birds as this is a good indication there are bait fish in the area. One of the best descriptions I have seen that provides excellent illustrations on how to read the surf was done by a great fisherman named Poppy. The illustrations as well as many other good tips on striper fishing in the surf are available

please see capt. ron on page 11

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garden
from page 9

in the kitchen.

The Ann Showell Mariner Memorial Garden is open year round and is accessible daily by walking behind the Assateague Visitors Center and a half mile down Tom Patton Lane.

Rackliffe House is open for tours every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. as well as the second Saturday of each month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. through October.

Rackliffe House is a restored 1740's merchant-planter's home overlooking Assateague Island and Sinepuxent Bay. Rackliffe House was constructed by Captain Charles Rackliffe, the grandson of one of the earliest English immigrants to Maryland's seaside.

brooklyn
from page 7

hidden, onto the page, leading a reader to pause and ponder, "I never knew anybody else felt that way too." From the claustrophobia of village gossips to the freshness but uncertainty of new environment Mr. Toibin's characters take flight. We have met people like this. He then places them in a wide spectrum of situations - from aching grief to racial inequality as when the department store owner asks Eilis to serve

capt. ron
from page 10

able at the following website, stripersonline.com. If you are really serious about surf fishing take the time to visit this web site and the education will pay off and improve your fishing skills.

Other good web sites to visit:

You will find these web sites also very helpful: www.atlanticanglers.com; want to know how to tie knots try this site, www.anticipated-knots.com; for an always up to date fishing report try Sue Foster's report at www.atbeach.com/fishrpt.html or www.squidoo.com/surf-fishing. Learn more about surf fishing at <http://saltfishing.about.com> and check out the new Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfisherman web site at <http://mssa.atlanticanglers.com>.

Don't forget:

Surf fishing is fun and can be enjoyed by the entire family. It does not need to be expensive. You can outfit yourself for around \$100 to get started. Discuss equipment with your local tackle shops and they will be happy to lead you in the right direction with equipment, bait and where to fish.

Local events to remember:

Ocean Pines Anglers Club Teach-A-Kid-To-Fish Saturday June 18 - 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool.
Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce Third Annual Flounder Tournament Saturday August 6; for information call 410-641-5306.

Until next time remember to take a kid fishing,

Capt. Ron

Maintaining bird feeders and bird baths essential to avian health

Bird watching is a pastime enjoyed by people of all ages. While many people trek into the woods to see their favorite birds, homeowners can take steps to entice these fascinating and feathered friends right to their backyards.

Homeowners who want to attract birds to their properties can do so by providing the birds food, shelter and places to wash up or cool off. Installing a bird feeder and a bird bath in your yard is one way to attract a bevy of winged creatures that can provide hours of enjoyment.

Establishing a bird-friendly envi-

ronment may seem as simple as hanging a feeder on a pole or tree and erecting a bird bath nearby. But a certain level of maintenance is needed to keep birds healthy and happy.

According to the experts at the "Bird Watcher's Digest," recent research indicates feeders can sometimes be a source of disease for the birds visiting them. The Audubon Society echoes that warning, saying that bird feeders and baths can serve as transmission stations for diseases such as aspergillosis, avian pox and salmonellosis. Recently, scientists noted that the spread of trichomonad protozoan parasites is on the rise, especially among mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon populations.

Such warnings are not meant to deter budding birding hobbyists. Or-

ganizations like the Audubon Society hope that such warnings send the message that disinfection and maintenance is necessary to maintain sanitary environments for birds. Doing so is relatively easy and well worth the time for birding enthusiasts.

The Humane Society of the United States advises cleaning hanging feeders once every two weeks or more often if they are heavily used. Ground-feeding designs should be cleaned every two days. Feeders can be immersed in a very-diluted solution of bleach to water (nine parts water to one part bleach). Let soak for a few minutes, and then scrub the feeder with a stiff brush or scouring pad before rinsing. Allow the feeder to dry

please see *avian health* on page 12

Tide and Sun Chart

* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide

DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., June 16	5:13 a.m. 5:44 p.m.	11:19 a.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:26 p.m.
Fri., June 17	5:58 a.m. 6:26 p.m.	12:10 a.m. 12:03 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	8:26 p.m.
Sat., June 18	6:42 a.m. 7:09 p.m.	12:54 a.m. 12:45 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	8:27 p.m.
Sun., June 19	7:25 a.m. 7:51 p.m.	1:36 a.m. 1:27 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	8:27 p.m.
Mon., June 20	8:09 a.m. 8:33 p.m.	2:16 a.m. 2:09 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	8:27 p.m.
Tues., June 21	8:52 a.m. 9:15 p.m.	2:57 a.m. 2:51 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	8:27 p.m.
Wed., June 22	9:36 a.m. 9:58 p.m.	3:39 a.m. 3:34 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	8:28 p.m.

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avian health
from page 11

completely before refilling it with seed.

Bird baths should be emptied of water each day. Brush or wipe the bath

clean, then rinse and refill with fresh water. Do not leave standing water overnight; otherwise bird baths can easily become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other parasites.

Frequently collect discarded seed hulls and clean bird droppings from beneath feeders. If the area around the feeder has become especially soiled, relocate the feeder elsewhere and clean its initial location.

Follow proper instructions with regard to seed and other bird food. For example, reduce the amount of suet offered in hot weather. Heat can cause suet to spoil, and sticky suet can become stuck in bird feathers and make it hard for them to keep clean.

Try to provide more than one feeder and bird bath to prevent overcrowding.

Crowding can contribute to the spread of disease.

Do not situate feeders and bird baths under perches where they can be soiled by droppings.

If you notice birds look sick or are not acting strangely, halt feeding and bathing to prevent healthy birds from becoming ill. Wait a week before resuming feeding and notify wildlife officials if you find dead or sick birds around your property.

Locate feeders and baths at least 30 feet away from windows so birds do not get confused by reflections and collide with the glass.

Store seed in a dry container with a tight-fitting lid to prevent mold from forming and moisture from getting in.

Creating a thriving habitat for bird watching is easier than one might think.

But once birds begin visiting a yard, homeowners must diligently maintain clean feeders and bird baths to ensure the birds stay as healthy as possible. Any questions about wild-bird care can be directed to a local Audubon Society chapter or by visiting a pet store or bird hobby center.

Fire company to offer chicken carryout

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a Fried Chicken Carryout on Sunday, June 26. Chicken will be available between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Half chicken (4 pieces) is \$8 and full chicken (8 pieces) is \$14. A bake table will be available. Call 443-235-2926 to arrange for pre-made carryouts.

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If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway. Call 410-641-6695

Community Calendar

When submitting items for the calendar please include the event name, date, where held, time and a little about the event. Items being considered for the calendar need to be in by noon on Friday. E-mail to thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

Mondays

Ocean Pines Poker Club

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928

Open every Monday through October: **Historic St. Martin's Church Museum.** 1-4 pm. 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, MD. For more information, call 410-251-2849

Sweet Adelines

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Call 410-641-6876.

Mon. & Tues.

Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge

Open bridge games Monday at 12 p.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m. at OP Community Center. Call Mary Stover 410-726-1795

Mon., Wed. & Sat.

Church Thrift Shop

OC Baptist Church's Thrift Shop by Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon. & Wed., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Call 410-251-6971.

Tuesdays

Families Anonymous

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at room 37 in the the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Rte. 589. For more information call Carol at 410-208-4515.

Take off Pounds Sensibly Meeting. Berlin group No. 331, Worcester County Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr., Berlin, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly on Tuesdays. Info: jean-duck47@gmail.com

Tuesdaysand Thursdays

Poker players wanted for Gentlemen's Poker in North Gate

area Ocean Pines. Game played every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Pinehurst Rd. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

Wednesdays

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m. October through April.

Elks Bingo

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

Delmarva Hand Dancing

Dancing at The Fenwick Inn in Ocean City from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Contact 302-934-7951 or info@delmarvahanddancing.com

Rotary Club

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com.

Square Dancing

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

Church Thrift Shop

The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church at Ocean Pines is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-641-5433.

Diakonia Thrift Shop

'Used to be Mine' offers clothing, furniture, household items and more. Proceeds benefit Diakonia shelter and pantry. Located at

Rte. 611 and Sunset Ave. Open 10 - 4. Call 410-213-0243.

Thursdays

Story Time

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

Beach Singles

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577, Kate at 410-524-0649 or Dianne at 302-541-4642.

Legion Bingo

American Legion in Ocean City opens doors at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7. For information call 410-289-3166.

Gamblers Anonymous

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

Fridays

Knights of Columbus Bingo

Bingo will be held behind St. Luke's Church, 100th St. in Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments available. Call 410-524-7994.

Ribbon cuttings announced

Two businesses will be recognized with ribbon cutting ceremonies by the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce during open house events.

Absolute Investigative Fingerprinting & Security Services (AIS) will have an open house celebration on Wednesday, June 22

between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., with the ribbon cutting at 11:30 a.m. The event will take place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:30 a.m. AIS is located at 10514 Racetrack Rd, Unit D in Berlin.

Annapolis Boat Sales located at 10422 Racetrack Road in Berlin will have its open house on Saturday, June 25 between noon and 5 p.m., with the ribbon cutting at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce at 410-641-5306.



Field Day Fun - Seaside Christian Academy students participated in the traditional games of Field Day, including the tug-of-war. Pictured above are students of all ages working hard to pull the other team across the line.

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Lawn & Garden

The majority of grass species have chlorophyll to thank for their appealing green color. Chlorophyll is a bright pigment that absorbs both blue and red light especially well. But chlorophyll largely reflects green light, which is why the yards and fields we spend so much time in are green. And chlorophyll does more than influence the color of grass. Chlorophyll also plays an important role in the process of photosynthesis, during which green plants use sunlight to synthesize foods from carbon dioxide and water. According to LiveScience.com, chlorophyll molecules absorb light and then transfer that energy to special molecules that, when stimulated, fire off electrons that produce chemical changes in the plant. That chemical energy is ultimately turned into sugar, highlighting the essential role that chlorophyll plays in a lawn's survival.

Help plants survive sizzling summer heat

Many people consider summer the most enjoyable time of year, as the summer sun and warm breezes make the season perfect for rest and relaxation. But the months of June, July and August, which are often characterized by rising temperatures and stifling humidity, can be tough to endure as well.

When summer heat becomes especially uncomfortable, humans can simply head indoors and beat the heat in air conditioned buildings and homes. Plant life is not so lucky, and homeowners may need to take steps to help the plant life on their properties survive the summer heat.

Monitor soil moisture. Soil moisture, or a lack thereof, can help home-

owners determine if their plants are struggling to survive the heat. To check soil moisture levels, use a ruler or even your finger, sticking either two inches into the ground where you suspect the soil is drying out. If the soil is damp two inches below the surface, then your plants are likely retaining enough moisture to withstand the heat. If the soil is dry two inches below, then you may want to give the soil a deep soak.

Keep an eye on container gardens. Containers may have an especially difficult time staying moist in the summer heat. That is particularly true for containers that sit in direct sunlight. Water container gardens daily during summer heat waves, being sure to ad-

here to any local water restrictions.

Lay down mulch. Mulch helps insulate and protect soil during summer, when soil can quickly dry out. When applied correctly (ideally before summer temperatures get too hot), mulch helps the soil conserve moisture and prevents weed growth. Weeds can rob soil of the water it needs to promote strong root systems, which can help plants get the nutrients they need to withstand summer heat. Mulched soils also do not experience the fluctuations in temperature that non-mulched soils can experience during summer heat waves, helping plants to grow evenly.

Move plants when possible. Plant location can affect their chances of surviving summer heat. Driveways lined with flowers or other plants may look nice, but driveways exposed to the sun can radiate heat at temperatures that exceed the temperatures noted on the thermometer. If possible,

move plants to locations on your property that are less exposed to the heat and/or less likely to be affected by the heat. Move container plants beneath trees on hot days, and consider summer heat waves before planting new flower beds.

Summer heat can be especially harmful to plant life. But homeowners can employ various strategies to protect the plant life on their properties when temperatures rise during the dog days of summer.



Make the most of mulching

Lawns and gardens can often benefit from the laying of mulch. Mulch serves various purposes in lawns and gardens, and many experienced lawn and garden enthusiasts lay mulch to ensure their properties make it through spring, summer and fall unscathed.

First-time homeowners with little or no landscaping experience may not understand the benefits of mulch, which can be used to strengthen soil and protect properties from the elements.

What is mulch?

Mulch refers to a material spread around or over a plant to enrich and/or insulate its soil. Many homeowners prefer mulch made of wood chips, which is both effective and readily available. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that organic mulches, which include leaves, wood chips, compost or grass clippings, can be used by homeowners who want to develop eco-friendly landscapes.

Why mulch?

Mulching can benefit plants around a property in various ways. Many people lay mulch because the mulch helps soil retain moisture in the summer, when temperatures tend to be at their hottest. This can help plants survive summer heat waves.

Mulch also can be used to suppress weeds. Weeds, which steal moisture plants need to build strong roots and survive summer, need light to grow. When laid correctly, mulch deprives weeds of the light they need to grow. Organic mulches can even provide homes for crickets and a type of beetle that feed on weed seeds.

Mulch also can deter harmful pests depending on the type of mulch homeowners choose. When purchasing mulch, homeowners will have to choose between the aforementioned organic mulch or man-made mulches, which may be made of plastic or rubber. While man-made mulches may repel pests, they also can have adverse effects. Plastic, for example, can heat up in the summer and cause plants to burn. Certain organic mulches can repel insects that can threaten plants. That is because the majority of organic mulches increase the amount of beneficial bacteria in the soil, and they also increase the presence of helpful insects that do not pose a threat to plant life. Those helpful insects help keep harmful insects at bay. Compost is a type of organic mulch that may attract harmful insects. While that does not mean homeowners should shy away from using compost as mulch, they should know that they may need to employ organic insecticides to combat their unwanted guests.

Mulch is a potentially valuable tool homeowners can use to improve the look and health of their properties.



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Ethanol could damage outboard motors

Ethanol, a corn-based fuel that is mixed with traditional gasoline, has been a boon to the fuel industry. It helps to keep costs down and provides a renewable, more eco-friendly option to fuel cars and trucks. While ethanol may perform fine in automobile engines, boat engines may not be so lucky, and some engine manufacturers have expressed concern over the use of ethanol in boat engines.

Gasoline that contains 10 percent ethanol, commonly referred to as E10, is not recommended for outboard motors, particularly older engines. The only way to avoid ethanol is to purchase marine-grade fuel that has none of it. This fuel costs more, but many boaters prefer it because of the risks for costly engine repairs when ethanol is used.

Unlike car engines that burn through a tank of gas quickly and are

used frequently, outboard boat motors are often left to sit until the boat is used again. When ethanol fuel is allowed to sit, the corn alcohol can separate from the gasoline and settle at the bottom of the fuel tank.

Ethanol is also hygroscopic. This means it absorbs water. In high moisture conditions such as those on a boat, this can further exacerbate the separation of ethanol and gasoline. The result is a sludge that forms in the fuel tank. Most outboard engines have their fuel outlet at the bottom of the tank. After being left to sit, the engine will draw in pure ethanol and water that has accumulated, which can muck up the engine and corrode internal parts.

Ethanol also is a strong solvent, and it can dissolve substances in the

engine, potentially clogging fuel ports. Many boat owners have noticed clogged carburetors due to ethanol fuels. Boat service centers have mentioned an increase of engines needing cleaning from oxygenated fuels like ethanol. Buildup in the engine can restrict gas flow and cause the engine to overheat — precipitating a breakdown.

Although many manufacturers and repair shops recommend avoiding ethanol fuel for boats, if they cannot be avoided it is best to heed these tips.

-Buy as little as possible — just

enough to fuel the trip so leftover fuel will not remain sitting in the tank.

-Drain the carburetor on the engine after using ethanol.

-Use a fuel stabilizer that will help prevent separation.

Ethanol is not recommended for all engines, and it may cause costly engine problems on outboard motors when the fuel is allowed to sit in the tank for extended periods of time.

The Ocean Pines Marina offers ethanol-free gasoline as does Croppers Oil on Route 50 in Berlin.



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