



# The Courier

January 6, 2016 Volume 16 Number 19

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## **Women's club to host speaker**

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines will meet on Thursday, January 7, 10 a.m. noon in the As-sateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center with speaker Dr. Tracy Rush. Dr. Rush provides professional chiropractic care in Berlin. She has extensive training in nutrition and its value in the healing process. Light refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to participate in a 50/50 Raffle. For information, contact Dianna Bolyard at 410-208-9326.

## **WCCW to meet**

The Worcester County Commission for Women (WCCW) will meet on Tuesday, January 19 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library (large room). The purpose of the WCCW is to promote social, education, and economic equality for women in Worcester County. The meeting is open to the public and women of all ages are invited to attend.

The group seeks volunteers for short-term assignments such as grant writing, fundraising, and event planning. For information contact Chair L. Eloise Henry-Gordy at 443-235-3124.

## **Bishopville VFD to host bingo**

On Friday, January 8, the Bishopville VFD Auxiliary will hold a Basket and Gift Card Bingo at the main station. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early Bird games start at 6 p.m. and regular games begin at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Food and beverage available. Call 410-352-3101 for advance tickets.

## **Classes offered to reduce diabetes risk**

Get fit, lose weight, and improve your health with certified lifestyle coaches through group sessions beginning January 13 in Berlin. The Lifestyle Balance program is a year-long, healthy eating, physical activity, and weight loss program that has been proven effective in reducing the risk for type 2 diabetes and other chronic health problems, assisting in weight loss and maintenance of a healthy body weight, and decreasing the risk for heart disease and stroke.

please see **briefs** on page 12



**Concert success - Alane Capen**, president of Coastal Hospice, receives a \$2,600 donation from musician **Jimmy Charles** at his concert at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on December 17. A capacity crowd turned out for the benefit of Coastal Hospice's "Be An Angel" campaign that raises funds for the charity care provided by the non-profit.



# Free screening of veterans film offered

Twenty-two American veterans and active duty military personnel die by suicide every day. "Project 22," an uplifting and hopeful film that addresses this epidemic, will be shown at the Church of the Holy Spirit, at Coastal Highway and 100<sup>th</sup> Street, on Saturday, January 9. Doors open at 1 p.m. that afternoon and the film begins at 1:15. There is no admission charge and the general public is invited.

The free screening is made possible by a partnership among the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program and local churches.

From the film's makers: "After tragedy struck home...two combat-wounded veterans set out to end a little-known epidemic in America. Their

6500-mile cross-country mission was to raise awareness of the high rate of suicide among veterans and to show their brothers and sisters-in-arms that there is hope for them. During their journey, they interviewed researchers, healthcare providers and veterans. Many of those they encountered had either contemplated or attempted suicide and were able to share the lifesaving sources of hope that they had found.

Asking hard-hitting questions and opening up about their own struggles, and painfully stirred on by the estimate that 22 veterans are taking their own lives every single day, Daniel and Doc will stop at nothing to reach tomorrow's 22."

"The young men and women re-

turning from combat have seen and experienced things that are so horrible as to be unimaginable to those of us on the home front," said Klump Program Secretary Ron Pilling. "We owe it to them to help them find a way to deal with the horrific scenes that confront them every day, and to help them get beyond the ingrained warrior culture that can be a wall between them and healing. Daniel and Doc do that in *Project 22*, riding their motorcycles across the country in 22 days, and sharing the stories of those who have survived their suicidal thoughts and actions. It isn't enough to wave flags and hang banners to welcome them home. We must all do more to assure their happiness and safety."

A discussion session led by a Sui-

cide Prevention Outreach Specialist and a veteran will follow the screening of the film. Information on crisis response resources and veterans' services will also be available.

To learn more about the screening, call the Church of the Holy Spirit at (410) 732-1973 or the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund at (443) 982-2716.

## Arts Center opens with visual, writing event

"Shared Visions" is the opening show for 2016 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, where painters and writers interpret great quotations.

The public is invited to the free, opening reception for the writers and artists on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, January 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Arts Center on 94<sup>th</sup> St. bay-side.

"Shared Visions" is a partnership between the Art League of Ocean City and the Ocean City branch of the Worcester County Library, home of the Ocean City Writers Group.

"This is the third year for the collaboration," said Rina Thaler, executive director of the Ocean City Center for the Arts. "It is a great coming together of words and images and demonstrates the different forms of self expression."

The Writers Group, headed by Ruth Wanberg-Alcorn, chose several great and historical quotations, and then reinterpreted them in contemporary poetry and short passages. To accompany the writers' words, members of the Art League of Ocean City painted their own interpretations in various media.

On Tuesday, January 19 from 6 to 8 p.m., the Ocean City Writers Group will perform a reading of their work and discuss what inspired them in a free presentation, also open to the public.

The show will run through Jan. 30 at the Arts Center.

Also hanging in the galleries of the Ocean City Center for the Arts is an all-media Artists' Choice show by members of the Art League.

Painter Crystal Collins occupies Studio E in January. A native of the Eastern Shore, she is inspired by the colors and quietness of the landscape and the views of land, sea and marsh.

*please see event on page 12*

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**Donation** - The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary thanks Bennett Termite and Pest Control for their generous tax deductible donation of \$500. This donation will be used towards the purchase of a new fire truck that the department is mandated to buy. Dean and Belinda Bennett challenge all local businesses to meet or exceed their donation within the next two months. A volunteer fire company is only as strong as its neighbors. If you would like to make a donation to the fire company, you can contact us at 410-352-5757 or 443-235-2926.



Recipients of Pine'eer Craft Club Donations are (from left to right): **Officer Brasure**, OP Police Department; **Bill Bounds**, OP Volunteer Fire Department; **Sonya Bounds**, Director-Recreation & Parks; **Jim Hamlin**, OP Neighborhood Watch; **Linda Shanahan**, Veterans Memorial; **Eddie Wells**, OP Public Works; **Patti Hall**, Friends of OP Library; an additional Public Works employee, and **Sharon Puser**, Craft Club President.

## Club donates to community groups

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines recently made donations of \$3,850 to groups within Ocean Pines. The proceeds of the annual August and November Artisan & Craft Shows provided the funds to make these donations possible. The presentations were made prior to the crafters Holiday Luncheon held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. Donations made were as follows:

- \$350.00 OP Police Department
- \$1,200.00 OP Volunteer Fire Department
- \$1,400.00 OP Recreation & Parks
- \$400.00 OP Public Works
- \$200.00 Worcester County Veteran's Memorial

- \$200.00 Friends of Ocean Pines Branch-Worcester County Library
- \$100.00 OP Neighborhood Watch

The Pine'eer Craft Club is looking forward to another productive and creative year in 2016. The group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:45 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center and guests/new members are always welcome.

Be sure to visit their Craft & Gift Shop located in White Horse Park across from the Community Center. The shop is now open year round every Saturday and Sunday and features a variety of hand-crafted items at very reasonable prices.

## Veteran Valentines cards sought

Start the year off by thanking a veteran with a Valentine card that says thank you for your service. For the sixteenth year, cards will be sent to four veteran rehab medical centers to thank them for their sacrifices and to let them know they are loved, appreciated, and not forgotten. All area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to participate with purchased cards (no youth cards, please), but home-made cards are particularly appreciated. No postage is necessary and the card is addressed to "A Veteran."

Through the generosity of Linda Dearing and the Copy Central staff, the cards, plus some candy, will be delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab Center,

Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Perry Point Hospital.

Drop off locations are: Shamrock Realty Group, 11049 Racetrack Rd, Ocean Pines; Copy Central, Cathell RD, Ocean Pines; the Ocean Pines library, the Ocean Pines Community Center and Recreation and Parks Bldg., and other locations as they become available.

The deadline is Wednesday, January 27. For more information, call 410-641-8138 or email at worcester.row@verizon.net or call 443-614-3957 or email at louetta@mcclafin.com. This project is sponsored by Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County.

## Youth basketball league to begin

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will once again offer its popular Hoopsters Basketball League beginning Saturday, January 9 at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The league, which is open to boys and girls ages 7-13, is designed to allow children of all abilities to learn skills and compete in a fun environment.

Participants will be divided into groups based on age and skill level. Dribbling, passing, shooting and offensive and defensive strategy will be taught.

Skills practice sessions will be held

on January 9 and January 16 at 10 a.m. Games will begin on Jan. 30. Registrations will not be accepted after January 14.

The cost to participate is \$50 for Ocean Pines residents and \$60 for nonresidents. For more information or to register, contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at OceanPines.org.

## Wor-Wic offers express registration

Wor-Wic Community College is offering "Smart Start Express Registration," an extended day of spring credit registration services on Thursday, Jan. 7, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

A full range of college experts will be available to help students explore career options, complete admission applications, apply for financial aid, register for classes, buy books, learn about child care opportunities and pay tuition. Students can also complete their placement tests, but they must allow at least three hours to do so.

Wor-Wic offers traditional classes on campus, as well as hybrid, online and interactive television classes, and a variety of session lengths.

Spring credit classes begin Jan.

15.

Visit the college website at [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) or <http://www.worwic.edu> for more information or a credit class schedule.

## SDHS to hold festival

The 6th Annual Arts R Magic festival celebrating the visual and performing arts will be held at Stephen Decatur High School on January 14 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The festival, sponsored by the After School Academy and the English and art departments, showcases student photography, painting, drawing, crafts, as well as student dances, and musical and theatrical performances. Displays and events will be located along the main hallway, in the Media Center, and the auditorium.

# The Courier

*Independently Owned*

P.O. Box 1326  
 Ocean Pines, MD 21811  
 410-641-6695 • fax: 410-641-6688  
 thecourier@delmarvacourier.com  
 www.delmarvacourier.com

**Chip Bertino**

*Publisher/Editor*  
 chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

**Susan Bertino**

*General Manager*

**Mary Adair / Comptroller**

**Contributing Writers**

Betty Cianci, Ron Fisher, Steve Habeger  
 Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx,  
 Betty McDermott, Dolores Pike,  
 Kelsey Reichenberg and Bev Wisch

Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

## 2012 Business of the Year

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Pets play important roles in their owners' lives and are increasingly included in more activities, such as vacations, dining out and even weddings. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters says more couples are customizing their wedding celebrations and bridal parties to include pets. Dogs and cats are turning up in wedding photos as well as trips down the aisle. Some pets even serve as ring bearers. Before giving your pet a job for the wedding, consider his personality and temperament. How does the pet react around crowds? A dog or cat accustomed to a quiet home may behave differently when placed in a room full of excited people. In addition, confirm that pets are allowed inside your ceremony space. Certain venues may not allow animals that are not service dogs. Make sure to inform guests that an animal will be present, so those with allergies can take precautions. If it isn't practical to have animals in the ceremony, give them a primary spot in wedding or engagement photos.



# The Clauses thank the community

**Dear Editor,**

Mrs. Claus and I would like to thank everyone who made our visit so enjoyable this year. We wish especially to thank the following folks.

First, we wish to thank all the children who came to visit us at the pizza party at Community Church and at the Ocean Pines tree lighting and Breakfast with Santa. We hope you enjoyed meeting us as much as we enjoyed meeting you.

We also wish to thank Bob and Kellie Beck of DeNovo's Trattoria, Bill and Mary Jaeger of A Bagel and..., Phyllis Mitchell and Andrea Hastings of Mitchell and Hastings Financial Planners, and Roy and Candy Foreman of our local Kiwanis club for providing us with the candy canes we distribute when we visit the elementary schools.

We thank the principals and staff of Buckingham, Ocean City, and Showell elementary schools for allowing us to visit with the students before the "big day." These visits are the highlight of our season.

Thanks also to the Ocean Pines and Showell fire companies for delivering us safely to Community Church,

Whitehorse Park, and the Recreation Center. Their engines are much warmer and more comfortable than the sleigh.

Kudos to Carol Ludwig and the Delmarva Chorus of Sweet Adelines for allowing us to join them in their performance for the Red Hat ladies of the Parke. We thoroughly enjoyed performing with them.

Our thanks also to Brandywine Assisted Living at Fenwick Island for featuring us as part of their 2016 calendar. We're part of the December page, obviously. Thanks to them also for their donation to the Scholarship Fund of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City.

Further, we thank Venable's Cleaners for taking such good care of Mrs. Claus' gown and Santa's suit, free of charge, for so many years.

A quick thank you to Kiwanis for the lovely gift we received from them at their Christmas party; it was greatly appreciated.

Lastly, we thank Michael and Marilyn James of the Carousel Group for inviting us to distribute gifts at their employees' Christmas party. Thanks

also to our elves Mary and Maddie James, Terry Frey, and Pat Schrawder for helping us to distribute those gifts. We also, on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, thank the Carousel group for their generous donation to their Scholarship Fund.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a happy and healthful 2016.

**Santa and Mrs. Claus**  
*North Pole*

**Editor's Note:** This letter was received by Carol and Al Kastner of Ocean Pines, who shared it with The Courier.



## Catholic school receives scholarship award

Shown in this photo are **Dr. Bela Gulyas** and **Mark Record**, Principal of Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Ocean Pines, Maryland. Dr. Bela Gulyas is shown presenting a donation of \$10,000 to Most Blessed Sacrament School in continuance of Dr. Gulyas' philanthropy to benefit the school's scholarship fund. This bequest is given in memory of Mr. Gulyas' wife, Patricia A. Gulyas, who passed away in 2014. This bequest is the second of five equal donations that will be made to the school. Last year's gift to Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School's scholarship fund benefitted twelve families whose children attend MBS. A parishioner of St. John Neumann Catholic Church and graduate of Trinity Catholic School in Ellicott City, MD, Mrs. Gulyas believed in high quality, versatile Catholic education for children and was a strong supporter of this cause. Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School thanks Mr. Gulyas for his generous donation to the school and its families.



## SDHS math teacher receives WMDT recognition

Tuesday, November 17 was just another ordinary day in the classroom for Stephen Decatur High School math teacher Brenda Hommel where she busily engaged her students in a new mathematical concept, but she and her students were pleasantly surprised when her class was briefly interrupted by representatives from WMDT who honored her as this month's Teacher Who Makes a Difference. Hommel was nominated by her Salisbury University intern, Sylviya Gallo, and was featured on WMDT that evening.

Hommel has been teaching for over 20 years in the Worcester County Public Schools system. She is also a National Board Certified teacher and a former Worcester County Teacher of the Year.

Pictured: WMDT news reporter **Lili Zheng**, Salisbury University intern **Sylviya Gallo**, SDHS math teacher **Brenda Hommel**, WCPS Coordinator of Instruction for Math **Rosemary Heher**, and SDHS Principal **Tom Zimmer**.



# Heels, soles and laces

This week some thoughts about shoes.

Chaos. Disorder. A veritable scene of upheaval. And that's the polite way to describe the bottom of my closet where my shoes are kept. Despite my best efforts at organization my shoes are kept in a mish mashed heap of

the bag was gone and I was no closer to gaining control of my wayward shoes.

Admittedly at the end of the day or when I need to make a quick shoe change I throw my shoes toward the bottom of the closet. Hitting the closet floor is of more interest to me than accuracy in situations like that. So I guess I'm partly to blame. Come to think of it, there are times when I'll slip off my shoes and place them under my bureau for quick retrieval. Although they're handy it doesn't mean they are any more organized. Eventually they get pushed farther under the bureau, usually by the vacuum cleaner. By the time I go looking for them they are encrusted in a multi-tiered layer of dust.

I'm not much of a shoe hound. My tastes are simple really such that when I'm in the shoe store and find a pair I like, say in brown, I'll also purchase a pair in black. It keeps things simple. However this has led to at least two embarrassing situations over the years. I usually get dressed in near darkness so as not to disturb my wife during the early morning hours when I get dressed. As a result I've grabbed shoes from the dark closet, put them on and headed out only to discover later that, you guessed it, one shoe was brown and one shoe was black. An organized shoe closet would not have necessarily avoided this situation but it could have. For the record I'd much rather walk around with different color shoes than bear the wrath of waking my wife during the early morning hours.

Another aspect of my shoe experience is that for the most part I am a creature of habit. I have no compunction to wearing the same shoes on consecutive days. If they're comfortable and match or at least complement what I'm wearing I'm fine. During warm weather, I prefer to wear my flip flops. That's all I need. And if I could get away with it while working, I'd wear them then as well.

Suffice to say I have a problem with my shoes. Maybe at some point down the road I'll find a cure. But until that time arrives I just have to do my best to ensure I'm at least wearing the same shoes in the same color.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

heels, soles and laces.

Why is this? I do not know. It's a situation I've had to manage for as long as I can remember. It's not like I have a plethora of footwear. My collection can be divided into formal (one pair of black leather shoes), casual (two brown pairs, one black pair), play (an old pair of sneakers), summer (a pair of flip flops and a pair of sandals) and work boots (for when I work around the yard). There is also an old pair of casual shoes that have slipped to the level I call knockarounds. And that's about it. Yet, try as I might, I can never seem to maintain order. Shortly after I arrange things in an orderly, descending manner (formal down to knockarounds) I'll find a brown casual shoe left paired with a summer sandal right. And things go downhill from there.

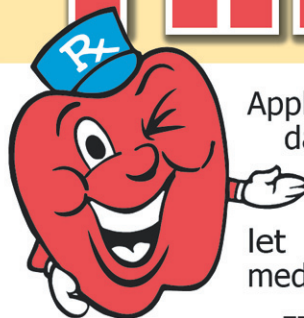
After about a week or so the shoes at the bottom of my closet are arranged more poorly than the Lost and Found at the bus terminal. I just can't understand why.

Many years ago I tried one of those shoe bags that hang on the back of the closet door where there is a pouch for each pair of shoes. In principle the concept should have worked. In reality though, at least for me, it was a disaster. Not all my shoes would fit in the sleeves. I might be able to get the left shoe in but couldn't make the right shoe fit. And then where do the work boots go? In short order I inadvertently ripped one side of a number of the pouches while attempting to insert and retrieve my shoes. Within a week



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## Women Supporting Women welcomes new director

For the first time in 23 years, Women Supporting Women has a new Executive Director. Alaina Van Gelder, who was born and raised in Salisbury, started in her new position with the local breast cancer organization on January 4. Alaina graduated from the University of



**Alaina Van Gelder**

Mary Washington with a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology and is currently pursuing her Master's of Science degree at Wilmington University in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She has worked nationally with Wells Fargo Insurance Services, among other major corporations, and brings over 15 years of business experience and knowledge to the Executive Director position at Women Supporting Women. Alaina has most recently held the position of Community Business Development Manager at Barnes & Noble in Salisbury, covering the Delmarva area.

"I thank Sue, the Board of Directors, our survivors and their loved ones for granting me the opportunity to serve our community in this way. I look forward to continuing with our mission of offering free services and support to anyone af-

ected by breast cancer and hoping to expand by offering new programs. Women Supporting Women has helped my family tremendously and we will continue to do the great work on which the organization was founded," Alaina said.

Her predecessor, Sue Revelle began the organization in 1993, with two other local women. Sue will remain an intricate part of the organization by working part-time at the Salisbury office as the mentoring coordinator and working closely with women diagnosed with breast cancer and their families.

Women Supporting Women is a local, grass-roots non-profit organization dedicated to providing awareness, education and support to all those who are affected by breast cancer. With no national ties or funding, they rely completely on our community to help provide free services to our neighbors, friends and families right here on Delmarva. To learn more about WSW, visit [www.womensupportingwomen.org](http://www.womensupportingwomen.org) or [www.facebook.com/womensupporting-womendelmarva](http://www.facebook.com/womensupporting-womendelmarva), or stop by one of the offices. The Salisbury office is located at 1320 Belmont Avenue, next to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and the Ocean City office is located at 12216 Ocean Gateway, Unit 1500 Ocean City, MD 21842.

## Center hosts 'Feel Better' program

The Regional Cancer Care Center recently hosted a Look Good Feel Better Workshop for local cancer patients. A volunteer beauty professional was on hand to provide advice on skin care and makeup application, as well as wig selection and care, how to care for dry skin and discolored nails, style tips and wearing hats, scarves and turbans.

In conjunction with this event, Lilly's Oncology on Canvas traveling art exhibition was on display in the second floor hallway of the James G. Barrett Medical Office Building.

In 1989, the Look Good Feel Better program was launched with one core belief, that helping cancer patients deal with the side effects of treatment that affect physical appearance can have an

impact that runs more than skin deep. To date, more than 900,000 U.S. cancer



From L to R: American Cancer Society representative, **Arlene Schneider**; **Deborah Wood**; **Donna Varady**; RCCC Medical Office Assistant, **Paige Milbourne**; **Julie Krenzer**; **Bonnie Hardt** and **Laura Windsor**.

patients have participated in the program.

To learn more about the Look Good Feel Better program visit [www.lookgoodfeelbetter.org](http://www.lookgoodfeelbetter.org) or call 800.395.LOOK.



## Ocean Pines P.E.O. chapter raises funds

The Ocean Pines local Chapter AK of P.E.O. raised over \$3,200 at their third annual holiday auction. This philanthropic educational organization is committed to find women increased opportunities for higher education through scholarships, grants and loans. Nearly eighty people attended the November fundraiser held at Ocean Pines Country Club. There were three designated sections which included a silent auction area, a bake sale table and a room dedicated to a live auction which attracted many competitive bidders. A wide range of items such as art work from local artists, an antique bench, holiday decor, gift baskets, certificates from local vendors and many other unique items were sold. The homemade bake sale table, a new feature this year, was very popular. Door prizes and a luncheon completed the day. The organizers of this event included Karen Gerhart, Ginger McGovern and Darlene Murphy.



## Kiwanis celebrates Anna Foulz's 90th birthday

Anna Foulz has been a long-time Honorary Member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City. On January 11, the "Dynamo" will turn 90, therefore Kiwanian **Barbara Peletier**, baked two cakes to celebrate and share with all the Kiwanians at the weekly meeting on December 9. Anna was asked to be the guest speaker to get her to the meeting to surprise her, and she ended up speaking anyway, sharing stories about how she became involved in fundraising. She had everyone laughing and applauding.

Pictured (L-R): A surprised **Anna Foulz**, **Sid Warner** on the microphone, President **Mark Joseph** and Treasurer **Mark Page** in the background, and **Barbara Peletier**.



## SDHS holds food drive

Stephen Decatur High School Student Government Association members boxed over 2500 pounds of canned goods collected from the student body during the annual food drive held the first week of December. SDHS donated all non-perishable goods to Diakonia in West Ocean City.

Pictured: Diakonia representatives **Ken Jones** and **Anna O'Neill** along with Stephen Decatur High School Student Government Association members **Cody Maykrantz**, **Reagan Dunham**, **Olivia Kurtz**, **Caroline Hammond** and **Maury Izzett** who are loading over 2500 pounds of canned goods collected during the annual SDHS food drive.

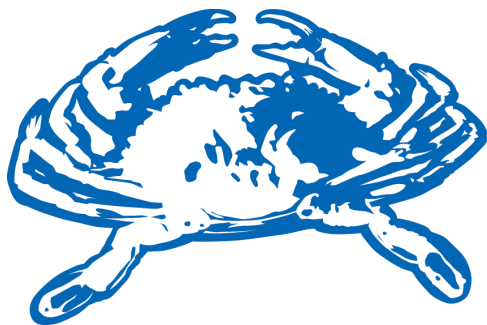


## I Love to Cook!

by Bev Wisch



Happy New Year! Hope that you all had an enjoyable holiday. We spent Christmas with our daughter, Wendy, and her family in Lancaster, PA. All of their six children made it home this year which was a real treat for us. The twins are living in Charlotte, NC and one grandson is in California so it was great to get everyone together and



hear all about their lives. The little great grand-girls were full of energy and so happy to see their aunts and uncles. The kitchen was bustling with everyone having a job and our daughter was the head chef with a beautifully planned weekend of fabulous food. Even the new puppy Ozzie had a perfect holiday. And of course there was football which kept all the guys glued to the TV while the gals cooked.

Now we are into some serious football games coming up that require appetizers for the games. Try some of these hearty treats and you will have an enthusiastic group of fans.

**Mini Oyster Fritters:**  
1-1/2 cups fresh oysters

2 beaten eggs  
1 cup milk  
2 cups flour  
2 t. baking powder  
Salt and pepper

Make a batter of the eggs, milk, flour, baking powder and salt and pepper. Gently stir in the drained oysters and drop by the teaspoonful into hot oil. Cook until light brown, flip over to cook the other side. Drain on paper towels. Serve on platter with cocktail sauce.

### Crab Dip

1 T. horseradish  
1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1 8 oz. cream cheese  
1 small onion grated or finely chopped

1 T. milk  
1 lb. Backfin crabmeat  
1 T. lemon juice  
Old Bay Seasoning

Mix together, sprinkle top lightly with Old Bay and bake in 350 degrees for about 15 minutes or until it bubbles. Serve with crackers or bread sticks. Serve with Melba toast or crackers.

### Crab Claws

The local seafood markets sell cleaned and prepared blue crab cocktail claws. Arrange them on a platter with a cup of sauce in the middle.

Sauce: Equal parts of mayonnaise and sour cream, juice of half lemon, Old Bay Seasoning.

bevwisch@aol.com

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# Get a head-start on tax season

The dawn of a new calendar year often marks the end of the sometimes hectic holiday season. This time of year marks a return to normalcy for many families, as the kids go back to school and parents return to work.

The beginning of January also serves as a great time to start preparing for tax season. While the deadline to file returns may be several months away, getting a head-start allows men and women the chance to organize their tax documents so they are not racing against a deadline come April. The following are a handful of ways to start preparing for your returns now.

-Find last year's return. You will need information from last year's return in order to file this year, so find last year's return and print it out if you plan to hire a professional to work on your return.

-Gather dependents' information. While you might know your own social



security number by heart, if you have dependents, you are going to need their information as well. New parents or adults who started serving as their elderly parents' primary caretakers over the last year will need their kids' and their folks' social security numbers. If you do not have these numbers upon filing, your return will likely be delayed and you might even be denied potentially substantial tax credits.

-Gather your year-end financial statements. If you spent the last year investing, then you will have to pay taxes on any interest earned. Interest earned on the majority of savings accounts is also taxable, so gather all of your year-end financial statements from your assorted accounts in one place. Doing so will make filing your return, whether you do it yourself or work with a professional, go more quickly.

-Speak with your mortgage lender. Homeowners should receive forms documenting their mortgage interest payments for the last year, as the money paid in interest on your home or homes is tax deductible. If these forms are not received in a timely manner, speak with your lender. You might even be able to download them from your lender's secure website.

-Make a list of your charitable contributions. Charitable contributions, no matter how small, are tax deductible. While it is easiest to maintain a list of all charitable donations you make as the year goes on, if you have not done that, then you can make one now. Look for receipts of all contributions, contacting any charities you donated to if you misplaced any receipts.

-Book an appointment with your tax preparation specialist now. As April 15 draws closer, tax preparers' schedules get busier and busier. The earlier you book your appointment, the more likely you are to get a favorable time for that meeting. In addition, if you have gathered all of the information you need by early February, then booking your appointment early means you can file earlier and receive any return you might be eligible for that much quicker.

Tax season might not be right around the corner, but it is never too early to start preparing your return.



## Atlantic General Hospital receives donation

Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary Executive Committee members presented a check for \$45,000 to the president and CEO, Michael Franklin, for the 2016 Annual Appeal (\$40,000) and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Penguin Swim (\$5,000) at its annual membership meeting.

"We are sincerely grateful to the volunteer efforts of the Auxiliary Executive Committee and its members. Their support helps us work toward our mission of providing access to quality care, personalized service and education to improve individual and community health each day," commented AGH president and CEO, Michael Franklin.

Pictured (L-R): Recording Secretary **Barbara Loffler**, Treasurer **Ann Hamilton**, President/CEO AGH **Michael Franklin**, Auxiliary President **Michael Gough** and Auxiliary Vice President **Janice Slaysman**.



**Gift** - Members of the Ocean Pines Hammerheads swim team joined Coach Brooks Ensor in delivering over sixty plush toys to the Emergency Department recently to be given to children that might be spending their holiday there. To learn more about the Ocean Pines Hammerheads swim team visit <https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=recdsaopst>.

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|-------------|-------------|
| <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> |
| October 11  | January 17  |
| November 15 | February 21 |
| December 13 | March 13    |

**Berlin Fire Hall**

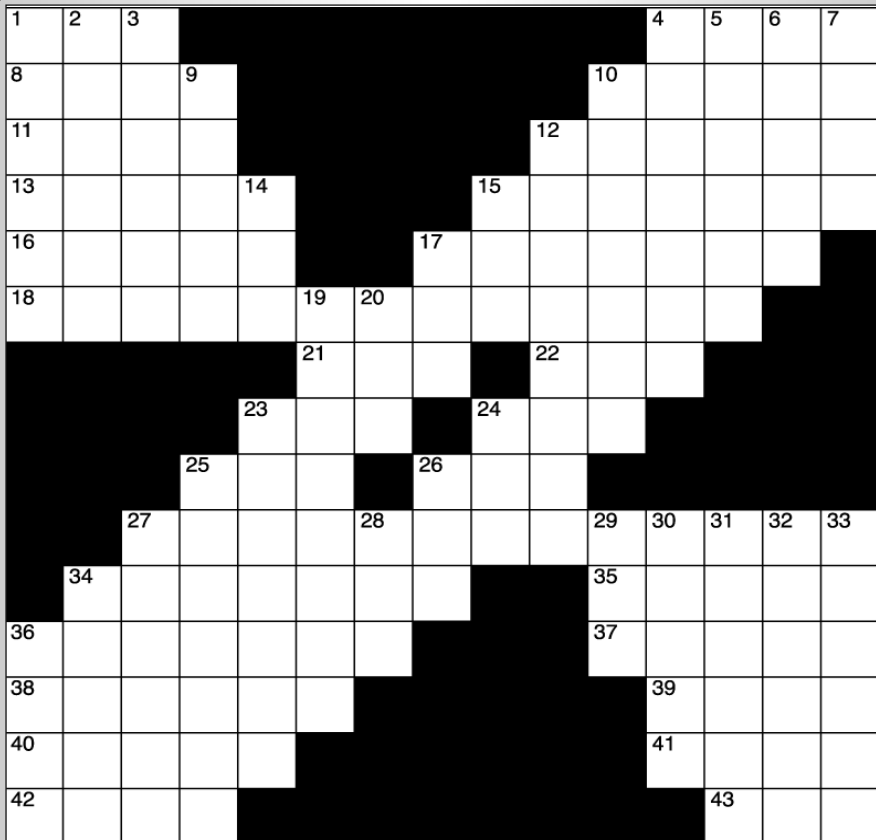
Adults: \$9.00 • Carry-outs: \$7.00  
Children (5-12 years): \$5.00 - Children under 5 eat free!  
(Prices subject to change without notice)

- Menu -  
Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Browns,  
Waffles, Biscuits, Cereals, Coffee, Milk & Juice









**ACROSS**

1. Engine additive  
 4. Soluble ribonucleic acid  
 8. Subdue  
 10. One long, three short  
 11. Morally bad  
 12. With collapsible shelter  
 13. Central church parts  
 15. Summer shoes  
 16. Intestinal  
 17. Transgressors  
 18. Meeting expectations  
 21. Clutch  
 22. Autonomic nervous system  
 23. What you can repeat immediately after perceiving it  
 24. Favorite summer sandwich  
 25. An accountant certified by the state  
 26. Cologne  
 27. Norma Jean Baker  
 34. Galaxies  
 35. Bluish greens  
 36. Detected  
 37. Having 3 dimensions

**DOWN**

1. Having beautiful natural views  
 2. Fanafuti is the capital  
 3. Shrub used for hedges  
 4. Polishing tools  
 5. Slow down  
 6. Christmas carols  
 7. & & &  
 9. Sound of sheep or goat  
 10. A long flag, often tapering  
 12. Atomic #73  
 14. Schilling (abbr.)  
 15. Female sibling  
 17. Long sandwich  
 19. In a way, necessitated  
 20. Mayan people of SW Guatemala

23. Cleaned up  
 24. Prohibit  
 25. Upright cupboard  
 26. Cyclone center  
 27. Metric linear units  
 28. Young male  
 29. Securities market  
 30. City across from Dusseldorf  
 31. Animal disease  
 32. Mount of \_\_\_ east of Jerusalem  
 33. Get free  
 34. Variable stars  
 36. One point N of NE

8. Curb  
 10. Paeon  
 11. Evil  
 12. Tented  
 13. Naves  
 15. Sandals  
 16. Ileac  
 17. Sinners  
 18. Cut the mustard  
 21. Nab  
 22. ANS  
 23. STM  
 24. BLT  
 25. CPA  
 26. Eau  
 27. Marilyn Monroe  
 34. Nebulae  
 35. Teals  
 36. Noticed  
 37. Cubic  
 38. Evened  
 39. Siva  
 40. Bared  
 41. Seep  
 42. Nest  
 43. SSE

**SOLUTIONS**

**ACROSS**

1. STP  
 4. SRNA



Answers for Dec 30

# Eyes on the Skies

## Looking back on lunar exploration

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.

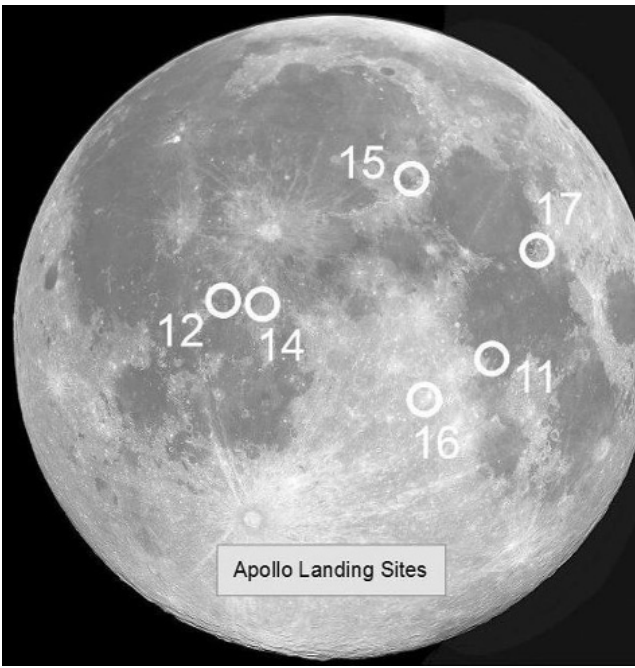


January is here and a nice way to start the year might be to enjoy the winter's brilliant stars. The bright star Sirius and beautiful constellation Orion the Hunter are the highlights of the evening.

For 2016 the column begins a new theme featuring exploration of the solar system, through the technology of space probes. Today's scientists can celebrate how the role of space probes has changed and emerged; it is now far beyond the initial U.S. and Soviets race in space, a competition based on international politics. After the historic Sputnik satellite was launched by the Soviets in 1957, space probes soon begin making close-up scientific observations of the moon in 1959 as well as Venus in 1962 and Mars in 1965. Space probe technology now represents humanity's electrifying explorations of every planet in the solar system, and culminating in the 2015 close flyby of Pluto. Startling new findings have included alien landscapes of active volcanoes on distant planet's moons.

January 1959 when Lunik-1 sailed past the moon and returned information to Earth. In March 1959 the U.S. probe Pioneer-4 flew a similar mission past the moon.

Many, many more missions were necessary to establish the foreknowl-



Apollo Landing Sites

edge of safety before the first journey of American astronauts to the moon in 1969. The U.S. Ranger series of probes from 1962 to 1965 produced more than 17,000 photographs of the moon's surface. A variety of scientific instruments were aboard these early

This month focuses on explorations of Earth's moon. The Soviets

please see eyes on page 11

### 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., January 7  | 5:12 a.m.<br>5:25 p.m.  | 11:36 a.m.<br>11:32 p.m. | 7:18 a.m. | 4:56 p.m. |
| Fri., January 8   | 5:57 a.m.<br>6:11 p.m.  | 12:22 p.m.               | 7:17 a.m. | 4:56 p.m. |
| Sat., January 9   | 6:42 a.m.<br>6:57 p.m.  | 12:17 a.m.<br>1:06 p.m.  | 7:17 a.m. | 4:57 p.m. |
| Sun., January 10  | 7:27 a.m.<br>7:44 p.m.  | 1:03 a.m.<br>1:50 p.m.   | 7:17 a.m. | 4:58 p.m. |
| Mon., January 11  | 8:13 a.m.<br>8:31 p.m.  | 1:48 a.m.<br>2:34 p.m.   | 7:17 a.m. | 4:59 p.m. |
| Tues., January 12 | 8:58 a.m.<br>9:19 p.m.  | 2:35 a.m.<br>3:20 p.m.   | 7:17 a.m. | 5:00 p.m. |
| Wed., January 13  | 9:45 a.m.<br>10:09 p.m. | 3:25 a.m.<br>4:08 p.m.   | 7:17 a.m. | 5:01 p.m. |



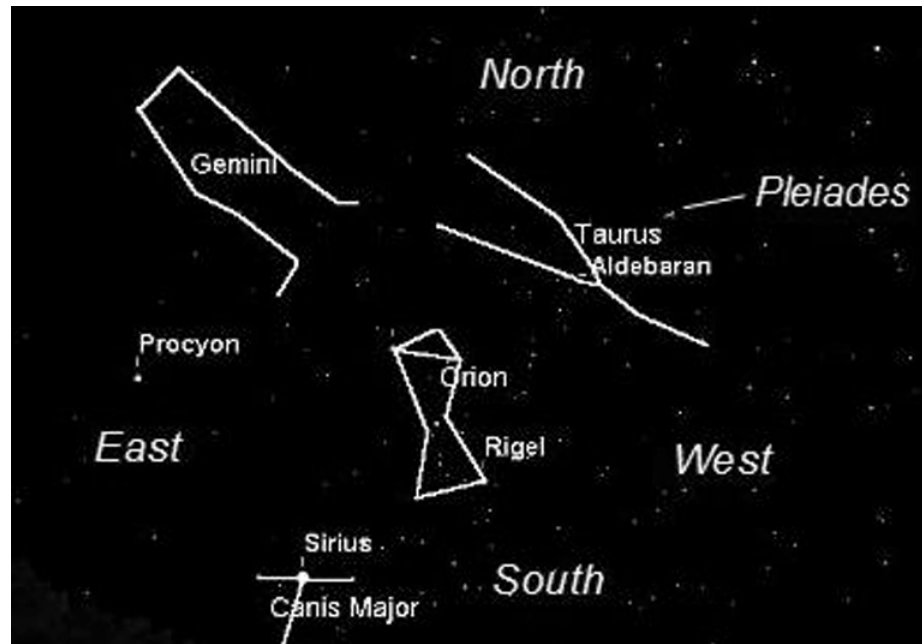
eyes  
from page 10

probes including magnetometer, seismometer, and electrostatic analyzer, among others.

The unmanned Surveyor probes were robotic soft-landing missions designed to locate safe sites on the moon for human landings. Surveyor-1 successfully landed in June 1966 and returned more than 10,000 photographs. The seven Surveyor missions concluded in early 1968 after exploring regions of lunar terrain suitable for manned landings. In addition, these probes took readings of the lunar surface, including soil composition and bearing strength. Such data answered the question: Would the lunar surface be solid enough to support a heavy spacecraft, or would the craft be swallowed into the lunar dust? The first manned spacecraft to land was the Apollo-11 Lunar Module weighing more than 32,000 lbs. (still about 3 tons at the moon's lower gravity).

In May 1969, a final trial was performed. Apollo-10 successfully performed all of the lunar flight maneuvers as they orbited above the moon. The Command Module was orbiting as the Lunar Module was released, and was descending toward the lunar surface. Acting according to plan, the descent was stopped about 10 miles above the lunar surface. From that low altitude they were clearly mapping the landing site planned to be used later by Apollo-11. The astronauts Eugene Cernan and Tom Stafford described the terrain as: "generally very smooth . . . with some occasional big craters"

Two months later, in July 1969, came the historic landing of Apollo-11 manned by Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. During their 21 hour moonwalk they collected samples of lunar soil and rocks, and



deployed scientific experiments involving lunar dust, seismic activity, and lunar soil mechanics. Armstrong and Aldrin also set up Laser Retro-Reflectors, which today are the only apparatus still returning results to astronomers.

In total, NASA has launched six successful manned missions, each landing in different regions of the moon. One mission—Apollo-13—suffered a mid-flight accident, which forced the crew to abort the landing but it completed a dangerous flight back to Earth. Although the manned moon landings ended in 1972, many other space explorations have continued to reveal new discoveries.

Stargazers should begin to see most of the evening's stars at about 5:45 p.m. with Taurus the Bull then in the East. Taurus shows the distinctive "V" shaped pattern of stars. The most famous of all Taurus' stars is the orange-hued Aldebaran. Hobbyists may be aware that Taurus contains the well-known Pleiades cluster, which can be seen as a small faint patch. After about 9 p.m., one

can see Orion the Hunter, appearing above the southern horizon and slightly to the east. To the southeast of Orion is Sirius, the brightest star of the entire sky.

Those who don't mind rising early may enjoy a treat on the mornings of January 6 and 7. A conjunction forms as the moon lies close to Venus and Saturn between about 6 and 6:30 a.m. on those mornings over the south-southeastern horizon.

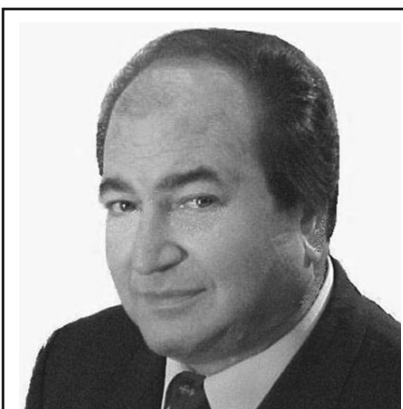
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a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters

are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

[thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)



**Passing** - Ocean Pines resident Mark Venit, passed away December 26. Mark was active in the Ocean Pines community, having served as a member of the community's board of directors between 2003 and 2006. Mark is formerly of Philadelphia. He had two children, Kyle Venit and Gabriel Venit, and four grandchildren.

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**briefs**  
from page 1

If you have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes or have a history of gestational diabetes the Lifestyle Balance program can help you significantly reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. By improving food choices and increasing daily physical activity, you can lose five to seven percent of your body weight which can cut your risk for developing type 2 diabetes in half.

Since 2009 Lifestyle Balance participants have lost a combined total of over 3,500 pounds in Worcester County, and have noticed an improvement in blood pressure, body fat and cholesterol levels as a result of program participation. When asked about the effectiveness of the program, recent participants have stated, "I am so thankful for this program. I truly believe it helped to save my life" and "This program has improved my health significantly, I feel."

*Lifestyle Balance* is taught by CDC National Diabetes Prevention Program trained instructors including a certified exercise specialist, registered dietitian, and a health educator. Classes will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 405 Flower Street, Berlin, starting Monday, January 13. The program will meet on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. for 17 weeks. The program will con-

tinue to meet once/month for the next eight months following conclusion of the initial 17-week core education program. Each session will include an education component and participation in physical activity.

All participants receive their own personal lifestyle change coach who will assist them with goal setting, progress, and overcoming barriers. Program participants also receive incentives such as step counters, resistance bands, cookbooks, and more. To learn more about the program, determine if you qualify for participation, or to enroll, please call 410-632-0056.

## **PRMC diabetes support group to meet**

The Peninsula Regional Medical Center Diabetes Education Department's Diabetes Support Group will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, January 11, in the Avery W. Hall Educational Center Auditorium on the Peninsula Regional campus.

The speaker this month will be Ralph Bunting, PharmD, discussing what is new in diabetes medications.

Whether you, a member of your family or a friend has diabetes, participating in a support group can and will assist you in coping with the concerns the disease brings. Presentations include information on how to better

manage and live with diabetes. Topics vary from month to month, and the group provides an excellent opportunity for all participants to share beneficial ideas and experiences. There are no dues or fees to attend.

For more information about the support group meetings or if you have questions about diabetes, please call the Diabetes Education Program at Peninsula Regional Medical Center at 410-543-7061.

## **Youth indoor sports leagues set**

Indoor Youth Soccer and Basketball Leagues begin Saturday, January 9, at the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) in Snow Hill.

Emphasis for all youth recreation leagues is placed on skill development, participation, sportsmanship, and most of all, kids having fun. Scores and standings are not recorded.

Soccer is open to children ages three through grade eight and will be divided into five, co-ed divisions (Age 3-4, Grades K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, and grades 6-8). The age three to four and the grades K-1 divisions will play on Saturday mornings, grades six through eight on Monday and some Wednesday evenings, Grades four and five on Wednesday or Thursday evenings, and Grades two and three on Thursday evenings. Practices dates, times, and locations are to be deter-

mined.

Basketball is open to children in kindergarten through grade 8 and will consist of four, co-ed divisions (grades K-one, grades two through four, grades five and six, and grades seven and eight). Games will take place every Saturday afternoon. Grades K-one will begin at 1 p.m., Grades two through four at 2:15 p.m., Grades five and six at 3:30 p.m., and grades seven and eight at 4:45 p.m.

The cost for each program is \$30 per player (\$25 for each additional child). Financial aid is available for those who have a demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required. The registration deadline is Thursday, January 7. Those who register after this deadline may not have the request met for certain teams or coaches. There is an additional \$5 fee after the registration deadline. Sign up today for these fun-filled programs.

Volunteer coaches are also needed to run a successful league. Please contact the WCRC prior to January 7, if you are interested in volunteering this winter. An orientation meeting will be held for all interested volunteers.

For more information or to volunteer as a youth coach, contact the WCRC at 410-632-2144 or recandparks@co.worcester.md.us. Visit our website at [www.WorcesterRecandParks.org](http://www.WorcesterRecandParks.org) for a complete list of our youth programs or to sign up for email announcements.

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto:jean-duck47@gmail.com)

## Tuesdays and 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Sundays

Sunday Night Serenity **Al-Anon Family Group** 7:30 p.m. at The Woodlands/Independent Living Apt. Bldg. 1135 Ocean Parkway-Ocean Pines, Md. 21811

## Third Sunday

### **Sharing Sunday**

Bring non-perishable groceries and paper goods to the Ocean Pines southside fire hall 1 -3 p.m. to benefit local food banks.

## Third Monday

### **Democratic Women**

The Democratic Women meet 9:30 a.m. for coffee followed by a meeting at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Guests and new members are welcome.

## Third Tuesday

### **Widows & Widowers Social Club.**

Group meets in Ocean Pines at 1 p.m. for luncheon meeting. Call 410-208-1398.

## Third Wednesday

### **Survivors of Suicide Meeting**

Starts at 6 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department. 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Open to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Quiet listening, caring people, no judgment. For more information, call 410-629-0164 or visit [www.choosetoliveinmaryland.org](http://www.choosetoliveinmaryland.org).

## Fourth Wednesday

### **Marine Corps League**

First State Detachment Marine Corps League raises funds for a variety of charities and meets at 7 p.m. in VFW Post 8296, 66th St. Ocean City. Open to all fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen. Visit [www.firststatemarines.org](http://www.firststatemarines.org).





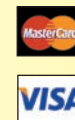
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**The Literary Ladies celebrate**

The members of the "Literary Ladies by the Sea" book club celebrated year 2015 at a luncheon held at "An Inn On the Ocean" in Ocean City.

Pictured here are (left to right): **Marilyn Mengel, Kay Gibbons, Sandy Glassman, Jeanne Stiehl, Sharon Armstrong-Saffran, Marlene Lombardi, Diane McGraw, Shirley Schaefer and Muriel Hinz.**

event  
from page 2

Photographer and writer Charlie Ewers is the Spotlight Artist during January. He currently teaches creative and professional writing at Frostburg State University, and sees fine art photography as the equivalent of creative nonfiction.

The Artisans in Residence for January are Susan Keller and Ed Strough, partners in marriage and jewelry making. Keller specializes in wire-wrapped precious stones, and Stough experiments in chainmaille jewelry.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94<sup>th</sup> 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, corporate and civic funding, donations and sales of art.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org).



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## Simple ways to trim your energy bill this winter

The cost of home ownership can be considerable. One of the expenses that hits first-time homeowners the hardest upon moving into their new homes is the monthly energy bill. While utility bills for apartment dwellers rarely break the bank, those bills grow considerably when men and women are suddenly lighting, heating and cooling an entire house.

Come winter, utility bills can be especially harsh on homeowners' budgets. But there are some simple ways to trim utility bills no matter how low the mercury dips in the coming months.

### Embrace technology

Technology can help homeowners control energy costs in various ways. A programmable thermostat allows men and women to determine when their homes' thermostats turn on so they are not paying to heat an empty home. In addition to programmable thermostats, homeowners can purchase real-time electricity monitors that allow them to track usage and monitor individual rooms and circuits so they can determine where in their homes, if anywhere, they are needlessly wasting energy. In lieu of a porch light you need to leave on all night, install motion-detecting lights so you are not paying to light porches and walkways that are not being used.

### Inspect windows and doors

Windows and doors are often to blame when energy bills start to skyrocket. As homes age, cracks can develop around windows and doors, allowing precious and expensive heat to escape. Caulk around any windows that have cracks (you may feel a draft around such windows) and replace ineffective weather stripping around doors, which is noticeable if light is visible around doors' edges.

### Cover the water heater

Water heaters can quickly lose heat, and that can contribute to higher heating bills as winter temperatures plunge. Water heater blankets are an inexpensive yet effective investment, as they can help water heaters retain heat longer, producing lower heating bills as a result.

### Lower the water heater temperature

Speaking of water heaters, changing their temperature is another simple way to lower utility costs during the winter. According to Energy.gov, homeowners can save between \$12 and \$30 for each 10i F reduction in water heater temperature. Many manufacturers set water heaters at 140i F, but setting the heater to 120i F can lead to considerable cost savings without sacrificing comfort. An added and cost-effective benefit to lowering water heater temperature is that a lower temperature slows mineral buildup and corrosion in water heaters and pipes, reducing the likelihood of costly repairs while extending the life of the water heater.

Winter temperatures can be harsh on homeowners and their wallets. But there are many ways for homeowners to reduce their energy bills no matter how cold it may get this winter.



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