



OCEAN PINES REPORT

COMPLIMENTARY

Your Connection to the Ocean Pines, Maryland Community

Vol. 56, No. 3 | Summer 2024

ELECTION ISSUE

Election season is here!

Five candidates are vying for two open seats on the Board of Directors
pages 3, 48-53

Honoring our volunteers

OPA Board honors nearly 200 volunteers at appreciation dinner
pages 4 & 6



New Yacht Club tiki bar opens

Expanded tiki bar is ready for summer
page 22

Meet Linda Horst

Ocean Pines has its own world-class pickleball instructor
pages 44-45

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Candidate draw results announced

Five candidates are vying for two open seats on the Board of Directors

Results of the 2024 Ocean Pines Association Candidate Draw were announced by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee on May 31.

Drawn at random using a series of playing cards, the results determine ballot order for the 2024 Board of Directors election, and the order candidates are seated during the election forum.

Results were:

1. Sherrie Clifford
2. Jeff Heavner
3. Rick Farr
4. Amy Peck
5. Jerry Murphy

This year, two seats on the Board will be up for election: those currently held by Farr and Heavner. The top-two vote getters will each be elected to a three-year term.

Ballots were mailed in late June and are due back by Tuesday, Aug. 6.

For election questions, email elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989 and leave a message.

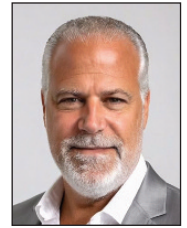
To “Get To Know The Candidates” for the 2024 Ocean Pines Board election and read their answers to questions asked by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee, see pages 48-53.



1. Sherrie Clifford



2. Jeff Heavner



3. Rick Farr



4. Amy Peck



5. Jerry Murphy

Key dates in the election process

Ballot Deadline – Tuesday, Aug. 6 by 4 p.m.

**Ballots counted and vote totals announced
Thursday, Aug. 8 p.m.**

Annual Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m.

Annual meeting notice

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Clubhouse. As per our governing documents, members will be checked in to verify voter eligibility.

Members are urged to arrive at least 30 minutes early to ensure the verification process is completed prior to the meeting start time. Members will be required to provide a valid ID with photo and name.

Instructions on how to attend the meeting virtually for members in good standing can be found at oceanpines.org.

Please note: Public comments are available only for those who attend in person.

The agenda will include: Call to Order, Appointments, Presentation of the Sam Wilkinson Volunteer Award, Ascertainment of Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting, Reports, Unfinished Business, New Business, Elections Committee Report: Validation of Election Results, Public Comments, Adjournment.

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OPA Board honors nearly 200 volunteers at annual appreciation dinner

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors in April hosted its Annual Volunteer Dinner at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

The event is meant to honor the many volunteers, from advisory committees to social and civic groups and public safety organizations, that help make Ocean Pines what it is. This year, roughly 200 volunteers were invited.

Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr acted as the event's emcee.

"This event is meant to recognize with appreciation our dedicated volunteers who selflessly donate their time, skills, and passion to support Ocean Pines," he said. "Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the community we serve. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am truly grateful for your invaluable contributions, enthusiasm, and dedication to serving our great Ocean Pines community."

Farr separately recognized Ocean Pines Advisory Committees: Aquatics, Architectural Review, Budget and Finance, Bylaws and Resolutions, Communications, Elections, Environmental and Natural Assets, Golf, Marine Activities, Racquet Sports, Recreation and Parks, and Strategic Planning.

He also recognized the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, including President Joe Enste and Fire Chief Joe Widgeon, along with the Women's Club of Ocean Pines, Pine'eer Craft Club, and Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Farr and Association Secretary John Latham are Memorial Foundation Board members.

Farr also recognized fellow Ocean Pines Board members Latham, Dr. Stuart Lakernick, Monica Rakowski, Steve Jacobs, Elaine Brady, and Jeff Heavner, all of which serve as volunteers.

Farr also thanked Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola and attending staff, including Police Chief Tim Robinson, Director of Business Administration Linda Martin, Senior Manager Ruth Ann Meyer, and Administrative Assistant Michelle Lane Ross.

"I would like to give special thanks to Linda Martin and Michelle Ross for their incredible assistance in planning and putting this event together," Farr said. "Thank you also to Lia



Isel and the Matt Ortt Company for the food and beverage service this evening."

Also in attendance and recognized were Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Maryland Del. Wayne Hartman, Worcester County Commissioner President Chip Bertino, Ocean Pines Forum founder Joe Reynolds, and Bayside Gazette reporter Tara Fischer.

After the event, Farr again stressed the vital importance of Ocean Pines' many volunteers.

"The volunteer dinner was an absolute success, and we received wonderful feedback and gratitude from our county and state leadership for the invitation to share in the celebration. I and the rest of the Board felt it was our responsibility to not only recognize the advisory committees for their dedication and service, but also the other organizations and clubs that serve our great community," he said.

"It was important to us to recognize the Fire Department for their selfless and dedicated service and for keeping us safe, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation for their recognition and dedication to all our veterans who have served our great country," Farr continued. "We also wanted to recognize the Women's Club, Garden Club, and Pine'eer Craft Club for their many scholarships and outreach programs. All these men and women who volunteer and dedicate their time and service to Ocean Pines help to make our community the best - because they are the best."

For this article, OPA also asked local elected officials for their thoughts on volunteerism.

Del. Wayne Hartman, District 38C:

Volunteerism plays a major role in thriving communities like Ocean Pines. Without our dedicated volunteers, we would not have such an interactive, safe, and exceptional place to live. Serving as a volunteer in any capacity offers many great benefits aside from giving back to your community, such as developing new relationships, feeling a sense of fulfillment, and learning from meaningful experiences.

As a volunteer, you have the power to positively impact the lives of others and create memories that will stay with you forever. Here in Ocean Pines, members of (cont. on pg. 6)





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(cont. from pg. 4) the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department provide an invaluable sense of security and reliability to our residents, visitors, and businesses. Volunteers with the Veterans Memorial Foundation give back by recognizing the sacrifices of military service members in protecting the freedoms we cherish every day. There can never be enough volunteers for these important organizations.

I am inspired to see new volunteer efforts emerge such as the Steel Blue Care Package Project, which is designed to send care packages to active military service members overseas. My wife and I are thankful to live in such a patriotic community that allows people to come out and show appreciation for those who serve.

There are several other opportunities to give back in our area such as volunteering for hospice organizations, homeless shelters, litter cleanup projects, animal shelters, and more. The Worcester County Volunteer Connection is a great way to explore these options - worcestervolunteer.org/og.

Additionally, some of the Worcester County boards and commissions have volunteer positions to be filled. You can make a difference at the county level by serving on the Agricultural Reconciliation Board, the Commission for Women, or the Local Development Council for Ocean Downs Casino. If you are interested in these positions or other county volunteer opportunities, please contact Worcester County to inquire.

I am sincerely appreciative of every person that volunteers in our area. Volunteers make all the difference in establishing a community that helps one another and brings people together. Please consider serving as a volunteer in any way that suits you best, you will not regret it!

Thank you to all volunteers for your devoted and selfless commitments.

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, District 38:

“Volunteers plant seeds of love that help countless hearts grow.”

That’s the quote for me that really sums up the value of volunteerism. When you talk to long-time volunteers about their drive and passion, inevitably it comes back to the deep satisfaction that so many volunteers experience when they give of their time, talent and treasure to others.

That’s the case for me. My experience in being a volunteer Sunday School teacher at St. Mary Star of the Sea-Holy Savior Parish in Ocean City and a storyteller at the Worcester



Veterans Memorial during the fifth-grade field visits have brought me enormous joy over the past several years.

Most of the dynamic people that I have met and know in my life have been volunteers, and whatever their focus with their volunteerism, I have noticed one

consistent characteristic. Almost every volunteer that I know or have worked with are happy people. They just seem to have a contentment and peace that ripples through their friendships and relationships with others in the community.

We are a stronger community with our volunteers, and I want to take time out to thank each and every volunteer across the Shore and State of Maryland who are making our world a better place today and building a brighter tomorrow for future generations.

Chip Bertino, Worcester County Commissioner:

Offering one’s time and talent in pursuit of a better community is a gift without equal. Worcester County and Ocean Pines are imbued with a selfless volunteer spirit amplified many times over by the acts of countless individuals who share their passions, ideas and energies toward a common cause. How fortunate we are.

The Optimists, Kiwanis, Rotary, Garden Club, Veterans Memorial Foundation at Ocean Pines and similar organizations immeasurably enrich our community with unbridled passion and stewardship. The hundreds of individuals serving on county boards and OPA committees illuminate our better angels and ensure a better place for us to call home.

Volunteers endeavor without vanity or fanfare, seeking to make better the lives of those with whom they come in contact. We should all be grateful. I am.

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Guest column: County updates

By Chip Bertino

Worcester County Commissioner President



It's one of the nicest times of year in Ocean Pines. There's a lot of activity around our community and a lot more traffic at the North and South gate entrances. Watch out for bikers, walkers and geese!

During the first half of the year, county government has been focused on hammering out the details of the fiscal year 2025 budget that starts July 1. Bear with me as I share some important points of the county budget, adopted in early June.

The FY25 operating budget is \$261,917,617, a \$26 million (11%) increase over the current budget. The property tax rate of 84.5 cents per \$100 and the local income tax rate of 2.25% remains unchanged.

The FY25 budget includes increased funding for education, public safety and infrastructure.

The approved budget includes \$14.6 million in increased property tax revenues. Income tax revenue increased \$7 million. Revenue from other local taxes increased by \$3.3 million, including a \$1.7 million increase in the recordation tax and a \$1.5 million increase in the transfer tax. It also allows for a salary step plus a 4% cost-of-living adjustment for staff.

Education funding allocations were a consistent topic of conversation among the commissioners. Improvements over last year by the Board of Education (BOE) to provide the county with more transparent budget details were a positive step. In fact, I credit this new transparency with my support of increasing BOE funding above the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) minimum. The new budget allocates \$105.4 million for public education, an increase of \$5.4 million over the current fiscal year.

As part of the FY25 budget, our Ocean Pines community will again receive county funding for various functions. The new budget includes a recreation grant increase of \$20,000 to the Ocean Pines Association. A county police aid grant was approved for \$550,000. Per the County Street Grant agreement, OPA will receive \$195,866, an increase of \$34,441. This is based on Highway User Revenue per miles of Ocean Pines roads.

FY25 funding also includes \$2.67 million in grants to county fire companies and \$8.7 million in ambulance grants, which represents an increase of \$1.5 million and includes supplemental funding for

10 EMS companies to assist with run and personnel costs.

What does this mean for Ocean Pines? County allocations to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department will increase \$16,650, for a total \$266,650. County allocations to the Ocean Pines EMS will increase \$89,682, for a total of \$870,124. This is in addition to the county's allocation to OPVFD for "out-of-town" responses, totaling \$51,000.

The approved budget includes an increase of \$2.7 million to maintain a 15% reserve fund. The state mandated reserve fund is a tool that is vital to the county's emergency preparedness plans and plays a key role in the county's fiscal health and stable bond rating of AA for Fitch, AA+ for Standard and Poor's and Aa2 for Moody's Investor Services. This outstanding bond rating enables Worcester County to borrow money at low interest rates that save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars for capital projects, like the upcoming Buckingham Elementary School (BES) replacement project.

Speaking of BES, the county and BOE, in cooperation with the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), are working toward moving this project forward. As you may recall, the county learned last October that the IAC, citing overcapacity at adjacent schools, had not approved any funding for the BES replacement.

In March, I invited IAC leadership to meet with the commissioners and the BOE to better understand their reasoning for denying funding. This was the first time the county commissioners and their staff had discussions with the IAC.

It was a very productive and informative meeting that in the end offered guidance to the county and the BOE on paths forward that would include IAC funding. To that end, commissioner representatives will soon meet with BOE and IAC officials to ensure this project remains on track. In February, the commissioners committed \$50 million to a new Buckingham Elementary School.

Whether traveling or staying home, enjoy summer! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 443-783-3248 or by email at cbertino@co.worcester.md.us.

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Guest column: Back in the district swing

By **Mary Beth Carozza**
Maryland State Senator for District 38 -
Somerset / Wicomico / Worcester Counties



My numerous visits throughout Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties since the adjournment of the Maryland General Assembly in April have highlighted the many opportunities for my constituents of all ages to pursue their dreams, whether career or retirement, right here on Maryland's Coast.

After participating in 86 events since the end of session (April 8) until the end of the school year (June 13), I am encouraged by the many community partnerships which make for a safe, productive, and enjoyable Shore way of life.

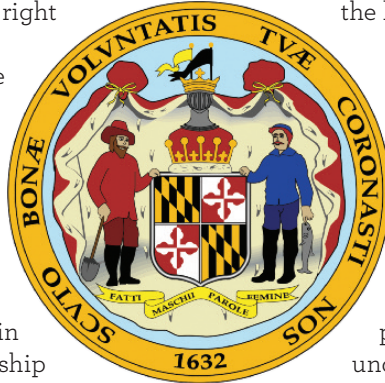
One of my priorities has been to ensure that our young people have career options here on the Shore, which is my motivation in promoting my Maryland Senate Scholarship Program. The Maryland Senate and Delegate scholarships are administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and open only to Maryland students who have been accepted at a Maryland college or university (public or private).

The Senate Scholarship automatically renews for each year the student stays in good academic standing. These awards are designed to encourage local high school graduates and current college students (no age limit) to stay in Maryland, hopefully on the Shore, as they work to secure their career goals.

During this last round of reviewing the 2024 Maryland Senate Scholarship applications, I have awarded 68 scholarships to local students in all three counties. Of these 68 scholarship awards, 40 of the scholarship recipients will be attending either Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, or Wor-Wic Community College, all located in my district. These numbers speak volumes about keeping our student talent here on the Shore.

I also want to recognize and thank the many community service organizations raising money throughout the year to award their scholarships. Earlier in the spring, I joined with the Kiwanis Club in Ocean Pines to recognize the students

receiving the Kiwanis scholarships, and I was encouraged by the positive response of both the students and their families. In many cases, a scholarship award today can make all the difference on the student's ability to stay in school for the long haul.



One of the strongest Shore partnerships is right here in Ocean Pines between the volunteers at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation and the local schools as every fifth-grade class, whether public, private or home schooled, visits the Memorial as their annual field trip. Our local veterans go into the schools a couple days prior to the students coming on site to prepare them for the stories that they will hear under the memorial flags and along Patriot's Pathway.

As one of the docent storytellers for the memorial school visits, I personally have seen the special interaction between our local veterans and students, and it's truly uplifting to watch the seeds of future service being planted right here at our own Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

Reflecting on the past the couple of months, there has been a good mix of constituent events focusing on legislative wrap-up events with local chambers of commerce; business ribbon cuttings like AGHRx Rediscripts on Rt. 589 and the 60th Anniversary of Jolly Roger Amusement Park in Ocean City; community gatherings like Bay Day 2024 hosted by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Ocean Pines Association; and several public safety events including remembrances for Delmar Police Cpl. Keith Heacock and Wicomico County Sheriff's Dept Cpl. Glenn Hilliard, both killed by repeat violent offenders.

On a personal note, I am enjoying time with my parents at their home in The Parke, whether it's taking a long walk or just sitting on the porch watching the birds or other wildlife action. It truly is a blessing to represent the Ocean Pines community, and I wish all a happy and safe summer.





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Safely soak up the summer sun with Worcester Health

Guest column by the Worcester County Health Department

Summer sun safety

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's newly released seasonal outlook, Maryland is set to have above-average temperatures this summer.

Living on the Eastern Shore, residents are more vulnerable to this extreme heat. Here are some tips to keeping cool this summer:

- **Limit your outdoor activity, especially midday (during the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.) when the sun is hottest.**
- **Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness.**
- **Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.**
- **Always use sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.**
- **Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.**
- **Never leave children or pets alone in cars.**
- **Keep humidity in mind – When the humidity is high, sweat won't evaporate as quickly. This keeps your body from releasing heat as fast as it may need to.**

Remember, those who are at highest risk include people 65 and older, children younger than 2, and people with chronic diseases. Take these measures to stay cool, hydrated, and healthy this summer.

Be prepared, not scared – Hurricane preparedness

Are you prepared for hurricane season? Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 to Nov. 30.

The Eastern Shore is especially vulnerable to weather threats such as hurricanes and flooding. It's important for you and your family to have a planned response in the event of an emergency. When you're prepared for whatever comes your way, you're not scared!

Here are some preparedness tips for you and your family:

- **Have an emergency kit ready with supplies for at least seven days.**
- **Know your evacuation zone/route - visit KnowYourZoneMD.com to find your zone.**
- **Have important documents/ID's copied and in a safe place.**
- **Stay informed – use weather apps, radio stations, or television stations to stay up to date on any developing storms.**

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Easy ways to go "green"

GREET STREET guest column by
the Environment & Natural Assets Committee
(ENAC)

They may look pretty and seem harmless, but many plants commonly found in coastal landscapes are now classified as invasive. Attractive nonnative species introduced for their beauty and growth habits have become endemic, as they have thrived and outcompeted native plants.

For many years, landscapers and garden centers were allowed to sell plants and trees that are not native to North America. A new Maryland invasive species law became effective June 1, 2024. It requires the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture to establish a list of prohibited invasive plants by Oct. 1, 2024. The law also establishes protocols for assessing nonnative plants, to determine if they are invasive or if they should be placed on a watch list.

The United States Department of Agriculture defines invasive plants as “nonnative or alien to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction can cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health.”

In Maryland, there are two invasive plant classification tiers:

- Tier 1 plants “May not be brought into the state, propagated or shared, bought or sold, or moved within the state as any living part.”
- Tier 2 plants “May be offered for retail sale (including as part of landscaping services) only if information is provided about Tier 2 plants via specific retail signage or as published material given to the landscaping client.”

Most common invasive landscape plants in Maryland are listed as Tier 2 invasives. These include:

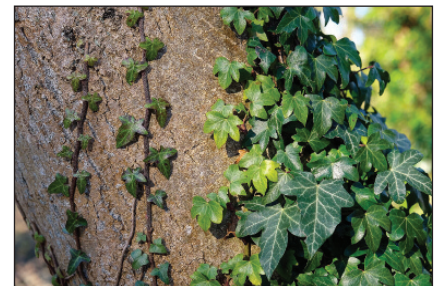
- **Japanese barberry**
- **Chinese silvergrass**
- **English ivy**



Invasive wisteria vines can destroy trees



Recommended native plants include lobelia, which produces large blue flowers in late summer



English ivy encircling and damaging a tree



Invasive phragmites are taking over our wetlands

- **Sweet autumn clematis**
- **Border privet**
- **Nandina**
- **Scotch broom**
- **All bamboos**
- **All wisterias**

While you are not required to remove Tier 2 plants from your landscape, it is important to monitor them and control their spread. When feasible, consider replacing them with natives.

There are abundant online resources on invasive plants and recommended natives. The Lower Shore Land Trust (lowershorelandtrust.org) has an excellent downloadable Invasive Species Toolkit. University of Maryland Extension (extension.umd.edu) has information on invasive and recommended native plants. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (dnr.maryland.gov) also has many resources for home gardeners who

are interested in planting natives.

Aggressive native species are another concern. Phragmites, also known as common reed, are native to parts of the United States. However, invasive strains of phragmites that originated in Europe are crowding out native species and taking over wetlands. And while native Northern sea oats are useful in protecting shorelines, they can become invasive in landscapes because they easily spread by reseeding and rhizomes. Removing seed heads from sea oats in fall can help prevent unwanted spread.

The Environment and Natural Assets Advisory Committee encourages Ocean Pines homeowners to “go native” when choosing plants and trees for their landscapes.

This committee will be organizing events during the year to remove invasive plants from the Ocean Pines parks.



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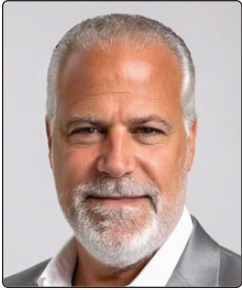
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Message from the OPA PRESIDENT



Richard Farr
OPA President

Warmer days of summer

As we embrace the warmer days of summer, I wanted to take a moment to wish you all a wonderful season filled with sunshine, relaxation, and enjoyment.

Our Ocean Pines community is truly a special place, and it's the collective effort of each one of you that makes it such a vibrant and welcoming environment.

Whether you're soaking up the sun by the pools, Beach Club, boating, hosting a backyard barbecue, or simply taking a leisurely stroll around our beautiful parks and neighborhood, I hope you find moments of joy and tranquility in the simple pleasures of summertime.

As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times, I encourage you to stay safe, stay connected with your neighbors, and remember to uphold the community guidelines that make Ocean Pines a great place to live.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for enhancing our community this summer, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Board. Your input is valuable, and we are here to support you in making this season the best it can be for all.

Wishing you a fantastic summer filled with laughter, relaxation, and cherished memories.



Ocean Pines homeowners and residents send us **EXCELLENT** photos each and every week, and we're constantly blown away by your talent and by the incredible beauty of our **AWESOME** community. We can't wait to see what you're seeing and capturing this summer! To send us photos, please email info@oceanpines.org.

Ocean Pines Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is a legislative policy-setting body of the Ocean Pines community. The affairs & business of the Association are managed by a Board of 7 & the terms of the Directors will be for 3 years & until their respective successors are duly elected policy-setting. The Board of Directors appoints a General Manager to oversee the executive management of the operations of the Association. **Email all members at directors@oceanpines.org.**



PRESIDENT

Elected in 8/2021, 1st term ends in 2024

Richard Farr
rfarr@oceanpines.org
410-390-1425



VICE PRESIDENT

Elected in 8/2022, 1st term ends in 2025

Dr. Stuart Lakernick
slakernick@oceanpines.org
215-869-6343



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Elected in 8/2022, 1st term ends in 2025

Monica Rakowski
mrakowski@oceanpines.org
410-493-4202



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Elected in 8/2023, 1st term ends in 2026

John Latham
jlatham@oceanpines.org
410-404-8907



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Elected in 8/2022, 1st term ends in 2025

Steve Jacobs
sjacobs@oceanpines.org
240-595-0605



DIRECTOR

Elected in 8/2023, 1st term ends in 2026

Elaine Brady
ebrady@oceanpines.org
443-614-1576



DIRECTOR

Elected in 8/2023, 1st term ends in 2024

Jeff Heavner
jheavner@oceanpines.org
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John Viola
General Manager

New fiscal year starts strong, amenities open and ready for summer

Financial updates

The updated flash estimate for fiscal year 2023-2024 is a nearly \$1.2 million favorable variance to budget.

To get good results, an organization and management has to realize what your KPIs are – what’s driving your organization, what’s driving your results, where to put your assets, and where to put your money and invest your time. That has been our focus for the last five years and will continue to be our focus.

Each year, revenue estimates have increased virtually across the board, along with spending to enhance the customer experience and fund needed maintenance.

What’s driving the \$1.2 million? It’s basically everybody. Golf led the way with \$220,000 favorability and an \$87,000 improvement over the prior year. Aquatics and Beach Parking were also significant contributors.

The new fiscal year started strong in May, with the flash estimate for the month \$291,000 favorable to budget.

Amenity memberships so far are up 17% over the prior year, with Golf and Racquet Sports combo memberships among the biggest increases.

Maintenance updates

Recent maintenance efforts have included parking lot cleaning and ground maintenance, and shower repairs, all at the Beach Club.

All four outdoor pools were cleaned and inspected prior to Memorial Day.

Bainbridge Park and Bridgewater Park playground equipment was power washed, and ADA ramps for playgrounds were addressed, and the Craft Club received a new storage shed.

Several work orders were closed at the Yacht Club, and the Golf Clubhouse saw icemaker repairs and a fixed leak.

The entire team has worked to get us ready for the season and the amenities are in turnkey ready condition.

Beautification updates

Public Works has planted spring and summer flowers throughout Ocean Pines and has started mulching key areas. Palm trees have been placed throughout the community.

New seasonal banners were placed at the north and south gates, and new signs were ordered for the Racquet Sports complex and community gardens.

Soft shoreline update

The Association continues to work with Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Vista Design, Inc. on the Soft Shoreline project related to the South Gate Pond area.

We signed an MOU with Coastal Bays to receive \$150,000 in grant funding, and several meetings were held with all parties to go over top priorities of water quality, shore erosion, and enhancing fishing access.

Among other things, an expansion of the fishing docks was included in early planning.

(cont. on pg. 18)



OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

VISION: Ocean Pines will be a premier resort community, offering exceptional value & quality of life to property owners who are diverse in age, economic status & interests.

MISSION: Provide the governance, administration, facilities, services & amenities that are necessary to make Ocean Pines an attractive, affordable, safe & enjoyable place to live & work.

The Ocean Pines Association will observe the following upcoming holidays. Please note that OPA administrative offices will be closed for:

Independence Day:

Thu, July 4

Labor Day:

Mon, Sept. 2

OCEAN PINES REPORT

A Quarterly Publication by

OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION, INC.

239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

Marketing & Public Relations Dept.

Responsible for promoting Ocean Pines' amenities, as well as establishing & maintaining the Association website, cable access channels, & serving as the staff liaison to the local media.

Marketing & Public Relations Dir.

Josh Davis

jdavis@oceanpines.org • 443.366.1844

Marketing Coordinator

Nancy MacCubbin

nmaccubbin@oceanpines.org

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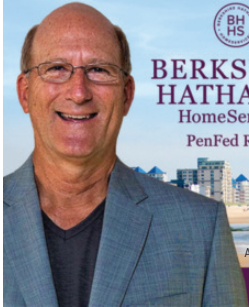
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Message from the GENERAL MANAGER

(cont. from pg. 16)

Golf updates

Golf remains the economic powerhouse driving this engine of Ocean Pines.

The recent Ravens Roost tournament was a big success, helping to boost sales \$34,000 over the prior May. Greens fees, cart fees, driving range, and merchandise numbers were all up over the prior year.

The Ocean Pines Club Championship is scheduled Aug. 3-4.

Golf Club maintenance efforts are on track, with verticutting of fairways and greens ongoing.

Materials for phase one of the Golf Club irrigation project have arrived. The project was approved by the Board in December. The total cost for phase one is \$934,000 and will include the first and ninth holes and the driving range.

Construction will not impact golf play this summer and will likely start in the fall.

We anticipate minimal interruption with the golf course.

Marina update

Marina fuel prices are among the lowest in the region, thanks to Dockmaster Ron Fisher who is constantly staying on top of pricing trends. We're going to include that in all our advertisements and utilize our electronic sign to promote the low prices.

Several small craft advisories hampered May numbers slightly, but returns were close to budget projections and

better than the prior year.

The Yacht Club Marina once again received the Clean Marina certification from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Marina has added new merchandise, including new apparel and an expanded selection of fishing tackle and retail items, such as beverages and ice cream.

The marina is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., throughout the summer.

Tiki bar update

The new tiki bar has definitely enhanced the customer experience at the Yacht Club, and the feedback has been very positive.

The original structure was undersized and needed renovation. I think it was a good job by all.



OPA ends FY24 with nearly \$1.2 million positive variance

The unaudited forecast for fiscal year 2023-2024 shows Ocean Pines with a positive variance to budget just under \$1.2 million.

The results mark the sixth consecutive year with a positive variance to budget, and the fourth-straight year with a favorability greater than \$1 million.

General Manager John Viola said approximately one-third of that was based on the positive performance by amenities, including Golf favorable to budget by \$227,738 and Aquatics

favorable by \$103,815. He said the \$44,606 favorability at the Clubhouse Grille was a function of the Golf Club's success, with compliments to the food and beverage grill team.

OPA also lowered the assessment, and increased spending on public safety, maintenance, and drainage, among other areas.

To view the FY24 unaudited financials and other Ocean Pines Association financial reports, visit oceanpines.org, and click on the "Finance" tab under "Departments."



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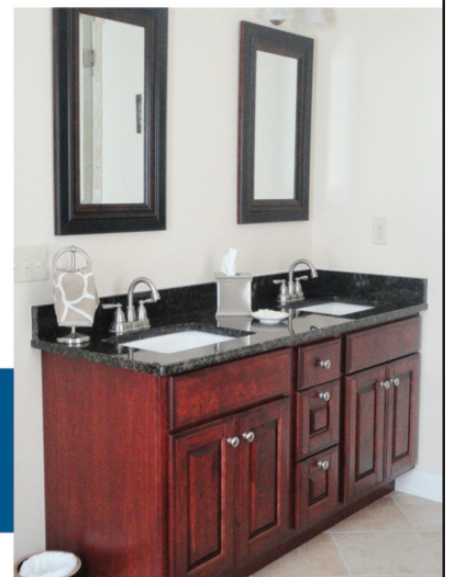
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Martin promoted to Director of Business Administration

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola in June announced that Linda Martin would be promoted to director of business administration.

“In her new role, Linda will operate as the chief of staff for the GM office,” Viola said. “Please join me in congratulating Linda and wishing her well in this new role.”

Born and raised on the western shore of Maryland, Martin majored in accounting at Anne Arundel Community College and has held a variety of financial-related jobs in government, retail, medical and community-based organizations.

Martin moved to the Eastern Shore in 2006 and worked for the Public Works/CPI Department from 2006-2017 as an office coordinator. Viola recruited Martin to return to Ocean Pines as the Public Works office manager in 2021, and she later transitioned to the GM office as the senior executive office manager.

In May, Martin obtained a degree in business administration



Linda Martin

*Director of
Business Administration*

from Southern New Hampshire University and received the President’s Award for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

“I would like to thank John Viola for all the opportunities that he has provided me since I returned to Ocean Pines almost four years ago,” Martin said. “He inspired me to return to school to obtain my degree, and I am very appreciative of his support.”

Viola said by investing in the professional growth and development of its staff, OPA aims to continue providing results in customer service to the community.

“Recognizing our staff continues to be one of my favorite parts of the job,” Viola said.



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New Yacht Club tiki bar open for business

Ocean Pines Association Board members and General Manager John Viola on May 19 celebrated the opening of the new, expanded Yacht Club tiki bar with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Board approved building the new tiki bar in December, with contractor Whayland Construction and Ocean Pines Public Works sharing construction duties.

"I'd like to thank everybody that worked on this tiki bar, especially the people of Ocean Pines [and] the team that put this together: Whayland, the Board, and everybody involved," Viola said during the ceremony.

"I want to thank John Viola, his team, the entire Board here, [and] everybody who has participated in making this a wonderful event [and] expanding our tiki bar for the great customer experience that we have here," OPA President Rick Farr said. "We want everybody to enjoy today - and this entire summer."

Viola, at a recent Board meeting, said the Board had

challenged him and staff to expand the tiki bar ahead of Memorial Day.

"We expect a big summer [and] we've seen that we can improve customer service," Viola said.

Viola credited a can-do attitude by staff to not only get the tiki bar open by Memorial Day, but a full week early.

"I'm excited about it. I know everybody is," he said. "It was a challenge - and I mean that in a positive way. I'm proud of the team."

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club is open seven days a week during the summer. The Yacht Club is always open to the public.

For information on upcoming events, visit opyachtclub.com.



OPA announces promotions for Wells and Swift

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola in April announced a pair of promotions to staff members.

Viola said Eddie Wells, previously the Public Works Director, would be promoted to Senior Director of Public Works.

"Eddie will take on enhanced responsibility for strategic planning, DMA Reserve Study, and pivotal initiatives in addition to his existing Public Works duties," Viola said. "With a proven track record of driving operational excellence and implementing innovative solutions, Eddie is well-positioned to lead the Public Works Department to new heights."

Additionally, Mark Swift, previously the Accounting Manager of the Finance Department, was promoted to

Assistant Controller.

"Mark brings a vast range of knowledge to OPA, and he continues to develop his skills," Director of Finance Steve Phillips said. "He has taken on increased responsibility over the past two years and continues to be a key employee of OPA."

Viola emphasized the significant contributions of both Wells and Swift to the Ocean Pines Association.

"I am very pleased to make this announcement. Recognizing our staff continues to be one of my favorite parts of the job," he said. "Eddie and Mark both earned this, and as I structure the organization to meet the needs of the coming years, I hope to be able to make a few more announcements like this down the road."

Republic Services will not collect old or discarded paint cans

Appointments now required for bulk trash pickup

Republic Services said paint cans, including dried out cans, will no longer be permitted in trash collection.

Spilled paint can damage garbage collection trucks and leave paint on the road and damage roadways. Paint cans also have the potential to leak at garbage disposal sites.

Should residents have any inquiries or concerns regarding the trash collection, Republic Services encourages them to contact their customer service line at 410-749-1551.

Republic Services also will no longer collect bulk trash items without a prior appointment.

Republic officials said trash collectors are running into a lot of larger and multiple bulk items sitting out with trash/yard waste pick up. They had been collecting those

items as a courtesy, but the volume is becoming too much for trucks running the trash routes.

Picking up so many bulk items can cause the trucks to pack out and hit the landfill more, which often leads to drivers running out of hours and having to leave regular trash and yard waste behind.

To prevent that from happening, homeowners who wish to dispose of bulk items must call first to request a bulk pickup and describe the items for pickup. Republic Services will then schedule another truck to run through the community and recover all the bulk items that are scheduled, for a fee.

To schedule a pickup, call 410-749-1551.



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2024 RACING EVENTS

JULY

Quacks on the Racetrack Truck Giveaway: Race days all season long. Buy rubber ducks for \$5 each with all proceeds for July benefitting the Cricket Center.

Petting Zoo: July 2

Trifecta Tuesdays: July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Cascading Carlos: July 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 & 31

Dollar Days: Every Wednesday • \$1 each for Hot Dogs, Sodas & Nattys

Camel/Ostrich Races: July 7

Face Painter: July 9, 16, 23 & 30

First Responders Night: July 11

Throwback T-Shirt Toss: July 11 & 18

Silent Disco Sundays: July 14 & 28

Taco Tuesday: July 16

Wiener Dog Races: July 17 • Watch the tiny turbo-charged canines race for the win!

Ice Cream Day: July 21

AUGUST

Quacks on the Racetrack Truck Giveaway: Race days all season long. Buy rubber ducks for \$5 each with all proceeds for August benefitting the Life Crisis Center.

First Responders Night: August 1

Throwback T-Shirt Toss: August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Cascading Carlos: August 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 & 28

Petting Zoo: August 4 & 18

Trifecta Tuesdays: August 6

Face Painter: August 6, 11 & 25

Dollar Days: Every Wednesday • \$1 each for Hot Dogs, Sodas & Nattys

NASCAR® Simulator: August 21 & 22

Dino Days: August 28 & 29

SEPTEMBER

Quacks on the Racetrack Truck Giveaway Duck Toss: September 1 • Buy rubber ducks for \$5 each with all proceeds benefitting the Sunshine Fund. Toss your ducks from the season into the truck for a chance to win!

Cascading Carlos: September 4

Dollar Day: September 4 • \$1 each for Hot Dogs, Sodas & Nattys

First Responders Night: September 5

Throwback T-Shirt Toss: September 5



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OPA ADMINISTRATION

OPA launches new podcast, 'PinesCast'

Ocean Pines Association in May launched a new official podcast, PinesCast, and dropped its premiere episode.

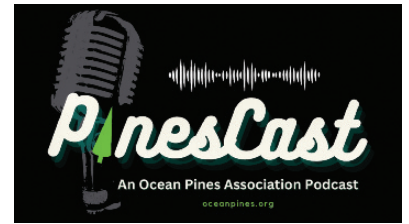
Hosted by veteran journalist and podcaster Tony Russo, PinesCast each week will celebrate the region, the amenities and, most of all, the people that make and keep Ocean Pines a special place to live.

On the debut episode, OPA Golf Director Bob Beckelman talked about his career as a golf professional, and what sets the Ocean Pines Golf Club apart from others in the region.

Other episodes featured Police Chief Tim Robinson,

Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler, and long-time resident Jack Barnes. Upcoming guests include Dockmaster Ron Fisher and Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste.

The PinesCast is available on all major podcast platforms. For more information, visit oceanpines.org, and click on the "News" tab.



Board presents commendation to state champion wrestling team

The Ocean Pines Association Board on April 20 presented a plaque and commendation to the Stephen Decatur High School Wrestling team for winning their fifth-consecutive state championship.

The squad capped an undefeated Bayside Conference season by downing Damascus 50-22 on Feb. 10 during the Class 2A finals. The streak of five straight titles is the second longest in Maryland wrestling history.

Along with the team state championship, three individual champions were crowned on Feb. 10: Elijah Collick (113 pounds), Gavin Solito (157 pounds), and AJ Johnson (190 pounds). Collick was also named an NHSCA All American.

OPA President Rick Farr presented the commendation.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the players, coaches, staff, families, and supporters whose dedication and unwavering support contributed to this remarkable success."



Homeowners encouraged to update email address for official correspondence

Ocean Pines homeowners are encouraged to update the email address associated with their homeowner account.

This can be done by contacting the Ocean Pines membership office at member@oceanpines.org and including first and last name and lot number in the email, along with the preferred email address. Homeowners should also include their member number, found on the back of their property card.

Alternately, homeowners can change their email by logging

onto their account at oceanpines.org and clicking on "My Profile."

Email addresses on file with Ocean Pines are primarily used for billing purposes and can also be used in official correspondence.

Emails associated with homeowner accounts are different than emails associated with the weekly e-blast distributed by the Ocean Pines Public Relations Department. To sign up for the weekly e-blast, visit oceanpines.org and click on the "News" tab.



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Phyllis East, Anna Foultz honored

Ocean Pines Association recently honored the legacy of two women who each gave three decades of service to the community.

Following up on an OPA Board directive from April, a plaque was installed in the community center over the “Phyllis East Room,” honoring the late executive secretary who was known as a treasure trove of information about Ocean Pines.

The room was renamed in her honor in 2011, but was widely known as “The East Room,” causing some confusion as to whether it was simply the east-most room in the building.

Another room in the community center was renamed for longtime volunteer Anna Foultz in 2019, and a plaque was installed at that time.

Now, in each room, along with the plaques are framed articles describing East’s and Foultz’s immense contributions to the community.

Below is the text of each article:

THE PHYLLIS EAST ROOM

Phyllis Clara East was the longtime Executive Secretary to the General Manager and Board of Directors of Ocean Pines.

Born in Chateaugay, New York, East was the youngest of 12 children. She met her husband, James (Jim) W. East, in 1962 and they married the same year. In 1980 the couple and their four children moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

East was hired on Sept. 8, 1980 in the ECC Department as secretary to the general manager, at the time Art Warren. She was promoted to the position of executive secretary in 1984 and worked under nine different general managers: Warren, Tim Stoner, Ralph Lashley, Tom Cetola, Glen Duffy, Curt Allison, Dave Ferguson, Tom Olson, and Bob Thompson. She was among the first to organize, maintain and preserve Association records and information.

Ocean Pines Association dedicated the Phyllis East Room in the Community Center in 2011, in honor of her 30 years of service. She was named as a “Precious Gem” of Worcester County by the Women’s Club of Ocean Pines in 2010.

In addition to their six children, East and her husband spent their leisure time doting on their grandchildren at a summer residence on the Nanticoke River. East was a member of the Berlin/Ocean City Moose Lodge and the American Legion Post #123 Women’s Auxiliary. She enjoyed reading, camping at Sandy Hill Campground, and spending time with family and friends.

According to those who knew her, East had a vast knowledge of the history of Ocean Pines, and many depended on her for information – from staff, to volunteers, Board members, and people throughout the community.

East passed away at her home on April 4, 2012. She was 72 years old.

THE ANNA FOULTZ ROOM

Anna Lucarello Foultz was a longtime Ocean Pines resident and tireless volunteer.

Foultz and her late husband, Carl, moved to the area during the 1990s. Carl was a World War II veteran who served in China, Burma and India, and the couple founded the Star Charities nonprofit in 2007 to give back to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Also close to Foultz’s heart were the Girl Scouts, an organization she became involved with after her oldest daughter, Betty Anne, showed interest as a young girl. Foultz became a Scout leader and continued to advocate for the organization for more than a half century. In 1980, Foultz received a National Proclamation from President Jimmy Carter for organizing a massive weeklong event called “Girl Scouts in

Action” at the Springfield Mall in Virginia. Thousands of Girl Scouts attended the event.

She was also a longtime member and past president of the Sons of Italy, and in 2016 was honored with the organization’s Ameritan Award during a gala in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Foultz’s memoir, “Two Steps Forward,” was published in 2017. She co-wrote the book with her other daughter, Shirley Isbell, and donated much of the proceeds to Star Charities.

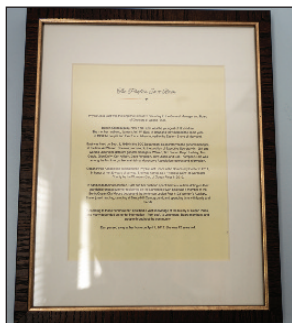
Foultz was active up until her last days. She visited the Maryland State Capital in 2018 and received three standing ovations upon being introduced to the Maryland General Assembly.

In March of 2019 she toured the White House with a busload of local Girl Scouts. Foultz then took part in Ocean Pines’ National Night Out celebration in August 2019, again representing the Girl Scouts. On Aug. 16 she presented a \$1,500 donation to Achilles of Maryland at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines.

“It just breaks my heart when I see all these people suffering, and we need to help,” she said at the time. “I’m always willing to help if they need help!”

Foultz passed away on Sept. 22, 2019. She was 93.

Star Charities continued the annual “Holiday Gifts for Soldiers” collection for several years in Foultz’s honor. The drive was among the biggest endeavors of Star Charities, and Foultz had said collecting for servicemen and women made her feel closer to Carl and helped to honor his service.





Steve Phillips

Director of Finance/
Controller

Completing another solid fiscal year

Ocean Pines Association just completed another solid fiscal year financially, producing approximately \$1.2 million dollars (unaudited) in favorability when compared to the operating budget.

Approximately \$930,000 of the favorable operating results were driven by amenity revenues in excess of the budget.

Golf finished with another stellar year, producing net revenue results greater than \$194,000 over budget. Golf's bottom-line operating income was approximately \$412,000 which was \$225,000 favorable to the budget.

The remainder of the amenity net revenue favorability can be attributed to Food and Beverage and Aquatics. Membership revenue in total for all amenities was at an all-time high of \$1.64 million, which was approximately \$60,000 in excess of the budget.

OPA has engaged UHY once again to complete the financial audit. UHY's audit team was on-site for the first part of June completing their testing. The final audit report will be available to Association membership in late July, published prior to the August annual meeting.



SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR-TO-DATE 4/30/2024

OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY

UNAUDITED

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)			
REVENUES			
Assessments	8,439	8,410	29
Grants	571	563	8
Amenities (Net)	7,263	6,562	701
Recreation & Parks	390	368	22
Other fees and Income	<u>1,907</u>	<u>1,344</u>	<u>563</u>
Total Revenues	18,570	17,247	1,323
Add: Budgeted Surplus Transfer	650	650	-
Less: Transfers to Reserve Accounts	<u>(3,873)</u>	<u>(3,479)</u>	<u>(394)</u>
Net Operating Revenues	15,347	14,418	929
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Administration & Management	2,259	2,384	125
Amenities	5,647	5,372	(275)
Recreation & Parks	842	899	57
Police	1,763	2,003	240
Fire / EMS	1,009	1,009	-
Public Works / CPI	1,817	2,050	233
General Maintenance	<u>787</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>(86)</u>
Total Operating Expenses	14,124	14,418	294
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	1,223	-	1,223
NEW CAPITAL	-	-	-
NET	1,223	=	1,223

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Linda Martin
Director of
Business Admin.

Sign, sign ... everywhere a sign

When you bought your home, you should have received a copy of the Declaration of Restrictions (DR'S) for the section you live in, along with a copy of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Guidelines.

While the ARC Guidelines have been modified over the years, the DR's have remained the same. Section 8.A.g. of the DR's state: "All signs, billboards, or advertising structures of any kind are prohibited

property that may result in a neighbor dispute, further down the road. Obtaining an updated survey will also allow you to have your property "staked," which will help with any future plans to your property, including any landscaping that you may want to add.

To view the latest guidelines online, visit oceanpines.org, and click on the "Departments" tab at the top. From there, select "Public Works." The guidelines are at the bottom of the page, under applications and documents.

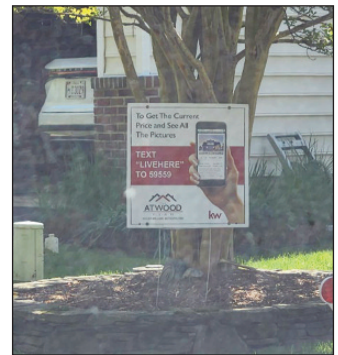
As always, we are here to help! Please contact info@oceanpines.org (or 410-641-7717) for any questions you have.

except upon application to and written permission from the Committee." Section 600 of the updated guidelines further clarify sign and flag regulations.

Why is this important? Many signs that have been posted may be offensive to some, while others do not have the best interest of Ocean Pines in mind when posted. There have been several signs, especially those of a community organization, which have asked for approval in advance of placing the signs for an event. This is the right thing to do - before placing a sign, get approval to verify if it is allowed and meets the requirements of the guidelines.

Referring to the ARC Guidelines, it is encouraged that everyone reviews the updated guidelines on the website, as there are certain items that now require a permit, like driveways and hardscapes.

Another added item included is the requirement to obtain an "as-built survey" of your property when you are altering or putting in an addition onto your property. This will ensure that there are no encroachments onto your neighbor's



Water and sewer easements

Worcester County is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and operation of all public water and/or sewer facilities in your service area. These facilities are located within easements that are reserved exclusively for such utilities.

Under the restrictions recorded in the county land records for all lots, it is clearly stated that within easement areas:

"...no structures, plantings or other material shall be placed or permitted to remain or other activities undertaken which may damage or interfere with the installation or maintenance of utilities..."

Maintenance of water and/or sewer facilities is being seriously hampered by the growth of plantings and other landscaping material within these easement areas.

In order to provide the most effective and efficient service to our customers, we are asking all customers to clear a five (5) foot area around the water meters, fire hydrants, water and or sewer valves, sewage holding tanks or cleanouts, or other facilities that may be located on your property. If for any reason we (Worcester County Public Works) access these facilities within this easement area, (bushes, plants and all other landscaping materials, etc.), will be removed and not replaced. We will place topsoil and plant grass seed in the areas disturbed by maintenance and repair activities.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call us at 410-641-5251, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. If necessary, we would be willing to meet with you at your property to discuss specific concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.



Algae blooms in canals

In the spring through early fall are the times of year that water bodies typically exhibit the most visible response to water quality problems. Algal blooms can be dramatic and are a result of excess nutrients from fertilizer, wastewater and stormwater runoff, coinciding with lots of sunlight, warm temperatures and shallow, slow-flowing water.

What is an algae bloom?

Algae are photosynthetic microorganisms that are found in most habitats. Algae vary from small, single-celled forms to complex multi-cellular forms.

An algal bloom is a rapid increase in the density of algae in an aquatic system. Algal blooms sometimes are natural phenomena, but their frequency, duration and intensity are increased by nutrient pollution. Algae can multiply quickly in waterways with an overabundance of nitrogen and phosphorus, particularly when the water is warm and the weather is calm. This proliferation causes blooms of algae that turn the water noticeably green, although other colors can occur. Some species of algae grow in clumps covered in a gelatinous coating and have the capability to float, allowing cells to stick together into large surface scums in calm weather.

Sometimes blooms are composed of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae. Cyanobacteria are bacteria that, like plants, use solar energy and carbon dioxide to grow (photosynthesis). Cyanobacteria occur naturally in both freshwater and marine (salt) water bodies. Blooms also can be caused by dinoflagellates (single cell microorganisms [phytoflagellates] that include luminescent forms) in marine or estuarine water bodies.

Why do they occur?

The potential for blooms comes from nutrient pollution, an overabundance of the essential plant nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus. These elements enter waterways from point sources (such as industrial and wastewater treatment plant discharges), nonpoint sources (such as septic tanks and stormwater runoff from urban areas, farms and residential areas), and from nutrient-enriched rainfall. When the concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus increase in a water body, the right combination of temperature, sunlight and low flow can trigger an algal bloom. Though nitrogen and phosphorus occur naturally and are essential plant nutrients, an overabundance of these nutrients can cause significant imbalances in the water body's ecology, and blooms are one symptom.

Masses of algae often are observed in stormwater ponds during Maryland's warmer seasons. Stormwater facilities are designed to capture polluted runoff. The ponds help remove nutrients and sediments before these pollutants can reach fragile waterways.

What can the public do?

The public plays an important role in reducing nutrient pollution. Each of us can use fertilizers wisely, such as only when lawns show nutrient deficiencies, according to manufacturer directions and avoid using fertilizers just prior to a rain. In addition, we can each use chemicals responsibly, properly maintain stormwater systems, not add to decaying organic matter in the canals by dumping clippings and leaves, and pursuing connections to a central sewer system where possible if you are a septic system owner.

Who monitors?

State staff routinely collect water and algae samples, particularly during periods when conditions are right for algal blooms. This is supplemented with monitoring by County staff and even volunteers and non-governmental organizations. When significant Hazardous Algae Blooms (HAB's) events occur, the Maryland Departments of Health, Environment, and Natural Resources coordinate with local health and environmental departments to inform the public through media advisories, posted signs, and posting on state websites such as "Eyes on the Bay" and MDE's Healthy Beaches website.

The Maryland phytoplankton monitoring program evaluates the algal community at 34 Chesapeake and 13 Coastal Bays stations monthly (April – Nov). Phytoplankton are a critical component of the Bay ecosystem and represent the first biological response to the Bay's nutrient enrichment problem. It is the overgrowth of algae that has led to the Bay's low oxygen problems. Results are used to show the success of Bay cleanup efforts, explain important linkages between water quality and living resources, and provide an early warning of potentially harmful exotic species.

Are they harmful?

Algae are a natural component of the aquatic food chain and are typically not harmful to people. If the types of algae that produce toxins reach high concentrations, then native aquatic organisms, livestock, pets, and perhaps even people who come in contact with the toxins, can be affected.

When algal blooms block vital sunlight from reaching beneficial underwater plants that provide food and a place to live and grow for fish and other animals, the ecosystem can be negatively impacted. Algae become stressed and die when they deplete the nutrient supply or move from freshwater into saltier waters. Decomposition of dying algae can reduce levels of dissolved oxygen in the water. Some fish species with little tolerance for low dissolved oxygen levels may die. In addition, some algal species can cause fish kills directly either by production of algal toxins or by clogging the gills.

Who should we call?

To report an algal bloom or fish kill contact MDE at (800-285-8195) (Days) or MEMA at (866-633-4686) (Nights/Weekends). Or you can report algal blooms on DNR's Eyes on the Bay website.

Additional Sources:

- Factsheet – HAB Management
- Factsheet – Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Algal Species
- Website – Eyes on the Bay:
<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/habs.cfm>
- Website: Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Bays Monitoring:
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/waters/bay/Pages/Algae.aspx>



Eddie Wells
Senior Director

Message from PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works yard will be open on Wednesdays

The Public Works yard will be open on Wednesdays only from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., because of staff shortages.

Residents must obtain stickers for the disposal of debris at the Public Works yard. The 2024 stickers can be acquired free of charge at the Public Works Department Building at

1 Firehouse Lane in Ocean Pines.

For more information about Ocean Pine's yard debris policy, extended hours, or to obtain stickers, contact the Ocean Pines Public Works Department at 410-641-7425 or visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/public-works.



Nobie Violante
Deputy Director



Ron Fisher
Dock Master

Message from MARINAS & WATER SPORTS

Low gas prices and new marina merch

Greetings from the Ocean Pines Marina!

Whether you're a slip holder, a regular or just passing through, our brand-new gas dock offers low non-ethanol gas prices for our boaters.

We are happy to announce the arrival of new fishing supplies to enhance your angling adventures,

including a wider variety of bait and tackle. In addition to our fishing gear, we've also ordered a fresh collection of marina shirts, which will be available for purchase soon. Keep an eye out for these stylish and comfortable additions to your boating wardrobe.

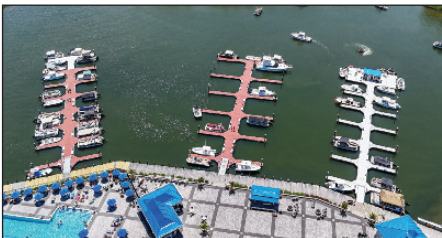
Summer marina hours are 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., through Sept. 2.

We also offer a range of amenities to make your visit enjoyable and convenient:

- Slip rentals
- Pump-out station
- Water and electric
- Boat ramp
- Fish cleaning station
- Non-ethanol fuel sales on-site
- Boating supplies and apparel
- Bait, tackle, ice, snacks, ice cream, cold drinks
- Free boat tie-up for two hours at the t-docks only while at the Yacht Club restaurant, when available
- Limited vehicle parking for slip holders only
- Two adjacent pools: Yacht Club Pool and Mumford's Landing Pool

For more details and updates, visit our website: oceanpines.org/web/pages/marinas-water-sports.

We look forward to seeing you at the marina and helping you make the most of your boating and fishing experiences!



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Tim Robinson
Chief of Police

Bicycle safety reminder

Bicycling has become an increasingly popular way for local people to get outside, get moving and stay active, especially along the roughly nine-mile trek of Ocean Parkway.

Ocean Pines Police are asking bike riders to use caution along the roadway. Be aware of your surroundings, maintain a defensive mindset, and always wear a well-fitting helmet.

Assume that drivers may not see you and be on the lookout for potential hazards. And refrain from distractions like texting or listening to music that diverts attention from the road.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers the following additional safety tips when riding a bicycle on the road:

- **Go with the traffic flow.** Ride on the right in the same direction as other vehicles. Go with the flow – not against it.
- **Obey all traffic laws.** A bicycle is a vehicle and you're a driver. When you ride in the street, you are required to obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings, including stop signs.
- **Yield to traffic when appropriate.** Almost always, drivers on a smaller road must yield (wait) for traffic on a major or larger road. If there is no stop sign or traffic signal and

you are coming from a smaller roadway (out of a driveway, from a sidewalk, a bike path, etc.), you must slow down and look to see if the way is clear before proceeding. This also means yielding to pedestrians who have already entered a crosswalk.

- **Be predictable.** Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars. Signal your moves to others.
- **Stay alert at all times.** Use your eyes AND ears. Watch out for potholes, cracks, wet leaves, storm grates, railroad tracks, or anything that could make you lose control of your bike. You need your ears to hear traffic and avoid dangerous situations; don't wear a headset when you ride.
- **Look before turning.** When turning left or right, always look behind you for a break in traffic, then signal before making the turn. Watch for left- or right-turning traffic.
- **Watch for parked cars.** Ride far enough out from the curb to avoid the unexpected from parked cars (like doors opening, or cars pulling out).

For more info, visit [nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety](https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety).



OPPD welcomes new officers

The Ocean Pines Police Department in April welcomed a new officer, Freddie Howard, during a swearing-in ceremony at the Ocean Pines Clubhouse.

Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr conducted the ceremony during a regular Board meeting that included many of Howard's family members in the audience.

"This is something new and something that is going to be a tradition in Ocean Pines," Farr said. "We are delighted, as a Board, to be able to do this and have the swearing in and have Mr. Howard take the oath of office."

Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson said Howard comes to Ocean Pines following a distinguished 25-year career with the Ocean City Police Department.

According to a Town of Ocean City release, Howard served as a seasonal police officer for three years before becoming a full-time officer with the Hurlock Police Department in 1997. He returned to the Ocean City Police Department as a full-time officer in August of 1999.

During his two-decade-plus career in Ocean City, Howard worked as a K-9 handler, domestic violence investigator, and police recruitment member. Howard received the Excellent Police Performance Award in 2002. The following year, he received the Meritorious Service Award and the Worcester County Commissioners Award, and in 2005 Howard was named the Neighborhood Watch Police Officer of the Year. Howard also received the Excellent Police Performance Award

in 2018.

In May, the Ocean Pines Police Department welcomed another new officer, Michael Ebersole, to staff.

Ebersole comes to Ocean Pines following a distinguished career with the York, Pennsylvania Police Department. More recently, he worked in private security and with the Princess Anne Police Department.

Again, Farr swore in the new officer.

"We are honored to have Michael Ebersole be sworn in as one of our next police officers in Ocean Pines," Farr said.

Police Chief Tim Robinson said the hiring continues a recent positive trend within the department.

"I want to congratulate our officer, Mike Ebersole, for making the decision to join our department," said. "With his hiring, that brings up 10 officers."

Robinson said two more new officers started in June and will attend the police academy on July 1.

Along with public safety, Robinson said the Police Department aims to "provide outstanding customer service."

"That's one of the reasons why I come to every Board meeting, so you can hear directly from me, and you can ask me questions," he said. "I want to let everybody know that we are here to serve the community and, if anybody ever wants to speak to me or talk to me, I'm very easy to get a hold of."

He said residents and homeowners can also reach police at their new website, [oceanpinespolice.com](https://www.oceanpinespolice.com).

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Joe Enste

OPVFD President

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste recently addressed the Ocean Pines Board and community about summer safety and recent fundraising efforts.

Enste said Ocean Pines is a tight-knit community – literally and figuratively – with most lots being close together and heavily wooded.

“We need to make sure that if we’re having our bonfires and grilling and things like that, we are complying with all the regulations,” he said. “If you go to the Fire Department website, there’s a long list of regulations as far as how to be in compliance.”

Each year, he said, there are multiple complaints and issues with bonfires and campfires.

Enste also had a word of caution about using fireworks on and around the Fourth of July holiday.

“Everyone loves fireworks ... but let’s leave it to the professionals,” he said.

Enste said Maryland allows certain types of ground-based sparklers and other small fireworks, but most of those are not ideal for heavily wooded areas like Ocean Pines, especially during the hotter and dryer parts of the year.

“Even the things that they sell at Walmart that are legal [are] not really a great thing to have in our community,” he said. “With all the brush that we have and as close as our community is to one another, it could cause problems.”

He added the community has had issues with fireworks accidents before, including starting fires and individuals becoming injured – or even losing fingers.

“Please be careful. Leave the fireworks to the professionals,” Enste said.

Enste also spoke about ongoing fundraising efforts of OPVFD that support everything from vehicle replacement and staffing to replacement of the South Fire Station.

The Fire Department’s annual truck raffle this year features

Summer fire safety tips

a 2024 Ford F-150 valued at \$54,045. Tickets are \$100, and that includes all taxes and other expenses associated with winning the vehicle – a potential savings of \$18,000 for the winner.

“Keep in mind we’re only selling 2,500 tickets and, as soon as we sell those 2,500 tickets, we’ll do the raffle,” he said.

For more information on the truck raffle, visit opvfd.com/f-150.

OPVFD is also doing a weekly “Queen of Hearts” tournament, similar to games played at local Elks Lodges or VFWs.

“Tickets are \$5 a piece and the jackpot is up over \$11,000” as of June, Enste said. “Every week that the queen of hearts isn’t located, we’re going to continue to roll those winnings over into the next week, and that jackpot will continue to grow.”

Drawings are held at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and are livestreamed on the OPVFD Facebook page. For more information, visit opvfd.com/queen-of-hearts.

For more info on OPVFD, visit opvfd.com or call 410-641-8272.



Joey Widgeon

Fire Chief

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28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
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Debbie Donahue
Director of
Recreation & Parks

Summer has arrived and activities are heating up

Summer has arrived and we could not be happier to be getting back to our summertime fun!

We are looking forward to summer events, such as **Family Fun Night; Concerts in The Park; the Fourth of July Freedom 5K, Carnival and Fireworks;** and many other special happenings that are all underway.

The **Farmers & Artisans Market**

is open on Saturdays and growing in vendors each week. The market has started its summer hours of 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., so please come out and enjoy the different vendors and keep up that healthy eating. The Farmers Market will have a special July 4 Market that Thursday morning.

The **Pine'er Artisan Gift Shop** is also open Saturdays and Sundays. Their beautiful new store sells many handmade products and is the perfect place to find that certain something for that special someone - or maybe that perfect something just for you. Stop by and enjoy the items and say "hi" to the lovely ladies who make the items in the store.

Take a look at the craft events they will be hosting this summer as well. The Craft Club joins us for **Concerts in the**

Park on Thursday nights, bringing their famous frozen smores and other wonderful desserts.

Please also join us for the annual **Craft Fair** on Aug. 3, with multiples vendors indoors and outdoors at White Horse Park and the Community Center.

Ocean Pines will be hosting the **Oktoberfest Pickleball Tournament** at the Racquet Sports Complex on Oct. 11-13. Register through pickleballden.com.

Stop by the Recreation Department any time to pick up fliers, ask questions, or just to say "hi!" We are there Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 8pm.

For all your summer fun information, visit oceanpines.org, Facebook or stop by and pick up an Activity Guide and fliers. The Ocean Parkway marquees are also updated each week with current info for the Recreation and Parks Department and many of our wonderful community organizations.

I look forward to sunshine and fun and seeing all my summer fun faces. See you soon!



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FAMILY FUN NIGHTS
AT THE YACHT CLUB POOL

WEDNESDAYS
JUNE 19 - AUGUST 21
6-8pm

SWIM MEMBER \$3
(Must show membership card)
RESIDENT \$5
NON-RESIDENT \$7
(Only persons swimming pay a fee)

DJ | GAMES | PRIZES
a night of music and family entertainment!
FOOD IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

FOR MORE INFO: 410-641-7052

Ocean Pines Community Center | 235 Ocean Pkwy, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

This is an after-hours Recreation Department Special Event; swim coupons or pool receipts do NOT grant admission.

Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks
The White Horse Pavilion

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Thursdays June 20-Aug 22 | 7-9pm
White Horse Park Pavilion

Fun, family-friendly entertainment! Bring chairs & blankets. BYOB permitted, concessions for sale.

JUN 20 On the Edge	AUG 1 The Swingtime Dolls
JUN 27 Riptide Band	AUG 8 Breath of Fresh Air
JUL 11 Uptown Band	AUG 15 Dusty Vinyl
JUL 18 Club Phred	AUG 22 Whiskey Graves
JUL 25 Colossal Fossil Sauce	

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines | 410.641.7052 | Sponsors needed!

Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks
The White Horse Pavilion



Michelle Hitchens
Aquatics Director

Make a splash with Ocean Pines Aquatics!

As the summer sun shines brightly upon us, it's the perfect time to dive into the exciting offerings at our five spectacular pools! Whether you're looking to cool off, stay fit, or simply relax poolside, Ocean Pines has something for everyone.

Let's start with our five locations:

- **Mumford's Landing Pool**
7351 Yacht Club Drive
Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Swim & Racquet Club Pool**

10 Seabreeze Road
Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Yacht Club Pool**

1 Mumford's Landing Road
Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
**Open 8-10 a.m. daily for swim members only*

- **Beach Club Pool**

49th Street and the beach, Ocean City
Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Sports Core Pool**

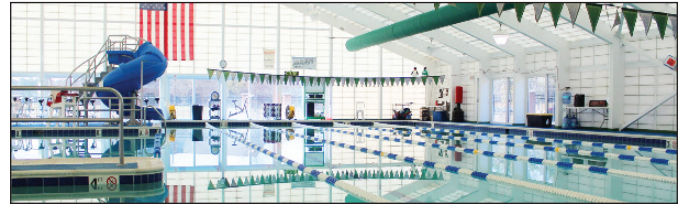
11144 Cathell Road
**Indoor pool, call for hours*

Join us for **Family Splash Nights** on July 6, Aug. 3, and Aug. 31 from 5-8 p.m. Bring the whole family for water-themed activities and evening fun! Swim members enjoy these events for just \$4, residents for \$6, nonresidents for \$8, and non-swimmers for \$2.

Looking to stay active? Dive into our diverse **exercise classes**, including strength and toning, total body fitness, aqua yoga, creaky joints, and more! Whether you're a beginner or a fitness enthusiast, there's a class to suit your needs.

Also, don't forget to take advantage of our special Twilight Swim hours and discounted rates! **Twilight Swim** is available at the four outdoor pools from 4:45-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Entry is \$4 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents.

For more information on any of our pools, programs, or events, please call 410-641-5255 or visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics.



CALLING ALL FUTURE LIFEGUARDS!
ages 7 & up

JR. Lifeguard Camp

MUST BE A STRONG SWIMMER & ABLE TO SWIM LENGTH OF THE POOL STRONG & TREAD WATER FOR 1 MINUTE

Learn lifeguard skills, basic CPR, first aid & more. Returning Ocean Pines Jr. Lifeguards will be junior Crew Chiefs & learn additional skills similar to the actual Red Cross Lifeguard: rescue mannequin, full backboard extraction w/head stabilization, passive victim & more.

3-Days

**Tues/Wed & Thurs, 5:30-7pm,
at the Sports Core Pool**

- Jul 9, 10 & 11
- Jul 16, 17 & 18
- Jul 23, 24 & 25
- Jul 30, 31 & Aug 1
- Aug 6, 7 & 8

\$75 Resident \$80 Non-resident

Includes: Jr. Lifeguards receive t-shirt & whistle



TWILIGHT SWIM

FEE:
\$4 Resident
\$6 Non-resident



YACHT CLUB POOL

Monday - Thursday, 4:45-6:00 pm*

BEACH CLUB POOL

Monday - Sunday, 4:45-6:00 pm*

MUMFORD'S LANDING POOL

Monday - Sunday, 4:45-6:00 pm*

SWIM & RACQUET POOL

Monday - Thursday, & Saturdays, 4:45-6:00 pm*

SPORTS CORE POOL

Monday - Thursday, 5:45-7:00 pm*
Friday, 4:45-6:00 pm*
Saturday, 3:45-5:00 pm*
Sunday, 1:45-3:00 pm*

**Must be out of pool 15 minutes before twilight swim ends*



FOR MORE INFO:

SPORTS CORE POOL, 11144 Cathell Rd, Ocean Pines, MD
410.641.5255 | OceanPines.org

Register at the Sports Core Pool

11144 Cathell Road
Ocean, Pines, MD 21811
410-641-5255 OceanPines.org





PUT ON YOUR SWIM SUIT & GRAB A TOWEL FOR AN EVENING OF WATER-THEMED ACTIVITIES!

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FAMILY SPLASH NIGHTS

at the Sports Core Pool

- SATURDAY, JULY 6
- SATURDAY, AUG 3
- SATURDAY, AUG 31

5PM - 8PM

NON-RESIDENT \$8 RESIDENT \$6
SWIM MEMBER \$4 NON-SWIMMER \$2

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Sunday Worship

- 8am Informal Worship
- 9:15am Contemporary Worship with Praise Band
- 9:15am Childrens' Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship with Choir
- 10:30am Adult Sunday School

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New! WATER VOLLEYBALL

WHEN: MON 12 classes (6 weeks)
TIME: 2:00pm-3:30pm
 thru JUL 1
 JUL 15 - SEP 2 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 16 - OCT 21

FEE: Swim Member \$30; OP Resident \$35; Non-Resident \$45; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

New! BIKE / TRAMP

WHEN: FRI, 9:00am-9:40am 12 classes (6 weeks)
 thru JUL 26
 AUG 9 - SEP 27 No Class 8/19-8/30

FEE: Swim Member \$45; OP Resident \$48; Non-Resident \$50; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

SWIMMIN WIMMIN: DEEP WATER & men!

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 8:00am-8:50am
 thru AUG 2
 AUG 5 - SEP 13 8/19-8/30 at Swim & Racquet Club

SWIMMIN WIMMIN: SHALLOW WATER & men!

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 8:00am-8:50am
 thru AUG 2
 AUG 5 - SEP 13 8/19-8/30 at Swim & Racquet Club

FEE: Swim Member \$55 (drop-in \$6); OP Resident \$65 (drop-in \$7); Non-Resident \$81 (drop-in \$8)

TOTAL BODY FITNESS I

WHEN: MON / WED, 10:00am-10:45am
 thru JUL 31

TOTAL BODY FITNESS II

WHEN: TUE / THU, 9:00am-9:45am
 thru JUL 30 No Class 7/4
 SEP 3 - OCT 10

FEE: (18-class session): Swim Member \$88; OP Resident \$100; Non-Resident \$120; (12-class session): Swim Member \$59; OP Resident \$66; Non-Resident \$80; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

HYDRORIDER WATER CYCLING

Please show up 10 min. early to set up your bike. Water shoes must be worn & can be purchased at Sports Core Pool. 15 registered participants per class; min. of 5.

WHEN: MON / WED, 9:00am-9:40am
 thru JUL 17 No Class 7/4
 JUL 29 - SEP 18 No Class 8/19-8/30

WHEN: TUE / THU, 9:00am-9:45am
 thru JUL 18 No Class 7/4
 JUL 30 - SEP 5 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 17 - OCT 24

WHEN: TUE / THU, 10:00am-10:45am
 thru JUL 24 No Class 7/4
 AUG 5 - SEP 25 No Class 8/19-9/2

FEE: Swim Member \$90 (drop-in \$9); OP Resident \$95 (drop-in \$11); Non-Resident \$100 (drop-in \$13)

EARLYBIRD LAP SWIM

WHEN: MON-FRI, 6:00am-7:50am
 thru JUL 19
 JUL 22 - AUG 30 8/19-8/30 at Swim & Racquet Club
 SEP 3 - OCT 11

FEE: Swim Member, free OP Resident \$65 (drop-in \$8); Non-Resident \$78 (drop-in \$8) **Pay lifeguard on duty.**

SHAPE UPS

WHEN: TUE / THU, 8:00am-8:50am
 JUL 2 - AUG 8
 SEP 3 - OCT 10

FEE: Swim Member \$40 (drop-in \$6); OP Resident \$50 (drop-in \$7); Non-Resident \$65 (drop-in \$8)

WET WORKS I: DEEP WATER

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 9:30am-10:20am
 JUL 1 - AUG 9 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 2 - OCT 11

WET WORKS II: SHALLOW WATER

WHEN: TUE / THU, 9:30am-10:20am
 JUL 2 - AUG 8 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 2 - OCT 11

FEE: *Wet Works I:* Swim Member \$60; OP Resident \$70; Non-Resident \$86; *Wet Works II:* Swim Member \$44; OP Resident \$54; Non-Resident \$61; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

CREAKY JOINTS I

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 11:00am-11:50am
 JUL 1 - AUG 9 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 2 - OCT 11

CREAKY JOINTS II

WHEN: TUE / THU, 11:00am-11:50am
 JUL 2 - AUG 8 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 3 - OCT 10

FEE: *Creaky Joints I:* Swim Member \$60; OP Resident \$70; Non-Resident \$86; *Creaky Joints II:* Swim Member \$44; OP Resident \$54; Non-Resident \$61; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

AQUA YOGA

This super low-impact class makes it possible for those with joint pain to improve their strength, flexibility & range of motion.

WHEN: WED / FRI, 8:00am-8:45am
 JUL 3 - AUG 9 No Class 8/19-9/2
 SEP 4 - OCT 11

FEE: Swim Member \$60 (drop-in \$6); OP Resident \$70 (drop-in \$7); Non-Resident \$86 (drop-in \$8)

BOOTCAMP

This intense fitness class is boosted by the benefits of water resistance with the bonus of little to no impact on joints. Never the same class twice, each workout features weight & resistance training, cardio & an instructor who is retired Army.

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 6:00pm-6:45pm
 JUL 1 - AUG 9 No Class 8/19-8/30
 SEP 2 - OCT 11

FEE: Swim Member \$60 (drop-in \$6); OP Resident \$70 (drop-in \$7); Non-Resident \$86 (drop-in \$8)



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2024

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Events & Happenings

239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD | 410.641.7052 | oceanpines.org

SATURDAYS IN WHITE HORSE PARK

8am-1pm Mar 2-Sep 28 | 9am-12pm Oct 5-Feb 28

JUL 4 July 4th Celebration (Thur. 8am-1pm) *Featuring an abundance of fresh local produce, jams, eggs, local honey & baked goods.*

AUG 31 Labor Day Weekend Market *The marketplace is the perfect place to pick up the ingredients for an end-of-summer cookout.*

SEP 21 Apple Harvest Jamboree *Celebrate the diverse & unique fall offerings of Delmarva & have old-fashioned family country fun.*

OCT 19 Pumpkin Festival *Enjoy an unforgettable experience of choosing the perfect pumpkin, get lost in our artisan village and enjoy a glass of fresh pressed apple cider!*

NOV 23 Thanksgiving Harvest Market *All of the best fixings for your Thanksgiving table & home. Food, demonstrations, contests, live music & more.*

NOV 26 Turkey Market (Tue. 9-11am) *Gather your special orders & pick up last-minute items for a bountiful holiday.*

NOV 30 Small Business Saturday *Visit and shop the many unique marketplace shops, boutiques, and galleries for one-of-a-kind gifts.*

DEC 21 Christmas Market *Capture the spirit of the holiday season with us. Browse a selection of handmade crafts, artisanal gifts, and delicious treats.*





Terry Underkoffler
Director of Racquet Sports

Get your racquets and paddles ready

Summer is here and you do not want to miss out on the action at the courts: tennis, pickleball, platform, spec tennis and timeless tennis – all open to the public. Whether you are a seasoned tennis player or looking to give tennis a swing for the first time, now's the perfect time to get involved and hit the court!

Tennis offers courts for group play, drop-in play at 9 a.m. for anyone looking to join a group to play, ball machines to work on your strokes,

clinics and lessons available through our professional staff. Coaches Rieck Foelber, Bill Gilroy, Aracel Popen and Terry Underkoffler all offer individual and small group lessons as well as specialized clinics. Call the center or stop by to set up your tennis game.

The Ocean Pines Tennis Club is our organized group of players that hosts several social tennis events all summer long. Contact us for more information.

Pickleball players are having an absolute blast under the sun! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, come join the fun and make the most of your summer.

Are you a beginner looking to master the basics, or a

seasoned player aiming to refine your skills? We offer private pickleball lessons with United States Open Champion Linda Horst. Her personalized coaching will help you reach your goals. Sign up today by emailing Linda at pgasoccer@gmail.com or by calling her at 757-630-4546.

The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club features over 400 members and they do many social events, in-house tournaments and group play. Check out Pickleball Den!

Platform tennis, timeless tennis and spec tennis are played year-round on our screened and lighted platform courts – about one third the size of a regular tennis court. Join the Platform Tennis Club and enjoy club events all year long!

A gentle reminder to please sign in at the pro shop prior to heading to the courts. This applies to everyone – both members and guests. By signing in, you help us keep track of court usage/availability, maintain accurate statistics, and validate memberships. It also ensures smooth operations and helps us maintain the high quality of our facilities. Thank you for your cooperation and enjoy your game!

Elevate your social game! Find Ocean Pines Racquet Center on Facebook and now on Twitter/X (@OPARacquetCTR) for news, court conditions, and other daily updates.

For more info on our racquet sports, call Director of Racquet Sports, Terry Underkoffler, at 410-641-7728 or email tunderkoffler@oceanpines.com.

NET GENERATION
KIDS TENNIS ACADEMY

EVERY TUES & THURS, JUN 11-AUG 15
9:30AM-10:30PM

INSTRUCTORS:
TERRY UNDERKOFFLER, PTR PROFESSIONAL
ARACEL POPEN, ADD AWARD-WINNING INSTRUCTOR

FEE: OP RESIDENT \$10/SESSION
NON-RESIDENT: \$15/SESSION
FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGES 7-13

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Basic stroke techniques will be covered in the lessons, including forehand, backhand, serving & volleys.

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: 410.641.7228

7th Annual Pink Ribbon Pickleball Round Robin

Friday, October 4, 2024

8:30AM-2:00PM

Hosted by the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club

Entry Fee: \$40/person. Sign Up Individually. Open to Men & Women. Entry includes snacks, lunch, prizes.

Make checks payable to ACS (American Cancer Society) In lieu of play, donations accepted



LIMITED SPACE ~ Sign Up Early



All checks & registrations must be received by Friday, September 20, 2024
Questions? Contact Becky Ferguson at 410-446-1816 or rcoltferguson@gmail.com

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Meet the Team: Linda Horst

Ocean Pines has its own world-class pickleball instructor

It's no secret that pickleball is one of the fastest growing and most popular sports in the United States.

What everyone may not know is that the Ocean Pines Racquet Center has a world-class pickleball instructor who was taught by two of the best players in the sport – and has a trophy case full of her own medals.

Linda Horst grew up just outside of Philadelphia. She studied physical education and coaching at West Chester State College and did graduate work at Penn State in Harrisburg, and then put her education to good use as a career teacher and coach in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

"I taught there for 36 years," she said. "I coached archery for 10 years, and I also helped to start soccer programs and coached that for 20 years. It was a brand-new sport for Central Pennsylvania, and I coached a lot of it in the community, from travel teams to high school girls."

Horst retired and moved to Ocean Pines in 2012, in part because the community had platform tennis courts.

"I had played platform tennis when I was 16 years old, where I was born and raised," she said. "They had a court there, but I never saw one again until we were checking out Ocean Pines. I had loved it then, and I was so excited to have it back in my life."

Horst said pickleball wasn't yet a major force in Ocean Pines in 2012, although it was a sport that she taught in high school.

"I had introduced it into my teaching curriculum in the 1990s," she said. "I saw pickleball at a convention that I went to as a physical education instructor, and it caught my attention. It was something I thought, oh, I could do this in a gymnasium. I could make this work for my students."

"And so, the following year, my whole PE budget was spent buying paddles and balls. They were only wooden paddles at the time, but it was enough to get it started," she continued. "And I self-taught myself the game."

Years later, one of her platform tennis friends in Ocean Pines brought up pickleball. They went to the old racquet center, taped out some lines, brought in a portable net, and started to play.

"That was long before the whole idea of a pickleball club was



established here," she said. "But I started playing more and more, and I found that I really, really liked the challenge."

Learning from the best

Then, in 2018, a family situation drew Horst to Florida for three months over the winter.

"Pickleball was everywhere in Florida," she said. "My oldest son, who was a lawyer, gave me a phone number and said, 'Mom, I've got a friend who is just starting to teach down there, and they can give you some lessons.'"

The instructor was Leigh Waters. Her daughter, Anna Leigh Waters, is currently the no. 1 ranked pickleball player in the world.

"She and her very young daughter started coaching me on a regular basis, every week. These people gave me my foundation," Horst said. "And, around that time, they decided to pair up and try a few tournaments as a mom daughter. Anna Leigh was only 12, but the rest is history, because they started blowing everybody out of the water."

Horst said the duo also got her interested in playing competitively.

"How can you not get hooked if you're playing with people like that?" she said. "They were and still are very down to earth, but I had no idea what I was walking into in that situation, actually working with the no. 1 player in the world. I'm very fortunate."

Around that time, Leigh Waters introduced Horst to her mixed-doubles partner, Toby Kaye, who she has competed with several times at the U.S. Open and at the Pickleball National Championship in Arizona.

Horst won a silver medal for women's doubles at the U.S. Open in 2018 and a gold medal for mixed doubles in 2019. This year, she won gold medals in doubles and mixed doubles at the U.S. Open, and she qualified for the upcoming nationals.

"I don't care really about the medals – I love the people, I love the competition," Horst said. "I always want to know what do I still need to work on and how? What can I do to figure that out, because then I can bring it here to show people what they can work on."

In 2022, Horst took her education and her career as a teacher



OCEAN PINES RACQUET CENTER

– along with her own championship pedigree – and started teaching pickleball in Ocean Pines. She became certified through several top pickleball agencies and got to work.

“What players will get from me is a lot of experience and a very unique teaching style,” Horst said. “I use a lot of visualization with crazy analogies. I’ll use the words ‘Amazon smile’ for a swing path, or I’ll tell them to turn the flashlights on their shoulders in certain directions if they want the ball to go somewhere. I found that approach works very well.”

Horst teaches players and groups in virtually all skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

“We all work together and try to help each other just get better because, if I can make the level of play here better, that benefits everyone,” she said. “We all have the notion that Ocean Pines is going to be known as a really good center to go to play pickleball. The quality of the courts is getting better all the time, and there’s not another facility in this area that’s this big.”

This summer, Horst will lead a kids’ camp on July 15-17, and regular clinics for all ages and skill levels are scheduled throughout the year.

“In August and September, we’ll do more beginner classes, beginner sessions, intermediate sessions, all different things,” she said. “I’ll be teaching a variety of whatever people want to learn.”

A family affair

A career teacher, championship player, and coach, Horst said it all comes from her family background.

“We are a very competitive family, and my children achieved umpteen things in the world of athletics,” she said. “My oldest, Bobbi-Jo, was an athlete and she still does a lot in her life. When she was in high school, she won the state championship in basketball. My next child is Steven. When he was in high school, he set records for the number of goals scored in soccer and points in basketball, and he was an All-American in Division III college basketball and had a great career.”



“And then my youngest, David, went on to become a professional Major League Soccer player, and he played Division I soccer at Old Dominion. But we just we had fun, and we learned so much from each other. Now all our families are involved, and it’s been great. I have nine grandchildren – and six of them play pickleball.”

When everyone comes to visit, Horst said, she and her husband, and their children and grandchildren can take up three or four courts at once.

“We love it,” she said. “They’re all competitive to a degree in sports, and they just love having fun. And when they come here, it’s the first thing that’s announced – ‘When are we going down to the courts?’”

“I love that. I love being with my family, and I love teaching both kids and adults.”

That’s been a real blessing in my life,” she continued. “More than anything, I enjoy the people. The people are the number-one asset of pickleball, whether it be my students, my friends, my competitors, or my partners. They have made me a better teacher, and they have actually made me a better person.”

To contact Horst about pickleball lessons in Ocean Pines, email pgasoccer@gmail.com.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports.

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Bob Beckelman
Director of Golf

Summer is in full swing

With summer in full swing, we're enjoying another great season of golf, and I'm excited to share some highlights of what we have planned for you at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

Taylor Bank Tournament – July 17: We're proud to once again host the Taylor Bank Tournament on July 17, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. This tournament is not only a great day of golf, but also supports a wonderful

cause: local college scholarships. Your participation helps empower our community's youth, providing them with opportunities to pursue higher education. Sign up, play your best, and contribute to a brighter future.

Course conditions and practice facilities: Our course remains in fantastic shape, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated maintenance team. Whether you're playing a round or practicing, you'll find the greens and fairways in prime condition. While you're here, don't forget to take advantage of our excellent grass tee driving range and short game areas to fine-tune your skills.

Golf instruction opportunities: Looking to improve your game? Our staff of instructors and the Matt Ruggiere Golf Academy are here to help! We offer a wide range of instruction options for everyone – men, ladies, juniors, families, individuals, clinics, small private clinics, and more. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting, we have the right program for you.

For more information on any of these programs or events, please contact the Pro Shop at 410-641-6057.

I look forward to seeing you all out on the course and at our upcoming events. Let's make this season the best one yet!

Club Championship – Aug. 3-4: Our highly anticipated Club Championship is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for Aug. 3-4, with tee times starting bright and early at 7 a.m. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your skills, compete with fellow members, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our club so special. Don't miss out on the chance to etch

Ravens Roost announces 2024 scholarship recipients, golf tournament results

Ravens Roost #44 of Ocean City in June announced the presentation of annual scholarship awards totaling \$15,000. The 2024 scholar/athlete awards went to six students at three area high schools:



- Daniel Karchevski, Stephen Decatur High School
- Abigail Melito, Stephen Decatur High School
- Vanesska Hall, Worcester Preparatory School
- Esther Mehilli, Worcester Preparatory School
- Heather Smyth, Indian River High School
- Grace Robinson, Indian River High School

Don McMullen, Scholarship Committee co-chair, said the Ravens Roost Scholarship Committee awards individual scholarships based on SAT/ACT scores, grade-point averages, participation in athletics, community service, work history, letters of recommendations, and an essay on how athletics are important in today's society.

Ravens Roost #44 has awarded \$258,900 in scholarships over the last two-plus decades.

The nonprofit held its 27th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on May 31. More than 100 golfers participated.

The winning teams and players were:

- **First Place Ravens Roost team: The Ravens Roost #44 team of Bob Grice, Frank Nechay, Scott Ballweg, Andrew Thompson**
- **First Place overall: Dean Hamburg, Mike McCuster, Tracy Piper and Michael Decker**

- **Closest to the Pin (men): Mike Decker**
- **Closest to the Pin (women): Samantha Boger**
- **Closest to the Line (men): Bob Grice**
- **Closest to the Pin (women): Samantha Boger**
- **Putting Contest: Don Owrey**

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank signature sponsor American Legion Post 166 of Ocean City, and major sponsors District Cannabis, Ocean Downs Casino and Ravens Roost #44.

"We would also like to thank our tee sponsors, local golf courses who donated rounds of golf, and businesses who donated gift certificates and prizes," McMullen said.

"In addition, we would like to thank our golfers who played on a beautiful sunny day at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, and all our Ravens Roost #44 volunteers who made this event another success," he continued. "A special thank you to Ocean Pines Director of Golf Bob Beckelman and his staff and Director of Golf Maintenance Justin Hartshorne and his staff for the excellent course conditions, and Judie and her staff at the Clubhouse Grille for an outstanding luncheon."

McMullen said the Scholarship Committee is currently seeking donations for 2025 scholarships. Donations may be mailed to Ravens Roost #44, Post Office Box 4161, Ocean City, Maryland 21843. Ravens Roost #44, Inc. is an IRS 501(7)(c) nonprofit. The federal tax ID is 52-2160753.

For more information, visit ocravensroost44.com.



Justin Hartshorne
Golf Course Superintendent

Water management: Key tips for summer greens

At the Ocean Pines Golf Club, water management is crucial, particularly on our putting greens.

With longer days and higher temperatures during the summer, turf naturally requires more water. However, applying extra water isn't always the best solution.

Here are five essential tips that we use to manage water on our greens during the summer:

1. AVOID OVERWATERING

While plants need water for cooling and nutrient transport, overwatering can be harmful. Water conducts heat, so saturated soil can heat up and damage roots. Overwatering can be just as detrimental as underwatering.

2. MONITOR SOLUBLE SALTS

Water often contains mineral salts that can accumulate in the soil, limiting the ability of turfgrass to absorb water. If there's a history of soil or water salinity issues, use a handheld electrical conductivity meter to monitor levels. Periodic deep watering can help dilute and flush out these salts from the root zone.

3. WATER EARLY IN THE MORNING

The best time to water greens is early morning. This ensures water enters the soil before the day's heat and reduces the risk of leaf wetness that can cause disease. Monitor morning moisture levels to keep turf cool throughout the day, using tools like soil probes and moisture meters.

4. SYRINGING FOR TEMPORARY COOLING

Syringing involves applying a light film of water to turfgrass leaves for temporary cooling. As the water evaporates, it cools the plant. However, this effect only lasts a few minutes, so combining syringing with using a fan can maximize the cooling effect.

5. HAND WATERING SAVES WATER

Hand watering might seem inefficient compared to automatic irrigation systems, but it actually helps to conserve water. Sprinklers cover large areas, which isn't ideal for targeting small dry spots. Hand watering allows precise application, maintaining healthy turf without wasting water.

By following these tips, we can ensure our greens stay in excellent condition throughout the summer.



Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Golf Scramble returns for 40th year

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council will host the 40th annual Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Golf Scramble at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on Wednesday, July 17 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Players and sponsors are needed, and the deadline for both is July 12.

The annual tournament benefits junior golf in the area by supporting junior golf clinics and an annual tournament for junior golfers.

The scramble also raises funds for scholarships for local high school seniors who have shown an interest in golf. During the last nine years, the Golf Members' Council has raised almost \$73,000 for local scholarships.

The public entry fee is \$120 per person, which includes the greens fee, cart, team prizes, men's and ladies' closest-to-the-pin prizes, door prizes, on-course refreshments, and lunch at the

Clubhouse Bar and Grille following the tournament.

Players may sign up individually or as a foursome. Individuals or incomplete teams will be paired.

Taylor Bank is the longtime event title sponsor. Platinum, gold, and silver level sponsorships are available.

To download player or sponsorship forms, visit oceanpines.org and click on the "News" section. The sponsorship form includes a tax identification number for those providing sponsorships or donations.

Entry and sponsorship forms may also be picked up at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. Fees may be mailed to Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council, PO Box 1356, Berlin, MD 21811. Checks should be made payable to "Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council."

For more info, contact Steve Howse at 571-239-8469 or stevehowse75@gmail.com, or Bob Long at 410-208-0606 or rmlong@aol.com.

Ocean Pines Golf Club's friendly reminder about course access and the importance of respecting the property:

Golf Club staff are focused on ensuring the safety of registered golfers, preserving the course's integrity, and minimizing any potential damage or liability issues.

To help maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all golfers, it is crucial that the public – including nonregistered individuals – refrain from accessing the course. Instances of unauthorized access pose risks such as accidents, property damage, vandalism, and interference with ongoing play.

To prevent such incidents and ensure the well-being of all participants, the Ocean Pines Golf Club would like to reinforce the following guidelines:

Restricted access: The golf course is exclusively for registered golfers. No walking, biking, dog walking, or any other activities are permitted on the course. **Additionally, no fishing is permitted anywhere on the golf course property.**

Safety and liability: Unauthorized access to the course can result in potential hazards and liability issues. It is important that community members and their children understand and respect these regulations to ensure the well-being of everyone involved.

Property respect: The Ocean Pines Golf Club requests that all visitors to the course remain mindful and respectful of the course and its property. Engaging in any activities that may cause damage or disrupt play is strictly prohibited.

For more info on the Ocean Pines Golf Club, visit oceanpinesgolf.org.

OPA Board candidates provide statements

Candidates for the 2024 Ocean Pines Board election were asked to submit both a brief statement introducing themselves to voters, and answers to three questions created by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee.

Below is the information submitted by each candidate, presented in ballot order. Candidate submissions were not edited for grammar or punctuation.



Sherrie Clifford

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Address:
103 Teal Circle

Introductory statement

I am Sherrie Clifford, and I am asking for your vote for the Ocean Pines

Board of Directors.

I have extensive experience in project management, contract negotiations, software development, and database management, with a keen eye for detail. As a successful entrepreneur, I identify needs and address them. My hands-on experience includes building and maintaining team environments, advanced technology proficiency, informed decision-making, and the ability to collaborate with individuals at all organizational levels.

As the founder of a Data Management & Software Development firm, I provided information and services to multi-billion-dollar Wall Street firms, earning a reputation for dependability, integrity, and proficiency. My clients included US Options Exchanges, Bloomberg, banks, trading firms, data providers, and more, where I delivered the most precise options reference data used in trading U.S. options.

We need Directors who listen and responds promptly to all homeowners, welcomes input from homeowners and committees, and promotes open communication without any fear of retribution. I will be a Director that leads by example and is committed to following our governing documents without ignoring the rules for personal interests.

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

1. What will you bring to the office that differentiates you from other candidates?

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

showcasing my innovative and solution-oriented approach.

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

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

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

2. Which amenity fees need rebalancing to increase participation from homeowners?

To determine which amenity fees need rebalancing to increase homeowner participation, a thorough analysis of each amenity is essential. This involves working closely with committees and making informed decisions based on the following factors: current usage, surveys, benchmarking, amenities comparison, operational costs, revenue vs. participation, family-friendly options, seasonal usage, bundled packages, and potential promotional offers.

The Board must ensure there are no self-interests involved when determining the rebalancing of fees for any of the amenities. Equal promotion should be given to all amenities. We must make smart investments in updating our facilities.

By conducting this comprehensive analysis and making informed decisions and strategic adjustments to the amenity fees, we can enhance participation and ensure that all homeowners have the opportunity to enjoy the facilities and services offered by Ocean Pines.

As a Director, I would prioritize addressing the concerns of homeowners who do not utilize the amenities, emphasizing the need to keep their HOA

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

fees as low as possible. Setting artificially low fees for amenities results in reduced revenue, which consequently leads to higher HOA fees for everyone.

3. What is your vision for the future of our community?

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

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

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

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



Jeff Heavner

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415 Ocean Parkway

Introductory statement

If you enjoy the successful momentum and prosperous position of Ocean Pines, I ask for your re-election vote. I support the positive direction that our talented general Manager continues to point Ocean Pines. I focus on the objectives of his community affirmed strategic plan that protects our quality of life and property values through forward moving priorities in

safety, top tier amenities, infrastructure maintenance and community appearance.

My leadership was developed at the Naval Academy, serving in the Navy to protect Arabian Sea global shipping lanes, and developing future intelligence officers as an instructor, managing for decades in a broad range of positions at ExxonMobil and serving as a member of a leadership team that directed the safest and most prosperous \$3 billion lubricant business.

I use my skills as a proud member of your leadership team relentlessly focused on conducting business to make things better. This board has worked with the GM to deliver many community wins, from beautification through a renewed effort to address CPI violations to infrastructure maintenance with replacement of an aging golf course irrigation system, all while reducing assessments. Please vote for me for experienced and proven leadership to get the job done.

1. What will you bring to the office that differentiates you from other candidates?

My Ocean Pines board experience coupled with my deep and broad military and corporate experience have given me the leadership skills and discipline to focus on priorities that continue leading us towards our shared vision of exceptional safety, financial, value and quality of life.

I am proud of the accomplishments that I have been part of on this board. We are enjoying a favorable fiscal year-end net operating budget of ~\$1.2M and are on a path for continued positive results. We have accomplished this by wisely spending on initiatives to improve safety, enhance condition of top-tier amenities, infrastructure maintenance and community beautification.

I am approaching a full year of service since the community elected me to the board and I am even better prepared to continue addressing the needs and concerns of Ocean Pines. It is exciting to be part of a team focused on the strategic priorities that make things better for us all.

2. Which amenity fees need rebalancing to increase participation from homeowners?

As this question implies, it is imperative that our amenities have appropriate fees that attract patronage. While we face increased costs to maintain our amenities, salary administration and insurance, operations continue to recommend the adjustments required to price our amenities appropriately.

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

Additionally, the annual bottom-up budgeting process enables broad oversight of the fee schedule. I do not see the need for a meaningful change in the amenity fees.

Our financial position is strong, our future is promising and the general manager, working with the board, continues to invest in the condition of our top-tier amenities. The golf course is a must play on the Eastern Shore. The yacht club is a resort wedding and private event destination, a favorite food and beverage choice, a boater's haven at the marina, and an inviting outdoor deck party. Our beach club is an ocean front gem! The pools offer sunsational relaxation and safe aquatic adventures for all. The racquet sports complex attracts tournament play, clubs, as well as those seeking instruction. Our recreation and parks offer classes and activities for the widest bandwidth of interests. Our trails and parks immerse you in coastal nature. I do not see a need to rebalance.

3. What is your vision for the future of our community?

Continue listening to residents and collaborating with the board and general manager to prioritize actions that add to our exceptional safety, financial, value and quality of life position. I support priorities that advance our shared vision.

General Manager:

- New contract retaining John Viola's talent
- Succession planning identifying future talent

Safety:

- Competitive pay and benefits enabling recruitment, retention, and modernization of Police
- Getting deal done to construct new South firehouse enabling Volunteer Fire Department to provide exceptional emergency services for decades
- New Fire Department Memorandum of Understanding ensuring long term mutual success

Amenities:

- New Matt Ortt Companies contract winning at clubs
- Soft Yacht Club dining room renovation enhancing resort experience
- Getting the racquet sports center clubhouse renovation completed
- Repurpose unused swim & racquet tennis courts
- New community center providing more venues
- New camper, RV, trailer, and boat storage yard generating new revenue

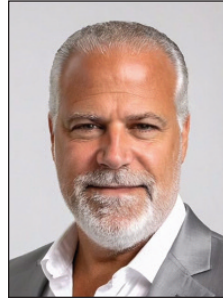
Infrastructure Maintenance:

- Drainage focus protecting property
- Multi-year golf irrigation replacement enhancing

- play appeal
- Reserve funding securing favorable financial future

Community Appearance:

- South pond erosion restoration enhancing entrance beauty
- Swim and racquet club grounds beautification
- Yacht club parking grounds beautification
- Compliance, permits, and inspection focus and education reducing violations



Rick Farr

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Address:

21 Birdnest Drive

Introductory statement

I am currently serving as President of the Ocean Pines Association; a homeowner in Ocean Pines since 1999 and a full-time resident since 2020. I grew up in Bowie, MD; retired military after serving over 20 years United States Air Force, participated in many combat operations, I am a five-time recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal and received a Citation for Valor for Operation Iraqi Freedom. I hold a BA in Business Management and MBA in Human Resource Management with over 30 years as a human resource executive having served on many executive boards in in the military, corporate and county environments. I am currently the Chief Human Resource Officer for the Town of Easton Maryland and a Certified Professional in Human Resource Management and Strategic Human Resource Leadership. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, serving the men and woman of our incredible military community.

If re-elected, I will continue to ensure that our community remains financially strong; more investment in public safety with our outstanding police and fire departments, invest in the enhancement of all our amenities and continue the beautification efforts throughout Ocean Pines. Promises Made - Promises Kept

1. What will you bring to the office that differentiates you from other candidates?

Continued Executive experience. As board member for the past three (3) years, I have served in the positions as a committee liaison; as Vice President and current

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

President of the Ocean Pines Association where I have provided effective executive leadership that has been proven and has provided tangible positive results for our community. I have effectively led the board in partnership with our General Manager in making tactical and strategic decisions in enhancing our community amenities and infrastructure from a corporate governance and budgetary standpoint along with my commitment in upholding high ethical standards. I currently lead a very strong cohesive board of directors that collaborates effectively, professionally, and successfully with unwavering dedication to Ocean Pines success. I have partnered with local and county officials presenting Ocean Pines annual budgets requests to county officials for public safety (Police), roads and bridge improvement and funding for our parks and recreation department to meet the needs of our residents, visitors, and tourists. My executive leadership experience and skillset in the military, corporate and the government industries, has given me the financial acumen, discernment, collaboration, and motivation necessary to be successful in a second term leading the Ocean Pines Association.

2. Which amenity fees need rebalancing to increase participation from homeowners?

Ocean Pines operations play a crucial role in transparently conveying to residents how amenity fees directly contribute to the continual improvement and maintenance of all our amenities. It is up to our operations team in coordination with our general manager to make that assessment if rebalancing of fees is needed and how it will affect our budget and the participation use of our residents. It will be important to look at historical data and make some analysis to make that decision. This is an operational decision – not a board of directors’ decision.

3. What is your vision for the future of our community?

My vision for Ocean Pines is to ensure it remains vibrant, inclusive, and a safe environment where residents of all backgrounds feel connected and safe. Creating a vision for the future for our community involves critical thinking about the long-term goals when considering the needs and desires of all our residents in planning for any type of growth and development. Ocean Pines has become a very diverse community with those that live here that are retired and those that are younger raising families. My vision is to

continue to foster a sense of belonging and active participation among Ocean Pines residents. I would also encourage all our residents to participate in a visioning process that would foster a sense of community and reinforce community spirit and motivate our residents to continue working toward shared goals. I would encourage open dialogue, collaboration, and involvement in decision-making processes to ensure that diverse voices are heard and well represented. I would like to ensure that infrastructure projects and any upgrading of our amenities are planned strategically, within a sound budget that addresses our evolving requirements.



Amy Peck

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109 White Horse Drive

Introductory statement

Hello, I’m Amy Peck, and I’m seeking your support. Ocean Pines has been my home since 2002, and I’ve experienced it from various angles: as a part-timer, a full-timer, a Mom who raised her sons here every summer, an OPA employee, an appointed director, a retiree, and always as an active volunteer.

I’m asking for your vote because I firmly believe that effective governance involves respectful open discussions considering multiple perspectives, ideas, and solutions. I recognize the value of committees’ expertise, the importance of listening to homeowners, and the significance of collaborating with our Fire Department. My diverse background as a business owner, paralegal, and educator equips me with a wide range of skills needed to analyze issues, conduct research, and ask critical questions before making decisions that honor Ocean Pines’ legacy.

Residents deserve a Board that isn’t afraid of transparency. We shouldn’t settle for a 6-1 or 7-0 Board that blindly approves decisions without considering different viewpoints. Instead, we need improved collaboration and a commitment to restoring relationships within our community. As an independent thinker, I have no personal agenda or ego—my focus is listening to homeowners and serving Ocean Pines. Your vote is greatly appreciated!

VOTE BY TUESDAY, AUGUST 6 BY 4 P.M.

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

1. What will you bring to the office that differentiates you from other candidates?

Since 2002 I've been very actively involved in Ocean Pines, a community I love. Some even call me an "Ocean Pines encyclopedia". My family and I have taken advantage of all the amenities. I raised my sons here: swimming, fishing, kayaking, skateboarding, and meeting friends at family fun nights. You will still find me at the amenities, kids fishing events, holiday breakfasts, the garden plot, committee meetings, forums, town halls, holiday celebrations, picking up trash at the South Pond, bike events, walking the trails, and the library. I have volunteered countless hours for Rec and Parks programs, OC Art League and Maryland Coastal Bays. All of this experience has given me a wealth of institutional knowledge of Ocean Pines and a deep respect for its legacy. Our founders created something truly special here and it's our duty to protect it. For me, that means always adhering to our governing documents, actively listening to homeowners, and maintaining full transparency when making decisions. I'm committed to asking the tough questions, researching alternative solutions, and collaborating with others. Above all, I'm dedicated to serving and giving back to the community I love.

2. Which amenity fees need rebalancing to increase participation from homeowners?

Over the past two budget cycles, our Board has disregarded the advice from committees and operations when determining fees for our amenities. Unfortunately, this approach has not capitalized on revenue. Amenities that perform well should ideally reduce the assessment burden for all residents, which is especially crucial for part-time owners, homeowners on fixed budgets, and young families.

Recently, the Board decided to eliminate single sport racquet memberships, without any transparency. However, after homeowners raised concerns, they reversed this decision just eleven days later. As a Director, I would prioritize listening to input from committees, operations, and amenity users. My focus would be on maintaining an affordable HOA fee.

I strongly advocate for retaining single sport racquet memberships and believe all amenities should include a couples membership. Property owners pay an HOA fee, and in return, they should benefit from significantly lower rates than non-residents. Additionally, residents should have priority access to popular amenities like marina slips. To enhance affordability and flexibility, I

propose reintroducing coupon cards for aquatics and racquet sports, with a "use it or lose it" policy. Furthermore, the Budget and proposed fees should be transparently published well in advance of the Directors' votes.

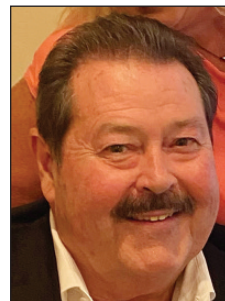
3. What is your vision for the future of our community?

Our Vision Statement aims to position us as the premier resort community offering exceptional value and excellent quality of life to property owners of diverse ages, economic backgrounds, and interests. For me, this translates to prudent spending, distinguishing between wants and needs. It means supporting our senior demographic in aging in place while also providing engaging activities for our young families.

I advocate for governance that actively considers the needs of our part-time owners and leverages technology to be inclusive, streamline processes and reduce costs. Ocean Pines must prioritize safety by collaborating closely with the fire department to meet OPVFD's requirements while ensuring community safety.

I am committed to environmental protection and sustainability. Regular community-wide surveys, town halls, and more opportunities for member input are essential. We possess a strategic plan, dedicated employees, and a wealth of expertise within our community. These resources enable us to provide facilities and services that maintain Ocean Pines' safety, attractiveness, and affordability.

I seek your vote because I envision transparent governance that builds upon Ocean Pines' successes while avoiding wasteful spending or pet projects. Upholding our core values - Integrity, Accountability, Collaboration, Respect, and Sustainability—is paramount.



Jerry Murphy

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Address:

13 Widows Watch Court

Introductory statement

My name is Jerry Murphy, and I came to Ocean Pines in the early 70's. I built several of the Roundhouses in Ocean Pines. I was given the opportunity to open and be the general

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

manager of the McDonalds in Berlin and Ocean City, Md. After 4 years, I returned to the Baltimore/Washington, DC area. I had a successful paper and packaging distribution business, which I sold in 2002. For the last 21 years, my wife Julie Canard and I have been realtors with Long and Foster Real Estate Company. We are top producers and represent buyers and sellers in the Maryland, Delaware and Washington, DC areas.

1. What will you bring to the office that differentiates you from other candidates?

I believe my longevity and familiarity with Ocean Pines is unique. I have been a property owner for 50+ years. I currently, and for the past 12 years, served as VP of the BOD of Distinguished Washington Park Apartments in Baltimore. It is a 120 year old historic building. We have ample reserves and is well maintained. My knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Ocean Pines board of directors.

2. Which amenity fees need rebalancing to increase participation from homeowners?

At this time, I feel that all of our amenities are in a

positive, profitable, position. The current board of directors and John Viola, our general manager, have done an excellent job thus far. I support the current direction.

3. What is your vision for the future of our community?

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

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

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

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

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State and community leaders celebrate Pine'er Craft Club golden anniversary



April 18 was a banner day for the Pine'er Craft Club, as state, county and community leaders helped celebrate 50 years of club activity.

Chief among those, Club President Sharon Puser said Craft Club donations have benefited many community groups over the last five decades, with more than \$185,000 to date in total donations.

That includes more than \$35,000 for Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks, more than \$23,000 for Ocean Pines Police, and more than \$15,000 for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and EMS. Other donations went to Ocean Pines Public Works, the Neighborhood watch, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, the Ocean Pines Library, the Ocean Pines Garden Club, and others.

"Unfortunately, years of records were lost due to flooding, so that's the verifiable donation number - we know there is more," Puser said. "The money has gone toward critical needs that support a growing community, like playground equipment, masks for firemen, bike helmets for children, equipment for policemen, tables and chairs for the community centers, support for concerts in the park, and much more."

Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza was a featured guest of the luncheon and presented Puser with a citation sponsored by herself and Del. Wayne Hartman that offered special recognition for "the stunning handcrafted gifts" the club creates, and the good service it does for the Ocean Pines community and beyond.

Worcester County Commissioners President Chip Bertino was also present to read a proclamation to club members and guests by declaring it "Pine'er Craft Club Day." Bertino celebrated the club's creativity, and the donations that club members have made to Worcester County during their 50 years of giving.

Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines President Kerrie Bunting was also present to recognize the club. Bunting offered a special ribbon cutting to celebrate the occasion, and guests and club officers were invited to participate.

In addition to club members past and present, Ocean Pines Board of Directors Elaine Brady, John Latham and Monica Lankowski attended, along with General Manager John Viola, Police Chief Tim Robinson and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue, and Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore.

One special guest, 92-year-old Anne Turner, was president of the club in 1975. She brought a sweatshirt that she bought at the Artisan Gift Shop many years ago, claiming it was one of her favorites as she reminisced about the many friends she made.

Turner also offered the story behind the club's name.

"Mary Fickle was the first president of the crafting group,

and we used to have meetings in the campgrounds under the trees," she said. "As one of the first clubs to form in Ocean Pines, and as she looked up through those pines at the blue sky above for inspiration, she decided to name the group the Pine'er Craft Club."

Other former members were invited to stand and share memories, and there were many smiles around the room.

The Craft Club is busily preparing for big fundraising events, including the August Craft Fair, Desserts in the Park, and the Holiday Craft Fair.

The August Craft Fair will be held on Aug. 3 in the Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park. Those interested in becoming a vendor this year should contact Kelly Davis at shoafpr@gmail.com or call 609-351-2125 for more information.

The Pine'er Craft Club always welcomes new members. For an information packet, email Sherry Waskey at sherwaskey@gmail.com or attend meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The Pine'er Craft Club also operates the Artisan Gift Shop, across from the Ocean Pines Administration Building and next to the Farmer's Market. The shop is open weekends, year-round, and features gifts, seasonal items, and home décor favorites. Artisans who would like to be featured in the shop may contact Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog at opcraftclub@aol.com for more information.

For more information about Pine'er Craft Club events and announcements, search for "Ocean Pines Pine'er Craft Club" on Facebook.



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Garden Club hosts annual Arbor Day ceremony

The Ocean Pines Garden Club hosted its annual Arbor Day Celebration of Life ceremony on April 11 in Pintail Park.

Roughly 100 people attended, and the event featured proclamations from Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr and Worcester County Commissioners President Chip Bertino.

Garden Club Co-President Ann Shockley emceed the ceremony and Anita Roberts spoke on the history of Arbor Day.

Roberts said the holiday originated in Nebraska, which was “once a treeless plain.”

“It was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s,” she said.

Roberts said journalist and politician J. Sterling Morton filled his homestead with trees, shrubs and flowers. He later used his forum as the editor of the state’s first newspaper to share his love of agriculture and trees.

“Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organizations and groups of every kind to join in,” she said.

Because of Morton’s enthusiasm and advocacy, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska in 1885. Roberts said Arbor Day is now celebrated across the United States on different dates to coincide with the best tree-planting weather.

“Since 1991, the Ocean Pines Garden Club has participated in Arbor Day by planting a special tree in loving memory of family

and friends who passed away during the recent year,” she said.

Also during the ceremony, Garden Club Co-President Lilanie Geiger recited the poem “There’s a Very special Garden,” and the Pines Tones and bagpiper Mike Castoro performed music.

Additionally, Sandy Kelley read a description of this year’s memorial tree, a Christmas Jewel holly.

“You’d be hard pressed to find a house where I live here in the Pines ... that does not have a stalwart holly tree standing regally at every corner,” she said. “For centuries, across continents, they’ve been a source of inspiration for artists, landscapers and Hallmark.”

She said the Christmas Jewel holly is a relatively new variety, “perfect for most homes in Ocean Pines.”

“Like most hollies, the Christmas Jewel will adapt to almost any soil [and] is good for sun or shade,” she said. “The stunning evergreen glossy-dark leaves share the view in spring with clusters of white, fragrant flowers – perfect there to nourish the bees that follow.”

She said the trees also come with a history of legend and witchcraft.

“Druids believed the holly tree possessed protective qualities, such as guarding against evil spirits and bad luck,” Roberts said.

To close the ceremony, Garden Club members read the names of family and friends who passed away in 2023 and presented flowers to their friends and loved ones.



Oak tree planted in Pintail Park for Arbor Day

AC Plant and Turf on April 26 planted a tree in Pintail Park to help commemorate Arbor Day.

Arborist Terry Wooters said the tree, a willow oak, is native to the area and can handle salt spray from the nearby canal.

“I wanted an oak tree, specifically, because they can root deeper and offer a lot of value to wildlife,” he said. That includes more than 450 species of caterpillars.

He also said planting a younger tree will help it better establish a roots system.

“We often run into issues with large trees failing because they cannot establish roots. They take a lot more shock when planted,” he said.

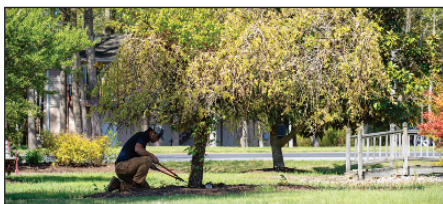
Wooters said the tree will eventually grow to roughly 30’ tall.

“We’re planting it here specifically so that, one day, it will offer some relief on the hottest afternoons for the fringe tree here and the serviceberry, which both prefer that,” he said.

The nearby trees in the park were planted by the Ocean Pines Garden Club. Since 1991, the Garden Club has participated in Arbor Day by planting a tree in memory of family and friends who passed away during the prior year.

AC Plant and Turf Marketing Director Joe Cooper said planting the tree is the company’s way of giving back – and commemorating an important holiday.

“We thought about planting a nice tree here in Pintail Park that will help the other trees,” he said. “We just wanted to give back to the community that we’re trying to grow in.”



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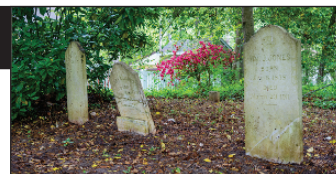
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Volunteers help revive ‘hidden’ Pines cemetery



Several Ocean Pines residents recently helped restore a hidden cemetery that appears to be more than 100 years old.

The cemetery can be found next to a mailbox cluster on Admiral Drive and is reachable by a set of wooden stairs and down a short dirt pathway – although it can be hard to spot because of the natural growth of the wooded area.

Longtime Ocean Pines resident Denise McDermott tended to the area from 2006 to about 2020.

“I think it came naturally to me, because my grandfather...was the caretaker of the New Cathedral Cemetery” in Baltimore, she said.

Ocean Pines Public Works Senior Director Eddie Wells said staff would collect debris that McDermott had cleared.

“She would call whenever there was a pile of branches or something big that needed to be cut. We worked with her on maintaining it and cleaning it up, but she did all the work,” Wells said.

McDermott said she stopped tending to the site a few years ago because of age and mobility issues.

Resident Susan Mohler heard about the cemetery at the Season Kickoff Expo on April 30. After she visited the site, she posted on the “Get Involved” Facebook page that the area needed some tending to.

Two local volunteers, Kathy Vail and Becky Vail, saw the post and went to investigate. They cleared the entranceway with a weedwhacker and leaf blower, and posted a video about the project on their YouTube channel “Bay Life OCMD.”

“Kathy saw the post on Facebook ... we’re retired, so [we thought] let’s go take a look at it,” Becky Vail said. “We went back in the morning and got busy, and then luckily Denise came by, so we learned some history.”

“Both of us are retired educators,” Kathy Vail said. “We’ve done some of our own heritage work lately and, in the process, have been on gravesites and looking at burial plots. Whenever we get to one that’s not cared for, it bugs us. We feel like all gravesites should be cared for.”

She added, upon finding the area in Ocean Pines the two women thought, “Here’s one right in our own neighborhood that we should take care of.”

“I don’t think any of us expected anything for doing it. It’s just a matter of doing the right thing for your community,” Becky

Vail said.

She said the site is still a little overgrown, and it could use some signage to help identify what’s back there.

Both women suggested the area could be further researched by the Historical Task Force recently established by the Ocean Pines Association Board, with perhaps another volunteer group like the Ocean Pines Garden Club adopting the site and sprucing it up further with new plantings.

“Everyone sees [Ocean Pines] as a resort destination, but really we are a community,” Becky Vail said. “The fact that Denise has done this for 14 years just out of the kindness of her heart speaks volumes about what this community is about and, really, would like to be known for. It’s more so than just a place to hang out in the summer.”

All four women met at the cemetery on May 7 to talk about what they knew of the site, and what they hoped would happen next.

For McDermott, she’s just grateful that others are pitching in. “I’m so excited that these girls stepped up and got involved,” she said. “It warms my heart.”

The cemetery was described in minor detail in the “History of Ocean Pines, Maryland” book by Bud Rogner as “The Jones Family Graveyard.”

According to Rogner, “An old graveyard for the William Jones family and others born in the mid-1800s who died around the turn of [the last] century still exists in Ocean Pines.

Rogner said the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin restored some of the gravestones in the 1990s. Ocean Pines owns the lot.

Rogner said five graves are visible and three are from the Jones family: Calvin L. Jones (1888-1913), Mary E. Jones (1843-1909) and William J. Jones (1838-1911). Also buried there are Rozena Massey (1855-1904) and George C. Rickords (born on May 20, 1831, and lived only two years, five months and 12 days).



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Kiwanis Club announces 2024 scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, Maryland does fundraisers all year to help award scholarships to deserving Worcester County high school graduating seniors from the three local public high schools.

At the weekly Wednesday morning meeting on June 5, scholarship recipients and their parents attended for the awarding of scholarships. This year, the Kiwanis Club awarded \$15,500.

Recipients were:

- **Kyauna Beck (Snow Hill High School)**
- **Logan Hurney (Snow Hill High School)**
- **Anthony Huslander (Snow Hill High School)**
- **Mandy Chou (Pocomoke High School)**
- **Emily Knight (Pocomoke High School)**
- **Jamie Consigli (Stephen Decatur High School)**
- **Ethan Fastice (Stephen Decatur High School)**
- **Matthew Beck (Stephen Decatur High School)**
- **Abbi Weeks (Stephen Decatur High School)** – recipient of Memorial Scholarship named for deceased Kiwanis Club member Ralph Chinn

- **Daniel Karchewski (Stephen Decatur High School)** – recipient of Memorial Scholarship for deceased Kiwanis Club member Roy Foreman

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza was present during the event and congratulated the students and spoke about the need to keep young people on the Eastern Shore living and working here.

Support Kiwanis fundraisers by stopping by Kiwanis Club concessions during weekly Thursday evening summer Ocean Pines “Concerts in the Park,” other Ocean Pines events like the Fourth of July carnival, craft shows, and the biggest fundraiser of Saturday morning sales of the club’s “Lottery Tickets” from 8-11 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market.

For more information, visit www.kiwanisofopoc.org.





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