



OCEAN PINES REPORT

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Local Veterans Memorial Celebrates 15th Anniversary

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines each year draws thousands of people for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, along with hundreds of local school-children for annual educational programs.

The Veterans Memorial Foundation that oversees events and fundraising this year will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the memorial, with scheduled events including a cocktail party slated for the fall.

Plans for the memorial began in 2003, when Sharyn O'Hare chaired a committee that arranged events celebrating Ocean Pines' 35th anniversary. Her father was a Marine in World War II and she would later serve on the Ocean Pines Board, from 2013-2015.

After the anniversary, the committee found itself with more than \$15,000 in excess funds. A south gate playground received \$7,000 of that and a committee formed to explore spending the remaining balance.

Originally, the group looked at putting a flagpole up near the south gate.

"As committees go, it went from one flagpole to what we really wanted, which was a memorial," O'Hare said.

The committee toured a prospective site, a small peninsula too small and close to the water to ever develop into houses, and later got approval from then Association President Dan Stachurski to build the memorial at the site, just off Route 589 and between Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road.

Things moved fast after that, with the committee turning into a board of directors and the group earning a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

designation.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial broke ground on Veterans Day, 2004. The main part of the memorial is a large circle of brick pavers honoring U.S. Military men and women, surrounded by brick-wall monuments for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and flags for each branch flying high in the air.

Under each brick wall is sand from the beaches of Normandy.

"The bricks and pavers tell the story. Those are the veterans that local families wanted to honor," Marie Gilmore, longtime Memorial Foundation president, said. "Anyone can purchase a brick for \$75 and it's inscribed with the name of someone who has served, or a paver for \$150, which allows four lines of



information."

Gilmore joined the effort in 2004. Her husband is a retired Marine.

The memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day in 2005, thanks to an all-volunteer grassroots effort, according to O'Hare.

"People in this community were incredible," she said, adding that everything came together quickly, in part because of the mood of the country in the years following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

(continued on page 5)



Stay safe and healthy

Our Ocean Pines Community Will Get Through This Together

The Ocean Pines Public Relations and Marketing Department started work on the spring quarterly newsletter before COVID-19 became a pandemic and dominated both headlines, and much of our daily lives.

Because of that, most of the content in this issue was prepared prior to that. We decided to leave the majority of the content as is for several reasons. For one, we believe in the staff, Association and community stories being told in this issue. We also believe it is important to try and keep as much normalcy in our daily lives, despite much of it being turned upside down.

Because of this, events and dates mentioned in articles are all subject to change and, for the latest information, we would refer you to www.oceanpines.org, where we'll continue to post daily changes.

We hope everyone in our community stays safe and healthy during the COVID-19 crisis and that we all can return to normal operations soon. The Worcester County and Ocean Pines community in particular have always showcased incredible generosity and strength during difficult times, and that is certainly on display now. **We look forward to continuing to tell community stories and share Association news with you.**

COVID-19 TESTING

The Worcester County Health Department has released the following guidelines for testing for COVID-19:

Testing is available based on screening. If you or your child has developed symptoms that could indicate COVID-19 (fever, shortness of breath, cough), contact your primary care doctor first and foremost so they can screen you and determine if you should be tested. If you do not have a primary care doctor, you can reach out by phone to urgent care clinics or our (WCHD) call center (410-632-1100 option 8) available Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 3pm.

Whether or not someone has tested positive for COVID-19, everyone should be practicing basic precautions. If you are sick with mild symptoms contact your doctor. You may be advised to recover at home if your symptoms don't worsen. If you are experiencing a medical emergency call 9-1-1. But whenever possible, call ahead to limit the potential exposure to first responders, doctors, and health care workers.

You can learn more about testing, COVID-19, how the virus spreads and the precautions that we should all be taking online at: www.worcesterhealth.org

Also visit coronavirus.gov for more information on COVID-19.



COVID-19 UPDATES

Information is evolving as of the publishing date so please visit oceanpines.org/opa-news/covid-19 for the most up-to-date information from the Ocean Pines Association regarding operational updates & the status of facility closures affecting:

ADMINISTRATION

Payments accepted by phone: 410.641.7717
Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
or in 24-hr dropbox in Admin. Building foyer
Questions? Email member@oceanpines.org

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

REMAINS OPEN as an essential business
Saturdays 8am-1pm in White Horse Park

GOLF

Phone 410.641.6057 OceanPinesGolf.org

RECREATION & PARKS

Assistance available daily 8am-4pm
by phone: 410.641.7052

AQUATICS

Assistance available daily 10am-4pm
by phone: 410.641.5255

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Carryout & delivery (in Ocean Pines) available.
See menu at opyachtclub.com
Phone: 410.641.7501

PUBLIC WORKS

Assistance available by email:
ewells@oceanpines.org
or phone: 410.641.7425

RACQUET CENTER

Stay tuned for updates
*Please note that all closings are subject to changes, based on state and federal government requirements. All Ocean Pines departments can be reached by phone.
For department listings, visit: oceanpines.org
See pg. 12 for department & amenity phone #s

See What's Coming in the Mail Before it Arrives

To help reduce traffic at community mailboxes, Ocean Pines is recommending residents use a FREE, online tool available through the U.S. Postal Service (or in your smartphone or tablet's app store). The Informed Delivery® app allows users to digitally preview mail and manage packages scheduled to arrive soon.

According to the Postal Service, the platform "allows you to view greyscale images of the exterior, address side of letter-sized mailpieces and track packages in one convenient location."

For more information or to sign up for FREE, visit <https://informeddelivery.usps.com>.



Protect yourself and your family from COVID-19



- Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds with hot, soapy water, and use hand sanitizer when you aren't near a sink
- Avoid touching your face
- If you experience flu-like symptoms (high fevers, shortness of breath, fatigue), please call your doctor — **do not visit their office** — and go to the Emergency Department only if you're in respiratory distress

For more information about COVID-19, visit peninsula.org/covid or browse our video gallery at peninsula.org/videohub.

New Assessment Due Date Aug. 1

The Ocean Pines Board on April 1 voted 6-1 to extend the 2020 assessment deadline by 90 days, to Aug. 1.

Board members met in a virtual setting to discuss the matter, citing economic hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I considered options that would strike a balance between ensuring we address the financial hardship needs of the membership as well as addressing the Association's financial obligations, including staffing, to keep Ocean Pines up and running in a limited manner," Association President Doug Parks said. "Given the GM and his finance team acknowledged that extending the due date was realistic, albeit with some risk based on not knowing how long our amenities and services would be shut down, I felt that the 90-day extension of the assessment due date was the appropriate course of action."

Board members encouraged anyone who can pay the assessment by the normal May 1 deadline to do so, to help continue to fuel Ocean Pines operations.

"As noted in the meeting last night, if you can pay this reduces the risk of us having to enact some other choices regarding meeting our financial obligations over the next three-to-four months," Parks said.

General Manager John Viola told Board members that

Homeowners encouraged to pay by May 1, if they can

he and staff did an analysis of several scenarios, including pushing the assessment due date back for 90 days, which was his recommendation. Viola said some capital replacement items in the fiscal 2020/2021 budget could be deferred until September, but those deferrals would not affect the safety or normal operations of the Association.

Board members noted not paying the assessment on time would affect homeowners' ability to vote and/or run in the Board of Directors election. According to Ocean Pines bylaws, no member may vote if, 35 days prior to the voting deadline, the member has failed to pay the annual charge. This year, the voting deadline is July 1, 2020.

Board member and Association Treasurer Larry Perrone voted against the 90-day extension, saying he was instead in favor of pushing the date back 60 days.

"As the chief financial officer, I feel that we need to be compassionate while also being fiscally conservative," Perrone said. "My recommendation was to give our members 60 additional days to make their assessment payments, with an option to add another 30 days once we had a little more time to evaluate our financial position. That said, I am satisfied that my Board partners understand all the issues and made a decision with all the available information."

Help Protect Republic Services Staff from Potential COVID-19

To help protect trash collectors during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, Republic Services is asking Ocean Pines residents to take extra care to not place any materials outside of Republic collection containers.

According to Dominic Fulginiti, a municipal sales manager for Republic Services, anticipated impacts of COVID-19 on trash services include increased contamination of recycled materials as excess waste finds its way into recycling containers.

Additionally, Fulginiti said yard waste and bulk collection routes are pulling key resources away from residential routes that need extra support.

"Republic Services garbage and recycling crews are working diligently to continue to serve Ocean Pines residents with curbside collection services while experiencing an

increase in volume of household setouts," Fulginiti. "To protect garbage and recycling staff during this time, we ask that you do the following:"

- **Fill Municipal Solid Waste containers with waste materials (trash) only**
- **Fill recycling containers with recyclable materials only**
- **Avoid placing loose bags of waste or recyclables of any kind on the ground**
- **Suspend Yard Waste Collection (during COVID-19 pandemic only)**
- **Suspend Bulk Waste Collection (during COVID-19 pandemic only)**

"We greatly appreciate you considering these extra measures to ensure the safety of our solid waste and recycling collectors and the community," Fulginiti said.

For questions or further info, contact Republic Services at 800-762-8888.

OCEAN PINES BOARD ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19

by Doug Parks, on behalf of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors

During this time of uncertainty, one of the important aspects of addressing the situation is communication. For those Ocean Pines Association members who aren't here full time and have a second home in Ocean Pines, we ask that you consider the following before coming here.

The information below was shared and is relevant to our surrounding area.

We have three local hospitals: Atlantic General, Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Beebe Healthcare. According to the information published on these facilities, the list below shows the capacity of each:

- **Atlantic General: 62 beds, 6 Critical Care Beds**
- **Peninsula Regional Medical Center: 288 beds, 24 Special Care Beds**
- **Beebe Healthcare: 151 Beds, 20 ICU Beds**

Total resident population on Delmarva Peninsula: approx. 1.4 million

Should any type of outbreak occur, it would most likely overwhelm the 501 hospital beds and 50 ICU beds in our area and possibly lead to a much greater problem. Also, consider that the number of available health care workers will

most likely be impacted and affect their ability to provide much-needed services.

Please note that OPA welcomes our out-of-town, second-home owners, but we ask that you consider the potential problems that could be caused by an outbreak of COVID-19.

Note that Gov. Larry Hogan has enacted a number of restrictions, including a "stay-at-home" mandate, and adherence to these conditions is the best chance we have of limiting exposure to COVID-19.

If you do come down, you must self-quarantine and remain home in compliance with the directives issued by the state of Maryland. For our full-time residents, please note that the same restrictions apply as well and therefore your compliance is also required.

With communication, compliance and cooperation, we can maintain a level of safety that will protect the residents of Ocean Pines and the surrounding areas. As a community, the more we work together, the sooner we will come through this pandemic and resume some sense of normalcy for the summer.

Stay safe.

Local Veterans Memorial Celebrates 15th Anniversary *(continued from front cover)*

"We have a lot of military people and a lot of retired people who served, and the country was very patriotic at that time," O'Hare said.

"This has brought the community together," Gilmore added. "It's such a patriotic community with so many people who have served in the Armed Forces, and they just came together to help us teach and continue on with our mission statement, which is to preserve the memories of those who served."

O'Hare said the memorial is unique in Worcester County, in that it can draw up to 5,000 people for annual Memorial Day ceremonies.

The services each year are elaborate, with current and former military personnel addressing the large crowds, along with a presentation of colors by local Junior ROTC, fight songs for each branch sung by the Delmarva Chorus, and a 21-gun salute finale.

"There's no other community in the area that does that," O'Hare said. "It's very much a show of patriotism and, when they see how professional our programs are, they're blown away."

"They say, 'This is what Memorial Day is about.' It's not the picnics, it's not the beach – those are all fun things, but this is what it's all about," O'Hare added.

Annual Veterans Day events also draw large crowds, despite often less-than-ideal weather.

"It could be cold and wet and raining, and we'll have 600 people there," O'Hare said.

Beyond the ceremonies, O'Hare said the foundation board wanted to create a living memorial, something that would also help to educate and inspire the next generation.

"We realized the future is not my age – it's the youth. These children have to understand what freedom is, what is a hero, what does it mean to respect the flag, what are the branches of service," O'Hare said. "The educational component is key and that was

something we established in our first year."

Cpt. Ed Little, retired U.S. Navy, led the education program for 12 years. O'Hare and longtime resident Don McMullen now oversee the effort, which includes an educational booklet for children developed by former USA Today writer Joan Baraloto, and annual tours of the memorial grounds. Last year, more than 650 fifth graders from all Worcester County schools visited the site.

The Memorial Foundation also oversees the Flags for Heroes program, each year planting hundreds of flags in the field between the memorial and Route 589. Flag sponsorships are \$50, and flags will be on display from Armed Forces Day, May 16, through Flag Day on June 14.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled on May 16, with Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola set to be the keynote speaker.

"A flag is sponsored in honor of a hero in your life, and a hero could be somebody who served in the Armed Forces, it could be a first responder, a doctor, a brother or sister, or a teacher," Gilmore said.

For sponsorship forms, visit www.opvets.org/events/flags-for-heroes-2020. The Memorial Foundation is also seeking corporate sponsors, with sponsorship levels ranging from \$250 to \$2,000.

Plans for the 15th anniversary celebration this year include a cocktail party with live music, hors d'oeuvres, and beer and wine. Tickets are \$25, with all proceeds benefiting education programs. That event was originally scheduled in May, but was moved because of COVID-19 concerns.

For tickets or information, contact O'Hare at 410-603-4777 or email sharyn@sohare.com.

Gilmore said she is grateful for the community's continued support.

"Everyone in Ocean Pines is proud of their memorial," she said. "We always emphasize that it's the community's memorial, because community contributions built it."

For those who cannot attend the event but would like to support the Memorial Foundation, checks can be made out to "Worcester County Veterans Memorial" and mailed to P.O. Box 1576, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

For more info on the Memorial Foundation, visit www.opvets.org/the-memorial-story/the-memorial-foundation.



Comcast Xfinity Construction Update

Construction in Ocean Pines is underway and soon residents will have access to Comcast Xfinity TV, internet, home phone, home security and Xfinity Mobile.

"We want you to be prepared when Xfinity services are ready, so call today to have your outside service line installed for free," Rachel Buckley, a residential development professional with XFINITY Communities, said. "If you are interested in having Xfinity service and want to learn more about getting your home ready for installation, call our dedicated Xfinity customer service team at 1-844-201-7176."

"Please also refer to the Ocean Pines website for the most up-to-date maps of when Xfinity construction will be on your street," Buckley added.

Ortt Companies Dish On Plans For New Clubhouse Grille, Bigger Banquet Sales

In just two years, the Matt Ortt Companies helped steer Ocean Pines' food and beverage operations away from record losses, and toward record-breaking profits.

So, what do they do for an encore?

"Our main objective is to give the people the kind of food and service they want without having to leave their own backyard, and we think we have room to make that even better," he said. "And, we think we have room to bring even more income into the Ocean Pines food and beverage facilities."

DeAngelus singled out banquets as an area where he's particularly targeting growth, from small gatherings in the Yacht Club dining room, to elaborate beachfront weddings. Events Manager Lia Isel oversees banquet bookings for the Ortt Companies.

"Lia is unbelievable," DeAngelus said. "It doesn't matter if a banquet is for 300 people or 30 people – she puts the same amount of energy in it, and her energy level is on steroids!"

"She's a big part of the generated sales at the Yacht Club and Beach Club, and she's going to be able to bring in even more business. She books banquets in every nook and cranny of those facilities, both upstairs and down," he added.

DeAngelus said both venues offer something unique for weddings and banquets.

"The person that likes their wedding at the Yacht Club is not the same person that likes to have a wedding at the Beach Club – they're just a different kind of bride," he said. "The bride that gets married at the Beach Club is the kind of bride that wants to dance with her dad in the sand with her shoes off. The bride that gets married at the Yacht Club is the one that wants to have the princess experience. We can provide both of those super easy, and we're starting to get a lot more inquiries from both kinds of brides."

Starting in May, the Ortt Companies will also oversee a third Ocean Pines food and beverage venue: The Clubhouse Bar and Grille, located inside the brand-new Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse. DeAngelus' group will run banquets there, where he sees unique opportunities for local clubs and organizations.

"It's a smaller facility that doesn't have that much of an ambience – yet. We're hoping to help bring an ambience to it," he said. "I don't see it being a giant wedding facility, but I think a lot of local groups are going to want to have events there and they'll love it there. And we'll be able to accommodate them cheaper there than we will at the Yacht Club."

As for the new restaurant and bar, DeAngelus said the Clubhouse Bar and Grille would mostly offer "grab and go"

fare, similar to the Beach Club. He promised "a great burger and reasonably priced beer."

DeAngelus joked the Yacht Club kitchen is large enough to feed "the 4th Marine Battalion," while the Clubhouse Bar and Grille facility is more modestly sized, just big enough for golfers and those who live close by in the neighborhood.

"We're not going to compete with the Yacht Club," he said, adding breakfasts at the Clubhouse Bar and Grille would help bring in additional income from a market "that we never had before."

"We think Ocean Pines is going to totally dig having a nice little place to stop by and have breakfast, that they can walk to," he said.

As for the Yacht Club, DeAngelus said staff are working to expand the slate of summer entertainment, bringing in fresh, new bands from a variety of genres.

"We know the classic rock genre is big and we know that works," he said. "We're also bringing in a dance band called 'Mike Hines and The Look,' and they're great at what they do. I've known Mike Hines for about 25 years, and his act is still fresh and exciting and energetic. I think everybody's really going to love seeing him."

Summer concerts at the Yacht Club, DeAngelus said, are unlike anything else around, aided in no small part by the sprawling, picturesque view of the Isle of Wight Bay heading into the twinkling lights of Ocean City on the horizon.

"I think our favorite part about what we do at the Yacht Club is our outside entertainment," he said. "We get the most out of watching 100 people on the dancefloor, while there's 600 people sitting on chairs and another 400 people standing around the bar."

"And you know what's great about it? It's the demographics," he continued. "You have the 28-year-old mother and father with their 6 and 7-year-old kids having a ball, and then two seats over is the 77 and 78-year-old grandparents, who are sitting there with their grandkids also having a blast. We love the diversity of the crowd on a busy summer night."

Along with managing three Ocean Pines facilities, Matt Ortt and Ralph DeAngelus will also soon open their own new restaurant, Coastal Salt, on 16th Street oceanside in Ocean City.

"We're really excited about this place," DeAngelus said. "It's going to be more of a 'Rare and Rye' type of dining, more upscale and slightly pricier than the Yacht Club. And, like the Yacht Club, it's going to have an unparalleled view. We're going to have 124 seats outside on a patio that's 30 yards away from seven trillion gallons of water. That's really hard to argue with!"



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Ocean Pines Women's Club Turns 45

Group puts focus on giving back to community, local students

Since 1974, the Women's Club of Ocean Pines has raised tens of thousands of dollars for area scholarships, and offered countless local women an outlet both to socialize and give back to their community.

Now in its 45th year, the Women's Club boasts a roster of more than 100 members.

The club began to develop in 1972, when a group of women met to play cards, sew and talk about their new community. Originally known as the "Year Rounders Club," the fledgling group raised \$500 for the Ocean Pines Association from two bazaars they organized, with that money later going to the purchase of a living community Christmas tree and card tables for the new Community Center. At the time, the primary purpose of the club was to acquaint new residents with the community and to promote social and civic activities.

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines was officially established in 1974, and in 1975 the club bought an "electro-printer" to aid in the publishing of the first Ocean Pines Homeowners Directory. The directory sold for \$1 and included listings for 106 full-time homeowner residents and 66 long-term renters. Club dues at the time were \$3 per year.

By 1981, total Women's Club charitable donations topped \$2,000. Just seven years later, in 1988, the club donated \$19,000 from its Memorial Fund toward construction of the White Horse Park pavilion, representing the single-largest donation for that project.

Since 2007 alone, the group has awarded \$42,450 in scholarships to 38 high school seniors. During the same period, the Women's Club also donated \$23,725 to more than a dozen local groups, from Ocean Pines' Recreation and Parks, Police and Fire departments, to Star Charities,

Women Supporting Women, Coastal Hospice, Worcester County GOLD, and Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

Current President Donna McCracken joined in 2005 at the

request of then-president Janet Balbo, who was a close friend.

"She said, 'I need your support and I need you to work.' We knew each other from our past work years, so that's how I got involved," she said.

McCracken first spent several years chairing the group's Scholarship Committee.

"I really enjoyed that," she said. "For one, it was educational for me to learn about the community that I'd moved into, especially that the average income is not necessarily what we, the residents that came

here, thought it was. I would see these applications of kids who came from a single-parent family and that were living with four kids on less than \$20,000 a year. It just opened my eyes up to the county that I was living in."

Diane McGraw moved to The Parke community within Ocean Pines in 2001, and right away became involved in volunteer groups both locally and at the state level.

"I started with the Women's Club in 2008 and my first position was treasurer," she said. "That suited me, because I'd previously been a treasurer of things like bowling leagues, swim teams and volleyballs leagues."

McGraw for a decade has overseen club publicity and recently created a Facebook presence for the Women's Club. She was also appointed as the group's first budget director.

"During retirement, the Women's Club is the venue for utilizing your talents while enjoying time socializing with women in the Pines," she said.

Today, the Women's Club focuses on scholarships for high school seniors based in Ocean Pines. To raise money,



the club hosts game parties, fashion shows, bake sales and garage sales, and other social events. They also invite guest speakers to regular monthly meetings.

Most of the funds raised go toward scholarships, each year awarded in May to local high school seniors and based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement and dedication to the community.

Scholarship levels vary each year depending on how much money is raised, but the Women's Club has given as much as \$6,000 in total in a single year.

One student recipient, according to McCracken, later paid it forward to the tune of more than \$2,500 in donations back to the Women's Club.

"He's now married and has two kids and lives in Salisbury, and he has his own business. When I was at Stephen Decatur last year during their award ceremony, I shared that story so I could plant seeds in those kids!" she said with a laugh.

McCracken said it moved her, during past award ceremonies, to see all the different opportunities for local seniors who might otherwise struggle to pay for college. She said many local businesses contribute money, while several local families have created scholarships to honor loved ones.

The Women's Club has also contributed money for scholarships to Ocean Pines summer camps, and supported initiatives like the Ocean Pines Skateboard Park and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

In fact, there's only one stipulation to become the recipient of a Women's Club donation: the money must benefit local people.

"When we give to a group that is located outside of Ocean Pines and they provide services for the county, we always say the money has to be earmarked for Ocean Pines," she said. "Like with Women Supporting Women, it has to go to an Ocean Pines woman."

With groups like the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, for instance, McGraw said Women's Club funding must specifically aid programs in Ocean Pines schools.



Along with flourishing scholarship and fundraising programs, the Women's Club has also recently seen a flurry of new members.

"Over the last couple months, we have picked up new women who were for the most part new residents, and they've got great ideas and energy and new blood, so I'm really excited about what I see happening," McCracken said. "The Women's Club is a great way of meeting your neighbors and supporting your community."

"It's a great organization and I love the new people coming in," McGraw added. "They have all kinds of great ideas and they're ready to make baskets for the fashion show. They're really gung-ho, which is great!"

The group is always looking for new members, as well as new donors. Officers serve two-year terms, and members meet on the first Thursday of each month, except for July and August. Annual dues are \$10.

For anyone interested, contact McCracken at 410-641-6163, or email mccrackendl@verizon.net.



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- Light cooking, housekeeping & laundry
- Pick up groceries & prescriptions
- Transportation to appointments
- Arrange activities for grandkids
- Shopping for birthdays & holidays
- Holiday decorating
- Text / email & pic of our visits



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UPCOMING HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

Ocean Pines Association will observe the following upcoming holidays. Please note that Ocean Pines administration offices will be closed on these days:

Memorial Day: Mon, May 25

Independence Day – July 4th: Fri, July 3

On The Cover: (top photo) “Looking west
out over St. Martins River at Sunset”

Photography by Rolfe Hokanson

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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.

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.

A Message from the ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Doug Parks

BRING ON THE WARMER WEATHER

The official beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere is March 19, 2020 and, before you know it, more and more activities within our community will be in full swing. Although we have had a mild winter, I suspect I’m not alone in looking forward to the warmer springtime temperatures.

As most of you already know, the Board passed the FY2020/2021 budget that kept the assessment at the same level as last year. I have publicly thanked the OPA staff, the Budget and Finance committee, the General Manager and my Board colleagues for their hard work and involvement in the budget process. Regarding the current fiscal budget, many of us have put in the work to address the shortcomings from several years ago. As an organization, we have righted the ship and all indications are that we will be well in the black when we close the books for this year.

I’m also happy to report that the major construction projects are progressing as planned. The new Craft Club building is completed and occupied, the new Golf clubhouse is on schedule and on budget, the new cart barn is completed and was delivered under budget, and the addition to the Police station is also on schedule and on budget. The GM and his staff continue to tackle the bulkhead and drainage issues and significant progress has been made in both those areas.

Under the guidance of the Matt Ortt company, the Yacht Club continues to provide a level of quality and services that our community can be proud to advertise. I know many of us that are looking forward to enjoying the food, beverages and entertainment at that venue as we move into the summer season.

However, as a community we cannot ignore the far-reaching effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our members, their families and their friends. We are complying with federal, state and local regulations, and striving to continue to run OPA operations within these restrictions. Social distancing and following the recommendations from health officials are critical at this time and I hope that everyone takes these requirements seriously so we can put this pandemic behind us sooner rather than later.

Knowing there are members of our community experiencing financial hardships, we are currently working on options to address payment of the annual assessment and considering the effect any option has on our ability to meet existing financial obligations both in the short and long term. The challenge is to both prioritize the needs of the membership, and protect our employees, the services, the amenities and all the assets of Ocean Pines as much as we can during this time.

At the April 1 meeting, the Board agreed to move the due date back 90 days for the annual assessment payment. The new date is August 1, but it’s important to note that the date targets those members who are in financial difficulty at this time. We implore all members that can pay now to please do so. The assessment income is still needed to run Ocean Pines for the next several months and reduces the risk of having to allocate funds from our reserve account.

We are in this situation together as a community, and will get through this situation together as a community. I can’t say enough about Ocean Pines, its amenities and most importantly its people. Here’s hoping that by the time spring is in full swing and we are approaching the Summer season, the COVID-19 concerns and restrictions are behind us and our community is a healthy, safe place.

With any luck, the spring season will bring us good weather, but more importantly that it provides everyone an opportunity to share time with family and friends. And, as I said last year, I enjoy spring but – **COME ON SUMMER!**



Ocean Pines Pursues State Aid for Drainage Improvement Projects

The Worcester County Commissioners on Feb. 4 unanimously approved a \$1.5 million state grant application to help improve drainage in Ocean Pines.

The improvements would affect Sections 2 and 3, considered among the worst in the community. The Association applied through the county because of restrictions that normally prevent homeowner associations from receiving certain types of state aid.

Worcester County Director of Environmental Programs Bob Mitchell presented the water quality improvement and flood protection grant application on behalf of Ocean Pines.

"This is the future and the future is here," Mitchell said. "These kinds of efforts are going to become more commonplace for Worcester, as we move forward to create resiliency within our communities. This grant application is part of an effort by the Ocean Pines community to combat drainage and flooding problems."

Mitchell said most of the community was built before existing stormwater laws required drainage programs for new construction.

"Existing ditching and infrastructure is lacking and needs retrofits, aggressive maintenance, and upgrades to function properly for a development of that size," he said.

For the new project, Mitchell said Ocean Pines and the adjacent Windmill Creek development would collaborate to help improve water flow and water quality. He said 233 acres in total would be affected.

"I've gotta give credit where credit is due: Ocean Pines has done the sweat equity here. They've spent an excess of six figures in engineering this and other retrofit projects for the community. It's what needs to be done to compete with the larger jurisdictions across the state for this limited grant money."

Mitchell said Ocean Pines would commit \$700,000 to the project, with the state fulfilling the rest of the \$2.2 million estimated total price.

"It's a good opportunity to track state money to aid a county community that has done the work to get shovel ready," Mitchell said.

Commissioner Chip Bertino said the grant was "a very long time in coming" and required much effort. He singled out Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips.

"I certainly commend Ocean Pines and Colby and [her] team for putting this together," he said. "I know Commissioner [Jim] Bunting and I have worked with you all, and it's really nice to see this come to fruition."

Association President Doug Parks, during a public Board

meeting one day later, credited "a team of folks that did a lot of work" with submitting the grant proposal.

"I'd like to point out three people that did yeoman's work above and beyond the call of duty," Parks said. "I wanted to point out the work that Colby Phillips has done in leading that team and coordinating all the efforts, contacting the people at the county, at the state, at the Maryland Coastal Bays, and all the other entities that were involved."

Parks also recognized Rich Polk from Showell engineering firm Vista Design Inc.

"His input was invaluable and helped us present a very well thought out proposal," Parks said.

He also credited Mitchell.

"He was also instrumental," Parks said. "Those three folks should be recognized for their efforts."

Phillips, during a drainage presentation at the Board meeting, said she has learned a lot about the subject over the last year. During that time, Ocean Pines staff has worked closely with engineers from Vista and experts from Worcester County and the State of Maryland. The effort has

also included an ad hoc committee of Ocean Pines residents and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

"Everybody has been onboard and supportive of these efforts, because everybody recognizes how bad [flooding] can be," Phillips said. "It's been a group effort."

Phillips said Sections 2 and 3 include 761 lots and three parks, or about 10% of Ocean Pines. Proposed improvements in the grant application include retrofitting Bainbridge Pond to meet current Maryland Department of the Environment standards and improve downstream swales, adding additional culverts under Beauchamp Road to aid runoff and conveyance capacity, and removing high points on the southern Beauchamp Road swale to allow trapped runoff to access the new culverts.

A swale is a depression similar to a ditch that's designed to manage water runoff, filter pollutants, and increase rainwater infiltration.

"The good thing with this grant, is it's going to help with the water quality improvements," Phillips said. "Not only are we looking to impact and help improve drainage but, in the process, we're looking to also improve the water quality."

Other drainage improvements currently in progress or already completed this year include culvert replacement on Boston Drive, culvert repairs on Mumfords Landing Road, inlet lowering and pavement milling on Blue Bill Court, culvert and catch basin replacement on Watertown Road, culvert replacement on Borderlinks Road, and installing a new culvert on Harborview Drive. *(continued on pg. 13)*



A Message from the **GENERAL MANAGER**



John Viola

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

In this unprecedented time, the safety of our staff, residents and guests has risen to the forefront of our daily lives.

Since COVID-19 came onto our radar in late February, Ocean Pines has worked to follow federal, state and local guidelines, closing many of our facilities and suspending programs and events.

Our Recreation and Parks, Aquatics, Golf, Yacht Club, and Administration operations have all been affected.

Still, we are seeing ingenuity and invention among many of those operations.

The Matt Ortt Companies, for one, upon learning they could no longer accept dine-in patrons, immediately decided they would remain open for delivery and carryout, to help feed Ocean Pines when many living here are self-quarantining, or else sheltering in place to help "flatten the curve."

Our Public Relations Department has shifted from showcasing Association news and events, to supplying timely and vital information on COVID-19, as the situation changes not daily, but often hourly. The PR Department created a webpage filled with helpful information (www.oceanpines.org/opa-news/covid-19) and has been tireless in their efforts to keep our community informed.

We have also found new and closer partnerships with our neighbors at Worcester County, Ocean City, Berlin and elsewhere, as we all continue to compare notes on how everything would work from park closures, to public meetings restricted to having no in-person public participation.

There have also been many volunteer groups that have sprung up in the Pines, to help seniors and others who cannot leave their home to pick up food or medicine. Their generosity is inspiring to us all and we have vowed to help spread the word and highlight their stories, wherever we can.

When we do reopen our facilities to the public, it will be with a brand-new Golf building, headlined by the all-new Clubhouse Bar and Grille run by the Matt Ortt Companies, bringing you the same high quality and service you've come to expect at the Yacht Club.

Our vow to our homeowners is this: we will get through this, and we will come back stronger than ever. We can't wait to share all new events and new programs we have in store for you, along with the same dedication to strong customer service and financial stewardship that you have come to expect over the last year.

Until then, be safe, take care of yourselves and your families, and please let us know if there's anything we can do to help.

Sign Up for Our Email List

Receive the latest news & information from the Ocean Pines Association! Sign up for "This Week in the Pines," the Ocean Pines community's weekly email newsletter & **BE THE FIRST TO KNOW** about Association happenings, special events, cancellations & more.

Email info@oceanpines.org to be added to the list!



Ocean Pines Association, Inc.

239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

410.641.7717 • Fax: 410.641.5581

Email: info@oceanpines.org

OceanPines.org

— DEPARTMENTS —

Administration Office.....	410.641.7717
Assessments.....	Ext. 3031
CPI (Compliance, Permits, Inspections).....	410.641.7425
Finance.....	Ext. 3012
Food & Beverage.....	410.641.7501
General Manager.....	Ext. 3001
Amenity Memberships.....	410.641.7717
Public Relations & Marketing.....	Ext. 3006
Police (Non-Emergency).....	410.641.7747
Fire Dept. (Non-Emergency).....	410.641.8272
Recreation & Parks.....	410.641.7052
Tree Removal.....	410.641.7425
Public Works.....	410.641.7425

— GOLF —

Golf Pro Shop & Tee Times.....	410.641.6057
Golf Maintenance.....	410.641.5694

— POOLS —

Mumford's Landing Pool.....	410.208.6005
Sports Core Pool (OP Aquatics HQ).....	410.641.5255
Swim & Racquet Club Pool.....	410.641.7227

— MARINAS —

Marina at Mumford's Landing.....	410.641.7447
Swim & Racquet Marina.....	410.641.7447

— MORE AMENITIES —

Beach Club.....	410.524.2957
Community Center.....	410.641.7052
Dog Park.....	410.641.7052
Farmers & Artisans Market.....	Ext. 3006
Pine'er Artisans & Gift Shop.....	Ext. 3006
Racquet Sports Complex.....	410.641.7228
Skate Park.....	410.641.7052
Swim & Racquet Club.....	410.641.7227
Ocean Pines Yacht Club.....	410.641.7501
The Venues at Ocean Pines.....	410.641.7501

— UTILITIES —

Choptank Electric.....	877.892.0001
(Outages Only).....	800.410.4790
Comcast.....	844.201.7176
DirecTV.....	800.531.5000
Mediacom Cable TV.....	800.445.5562
Republic Services.....	410.749.1551
Sandpiper Energy.....	800.427.0015
Verizon.....	800.VERIZON
Water & Wastewater.....	410.641.5251

— MORE HELPFUL NUMBERS —

Ocean Pines Chamber.....	410.641.5306
Ocean Pines Library.....	410.208.4014
Ocean Pines Post Office.....	410.208.3959
Animal Control.....	410.632.1340
Board of Education.....	410.632.5000
County Assessments.....	410.632.1196
County Treasurer.....	410.632.0686
County Commissioners.....	410.632.1194

— For All Emergencies Dial 911 —

OP Pursues State Aid for Drainage

(continued from pg. 11) A culvert is a structure that allows water to flow underneath a road.

Phillips said much of the original infrastructure of Ocean Pines is rusting and deteriorated. Because of that, failing pipes are being replaced with high-density polyethylene pipes.

"The good thing with these is they'll last 50-plus years ... and we won't have the rust," she said.

Staff have also compiled a ditch and swale maintenance list, meant to keep clear the areas designed to collect water.

"We're putting the date that we cleaned it or that a contractor came in," Phillips said. "That way, we're going to be able to keep them on a rotation to stay on top of that."

Phillips said a dry summer helped staff to get a jumpstart on clearing the ditches, adding, "We've had some feedback that it definitely helped improve those areas."

"Nothing's going to fix it, but it's going to improve" drainage, Phillips said.

For questions about Ocean Pines drainage issues, contact Phillips at cphillips@oceanpines.org or Public Works Director Eddie Wells at ewells@oceanpines.org.

"Ocean Pines is obviously very large and we try to get to everything that we can," Phillips said. "Please ... reach out either to myself or Eddie Wells, the Public Works director, and we can come out and meet with you."

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Colby Phillips

LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER

The Aquatics team has been working diligently the last several weeks to get in touch with all spring class participants due to the current COVID-19 situation. We are working with everyone who has signed up already for classes that are being missed. We are still doing our spring planning for what we hope to be a great summer season! We have a host of summer programs and exercise classes offered so don't forget to check out our activity guide, which you can find online. The new Northstar software has been implemented at Aquatics and the team has done a phenomenal job transitioning to the new system.

The team is excited to have new Racquet Sports Manager Tim McMullen on board this season. Our pro Terry Underkoffler has been working hard to bring in two USTA tournaments this summer to our tennis community as well as a pickleball camp and family night. Look for future publication on those events as they are finalized.

Regarding drainage, the team has continued to work hard on staying up to date on ditch maintenance and work orders. Watertown, Harborview and Borderlinks pipes have all been replaced. We are currently waiting to hear about a Gateway Grant through DNR that we submitted with the support of Worcester County as well as MD Coastal Bays. This grant, if awarded, will help greatly towards our drainage improvement efforts.

On March 2 we had our first of three seminars with Jennifer Dindinger with UMD Extension. She shared a lot of great knowledge on fertilization and stormwater runoff. She shared it is important to not over fertilize your lawns and to use exactly what is needed for your lawn type. It is also important to not blow grass clippings as well as leaves into your ditches. This not only causes clogging, but the fertilizer on your grass clippings pollutes the stormwater, which then runs into our surrounding watershed. If you would like more information on lawn fertilization you can reach out to Jennifer directly at jdinding@umd.edu or visit <https://mda.maryland.gov/pages/fertilizer.aspx>.

Our next drainage/stormwater educational seminar scheduled for April 20 will be postponed to a future date due to the current situation. As of now, we still have our stormwater seminar scheduled for May 12 from 5:30-7pm at the Community Center. The event will have FEMA, MEMA, Vista Engineers, Deeley Insurance, DNR, county officials as well as a few more vendors to discuss flooding issues and options to our residents. Should this event be cancelled, notification will go out and we will reschedule due to the important issues that are going to be addressed. Please email me with any questions or concerns at cphillips@oceanpines.org.

Thank you and we look forward to a great summer season!

Stay social with us!



Pick up the Spring / Summer 2020
OCEAN PINES ACTIVITY GUIDE
or flip through the pages at oceanpines.org



VOLUNTEER Opportunities in the Pines



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Help support our community by serving on an Advisory Committee. These volunteer-led committees provide guidance & input for many areas in Ocean Pines. To learn more about the missions of the committees, please see the Advisory Committees page at oceanpines.org.

RECREATION & PARKS

Volunteers are critical to the success of many of the programs offered by the Recreation & Parks Department. Volunteer coaches, referees, umpires & assistants are also needed for various sports programs, clinics & classes. Students needing service learning hours are also encouraged to participate. If you are interested in assisting, please contact the Recreation & Parks Department at 410.641.7052 or rec@oceanpines.org.

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Volunteers are essential to every aspect of the Ocean Pines Farmers Market. With the market open every Saturday year-round, volunteers are needed before, during & after market. The voluntary group provides support with tasks that include greeting & helping customers, assisting vendors & the before set up & after closing down of the market. Whether you sign up for a one-time opportunity or choose to take on a regular volunteer role, the market guarantees you will enjoy being a part of making good things happen! If you are interested in volunteering at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market but aren't sure if it's for you, please email Market Manager David Bean at flavordrizzles@gmail.com.

PENINSULA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

The PLUS Volunteer Services Program at Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) in Salisbury provides assistance in over 50 areas, including clerical, clinical, support & special events. For more information about participating, please call 410.543.7248.



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— Gloria L.
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Steve Phillips
Director of Finance
& Operational Logistics

State of Finances Remain Strong

Based on the February 2020 monthly financial report, the most recent available as of the publication of this newsletter, the state of Ocean Pines finances remains strong.

As of Feb. 29, 2020, we have a positive year-to-date operating variance of more than \$700,000, with total revenues over budget by \$458,702 and total expenses under budget by \$243,874.

In the February report, we showed a positive variance of \$61,143 for the month, with revenues over budget by \$28,041 and expenses under budget by \$33,102.

Major drivers for the year-to-date positive variance include all amenities, positive both on revenues by approximately \$478,000 and expenses by \$189,000.

Year to date the Yacht Club (\$205,000), General Maintenance (\$177,000), Public Works (\$121,000), Recreation and Parks (\$87,000), Finance (\$67,000), Beach Parking (\$46,000), Marinas (\$45,000), Beach Club (\$32,000), Tern Grille (\$23,000) and Public Relations (\$16,000) have all produced favorable operating results compared to the budget.

Last month, we had projected finishing the fiscal year at least \$500,000 favorable to budget. Now, with just two months remaining in the fiscal year, of course we are considering the estimate implication relating to the COVID-19 closures. We are also specifically looking at cash flow implications to ensure we maintain appropriate operating cash balances and reserve cash to fund the current capital projects that are in process.

Finance continues to work closely with all departments to implement the new Northstar software, which is now being used by most of our operations, including producing the monthly financial reports available on our website.

Advisory Committees Members Needed

The Aquatics and Strategic Planning advisory committees are seeking new members. If you are interested in participating in either of these committees, please email Michelle Bennett at mbennett@oceanpines.org.

The Ocean Pines Aquatics Advisory Committee advises the Board of Directors on aquatic matters and aids in promoting the successful operation of all aquatic activities.

The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee advises the Board of Directors and the General Manager on how best to align the mission and the vision of the Ocean Pines Association by anticipating future needs and assisting in the development of a strategic multi-year plan that would support and enhance the lifestyles of its owners, residents and guests.



Ocean Pines Association ADVISORY COMMITTEES

For more info, including meeting times & locations (committee calendar), see OceanPines.org

AQUATICS

Advises the Board on aquatic matters & aids in promoting the successful operation of all aquatic activities

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

To enhance & protect the environment, architectural quality & economic value of all Ocean Pines properties

BUDGET & FINANCE

Advises the Board & assists the GM in the preparation of budgets, both operating & capital; reviews financial performance & updates financial forecasts throughout the year; reviews & provides recommendations regarding the annual audit of OPA's financial statements; & develops programs of asset management & investment policies & procedures

BY-LAWS & RESOLUTIONS

Advises the Board in reviewing maintaining the principal documents necessary or the governance of the Association

CLUBS (FOOD & BEVERAGE)

Advises the Board & the GM on the social use of the Beach Club, Yacht Club & Golf Club

COMMUNICATIONS

Advises the Board & the GM in facilitating the exchange of information about all areas of Association activities, with & between the membership

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Advises the Board & the GM in facilitating the exchange of information about all areas of Association activities, with & between the membership

ELECTIONS

Administers the voting process for the election of members to the Board. In addition, the Committee shall organize, conduct & supervise Association sponsored candidate forums; supervise voting at the annual or special meetings of the members of the Association; & organize & supervise voting by the members on referendums

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL ASSETS

Provides suggestions & recommendations for improving the health & vitality of our natural resources as well as keeping the Board informed on environmental issues impacting Ocean Pines

GOLF

Advises the Board on golf matters & aids in promoting the successful operation of all golfing activities

MARINE ACTIVITIES

Advises the Board on policies & concerns relating to marine activities affecting Ocean Pines

RECREATION & PARKS

Advises the Board on matters pertaining to parks & recreational programs or activities & aids in promoting their use by Association members. These programs & activities shall be separate from programs & activities or use of facilities assigned to a specific advisory committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Serves as a working & advisory group with the GM & Board to create a Strategic Plan for the Association. Advises the Board & the GM on how best to align the mission & the vision of OPA by anticipating future needs & assisting in the development of a strategic multi-year plan that would support & enhance the lifestyles of its owners, residents & guests.

SEARCH

To stimulate community interest in Board elections, solicit candidates from a broad spectrum of the Ocean Pines membership, provide information to, or otherwise assist potential candidates with the application process.



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Summary Financial Report

Year-to-Date
2/29/2020



OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY (UNAUDITED)



Steve Phillips
Director of Finance
& Operational Logistics

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
	(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)		
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$9,057	\$9,059	(\$2)
Grants	500	483	17
Amenities (Net)	4,997	4,519	478
Recreation & Parks	301	280	21
Other fees and Income	<u>945</u>	<u>923</u>	<u>22</u>
Total Revenues	15,800	15,264	536
Less transfers to reserve accounts	(3,333)	(3,256)	(77)
Net Operating Revenues	12,467	12,008	459
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Administration & Management	1,612	1,709	(97)
Amenities	3,959	3,770	189
Recreation & Parks	654	719	(65)
Police	1,498	1,451	47
Fire / EMS	578	578	0
Public Works / CPI	1,390	1,531	(141)
General Maintenance	<u>540</u>	<u>717</u>	<u>(177)</u>
Total Operating Expenses	10,231	10,475	(244)
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	2,236	1,533	703
TRANSFERS (New Capital, etc.)	0	0	0
NET	\$2,236	\$1,533	\$703

Amanda

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OPA Board Approves FY20/21 Budget

GM Viola says team effort, benchmarks led to successful process

The Ocean Pines Board on Feb. 18 voted 6-0, with one abstention, to approve the fiscal year 2020/2021 budget. Association Vice President Steve Tuttle abstained from the vote.

Taking effect May 1, the approved budget preserves the current basic annual assessment of \$986.

Association President Doug Parks praised General Manager John Viola and Ocean Pines staff, as well as the Budget and Finance Committee, for their role in crafting the budget.

"The process, I think, went very, very well this year and hopefully it's used as a standard as we move forward in subsequent years to prepare the budget," Parks said. "Kudos to all those involved, and I thank them for their efforts and applaud them for getting us a budget that we [could] work with in a very reasonable and organized way."

Viola said staff and particularly Association department heads contributed to what was, by all accounts, a smoother than normal budget process that finished several weeks early.

The proposed budget was released in December, followed by a three-day Budget and Finance Committee review and one daylong Board of Directors review session in January. The Board then held a public hearing on Feb. 5 and budget adoption occurred two weeks later, on Feb. 18.

"It was a team effort, we used a bottom's up approach, held public meetings, prepared analysis, and had work plans support all numbers," Viola said. "Everybody contributed - Golf, Aquatics, Public Works, Public Relations, Finance, Rec and Parks, Police, Racquet Sports, and the Marina."

Elaborating on the "bottom's up" approach, Viola said, "I didn't start off with last year's budget and work backwards, and just change some numbers."

"Everybody started off from scratch, pen to paper, considering what they thought their revenues and expenses would be," he said. "I just think the review process, the feedback, the communication, the meetings - everything was smooth. We had due dates and we talked about the issues for each department, and then they [staff] went and did it."

At the center of the entire process, Viola said, was countless hours of work done behind the scenes by the Finance Department, led by Director of Finance and Operational Logistics Steve Phillips.

Viola also singled out Accounting Manager Julia Johnson, Accounts Payable Supervisor Geraldine Tate, and Assessment and Membership Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer.

"This is their time to shine," Viola said. "Steve redid that entire department and, to do that budget while we're putting in a new software system, plus all the construction going on and the compensation study we did late last year - it was excellent work."

Viola previously lent a hand during Ocean Pines budget sessions, both as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and as a volunteer CFO, but this was his first budget in the GM's chair. Based on what he already knew, Viola was confident he and the team could meet all the deadlines.

"There was full transparency throughout the entire process, everyone gave detailed plans and benchmarks, we held meetings out in the open, and I kept the Board up to date - and that's a big one," he said. "Nothing was a surprise, everything was explained, and we always did reconciliations. Everything was communicated and the Board was kept apprised of everything we were doing."



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The OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It also helped, Viola said, that staff could use real numbers based on work that was already being done, from bulkheads to roads to drainage.

"We didn't reinvent the wheel," he said. "The analysis we did all year gets rolled into the budget. What everyone is already doing every month is geared toward that process, and that all contributed to our success."

To view the approved budget, visit: <https://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FINAL-APPROVED-FY21-BUDGET.pdf>.

ASSESSMENT DETAIL

	2019-20 BUDGET	2020-21 BUDGET	DIFF BUDGET
GENERAL OPERATIONS			
ADMINISTRATION	198	214	16
COMPLIANCE / PERMITS / INSPECT	(5)	(1)	4
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	104	97	(7)
PUBLIC WORKS	194	198	4
FIRE / EMS	82	83	1
POLICE	157	165	8
RECREATION / PARKS	61	62	1
SUB-TOTAL	791	817	26
AMENITY OPERATIONS			
RACQUET SPORTS	1	3	2
AQUATICS	(4)	12	16
GOLF OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE/TERNS	9	6	(3)
BEACH CLUB	(12)	(12)	0
BEACH PARKING	(40)	(58)	(18)
YACHT CLUB	12	(10)	(22)
MARINAS	(22)	(23)	(1)
SUB-TOTAL	(56)	(81)	(25)
RESERVES			
REPLACEMENT	220	231	11
OPERATING DEFICIT	30	0	(30)
ROADS	0	0	0
BULKHEADS	0	19	19
SUB-TOTAL	250	250	19
OTHER			
NEW CAPITAL	1	0	(1)
SUB-TOTAL	1	0	(1)
NON-WATER LOTS	986	986	(0)
BULKHEAD DIFFERENTIAL	465	515	50
WATERFRONT LOTS	1,451	1,501	50

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Named Safest Community in Maryland for its Size in 2019



According to one community safety website survey, based upon just recently released FBI crime statistics for 2019, Ocean Pines is the safest community for its size in Maryland. This is one of the best reasons to live in the Ocean Pines

community. When people relocate to or purchase property in Ocean Pines, public safety is one of their primary concerns. It also keeps property values high.

CRIME BULLETIN

by Police Chief David C. Massey, Ed.D.

It has been an extended period since the last Crime Bulletin in December of last year, so statistics may appear somewhat inflated.

ELDER ABUSE ARREST

Some of our most vulnerable victims can be the elderly in managed care. The police department is an active participant in the recently created Vulnerable Adult Task Force. This multi-agency task force, headed by our State's Attorney, coordinates the investigation of elder abuse.

I am happy to report that our police department, in cooperation with the task force, recently convicted a health care worker who victimized an elderly patient by stealing the victim's credit card and using it for theft. PFC James Brasure of our department was specifically commended by States Attorney Heiser for his many hours of investigation on this case.

BURGLARY ARRESTS

Vacant homes can sometimes be the target of juveniles seeking property or a hangout for drugs or alcohol. We recently arrested four juveniles, ranging in age from 11 to 16 years, for 4th Degree Burglary.

In these types of cases, the juveniles are typically released to their parents, and the matter is handled from there by the Juvenile Justice Department. If you are leaving your residence vacant for at least 30 days in a row, the police department can do periodic security house checks.

THEFTS FROM VEHICLES

Unlocked vehicles are the No. 1 target of thieves in Ocean Pines. Many would-be thieves just pull door handles on vehicles, entering the ones that are unlocked and stealing property. We recently arrested three individuals – who were not from Ocean Pines – for multiple thefts and misuse of stolen credit cards. None of the vehicles they entered was locked. Please lock your car doors – it is just good crime prevention!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS

Since our last report, police made three arrests for domestic violence. If you overhear loud arguments in your neighborhood and suspect a domestic dispute could escalate, please call us to check it out. Often, police can calm a domestic situation down by intervening, without having to make an arrest.

DRUNK DRIVING ARRESTS

Police made 13 driving while intoxicated arrests since our last report. When the winter season is in full swing, we notice an uptick in the number of drunk driving arrests we make. With Uber and local cabs readily available, there really is no excuse for drunk driving today.



DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

Every death that occurs in Ocean Pines requires a police investigation. While the majority of these deaths are for natural health causes, other deaths require extensive investigation. Since our last report, we conducted a death investigation of an elderly female who was suffering dementia. In the early morning hours, she wandered off her residence and a full-scale police search, including our police drone, later located her deceased, in a canal. Death was by accidental drowning.

AUTO THEFT ARREST

A 13-year-old runaway from Pennsylvania was charged with auto theft of her parents' car. The Pennsylvania State Police alerted OPPD that the runaway was believed to be in Ocean Pines, and an alert officer observed her behind the wheel in Ocean Pines. Her charges were referred to the Juvenile Justice Department. She drove from Pennsylvania to Ocean Pines without an accident!

DRUG OVERDOSES

Ocean Pines is not immune from the opioid epidemic, as we are the largest year-round residential community in Worcester County. Since our last report, our officers responded to three drug overdoses, two of which were heroin.

EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS:

Not every mental health incident requires an emergency psychiatric evaluation by a physician. In those cases where the subject expresses suicidal thoughts, however, police take the subject into custody and transport them to a hospital for an in-depth psychiatric evaluation by a physician. Since our last report, police had four incidents in which they took into custody three adults and one juvenile for emergency psychiatric evaluations.

SUICIDAL SUBJECT

Police responded to a call of an individual threatening suicide with a knife. The individual had a history of mental health encounters. The individual, who was in mental distress, had threatened his parents with a knife. When police arrived on the scene, they observed him leaning out of a second-floor window, with a knife to his throat, threatening suicide. After a three-hour negotiation with police, he surrendered, without injury. He was taken to a local hospital for an emergency psychiatric evaluation by a physician.

If you are struggling, reach out. Free, confidential help is available 24/7. Call 1-800-273-8255 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) or text TALK to 741741 (Crisis Text Line). If you are a VETERAN in crisis – or concerned about one, call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 (Veterans Crisis Line) or send a text to 838255 or chat online at veteranscrisisline.net.



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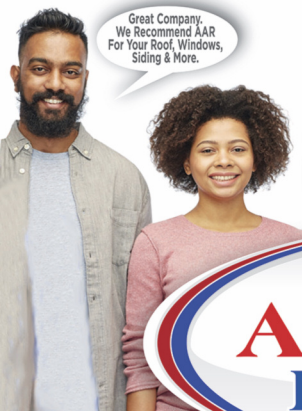
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A Message From OPVFD

For nearly 45 years the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department has provided 24 hour fire, rescue and emergency medical service to the community. The last year has been among our busiest with over 1,800 responses for the 2019 season.

The vast majority of these calls are handled by our full-time 24-hour paramedic/firefighters and accompanied by our all-volunteer members. Every month, staff and members give hundreds of hours responding to calls, training, community outreach and various fundraising events. As the needs of the region continue to grow the needs of the department increase as well.

Each year, we ask our community for much-needed financial help to continue to provide the best service to you. Your donations go directly to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and are critical to our ability to serve you. Donations from our fundraising campaigns go directly to apparatus, training, equipment, and volunteer recruitment. Although we are fortunate to receive financial assistance from the Ocean Pines Association and Worcester County, we rely heavily on our community donations to support the department.

Please help us maintain our effectiveness in protecting you and your property by contributing to our Annual Fund Drive. The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department serves your community and is 100% tax deductible as the OPVFD is a 501(c)(3) organization. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and mail to: Ocean Pines Fire Co., 911 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, we thank you for your continued support. Visit: opvfd.com



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County Officials Outline Spray Irrigation Proposal at Town Hall

Worcester County officials, during a town hall meeting on March 12, outlined a proposal to begin using highly treated effluent to spray irrigate the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

Officials underscored that no decisions have yet been made, but said money for a feasibility study is in the proposed Water and Wastewater District budget.

Worcester County Public Works Director John Tustin said Ocean Pines is likely the only publicly operated wastewater treatment plant in Maryland exempted from paying into the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, because of the high quality of the treated effluent. He said the exemption saves rate payers about \$60 per year.

"That means that we don't have to give the State of Maryland \$500,000 a year to make improvements to wastewater treatment plants on the other side of the bay," he said.

Tustin said the quality of the drinking water is also "fantastic."

"The same ... water that is used to irrigate the golf course is the same ... water that is used for your drinking - same aquifer, same water," he said. "Both the golf course and we [the public] are pulling at times over two million gallons a day out of that aquifer. So, think about the environmental aspects of that."

Deputy Director of Public Works John Ross said the Bay Restoration Fund was created to "get nitrogen out of wastewater, down to a level of four milligrams per liter."

"This treatment plant [in Ocean Pines] takes it down to three milligrams per liter - and a lot of times it's down to two," he said.

Ross said the proposal was to use the treated wastewater to irrigate the golf course, rather than continue to draw from the aquifer. He added there are 35 spray irrigation facilities in Maryland, including nine on golf courses.

"Three of those nine are in Worcester County," Ross said. "It's Glen Riddle, Lighthouse Sound and Eagle's Landing. We're also eventually going to spray at River Run."

"This is not something new. This is very commonly done throughout the state [and] throughout the country," he added.

Ross said there are five water supply wells in Ocean Pines, with permits allowing the county to use an annual average of one million gallons per day throughout the year and up to 2.5 million gallons per day during peak months. He said the golf course pulls around 200,000 gallons per day, suggesting moving to spray irrigation on the golf course could help reduce the burden on the aquifer.

"That water is all coming out of the same reservoir," he said, adding the water supply system in Ocean Pines is one of five

in the state under a water strategy area, "where they monitor the withdraws out of our wells in order to make sure that we don't begin to pull saltwater in" because of the proximity to several nearby bodies of water.

"This water supply system is unique," Ross said. "We are able to pull the water out of the ground, we are able to adjust the PH and we are able to chlorinate that water, and it meets every requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act. We do not have to filter it. We do not have to treat it with chemicals."

He said the Ocean Pines area is also able to meet requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act "without building a water treatment plant."

"If it ever gets to the point where you have to build a water treatment plant here ... take a look sometime at what we have to go through at Riddle Farm in order to clean the water up,

[or] what we have to go through over at Mystic Harbor," he said. "Not only do you generate, you have to filter the water [and] you have to add chemicals to the water, but then you have to backwash the filter, so you're making additional wastewater when that happens. This is just such a unique water system up here in Ocean Pines, you want to protect that water system."

Ross said spray irrigation could potentially also help reduce discharges into the Saint Martin River.

"Yes, we produce really clean water - less than three milligrams per liter total nitrogen - but that's still not zero," he said. "This move could be something that would be beneficial to the river ... [and] it will make a benefit to the bay, because it goes from three milligrams to zero."

On potential next steps, Ross said in Eagle's Landing they "built an entirely new irrigation system," ran several miles of pipe from the golf course to the treatment plant, and put in a pump station.

To start spray irrigating in Ocean Pines, he said, would be a far simpler process.

"Where the wastewater treatment plant is located is almost across the street from where the entrance is to the [golf course]," he said. "We aren't talking about miles of pipeline here. We're talking about half a mile, or maybe three-quarters of a mile ... it's not going to be expensive to do that."

He added costs to build a new spray irrigation system, which would be necessary to handle the treated effluent, were not yet known. By comparison, he said about \$1.7 million was spent at the Eagle's Landing golf course, and a total of about \$3 million was spent on the project.

"The first step we make is ... we have to decide whether this is even something that's viable or not," said Ross.

Ross said the county would need to investigate financing





packages and the potential for grants, but that it's likely the rate payers would pay for the project, either through assessments or utility bill increases.

"I know everyone is going to want to know who pays. That has not been decided at this point," Ross said. "Obviously, there are really two choices here: the water and wastewater program could pay [or] the Association could pay for whatever improvements are needed for the golf course, but at the end of the day it's still the homeowners in Ocean Pines.

"Our first step and what we're proposing to do right now, and why we have to have this public hearing, we've got to make a decision," he continued. "We're going to be putting \$25,000 in next year's water and wastewater budget [for a feasibility study].

"Once we get the information from the feasibility study, that information will be public, we'll take it to the county commissioners and show them what it is, and a decision will have to be made whether we move forward with the project. No decisions like that have been made at this time, it's just a concept that we believe is worth looking at for the long-term benefit of Ocean Pines," Ross said.

Ross, Tustin and Ocean Pines officials fielded roughly an hour of public comments and questions during the meeting.



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Meet John Malinowski *General Manager of Golf AND Golf Pro*

This is the latest in an ongoing series of profiles on Ocean Pines' staff standouts

On an average day at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, one would be just as likely to see John Malinowski with a shovel or a wrench in his hand as with a clipboard or a golf club.

Malinowski, the Association's general manager of Golf, said his daily approach is to "do whatever needs to be done," from fixing broken golf carts and replacing worn sod, to teaching the next generation of golfers how to play.

"I get there at 7 a.m. ... and I leave at some point," Malinowski said with a laugh. "I work six days a week and there's just a lot going on, between working with marketing stuff with hotel packages and resort play, to holding lessons, summer camps and clinics, and even merchandise ordering. Each of those are full-time jobs at other places.

"I figure it's all under 'miscellaneous assigned duties' – unfortunately, I'm the one assigning them!" he added.

Malinowski was born in Philadelphia, but moved all over the country growing up. His father was "a career Marine."

Also, golf wasn't his first sport.

"I grew up playing baseball," Malinowski said. "Baseball didn't work out quite as I had hoped, so, once that career path ended, I got into golf and picked that up pretty quick and easy in college."

In 2003, Malinowski became the head golf professional at the River Run Golf Club, where he worked for seven years.

"It was an all-public golf course and, kinda like here, I pretty much ran everything, including the golf course and marketing," he said. "That's why I know the market so well – I know all the players and I've been doing it for a while."

Malinowski said the local market is unique, in that weekdays are much busier than weekends. Tourists book hotels from Saturday to Saturday, and then spend Sundays – the first full vacation day – at the beach.

"At any other golf course, the weekends are packed – everybody works all week and then comes to the club and plays on weekends," he said. "Here, no one's playing golf on Saturday or Sunday. It's

amazing – it's the only place in golf like that."

After River Run, Malinowski spent three years on the other side of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, working at the Montgomery County Club. Billy Casper Golf happened to manage that course and, when they took over operations at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, they brought Malinowski with them as their golf pro.

Malinowski started in Ocean Pines in November 2012, working first under Casper and later under Landscapes Unlimited. By 2017, the course was back to being self-managed, with Malinowski still at the helm.

Besides Malinowski, the other constant in Ocean Pines is the course itself. Designed by legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr., the Ocean Pines Golf Club opened in 1972 and is unique on Maryland's Eastern Shore for its pedigree.

"It's just a gem as far as a golf course and the way it's been designed," Malinowski said. "It's an old-school golf course that still competes with the modern courses. It's challenging, but very fair. If a golfer doesn't let their ego

get in the way and they choose the right set of tees, they'll have a great experience."

The course offers seven sets of tees on each hole, counting two family tees and five regular sets.

"Really, anybody can play the golf course, whether they're brand new or not," Malinowski said. "A lot of people think the family tees are for kids – and they kinda are – but they're good for beginner golfers too. We had a 38-year-old man play it last year and he just loved it. It was his first time ever playing golf, so that was really neat to hear."

Keeping the 18-hole course in shape is "a full day every day," Malinowski said, starting with spraying just the right amount of water and hoping for the right amount of sunlight. Greens are mowed every day, fairways three times a week, and roughs twice a week.

"By the time you loop around, it's probably seven miles of golf course," Malinowski said.





OCEAN PINES GOLF CLUB



“A lot of places are side by side and it’s confined, but we’re so spread out that it makes it challenging.”

Since last May, Malinowski and his team were also challenged with working out of a portable trailer, while the new, 7,200-square-foot Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse was under construction. The new building is scheduled to open this May.

“Well, it smelled a whole lot better than the old building – that much I can tell you!” Malinowski said. “It’s been challenging. Obviously, we’re not getting the foot traffic that you would with a golf shop. That’s probably the biggest thing – you’re in a 30-by-10-foot trailer, as opposed to something that’s two or three times the size of that.”

Malinowski said he’s most looking forward to offering a strong first impression with a new building – something he’s never had in Ocean Pines.

“That’s been the one missing thing. We had a 50-year-old building that was in disrepair. When you drive up and you see that kind of building, you’re starting off on the wrong foot,” he said. “Now, people are going to be able to come in and get a bite before or after they play, and in a much more inviting atmosphere. You’ll have a great deck overlooking the golf course, and the views are spectacular.”

He said the new golf shop would be “much more streamlined and functional,” with a launch monitor and simulator to use for club fitting. In the winter, the simulator could be set up for cold-weather virtual-golf leagues.

“I think now we’re starting to get limitless on what we can do there,” he said. “It opens up a whole world of possibilities

for us that we just didn’t have with a half a building that was infested by mold.”

Malinowski not-so-fondly remembers, each time it rained, “having to run in with a shop vac to suck out the water out of the kitchen, that’s pouring down over the door.”

“We don’t have to worry about that anymore,” he said.

“That’s going to ease a lot of the burden for everybody. The new building just raises the stature of our entire operation.”

Raising that Ocean Pines Golf operation, Malinowski said, is a good thing for the entire community – both for golfers and nongolfers.

“Certainly, any home in a community with a golf course tends to sell more. It just makes the property value higher,” Malinowski said. “We have 1,800 to 2,000 homeowners and

residents who play, but really we have 8,452 members. Whether they play golf or not, they’re invested in the golf course and the community.”

For those who haven’t yet tried the Ocean Pines Golf Club, Malinowski said there’s no time like the present.

“If you want a great, fair test of golf, it’s the best on the Eastern Shore. You definitely want to check it out,” he said. “It’s quite an experience and it’s unlike any other course out here.”



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The complete text of the press release is below:

FARMERS MARKETS SHOULD CONTINUE OPERATIONS DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 19, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Agriculture considers farmers markets an essential business and an important source of food for many Marylanders. The department is asking that farmers markets remain open during the current state of emergency.

"Farmers markets play a critical role in providing fresh, nutritious and locally-produced food products to customers across the state—especially those Marylanders who live in food deserts and those who rely on SNAP benefits to access fresh produce," said Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "It is important that we keep that supply line open while making sure we implement the same preventative measures used in grocery stores and other essential retail businesses."

In response to the state's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, markets are urged to make necessary adjustments to promote social distancing; increase access to hand sanitizer/washing stations for staff, vendors and patrons; regularly sanitize any touch surfaces; and consider any operational changes that may reduce the opportunity for infection. More information on prevention is available from the Maryland Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Volunteer Opportunities

Come join a fun group of people all working towards a great farmers market community! For more info, please email David Bean, market manager, at flavor-drizzles@gmail.com or sign up at the Market Information Booth on any market day.





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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS



Ocean Pines Honors Lt. Col. Voss

A large contingency from Ocean Pines Public Works, Administration, Recreation and Parks, Aquatics and the Board of Directors lined Worcester Highway on Feb. 11. to honor Lt. Col. Paul Voss of the United State Air Force. Voss was the pilot of a surveillance plane that crashed in Afghanistan in January.

A police escort traveled through Worcester County on Route 113 southbound to Pocomoke, then turned onto Route 13 toward Voss' adopted hometown in Virginia. Maryland law enforcement and local fire companies also lined the highway to honor Voss.

Voss, 46, was a native of Yigo, Guam. According to a Pentagon statement, he died on Jan. 27 when his Bombardier E-11A crashed in the Ghazni province in Afghanistan. Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf was also killed in the crash.

Voss, whose call sign was "Tabs," was an 11M mobility pilot commissioned in November 2001 after graduating from Officer Training School, according to information released by the Air Force Personnel Center (ACC). His decorations included the Meritorious Service Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Phaneuf was an 11B bomber pilot who flew the B-1B Lancer. He entered active duty in June 2012 after being commissioned through ROTC. His decorations included the Air Force Commendation Medal.

In a statement, ACC said Voss was on a voluntary deployment to Afghanistan, supporting the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram, when he died. He was piloting the E-11A.

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BJ's Donates to Worcester Veterans Memorial

BJ's Wholesale Club, as a part of its fall membership offer and in partnership with the OPA, recently donated \$520 to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

The nationwide chain donated \$5 to the foundation from each membership fee paid, in addition to offering special benefits for new and renewing members.

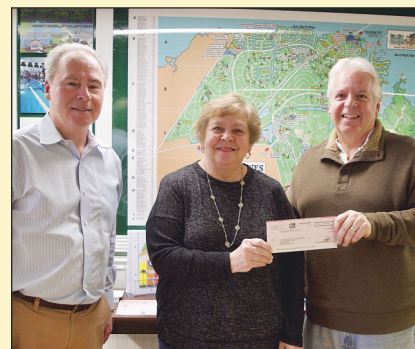
Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola and President Doug Parks on Feb. 12 presented the check to Marie Gilmore, president of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

The Ocean Pines/BJ's membership promotion is offered twice a year. Area residents who missed the fall BJ's promotion will have the opportunity to take part in the next promotion, April 10-24.

With this promotion, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Inner Circle Membership for \$25 or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases, for \$50 with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Renewing members can purchase a 12-month Inner Circle Membership for \$40 or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership for \$80. Renewing members will also receive one bonus month with the offer.

BJ's membership applications are available at the Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at OceanPines.org.



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Craft Club Reopening Postponed



A grand opening ceremony for the new Pine'er Craft Club Artisan Gift Shop has been postponed to a later date, to be announced. The event was originally scheduled for Saturday, April 4 at 9 a.m.

The new building, in White Horse Park and across from the Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, held a soft opening on Feb. 8.

Ocean Pines crafters formed the club in 1974 and the original shop opened two years later, at the time located between the community center and administration building. Once the move to the new building is complete, the old site will be demolished to add more parking spaces.

Ocean Tower Construction built the new shop, with Ocean Pines Public Works adding some finishing touches to the interior.

"Public works has been so incredibly helpful to us over the years, but particularly with our move," Craft Club member Carol Quinto said. "[Recreation and Parks Manager] Debbie Donahue has also just been fabulous. If it wasn't for her, I'm not sure we'd have a new building."

Quinto said the shop carries a wide variety of handmade merchandise, including woodworking, candles, pottery, jewelry, home décor, and all manner of sewn, crocheted and

knitted items. All

items are made locally, and most are made in Ocean Pines.

"Everything is handmade, and we always have something for everyone. We have a wide range of items that continually meet people's needs," she said, adding the shop also showcases local artists like Helen Smith and Jim Adcock.

Craft Club President Sharon Puser said the shop regularly gets new items.

"It's continually changing. As we get new members we get different things, so it's always a different selection," she said. "It's not the same merchandise all of the time, and it's because it's hand crafted it's always one-of-a-kind."

Puser said profits from the shop are donated back to the Ocean Pines community. To date, the club has provided more than \$160,000 in donations for Ocean Pines Police, Fire Department, Recreation and Parks and Public Works, as well as the local library and neighborhood watch, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

"It's a community effort, and we're proud to be a part of this and to be able to give back to the community. That's our whole purpose," she said.

For more info, email opcraftclub@aol.com or call Puser at 410-208-3032.



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From left: Kelly & March Organizers Susan Buyer, Indivisible Worcester; Rosie Bean, FLIP; Toby Perkins, Indivisible Worcester; Linda Linzey, Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee; Vicky Wallace, Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County & Debbie Gousha, Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee.

Suffrage Centennial Celebration Group Joins Women's March

As a part of the 4th annual Women's March on Jan. 18, the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee joined nearly 200 women, men, and children on Ocean City's Boardwalk to celebrate women's rights, to advocate for policies that protect women and families and to register people to vote.

The centennial group was formed last year to plan commemorative events leading up to August 26, marking the 100th year anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, proclaiming women's right to vote. Throughout the year, the group will be honoring the suffragist pioneers whose brave fight and severe sacrifices brought about this landmark moment in the country's history.

Senator Chris Van Hollen's Eastern Shore regional director, Melissa Kelly, presented congratulatory citations to the four sponsor organizations of this year's Women's March.



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Pines Artist Repaints Wood Duck Entrance

Local painter Jean Frank recently noticed the old entrance signs to the Wood Duck neighborhood were looking a little worn down.

Frank, believing she could lend a hand – or a brush – reached out to Ocean Pines Public Works and volunteered her services to redo the paintings.

“I was tired of looking at it!” she said with a laugh. “I was actually going to do it last spring, and then things got busy and it got very hot, but I had a lull this winter.”

Frank and her husband moved from Frederick, Maryland to Ocean Pines about three years ago. A self-taught painter, Frank said she’s been making art for as long as she can remember.

“My father was a draftsman, so I think I picked some of that up from him,” she said. “Around 1993, I started creating works from photos I had been taking, and I entered different art shows and art organizations over the years.”

Frank was president of the Frederick County Art Association on two separate occasions. She also worked at the Delaplaine Arts Center for almost two decades, managing their Gift Gallery that showcased roughly 200 visual artists. Turning her sights to the Wood Duck signs, Frank called Public Works and asked if she could repaint them.

“They were like, ‘Oh, OK. Great!’” she said.

Repainting the two signs took about two weeks. While the old images were fairly simple paintings of a male “wood duck” floating in a small pond, Frank’s update added more color, depth and detail, especially along the breast, flank, wings and crown.

The paintings were sealed with a weatherproof varnish,

and Public Works

installed the panels and new plexiglass covers on Friday, Feb. 7, Frank said.

“The neighbors are thrilled,” she said. “I don’t know if other people notice that much outside of our neighborhood, but it means a lot to us.”

For more on Frank’s artwork, her original jewelry is on display at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th Street, and more of her paintings can be seen on her website, www.jeannoelart.com.

Once the weather warms up, Frank

will also return to the Ocean Pines Farmer’s Market, where she annually offers face painting for children.

“Certainly, I’ll be back face painting in April, and that’s a lot of fun. The kids love it!” she said. “It’s so cute to see their smiling faces.”



Before



After





Ocean Pines Penguin Swim Team Got Wet for a Good Cause on New Year's Day

The first-ever Ocean Pines Penguin Swim team placed third in the "Community Group or Organization" category by raising \$375 for Atlantic General Hospital's 26th Annual Penguin Swim held at the Princess Royale in Ocean City on January 1.

Social Club Welcomes Widows & Widowers

Join this group at its monthly meeting, held the third Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Make new friends and get the club's activity list for the month. For more information, contact John at 410-208-1398.

Community Garden Plots Available

Gardeners looking to dig their hands in the dirt are invited to secure their own little patch of Ocean Pines property.

The Ocean Pines Community Gardens, located in the Manklin Meadows complex next to the playground, is accepting reservations for its garden plots for 2020.

Available annually, each garden plot consists of three 4-foot-by-8-foot raised beds ideal for growing vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Additional topsoil and mulch, gardening tools and water are provided and included in the annual fee, which is \$27.50 for one plot or \$55 for two plots.

For a tour of the gardens or to join, contact Tracy Jones at 215-990-1537 or Sam Schwartz at 410-641-7978.

Marina Plans to Open May 1

The Ocean Pines Marina, on 1 Mumford's Landing Road behind the Yacht Club, will open for the season on May 1.

Gas dock hours are May 1-21 8am to 6pm, May 22-September 7 6am to 6pm, and September 8-October 31 8am to 5pm. The gas dock closes for the season on November 1.

For more info, visit: oceanpines.org/amenities/ocean-pines-marinas/yacht-club-marina



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Costello Retires After More Than Two Decades With Ocean Pines Public Works

Longtime Ocean Pines Public Works supervisor Joe Costello officially retired in February

During a luncheon on Feb. 21, Public Works Director Eddie Wells said he was glad everyone could gather to honor Costello, not to say “goodbye,” but to congratulate him ... for the third time.

“I’ve already left the invitation out – if he wants to come back and help us, he’s more than welcome,” Wells said.

Costello originally retired while living in Philadelphia more than 20 years ago, and then retired again about nine years ago in Ocean Pines.

“Sitting down with the General Manager at the time – I think it was Tom Olson – he said, ‘No, no, you can’t retire.’ So, we came to an agreement,” Costello said of retirement number two. “I stayed on two days a week, and that way I could enjoy my leisure and fish a little bit, and still come back and work with the guys. And I really enjoyed that.”

The retirement luncheon included a special appearance by Costello’s two granddaughters, Taylor and Madison, who hid in a small storage shed until he arrived. There were many smiles, hugs and kisses – and maybe even a few tears – when he realized the surprise.

“It was absolutely amazing,” Costello said. “I love them to death and to see them, with their schedules, was incredible.”

Madison has been away at college studying to be a veterinarian, and Taylor lives and works in Philadelphia, he said.

“We have a hard time seeing each other, but we see each other around the holidays. For them to show up and come out of that storage bin was absolutely amazing,” he said.

Costello was born in Philadelphia and spent much of his life there. After high school, in 1959, he enlisted in the Air Force and trained as a radar technician for about two years.

“I went in on the F-89 Scorpion, which was a light bomber, but then they phased that out,” he said. When he learned an Air National Guard unit based out of Philadelphia would inherit some of those planes, Costello joined the unit and served until his discharge in 1964.

Afterward, he tried to find work as a radar tech, but found virtually everyone required exten-

sive on-the-job experience.

“I tried many businesses where electronics was a big thing in the early 60s, and I scored very well on all the tests, but everybody wanted five years’ experience. I won’t tell you what my last statement was to the last place,” Costello said with a laugh.

Instead, he enrolled in a plumbing apprenticeship program in Philadelphia and spent nearly two decades in that field. Costello then moved into management and worked as an estimator, from 1981-1998.

He started building a home in Ocean Pines around 1997 and moved here full time, a year later. At first, he did part-time maintenance jobs for local real estate agents, often working on call.

“It was nice, but it wasn’t nice,” he said of the odd hours.

Then, when a job came up as a general maintenance supervisor for Ocean Pines Public Works, he jumped at the chance.

“When I came on, there was a lot of items that had to be brought up to date in Ocean Pines,” Costello said. “I think one of the first projects we did was replace the whole main walkway of the marina – tore it down to scratch and started all over again.”

Costello and Public Works also redid the decking around the old Yacht Club, as well as the tiki bar area, and then worked to rehab the building itself.

“Eventually, we even tore out the interior of the existing Yacht Club,” he said. “The Yacht Club had settled down about 4 inches on one end, so we initially started to try and stop it – to secure it – and then we had to go to outside contractors and work with them to bring it back up.

“The whole second level and the kitchen area was totally replaced, and we replaced all the downstairs kitchens and a lot of the flooring, and we replaced the bar on two different occasions,” Costello continued. “There was a tremendous amount of repairs and so forth that was done to the Yacht Club that a lot of people aren’t aware of today.”

Public Works, under Costello, also expanded the Yacht Club pool decking and built a new bathhouse.

“We just did extensive work all over the Pines. I give the guys a lot of credit,” he said. “We had a lot of pressure and a lot of stress at times, but overall it’s a great bunch of guys.” Costello has worn a lot of hats – from radar tech to master plumber to supervisor – but perhaps the most interesting is how he learned to be a craftsman and a builder.





OCEAN PINES PUBLIC WORKS

Florida to visit his daughter. As for his plans after that? “That’s a good question!” Costello said. “I’ve been so busy my whole life, a lot of people ask me that same question.”

He joked his wife, Mary, suggested a few rooms that need painting.

“I fish a lot and I enjoy that, so that’ll be part of it. It’s going to be interesting,” he said. “If I’m not working out of the shop, I’m spending the day fishing or something like that, and there’s always plenty to do around the house. Between the outside and the wood pines and trees and leaves and everything, it keeps you busy.”

“My dad had major heart problems in his early 50s, and he passed away in 1969,” he said. “Well, my dad’s best friend was a major craftsman named John Spear, and they were very close. So, when my dad knew he was getting close to passing away, he told mom that, ‘When I leave here, you marry Jack.’”

Spear fought in World War II and was highly decorated, Costello said. A brick in the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines honors his service.

“He had more awards than almost anybody I’ve ever known,” he said. “He built a lot of the bridges that crossed the Rhine [region of Germany], and he would come out as a carpenter and master craftsman. He could build anything with just a file and a plane. That’s where I picked it up, and it’s very enjoyable.

“He was a fantastic guy. And that was his first marriage – marrying my mom – at probably 67 years old,” he added. Recently, Costello relied on that experience to construct a large model boat display case at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, and to build the interiors for the new Pine’er Craft Club building.

“The craft building was bare walls with a concrete floor,” he said, adding an independent contractor later installed flooring. “I sat down multiple times with the people from the



craft shop to get ideas about what they wanted to do, and what they wanted to hold and save and reuse [from the old shop], which basically amounted to next to nothing.”

Costello built three three-tier floor shelves from scratch, as well as cabinetry, glass shelving in the windows, a large desk, and more shelving in the

storage room. The Craft Club paid for the materials.

“We did salvage the inside corner shelving that they use, plus all the slat board that’s on the walls that holds all the brackets – that was all done by myself and Public Works,” he said.

Costello, in retiring now for the third time, said this one will stick. Probably.

“It’s just to a point where I need a reverse shoulder replacement on my right and the left one’s acting up, and my back has been hurting for a long time. It’s just about that time,” he said.

His first action as a newly retired man will be a trip to



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Helpful Tips to Address Potholes & 'Road Cuts'

Ocean Pines and Worcester County Public Works crews continue working to address substandard roads in the community.

Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said part of that effort is in educating the public. On that front, she said Worcester County Deputy Director of Public Works John Ross recently passed on valuable information.

"One of the ongoing operations of the department over the past several years has been to replace the blue tubing that connects from the main water delivery pipes under the streets in Ocean Pines, to houses in the Pines that utilized



Pothole

this tubing in their construction," she said. "The nature of the problem is that blue tubing is constructed of a plastic that tends to disintegrate over time at a faster pace than other construction material, leading to leaks that must be repaired.

"While this is primarily a problem for homes constructed between 1985 and 1991, it does exist elsewhere in

the Pines," Phillip continued. "Worcester County Public Works has been replacing this tubing on an emergency basis for several years and has focused, when possible, on removing this from houses along Ocean Parkway. In the past several years, they have removed virtually all of the tubing along the Parkway."

She said that work included more than two hundred homes.

"The point of focusing on Ocean Parkway was to avoid the interruption of traffic flow, because of the necessity of

flagmen and to avoid cuts in the roadway shortly after it was repaved," she said.

Phillips said emergency repairs would continue, and that Worcester County Public Works has set aside funding to replace tubing near 25-30 homes per year, on a discretionary basis.

"County Public Works will continue to repair the broken blue tubing as it occurs in the Pines. With this, the community will see several 'road cuts,' which usually are square/rectangle in nature," she said.

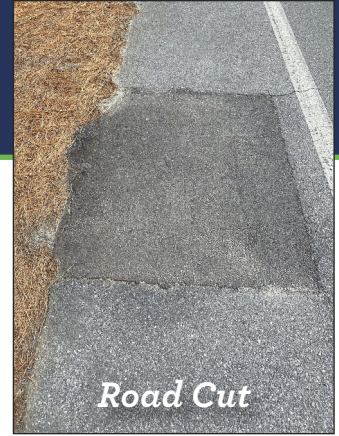
Phillips said homeowners concerned about potholes due to general road deterioration should contact Ocean Pines Public Works at 410-641-7425 to be placed on a list for work orders.

For road cuts, caused by water and wastewater work, homeowners should contact Worcester County Public Works at 410-641-5251.

"Worcester County Water and Wastewater uses a contractor to address these road cuts and, due to this, will address them once their list hits a certain number. This helps with costs," Phillips said. "Ocean Pines will continue to work as quickly as possible to address potholes, in-house."

Phillips said Ross shared two other helpful tips for homeowners.

"If you are planning to leave your house unattended for more than a month, it is a good idea to have a professional plumber come and winterize your home," she said. "If you have a sewer line issue in your house, call Worcester County Public Works first before calling a plumber, because if it is their issue and they can repair there will be no charge. If you contact a plumber first, they cannot reimburse for the service cost."



Road Cut

Unsung Heroes of Ocean Pines Public Works

They build and maintain, and do so much more

What does Ocean Pines Public Works do? The answer is a little bit of everything.

Public Works helps build and maintain Ocean Pines, from the buildings themselves, to the roads, bulkheads, ditches, and all the little things in between.



They keep the roads clear when it snows, and the amenities cool during the summer. They do visible things during major construction or maintenance projects, and they do behind-the-scenes things like keep the pools clean or build shelves inside the new Craft Club building.

While virtually everyone at Public Works covers a lot of ground, three employees were singled out on the following pages as particularly prominent members of the team.





Justin Riner *Drainage*

Justin Riner is a Berlin native, a local guy, who started with Public Works in 2002 and specializes in drainage.

Riner largely learned on the job, starting with how to install new pipes. He was initially surprised by the many infrastructure issues in a community that's now more than 50 years old.

"If you shoot the grades and put them on a map, [the drainage pipes] look like a rollercoaster," Riner said. "A lot of them really weren't kept track of when they were building Ocean Pines. Some people just set them in the ground, covered them up, and that was it."

He said many pipes rusted or were otherwise damaged by age, or the root systems of nearby trees. Some need to be replaced, while others must be flushed out.

Public Works uses a hydro jetter to clear pipes, a machine with a hose that will put itself through a pipe and jet out water behind to break up any material lodged inside.

When flushing doesn't work, Public Works will look at replacing smaller pipes with larger. Four or five years ago, Riner said Public Works replaced a small, failing pipe near Pinehurst Road with a larger one that helped reduce flooding by 80 percent in an area of more than 100 homes.

"That was just one pipe under the road," he said, adding of the new one, "It clogs less because it's a wider pipe and it just takes more water. It's amazing how much difference it can make."

Along with the drainage pipes, there are roughly 180 miles of roadside ditches in Ocean Pines that need to be kept clean – a herculean task for a small crew of six. Riner said Public Works' approach to drainage improvements is, "one thing at a time."

"We're a small crew. We have work orders and people call in, and we have [larger] projects we know we're doing to try to improve other areas," he said. "Any time it's dry and there are leaves in a ditch, the first you do is get in there and blow them all out, try to keep them clean. Everything bottlenecks from the main areas, and one little problem just spoils everybody."

Riner said the biggest issue with drainage is the natural terrain: 8,452 homes can put a lot of stress on a small, coastal area. When the community was built, trees and grass were taken out and roads and homes put in, and that added a lot of hard surfaces to the topography.

As Riner puts it, "The water still has to go somewhere."

Recently, Riner has contributed to meetings focused on drainage improvements with state and local officials. Ocean Pines, for the first time, is pursuing a major State of Maryland grant for a drainage project that could bring \$1.5 million in aid.

OCEAN PINES PUBLIC WORKS

Along with money for new infrastructure, Riner said Ocean Pines could use more labor to address all the problems.

"Time is the biggest thing," he said. "We've got just six guys on drainage."

He said the general public can help, simply by keeping their ditches clean.

"If you have a neighbor who rents and doesn't do anything, if you're able to, try and keep [the ditches] somewhat open. Keep everything clear of the pipes," he said. "Some people don't know how much that helps – it only takes one stick to get crossways in a pipe and then it just builds up leaves, and you don't know [how bad the problem is] until it starts raining."

Among the stranger things Riner has seen are people who intentionally block pipes, jamming everything from firewood to basketballs in them. In ditches, especially along Route 90, he's seen everything from Christmas trees piled high to old bicycles.

"There's things that we shouldn't have to continually do, but some people just don't care," he said. "They know, if they blow their leaves in the ditch, we'll eventually have to come get them and they won't have to worry about them. That's one of the biggest things."

Others have tried to put screens over drainage pipes, to try and keep the leaves out.

"When it rains, all that does is just block everything up," Riner said. "We see that a lot. Mainly, people just need to keep them clear. When it comes to drainage it's fairly simple: water runs downhill and keeping the pipes clear is our biggest thing."

Riner said the job can be gratifying, however, especially when the people recognize all the work his small crew puts in.

"Sometimes people come out and actually thank you and say they appreciate it – while others just stare out the window to make sure you get it done," he said with a laugh. "But, in the past four or five years, we've gotten a lot more 'thank-yous' than we had in the past."

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Clint Parks *General Maintenance*

In 23 years with Ocean Pines Public Works, Clint Parks has done a little bit of everything, from building and maintenance, to pool care, to keeping records of the community's 83 miles of roads and more than 300 miles of drainage pipes.

Originally from Gambrills, Maryland, Parks spent summers during high school working in Ocean City. He graduated from a vocational/technical school in Camp Springs in 1981 with a welding certification and for about 16 years worked as a skilled laborer in Ocean City.

In 1990, Parks bought a lot in Ocean Pines and built his own house. He was long familiar with the community – his mother-in-law, June Gnann, worked for 22 years as a bookkeeper for Boise Cascade and later Ocean Pines, and she helped train many long-time Ocean Pines Finance Department workers, including former controller Art Carmine and current Accounts Payable Supervisor Geraldine Tate.

In 1997, his neighbor mentioned a carpentry position in Ocean Pines that included health care benefits, something he didn't yet have.

Public Works was expanding at the time, because much of the original Boise Cascade infrastructure needed repairs. His first job was to install "a whole new front end and glass display window for the arts and crafts building," he said.

Parks' carpentry experience came in handy, as he worked with then Public Works Director Eddie Miller on "revamping and fixing a lot of termite [infested] and rotten stuff that had gotten away from the daily maintenance," he said. More recently, he helped renovate the Beach Club bathrooms.

Parks also has the responsibility of maintaining Ocean Pines' five swimming pools. He works with Aquatics Manager Kathleen Cook to open and close the pools each spring and fall, and to keep them clean and running during the busy seasons. The State of Maryland recently used Ocean Pines' Sports Core Pool as a training model for state inspectors, which Parks credited to lofty standards of safety and cleanliness.



"Our pools are 100% safe," he said.



"You've got 90-year-old great grandparents bobbing up and down in the pools with their great grandkids that are infants – 9 and 10 months old. The water quality has got to be correct – it can't be the YMCA."

About six years ago, Wells asked Parks to also become the Association's road inspector. Each year, Parks personally inspects 83 miles of roads, using Maryland state guidelines to compile data. If stretched out in a line, he said Ocean Pines' roads roughly equal the distance from here to Annapolis.

"I come up with an evaluation of the roads and what needs to be paved per year, on our budget," he said. "It's 12 different things that you're looking at, as you're traveling each road."

More recently, Wells assigned Parks to map out Ocean Pines drainage pipes. Parks has yet to cover The Point and Parke communities, but has so far found more than 300 miles of pipeline. That data should help in future drainage improvement projects, he said.

Parks has also contributed across many other areas. He's worked with Assistant Public Works Director Nobie Violante on bulkhead projects, overseen groundskeeping of Ocean Pines sports fields for the Recreation Department, and even plowed roads during heavy snowstorms.

"There's not much I haven't done here," he said. "I don't think I've ever carried a gun and driven a police car, but other than that ..."

In his 23 years on the job, Parks said he's watched the community just about double in size. New pools went in the ground, a new Yacht Club opened, and soon he'll witness the opening of the new Golf clubhouse.

"Working for Public Works, we work for all of Ocean Pines," he said. "Any time anybody in any department needs something, they always call Public Works because we can pretty much do anything and everything – and we have."

"We have a pretty good crew, and it's the only Public Works, I think, in the country that does a whole lot more than just Public Works projects," he added.

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Butch Kennedy *Facilities Maintenance*

Butch Kennedy grew up on the Western Shore of Maryland and ran a mechanical business there for four decades, specializing in refrigeration and air conditioning. When he was 55, he sold the business and moved to Ocean Pines.

"I found out that I was too young to retire, so there was an advertisement here for a refrigeration man," he said. "That was about 17 years ago, and I just started taking care of all the mechanical [work]: refrigeration, ice machines, air conditioning, heating, and some plumbing too."

Kennedy now runs the maintenance department, along with personally making the rounds to fix whatever is needed.

"With Kevin [Goldberg], the electrician, and Ed [Miller], the other carpenter, we kind of have our threesome as the service department," he said. "I do that and take care of all the tickets and work orders, and then I still do the refrigeration."

During the last year or so, Kennedy has also used his engineering background to help with new construction projects, including the new Golf building and Police station expansion.

"I've always got something going on," he said. "It's never slow here."

In 17 years, Kennedy said he's "been through three different softwares," most recently having to learn all about the new Northstar systems. He refers to himself as an "old school" guy who prefers hands-on work, but he also said technology is vital to doing today's tasks.

"You've gotta have this technology," he said. "All the young people, this is all they know. It's an interesting place sometimes."

Kennedy said the biggest benefit of having a diverse Public Works Department – rather than hire dozens of smaller contractors – is the fast response time.

"The next biggest thing is the cost," he said. "Unfortunately, in the trades we deal with – electrical, plumbing, refrigeration, air conditioning – there's not really many educated servicepeople out there. The older ones are, but if you're looking

for somebody young to take over, you're not going to find it.

"As it is right now, it's a huge advantage to having a Public Works Department. If we have an issue, we're there right away. If you call another company, 'We'll get there maybe tomorrow or maybe the next day,'" Kennedy added.

He also said most people don't have a good grasp of how much Public Works does, and that even previous upper management in Ocean Pines "didn't always know what we did."

"They didn't understand the knowledge that we bring here. We've been in these trades for a long time and you're not finding that in today's life," he said. "You get a lot better response [from in-house Public Works], and it's a more honest response."

To put it simply, they know how the place works.

"We do," he said. "There's things here, if you brought in somebody else, they'd have no clue. That's a huge plus."

Kennedy said there's a huge difference between the Public Works Dept. today and the one he came into, 17 years ago.

"I've seen a lot of things here," he said. "I've seen a lot of changes that weren't so good, and we went back to our old ways. Ocean Pines is a wonderful place, because it has a lot of amenities. It's a great place to live. You've got a great Fire Department and Police Department, and when people come to my house that have never been here they say, 'I can't believe how clean it is here.'"

Back when he was living in Ocean Pines only part time, Kennedy remembers coming there once during a heavy snowstorm.

"It snowed bad, and we came off [Route] 90 and there was snow all over [Route] 589, and then as soon as we pulled into Ocean Pines the roads were completely clear. It was amazing, but it's always been that way," he said.

"It makes you feel good to be involved in this, and you want to help make the place better and keep it good for the people, because it's a nice place. It's not all about the money or anything but just doing your job and keeping it a pleasant place to live. That's the way I kind of look at it," he added.



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Jun 20	Full Circle	Aug 27	Identity Crisis
Jun 21	First Class	Aug 28	Full Circle
Jun 25	Identity Crisis	Aug 29	Mike Hines & The Look
Jun 26	Korupt	Aug 30	Chuggalug
Jun 27	Janglebachs	Sep 3	8 Balls
Jun 28	Mike Hines & The Look	Sep 4	Labor Day Weekend Kick-Off w/ Tranzfusion
Jul 1	Sons of Pirates		Over Time
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