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Pines Officials Highlight Teamwork During Golf Clubhouse Grand Opening

"Teamwork" was the word of the day, as Ocean Pines officials held a grand opening ceremony for the new Golf Clubhouse on June 17.

The Ocean Pines Board approved the project in April 2019 at a guaranteed maximum cost of \$1.6 million.

Salisbury architectural firm Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc. developed plans for the roughly 7,200 single-story building, which includes a large meeting room and space for a new restaurant, along with an outdoor deck,

pro shop and club-fitting area.

Absolute Demolition of Ocean City took down the former two-story clubhouse last May, and the Whayland Company, based in Laurel, Delaware, began construction in October.

The project officially

wrapped in May, at a final cost of about \$1.49 million, General Manager John Viola reported during a recent Board meeting.

Many people, officials said, contributed to the project's success.

"This is a really momentous occasion," Association President Doug Parks said during the ceremony. "A lot of people were involved in the success of creating this

wonderful new building that we have."

Parks mentioned several who he said were instrumental, from the initial concept to delivery of the finished product.

"When we first looked at the idea of renovation versus rebuilding, we thought we didn't have enough expertise in that area, so we called in some folks who were very well versed [and] had lots of experience in construction," Parks said.

He said local builders Marvin Steen and Frank Brown were vital to initial planning

efforts. Both also contributed throughout construction, Parks said.

Steen was brought on at the beginning of 2019 to advise the Board on what was then considered to be a renovation of the former 40-year-old building. Upon closer

inspection with Viola and Public Works Director Eddie Wells, however, Steen apparently changed his mind and famously told Association officials they would be better off to "tear the damned thing down."

"The idea of pulling expertise to help the Board better understand the problem and the options we had was a very good idea," Parks said. (continued on pg. 2)





Pines officials highlight teamwork (continued from front cover)

He also credited the Whayland Company, especially Steve Hentschel and Mark Figgs. Additionally, Parks thanked the entire Board, including former directors Esther Diller and Ted Moroney, for their support.

In particular, Association Vice President Steve Tuttle, Parks said, was helpful as Board liaison during construction.

"I would be remiss if I didn't mention our general manager, who helped [with the] coordination that's involved in the

various parties," Parks said. "John, thank you for all the work that you did."

Lastly, Parks highlighted Public Works, who contributed both experience and manpower to the effort.

"Their guidance and their specific knowledge ... was also instrumental in getting things up and running," he said.

Parks said the building would serve a dual purpose, with space for golfers, but also ample room for community groups to meet.

"I don't think anybody can argue [it's] a really, really wonderful building," he said.

Viola, speaking next, said it took "a total team effort" to bring the Golf Clubhouse to completion.

"To do something like this, you have to start with the Board," he said. "When you take on a project like this, you want to surround yourself with good people ... people that have expertise."

Viola said among the first things he did was contact Brown and Steen, as well as designer Bill Stamp of Steen Associates, Inc.

"I can't even tell you ... how much time and how much knowledge [and] expertise was put into this building," he said, also singling out Wells and Nobie Violante of Ocean Pines Public Works. "The work they did ... was one of the main reasons why this project was under budget."

Wells and Violante worked closely with Worcester County officials on permitting and other matters, and Viola underscored the importance of that relationship.

The "relationship that [Wells and Violante] have built over the years with the county ... made this building happen," he

Viola also credited the Whayland Company, and especially Hentschel and Figgs.

"I worked with them every day. [Their] team did an excellent job on this building," he said. "I would work with them any time."

Viola credited Reid Tingle of the Bank of Ocean City as a good business partner, and thanked him for his contribution to the new patio. He also thanked Bryan Taylor and Public Relations Director Josh Davis, for helping to secure a new golf leaderboard.

As for the dining, Viola thanked the Matt Ortt Companies, who helped design and will run the all-new Clubhouse Bar and Grille.

He also highlighted designer Tobie Jacobs, for guiding the aesthetic look of the building, from the interior rugs to the outdoor deck railings.

"Tobie did all the design ... [and] made my life a lot easier," Viola said. "She did great work [and] she saved us a lot of money."

Viola said General Manager of Golf John Malinowski was

"hands-on" throughout the project, and that Tuttle was indispensable for his oversight of spending and finances.

"All decisions helped to bring this project under budget ... which all the Association should be proud of," he said. "This is a multipurpose building, designed with the intention to ensure that nobody [is left out]."

Director Frank Daly, who made the original motion to build the new clubhouse just over a year ago, said it was always important that construc-

tion occur "on time and on budget."

He thanked Steen, Stamp and Brown for helping to make that happen, and gave each a token of appreciation on behalf of the Ocean Pines Board. Daly said he met with those three men, very early into the process.

"When I walked out of that meeting, I knew that we were in good hands," he said.

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza closed out the grand opening on a celebratory note.

"This is a celebration," she said. "We're finally out and about, and we're celebrating something good in what has been a very trying time for our whole country.

"I heard all of the thank-yous and what I heard John say, was that this was a total team effort and it's all about the good people that you mentioned," she added.

Carozza said the project "brought good people together." She called the final product "amazing" and said it made her think about all the people involved, as well as those who can now enjoy it.

"All the good memories that will be built over here in this facility over the years, all the good times — this is what Ocean Pines is all about," she said. "Really

take the time to celebrate this accom-





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OCEAN PINES REPORT

Health Care During COVID: A Local Snapshot

The impact of COVID-19 on first responders and health care workers cannot be overstated — long hours, hazardous conditions, and a grueling toll on physical and emotional well-being have become the new global standard.

Locally, as of early June, many at Atlantic General

Hospital in Berlin have been working seven days a week, since February, to do everything they could to quell the pandemic.

However, along with the incredible hardships, there are also emerging stories of success and lessons learned, as workers slowly adjust to what is commonly being referred to as "the new normal."

Among those leading the effort at AGH are Director of Infection Preven-

tion Niki Morris, an Ocean Pines resident who has been with the health care system for 16 years. She is a certified ICU nurse and became the IP manager, about a year ago.

"I walked into the measles and a pandemic! I thought, what is this?" she said. "Last April, we had the re-emergence of the measles, so that was the first thing, and then I rolled right into the COVID pandemic. So, I've learned under fire."

Tackling a Pandemic

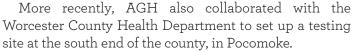
During a June 6 interview, Morris said AGH had been focusing on COVID-19 (at that time) for 15 weeks. Staff started working on treatment and prevention in February, and opened the first local testing center on March 20, on 10th Street in Ocean City.

Morris said the office became a full-scale respiratory clinic and was specifically staffed with "providers," or experts in their field who are licensed by the state. Staff overhauled the building's interior and doubled the number of air filtration systems, along with many other improvements designed to meet CDC guidelines to treat potential COVID-19 cases, as well as evaluate and help treat other respiratory conditions.

"ImmediCare at 10th Street was our first baby. It took a lot of work and effort to get that place set up," Morris said. "It was unique, in that it was more than just swabbing and sending you on your way.

"We could focus on COVID, but also look at strep throat, the flu, respiratory infections and sinus infections — we

evaluated patients for all of it," she continued. "Most places were set up just for COVID screenings, but we actually went above and beyond that to offer those services to the community." As of June 5, the clinic had swab-tested 577 people, Morris said.



"That area was underserved when it came to COVID services — there weren't a whole lot of places for testing,

and especially free testing," Morris said.

Along with setting up satellite outpatient clinics, AGH's Berlin facility added ventilators and ICU beds, and built a COVID-only wing with additional ICU space. AGH previously had eight ICU beds, but was able to more than triple that number, to 25.

The emergency room was also split to "clean and dirty," or respiratory and non-respiratory cases.

"If you come in with a fractured ankle,

I'm not going to put you next to somebody who's coughing and has COVID symptoms," Morris said.

Like everywhere, the nursing staff at AGH has faced difficult conditions because of the pandemic. Morris said those caring for the sickest patients had to wear "PAPRs," or Powered Air-Purifying Respirators, and Tyvek hazmat suits for 12-13 hours a day.

"That's a very taxing job," she said. "It can be very difficult, mentally and physically."

To help prevent burnout, Morris said staff used a "team nursing" model with rotating shifts. Hospital leadership constantly re-evaluated existing models to look for creative solutions.

"Everybody's kind of stepped up to the plate," she said.

Among the external challenges, Morris said many local health care systems have struggled to get necessary testing supplies. Simple issues of logistics, she said, often got between a hospital and a swab, or an N-95 mask.

"I know that you see on the news that there's a ton of it out there, but that's not necessarily true," she said. "But we've done an excellent job — at no point has it come down to if someone needed to be swabbed, that we couldn't screen them or test them."

Compounding the issue, she said, was that initially the only test-processing site in Maryland was far away, in Frederick County.

"[Testing] wasn't something that was readily available," Morris said. "But the State of Maryland has been really helpful, and we've worked closely with the Worcester County Health Department all along."

Morris said COVID-19 services in the region and the ability to get necessary testing materials have vastly improved, despite some trying times early on.

"The staff here at Atlantic General have done an amazing job at making sure we have what we need, when we need it," she said. "It's much, much better now than it was.





"Early on, commercial labs were having trouble getting swabs out for outpatient use. The same was true with PPE [Personal Protective Equipment]. We had the same struggles that everybody else had," she continued. "Just in March, we were [short on supplies] because of the burn rate of what

we needed on a daily basis ... but that too has gotten better."

Morris credited staff with creative ordering and conservative usage to help offset shortages. She said both approaches are still being used, today.

"We don't know what tomorrow is going to bring," she said. "Just because we have [supplies] today — summer is coming and more people are coming into town, so we're just kind of watching our numbers and seeing where we're going, as an organization."

"The New Normal"

Morris said she does not expect a return to "normal," at least not as everyone previously knew it.

"I don't think we're going to have an 'old normal,' or normal like we had before. That's just not where we are," she said. "With this virus, we may see a little lag time in the middle of summer, but I think this fall we're going to see it come back again, so we have to prepare for that."

With everything that's been done, however, Morris said the hospital environment is among the safest places to be.

"It's safer coming here than it is going to a store," she said. "We have the proper PPE, and we have the right people doing the right screenings and putting the right people where they need to be, safely.

"I always say I feel safest at work. We have everything we need here, and we're conscious about it and talking about it every day," Morris added.

During the peak of COVID-19 cases in Maryland, while Worcester County was largely spared — at least statistically — AGH was not. As of June 8, there were 239 confirmed cases in Worcester, compared to 984 in nearby Wicomico County and 4,353 in neighboring Sussex County, Delaware.

Many of those cases in lower Sussex County came through AGH.

"On paper it looked like we didn't have any [cases]," Morris said. "I actually had someone at the hospital entrance one day say to me, 'So, you guys don't have COVID here, right?""

As for why COVID-19 didn't spread more rapidly through Worcester County, Morris pointed to the Worcester County Health Department, who conducted "contact tracing," or logging of those who had been near to all 239 Worcester COVID cases.

"Our health department has been dedicated to doing those case investigations," Morris said. "When I get a positive case I report it ... and they call them and follow up with all their contacts, using their contact tracers.

"Letting them know and putting them on home



quarantine makes all the difference in the world," Morris continued. "A lot of areas didn't have the resources to keep doing those case investigations, and you can easily see where some of those areas were. So, testing and case investigation were the way to keep [COVID] under control, and we

were fortunate that they have been doing a great job with case investigation."

The wholesale effort — including inpatient and outpatient care, cooperation with neighboring agencies, and all the precautions and planning — also helped to largely spare the medical workers in Worcester, Morris said.

"We put a lot of things in place and ... we were just talking about how lucky we've been with our staff — knock on wood," she said. "You read about these hospitals losing hundreds of staff members. But, if we see a problem, we identify it and address it immediately."

Lessons Learned

Going forward, Morris said there's a lot the hospital can learn from the pandemic, especially about operational efficiency.

"One thing I said to my boss is how much leaner we're going to be, as an organization," she said. "We always had everything we need or better than we need, or multiple choices. When COVID came, that wasn't the case. We had to figure out, where am I wasting stuff and what can I do to make this better?"

Morris said the hospital system also learned more about the efficiency of telemedicine and teleworking. Today, most or all staff meetings are online, something Morris said has made the operation even more efficient.

"I think we're just going to be leaner as an organization," she said. "I also think we're going to be cleaner, meaning there will be less clutter. You won't walk into an office now and find a bunch of brochures on the wall. If I don't absolutely need it, that might just be a place for dirt to settle or germs to gather. So, all of that stuff has changed, and for the better."

To the many still concerned about COVID-19, Morris said all of the hype about hand-washing and face coverings is absolutely true.

"We learned washing our hands in kindergarten, right? Now, the public is way more conscious than they've ever been about touching doors, washing your hands, hand sanitizer, not touching your face — and those things are

important," she said. "That's how you get sick, even if it's not COVID. That's how we get the flu or any other virus that can live on a surface.

(continued on pg. 13)



Sarah's Pantry Helps Feed Local People, From the Pines to Pocomoke





Since the 1980s, Sarah's Pantry has helped provide food for families in need, both in Ocean Pines and throughout Worcester County.

The volunteer-driven outreach is supported by the Shepherd's Nook Flea Market, and both are housed at the Community Church at Ocean Pines campus, on 11227 Racetrack Road.

Marian Bickerstaff, who oversees Sarah's Pantry, said the operation started off quite small, literally just a shack near the church. It was later given a small part of Shepherd's Nook and, in 2014, an addition was built to give Sarah's Pantry a permanent home.

Shepherd's Nook, she said, is "a huge blessing" that helps pay for utilities and "keeps a roof over our heads."

"Because of them, we were able to get a really nice-sized

pantry and, on average, we were serving about 300 people before the pandemic," Bickerstaff said.

Inside the pantry are several large shelves for dry goods, along with a refrigerator and large freezer for produce, poultry and other items.

Bickerstaff said the pantry is a member of the Maryland Food Bank, which grants access to lower-priced food stuffs. The Ocean Pines Food

Lion also donates supplies, three times each week.

During a June 12 interview with Bickerstaff, many local people stopped by to donate bags of groceries and other items.

"As you just witnessed, that's what happens on a daily basis. People are just so generous," she said. "I can't even say the words — it's daily."

Bickerstaff said canned food donations are the most helpful — because of the longer shelf life — but the freezer is also regularly stocked with food.

"Mountaire [Farms] gives us chicken. They come in with big, 40-pound boxes and men from our church bag them up [in] chicken quarters. We freeze them and they'll go out to the families that we serve," she said. "It's everybody working together — we could never do this without the community support."

Like everything else, things changed at the pantry because of COVID-19. Today, all the volunteers wear face coverings — both masks and shields — as well as gloves throughout the day.

Those donating food are asked to call ahead, and safety measures are used to ensure nothing inside the pantry is touched by outside hands. Staff was also reduced, down to two volunteers each day. Bickerstaff said most of the clients served by Sarah's Pantry come through county agencies, including the Worcester County Health Department, Worcester County Department of Social Services, and Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

"What I saw in the pandemic was, some of the elderly that couldn't get out, their social workers would come in for them and were taking them food," Bickerstaff said. "We've also been sending loads of food to Pocomoke, because Pocomoke is so desperate for food. They're really in need."

Bickerstaff said in Pocomoke supplies go to the local middle school, for distribution fives days a week to food insecure children and needy families.

Donations also go to people in Ocean Pines, Berlin, Snow Hill and some of the unincorporated places in Worcester.

"In some ways, we're passing through what we get to those that need it even more than we do [locally]," Bickerstaff said. "We were even seeing people from Stockton and Girdletree, and places like that in the lower part of the county. We have to only serve Maryland because of being a Food Bank partner, but we definitely help throughout the county."

For those looking to help, Bickerstaff said what is most needed are monetary donations.

"That way, we can purchase what we need most," she said. "I think people also need to understand that we can't pass on food that is out of date. Sometimes people think that when you're poor it doesn't matter — but it does matter. So, we're very careful with that."

For information or to donate, call 410-641-8392 or email pantry@ccaop.org.

Sarah's Pantry is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Calling ahead is recommended.

"We're here to help," Bickerstaff said. "Even if someone doesn't have a referral, we'll still help them. If somebody comes to the door hungry, we have what we call an emergency pack that we would give them, and then we also give them a referral list for different agencies in the county where they can go and get additional help.

"It's a lot of partnerships going on in different ways, to make sure people who need it get all the help that they need," she added.



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Gnome is Where the Heart is

Those walking the trail near the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines during the last few months may have been in for a small surprise: a miniature gnome village that appeared to magically spring from the hollow of a tree.

The tiny village can be found on the trail along the pond, near Manklin Creek Road.

Two local women brought the scene to life, although both asked to remain anonymous. The goal, they said, was not attention, but just to brighten people's days.

"We really didn't want to take any credit for putting a smile on people's faces in this difficult time," one of the women, who agreed to an anonymous interview in early May, said.

"We have been walking the pond every morning for the past two years," she continued. "We always talked about how that hole in the tree would make a cute home for an animal and

wondered why none had ever taken up residence there."

The friend suggested the hollow would make for a "cute gnome home" and the woman agreed.

"We decided we were going to make it one, so she brought the first gnome, the bench and moss. I added another gnome and the fencing. We kept adding a little more to it and eventually others did too," she said.

"It makes me happy, because people love it!" she continued. "It kinda just fit with the nature element and they [the gnomes] are very

popular right now."

The two friends are thrilled with the positive response, which has included many posts on social media that shared photos of the tiny surprise. Ocean Pines also received numerous submitted photos of the scene.

"We just wanted to brighten people's day and bring a smile, and it did just that!" the woman said. "It made us even happier to see people joining in and adding to it. We all would love to live in the non-coronavirus gnome village right about now!"

And what about other tiny gnome homes popping up in Ocean Pines?

"We may do another hole in a tree!" the woman said. "There are some others we have spotted on our walks. Keep an eye out ... there may be others."



Yacht Club Helps Hourly Workers

Ocean Pines Yacht Club officials, in May, announced they had achieved an important goal: raising \$10,000 in tips for dozens of hourly workers temporarily laid off because of mandatory COVID-19 closures.

Ralph DeAngelus, cofounder of the Matt Ortt Companies that runs the Yacht Club, made the following announcement:

"Since March 18, 11 managers have been working at the Yacht Club making and delivering family meals to Ocean Pines residents.

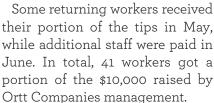
"At the start of their journey, they set a goal to raise \$10,000 in tips to give to the hourly staff members once they were allowed to return back to work.

"Thanks to the generosity of the residents of Ocean Pines, as of today they

have achieved their goal!

"Congratulations not only to these managers, but to Ocean Pines as well, for proving once again that we are a

family," DeAngelus said.



"There were a lot of big smiles," DeAngelus said.





FREE COVID-19 TESTING Available in Pocomoke

Free COVID-19 testing is available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Worcester County Health Department's Pocomoke office (400 Walnut St., Pocomoke). This testing is available for any adult (18 years old or older) who is a resident of Worcester County. Testing is sponsored by the Worcester County Health Department and Atlantic General Hospital.

Please bring personal identification to Pocomoke when coming in for COVID testing. To schedule an appointment, call 410-632-1100 ext. 1119 Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

What is COVID-19? COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus. This is a virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. COVID-19 is spread just like colds or flu through coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets, close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, or touching an object or surface with the virus on it.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Coughing
- Loss of smell/taste
- Shortness of breath
- In more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

Individual risk is dependent on exposure. Current risk assessment:

- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- If you are sick, call your provider to discuss your symptoms before you walk in to a doctor's office.

How can I protect myself from COVID-19?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- · Stay home while you are sick.
- Practice social distancing; stay six feet away from others.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- · Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.

For more information visit WorcesterHealth.org.







OCEAN PINES REPORT

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UPCOMING HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

Ocean Pines Association will observe the following upcoming holiday. Please note that Ocean Pines administration offices will be closed for:

Labor Day: Mon, Sept. 7

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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

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

My favorite part of the year is summer and while it officially started as of June 20, unfortunately things are going to be a little different this season. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Compliance with the state mandates from Governor Hogan has required us to change the day-to-day operations of Ocean Pines including its amenities and services. My Board colleagues and I, along with the

General Manager and his team, have been working to manage our community during these unprecedented times. Fortunately, the members of our Ocean Pines community have an understanding of the difficult situation we face and have made adjustments as well. Social distancing, face masks and gatherings of less than 10 people are currently a part of our everyday routines. But it's not all bad. A good example of the resiliency of our members is popularity of take-out meals at the Yacht Club that have been a welcomed service to the community.

Things are beginning to return to somewhat normal as racquet sports, and pools have opened up with capacity restrictions. Playgrounds and parks have reopened as well. Outdoor seating on the Yacht Club patio has been extremely well received. I've seen a willingness within the community to change our approach to things as we move towards a new normal. Hopefully we will be able to put the global pandemic and associated concerns behind us sooner rather than later. Regardless of how long that will take, the safety and health of our community, families and friends are the most important considerations.

From a project perspective, the clubhouse has been completed and came in under budget. The cart barn has also been completed and was also under budget. The addition to the administration building to accommodate our police department is on budget and due for completion in mid-August. From a financial and business perspective we closed out our fiscal year with a surplus for the first time in several years. We will still have a challenge going into the fiscal 2021-2022 budget year due to the pandemic, but the Board and the GM will continue to monitor and manage our finances within the requirements of state regulations and work to ensure we are extremely prudent regarding expenses during the current fiscal year.

Summer is here and I propose we try to enjoy it as much as possible given the circumstances of the world we live in today. Being respectful of others and understanding different points of view go a long way in getting through

these times. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy summer season with family and friends.

The Yacht Club's new summer menu includes delicious new dishes as well as favorite summer classics & seafood platters plus french fries worth fighting for! See ad on pg. 44



(Photo: Jack Barnes)

It's Election Season in Ocean Pines!

Three candidates are vying for two open seats on the Ocean Pines Board of Directors

Three Meet in OPA Board Candidate Forum

Three candidates up for two seats on the Ocean Pines Board met during a virtual forum on June 17.

Candidates answered questions on topics ranging from cell service and replacing the old crabbing pier, to tackling future capital projects and how Ocean Pines might approach life after COVID-19.

Running this year are incumbents Colette Horn and Doug Parks, and newcomer Stuart Lakernick.



Horn





Doug Parks



Stuart Lakernick

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger weighed in on the importance of voting in this year's election. Habeger and the committee hosted the forum.

"Our goal is to mail ballots to eligible voters the week of July 6 and all ballots must be received — repeat,



received — by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5," Habeger said. "Remember, your vote counts and, to make sure your vote counts, please make

sure your ballot is received by the deadline of Aug. 5." View a video of the forum at youtu.be/sdWZUVafLEY.

Candidate Draw Results Announced

Results of the 2020 OPA candidate draw are in. The draw was held and results were announced by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee on June 12. Results determine the order candidates will appear on the ballot and be seated during candidate forums. **Results were:**

- 1. COLETTE HORN
- 2. DOUG PARKS
- 3. STUART LAKERNICK

"Two director positions will be filled by this election," Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said. "Ballots will be mailed to owners of record the week of July 6 and all ballots must be received — repeat, received — by close of business on Aug. 5. Your vote counts and, to make sure your vote counts, please make sure your ballot is received by the deadline."

Ballots may be returned either to the ballot box inside the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway, or mailed to the Ocean Pines post office box in Berlin.

Notice of Annual Meeting on Aug. 8

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 8 at 9 a.m. on the grounds of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. The memorial grounds can be accessed by use of the driveway for the Sports Core Pool off Cathell Road. Members will be checked in, in order to verify voter eligibility. Members are urged to arrive by 8:30 a.m. to ensure the verification process is completed prior to the 9 a.m. start time. Members will be required to provide a valid ID with photo and name. The agenda will include: Call to Order, Appointments, Ascertainment of Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting, Reports, Unfinished Business, New Business, Elections Committee Report: Validation of Election Results, Public Comments, Adjournment.

Key Dates in the Election Process

The candidates are vying to fill two vacant Board positions, both of which are for three-year terms. This year, the top two vote-getters will each be elected to three-year terms on the Ocean Pines Board. Ballots must be received – NOT mailed – by the close of business on AUGUST 5. Ballots may be returned either to the ballot box inside the lobby of the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway OR mailed to the Ocean Pines post office box in Berlin. Key dates in the election process include:

Wed, JULY 1 Eligibility deadline to receive a ballot

Mon, JULY 6 Ballots mailed to all Association members in good standing

Wed, AUG 5 BALLOT DEADLINE (by close of business)

Fri, AUG 7 Ballots counted & totals announced – 10am (East Room, Ocean Pines Community Center)

Sat, AUG 8 Election results validated at 9am during the Annual Meeting of Membership

(Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines)





John Viola

A TOTAL TEAM EFFORT

One year ago, we closed our fiscal year with an operating fund \$130,584 favorable to budget. Total revenues for the fiscal year were roughly \$263,000 over what was budgeted, and total expenses were close to \$309,000 under budget. The numbers are unaudited at this time, but if we have no major audit adjustments, this would be one of our best years. I attribute this to a total team effort.

We have completed two major initiatives. The Clubhouse at the Golf Course, which is a multi-purpose building, was completed approximately \$105,000 under budget. The cart barn was also completed approximately \$120,000 under budget.

The Police Station and Administration building are on track to be completed this summer and under budget. The Northstar software system implementation period has been extended due to the amount of customization.

Since COVID-19 came onto our radar, Ocean Pines has worked to follow federal, state and



(Photo: Bob McKinley

local guidelines, closing many of our facilities and suspending programs and events. Over the last several weeks we have opened within guidelines our Food & Beverage operations, Golf, Aquatics, Racquet Sports and most recently, Recreation & Parks. The Administration building reopened Friday, June 19.

I announced two promotions in the month of June. Debbie Donahue was promoted to Director of Recreation & Parks, reporting to me. Kathleen Cook was promoted to Director of Aquatics and will continue to report to Colby Phillips, Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics.

We are in a time of unpredictable challenges. We implemented a communication plan to address the changing environment. Our plans to open our amenities have gone well. I want to compliment the members of our Association who understand the situation and have helped with the success.

The bulkhead program in the Wood Duck area is scheduled for completion mid-June. I am proud of our team who have jump started after several years, drainage, dredging and bulkhead work, all within budget parameters.





Ocean Pines Association 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT (TERM 2017-2020)

Doug Parks 443.397.3077 dparks@oceanpines.org



VICE PRESIDENT

(TERM 2018-2021)

Steve Tuttle
610.368.9919
stuttle@oceanpines.org



SECRETARY

(TERM 2019–2022)

Camilla Rogers 410.409.9168 crogers@oceanpines.org



TREASURER (TERM 2019-2022)

Larry Perrone 443.513.1407 lperrone@oceanpines.org



DIRECTOR (TERM 2018–2021)

Frank Daly 410.790.2677 fdaly@oceanpines.org



DIRECTOR (TERM 2019–2022)

Tom Janasek 301-335-5007



tjanasek@oceanpines.org

DIRECTOR

(TERM 2017–2020)

Dr. Colette Horn 443.791.7724 chorn@oceanpines.org

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



GENERAL MANAGER
John Viola
410.641.7717 Ext. 3001
jviola@oceanpines.org



SENIOR
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Michelle Bennett
410.641.7717 Ext. 3002
mbennett@oceanpines.org

Health care during COVID (cont. from pg. 5)

"It's just about making those right decisions and making sure we're washing our hands. And, I'm a firm believer in masks. I know they work, because we've taken care of plenty of COVID patients," she continued. "We will continue to require masks in our hospital, not only for the safety of our patients, but for the safety of our staff too. If a patient is coming in sick, we need to take care of them and make them better. But also, if a staff member is healthy, we need to make sure they stay that way."

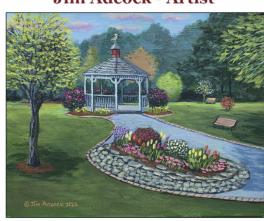
The other important takeaway, she said, is how much everyone can benefit from a little collaboration.

"I think Worcester County overall has done really well utilizing our resources, and we've developed great relationships with the health department and others, all the way down to the Berlin Nursing Home right in our front yard," Morris said.

"There's been a lot of community effort and it's so nice when everyone comes together for one cause. Those are some of the things that we'll take away from this. We were always friendly, but now we know we can count on each other if we need something."







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Debbie Donahue

SUMMER HAS FINALLY ARRIVED

Welcome to Summer 2020! What a different type of start to our summer season. We are happy to see everyone getting out and enjoying the sunshine.

Rec and Parks is so excited that we have been able to open the playgrounds and Skate Park and are open

for Camp Ocean Pines this season. Although we have quite a few restrictions, we were able to have everything open by June 22, following all of the CDC and the state health department guidelines.

We are so excited that the Farmers Market continues to bring great products to White Horse Park every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fresh produce, breads, pies and cakes, along with the many artisans vendors are making for another great experience for the residents and people from surrounding areas.

Brand-new this year is the Pine'eer Craft Club's NEW store, open every Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is a beautiful new store that offers so many handmade items including paintings, jewelry, bowls, American Girl doll clothes and much more. Please stop by! I'm sure you can find a special gift for someone, or just say "hi" to all the volunteers who work in the shop.

Ocean Pines Marina at The Yacht Club is where you can find your boating needs, open every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can pull up and grab some fuel, bait, ice and a t-shirt and have a great day on the water.

The friendly staff is always there to make you smile, and you can get some friendly conversation while you fill your boat. Those little boaters can also find ice cream in the dock building, along with a few varieties of water and soda.

The Yacht Club offers indoor and outdoor seating daily. From Thursday to Sunday, they also offer outside entertainment. Such a beautiful location to enjoy a night

out after a long day boating. There are also **designated** areas where you can pull up on your boat and enjoy a night of entertainment. Please note that all slips have been rented for this season. However, if you are inter-ested in a boat slip in the future, please call Jessica at the Recreation Department at 410-641-7052. The Swim and Racquet Marina is a beautiful location on the bay to rent a slip. If you are interested in a slip at this marina you may also call Jessica.

I'm sure everyone is wondering about Concerts in the Park. At this time they are on hold, but I am hopeful that the restriction will be lifted and we will once again be able to come together and enjoy our concerts as we have for so many years.

We are looking forward to another great summer season in Ocean Pines. I look forward to seeing you all soon.





Program Highlights

SUMMER T-BALL (#3120.201)

Parents: T-Ball will be modified to meet CDC guidelines. Families are asked to practice social distancing & remain 6 feet apart from people not in your family. All equipment disinfecting practices will be managed by OP. We ask that participants only use the ball given to them at each practice. Note: All participants MUST sign a new registration waiver. Children should bring their own gloves.

AGES: 4 - 6 (Boys & Girls) All skills welcome!

WHEN: Thursdays, JUL 23-AUG 13, 6:00pm-6:45pm

WHERE: Manklin Meadows Field

INSTRUCTOR: Tyler Riley, Former SDHS Coach & Former SU player

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger

OF CLASSES: 4

FEE: OP Resident \$25; Non-Resident \$30

SUMMER SOCCER

Parents: Soccer will be modified to meet CDC guidelines. Families are asked to practice social distancing and remain 6 feet apart from people not in your family. All equipment disinfecting practices will be managed by Ocean Pines. We ask that participants only use the ball given to them at each practice. **Note: All partic**ipants MUST sign a new registration waiver. Shin guards are not required but are recommended.

AGES: 6 - 8 (Boys & Girls)

WHEN: Wednesdays, JUL 22-AUG 19

TIME: 5:30pm-6:15pm **WHERE:** Somerset Park **INSTRUCTOR:** Joe Monteverde

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger

OF CLASSES: 5 (5 weeks)

FEE: OP Resident \$40: Non-Resident \$45

BRIAN STOEHR'S BEACH BODY BOARDING 3-DAY CAMP

Oh yeah! Body boarding is an intensely thrilling activity to attend while the summer is hot! Camp will be instructed by **professional** bodyboarder & 2-time winner of the U.S. National Pro Tour, Brian Stoehr & his team. Our adventurous coaches are experienced & trained wave riders who teach basic & advanced skills. Instructors will share important information on surf awareness. valuable safety tips while in the water & how to read the waves to get the most thrilling rides! **Notes: Ability to swim is a must.** This is a group-based camp. Campers must provide their own body boards.

AGES: 7 – 15 (Boys & Girls); no experience necessary!

DAYS: TUE / WED / THU

Activity # Dates Time

10:30am-12:00pm 1510.202 **JULY 7 - 9** 1510.203 **JULY 21 - 23** 10:30am-12:00pm 1510.204 **AUG 4 - 6** 10:30am-12:00pm

WHERE: K-Coast Beach on 36th Street **INSTRUCTORS:** Brian Stoehr & his coaches **CAMP SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger FEE: OP Resident \$95: Non-Resident \$105

MARINE SCIENCE 5-DAY CAMP

WITH REAL SCIENTISTS & MARINE SCIENCE CAMP STAFF

This **award-winning camp** focuses on the preservation of the marine ecosystem through active hands-on learning with **REAL SCIENTISTS**. Exciting lessons & activities include: orcas, sea lions, fish ID. manatees, sharks & more! They will also have Marine Mammal Rescue Drills along with Crab & Critter Cams so campers can observe what is happening in the traps & under the water. Live animal guests along with seining & environmental awareness.

Note: Campers must bring a lunch & a reusable water bottle.

AGES: Grades K-8

WHEN: Mon-Fri, AUG 17-AUG 21, 9:00am-2:00pm

WHERE: Swim & Racquet beach

INSTRUCTORS: Marine Science Camp staff **CAMP SUPERVISOR:** Brittany Jarman

FEE: \$325 (includes t-shirt)

TO REGISTER: Call 732.250.8124 or visit marinesciencecamp.com.

TIE DYE WORKSHOP

BYOWT (Bring Your Own White T- Shirt), your creativity & take a trip back to the 60's while we learn how to tie dye! Basic tie dyeing techniques will be taught & used to create psychedelic designs, including folding, binding, wrapping & dipping techniques.

Note: Participants must bring their own pre-washed t-shirt!

WHO: ALL AGES!

Activity # Date Time

9015.201 Sat, JULY 18 10:00am-12:00pm 9015.202 Sat, AUG 8 12:00pm-2:00pm

WHERE: Marlin Room

INSTRUCTOR & PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger

FEE: \$10/person

KIDS CRAFT TIME

Join Katie "The Craft Lady" for a fun craft with your child! Space is limited & pre-registration is required. Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult.

WHO: Ages 4-10 (Boys & Girls)

Activity # Date Project / Activity 9024.205 Sun, JULY 19 Seashell Picture Frames 9024.206 Sun. AUG 16 Painted Wooden Treasure Boxes

TIME: 10:00am-12:00pm WHERE: Marlin Room

INSTRUCTOR & PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger **FEE:** OP Resident \$8; Non-Resident \$10 (materials provided)

D.I.Y. FAIRY GARDENS

Create a whimsical garden to entice fairies! A fairy garden is a miniature garden complete with structures & actual living plants. It is designed to give your green thumb a place to tend yearround & to lure fairies &, with them, good luck to your home. Bring your creativity & we will provide everything you need to build your very own miniature garden. Pre-registration is required.

WHO: ALL AGES!

WHEN: Sun, AUG 16, 1:00pm-3:00pm

WHERE: Community Center

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger

FEE: OP Resident \$15; Non-Resident \$20 (materials provided)

15

SUMMER 2020 |

oceanpines.org



John Malinowski

SUMMER IS A GREAT TIME TO PLAY

Although it was a tough start to the 2020 golf season with the mandated shutdown early on, I am happy to report that the new clubhouse has been completed and is open. The Clubhouse Bar and Grille is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and offers seating both indoors and outside on the expansive patio with a great view

of the 9th and 18th holes. The manager, Katie, and her staff provide excellent service and create a welcoming atmosphere for all. If you have not had the chance to stop by for a sandwich or a drink, I recommend that you do so.

The golf shop is also open and has merchandise available to purchase regardless of whether you are a golfer. If you are looking for new clubs, you can schedule a club fitting to make sure you are purchasing equipment that is right for you and that will help you get the most out of your game. If we don't have what you are looking for in stock, we can probably place a special order. Lessons and clinics are also available throughout the year, and information can be found on our website at oceanpinesgolf.org.



The golf staff has been working hard to ensure that our golfers have an enjoyable and safe visit to the course. We have spent extra time sanitizing carts, bathrooms, range baskets and balls to ensure we are doing our part to help curb the spread of Covid-19 and to protect our employees.

While on the topic of safety, I'd like to address the issue of walking or riding bikes on the golf course. While we were shut down for six weeks in late March through early May, we were happy to allow residents to walk or ride their bikes on the course to enable them to get outside and exercise. Now that the course is back open for play, it is important to reiterate that it is a golf course and not a walking path or bike trail. It is extremely dangerous to be walking or riding bikes on the course with golfers playing and hitting golf balls. I want to be clear that the golf course is for the use of registered and paid golfers only. Your help and adherence to this is much appreciated.

Summer is a great time to play, and rates for Ocean Pines residents (with an Ocean Pines ID card) and their accompanying guests are \$49 before noon, \$44 from noon to 3 p.m. and \$34 after 3 p.m. through Oct. 31. Call 410-641-6057 or visit oceanpinesgolf.org for tee times. **See you on the links!**





Mary Mac Foundation Golf Tournament Canceled, but Fundraising Efforts Continue

Organizers in June announced the cancelation of the annual Mary Mac Memorial Golf Tournament in Ocean Pines, but fundraising efforts for the Mary Mac Foundation this year will continue.

Last year, the tournament raised close to \$30,000 for local recreation programs and nonprofits. Since 2012, the event has raised more than \$125,000 for local and regional charitable causes, according to tournament co-organizer Tim McMullen.

The Mary Mac Foundation, and the tournament, was started to honor McMullen's late wife, Mary McMullen, a Millersville special education teacher and athletics booster who passed away in 2012 of scleroderma after a lengthy illness. She was 64.

Mary McMullen was also the founder of Ocean Pines' Summer Youth Program, an administrator at the Maryland School for the Deaf, and president of the Booster's Club at Old Mill High School in Millersville.

"We made the decision to cancel this year's event due to the pandemic and these challenging times," Don McMullen, Tim's brother and tournament co-organizer, said. "The community on the Eastern Shore and across the Bay Bridge has supported this charitable event for years.

"Most businesses have suffered revenue losses and are just starting to reopen. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing everyone soon," he continued.

"We would like to thank John Malinowski, the Ocean Pines Golf Club, and Lia Isel, banquet manager for Matt Ortt Companies, for their continued support during these challenging times."

Tim McMullen sent the following letter to Mary Mac Foundation supporters:

Friends,

After consulting with our Board of Directors, volunteers, and the Ocean Pines Golf Club, the 2020 Mary Mac Foundation Golf

Tournament has been canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand and share the disappointment that this year's event will not happen. However, it is critical that we consider the safety of our volunteers, golfers, Ocean Pines staff, and the larger community.

Last year, we donated nearly \$27,000 to organizations that provide educational and recreational opportunities to youth and adults, including St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, the Ocean Pines Youth program, and Camp Barnes. We also support a scholarship in Mary's name at Severna Park High School.

This would have been the ninth year the Foundation hosted the golf tournament and we set an ambitious goal to make \$30,000 in charitable donations in 2020. However, without proceeds from this year's golf tournament, we will not be able to meet our charitable giving goals for this calendar year.

Many of us have found ourselves asking what Mary would do or say in certain situations. This especially holds true now. Her generosity and unconditional love for her students, family and community bound us together. It is her grace and generosity that guides us and brings us together every year.

We know that this is a difficult time for many, but we ask that if it is still within your means to make a donation to the foundation, please consider doing so. No amount is too small. We will be donating all proceeds to organizations that support low income and homeless children and their families.

A tax-deductible donation can be made to the Mary Mac Foundation at www.paypal.me/marymacfoundation or by sending a check payable to the Mary Mac Foundation, 174 Nottingham Circle, Berlin MD, 21811. Please see the attached donation form if you wish to send a donation via check.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely.

The McMullen, Ansorge and Wojciechowski families

P.S. If you cannot make a donation at this time, we also participate in the Amazon Smile program. With every eligible Amazon Smile purchase, 0.5% of the price is donated to the Mary Mac Foundation. Please consider registering the Mary Mac Foundation as your charitable organization today. Click the Amazon Smile logo to get started. And make sure when purchasing through Amazon, to visit the Amazon Smile page so your purchases count!

For more info, visit www.marymac.org.



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Steve Phillips Director of Finance & Operational Logistics

Favorable Financial Outlook

Despite the unprecedented situation of COVID-19, Ocean Pines was able to produce a favorable financial report in May 2020, the most recent available as of the publication of this newsletter, and the first month of the new fiscal year.

As of May 31, we have a positive operating variance of just over \$92,000. Amenity revenues were significantly affected by the pandemic, falling below budget by approximately \$630,000. However, these unfavorable revenue results were more than offset by total expenses being under budget by \$462,468 and the recognition of

approximately \$300,000 in PPP funding revenue.

SC&H Group is currently performing audit procedures on Ocean Pines' results for fiscal 2019/2020. The UNAUDITED results that were released in early June had a positive total operating variance of \$571,912. On the year, total revenues were over budget by \$263,190 and total expenses were under budget by \$308,722.

The largest favorable variances for fiscal 2019/2020 were produced from General Maintenance (\$226,363), the Yacht Club (\$201,650), Public Works (\$154,995), and Recreation and Parks (\$68,861).

Looking ahead in fiscal 2020/2021, we continue to track and account for the negative impact the pandemic-related closures/limitations will have on budgeted revenues for the remainder of the summer. We will also work closely with each department to monitor and control expenses, update estimates based on the latest data, and produce annual cash flow projections.

Finance also continues to work closely with all departments to implement the new Northstar software, which is now being utilized by the majority of our operations. This Northstar software is now integrating these various amenity and functional operations directly into the General Ledger, and producing the monthly financial reporting available on our website.

Census officials focus on secondary homeowners in Worcester County

U.S. Census officials continue to underscore the importance of taking part in the survey this year, which will help determine federal funding to local communities for health care, transportation, education, and other community services for the next decade.

Recent Census statistics show that Census response rates in Ocean Pines and throughout the county continue to lag behind 2010 levels.

The last time the U.S. Census was conducted, in 2010, Worcester County was among the lowest response rates in Maryland, with just 33.2% selfresponding, compared to a 69.5% statewide average, according to https://2020census.gov/en/responserates.html.

Hard to reach populations such as children under 5, veterans, the elderly, and low socio-economic and non-English speaking people are the focus of local Census efforts. However, Worcester County officials are also focused on reaching part-time residents. Kelly Henry, Worcester County's Complete Count Coordinator, said more than 60 percent of the homes in the county are considered "vacant" or secondary homes, because of the resort nature of the area.

"While the highest number of vacant/secondary

homes are in Ocean City, there are also large numbers in South Point, Ocean Pines and West Ocean City," Henry said. "There are still many areas throughout the county where residents, both primary and secondary homeowners, need to respond to the survey." She added that the deadline to complete the Census was recently extended, from July 31 to Oct. 31, meaning there's more time to try and reach those who have yet to participate.

"For both primary and secondary homeowners, it is vitally important to complete the 2020 Census survey received at their Worcester County residence," Henry said. "The U.S. Census Bureau wants to assure that all housing units are contacted and the occupants properly counted. So, even secondary homeowners should respond, even though they have completed the Census at their primary residence." Information on completing the 2020 Census can be found online at https://my2020census.gov, or by calling 844-330-2020.

"Please consider taking 10 minutes to complete the survey at your primary residence and respond to the survey received at your secondary home as well. It will benefit our community for the next 10 years." Henry said.

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
Clubhouse Bar and Grille	410.641.7222

- POOLS -

Beach Club Pool	410.936.0348
Mumford's Landing Pool	410.208.6005
Sports Core Pool (OP Aquatics HQ)	410.641.5255
Swim & Racquet Club Pool	410.641.7227
Yacht Club Pool	410.936.0583

- 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'eer 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

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- 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

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Summary Financial Report

Year-to-Date 4/30/2020



OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY

(UNAUDITED)



Steve Phillips
Director of Finance
& Operational Logistics

DEVENUES	<u>ACTUAL</u>	BUDGET	
REVENUES	(AM	OUNTS IN THOUS	SANDS)
Assessments	\$9,057	\$9,059	(\$2)
Grants	500	483	17
Amenities (Net)	5,051	4,811	240
Recreation & Parks	306	316	(10)
Other fees and Income	<u>1,191</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>89</u>
Total Revenues	16,105	15,771	334
Less transfers to			
reserve accounts	(<u>3,354</u>)	(<u>3,284</u>)	(<u>70</u>)
Net Operating Revenues	<u>12,751</u>	12,487	<u>264</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	;		
Administration & Management	2,165	2,097	68
Amenities	4,380	4,326	54
Recreation & Parks	755	834	(79)
Police	1,820	1,791	29
Fire / EMS	693	693	0
Public Works / CPI	1,715	1,869	(154)
General Maintenance	<u>651</u>	<u>877</u>	(<u>226</u>)
Total Operating Expenses	<u>12,179</u>	<u>12,487</u>	(<u>308</u>)
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	572	0	572
TRANSFERS (New Capital, etc.)	<u>o</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>0</u>
NET	\$ <u>572</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>572</u>





Colby Phillips

AMENITIES & DRAINAGE UPDATES

Happy summer everyone! As amenities start to slowly open with the weekly changes from Governor Hogan, the team has been working hard to make sure we open with a safe environment as well as an enjoyable one. We have appreciated everyone's patience during this new experience for all of us.

The Racquet Center opened at the end of May to great results. Racquet Center Manager Tim McMullen

and Tennis Pro Terry Underkoffler have been doing a great job overseeing the opening process. If you get a chance, stop by and see how beautiful the facility is looking these days! Thank you also to our many Racquet Center volunteers, especially Dick Schwartz, who seems to always be doing something to help!

The pools have reopened under a lower-than-normal capacity. Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook and Public Works staffers Clint Parks and Paul Jahn did a fantastic job having the pools ready for us to open knowing it could be at any time. Aquatics Program Supervisor Michelle Hitchens has been working hard to get exercise classes scheduled and those should be out at any time (if they are not by the time this comes out). With the changes happening weekly, we are hoping to be at full capacity at some point.

Drainage continues to be a primary focus. We have completed two live webinars in our ongoing educational outreach to the community on ways to tackle all types of stormwater and drainage issues. A big "thank you" to Kevin Wagner and Dave Guignet with MDE as well as to Walter McGuckin with FEMA for their flood information, and to Jennifer Dindinger, who is a watershed restoration specialist with UMD, for her information on rain barrels and rain gardens.

If you missed any of these webinars, please reach out to me and I will share the link and slides. Our next live webinar will be with Bob Mitchell, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Programs with Worcester County. We will also have Kevin Smith with Maryland Coastal Bays and Rich Polk with Vista Engineering. All topics will be covering water quality, stormwater, drainage, and ways we can make things better. Those dates and times will be coming out as soon as scheduled. Currently we are also working on tackling several drainage issues around the community. Info on those will come out as things start and progress.

Thank you all for your continued support of Ocean Pines and the team! If you have any issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at



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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21

A Different Kind of Memorial Day in the Pines

Honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice

On an overcast day, with just a few dozen people in attendance, members of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation hosted a sparse and solemn Memorial Day in Ocean Pines – essentially, just a raising of the flags.

Normally, the event held at the Veterans Memorial grounds draws thousands of people from all across the region, with guest speakers, a full chorus belting out military fight songs, local Junior ROTC squads offering the presentation of colors, and a rousing 21-gun salute finale.



This year, as with everything else – because of COVID-19 – things were a little different.

"Thank you, everybody, for joining us today. It's very different for all of us and let's hope we never have to do it this way again," Marie Gilmore, Memorial Foundation president, said by way of a brief introduction.

Next year, Gilmore promised, would be "one heck of a 15th-year celebration" for the memorial.

"Today, the important thing is that we're all together and we're all honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice – giving their lives for their country," Gilmore said.

Behind Gilmore, a small group of volunteers raised the American flag full-staff, along with

flags honoring each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Dick Tanner, who once served with the First Marine Division in Vietnam, played taps on a bugle while the small crowd, many dressed in patriotic colors, with shirts, hats and banners showing their service, watched from the field nearby.

"I appreciate that you wanted to be here today. This place – this memorial – this Memorial Day – means a lot to all of us," Gilmore said.

Elsewhere in Ocean Pines, Don McMullen raised the American flag to full staff at the Golf Club, with Association President Doug Parks and General Manager John Viola in attendance.

Others in the community planned to take part in the nationwide "Taps Across America" event, sounding a bugle call at 3 p.m. to honor fallen U.S. soldiers.

After the raising of the flags at the Veterans Memorial, Gilmore added, "This certainly was a very different year ... we've never had to do it quite like this."

Gilmore said the day is meant as a solemn remembrance of those who lost their lives while bravely serving their country and defending the freedoms that so many hold dear.

"We wanted to do something that was appropriate for the meaning of today," Gilmore said. "Next year, hopefully, the Veterans Memorial will be able to get back together ... today, it was just important to remember those who gave their lives for us."

To view a video of the raising of the flags, visit https://youtu.be/ D-_t4QDoHWA.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, visit www.opvets.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 Dept. 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 set up & 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.

WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all volunteer organization. Members, donors, volunteers & visitors help make the Veterans Memorial a beautiful, welcoming place to honor & reflect on the service & sacrifice of our veterans. We rely on your generosity to achieve our mission to preserve & maintain the Memorial & to support its activities and education program.

For more info, visit opvets.org/get-involved.



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OPA Board Candidates Provide Statements

Candidates for the 2020 Ocean Pines Board election were asked to submit both a brief statement introducing themselves to voters, and answers to three questions created by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee.

Below is the information submitted by each candidate, presented in ballot order. Candidate submissions were not edited for grammar or punctuation, but one response was truncated for exceeding the 200-word limit required by the Elections Committee.



Colette Horn

Address: 35 Sundial Cir. *Phone:* 443-791-7724

Email: colettehorn@gmail.com

Introductory statement

As an incumbent director, one of the most important credentials

I offer is my experience as a director who successfully achieved my priorities: to ensure that OPA was modernized in its business and human resources practices; and to shift the culture of the board to business-like interactions guided by principles of ethics and decorum. I credit these successes to my Ph.D. in psychology and years of experience running my psychology business.

I contributed to decisions leading to our strong financial performance and incremental recovery from the \$1.2M deficit OPA had when I took office. I was an early supporter of contracting our Yacht Club food and beverage operations to Matt Ortt Co.; shifting from renovation of the golf clubhouse to rebuilding it at lower cost as a dual purpose venue; and purchasing the Northstar software program and compensation study to support greater efficiency and best practices in business operations. I was instrumental in securing the contract for our highly qualified results-oriented GM who empowered our workforce to complete all projects on time and within budget. We have achieved a culture of professionalism and cooperation among directors which is directly responsible for getting things done. I claim credit for that.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

OPA's Board and management face some difficult decisions about how best to manage the financial impact of the pandemic. We will be facing fixed costs at our amenities and reduced revenues due to reductions in capacity due to social distancing recommendations and reduced member utilization owing to reluctance about health risks. No matter how we manage this, it is expected that things will be different. We will likely face reduction in services and access to amenities and at the same time

increase in assessments next year due to expected financial losses. My top priority is to support efforts to recover financially from the impact of the pandemic while also supporting stability in our workforce and amenities.

In order for us to continue the level of productivity we achieved over the past 3 years it is important that we cement the cultural changes that contributed to those successes. I think another 3 years with the focus on teamwork, disciplined communication, and respectful airing of differing opinions is vital toward the goal of creating a lasting culture of professionalism and productivity on the OPA board. I hope to continue to work with my colleagues to make these cultural changes lasting.

What do you think about Ocean Pines Association budgeting and finances? Do you have suggestions on improvements?

We are facing pandemic-related financial stresses of unknown proportions not having fully recovered from the self-inflicted operations deficit owing to decisions made in 2016-2017. This new financial crisis brings light on our financial vulnerability as a business entity operating with a break-even budgeting model that is funded primarily by homeowner assessments, government grants, and amenity revenue. This year's bottoms-up budgeting process combined with the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee's front-end analysis shared jointly with the GM and the Board was an efficient way for us all to engage in the deep analysis needed for a realistic yet trim budget.

Key monthly reports from our GM and Treasurer help the Board monitor spending so that adjustments can be made before problems occur: the status of spending on our capital projects against their respective approved budgets; the current balances in our reserve accounts; and a monthly analysis of any major variances from budget in each department. We must use this data to maintain responsible spending. We must also work with OPA management to ensure that we are maximizing all sources of funding from the State and County and that member tax dollars are allocated fairly and equitably.

Describe what talents and skills you would bring as an OPA Director.

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

When elected to the board, my priorities were to increase transparency, develop a culture of professionalism on the board, and apply to decision-making logical analysis unbiased by preconceived business paradigms. Even though we don't always agree on things, this board airs differences respectfully. We have been transparent in owning and correcting our mistakes and have increased transparency in our deliberations and rationale for decisions regardless of their popularity with vocal dissenters.

This board has accomplished much in the way of necessary capital replacement projects, deferred maintenance, and modernizing our human resources and business practices. This productivity has been made possible because of our culture of professionalism. Some of my unique contributions to these accomplishments include critical thinking and analysis skills; acute awareness of the impact of rhetoric that we use when communicating with the membership and each other; attention to practices supportive of the maintenance of a highly qualified and productive workforce; and laser focus on the impact of principles of human nature on our work. My unique professional training and experience undoubtedly played a critical role in these cultural changes and tangible accomplishments.



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Doug Parks

Address: 16 Sailors Way Phone: 443-397-3077 Email: dparks69@gmail.com

Introductory statement

My name is Doug Parks and I have served on the Board of

Directors of Ocean Pines for 4 years and been elected by my Board colleagues as President for the past 3 years. I am running for another term as my desire is to continue serving our community and remain working with the dedicated team of current Directors in supporting the membership and homeowners of Ocean Pines. During my time on the Board and with help from colleagues, I accomplished a number of important goals including bringing in the Matt Ortt Company to run our food and beverage operations, replacing the aging clubhouse building, upgrading the police department portion of the Administration building, and negotiating a contract with Comcast to bring their services to Ocean Pines. My proven track record on important issues, my business background, my experience of having been a member of the Board for the past 4 years and my commitment to continue to volunteer to serve are the qualities I bring to the community. I respectfully ask that you consider casting your vote for me in the upcoming election.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

My two top priorities would be preparing the 2021-22 budget and succession planning for the General Manager position.

Given the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had we need to focus on how best to budget for next fiscal year. Membership and usage fees for various Ocean Pines amenities account for approximately 40% of our revenue. With the delay in opening and the restrictions on usage, the revenue for these amenities will be reduced significantly. The challenge will be to produce a budget that attempts to minimize the increase to the annual assessment while ensuring that programs and services can still be provided and that our reserve funds are maintained at the appropriate levels.

Another priority is to begin succession planning for the GM position as the current employment contract expires June 2022. I have had discussions with our GM on this issue and now that most of the major projects have been completed and overall operations are stable, he can focus his efforts on specific aspects of the succession planning. I would work with the other Directors with the intent that succession planning outcome be a smooth transition to a stable, documented, well-managed and well-staffed organization to the new individual.

What do you think about Ocean Pines Association budgeting and finances? Do you have suggestions on improvements?

Having been involved in the budget planning for the past 4 fiscal years, I have seen the process evolve during this time. Several years ago, one philosophy was to create a budget that kept the assessment the same as the previous year. While reasonable, the approach could not account for changes in the economy, stated increases in fees for existing multi-year contracts and other financial factors that affect fixed and variable costs. In the words of the famed economist John Maynard Keynes "...over time all costs are variable...".

This current fiscal year the budget was created with a "bottom-up" approach. Input and discussion by the operational department heads and a review by the GM was the basis for the draft budget. This "bottom-up" approach was very successful and helped streamline the process as the Board was able to complete our review of the entire budget in a single day long session. During the Board budget approval meeting in February, I mentioned how well the process went compared to previous years and that this approach should be used as a template for future budget planning efforts and is thus my suggestions for improvement.

Describe what talents and skills you would bring as an OPA Director.

I bring relevant talents and skills to OPA. One is my experience with having been on the Board for the past 4 years and understanding the nuances associated with our unique community. I also bring years of corporate leadership skills having been a Chief Information Officer and a technology business leader at several high-profile companies.

Business acumen is another skill I bring as in my professional life, I have negotiated many contracts, prepared fiscal budgets, and managed professional staffs at the corporate level. Additionally, I have consulted on business, technical, and staffing issues throughout my career.

I focus on the aspect of teamwork and getting folks to interact in an open and professional manner in addressing an issue. Different perspectives and viewpoints are one of the most important aspects of my decision making and I strive to ensure that team concept is maintained as we conduct business and address issues. I enjoy the role of mediator and have done so on many occasions with the intent of acknowledging that differing points of view are valid and that with commitment a consensus can be reached. These skills and talents are paramount to being a Director on the Board of OPA.



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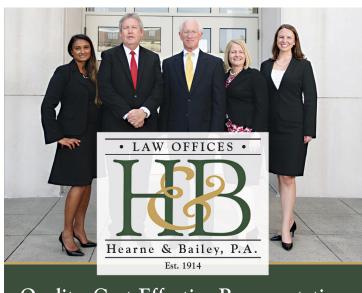
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Stuart Lakernick

Address: 9 Widows Watch Ct. Phone: 215-869-6343
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Introductory statement

My name is Dr. Stuart Lakernick. I have been a chiro-

practor and functional neurologist in Trevose, PA for 28 years. I specialize in the treatment of traumatic brain injuries, concussions, and spinal rehabilitation. I have 28 years experience in owning a business and managing budgets, marketing and staff.

I am married with a son, 26 and a daughter, 37 and currently live in Langhorne, PA. I am very active in my community. I am a member of both the Lions and Rotary. I am a previous board member of the Rotary. I have also been a participant in Operation Stand Down. This organization serves to bring homeless veterans off the street and plug them back into the VA and ultimately transition back to society.

I have recently brought in a partner which is allowing me to begin my retirement process. I plan on moving to Ocean Pines full time when I retire, in doing so, I want to become civically active in this community. Ocean Pines is a wonderful place to live, work and play. I am looking forward to being part of the planning process for the future.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

1. Drainage is a high focus to me and a multi level issue. Areas like Bainbridge park, sections 2 and 3 are prime examples of how bad the situation is. We need to address the standing water around homes, scheduled ditch maintenance, stormwater diversion, water quality issues and rising tides. I know Colby has been working along with the County on getting OP a grant which if received should benefit a lot of homeowners. Public works is in need for additional staffing to be able to routinely and systematically handle all the issues in Ocean Pines. We have a drainage crew that can't focus solely on routine maintenance of ditches because they get put on other areas of need. What we should do is have enough staffing that the drianage crew can stay dedicated to preventive ditch maintenance all the time.

2. Public health during the Pandemic. I feel that my background as a doctor can be offered to management and the community for input on public safety parameters. With the current covid crisis, it's important to implement protocols for any future pandemics or emergency situations our community may face. Being able to utilize

our amenities safely will require new board

What do you think about Ocean Pines Association budgeting and finances? Do you have suggestions on improvements?

Going back to one of my top priorities, drainage. Right now drainage is included in the budget under "Roads". I think it should be separated and have it's own line item to maintain the focus on its importance. Public works is short staffed. We need a dedicated crew that is on ditch maintenance all the time not to be pulled off for any other project.

Another suggestion going forward, the current budget. We are in unprecedented times. This budget was put together prepandemic. Now with our amenities capacity being greatly reduced, homeowners struggling to make their assessment payments we will have to find a different way to put the coming years budget together. We will have to have a forward thinking and somewhat new way to look at our budget assessing the impact of the virus and the loss of funds and not knowing if we will get any further government assistance. Possibly adding new line items to our budget to continue to maintain our community standards.

Describe what talents and skills you would bring as an OPA Director.

I am approachable, responsive, and genuinely care about people and issues. This is why I became a doctor. I care about this community and plan to retire here. I have run a business for almost 30 years. I know the ins and outs of how to make a business successful. This is a 17 million dollar a year company. I look at facts, not rumors. I look at all sides of an issue. I am a data driven type of person while still taking into account the human factor. My decisions come from research and facts. I am committed to helping the community continue to grow and maintain the integrity of our amenities as well as being fiscally responsible. I have no preset agenda. I would like to continue the work the last two boards have started and I welcome, comments, and corrections, if necessary from other directors, staff and most importantly you, the community. Working with committees in Ocean Pines is essential. I am very passionate about being an involved homeowner.

For questions about the election, email the Election Committee at elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989







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David C. Massey, Ed.D.

Duty. Honor. Community.

The Mission Statement of our Police Department is just three words, "Duty, Honor, Community." You will see our mission statement on all of our police vehicles. In these trying times of pandemic and civil unrest, your Police Department has been performing its DUTY, protecting life and property within Ocean Pines. We believe in Honor, and treating all individuals we

come in contact with dignity and respect.

When our residents call for help and assistance, we will be there for them. When it is necessary, we will arrest or cite those individuals who threaten others or put you at risk.

Our Community is the reason for our existence. Keeping Ocean Pines safe and an attractive place to live and work. We shall never cease to strive to make Ocean Pines the safest community for its size in the State of Maryland. That is why our officers patrol our community 24 hours a day, 365 days in the year. We will not train our officers in unsafe arrest

tactics, nor appear in paramilitary garb. That is not why we are here.

We are here to protect and serve YOU, with dignity and honor. To make you proud of us.



Bank of OC Donates Face Shields

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to impact our communities as well as communities worldwide, the Bank of Ocean City offered to support our law enforcement officers by providing full face shields to several

local police departments. The bank's donation of the personal protective equipment (PPE) will help to ensure the health and safety of officers while they are out in and serving our communities.

Donated face shields were delivered to the Ocean Pines, Bethany Beach and Fenwick



Ocean Pines Officer Colin Morris with a Hardwire face shield.

Island police departments. The face shields are lightweight, reusable and compatible with other forms of PPE such as N95 masks and goggles. The face shields were purchased from Hardwire, a manufacturer of protective armor headquartered in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

To view the full report, visit safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-maryland. AES LASER ETCHING and custom engraving Personalize Jour Gear WINE BOTTLES • JACKETS GLASSWARE • PHOTO FRAMES TUMBLERS • MUGS & MORE! Great for business, birthday, wedding & anniversary gifts! Let's discuss your ideas 410.206.9539 • wheatleyjosette@gmail.com

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Ocean Pines Among 'Safest Cities'

Once again, Ocean Pines is being recognized as one of the safest communities in Maryland.

The latest report from website Safewise, published on April 20, lists Ocean Pines as the second safest "city" in Maryland, just behind Taneytown. Ocean Pines ranked number seven on the 2019 list of "Maryland's Safest Cities."

This year, no other community in the area made the top 10.

Safewise uses FBI crime statistics and U.S. Census data to determine its rankings. The 2020 rankings were based on 2018 FBI crime reports, the most recent available at the time.

In compiling its rankings, the site considers both violent and property crime rates, and then averages those against the total population, per 1,000 people.

According to Safewise, Ocean Pines had a violent crime rate of 1.1 instances per 1,000 people and a property crime rate of 4.2 per 1,000. Both of those figures are lower than the prior two years.

Taneytown had a higher property crime rate, 7.2, but reported no incidences of violent crime in 2018, according to Safewise.

Nearby Salisbury ranked 34th on the safest cities list, followed by Cambridge at 35 and Ocean City at 38.

"We're proud to serve the citizens of Ocean Pines, where the goal is always to keep crime as low as possible," Police Chief David Massey said. "It's a great community and we get a lot of citizen involvement that helps us continue to be one of the safest communities in the state."

Mike's Flooring & Design Center Open for Business

Taking into consideration the safety of his fellow citizens and employees and continuing to follow social distancing guidelines, Mike's Flooring and Design Center, previously known as Mike's Carpet Connection, is safely "open for business and here to serve you" as always.

For the past 25 years, Mike Strobel has successfully provided the Delmarva area's residential homeowners, custom home builders, contractors, as well as the Main Street commercial businesses with the quality products and services.

As the company has continued to serve the area through this unfortunate time, Strobel has also taken the time to refresh and update the inside of his showroom, continue to educate his staff in the areas of his business, and has decided to change the name of his business to "Mike's Flooring and Design Center."

Mike's has always offered more floor covering choices (ceramic/porcelain tile, hardwood, waterproof luxury vinyl planks and tiles, laminate, vinyl, custom window treatments, and interior design services) than just carpet, so Strobel saw it as a good

time to make these improvements and reopen as "Mike's Flooring and Design Center."

Mike's Flooring and Design Center also provides "shop at home" service. Staff will bring samples directly to a client's home. Or, if a customer knows what products they want, staff can safely provide them with a free estimate. This allows clients the flexibility to not having to be at home for Mike's to do an estimate, nor the installation. All Mike's needs to know is what areas in the home they would be working on and how they can gain access.

This service is tailored around the homeowner who needs to get their unit ready for the season or simply enhancing their residence but does not want to leave their home, or can't make it to town.

This service is not new to Mike's. He has been providing it for the past 24 years.

Contact Mike's Flooring and Design Center of Fenwick Island, Delaware, at 302-537-1899, visit www.mikesflooring anddesigncenter.com or email mike@ mikesflooringanddesigncenter.com.

(Article written by Bayside Gazette)



Mike Strobel, owner of Mike's Flooring and Design Center in Fenwick Island, Delaware, is open for business with several safety precautionary measures for the protection of his customers and employees. (photo: Mary Cooper / Bayside Gazette)



Mike's Flooring and Design Center in Fenwick Island, Delaware, will be offering "shop at home" services that allow customers to have samples sent directly to their homes. (photo: Mary Cooper / Bayside Gazette)











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Mike's Flooring and Design Center, previously known as Mike's Carpet Connection is safely "OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND HERE TO SERVE YOU" as always. For the safety of our fellow citizens and employees, we will continue to follow the social distancing guidelines set forth by the CDC. We also provide "SHOP AT HOME" service and can safely provide you with a "FREE ESTIMATE". This allows you the flexibility of not having to be at home for us to do an estimate, nor the installation. We have already been providing this service for our customers for the past 24 years. With the current situation at hand, we can continue to provide you with your Floor Covering and/or Window Treatment & Design needs along with the "AWESOME SERVICE YOU DESERVE, and PROFESSIONAL, QUALITY INSTALLATIONS".

Please feel free to contact us at 800-298-9470, or email us at mike@mikesflooringanddesigncenter.com and we will be more than happy to assist you with your project.

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OCEAN PINES FIRE DEPT.

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Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. Buy tickets online at opvfd.com, by calling 410.641.8272 or by mail to 911 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811. Offer expires 10/10/20. Winner is responsible for all applicable title fees, taxes and tags.



Help OPVFD Help You

The OPVFD and medical responders are committed to their residents. Finding them during an emergency is highly important and having **street numbers visible** is a concern for when their services are needed.

Number plate signs offered by the OPVFD will help make homes visible to the responder especially at night and in inclement weather.

Signs are constructed of aluminum with **green and white reflective** material and numbers that measure six inches by eighteen inches. All proceeds go directly to OPVFD.

The cost for the sign is \$42 or \$50 for the sign and post combination. Order forms are available online at opvfd.com or at the south station. For more information, call 410.641.8272 or email opvfd11@gmail.com.



OPVFD Needs Volunteers

Become a member of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and support the Ocean Pines Community. There is no better feeling than being able to help someone in their time of need, and there's no better way to do that than through becoming a Firefighter (age 18+), a Cadet (ages14-18), an Associate or an Administrative member of the department. Being a volunteer takes hard work, commitment, and dedication, however, the rewards are priceless. Learn more at opvfd.com.

How do I become an OPVFD Member?

- Download our application and return it, completed, to the South Station located at 911 Ocean Parkway.
- After returning your completed application, you will interview with the membership committee.
- You must possess a valid Maryland license or Identification card and ALL Firefighters must pass a criminal background check.

What Happens Once I Join?

- The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department will provide you with training and gear for free.
- You will attend Firefighter I class this is approx 120 hours, and is usually completed in 1-2 class increments per week depending on the instructor.
- You may go on to attend further classes and training that you may wish to pursue after completion of Firefighter I.
- This is very rewarding, challenging and satisfying; you will be joining a great second family.
- Being a volunteer is a great way to give back to your community!

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 & you could win a prize for casting your
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- 11/21 Thanksgiving Turkey
 Tuesday Market
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 & baked goods
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 - 12/19 Christmas Market

Challenges Spark fen Positives for Market

The COVID-19 outbreak has presented many challenges and created added stress to everyone's daily lives, including those of the merchants at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market.

The worldwide pandemic wreaked havoc upon many industries. However, it sparked a few positives as well. The panic shopping period this past spring brought record breaking off-season sale increases to the green market merchants of the Ocean Pines market.

The demand for fresh produce, meats, baked goods and other essential products escalated, and the demand hasn't run out of steam as the market moves through its typical busy summer season.

With measures taken, such as social distancing, encouraging face mask wearing and heightened sanitizing practices at the open-air market, the marketplace remains a safe shopping environment.

Many of the market's popular features have been paused for the 2020 market year. The Kid's Market Zone and cooking demos will remain shuttered and special event market days will not resume until a later time.



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.













Photo: Addison Strouse







Photo: Patty Dundore



Photo: Tim and Michelle Kurtz





Photo: Dave Allen



Photo: Carlos Aguilar



Photo: Susan Holt



Photo: Donna Drew













Photo: Maurice Franck



Photo: Ursula Clopper





Photo: Leslie Brown



Photo: Paul and Barbara Rusko



Photo: Bob McKinley



Photo: Steve Holmgren

OCEAN PINES REPORT

oceanpines.org

Volunteers Donate Safety Masks

A group of Ocean Pines residents and other local people recently made and donated hundreds of safety masks for area first responders and hospice workers.

Organizer Neil Gottesman said residents from Ocean Pines, River Run and GlenRiddle took part, with some masks even being made and shipped from as far away as Florida.

Gottesman put out a call for materials and volunteers in



April and said the response was overwhelming. Volunteers designed the masks for use around asymptomatic patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Some volunteers did pick up and drop off, some donated materials and offered financial assistance, and then we had the sewers," he said. "All told, over 50 individuals were involved

and all were just happy to be able to help in a time of need."

Initially targeting the Ocean Pines Fire Department and Coastal Hospice, Gottesman said the group also made and donated masks for Ocean Pines Police, Ocean Pines Association staff, and workers at the local Food Lion.

Mask makers originally produced and donated close to

400 masks. Gottesman said with the help of Sharyn O'Hare and the generosity of additional sewers, the group was able to provide another 500-plus masks to Atlantic General Hospital, in Berlin.

He also credited Carol Quinto of the Pine'eer Craft Club with helping to organize many of the sewers.

"We had a wonderful response and it was a wonderful community effort," Gottesman said.





PRMC COVID Graduation

COVID-19 has changed how we celebrate, postponing milestone moments such as graduations. PRMC is home to many students – both employees furthering their education and those on clinical rotations. When nursing director Tom Jones and Progressive Care Unit clinical manager Maria Tawes learned that nine employees were graduating from nursing school and wouldn't get to take part in the traditional ceremony, they and their team stepped up to plan a safe, socially distanced celebration to mark the occasion and to thank them for joining the nursing profession at such a crucial time.

"As with many circumstances lately, we understood the need to do things differently, so we wanted to recognize those that had worked to achieve their goals," Tawes said. "Although this ceremony was not what the graduates had envisioned, it was important to recognize and acknowledge that their hard work and dedication had not gone unnoticed."

It was a different kind of celebration – but certainly a memorable one. Held in PRMC's Avery W. Hall Educational Center auditorium, in a building that once housed Peninsula General Hospital's nursing school, the students walked a stage that had been crossed decades earlier by graduating nurses, before the program moved to S.U. 40 years ago. But this graduation was uniquely 2020. Rather than the graduation robes and starched nursing caps of years past, students wore isolation gowns and turned their tassels atop helmets with face shields.

"Today is born of necessity, and I'm we haven't been able to do certain things as a society, but we're happy here to support you," Peninsula Regional Health System President/CEO Steve Leonard told the graduates. "I can't think of a more memorable year to graduate. You'll look back and be incredibly proud of your accomplishment during this time, to step up during a time like this, to become nurses in this profession."

Leonard gave the keynote address, Chief Nursing Officer Sarah Arnett handed the graduates their diplomas and pinned their gowns. Pinning is an age-old nursing tradition that symbolizes a nurse's acceptance into the profession. It goes hand-in-hand with the lamp lighting ceremony, led at the PRMC graduation by Wor-Wic Community College Nursing Professor Lynn Derickson. Nursing graduations traditionally feature a lamp-lighting ceremony in honor of Florence Nightingale, the woman born 200 years ago who was known as "the Lady with the Lamp" as she made her rounds treating wounded soldiers of the Crimean War, and who essentially established modern nursing practice.

"In your second week of 101, did you ever think you'd be sitting at your capping and pinning like this? We learned PPE in the second week," Derickson said. Derickson also led the graduates in the Florence Nightingale Pledge, a version of the Hippocratic Oath created in 1893 that lays out the ethics and principles of the nursing profession.

PRMC was honored to celebrate these employees earning their associate's degree in nursing: Jessica Bonneville, Lauren Engleman, Geoff Failla, Katelyn Guy, Chelsea Mansfield, Dalmus Richardson, Claire Schirmer, Eddie Turner, Stacey Wood.



Kiwanis Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, time continues to move on. Our birthdays and anniversaries still happen, maybe without all the usual fanfare and celebrating, but just as important as ever.

The Kiwanis Club of Berlin-Ocean Pines, Maryland held its first formal meeting on Feb. 20, 1980, and elections were held. James Grimm, who initiated the forming of the club based on his former membership in the Kiwanis Club in Baltimore, became president, along with the elections of Vice President Jerry Henderson, Secretary Glenn Fickel and Treasurer Wilbur Rehkemper.

The club was formally chartered on April 12, 1980, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Delmar, Delaware. The club's name had two changes, first becoming the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines and later, in 2004, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, as it remains today.

The purpose of the club was to support the local community. Many of the projects of the early years are still being done today to raise funds in support of other community organizations and service projects, like clothing and food drives, providing bingo for the residents of the Berlin Nursing Home, affiliation with local schools by judging academic events like Showell Elementary School's Science Fair, and sponsoring Kiwanis Student Leadership Clubs in local schools.

ANGLERS CLUB ASKING FOR HELP IN IMPROVING LOCAL CATCH DATA

Members of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club are asking local anglers to log and submit their catch data, to help improve statistics that govern recreational fishing.

Jerry Leuters, a member of the Anglers Club, said he recently learned the current data is incomplete, at best.

"Several months ago, we learned that the Atlantic coastal area of Maryland was not having any catch data being represented. In fact, catch data from New Jersey was being used by the organizations that govern our recreational fisheries, especially in the case of our beloved striped bass, also known as rockfish," he said.

Leuters said that information came up during a recent club meeting. "Members in attendance stated we had to find a way to collect catch data and have it forwarded to the proper agencies," he said.

During the meeting, Scott Lenox, who owns the popular "Fish in OC" website and media company, volunteered to develop a form, collect the data, and forward it to the proper authorities.

"Catch data on our coast for several species, including striped bass, is severely lacking, which makes it difficult for the Maryland DNR and other fisheries agencies to evaluate and then regulate our local fisheries," Lenox said. "Fish in OC decided to create an avenue to collect data and then submit that data to the proper authorities so they can have better fisheries management tools on our coast. Now, it will be up to local anglers to utilize the resource."

To view the form, visit https://fishinoc.com/fish-data.

The first was the Stephen Decatur High School Key Club in 1986, followed later by the K-Kids Clubs in Showell Elementary and Buckingham Elementary, the Builders Clubs in Berlin Intermediate School and Stephen Decatur Middle School, and an AKTION Club for adults with disabilities at the Worcester County Developmental Center in Newark, MD.

In 1987, the Kiwanis Club initiated a building project for a pavilion in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines and actively raised funds for its completion. The handsome pavilion in the park, still used for many events, stands as a fitting memorial to the efforts of the Kiwanis Club.

In 1999, the Kiwanis Club formed a local Kiwanis Foundation to enable development of a permanent endowment, for the purpose of supporting charitable activities and issuing regular scholarships for deserving youth of our community, still a big project for the club through its fundraising events.

So, while there was no formal 40th-year celebration, the fact remains that the Kiwanis Club is privileged to celebrate being of service to the community through the continuing dedicated commitment of the club's members and the support of the public. Kiwanis: "Serving the Children of the World."

Follow the club on its website at www.kiwanisofopoc.org and on Facebook as Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City.



'Compound Group' Donates Food to First Responders

A group of about 40 Ocean Pines residents in April took up a collection to buy family meals from the Yacht Club for local police, fire and EMS personnel.

Organizers said it's their way of showing support for those

on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The collective, affectionately known as the "Compound Group," formed about two years ago, according to George Ball.

"It's just about 40 of us in our neighborhood that hang out and socialize at the Yacht Club and do a lot of things together," he said. "We're

year-round supporters of the Yacht Club and are all within walking distance, and we all really enjoy it there."

Ball said several members of the Compound Group talked about doing a cookout to send food to local doctors and nurses. When they learned about restrictions on delivering food to hospitals, Ocean Pines Board member Tom Janasek suggested instead sending Yacht Club family meals to members of the Ocean Pines Police and Fire/EMS departments.

First responders received food deliveries, Thursday through Sunday during two weeks in April.

"They're out there every day with this virus that's going on, so we thought it was a good idea to show our support,"

he said.

Ocean Pines Police Chief David Massey said the gesture has been great for morale, especially during this challenging time.

"We really appreciate the contribution," Massey said. "The first responders put themselves in harm's way, and we appreciate the all support that we get from the com-

munity."

Ball said the idea to host a big cookout to help local doctors and nurses, as well as first responders, is still on the table.

"After all this mess is cleared up, we may put something together and all hold a cookout so they can



grab something and go," he said. "We appreciate everything our nurses and doctors and first responders are doing for us, and we want everyone to stay healthy."

Until then, Ball said he and the rest of the Compound Group would continue to support the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. He thanked Matt Ortt and Ralph DeAngelus who run the Yacht Club, as well as restaurant staff, for helping the group in their efforts to give back.

"We love what the Yacht Club are doing and think it's a great idea, but we're also ready for them to get back to normal operations," he said. "We'll get through this – sooner than later, hopefully."

Janasek added a note about the giving nature of the Compound Group.

"These are some of the most generous people in the Pines," he said. "They've given jobs to some laid-off employees and they are the primary reason the Yacht Club can open in the winter."





Ravens Roost #44 Announces 2020 Scholarship Winners

Ravens Roost #44 of Ocean City was unable to host its 23rd annual golf scholarship fundraiser, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was scheduled May 29 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

Despite the cancellation, the Ravens Roost #44 Scholarship Committee recently announced the presentation of six Scholar/Athlete awards. Scholarships awards, valued at \$2,200 each, went to six students at three area high schools:

Indian River High School:

Avery Congleton - *University of Mount Olive* Kaylee Hall - *University of Delaware*

Stephen Decatur High School:

Mikayla Denault - Northwestern University Isabelle Kristick - University of Maryland

Worcester Preparatory High School:

Saylor McGuiness - College of Charleston Abbigail Nechay - Monmouth University

"These awardees' academic and athletic achievements were outstanding," Don McMullen and Bob Munroe, Scholarship Committee co-chairs, said in a joint statement.

McMullen and Munroe said the scholarship committee reviewed all applicants' transcripts, GPAs, AP courses

taken, SAT scores, athletic team participation and awards, com-munity service, and essay submittals titled, "How Athletics are important in Today's American Society" to determine the awardees.

"The success of 20-plus years of golf scholarship fundraisers from golfers, community businesses and major sponsors' support has allowed us to award over \$200,000 in scholarships to our local scholar/athletes," they said. "We would like to thank tee sponsors and businesses for their continued contributions this year."

McMullen and Munroe added the Scholarship Committee is currently seeking donations for 2021 scholarships. Dona-tions may be mailed to: Ravens Roost #44, P.O. Box 4161, Ocean City, MD 21843. Ravens Roost #44, Inc. is an IRS 501(7)(c) nonprofit (federal tax ID# 52-2160753). For more information, visit ocravensroost44.com.







Rose has been growing her garden for over thirty years. The best part of my day is hearing all of Rose's memories rooted in her backyard. The slam of the garden gate reminds her of her kids running home from school. As a Home Instead CAREGiver, I can help Rose keep hearing that gate slam shut, because that is home.

Slaria L.

- Gloria L. Rose's CAREGiver



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Dool Schedules

All outdoor pools are on a first-come, first-served basis with limited capacity. Guests can call the respective pools prior to coming over to check on availability. Hours are subject to change.

YACHT CLUB - 410-936-0533

- 9am 10am (pool members only)
- · 10am 6:30pm

BEACH CLUB - 410-936-0348

- 10am-11am (pool members only)
- · 11am 6pm

SWIM & RACOUET CLUB - 410-641-7227

- 11am-12pm (pool members only)
- · 12pm 5:30pm

SPORTS CORE - 410-641-5255

- 9am-6pm Monday through Friday
- Exercise Classes and Lap Swimming/Exercising. In the event outdoor pools close due to rain, the Sports Core will open for recreational swimming.

MUMFORD'S LANDING POOL - 410-208-6005

- 10am-11am (pool members only)
- · 11am-5pm

New! AQUA FIT

WHEN: MON-FRI, 9:00am-9:35am JUL 13 - AUG 21 POOL: Mumford's Landing (30 classes /6 weeks)

INSTRUCTOR: Jen Kauffman

FEE: Swim Member \$116; OP Resident \$135; Non-Resident \$170; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

WATER AEROBICS - EVENINGS

WHEN: TUE / THU, 6:15pm-7:00pm JUL 7 - AUG 13

POOL: Mumford's Landing (12 classes /6 weeks)

INSTRUCTOR: Colby Phillips

FEE: Swim Member \$55; OP Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$81; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

WATER BOOT CAMP FITNESS

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 6:00pm-6:45pm JUL 6 - AUG 14 POOL: Swin & Racquet Cub Pool (18 classes / 6 weeks)
INSTRUCTOR: Maria Love, AFPA Certified Aquatic Instructor
FEE: Swim Member \$60; OP Resident \$75; Non-Resident \$98;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

New! FLUID GOLF TRAINING

This program focuses on helping injured or previously injured golfers recover faster & reduce the likelihood of future injuries by taking advantage of water's unique properties & training opportunities. Sections include mobility/flexibility, strength/stabi-lity, balance, golfspecific & recovery – essential for injury recovery/prevention & optimal golf performance. Call the Sports Core at 410.641.5255.

INSTRUCTOR: Colby Phillips, Fluid Golf Training Certified

FEE: Sign up for a free 15-min. intro session.

Additional 30-min. private sessions: \$25 for OP Swim & Golf Member: \$35 for OP Resident: Non-Resident \$50.



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Our newest featured column is a brief Q&A that will feature everything you need to know about life in Ocean Pines, from A to Z. Submit your questions to: info@oceanpines.org.

FAQS ABOUT COMCAST CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION IN OCEAN PINES

What do I do if I have a problem with construction (loose wires in my yard, grass that needs to be replaced after construction, etc.)?

Contact construction project manager Tony Fox at Tony_Fox3@Comcast.com for any issues with Comcast construction.

How do I sign up for Comcast service?

Visit xfinity.com or call 1-800-xfinity when your home is ready for service.

Are there any special offers for new customers?

Yes, there are several promotional offers and packages for new Xfinity customers! When your home is ready for service, visit xfinity.com, or call 1-800-xfinity to learn more.

I have Comcast service, but I'm having problems. What should I do?

For problems with your Comcast service, call 1-800-xfinity.

When will Comcast be coming to my neighborhood?

A construction map and specific information about which

streets Comcast construction crews will be working on is updated weekly. These updates are available in the "Latest News" section at oceanpines.org and in "This Week in the Pines," the Association's weekly email. If you don't receive "This Week in the Pines," you can sign up at oceanpines.org or by emailing info@oceanpines.org.





Organizational Management

Project Management Calendar & Appointment Social Media Management **Data Entry**

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Jul 25 **Over Time**

Jul 26 **Great Train Robbery** Jul 30 **Identity Crisis**

Jul 31 Tranzfusion Full Circle Aug 1

Aug 2 Chuqqaluq

Aug 6 **Gary and the Groove**

Sons of Pirates Aug 7 **Kaleidoscope**

Aug 8 Aug 9 Exit 93

Aug 13 **Lauren Glick**

Over Time Aug 14

Aug 15 Great Train Robbery

Aug 20 Natalie Davis Band

Mike Hines & The Look

Labor Day Weekend

Great Train Robbery

Lime Green Band Sep 11 **Eclipse** Sep 12

Ultimate Journey Tribute

Sep 18 **Janglebachs**

Sons of Pirates Sep 19 Sep 20 Ovster Bash

w/Great Train Robbery

Over Time Sep 25 Sep 26 Tranzfusion

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