



OCEAN PINES REPORT

ELECTION ISSUE

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 4 p.m. on AUGUST 11.** Ballots may be returned either to the ballot box inside the lobby of the Ocean Pines Police Department on 239 Ocean Parkway OR mailed to the Ocean Pines post office box in Berlin. Ballots must be sealed and returned in the envelope provided in the mailing. Key dates in the election process include:

Thu, JULY 8: Eligibility deadline to receive a ballot

Week of JULY 12: Ballots mailed to all Association members in good standing

Wed, AUG 11: BALLOT DEADLINE (by 4 p.m.)

Fri, AUG 13: Ballots counted & totals announced – 10 a.m. (Board Room, Ocean Pines Administration Building)

Sat, AUG 14: Election results validated at 9 a.m. during the Annual Meeting of Membership (Assateague Room, Ocean Pines Community Center)

For questions about the election, email elections@oceanpines.org -or- call 410-208-3889

It's election season in Ocean Pines!

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

Four meet in OPA Board candidate forum

Four candidates up for two seats on the Ocean Pines Board met during a forum on June 9.

Candidates answered questions on topics ranging from short-term rentals and the recent referendum, to mailboxes and road repairs.

Running this year are incumbent Frank Daly, and challengers Stuart Lakernick, David C. Hardy and Richard Farr.

The Elections Committee hosted the forum, and committee Chairman Habeger underscored the importance of returning ballots on time. A year ago, he said 165 ballots arrived late.

"We can't count them. They're not valid – we don't even open the envelopes," he said. "Please, we want to count your ballot. Your vote is important."

A second forum is scheduled on July 13. Video will be posted on the OPA YouTube channel.

To view the forums, visit www.youtube.com/OceanPinesAssociation1.



Candidate draw results announced

Results of the 2021 OPA candidate draw are in. The draw was held and results were announced by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee on June 4. Results determine the order candidates will appear on the ballot and be seated during candidate forums. **Results were: (1) Frank Daly, (2) Stuart Lakernick, (3) David C. Hardy, and (4) Richard Farr.**

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said the postal service continues to move slowly and urged voters to return ballots in a timely manner. He said ballots for the recent referendum vote "took two weeks to get to lower Pennsylvania and central New Jersey."

"If it takes two weeks for the envelope to get there, the clock is ticking," he said. "Please try to get your ballots in on time. We want to count your ballot."

"The easiest and best way to ensure that that happens is to place the return envelope with the ballot in the drop box in the lobby of the police department," Habeger added.

Notice of Annual Meeting on Aug. 14

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 14 at 9 a.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Members will be checked in, in order to verify voter eligibility. Members are urged to arrive at least 30 minutes early to ensure the verification process is completed prior to the start time. Members will be required to provide a valid ID with photo and name.

The agenda will include: Call to Order, Appointments, Presentation of the Sam Wilkinson Volunteer Award, Ascertainment of Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting, Reports, Unfinished Business, New Business, Elections Committee Report: Validation of Election Results, Public Comments, Adjournment.

OPA announces federal PPP funding forgiven

General Manager John Viola announced in June that the \$1.143 million in federal assistance received through the Paycheck Protection Program tied to COVID-19 relief has officially been forgiven.

Ocean Pines first announced it had received the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding in April 2020.

Viola said Ocean Pines submitted paperwork through Bank of Ocean City in March of 2021 to have the loan converted to a grant. That paperwork was then sent to the Small Business Administration, which had 90 days to respond.

"Bank of Ocean City contacted me ... [and] told me that they had received in their system that we had received forgiveness," Viola said.

He added that Finance Director Steve Phillips also received an official letter of forgiveness from the Small Business Administration.

"So, the PPP has been forgiven," Viola said.

Viola said the Association accounted for the funds as revenue, which was then applied to payroll as required.

"All the PPP money was used for payroll," he said. "Obviously, [the Small Business Administration] checked it. They asked us for information [and] we gave them everything. Every dollar of the PPP money was used for payroll, which was the whole idea of the program. We adhered to that 100%."

Strategic Planning Committee working toward committee survey

Members of the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee are working toward a long-range plan, and community involvement is an important next step.

Already this year, committee members have done detailed comparisons with neighboring homeowners associations, looking at their amenity offerings and fee structures, among other metrics.

Committee Co-Chairman Bernie McGorry said what they found was "that Ocean Pines, it turns out, is a great place to live with very acceptable HOA fees."

"Many of the other HOAs we evaluated had much higher annual fees, and several had mandatory amenity memberships that added huge dollars annually, on top of the HOA fees," he said.

Ocean Pines also compared well in terms of the range of amenity offerings, he said.

Other committee activities have included a SWOT analysis — or lists of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats — collected from Ocean Pines department heads.

In May, Co-Chairs Moe Delcher and McGorry attended the Executive Council meeting of Ocean Pines advisory committees, and discussed the strategic plan with chairpersons from about a dozen advisory committee.

A next step is surveying Ocean Pines homeowners, to better understand their needs and wants for the future of the community.

McGorry said the goal for the survey is to capture a broad range of demographic and interest groups, including both young families and retirees, full-time homeowners and seasonal residents, and golfers, swimmers, and those who use Ocean Pines' pools, marinas and racquet center.

"We hope to have the survey ready this summer, and the goal is to make it easy to find and simple to take part in," McGorry said.

For more information, look for updates online at www.oceanpines.org.

JIMMY'S LAWN CARE AND IMPROVEMENTS
Quality Work! Lowest Rates Around!

CONTACT BIG JIM
443-386-7778

jamesrothgeb1962@gmail.com

Mowing, Mulching, Gutters,
Cleaning, Painting, Roofing,
Power Washing, Leaf Removal, etc.
JOBS BIG & SMALL • FULLY INSURED

COASTAL LEGAL GROUP

auto accidents | slip and falls | workplace injuries
medical malpractice | negligence | general practice

**If you're injured and we don't collect,
you'll pay nothing.**

COASTAL
LEGAL
GROUP

FREE CONSULTATION - CALL 24/7

888-422-0131

Coastal Legal Group attorney advertisement affiliated with The Manno Law Firm, Roger P. Manno, Attorney At Law LLC





TidalHealth Home Scripts is your community pharmacy!

Conveniently located by the North Gate of Ocean Pines, our knowledgeable pharmacists will fill your prescriptions in a matter of minutes and we offer free home delivery in the Ocean Pines area and a convenient drive-thru window.

With a large selection of over-the-counter items and monthly sales, you'll be relying on TidalHealth Home Scripts for all your pharmacy needs and consider us for all your vaccination needs including COVID-19, flu, shingles and travel vaccines, etc.

TidalHealth Home Scripts is open 8 am – 6 pm Monday through Friday and from 9 am – 3 pm Saturday. To fill a prescription, or arrange for free home delivery, call 410-543-4769.



TidalHealth™

Home Scripts
11101 Cathage Road
Berlin, MD 21811

410-543-4769
tidalhealth.org

Ocean Pines Academy goes live

The new Ocean Pines Academy is now active, featuring nearly 20 virtual educational segments about Ocean Pines operations, amenities, and more.

To view the academy, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/ocean-pines-academy>.

The Ocean Pines Academy is a virtual, self-paced civic education course about the Ocean Pines Association. The Academy includes an overview of the different facets of the Association, presented by those who handle fulfilling its vision and mission each day.

Also included are printable "quick facts" about the amenities, departments and services that make Ocean Pines a vibrant and well-rounded community, as well as links to important documents and websites.

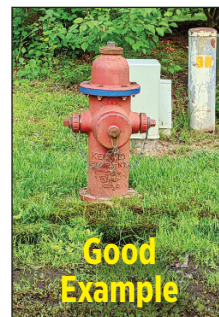
Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski led the project, with support supplied by a workgroup that included Association President Larry Perrone, Vice President Colette Horn, General Manager John Viola, Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett, Director of Marketing and Public Relations Josh Davis, and community member Jenny Cropper Rines.

"Whether you're interested in becoming involved with the Board of Directors or an advisory committee, or just want to gain a deeper understanding of Ocean Pines, the Ocean Pines Academy is a great way to learn more about this place so many have called 'home,'" Malinowski said.

Help keep fire hydrants clear

*A message from the
Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department*

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department (OPVFD) would like to remind residents about the importance of clear and unobstructed access to fire hydrants. In the event of a house fire, OPVFD's fire engines carry between 750 and 1,000 gallons of water, which means only 7-10 minutes of water is readily available once firefighters



arrive on scene. The Ocean Pines community's 300+ hydrants supplement the engines' water supply to ensure firefighters have all the water they need within a few minutes of arriving to an incident.

Fire Chief Steve Grunewald said, "Emergencies can and often do happen when we least expect them. Our crews need to be able to spot hydrants easily from any roadway, night or day, and during inclement weather."

Three feet of unobstructed access is needed to allow firefighters the space to connect the 3-inch and 5-inch supply hoses that connect to the pumps.

Obstructions can include shrubbery, hardscaping, excessive mulch or dirt, piles of yard debris, lawn ornaments, trashcans, vehicles, etc.

Help OPVFD help you: If you have an obstructed hydrant on your property and are able, please work to clear all obstructions as soon as possible. If you are unable to clear a hydrant on your property and/or you spot an obstructed hydrant, please notify the OPVFD immediately and provide the closest address to the hydrant. You can either call the south station at 410-641-8272 or email OPVFD Community Outreach Specialist Joe Enste at Jenste@opvfd.com.

Please remember it is unlawful to enter someone else's property in an attempt to clear obstructions. Please share the address with the OPVFD, who will work with the Worcester County water and wastewater department to resolve the issue.



Reinvent Your Space

DOMINATE YOUR BRICK PAVERS & CONCRETE

How We Help You

Get Impressive, High-Quality Results For Your Home:

- 1 You choose our **HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS** to beautify your patio, driveway & walkway.
- 2 We **CLEAN** (remove dirt, algae, mold, moss), **STABILIZE** (calculate & install new polymer sand in joints) & **SEAL** (apply 2 coats wet-look stain or gloss-finish seal). This will cut time maintaining your surfaces.

DON'T LET DIRT & GRIME DEVOUR THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME!

We can also include a complete house wash for a nominal fee.



We're here to assist & get back to you quickly for a **STRESS-FREE & AFFORDABLE** experience with a reliable expert



Greg Markomanolakis
Owner / Operator

Cell: 302.331.5444 • Office: 302.988.2896
Email: gregmarkis@verizon.net

Break free from the Big Three.

Unlimited for \$30/mo.

per line when you get 4 lines.

Switch to Xfinity Mobile and get the best price for Unlimited. You'll be connected to the fastest, most reliable network, with 5G included at no extra cost. Plus, you can save hundreds on your wireless bill. See how much you can save at xfinitymobile.com/mysavings or visit an **Xfinity Store** to learn how our Switch Squad makes it easy to switch and save hundreds.



xfinity mōbile

Go to xfinitymobile.com,
call 1-800-xfinity or visit the Xfinity Store at
8301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Savings compared to weighted average of top three carriers based on optimized pricing. Xfinity Internet required. Reduced speeds after 20 GB of usage per line. Prices may vary and are subject to change. Most reliable based on RootMetrics US Report. Results vary. Not an endorsement. NPA235731-0016

Craft Club hosts ribbon cutting, anniversary celebration for Artisan Gift Shop



An official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Artisan Gift Shop on May 22 also served as an unofficial celebration of the shop's one-year anniversary.

The store, run by the Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines, opened in February 2020. However, as with many things in the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced several delays.

Attendees included Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Del. Wayne Hartman; Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone, General Manager John Viola and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue; and Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kerrie Bunting.

Craft Club President Sharon Puser said she had planned three grand openings since the new building opened.

"We are so pleased today that we could finally have a ribbon cutting, and we have a perfect day for it," she said.

Puser said the old shop, now part of the expanded parking area of Ocean Pines' community center, administration building and White Horse Park, closed in January 2020. The new location opened a few weeks later, on Feb. 8.

"We didn't have a grand opening right away, because we thought ... we'll wait and we'll have a great grand opening



in March," she said. "Well, that didn't happen." Puser said the shop was only open for a few weeks before the pandemic halted operations for nearly three months.

"We didn't open again until Memorial Day weekend, so this celebration ... [is] kind of our reopening and kind of [the anniversary] of a year of being open to the public," she said.

Puser thanked the Ocean Pines Board, who approved the new structure in June of 2019. A groundbreaking ceremony was held a month later, and Ocean Tower Construction built the shop based on a design by engineering firm MAD Design Group.

"They [the Board members] all understood what our mission was," she said. "And they supported us all along the way."

Perrone said many volunteers in the community support

the Craft Club, including his wife, Kim, who is a co-manager of the shop.

"What other people may not know, is the money that is made here by the Pine'eer crafters gets contributed back to the community," he said. "They've contributed over \$170,000 back to the community, and that goes to the Police Department, Fire Department [and] all the operations."

Perrone said it took some work to decide where the new building would fit on the Association's asset register. He and Viola eventually learned the shop was once a general store, and was a fully depreciated asset.

"While this building, now, is properly on our asset register and is an asset of Ocean Pines, the real asset here are the members of the Pine'eer Craft Club who do all the hard work, make their products that get sold in here, and the money comes back into the community," Perrone said. "On behalf of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, I want to thank the Pine'eer crafters for all the money that does come back to the Association, and congratulate you on this beautiful building."

Puser also applauded Viola, who she said worked closely with the club to bring the building from design to fruition. Viola, in turn, thanked the Craft Club for supporting the community.

"I just wanted to say thank you to the Craft Club," Viola said. "They do make a lot of donations ... to Police, Rec and Parks and other amenities."

Viola said a lot of work goes on behind the scenes for any new building. He highlighted Joe Costello, a former Ocean Pines Public Works employee, who made most of the shop's interiors.

"I've seen Joe's work ... throughout Ocean Pines," Viola said. "He's done a great job."

"There are no words that can express the gratitude that we have for Joe Costello ... All along the way, he was there for us and helped us," Puser added.

Puser said Costello built a custom counter and storage cabinets in the shop, and he and the Public Works team "did [all] the painting and putting up slatwall and trimming."

"He was there every step of the way, and we are so grateful," Puser said.

She said another Public



Artisan & Craft Festival, Aug. 7

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines announced in June that the 43rd annual Pine'eer Artisan and Craft Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 7 at White Horse Park.

"We are looking forward to seeing everyone again," Craft Club President Sharon Puser said. "Our festival last year was canceled because of COVID-19, but what a difference a year has made."

To participate in the festival, contact Jane Wolnik at jane.wolnik63@gmail.com for a vendor application.

For additional information or questions, contact Barb O'Connor at boc2638@yahoo.com, or call 410-726-8062.



(continued from page 6) Works employee, Josh Vickers, designed the new shop signs.

"Josh made our beautiful signs ... and we want to thank him as well," she said.

Puser also thanked the other architects, builders and electricians who put the shop together.

"It was so exciting watching this building go up and become a reality. We had hoped for a new building ... for a long time, but this is an answer to a prayer," she said. "We especially want to thank [Public Works Director] Eddie Wells and his crew that was so helpful, so accommodating and so generous."

Puser also recognized local carpet and hardwood shop Sea Floor and its owner Don Robertston for donating the flooring.

She called Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue a tireless advocate for the club. Puser said Donahue was even at the shop a day earlier and suggested new mulch for the ribbon cutting. Not long after, the new mulch appeared. "Debbie was our liaison with John and the construction team during the project, and she has been our champion from start to finish," Puser said. "We thank you, from the bottom of our hearts."

She praised the Public Relations and Marketing team of Director Josh Davis and Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski for their support.

"Josh is always there for us," she said. "He's taken pictures of the contract signing, the groundbreaking, the re-signing, the official opening, and here he is today taking pictures again."

Lastly, Puser thanked Craft Club members, especially Carol Quinto. She said Quinto led a small group that helped design the building's layout, and she served as a liaison between the club and Ocean Pines.

"I also want to thank our current shop managers, Diane Denk and Kim Perrone, for keeping the shop running smoothly and finding new crafters and new merchandise," she said. "You never know what you're going to find in our shop, because as we get new members, we also get new items."

"Our customers love the new store [and] we get positive comments from them all the time," Puser continued. "The mission of the Pine'eer Craft Club has been, since we started in 1974, to craft high-quality items that we can sell in the shop and donate the profits ... back to the community. We're so happy to do that, and that's our goal, always."





Doug & Sandy Galloway

Sandy's Cell: **410.726.7023**
Doug's Cell: **410.430.0944**
sandygalloway1@gmail.com

Debbie Bennington

Debbie's Cell: **410.603.8065**
debbennington4@gmail.com

You're Going to Like Working With Us!

Caring - Knowledgeable - Professional

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | PenFed Realty
HomeServices

11001 MANKLIN MEADOWS LANE | OCEAN PINES, MD 21811
OFFICE: 410.208.3500

Peter's Repair Shop & Sharpening Service

Furniture Repair & Refinishing
Caning • Rushing
Shaker Webbing

We Sharpen: Knives, Scissors, Tools, Mower Blades

Free Pick-Up & Delivery
410-603-7582

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELECTION!	1, 32-36
Ocean Pines News	1-2, 4, 6-8, 16
Guest Column: Chip Bertino	10
Guest Column:	
Worcester County Health Dept.	11
Guest Column: Mary Beth Carozza	12
From the Association President	14
Advertiser Index	14
From the General Manager	16
Message from Public Works / CPI	18
MD Dept. of the Environment	18
From the General Manager of Golf	20
Golf Club	20-21
Director of Finance / Controller	22
Financial Summary	22
From the Chief of Police	24
Police Department	24-25
From the Director of Rec. & Parks	26
Recreation & Parks Department	26
From the Director of Aquatics	28
Aquatics	28
Green Street by E&NAC	29
Board of Directors	30
Meet The OP Marina Team	38-39
Community Highlights	
& Events	40-43
Racquet Center	44-45
OPA FAQs	46
Farmers & Artisans Market	46
Yacht Club	48

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

Independence Day: Mon, July 5

Labor Day: Mon, Sept. 6

Copyright © 2021 by the Ocean Pines Association, Inc. The Ocean Pines Report is published and distributed four times a year with the seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter). Ocean Pines Report is Published by Ocean Pines Association, Inc. 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811, 410.641.7717, Email: info@oceanpines.org. This issue, along with back issues, are available at OceanPines.org. The newsletter is mailed to every homeowner and resident, and also available at Ocean Pines amenities. Between 11,000 and 12,000 copies of each edition are printed. Anyone may subscribe to the E-edition of this publication by emailing info@oceanpines.org. If you would like to opt-out of receiving printed copies, email info@oceanpines.org with a subject line of "Unsubscribe to Print Newsletter." While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, the Ocean Pines Association, Inc., its employees and its agents do not accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions. All logos, brands, trademarks, artwork and publicity photos are the property of their respective owners.

TO ADVERTISE, call 410.641.7717 or email info@oceanpines.org

Helpful utility contacts for Ocean Pines homeowners and residents

Ocean Pines has prepared a new list of contacts for local utilities.

The list is meant to help homeowners and residents reach people in local offices, when issues arise.

"In February, we announced initial steps to help improve our customer service, and this is an extension of that," General Manager John Viola said. "The Ocean Pines team is committed to addressing concerns in a timely and efficient manner, and we continue to take steps to make that happen."

To reach local utilities:

• Choptank Electric Cooperative Inc.

- o For general issues, visit <https://choptankelectric.coop>
- o For general issues by phone, use the call center, staffed by local people and available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 1-877-892-0001
- o For the Storm Center, to get instructions on setting up text alerts and outage reporting, visit <https://choptankelectric.coop/storm-center>
- o To report an outage, call 1-800-410-4790

• Comcast/Xfinity

- o For sales or service questions or complaints, call 1-800-xfinity
- o For general issues, email NEBLT_OceanPines@comcast.com

• Mediacom

- o For general issues, call 855-633-4226 (This is the Dagsboro, Delaware office)

• Republic Services

- o For new service, stop service or billing, call 410-749-1551
- o For missed pickup, service issue or service questions, contact Regina DuPont at rduPont@republicservices.com or 443-210-3506, or Operations Supervisor Rufus O. Braboy at rbraboy@republicservices.com or 443-210-3515
- o For larger issues, contact Division Manager Kelley Johannsen at KJohannsen@RepublicServices.com or 443-210-3501
- o For contract questions, contact Municipal Sales Manager Dominic Fulginiti at dfulginiti@republicservices.com or 610-205-5401

The full list can also be found on the Ocean Pines website: <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/living-here>.

For other general questions, complaints or concerns, homeowners and residents may continue to email info@oceanpines.org, or contact 410-641-7717 during business hours, or 410-641-7747 after business hours and on weekends.

Questions? Concerns?



EMAIL
info@oceanpines.org



CALL
410.641.7717

After hours, call Ocean Pines Police at 410.641.7747.





Dream • Remodel • Build

We're the Eastern Shore's premier remodeling, additions & decking experts



Remodels



Additions



Decks



410-546-4711 | TylerBuildingCo.com

See your project take shape with our complimentary drawing & drafting service

Will & Nikki Tyler
Founders & Owners

MCHI#91101 | MHBR#6591



WINDMILL CREEK
VINEYARD AND WINERY

Outdoor Live Music

Every Fri, Sat & Sun 5-8pm (weather permitting)

Find music & event info on our website

BACKYARD BISTRO Open Daily 12-8pm

Now operated by owners of The Street Kitchen

VICTORY GARDEN Plots are Booking Now

Check Victory Garden Facebook page for info

Spring / Summer Hours: Tue-Sun 12-8:30pm (closed Mon)

410.251.6122 WindmillCreekVineyard.com

11206 WORCESTER HIGHWAY • BERLIN, MD 21811





Guest column:

Worcester County approves fiscal 2022 budget

By Chip Bertino *Worcester County Commissioner, Ocean Pines District*

Worcester County finances withstood restrictions and uncertainty brought on by COVID-19. Revenue increased as a result of increased property transfer/recording taxes. And the labor market was not as negatively impacted as the Worcester County Commissioners feared in early 2020, when they determined it was best to budget conservatively at the outset of an unprecedented pandemic.

Estimates show that income tax receipts are higher than anticipated for the current fiscal year. These realities are expected to yield a surplus of roughly \$10 when the current fiscal year ends June 30.

During their June 1 meeting, the Commissioners approved the fiscal year 2022 operating budget of \$216,509,211, a 6% increase over the previous year. Property and income tax rates remain unchanged at 84.5 cents and 2.25% respectively. The Homestead Credit cap, available to qualified principal resident homeowners, remains unchanged at 3%.

Board of Education funding increased by \$2.3 million to roughly \$97 million plus \$12.4 million for debt service. Education expenditures account for 50.6% of the county budget.

Additionally, there were no changes made to the rates for current Ocean Pines Water Wastewater customers.

As a result of ongoing subcommittee meetings that include three commissioners, several senior county staff and fire and emergency services representatives, the Commissioners approved a \$1 million supplemental allocation to EMS services. This is a vital step to ensure our county ambulance services are funded properly so that, when a per-

son in need contacts 9-1-1, he or she can expect a trained and qualified responder in a timely manner. During the coming year, this subcommittee will continue to meet and plan for the immediate and future emergency service funding needs of our community.

During the next months, Commissioners will review Agritainment zoning laws, pursue broadband connectivity countywide, and determine the viability of a sports complex in the northern end of the county.

Work on expanding Stephen Decatur Middle School is expected to begin in fall. This will result in more classroom space and the elimination of the multiple classroom trailers adjacent to the school. The project is expected to take 13 months.

The Commissioners named Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young as the new Chief Administrative Officer. He will succeed Harold Higgins, who retires in late August.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 443-783-3248 or cbertino@co.worcester.md.us.

Finally, a word about former Commissioner Judy Boggs, who passed away June 12. Judy was a dedicated public servant who represented our community first as a member of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and subsequently as Worcester County Commissioner for the then newly created Ocean Pines district. She was first elected in 2002.

During her three terms, she was a strong advocate for our community responsible for, among other things, securing regular annual county grants for our police and fire departments. Not long after taking office, she started hosting regular town hall meetings, which enabled her to remain in touch with the people she represented.

Shortly after she announced she would not seek reelection in 2014, I met with her to discuss my interest in succeeding her. We met in her living room and spoke for hours on a range of county issues. I was impressed by her breadth of knowledge and passion on so many topics, both large and small.

One thing that has stuck with me from that first conversation. She advised me more than once that if elected I should always be myself. People will know if you're not being genuine with them, she counseled, so just be yourself. I took that to heart.

And now, during this time of reflection of who Judy was as a person and who she was as a public servant, and what she accomplished for our community, it's very clear that above all, she was always being herself. Thank you, Judy.





Cindy Poremski

LUXURY COLLECTION SPECIALIST

Cell: 410.430.9988
Office: 410.208.3500
Cindy@OCconnection.com
OCconnection.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | PenFed Realty
HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

11001 Manklin Meadows Lane | Ocean Pines, MD 21811



Guest column:

Summer info you should know

A message from the Worcester County Health Department



COVID-19 CLINICS

Most clinics provide the Moderna vaccine, a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine for those 18 years old and older, unless specified. Some clinics will also offer the Pfizer and/or Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Clinic dates, locations, and types of vaccine available are posted each week on WorcesterHealth.org. Visit the website and follow us @WorcesterHealth on Facebook to stay up to date.

Appointments are recommended to reserve your vaccine, but walk-ups will be accommodated as vaccine supply allows. Please bring your ID. If you have questions call 667-253-2140 or visit www.worcesterhealth.org.

The website provides up-to-date information about the Worcester County Health Department's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. To view Maryland's COVID-19 Case Count visit <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov>.

More information on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines is available on covidlink.maryland.gov. Marylanders can also receive updates from Maryland's 211 text alert system by texting "MdReady" to 898-211.

All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are effective at preventing COVID-19 as seen in clinical trial settings.

SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather events like hurricanes and tropical storms have the potential to significantly impact Worcester County, particularly during hurricane season, which runs from June 1 until Nov. 30. Storms can cause flooding, intense winds, and can damage property and threaten safety, depending on severity. Preparedness before a storm can greatly reduce the risks and damage potential. Taking a few simple, but important, actions now can help you weather the storm and keep you and your family safe.

If your area is evacuated, remember the **Five P's of Evacuation** – **P**eople, **P**rescriptions, **P**apers, **P**ersonal Needs, and **P**riceless Items.

Stay safe during and after a hurricane by avoiding floodwaters on roads, walkways, bridges, and on the ground. Remember: **Turn Around, Don't Drown**. Do not attempt to cross floodwater. The depth of the water is not always obvious; flood waters can hide damaged and washed-out roadways, and only a few inches of moving water can knock an adult off his/her feet. A foot of water can sweep away a large vehicle.

HEAT SAFETY

Extreme heat is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days. In extreme heat your body works extra hard to maintain a normal temperature, which can lead to death. In fact, extreme heat is responsible for the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards. Remember:

- Extreme heat can occur quickly and without warning.
- Older adults, children and sick or overweight individuals are at greater risk from extreme heat.
- Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index.



Orthopedic & Neurological Rehab
The Area's Only
Balance & Vestibular
Specialists

DID YOUR DOCTOR RECOMMEND PHYSICAL THERAPY?
CHECK OUT FYZICAL BEFORE YOU CHECK IN ELSEWHERE!

Stop in for a tour or give us a call, 410-208-1525

11204 Racetrack Road, Suite 101 • Ocean Pines, MD 21811 • Fyzical-Delmarva.com





Guest column: Reflections and looking ahead

By Mary Beth Carozza

Maryland State Senator for District 38, Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester Counties

After a long and grueling 2021 legislative session in Annapolis, I truly am grateful to be back to making the rounds in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset, including several memorable events right here in Ocean Pines. Being part of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation's events featuring The Wall That Heals Vietnam Veterans memorial will be a personal and professional highlight. I was moved by the reaction of so many of our Vietnam Veterans, including my own uncle, Eddie Rohe, who joined us for the opening ceremony. It was uplifting and inspiring to know that the Wall delivered on its namesake of healing.

Along with this special event, I joined in the celebration of the new Pine'er Craft Shop and already have purchased a couple of unique gifts from Ocean Pines artists. I also enjoyed attending the 20th Anniversary of The Parke celebration and the dedication of the Paul Rusko tennis bench at the Ocean Pines Tennis Club with my parents. These recent neighborhood happenings remind me of the warm family friendships that have developed and grown over the years in Ocean Pines.

Since the adjournment of the Maryland General Assembly in mid-April, I have stayed focused on our Shore COVID-19 recovery with more and more vaccinated, restrictions being lifted, and businesses moving to full operations. We in the Eastern Shore Delegation were successful in passing Governor Hogan's bipartisan COVID-19 RELIEF Act early in the session, providing needed assistance to families and small businesses hardest hit by the pandemic. We also saw legislative victories with the passage of Wade's Law, a bill that I worked on for the past five sessions which provides a just penalty on those convicted of criminally-negligent driving causing

life-threatening injuries.

Also, two of my telehealth bills were approved this session including legislation establishing an interstate licensure compact for occupational therapists and a bill permitting alcohol and drug trainees under supervision to continue providing needed telehealth counseling for those with addictions after the public health declarations are lifted. The spike in overdose deaths makes clear that Maryland's opioid crisis did not subside during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful that my telehealth bills were approved with unanimous support this session.

Looking ahead, I am working with numerous employers and community partners to address the immediate and severe workforce shortage we are facing in all sectors, especially the hospitality business. We need to use every creative option to grow our local workforce including recruiting local high school and college students, seasonal legal immigrants, and retirees who may be willing to take part-time positions during the busy tourist season.

Finally, I congratulate the Ocean Pines Police Department and entire community with Ocean Pines being named the safest city in Maryland by Safewise, a public safety website. Public safety is job number one, and I will continue to support law enforcement throughout my district and our home State of Maryland.

Constituent service in support of our shared Shore priorities remains my top priority. I encourage you to continue to share your concerns and priorities with me at MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us or www.marybeth-carozza.com and look forward to seeing you around the Pines!



Prenuptial Agreements are ESSENTIAL per 10/1/2020 Law

A recent law change may significantly affect those who have accumulated assets & are entering into second marriages. Call Gina to find out how you can protect your beneficiaries.



Shaffer, McLaughlin & Stover, LLC
Attorneys at Law

- Asset Protection
- Elder Law & Medicaid Planning
- Wills, Trust & Estate Planning
- Business Formation, Management & Succession
- Probate, Estate & Trust Administration
- Real Estate Deeds, Contracts & Leases

Gina D. Shaffer, Esq.



10514 Racetrack Rd. Unit C | Berlin, MD 21811

smslawoffice.com • 410-420-7992

FI\$CAL BLUEPRINT

A PODCAST FOR FINANCIAL PEACE OF MIND

- **Income Ideas** for Retiring Early
- **Retirement Killers** to Avoid at All Costs!
- **Ins & Outs** of Roth Conversions
- **Avoid Penalties & Confusion**
- **The Worst Financial Decisions** You Can Make



SCAN ME

Plus, we also cover: **PROACTIVE TAX PLANNING** | **RETIREMENT INCOME PLANNING**
ONGOING FINANCIAL COACHING & EDUCATION | **PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT**
LONG-TERM CARE STRATEGIES | **SOCIAL SECURITY ANALYSIS & PLANNING**



MONTGOMERY
FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC

Investing Today for a Better Tomorrow



Listen Now! [MFSWealth.com/podcasts](https://www.MFSWealth.com/podcasts) ...or read transcripts

Ocean Pines, MD 410.208.1004 | Lewes, DE 302.450.1967

Investment advisory services offered through Montgomery Financial Services LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor in the states of MD and DE. Insurance products and services are offered through MFS Wealth LLC independent agent. Montgomery Financial Services LLC and MFS Wealth LLC are affiliated companies. Montgomery Financial Services LLC and MFS Wealth LLC are not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency.

Hosted by **Jeff Montgomery**



Turning 65 in 2021?

FREE MEDICARE WEBINAR

DATES: July 14 and August 11

TIME: 12 pm – 1 pm

TOPIC: Medicare Supplement & Prescription Drug Plans



Join **Alyssa Sinagra** to find out all you **NEED** to know about Medicare for **FREE**! Alyssa is here to guide you and help make this transition smooth and painless!

To register for this free webinar event, please visit averyhallturning65.eventbrite.com or call Karen Bromley at 410-742-5111



SCAN ME

AVERY HALL

INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR TODAY'S WORLD

AveryHall.com



5 Star Plumbing, Heating & Cooling...	24
Adcock Art Studio - Jim Adcock.....	23
Advanced Climate Care.....	31
AES Laser Engraving.....	41
Atlantic General Hospital.....	31
All American Roofing.....	47
American Engineering Solutions.....	41
Avery Hall Insurance.....	13
Ayers Creek Adventures.....	28
Baby Boomer Insurance.....	33
Bank of Delmarva.....	27
Beth Gismondi / All State.....	36
Big Ricky's Hot Dogs.....	27
Brenda Archer-Nichols.....	28
Buckley Property Services.....	22
Catered Living at Ocean Pines.....	17
Chesapeake Health Care.....	37
Coastal Legal Group.....	2
Comcast.....	5
Choptank Electric.....	35
Cindy Poremski, Realtor.....	10
Copy Central.....	41
Crabs To Go.....	15
Deeley Insurance Group.....	15
Donna Frankowski, Realtor.....	23
Eastern Shore Cremation.....	18
Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers.....	11
Headlines Salon.....	23
Home Instead Senior Care.....	31
Jan Castner, Realtor.....	25
Jimmy's Lawn Care.....	2
John Bennish / Edward Jones.....	19
John Talbott, Realtor.....	27
Jolly Roger.....	33
Marlene Ott, Realtor.....	43
Mid-Atlantic Insurance Group.....	21
Mike's Flooring & Design Center.....	19
Montgomery Financial Services.....	13
My Backyard.....	34
North Star Heating & A/C.....	27
Oceans East Luxury Apt. Homes.....	17
Peter's Repair Shop & Sharpening.....	7
Poole Contracting.....	41
Seaside Plumbing.....	23
Shaffer, McLaughlin & Stover - Law.....	12
Shamrock Realty Group.....	25
Soft Wash Specialists.....	4
Steve Howse, Realtor.....	21
The Pros to Know, Realtors.....	7
TidalHealth.....	3
Travelista Travels.....	15
Tyler Building Co.....	9
Weed Pro.....	19, 46
Windmill Creek Winery.....	9

Message from the ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Larry Perrone

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING

Summertime is finally here. The Ocean Pines amenities are all open, with great food and music at the Yacht Club and Golf Club. The Beach Club and pools are already busy, and Rec and Parks is in full swing, including the return of Concerts in the Park. Already this year, the Ocean Pines Racquet Center hosted a great tournament that saw over 200 participants. What a difference from last year.

Our year-end (unaudited) financial results show a positive variance to budget by over \$1,000,000, now that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan has been forgiven by the government. The General Manager and department heads did a great job managing expenses during this COVID year and the results show it. I want to emphasize that all the PPP money was used on salaries to keep our full-time employees on the books.

The May monthly results were just released, and the first month of this new fiscal year is encouraging. Memberships are up across the board. Aquatics and Beach Parking are ahead of budget after a difficult season last year. Financially, Ocean Pines is heading in the right direction, with our positive 2020/2021 year-end results. As a result of our positive year-end results, we were able to retire the remaining \$167,000 deficit from a few years ago.

Ocean Pines had a great weekend when the Worcester County Veterans Memorial hosted The Wall That Heals. The ceremonies were both solemn and uplifting. With Memorial Day behind us, we are looking forward to a full day of activities on July 4, including fireworks.

It's that time of year again to elect two members to the Board of Directors. Please take time to review the candidate forums on YouTube and vote. Your vote is important. Along with the elections, the Annual Meeting is the second Saturday in August. We need a quorum to conduct business, so please plan on attending.

Now that the restrictions from the pandemic have been lifted, please have a great summer, and take full advantage of the Ocean Pines amenities.



STAY IN TOUCH

WITH OCEAN PINES

EMAIL: THIS WEEK IN THE PINES

Be the first to know about Ocean Pines Association happenings with our weekly email, "This Week in the Pines." Sign up at OceanPines.org!

WEB: OCEANPINES.ORG

News, amenity info, applications, contact numbers & more are available on OPA's newly redesigned website!

CALL 410.641.7717 OR EMAIL INFO@OCEANPINES.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

COAST IN FOR *Seafood*





**FRESH FISH • STEAMED SHRIMP & CLAMS • OYSTERS
CRABCAKES • PLATTERS • SANDWICHES • WRAPS • MORE**

CORNER RT. 50 & 589, BERLIN, MD • 410.641.9379 • VIEW MENU: CRABSTOGO.COM

f @

ready to travel? unmatched prices, service + trusted advice

Based in Ocean Pines, MD – Serving Clients Nationwide





TRAVELISTA TRAVELS

Groups • Families • Couples • Dream Vacations
Destination Weddings • Honeymoons ...& more!

Kacie Walls Travel Advisor • **302.545.5772 • kacie@travelistatravels.com • TravelistaTravels.com**
f Chasing_Seahorses Travel with Kacie @ chasing_seahorses





DEELEY
insurance group

Be sure.

Business Insurance
Risk Management
Personal Protection




Visit deeleyinsurance.com. We'll create a thoughtfully tailored program to protect what matters most.

(410) 213-5600 f @ /deeleyinsurance



John Viola

The Association recently announced that the \$1.143 million Paycheck Protection Program money we received last year was forgiven by the federal government. That money was part of federal COVID-19 relief funding and Ocean Pines used 100% of the money for payroll, as was required. That was vetted by the Small Business Administration and we received approval notice in June.

Because of that, and because of cost-cutting and sound management by all of our department heads, the unaudited results from fiscal year 2020-2021 show a net operating profit of about \$1.275 million. Approximately \$162,000 will offset the remainder of the prior years' operating deficit. Part of the remaining surplus will be recommended by the GM to the Board to replenish reserves, including roads as mentioned during the budget process. We were able to lower the assessment increase based upon this strategy.

Credit to the entire team for managing well during a year unlike any other, and especially to the Finance Department and Steve Phillips. As I have said before during Board meetings, there was no playbook for how to manage during a pandemic, but the Association was able to navigate through it and produce favorable operating results.

We continue to promote a new customer service initiative led by Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin and Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski. For any questions and concerns, there is one central email address: info@oceanpines.org. Homeowners and residents can also call 410-641-7717 during business hours, or 410-641-7747 on nights and weekends.

News of this can be found in the pages of this newsletter, and it was also distributed to local media, posted on the Ocean Pines website and social media, and printed on business cards that can be found at our offices and amenities.

Public Works has been busy with several key projects, including bulkhead and road maintenance, the DMA reserve study, and the Bainbridge Project to help improve water filtration.

CREDIT TO THE ENTIRE TEAM

We celebrated that the Ocean Pines Police Department was recently credited with producing the lowest crime rates of any community in the state. Chief Leo Ehrisman took over for former Chief David Massey last year, and he continues to build on Massey's past success and also make a name for himself in his own right.

Racquet Sports has seen several deferred maintenance projects happen during the last few months, including fencing and court repairs. New courts were also approved by the Board. The Ocean Pines Racquet Center has hosted several successful tournaments this spring and summer, with people coming from as far away as New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to play in Ocean Pines.

Dockmaster Ron Fisher had another successful marina opening, and that amenity continues to be a moneymaker for Ocean Pines and an example of strong customer service, thanks to Ron and the team. We're excited to have two of Ron's veteran staffers, Shirley Figgs and Mike Toth, profiled in this newsletter.

Recreation and Parks has been able to return to normal this summer, with full summer camp offerings for local children and the relaunch of our popular "Concerts in the Park" series, held each Thursday, and "Family Fun Nights" on Wednesdays.

Our Golf Course is in fantastic shape, thanks to the efforts of the team and Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne, who has used his education and background to get our greens and fairways in some of the best shape they've ever been.

Our four outdoor pools opened successfully and we're seeing big crowds there, something we did not get to see during the pandemic. Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook also now oversees Beach Parking for Ocean Pines, which got off to a record-breaking start this year.

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club also had a record-breaking day in June, producing the most revenue in a single day in the history of the Association. The Matt Ort Companies continue to be a wonderful addition to Ocean Pines. We look forward to more good things from our Food and Beverage operation all summer long, and at all three of our restaurants, including the Beach Club and Clubhouse Bar and Grille.



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.

*Has your phone number
or email address changed?*

Make sure we have your updated info!

**Call the Membership Dept. at 410.641.7717
or email member@oceanpines.org.**



Use 'info@oceanpines.org' for general information

The Ocean Pines General Manager's Office continues to promote the use of one central email, info@oceanpines.org, for all general information questions and concerns.

Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin and Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski handle questions sent to that email address and redirect them to the proper person or department, if needed.

Additionally, the Association is asking that general phone questions go to 410-641-7717 during business hours, or 410-641-7747 to reach Ocean Pines Police after business hours and on weekends.

The Ocean Pines website, www.oceanpines.org, also now has a "Questions, Concerns & General Info" banner with contact information.

General Manager John Viola implemented the new policy in February, and he said the results so far have been promising.

"We feel this has improved our overall customer service and helped people to get their questions answered in a timely and professional manner," Viola said. "Please continue to use info@oceanpines.org for all general inquiries."

NEW PHASE COMING SOON!

LUXURY LIVING MINUTES FROM THE BEACH!







NOW LEASING!

- 24/7 EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE
- DUAL MASTER SUITES
- OPEN, MODERN LAYOUT
- RESORT-STYLE POOL
- 24/7 FITNESS CENTER WITH SEPARATE YOGA ROOM

- TRANQUIL WATER FEATURES
- LOCAL, FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT
- STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES, GRANITE COUNTERTOPS & WALK-IN TILED SHOWER UPGRADES AVAILABLE
- EXTRA STORAGE & GARAGES AVAILABLE
- PET-FRIENDLY



OCEANS EAST
LUXURY APARTMENT HOMES

OCEANS-EAST.COM | (410) 641-TOUR

Mention this ad
for 1/2 Off
the application
fee!

Catered Living AT OCEAN PINES



- Assisted Living • Memory Care
- A Home-Like Setting with Peace of Mind

We Offer:

All Private Rooms & Baths
In Room Dinettes
Three Meals a Day
All Inclusive Pricing
24 Hour Awake Staff
Respite Care, End of Life-Care & More!

Call 410-449-4090 Today for more information or to schedule a visit to our on-site showroom



Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/cateredlivingofocanpines/

Let us help you navigate through this difficult decision.

1135 Ocean Parkway • Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811 • 410-449-4090



Linda Martin

OPEN AND HERE TO HELP

Summer is here in Ocean Pines and the Compliance, Permits, and Inspections (CPI) team is as busy as ever! May brought on 45 permits received, 53 resale packets processed, 104 new violations initiated, along with 140 violations complied out.

We would like to thank the homeowners, who upon receiving their violations, have taken care of their properties immediately without further action being taken by the CPI Department.

After almost a year of being closed due to COVID, the doors of the CPI office are now open from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to answer any questions you have. We are here to help!

The reserve study is still in progress. DMA is wrapping up its report, and a draft should be presented to the Budget and Finance Committee soon. We have received the draft of the bulkheads and roads reports, and so far, no major issues have been reported. I would like to thank all of the department heads who provided updates to the asset register and assisted DMA during the facility visit in April – their knowledge and time with the study has been greatly appreciated!

As mentioned in the spring newsletter, Ocean Pines has developed a central location for all of your questions, concerns, complaints, and general information. **We urge all owners and visitors to contact info@oceanpines.org, or call 410-641-7717 during business hours (410-641-7747 on nights and weekends).** All emails and calls are logged to make sure that we provide exceptional customer service to those who live and visit our great community!

Message from the MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Consent needed for property additions in Ocean Pines wetland areas

If your property contains or borders wetlands, prior to making any additions to your property, you must now submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) a letter describing the proposed project, a site plan showing the addition, your contact information and written consent from the Ocean Pines Association. This information can be mailed to:

**Water and Science Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
ATTN: Amanda Sigillito**

1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230

MDE will review the information and formally determine the presence or absence of regulated resources on the property subject to permitting requirements. If regulated resources are determined to be present on the property, the

resident will be instructed to submit a "Joint Federal/State Application for the Alteration of Any Floodplain, Waterway, Tidal or Nontidal Wetland in Maryland" and the application fee to MDE. Should MDE determine that no regulated resources are present on the property, the resident will be informed in writing that no authorization from the department is required.

Prior to submitting your letter, you may request a pre-application meeting at: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/PreApplicationIntroduction.aspx>. MDE will visit your property to determine the need for a permit. This meeting is free of charge.

If you have any further questions about this process, please contact Amanda Sigillito at MDE: amanda.sigillito@maryland.gov, or by phone at 410-537-3766.

Considering Cremation?

Save Thousands On Cremation Expenses!



**Eastern Shore Cremation
And Funeral Service**
A Division of Holloway Funeral Home

504 Franklin Ave
Berlin, Maryland 21811

*We accept ALL
prearrangements
made at other
cremation providers*

For FREE no obligation information,
please call us at (410) 973-2434
or visit us on-line at www.easternshorecremation.com

Cremation Services From The Low

\$1300's

Providing the area's best cremation value.
Many other cremation value packages to choose from.

Family-Owned, Private Cremation, Not Outsourced... The Difference is Peace of Mind

SIZZLIN' Summer Savings



"We had Mike's install flooring 9 years ago and were so pleased with their tile work that we contacted them again. And once again, we are VERY pleased with the results! ALL of the staff are friendly and professional!" — John & Gina

**AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF
LUXURY VINYL PLANK • CARPET • TILE
HARDWOOD • WINDOW TREATMENTS**

**SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE
WITH ONE OF OUR EXPERIENCED PROJECT MANAGERS**



Get It While It's Hot!
Take Advantage Of Us While You Can

*Mike's
Flooring & Design Center*



"We Measure Each Job With A Golden Rule"

Family Owned & Operated Since 1996

OCEAN BAY PLAZA
Fenwick Island, DE

1-800-298-9470 • 302-537-1899

mikesflooringanddesigncenter.com



**Dreaming Up the Ideal
Retirement Is Your Job.
Helping You Get There Is Ours.**

To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call my office today.



John Bennish
Financial Advisor

11200 Racetrack Road
Suite A102 The Pavilions
Ocean Pines, MD 21811
410-208-9083

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Kiss Your Weeds Goodbye!

WeedPRO
FREE ESTIMATES! 410-742-2973

Enjoy your summer... No More Pulling Weeds!

We offer **GUARANTEED** Season Long **WEED CONTROL**
Or We'll Re-Treat for **FREE!**

- Driveways
- Stone Yards
- Sidewalks & Patios
- Shrub Beds
- Natural Areas
- Parking Lots
- Storage Yards
- Fence Lines
- HOA Community Streets
- Phragmites
- Poison Ivy
- Woody Brush Control
- Wherever weeds are a problem (EXCEPT LAWNS)



Locally
Owned &
Operated
for 45 years

Licensed
& Insured

Certified in
MD, DE & VA

NEW CUSTOMER DISCOUNT

\$25 OFF For First Time Customers

On all orders placed by 9/30/21 • Present Coupon after Free Estimate



John Malinowski

OFF TO A GREAT START FOR SUMMER

The 2021 golf season started much better and more quickly than last year and hopefully we are past the many issues with COVID. The golf course is in great shape, and new Superintendent Justin Hartshorne and his crew are working hard to ensure the course is in the best possible shape for the golfers and to thrive through the

heat of the season.

Summer is a great time to play, and rates for Ocean Pines residents (with an Ocean Pines ID card) and their accompanying guests are \$54 before noon, \$49 from noon-3 p.m. and \$39 after 3 p.m. through Oct. 31. Call 410-641-6057 or visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org for tee times.

Our junior golf program has started strong this summer with our camps selling out by April 30. We opened afternoon camps to help accommodate all the junior golfers on the waiting list. It is fun and exciting to see so many kids learning how to play this game for a lifetime.

The golf shop is 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 do not 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 www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

I'm sure I sound like a broken record, but I'd like to address the issue of walking or riding bikes on the golf course. 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. We continue to have close calls with both adults and kids almost getting hit with golf balls, and I would appreciate your help and adherence to this. I cannot think of anything much more tragic than someone being hit and killed with a golf ball while walking or biking in areas they should not be. Fortunately, this has not happened here yet and hopefully will never happen, but it does happen at golf courses.

See you on the links!



Overlooking the 18th Green & Pond

Open to the Public Daily 8am-6pm

(Days & hours vary seasonally. Kitchen closes at 5pm.)



*Breakfast, Lunch & Drinks
In/Outdoor Dining & Carryout*

Find us on Facebook for info
on specials, live music & more!



410.641.7222 • menu at oceanpinesgolf.org



CLUB FITTINGS CLUB REPAIR INSTRUCTION

at Ocean Pines Golf Club
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Club Fittings

Personally fit clubs to
your swing by ensuring the
correct loft, lie & shaft.

\$50	\$40
Full Set	Irons
\$30	\$20
Woods	Putter

Private Lessons

Determine club path, face angle at
impact, club head speed, distance
& point of contact on the clubface
using our launch monitor.

\$20	\$40	\$70
30min Ages 14 & Under	30min Adult	60min Adult

Club Repair

Professional club repair services
right in Ocean Pines! In-stock or
special-order items available.
Prices don't include cost of grip
or shaft.

\$2	Grip Installation
\$5	Save Grip
\$3	Shorten Shaft
\$5	Lengthen Shaft
\$15	Install Shaft
\$10	Remove Shaft
\$10	Reset Clubhead
\$10	Replace Ferrule
\$10	Change Swing Wt
\$80	Reshaft (Set of 8)

**TO SCHEDULE
OR FOR INFO**

410.641.6057

OP Golf Members' Council announces 2021 scholarships

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council recently awarded five scholarships totaling \$11,000 to local high school seniors.

The scholarship committee of the Golf Members' Council each year honors students who have exhibited an interest in the game of golf, and who demonstrated exemplary academic and extracurricular records.

Bob Long, scholarship committee chairman, said awards are given on behalf of Ocean Pines Golf Club members that support the fund throughout the year.

He said members have raised more than \$35,000 for scholarships over the last six years.

"This year's \$11,000 amount is by far the greatest and reflects the work put in by Scotty Wheatley who, for many years, chaired the Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Scramble that helps raise funds for junior golf programs and scholarships," Long said. "Scotty passed away this past February, and in his memory his friends contributed to the creation on a scholarship in his name."

Long said awards for Worcester Preparatory School students were presented during the school's graduation ceremony.

"The members were disappointed that Stephen Decatur was unable to hold its awards presentation night and are hopeful to present awards in person again, next year," he said.

The 2021 recipients of the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council Scholarships are:

Samantha Herold: Herold will attend West Virginia University. Herold is the 2021 Scotty Wheatley Scholarship winner and was awarded \$2,000.

Todd (T.J.) Bescak: Bescak will attend Arizona State University. Bescak was awarded \$3,000.

Kaden Mault: Mault will attend Indiana University. Mault was awarded \$2,700.

Mason Brown: Brown will attend the University of Miami. Brown was awarded \$2,200.

Ryan Brafman: Brafman will attend Davidson College. Brafman was awarded \$1,100.

OPLGA welcoming new members

The Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association welcomes all women golfers to join the organization for weekly play, tournaments and other events. The group currently meets on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Golf Club membership is not required. Call Ann Shockley at 410-688-1975 or email rexerann@gmail.com for more information.



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

**PenFed
Realty**



Steve Howse
REALTOR®

MD License # 670985
Direct: 571-239-8469
Office: 410-208-3500

**Help You Sell Your Home
or Buy Your Dream Home**

U.S. Naval Academy Graduate
Email: Steve.Howse@PenFedRealty.com

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



We are your Ocean Pines neighbors and now proud to be your local Insurance Agency to help guide you through your home, auto, boat, jet ski, motorcycle, renters, business, and life insurance needs.

PROGRESSIVE

Allstate

Nationwide

TRAVELERS



Mid-Atlantic Insurance Group

Bill Myer
14 Windward Court
Ocean Pines, MD 21811
(Office) 717-630-8800
(Cell/Text) 717-634-0420
(Email) myeragency@gmail.com
(Website) <http://midatlanticinsurancegroupllc.com>





Steve Phillips

Successful management during a pandemic

Ocean Pines Association (OPA) was successful in managing operating expenses during the pandemic, which lasted the duration of FY21. The operating budget yielded a favorable result of \$1.243 million (unaudited) versus the adopted budget. These results are unaudited and are subject to any audit adjustments that may occur.

OPA also just received notice from the Small Business Administration (SBA) that their Paycheck Protection Program loan/grant that was awarded would be fully forgiven. From an accounting standpoint, OPA had made the assumption that the funds, used 100% to fund payroll during the allowed "covered period" as defined per law, would be forgiven. Thus, the funds were classified as revenue during FY22. Now that forgiveness has been granted by the SBA, no adjustments will be required to the financials.

May started off extremely well, as a positive operating variance in excess of \$500,000 was achieved. Approximately half of this favorability is due to membership dues revenue. Management does believe that a portion of this membership revenue favorability will reverse in June 2021 (timing) due to a higher volume of memberships that were purchased early this year, when COVID restrictions were initially eased in April and May. However, management feels that Food and Beverage profits coupled with a portion of the other amenity membership and other revenues is real favorability.

TGM was awarded the contract for audit services in FY21. They have been on site at OPA for a total of nearly three weeks performing audit procedures on our books. They continue to perform certain analysis and procedures remotely, which will then result in the issuance of an audit opinion and financial statements by the mid to end of July.

Finance is also working with the Public Works department, and our outside vendor Design Management Associates Inc. (DMA), to refresh/update our reserve study data via a "level-two" study that was approved by the Board. Once the data is received from DMA, this information will be vetted internally and through the Budget and Finance committee. Of course, the information produced in this study should be frequently examined and updated to ensure that OPA has adequate reserves on hand and continues to contribute sufficient funds each year to these reserves to replace existing assets/infrastructure. This includes reserve funding that is designated for roads, drainage, bulkheads, new capital, and general replacements.



Summary Financial Report

Year-to-Date 5/31/2021

OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY UNAUDITED

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)		
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$9,348	\$9,348	\$0
Grants	5	5	0
Amenities (Net)	1,440	1,070	370
Recreation & Parks	33	24	9
Other fees and Income	91	87	4
Total Revenues	10,917	10,534	383
Less transfers to reserve accounts	(3,239)	(3,236)	(3)
Net Operating Revenues	7,678	7,298	380
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Administration & Management	166	165	(1)
Amenities	418	469	51
Recreation & Parks	45	68	23
Police	124	148	24
Fire / EMS	62	62	0
Public Works / CPI	134	171	37
General Maintenance	47	66	19
Total Operating Expenses	996	1,149	153
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	6,682	6,149	533
TRANSFERS	0	0	0
NET	\$6,682	\$6,149	\$533



BUCKLEY
PROPERTY SERVICES LLC
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL APPRAISALS

Pam Greer Buckley, CCRA

CHIEF APPRAISER, MD/DE LICENSED
OVER 35 YEARS OF LOCAL EXPERIENCE

office@buckleypropertyservices.com

410-524-7123

103 120TH ST. • SUITE B • OCEAN CITY, MD 21842

BUCKLEYPROPERTYSERVICES.COM



**DONNA
FRANKOWSKI**

REALTOR®



Shamrock Realty Group
11049 Racetrack Road,
Ocean Pines, MD 21811



**Extraordinary Real Estate
Service with a Personal Touch!**

Cell (973) 780-7212

Office (410) 641-5000
donnafrankowski.com
donnafrankowski@gmail.com



ratemyagent



Look me up for verified reviews!

**Feeling
Stuck?**

**NOW HIRING
Service Plumbers!**

Serving Worcester & Sussex Counties

*In a Sea of Ordinary, Choose **Extraordinary!***

**Seaside™
PLUMBING**



Drain Cleaning • Fixtures • Sewers
Garbage Disposals • Sump Pumps
Tub & Shower Replacements
Trenchless Water Mains • Gas Piping Repair / Install
Well Pump Repair / Replace • Water Heaters

Local. Honest. Affordable. Award-Winning. 410-600-7470 SeasidePlumbingInc.com

MD #67879
DE #2321

**ONLY
BRAZILIAN BLOWOUT™**

**CORRECTS
SUMMER DAMAGE**

**PROTECTS
AGAINST COOL
WEATHER FRIZZ**

**CUTS
STYLING TIME**

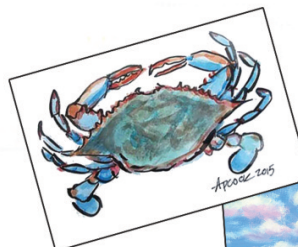
**PREVENTS
DRY BRITTLE
STRANDS**

Headlines Salon

410-208-0300
www.HeadlinesSalonAndSpa.com



**ADCOCK
ART STUDIO**
Jim Adcock - Artist



**Matted Prints and Notecards available at
Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park**

Local Art / Original Paintings / Prints / Illustrations / House Portraits
Commissions Welcome!

Etsy

jimadcock12@gmail.com / www.adcockstudio.com



410-726-2440

Find us on
Facebook



Chief Leo Ehrisman

Current updates and operations

OCEAN PINES POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS: The full-service, 24-hour-a-day operation of the Ocean Pines Police Department remains available to respond to the needs and calls for service. Service calls include, but are not limited to, motor vehicle accidents, burglar alarms, noise complaints, domestic disturbance calls, and drug and alcohol issues.

SCAM / FRAUD: Scams such as phone calls for fake contest winners and contract services have increased in the area. Identity theft and other issues sometimes are attributed to lost wallets, cell phones and other devices that may contain your personal information.

ARRESTS: Since our last report, police made several arrests related to assault, child abuse and drug abuse laws, which include weapons charges and handgun violations. Several warrant services for subjects located here have outstanding warrants in other states or jurisdictions.

DRUG & ALCOHOL ISSUES: Ocean Pines has also seen

an increase in the number of drug overdose calls in the recent months. The police are here to help anyone battling the addiction of any drugs or alcohol to prevent these accidental overdoses. The police are now connected with the LEAD team, which will become a large, faster link to resources to return to a normal, healthier life.

INCREASING POPULATION & VISITORS: The police would like to ask for your help in reporting activity as it occurs. Little or no police action can be taken on an event that is reported the day after a disturbance has happened. Noise complaints, traffic and parking issues can only be addressed if the violation is reported as it happens. These complaints increase as the summer is upon us.

IN CLOSING: Ocean Pines Police would like to thank everyone for the strong show of support from this community during these stressful times. "Worcester Backs the Blue," as well as other organizations like the American Legion, have been a great support to the local emergency responders.

Please remember that the police in your community not only work cases, respond to calls and enforce traffic laws, they are here to help you, serve you, and care for you and your families, as well as your property.

Be proud of our officers and employees as they continue to serve and protect you.

Worcester Backs the Blue

Worcester Backs the Blue, whose mission is to raise morale and show support for Worcester County's law enforcement officers, recently hosted a picnic lunch in White Horse Park for the Ocean Pines Police Department. Food was provided and prepared by Mission BBQ.



Expect the Best

Plumbing • Heating • Cooling

- ★ Over 25 Years Experience
- ★ All Quotes Up-Front and In Writing
- ★ 100% Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed
- ★ Maintenance Agreements
- ★ Financing Available

\$50 off

ANY SERVICE

OVER \$200*

OCEAN PINES BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2016

5StarPHC.com

Locally Owned & Operated by Joe & Vicki Magnolia

TOLL FREE 888-785-8088

*Not valid with other offers or on previous purchases. Promo code 04290. See Company Representative for specific details that apply. MD Lic. HVAC #532. MD Lic. Plumber/Natural Gas Fitter #18135.

American Legion awards Police Officer of the Year

Ocean Pines Police Officer John Pianka was recently recognized as Officer of the Year by American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, Ocean City, Maryland. Pictured, from left, are Ocean Pines Chief of Police Leo Ehrisman and Pianka.



Ocean Pines named 'Safest City'

Ocean Pines, while technically a homeowner's association, was recently named as the "safest city" in Maryland by website Safewise.

Safewise uses FBI crime statistics and U.S. Census data to determine its rankings.

According to the site, the violent crime rate in Ocean Pines has dropped in each of the last three years, from 1.7 per 1,000 people in 2019, to 1.1 per 1,000 in 2020, and 0.7 per 1,000 in 2021.

Ocean Pines moved up one spot in the Safewise ranking from last year, when Taneytown was named the safest community in Maryland.

The only other local city on the top-ten list was Berlin, at number six. Other Eastern Shore communities ranked included Easton (#17), Fruitland (#26), Salisbury (#34) and Ocean City (#38).

"I am glad to have Ocean Pines back in the number-one slot," Police Chief Leo Ehrisman said. "We would like to thank the homeowners for being so involved in reporting suspicious activity early and assisting with activity information recorded on their home surveillance systems. The community can only remain at this level of safety with the help of the public.

"We thank the public for the involvement and the support they bring to the police, which again keeps the officers connected to the public, and the public connected to the Police," he added.

General Manager John Viola credited the challenging and tireless work by Ehrisman and his entire department.

"Our Police Department continues to make our community one of the safest in the region, and their new state-of-the-art facility, opened last year, should serve Ocean Pines for many years to come," he said.

To view the full report, visit www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-maryland.



Jan Castner
Associate Broker

Your Home Sold
GUARANTEED
Or I'll Buy It!™



Every Agent Will **"Promise"** to Sell Your Home
Jan Castner - GUARANTEES IT!

Hear How My Guarantee Works with a FREE
Recorded Message: 1-844-247-8982 enter ID # 1072

INFORMATION CORNER from "INDUSTRY INSIDER EXPERTS"

Valuable FREE Reports for Buyers and Sellers mailed to you at no cost or obligation.

Call anytime 24/7 **1-844-294-1494** and enter the ID#
of the FREE information that you would like to receive.

FOR SELLERS

- 11 HOME INSPECTION PITFALLS** - Learn about these common & costly traps BEFORE you list your home for sale.....ID#2003
- AVOID THE "CATCH 22"** - If you buy a home before selling your present home, you could run the risk of owning 2 homes when you try to sell your present home.....ID#2022
- WHY DIDN'T YOUR HOME SELL?** - If your home didn't sell here's 4 Reasons why.....ID#1012
- FIND OUT WHAT AREA HOMES ARE SELLING FOR** - Receive a FREE computerized hotlist of recent home sales & current listings.....ID#1041
- 24 QUICK & EASY HOME FIXUPS** - Learn how to sell your home FAST & for TOP DOLLAR.....ID#2523

(*Jan and Seller Must Agree on Price and Possession)



FOR BUYERS

- 13 EXTRA COSTS TO BEWARE OF WHEN YOU BUY A HOME** - Extra Fees, Additional Unforeseen Cost to avoid.....ID#2014
- 6 COSTLY MISTAKES WHEN BUYING A LARGER HOME** - Get informed before you commit to a larger home.....ID#2007
- DIVORCE & YOUR HOME** - Unfortunate but beware what can happen to YOUR Home!.....ID#2009
- HOMES WHERE SELLER PAYS CLOSINGS COSTS** - Receive a FREE List of Homes where Seller Can Help Pay All or Part of Your Closing Costs.....ID#2305
- 9 COMMON HOME BUYER TRAPS** - How to avoid these costly common traps that could cost you the home of your dreams.....ID#1018

Shamrock Realty Group

11049 Racetrack Rd., Ocean Pines, MD

O: 410-610-5000 M: 410-246-4935



www.shamrockrealtygroup.com

- Real Estate Sales
- Year Round Rentals
- Vacation Rentals (NEW in 2021!)
- Local Real Estate Market Reports
- Licensed Agents in MD & DE



VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

call 410-641-5000



Office Hours

M-F: 10am - 4pm

S-S: by appt.



conveniently located on Rte 589 next to PNC Bank

It's Your Lucky Day!

Shamrock Realty Group, Inc. is locally owned and operated. Shamrock Realty Group, Inc. and all of our licensed agents are members of the National Association of REALTORS®.





Debbie Donahue

SUMMER TIME IN OP

We're back!!! The Recreation and Parks Department is back in business and we are so excited!

Summer is filled with Family Fun Night, Concerts in the Park, summer camps, a July 4 carnival and fireworks, and miscellaneous special events. Lots of fun and sunshine!

The Farmers & Artisans Market The Farmers & Artisans Market is open on Saturdays and growing in vendors each week. It has started its summer hours of 8 a.m.-1 p.m., so please come out and enjoy the different vendors and keep up that healthy eating.

The Pine'er Artisan Gift Shop is open Saturdays and Sundays. This beautiful new store holds many handmade products and is the perfect place to find something for that special someone, or maybe that perfect something just for

you. Stop by and enjoy the items, and say "hi" to the lovely ladies who make the items in the store. **Be sure to stop by the Craft Fair on Aug. 7.** Multiple vendors will be set up outside in White Horse Park and at the Community Center.

The Yacht Club Marina fuel dock is open and serving many customers already this summer with boating needs such as fuel, oil, ice, bait, ice cream and drinks. Check out the merchandise they have for sale and sport your new Ocean Pines Marina sweatshirt, hat or t-shirt. The staff at the Marina are fun, friendly and are happy to help you and share some fun (fish) conversations. Fuel dock hours are now 6 a.m.-6 p.m. *Read the marina 'Meet the Team' article on pgs. 38-39.*

Stop by the **Recreation and Parks Department** any time to pick up flyers, ask questions, or just to say "hi." We are there Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Look for a new Activity Guide to come out in August with all things fall and winter happening with Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks.**

I look forward to seeing everyone again and being able to enjoy the summer fun!

SPECIAL EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

New! SHOREBIRDS NIGHT

Wed, AUG 21 • 7:05pm • Perdue Stadium

Enjoy a fun night & cheer on the Shorebirds as they take on the Fredericksburg Nationals! Plus, fireworks!

TICKETS: \$9/person, Children 3 & under are Free!*

Concerts in the Park

THURSDAYS thru AUG 19 • 7-9pm
White Horse Park Pavilion

JUL 8	On the Edge	AUG 5	Rip Tide
JUL 15	Sons of Pirates	AUG 12	Still Rockin'
JUL 22	British Invasion	AUG 19	Barren Creek
JUL 29	Hung Jury		

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS thru AUG 18 • 6pm-8pm
Yacht Club Pool

DJ, fun games & prizes each week. Food available (\$).

ADMISSION FEE: Swim Member \$3

(must show membership card); Resident \$5;

Non-Resident \$7; (Only persons swimming pay a fee.)

Swim coupons or pool receipts do NOT grant admission.

BIG TRUCK DAY

Sat SEPT 18 • 10am-2pm • Open Field Between
The Sports Core Pool & Veterans Memorial Park

Fire trucks, dump trucks, tow trucks, tractor trailers,
tractors & much more! Food available (\$).

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

New playground officially opens

A group of neighborhood children and their families joined Ocean Pines and local officials on May 10 for a ribbon cutting ceremony at Robin Hood Park.

Attendees included Maryland Del. Wayne Hartman, Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone, Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue, members of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, and Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce President Kerrie Bunting.

The ceremony officially opened a brand-new playground at the park, on Robin Hood Trail in Ocean Pines.

The brightly colored playground features several slides, monkey bars, a small rock-climbing wall, and a swing set.

Perrone did the honors in cutting the ribbon.

"First of all, I want to thank Debbie for all the hard work she's done," Perrone said.

He also thanked Public Works for demolishing the old structure and preparing the grounds for the new one, and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee for recommending the playground replacement.

"And, of course, we want to thank all of the kids here for coming out to help us do the ribbon cutting," Perrone said.

"And they're going to take real good care of our playground!" Donahue added.



JOIN US!

SATURDAYS 9am-1pm
AT THE
OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
 WHITE HORSE PARK
 239 Ocean Pkwy • OCEAN PINES, MD

OR CALL FOR CATERING
640-306-3035

Big Ricky's
 HOT DOGS

BIGRICKYSHOTDOGS

BH HS
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
 HomeServices
 PenFed Realty

11001 Manklin Meadows Ln.
 Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811

John Talbott, ABR REALTOR®
 Associate Broker

Cell: 410.603.7373 Fax: 410.208.3501
 Office: 410.208.3500 TF: 866.666.1727

JohnTalbott7@gmail.com
<http://john.talbott.penfedrealty.com>

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

We make it easy to fit *banking* into your busy schedule.

NOW OPEN 26th Street Ocean City

The Bank Of Delmarva

West Ocean City North Ocean City 26th Street Ocean City

www.bankofdelmarva.com

FDIC

EST. 1896

BEST 2021

Newsweek

Sales, Service & Install
 Residential &
 Light Commercial

NORTH STAR
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

HVAC • Comfort Control
 Radiant Heat System
 Mitsubishi® Ductless Units
 Geothermal Heat Pumps

Make Sure Your Home is Ready for the Coming Seasons

24-HR EMERGENCY SERVICE

bryant
 Heating & Cooling Systems

northstar-hvac.com
FREE ESTIMATES 410-289-2500

American Standard
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Local & Family Owned • OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE • 100% Financing Available

VISA

MasterCard

AMERICAN EXPRESS

DISCOVER

CASH

PERSONAL CHECK



OPEN FOR SUMMER!

We're super excited to have all the pools open for the summer without capacity restrictions, and it's been wonderful to see everyone in person again.

Our four outdoor pools officially opened for the season on May 29 and will remain open through Sept. 6, pending staff availability.

The indoor Sports Core Pool remains open throughout the year. It will be closed for annual cleaning Aug. 23 through Sept. 6.

As we get busy again, please pay attention to your lifeguards on duty and always enter the pool feet first, the first time you get in. A full list of pool rules are posted on the Ocean Pines website, under the Aquatics tab: <https://oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics>.

Aquatics staff are also ramping up for fall programs, and outdoor aerobics are planned for July.

Please stay tuned to the Ocean Pines website, oceanpines.org for a full list of our upcoming programs, and information about all five of our pools.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Summer Programs

For rates & more info, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics

EARLY BIRD LAP SWIM (M-F, 6:00-7:50am)

DATES: JUL 5-AUG 13, AUG 16-SEP 24

AQUA YOGA (W, F, 7:00am-7:50am OR 8:00am-8:45am)

DATES: JUL 14-AUG 20, AUG 31-OCT 7

SHALLOW & DEEP WATER SWIMMIN WIMMIN

(M, W, F, 8:00am-8:50am) DATES: JUL 19-AUG 27

WET WORKS I (M, W, F, 9:30am-10:20am)

DATES: JUL 5-AUG 13

WET WORKS II (Tu, Th, 9:30am-10:20am)

DATES: JUL 6-AUG 12

CREAKY JOINTS I (M, W, F, 11:00am-11:50am)

DATES: JUL 5-AUG 13

CREAKY JOINTS II (Tu, Th 11:00am-11:50am)

DATES: JUL 6-AUG 12

SHAPE UPS (Tu, Th, 8:00am-8:50am)

DATES: JULY 6 -AUG 5

TOTAL BODY FITNESS I (M, W, F, 10:00-10:45am)

DATES: JUL 12-AUG 20, SEP 8-OCT 18

TOTAL BODY FITNESS II (Tu, Th, 9:00am-9:45am)

DATES: JUL 13-AUG 24, SEP 7-OCT 14 (No Class 8/5)

AQUA CROSS TRAINING (Tu, Th, 7:00am-7:45am)

DATES: JUL 27-SEP 16

BOOT CAMP (M, W, F, 6:00-6:45pm)

DATES: JUL 27-SEP 16

WATER AEROBICS (T, Th, 7:00am-7:45am)

DATES: JUL 20-AUG 26

HYDRORIDER CLASSES

(Tu, Th, 9:00am-9:45am or 10:00-10:35am) JUL 6-AUG 12

(M, W 9:00am-9:40am) JUL 26-SEP 13 (No Class 8/23-9/6)

Brenda Archer-Nichols
CRS, GRI, REALTOR®
Licensed in MD
410.430.5117 Cell
410.524.6400 Office
410.641.7040 Private Fax

kw
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
barcher@mchsi.com
6200 Coastal Highway, Suite 101
Ocean City, MD 21842

Ayers Creek Adventures

Area's Premier Paddle Sport and Ecotour Outfitter
KAYAK, CANOE & SUP RENTALS
Paddling Instruction • Guided Ecotours

Exclusive Access to Calm, Scenic Ayers Creek

KAYAK DELIVERY TO YOUR DOCK OR DOOR for Daily & Weekly Rentals
443.513.0889 AyersCreekAdventures.com

Family owned & operated

Ocean Pines & OC Chamber Member

How lawn clippings can be harmful to our canals

The committee was recently alerted by a conscientious property owner of her concern about people on her canal blowing lawn clippings and yard waste into the water. While a few leaves will naturally fall into the water, as homeowners we should be mindful not to upset nature's balance. Leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste should never be blown into or dumped into our canals. Yard waste, grass clippings, leaves, pet droppings, etc., when put in the canals, begin to decompose and use up the critical, life-giving oxygen in the water. In addition, the water can become unsightly and release a foul odor.

Yard waste can also "super-fertilize" and can lead to algae blooms and fish kills. Over time, that part of water may become a hypoxic zone (a place where no other organisms can survive because of extremely low dissolved oxygen levels).

Yard waste should be mulched (clear of the water), composted, or set out with the trash. Pet waste should always be bagged and placed in the trash. If you are using a lawn service, please make sure they adhere to these commonsense guidelines.

Please keep the water that surrounds us clean.

What is cyanobacteria, more commonly known as blue-green algae, and why is it important to evaluate it?

When cyanobacteria degrade, they may release algal toxins that can be harmful to aquatic and human life. One such algal toxin (also known as a cyanotoxin) is microcystin. Although there are relatively few documented cases of severe human health effects, exposure to cyanobacteria or their toxins may produce allergic reactions such as skin rashes, eye irritations, respiratory symptoms, and in some cases gastroenteritis, liver and kidney failure or death. The most likely pathway to exposure for humans is through accidental ingestion or inhalation during recreational activities in the waterbody.

What can cyanobacteria tell us about the condition of water?

Cyanobacteria can tell us about how safe a waterbody is for recreational use. When high levels of cyanobacteria are present in a waterbody, the biological condition of the water resource may also be degraded, as the condition that allows for cyanobacterial growth is typically high in nutrients and low in dissolved oxygen. Large cyanobacteria blooms may also affect benthic macroinvertebrates and submerged aquatic plants due to decreased light penetration.

How human activities increase the occurrence of cyanobacterial blooms

There is widespread agreement within the scientific community that the

incidence of Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) is increasing both in the U.S. and worldwide. This recent increase in the occurrence of HABs has been attributed to increasing anthropogenic activities and their interaction with factors known to contribute to the growth of cyanobacterial blooms.

Point sources (which may include discharges from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants, concentrated animal feeding operations [CAFOs], Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems [MS4s], stormwater associated with industrial activity, and other) and non-point sources (which may include diffuse runoff from agricultural fields, roads and stormwater) may be high in nitrogen and phosphorus and can promote or cause excessive fertilization (eutrophication) of both flowing and non-flowing waters.

Causes of cyanobacterial blooms

Both physical and chemical factors contribute to the formation and persistence of cyanobacterial blooms in freshwater systems, including:

1. Light availability
2. Water temperature
3. Alteration of water flow
4. Vertical mixing
5. pH changes
6. Nutrient loading (both nitrogen and phosphorus)
7. Trace metals

Because of the interplay of these factors, there may be large temporal fluctuations in the levels of cyanobacteria and their toxins in predominating species that occur largely on seasonal time scales. Specifically, the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus, organic matter availability, temperature, and light attenuation, likely play an interactive role in determining corresponding HAB composition and toxin production.

In order to resolve these occurrences, we need to determine the "green scums" identity so we can resolve this issue to the best of our ability. It will require obtaining the services of the State of Maryland to determine the necessary information to resolve this issue.



Cyanobacterial Bloom - Monponsett Pond, MA
(Photo by Edward Broderick)



Algal bloom in Lake Binder, Iowa
(Photo by Dr. Jennifer Graham, USGS)



North Gate Ocean Pines
May 8, 2021

Spending referendum passes

Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone, during a Board meeting on May 15, announced that a referendum to set the spending limit to \$1 million without an additional referendum had passed.

The Elections Committee announced the referendum vote totals one day prior.

According to the Elections Committee's manual count, there were 2,531 votes in favor of the referendum and 1,358 votes not in favor.

Ocean Pines bylaws, last revised on Aug. 9, 2008, had included a spending threshold without a referendum of 20% of the income derived from annual charges, or about \$1.8 million based on collections during fiscal year 2020-2021.

"I want to take just a second to thank the Elections Committee for the hard work that they did throughout this process," Perrone said, adding the committee manually counted votes on Friday, May 14 from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

"They did an outstanding job," Perrone said. "I want to thank [Elections Committee Chairman] Steve Habeger and his team for a job well done."

WATCH
YouTube.com
/c/OceanPines
Association!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wed, JULY 21 - 7pm

Regular board meetings are held in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. **Watch meetings on Channel 78, on our YouTube Channel or stream videos at OceanPines.org.**
To view meeting agendas, board packets, monthly financials & more, visit: oceanpines.org/web/pages/board-of-directors.

OCEAN PINES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.



NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY FREE TRAINING

**THE OPVFD IS ACTIVELY RECRUITING FOR VOLUNTEER:
FIREFIGHTERS (18+) AND CADETS (AGES 14-18)**

LEARN MORE AT WWW.OPVFD.COM AND DOWNLOAD YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!
911 OCEAN PARKWAY, OCEAN PINES, MD 21811 410-641-8272

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.



Ocean Pines Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT
(TERM 2019-2022)

Larry Perrone

443-513.1407

lperrone@oceanpines.org



VICE PRESIDENT
(TERM 2020-2023)

Dr. Colette Horn

443-791.7724

chorn@oceanpines.org



SECRETARY
(TERM 2019-2022)

Camilla Rogers

410.409.9168

crogers@oceanpines.org



TREASURER
(TERM 2020-2023)

Doug Parks

443-397.3077

dparks@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 2020-2021)

Frank Brown

443-506-5645

fbrown@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



We're by your side so you or your loved one can stay at *home.*

Home Instead.
To us, it's personal

Call (410) 641-0901 or visit HomeInstead.com/734
Locally Owned and Operated

PERSONAL CARE | MEALS & NUTRITION | MEMORY CARE | HOSPICE SUPPORT

Each Home Instead® franchise is independently owned and operated. © 2021 Home Instead, Inc. • License#3740

Atlantic General Women's Health Center

During COVID, keeping up with your health screenings is just as important as ever.

At AGH Women's Health Center, we offer screening services in a safe, convenient and comfortable environment. They include:

- 3D mammography
- Ultrasound
- Bone densitometry

Our women's health services are built around you! For more information and pricing, please visit agh.care/WomensHealth.



© 2021 Atlantic General Hospital. All rights reserved.

Atlantic General Women's Health Center – Women's Imaging

12308 Ocean Gateway, Unit 5
West Ocean City
Phone: 443-728-1090

agh.care/WomensHealth

KEEP YOUR FAMILY COMFY ALL YEAR!



- ✓ HEATING
- ✓ VENTILATION
- ✓ AIR CONDITIONING
- ✓ ELECTRICAL



CALL TODAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SPECIAL OFFERS! **(443) 397-6161** AdvancedClimateCareLLC.com

\$250 OFF
NEW SYSTEM
INSTALLATION

10-YEAR
PARTS AND LABOR
WARRANTY ON ALL
NEW INSTALLATIONS

100% FREE
ESTIMATES

10% OFF
ALL SERVICE &
TUNE-UPS FOR
VETERANS & SENIORS

OPA Board candidates provide statements

Candidates for the 2021 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.

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

For election information, news and key dates in the process, see the front cover. **VOTE by August 11 by 4 p.m.**



Frank Daly

Address: 834 Ocean Parkway

Phone: 410-790-2677

Email: Fdaly73228@gmail.com

Introductory statement

My wife Irene and I moved to Ocean Pines in 2013 and are involved in a number of community organizations. I was elected to the Board in August 2018.

My 40+ Year career includes Senior Management & Board Level Assignments. I have a MS Degree in Engineering, a MBA (Finance/Marketing) and attended the Wharton Executive Development Program.

I have served on the Executive Committees of four companies, the Board of Directors of a HOA and two major university consortiums (Cal-Berkeley & Arizona State). I am President of Jordan Frank Associates, an executive recruiting firm.

I have used my experience and conservative financial approach with the specific objective of improving management and keeping your assessment low and stable. During my tenure your assessment has increased ten dollars. In the same time period, we have rebuilt aging facilities, repaid 2.1 million in losses from the Hill/Bailey era, strengthened homeowner protections and value, improved our amenities, and introduced Comcast to the community.

My core values of honesty, integrity and independence focus my efforts not on special political interests, only yours, the homeowner.

I am asking for your vote to continue my work to improve the community, our infrastructure and its management. Thank You.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

1. To ensure that the gains made over the past three years are sustainable into the future.

Over the past three years assessments have been low and stable. Our facilities are in good working order. The amenities provide good service and quality. And

significant progress has been made in making sure all amenities are running at a break even or better and contributing to assessment reductions, not increases. That progress needs to be locked into our operating mentality so that it continues in the future. We need to make sure that processes are in place to continue this progress from Board to Board and GM to GM. Regressing to past performance levels is not an option.

2. Drainage. 2818 homes in OP have some type of drainage problem. Addressing these problems while maintaining a stable, low assessment is a major challenge. Our budgeting and operational improvements have enabled management to increase the budget for drainage programs from \$31,500 in 2019 to the current \$900,000 level. Successfully executing priority 1 would make an additional \$473,000 available for drainage without increasing the base assessment. This needs to be a major focus over the next three years.

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

Our Budgeting and Finance processes are strong. During my tenure on the Board, I have worked with management to improve these processes. As a result, we have been able to repay a \$2.1 million loss from the Hill/Bailey era while rebuilding aging facilities, maintaining bulkheads and increasing spending on drainage projects. While doing this the base assessment has increased only \$10 over the last three years.

Our financial position is excellent. At the end of the fiscal year, we had \$15,502,307 in cash and investments.

We can do better. As most realize the current pandemic significantly impacted amenities last season.

Three amenities showed a net operating loss of \$472,844. Eliminating these losses would reduce the base assessment by \$56. That needs to be a major focus in the upcoming year.

We also need to continue to strengthen our budgeting and internal controls. Accuracy and timeliness are paramount. The forensic audit conducted in 2019 showed no crime but weak financial controls within the organization. The GM and Board aggressively addressed

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

these issues and strong controls have been implemented. We need continual focus on making sure they are followed to prevent any possibility of criminal infiltration resulting in fraud, theft or corruption.

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

I bring Proven Performance. Candidates run on promises. Incumbents run on their record.

My commitment has been on improving our amenities, finances, infrastructure and keeping our assessments low and stable.

The results have been base assessments of \$986, \$986 and \$996. A \$10 increase over three years.

An inherited operating deficit of \$2,100,000 (\$248 assessment impact per lot owner) from the Hill/Bailey years has been eliminated.

Old, delapidated facilities have been replaced. All facilities are now in good operating order.

Our amenities provide quality service and value. F&B operations have moved from Hill/Bailey losses approaching \$1,000,000 to profitability.


Our infrastructure programs for bulkheads and roads are now on schedule.

Budgets for drainage programs have increased from

\$32,000 to \$900,000.

My education, experience, drive and commitment to work with fellow Board members and the GM have made this possible.

As a Board member confronted with a problem you have three choices—address, ignore or kick it down the road. When a homeowner raises a problem, I engage them and address their problem. I have engaged homeowners that have approached me with problems and have addressed these issues in a consistent, professional manner. And will continue to do so if re-elected.



Baby Boomer Insurance

OF MARYLAND

An independent agency helping an independent generation

Which **MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLAN** is right for you?

- We can help you **COMPARE RATES** and **BENEFITS** of the major insurance companies and **UNDERSTAND** your options
- No Fee or add on charge to the rates
- Personalized service

410-208-1154 • 800-822-6033

Lynne F. McAllorum, LUTCF, LTCP, CSA Owner/Agent

www.BabyBoomerInsuranceofMD.com





Again for the Summer of 2021

Discounts up to 33%

for Ocean Pines Guests and Owners!

Available at the Community Center.



- Free Parking
- Unlimited Amusement Rides
- Armbands Good at Both Locations



#myjollysummer

At The Pier & 30th St. & Coastal Hwy 410.289.3477 www.jollyrogerpark.com



Stuart Lakernick

Address: 9 Widows Watch Ct.

Phone: 215-869-6343

Email: bakfixer@aol.com

Mailing Address:

811 Henry Ave.

Langhorne, PA 19047

Introductory statement

I have been a chiropractor and functional neurologist for the past 30 years and owning my own practice enabled me to develop essential business skills. During my successful career I had the opportunity to provide professional services to people of all economic and ethnic backgrounds.

This diverse environment enabled me to develop strong listening and communication skills and to treat everyone with respect and kindness. If elected, as your new member of the board I will bring proven leadership, experience in financial management, customer care and problem solving.

During the past year we witnessed some troubling events unfold. For example a member had to take legal action against the board and the court ruled in his favor. Our star employee resigned because of how she was treated in the workplace. Do you want this to stop? This year, perhaps more than ever before, who you elect will determine the long-term success of Ocean Pines! I will represent full and part-time homeowners equally and work hard to make necessary improvements to our board.

I wish to thank the 1050 members who voted for me last year and I ask for your vote again. And to other members please vote for me this time.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

My top two priorities are to continue to work on the community's drainage issues and to improve our employees' morale. On drainage we should continue to look for grant money from the state and the county, just like what was done successfully for the Bainbridge pond project. This was a great start and an important step to improving the appearance of our community. My other priority is to focus on the employees' morale by improving the work environment where necessary. We need to make sure we retain our best employees by making required changes. Whatever priorities the board adopts should be done with full transparency between the members and the board. Ultimately we all work for you, the Ocean Pines homeowner.

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

Let me start by saying that we as association members are shareholders in our company. I know that we are an

HOA, not a stock company, but our investment makes us pseudo shareholders. We all bought in when we moved here. A couple years ago under our previous GM we utilized an assessment driven top down model for our budgeting needs. That approach got us in some financial difficulty. We did not do the due diligence with our building and infrastructure maintenance which resulted in us having to spend more on replacement. We abandoned this with our current GM to a bottom up approach utilizing our department heads to come up with the budget. This way they are accountable for their individual budgets. This present model has been successful. The only way that I see that we can improve this is to maintain this approach. I voted yes and was glad to see the referendum pass. Any spending controls that we can put in place are positive. This way we, the community, can keep our board accountable.

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

Proven leadership, problem solving talent, and excellent management skills. I have been in practice and have successfully managed my business for 30 years. An entrepreneur stays in business this long by knowing what to do well, how to manage risks and by recruiting and investing in the best employees. I know how to deal with different personalities, be fiscally responsible, how to balance a budget, how to communicate well, and search for the right talent. One of my great strengths is the ability to see the gifts other people possess and put them to their best use. I am a natural leader. My leadership style revolves around giving people autonomy to make decisions and holding them accountable when necessary.

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



It's All About The Birds ...& More!

**Check out our
selection of
Unique Gift Items
for the yard & home.**

Gift Certificates Available!

410-208-1479

info@gotomybackyard.com

11312 Manklin Creek Rd.
Unit 1B (South Gate)
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

BIRD SEED • BIRD HOUSES

Bird Feeders • Bird Baths

Local Honey • Garden Flags

& Much More

Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events!



David C. Hardy

Address: 1 Seagrave Lane

Phone: 410-688-0268

Email: Dhardy0715@aim.com

Mailing Address:

89 Van Weaver Dr.

Northeast, MD 21901

Introductory statement

I am a qualified materials engineer, systems engineer and physical scientist. Reviewing my background, one will find I have proven to be an extremely versatile individual, being able to acquire skill-sets quickly in order to successfully address all assigned responsibilities. I have worked in the electronic-ceramics industry, metals industry, petro-chemical industry, US military and federal government. In total, I have worked in private industry, for near 30 years, where I was part of a number of small start-up businesses and even started my own business at one time. I am a retired US Army Officer. My military service included near seven years on active-service and over 14 years as an active reservist. I need add, that I served in command positions for over 11 of these years in a number of US and overseas locations. Currently, I am a civilian Federal employee working in Engineer and Program Management, credited for over 18 years of service. I always try to participate in my community. I served at town level as a Framingham, MA Town Meeting Council member. I volunteer to support my community. I have been a volunteer Firefighter, volunteer emergency medical responder and most recently serving as Fire Police.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

Recently two issues have been discussed by residents and occupied much of the agenda of OPA board meetings. These are the Federal Payroll Protection Funds loan and issues concerning short-term rentals. The former issues relate to the relative independence that the board has in

spending funds without first involving and receiving concurrence of all Ocean Pines residents. My issue is that all budget items must be fully transparent and have acceptance through the ballot prior to any major budget action. My action will be to work towards policy where any budget is fully approved by the residents before any commitments are made by the board.

The second priority involving short-term rentals needs to be resolved. The County has zoning rules which apparently are not always followed by a very small minority of Ocean Pines residents. My intent will not be to create another set of rules and oversight boards, but instead to find a working balance to assist the County in ensuring that existing policies are being followed.

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

It seems that budget activities occur in such manner which are not fully transparent to residents. There needs to be a balance between first getting resident approval and expeditiously moving forward with capital endeavors. It's all too easy to lose sight of the fact that monies collected from residents from fees, etc. is not the property of the OCA. Instead, it remains the resident's money. Policies need to be established that insure that all residents feel that they have a meaningful say in how their money is spent in support of our community.

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

I am highly educated in technology, personnel management and contracts and acquisition. I believe that these and my life experiences bring additional diversity in approach and thought to the board.

Personally, I have learned how to listen, make the decisions which need to be made, while respecting those with different opinions.



IT'S OFFICIALLY HURRICANE SEASON.

If an outage occurs, here's how to report it:

- Via SmartHub Web or App.
- By calling the Outage Reporting Line at 1-800-410-4790.
- Text "CHOPTANK" to subscribe for Outage Texting.
Text "OUT" to report your outage.

www.choptankelectric.coop/storm-center





Download
SmartHub
today!





Richard Farr

Address: 21 Birdnest Dr.

Phone: 410-390-1425

Email: Hrstallion82@gmail.com

Introductory statement

I am Rick Farr, and I would be honored to serve the Ocean Pines community as your next Director.

As a property owner since 1999, the Ocean Pines community is dear to my heart and is where I plan to retire. I am a father and grandfather that grew up in Bowie, Maryland before deciding to serve this great country. I am a retired USAF combat veteran serving this great country for close to 25 years; currently a human resource executive for an IT/Cyber firm in DC working remote. With over 35 years' experience as a human resource executive and serving on many executive boards in both military and corporate environments, I know the value of people, their talents, and their voices. While there will be disagreements, having a high level of integrity, I value the importance of open communication and being respectful to others to achieve common goals which is at the best interest of ALL the people we serve. If elected to serve our community, I pledge to listen to ALL our residents (PT & FT) with respect and take forward recommendations that are at the best interest of our community not individuals. Proud to service you!

If elected, what would be your top two priorities?

Ensure that all the infighting among our current OPA Directors stops immediately. The infighting has cost our Ocean Pines residents thousands of dollars in legal fees which could have gone to much needed projects such as beautification of our neighborhoods and/or upgrading some of our amenities and services. It is OK to disagree with each other's position on specific agenda items, but the best boards have a clear sense of shared purpose, communicate effectively even when they have healthy disagreements about the best course of action. Knowing that board members have the best interests of the Ocean Pines residents at heart leads to great team spirit among the board team. I will propose to analyze the board's composition, skills, leadership, and diversity and openly assess the need to recruit directors that have the best interest of our community first and be prepared to have frank conversations about succession planning, so our board remains effective in serving our community. As part of this analysis, the board will evaluate its own composition, including how it communicates effectively to the residents, its leadership, and effectiveness, to determine whether it aligns with the OPA objectives.

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

The OPA Budget and Finances are now operating efficiently and effectively. Transitioning a few years back from the "Top Down" to a "Bottom Up" approach has been most effective in reviewing the budget and needs to be sustained. This gives all directors clear review on any proposed budgets and to provide recommendations on how we need to allocate our finances for current and future expenses to include earmarking future capital expense projects. My recommendation is to continue the way the budget and finances are currently being reviewed and approved by the directors for proper oversight.

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

Currently I am an executive in human capital management with over 30+ years of progressive leadership in human resource management and organizational development in the military and corporate environments. I partner with the senior executive team and board of directors to develop and build out multiple key initiatives and programs that are aligned with the company's business plans and strategic objectives. It is my responsibility to promote transparent communication and to work with and alongside executives, senior staff, and line operations staff to implement strategic business solutions to mitigate risk and improve productivity to increase revenue. I currently manage staff and multiple projects to foster cross-functional communication and collaboration with high levels of integrity and deliver to a vast variety of internal and external audiences. My board position with my current employer is co-chair for the compensation committee, IT steering committee (voting member), and board search committee (voting member). Previous experience - board member for United Way and YMCA, Allegany County.

VOTE August 11 by 4 p.m.

**Flood insurance
can help make
things right again.**

GET FLOOD INSURANCE



FEMA



BETH GISMONDI

Phone: 410-213-7400 • Email: BethGismondi@allstate.com



Going back to school looks different this year. Our team in Berlin can give your kids a Healthy Shot!

Keeping Your Kids HEALTHY

Getting children ready to head back to class often brings a flurry of activity. But this year looks a little different. Whether they're going back in-person or remote learning, our pediatric team at **Chesapeake Health Care's** Berlin office is here to help keep your children healthy.

Vaccines are VITAL

All school-age children, from pre-K to college, need vaccines. We can make sure that your child is up-to-date on all their vaccinations, which will help keep them, their classmates, and our community healthy.

School Checkups & Physicals

Maryland children must have updated immunization

records to attend school, even for remote learning. And if your child is getting ready to play sports, a physical is the first step in making sure they're healthy for any activity.

We Make it SAFE to Visit

We understand that there is a lot of anxiety about visiting the doctor. Rest assured that we are taking precautions to ensure that in-person visits are as safe as possible for the entire family. We also require masks and social distancing.

Don't wait — contact us today to make an appointment for your child's vaccines. It's one of the things you can control to keep your whole child healthy!

Open Monday & Friday - 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:00 am – 7:00 pm



- Well-child Care (routine check-ups) for babies to children 18 years old
- Immunizations
- Extended Evening Hours
- Sick Visits & COVID-19 Testing
- School and Sports Physicals

Located at Berlin Main Place, 9956 N. Main St., Suite 2, Berlin, MD 21811

Tel: 410-973-2820 | www.ChesapeakeHC.org



Familiar faces at Ocean Pines Marina help boost customer service, profitability

The Ocean Pines Marina was among the first amenities built in Ocean Pines, opened in 1975 along with the original Yacht Club.

Today, the marina is a dependable moneymaker for the Association, helping to boost the bottom line by more than \$180,000 in each of the last six years.

Dockmaster and Pennsylvania native Ron Fisher is the mastermind of the operation. The former executive director of the Peninsula Regional Medical Group in Salisbury, Fisher is known for developing benchmarks with other marinas to help set competitive fuel prices.

But credit must also go to several long-time marina employees, who have been a model for consistency and great customer service over the years.



"There was no air conditioning, it was 100 degrees, and it was just exhausting."

She said former General Manager Bob Thompson brought in a construction trailer as a temporary workspace. When that went away, Figgs used the trunk of her old Ford Mercury as a makeshift office.

It wasn't until Fisher came on in 2016 that the marina staff finally got a permanent space.

"When Ron came on board he asked, 'Where's all your stuff?' And I said, 'Some of it's in the administration building and the rest is in my trunk,'" Figgs said with a laugh.

Thanks to Fisher, the Association converted the extra bar area on the back corner of the new Yacht Club into the new marina office.

"Ron said, 'This isn't going to work - we've got to work something out,'" Figgs said.

"He fought for us, and finally we got to use this space."

Today, the marina is busy and bustling again, with an annual boat slip waitlist of around 70 names, and many new and returning customers visiting the fuel docks each day. But even during the leaner times, Figgs said she never thought about leaving.

"I just like the people," she said. "There's not a mean person out there. They're all happy boaters."

Among Figgs' many customer service contributions, perhaps her most well-known are the dog biscuits she keeps at the marina for hungry pups to snack on. She stocks extras in that same Ford Mercury trunk, and it's become a signature of the business.

"I've got a 15-pound box of dog biscuits and they're all lined up," she said. She keeps certain treats in stock for regular customers, from the "teeny, teeny" ones to the larger dogs like labs and golden retrievers.

"There's a couple of dogs that jump right off the boats and come down the dock before the boat's even tied up," she said. "By the time I get in there with my paperwork, they're just sitting in there and waiting. You can't turn that down!"

In return for her friendliness, Figgs said many boaters bring her already fileted fresh fish - a definite benefit of the job.

Shift Manager Shirley Figgs

Shirley Figgs grew up in Laurel, Delaware and still lives in the farmhouse she was born in. She remembers boating to Assateague with her dad at a young age, which helped foster a lifetime love of boating and being on the water.

Figgs previously worked for DuPont and later managed restaurants and bartended in Florida. Her daughter, Teresa Travatello, was the public relations director in Ocean Pines for almost nine years and Figgs has now been a mainstay at the marina for 13 years.

Each day, Figgs runs the register, ties up boats, handles scheduling, and keeps the office in good order. However, that office has undergone plenty of changes during her tenure.

Before the new Yacht Club opened in 2014, marina staff worked out of a "shack" by the docks, Figgs said.

"We had our own little business there - we weren't associated with the Yacht Club at all," she said. "But, now we've all become friends."

Figgs said marina business dropped off slightly in 2013, when the old Yacht Club was torn down and the new one was being built. Staff, at the time, often worked out of a temporary quarters.

"We were having to take our money and walk all the way over to the [Mumford's Landing] pool house," she said.



Ron Fisher



Old Marina Office

"I'm in fish all year," she said. "They filet it and bring it to me in a Ziploc bag. I don't even have to leave the dock!"

Figgs said business wasn't much different last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The marina was profitable, and the only changes were some of the safety protocols.

"We sold a lot of gas, and the numbers were great," she said. "We just do really good business here."

She expects another strong season in 2021, with a lot of new boats already coming in.

"Fifty percent of the boats I've seen [this year] are brand new," she said, something she attributes to federal stimulus spending. "They weren't cheap, but what are you going to do? You can't go out to dinner, you can't do this, you can't do that, so let's go out on a boat."

With all the new drivers, Figgs said the first week or so that the marina was open this year was interesting.

"The wind was so bad, and they were still learning how to drive, so I went home a couple of nights and couldn't walk the next day," she said with a laugh. "But the people were happy."

Fuel Dock Attendant Mike Toth

Originally from the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania, Toth first moved to the area in 1999 when he bought a condo in Ocean City. He also lived in Marina Village and Wood Duck, in Ocean Pines. Two and a half years ago, he moved to Selbyville.

Toth said the job in Ocean Pines came not long after he retired about 14 years ago.

"I sat around the house for a couple of days and my wife said, 'You need something to do!'" he said.

Not long after, he went to the Ocean Pines administration building, filled out an application, and received a call the next day.

Toth said the old Yacht Club "had a character of its own." He said the marina had a shack with a weigh station and various items for sale, and the Yacht Club had a bigger swimming pool and an outdoor bar.

"I liked it a lot, but I understand that it was in a state of disrepair and needed to be replaced," he said.

Now, with the new Yacht Club running a successful restaurant business, he said the marina can be "chaotic and entertaining at the same time," averaging more than 100 boats at the fuel docks. On a hectic holiday weekend, he said the marina can see close to 500 boats over four days.

"You're hustling through the whole weekend. There will be a boat at either end [of the fuel dock], two out front, and six



or eight just circling and waiting to come in," he said, comparing it to a McDonald's drive-through.

"For a small operation, you'd be amazed at how much gas comes out of here," he continued. "People are just coming in and out, all day. We're running down here, but it makes the time go by."

During the summer, Toth said it's not unusual to see boaters put almost \$1,000 into their gas tanks.

"It's all relative – if you can afford the boat, you can afford the gas," he said. "Once the season starts, you'll see people come in and put in that kind of money, and they don't blink an eye."

Like Figgs, he said the marina was virtually "pandemic proof," with plenty of customers coming in last year despite all the restrictions.

"We probably had a record-breaking year, plus we had good weather," he said. "The price of our gas is right, it's non-ethanol gas, and it's easy to get in and out of here. People come down from Delaware, because that state doesn't allow the sale of non-ethanol."

Toth said a noticeable effect of the pandemic was the increase of new boats and new boaters. However, he said because of that boom there's now a shortage of new supply.

"These boat dealers, they have no new boats to sell," he said. "One dealer told me that they won't be getting new boats in for a month – that's how far behind they are. But, at the marina, that just means we're going to be busy and we're going to sell a lot of gas."

Weather allowing, Toth expects another huge year at the Ocean Pines Marina.

"We make a lot of money for the Association, and we'll probably contribute about \$200,000 [profit] year in and year out," he said.

As a retirement job, Toth said the fuel dock attendant position "is all I ever want to be."

"I just like meeting all the new people. That's the nice thing about it – it's new every day," he said. "And it's a killer view."

Life's Better on a Boat!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
1 Mumford's Landing Rd.
OceanPines.org

OCEAN PINES MARINA
AT Mumford's Landing
Ocean Pines MARYLAND

GAS 5 non-ethanol gas pumps
SUPPLIES ice, ice cream, soda, fish & crab bait
BOAT SLIPS with floating docks
YACHT CLUB drinks & dining
FRIENDLY customer service

Plus...
Easy access to ocean & bay!
Info: 410.641.7447

'Wall That Heals' drew 5,000 to OP

Piece of exhibit to become permanent part of Worcester County Veterans Memorial

More than 5,000 people visited The Wall That Heals in April during a historic display at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines.

The nearly 400-foot-long wall is a replica of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and includes the names of 58,276 U.S. service members who perished during the conflict.

The traveling exhibit – which rarely, if ever, makes an appearance in Maryland – rolled into the community on April 20 on a 53-foot trailer escorted by local law enforcement and a motorcycle motorcade of more than 200. Many of those riders represented groups like Hogs for Heroes, the American Legion, and the U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club.

It took about 60 volunteers to help put up the exhibit, and over four days roughly 300 volunteers staffed the wall, which stayed open 24 hours a day from April 22-25.

Hundreds of local people attended a pair of ceremonies, including a welcome ceremony and a candlelight vigil, the latter of which drew an estimated crowd of 600.

Then, by April 25, the massive volunteer crew had packed up the exhibit so it could travel to its next destination, in Grundy, Virginia.

Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore oversaw planning of the event with a committee of about 20 people.

Speaking on April 26, she said, "I give full credit for a successful event to the planning team that made me look good. They all did a wonderful job with their assigned tasks."

Gilmore said the most memorable part of the event, for her, was seeing the entire community come together with gratitude and reflection.

"The Vietnam veterans that I spoke with, many of them in tears, were just so grateful that we brought the wall to their community, because they felt as though they could not go to Washington, D.C.," she said. "When the wall was brought right here, they gave it a go and they were able to touch the wall and say goodbye to the comrades that they had lost."

"Some of the stories of the Vietnam veterans were just so incredibly touching," she continued. "They were standing side by side and their friends that they had maybe just met a year or less ago, now that friend is suddenly gone. And they were scared, and these are the scars that they carry with them."

According to the official The Wall That Heals program, the average age of service members on the wall is 22 years and 9 months. The youngest was just 15.

"They were able to approach the wall and touch the names, and it just gave them some closure," Gilmore said. "They were just so grateful for the opportunity to do that, and there were so many, many of those stories."

Gilmore had seen the exhibit before, two years ago in Ocean



View, Delaware. However, she didn't feel the full impact until she saw it again, stretched out across the field of Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines.

"It's a very humbling experience and the Veterans Memorial Foundation is just so grateful that we had the opportunity to bring this to our community," Gilmore said.

To help pay for the cost of the exhibit, Gilmore said many local people, businesses and organizations stepped up with needed financial support.

"The businesses and, most importantly a lot of the citizens of Ocean Pines, they all were so generous and that gave us the ability to do this and to do it in the right way," she said. "The whole experience was just so wonderful, it's hard to even put it into words."

"This was something that the foundation wanted, and to see it all come together and to see the reaction from the community – and how much it meant to each and every person that was there – it was just a great thing to have been a part of. I really, truly am humbled," she added.

Gilmore said the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was also pleased with the event.

"They told me they thought our event was one of the best organized and had the most volunteers. They were absolutely shocked that, every day, no matter what time it was, they looked around and they saw all those bright green shirts," she said.

She said the group also complimented Ocean Pines' Public Works Department.

"They were right there every single day, and they provided support for the last several months preparing the site with electricity and with paved areas," she said.

Public Works even helped pry The Wall That Heals trailer from the mud, after it got stuck while trying to leave Ocean Pines on Sunday.

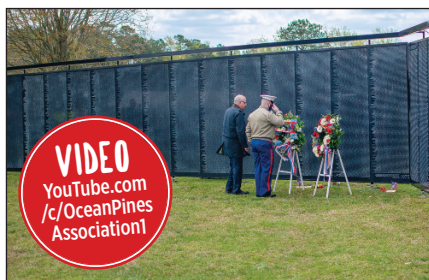
"It took about an hour and a half to get the truck out, because it got stuck in the mud after all the rain," Gilmore said. "They had three tractors in a convoy all strapped together, getting the truck out. It was quite a scene!"

Along with a few muddy tire prints, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will also gift the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation with a lasting token of the visit.

"In the month of May or June, they will be retiring a panel off of the wall because they have to make changes ... and they would like to present us with the retired panel because of the experience that they had here in Ocean Pines," Gilmore said. "We will put it in the place of honor."

"They know how much this wall means to the community, so now we will always have a permanent piece of this wall," she added.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit www.opvets.org.





**AMERICAN
ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS**
drafting services

**We DESIGN, Create Blueprints
& DELIVER What You Need
to Complete Your Project**

Architect & CAD Drafting • Design Build
Civil Engineering • Custom Floor Plans • & more

Based in Ocean Pines, MD // Serving MD & DE

410.206.9539 // wheatleyjosette@gmail.com
americanengineeringsolutions.com

AES LASER ETCHING
and custom engraving

Personalize Your 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
americanengineeringsolutions.com/custom-engraving

CONSTRUCTION WITH INTEGRITY



**POOLE
CONTRACTING
& CONSULTING**

CUSTOM HOMES & REMODELING

410.352.9980 mike@poolecontracting.com
PooleContracting.com

MAHC#104077 | MHBR#6927 | Licensed & Insured | OP & Berlin Chamber of Commerce Member

O.P.V.F.D. 2021 GIVEAWAY

**DRAWING
12.11.21**



2021 JEEP GLADIATOR

- Granite Crystal Metallic
- Interior: Black Cloth
- 850RE Transmission 8 Speed
- Automatic
- 3.6L V6 24V VVT Engine w/ESS
- Standard Equipment
- Customer Preferred Package 24W
- Premium Black Sunrider Soft Top
- 17-inch Black Aluminum Wheels
- 32-inch Mud Terrain Tires
- Push Button Start
- Touch Display
- Sirius XM 6MTH

**\$20 TICKET
3/\$50
6/\$100**

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE
OPVFD.COM**

**BY MAIL
911 OCEAN PARKWAY
BERLIN, MD 21811**

**BY PHONE
410.641.8272**



**MUST BE 18 - NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN
ALL APPLICABLE GAMING TAXES AND
FEES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WINNER
NO CASH OPTION IN LIEU OF PRIZE - ELIGIBLE FOR TRADE**

Copy Central

**NOT YOUR AVERAGE
COPY CENTER!**

Serving The Ocean Pines Community For Over 19 Years!

FULL BUSINESS CENTER

- Copies • Fax • UPS
- Engineering Prints
- Full Color Posters
- Banners & Ad Specialties

GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

WEDDING PRINT SERVICES

- Invitations and Seals
- Guest Seating Signage
- Table Cards
- Gifts & Accessories

RETAIL GIFT ITEMS

- Frames
- Autostones & Drinkware
- Handmade Soaps
- Lucky Girl Bath & Beauty

CUSTOM PHOTO GIFTS

- Mousepads, Puzzles, Mugs
- "PLAK THAT" Wood Prints
- Canvas & Metal Photos

11065 Cathell Road • Ocean Pines
(In the Hileman Professional Center, across from Pines Plaza)

OPEN Monday - Friday 9-5pm
Email: copycentral@verizon.net
410-208-0641 • Fax: 410-208-2600

www.copycentralmd.com

Authorized Shipping Outlet

Like Us!



The Parke at Ocean Pines celebrates 20th anniversary

More than 100 people gathered at The Parke at Ocean Pines on May 19 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the community.

The Parke is a homeowner's association within Ocean Pines designed for those ages 55 and older. Slenker Land Corporation developed the community, and the Centex company built all The Parke's 503 homes.

Twenty years ago, the first residents of The Parke moved in.

Attending dignitaries of the anniversary celebration included Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino, and Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone and General Manager John Viola.

Steve Habeger, the event emcee, said those gathered at the Central Park lawn looked like a microcosm of the community.

"As I look around, this is The Parke," he said. "This is the quintessential Parke to me: It's people who are in this community, and I can't wait for the pandemic effects to roll off so that we can get back the social and fun parts of living in The Parke. It's a great place to live, for many reasons."

Linda Olsen, Parke Association president, said there were several reasons to celebrate. Along with the association's anniversary, the COVID-19 mask mandate had just been lifted and facilities were able to reopen.

"We've been waiting for this day for some time because, just this morning, our clubhouse - finally after a year and a half - opened," she said. "I hope you all jump right in and take advantages of the pools and fitness center, and everything that the clubhouse has to offer."

Olsen also recognized current and prior Parke board and committee members.

"We couldn't exist if we didn't have all these volunteers. It's

so wonderful that everyone turns up and gives it their all," she said.



Carozza, a Parke resident, delivered an official citation from Gov. Larry Hogan, as well as one from the Maryland Senate that she composed.

"Sincerest congratulations are offered to The Parke residents ... on the occasion of celebrating our 20th anniversary, and all the residents and visitors who've enjoyed the beautiful setting and quality services," she said. "We're also recognizing today the many warm family friendships that have developed over the years right here in The Parke, with my own mom and dad [and] my own aunt and uncle making this special place their home, our home."

Bertino, among the last to speak, promised to keep his remarks brief.

"Before the program started, Steve made it very clear to me that I was standing between you and cake," he said with a laugh.

Bertino delivered an official citation on behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners. He joked that it "says a lot of very nice things, and if I had my reading glasses, I would read it to you right now."

"I congratulate you on your anniversary, I thank you very much for everything that you do for our community, and enjoy the cake!" Bertino said.



Wor-Wic expands credit program offerings this fall

Several new credit program options at Wor-Wic Community College were recently approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and will be offered for the first time this coming fall.

A new associate degree program in professional license studies is being added to Wor-Wic's business program offerings for students who already hold an active professional license through the state of Maryland. Students will receive 12 college credits for having a professional license that required at least 600 hours of training. The licenses recognized for this degree program include barber, cosmetologist, hairstylist, esthetician, HVAC, electrician, plumber/gas fitter, real estate appraiser and stationary engineer.

Culinary arts has been separated from hotel-motel-restaurant management as an independent program, offering

both associate degree and certificate options. During an accreditation visit in October of 2019, the American Culinary Federation recommended that culinary arts become a stand-alone program. Culinary course offerings have been expanded to include artisan breads and specialty cakes, gluten-free breads and desserts, chocolate and sugar sculpting, and European pastries.

The college will also be adding an English concentration to its general studies program this fall. New courses are being added in creative writing, film, women's literature, and American, British and world literature. The concentration prepares graduates to transfer to a four-year college or university.

For more information, visit www.worwic.edu.



Garden Club celebrates Arbor Day in Ocean Pines

The Ocean Pines Garden Club (OPGC) held its annual Arbor Day memorial ceremony on April 8 at Pintail Park in Ocean Pines.

The event, which the club cancelled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, was an opportunity for OPGC members and friends to celebrate the lives of loved ones lost in either 2019 or 2020.

The tradition of the Arbor Day ceremony in Ocean Pines goes back many years and includes the planting of a tree to recognize the holiday and to memorialize those who passed away. This year's tree was a Yoshino Cherry.

During the ceremony, club members read the names of loved ones and tolled a bell, and a friend or family member placed a shovelful of dirt around the tree and received a white rose. This year, a second tree also served as memorial to all those lost to COVID-19.

A series of painted rocks signify memorial trees in Pintail Park and include the tree's type and the year it was planted. OPGC President Patti Lookner and Arbor Day Committee Chairwoman Ann Shockley introduced the program, which also included historical and poetry readings by OPGC members, music by the Delmarva Chorus and bagpiper Mike Castoro, and proclamations from the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors (presented by Association President Larry Perrone) and the Worcester County Commissioners (presented by County Commissioner Chip Bertino).

The OPGC wishes to thank all who took part in making this event a special one, including the Ocean Pines Public Works landscaping crew, who made sure the park was looking its best.

For more info or to join the Ocean Pines Garden Club, email Garden Club President Patti Lookner at plookner@gmail.com.

Mary Mac Foundation seeks donations for programs supporting low-income children and families

The Mary Mac Foundation donated \$28,000 last year to organizations that support low-income and homeless children and their families, as well as groups that supply educational opportunities to youth and adults.

The local nonprofit also expanded its support of food banks in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Despite that success, the Mary Mac Foundation announced in June that it would not hold the annual golf tournament in Ocean Pines that traditionally serves as its biggest fundraiser.

"We thank you for your continued support and ask that if it is still within your means to donate to the foundation, please consider doing so. No amount is too small," foundation cofounder Tim McMullen said.

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 Lane, Berlin MD, 21811.

McMullen said the annual Mary Mac Racquetball Tournament in Ocean Pines is scheduled for Aug. 7. The nonprofit will announce more details at a later date.

Veterans Memorial golf tourney

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation will hold its 14th Annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 22 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

The format will be a shotgun scramble. This is a fun tournament geared toward all ages and proficiencies.

The "best ball" format allows all players to participate at their best shot. More "mature" players may advance to a forward tee.

This year's tournament will add a new, fun contest hole which will allow a golf pro to hit the first drive for each team.

Other contest holes include straightest drive and closest to the pin. As always, mulligans will be available, as well as a 50/50 drawing.

Dinner will be served at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, with prizes being awarded after dinner. There will be a fun twist on prizes to allow for even the last-place team to have a chance at prizes, while still awarding for first, second and third places.

The auction committee is hard at work preparing for a great silent and, maybe, live auction. Golfers are encouraged to have their spouses join them at dinner for a delicious meal and a fun auction. Spouses or guests may join for the cost of dinner, \$30.

The golf tournament is the major fundraiser for the Memorial Foundation's educational program, which brings every fifth-grade student in the county to the Veterans Memorial to learn of the sacrifices made by veterans. Students will also learn about the branches of the military, flag history and flag etiquette.

The Memorial Foundations invites everyone in the community to take part in the tournament, support the foundation with a donation to the auction, or sponsor a hole for \$100.

Marlene Ott

Associate Broker, CRS

Cell: 410-430-5743
Office: 410-208-3500
Fax: 410-208-3501
Marlene@MarleneOtt.com
www.marleneott.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | PenFed Realty
HomeServices

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



Rusko memorial unveiled in Ocean Pines

A sizable crowd on June 12 gathered at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center to remember Paul Rusko as a teacher, mentor, and a dedicated family man who affected countless people both locally and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Rusko, a Pennsylvania native who later retired to Ocean Pines, passed away in December. He was the coordinator of physical education and athletics in Anne Arundel County for more than three decades.

Tim McMullen, the current Ocean Pines Racquet Sports program coordinator and a former athletic director at Broadneck High School in Anne Arundel County, said it was fitting that no one called him on that overcast morning to ask if the remembrance event was still on. Rusko rarely – if ever – postponed the chance to play tennis.

“My first winter down here was 2015-2016 and Paul texted me on a morning in which it was 32 degrees with a 20-mile-an-hour wind. He said, ‘Tim, I’ll see you on the court,’” McMullen said.

McMullen said Rusko helped open seven different schools in Anne Arundel County. He also played a crucial role during integration.

“Paul is the gentleman that had to go ahead and lead us, athletically ... through the integration ... and I think our minority coaches were very comfortable with Paul, because they knew they were going to get their [fair] shake,” he said.

McMullen said Rusko preached equity through all sports, no matter how big or small. He also increased academic standards for student athletes, while making sure there was help for those with difficulties.

He’ll remember Rusko, he said, as a husband, father and grandfather, and a good friend.

Ocean Pines Tennis Director Terry Underkoffler credited Rusko with encouraging him to coach tennis professionally. Underkoffler had been a soccer coach since the 1970s. Both he and McMullen were part of the “Early Bird” group of tennis players that Rusko put together. The group met weekly, started very early in the morning, played tennis, and fostered many friendships.

“Playing tennis in Ocean Pines is more than just a racquet sport ... you make lifelong friends,” Underkoffler said. “Paul, even in the times of the pandemic, encouraged us to continue to play, but play safely.”

Underkoffler was the first of many who symbolically placed tennis balls and other tokens on a new memorial bench dedicated to Rusko.

Hal Cramer remembers Rusko first as his physical education teacher in the 1960s.

“It opened up a whole new world for me and, I know for a lot of those kids back then,” he said. “It started us on a lifetime of activity and fitness.”

Cramer, like many others, went on to a career as an educator because of Rusko’s mentoring.

“It was a fortunate time in my life, that I met him,” he said, becoming emotional.

Jason Werner, the assistant athletic director at the Indian River School in Crownsville, Maryland, spoke on behalf of seven grandchildren who knew Rusko simply as “Pop.”

“It’s a little bit overwhelming ... seeing his impact in front of me,” Werner said, motioning to the large crowd around him. “I think

everyone here has [a story about] that moment of when he inspired you.”

Werner said Rusko had a rare gift of speaking to people in a way that was both motivational and showed he cared.

“He inspired that confidence in people to just go and be who you want to be [and] be who you are,” he said. “I would challenge myself and challenge you to please keep that going.”

Rusko’s daughter, Elizabeth Werner, talked about her father’s upbringing. She said he was raised in Uniontown, Pennsylvania in a big Italian family. He worked in a coal mine during high school and later hitchhiked to college. His strong work ethic would inspire the family for generations.

She also recalled growing up thinking it was perfectly normal to root for the referee at sporting events.

“I just thought that’s what everybody did. Who’s rooting for the official? Who does that?” she said with a laugh. “Now, I’m married to an official and my son is an official and my daughter is an official, so we always have to root for the official.”

“I think that’s a pretty special thing ... I’m definitely proud that my kids and my husband and our family have followed in his path,” she added.

Rusko’s other daughter, Paula Navratil, said her father’s absence could be felt everywhere.

“I think it’s clear today that my dad has affected so many lives,” she said.

Navratil described her father as a man of integrity, a storyteller, and a devoted husband.

“I’ve been married 32 years and we all know it’s no walk in the park, but we have the gold standard model [as parents],” she said. “And we all look to them ... none of what happened with my parents got lost on any of us.”

Rusko’s son, Peter, said he and his sisters were always learning from their father.

“He taught me to throw a ball, shoot a basket ... drive a stick shift [and] drive a nail ... but it’s the things that he did that are harder to put into words. My dad was a high-character guy,” Peter Rusko said. “He was a hard worker, and he was family man without question – all things that I respect and try to take from him.”

Barbara Rusko spoke last, and she thanked everyone for traveling from as far away as Annapolis and Pennsylvania for the occasion.

“I feel like Paul is here someplace. I feel like he’s with us today. He might be somewhere here among us on the ground, or he may be up there in the beautiful, blue sky that’s coming through the clouds,” she said, just as the day’s first few strands of sunlight peeked through.

“Wherever he is, he is so pleased and so proud ... of all the wonderful things you said about him,” she continued. “Let’s all take all that ... and remember him as you remember him.”

Through 63 years of marriage, three children and seven grandchildren, Barbara Rusko said, “we were blessed, and we knew it every day.”

“We didn’t take anything for granted,” she said. “We ... made a wonderful life, a lot of good friends, and a marvelous family. I love you, Paul. You’re my heart,” she added.





Friends and platform tennis players honor Freeman

About 100 platform tennis players gathered at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on June 5 to remember Jim Freeman, an active player who passed away on March 15 after a battle with cancer.

Freeman was recalled both as a teacher, and as a friendly and fun-loving guy who enjoyed the sport. He also loved a cold beer, and his favorite football team, the Eagles, from his native Pennsylvania.

Sue Walter, who organized "The Celebration of Life - Play & Party" in honor of Freeman, said more than \$2,200 had been donated for the event by platform members. The funds covered the luncheon expenses and a memorial to Freeman, and the rest will help with costs of future Platform Tennis Club events.

Walter said Freeman's request for his own celebration of life, was that his friends "gather, play, eat and drink and party."

"I think he'll be watching today," she said.

Indeed, the event was filled both with heartfelt remembrances, and with lots of smiles and laughter.

"I don't think you could even imagine how much it meant to Jim and, when he was sick, what a bright spot you were," June Freeman, his widow, said. "The best move we ever made was joining [the Platform Tennis Club]. Our life is so much richer and fuller, and we have so many friends ... I could never ask for anything better in my life."

"All I can say is, I love you and thank you so much. You've been so good, and you are family to me and always were family to Jim, and always put a smile on his face. He just loved you all," she added.

John Walter remembered Freeman as a man who was born to be a teacher. Freeman worked for 31 years as a seventh-grade science teacher at Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

After he retired, Freeman continued teaching - as a platform tennis instructor in Ocean Pines.

"If it wasn't for Jim, we wouldn't have met anybody here," Walter said, becoming emotional. "We're all close. We've had Christmas dinners with June and Jim ... and it's been a blessing."

Walter also recalled one of the first times he played platform tennis with Freeman, when he learned about his "very colorful vocabulary."

"When I started to play platform tennis, one day he was off the rails, [and] there were f-bombs, s-bombs ... everything. I said to June, 'What's this all about?' June told me, 'He doesn't play well with other people sometimes,'" Walter said, getting a big laugh from the crowd.

Last year, he said they went on a fishing trip together, and that colorful language came out again when the fish starting eating all of Freeman's bait.

"All he was doing was stomping back and forth ... This went on for five and a half hours! And we caught zip," Walter said, to more laughter.

"Jim's meant a lot and the only thing I can say to end this is, 'Fly, Eagles, fly,'" he added.

Tracy Jones said she'll remember Freeman for hosting Thursday night platform tennis parties, with grilled food and plenty of cold beer.

"He always dropped the f-bomb with me, but he said I was one of the guys," she said.

Susan Morris said she met Freeman at a platform tennis tournament. Her family was visiting from New Jersey, and he invited them to play the next day.

"I thought, wow - how generous was that, that this man walked over, a total stranger, and said, 'Won't you come and join us,'" she said. "Within a couple of weeks, we bought a house and were here. And it was because he walked over and said hello that we're here."

Betty Biondi also recalled Freeman's generosity.

"Three years ago, when [her husband] John had his stroke, it was Jim who kept coming over, cutting the lawn, raking. That's Jim," she said.

Karen Kaplan said she was a late joiner to platform, but she found Jim to be an enthusiastic teacher and ambassador for the sport.

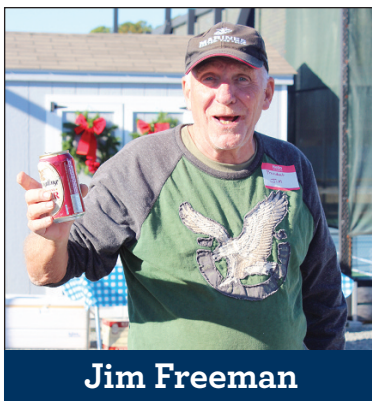
"He was so welcoming and so warm ... and that's the way he was," she said. "He was just a really welcoming, warm [person], and his passion for this sport and for this club, it just came through. And for me, it was contagious. I'll never forget Jim."

In planning the physical part of the memorial, Sue Walter said she first thought about a getting bench in honor of Freeman. She said Jones had another idea and reached out to her brother, Doug Dawson, a master woodcraftsman, who quickly sketched a design of a wooden bar table filled with symbols of some of Freeman's favorite things.

"He blew our socks off, what this man has done," Walter said.

The memorial, unveiled on Saturday, features a tabletop of eight hand-carved, wood platform tennis paddles, with pictures of some of Freeman's favorite things on each one, from his beloved Philadelphia Eagles and his favorite Yuengling beer, to fishing, photography, golf, and the U.S. Marines emblem. It will become a permanent part of the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

The inscription reads, "In loving memory of Jim Freeman, from your friends at OPPTA. 'Perform random acts of kindness' - Jim."



Jim Freeman



Does Ocean Pines have bike lanes? No. The shoulders on Ocean Parkway are not designated bike lanes, which have specific width requirements and must be clearly marked as such. The lines on Ocean Parkway designate an extended shoulder. Riders are asked to be aware of vehicles that may be parked on the side of the road and on these shoulders.

Does it matter in which direction I ride my bike? Yes. Bikes should always ride in the direction of traffic, on the right side of the road as practicable and safe.

If I'm riding a bike, do I have to stop at stop signs and red lights? Yes. By Maryland law, bicycles are vehicles and have the same rights-of-way and the same duty to obey all traffic signals and laws as motorists.

As a motorist, is there anything I need to be aware of when encountering bicyclists on the road? Yes. Motorists should always drive carefully near bicyclists, who are less visible, quieter and less protected than motorists. According to Maryland law, the driver of a vehicle must not pass any closer than 3 feet of a bicycle if it's being operated in a lawful manner. (It is not lawful for bicyclists to ride against traffic.) Additionally, the bicycle has the right-of-way when the motor vehicle is making a turn, and motorists must yield to bicyclists.

Does Ocean Pines offer bicycle helmets for kids? Yes! The

Ocean Pines Police Department has free bicycle helmets available in children's sizes. Maryland law requires that all those under the age of 16 who ride their bicycles on the road, bicycle paths or any public property wear a helmet.

My kids are interested in biking on trails. Is there a place in Ocean Pines to practice? Yes! Bainbridge Park, located in north Ocean Pines off Capetown Road, has .6 miles of trails that are perfect for children, or anyone interested in trying singletrack riding. The trails have an average grade of 1% and a maximum grade of 3%.

I'm interested in advocating for bicycle usage. Is there a way to get involved? Yes! The Worcester County Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition is a community organization dedicated to addressing and improving safety and access for cycling in and around Worcester County and works to promote and expand safe biking routes and events for residents and visitors. Email wcbikepedsafety@gmail.com or visit the organization on Facebook.

Additionally, the Eastern Shore International Mountain Bicycling Association is a non-profit educational association of environmentally-conscious bicycle enthusiasts linked together to enjoy trail riding. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact tres@esimba.org. Visit esimba.org for more information or visit the organization on Facebook and Instagram.



Phragmites

Call Today

NOW!

is the best time to control Phragmites

Improve Your View! Reduce Fire Hazard!

Call **WeedPRO** Today!

410-742-2973

LICENSED • INSURED • CERTIFIED IN MD, DE & VA
45 Years Experience

NEW CUSTOMER DISCOUNT

\$25 OFF For First Time Customers

Call **WeedPRO** Today!

Expires 9/30/21



OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
EST. 2012

OPEN-AIR KITCHEN COOKING DEMOS LIVE MUSIC

FLORALS • CHEESE
MEAT • EGGS • SEAFOOD
PRODUCE • PET TREATS
CRAFTS • GOURMET FOOD
DECOR & MORE!

White Horse Park (239 OCEAN PKWY.)
SATURDAYS YEAR-ROUND SUMMER & FALL HOURS: 8AM-1PM

Special Market Days

7/3	Fourth of July Market
7/24	Fun Model Horse Show
7/24	Christmas in July
7/31	Farmers Market Week Celebration
8/7	Fun Model Horse Show
9/4	Labor Day Weekend Market
10/30	Halloween Pumpkin Market
11/20	Thanksgiving Market
11/23	Thanksgiving Special Order Pickup 9-11am
12/24	Christmas Eve Market
12/25	Market Closed



The **PROOF** is in the **ROOF!**

Veterans Discount Option

We would like to thank you for your service by offering \$250 credit towards your future full roof project with us.

\$250



Clip & Save

1st Responders Discount Option

We want to thank you with \$150 credit towards your future full roof project with our company

\$150



Clip & Save

Senior Citizen Discount Option

We offer this \$100 discount for your future full roof project with our company. Non-transferable

\$100



Clip & Save

Past Customer Discount Option

As a proud member of our history we want to say thank you with \$75 towards your future full roof project with our company.

\$75



Clip & Save

FREE ESTIMATES!

Call Now to set up your date & time.

ROOFING!



To be quality above the rest we install the GAF Roofing System that is the best! Put us to the test!



SKYLIGHTS!



We make reimagining any room easy.



SUN TUNNELS!

Quick & easy Installation
Cost-effective & Beautiful



FINANCING

Financing Available.

We Work Smarter to Reduce the Risk of Property Damage



All American Roofing Co.

QUALITY ABOVE THE REST

DE# 2004201560 • PA#043393 • MHIC#124883

Fully Insured & Licensed in DE, MD & PA
References Available • Locally Owned & Trusted Since 1989

ROOFERS.org

410.213.3921

*Please present when scheduling your free estimate or at the time of your free estimate. Must be present at time of initial visit. Cannot be combined with financing. Offers ends 9/30/21





Ocean Pines Association, Inc.

239 Ocean Parkway

Ocean Pines, MD 21811

410.641.7717

oceanpines.org

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

YACHT CLUB

OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND



..... Restaurant, Bars and Marina

410.641.7501

1 MUMFORD'S LANDING ROAD | OCEAN PINES, MD

OPYACHTCLUB.com



Live Music 6-10pm

Jul 1	Over Time	Aug 14	Sons of Pirates
Jul 2	Full Circle	Aug 15	Josh Christina
Jul 3	Tranzfusion	Aug 19	Clockwork
Jul 4	July 4th w/ Great Train Robbery	Aug 20	Mike Hines
Jul 8	Beach Bandits	Aug 21	Full Circle
Jul 9	Kaleidoscope	Aug 22	Radio Bravo
Jul 10	Mike Hines	Aug 26	Marcella
Jul 11	Marcella	Aug 27	Great Train Robbery
Jul 15	Zander Jett	Aug 28	Eclipse
Jul 16	Sons of Pirates	Aug 29	Exit 93
Jul 17	Beatlegacy	Sep 3	Labor Day Weekend Kick-Off w/ Tranzfusion
Jul 18	Josh Christina	Sep 4	Full Circle
Jul 22	Lauren Glick 6-9pm	Sep 5	Great Train Robbery
Jul 23	Tranzfusion	Sep 10	Bob Loughheed & The Memphis Mafia
Jul 24	Jaded Love	Sep 11	Over Time
Jul 25	Radio Bravo	Sep 12	Marcella
Jul 29	Nelly's Echo	Sep 17	Sons of Pirates
Jul 30	Great Train Robbery	Sep 18	KITTYBACK
Jul 31	Full Circle	Sep 19	Radio Bravo
Aug 1	Marcella	Sep 24	Great Train Robbery
Aug 5	Zander Jett	Sep 25	Tranzfusion
Aug 6	Over Time	Oct 2	Eclipse
Aug 7	KITTYBACK		
Aug 8	The Rockaholics		
Aug 12	Lauren Glick 6-9pm		
Aug 13	Tranzfusion		

Visit opyachtclub.com
for the most updated info