



VOL. 55 NO. 2 SPRING 2023

OCEAN PINES REPORT

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Board approves FY23/24 budget, sets \$13 assessment decrease

The Ocean Pines Board on Feb. 18 approved the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget, setting the basic annual assessment at \$883, a \$13 decrease from the prior year and the second straight year with a reduced annual fee.

This comes after several months of public review by the Board of Directors and Budget and Finance Committee, and a public town hall on Feb. 1.

General Manager John Viola said headwinds affecting the budget included the higher cost of running public safety operations such as the Fire, EMS, and Police departments, as well as inflation, statutory minimum wage increases, mark-to-market adjustments, labor pool adjustments, and higher insurance premiums.

He said the major tailwind that helped to lower the assessment was the improved performance by Ocean Pines amenities and departments.

"Since I've been here, our favorability has come from organic growth," Viola said. "Each year, we've taken the budget and we've budgeted higher for each amenity. So, when you have favorability this year, it's also on a higher base with the revenue than the prior years."

Association Treasurer Monica Rakowski introduced the formal motion to approve the budget, setting total operating revenues of \$14.4 million, operating expenses of \$14.4 million, bulkhead, drainage, and replacement expenses of \$1.1 million, and capital expenditures of \$1 million.

The motion also set assessment rates as follows:

- **Non-water: \$883**
- **Water: \$1,498**
- **Water non-bulkhead: \$973**
- **Non-water estate: \$1,325**
- **Water estate: \$2,247**
- **Water non-bulkhead estate: \$1,460**

To view the approved budget, visit www.oceanpin.es.org.

2023 OPA Board election process gets underway

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee has announced important dates for the 2023 election process, including filing and voting deadlines.

The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines. Terms for elected directors are three years.

This year, two seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election: those currently held by directors Doug Parks and Colette Horn. Both are currently serving the last year of two consecutive terms and cannot run again because of term limits.

The deadline to file is Wed, May 10 by 4 p.m.

"We encourage anyone who is thinking about running to do their homework, read up on the Association's governing documents, attend the regular meetings, and volunteer," Elections Committee Chairperson Tom Piatti said.

"Volunteers have helped make this community what it is today, and there's no better way to give back than to serve on our Board of Directors."

Applications are available at the administration building or on the Ocean Pines website.

Important upcoming election dates include:

- **Eligible Candidate Draw & Workshop (to determine ballot order & seating during candidate forums) – Fri, June 2 at 2 p.m. in the Administration Building**
- **Voter eligibility deadline – Wed, July 6**
- **First Candidate Forum – TBD**
- **Second Candidate Forum – TBD**
- **Ballot deadline – Wed, Aug. 9 by 4 p.m.**
- **Ballots counted & vote totals announced – Fri, Aug 11**
- **Annual Meeting – Sat, Aug. 12**

For questions about the election, contact elections@oceanpin.es.org.

Homegrown talent to lead new Golf Academy at Ocean Pines

Ten years ago, a junior golfer named Matt Ruggiere could be found at the Ocean Pines Golf Club most mornings, his car headlights pointed at the driving range as he practiced chipping just before class.

This March, Ruggiere returned home to lead a new Golf Academy at Ocean Pines, offering lessons to players of all ages and skill levels.

Ruggiere grew up in the South Gate area of Ocean Pines and played golf for Stephen Decatur High School. He also toured the Mid-Atlantic region on junior golf teams.

He said the Ocean Pines Golf Club is still a favorite, because of the Robert Trent Jones design.

"Ocean Pines was always my home course. The design is just spectacular," Ruggiere said. "I do think it's one of the most challenging in the area, so being a competitive junior and having a place to play and practice, I felt like I always had an edge over kids that came from other courses. That helped me a lot when I started competing."

Right after high school, Ruggiere moved to Colorado to teach snowboarding.

"I think being up there and away from golf for a couple of months was what really drove me to realize my passion for golf," he said.

He moved back to Ocean Pines the next summer to refocus on golf, and then went to Florida for five years to tour the southeastern United States and West Coast as a competitive golfer. He played in several U.S. Open qualifying rounds and built up his professional resume working at courses like the LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Florida, and the Indian Peaks Golf Course in Boulder, Colorado.

After suffering from a nagging wrist injury several years ago, Ruggiere decided it was time to transition from playing to teaching.

"Through playing, the competition, and some of the networks and friends I made, I really found my passion in teaching and coaching," he said. "I got the ball rolling with that and kept pursuing it."

Ruggiere created the www.ruggieregolf.com website that helped brand his teaching program. A few months ago, he messaged Ocean Pines Golf Director Bob Beckelman about bringing that program to the community where he grew up.



"For me, it was perfect timing," he said. "I already had the backbone of the website ready to go, and I couldn't wait to get started in Ocean Pines."

Ruggiere's name was brought up during recent budget meetings, and the Association started heavily advertising the new golf academy in March.

"My family's been telling me there's a little bit of buzz around town, which great to hear. My aunt and uncle in Virginia were even sending me pictures!" he said. "My finance, Lindsey, has also been super

supportive.

"It's just really exciting to be able to go back and be the face of the instruction program, because I have great memories of growing up and playing in Ocean Pines," Ruggiere continued. "Hopefully, I get some juniors who have the same passion that I did, and I can help them grow and pursue their goals."

The academy officially started on March 7. Players can start booking private and group lessons now.

That includes an eight-week spring and summer program for juniors and adults, and camps for junior golfers in June and August.

"I think the game of golf has so much to offer. It's a sport where you can always push yourself, whether you're a junior just learning to play, or whether you're 80 or 90 years old," Ruggiere said. "It's also just a great way to get outside, enjoy nature, and

spend time with family and friends."

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola said he's excited to welcome Ruggiere back.

"This young man is a homegrown talent, and I remember seeing him play as a junior golfer and being very impressed," Viola said. "It's just a great story, and we think Matt is going to be a fantastic addition to our team and to our Golf program."

For more information and scheduling for the Golf Academy at Ocean Pines, visit www.ruggieregolf.com, or call 386-846-3505 or email mruggiere54@gmail.com.

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





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In Bloom: Ocean Pines Garden Club's beautification efforts have spanned more than four decades

Group has helped shape community appearance and educate scores of members

Since 1976, the Ocean Pines Garden Club has played a major role in how the community looks and feels.

The group of volunteers first formed to help plant flowers, shrubs and trees around community signs, buildings and parks, and in the median along Ocean Parkway.

In the more than four decades since, the Garden Club has run a series of elaborate garden tours and collaborated with local artists, and has helped to maintain Ocean Pines parks and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial grounds.

The Garden Club hosts an Arbor Day ceremony each year, and their gifts and donations have included the Civil War-era anchor at the Yacht Club in 1995, the gazebo at Pintail Park in 1998, the two stone benches at the community center in 2009, and two plaques for the Gold Star Program of the Veterans Memorial Foundation in 2014.

Current leadership and activities

Co-presidents Ann Shockley and Patti Lookner collaborate with Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola on new projects, and Gail Philippi puts out a robust regular newsletter, cataloging the club's many activities.

All three helped to plan the garden tours that once doubled as an annual club fundraiser.

"People would let their gardens be used for the tour, and we would advertise it all over the county," Shockley said. "People could buy tickets and get a map in the morning of all the different properties, and then we usually had a luncheon afterwards with a silent auction. It was a big, big production."

Shockley said the event was scaled back during the pandemic. It's no longer ticketed, and now features a handful of member gardens and gardeners.

"Although the Garden Club loved showing off the gardens in Ocean Pines and the funds it raised for the club, we decided that we would rather not continue to take it on," she said.



"It's still fun to see people's gardens and what they've been doing, so it's worked out really nicely on a smaller scale."

Along with the tour, club members collaborate each May to create dozens of floral arrangements, which are then sold for Mother's Day at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market.

"We sell those arrangements on the day before Mother's Day. It's been very profitable, and people are excited that we're there – especially those who forgot to get something for their mother!" Shockley said.

Growing local

All three women said there are unique growing challenges in Ocean Pines, from the saltwater air to the local wildlife out looking for a tasty snack.

"The soil is one of the biggest challenges, but you find things that work here," Philippi said. "A lot of us are getting really into pollinators and native plants, and maybe moving away from some of the older varieties that we had used."

She said the climate can be different "year to year, plant to plant, yard to yard," and there's a lot of trial and error involved.

"I just read that you don't plant tomatoes in the same spot every year – which is what I've been doing and it's probably why my tomatoes don't look that good anymore," Shockley said. "It's also the salt air. And right now we've been having amazing water, but this summer we'll probably go through a dry spell."

Lookner said last year, for the first time, she had to deal with a vole invasion in her garden.

"I lost all my hostas and some coneflowers," she said. "For years, I would hear people talking about mole and vole problems and would think, 'Oh that's terrible' – and then I found out it is terrible. You just never know."

Lookner said many people who move to Ocean Pines look for insights on what works and what doesn't, and which kinds of challenges they might (cont. on pg. 6)





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(cont. from pg. 4) face in a local garden.
 “You can’t guarantee anything, really,” she said. “But you can focus on the natives [plants] – and then you cross your fingers.”

Club activities

Philippi said club activities have included bus trips to tour major gardens and garden centers such as the Hillwood Estate in Washington, D.C., Winterthur in Delaware, and Longwood Gardens and the Philadelphia Flower Show in Pennsylvania. The group also visits many local and regional gardens.

“There’s quite a big educational component to what we do,” she said. “We also have speakers who come in to talk to our members about a number of topics.”

That includes regular appearances by Ginny Rosenkranz, who since 1994 has served as the University of Maryland’s commercial horticulture educator for Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties.

Lookner said she’s championed the educational component of Garden Club meetings.

“We really try to focus on learning something about gardening at our meetings,” she said. “That’s why I joined the club – to give to the community and to learn. Because there’s always a lot to learn.”

Shockley said there has also been a big emphasis on conservation and proper environmental practices.

“We have talked a lot about what are good practices in gardening – like recycling and composting – and all those things that we can do to help the earth and ourselves and our community,” she said.

Giving back

Along with the club’s mission statement of stimulating interest in gardening while encouraging friendship within the community, Philippi said there’s an unstated goal of providing community service.

In the past, the club has offered scholarships to local high school students. More recently, the club has given back to the Association in the form of donated plant materials and help with beautification projects.

That has included annual Christmas decorations at the entrances of each neighborhood in Ocean Pines and on street signs along Ocean Parkway. It’s a big task that Lookner said is accomplished with plenty of help from Eddie Wells, Clint Parks, and others from the Ocean Pines Public Works Department.

Each April, the club hosts an Arbor Day ceremony at Pintail Park to honor



former club members, friends and relatives who passed away in the previous year, and to plant a tree in their honor. The event is well attended and frequently includes many local political figures.

Shockley said the club also helps to manage Pintail Park.

“Ocean Pines Public Works, with Tony Howard and his crew, are the main caretakers of Pintail Park, but we also lend a hand with clearing gardens, weeding, some light pruning and setting up a watering schedule with volunteers in the summer,” she said.

“This year, our gift is going to be to donate money to do the plantings at the North Gate, and we’re working with John Viola on that,” Shockley continued. “We’re going to help with plant materials, and we’re actually going to go with Tony and the Public Works staff when they go to pick out the plants.”

She said perennials and other plants grown by Garden Club members would be added to the North Gate plantings. Philippi again emphasized that giving back and community service is a big part of what the club does.

“We love living here and we want our community to be beautiful,” she said. “Giving back just seems like a natural thing – especially for a garden club.”

“Gardeners like to plant stuff, so if we run out of room in our own yards, we start looking for other places to plant things,” Shockley said. “And I know when I drive around and I see something out of place I think, ‘Oh! We need to do something about that.’ But it’s because we all live here and we’re all proud of Ocean Pines.”

Growing new members

Philippi said none of the club’s many projects, programs and charitable endeavors would be possible without the dedication of the club members.

“Everyone works hard and cooperates willingly in making sure our projects are successful,” she said.

“It’s really teamwork that makes our events fun and successful,” Lookner added.

Lookner said the club is always looking for new members. “We’re a very welcoming group and we’re very friendly,” she said. “So, if you have any interest in gardening, come on over.”

The Ocean Pines Garden Club meets on the second Thursday of each month. Guests and new members are welcome. For more information, contact Shockley at 410-688-1975 or Lookner at 410-973-1243.

For more information or to join the Ocean Pines Garden Club, visit bit.ly/OceanPinesGardenClub or facebook.com/groups/oceanpin.es.org.





Guest column:

It's budget time

By Chip Bertino

Worcester County Commissioner, Ocean Pines District



Just as the buds start to appear on the trees along Ocean Parkway, it's that time once again for the Worcester County Commissioners to begin the budgeting process for the next fiscal year. The FY 2024 budget will require balancing inflation, unfunded state mandates, capital allocations and a host of other fiscal responsibilities that weigh on the county budget.

As I write this, the commissioners have not yet seen the entire budget drafted by county staff. The budget process gets underway before the first of the year, when the chief administrative officer and other members of the finance team meet with department and agency heads. The initial drafts are scrutinized and discussed to determine the veracity of each line item.

Once the finance team has met with all departments and agencies, work begins to assemble the pieces into a cohesive draft budget that is presented to the commissioners for their review and approval. As you would imagine, the budget document is voluminous, and many hundreds of pages are contained in multiple binders.

Each year that I've been involved, the budget draft presented to the commissioners has been in deficit. I suspect this year will be no different. There are only three options available to balance the budget: decrease expenses; raise revenue; or a combination of both.

County revenue is generated from several sources, including taxes on property and income, state and federal grants, investment income, and fees on recordation and transfer transactions. It is expected that for FY 2024, the general fund will receive revenue of about \$230 million. For the current fiscal year, the amount is \$227 million.

The commissioners too will meet with department and agency heads questioning their projections and requests. Tedious but necessary, the process unfolds over several budget work sessions.

The public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget during the annual budget hearing, scheduled this year on Tuesday, May 2 at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room in Snow Hill.

County government is not immune to the inflation reality that has impacted our family budgets and businesses. Energy costs

have increased, as have costs for chemicals used at our water treatment facilities.

Labor costs too have risen. Regarding labor, county government has not escaped the scarcity of qualified candidates applying for open positions. Recruitment is made even more difficult when candidates do not show up for interviews or do not show up for their first day of work.

During the past few years and fueled by pandemic surges, real estate transactions skyrocketed in the county, producing much higher transfer and recordation fees collected by the county treasury. Inflation and higher mortgage rates have applied the brakes to home sales and new construction that will result in lower revenue for the county.

The reality is, why would someone with a mortgage rate of less than 4% or 3% want to sell their home and buy another with an interest rate above 7%? Businesses too face higher costs to borrow money, which will cancel or delay expansion or new purchases. All these factors will weigh on coming budget deliberations.

The lion's share of the county budget is applied to education and funding our school system. This year will be no different, except we have hanging over our heads the impact of the "Blueprint for Maryland" (Kirwan Commission) mandates that will become effective in the next couple years, requiring a dramatic increase in county education expenditures. Because of a flawed funding formula used by the state, Worcester County is required to spend more per student than any of the other 23 jurisdictions in the state, upwards of \$20,000 per student.

Implementation of the Blueprint will only increase this amount in the years to come. It will be imperative for the commissioners to account for this during this year's budget process.

Stay tuned. You'll be hearing more about the county budget in the coming months.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me at 443-783-3248 or cbertino@co.worcester.md.us.

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Worcester County Developmental Center turns 50

Nonprofit that helps local people with intellectual disabilities has several Ocean Pines ties

For 50 years, the Worcester County Developmental Center has helped local people with intellectual disabilities find meaningful employment, gain independence, and increase their self-worth.

WCDC's headquarters is in Newark, Maryland, and the center also operates seven group homes in Ocean Pines. Executive Director Jack Ferry is also an Ocean Pines homeowner.

Ferry said the center first opened in September 1973.

"The center was started by families who saw that there was nothing for their adult children after they got out of school," Ferry said. "At the time, there really wasn't anything in Worcester County for individuals with disabilities, and they needed activities for them to do."

Fifty years ago, WCDC had nine clients. Today, they have about 85.

"There also were no residential homes at that time, and now we have 14 operating homes throughout Worcester County, and one more that will be opening within the next couple of months in Ocean Pines," Ferry said.

Ferry said clients are referred to WCDC by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration, a state agency that oversees and licenses the center, and provides funding.

All the clients have intellectual disabilities, and many also have secondary issues including physical disabilities and other medical issues.

The original WCDC building in Newark burned down in 2007. Ferry said it was a blessing in disguise that fortunately happened on a day when no clients were in the building.

"It was an in-service day, so there were no clients and only a couple of staff there, and luckily nobody got hurt. At that time, it was an 87-year-old single-story schoolhouse that was crumbling," Ferry said. "So, they were able to build a brand-new center and today we're able to do so much more because of that."



federal Medicaid programs.

He said the clients are so successful "because of our hard-working, dedicated, talented staff."

Those workers, he added, also help boost the local economy.

"Last year, our budget was \$6.3 million. That's all-new dollars that we're bringing into Worcester County, and about 80% of our funding goes into staff salaries," Ferry said.

"That's money that our staff are using to buy groceries and rent homes or pay mortgages and things like that. So, we're bringing a significant amount of money into the county."

About a decade ago, the center was a vital part of the resort industry, with clients helping to run a linen laundry service that served many Ocean Pines restaurants and hotels. A lawn-care service was also utilized by many in the Ocean Pines community, and clients also worked for a catering service through WCDC.

More stringent federal guidelines shuttered those programs around 2016. Ferry admitted it was a difficult transition.

"When we sold our laundry equipment and I watched it going out the building, I had tears in my eyes, because that was such a tremendous program," he said. "Not only were we able to hire our clients, but we had so much business that we worked with the Worcester County Schools, with their special ed department and their summer school, and we even hired some of their students. We also hired clients from other agencies, so we had a lot of people involved."

Now, WCDC operates in part as a center for the arts.

"When we found out we weren't going to be successful in fighting the federal changes, we sat down and we thought about what we were going to do next," Ferry said. "The work we had been doing was significant, and it was also something that set us apart. We had a variety of jobs where we could train clients to have them work and earn a paycheck."

"We were looking for two things. One, what's going to be best for our clients and, two, what's going to set us

Ferry started working for WCDC in 2008 and became the executive director in 2014. He's aided by a staff of 144 and supported by state and



Yumi Hogan, a Korean-American artist and former First Lady of Maryland as wife of Gov. Hogan, visits WCDC.

apart and keep us a little bit different, so that we stand out so that we can attract more people and grow,” he added.

Ferry said almost all clients struggle to communicate in one way or another. Some have physical limitations and others have intellectual difficulties.

“We tried to think about nonverbal ways for our clients to communicate. And we said, through the arts, everybody can do that,” he said. “We looked into it a little bit and decided that’s what we’re going to do. So, we become a center for the arts and the clients are having a great time.”

WCDC partnered with the Art League of Ocean City, with clients able to visit for classes, or attend remotely through online programs like Zoom.

“That’s been a nice relationship,” Ferry said.

While Ferry is unhappy that some of the center’s prior programs are no longer viable, he said the timing was extremely fortuitous.

“I think it was a case of God watching over our clients, but also you kind of make your own luck,” Ferry said. “When COVID hit, it was very fortunate that we were becoming a center for the arts. If we had still been doing work at the center, all of that would have been gone.

“Because of the change in focus, we were able to keep our doors open and provide support for the clients,” he continued. “Our staff would pack up two weeks’ worth of art supplies, drop them off at the client’s houses, and we would do Zoom lessons with them either through the Art League or through our staff here. So, we actually did OK during COVID because we were able to keep our clients very active and engaged because we had made those changes.”

Along with helping clients learn how to communicate better through the arts, Ferry said jobs programs continue to be a major focus of the center.

“Our goal is to help everybody get a job in the community who wants a job,” he said. “We have a job coach who will help them find a job, and then follow along with them to



make sure they’re able to do that job properly.”

Ferry said working for WCDC has been one of the most rewarding experiences of his life, and that feeling is shared by many of his staff.

“When we have an in-service day and the clients aren’t here, everybody just feels like something is missing. You really miss their life and their vitality, their energy, their enthusiasm,” Ferry said.

“I’ve been in this field for 30 years now, and they teach me more every day than I’ve taught any of them in 30 years. They’re just the best people in the world,” he continued. “They love to learn, they love to be active, they love to be engaged. And it just really is a joy and a pleasure

to be able to work with them.

“I always like tell our new staff, ‘You’re gonna have the best job in the world. And you know why? You’re gonna be able to go home at night and get a good night’s sleep because what you did today made somebody else’s life better,’” Ferry said. “I can’t think of a better job than making somebody else’s life better, and helping somebody who appreciates it and somebody who just needs that little bit of help.”

Ferry said the Worcester County Developmental Center is always in need of financial support, as well as local businesses and nonprofits to partner with.

“If people have businesses that they think can work with us, we’re always looking for new opportunities for our clients,” he said. “Any way that we can get them involved in the community is a plus. We’re also hoping to restart our volunteer programs where our clients would go out and volunteer in the community very soon.”

For more information or to donate to WCDC, visit www.wcdcservices.org or email ferry@wcdcservices.org.



Guest column:

Focus on session work in Annapolis

By Mary Beth Carozza

Maryland State Senator for District 38 –
Somerset / Wicomico / Worcester Counties



As we approach the closing month of the **90-day Maryland General Assembly session**, the pace in Annapolis is intense as we work on our Shore priorities.

The transition from one governor to another, complete with the confirmation of new cabinet secretaries and many new board and commission members, has given me opportunities to share our Shore priorities with the new administration. As a member of the **Senate Executive Nominations Committee**, I am meeting each of the new governor's nominees for cabinet-level positions and building relationships that are so necessary for a productive session. It was a real highlight to introduce former Salisbury Mayor Jake Day at his confirmation hearing to serve as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Along with this new committee assignment, I also am excited about the reorganization of my anchor committee – **Education, Energy and Environment (Triple E)** with the addition of the energy portfolio. The Triple E Committee is vital to my district when it comes to advancing farming, fishing, and forestry.

My district also includes three major institutions of higher education – Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and Maryland's Coast provides the opportunity to show that tourism and the environment can work together to benefit all of Maryland. My appointment to the **Chesapeake and Atlantic Bays Joint Committee** gives me the chance to remind my fellow legislators that our coastal bays are just as important as the Chesapeake Bay.

Early on, members of the Triple E Committee addressed education with a briefing by the State Superintendent of Schools. I keep pushing for **local flexibility** regarding curriculum development and teacher preparation, and for more meaningful and early **parental involvement**. I strongly am opposing SB 199/HB119, which mandates a health/sex/gender curriculum over the objections of local boards of education, local superintendents, and thousands of Maryland parents.

One exciting piece of legislation I am co-sponsoring is SB 461, the **Retirement Tax Elimination Act** designed to phase out all retiree state income tax by 2028 for retired seniors at least 65 years old, not employed full-time, and on a fixed income. For 2023, the amount of deduction from income for state tax purposes would be \$10,000 and would increase each year to a \$50,000 deduction by 2027. This

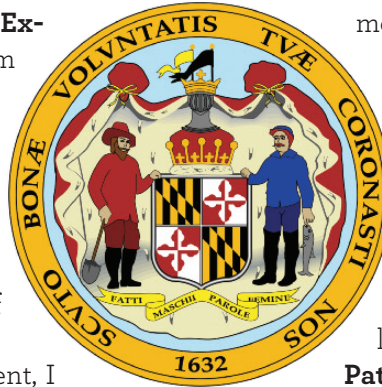
should help those on fixed incomes who have worked all their lives and are now retired but are challenged with inflation and the high cost of living.

As **violent crime** continues to increase across Maryland, I have cosponsored SB 744, which increases penalties for repeat, violent offenders, along with SB 18, which focuses on increasing recruitment and retention of law enforcement. I also have sponsored legislation to support our **first responders and police** living in Maryland by allowing for a \$40 discount on the Department of Natural Resources' annual State Park Pass. This is a simple way to show appreciation for our first responders and promote their health and well being in our state parks.

I still return home on weekends to attend local events, including the **Ocean City St. Patrick's Day Parade**, held for the first time in three years. It was an amazing crowd despite the wind and cold weather, and I'm grateful for all our Team Carozza volunteers for joining us for this special event.

When my work in Annapolis prevents me from coming home, I'm glad when my parents, Tony and Mary Pat Carozza, represent me at various events including Worcester **County Commissioner Chip Bertino's recent town hall** and the fabulous Las Vegas-style show benefitting the **Worcester County Veterans Memorial**, one of my favorite and most cherished places on the Shore.

The Maryland General Assembly wraps on Monday, April 10, and I look forward to making my rounds in Ocean Pines, and visiting with constituents throughout Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me at MaryBeth.Carozza@Senate.State.Md.US



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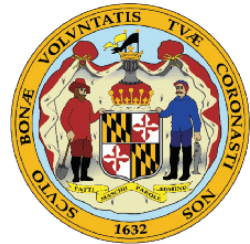
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Guest column:
Greetings from Annapolis to my neighbors Ocean Pines!

By Wayne Hartman
Maryland State Delegate for District 38C, Wicomico & Worcester Counties



As I write to you, the Maryland General Assembly is in the middle of “crossover week,” which is one of the busiest weeks during the legislative session. Generally, any piece of legislation brought before the General Assembly must receive a favorable vote from its respective chamber by March 20 to advance in the process of becoming law. It has been a very busy session for me, and here are some of the highlights so far:

During the first few weeks of session, I arranged a meeting with Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller and Transportation Secretary Paul Weidefeld to discuss the significance and necessity of the Route 90 Bridge Expansion Project. I stressed the importance of continuing the study, design and implementation of the Rt. 90 Bridge Project, as well as having a portion designated for bike and pedestrian travel. Our meeting was productive, and I look forward to working together to see this project come to fruition.

This session I introduced the Economic Competitiveness Act of 2023 to promote business and job creation in Maryland. This bill reduces the corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 6.25% by tax year 2027. Our surrounding states are perceived as more welcoming to businesses. It is time for Maryland to become more competitive and promote a business-friendly environment. To assist our seasonal employers, I have sponsored legislation that increases from 106 to 120 the amount of working days in which a seasonal employee is required to work before receiving paid leave. Unfortunately, the bill was voted unfavorable in committee. Another piece of legislation that I sponsored is a bill that permits local municipalities to provide a property tax credit to public safety officers. This bill would allow counties to offer these incentives as needed for the retention and recruitment of public safety employees.

Parental rights should always be a priority when it comes to raising our children, and I have co-sponsored legislation that formally establishes a parent’s fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of their child. This would create a clear distinction between the roles of parents and government, and keep parents informed and involved.

As many of us know, parts of Maryland have seen an increase in violent crime. The Joint Minority Caucus in Annapolis has introduced legislation to curb the rising violent crime in Maryland. As Chief Deputy Minority Whip, I have been actively involved in shaping all caucus initiatives, including the Gun Theft Felony Act, Juvenile Gun Offenses Accountability Act, and No Bail for Repeat Violent Offenders Act of 2023. Maryland must move in the direction of holding

violent criminals accountable and preventing repeat offenders from harming our citizens.

As a result of the past election, the use of recreational marijuana will be legal for those 21 years and older. I am concerned that law enforcement agencies and employers will lack the ability to detect marijuana impairment. Another concern of mine is regarding the use of recreational marijuana in our communities. While debating the Cannabis Reform legislation on the House floor, I offered an amendment that would allow local community boards, such as homeowner and condominium associations, to regulate the use of marijuana within their properties. Although this motion was rejected by the majority party, it is on record that the bill is silent on the issue. It was stated that community associations can establish regulations on the use of marijuana if they choose to do so. It may be wise for associations to begin considering applicable rules to implement with the guidance of legal counsel.

Recently you may have seen some of the governor’s priorities for Maryland. I am disappointed in the governor’s support of a ban on the sale of gasoline-powered cars in Maryland by 2035. This phased-in ban moves quickly, requiring 43% of Maryland’s new car sales to be zero-emission by 2027. It is unattainable for our energy infrastructure to service such a tremendous number of electric vehicles. Currently, electric vehicles only account for roughly 1% of all registered vehicles in Maryland. This rapid change is unachievable and unaffordable for many, which is why I have co-sponsored legislation to require the Department of Environment to provide analyses of the regulation’s impact on consumers and small businesses, and the capability of our State’s electrical grid. The Department of Environment would be required to submit their analyses to the General Assembly for a vote before implementing such regulations.

The fiscal year 2024 budget proposal has turned out better than I expected, containing less spending than the previous fiscal year. As of now there have been a total of three write-downs for projected revenues, most recently a \$478 million decrease. It is clear that the state is concerned about an economic downturn in the near future. This may impact the amount of funding provided for legislative bond initiatives this session. Nevertheless, I will continue to advocate for my bond initiatives that will provide funding for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Diakonia, Inc., and the American Legion Synepuxent Post 166.

As always, my staff and I are available if you need help working with state agencies. You can contact my office at wayne.hartman@house.state.md.us or call 410-841-3356 for assistance. Thank you!

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Spring into wellness with Worcester Health

Resources to help you be your healthiest self

Guest column by the Worcester County Health Department

Walk for Wellness

Did you know that something as simple as a brisk daily walk can help to improve your overall health? Walking has been proven to aid in maintaining a healthy weight, managing chronic conditions, and even boosting mental health.

The Worcester County Health Department offers the Just Walk program to help you get your steps in while also exploring the beautiful trails of Worcester County! Just Walk is a free, self-directed, self-reported physical activity program that rewards participants for miles or minutes of activity they complete. Simply visit www.JustWalkWorcester.org and click on the "Join" button, complete the registration information, and start being active!

Track your steps, miles, or minutes of activity, and then when you are ready, submit your steps, miles, or minutes of activity through the Just Walk Worcester website to start earning your free prizes. Move your way and be active wherever you want, whenever you want!

Don't miss the upcoming Just Walk event, the "Tortoise and Hare Dare 5k," on April 15. The event will take place at the Pocomoke River State Park in Shad Landing and will start at 9:15 a.m. Pre-registration through Eventbrite is encouraged. Registration ends April 14 at 9 p.m.

Children's Mental Health

Children's mental health is critical now more than ever. Mental health impacts all aspects of a child's life, including the way that they feel about themselves, relate to others, handle everyday challenges, and how they develop.

According to a 2021 report released by Child Mind Institute on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health, about 70% of both children and adults reported some degree of mental discomfort, resulting in loneliness, irritability, or fidgetiness. Of those children, 55% felt more "sad, depressed or unhappy," versus 25% of adults. By equipping adults with resources and improved understanding, we can change the trajectory of children's lives.

The Children's Mental Health Matters! campaign is an initiative in collaboration with the Mental Health Association of Maryland, Maryland Coalition of Families, and local partners. These partners consist of the Worcester County Local Management Board, the Local Behavioral Health Authority, and the Health Department. For more than 20 years, this campaign has strived to provide awareness of the importance of children's mental health, reduce stigma, and connect families with local innovative resources.

This year, Children's Mental Health Matters! Awareness Week is May 7-May 13. During this week, partners from around the state will be spreading the importance of children's mental health. More information about the campaign can be found at www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org.

If you would like to learn more about children's mental health resources in Worcester County, contact the Worcester County Local Management Board at 410-632-3648.

Spring into Quitting with Free Quit Smoking/Vaping Programs

Spring is about new beginnings, which makes this a perfect time to start your tobacco quit journey! Quitting nicotine products has been proven to lower your levels of anxiety, depression, stress, and

improve your overall quality of life.

Worcester Health offers a variety of quit classes designed specifically for adults and youth ages 14-17. These classes consist of eight core sessions covering stress management, weight control, assertive communication, how to develop a quit plan, relapse prevention, and physical activity. Our spring adult classes begin April 11, and the youth classes are set to begin April 17.

View the upcoming class schedule below:

Adult Classes:

- Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m., Snow Hill Health Department (6040 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill)
- Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Atlantic Club (11827 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City)
- Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Distance Learning Class
- Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Pocomoke Health Center (400-A Walnut Street, Pocomoke City)

**Call 410-632-1100 ext. 1103 to register for any of the adult sessions.*

Youth Classes:

- Mondays, 3-4 p.m., Snow Hill Health Department (6040 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill)
- Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m., Pocomoke Health Center (400 A Walnut Street, Pocomoke)
- Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Berlin Health Center (9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin)

**Call 410-632-1100 ext. 1102 to register for any of the youth sessions.*

Worcester Health is committed to helping smokers establish new behavior patterns that lead to a tobacco-free lifestyle!

For more information or resources that Worcester Health has to offer, visit worcesterhealth.org.

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Is it little 'a' or 'BIG A'?

By Margaret White

Salisbury MAC, macinc.org



What's the difference between Alzheimer's and poor memory? Sounds like the opening for a bad joke, doesn't it? But, when we've reached a certain age and can't remember where we put our glasses, why we're staring into the refrigerator, or what message we were supposed to pass along, our faulty memory isn't funny. In fact, it can be downright frightening for the person and the people who love them.

Do we have the little "a" (aging) or the "BIG A" (Alzheimer's or a similar neurodegenerative disease)? And how will we know?

The Alzheimer's Association reports about one in nine seniors over the age of 65 has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. For those who suffer from it and those who care for them, it is a challenge like no other disease for several reasons.

First, the early symptoms mimic the natural effects of aging. Secondly, there are not yet any conclusive diagnostic tools for early detection, although MRI examinations and CAT scans may provide some information. Third, treatment options are improving, but are still limited. Fourth, Alzheimer's is a progressive disease with multiple stages often with wide-ranging symptoms.

So, what can we do beside deny, worry, and try to cope? We can start by becoming familiar with common symptoms of Alzheimer's and the stages associated with them. The Alzheimer's Society website is a wonderful resource: alz.org.

Many, but not all, patients follow a path of progressive deterioration. Every patient follows a different path at a unique pace; some proceed rapidly and some very slowly.

The challenges for caregivers can be significant. Your loved one isn't the same person you've known for a long time. The "new person" can be unrecognizable and, perhaps, not likable.

With most diseases, early diagnosis can make a significant difference in the progression and outcome of the disease. And Alzheimer's/Dementia is no different. Your family physician is a good starting point, but don't walk into a doctor's office without telling the doctor, well in advance, of the situation that concerns you. Properly cued, a medical professional can undertake a series of tests that can reveal reality.

No matter what problem life brings our way, the sooner we recognize it, the sooner we can deal with the situation. Alzheimer's and related dementia conditions are definitely a problem but, like most problems, how we handle it can make things better or worse.

Many resources exist for support and assistance beyond the medical community. The internet has many helpful and informative sites, local libraries have books on the subject, and county social services offer supportive information and

activities. A support group meets twice monthly in the Ocean Pines Library, on the second and fourth Thursdays at 3 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information, contact Margaret White at Salisbury MAC, 410-742-0505, ext. 128 or mwhite@macinc.org.

Warning signs for Alzheimer's

Stages 1-2: *Stages 1-2 may indicate the beginnings of the disease, but rarely lead to diagnosis. Stages 3-6 typically lead to early diagnosis, treatment efforts, and the need for outside support, and stage 7 includes physical and mental difficulties associated with a severe decline that necessitate extensive help.*

Stage 3: *Early stage, can lead to a diagnosis for some*

1. Frequent difficulty with names, new or known, and right words
2. Work suffers because of lack of attention
3. Reading a problem, no memory of what was read
4. Difficulty in social settings
5. Losing or misplacing valuable object /money
6. Problems with planning/organization
7. Anxiety as person begins to deny what's happening

Stage 4: *Moderate decline, doctor should be able to detect symptoms and family/friends are aware*

1. Forgetful of recent events, headlines, etc.
2. Travel, even familiar, causes anxiety
3. Mental math a problem, counting backward by 7
4. Problem with paying bills, managing money
5. Forgetting own personal history
6. Moodier, likely to withdraw
7. Shys away from tasks that are a challenge

Stage 5: *Gaps in memory and thinking are noticeable to all, begins to need help with daily activities*

1. Unable to recall own address /phone number
2. Confused about where they are, day, time
3. Trouble counting backward from 20 by 2's
4. Need help choosing clothes
5. Remember details about themselves and family, but have trouble recalling relatives rarely seen
6. Do not need help eating or using the bathroom

Stage 6: *Severe cognitive decline*

1. Lose awareness of surroundings
2. Recognize familiar faces, but names and relationships may be forgotten
3. Experience sleep disorders
4. Need help with most daily routines, dressing/bathing, etc.
5. Bowel or bladder issues may occur
6. May exhibit agitation, anxiety, delusions, and sometimes aggressive behaviors



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Guest column:

Think before you plant

By Mike Malandro, President & CEO
Choptank Electric Cooperative



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Spring weather is finally here, and with that comes outdoor activities and chores. If planting and digging are on your to-do list this season, we encourage you to practice the safe vegetation management practices outlined below to avoid harm, power line damage and costly repairs.

If you're planning to plant new trees around your property, there are important things to consider before selecting the location and type of tree. Determine first where the tree will be planted, then if it will interfere with any underground power lines based on how far the roots will travel. You may need to adjust the location of the tree if it will affect utility lines or choose a different type of tree.

To be sure the area selected to plant the tree is safe, another vegetation management practice is to call the national call-before-you-dig phone number by dialing 811 before you dig any hole. This will aid in selecting where to plant your trees by requesting the marking of approximate locations of buried utilities with paint or flags, so you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line. Once all utilities have marked their buried lines, you can dig carefully around any utility marks and relocate projects that are close to buried utilities, considering that tree roots travel over time as well.

An improperly placed tree causes nearly 15% of all outages on our system. Proper vegetation management provides reliable electricity to the Cooperative's members. Additional activities such as tree trimming, tree removal, mowing and herbicide application to clear non-compatible vegetation from within and around the varying utility resources maintained by Choptank Electric keep all lines, equipment and staff safe.

Following sound vegetation management techniques that meet all local, state and federal regulations while enriching the natural resources of the Eastern Shore of Maryland,

vegetation management represents the largest portion of Choptank Electric's right-of-way budget. This provides maintenance activities for all nine counties in a three-year maintenance cycle. But it's up to our members to also maintain proper vegetation management around their homes to ensure additional reliability and safety.

Visit choptankelectric.coop/vegetation-management to learn more about proper tree planting and choptankelectric.coop/you-dig-miss-utility to learn more about marking underground utility lines. Our Member Service Line is also available to call Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. with additional questions at 877-892-0001.

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Guest column:

The best investment you'll ever make

By Brenda Davis, Executive Director

Assateague Coastal Trust



The Assateague Coastal Trust staff and board members were delighted to read the article by the Environment and Natural Assets Committee in the winter issue of the Ocean Pines Report about the wonderful natural environment of the Pines. We couldn't have said it better.

We think the committee's emphasis on "natural assets" dovetails perfectly with our mission. Assets have value, and value is what we work to protect, not just in the Pines, but throughout the county. Nobody wants to live in an oasis of beauty and health while the surrounding areas are nightmares of unbridled development.

Our goal is to protect the things we all value: quality of life, a healthy and productive environment, and yes, the value of our properties.

We all know what happens when the natural world is degraded. Just look at some of the sprawling areas up north in Delaware. Unbridled growth and a compromised environment inevitably lead to a lower quality of life and lower property values.

Fortunately, Worcester County and the state of Maryland have some of the better environmental policies around, but

it's a constant battle to keep them that way and make them even better.

Everyone wants all the things that come with a healthy environment: plenty of open space, a productive fishery in the bays and offshore, abundant wildlife. These things are simple to say, but not so easy to maintain and improve.

It takes work. We examine every piece of legislation, whether from the state, the county or local jurisdictions. We comment; we inform; we advocate; we fight. Sometimes we hire lawyers.

We attend county commissioners meetings. We are there for zoning hearings, we keep tabs on all meetings of the planning commission. Our staff and volunteers monitor water quality throughout the bays.

It's not easy. We spend a lot of time fundraising, time that could be better spent in the trenches.

So please, if you value the quality of your life in Worcester County, if you are happy with the value of your property, or if you enjoy all our area has to offer when you visit, think of us. Make a tax-deductible donation.

For more information, visit actforbays.org.



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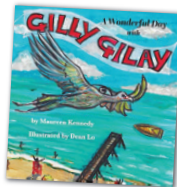
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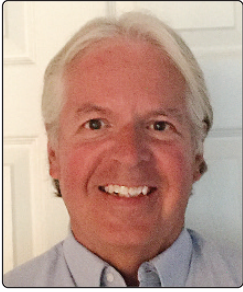
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Message from the OPA BOARD PRESIDENT



Doug Parks
OPA President

Amenities are in good hands

Daylight saving time was official on March 12 at 2 a.m. The big question is whether we will “fall back” in November. Personally, I hope we stay on daylight saving time, as it gives us more daylight hours to enjoy the wonderful amenities we have here in Ocean Pines.

Again, this year we’ve had a mild winter. However, I’m sure most, if not all, of us are looking forward to the warmer springtime temperatures. I suspect the spring season will show an increased use of the pickleball courts, tennis courts, basketball courts, walking trails

and other outdoor amenities.

In February, the Board voted to adopt the fiscal budget for FY23-24. Through the hard work of our General Manager and his team, the annual assessment was reduced by \$13 from last year. I have publicly thanked the Budget and Finance Committee and the General Manager and his staff, as well as my Board colleagues for their hard work and involvement in the budget process.

Bulkhead and drainage issues continue to be addressed by the General Manager and his staff, and significant progress has been made in replacing a number of aging underground pipes.

Our Yacht Club is gearing up to resume full-time operation and, based on the crowds that have been coming since early February, I am looking forward to a busy spring and summer season. The Matt Ortt Companies continues to make our Yacht Club the wonderful amenity that the OPA membership and guests can enjoy.

The golf course is in fantastic shape and has become a destination for out-of-town golfers. If you haven’t had a breakfast over at the Clubhouse, especially on a Sunday, you should stop by as the food is delicious.

All in all, the community and its amenities are in good hands. I can’t say enough about Ocean Pines, its amenities and – most importantly – its people.

Here’s hoping that during the spring and as we move towards the summer season, we can continue to enjoy good times with friends and neighbors. Stay safe and healthy.

Ocean Pines Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALENDAR

For an up-to-date meeting calendar, candidate registration form, governing documents (including Book of Resolutions, Bylaws, Charter, etc.), board meeting materials, board meeting minutes, archives and more, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/board-of-directors.

Sat, April 15: Board Meeting, 9am

Wed, July 6: Voter eligibility deadline

**Wed, May 10: Board Election
filing deadline by 4pm**

Sat, July 15: Board Meeting, 9am

Sat, May 20: Board Meeting, 9am

**Wed, Aug. 9: Ballot return deadline
by 4pm**

**Fri, June 2: Eligible Candidate Draw
& Workshop, 2pm**

**Fri, Aug. 11: Ballots counted &
vote totals announced**

Sat, June 17: Board Meeting, 9am

Sat, Aug. 12: Annual Meeting, 9am

Ocean Pines Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The Board of Directors is a legislative policy-setting body of the Ocean Pines community. The affairs and business of the Association are managed by a Board of seven (7) and the terms of the Directors will be for three (3) years and until their respective successors are duly elected policy-setting. The Board of Directors appoints a General Manager to oversee the executive management of the operations of the Association. **You may contact individual Board members using their personal contact information, or email all members at directors@oceanpines.org.***



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(TERM 2020–2023)

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dparks@oceanpines.org



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(TERM 2021–2024)

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(TERM 2022–2025)

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John Viola
General Manager

Notable enhancements

As the team continues to focus on maintaining and improving our infrastructure, we have seen several notable enhancements over the last several months.

The administration building underwent a major renovation that included the installation of a new HVAC system, as well as a reorganization of the building's interior, with new flooring installed and a fresh coat of paint on every wall. Ruth Ann Meyer supervised the project, with additional input from our designer, Tobie Jacobs. The work

was done by Ocean Pines Public Works and outside contractors.

We are installing a new C dock and replacing gas lines and fuel dispensers at the Ocean Pines Marina, and we expect to have that work done before Memorial Day. We did have to shut down some of the gas lines last summer, but we were still able to meet the gas demands of all our customers. The new gas lines and fuel dispensers are required because of new MDE environmental standards.

There have been many enhancements at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center over the last several years, including new pickleball and junior tennis courts, replaced fences and screens, crack repairs and resurfacing, and new paint on all the existing courts.

We're now focusing on repairs inside the clubhouse, landscaping for spring and summer, building a new shade structure, and resurfacing the Har-Tru tennis courts in line with ATC standards. We also met with the Racquet Sports team in March to prepare preliminary sketches for a new building and warming hut.

Next door at the dog park, we made several repairs requested by homeowners, along with filling the entryway in with gravel and putting in new mulch. We also received a quote on a new agility course, again at the request of a homeowner and dog park member.

We're looking forward to another productive and profitable spring and summer at our amenities. Matt Ruggiere will lead a new golf academy at our Golf Club, Aquatics and Recreation and Parks are hosting many new and returning programs and events, and the Yacht Club has live entertainment scheduled on the patio every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

We also continue to focus on the safety of our homeowners. We added an outside Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit to the Racquet Center. These units are already installed at virtually every building and amenity in Ocean Pines. We have ordered an additional AED for the police station and have scheduled AED training for Ocean Pines staff.

Ocean Pines has been in the law enforcement business for 50 years. We continue to be in the law enforcement business, and we plan on being in the law enforcement business in the future.

We are reviewing our compensation packages and those of our neighboring agencies, and we believe that recent salary increases for our Police officers have made us more competitive in the hiring process. We will continue to review Police compensation and make any changes that are necessary.

Across the board, we are focused on filling open positions through compensation reviews, job fairs, local advertising, and messaging from our Public Relations and HR departments. For a list of current openings, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/work-here.

As always, we welcome questions, comments, and other feedback through info@oceanpines.org. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have for myself or the team.



**OCEAN
PINES
ASSOCIATION**

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

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

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

Memorial Day: Mon, May 29

Independence Day: Tue, July 4

OCEAN PINES REPORT

A Quarterly Publication by
OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION, INC.
239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

Ocean Pines Marketing & Public Relations Department

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

Marketing & Public Relations Dir.

Josh Davis

443.366.1844 • jdavis@oceanpines.org

Marketing Coordinator

Julie Malinowski

410.641.7717 Ext. 3014



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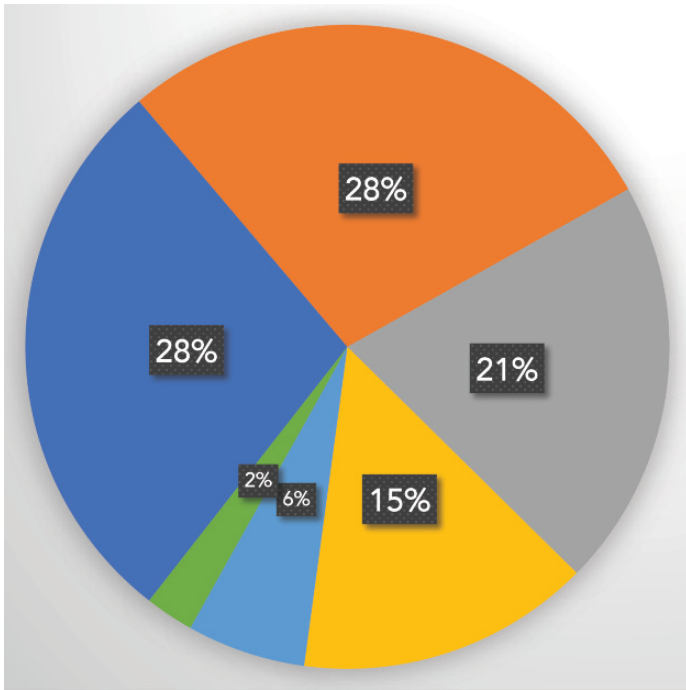
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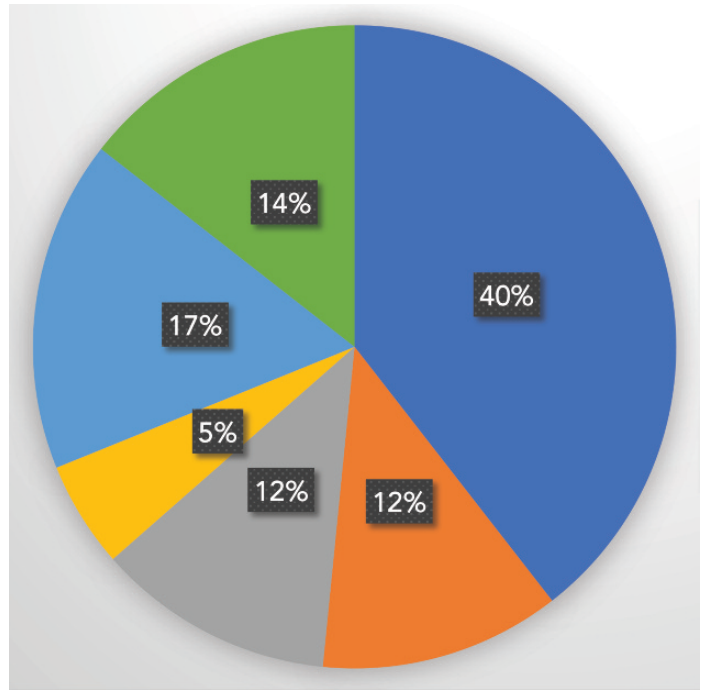
Where Your Assessment Dollars Go



Public Safety	(\$289)
Public Works & Maintenance	(\$287)
Capital Replacement	(\$210)
Admin	(\$151)
Rec and Parks	(\$ 61)
Bulkheads	(\$ 25)

- The majority of OPA homeowners' assessments dollars goes toward keeping the community safe and well maintained.
- Just over half, **56%**, pays for public safety (including Police, **Fire** and **EMS**), and **Public Works and Maintenance**.
- Roughly **20%** goes to funding for current and future year **capital expenses**, and about **15%** pays for **administration costs**, which includes the GM Office, Finance and PR/Marketing departments, along with other administrative costs such as legal expenses, IT contracted services, bad debt expense, Board expenses, etc.
- About **6%** helps pay for **Recreation and Parks** programs, and **2%** pays for common area **bulkhead replacement**.

Amenities with an Operating Profit



Beach Parking	\$509,769
Yacht Club	\$156,257
Beach Club	\$154,302
Clubhouse Grille	\$ 69,019
Marinas	\$215,404
Golf	\$186,567

- Four of Ocean Pines' six amenities were budgeted with an operating profit in fiscal year 2023-2024.
- That includes:
 - Beach Parking** with a **\$509,769** operating profit
 - Combined **Food and Beverage** with a **\$379,578** operating profit
 - Marinas** with a **\$215,404** operating profit
 - Golf** with a **\$186,567** operating profit.
- A fifth amenity, **Racquet Sports**, is budgeted close to breaking even.
- Combined amenities are budgeted with an overall operating profit of about **\$1.2 million**, meaning the amenities help to reduce the overall Ocean Pines assessment.

Meet the Team: Howard Webb

It's easy to take things for granted when they work well. A phone call that reaches an actual person. Paying a check at a restaurant or buying a pool pass. The accounting system that runs a community behind the scenes. Virtually everything that plugs into a wall and makes our modern world go.

In Ocean Pines, for the last four years, Howard Webb has been the glue that holds all that together.

Webb is originally from the Washington, D.C. area. He worked in the real estate business before moving to IT.

"It was totally by accident," he said. "One of my real estate clients happened to own a small computer company in Arlington, Virginia, and he offered me a job selling computer hardware and software to the real estate vertical market.

"I got in on the ground level and I just liked it. I had an aptitude for it and it was a small company, so you could get your hands dirty and dig in," he continued. "It was really kind of happenstance, but I'm glad it happened."

Webb later moved to Ocean Pines because his parents owned a house here, and he continued working in the technology field, running network and audio cables for new homes.

Four years ago, he joined the fledgling IT Department in Ocean Pines.

"They had a hodgepodge of equipment and software that was kind of pieced together, and a lot of the stuff was obsolete. We were really just starting to have an IT department," he said. "When I started working here, we were trying to get some kind of order and cohesiveness and, you know - a plan."

Webb said one of his first tasks was stabilizing the enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that, basically, helps organize and automate the various computer systems.

"The big thing was the infrastructure as a whole - connecting our amenities so that we can communicate with each other," he said. "Another big problem was that we really had no redundancy as far as our connection to the internet, or to each other."

A few years ago, it was common for the internet to go down for several hours at the Yacht Club, one of the pools, or even in the administration building. When that happens, no transactions can be processed, and no money can be made.

The introduction of Comcast as a second service provider, along with Mediacom, meant that outages still happen, but now they last minutes instead of hours.



"We've incorporated Comcast with Mediacom and now we have redundancy in our locations so that, if the Yacht Club or the Beach Club doesn't have internet access, one of the other providers kicks in as soon as one goes down. So, for the customer it's seamless and you don't even notice it. That's much better than it was.

"That's what IT does behind the scenes - it's the glue that holds everything together," Webb added.

Overall, Webb said the IT Department has become much more organized and is able to work more efficiently.

Of course, when all that work to update and modernize systems was going on, suddenly IT also had to help the Association navigate through a pandemic that meant working virtually was often a necessity.

"People actually fell into the flow pretty quickly," Webb said. "Most of the staff here at the Admin Building had laptops. And then we started implementing Microsoft Teams that allowed us to work a lot more cohesively together. In general people don't like change, but our people caught on pretty well.

"Now we're doing committee meetings and Board meetings via Teams, and I'm really pleasantly surprised, because we used to struggle to get any attendance and now we have a whole bunch of new people attending these meetings," Webb continued. "So, I think we've managed to pull some positives."

The other big IT project was the Northstar software that runs all of Ocean Pines' financial systems, as well as the oceanpines.org website.

Webb said there were definitely growing pains, but things have mostly stabilized.

"It's a lot better," he said. "We used to have 1,000 outstanding tickets to Northstar about issues at any given time, and there were new issues every day. There are problems with any new system, but it's toned way down. Overall, it's much more stable.

"I don't get anywhere near as many calls now and, when I do, it's stuff that I can handle," he added.

Webb said the next big project for the IT Department is going paperless, and moving data storage into a cloud-based system that is easier to use and more accessible.

It will also allow staff to be more flexible.

"Right now, our finance director and a couple of people work from home, and they have to use a (cont. on pg. 27)

IT DEPARTMENT

(cont. from pg. 26) VPN to attach to our files and access our resources on our server, which is kind of cumbersome. They occasionally have problems with it, and they have to call me to reconnect," he said. "Now, they'll be able to access it from anywhere from any computer, because it'll all be in the cloud.

"We'll also be more paperless with our document management, so we can share documents among each other, and it'll be searchable," he continued. "And it should help cut down on the mountains of paper that you see in some of our offices."

Overall, Webb said Ocean Pines is much closer to where it needs to be, from a technology standpoint.

"For an organization of our size and our resources, it's always going to be hard. But, we're coming into the 21st century as far as technology is concerned. And we're a lot better than we were four years ago," he said.

Webb is now the senior support associate for the Ocean Pines IT Department.

Last year, Keith Calabrese took over as the IT manager. He's the third person to helm that position in the last four years, but Webb said Calabrese has brought a level of

stability to the department.

"Keith is great," Webb said. "He's kind of an easygoing guy. He depends on me and pretty much gives me free rein to do what needs to be done. He kind of takes care of the administrative part, dealing with the Board and with future planning, disaster recovery plans – all the stuff that I did not want to do!"

Through it all, Webb has always maintained a healthy sense of humor. When he walks into any office in Ocean Pines, you know he's there to fix a problem, and he almost always has a way of making people smile and laugh.

"My grandmother always told me there's two ways to look at everything: There are people that have everything and they're unhappy, and there are people that have nothing and they're happy every day," Webb said. "It's really just a matter of perspective.

"I'm not happy all the time, but you only get one life. Whatever you do with it, that's all you got," he continued. "So, even if things are sometimes hard, you might as well make fun of it or laugh about it. I think that's where it comes from."

ADMINISTRATION

Ocean Pines holds first Association-wide job fair

Dozens attended a job fair at the Ocean Pines Community Center in March.

Hosted by the Association, the event included representatives from the Police, Public Works, Aquatics, Recreation and Parks, Golf and Administration departments.

"The first Ocean Pines job fair was a success," Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin said. "Despite the cold weather, the job fair still brought in around 50 attendees, with a diverse amount of experience looking to work in Ocean Pines. Applications will be reviewed by each department, and hopefully all who attended will receive a job offer to join the Ocean Pines team."

General Manager John Viola said he was gratified by the turnout, as well as the work put in by Ocean Pines staff in the recruiting effort.

"We were happy to see so many come out, talk to representatives from the various departments and fill out applications. Hopefully, many of them will become a part of our team," he said. "Ocean Pines continues to be a great place to live and work."

For those who could not attend, seasonal and year-round positions across multiple Ocean Pines departments and amenities are still available.

Human Resources Manager Lisa Carson said Ocean Pines still has job vacancies in a variety of fields and for all

ages, including summer camp counselors, junior counselors, swim instructors, lifeguards, general laborer, golf cart attendants, racquet center attendants, police officers and more.

"Whether you're a 15-year-old looking for your first job, a retiree looking for part-time work, or someone interested in a full-time, year-round career, we have a place for you," she said.

For an up-to-date list of all open positions, or to download an employment application, please visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/work-here.

For more information, contact hr@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717 ext. 3007.

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Message from PUBLIC WORKS



Eddie Wells
Director

Public Works makes changes to its leaf collection program

Starting on May 1, residents will need a sticker to display in their vehicle when dropping off leaves or other yard debris at the Public Works yard on 1 Firehouse Lane. The stickers will be free for the first year (2023).

To obtain a sticker, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

Residents with a sticker may use the Public Works yard to drop off yard debris May 1-27, Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Outside of spring and fall openings, residents can schedule special drop-off times during normal work hours by calling Public Works.

Ocean Pines will continue to pick up bagged leaves in November and December, and Republic Services will continue their leaf collection program.

However, Public Works will no longer operate the vacuum

truck and homeowners will be responsible for bagging leaves in drainage ditches on their properties.

Ocean Pines residents are asked to not drop off any yard debris at the Worcester County Recycling Center, which could result in fines or violations from the county.

The Worcester County Recycling Center accepts newspaper, mixed paper, magazines, glass, plastic, aluminum and bi-metal cans, cardboard, and textiles (clothing).

All other items are not allowed. The recycling station is not staffed, but does have security cameras. Violators may be ticketed.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.



Nobie Violante
Manager

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works announces passing of former employee

Allan "Bubba" Baker, a former Ocean Pines Public Works employee, passed away on March 9. He was 82.

Baker had been sidelined because of health issues as of late 2022, but he was hopeful of a recovery.

He was a quintessential Eastern Shore native, born in the area and growing up in Whaleyville. For several decades, Baker operated one of the poultry trucks that are ubiquitous on the Eastern Shore.

Baker was also one of the original "saltwater cowboys," helping to run the pony penning operation in Chincoteague, Virginia. He met his wife, Shirley, while riding a horse in Chincoteague, and the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in January.



IN MEMORIAM
ALLAN C. BAKER

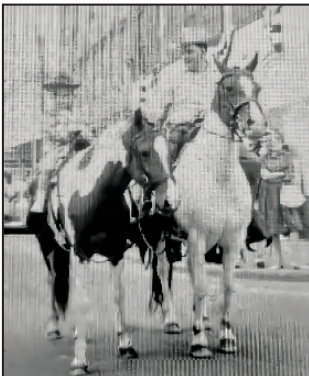
In Ocean Pines, Baker was known as a friendly presence who worked hard, helped to keep the roads clean, and was beloved by neighborhood pets who knew he always carried treats.

One dog owner, Georgia Hughes, even put Baker on her Christmas card list. Her maltipoo, Skippy, was Baker's biggest fan.

"Skippy just loves Bubba ... You wouldn't find a kinder man," Hughes said.

Visitations were held on March 24 and March 25 at the Bishop-Hastings Funeral Home in Selbyville. A funeral service was held on March 25 at the same location.

Baker will be missed by many in the Ocean Pines community.





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Linda Martin
Senior Executive
Office Manager

Stay in compliance with grass cutting, leaves and yard debris

While spring brings warmer weather, it also brings the growing of grass and weeds. To avoid any violations by Ocean Pines, please cut your grass regularly.

Any grass/weeds that exceed 10 inches will be issued a violation notice. If they are not cut after 10 days, Ocean Pines will have a contractor cut it for you, which will incur the contractor's fee, plus a \$100 administrative fee. Avoid us sending you a letter and maintain your yard!

Another issue that has been occurring recently is the illegal dumping of leaves and debris. The Compliance, Permits, and Inspections (CPI) team has had to issue numerous violations over the last several months for those homes that have dumped leaves and debris onto Ocean

Pines property and/or Worcester County property.

This includes leaves piled up on the street (hinderance to the flow of traffic), intentionally placing debris into the drainage ditch (which clogs the ditch) or placing debris on the golf course.

This illegal dumping will also receive a violation notice. If the violation is not resolved, a contractor will be hired to remove the debris, which will incur the contractor's fee, plus a \$100 administrative fee.

If you have any questions, please contact the CPI office at 410-641-7425, or stop by the office at 1 Firehouse Lane (behind the south gate firehouse). The CPI office is open from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday to answer any questions you have.

For all other questions, concerns, complaints and general information, please contact info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717 during business hours (410-641-7747 on nights and weekends).



A hinderance to the flow of traffic – Illegal dumping of leaves and yard debris, piled up on streets.



Clogging drainage ditches – Illegal dumping of leaves and yard debris into drainage ditches and placing debris on the golf course.




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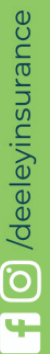
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David Van Gasbeck
OPVFD President



Steve Grunewald
OPVFD Chief

Fire Safety checklist for homeowners and renters

If there is a fire, you may have less than three minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone

boiling or broiling food.

- Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

ESCAPE PLAN

- There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- Everyone living in the house practices the escape plan 2 times a year.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than seven years old.

ELECTRICAL AND APPLIANCE SAFETY

- All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

CANDLE SAFETY

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Adults blow out all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Candles are kept out of reach from children and pets.

Children are sometimes curious about fire. If you have children in your home, lock up any items that can start a fire (matches, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) and make sure children cannot reach candles.

in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

The U.S. Fire Administration has provided a checklist of safety precautions to take in your home.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- Test your alarm regularly. Your smoke alarm is working if it makes a noise when you press the "test" button.

COOKING SAFETY

- The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling,

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Debbie Donahue
Director of
Recreation & Parks

Lots of fun planned for spring and summer!

Warm weather has returned! We are in full swing again with spring and summer events. We have been planning since December and hope that we are going to bring lots of fun for everyone this year. Pick up a spring/summer Activity Guide at the Ocean Pines Community Center to see a schedule of events and activities.

This year we will once again host **Family Fun Night** at the Yacht Club Pool, **Concerts in the Park** at White Horse Park and **July 4th events** such as the **Freedom 5K**, the **holiday celebration** and amazing **fireworks** over the South Gate Pond.

We have multiple **craft classes** planned for the summer as well as **surf and body board camps**. Let's not forget the Maryland Coastal **Bay Day** event on May 7 at White Horse Park, which includes boat rides on the St. Martin River, hands-on activities, environmental exhibitors and more.

The very popular **Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market** in White Horse Park continues to provide many great opportunities to pick up some fresh produce, from-scratch food, jewelry, clothing, handmade items and many other products. The market also features a Community Corner for

nonprofit organizations and a Kids' Market Zone with lots of fun things for our smaller market visitors.

The **Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop**, also in White Horse Park, is open on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer. All products in the store are made by members of the club. The shop is the best place to pick up something awesome for that person who has everything. The Pine'eer Craft Club will also host **craft fairs** on Aug. 5 and Nov. 4. Mark your calendar for these two special events featuring multiple vendors with an amazing assortment of products.

Visit the Recreation and Parks Department at the Community Center any time to pick up flyers, rent a room for a special party, check out the fun things going on in Ocean Pines or just to say "hi."

The Community Center is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. on Sundays. If you're interested in **renting a room**, give us a call - we have three rooms, along with a kitchen, that I'm sure can fit all your rental needs. We also offer birthday party specials that include a **gym and party room**. Call 410-641-7052 for pricing.

For more summer fun information, please visit the Ocean Pines website, follow us on Facebook or stop by the Community Center. I look forward to sunshine, fun and seeing all your bright summer faces!



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Spring and summer events announced in Ocean Pines

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks has announced dates and times for several major upcoming events. All events in Ocean Pines are open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Bay Day, presented by Ocean Pines and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, returns Sunday, **May 7** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in White Horse Park. The event teaches local people how to "make a difference in your own backyard," with free boat rides, hands-on activities, environmental exhibitors, and live animal demonstrations. Admission is free. *Also, see next page for more information.*

Ocean Pines Bike Ride Day is Saturday, **May 13** from 3-6 p.m. For more information, email Patti Stevens of the Worcester County Bike & Pedestrian Coalition at patti59.stevens@gmail.com, or Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue at ddonahue@oceanpines.org.

Teach a Kid to Fish Day is Saturday, **June 17** from 9-11 a.m. at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. The event includes a drawing for a free rod and reel. For more information, call John McFalls at 610-505-1697.

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks will host **Family Fun Nights, Wednesdays from June 21 through Aug. 23** from 6-8 p.m. at the Yacht Club Pool. The event will feature a live DJ, with family fun, games and prizes. Admission is \$3 for swim members, \$5 for residents, and \$7 for nonresidents. Only those swimming pay a fee.

Free Concerts in the Park are scheduled **every Thursday from June 22 through Aug. 24** from 7-9 p.m. in White Horse Park. Food is available for sale and BYOB is permitted.

On **July 4**, the Recreation and Parks Department and OC Tri-Running will host the 11th annual **Freedom 5K** starting at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Awards will be given for several age groups. Online preregistration is \$40.

Later that day, the department will host the annual **July 4th Celebration and Fireworks**. Enjoy carnival games, music, food and more from 5-8:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Admission is free and wristbands are \$15. Fireworks are scheduled to launch just after dark. Attendees may bring lawn chairs and blankets.

The 27th **Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest** is set for Saturday, **July 15** from 9-10:30 a.m. at the South

Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. Trophies and prizes will be awarded for age groups of 4-7, 8-11 and 12-16. For more information, call John McFalls at 610-505-1697.

The Pine'er Craft Club will present the 45th Annual **Indoor/Outdoor Arts & Crafts Festival** on Saturday, **Aug. 5** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park. Admission is free.

For the second year, Recreation and Parks will host the **Back-to-School Bash**, scheduled for Saturday, **Aug. 26** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. The event will include moon bounces, games, food, music and more. Staff and volunteers will collect donations of backpacks and other school supplies for Worcester County G.O.L.D. Admission is \$10 per person.

Big Truck Day is scheduled Saturday, **Sept. 16** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the field between the Sports Core Pool and Veterans Memorial Park. Children can interact with fire trucks, tow trucks, dump trucks, tractor trailers and more. Admission is free.

The **Fall Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market** is scheduled Saturday, **Sept. 23** from 8 a.m. to noon in the Community Center Gym and White Horse Park. Vendor spaces are available. Call 410-641-7052 for more information.



ARTS DAY IN THE Pines

Saturday, June 24th 11 am - 5 pm
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Community Center Gym • Manklin / Huntington Field
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Softball, baseball, basketball, tennis, platform & pickleball courts are also available. Sports equipment for rent: bocce ball sets, horseshoes, shuffleboard & more!

For more info or to apply for a rental, contact the Recreation Dept. at 410.641.7052 rec@oceanpines.org.

Bay Day returns, May 7 in Ocean Pines

Event to feature environmental exhibitors and demonstrations, along with live music, food, and family activities

The fourth annual Bay Day event returns to White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bay Day is a collaborative conservation effort of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Ocean Pines Association, and is aimed to help improve the health of the waterways that shoulder the residential shores of Ocean Pines.

This free, family-friendly event caters to all age groups through hands-on activities, free boat tours, live music, food trucks, live animal exhibits, and more.

"We are excited to bring Bay Day back this year for the fourth time," MCBP Education Coordinator Liz Wist said. "Bay Day is a great way for community members to learn more about how they can make changes that, over time, have a strong positive impact on our Coastal Bays.

"People should feel welcome to come and stay all day," she continued. "They can learn from environmental

organizations, take a boat tour of the St. Martin, eat lunch, listen to music, pick up a native plant, and participate in various hands-on activities."

The event this year will feature more than 30 conservation partners, including Go Green OC, Ocean City Surf Club, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Assateague Coastal Trust, Protectors of the St. Martin River, and many more. The first 400 attendees will receive a canvas bag, hand-painted by students from Worcester County Public Schools.

The recycling station will be back this year. Community members can bring their plastic grocery bags, alkaline batteries, old phones and more to drop off for recycling. Go Green OC will also collect compost.

For more information on the compost and recycling program, and for weekly Bay Day updates, visit the "Bay Day in Ocean Pines 2023" event on Facebook.



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FOR INFO OR TO REGISTER

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APRIL 22
9am-6pm

APRIL 23
9am-6pm

Must be at least 15 years old by completion of last class.

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HYDRORIDER WATER CYCLING

Hydroriders are user-friendly, in-water cycling bikes that are perfect for any skill level. **Note: Please show up 10 minutes early to set up your bike. Water shoes must be worn & can be purchased at Sports Core Pool. Note: Only 15 participants per class. Must have 5 registered participants for class session to occur.**

WHEN: MON / WED, 12:00pm-12:40pm 12 classes (6 weeks)
MAY 1 – JUN 7 *Instructor:* Julie Winterling

POOL: Sports Core
FEE: Swim Member \$90; OP Resident \$95; Non-Resident \$100;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$9; OP Resident \$11; Non-Resident \$13
 (Drop-in subject to availability)

AQUA YOGA

This super low-impact class makes it possible for those with joint pain to improve their strength, flexibility & range of motion. The buoyancy of the water allows the muscles to relax & be stretched & strengthened with less incidence of injury. **Note: Must have 7 registered participants for class session.**

WHEN: WED / FRI 12 classes (6 weeks)
TIME: 8:00am-8:45am
thru MAY 5
MAY 17 – JUN 23
JUL 5 – AUG 11
SEP 6 – OCT 13

POOL: Sports Core
INSTRUCTOR:
 Chrissy Ehrhart,
 Certified Yoga Instructor
FEE: Swim Member \$60; OP Resident \$70; Non-Resident \$86;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

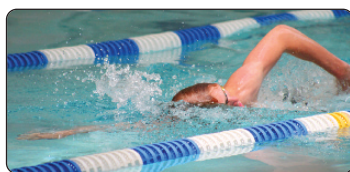


EARLYBIRD LAP SWIM

6 weeks of lap swimming or do your own thing in the deep end!
Note: Lane sharing is expected & encouraged!

WHEN: MON-FRI, 6:00am-7:50am 30 classes (6 weeks)
thru
MAY 5
MAY 8 – JUN 16
JUN 19 – JUL 28
JUL 31 – SEP 22 *No Class 8/21-9/4*

POOL: Sports Core
FEE: Swim Member, free OP Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$78;



New! STRENGTH & TONE

This low-impact class will focus on toning different muscle groups each class. Great for those looking to rebuild, strengthen & work their muscles!

STRENGTH & TONE I

WHEN: MON / WED, 9:00am-9:45am 12 classes (6 weeks)*
thru APR 5
APR 17 – MAY 24
JUN 5 – JUL 12

JUL 24 – AUG 9 *6-class, 3-weeks
SEP 6 (Wed) – OCT 16 (Mon)

STRENGTH & TONE II

WHEN: TUE / THU, 11:00am-11:50am 12 classes (6 weeks)*
thru APR 6
APR 18 – MAY 25
JUN 6 – JUL 18 *No Class 7/4*

JUL 25 – AUG 10 *6-class, 3-weeks
SEP 5 – OCT 12

POOL: Sports Core

INSTRUCTOR: Jen Kauffman

FEE: (12-class session): Swim Member \$59; OP Resident \$66;
 Non-Resident \$80; (6-class session): Swim Member \$30;
 OP Resident \$33; Non-Resident \$40; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6;
 OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8 (Drop-in subject to availability)

CREAKY JOINTS I & II

This minimum-impact class focuses on working all joints to improve balance & flexibility. It is particularly suited for individuals with arthritis or muscular disorders that impair movement & anyone recovering from joint surgery. Those with diabetes must wear water shoes. **Note: Must have 6 registered participants for class session.**

CREAKY JOINTS I

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI 18 classes (6 weeks)
TIME: 11:00am-11:50am
thru MAY 5
MAY 15 – JUN 23
JUL 3 – AUG 11
SEP 6 (Wed) – OCT 16 (Mon)

CREAKY JOINTS II

WHEN: TUE / THU 12 classes (6 weeks)
TIME: 11:00am-11:50am
Thru MAR 16
MAR 28 – MAY 4
MAY 16 – JUN 22
JUL 4 – AUG 10
SEP 5 – OCT 12

POOL: Sports Core

INSTRUCTOR: Edith Vogl, Certified Water Arts Arthritis Instructor

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



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 Aug. 21–Sept. 4 (2-week maintenance & cleaning)

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Ron Fisher

Dock Master

Improvements at the Yacht Club Marina

You may have noticed some changes at the Yacht Club Marina. We have started removal of the old gas pumps and have evacuated and capped the old gas lines in preparation for replacement of the entire C Dock. We anticipate delivery of the new dock mid-March.

We will shortly begin removal of the existing dock and gas dock building in preparation of installation of the new dock to include new power pedestals, gas dock building, gas lines and new fuel dispensers. At the present time, with the help of Ocean Pines Public Works and our contractors, construction is on schedule, weather permitting.

Starting May 1, you can stop by the Yacht Club Marina store for all of your boating needs, including oil, ice, bait, ice cream, drinks and branded apparel. In addition, the marina will be expanding their line of fishing tackle, shirts, hats, etc. for the new boating season.

I'll keep you up to date as construction progresses via the Ocean Pines website at oceanpines.org, and I look forward to a great 2023 boating season.

2023 Marina Fuel Dock and Office Hours

May 1 – 25	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
May 26 – Sept 4	6 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sept. 5-30	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Oct. 1-31	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Marina closes for the season on Nov. 1

For more information about our marinas, email rfisher@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7447.

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Ocean Pines Yacht Club's litter warrior

When Ocean Pines resident Kevin Doxzen and his wife, Alexa, moved from their South Gate neighborhood to the Colonial Village section of Ocean Pines in 2020, they looked forward to an easy walk to their favorite amenity – the Yacht Club. However, Doxzen soon became concerned about the amount of litter he encountered on his frequent walks around the Yacht Club grounds.

With its location on the shores of Isle of Wight Bay, Doxzen feared that wind-blown debris from the Yacht Club and the two adjacent pools was polluting the waterway. So, armed with a 5-gallon bucket and a litter picker, Doxzen started picking up trash around the Yacht Club area in fall 2021.

When Patricia Garcia, Environment and Natural Assets Committee member, visited the Yacht Club property in early February with Doxzen, she observed numerous cigarette butts wedged between the patio pavers yards away from the designated smoking area. They both also saw cans and other litter behind the dumpsters and propane tanks, and around the nearby boat launch.

Of particular concern is the plastic waste, especially straws that blow off the pool decks and Yacht Club patios into the Isle of Wight Bay. Plastic pollution is especially dangerous because it does not fully biodegrade in the environment, and wildlife in aquatic and terrestrial environments face hazards from ingesting plastics or becoming entangled in them. Even cigarette butts contain plastic – cellulose acetate – which takes up to ten years to completely degrade.

Doxzen has shared his concerns about litter with the Ocean Pines Association Environment and Natural Assets Committee, and Yacht Club and Ocean Pines Association management. He understands that Yacht Club patrons aren't deliberately littering and that staffing limitations make it difficult to keep up with the problem.

The posting of additional "Do Not Litter" signs was requested and we are pleased to note those signs have now been installed. But Doxzen believes more needs to be done. One solution would be to install knee walls around the Yacht Club and Mumford's Landing pools to prevent debris from blowing through the current fence pickets into the bay. Pool and Yacht Club patrons might also be encouraged to decline straws with their drinks, or carry their own reusable ones, and bartenders and servers could offer straws only when asked for them.

An educational effort about the issue might also be helpful. Interested residents could join Doxzen in his efforts to keep the Yacht Club area litter-free or form their own "bucket and picker" neighborhood litter brigades. Solo

walkers could help by taking an empty bag with them to pick up trash they encounter on their routes. Placement of more trash receptacles in key areas might also discourage littering, as long as they are constructed in a manner that prevents people from depositing large household garbage bags in them.

While not all Ocean Pines residents can be expected to put in the time and effort that Kevin Doxzen does, picking up litter in our own neighborhoods is a good place to start.



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Justin Hartshorne

*Director of
Golf Maintenance*

WHY AERATION MATTERS

Aeration is crucial for maintaining plant health. Although it can be a temporary disruption for golfers, it creates a better playing experience in the long run.

In Ocean Pines, aeration takes place in April, at the start of the growing season. The following information from the United States Golf Association (USGA) explains what every golfer should know about the process:

- Aeration on putting greens helps relieve compaction caused by heavy use. It also controls thatch and promotes healthy turf roots, resulting in a firm, smooth putting surface.
- Thatch that isn't diluted by aeration holds water like a sponge, creating soft playing conditions and inconsistent green speeds, and increasing the risk of disease.
- Aeration is performed in the spring when grass is healthy and actively growing. This minimizes

damage and allows for a quick return to optimal playing conditions.

- Aeration typically only affects less than 10% of a putting surface.
- Filling aeration holes with sand helps create a smoother surface and allows greens to recover from aeration more quickly.



Read the complete article on the USGA website at www.bit.ly/3TdPzJi.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming spring and summer golfing seasons. See you on the links!

Free firewood, you haul

Ocean Pines Golf Club has an abundance of wood from tree removal and thinning on the course that is free for the taking. The wood, which is not split, is located at the back end of the Clubhouse parking lot.

OCEAN PINES GOLF CLUB

Resident Golf Day, April 9

Ocean Pines Golf Club will hold a Resident Golf Day on Sunday, April 9.

The event will feature free greens fees for Ocean Pines residents, playing tips, fun activities, and a chance to learn more about Ocean Pines golf programs.

Tee times have been set aside for residents from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Greens fees are free; cart fees are \$25 per player for 18 holes and \$15 per player for nine holes. An Ocean Pines resident ID card (available at the Ocean Pines Administration Building) must be shown at check in to receive the special rate.

Please note that free greens fees are for registered golfers only - no additional riders or walkers are allowed.

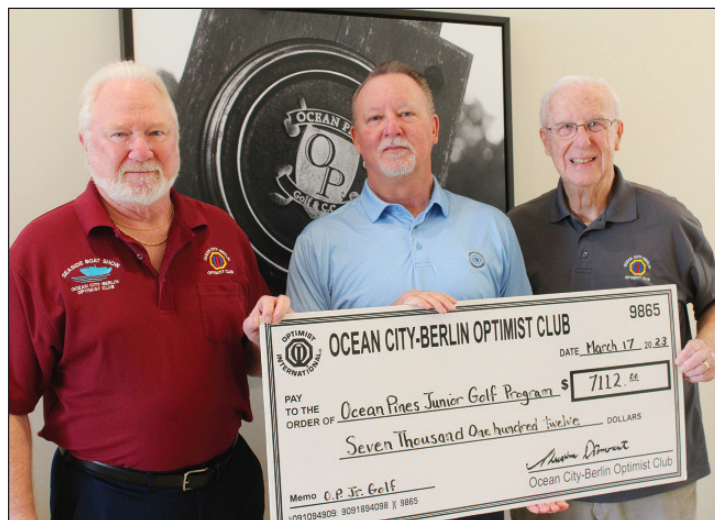
Representatives from the new Golf Academy in Ocean Pines, the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association, the Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association and the Ocean Pines Golf Advisory Committee will be on hand with information and sign-up opportunities.

Golf professionals will be on the driving range offering tips, and other fun activities will be available.

For more information, or to make a tee time, call the Golf Shop at 410-641-6057.

Optimist Club donates to Ocean Pines junior golf

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently donated \$7,112 to Ocean Pines Golf Club for use in its junior golf programs. Ocean Pines Golf Club and Optimist Club members Bill Thomson (left) and Bill Hickey (right) presented a check to Ocean Pines Director of Golf Bob Beckelman (center) on March 17.



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MATT RUGGIERE, PGA

MRUGGIERE54@GMAIL.COM
386.846.3505 | RUGGIEREGOLF.COM



Racquet Center announces spring and summer events

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center has announced dates and times for several upcoming events. All events are open to the public, unless otherwise noted. For more information, call the Racquet Pro Shop at 410-641-7228 or stop by.

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center will host a men's and women's tennis doubles competition, the **Doubles Challenge**, on Saturday, Aug. 19. Entry is free for tennis members and \$15 for nonmembers.

The center will also host the **USTA NTRP Singles Tournament** on **Sept. 23-24**. The entry fee is \$30 per player, and players must be USTA members.

Ocean Pines Pickleball will host several big events this year. That includes the **2023 Summer Classic** on **June 2-4**. Email danoble54@gmail.com for more information.

The **Ocean Pines Pickleball Club Championship** is scheduled **Aug. 26-27**. Entry is limited to club members.

The **Oktoberfest Pickleball Tournament** returns **Sept. 29-Oct. 1**. Registration is \$40. To register, email danoble54@gmail.com or search "Tournaments" on app.pickleballden.com.

The club will also host the annual **Pink Ribbon Classic** on Friday, **Oct. 13**, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society. Entry is \$40 per player. Email rcoltferguson@gmail.com for more information.

Pickleball

The fastest-growing sport in the US is a fun game that combines elements from tennis, badminton & ping-pong! Learn to play and bring your friends and enjoy some friendly competition. Equipment is available for use.

Pickleball Club Events

Join the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club and enjoy club events all year long. Contact Claire Walker at 1111claire@comcast.net or Julie Woulfe at julietwoulfe@gmail.com for more information.

INDOOR SPRING PLAY

at the Community Center • thru MAY 31

MON	3:00pm-5:00pm	THU	12:00am-4:00pm
TUE	1:00pm-5:00pm	SAT	4:00pm-8:00pm

INDOOR SUMMER PLAY

at the Community Center • JUNE-AUGUST

TUE	6:00pm-8:00pm	SAT	10:00am-12:00pm
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DAILY FEES: OP Pickleball members, free; non-members \$5
Additional indoor drop-in: Call 410-641-7052 for drop-in availability. \$3/player (pickleball members & non-members)

OUTDOOR SUMMER PLAY

(Organized by the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club)

at the Racquet Center • 4 new courts! • JUNE-AUGUST

TO STAY INFORMED: Please check the Ocean Pines Pickleball website & sign up for the weekly e-Newsletter

Tennis

A full array of tennis and social activities are provided from dawn to dusk by tennis instructors & staff. Featuring 8 Har-Tru soft courts and 2 hard courts (lighted for year-round play!)

Tennis Club Events: Join the Ocean Pines Tennis Club and enjoy club events all year long. Contact Dale Ash at daleash45@gmail.com for more information.

Opportunities to Play!

TENNIS DROP-IN

Just show up! Everyone is welcome.
The attendant at check-in will direct you.

OP Resident \$10; Non-Resident \$15

Inquire for more info on groups that play on a regular basis.

PRIVATE TENNIS LESSONS

The most effective way to learn new strokes and shots that work for your personal style of play! A group lesson provides helpful tips on general playing and hitting skills, but private tennis lessons allow a teaching professional to see how you perform during a match so you can improve your game based on your individual needs, whether you want to learn a new skill or improve a stroke or shot you're currently using.

FEE: OP Resident \$40; Non-Resident \$50/1-hour training session

INSTRUCTORS: Terry Underkoffler and Bill Gilroy, PTR Pros

EMAIL optennistraining@gmail.com to set up your personalized lesson!

Platform Tennis, Spec Tennis & Timeless Tennis

Play platform tennis, Timeless Tennis and Spec Tennis year-round on screened and lighted platform courts. Equipment provided! **For OP Platform Club events**, email Karen Kaplan at oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

Opportunities to Play!

PLATFORM TENNIS DROP-IN

Just show up! Everyone is welcome.
The attendant at check-in will direct you.

OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

Inquire for more info on groups that play on a regular basis.

Free Clinic

New! INTRO TO TIMELESS TENNIS CLINIC

Used to play tennis? Is the big court too big? No problem! Timeless Tennis features tennis strokes & strategies on a smaller court, so you're never too far to the ball. All abilities welcome!

Sat, MAY 20 • 11:30am-12:30pm

TO REGISTER: Email oppaddle2020@gmail.com

VISIT: oceanpines.org/web/pages/timeless-tennis





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WEB: OCEANPINES.ORG

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



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'File of Life' program gets important medical info to first responders

File of Life is a program that was designed and initiated in 1995 by the nonprofit organization File of Life Foundation as a way "to provide emergency personnel with necessary medical data to begin immediate treatment."

The **File of Life** provides not only emergency medical responders and hospitals with important health and contact information during a medical emergency, but it can be helpful and informative when visiting your physician. The information you are providing includes your name, address, emergency medical contacts, insurance policy and health problems, medications, dosages, allergies, recent surgeries, religion, doctor's name and a health care proxy, etc.

Completing one is quick & easy. Here's all you do:

Refrigerator magnet File of Life holder

The card, which is kept in a red plastic pocket labeled "File of Life," lists the name, emergency medical contacts, other vital information, medications, dosages, allergies, recent surgeries, religion, doctor's name and a health care proxy. The entire pocket, affixed with a magnet, can be placed on the outside of your refrigerator.

Door sticker

This is a simple, brightly colored sticker that you place on your front door or window and/or your primary entry door. In the event of an emergency, this sticker will alert EMS personnel that File of Life information should be on the refrigerator in your home.

The pocket / purse / wallet file

In addition to the File of Life for the refrigerator, you also get a compact version to carry in your wallet or purse. A card containing the same medical information is enclosed in the red plastic case that you keep with you. This personal wallet-size version is a very valuable source of information to emergency medical personnel responding to your possible critical, life-threatening situations. Having instant access to medical facts and information can make the difference when every second counts. You can also take this convenient wallet-size File of Life to your doctor's office and diagnostic testing centers.

One of the most important parts of the program is keeping your information up to date! Please help others help you. It takes only a few moments to fill out a File of Life kit. Be sure to fill one out for yourself and for every member in your family who lives in the area.




A File of Life is especially important to have on hand for elderly family members. Please help a neighbor by providing a File of Life, and if needed, assist them in completing one.

Having one ready is very simple and could be a potentially lifesaving step that everyone should take, but

keeping the information current is key.

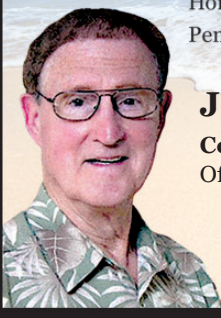
Stop by AGH to pick up your free File of Life kit or visit the Atlantic General Hospital website for more information. Click on Patients & Visitors; then click on Quality & Safety.

Organizations wishing to provide kits to their members or staff may contact Kelly Lund at 410-629-6449 or klund@atlanticgeneral.org, or Janice Novak at 410-641-9764 or jnovak@atlanticgeneral.org.

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4-H Club Homeschoolers help clean up parks

A group of local children from the Nature Adventurers 4-H Club recently helped collect trash at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.

It was a windy and bitterly cold day in early March, but the group still did their part, collecting debris from Christmas displays, as well as zip-ties, wrappers, cigarette butts, and other items to help preserve the environment.

Scott Wainwright, the official reporter for the Nature Adventurers 4-H Club, said the club is a nature and public-service focused group based in Berlin and predominantly made up of homeschool students. Club members range in age from 6-14 years.

He said the group has helped to clean up local parks for at least three years.

"After the holidays, members of the local 4-H Nature Adventurers Club noticed that White Horse Park was much more littered with trash and artificial debris, due to the festivities," Wainwright said. "On March 7, they held a park cleanup [and] they successfully filled several trash bags

with discarded things, including

Christmas tree ornaments, a Halloween sign, a rug, and copious amounts of zip-ties.

"Because of the high number of zip-ties found, the group strongly urges the public to use yarn instead of zip-ties when affixing the Christmas ornaments during the holidays," Wainwright continued. "The birds can use the biodegradable yarn for nests, but not zip-ties, which are not biodegradable."

This is the second time the group has done a cleanup in White Horse Park, with the first being in fall 2022.

"The Nature Adventurers also plan to clean up several more local parks to help keep pets, people and wildlife safe," Wainwright said.

For information on joining a 4-H club or starting a club, contact the University of Maryland Worcester County Extension Office at 410-632-1972.



Ocean Pines Eagle Scout leads effort to build shelters for homeless cats

Local Eagle Scout Christian Martin recently helped produce almost 20 shelters as part of a project to help local homeless cats.

Martin said he was looking for a new service project and thought of local nonprofit group Town Cats, which formed in 1998 to help address the feral cat problem in nearby Ocean City.

"I've known Miss Susan [Mohler], the president of Town Cats, for several years," he said. "And for two or three years now, I've been helping them at their yard sales and at the farmers markets at White Horse Park," he said.

After contacting Town Cats, Martin said the group asked for help building cat shelters.

Martin and Mohler met in the Ocean Pines Community Center to talk about the process, and they planned another session at the community center in mid-December to do the work.

"I also made it available so younger people could come and help, if they needed service-learning hours, which is a requirement to graduate high school," Martin said. "In the end, we had 26 volunteers."

Martin said the shelters are "like a miniature apartment home" for cats, giving them a haven from the elements.

"It helps keep them warm during the winter and cool during the summer," he said.

Mohler created a PowerPoint on how to build the shelters, which Martin turned into an instruction booklet for the volunteer session.

To make the shelters, volunteers cut entrance and exit holes into 20-gallon lidded storage bins that are then outfitted with Styrofoam, straw, insulation tape, and a mylar recovery blanket.

"There's an entrance and an emergency exit hole, with a backflap on the emergency exits in case the cat feels trapped," Martin said.

"It's kind of like a giant, warm igloo."

Mohler said Town Cats donated all the supplies, but Martin did all the organizing, from booking the room to creating an online

signup sheet for volunteers.

She said the volunteers made 16 shelters, and about half were claimed within the first week.

"The shelters are placed in designated places where people take care of outside cats," Mohler said.

"People can ask for them if they have cats outside that are not necessarily feral," she continued. "A feral cat is a cat that does not want to be around people. A stray cat could be a lost cat or just one that runs around but is friendly. And some cats just live outside."

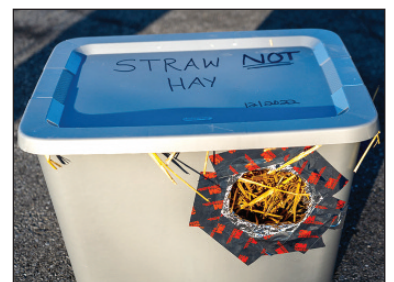
Mohler said stray and feral cats continue to be an issue in Ocean Pines and surrounding areas. She pointed to numerous social media posts about lost animals.

"It just goes on and on," she said. "But the problem isn't the cats – it's the people. They don't get their cats spayed or neutered. So, in about six years two cats could theoretically end up as thousands."

She said the shelters provided by Martin and his volunteer group "came right on time" because of the colder temperatures.

To request a cat shelter, visit www.towncats.net or facebook.com/towncatsofoceancity and send a message. The nonprofit asks for a \$20 donation to help offset the cost of materials.

Town Cats is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The organization has a trap/spay and release program for feral cats and provides spay/neuter services for free roaming or pet cats at a low cost.



BJ's Wholesale Club membership offer returns to Ocean Pines

A special membership offer from BJ's Wholesale Club, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation, returns to Ocean Pines with significant changes designed to make participation easier.

The offer, which provides savings on both new and renewing BJ's memberships, has been extended to an entire month and will be available April 1-30. Previous promotions were limited to two weeks.

Also, all new enrollments and existing renewals now will be processed through the BJ's Partnership Call Center – eliminating the need for paper forms – and will be effective immediately.

Those interested in a new BJ's membership or renewing an existing membership through this offer can reach the call center at 800-313-8887 and will need to provide the Ocean Pines group promo code, 100407. The call center is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Current BJ's members also will need to provide their membership number, which can be found on their BJ's membership card or from within the BJ's app.

Credit and debit card payments can be made through a secure line that allows individuals to input their information using their phone's keypad. No other forms of payment will be accepted.

With this offer, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Club Card (previously known as the Inner Circle) Membership for \$25. A \$10 award also will be loaded to the card for use on the member's next purchase, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

A BJ's Club+ Card Membership (previously known as the Perks Rewards) Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases and 5 cents off per gallon at BJ's Gas

every day, is available for \$75 and includes a \$20 award, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Existing Club Card members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$55 and receive a \$10 award to be used on their next purchase. Existing Club+ Card members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$110 and receive a \$20 award, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Cash awards will be added to the member's primary membership account 24 hours after enrollment and must be used within 30 days from the membership enrollment date.

In addition to offering special membership benefits, BJ's will donate \$10 to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation for each new BJ's Club Card membership and \$5 for each renewal made during the enrollment period.

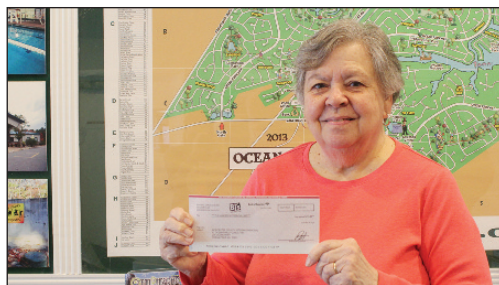
This offer is not available online, at any BJ's location or for any current Easy Renewal members. Members can check

their Easy Renewal status and opt out through the BJ's app or by calling 1-800-257-2582 prior to enrolling. They can also opt out through the call center at the time of enrollment.

This special promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in October 2023. Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the spring offer. Members can check their current

expiration dates by checking their BJ's receipts or the BJ's app, or by calling 1-800-257-2582.

BJ's membership offer details are available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at oceanpines.org, or by calling 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.



Marie Gilmore, president of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation, recently accepted a check for \$415 from BJ's Wholesale Club from its 2022 Ocean Pines membership offers. Donations from the offers directly support the foundation's Educational Outreach program.

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Ocean Pines Association

Volunteer in The Pines

Sign up TODAY to volunteer!

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FARMERS MARKET
ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Volunteers are critical to the success of many of the programs offered by the Recreation & Parks Department. Help support our community by serving on an Advisory Committee. Volunteer photographers, Farmers Market helpers, coaches, referees, umpires & office assistants are also needed.

239 OCEAN PARKWAY, OCEAN PINES, MD
info@oceanpines.org OceanPines.org

PUP OF THE PINES Photo Contest

2023 Winner **PENNY!**

"My name is Penny. I am a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and am the 2023 'Pup of the Pines'!"

YOU COULD WIN:
"Pup of the Pines" Title

My owner says I am a very affectionate dog with many neighborhood friends. Everyone knows me!"

As "Pup of the Pines," Penny receives a free 2023 Ocean Pines Dog Park registration. She is also the official face of the dog park for 2023 and will be featured in the Ocean Pines Activity Guide and other postings throughout the year.

FROM SEPT. 1 to OCT. 14

Ocean Pines pet parents can enter their pup(s) for a \$5/dog entry fee. Official entry forms are available at the Community Center. The top 8 pups will be on display at the Ocean Pines Halloween celebration. Attendees at the event will be able to vote for their favorite. The winner will be announced at the Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting in November.

Looking

to reach more than
11,000 Ocean Pines homeowners & residents?

Ocean Pines Association, Inc.
www.oceanpines.org

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in Ocean Pines' quarterly newsletters

Rates start at just \$150
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or visit oceanpines.org

FAQS about the Ocean Pines Dog Park

Where is the Dog Park located?

The Dog Park is located in the Manklin Meadows recreational complex, near the Ocean Pines Racquet Center and across from the Manklin Meadows playground at 11443 Manklin Creek Road.

What amenities are offered?

The Dog Park features benches, water taps and waste disposal bags and receptacles and includes separate areas for large and small dogs.

Is the Dog Park open to the public?

Yes. The Dog Park is for use by Ocean Pines residents/property owners and non-residents. Those with Dog Park memberships will be given a key card to open the gate.

Is there a fee to access the Dog Park?

Yes. The annual fee to access the Dog Park for Ocean Pines residents is \$25 for one dog of any size; additional dogs are \$10 each.

The annual fee for non-residents is \$50 for one dog; additional dogs are \$15 each.

Please note that no more than two dogs per person may enter the group play areas of the Dog Park.

How do I join the Dog Park?

An Ocean Pines Dog Park Registration Form must be completed before gaining access to the Dog Park. Updated shot records or a rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted with the registration form, and a waiver form must be signed.

Dog park registration forms are available online at oceanpines.org/web/pages/dog-park or at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 235 Ocean Parkway.

Completed registration forms and payment should be submitted to the Recreation and Parks Department at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Once your registration has been approved, you will receive a key card to access the Dog Park and a tag to hang on your dog's collar.

When are Dog Park registration forms due?

The membership year for the Dog Park is May 1-April 30, the same as the Ocean Pines Association's fiscal year.

Please note that although Dog Park registration forms are

accepted at any time during the fiscal year, those submitted after May 1 will not be prorated and will still expire April 30.

If you wish to pay for a Dog Park membership for the upcoming year prior to May 1, payments will not be processed until the start of the new fiscal year.

Are all dog breeds allowed?

Although there are no restrictions on dog breeds, aggressive dogs are not allowed in the park. Female dogs in heat and puppies under 4 months old also are not allowed.

Does my dog have to be on a leash in the Dog Park?

All dogs must remain on a leash until they are inside the first gate of the double-gated entrance to the Dog Park. Once you and your dog are inside the fenced play area, you may remove the leash but must keep it on you at all times and watch your dog carefully.

Can I share my Dog Park key card?

No. Dog Park registrations and key cards are non-transferable.

Is the Dog Park open 24 hours a day?

No. The Dog Park is open from dawn to dusk daily.

What happens if I lose my key card to access the Dog Park?

Replacement key cards are available at the Ocean Pines Community Center for \$5 each.

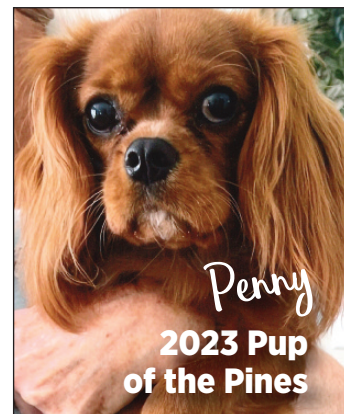
Is the Ocean Pines Dog Park monitored?

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department oversees the operation of the Ocean Pines Dog Park, but the Dog Park does not have a permanent monitor on site during all hours of operation.

What happens if other dogs at the Dog Park are not behaving, or bite?

Any dog park user may ask someone who is not abiding by the rules to leave or may contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052. If necessary, the Ocean Pines Police Department can be contacted at 410-641-7747.

In the event of a dog bite, please call Ocean Pines Police at 410-641-7717. In the event of an emergency, please call 911.



Come for the shopping, stay for the events & happenings!

April 8 - Easter Magic: What would Easter be without plenty of decadent baked goods, early spring produce and blooming spring flowers - and don't forget the eggs! This marketplace Easter celebration will offer loads of fun while you experience the magic that this special spring occasion brings.

May 13 - Blooms and Bouquets: It's Mother's Day and we're celebrating with a home and garden market. The marketplace will be filled with flowers, hanging baskets, garden starter plants and decor for the home and garden.

May 27 - Memorial Day Weekend Market: The marketplace is the perfect place to find everything you need for a Memorial Day cookout. In addition to fresh local produce, you can pick up meats, poultry, eggs, desserts, baked goods and more.

June 3 - OPFAM 12th Anniversary Jubilee: We're celebrating this notable milestone and honoring our merchants, artisans, shoppers, community partners and volunteers. Join us for special guest merchants, demos, music, kids' activities and more.

June 10 - Strawberry Market: A new spring tradition begins with the celebration of the strawberry harvest. Those who attend this event will be treated to large displays of locally grown

strawberries, strawberry baked goods and so much more. The day will include entertainment and plenty of market shopping fun.

July 1 - Independence Day Celebration: This market is truly a feast for the senses. Find an abundance of fresh local produce, jams, eggs, local honey and plenty of baked goods.

Aug. 5 - National Farmers Market Week: This time we shine the spotlight on our merchants, artisans, volunteers and community partners who bring the market to the community year-round.

Sept. 2 - Labor Day Weekend Market: The marketplace is the perfect place to pick up everything you need for a Labor Day cookout. In addition to fresh local produce, you can pick up meats, poultry, eggs, desserts, baked goods and more.

Sept. 9 - Apple Harvest Jamboree: Celebrate the diverse and unique fall offerings of Delmarva! Kick off the fall season and have old-fashioned, family country fun at the Ocean Pines market.

Oct. 21 - Witch Fest: Something's brewing up for a wicked good time at the Ocean Pines marketplace. All the best dressed witches will be gathered for some witchy fun. Plenty of free broom parking will be available!

Kids' Market Zone offers fun for young market guests

The Kids' Market Zone offers fun activities, crafts, story time and more for our youngest market visitors. Check out the current events schedule below!

- April 8:** Amberlina's Adventures - Easter Magic
- April 29:** Kristen Coleman - Lily the Spring Fairy
- May 27:** Amberlina's Adventures - Memorial Day Weekend Market Fun; Kristen Coleman - Lily the Spring Fairy
- June 10:** Amberlina's Adventures - Strawberry Market Fun
- June 24:** Kristen Coleman - Pirate Jackie Rose
- July 8:** Amberlina's Adventures - Under the Sea Show
- July 29:** Kristen Coleman - Queen Selene & Midnight Fairy
- Aug. 12:** Amberlina's Adventures - Fairy Tales, Dragons & Unicorns
- Aug. 26:** Kristen Coleman - Alien Roxie
- Sept. 9:** Amberlina's Adventures - Apple Harvest Jamboree Fun

Market music lineup

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is proud to announce an exciting lineup of local musicians who will be sharing their sounds with market shoppers!

Are you a musician? Do you have a magic act or do you juggle to entertain a crowd? The market is always looking for buskers and street performers. Download a busking application at oceanpines.org, or contact Market Manager David Bean at 410-251-6383 or flavordrizzles@gmail.com.

- April 8:** Cal Toner
- April 15:** Sarah Campbell
- April 22:** Lady K - Peggy Katona
- April 29:** Logan Oluvic
- May 6:** Logan Oluvic
- May 13:** Lady K - Peggy Katona
- May 20:** Sarah Campbell
- May 27:** Cal Toner
- June 3:** Logan Oluvic
- June 10:** Cal Toner
- June 17:** Lady K - Peggy Katona
- June 24:** Sarah Campbell
- July 1:** Logan Oluvic
- July 8:** Sarah Campbell
- July 15:** Sarah Campbell
- July 22:** Cal Toner
- July 29:** Sarah Campbell
- Aug. 5:** Sarah Campbell
- Aug. 12:** Cal Toner
- Aug. 19:** Lady K - Peggy Katona
- Sept. 2:** Lady K - Peggy Katona



Originally from the mountains of Appalachia, **Sarah Campbell** is a mountain music singer/songwriter





Ocean Pines Association, Inc.

239 Ocean Parkway
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



YACHT CLUB

OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND

*Restaurant,
Two Bars,
Pool & Marina*

Indoor & Outdoor Dining With Waterfront Views

Live Music On The Patio All Summer Long

Tiki Bar • Bandstand • Fire Pits • Poolside Service

Full-service Marina With Fuel Dock & Boat Tie-ups



Sun, May 21

1st Annual Country Summer Kickoff

Live music, fun events, food & drink specials.

Wear your cowboy boots

& get ready to get your "country" on!