



COMPLIMENTARY

OCEAN PINES REPORT

Your Connection to the Ocean Pines, MD Community

Vol. 58, No. 3 | Summer 2026

ELECTION ISSUE

Get to know
the candidates

Read their answers to questions asked
by the Ocean Pines Election Committee
pages 38-43

Highlights
of summer
Fantastic line-up
of special events,
recreation programs
and aquatics sessions
pages 26-30

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2026 candidate draw results announced

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



Results of the 2026 Ocean Pines Association Candidate Draw were announced by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee on May 26.

Drawn at random using a series of playing cards, the results determine ballot order for the 2026 Board of Directors election, and the order candidates are seated during the election forum. Results were:

- (1) **Amy Peck**
- (2) **John Latham**
- (3) **Bill Pickett**
- (4) **Pat Lehnerd**
- (5) **Elaine Brady**



1.
Amy
Peck



2.
John
Latham



3.
Bill
Pickett



4.
Pat
Lehnerd

This year, three seats on the Board will be up for election: those currently held by Latham, Brady, and Lehnerd. The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.

To “Get To Know The Candidates” for the Ocean Pines Board election and read their answers to questions asked by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee, see pages 38-43.

For questions about the election, please email elections@oceanpines.org.

To view the video of the Elections Committee meeting and candidate draw, visit <https://youtu.be/ucfUpdGzBZQ>.



5.
Elaine
Brady

Ballot Deadline:
Wed, Aug. 5 by 12 p.m.
Ballots counted and
vote totals announced:
Fri, Aug. 7
Annual Meeting:
Sat, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m.



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2026 OPA Board candidate forum

Four of the five candidates vying for three seats on the Ocean Pines Board met during a forum hosted by the Elections Committee on Saturday, June 13.



Candidates answered questions that were developed by the Elections Committee and homeowner questions, selected randomly.

Candidates, in ballot order, are Amy Peck, John Latham, Bill Pickett, Pat Lehnerd, and Elaine Brady.

The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.

To view a video of the forum, visit: <https://youtu.be/BSlQimfm6oA?si=Zodb62km6Wuc3yWz>

Important upcoming election dates include:

- Ballot deadline – Wednesday, Aug. 5 by 12 p.m.
- Ballots counted and vote totals announced – Friday, Aug. 7
- Annual Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 8

For questions about the election, please contact elections@oceanpines.org.

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Ocean Pines Water & Wastewater Facility Infrastructure

The following is a release from Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino:

During the past year, there has been considerable attention given to Ocean Pines water rates and the water/wastewater facility. I'd like to share with you the infrastructure projects and improvements planned and completed for the Ocean Pines system. As you will see, the county takes a proactive approach to ensuring the facility infrastructure is well-maintained to better serve customers.

FY 27 Planned Capital Improvement Projects

Water System:

- Ongoing replacement of old "blue tubing" pipe - \$30,000 each year (typically 10 projects)
- Replace old fiberglass chemical mixing tanks in well houses with new stainless steel tanks - \$20,000 each (currently on 3rd of 5)
- Well 2 electrical & mechanical modernization upgrades - \$300,000 (this will address the 1st of 5 wells, future years will address the remaining 4)

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Replace 2nd of 5 original blowers to plant - \$60,000
- Replace two (2) circulations pumps - \$60,000
- Replace flow equalization tank pump - \$30,000
- Clean and repair treatment tank no. 2 (2nd of 5, future years will address the remaining 3) - \$250,000
- Construct new belt filter press building - \$4.2 Million Sewage Collection System:
- Ongoing pump replacements - \$30,000 annually
- Household fiberglass vacuum tanks (the ones that look like brown mushrooms in people's front yard) - \$120,000 annually
- Design force main leading from pump station "N" to station "L" - \$300,000 (this line has had 46 breaks over the course of it's life; it runs down the middle of the Parkway)
- Pump station "T" pump replacement - \$100,000 (3 of 3)

FY 26 Capital Improvement Projects

& Significant Maintenance Projects

Water System:

- Completed upgrade of all water meters to radio read - \$1.4 Million
- Ongoing replacement of old "blue tubing" pipe - \$30,000 each year (typically 10 projects)
- Replace old fiberglass chemical mixing tanks in well houses with new stainless steel tanks - \$20,000 each (currently on 2 of 5)
- Replace Well 5 pump & motor, replace well 10 motor - \$50,000

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Clean and repair treatment tank no. 4 (cleaned 1st of 5 tanks, which hadn't been cleaned in 20 years) - \$125,000
- Replace aluminum chloride tank - \$26,000
- Replace 1st of 5 original blowers to plant (circa late 1970's) - \$55,000
- Clean, prime, & paint all overhead piping at plant - \$50,000
- Replace overhead lighting throughout plant (half were out of service) - \$14,000
- Increasing emergency overflow lagoon capacity - \$500,000
- Replace drive motor in treatment unit no. 4 - \$38,000
- Replaced and updated UV disinfection system - \$265,000 (FY24)
- Designing replacement of belt filter press (current is original to plant circa late 1970's) - \$427,000 (bonded project, estimated construction cost is \$4.2 Million)
- Replace mixer for treatment unit no. 2 - \$112,000 (FY25)

Sewage Collection System:

- Ongoing pump replacements - \$30,000 annually
- Household fiberglass vacuum tanks (the ones that look like brown mushrooms in people's front yard) - \$120,000 annually (approx. 40-50 tanks replaced)
- Pump station "T" pump replacement - \$70,000 (currently replacing 2nd of 3 pumps)
- Pump station "T" wet well relining - \$65,000 (helps protect and preserve concrete structure that comes in contact with sewage)

Annual meeting notice – Saturday, August 8 at 9 a.m.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m. in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center. As per our governing documents, members will be checked in to verify voter eligibility.

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

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

Please note: Public comments will only be available for those attending in person.

The agenda will include: Call to Order, Appointments, Presentation of the Sam Wilkinson Volunteer Award, Ascertainment of Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting, Reports, Unfinished Business, New Business, Elections Committee Report: Validation of Election Results, Public Comments, and Adjournment.



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Guest column: Summer 2026 By Senator Mary Beth Carozza

(District 38 – Somerset /
Wicomico / Worcester Counties)



Worcester County Veterans Memorial

This year's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial was especially memorable with the addition of the United States Space Force flag and the beautification of the Memorial grounds.

The addition of the United States Space Force flag reflects both the evolution of military service and the Eastern Shore's unique connection to America's space enterprise. NASA's Wallops Flight Facility has supported aerospace innovation, scientific research, and national security missions for decades, and many Eastern Shore residents have contributed to these efforts to advance our nation's capabilities in space.

As the daughter of a Marine, I have found the Memorial and grounds to be a peaceful place for prayer and reflection, and I have especially enjoyed my time as a volunteer at the memorial to share the stories of our local veterans with our Worcester fifth-grade students during their annual field trip.

Bill Signings and Legislative Accomplishments

As an Eastern Shore Delegation, we worked hard during the 2026 Legislative Session on local priorities to support our Shore way of life. I was proud to sponsor Senate Bill 709, which expands Maryland's Purple Star Program, which recognizes high schools that provide strong support systems for military families, veterans, and their dependents, to include institutions of higher education. Locally, this legislation will benefit Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

I also supported legislation that makes it easier for military spouses to transfer professional licenses and certifications when relocating to Maryland. Too often, military families encounter unnecessary barriers when moving between duty stations. This legislation helps qualified professionals enter the workforce more quickly while supporting military family stability and economic opportunity.

The Eastern Shore's farm and poultry industry remains a cornerstone of our regional economy, and I will always be a fierce advocate for measures that strengthen Maryland agriculture, protect family farms, and support the thousands of jobs connected to poultry production and processing. I sponsored emergency legislation (SB 371) in response to the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit expiring in July 2025 without a new permit in place, leading to an estimated \$30 million in stalled construction.

In addition, I was the Senate Floor leader in passage of the Charles J. Otto Agricultural Education Promise Act, which establishes a dedicated non-lapsing fund to support agricultural education. Senate Bill 371 and House Bill 972 both passed the Maryland General Assembly and have been signed into law by the Governor.

Also, our Delegation pushed for assistance for our watermen and their families who have experienced one of the worst oyster seasons due to challenging markets and weather conditions. We were successful in securing \$5 million in a Governor's supplemental budget to support the new Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund. Also, I have been actively participating in Maryland's Seafood Marketing Workgroup.



Opposing Industrialization of Maryland's Coast

As I speak with residents throughout my district, it remains clear that the overwhelming majority of our community opposes the offshore wind industrialization project. Constituents continue to express concerns regarding potential impacts on our coastal economy, tourism industry, commercial and recreational fishing interests, marine ecosystems, and the character of our coastline.

I remain firmly opposed to this project. The **Stop Offshore Wind** movement continues to grow across the State of Maryland and nearby states. As additional projects are proposed by outside companies like Globalinx's cable landing station project, I will continue to push for transparency and full public participation to ensure that we protect our coastal communities.

Senatorial Scholarship Presentations

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving in the Maryland Senate is helping students pursue their educational goals through the Maryland Senatorial Scholarship Program. This scholarship is awarded to Maryland students who have been accepted at a Maryland university or college, public or private. This year, I had the privilege of presenting scholarships to outstanding high school seniors and current college students from across District 38. These young men and women have demonstrated remarkable academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to serving our communities.

Stephen Decatur High School Graduation Speaker

As a proud Decatur graduate, I was humbled to deliver the commencement address to the Stephen Decatur High School Class of 2026 during the 250th Year of America's Independence.

There has been a "Decatur Way" going back to our school's very namesake – Naval Commander Stephen Decatur himself, born in Worcester County two years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and who became one of America's most courageous Naval heroes.

I encouraged the new Decatur graduates to live the "Decatur Way" – pride, achievement, respect, responsibility, and service to others. Their accomplishments reflect the support of families, educators, coaches, and mentors who helped guide them along the way. I am confident that the Class of 2026 will continue to make our region proud and encourage them to share their talents here on the Shore.

As always, it remains an honor to represent the residents of Ocean Pines, Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties in the Maryland State Senate. I look forward to seeing you out and about in our home community. God Bless!



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Guest column: County updates

By Chip Bertino

Worcester County Commissioner

It's the season for swimming pools, the beach, visiting family, boating and all things outdoors. I hope you're enjoying the activities and amenities.

Let's get started. On June 2, the Worcester County Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Operating Budget of \$300,172,146, an increase of \$18.7 million, or 7%, more than the FY26 budget.

The FY27 budget maintains the property tax rate of 81.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value and the County's local income tax rate of 2.25%. Worcester County residents will continue to benefit from the lowest income tax rate and the third lowest real property tax rate as compared to all other counties in Maryland.

Ocean Pines Association will receive \$1,069,000 in county funding, an increase of \$403,000.

FY27 funding includes \$3.3 million in grants to county fire companies and \$10.8 million in ambulance grants, which includes supplemental funding for 10 EMS companies to assist with runs and personnel costs.

The approved budget includes a transfer of \$2.4 million to maintain a 15% Reserve Fund and \$2.9 million to the Reserve Fund for capital expenses associated with the Buckingham Elementary School replacement project. The Reserve Fund is a tool that is vital to the County's emergency preparedness plans and plays a key role in the County's fiscal health and stable bond rating of AAA for Fitch, AA+ for Standard and Poor's and Aa2 for Moody's Investor Services. This outstanding bond rating enables Worcester County Government to borrow money at low interest rates that save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars for capital projects, like the upcoming school replacement projects.

Moving on to other matters. As a result of the County Commissioners' decision to recalculate commercial water bills impacted by the rate formula adjustments put in place July

2025 the Ocean Pines Association will receive a credit of about \$15,000 in its July statement.

Moving forward, commercial billing will be correctly calculated on total ratepayer EDU ownership across the county's 11 water service districts.

While on the subject of water bills – the Commissioners amended the County's Water Leak Adjustment Policy. The revised policy establishes a uniform, transparent framework for adjusting water and sewer utility bills in cases involving leaks, billing errors, unexplained high-water use, and other qualifying events.

The updated policy introduces three categories of adjustment available to domestic and commercial customers: RELIEF ADJUSTMENTS, OUTDOOR LEAK ADJUSTMENTS, and UNEXPLAINED HIGH-WATER USE ADJUSTMENTS.

Relief Adjustments reduce water consumption charges for customers experiencing valid high-water use due to leaks, theft, vandalism, or other documented unintended water loss.

Outdoor Leak Adjustments reduce sewer charges when a non-sewer contributing leak is identified and repaired.

Unexplained High-Water Use Adjustments address situations in which the cause of elevated consumption cannot be determined.

Each adjustment type is subject to eligibility requirements, documentation standards, and frequency limitations designed to ensure consistency and protect the financial integrity of the utility enterprise fund.

The revised policy reflects advances in metering technology and current utility practices. Notable updates include formalized eligibility criteria with defined documentation requirements, a structured appeals process through a Grievance Committee, clear frequency limitations on adjustments (36-month eligibility for Relief Adjustments, 60-month for Unexplained High-Water Use Adjustments), and provisions addressing meter testing, billing errors, and late fee waivers.

The policy also clarifies what customers are responsible for paying while their adjustment request is being reviewed.

That's it for now. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 443-783-3248 or by email at cbertino@co.worcester.md.us.





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Worcester County Health Department summer programs & services

Guest column by the Worcester County Health Department

Summer Sun Safety

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

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

This keeps your body from releasing heat as fast as it may need to.

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

Free Adult Vaccines Available Through Maryland Vaccine Program

Vaccines are an important way to protect yourself, your family, and your community from a range of infectious diseases. The Maryland Vaccine Program (MVP) is a new initiative that ensures all Marylanders have access to life-saving immunizations.

The MVP provides vaccines free-of-charge to adults aged 19 years and older who are:

- Uninsured individuals who do not have health insurance.
- Underinsured individuals who have health insurance but still face barriers to immunization (e.g., insurance doesn't cover vaccines or there is a high copay for vaccines)

The MVP provides vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) which

includes HPV, Meningococcal, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Influenza, COVID-19 vaccines, and more. Vaccines are currently available at the Worcester County Health Department. Call 410-632-1100 opt. 4 to make your appointment today.

Bring the family together with Worcester Health's Strengthening Families Program

This free 9-week Program is for the whole family! Parents and guardians (with children aged 7 to 17) will learn to improve behaviors in their children by using positive attention and rewards, clear communication, effective discipline, age appropriate substance abuse education, problem solving and limit setting. Children get to learn effective communication, understanding of feelings, social and problem solving skills, how to resist peer pressure, age appropriate consequences of substance use, and following household rules.

Register your family at worcesterhealth.org/register-for-events or by calling 410-632-1100 ext.1041.





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Maryland Coastal Bays Program Celebrates 30 Years of Conservation, Community, and Coastal Stewardship

Author: Maryland Coastal Bays



This year, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program proudly celebrates its Pearl Anniversary—30 years of protecting and restoring the five beautiful Coastal Bays that lie behind Ocean City and Assateague Island. Like a pearl, formed through years of patience and perseverance, each layer of collaboration, discovery, and dedication has contributed to the success story we celebrate today.

Thirty years ago, the future of these treasured waters was uncertain. Rapid development, increasing tourism, and mounting environmental pressures were beginning to take a toll on this fragile ecosystem. Excess nutrients fueled harmful algal growth, critical habitats declined, and fish and wildlife populations showed signs of stress. Local residents, watermen, scientists, and conservationists recognized that both the environment and the coastal way of life they cherished were at risk.

From that concern emerged a vision—and a commitment to action.

What began as the efforts of a small group of passionate individuals has grown into a nationally recognized partnership of citizens, scientists, educators, businesses, and policymakers working together toward a common goal: healthy coastal waters that support thriving communities, vibrant wildlife, and future generations.

The story of the Maryland Coastal Bays is one of resilience and renewal. Over the past three decades, restoration projects, scientific research, environmental education, habitat protection, and community engagement have demonstrated that meaningful change is possible when people come together. The bays that once faced serious challenges now support flourishing habitats, cleaner waters, and countless opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. Their recovery stands as a powerful reminder that conservation works.

To commemorate this milestone anniversary, MCBP will host a series of special events throughout the summer, culminating in **An Evening on the Estuary**, a signature gala set against the breathtaking backdrop of Assateague State Park.

Overlooking the sparkling waters of Sinepuxent Bay, guests will enjoy an unforgettable evening featuring exceptional local cuisine, a raw bar showcasing shellfish harvested from the Coastal Bays, live music, dancing, a silent auction, and the opportunity to celebrate three decades of environmental achievement alongside

friends, supporters, and community leaders. As the sun sets over one of Maryland's most spectacular coastal landscapes, attendees will help support the next chapter of conservation in our watershed.

Tickets for *An Evening on the Estuary* and information about additional anniversary events can be found at www.mdcoastalbays.org.

For gala inquiries, please contact Science Coordinator Carly Toulan at ctoulan@mdcoastalbays.org. Individuals or businesses interested in donating items or services for the silent auction are encouraged to contact Education Coordinator Liz Wist at lwist@mdcoastalbays.org.

Community Collaboration Tackles Derelict Crab Pots

In other exciting news, Delaware Sea Grant and the University of Delaware's CSHEL Trap Trackers Program are partnering with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program's Marine Debris Plunder initiative to address derelict crab pots in Roy Creek and Assawoman Bay.

While the Marine Debris Plunder has traditionally focused on the St. Martin River and Isle of Wight Bay from the White Horse Park Boat Launch, this new collaboration will expand efforts into additional waterways where abandoned fishing gear continues to impact wildlife and habitat.

As this initiative takes shape, MCBP is seeking community members, volunteers, and partner organizations interested in helping develop and support the program. Those interested in becoming involved are encouraged to contact Outreach and Marketing Coordinator Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org.

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Message from the OPA PRESIDENT



**John
Latham**

OPA President

A sense of community

Summer has arrived, bringing with it the energy, excitement, and sense of community that make Ocean Pines such a wonderful place to call home. As families gather, friends reconnect, and visitors arrive to enjoy all that our community has to offer, we are reminded why Ocean Pines remains one of the most desirable communities on the Eastern Shore.

The summer season is always one of our busiest and most enjoyable times of the year. From swimming pools and parks to golf, racquet sports, waterfront activities, farmers markets, concerts, and community events, there is something for everyone to enjoy. These amenities and programs are made possible through the hard work of our dedicated leadership team, staff and volunteers. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who helps create memorable experiences for residents and guests alike.

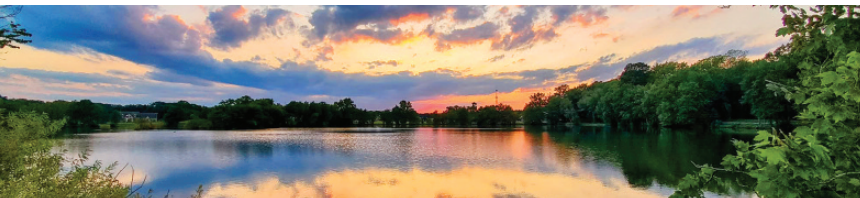
As our community welcomes seasonal residents and visitors, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many opportunities to connect with neighbors and participate in the activities that make Ocean Pines unique. Whether attending a community gathering, enjoying an evening concert, volunteering at an event, or simply spending time with family and friends, these shared experiences strengthen the bonds that make our community thrive.

Summer is also a time when we see the benefits of our ongoing investments in community facilities, recreational amenities, and infrastructure. The Board remains committed to maintaining the high standards residents expect while planning responsibly for the future. We continue to focus on preserving our amenities, enhancing community services, and ensuring that Ocean Pines remains a safe, attractive and vibrant place to live for generations to come.

As we enjoy the season, I encourage everyone to remain mindful of safety, respect our shared spaces, and show courtesy to neighbors, pedestrians, cyclists, and visitors. Small acts of consideration help ensure that everyone can fully enjoy the beauty and opportunities our community provides.

Most importantly, summer reminds us that Ocean Pines is more than a collection of amenities and neighborhoods—it is a community built on participation, friendship, and pride. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. I hope you and your families have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer season.

See you around the community this summer.



Ocean Pines Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



PRESIDENT

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

John Latham

jlatham@oceanpines.org

410-404-8907



VICE PRESIDENT

Elected in 8/2024, 2nd term ends in 2027

Richard Farr

rfarr@oceanpines.org

410-390-1425



TREASURER

Elected in 8/2025, 2nd term ends in 2028

Monica Rakowski

mrakowski@oceanpines.org

410-493-4202



DIRECTOR

Elected in 8/2024, 1st term ends in 2027

Jeff Heavner

jheavner@oceanpines.org

410-208-8058



DIRECTOR

Appointed 3/2026, term expires in 2026

Patrick Lehnerd

plehnerd@oceanpines.org

301-509-1291



DIRECTOR

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

Elaine Brady

ebrady@oceanpines.org

443-614-1576



DIRECTOR

Elected in 8/2025, 2nd term ends in 2028

Dr. Stuart Lakernick

slakernick@oceanpines.org

215-869-6343

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



GENERAL MANAGER

John Viola

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John Viola
General Manager

Projects and updates; favorable year-end financials in Ocean Pines

Projects and Updates: South Station Firehouse: Progress continues on the South Fire Station. The foundation permit has been issued, and foundation work is expected to begin soon. Construction delays, including a change in the architect and compaction issues with the existing soil, delayed the beginning of the building. The estimated 55-60 week construction timeline still remains on track.

Yacht Club Tiki Kitchen: The new Tiki Kitchen at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club officially opened May 29. The kitchen will operate as food service only for patio and pool patrons, with food continuing to be ordered through wait staff. This enhancement to the customer experience was added to provide faster service and warmer food to patrons.

Beach Club: At the Beach Club, renovations to the exterior and interior are scheduled to begin in the Fall. Additional updates will be shared as they become available. Yearly maintenance of the Beach Club exterior included replacement and painting of deck boards, securing banisters and boards where needed, and replacing handrails with safer aluminum rails.

Golf Update: The Golf Pavilion project remains on hold. Touch of Italy still plans to renovate the interior bar area beginning in the Fall. Racquet Center: Thanks to the help of volunteers, a new shade structure was installed at the Racquet Center. Lights were also repaired/added to aid in evening play.

Swim & Racquet: Restroom work is complete at the Swim & Racquet Club bathrooms, including new partitions and mats for the floors. On the outside, routine maintenance to the building, including replacement and painting of steps along with grounds and landscaping, were also addressed.

Veterans Memorial: The Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines recently underwent a refresh, including paver and wall work contracted out and paid for by the Veterans Memorial Foundation. Ocean Pines Public Works staff completed several general maintenance projects at the Veterans Memorial prior to Memorial Day:

- Removing landscaping, plants, and stones; installing new plants
- Removing all benches and reinstalling
- Installing letters and plaque on new Space Force wall
- Repairing power for lights and replacing two lights

Blizzard cleanup: The Great Blizzard cleanup was completed as of late May. A total of 181 loads of mulch were hauled from the Public Works yard and White Horse Park, with hauling costs totaling \$10,637.

The Public Works Yard remains closed until further notice as continued cleanup operations have rendered the area unsafe for public access. Once a reopening date is determined, it will be shared with



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

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

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

Labor Day:
Monday, September 7

OCEAN PINES REPORT

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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OPA ADMINISTRATION

residents. Residents are encouraged to bag their yard debris in paper bags and then contact the Public Works Department at 410-641-7425 to have the bags picked up.

Beautification and repairs: Landscaping throughout the Ocean Pines community has been updated for the season. New palm trees were added to the Beach Club and Yacht Club during the month of May, totaling \$9,805.

Work has begun on the North Gate Bridge, which was hit on May 9. The estimated cost to repair is \$3,120.

An emergency sinkhole repair was conducted on May 19 on Ocean Parkway near Cathell Road. Work was completed by Deppe Brothers, and the area was temporarily filled with stone until it was patched over by the contractor. Additionally, the pipe underneath the road will be added to the list for CIPP (Cured in Place Pipes) for this year. Total cost for the repair was \$27,325.

Work groups: I have established groups of members for each amenity with the goal to share work that has been completed or scheduled and give feedback on ways the amenity can be improved. The groups for Golf and

Racquet Sports have already met, with plans underway for Aquatics and Recreation groups, along with a group for Communications. So far, the groups have been positive, and I appreciate their time listening to the information provided. Together we're better!

Recognition: I am happy to share that for the second year in a row, the Ocean Pines Association was recognized with the Premier Workplace Safety Award and the Award for Safety Performance through Deely Insurance and Chesapeake Employers Insurance.

Financials: Unaudited April results show an overall favorable variance of approximately \$40,000 compared to budget. Unaudited end-of-year results show a favorable variance of approximately \$460,000. These figures will be finalized following the annual external audit process, which is expected to conclude in late July.

As I have always stated, "We Have Something Special Here." Ocean Pines is a great place to live, visit, or work. Please email info@oceanpines.org with any questions or feedback that you may have.



OPA to receive water billing credit

The following is a release from Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino:

As a result of the County Commissioners' decision to recalculate commercial water bills impacted by the rate formula adjustments put in place July 2025 the Ocean Pines Association will receive a credit of just over \$15,000 in its July statement.

Moving forward commercial billing will be correctly calculated on total ratepayer EDU ownership.

The County's usage fee tiers, for the service areas where it controls the water and wastewater plants, has a fee of \$5 per 1,000 gallons used, up to the quarterly allocation, and any usage beyond the quarterly allocation would be charged a fee of \$15 per 1,000 gallons used.

In fiscal year 2026, the current budget year, customers with multiple EDUs jumped into the \$15 per 1,000-gallon tier based on exceeding quarterly the flow of one EDU, regardless of how many EDUs they owned.

On Tuesday, the Commissioners approved a plan that scales usage fee tiers based on how many EDUs a customer owns.

Additionally, the Commissioners approved a plan that credits multiple-EDU owners after calculating their FY2026 usage on the FY27 corrected rate structure. This credit will apply to multiple EDU owners across the 11 water service areas.

Board unanimously approves GM contract extension

At the May 30 regular board meeting, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors unanimously approved an extension to General Manager John Viola's contract.

The motion was presented to authorize granting options for two more one-year renewal terms under his existing contract by way of an amendment. This extension is based on continued strong performance results and leadership by Viola.

Viola's contract previously extended to June 30, 2028, and this gives him the option to extend the contract term one additional year, to June 30, 2029. This motion additionally gives him two additional one-year extension options through an amendment to his contract, allowing him the ability to extend up to three years, to June 30, 2031.

"Ocean Pines has never been in the financial shape that it is today," said Secretary Jeff Heavner. "John brings with him such experience, integrity, promises made, promises kept. We'd be stupid not to try to keep John as long as we can."

Director Elaine Brady also commended Viola, saying, "one of the things that I have really watched John do amazingly is mentor his staff. If you look at all the departments, what they are all doing, how capable they are, he's mentoring them as they come along."



Meet the team: Jen Miller

Get to know one of the friendly faces of the Ocean Pines Administration Building

Whether you're a new homeowner inquiring about the area, or a longtime resident with a question, chances are you've been greeted with a warm smile by Jen Miller.

Originally from Connecticut, Jen graduated from the University of Connecticut before spending more than 15 years on the west coast, living in California and Arizona. A seasoned Sales and Events Manager, Jen worked with several organizations, including Sheraton and Embassy Suites Hotels, the Los Angeles Convention Center, Hollywood Park Casino, and event centers in Arizona, where she served as the Marketing Manager and Director of Events.

Jen and her husband visited Ocean Pines four years ago for a friend's wedding. After falling in love with the community, they decided to pack up and move here – and they haven't looked back since.

"I love how much there is to do here in Ocean Pines and how friendly everyone is."

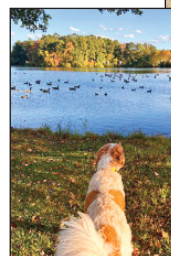
After moving here, Jen was ready to try something new, so she took a part time seasonal position at the front desk to learn more about the community. After her first year, she joined the team full time and has enjoyed helping residents ever since.



Jen spends her days at the front desk answering questions, helping people sign up for amenities, welcoming new homeowners and setting them up in the system, collecting HOA payments, and just being a friendly face to everyone who walks in the door.

"I enjoy being able to answer questions and help people who are new to the community. There are so many moving parts to Ocean Pines, and it's great to get to help people get the information they need."

In her free time, Jen and her husband enjoy exploring the community and its amenities and special events, including walking, hiking, and visiting the farmers markets with their dog Murrury. They look forward to family visits from their family still out West and enjoy checking out local restaurants and live music with their friends in Ocean Pines, whom, she says, have become like family as well.



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Steve Phillips

*Director of Finance/
Controller*

Strong performance

As we head into another summer season in Ocean Pines, we're pleased to share a financial update that reflects responsible planning, strong performance, and continued investment in the systems that keep our operations running smoothly. Even with a softer start to the new fiscal year, our financial footing remains solid as we enter into an important part of our annual

financial cycle.

Last fiscal year closed with very positive unaudited results, finishing approximately \$457,000 favorable compared to budget. This success reflects disciplined budgeting and efficient amenity operations, which strengthen our reserves and support longterm planning.

It should be noted that Ocean Pines Association also just recently received a refund of approximately \$31,000 from Chesapeake Employers Insurance due to our favorable workers' compensation experience. This refund is a direct result of strong safety practices across the organization, and is an example of how safe operations reduce risk and lower insurance costs that ultimately influence Ocean Pines Association's bottom-line.

The start of the current year has been a bit quieter than usual, largely due to the rainy Memorial Day weekend, which typically marks the unofficial kickoff to our busiest season. With several days of wet weather, outdoor amenities saw lower than normal usage, naturally softening early revenue. We are well positioned to absorb this very slight dip due to strong budgeting and the favorable performance achieved over the last several years. We look forward to our amenities getting back to consistently achieving revenue results in excess of budget in the upcoming summer months.

The Finance Office is now entering the annual audit period, an important step in ensuring transparency and accountability. The audit provides an independent review of our financial practices, and the fully audited results will be presented at our year-end Annual Meeting. This meeting gives residents a clear, detailed look at how the community's finances are being managed and what priorities lie ahead.

In the coming months, we will continue focusing on enhancements to our Northstar ERP accounting system, strengthening both our financial controls and our operational efficiency. These improvements are designed to create:

- **More seamless workflows**



SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR-TO-DATE 5/31/2026

OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY

UNAUDITED

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)			
REVENUES			
Assessments	8,808	8,799	9
Grants	3	4	(1)
Amenities (Net)	1,848	1,932	(84)
Recreation & Parks	48	38	10
Other fees and Income	<u>407</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Total Revenues	11,114	11,181	(67)
Add: Budgeted Surplus Transfer	541	541	—
Less: Transfers to Reserve Accounts	<u>(3,933)</u>	<u>(3,921)</u>	<u>(12)</u>
Net Operating Revenues	<u>7,722</u>	<u>7,801</u>	<u>(79)</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Administration & Management	245	264	19
Amenities	360	376	16
Recreation & Parks	72	73	1
Police	256	251	(5)
Fire / EMS	96	96	—
Public Works / CPI	178	210	32
General Maintenance	<u>69</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>7</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,276</u>	<u>1,346</u>	<u>70</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	6,446	6,455	(9)
NEW CAPITAL	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
NET	6,446	6,455	(9)

- **Stronger internal controls**
- **Better integration across departments**
- **Faster, more accurate reporting**

One of the most exciting enhancements is the expanded use of the Events Module for certain classes. This will allow us to streamline scheduling, registration, communication, and financial tracking. These enhancements reflect our commitment to modernizing operations and delivering a smoother, more connected experience for both residents and staff.

As we celebrate another year full of achievements, we look forward to another busy, successful season and a strong new fiscal-year ahead.

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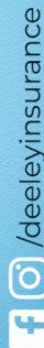
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Message from **PUBLIC WORKS & CPI**



Eddie Wells
Senior Director

Public Works to no longer mow easements and ditches per FY 26-27 budget

Ocean Pines would like to remind residents that per the approved 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget, Public Works will no longer mow easements and

drainage and storm-related cleanup efforts following the recent blizzard.

For additional information or questions, please email info@oceanpines.org.



Nobie Violante
Deputy Director

ditches in front of homes.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the grass in these areas moving forward. Previously, Public Works only cut half of the ditch, with the remaining half being the homeowners' responsibility.

Per Section 10.D. of the Declaration of Restrictions, "On each lot, the rights-of-way and easement areas...shall be maintained continuously by the lot owner."

The elimination of mowing easements and ditches was first discussed during the December 18 and 19 budget hearings, as well as the January 15 Budget Town Hall.

General Manager John Viola also addressed the topic at both the January 24 and April 25 regular board meetings, explaining that funding for the service was reallocated to support other initiatives, including



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Nathan Deckard, MD, FACS



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- He is board-certified in otolaryngology-head & neck surgery and is a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, the American Rhinologic Society & the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy.
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Joe Bailey
Lieutenant

Ocean Pines urges summer safety for bicycle and e-bike riders

As summer activity increases throughout Ocean Pines, community leaders are reminding residents and visitors to prioritize safety when riding bicycles and e-bikes on local roads, pathways, and recreational areas.

With more families, seasonal residents, and visitors enjoying Ocean Pines' neighborhoods and amenities, there has been a noticeable rise in bicycle and e-bike usage. The Ocean Pines Association, in coordination with the Ocean Pines Police Department, reminds riders to practice safe riding habits as summer approaches to help prevent avoidable accidents.

Safety Starts with Every Rider

Whether commuting, exercising, or enjoying a leisurely ride, all cyclists and e-bike riders are urged to follow these essential safety practices:

- **Wear a Helmet:** Helmets are strongly recommended for riders of all ages and significantly reduce injury risk.
- **Increase Visibility:** Bright clothing and reflective gear are especially important during early mornings, evenings, and shaded residential streets.
- **Follow Community Traffic Rules:** Stop at posted signs, obey speed limits, and follow all traffic guidance within Ocean Pines.
- **Use Proper Equipment:** Ensure your bike or e-bike is equipped with front and rear lights, reflectors, and a working bell or horn.
- **Control Your Speed:** E-bikes can travel faster than traditional bicycles—ride at a safe speed, particularly near pedestrians, children, and pets.

- **Stay Alert:** Avoid distractions such as mobile phones and remain aware of your surroundings at all times.
- **Share the Road Respectfully:** Yield to pedestrians and give clear signals when passing others on paths and roadways.

A Reminder for Drivers

Motorists within Ocean Pines also play a critical role in maintaining safety:

- Allow at least three feet when passing cyclists.
- Watch carefully for riders at intersections, crosswalks, and community entrances.
- Be especially cautious in residential areas where children and families are active.
- Check for cyclists before opening vehicle doors along roadways.

Community Commitment to Safety

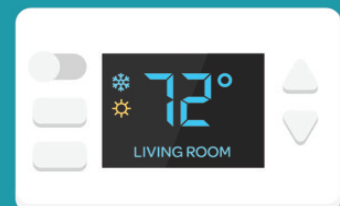
"Summer is one of the most vibrant times in Ocean Pines, and we want everyone to enjoy it safely. By staying aware and respecting one another on our roads and pathways, we can help prevent accidents and keep our community safe."



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Debbie Donahue

Director of
Recreation & Parks

Summer has finally arrived!

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

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks team are busy planning fantastic events, such as: **July 4th Freedom 5K, Carnival and Fireworks, NEW Summer Soccer program, Family Fun Night, Concerts in The Park, along with multiple health and fitness classes.** And NEW this year, we are working with Touch of Italy to offer a **Tuesday Night Swim Social** at the Yacht Club. We are always working hard for our community.

The **Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market** is open on Saturdays and growing in vendors each week. It has started its summer hours of 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., so please come out and enjoy the different vendors and keep up that healthy eating. The Farmers Market will have multiple special events during the summer, check out the schedule on the Oceanpines.org website.

The **Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop** is also open

Saturdays and Sundays. Their beautiful store sells many handmade products and is the perfect place to shop. Stop by and enjoy the items and say “hi” to the lovely ladies who hand make everything in the store. The Craft club also joins us for concerts on Thursday nights, bringing their famous Frozen Smores, and other wonderful desserts.

The club will be hosting their Annual **“Summer Craft Fair”** August 1, 2026. This event is held in White Horse Park and in the Community Center, with multiple vendors selling handmade products, always something special for the “someone Special.”

Stop by the Recreation Department any time to pick up fliers, ask questions, or just to say “HI!” We are there Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

For all your summer fun information, please visit the website, Facebook, or stop by and pick up a guide and fliers.

I look forward to **SUNSHINE** and **FUN** and seeing all you soon! Let's all have a great summer!



Thursdays THRU Aug 27 | 7-9pm White Horse Park Pavilion

JUL 2	The Flip Side Band	AUG 6	Jada Lee
JUL 9	Colossal Fossil Sauce	AUG 13	String Buzzards
JUL 16	Hurricane Kevin Cat 5	AUG 20	Coastal Country
JUL 23	Shoreline Grooves	AUG 27	Clockwork Band
JUL 30	Opposite Directions		

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Celebrate Independence Day in Ocean Pines

There's plenty of fun for the entire family this July 4 in Ocean Pines.

The day kicks off with the July 4 Freedom 5K at Veterans Memorial Park. Day-of registration begins at 7 a.m., with the race starting at 8 a.m. All ages are welcome!



There will be awards for the top three females and males per age group, best July 4 costume, and a trophy for overall fastest time. T-shirts will

be included for all pre-registered runners, however, sizes are not guaranteed for day-of registrations.

5K registration is \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the race. You can pre-register at events.elitefeats.com/26oceanpines

Come back out for the Ocean Pines 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks at Veterans Memorial Park from 4-9 p.m. Enjoy carnival games, music, food, and fun for all ages! Carnival admission is \$20 per wristband for unlimited fun. Fireworks begin at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Parking will be available in the green lot next to Taylor Bank and the Ocean Pines Library. Handicap parking will be available on-site at Veterans Memorial Park.



Road Closures

Cathell Road, from the Ocean Parkway entrance to the Sports Core Pool entrance, will close at approximately 1 p.m. on July 4 (or when the fireworks truck arrives).

Both sides of Ocean Parkway from Offshore to the Manklin Meadows intersection will close one hour prior to fireworks launch (approximately 8:15 p.m.). No seating will be allowed between Offshore and the Manklin Meadows intersection.

Southside Ocean Parkway will reopen once cleared by the Fire Marshal following the fireworks display. Cathell Road will reopen once approved by the Fire Marshal, all fireworks are cleared, and the fireworks company has left the property.

For more information, call 410-641-7052.





JULY 4TH FREEDOM 5K

\$30 ADVANCE / \$35 DAY OF

**8AM START @ VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
IN OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND**

Online Registration starts May 1st

Day-of registration starts @ 7AM

- Register online @ events.elitefeats.com/26oceanpines
- Dress in your best PATRIOTIC OUTFITS!
- All ages welcome

Pick up race packets on July 3 from 10AM-3PM at Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway

T-shirts included for all pre-registered runners!

Sizes not guaranteed for day-of registrations

Awards For:

- Top three females & males per age group
- Best July 4th Costume
- Trophy for Overall Fastest Time

MORE INFO: Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Dept. | 410-641-7052 | www.oceanpines.org

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FIREWORKS
BEGIN APPROX
9:15PM

4th OF JULY

CELEBRATION & 4-9PM

FIREWORKS

CARNIVAL GAMES | MUSIC | FOOD | FUN

CARNIVAL ADMISSION FEE: \$20/WRISTBAND

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FOR WRISTBANDS AND PRODUCTS SOLD AT RECREATION AREA

FOR UNLIMITED FUN 4-9PM

PARKING AVAILABLE IN GREEN LOT NEXT TO TAYLOR BANK, OP LIBRARY

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE ON-SITE AT VETERANS MEMORIAL

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
11144 CATHELL RD
OCEAN PINES, MD





Michelle Hitchens

Aquatics Director

Dive into summer with Ocean Pines Aquatics

It's officially summer, and it's the perfect time to dive into the exciting offerings at our five spectacular pools. Whether you're looking to stay fit, cool off, or just relax, Ocean Pines has something for everyone!

- **Sports Core Pool (11144 Cathell Rd):** Indoor heated pool (3.5 - 12 ft), lap lanes (25 yds), slide
- **Mumford's Landing Pool (7351 Yacht Club Dr):** Outside pool (2.5 - 5 ft), baby pool
- **Swim & Racquet Club Pool (10 Seabreeze Rd):** Outside pool (4 - 12 ft), lap lanes (25 yds), splash pad, snack bar (11 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- **Yacht Club Pool (1 Mumford's Landing Rd):** Outside pool (3.5 - 5 ft), restaurant/tiki bar on site. Perfect location with a bay view for a quiet and relaxing day at the pool.
- **Beach Club Pool (49th Street & the Beach, Ocean City):** Outside pool (3.5 - 5 ft), Beach Club restaurant service within pool area and right in front of beach.

Must have Ocean Pines Beach Parking Pass for parking lot access. Contact administration/membership office for purchases. Must show resident ID, membership ID, parking pass photo, pool bracelets, or restaurant receipts to access bathrooms.

Daily pool rates: Resident Adult \$13, Resident Child (age 5-17) \$11, Non-Resident Adult \$18, Non-Resident Child (age 5-17) \$16. Age 4 & under free.

We have numerous activities and classes for those looking to stay active, including Water Aerobics, Aqua Yoga, Bootcamp, Wet Works, Hydorider Water Cycling, and much more.

For the kiddos, we have Group Swim Lessons and our popular Jr. Lifeguard Camp!

For more information, visit our Facebook page or call the Sports Core Pool at 410-641-5255.



OCEAN PINES AQUATICS AGES 8 & UP

JR. LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

SIGN UP TODAY!
 Give your child the chance to learn and practice lifesaving water skills they can use for years to come!

Our Junior Lifeguard Program helps kids:

- Build swimming strength and endurance
- Learn water safety in all types of aquatic environments
- Practice how to help others in an emergency
- Gain basic first aid knowledge
- Recognize emergencies quickly
- Get a brief introduction to CPR — what it is and why it matters.

Requirements: Participants must be strong swimmers, able to swim the length of the pool with confidence, and tread water for at least one minute.

\$87 \$97
Resident Non-resident

Includes: Jr. Lifeguards receive t-shirt & whistle

INSTRUCTOR: STEVE YARZINSKY

DATES: Jul 7, 8, 9 Jul 21, 22, 23 Aug 4, 5, 6
TUE 5:30-7pm • Sports Core, WED 6-7:30pm • Yacht Club Pool (Family Fun Night)
THU 5:30-7pm • Sports Core Pool

CALL TO REGISTER OR STOP BY SPORTS CORE POOL

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

OCEAN PINES AQUATICS

SUMMER SEAS

FAMILY SPLASH

AT THE SWIM & RACQUET CLUB POOL

SATURDAY JULY 18
5-8PM

SWIM MEMBER \$9
RESIDENT \$11
NON-RESIDENT \$13

SPEND A RELAXING NIGHT AT THE POOL IN A TROPICAL THEMED, CARIBBEAN ATMOSPHERE

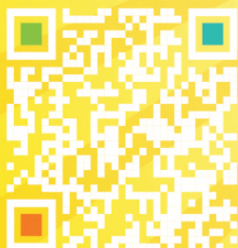
ENJOY MUSIC BY DJ & ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT!
 SOME FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

FOR MORE INFO: 410.641.5255



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OR
OPEN HOUR**

**OCEAN PINES
AQUATICS**

POOL PARTIES

IN OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND

SPORTS CORE POOL - INDOOR

Private: Saturday 5-7pm
or Sunday 3-5pm

Open Hour: Saturday 11am-1pm

PRIVATE: Includes 3 lifeguards, full facility to yourself. Bring music, food & drink (NO glass containers, NO alcohol, NO crock-pots). **\$415 for up to 2 hours & up to 50 guests max.**

OPEN HOUR: Includes 3 to 4 lifeguards on staff. Party area provided w/ 2 long rectangular tables & 5 saved tables (4 chairs at each table). Bring food & drink (NO glass containers, NO alcohol, NO crockpots). **\$295 for up to 2 hours & up to 25 guests max.**



CALL NOW!
410.641.5255

No deposits; fees must be paid in full 30 days prior to event.

OCEAN PINES AQUATICS | SPORTS CORE POOL
11144 CATHELL RD, OCEAN PINES, MD | OCEANPINES.ORG

TWILIGHT SWIM

YACHT CLUB POOL
Monday - Thursday, 4:45-5:45 pm*

BEACH CLUB POOL
Monday - Sunday, 4:45-5:45 pm*

MUMFORD'S LANDING POOL
Monday - Sunday, 4:45-5:45 pm*

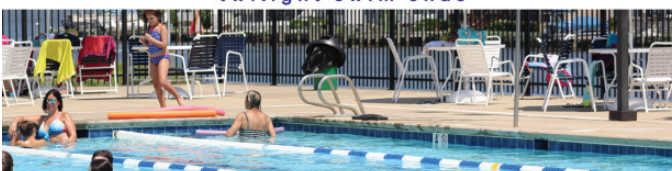
SWIM & RACQUET POOL
Monday - Thursday, & Saturdays, 4:45-5:45 pm*

SPORTS CORE POOL
Monday - Thursday, 5:45-6:45 pm*
Friday, 4:45-5:45 pm*
Saturday, 3:45-4:45 pm*
Sunday, 1:45-2:45 pm*

FEE:
\$6 Resident
\$8 Non-resident



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



**OCEAN PINES
AQUATICS**

FOR MORE INFO:

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

AQUATICS | 410-641-5255

EVENING WATER AEROBICS - IN / OUTDOOR

Come join a fun & energetic group who get their bodies moving & into shape. Great for women & men of all ages!

WHEN: TUE & THU

JUL 7 - AUG 27 6:00pm-6:45pm at Mumford's Landing Pool

FEE: Swim Mbr \$50; OP Res \$62; Non-Res \$79;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

WATER VOLLEYBALL 12 classes (6 weeks)

WHEN: MON, 2:00pm-3:30pm & Fridays, 9:30am-11am
thru AUG 7

AUG 17 - OCT 9 No Class 8/24-9/4

FEE: Swim Mbr \$62; OP Res \$72; Non-Res \$92;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

SWIMMIN WIMMIN: SHALLOW OR DEEP

WHEN: MON, WED & FRI, 8:00am-8:50am
thru JUL 3

JUL 6 - AUG 14

AUG 17 - SEP 25 8/24-9/4 at Mumford's Landing Pool

INSTRUCTORS: Betsy Wodja, Kathy Emmert

FEE: Swim Mbr \$62; OP Res \$72; Non-Res \$88;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT

Combination of cardio, kick-boxing, dance & Tabata!

WHEN: MON & WED, 10:00am-10:45am

JUL 6 - AUG 12

SEP 7 - OCT 14

FEE: Swim Mbr \$51; OP Res \$61; Non-Res \$68;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

STRENGTH & TONE

WHEN: TUE & THU, 9:00am-9:45am
thru AUG 6

AUG 18 - SEP 24 Class 8/25-9/3 at Swim & Racquet Club Pool

FEE: Swim Mbr \$43; OP Resident \$52; Non-Res \$57;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

SHAPE UPS TUE & THU, 8:00am-8:50am
thru AUG 6

AUG 18 - OCT 8 No Class 8/25-9/3

FEE: Swim Mbr \$47; OP Res \$57; Non-Res \$72;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

EARLYBIRD LAP SWIM MON-FRI, 6:00am-7:50am
thru JUL 17

JUL 20 - AUG 28 8/24-9/4 at Swim & Racquet Club

AUG 31 - OCT 9

FEE: Swim Mbr, free; OP Res \$72; Non-Res \$84;

Drop-in: Swimmer \$11 (pay lifeguard)

WET WORKS

WHEN: MON & WED, 9:30am-10:20am
thru AUG 5

AUG 17 - OCT 14 8/24-9/4 at Swim & Racquet Club Pool 9am-10am

FEE: Swim Mbr \$46; OP Res \$52; Non-Res \$63;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

CREAKY JOINTS

WHEN: MON, WED & FRI, 11:00am-11:50am
thru AUG 7

AUG 17 - OCT 9 No Class 8/24-9/4

FEE: Swim Mbr \$67; OP Res \$77; Non-Res \$93;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

AQUA YOGA

WHEN: WED & FRI, 8:00am-8:45am
thru AUG 7 at Mumford's Landing Pool

AUG 19 - SEP 25 8/19-9/4 at Mumford's Landing Pool

FEE: Swim Mbr \$67; OP Res \$77; Non-Res \$93;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

New! AQUA AI CHI

WHEN: TUE & THU, 10:15am-11:00am
thru JUL 9

JUL 21 - SEP 10

FEE: Swim Mbr \$40; OP Res \$58; Non-Res \$65;

Drop-in: Swim Mbr \$8; OP Res \$9; Non-Res \$10

HYDRORIDER WATER CYCLING

WHEN: MON / WED, 9:15am-10:00am No Class 8/24-9/4

thru JUL 29 12 classes (6 wks) *Instr.:* Julie Winterling

AUG 10 - SEP 23 12 classes (6 wks) *Instr.:* Julie Winterling

WHEN: TUE / THU, 10:00am-10:45am 12 classes (6 weeks)

thru JUL 30 6 classes (6 wks) *Instr.:* Julie Winterling

AUG 11 - SEP 24 6 classes (6 wks) *Instr.:* Julie Winterling

FEE: 12-class session: Swim Member \$97; OP Resident \$102;
Non-Resident \$112; **Drop-in:** Swim Member \$11; OP Resident
\$13; Non-Resident \$15

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Matt Ruggiere
Director of Golf

Now that the weather is heating up, there's no better summer destination for golf lovers than the Ocean Pines Golf Course. Open to the public, the course is a gathering place for friendly competition, social time, and family fun.

We want to remind players that the resident booking window has been extended from 5 days in advance to 7 days in advance. Golfers must present their resident card to receive the resident rate, and the individual whom the card was issued must be playing in the group for those privileges to apply.

We will be hosting a Parent/Child Tournament on August 16, featuring three flights: 10U and 14U divisions will play 9 holes, while the 18U division will play 18 holes. There will also be a putting contest as part of the event. Teams will consist of one parent or guardian and one child. Tee times will begin at 1:30 p.m., with a pizza party and awards ceremony to follow in the Clubhouse. In

Summer Golf is in full swing!

addition to prizes for the top three teams in each flight, any team that beats the Golf Professionals and their parents will receive Pro Shop gift cards.

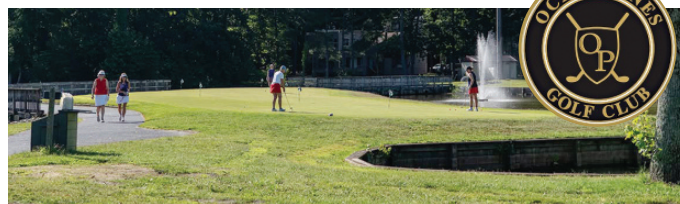
Finally, our Fall Couples Championship is scheduled for September 27 with a 3 p.m. shotgun start. Dinner and awards will follow play.

If your gear needs a refresh, be sure to stop by the Pro Shop. In addition to equipment, check out our seasonal apparel, including limited edition tee shirts.

For tee times, lessons, or more information, call the Pro Shop at 410-641-6057.



Justin Hartshorne
Sr. Director of Golf Maintenance



THE CLUBHOUSE
BAR AND GRILLE

OPEN DAILY:

SUN-TUE 8-6PM	BREAKFAST
WED-SAT 8-SUNSET	MON-THUR, 8-11am (Breakfast sandwiches only)
	FRI-SAT, 8-11am (Full breakfast)
	SUN BRUNCH, 8-1pm (Full brunch)

MONDAYS **BURGERS AND BUCKETS AND BIRDIES**
Beer bucket specials and \$10 SMASHBURGERS (ALL DAY)

TUESDAYS **ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR**

WEDNESDAYS **9 AND DINE**
9-holes for \$33 (sign up at Golf Pro Shop)
\$16 rotating dinner specials @ Clubhouse

THURSDAYS **ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR**

FRIDAYS **DRINK SPECIALS & BOGO ½**
OFF APPS 4pm-sunset

SATURDAYS **'TURN ON ARTHUR AVENUE'**
(11-3PM) SAUSAGE & PEPPER SANDWICHES SERVED HOTT OFF THE OUTDOOR GRILL!

SUNDAYS **BRUNCH AND BLOODYS ('TIL 1PM)**

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DECEMBER 8-13, 2026

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**Tony
Tedeschi**

Marina Manager

At the Marina the season is in full swing

Our general hours for the season are as follows:

- May 22 -Sept. 7 – 6am-6pm

We will extend our opening hours until 8pm on weekends in July and August through Labor Day weekend

- Sept. 8-30 – 8am-6pm
- Oct. 1 -Nov 1. - 8am-5pm

We have some great new additions this season!

- We now have gift cards for the fuel dock, a great gift idea for any occasion.
- For our offshore anglers we now carry 40lb bags of ice.
- For our four-legged friends we carry 3 oz ice cream “pup cups” for a dollar.

We encourage all our boating residents to download the Ocean Pines mobile app onto their phones. In the app you can access weather reports, tide reports and view the various cameras we have at both of our marinas. All the important boating information in one easy-to-access spot. I will also be posting frequently on the app in the feed

with the news for the day.

Don't forget to check out “Nautical Notes” in the weekly Ocean Pines email for general boating and safety information.

We have moved our marina office up to the second floor right above our old office.

Come down to the fuel dock and check out our new design shirts and hats. We have both cotton blend and wicking material shirts.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, we have installed a brand-new pump out system with all new accessories which is located at the end of A dock.

Have a happy and safe boating season!



Meet our new crew working down on the fuel dock for the 2026 season! From left: Tanner Edelmann, Coulter Donaway, Jeff Dehart, August Bayn, Samantha Koga, Rich Gorsuch, Tim Connolly, Jim Sierakowski.



OCEAN PINES WATER TRANSPORTATION & EXCURSIONS



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At Mumford's Landing
Ocean Pines MARYLAND

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 MON-FRI 9-5 | SAT 10-3



Get ready to hit the courts this summer!



Terry Underkoffler

*Director of
Racquet Sports*

The weather is heating up, and so is the action at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center. You won't want to miss out on any of the action on the courts this summer: pickleball, tennis, platform, spec tennis, timeless tennis, and pop tennis – all open to the public.

Train with one of the area's top coaches at the Summer Tennis Clinic, led by Tina Tharp, Head

Tennis Coach at West Chester University. Improve your technique, footwork, strategy, and match play in a fun and competitive environment. Please note that this is an advanced clinic geared toward high school and collegiate players. The cost is \$30 per session, with sessions offered in the morning (8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.) and evening (5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.) on the following dates:

• **July 6, 7, 28, 29**

• **August 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19**

To register for this clinic, call 410-641-7228.

Our Advanced Junior Tennis Clinic takes place every

Monday and Wednesday night from 5:30-7

p.m. Those interested can sign up at the front desk.

The Boys and Girls Outdoor Singles Tournament will take place July 11 & 12. This tournament is for ages 14 and under and is \$75 per player. Players will be scheduled for at least two matches but no more than four matches. Draws for the matches will be compass draws or round robins depending on the number of players in each event. Scoring will be based off 2 out of 3 short sets (sets to 4, tiebreak at 4-4) with a 7 point tiebreak in lieu of a third set. No ad Scoring will be permitted.

Platform tennis, timeless tennis, and spec tennis are played year-round on screened and lighted platform courts. We offer lessons for all ages; contact the Racquet Center to register.

Looking ahead, our Fall Festival will take place on September 19. Enjoy a fun day of round robin play with all sports and festive activities. Free for members, \$20 for non-members.

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



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OPA Board candidates provide statements

Candidates for the 2026 Ocean Pines Board election were asked to submit both a brief statement introducing themselves to voters, and answers to three questions created by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee.

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



Amy Peck

Email:

peck4pines@comcast.net

Address:

109 White Horse Drive

Introductory statement

Amy Peck, the challenger, running to ensure your voice is heard. Since 2002, this is where I have volunteered, worked, enjoyed our amenities, and stayed committed to helping OP thrive. My institutional knowledge of Ocean Pines allows me to evaluate issues thoroughly and ask the questions residents deserve answered. I have consistently pressed for accountability in how assessment dollars are spent. As homeowners tighten their budgets, the community must do the same. That is why I have spoken out against costly pet projects such as boat slips at the golf course, a dedicated boardroom, electronic signs, and no-bid contracts. When this Board eliminated advisory committees, they eliminated homeowner input. I listen and stay informed on county-wide issues that impact us. My background as a paralegal strengthens my ability to assess whether projects provide real value. Ocean Pines needs fiscal responsibility and leadership that listens to everyone, including parttime and full-time residents, young families, and those on fixed incomes. We deserve leadership focused on maintaining infrastructure, ensuring safety, and protecting OP's legacy while avoiding wasteful spending. You deserve a voice, and I am here to advocate for you. I would be honored to earn your vote. My email is peck4pines@comcast.net.

1. How do you plan to balance competing wants within the community?

Balancing competing wants begins with understanding what residents value. Input from homeowners is essential, and broad feedback, whether through surveys, direct communication, or reestablishing the committees the Board eliminated, ensures decisions reflect the community rather than a narrow set of voices. This

approach prevents pet projects and keeps the focus on shared priorities. Staying aware of homeowner perspectives is especially important when those priorities influence long-term planning and budgeting. Leadership must listen!

When evaluating competing wants, I start by identifying the community's essential needs. Public safety and core infrastructure must remain at the top of the list, particularly as Ocean Pines faces rising costs, aging assets, and limited outside funding. From there, I look at how proposed projects benefit the community as a whole. I consider return on investment, how many residents will be served, long-term value, and whether a project aligns with the community's overall vision.

I also rely on research and data. If I do not have the information needed to make a sound decision, I ask questions and seek out the facts. Balancing competing wants is not about personal preference; it is about understanding what the community needs and making thoughtful, well-supported choices on their behalf.

2. As a board member, please describe your personal decision-making process when presented with important issues.

Effective decision making starts with listening to homeowners, recognizing that every major choice impacts the entire community. The Board doesn't survey residents or recognize that homeowner perspectives are essential. Decisions should never be made in an echo chamber, so I seek broader input, invite questions, and consider differing viewpoints to ensure well-rounded decisions. I work to fully understand each issue by reviewing documents, data, and past practices so decisions are grounded in facts and institutional knowledge. When this Board eliminated many committees, it also eliminated much of Ocean Pines' expertise. I recognize that no one is an expert in everything, so I consult others when specialized insight is needed.

Once the facts are clear, I outline realistic options and evaluate each carefully. I consider long-term impacts, cost-benefit analysis, fairness, and whether the choice

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

aligns with Ocean Pines' core values, legacy, and vision. Good decisions must strengthen the community, not just solve the moment.

After reaching a conclusion, I make my reasoning transparent so homeowners understand how and why the decision was made. I document the process, the information relied upon, and the factors weighed. Leadership means owning decisions, learning from them, and keeping the community's best interests at the center.

3. Aside from annual dues, what are the top 3 concerns about life in Ocean Pines and how would you address them?

INCREASING INVOLVEMENT: A healthy community needs participation. Eliminating committees, hybrid public comments, and surveys has reduced opportunities for residents to participate. Saturday only meetings limit access. My focus is inclusion, not exclusion. Reestablishing committees and using technology to expand access would increase involvement, especially for parttime residents and busy families. When homeowners see transparency and know their input matters, engagement grows.

SPENDING ON PROJECTS THAT DON'T REFLECT HOMEOWNERS' PRIORITIES: As economic pressures rise, we must stop funding projects that don't align with homeowner priorities. Costly initiatives like tiki bar extensions, transient boat slips at the golf course, a proposed dedicated boardroom, and electronic signs divert resources from essential needs. I would ensure finances are used responsibly and directed toward core priorities such as safety and infrastructure. I also oppose expensive projects approved through email votes without discussion or transparency.

NEED FOR LEADERSHIP THAT LISTENS: Effective leadership requires active engagement and a willingness to hear diverse viewpoints. I support restoring committees, holding more town halls, and opening board work sessions so residents can ask questions and understand the issues. I rely on research, data, and open dialogue, not personal preference, to evaluate proposals and ensure decisions are transparent and well supported.

Key dates in the election process

Ballot Deadline – Wednesday, Aug. 5 by 12 p.m.

**Ballots counted and vote totals announced
Friday, Aug. 7**

Annual Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m.



John Latham

Email:

jlatham1595@yahoo.com

Address:

7512 Yacht Club Drive

Introductory statement

I currently serve as President of the Ocean Pines Association and have been a homeowner in Ocean Pines since 2013 and a full-time resident since 2021. Originally from Pasadena, Maryland, I have volunteered with numerous organizations for more than 20 years and would be honored to continue serving our community. I have been married for 29 years and have adult children.

Professionally, I am a Procurement Executive with Buyers Edge Platform and also serve as Board President of the Marina Village Condominium Association in Ocean Pines.

If re-elected, I will continue using my Board experience and business background in leadership, communication, and financial management to make sound decisions for our community.

My priorities remain:

- Responsible budgeting and cost control
- Community beautification
- Safety and security
- Roads, infrastructure, and reserve funding
- Protecting and increasing home values

I proudly served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and earned both B.S. and M.S. degrees in Business Management Studies from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

I respectfully ask for your support so I may continue serving this great community.

1. How do you plan to balance competing wants within the community?

We spend a great deal of time each year developing our annual budget, which includes many requests from across the community. Public safety remains a top priority, along with continuing annual capital investments in roads, drainage, and bulkheads. At the same time, we work hard to keep our annual assessment as fair and reasonable as possible.

As the current President of the Ocean Pines Association and a member of the Board of Directors, I see many requests and receive a great deal of input from our community. With more than 8,500 homes in Ocean Pines, my goal is always to do what is best for the

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

community as a whole.

One of the biggest challenges is balancing all of the community's "wants" with its "needs." That also includes ensuring our amenities operate with a plan to at least break even financially. Those decisions are not always popular, but they are necessary to protect the long-term financial stability and quality of life in Ocean Pines.

2. As a board member, please describe your personal decision-making process when presented with important issues.

There is an enormous amount of time and effort that goes into developing our annual budget plan. Several rounds of discussion take place involving department leaders who know their operations extremely well. As the current Board President, this process allows me to receive complete clarification on capital requests and replacement needs before any decisions are made.

With that information, I can make informed decisions on whether a request makes financial and operational sense for the community. I strongly believe in utilizing the knowledge and experience of our current leadership team to fully understand issues as they arise.

In addition, I will continue to rely on my background in leadership, communication, and financial acumen to help guide and support the decisions I make on behalf of the Ocean Pines community.

3. Aside from annual dues, what are the top 3 concerns about life in Ocean Pines and how would you address them?

In the immediate future, we need to ensure the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department project is completed by the Spring of 2027. This represents a significant investment in the long-term safety and future of our community.

It is also extremely important that we continue funding our Reserve Account to help ensure the long-term financial stability and success of Ocean Pines. In addition, we must remain committed to our five-year strategic plans, which address critical infrastructure and community needs including bulkheads, amenities, roads, drainage, new capital projects, and general replacement planning.

Another important priority is monitoring the increased development surrounding Ocean Pines and along the Route 589 corridor. We must continue working closely with the Worcester County Commissioners to address growth-related concerns, including the future capacity and sustainability of our water and sewer systems.



Bill Pickett

Email:

wpickett57@gmail.com

Address:

10834 Top Branch Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Introductory statement

I bring more than four decades of leadership experience in operations, organizational management, and planning, including 26 years in senior leadership at private schools and 20 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard. My career has centered on longterm planning, budget oversight, infrastructure modernization, and guiding diverse teams through complex challenges. My education is centered on strategic planning, organizational development, and effective decision making.

I possess governance and institutional leadership experience. As a member of the leadership teams at Glenelg Country School and The Bryn Mawr School, I collaborated with heads of school and senior administrators on strategic planning, budgeting, and institution-wide initiatives. I served on the Maryland Education Enterprise Consortium Board of Directors.

My wife and I have been homeowners in Ocean Pines since 2004; the community is a part of our lives. Sharing Ocean Pines with my children and grandchildren has deepened my appreciation for the values, amenities and natural beauty that define this community. Long involvement has strengthened my desire to help preserve our assets and character in a conservative and responsible way, ensuring that Ocean Pines remains a strong and well-managed community for all residents today and in the years ahead.

1. How do you plan to balance competing wants within the community?

Balancing competing wants in a community of more than 12,000 full-time residents and 8,000 parttime residents begins with listening to all perspectives and grounding decisions in facts, not short-term pressure. Ocean Pines is diverse in age, interests, and expectations, and effective governance requires an understanding of those differences while keeping the broader mission and long-term interests of the community at the forefront.

I rely on the Ocean Pines Vision and Mission, along with the Strategic Plan, to guide decisions. These documents emphasize maintaining an attractive,

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

affordable, safe, and well-managed community. Safety is a core value for all residents, and Ocean Pines is consistently recognized as one of the safest communities in America.

Financial impact is also central. Well-maintained amenities and stable, reasonable association fees provide immediate value to homeowners, while longterm indicators such as property value appreciation are strengthened by responsible stewardship of our assets and infrastructure.

When priorities conflict, I evaluate tradeoffs objectively and look for solutions that provide the greatest benefit to the community as a whole. My focus is on measured, transparent governance that protects our financial stability, amenities, safety, and overall quality of life.

2. As a board member, please describe your personal decision-making process when presented with important issues.

When presented with important issues, my decision-making process begins with understanding the facts. I rely on data, best practices, and long-term implications rather than emotion or shortterm pressures. A strong strategic plan grounded in a clear vision, mission, values, and measurable goals provides the framework for consistent, sustainable decisions.

I evaluate how each option reflects the Association's values of accountability, collaboration, respect, sustainability, and transparency, ensuring decisions strengthen the community and support longterm stability. I emphasize the financial impact of each decision, recognizing that well-maintained amenities and stable, reasonable association fees are major contributors to homeowner satisfaction and community value. While property value appreciation remains an important long-term indicator of Ocean Pines' health, it is reinforced by consistent stewardship of our assets and amenities.

I weigh resident input, staff expertise, and objective information to understand immediate needs and long-term consequences. My focus is on decisions that strengthen our financial position, safeguard community assets, and support a sustainable future for families who live here today and for generations who will follow.

My goal is to make responsible, measured decisions that honor the character of Ocean Pines while keeping our community attractive, affordable, and well-maintained.

3. Aside from annual dues, what are the top 3 concerns about life in Ocean Pines and how would

you address them?

Aside from annual dues, the areas of most concern relate to communication, long-range stewardship, and the alignment of planning and decision-making across the community.

As noted in the OPA survey, communication remains an important area of focus. When information is organized clearly and shared in a timely way, it supports understanding of organizational decisions and helps residents see how processes and actions fit within the broader direction of the Association. Strengthening communication improves transparency and supports effective governance.

Fiscally conservative stewardship is also essential to maintaining the value and character of Ocean Pines. Planning responsibly for infrastructure, amenities, and renewal and replacement needs helps ensure that the community remains safe, well-maintained and prepared for the future.

Alignment across planning, budgeting, and committee work is another area of focus. Residents should be able to see how decisions connect to broader goals and how different parts of the organization support one another. Improving alignment—through a clear, board-supported planning framework—helps ensure that priorities, resources, and actions are coordinated and easy to follow.

My focus is on communication, stewardship, and alignment to support a well-organized, forward-looking community that remains a place we are all proud to call home.



Patrick Lehnerd

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patlehnerd@gmail.com

Address:
18 Birdnest Drive

Introductory statement

I have been a homeowner in Ocean Pines since 2012, a full-time resident since 2021 and absolutely love living here. I am currently serving on the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, appointed in March, 2026, and previously served on the OPA Elections Committee. Born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, I've been a Maryland resident since 1982, moving from Bowie to Ocean Pines in 2021. I have a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Catholic University and a Master's

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES

degree in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins. I have more than 44 years of Engineering and Management experience in the Defense and Space industry, currently with Northrop Grumman. I have been active in The Pinetones Chorus, The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Association, The Ocean Pines Players, and The Local Vocals. I am happily married to my wife Becky since 2009 and am a proud parent and grandparent.

When elected, I will continue to work with the OPA Board, the General Manager, and the Community as a whole to ensure that Ocean Pines remains one of the best and safest communities in the state of Maryland. Maintaining Progress with an Open Mind.

1. How do you plan to balance competing wants within the community?

I think the key word in this question is “balance”. The first step is to fully understand what those wants are. In my current role as a director, I take every opportunity to have residents let me know what’s on their mind. I would then proceed to discuss these wants with other members of the community to understand different perspectives. Next, these wants must be discussed among Board members and the General Manager. These ideas would then be prioritized in terms of overall impact to residents – both positive and negative, impacts to near-term budgets and schedules, impacts to Operations Staff to implement the changes, and alignment with long-range strategic planning. Finally, decisions made to address these wants would be communicated back to the community. These communications should include if and when these wants would be addressed and the rationale used to reach decisions. It’s important to understand that a proper balance must be struck across the community, the costs, and the timing.

2. As a board member, please describe your personal decision-making process when presented with important issues.

As an engineer, I am used to making decisions based on facts, requirements, costs and schedule, while avoiding emotion. The first step is to gather the facts associated with a given issue and avoid factoring hearsay into the equation. Next, I would understand any requirements associated with the issue. How does it align with our OPA governing documents, ARC guidelines, as well as County and State laws and regulations. After that, I would work to understand the costs associated with addressing the issue and the

schedule to implement changes associated with the issue. Implementation could be as simple as enforcement of existing regulations or modification of those regulations. Or it could be as significant as changes to our infrastructure. Once I understand these characteristics of a given issue, I would then be properly equipped to discuss the issue with my fellow board members and the General Manager as we address it as part of our process for addressing issues that come before us.

3. Aside from annual dues, what are the top 3 concerns about life in Ocean Pines and how would you address them?

Ocean Pines is a great place to live. As with any community, there are always concerns and opportunities for improvement.

- Pedestrian and bike safety on our Ocean Pines roadways and trails: I would gather information personally, through input from fellow residents, and recommendations made previously by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. I would then work with the General Manager to identify and implement solutions to maximize the safety of our residents on our roadways and trails.
- Maintenance of residential lots and common areas: I would look for opportunities to better streamline the CPI process and ways to provide better awareness of the state of our common areas. I would encourage residents to make use of info@oceanpines.org to inform operations about situations that need attention. I would then work with the GM to implement appropriate changes to our current practices.
- Communications: We have a wide variety of available communication mechanisms. I would identify opportunities for improving our use of these mechanisms. I would identify practices associated with the Board and Operations where communications could be improved. I would then work with the Board, the GM, and the community at large to implement appropriate improvements.

Key dates in the election process

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Ballots counted and vote totals announced

Friday, Aug. 7

Annual Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m.

Get To Know THE CANDIDATES



Elaine Brady

Email:
ebrady@oceanpines.org

Address:
812 Yacht Club Drive

Introductory statement

I have deep roots in Ocean Pines, my parents retired to Ocean Pines in 1980, and I became a full-time resident of Ocean Pines in 2002.

Prior to moving to Ocean Pines, I lived in the DC area serving as Vice President of the community newspaper division of the Washington Post Company, and as Publisher of newspapers contracted with the Department of Defense for the Pentagon and fourteen military bases throughout the greater DC area.

In 2004 I became the owner and Publisher of the Bayside Gazette and later sold the paper to the Ocean City Today newspaper group, remaining as Associate Publisher until I retired in 2023.

Throughout my career I had been active in the communities in which I lived, including serving as President of the Upper Montgomery County and the Berlin Chambers of Commerce, I also sat on the Board of the Maryland, Delaware and DC Press Association, and the United Way of the Eastern Shore.

I have been involved in Ocean Pines affairs, serving on the Communications and 50th Anniversary committees, and currently working with a Task Group to preserve Ocean Pines history, and elected to a first term on the OP Board in 2023.

1. How do you plan to balance competing wants within the community?

Listening to our homeowners' wishes and getting the guidance of our GM including the financial viability of any new project.

2. As a board member, please describe your personal decision-making process when presented with important issues.

The board President and VP meet with the GM weekly for the board to be up to speed on all important matters. I get the opinions of other board members and our GM to help come to a reasoned decision.

3. Aside from annual dues, what are the top 3 concerns about life in Ocean Pines and how would

you address them?

1. **Upkeep of Properties** – which allows higher property values and a more pleasant environment for your neighbors.
2. **Upkeep of Ditches** – our DRs require homeowners to take care of the property to the street, however for years OP had been taking care of the ditches, putting the responsibility back to homeowners will help keep our assessments low.
3. **Maintaining Amenities and Roadways** – this is something that has been a priority for both the board and our GM. Ocean Pines is almost 60 years old, maintaining our roads and amenities are a priority.

Key dates in the election process

Ballot Deadline – Wednesday, Aug. 5 by 12 p.m.

Ballots counted and vote totals announced
Friday, Aug. 7

Annual Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m.

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Ocean Pines Garden Club holds annual Arbor Day ceremony at Pintail Park

The Ocean Pines Garden Club hosted its annual Arbor Day Celebration of Life ceremony on Thursday, April 9, at Pintail Park.

Garden Club Co-Presidents Nancy Mulligan and Ann Shockley led the event, which included proclamations from Ocean Pines Board of Directors Secretary Jeff Heavner and Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino.

Shawn Lees shared remarks on the history of Arbor Day, noting its origins in Nebraska, once described as “a treeless plain.”

The program featured readings of two poems: “There’s a Very Special Garden,” recited by Lilanie Geiger, and “The Planting of the Tree,” recited by Marian Bickerstaff. Musical performances were provided by the Pine Tones Chorus and Tony Trusso on the bagpipes.

A memorial ceremony was also held to honor

community members who passed away in 2025. During the tribute, family members were invited to place soil around the newly planted Arctic Fire Red Twig Dogwood, this year’s Memorial Tree, and were presented with flowers from the Garden Club.

Ann Shockley took a moment during the ceremony to thank OPA and Worcester County.

“The Ocean Pines Garden Club is truly thankful for the continued support from the Ocean Pines Association and Worcester County,” said Shockley.

More photos from the ceremony can be found here: www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/balj4flabagac3g1vxiaj/ADaM4CIZQ7X_AUE5gKdf1As?rlkey=9xwxezsaytiq9hzzhfoiwkjnb&st=r22k3zw2&dl=0

For more info on the Ocean Pines Garden Club and how to become a member, visit bit.ly/OceanPinesGardenClub



Pocomoke Middle School 5th graders visit Worcester Co. Veterans Memorial for educational field trip

5th grade students from Pocomoke Middle School visited the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines on Monday, May 18, as part of an educational field trip focusing on honoring veterans and learning about United States history.

During their visit, students had the opportunity to learn from the local Pocomoke High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC cadets about proper flag etiquette, including how to correctly fold a flag.

Docents from the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation shared the history of the American flag and explained proper flag display. Volunteers, including veterans and retired school educators, guided students through the Memorial while providing insight into the layout, military branches, and commemorative pavers.

Students also walked the Patriots Pathway to view individual plaques and learn about significant American conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

The Memorial recently underwent extensive renovations, including the addition of the Space Force wall and flag.

Additional improvements include beautifully landscaped walkways, updated commemorative plaques, and enhanced seating areas.

Don McMullen, Suzie Pantone, and Michelle Winemiller, members of the Board of Directors for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, help lead several of these educational field trips each year as part of the Foundation’s mission to engage the community and educate local youth.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial honors all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and serves as a living tribute and educational resource for the region. For more information, visit wocovets.org.



Ocean Pines couple turns grief into grace through nonprofit honoring late son

What began as an unimaginable loss has grown into a nationwide movement encouraging compassion, connection, and everyday acts of kindness.

Ocean Pines residents Jackie and Ron Kurtz have dedicated the past several years to honoring the memory of their son, Matt, through their nonprofit, Matt's Kindness Ripples On. After Matt lost his battle with mental illness in 2017 at the age of 32, the couple chose to channel their grief into a mission of spreading kindness and recognizing those making a positive difference in their communities.

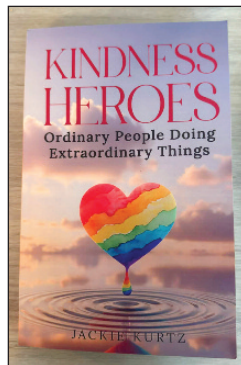
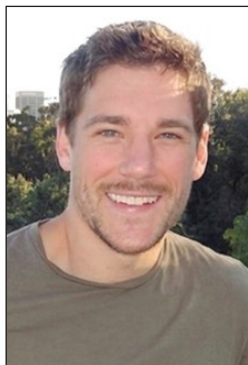
Now, Jackie is continuing that mission with the release of her new book, *Kindness Heroes: Ordinary People Doing Extra-ordinary Things*.

The book features the true stories of 61 "Kindness Heroes," including five from Berlin, whose simple acts of compassion have created lasting ripple effects in the lives of others. All of those featured have received grants or awards through Matt's Kindness Ripples On, which continues to celebrate kindness and inspire generosity nationwide.

"*Kindness Heroes* is really a reminder that goodness still exists," Jackie said. "In a world where negativity dominates the headlines, these stories show how ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference."

What has surprised Jackie most since the book's release is the way families have embraced it together.

"Readers have turned it into a book about connection," she said. "They're reading one short story together, with teens, spouses, grandparents, even aging parents, and



the reflection and kindness question at the end spark conversations they weren't having before. They're putting their phones down and having meaningful conversations."

Through Matt's Kindness Ripples On, the Kurtzes continue to encourage others to carry forward Matt's legacy of compassion, proving that even the smallest act of kindness can create a ripple far beyond what we can see.

Proceeds from *Kindness Heroes* benefit Matt's Kindness Ripples On and support the organization's ongoing mission to recognize and inspire kindness in communities across the country.

If you would like to get involved with Matt's Kindness Ripples On, there are two easy ways to do so:

- 1) Nominate someone who inspires you for the Matt Kurtz Kindness Award of \$250
- 2) Submit an idea for a kindness project for the Matt Kurtz Kindness Grant of \$500

The book is available through Amazon and can also be purchased locally at Greyhound Bookstore in Berlin, Pam's Hallmark at the Outlets on Route 50, and the Art League of Ocean City.

More on Matt's Kindness Ripples On can be found by logging on to www.mattskindnessrippleson.com.

More on *Kindness Heroes* can be found by logging on to www.jackiekurtz.mattskindnessrippleson.com



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COMMUNITY STORIES

Worcester Co. Veterans Memorial Foundation honors Marie Gilmore

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation honored Marie Gilmore for her 21 years of service at a special luncheon on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

Marie was first appointed to the board in 2005 and served in various positions, including Secretary, Vice President, and President. She was instrumental in many of the memorial enhancement projects, such as the addition of the Patriots Pathway, POW/MIA Chair of Honor, The Battlefield Cross, and hosted The Walls That Heal event, honoring Vietnam Veterans and receiving a retired wall panel.

Marie oversaw the construction of the Veteran Gazebo at Veterans Memorial Park, a joint project between the Ocean Pines Association and the Veterans Memorial Foundation. This gazebo has enhanced the experience for students attending the Veterans Memorial on annual field trips.

In May 2025, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial was designated as an official “Gold Star Memorial Site” and dedicated on Memorial Day by the Federated Garden Clubs of America and the Worcester County Garden Club.

Most recently, Marie has been instrumental in the “refresh” of the memorial, which included regrading of the site, new cement and brick work, refreshed landscaping, and the addition of the new Space Force wall and flag.

“Marie, your dedication to our veterans community and the

Veterans Memorial is a reflection of who you are, and we thank you for your continued service to our community,” said Rick Farr, President of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

At the luncheon, Marie was presented with several proclamations for her service from State Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Delegate Wayne Hartman, Commissioner Chip Bertino, the Town of Ocean City, OPA Board President John Latham, and members of the Worcester County Veterans Board of Directors.

Also in attendance were Marie’s family, the Worcester County Veterans Board of Directors and their guests, OPA Board of Directors and their guests, OPA General Manager John Viola and his wife Camille, Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson and his wife Angie, and Jack & Kathleen Bannon.



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