



OCEAN PINES REPORT

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Community survey goes live, submission deadline Nov. 15

Homeowners asked to weigh in on priorities for next three-to-five years

Members of the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Advisory Committee released a new survey designed to gather community input on top priorities for the next several years.

Committee Co-Chair Bernie McGorry said the goal for the survey is to capture a broad range of demographic and interest groups, including both young families and retirees, and full-time homeowners and seasonal residents.

The committee's target is at least 1,000 respondents, with at least 500 part-time residents and 500 full-time residents taking part. The survey has 15 questions and should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

Committee members developed the survey after months of research, including detailed comparisons with neighboring homeowners' associations, a SWOT analysis — or lists of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats — collected from Ocean Pines department heads, and input from other Ocean Pines advisory committees.

"We also had some great input on the survey from residents," committee

Co-Chair Moe Delcher said.

To take the community survey, visit www.oceanpines.org and click on the "Community Survey" link at the top of the page. There are also reminder cards with a QR code link to the survey available at several locations in Ocean Pines.

Those who wish to fill out a paper copy of the survey may do so by emailing info@oceanpines.org, or calling the administration office at 410-641-7717. Paper copies will also be available at the administration building and Public Works/CPI office, and at the visitor's center at The Parke.

"The goal was to make the survey easy to find and simple to take part in," McGorry said. "And the data we collect, we hope, will help align Board members and management on priorities for the next three-to-five years, and give homeowners a say on that."

McGorry said individual survey responses would be strictly confidential, and the overall results will be shared at a future town hall meeting and on the Ocean Pines website.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org.

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OPA extends Ortt Companies contract

At the request of General Manager John Viola, the Ocean Pines Board recently approved a fourth year on the Matt Ortt Companies' food and beverage management contract.

The Ortt Companies, led by co-founders Matt Ortt and Ralph DeAngelus, originally signed a two-year management contract in 2017. Two years later, the Ocean Pines Board approved a three-year contract extension with incentives to trigger a fourth and fifth year.

The agreement is for the company, which also operates several independent restaurants in the Ocean City area, to run Ocean Pines' Yacht Club, Beach Club, and Clubhouse Bar and Grille.

COVID-19 had a negative impact on food and beverage revenue during the last fiscal year, but the Ortt Companies still managed close to the target of \$130,000 operating favorability that would have automatically triggered a fourth year.

Viola said the Ortt Companies finished roughly \$119,000 positive to budget overall during that time. Those numbers include federal grants given through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

"With the PPP, the Matt Ortt Companies was basically \$11,000 short of the automatic trigger. However, they provided a lot of [community] service during COVID. They provided low-price family meals and delivery, [and] they were open the full year," Viola said.

"They kept the entire team engaged and on the payroll, which is what PPP is for," he continued. "And that's important, because a lot of restaurants now ... are trying to open up and they can't get good people."

DeAngelus added that, because of the way the company navigated through COVID, "The industry's number-one issue wasn't ours."

"We kept our core staff around, and we didn't ever have to close because of a shortage of people," he said.

Viola said the Ortt Companies also donated family meals to Ocean Pines Police, the Volunteer Fire Department, and the nursing staff at Atlantic General Hospital, and he highlighted positive trends for both overall revenue and banquet revenue during the current fiscal year. Several times this summer, the Ortt Companies set single-day and weekend-long sales records at the Yacht Club and Beach Club.

Prior to the pandemic, the Ortt Companies was credited for rehabilitating the image of Ocean Pines' food and beverage operations, now known for having vastly improved customer service and food quality.

DeAngelus said he likes to go back to a town hall meeting four years ago, when he and company leadership made a promise to several hundred Ocean Piners in attendance.

"I told them, we're going to make this your family and neighborhood destination again - the place to go for family and friends, so that they wouldn't have to leave the area to have a really good time, with great food and drinks and a stellar entertainment lineup," he said. "Obviously, we're very proud of what we've accomplished, and we feel like we've held true to our promise."



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Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair, Nov. 6 in Ocean Pines

Tenth annual event will feature variety of handcrafted items

The Pine'er Craft Club will host the 10th annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The event is free and open to the public.

"We are excited to host the event this year after having to cancel in 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Nancy Burkett, the event chairperson, said.

Local crafters and many Craft Club members will be there to display and sell their wares.

"We have a wide variety of items, many with a holiday theme, including jewelry, pottery, paintings, soap and bath products, pet products, American doll clothes, candles, stained glass, pillows, and cross-stitched items," Burkett said. "All items are handcrafted and make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

"We'll also have some unusual, one-of-a-kind things," she continued. "We'll have fabric decorated plates, quilted items, gourd houses, wood-carved ducks and birds, and so much more."

The event will also feature local artists like Jim Adcock, who is well known for painting landscape scenes of Ocean Pines, Berlin, Ocean City and other surrounding areas.

Burkett recommended that shoppers come early, as many items sell out quickly.

"This is a popular event, so the earlier the better," she said. "We'll also have a bake sale of all homemade goodies. The bake sale is usually sold out by noon!"

Additionally, breakfast and lunch items will be available for sale by the Kiwanis Club.

The Pine'er Craft Club will donate proceeds from the Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair back to the Ocean Pines community. Active since 1974, the Craft Club has donated more than \$170,000 to groups like Ocean Pines' Recreation and Parks, Police and Fire departments, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines.

For more information on the Pine'er Craft Club, visit them online at www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-craft-shop.



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Guest column: Pushing on COVID-19 health and economic recovery

By Mary Beth Carozza

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

With the close of the legislative session in the spring, I have been making my rounds in all three counties of my Senate district, participating in local events, and assisting my constituents as we push through together for a strong health and economic COVID-19 recovery.

As I reflect on the many activities held across the shore this year, I found The Wall That Heals events held at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines honoring our Vietnam veterans to be historic, emotional and uplifting for our entire community. On a personal note, it meant so much to our family to be with my Uncle Eddie Rohe, an Air Force Vietnam veteran, at the welcoming ceremony. I join with so many in Ocean Pines in recognizing and thanking Marie Gilmore and all the volunteers who worked so hard to pull off a truly meaningful and healing experience for our Vietnam veterans and their families.

These type of events that unite us as neighbors and Americans seem especially impactful as we recover from COVID-19 on both the health and economic fronts. As more and more Marylanders were vaccinated, we saw the lifting of many restrictions that allowed for the full and safe reopening of local businesses. This could not have been possible without the outstanding service provided by our local health departments and medical providers who have been and still are working round the clock giving COVID-19 tests, holding vaccine clinics, and providing quality health care services for shore residents and visitors alike.

We are seeing an entrepreneurial spirit on the shore as we recover from COVID-19 with the opening of new businesses and ventures. Right here in Ocean Pines, Pip the Beach Cat, Serpone's Pizzeria, Royal Plus Electric, and the

new location of the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce with a visitor center are among several new attractions opening up.

Other new Worcester County businesses include Salt & Company in West Ocean City, featuring Maryland retail items made by Worcester Technical High School students, and the exciting maiden voyage of the Black-Eyed Susan Riverboat in Snow Hill and the Christmas Sweet in Pocomoke.



Throughout this long and hot summer, virtually every industry sector has been facing severe workforce shortages, from hospitality, to construction, to health care, to public safety. I will continue my efforts to work with our job creators to recruit and retain our shore workforce. As a way to encourage our talented youth to attend Maryland schools and pursue careers here on the shore, I want to put the word out on my Maryland Senate scholarship, which is available to students who live in my district and who attend and are in good standing in a Maryland community college or university. Eligible students may apply for my Senate scholarship by emailing Marybeth.Carozza@State.Senate.md.us.

I am proud to represent three quality institutions of higher education in my district: Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Wor-Wic Community College. These three schools have earned a reputation of excellence with expertise in certain areas such as the teaching, nursing and business programs at Salisbury University; the agriculture, aviation and pharmacy programs at UMES; and public safety, welding and technology programs at Wor-Wic.

This September 2021, I participated in the groundbreaking of the new Applied Technology Building at Wor-Wic Community College, which will house industry training programs focusing on current and emerging technologies. Our local students will have the opportunity to train in a cutting-edge facility and will have a real advantage in being leaders in these industrial careers.

In closing, I wanted to share my thoughts on the significance of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. From my guest column published in the Sept. 8, 2021 edition of *The Courier*, I wrote: "9/11 is seared in our nation's memory as the day that changed America, and it changed my life as well." Being at the Pentagon on 9/11, I witnessed the firefighters fighting their hearts out on the Pentagon roof; appreciated how all of us, military and civilians, came together to do our part in the War On Terror; and recalled

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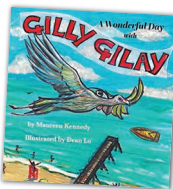


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(cont. from pg. 6) the pride of seeing the Pentagon rebuilt within one year of the terrorist attack.

A couple of days after 9/11, President Bush told some of us at the Pentagon that on the heels of a terrorist attack there would be overwhelming support from the American people to fight the war on terror, but our challenge would be to sustain the support and the vigilance needed to defeat a patient enemy whose sole mission is to destroy Americans and our way of life. His words ring especially true today, in light of recent actions in Afghanistan and violence against our military and innocent Americans and Afghans.

On Sept. 11, 2001, we saw the best of America coming

together as a united people. We had a shared commitment to protect the homeland and defeat the terrorists. We vowed then that we would never forget those killed on 9/11, and that the sacrifices of those 9/11 families and our military and emergency personnel responding to the war on terror would never be in vain. On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we should recognize that we are still fighting a war on terror, which goes well beyond Afghanistan, and we should renew our American commitment in the war against terror and to the protection of our homeland.

I remain committed to serving my constituents and encourage you to stay in contact with me at www.marybethcarozza.com. *Onward and Upward!*

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ON THE FRONT COVER: (top photo)
September's Harvest Moon
in Ocean Pines
Photography by Mark Williams

Guest column: Worcester Health offers fall fitness, nutrition and prevention programs

A message from the Worcester County Health Department

Looking for ways to get active, lose weight, or just pick up some healthy habits this fall? Worcester County Health Department has you covered! We are offering free programs like Just Walk, Worcester Wellness Weigh, Diabetes Prevention, and classes on how to quit smoking or vaping. Here's a snapshot of what's available in autumn.

- **The Lower Shore Walking Tour** is a self-directed, Tri-County event beginning Oct. 1 and running through the entire month. Residents are encouraged to register for the Lower Shore Walking Tour at Eventbrite. Participants will be emailed a map of local parks and trails. All participants are asked to take a photo of themselves being active and submit them for a chance at a grand prize. The first 50 to register and submit a photo will receive a free t-shirt. The more you participate in physical activity and send photos, the more tickets you will earn to be entered into the grand prize drawing. You can register online through Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/lower-shore-walking-tour-2021-tickets-168261912911.

- **The Just Walk Fun Walk 2021-2022** schedule has been solidified. The first event is a self-directed walk set to take place on Oct. 6 at Cypress Park, Byrd Park and Stephen Decatur Park. Email Crystal.bell1@maryland.gov or visit JustWalkWorcester.org for more information.

- **Free group classes** for *Worcester Wellness Weigh* (family-focused healthy eating, physical activity, and weight management program), *Tobacco Cessation* (quitting smoking/vaping), and *Lifestyle Balance* (diabetes prevention) are available starting this fall. Call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 for more information about these programs or visit WorcesterHealth.org.

- **The Worcester Wellness Weigh program** includes free, wearable technology/fitness watches to help participants track their physical activity. The program is online and includes weekly coaching provided by trained physical activity and nutrition coaches. Participants have access to cooking demonstrations and grocery store tours, all from the comfort of their own homes. Individuals who have completed the program have experienced some very positive health outcomes, including improved eating and exercise habits, as well as weight loss.

- **Tobacco Cessation classes** are designed to help individuals establish quit smoking plans and attain a tobacco-free lifestyle. These classes are taught by a trained smoking cessation educator. The program offers vouchers for cessation aids for those wishing to add these to their quit plan. The vouchers for smoking cessation help defray the cost of nicotine patches, gum, lozenge, and Chantix at participating pharmacies in the county.

- **The Lifestyle Balance - diabetes prevention program** is a year-long program proven to prevent Type 2 diabetes in those with prediabetes, those at risk for diabetes, and those with a history of gestational diabetes. The program helps you learn about healthy eating, physical activity, weight loss, and behavior change. You will work with a trained coach and people just like you, working together to make lifestyle changes to reduce your risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. You will participate in 16 weekly sessions, followed by once-a-month support sessions for the remainder of one full year. Participants will receive incentives like cookbooks, body weight scales, and more. Call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 for more information or to enroll.



Guest column: Growth and development

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

Growth and development have been active in and around our district.

Atlantic General Hospital hosted a groundbreaking for the Gudelsky Family Medical Center that will be constructed along the southeastern end of Route 589, where the red produce stand currently stands. The 53,000 square-foot facility will include a multispecialty outpatient surgery center, pharmacy, laboratory and imaging services, as well as other specialty offices. The project is expected to be completed by early 2023.

One final note, for those who purchase their Christmas trees at the red produce stand, this will be the last year to do so.

Adjacent to the medical center, Wave Holdings has plans to construct a shopping center that will include general retail, a grocery store, a car wash, restaurant, and a gas/convenience store. They are working with State Highway Administration on a joint entrance, with AGH, along Route 589 to minimize the number of new traffic lights to just one. As I write this, I don't know what grocery store will be at the site.

There has been no further progress on the Thrive assisted living community planned for the north side of the soon-to-be-constructed AGH facility.

Pending final approvals, Royal Farms will construct a 5,100 square-foot store with eight gas pumps and a car wash at 11073 Cathell Road, near Walgreens and the Snowball Stand.

There are considerable plans along Route 50, especially around the Walmart and Home Depot locations. Aldi is currently doing major exterior work to their new location in Ocean Landings II. I don't have a date as to when this grocery store will open. Hardee's plans to construct a restaurant along Samuel Bowen Boulevard on a pad site

in front of Walmart. Zoom Car Wash plans to build a facility on a pad site in front of Home Depot.

There have been reports in the media that Worcester County was looking at a site at Route 589 and Route 113 for a proposed sports complex. It does not look as if this will happen, because the owner has not responded to county inquiries. It's likely another site in northern Worcester will be considered.

In other news, the Worcester County Health Department successfully completed a review process to maintain national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board. This is a big deal, because it underscores what many residents, myself included, have experienced with our local health department, that it is responsive to the public health needs of our community. This has been evident during the past year and a half, as the department has dealt with the changing protocols of the pandemic and assisted residents with testing and vaccinations.

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



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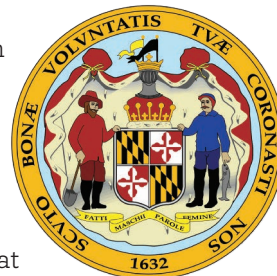
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Guest column: Greetings from Annapolis!

By Wayne Hartman

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



It is hard to believe that as I am writing this, I am planning for my fourth session in the Maryland General Assembly. We can all agree that the last 18 months have been challenging for each of us. I hope that everyone is staying healthy and had an enjoyable summer.

If there is a silver lining from the pandemic, it is that I have had the opportunity to work with many people in the district. Whether it was assisting folks navigating the Maryland Department of Labor for unemployment benefits, assisting employers with the challenges that COVID created for them, or advocating for local control and personal choice regarding the masks and vaccines, it was great to be so engaged. I truly enjoy the constituent service, and I encourage you to reach out to my office when you need help involving any of the state agencies.

As I mentioned earlier, we are now preparing for the upcoming session. Over the time of the next several months, we will be meeting with the local and county leaders in the district, as well as other organizations such as our hospitals, educational institutions, and many of our community organizations to see what legislative priorities or needs that they may have.

Once again this year, I will pre-file some of the bills that I plan on sponsoring, so that there is an early bill hearing and plenty of time to garner the support needed to pass them. Without going into too much detail just yet, the legislation I am working on so far centers around inclusivity for children with special needs, election integrity, supporting our first responders, agri-tourism for the county, and protecting our Second Amendment. There are other pieces of legislation that I am considering, but I hope that gives you an idea of some of my priorities this session.

It truly is an honor to serve District 38-C and to represent you in the Maryland House of Delegates. The 2022 election is right around the corner; I will be filing for re-election in the very near future. I hope that I have earned your support. Please contact our office to share your opinion on legislation being considered this session, or with any needs or concerns you have. Email: Wayne.Hartman@House.State.MD.US.

Stay well and keep in touch!

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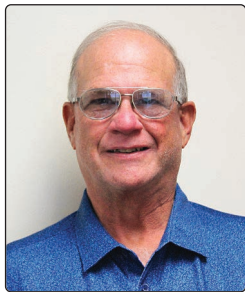
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Message from the ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Larry Perrone
Assoc. President

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR FALL

The summer is over and what a summer it was. The crowds have returned and Ocean Pines was rockin' and rollin' all summer long. Congratulations to all our staff for all their hard work this summer.

Like every other business in the area, Ocean Pines was short on summer help, but our management team did a great job dealing with the challenge. As of the end of the month July, our financial picture was very bright with a positive variance to budget of almost \$1 million.

The numbers for August are preliminary, but it looks like another stellar month brings our positive variance to budget over \$1.1 million.

Particular credit goes to our Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue. Both recently took on more responsibility, and the organic growth in income and cost cutting have made a huge impact on the Aquatics and Racquet Sports results. Golf operations are also doing great. The golf maintenance team did a sensational job all summer providing a golf course that is in excellent shape and getting rave reviews from our members and guests. The investments made in drainage and equipment are having an impact on the bottom line. Golf operations are about \$200,000 positive to budget.



The Food and Beverage operations managed by the Matt Ortt Companies are producing record numbers. Our banquet business is booming and the crowds on the weekends have been large. MOC's ability to hire outstanding musical entertainment is a great asset and is generating positive variances at our clubs.

There is still more work to be done, but our General Manager and his team are focused on continued improvements of our beautiful community. Over the last 18 months, Ocean Pines has witnessed a large turnover of ownership. I want to welcome everyone to Ocean Pines and hope you come to love this community as much as we do. Now that the crowds are gone, enjoy all the things our area provides for the residents.

REMINDER: COMMUNITY SURVEY



Use the **QR Code**, or visit **oceanpines.org** to take the Strategic Planning Committee survey before Nov. 15, 2021.

To request a paper copy, email info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717



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John Viola
General Manager

OPERATING ON ALL CYLINDERS

As the summer recently came to a close, Labor Day weekend was a big success for us all in Ocean Pines. We saw record crowds at our Yacht Club and Beach Club, and busy amenities across the board, including the Marina, Golf, Aquatics, and Racquet Sports. (also see pgs. 44-45)

Our Recreation and Parks Department enjoyed a great season, with many full camps for children and fun activities held for people of all ages. For all of us in the community, it was a much-needed return to normal after

the pandemic halted many of our activities a year ago.

Aquatics and Racquet Sports are both favorable to budget, thanks to organic growth on the revenue side and cost savings on expenses. Credit to Kathleen Cook and her team at Aquatics for producing, even while facing issues with staffing that were seen all across Worcester County. At Racquet Sports, several big tournaments are scheduled this fall. Terry Underkoffler and Tim McMullen have successfully grown our lesson program across multiple sports at the center, and they continue to demonstrate their strong customer service skills.

Golf Course maintenance efforts have been successful, and the course is in possibly the best shape in a decade, thanks to Course Superintendent Justin Hartshorne and his team there. Justin has put his education and experience to good use, and the results are easy to see. The reviews have been great, and people continue coming out to play our course.

Public Works is helping to oversee bulkhead replacement, now in the third year of a four-year plan to address those areas most in need of repairs. In this next phase, we will replace bulkheads with contractor Fisher Marine, who continues to be a strong partner for us. Fisher will also install our new T-docks for the Marina, which will be ready for next Memorial Day weekend.

Debbie Donahue, with assistance from Public Works, is overseeing beautification efforts that includes the North Gate, Wood Duck I and II, and the White Horse Park campus. Teal Bay and Bay Colony are next on our schedule, as we focus on landscaping and beautification efforts all around the Pines.

A partnership with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and Worcester County is helping to maintain fire hydrants in the community that were difficult to find in case of an emergency. As of mid-September, that effort has helped clear 96 of the 176 hydrants that we have identified as issues.

The Finance team and Linda Martin from CPI are working on the DMA reserve study. A final draft of the reserve study will be reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee and then presented to the Board in October.

Linda continues to work with Julie Malinowski from the Marketing and Public Relations Department on our customer service initiative, using the info@oceanpines.org email to answer questions in a timely and professional manner. The Public Relations Department is also helping with the community survey that was developed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and is now available.

Ocean Pines remains one of the safest communities in the state, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Police Department and the fine leadership of Chief Leo Ehrisman. We are all grateful for their efforts.

Overall, the team continues to operate on all cylinders, with our latest financial results for August, showing a \$1.1 million positive variance to budget at this time. We hope to keep up that success throughout the fall, as we move into budgeting season.



**OCEAN
PINES
ASSOCIATION**

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

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

.....
The Ocean Pines Association will observe the following upcoming holidays.

Please note that Ocean Pines administrative offices will be closed for:

Veterans Day: Thu, Nov. 11

Thanksgiving: Thu, Nov. 25 & Fri, Nov. 26

Christmas: Thu, Dec. 23 & Fri, Dec. 24

New Year's Day: Fri, Dec. 31

Ocean Pines MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

Marketing & Public Relations Director

Josh Davis

410.641.7717 Ext. 3006

jdavis@oceanpines.org

Marketing Coordinator

Julie Malinowski

410.641.7717 Ext. 3014

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John Malinowski
General Manager
of Golf

COURSE CONDITIONS IMPROVING

The golf course had a busy summer, with golfers from both near and far enjoying the weather and the good playing conditions of the course. I am happy to say that the hard work of our golf maintenance crew over the last year has improved the conditions of the entire course, and helped it get through the rough and stressful summer heat with minimal issues. The work on the greens and other areas will continue through the fall and winter, to help strengthen the turf to make it even better for next summer and the seasons beyond.

The work this fall will include expanding a few smaller tees, continued use of the Ninja Tines and verticutting on the greens, tree trimming, and drainage work. All of this will continue to improve the conditions, playability and improvement of the course.

In addition to the many golfers playing the course this summer, we also had a very busy junior golf camp season. Our four camps were sold out in April, prompting us to add two

additional afternoon camps, which also sold out. Overall, we had 174 energetic participants learn how to play and hone their skills from our instructional staff, and enjoy the daily end-of-camp freeze pops.

We are looking forward to the cooler and less humid days of the fall, and we hope to see you out on the course.

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Beer-battered fish, coleslaw, tomato, chipotle ranch

Jack Daniels Wings \$10
Fried seasoned wings, house-made Jack Daniels honey glaze

Hot Roast Beef & Cheese \$10
Sliced beef, mushroom gravy, sauteed onions, provolone cheese, kaiser sub roll

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Golf members honor Stiles, raise funds for charity during annual Bavarian Hops Scramble

Ocean Pines golfers raised \$1,200 during the 15th annual Ernie Stiles Bavarian Hops Scramble, held Aug. 27 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

The event, each year, is held in honor of the late Ernie Stiles and is hosted by the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council. Don McMullen and Bob Long coordinated this year's event.

To date, the scramble has raised more than \$30,000 for local charities.

"Ernie's idea was simply to bring together some good people and go out for nine holes, have some good fun, and support some good causes," McMullen said.

Long said the event always has a lighthearted atmosphere. Longtime traditions include a toast, "Nostrovia," to good health before teeing off. Players then "head to the course and let their hair down a bit," he said.

"Ernie ran the Hops Scramble on his own for many years as a fun event," Long said. "He charged \$5 to play and all the money would get paid out to the skin winners. Often, no skins were cleared and the money would go to the charities."

Stiles created a stick figure, called "the Hops Guy," who holds a donation box and is placed at the seventh tee. Players donate a few dollars, or maybe more, as they pass by to tee up their shot.

Tournament proceeds often went to Stiles' favorite charities, Diakonia and the Humane Society, and money collected this year will again benefit those two organizations.

"In other years, the Hops Scramble helped local people who were having a tough time," Long said. "In 2017, the members took responsibility for the Hops Scramble and that year made significant donations to Cancer and ALS research. After Ernie's passing in 2018, we have again focused on local charities."

Along with the skins (the rewards for winning a hole outright), golfers vie for the coveted "Hops Hat" by getting closest to the pin on the seventh hole. Nongolfers, meanwhile, join in on the fun by being part of a grandstand where they cheer and jeer for players as they attempt their shots.

"Again, our members and friends had a great time at this annual event," McMullen said. "Congratulations to Kevin Brooks and Jeff Smith, who collected the only skins of the events and went home with all the prize money. And

congratulations to John Malinowski IV, who won the rights to wear the Hops Hat with his closest-to-the-pin shot at the seventh hole."

"Thanks to all for supporting the Humane Society and Diakonia, and thanks to Darin Stuiber and his group for adding to the celebration that took place at the seventh hole," Long added. "We hope to see everyone again next year!"

Marlene Ott

Associate Broker, CRS

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Winterizing efforts & landscaping underway



Eddie Wells
*Director
of Public Works*

Just after Labor Day, Public Works started working on winterizing efforts across Ocean Pines, including closing our four outdoor pools and prepping our facilities for the colder months.

Our fall leaf collection will begin soon. **We will pick up bagged leaves from Nov. 22 to Dec. 17**, which is the same schedule we keep each year. The leaf vacuum truck will start on Nov. 29 and go through the community twice, as always.

For those who want to bring bagged leaves to the Public Works yard, that will be open Nov. 22 to Dec. 31. Please only drop off yard debris; no plastic will be accepted. The yard will be open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Nov. 25–27 and Dec. 24–25.

Landscaping around signs for the sections in the community is also underway. We recently completed several of those and Public Works will continue to work on additional sections throughout the year.

We're also working on a joint effort with Worcester County and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department to paint Ocean Pines fire hydrants and clear the space around them, to make them more visible.

Continuing to improve facilities and replacing bulkheads



Nobie Violante
*Manager
of Public Works*

Along with our winterization efforts, the maintenance crew will soon be adding touchless watercoolers to all our facilities. These units will eliminate contact with the water dispenser and make germs harder to spread.

We will be replacing the lights on the piles at the Golf and Yacht clubs with new bollard lights, and we are also working on pricing for doors for the Golf Clubhouse to separate the lobby and banquet areas.

Public Works is finishing replacement of the bulkhead wall at the Golf Course between holes three and four, behind the Golf Maintenance building. We will then be doing emergency

bulkhead replacements on Goldeneye Court, before moving to Pintail Drive and Crab Cay Court.

The following addresses are next on our schedule, to be completed this fall: **8 Pintail Drive, 10 Pintail Drive, 12 Pintail Drive, 14 Pintail Drive, 16 Pintail Drive, 18 Pintail Drive, 20 Pintail Drive, 22 Pintail Drive, 24 Pintail Drive, 26 Pintail Drive, 28 Pintail Drive, 30 Pintail Drive, 32 Pintail Drive, 34 Pintail Drive, 36 Pintail Drive, 38 Pintail Drive, 40 Pintail Drive, 42 Pintail Drive, 44 Pintail Drive, 46 Pintail Drive, 48 Pintail Drive, 50 Pintail Drive, 52 Pintail Drive, 19 North Pintail Drive, 29 North Pintail Drive, 3 Crab Cay Court, 4 Crab Cay Court, 5 Crab Cay Court, 6 Crab Cay Court, 7 Crab Cay Court, 8 Crab Cay Court, 9 Crab Cay Court, 10 Crab Cay Court, 11 Crab Cay Court, and 12 Crab Cay Court.**

Committed to enforcing Declaration of Restrictions and ARC Guidelines



Linda Martin
*Office Manager
at Public Works*

The busy summer season is over, but CPI is still committed to enforcing the Declaration of Restrictions and ARC Guidelines. While the inspectors cannot visit each street every day, we appreciate the phone calls and emails we receive to report violations to us.

One of the major concerns over the summer was the removal of trees. While Ocean Pines is called "Ocean Pines" for the fabulous trees that adorn our community, there are times that

trees do need to be removed because of safety issues to homes (both to the applicant and the neighbor), or are diseased or dying, which is determined by a licensed arborist. A permit is required to remove any tree over 6 feet in diameter. Please contact the CPI Department if you have a tree that you need to remove, or if you are concerned about a neighbor removing

a tree without a permit. There were several homes that we issued violations on this summer that removed trees without a permit, and to comply they were required to replant trees.

After several long months of hard work and research by Ocean Pines employees along with DMA, the final draft of the reserve study will be ready soon. Both the working session with the Budget and Finance Committee, as well as the Board presentation, are scheduled for October. This report is a great tool for Ocean Pines to use for budgeting purposes, which departments will start working on for the next fiscal year shortly.

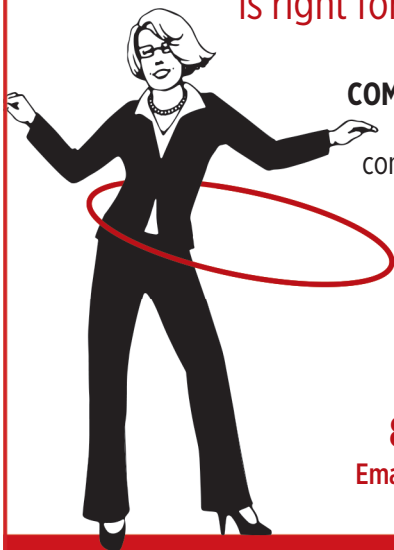
The customer service initiative, which was developed a few months ago, has been working well. Since its inception in late March, we have received over 800 phone calls and emails from homeowners, as well as those interested in Ocean Pines. As a reminder, for any questions, concerns, complaints, and general information, please contact info@oceanpines.org, or call 410-641-7717 during business hours, or 410-641-7747 on nights and weekends.

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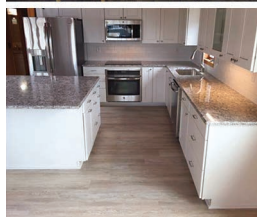
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Steve Phillips
Director of Finance/
Controller

Very healthy financial standpoint

Ocean Pines Association continues to remain very healthy from a financial standpoint, coming off an extraordinary summer featuring record revenues produced by the amenities. August year-to-date results have OPA tracking \$1.127 million favorable versus the budget. OPA amenity locations comprise \$857,000 of this favorability, or approximately 76%. The Yacht Club, Golf and Aquatics amenities lead the way, tracking approximately \$261,000, \$222,000 and \$188,000 favorable to budget to date, respectively.

The audit report for fiscal year 2021 was completed and issued by TGM Group in July. OPA received another unmodified audit opinion on our financial statements. There were no proposed auditor adjustments that resulted from the audit.

OPA still continues to work with our vendor, Design Management Associates Inc. (DMA), to refresh/update our reserve study data. We have vetted all of the information in the draft report internally and are in the process of providing the information to the Budget and Finance Committee to review as well. This important information will be available and finalized prior to our "kick-off" of the fiscal year 2023 budget process, which is quickly approaching. As a reminder, this update is important in order to ensure that OPA has adequate reserves (general, bulkheads, drainage and roads) on hand to replace existing assets/infrastructure at the end of their useful life.

With the budget development "kick-off" approaching, I wanted to remind everyone of the improvements that have been made in budget development and monitoring through the Northstar system. This system has given OPA's budget managers, as well as the Finance team, the ability to drill into all accounting transactions and view real-time numbers by account on a daily basis. This real-time access to information is necessary in the role of a budget manager and will be utilized heavily in the upcoming fiscal year 2023 budget build. Department heads will be expected to produce current year-end budget estimates by account along with their 2023 funding requests.

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



Summary Financial Report

Year-to-Date 8/31/2021

OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY UNAUDITED

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)			
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$9,348	\$9,348	\$0
Grants	537	485	52
Amenities (Net)	4,459	3,561	898
Recreation & Parks	210	260	(50)
Other fees and Income	386	353	33
Total Revenues	14,940	14,007	933
Less transfers to reserve accounts	(3,313)	(3,249)	(64)
Net Operating Revenues	11,627	10,758	869
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Administration & Management	720	755	35
Amenities	2,274	2,230	(44)
Recreation & Parks	320	380	60
Police	537	593	56
Fire / EMS	248	248	0
Public Works / CPI	563	655	92
General Maintenance	205	264	59
Total Operating Expenses	4,867	5,125	258
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	6,760	5,633	1,127
TRANSFERS	(5)	0	(5)
NET	\$6,755	\$5,633	\$1,122

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Leo Ehrisman
Chief of Police

Current updates and operations

OCEAN PINES POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS:

The full-service, 24-hour-a-day operation of the Ocean Pines Police Department remains available to respond to the needs and calls for service during this unusual time as our community manages the pandemic and its effects on our residents. Our officers and office employees have had to take major steps to protect themselves, as well as those they serve or assist every day.

PROTECTING YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

During the summer months, Ocean Pines Police had an increase of reported thefts/fraud and scam cases from phone calls, emails and phone messages. The police investigations have found that many of these cases are from sources outside of the country. As these reported cases increase, the difficulty of solving the cases remains the same. We ask that you monitor all of your online banking, shopping and account purchases for yourself, and for other family members who are not technically sure of how to see suspicious activity on their accounts.

ARRESTS:

Ocean Pines Police have made several arrests for domestic violence. Most of these situations are alcohol- or drug-related. Remember that drugs and/or alcohol will not help with a domestic event. There are several hotlines and resources that may be used to assist with the domestic situations.

Many of our arrests this summer have resulted in charges of assault, property damage and protective orders, which all involve court appearances and legal fees.

Other arrests relating to drugs, alcohol violations and traffic offences continue to be handled by our officers.

DRUG OVERDOSES:

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

SUMMER HOMES & CONCERNS:

We would like to remind homeowners that you are still responsible for the upkeep and behavior of your renters as required by HOA rules and regulations. Many resident owners call the police for violations such as parking and utility trailers. I would remind residents that the police will always respond to your calls for help. However, not all of those complaints are violations of Maryland law or traffic codes. It has been recorded on many social media outlets that "the police do nothing to help." Always remember that the complaint must be a law violation before police action may be enforced. Our officers always respond to your call for service with the intention to help.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The Ocean Pines Police now have an opening for an officer and/or candidate for the fall police academy, which will begin in January of 2022. Please contact our office at 410-641-7747 for details.

IN CLOSING:

The Ocean Pines Police would like to thank everyone for the strong show of support from this community during these stressful times. Please remember that the police in your community not only work cases, respond to calls and enforce traffic laws, but they are also here to help you, serve you, and care for you and your families as well as your property.

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OCEAN PINES POLICE DEPT.



New addition to the fleet

The Ocean Pines Police Department recently added two marked 2021 Dodge Durangos to its fleet.



TidalHealth donates thank you baskets

TidalHealth dropped off "thank you" baskets of treats last month to the Ocean Pines Police Department. Pictured from left are Jessica Perry (TidalHealth), officers John Pianka and Colin Morris (Ocean Pines Police Department) and Capt. Anthony Tull (TidalHealth).

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David Van Gasbeck
OPVFD President



Steve Grunewald
OPVFD Chief

Annual Fund Drive donations are critical

The OPVFD has been providing 24-hour per-day, seven-days-per-week emergency service to the Ocean Pines and greater Worcester

County community for nearly 45 years. Our 50 volunteer firefighters and support staff are supplemented by 15 career firefighters/paramedics, and their combined efforts ensure that the over 2,000 (during fiscal year 2020) calls for service are always answered. Despite the increased risk associated with serving during a global pandemic, our department has continuously stepped up and is on pace to meet and/or exceed our calls for service from last year!

our fundraising efforts are crucial as a result of the critical need to renovate our South Station. Over the past 40 years, the department, its membership and the size of the apparatus have drastically grown, while our South Station has not. A feasibility study we commissioned determined that the station is not in compliance with many National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as well as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, just to name a few examples. The building is



extremely congested and lacks basic security and life-safety standards. To ensure continued recruitment and retention of high-quality membership, we need to create a functional living environment for our members and a station that the community of Ocean Pines will be proud of. Shortly, we will be presenting our plans through a community town hall meeting, which we hope you can attend.

However, today we are reaching out to ask you to donate to support our department's efforts and commitment to provide the best service to you. Your donations go directly to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and are critical to our ability to serve you.

Please help us maintain our effectiveness in protecting you and your property by contributing to our Annual Fund Drive. The OPVFD serves your community and is 100% tax deductible, as the OPVFD is a 501(c)(3) organization.

On behalf of the officers and members of the OPVFD, we thank you for your continued support.

Help OPVFD help you

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

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

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

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

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Debbie Donahue
Director of
Recreation & Parks

HAPPY FALL, EVERYONE!

The Recreation and Parks Department had a very successful summer! Thanks to all of you who joined us for the different events hosted at the Community Center, parks and more.

We have multiple events happening that will keep our Recreation and Parks staff busy this fall and winter. Katie is hosting T-ball and will be working with Coach Joe for indoor

fun, prizes, food and drinks. For detailed questions about tournament play, contact Cathy Noble at CMZNoble@gmail.com or Darryl Noble at DANoble54@gmail.com.

The **Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market is still open on Saturdays in White Horse Park.** Fall hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 30. Winter hours will be 9 a.m. to noon, Nov. 6 to Feb. 26, and before you know it, they will be back and ready for the spring. Come out and enjoy the different vendors and keep up that healthy eating.

The Pine'er Artisan Gift Shop, also in White Horse Park, is open Saturdays and Sundays. The beautiful new store holds many handmade products and is the perfect place to find something special for the person who is hard to shop for or maybe that perfect something just for you! Stop by, browse and say "hi" to the lovely ladies who make the items in the store.

You can do even more shopping at the 10th annual **Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair held in the Community Center on Nov. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Multiple vendors will be selling a wide variety of handmade items.

Please note that the **Ocean Pines Marina fuel dock will be closing Oct. 31 for the year.** I would like to thank the staff at the Marina: Barry, Ron, Doug, Shirl, Mike, Victor and Tony. This team did a great job this summer and hopes to see everyone back again next season.

Please check out the Ocean Pines website at oceanpines.org and **view the Activity Guide Fall/Winter 2021-2022 for more information on upcoming special events and classes.**

Stop by the Community Center any time to pick up flyers, ask questions or just to say "hi." We are there Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I look forward to seeing everyone again soon. For those heading out of Ocean Pines, have a safe and healthy winter – ***we look forward to seeing you again next spring!***

soccer. She will also host multiple craft classes. Kyle will be organizing youth and men's basketball, and Debbie will be back to referee our adult dodgeball league.


All hands will be on deck for our Halloween events, holiday events and exercise classes. Drop-in basketball and pickleball are on the schedule for the fall and winter as well.

The summer may be over, but the fun continues at the Recreation and Parks Department! We are always seeking volunteers for our programs and are especially in need of coaches for youth basketball. If you're interested in helping, please call us at 410-641-7052.

Many community organizations also meet at the Community Center. If you're interested in learning more about them, please give us a call. Our front desk staff can give you the contact information for the different, fun organizations that are active in Ocean Pines.


The American Cancer Society and Ocean Pines Pickleball are once again hosting a tournament to benefit breast cancer research on Oct. 1. You are invited to come out and watch the tournament. Even if you don't play, you can support the cause. It will be a great day!

Ocean Pines will also host its **first annual Oktoberfest Pickleball Tournament on Oct. 22-24.** Contact Terry Underkoffler at 215-808-6457 or Debbie Donahue at 410-641-7052 for more details about the tournament. To register to play, visit pickleballniden.com. It is going to be a great day of







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OCT 1: FAMILY FUN NIGHT! BINGO
OCT 10: WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORY WEEK: OCEAN PINES HISTORY PANEL
OCT 22: FAMILY FUN NIGHT! PUMPKIN PAINTING
OCT 22, 23, 24: HAUNTED HOUSE
OCT 29: TRUNK OR TREAT
OCT 30: HALLOWEEN FALL FESTIVAL
NOV 3 – DEC 15: HOME INSTEAD'S "BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR" PROGRAM
NOV 6: WINTER WONDERLAND ARTISAN & CRAFT FAIR
NOV 15 – DEC 3: LIGHT UP THE PINES
NOV 22 – DEC 17: SEND LETTERS TO SANTA!
NOV 27: A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
NOV, 27, DEC 18, DEC 19: SANTA IN THE PARK
DEC 4: BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS
DEC 4: REINDEER LANE GIFT SHOP
DEC 10: GINGERBREAD MAN DECORATING
DEC 17: FAMILY FUN NIGHT! HOLIDAY MOVIE

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EXCITING FALL EXERCISE CLASSES



The Aquatics Department enjoyed a successful summer at all five of our pools, and it was a welcome return to "normal" after a tough 2020 because of the pandemic.

I want to especially thank our staff, including all of our guards, who worked incredibly hard, were flexible and understanding about assignments, and kept everyone safe all summer long. It's a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people!

Thank you also to Public Works who, just after Labor Day weekend, started work to winterize our four outdoor pools. Clint Parks, in particular, has been indispensable in doing everything from day-to-day maintenance, to keeping us in compliance with pool regulations year-round.

Our fall hours at the indoor Sports Core Pool are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. Please continue to pay attention to your lifeguards on duty. They are there for your safety.

We have a number of exciting exercise classes scheduled this fall, including Earlybird Lap Swim, Aqua Yoga, Shallow and Deep Water Swimmin Wimmin, Wet Works, Creaky Joints, Shape Ups, Total Body Fitness, Aqua Cross Training, and Hydridorider Classes. **We always offer the first class for free, as long as there's no equipment involved such as the Hydridoriders, to give everyone the opportunity to find the class that's right for them. Those interested may inquire at the Sports Core front desk.**

Group swimming lessons are also scheduled, and we're always available for private pool parties. **To learn more about any of our programs, including rates, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics.**

We hope everyone has a safe and happy fall!

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

DATES: OCT 11-NOV 19, NOV 22-DEC 31, JAN 3-FEB 11

AQUA YOGA (W, F, 7:20am-7:50am OR 8:00am-8:45am)

DATES: thru OCT 15, OCT 27-DEC 3, DEC 15-JAN 21

SHALLOW & DEEP WATER SWIMMIN WIMMIN

(M, W, F, 8:00am-8:50am)

DATES: thru OCT 15, OCT 25-DEC 3, DEC 6-JAN 14

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

DATES: thru OCT 18, OCT 25-DEC 3, DEC 13-JAN 21

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

DATES: thru OCT 14, OCT 26-DEC 7, DEC 14-JAN 20

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

DATES: thru OCT 18, OCT 25-DEC 3, DEC 13-JAN 21

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

DATES: thru OCT 14, OCT 26-DEC 7, DEC 14-JAN 20

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

DATES: thru OCT 14, OCT 26-DEC 7, DEC 14-JAN 20

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

DATES: thru OCT 18, OCT 25-DEC 3, DEC 13-JAN 21

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

DATES: thru OCT 14, OCT 26-DEC 7, DEC 14-JAN 20 No Class 11/25

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

DATES: thru NOV 18, NOV 23-JAN 4 No Class 10/12-10/17, 11/25

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

DATES: thru OCT 18, OCT 25-DEC 3, DEC 13, JAN 21

WATER AEROBICS (T, Th, 5:15pm-6:00pm)

DATES: OCT 26-DEC 7, DEC 14-JAN 20 No Class 11/25

HYDRORIDER CLASSES (M, W 9:00am-9:40am)

thru NOV 8, NOV 15-DEC 22, JAN 3-FEB 9 No Class 10/12-10/17

(Tu, Th, 9:00am-9:45am)

thru OCT 14, OCT 26-DEC 9, DEC 21-JAN 27 No Class 11/22-11/26

(Tu, Th, 10:00-10:35am)

thru OCT 14, OCT 26-DEC 7, DEC 14-JAN 20 No Class 11/25

(Tu, Th, 6:00-6:45pm) OCT 26-DEC 7 No Class 11/25



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Watch for our new signs: *Keep Wildlife Wild*



In the spring 2021 issue of the *Ocean Pines Report*, the Environmental and Natural Assets Committee (E&NAC) had an article informing residents of our initiative to educate the public by placing new “**KEEP WILDLIFE WILD**” signs around our ponds. We indicated the reasons why people should not feed the local waterfowl and, because of our proximity to water, including Manklin Creek and the St. Martin River, that

water quality is a priority for the E&NAC.

It is worth repeating that many factors contribute to contaminated water: runoff of pesticides, fertilizers, animal droppings, local chicken factories and moldy food floating in our pond water intended to feed waterfowl. Extra heavy rainfalls can compound the levels of bacteria and that’s why, in the summer months, beaches can close and our local waters are unsafe for swimming. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, residents can track the water quality with the Swim Guide App maintained by the Assateague Coastal Trust.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD signs will soon be posted at our ponds. We are hoping these new signs will benefit both our residents and waterfowl by eliminating excess food pollution. Our previous article mentioned the disaster that occurred at Havre de Grace in Maryland in 2005 when hundreds of waterfowl died from botulism. Inappropriate foods such as potato chips, bagels, bread, and pretzel bites not only can cause bacteria to form in our pond waters, but this type of food is not nutritious for the birds and can also cause “Angel Wing” disease.

The new signs will be located around our ponds asking everyone to help conserve wildlife and their natural habitats. Bullet points on the signs explain the following reasons not to feed geese, ducks and other wild animals:

- **Overcrowding** (an abundant, unnatural food supply can contribute to the presence of more animals gathering in a space than normal)
- **Poor nutrition** (lack of sufficient nutrients contributes to malnutrition in waterfowl and can lead to Angel Wing, a deformity that can affect geese and ducks, in which the wing is twisted with the wing feathers pointing out laterally)
- **Spread of disease** (Ocean Pines wants to prevent what happened in Havre de Grace where botulism [food poisoning] spread among the waterfowl and killed them by the hundreds)
- **Unnatural behavior** (waterfowl that do not have to forage

for a natural food source can behave in an abnormal manner by staying in an area past the average time they would migrate)

- **Pollution** (food supplied by humans can enter our pond waters and become moldy, causing bacteria to form; it is also considered littering)
- **Delayed migration** (any delay in migration could be detrimental to the birds’ survival and reproduction since most geese head north to Canada for nesting in the spring)
- **Safety concerns** (water pollution, as mentioned previously, can cause botulism to form in the pond water, causing illness and death in waterfowl)
- **Dependency on humans** (wildlife fed by humans teaches them to depend on people for their food source that would not occur in the wild)

Since Ocean Pines is located on the Atlantic Flyway, we will always have waterfowl. Please help your E&NAC protect all residents, including our waterfowl, by respecting the new **KEEP WILDLIFE WILD** signs and by supporting our more humane efforts to control the waterfowl population. *Thank you for helping keep our wildlife wild!*



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OCEAN PINES MARINA



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Prepping for winter

The Ocean Pines Marina will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 1-31. The marina and fuel dock will close for the season and begin winter preparation effective the end of business on Oct. 31.

The Ocean Pines Marina offers 86 slip rentals for boats up to 44' in length. The Swim and Racquet

Marina offers 16 slip rentals for boats up to 22' in length. For information about boat slip rentals, please call the Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

For more information about the Ocean Pines Marinas, please call the dockmaster at 410-641-7447.



Pictured from left to right, are Steve Fingles, Carl Brown, John Dilworth, John O'Dell, Joan O'Dell, Chuck Elder, Paul Fohner, Scott Carstairs, Ken Thompson, Jimmy Atchison and Mary Ann Atchison. Captains missing from photo are Ricky Kerrigan, John Nowak, Jack Tellman, Fred Stiehl and Claude Lewis.

Local people pitch in with Believe in Tomorrow

Heroes come from all parts of society, and this group of heroes comes from Ocean Pines and Ocean City. They are the captains and mates who provide hours of fun and relaxation for families of Believe in Tomorrow, who have children with life-threatening illnesses.

Believe in Tomorrow and The Children's House by the Sea and its director, Wayne Littleton, and many community volunteers, provide respite housing for the families throughout the summer season along with daily activities.

The Ocean Pines Anglers and the Atlantic Coast Sport Fishing Association sponsor one of these activities, which includes boating, fishing and sightseeing excursions in our coastal bays. Program Director Budd Heim said these trips provide hope and inspiration for the current and future health of these children and their families.

This program has been in existence for approximately eighteen years, with hundreds of trips made possible by the captains.

This year, of the 42 families scheduled, 32 trips were completed. Weather, illness and scheduling conflicts were a cause of the cancellations.

To participate in the program, call Elliot at 410-726-1968.

Carley Sweigart hooks big tuna

Ocean Pines Marina slipholder Jason Sweigart, father Donald Sweigart, daughter Carley Sweigart and friends Emma Spong and Jason Pennypacker pose next to the 94-pound, 55-inch yellowfin tuna hooked by Carley on the family's boat *Down Time* in August. It took an hour and a half to land the fish.



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12/25 Market Closed
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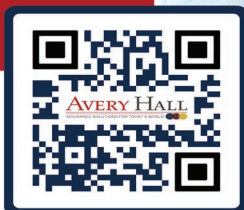
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Beach Parking attendants offer friendly, familiar faces

Two former mail carriers and one former health care worker find sunny, seasonal retirement jobs

Since the very beginning, the Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Club Parking have been unique and essential selling points for the community.

Just ask the people who work there.

"I think the Beach Club is probably one of the most underrated amenities that we have," longtime Beach Parking manager Dan Batt said. "A lot of people don't realize how nice the place is, until they come there and they see it for themselves. Many are really taken aback."

The combination of the Beach Club Pool, the bar and restaurant, the picturesque stretch of beach along the Atlantic Ocean, and the private parking lot make it truly one of a kind, Batt said.

"You've got everything right there, and it's so close to Ocean Pines," he said. "I've gotten a lot of positive comments over the years."

For the last several years Batt has led a trio of attendants who help answer questions, check in guests, and guide them to parking spaces by the ocean.

Dan Batt

Batt grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland and worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 37 years. Upon retirement, he took a position at the Ocean City Inlet working for the Town of Ocean City, and then inquired about working for Ocean Pines, with Beach Parking.

Batt helped manage pool operators for Ocean Pines Aquatics for several years, during the winter, and for the last 14 summers he has managed Beach Parking.

He said the Beach Parking lot has been basically the same since it was originally developed by Boise Cascade in the late 1960s, with some small improvements. The wall around the Beach Club Pool was a later addition and, three years ago, the Association added a small "welcome hut" for the Beach Parking attendants.

What has been consistent each summer are the interesting sights, sounds, and stories of thousands of beachgoers – many coming from out of town.

"You've got all these people and, of course, they're on vacation. Sometimes the questions can be redundant, because each week you're dealing with a different group of people, and sometimes they can leave their common sense at home," he said with a laugh. "For the most part, I've met a lot of very, very



nice people, and we try to make it very friendly for them and try to make their experience a good one."

Batt said many guests from New York and New Jersey are surprised that "the beach is free."

"Up where they are, they have to pay. So, when you tell them they don't have to here, they're like, 'Really?' They just can't believe it!" he said.

One of his favorite parts of the job, Batt said, is watching the children grow up with each new season.

"You've got these little guys running around, and the next thing you know they're pulling into the parking lot with a driver's license and getting ready to go to college. You just think, 'Wow, the time has really gone by!'" he said.

Batt started the tradition of having attendants wear Hawaiian shirts to greet customers – a universal symbol that one has arrived at the beach, ready for sunshine and fun.

"I said to my wife, 'We need something recreational and beachy.' Of course, Seacrets has their little beach theme over there, so through the years I've tried out little ideas that I've had," he said.

When the Matt Ortt Companies took over Beach Club management several years ago, Batt said they went about cleaning out the stockrooms, which happened to include a large order of Hawaiian shirts.

"The next thing I know, the shirts are over at the Yacht Club and Ron Fisher (who runs the Ocean Pines Marina) apparently saw them. So, I go over to get the shirts and he had already beat me to it – and they were all wearing our shirts!" Batt said.

"I went over to get some Marina gas one day, and it was so comical because when I walked up the lady said, 'Why are you wearing our shirts?' I said, 'No, no, no – you're wearing our shirts!'" Batt said with a

laugh. "It was a pretty funny moment."

Although they temporarily moved his shirts, Batt said he was grateful to the Ortt Companies for bringing back former Beach Club Manager Lynda Huettnner.

"She was my original boss and I worked for her for many years. She's awesome," he said. "We've had a lot of good times and worked with a lot of great, great people."

In prior years, Batt said he enjoyed working with J-1 students, who traveled here thanks to the federal Exchange





Visitor visa program. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program hasn't operated normally during the last two years.

On the bright side, Batt said he's gotten to know the two newer Beach Parking attendants: Keith Thomas and Tom Possident. Both have been with Ocean Pines for the last two seasons.

"They really are awesome, awesome guys and they've been really great to work with," Batt said. "It's always been like a family here. You get to enjoy folks' company and everybody pitches in.

"We just try to make everyone's experience as pleasant as possible, and we're there for any questions that people may have," he added.

Tom Possident

Possident grew up in the Baltimore area and worked for the Worcester County Health Department before retiring two years ago. Shortly after, he took a job at Beach Parking.

"I was looking for something to do, and this sounded like something I would be interested in, to keep myself occupied and keep my wife from doing me in," he said with a laugh.

Possident said most of the day is spent checking people in, answering questions, and "trying to be as friendly as you can."

He said business this year picked up after a slight dip in 2020 because of the pandemic.

"It was definitely more crowded than it was last year, and it seemed like a lot more people were coming from further distances," he said. "We saw a lot more from Florida, and of course from New York and New Jersey."

Possident said the workdays are mostly steady, with a small break generally between the morning and afternoon crowds.

"For the most part you're pretty busy," he said. "You get your morning people that come in, and they'll start rolling out usually about 1:30 or 2 p.m., and then you have the afternoon people who come in to replace them," he said.

That's not to say everything goes smoothly all of the time. He remembers one family frantically using a fork to fish out their Beach Parking pass after it got stuck in their car.

"The pass had fallen and gotten stuck between the dashboard and the front windshield, and they were renters and were worried about having to get it out of there, so they wouldn't have to pay a fee to their landlord," he said.

There are also plenty of questions to answer throughout the day.

"We get a lot of people who come up off the street that want to know if you have to pay to park on the street. We're constantly answering that question, and things like where does the boardwalk start, and even 'Where is Ocean Pines?'" he said.



"But I think we all get along and work well together. It's a good retirement job to keep me occupied," he added.

Keith Thomas

Thomas is originally from Chester County, Pennsylvania. Like Batt, he worked for the Postal Service before retiring several years ago.

"Most of the people here are pretty nice and it's been a great experience," he said. "You see a lot of families, and it's generally people who love the beach and the pool."

Thomas said Beach Parking is successful because it offers a solution to a common problem for vacationers – where do you park at the beach?

"There's a lot of tight parking, so this is just a great place to park where you can go to the beach and use the pool. That's kind of a rare bird in Ocean City," he said.

A year ago, Thomas said many of the Beach Parking visitors were people who "just wanted to get outside" because of the pandemic.

"With COVID last year, I'd say we had less cars and less people. We had a little more cars this year," he said.

Aside from their normal duties, Thomas said the parking attendants can be something of a "lost and found" for the hundreds of customers who pass through.

"There's always stuff getting lost. We get a lot of car fobs and driver's licenses and IDs. We're always glad to get that stuff to people, when we find it," he said.

There are also some funny questions and encounters.

"I had two guys who came up to me because we had to scan their permits, and they were going to walk over to Seacrets and asked me if I had to stamp them so they could come back, like we were in a bar," he said with a laugh. "I said, 'No, you guys are free to go!'"

All three attendants said they genuinely enjoy the work. It helps keep them busy, and the usually sunny disposition of the clientele makes for a positive atmosphere.

"We're all retired, so we're not under the gun and it's a pretty loose environment," Thomas said. "And it's great to see all the people having fun. They're happy to get there, and most of them are in a really good mood and enjoying their vacation or their time at the beach.

"That's why I like the job – it's pretty stress free and we're just moving people along, so they can go about having fun and having a good time," he added.

The Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Parking are open each Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Membership passes are available to homeowners, renters, and the general public.

For more info, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/beach-club.



Original lot salesman made his home in Ocean Pines

Talbott looks back on more than five decades as realtor and resident

John Talbott has been in Ocean Pines since the very beginning, and more than 50 years later he still calls the community home.

After traveling the country, Talbott came to Ocean Pines in 1968 as one of the original lot salesmen and he never left, eventually buying property and raising a family.

Today, he continues to be one of the community's best and most enthusiastic ambassadors.

On the road

Talbott is originally from suburban Philadelphia. He attended Millersville University (then Millersville College) in Pennsylvania and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education.

In 1959, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, and Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

At Fort Sill, Talbott joined the skydiving club and made 47 successful jumps. He was also part of the Fort Sill wrestling team that competed with other Army posts.

"Aside from that, I did like the Army food, which many people complained about, but I liked it," he said.

Talbott initially served in the infantry, but later had the opportunity to move into "a rather nice, air-conditioned building" in a new role. He was asked if he could type and fibbed "yes," and then quickly taught himself.

"I dealt with allied personnel from all over the world who came to Fort Sill to enter courses pertaining to artillery," he said. "I met a lot of people from various countries and it was a very interesting job."

While at Fort Sill, Talbott said the Army circulated a notice that, "If you were dissatisfied with your present MOS (military occupational specialty), you could volunteer to be an advisor in a place called Vietnam."

"I knew what Vietnam was and I was getting close to the termination of my duty," he said. "I didn't want to be an

advisor in Vietnam for a couple of reasons, but mainly because I was getting ready to get out of the service. So, I declined the opportunity to go."

After the Army, Talbott worked briefly as a substitute teacher near Philadelphia, and then

landed a full-time job teaching history and geography in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. During the summers, he worked as a police officer in Ocean City, New Jersey.

After two years of teaching full time, Talbott said he realized he didn't enjoy "being cooped up in a classroom."

"I was young enough that I wanted to venture out, so I decided that I would try something new," he said. "I was single at the time and I was talking to some friends about this job where you travel around the United States, get paid good money, get to see the country, and you attend dinners and try and convince people to go down and look at property in Florida. So, I said, 'I think I'll give that a whirl!'"

Talbott loved the American West and enjoyed traveling. To date, he's visited 48 of the 50 U.S. states – all but Alaska and Maine.

He later sold real estate in Florida, promoting the same projects he used to travel to speak about.

"That was a fun job and I enjoyed living in Florida, but then another friend of mine told me about these projects in various states throughout the country where you can sell lots on lakes. And that sounded rather interesting," he said.

Dirt roads and tree stumps

Soon after, another friend mentioned a project selling lots near Ocean City, Maryland.

"I said, 'Near the ocean?' and they said, 'That's right.' So, I said, 'When do you want me there?'" Talbott said. "I pulled into town on the seventh day of July in 1968, and opening day was Friday, July 12. And the rest is history."

That history now spans more than five decades, as Talbott watched Ocean Pines grow "from a stretch of land that was completely wooded, to the beautiful

JOHN TALBOTT



SELLING OCEAN PINES
FOR OVER FIVE DECADES
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John Talbott in his Boise Cascade-issued station wagon in Ocean Pines in the summer of 1973.



John Talbott getting into his Boise Cascade-issued station wagon. Each wagon was equipped with a radio agents could use to confirm a lot's availability and complete the entire transaction in the car.



MEET OCEAN PINES RESIDENT: John Talbott

A Boise Cascade Co. picnic in White Horse Park in 1974. John Talbott (right) confers with another salesman.

community that it is today.”

In the very beginning, most of Ocean Pines was dirt roads and “coming soon” signs.

“There were not even many dirt roads in the beginning, because they had to create roads,” he said. “But there were enough roads to show people the various lots and where they would be located, based on a map that we would show them.”

Back then, he said, water trucks drove up and down the dirt roads, spraying them to keep the dust down.

“If you were traveling and had prospects in your car, and you veered a little bit to the left or the right off the main area that they had cleared, you would get stuck,” Talbott said. “There was a gentleman by the name of Harry Wilkerson, and we used to call him up if we got stuck.”

Talbott also had the tricky task of selling people on what would eventually be built, including waterfront homes on lots with no water.

He remembers taking potential buyers to empty lots where part of the forest was cleared of trees, but the ground was still covered in tree stumps. He would point to a stake with a red ribbon and explain that was the width of the canal, and the stake with the blue ribbon represented the center of the waterway.

“Here is Mr. and Mrs. Jones and their family, standing there, and I’m telling them there’s going to be a canal – someday – and they’re looking at these tree stumps,” he said. “It was the same thing with the golf course lots. I would be standing there and saying, ‘Do you see where this has all been cleared, way over there where the stake is?’ And they would look at all these tree stumps and I would say, ‘Well, that’s going to be a beautiful fairway.’

“Some people had the vision to believe what was told to them and, of course, many people did not,” he continued. “Those that did became purchasers. And those that did not, years later, said, ‘Gosh, I wish we had done that. Look how it turned out!’”

Talbott said he reassured potential buyers that Boise Cascade would spearhead the new development.

“Boise was a company that some people were familiar with and they were on the New York Stock Exchange, so it was a reputable company and they had done other projects throughout the United States,” he said. “We would be able to show on a map where they had done the same thing – not as elaborate or as large as Ocean Pines – but they were successful projects.”

Although much of the early development was left up to the imagination, Talbott said he instantly fell in love with the area.

“When I arrived on the seventh day in July of 1968, that’s when I decided I wanted to stay,” he said. “I liked the area and I had already done a lot of traveling. And I really, really liked being close to the ocean, so I think that’s what prompted me to stay here.

“I proceeded to buy a lot and, as time progressed, I built a home and then I bought some other properties. We have one on the water now, which we love,” he continued. “I probably bought more property than I should have and at one time I owned quite a few lots, but I believed in real estate, and it’s enabled us to live the way we always dreamed.”

Talbott started dating a local girl from Cambridge in 1976, and they were married in 1979. Today, he and his wife, Karen, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Looking back, and enjoying the view

More than 50 years after he first arrived in Ocean Pines, Talbott continues to sell real estate, now as an associate broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty.

“I don’t work as hard today as I used to,” he said with a laugh. “Being a Realtor, you have the ability and the freedom to work as much or as little as you wish. However, if you want to be successful and earn money, you can’t work as little as you want – you have to really do it full time. You’re working Saturdays and Sundays and those could be your two busiest days. You don’t really have off, like most normal jobs.”

Back in 1968, Talbott said he never dreamed Ocean Pines would grow into what it is today, in part because the community was being sold as a resort getaway rather than the largest residential community in the county.

“I didn’t foresee it being as successful as it turned out to be, but I’ve been in the community since the beginning and I’ve thoroughly enjoyed it,” he said. “I actually marvel, every day, when I drive around. I like the beauty of the trees and the landscaping that the community offers, and the way that it was put together.

“And, of course, you can’t overlook the amenities! You can’t duplicate what we have here, and you can’t create waterfront properties anymore,” he continued.

“To this day, if I’m by myself running an errand, I will take in the beauty that the community offers. I really enjoy the environment, and I think a lot of other people would share the same feeling,” Talbott said.

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Gilmore receives 2021 Sam Wilkinson Award

Volunteer honor recognizes longtime Veterans Memorial Foundation president and recent 'The Wall That Heals' efforts



In a memorable moment during an otherwise abbreviated annual meeting on Aug. 14, Marie Gilmore received the 2021 Sam Wilkinson Award for volunteerism.

Since 2003, the award has recognized local people who dedicate their time and talents to help others.

The award also honors the memory of its namesake, 8-year-old Sam Wilkinson, who died in a tragic water accident in Ocean City.



Sam played soccer in Ocean Pines and his father, Bob, was a volunteer coach for Ocean Pines Recreation programs. The award was established to recognize a volunteer within the Recreation and Parks Department.

"[Sam] was a part of everything that we do, all our sports and all our programs, and his father was a coach and a volunteer. So, we give an award every year in honor of him," Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said.

Donahue said this year she looked outside of the department and found her volunteer of the year "at one of our most beautiful parks in Ocean Pines, the [Worcester County] Veterans Memorial."

"Although there are many volunteers at the Veterans Memorial, there is one person that stands out in her efforts in making the memorial such an amazing location," Donahue said.

Donahue, in a stirring and emotional speech, highlighted Gilmore's many contributions to the community.

Gilmore, she said, moved to Ocean Pines from Rhinebeck, New York in September 1995.

"Always being interested in volunteering in her community, she joined the Women's Club of Ocean Pines," Donahue said. "She was very active in the club and served three years as club secretary and two years as club president."

Donahue said Gilmore also volunteered in Ocean Pines with the Garden Club, Craft Club and Boat Club, and locally with the American Legion Post No. 166 Auxiliary, and the Ocean City Parrot Head Club. While serving on the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks (advisory) Committee, she co-chaired the successful fund-raising effort to build a skate park in Ocean Pines.

"As if this was not enough, she was invited to join the Veterans Memorial Foundation by Sharyn O'Hare and Roseann Bridgman. She accepted the invitation and became a board

member in 2005," Donahue said. "She held the position of secretary for two years and president nine years, and currently serves as the president."

As president of the Veterans Memorial Foundation, Donahue said Gilmore helped set up an education program for all fifth graders in Worcester County. She also led programs, events and exhibits including Patriots' Pathway, Flags for Heroes, Wreaths Across America, the POW/MIA tribute, and

the Battlefield Cross.

"She has grown the memorial into the wonderful tribute and celebration to all veterans in our community," Donahue said.

Last year, Gilmore led the historic effort that brought the national "The Wall That Heals" program to Ocean Pines.

"She, along with many other volunteers, worked diligently for three years to convince them to bring the wall to Ocean Pines. And what an amazing event that was!" Donahue said. "Even through the pandemic, she was able to work through challenges and managed to continue all of the mentioned efforts at the Memorial."

"She has put in countless hours volunteering for her community. She is one of the most amazing women I know and is so well respected in this community," Donahue continued. "Please join me in showing our abundant gratitude for all her efforts and all of the time that she has put into making Ocean Pines an amazing community."

The crowd inside the community center rose to a standing ovation, and a tearful Donahue greeted Gilmore as she came to the podium to accept the award.

"I will accept this award - it has my name on it, but it's really the Veterans Memorial Foundation who deserves this award," Gilmore said. "There is nothing that I have done that I would have been able to do without the backing of a fabulous board of directors, and we've had many, many volunteers throughout the years serving on our board and we have a

wonderful board right now. But, most importantly, we have the backing of the Board of Directors of Ocean Pines."

Gilmore said the Worcester County Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 2005, and she credited "two amazing women with the great idea to put a flagpole at the south end of Ocean Pines."

"Full credit to Roseann Bridgman - God bless her in heaven - and to Sharyn O'Hare, who thankfully still serves as ... a director emeritus on our foundation so we can pick her brain



constantly, and I do,” Gilmore said.

Since its inception, the memorial has grown into a singular landmark in the region, each year drawing thousands of attendees for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, as well as educating hundreds of local children, and inspiring countless more local people.

This year, despite having to contend with a global pandemic, the Veterans Memorial captivated the community once more during the weeklong “The Wall That Heals” exhibit, which honored the more than 58,000 U.S. service members who made

the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

“Thank you so much to, not only the Board of Ocean Pines, but the Ocean Pines Public Works, who worked tirelessly for a year to be sure that we could host The Wall That Heals,” Gilmore said. “It looked like a simple thing, driving a trailer in and setting up a wall. Believe me, there was a lot of infrastructure that went into doing that.

“I thank you all for this award,” she continued. “This is quite an honor. I’m humbled by it. And I love Ocean Pines, I love you all. Thank you.”



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Local family turns tragedy into nationwide nonprofit promoting kindness

Longtime Ocean Pines residents Jackie and Ron Kurtz, for the last three years, have worked to spread messages of hope through their “Matt’s Kindness Ripples On” campaign.

Originally from the Rockville, Maryland area, the family has owned a home in Ocean Pines for about 20 years and lived in the Pines during the last dozen years.

Their son, Matt Kurtz, died tragically in 2017. He was just 32. The “Matt’s Kindness Ripples On” website and nonprofit group was started shortly after, to honor his optimism and compassion for others.

“It started as a tribute to our son, Matt, who died by suicide. But the true cause of his death was mental illness,” Jackie Kurtz said. “Matt was just a super smart, really humble person who greeted everyone he met with a nonjudgmental heart. He was just a person who practiced everyday acts of kindness as a way of life.”

After his passing, Kurtz said the family was overwhelmed with stories of Matt’s charitable deeds.

“So many people told us that he changed their lives with his kindness,” Kurtz said. “So, we decided to do this website and blog, with the mission to keep Matt’s kindness going. Really, the mission is to make our world better, one kindness at a time.”

The nonprofit, since 2019, has given out roughly \$6,000 in “Kindness Awards” and “Kindness Grants.” The grants help support charitable acts, while the awards are given to inspirational people.

“We use the award to recognize people who make kindness a way of life, just like Matt did,” Kurtz said. “Part of it is, there are so many kind and compassionate people out there, but all the attention is given to people who behave badly. We want to change the focus and share with the world these inspirational people.”

Anyone can submit a nomination for the award, and winners are given a certificate of appreciation and \$250.

“We ask them to spend it on themselves, because kind people tend to give so much to others and neglect themselves. So, we say, ‘This is for you to take care of yourself’” Jackie said. “And we share those people and their stories, to try and bring more attention to that.”

The grants, on the other hand, are selected from a pool who have sent proposals for a kindness project.

“Anyone can submit an idea for an ‘Act of Kindness’ project, and we give \$250 to help them with their project,” Kurtz said.

Recipients for both honors have ranged from local people, to those living in Virginia, New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Florida, California and Hawaii.

“The very first Kindness Award went to a local person, Linda McGean, who is a counselor at Ocean City Elementary School,”

Kurtz said. “Another local person, Jude Al-Hamad, read about the award and applied for a grant. She made packages for the Believe in Tomorrow organization here locally.”

Kurtz said the youngest award winner was Silas Scauzillo of Rockledge, Florida, a 9-year-old who started a “Kindness Squad” at his school.

“It’s amazing, all the different ideas that [grant and award winners] have come up with,” she said. “It’s been everything from a guy who used his stimulus check to start a nonprofit to take inner-city kids fishing and help mentor them, to people who have dealt with issues like literacy, homelessness, animal shelters, and help for cancer patients.

“It’s been awesome to see the creativity that people have come up with, to help others,” she continued. “It’s been beautiful and inspirational, and I feel lucky that I get to read all of these nominations. The only bad part is, everybody that applies or nominates deserves an award. There’s just so many amazing people and we can only give so many out.”

Kurtz said the nonprofit has committed to support at least two awards and two grants each year. However, donations to the nonprofit have made it possible to expand the programs.

“We’ve been very lucky that people have been donating to us,” she said. “One hundred percent of donations have gone to additional awards and grants. That’s been really humbling too.”

While donations have also come from all over the country, Kurtz said the local community of Ocean Pines has been incredibly supportive of the nonprofit.

“A lot of people have talked to me about it. They’ve reached out and shared stories, and nominated people for awards,” she said. “We’ve also received donations. It’s wonderful that so many people have supported us and what we do, and they’ve been there for us through the heartache and the grief.

“I feel very lucky. We have some very amazing friends and neighbors here that have been super supportive of us,” she added.

Jackie’s husband, Ron Kurtz, is also active locally through the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club. As the club treasurer, he’s helped raise funds for many charitable groups.

“They’ve been using their membership money to donate to some great organizations, which has been wonderful,” Jackie said.

As for what Matt would have thought of the project, Jackie said he “would have absolutely loved it.”

“He’d want to be involved so much,” she said. “He was all about kindness and being a good person and spreading goodwill.”

For more information or to donate to Matt’s Kindness Ripples On, visit www.mattskindnessrippleson.com.



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BJ's Wholesale Club membership offer returns to Ocean Pines this fall

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective Oct. 16-30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

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

Renewing members can purchase a 12-month Inner Circle Membership for \$55 and receive a \$20 cash award to be used at the register, or a Perks Rewards Membership for \$110 and receive a \$30 cash reward to be used at the register, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Cash awards will be added to the member's primary membership account 24 hours after enrollment and must be used within 45 days from the enrollment date.

In addition to offering special membership benefits, BJ's will donate \$5 of each Inner Circle membership fee and \$10 of each Perks Rewards membership fee to the foundation.

This offer is not available online, at any BJ's location or for any current Easy Renewal members. Members can check their Easy Renewal status and opt out by calling 1-800-257-2582.

This special promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in April 2022. Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the fall offer.

BJ's operates more than 200 clubs in 15 states from Maine to Florida, including a location in Millsboro, DE. The wholesale club offers a large assortment of products for home and business, a mobile app with coupons, and online shopping at BJ's.com.

BJ's membership applications are available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and at oceanpines.org. Applications must be returned with payment by Oct. 30. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

Applications may be placed in the drop box in the administration building outer lobby, dropped off at the administration building front desk or mailed to Ocean Pines Association, Attn: Marketing, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

For more information, call 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.

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Veterans Day ceremony to return

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation announced it will once again host a traditional, in-person ceremony to commemorate Veterans Day on Thursday, Nov. 11, starting at 11 a.m. at the memorial grounds in Ocean Pines.

Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies have been a hallmark of the foundation, and the events typically draw thousands of people from across the region.

"We are very pleased to be able to present our traditional program, when we will honor all of our veterans," Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "Veterans Day observances give us the opportunity to say 'thank you for your service.' We should also reflect on the sacrifices made by the families of each and every veteran as they wait, and pray, for the safe return of their loved one."

"We invite you to join with us as we honor and recognize the sacrifices of all who have served to protect our freedoms," she added.

The program this year will feature guest speaker Col. Craig M. Harmon, vice-commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Additionally, the Delmarva Chorus will provide patriotic music.

Seating is limited and those attending are encouraged to bring a chair. The ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center in the event of inclement weather.

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



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Flag retirement, Nov. 13

Local Scout Troops 261 and 225 will retire and respectfully dispose of worn flags on Saturday, Nov. 13, starting at 9 a.m. at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. Retired flags will be disposed of, by burning, according to U.S. flag protocol.

Worn flags may be brought to the Ocean Pines Community Center, local fire departments, local American Legion, and VFW for collection, prior to Nov. 13.

All are invited to attend the retirement ceremony, performed by local Scout Troops, at 9 a.m.



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OP Platform Tennis hosts successful tournament

More than \$6,000 raised in honor of Jim Freeman

The OP Platform Tennis Association raised more than \$6,000 for charity during a Sept. 25 tournament honoring Jim Freeman.

Freeman was an active Platform Tennis member and former club president who passed away on March 15.

Funds raised during the tournament will go to Semper Fi and America's Fund, a nonprofit that serves veterans from all branches of the military, in honor of Freeman's service in the U.S. Marines.

Tournament co-chairs Michael Petito and Karen Kaplan said the event featured mostly Ocean Pines players.

However, in the final match, out-of-towners Ginger Patron and Theresa Christofferson played against Platform Tennis members June Freeman and Tracy Jones.

"The large crowd was mesmerized by their long rallies and was dazzled by finesse shots from both teams," Petito said. "Ginger and Theresa emerged victorious, and June and Tracy, who played valiantly, were runners-up."

Petito thanked event sponsors Pohanka, Pittsville Motors, Chik-Fil-A, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, SBL Signs, Food Lion, The Big Liquor, Walmart, and A Bagel And... He said the tournament also received support from the Ocean Pines Marketing and Public Relations Department, Racquet Sports Manager and Tennis Pro Terry Underkoffler, and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our members, as well as that of local sponsors," he said. "It was an outstanding event for a wonderful cause."

"Our members went above and beyond with their generous monetary donations and contributions towards the tournament and the after-celebration. We could not have done it without their support, both on and off the courts. They are an amazing group of people," Kaplan added.



OP resident wins state tennis title

Ocean Pines resident Noah Fisher, 17, won the Maryland 2A state tennis title in June. He finished his junior season 12-0, with a games record of 120-7 in those matches. He is the first Stephen Decatur High School player in 23 years to win the singles title.

OP Pickleball Club announces charitable donations

The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club, in its continuing commitment to giving back to the local community, announced its two most recent charitable contributions: to NAMI Delaware and the Mary Mac Foundation.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

The Mary Mac Foundation each year raises funds for local and regional youth programs to honor Mary McMullen (1948-2012), a special education instructor at Severna Park High School and Ruth Eason School in Millersville, MD. During the 1970s, she also helped establish the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Dept.

The Pickleball Club handles organizing all pickleball activities, including daily drop-in play, clinics and lessons, various tournaments, charitable events, and social activities.

"Our club has made a commitment to allocate a portion of our cash to various charities, and our plan is to make ongoing charitable contributions monthly," club Treasurer Ron Kurtz said.

Ocean Pines has eight permanent, outdoor pickleball courts at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, on 11443 Manklin Creek Rd.

The center is open to the public and all players are welcome. The daily drop-in fee is \$6 for Ocean Pines residents and \$7 for non-residents, without a pickleball membership.

For more info, email club Vice President Claire Walker at 1111claire@comcast.net, or visit oppickleball.shutterfly.com.

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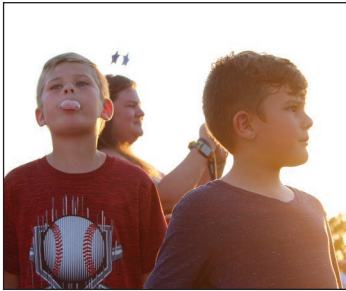
Summer Holidays in Ocean Pines

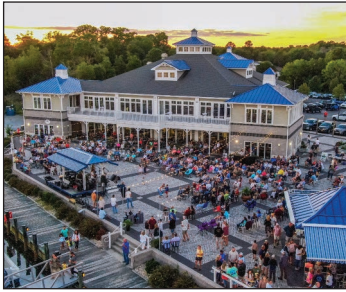


Independence Day WEEKEND

— July 2021 —

Ocean Pines saw record-breaking attendance during holiday weekend events for the Fourth of July & Labor Day. The Yacht Club & Beach Club shattered previous sales figures, the fireworks display drew a record crowd, the July 4 carnival hosted by Recreation & Parks was well attended, & Golf, Aquatics, Racquet Sports & the Marina enjoyed heavy traffic during both weekends.





Labor Day WEEKEND

— September 2021 —



About Ocean Pines Easements

What is an easement?

An easement gives a person, company or government the right to use all or part of a property for a specific purpose, without granting any ownership rights.

Are there easements on my property?

Yes. Easements are the areas on your property 5 feet in width along the side property lines and 10 feet in width along the front and rear property lines. Although this area is owned and maintained by the property owner, they may be used by utility companies, Worcester County, and for drainage flow as needed.

What types of easements are found in Ocean Pines?

Drainage easements are for the use and maintenance of drainage. They are 10 feet in width unless otherwise specified and are centered on the existing drainage ditches.

Well easements are for installation and maintenance on well lots and are shown on the property's recorded plat, or land plot.

Slope easements are for maintenance and permanent stabilization control of slopes. Slope control areas will be noted on the property's recorded plat.

Utility easements are for construction, operation and maintenance of electrical, telephone, cable and other utilities. These easements will be granted upon request of the applicable utility. They are 5 feet in width along side property lines and 10 feet in width along the front and rear property lines. Although not shown on the plats, these easements have been dedicated to the utility companies.

Waterway easements are for drainage, maintenance, dredging and preservation of navigation and recreational use of waterways.

Bulkhead easements are for the maintenance and preservation of bulkheads and similar waterfront improvements. Owners of lots contiguous to a waterway may not fill beyond the bulkhead or high-water lines and must have approval from the Architectural Review Committee to build a structure that is on or extends into any waterway.

Am I required to take care of my property that's part of an easement?

Yes. Lot owners should continuously maintain easements.

Is there anything I'm not allowed to do on an easement?

Yes. Lot owners need to make sure that no structures, plantings or other material are placed in a way that would interfere with the installation or maintenance of utilities, change the direction of flow or the speed of drainage, or damage or interfere with slope or create erosion or sliding problems.

Also, lot owners are prohibited from placing or erecting structures, light-reflecting devices, signs or other obstacles higher than 10 inches in an Ocean Pines drainage easement area, which is generally the area that extends from the residence side of a front drainage ditch to the edge of the road.

Do I need approval if I'll be doing construction within an easement?

Yes. Approval by the Architectural Review Committee is required for any construction project within an easement.

Do I need approval for landscaping within an easement?

No. Plantings and landscaping do not require approval. However, they may not be placed in a way that would interfere with the installation or maintenance of utilities, change the direction of flow or the speed of drainage, or damage or interfere with slope or create erosion or sliding problems.

Keep in mind that landscaping or structures located within an easement may be subject to damage during the installation of utilities. Any cost of replacement or repair to such landscaping or structures from utility work is the responsibility of the property owner.

Where can I learn more about easements in Ocean Pines?

Information about easements can be found in Section 10 of the Declaration of Restrictions, and Sections 500.4 and 1100.2 of the Architectural Review Committee Guidelines. These documents can be found online at www.oceanpines.org.



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