



OCEAN PINES REPORT

Your Connection TO THE OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND COMMUNITY

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touched thousands**
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OPA honors staff during annual ceremony

The Ocean Pines Association on Dec. 16 honored 11 employees for their combined 150 years of service.

The brief recognition ceremony occurred during the annual staff holiday party at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

General Manager John Viola said such recognition is important because many workers fly under the radar.

"These nine gentlemen and two ladies represent the backbone of this Association," Viola said. "It's thanks to their hard work that we're able to continue to move forward on so many of our initiatives, and we wanted them all to know how much their work is appreciated. Thank you all for a job well done."

Those honored were:

- **Travis Brittingham** - five years
- **Kyle Dalton** - five years
- **Anthony Howard** - five years
- **Clarence Rounds** - five years
- **Billie Tragle** - five years
- **Matthew Wallace** - five years
- **Josh Vickers** - 10 years
- **Eddie Wells** - 20 years
- **Ruth Ann Meyer** - 25 years
- **Clint Parks** - 25 years
- **Lt. Greg Schoepf** - 40 years



Property owner ID cards now a requirement for Board

The Ocean Pines Association announced that valid property owner ID cards will be a requirement to attend Association Board of Directors' meetings and town halls.

Cards may be obtained at the front counter of the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:25 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Property owners must bring a driver's license for verification to obtain a card.

First-time cards are free, and replacement cards are \$5. Property owner ID cards are the same as membership cards.

There is no deadline to get a card, but cards will be required for entry into Association Board of Directors' meetings and town halls, effective immediately.

For questions, call 410-641-7717 or email info@oceanpines.org.



Former anti-opiate ‘Warrior’ continues to fight substance abuse

Ocean Pines resident focused on addictions recovery and mental health support

Six years ago, Heidi McNeeley and Jackie Ball turned their bond of having a family member who struggles with addiction into a movement that’s helped hundreds of local people find treatment.

The pair formed the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction and held their first meeting at the Ocean Pines Library in 2016, to talk about the problem and its potential solutions.

About 50 people came to that first meeting. A month later, their numbers swelled to the hundreds and included local politicians and law enforcement, educators, and addiction specialists.

More recently, the Worcester County Warriors merged with Worcester Goes Purple, a nonprofit addictions resource center backed by Worcester County government.

McNeeley, now an Ocean Pines resident, is finding new ways to help the cause.

“We had so much incredible community support when Jackie and I founded the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction in 2016,” McNeeley said. “Jackie and I did not really have a plan for the Warriors. We just knew that we had to reach out to find people that were suffering as a result of their own addiction, or the addiction of their loved ones.”

McNeeley said she was amazed when more than 200 people joined the group within their first month.

“We quickly grew to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a board of directors consisting of some incredible people, including Jamie McNeely, Kelley Green, Tish Ottey, Tina Kolarik, Tracy Simpson, Colleen Wareing, Nate Passwaters, Laura Bren, Sean Kelley and Beau Oglesby,” McNeeley said. “We had political support from Jim Mathias and Mary Beth Carozza, and so many other community members opened their hearts and businesses to us.”

All of that translated into a substantial fundraising ability that helped local people get into addictions recovery.

“The Warriors were strong for five years, and for those five years it became clear that our community was hurting and

in desperate need of help,” McNeeley said. “We were proud to offer that help whenever we could.



*Heidi McNeeley
Jim Averett 2017*

“In 2018 and 2019, my son and Jackie’s son had babies. Our sons’ worlds changed and so did ours,” she continued. “Our passion to help those that were addicted, and their families, now embraced our beautiful grandchildren, and we both realized that it was time for things to change.”

At that point, the Warriors approached Worcester Goes Purple founder Debbie Smullen.

“Debbie agreed to take up our reigns, and the group continues to do wonderful work for recovery in our community,” McNeeley said.

McNeeley said many prior Worcester County Warriors board members continue to contribute. Ottey, a former Ocean Pines Police officer, has opened five recovery homes in the area, including the first-ever recovery center in Worcester County.

“It has been amazing to watch her Homes4Hope grow to be a lifesaving force in both Worcester and Wicomico counties,” McNeeley said.

McNeeley now works as a psychiatric nurse at TidalHealth in Salisbury.

“About 90% of my patients are dealing with an addiction, and I hope that I have been able to help them and their loved ones as well,” she said. “Next summer I will become licensed as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and I will be able to medically treat our community members who are addicted.”

McNeeley is a certified holy yoga instructor and teaches morning classes at the River Run Community Center. Donations from the classes help fund people in recovery, including tickets to recovery centers and the purchase of clothes and other essentials.

She also continues to help direct local people in need of treatment.

“I hope that I can still be a strong resource for their families as well, and I would like to still operate as a sort of clearing house for addictions and mental health,” McNeeley said. “There are so many needs in Ocean Pines alone. I offer my email heidimcneeley@gmail.com and my cell 443-513-8370 to anyone who needs resources.”

For help and more information on mental health and substance abuse disorders, visit www.samhsa.gov.



Photo courtesy of The Daily Times



Photo courtesy of The Daily Times



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Guest column:

Preparing for the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session

By Mary Beth Carozza

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

I am grateful and humbled to be reelected to the Maryland State Senate representing Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties. Since Election Day, I continue to see so many constituents throughout my district, including during holiday events like the Ocean Pines tree lighting.

Many shore communities hold their annual Christmas parades, and Team Carozza participated in nine parades this season including Pocomoke, Berlin, Crisfield, Salisbury, Snow Hill, Princess Anne, Delmar, Eastside/Willards, and Whaleyville. (The OC Christmas Parade was cancelled due to weather). These parades and holiday events are uplifting and bring community members together in appreciation of our shore way of life.

The 2023 Maryland General Assembly session convenes on Jan. 11. I used most of November and December to prepare for the legislative session by meeting with and listening to the priorities of various local government officials, institutions of higher education, chambers of commerce, and major employers like Atlantic General Hospital and TidalHealth.

My overall approach to serving as your state senator is focused on strong representation, which means considering multiple ways to address priority issues, with legislation being just one of many options. For example, when constituents bring a priority or challenge to my attention, I review various ways to work or resolve the matter.

This could include working the issue through government or private sector partnerships, through the budgetary process with existing or additional resources, and through the regulatory process including local flexibility and authority. Once these options have been reviewed and exhausted, then targeted legislation may be the best approach to move forward and assist my constituents.

We will see major change during this Annapolis session with new Gov. Wes Moore and his administration, with a new makeup of the Maryland General Assembly including new committee chairs and new committee assignments, and new leadership of Maryland's Eastern Shore Delegation.

Yet, many of the challenges remain the same, including the severe workforce shortage in every major industry sector, the long-term economic recovery from the pandemic facing our small businesses, the high cost of living facing our working families and seniors, and the safety of our neighborhoods and communities.

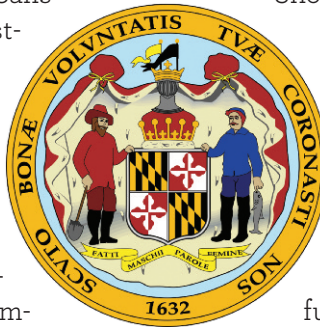
One of my most rewarding assignments is serving on the

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The council, formed by an act of the Maryland General Assembly, focuses on regional planning and development in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. This regional approach has benefitted my constituents in all three counties as we prioritize initiatives that promote economic development and job growth on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.

On Dec. 14, Gov. Hogan announced \$50 million to fund 114 economic development projects in Maryland's rural counties, including \$10 million for projects on the Lower Shore. Our local economic directors in all three Lower Shore counties deserve to be commended for their excellent work in putting together strong applications, which were funded by the governor's Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund.

The local projects include \$3.3 million for the Somerset County Industrial Park to help attract businesses looking to expand in the Mid-Atlantic region; \$3.3 million for the Salisbury-Ocean City-Wicomico Regional Airport to increase airline service and to create an aviation maintenance technician program with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and \$3.3 million for seven projects in Worcester County, including \$800,000 for fiber optic service to the Main Street areas of Berlin, Snow Hill and Pocomoke, and \$275,000 for West Ocean City commercial harbor dredging.

When Gov. Hogan came into office eight years ago, he promised that the war on rural Maryland would be over and the communities that had been neglected in past would no longer be forgotten. I am grateful to Gov. Hogan for keeping his promise and for his steadfast and consistent support of our shore priorities.





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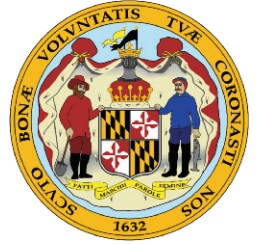


Guest column:

The start of a new legislative session

By **Wayne Hartman**

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



To my friends in Ocean Pines - I hope that everyone enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season! I am honored to have been reelected as your state delegate representing Maryland's Legislative District 38C. My second term in the Maryland General Assembly will include many new faces, challenges, and opportunities.

During the 2022 legislative session, my colleagues elected me as the Chief Deputy Minority Whip in the House of Delegates. As I have since the beginning of my first term, I will continue to serve as chair for the Worcester County Delegation. I am grateful to serve in each of these roles, as both will allow me to further promote the priorities of Maryland's Coast.

On June 12, 2022, we tragically lost a heroic member of our community, Dep. First Class Glenn Hilliard. Dep. First Class Hilliard died in the line of duty while serving for the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office.

Glenn Hilliard is remembered as a man of outstanding character who throughout his career risked his life daily to protect the citizens of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. He was posthumously promoted to corporal by Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis. In honor of our fallen hero, I have worked with the State Highway Administration to dedicate a significant portion of Stephen Decatur Highway to the late Corp. Glenn Hilliard. Once the highway memorial signs are finalized, I will share with our community the details of the unveiling ceremony. His courage and devoted service will never be forgotten.

The Maryland General Assembly convenes for the 445th legislative session on Jan. 11. I will be sponsoring several pieces of legislation this session, one of which is relating to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that occurred last summer. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a provision in New York law that mirrors our state's requirement for a "good and

substantial reason" to obtain a wear and carry handgun permit. Following this decision, Gov. Hogan rightfully directed the Maryland State Police to suspend the "good and substantial reason" standard.

For years, Maryland citizens were unconstitutionally denied the right to protect themselves by way of a wear and carry handgun permit. I am now sponsoring a bill that requires the state to refund all wear and carry handgun permit applicants who were unconstitutionally denied within the last three years. No citizen should be penalized for attempting to rightfully protect themselves simply because they lacked a "good and substantial reason."

I have also reintroduced the simplified version of a bill regarding communication boards at public playgrounds. This bill would require that all public-school playgrounds have a communication board for students with developing communication skills. I am co-sponsoring a bill that provides an income tax credit to the caregivers of senior family members as well as other bills for local municipalities.

I am putting in for several legislative bond initiatives for the district. One of those bond initiatives is on behalf of Diakonia to help fund the construction of a new campus on Stephen Decatur Highway. Construction of this campus will significantly help Diakonia's efforts in assisting the homeless families and individuals of Worcester County.

As a friendly reminder, my office is always available for you as a resource; my staff and I are happy to assist whenever you are working with any state agency of Maryland. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for assistance at wayne.hartman@house.state.md.us or 410-841-3356.

The best part of this job will always be helping our constituency. I am extremely proud to represent Ocean Pines and Maryland's Coast. Have a happy New Year from my family to yours!

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Guest column:

Treatment plant, sports complex updates

By Chip Bertino

Worcester County Commissioner, Ocean Pines District



The Commissioners were sworn in Dec. 6, including two new members: Caryn Abbott (District 1) and Eric Fiori (District 3). I was elected president of the body; Commissioner Jim Bunting was elected vice-president.

The sports complex concept was put to rest when a majority of Commissioners (Bertino, Bunting, Abbott and Fiori) voted to cancel the contract to purchase the land adjacent to Stephen Decatur High School. The vote stops the county from moving forward with a county taxpayer-funded facility that, according to a recently released Maryland Stadium Authority study, was projected to cost \$153 million and would operate at a deficit. The Commissioners' decision does not prohibit another entity from pursuing the project.

Work on the Fiscal 2024 budget will soon begin. This could be a challenging process, as our county faces numerous unfunded mandates from the state, especially the "Blueprint for Maryland," also known as the Kirwan Commission. In many ways the Blueprint stymies local control by applying one-size-fits all solutions to problems that don't exist in Worcester County. It's hopeful, but not expected, that during the 2023 legislative session revisions will be made to the plan to make it more palatable. We should not hold our breath. Until such changes are enacted, county government will budget and plan for the worst in terms of budget impact.

Services provided for the senior residents of Ocean Pines by the Worcester Commission on Aging have increased significantly in the past year. There are four services in particular that might be of interest for you, a loved one, or someone you know or care about, all designed to facilitate residents' ability to age well in place:

Maryland Community for Life provides handyman, private transportation, and life-navigation services for a very reasonable monthly fee.

River Oaks Day Center in Snow Hill provides professional medical care for you or your loved one desirous of socialization, stimulating activities, community outings, and respite. Round-trip transportation from Ocean Pines is available daily, and multiple funding sources are possible.

Senior Ride accommodates the transportation needs of seniors and persons with disabilities for a very modest trip fee. This door-to-door service includes trips to medical professionals, shopping centers, 50-plus centers, beauty parlors, drugstores, and more.

Meals On Wheels provides daily home delivered meals



and brief wellness checks Monday through Thursday. Meals are varied and meet federal nutrition standards, ensuring regular nutritious intake for those who are challenged in preparing their own meals.

For further information about any of these services or the 50-plus activities centers in Berlin and Ocean City, visit www.worcoa.org or call Maryland Access Point, 410-632-9915.

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

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Winter energy efficiency tips

Guest Column by
Choptank Electric Cooperative

Are you wondering why your energy bill may go up when the temperature drops? Sustained cold temperatures mean heating systems run more often and for longer periods, even if your thermostat setting remains the same. When we experience consistent colder weather, your heating system works harder to make up the difference between the outdoor and indoor temperature. And the harder it works, the more electricity you use. That's why home heating typically takes up a large amount of your winter electric bill.

We can't control the weather, but we can help you manage your energy use during the colder months. Small actions can make a big difference in saving energy and money.

Here are 10 easy ways to save this winter:

- 1. When you're home and awake, set your thermostat to 68°**, then lower it when you sleep or leave for the day.
- 2. Seal in warm air by caulking and weatherstripping** around all windows and exterior doors. Doing this can save you 20% or more on your energy bill.
- 3. Check your HVAC or furnace filter regularly** and replace it as needed to ensure your system is working efficiently. This also creates cleaner air for you and your family.
- 4. Consider a programmable or "smart" water heater.** Hot water accounts for about 18% of your home's energy use. Smart water heaters can heat your water when you need it most and use electricity when the demand is the lowest.
- 5. Use a humidifier to increase the moisture** in your home's air during dry winter months. It can make the ambient temperature appear warmer and reduces sore throats and dry skin.
- 6. On sunny days, make sure to open your curtains to let the warmth of the sun help heat your home.** Close the curtains at night.

7. Use LED lighting wherever possible. LEDs use 75% less energy than incandescent (regular) light bulbs, and at low power levels, the difference is even larger.

8. Close the fireplace damper when a fire is not burning. Warm air from your home will not be lost up the chimney when the fireplace is not being used. Fully open the damper before you start a fire and keep it fully open until all embers and coals have burned out.

9. Use the oven light while cooking rather than opening the door to keep heat in when checking on the progress of your food.

10. Cuddle up with an electric blanket, wool socks and your favorite hoodie, or your pet, while relaxing at home.

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Know your worth, know your power, stay healthy this new year

Resources to help you be your healthiest self

Guest Column by the Worcester County Health Department

Preventative Care: The COVID pandemic put preventive health screenings and routine checkups on the back burner for many people. Worcester Health encourages residents to get back on track with preventive screenings and to schedule annual wellness checkups with their primary health care provider. Health screenings such as cancer screenings, blood pressure, fasting cholesterol, and blood sugar tests in combination with annual wellness checks can help identify risks for developing diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and other chronic health problems. By knowing your risk for developing a chronic health problem, you and your healthcare provider can work together to develop a plan for reducing your risk and increasing your quality of life. Making healthy lifestyle choices part of your daily routine and catching problems early are important to living a long and healthy life!

What WCHD Offers: Colorectal Cancer Program – Early screening = early detection! It can be prevented! If you are a resident of Worcester County, are 45 years old or older, have limited income, have no health insurance or insurance that does not completely cover preventative care, have insurance but need support getting the screening or follow-up, you could be eligible for a cancer screening at no cost to you if you meet any or all these criteria. For more information or to see if you qualify, call 410-632-1100 and select extension 1103 or visit worcesterhealth.org.



Immunizations – Immunizations are an important and easy way to prevent many serious diseases that affect both children and adults. The health department provides services to reduce the number of cases of diseases that are preventable with vaccines. Worcester Health offers a variety of vaccines for children, including hepatitis A and B, rotavirus, seasonal influenza (flu), pneumococcal (PCV), polio (IPV), measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (MMRV), Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP), meningococcal vaccinations, and many more. Parents may call the health department to determine eligibility and make an appointment to receive immunizations. Certain adult immunizations are also available, including flu, pneumonia, and adult tetanus. The COVID vaccine is available for ages six months and up. For more information about immunizations, call 410-632-1100.

Healthy Lifestyle Resources: Have a habit you want to kick this year or want to learn how to make healthier choices? Need social support? Check out some of the programs WCHD provides.

Just Walk – No cost, self-directed, self-reported, incentive-based physical activity program that rewards participants for being active. For more information or to register, visit justwalkworcester.org or call 410-632-1100 and select option 1108.

Smoking Cessation – WCHD offers a variety of group smoking cessation classes designed specifically for adults and youth. You can quit and we are here to help! For more information about quitting smoking and available programs, call 410-632-1100 and select extension 1102.

Worcester Wellness Weigh – No cost, online, healthy lifestyle and weight loss program designed specifically for families who are ready to work together to lose weight, eat healthier, increase physical activity and improve their overall health. The program offers interactive, online sessions that educate participants about healthy

eating, physical activity, overcoming barriers, stress management, time management, financial wellness, and more! Access to monthly events, Polar Heart monitors, and one-on-one coaching is also included. The 2023 session begins Jan. 23. For more information about Worcester Wellness Weigh, call 410-632-1100 and selected ext. 1113.

Eat Healthy. Eat Local. Live Well – WCHD's comprehensive guide helps readers find, access, and use fresh, nutritious, high-quality foods in Worcester County. Scan the QR code for your digital copy!



Mental Health: Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood through adulthood.

Self-Care During and After the Holidays: The holidays can be a tough time of the year for many people. While it can be a joyous and happy time, the holidays also bring additional stress, busy schedules, feelings of obligation, and for some, unhappy or sad memories. It is important to make time to take care of yourself during and after the holiday season.

Here are some tips on how to practice self-care around the holidays:

Be okay saying “no” – You don't have to accept every invitation, go to every function, and stretch yourself too thin. It's okay to say no, or to schedule time to catch up with friends or family after the holiday season has slowed.

Physical self-care – Make sure to stay hydrated, schedule in enough time for sleep, maintain an exercise routine. These are good for you physically, but are also good to make sure you are at your best mentally and emotionally.

Talk to trusted friends/family – When those negative emotions or memories come up, talk to someone you can trust and confide in. Don't bottle it in. Be willing to say what's on your mind and allow your support network to support you.

Presents are good, but your Presence is the most important – Be present with those you love. Be present for yourself. Be present in the moment and allow yourself to enjoy what the moment brings. Breathe, and allow yourself to focus on your breath. Take a moment to really take in what's around you. Make a list (or mental list) of the things that are going right and that you enjoy in the moment, or in the season.

Worcester Health provides many mental health and substance abuse services including:

- Counseling for individuals, families, couples and group counseling for adults and children; medication evaluation and management
- Services for school children, parenting groups, and summer programs for children
- Specialty services and anger management
- In-home services for the chronically mentally ill
- Crisis Response Team designed to provide 24-hour response for individuals with psychiatric or substance abuse disorder who are in crisis

For more information, call 410-632-1100 and select menu option 2, or visit worcesterhealth.gov.

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From The Beatles to Sinatra, Pine Tones performances have touched thousands and spanned four decades

Singing group performs each winter and spring, and makes dozens of appearances at area nursing and retirement homes

For almost 40 years, the Pines Tones Chorus has been a staple of Ocean Pines, staging at least two major concerts each year while also performing at area nursing homes and adult daycare facilities.

Since 1984, the Pines Tones have presented annual spring and Christmas concerts. In 1999, the spring turnout was so large that several dozen people were turned away, and subsequent programs were moved to the Community Church at Ocean Pines. Annual Christmas concerts were moved to the Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City.

The Pine Tones are led by co-directors June Todd and Jenny Anderson, with piano accompaniment provided by Anderson and her husband, Pete.

The full group includes more than 40 members, along with a series of musicians who help bolster the chorus with upright bass, trumpet, clarinet, flute, and drums. David Holloway is the current president and Tom Hemmick is the publicity coordinator.

Holloway joined the group in 2008 after retiring and moving from Pennsylvania.

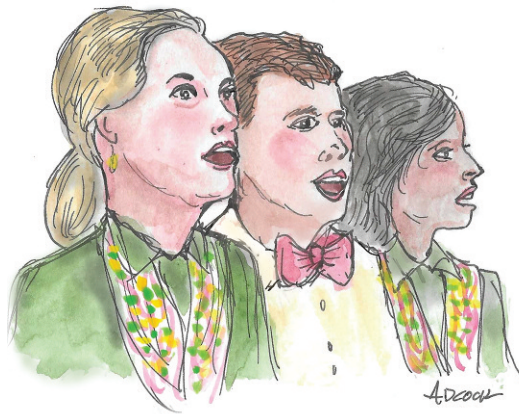
"I had searched around and found that there was a musical group," Holloway said. "I called June and started going to the rehearsals, and I've been a faithful member ever since."

Holloway has been the Pine Tones president for the last four years, a job he said requires everything from planning next year's budget, to making sure the keyboard is in the right place during rehearsals.

"Anything that's not related to actually directing the music and singing the music comes under the guise of the president and the board of directors," he said.

Hemmick has been a member of the Pine Tones since 1995.

"I come from a very musical family, and it was just a natural thing when we moved here," he said. "Soon after joining I became the publicity coordinator, and in those days the publicity involved getting hardcopy photos and paper news releases. You would jump in your car, and you



would go and visit the various newspapers."

Today, he uses email to spread the word about Pines Tones news and events.

Hemmick said spring and Christmas concerts require three-to-four months of rehearsals for the singers, along with coordinating any guest musicians.

"The Pines Tones generally have musicians who appear with us at those concerts," he said. "They help

us put on a much more impactful musical presentation.

"The co-directors are also constantly adding new songs, and we have an extensive library of older songs also," he continued. "Our programs are generally very diverse and feature some of the oldies and goodies, as sung by everyone from Sinatra to Mariah Carey."

Hemmick said the Pines Tones also cover The Beatles, Elvis, Nat King Cole, Frankie Valli, and Doris Day.

"Some of the most challenging music that we do comes from the old masters," Hemmick said. "At the Christmas concert this year, we'll have a song that's very challenging by Mozart. And then we have done songs by more modern composers, like Andrew Lloyd Webber."

The Pines Tones also do many smaller concerts each year in area nursing homes and retirement centers.

"We have been doing that for as long as I've been in the group, and probably for long before I joined,"

Holloway said. "We were doing 10 or 12 of those in the two weeks prior to our shows. COVID put that to a halt for a year or two, but we were able to get back to that last spring."

Holloway said those visits are good tune-ups for the big concerts - and great community outreach for the Pine Tones organization.

"It's good for them and it's good for us," he said. "Some of these places are a senior daycare center, and others are more like a nursing home. So, we have everything from people who are dressed to the nines and eating at tables with tablecloths, to the folks that are wheeled in on a bed, and hopefully they're enjoying the music."

"It's a little bit of everything, but it's (cont. on pg. 12)





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(cont. from pg. 10)
usually very well received," Holloway added.

Hemmick said the Pine Tones are always looking for new members.

"We are looking for all voice parts, which are sopranos, altos, tenors and basses – and if a person doesn't know what voice part they are singing, we will help them!" he said. "New members are usually paired off with more experienced members, which helps them learn all the new music and songs."

Holloway said rehearsals for the spring concert will start during the first week of March.

"We're an older group and most members are north of 70, but we also have some younger people who don't work on Thursdays, when we have our rehearsals at 1 p.m. in the community center," he said. "If you're interested in singing with us, please stop by or get in contact."

Most of the group are retired people. Hemmick said a prior member celebrated his 100th birthday in 2012 – and then continued to sing for five more years.

"Even at that age, he sang a solo [in 2012]," Hemmick said, adding the solo happened to be a Gilbert and Sullivan song with 12 verses. "It was quite an event!"

Funding for the Pine Tones comes from sponsorships and donations from community members.

For information about the Pine Tones, including membership and sponsorship opportunities, contact Holloway at david.holloway1965@gmail.com.



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Message from the OPA BOARD PRESIDENT



Doug Parks
OPA President

Onward to a bright 2023

Now that we are in the New Year, hopefully everyone had a safe and joyful holiday season and was able to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of daily life to enjoy time with family and friends. Although the annual Christmas trees displayed next to the playground in front of the administration building are gone for the year, they did serve to highlight the holiday season. Many thanks to all the organizations that put up trees and made that location a wonderful place to stroll through with children and friends.

On the business side, the Association continues to demonstrate a very good financial position. Entering into the shoulder season, we can again ensure that the amenities and other services are available for members and guests.

The Public Works Department has done an outstanding job on the North Gate Bridge and has transformed it into a more welcoming entrance to Ocean Pines. Kudos also to our Police Department and our Fire/EMS services. They are the main reason Ocean Pines is considered one of the safest communities in the state.

As far as New Year's resolutions are concerned, I have made and ultimately been somewhat unsuccessful at all the standard ones. However, I remain optimistic that for the new year OPA will continue as a safe community that offers wonderful amenities to the membership and can maintain financial stability going forward. Here's to 2023 and to the health and safety of the membership and our community.

Ocean Pines Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The OPA is governed by a 7-member Board of Directors elected by the lot owners who make up the membership in the homeowners association.

Seven elected Directors (4 officers, 3 Directors at-large); unpaid positions. Members are elected for 3-year terms (can run for a 2nd consecutive term).

Board officers are chosen at the Organizational Meeting held within 2 weeks of Association's Annual Meeting.

Email: directors@oceanpines.org



DIRECTOR
(TERM 2020-2023)

Doug Parks
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dparks@oceanpines.org



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(TERM 2021-2024)

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(TERM 2022-2025)

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(TERM 2021-2024)

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OCEAN PINES REPORT

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239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

Ocean Pines Marketing & Public Relations Department

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

Marketing & Public Relations Director

Josh Davis 443.366.1844 • jdavis@oceanpines.org

Marketing Coordinator

Julie Malinowski 410.641.7717 Ext. 3014 • jmalinowski@oceanpines.org

Front Cover Photography: Bob McKinley (top photo)

Joe Reynolds, www.oceanpinesforum.com (Veterans Day photo)



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Message from the GENERAL MANAGER



John Viola
General Manager

Looking forward to the new year

As in the last several years, the team remains on track and ahead of schedule with the annual budget process. This year, as in prior years, we received budget guidance from the Budget and Finance Committee and worked with all department heads using a bottoms-up approach to craft the budget. Packets were prepared and binders were distributed to the committee and the Board prior to the Christmas holiday, and all department heads have signed off.

Public review of the budget is scheduled with the Budget and Finance Committee on Jan. 4-6, and with the Board on Jan. 18-19.

Factors affecting the budget this year include headwinds like inflation, minimum wage increases mandated by the State of Maryland, higher insurance premiums, and labor pool and mark-to-market adjustments. Tailwinds include improved performance by our amenities and departments, across the board.

The Public Works team continues to oversee drainage improvement projects, with pipe replacements scheduled at Birdnest Drive and Abbyshire Road, Ocean Parkway at the Wood Duck bulkhead, and Teal Circle in two locations. Public Works also oversees our bulkhead replacement program that was able to lock in the same contractor price as last year, which is a cost savings for the Association. We are scheduled to replace bulkheads next at Watergreen Lane, Goldeneye Court, and Wood Duck Drive.

Other infrastructure initiatives included three miles of roads that were recently repaved, and the continuation of our mailbox replacement project that started in July.

Public Relations oversaw acoustic improvements at the Clubhouse in both the bar area and the public meeting space, where many Board meetings are held. The installation of new acoustic panels by trusted vendor Mid South Audio brings noise levels in both spaces to acceptable levels, which should help both the bar and restaurant business and those using the adjacent meeting space.

The Finance Department and IT recently led a paperless project to provide staff with a robust document management system, with the ability to index and share documents, and create new and improved workflows. This will move our file storage from a local storage system to a cloud-based one, with added redundancy provided by Amazon Web Services.

On the amenity side, the team worked with the Recreation and Parks Committee to select Pintail Park as the site of a new Kayak Pier. Federal, state and county approvals have been granted and we are waiting for a signature from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Once that is received, the county will release a construction permit and work can begin.

Aquatics is offering a new afternoon water fitness class, starting on Jan. 10. The beginner's "Hydrorider" class uses aquatic bicycles that offer a workout that's lower impact on joints than normal stationary bikes. This was requested by the Aquatics Advisory Committee and by members who enjoyed similar Aquatics offerings.

Our Golf Course hosted the Santa's Open on Dec. 10, sponsored by the Delmarva Shorebirds and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore. The nonprofit raises thousands of dollars each year during this popular event. Golf is also reopening the driving range shelter and tees area and reorganizing other areas, and selling older merchandise to make room for the latest product lineup.

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

I believe our entire team is operating on full cylinders, and we look forward to continuing serving the Association into the new year.



**OCEAN
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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:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day:
Mon, Jan. 16

Presidents' Day:
Mon, Feb. 20

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Sat, Jan. 21

Sat, Feb. 18

Sat, March 18

Sat, April 15

Sat, May 20

Sat, June 17

Sat, July 15



FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Summary Financial Report

Year-to-Date 11/30/2022

OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY

UNAUDITED

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)			
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$8,513	\$8,499	\$14
Grants	514	478	36
Amenities (Net)	6,196	5,304	892
Recreation & Parks	282	296	(14)
Other fees and Income	746	708	38
Total Revenues	16,251	15,285	966
Add: Budgeted Surplus Transfer	650	650	0
Less: Transfers to Reserve Accounts	(3,316)	(3,258)	(58)
Net Operating Revenues	13,585	12,677	908
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Administration & Management	1,319	1,332	13
Amenities	3,903	3,633	(270)
Recreation & Parks	519	582	63
Police	1,082	1,123	41
Fire / EMS	621	621	0
Public Works / CPI	1,045	1,164	119
General Maintenance	369	434	65
Total Operating Expenses	8,858	8,889	31
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	4,727	3,788	939
NEW CAPITAL	0	0	0
NET	\$4,727	\$3,788	\$939

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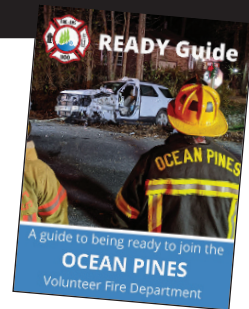
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Once you understand what's involved in being an Ocean Pines volunteer, we hope that you are READY to make the commitment we need. The service provided by our volunteers is truly valuable to the citizens, businesses, and visitors of our community. We hope that you can step up to contribute to our community's public safety.

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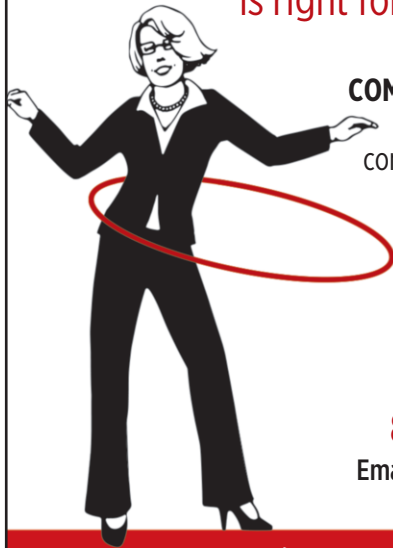
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Debbie Donahue
Director of
Recreation & Parks

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season!

Although the winter season is upon us, we want to remind you of a few things coming up in Ocean Pines.

Our **youth basketball program** starts in January. All games are on Saturdays, with practices – set by the coaches – on weeknights. **COACHES ARE NEEDED!** If you are interested in coaching, please reach out to Kyle Jarmon at 410-641-7052 or kjarmon@oceanpines.org.

The **men's basketball league** starts on Feb. 16. Whether you're playing as an individual or have a full team, give us a call and we will get you in.

Zumba class continues throughout the year and is held on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We have also added **yoga** (Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings) and **Pilates** (Thursday mornings) to our exercise classes.

Check out some of the **free seminars offered by local businesses** that are held at the community center.

The **Farmers & Artisans Market** is still going strong, although with fewer vendors, and will continue to have hours throughout the winter.

There are many **different community organizations** within

Ocean Pines. Please stop by the community center and pick up a list of contact information. Or give us a call at 410-641-7052 and we can email the list to you.

The **Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop** is open Saturdays and Sundays throughout the winter and is located next to the Farmers & Artisans Market. Stop by the shop – the handmade pieces are amazing and looking for a new home.

Most of us are not thinking about spring and summer yet. However, the Recreation and Parks Department staff certainly is. We are preparing for the Easter Celebration in April, Bay Day in May, spring t-ball and soccer for the kids, co-ed softball for adults and many other spring and summer events.

Don't forget that **summer camp registration** will start in March. Look for upcoming announcements with enrollment information and dates.

Also, keep an eye out for the spring/summer Activity Guide in late March or early April. As always, visit the Ocean Pines website at oceanpines.org for Recreation updates. If you don't already receive the Association's weekly email newsletter, "This Week in the Pines," please email info@oceanpines.org so that you are up to date on the latest events happening in the community.

Happy winter! I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

On behalf of the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department and the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, I would like to send out a HUGE "thank you" to all our 2022 sponsors. With your help, we were able to offer children the opportunity to attend camp, play soccer and t-ball and participate in many other events.

Thanks to your contributions, Recreation & Parks was also able to offer many free events to the community.

We also want to show our appreciation to the many sponsors of the annual Oktoberfest Pickleball Tournament. Because of you, we were able to host a fabulous event in our community.

All of us at the Recreation & Parks Department and the Racquet Center of Ocean Pines want our sponsors to know how much we value your support and look forward to continuing our relationship in 2023!

Debbie Donahue
Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Director

'Pup of the Pines' winner announced

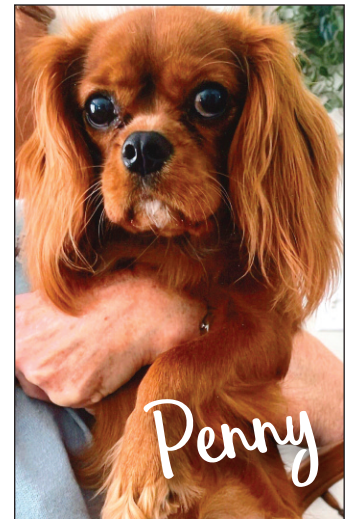
A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named "Penny" has been named the top dog in the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department's "Pup of the Pines" photo contest.

Penny received the greatest number of votes in the annual contest. She was named the winner at the Hometown Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 26 in White Horse Park.

Votes were cast in person at the Ocean Pines Halloween/fall festival and at the Ocean Pines community center.

Paulette Parker, Penny's owner, said she is a very affectionate dog with many neighborhood friends. "Everyone knows Penny," Parker said.

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



OPA Rec and Parks hosts successful 'Hometown Christmas' tree lighting

Hundreds attended the annual Hometown Christmas celebration at White Horse Park on Nov. 26, an event that included dozens of tree lightings and an appearance by Santa Claus himself.

Hosted by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, Hometown Christmas featured trees individually decorated by more than 40 local businesses and community groups. Members of the Delmarva Chorus sang Christmas carols, and Santa led the countdown to light the official Ocean Pines Association tree.

The display of trees and festive decorations remained at White Horse Park through the Christmas holiday.

"Once again, the Hometown Christmas was a success. The trees were beautifully decorated, and the light fixtures were perfectly placed and looked great in the park," Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said.

"Katie Goetzinger, our program supervisor, does a great job planning this event each year," Donahue continued. "However, she does need a lot of help making it happen. We would like to again say thank you to Norbert Violante for all his hard work setting up the park for the event; to Ocean

Pines Public Works for delivering the trees, setting them up, and helping get the park ready; and to the Rec and Parks staff for helping make this event a success again this year."

Donahue said the Hometown Christmas event has been celebrated in Ocean Pines for 12 years.

"It continues to be a great way to start the holiday season," she said. "Happy holidays to every-

one, thank you for joining us, and we hope you enjoyed the evening."



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BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Sat, APRIL 1 • 8am-11am • Community Center

Bring the entire family for a morning of food, festivities & photos. The Easter Bunny will arrive at approximately 8:15am & will be available for photos until 11am.

The menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, eggs, pastries, fruit, juice, milk & coffee.

WHO: All ages! Great family fun event!

EVENT SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger

ADMISSION FEE: Breakfast is FREE for ages 3 & under!

\$6 Ages 4-10; \$8 Ages 11 & older. Purchase photos with the Easter Bunny for a \$5 donation to Recreation & Parks.



EASTER / SPRING CELEBRATION & EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat, APRIL 8 • 11am-2pm • White Horse Park Pavilion

Come celebrate spring in White Horse Park! Enjoy pony rides, face painting, carnival games, bounce houses & food! Children up to age 10 can join Bugsy O'Hare in a hunt for Easter eggs. Egg hunt times: ages 1-3: 11:30am, Ages 4-6: 12pm, Ages 7-10: 1:00pm. Kids up to age 10 can bring their decorated Easter bonnet to the Easter bonnet parade contest (at 12:30pm) for a chance to win a prize bag full of Easter goodies! Volunteers are needed to help with this event & assist with egg hunts. If interested, please call 410.641.7052.

WHO: All ages! Great family fun event!

EVENT SUPERVISOR: Katie Goetzinger

ADMISSION FEE: FREE (individually-wrapped candy donations accepted - please bring to Community Center)



Spring INDOOR/ OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

Sat, APRIL 15 • 8am-12pm

Community Center & White Horse Park (rain or shine)

The Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market welcomes vendors selling gently used clothing, household items, collectibles & more. Indoor spaces are inside the Community Center gymnasium & include an 8' table & a chair. Outdoor spaces are in White Horse Park & include an 8' table (bring a chair).

Spaces for Ocean Pines residents are \$15 for indoor & \$12 for outdoor. Spaces for non-residents are \$20 for indoor & \$15 for outdoor. Please register by calling Recreation & Parks at 410.641.7052.

EVENT SUPERVISOR: Jessica Conaway

ADMISSION FEE: FREE to Shoppers!

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East Meeting Room • Community Center Kitchen
Community Center Gym • Manklin / Huntington Field
White Horse Park Pavilion • Pintail Park

Softball, baseball, basketball, tennis, platform & pickleball courts are also available. Sports equipment for rent: bocce ball sets, horseshoes, shuffleboard & more!

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

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\$300 For two hours & up to 50 guests
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Must book at least 2 weeks prior to event date to allow for staff scheduling. Fee paid in full 30 days prior to event.

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OCEAN PINES AQUATICS

American Red Cross 2023 LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION CLASS Sports Core Pool Ocean Pines, MD

Class Fee Waived for Anyone Hired as an OP Lifeguard!
 Successful class participants will be considered for employment.

APRIL 21 5pm-9pm
APRIL 22 9am-6pm
APRIL 23 9am-6pm

CALL 410.641.5255 FOR INFO OR TO REGISTER

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



Dive in! Ocean Pines retirees help at local pools

With a national shortage of lifeguards affecting pool operating hours, several local retirees have helped keep the pools running in Ocean Pines.

DAVE BLAZER has worked as a lifeguard in Ocean Pines for three years. Originally from Catonsville, he moved to Ocean Pines with his family in 1999 and served as director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program for nine years.

Blazer worked for Ocean City Beach Patrol while in college and had experience before that lifeguarding for the YMCA and the Forest Hills Swimming Club in Ellicott City.

"I always loved life-guarding. To this day, when I go to the beach, I still have to watch the water and watch people there. It's just something that's ingrained," he said.

At 62, Blazer still competes in triathlons and open water events.

"I swam across the Chesapeake Bay one year in the Great Chesapeake Bay Swim, and I've been doing the Choptank River Swim every year in May. So, I just love swimming and I love being in the pool," he said. "Pools have been a very integral part of my life, ever since I was little."

After retiring a few years ago, Blazer said he decided to fill some of his free time by working as a lifeguard. He became recertified and approached Ocean Pines Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook about a part-time position.

"Aquatics is a great group of people," he said. "I work two days a week, I open the pool up, and then I'm done at 1 o'clock and I get the rest of the afternoon to do other things."

Blazer has also worked to recruit other potential lifeguards. He encouraged anyone who is a strong swimmer to consider taking a job.

"If you can swim 300 yards, the rest of it we can train and help them pass their certification," he said. "And it's a great job. You get to meet a lot of people, and if you love being in the water it's a lot of fun and it's a great experience."

MIKE CASTORO started working at the Sports Core Pool in October.

He's originally from Ocean Port, New Jersey and spent 35 years in the IT sector working for companies like Microsoft. At age 50, he retired, went back to school and earned a master's degree, and became a special education teacher.

Castoro and his family moved to Ocean Pines in 2017. More recently, he was among the active swimmers at the Sports Core Pool who Blazer tried to enlist.

"I've been a swimmer all my life, and I had been taking advantage of swimming at the Sports Core Pool since we moved down here," he said. "Coincidentally, my oldest daughter is the director of a YMCA in New Jersey and she had been talking about the complete lack of lifeguards and how she couldn't hire anybody. Keeping her pools staffed was difficult.

"It's a nationwide problem and it's just everywhere," Castoro continued. "We were just out in California, and it was the same issue - they're all looking for lifeguards."

When Castoro saw issues in Ocean Pines he thought, "Gee whiz, maybe I could help with this."

"I talked to some of the lifeguards at the Sports Core Pool and they said, 'Give it a shot.' So, I did," he said.

Castoro took a precertification test in Ocean Pines, and then became certified through a Red Cross program in Salisbury.

A 70-year-old, Castoro said the test was strenuous, but he had no more trouble passing than some of the other candidates who were 17 or 18.

"If you can pass a prequalification test, you're strong enough to do what has to be done," he said.

Castoro said the prequalification process includes swimming 300 yards - roughly 12 lengths of the Sports Core Pool - and treading water for two minutes.

In the final test, "they drop a brick in the deep end of the pool, you swim the length of the pool, dive down to the bottom, pick the brick up, come up to the surface, and then swim with the brick on your back the length of the pool," he said.

"That's the physical strength, stamina and duration required to take the course. The bottom line is, you need to be a strong swimmer," Castoro said.

He encouraged others to take the plunge and join the team at Ocean Pines Aquatics.

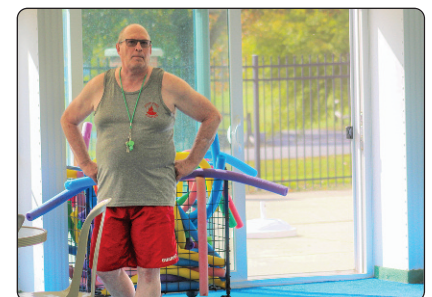
"If you've got the idea, you should go forward with it," he said. "You're helping the community and giving back, besides picking up some great skills for yourself in terms of being able to swim better. And you have the capability of saving somebody's life."

"I would say to anybody who is considering it, that it's a worthwhile endeavor that will build your own self-esteem, your own skills, and allow you to give back to the community," he added.

For more information on becoming a lifeguard in Ocean Pines, contact Kathleen Cook at 443-299-9949.

Spring lifeguard certification classes are scheduled April 21-23 in Ocean Pines. The Association will waive the class fee for anyone hired as an Ocean Pines lifeguard. Applicants must be 15 by the date of the last class.

Certifications are also available through the YMCA in Salisbury.



SWIMMIN WIMMIN DEEP WATER ...& men!

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 8:00am-8:50am 18 classes (6 wks)
JAN 9 - FEB 17
FEB 20 - APR 7 No Class 3/6-3/10

FEE: Swim Member \$55; OP Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$81;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

SWIMMIN WIMMIN SHALLOW WATER ...& men!

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 8:00am-8:50am 18 classes (6 wks)
JAN 9 - FEB 17
FEB 20 - APR 7 No Class 3/6-3/10

FEE: Swim Member \$55; OP Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$81;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

TOTAL BODY FITNESS I

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 10:00am-10:45am 18 classes (6 wks)
thru FEB 10 No Class 1/23-1/27
FEB 20 - APR 7 No Class 3/6-3/10
APR 17 - MAY 26

FEE: Swim Member \$88; OP Resident \$100; Non-Resident \$120;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

TOTAL BODY FITNESS II

WHEN: TUE / THU, 9:00am-9:45am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru FEB 9 No Class 1/23-1/27
FEB 21 - APR 6 No Class 3/6-3/10
APR 18 - MAY 25

FEE: Swim Member \$59; OP Resident \$66; Non-Resident \$80;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

HYDRORIDER WATER CYCLING

WHEN: MON / WED, 9:00am-9:40am 12 classes (6 wks)
JAN 9 - FEB 15
MAR 13 - APR 19

WHEN: TUE / THU, 9:00am-9:45am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru FEB 2
FEB 14 - MAR 30 No Class 3/6-3/10
APR 11 - MAY 18

WHEN: TUE / THU, 10:00am-10:45am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru FEB 9 No Class 1/23-1/27
FEB 21 - APR 6 No Class 3/6-3/10
APR 18 - MAY 25

FEE: Swim Member \$90; OP Resident \$95; Non-Resident \$100;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$9; OP Resident \$11; Non-Resident \$13



SPORTS CORE POOL CLOSINGS

Monday, March 6-Friday, March 10 for semi-annual cleaning & draining; reopen Saturday, March 11

Sunday, April 30 for a private event

EARLYBIRD LAP SWIM

WHEN: MON-FRI, 6:00am-7:50am 30 classes (6 wks)
thru FEB 3
FEB 6 - MAR 24 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 27 - MAY 5

FEE: Swim Member, free; Res. \$65; Non-Res. \$78; **Drop-in:** \$8.

SHAPE UPS

WHEN: TUE / THU, 8:00am-8:50am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 19
JAN 31 - MAR 16 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 28 - MAY 4

FEE: Swim Member \$40; OP Resident \$50; Non-Resident \$65;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

WET WORKS I: DEEP WATER

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 9:30am-10:20am 18 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 20
JAN 30 - MAR 17 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 27 - MAY 5

WET WORKS II: SHALLOW WATER

WHEN: TUE / THU, 9:30am-10:20am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 19
JAN 31 - MAR 16 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 28 - MAY 4

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

CREAKY JOINTS I

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 11:00am-11:50am 18 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 20
JAN 30 - MAR 17 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 27 - MAY 5

CREAKY JOINTS II

WHEN: TUE / THU, 11:00am-11:50am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 19
JAN 31 - MAR 16 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 28 - MAY 4

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

WATER AEROBICS

WHEN: TUE / THU, 5:15pm-6:00pm 12 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 19
JAN 31 - MAR 16 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 28 - MAY 4

FEE: Swim Member \$55; OP Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$81;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

AQUA YOGA

WHEN: WED / FRI, 8:00am-8:45am 12 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 20
FEB 1 - MAR 17 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 29 - MAY 5

FEE: Swim Member \$60; OP Resident \$70; Non-Resident \$86;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

BOOTCAMP

WHEN: MON / WED / FRI, 6:00pm-6:45pm 18 classes (6 wks)
thru JAN 20
JAN 30 - MAR 17 No Class 3/6-3/10
MAR 27 - MAY 5

FEE: Swim Member \$60; OP Resident \$70; Non-Resident \$86;
Drop-in: Swim Member \$6; OP Resident \$7; Non-Resident \$8

Pickleball

Pink Ribbon Classic raises \$17,000+ for cancer research



The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club raised more than \$17,660 for the American Cancer Society during the fifth annual Pickleball Pink Ribbon Classic, held Oct. 7 at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign, which has been active since 1993.

Event Director Chris Shook said the Pickleball Pink Ribbon Classic is especially meaningful to her. This is her third year directing the tournament.

"It touches home," she said. "I'm a two-time breast cancer survivor, and a lot of people here are survivors."

"It's also just a fun time for everybody to come out and play some pickleball," she continued. "The turnout was great, and we're very happy with the new courts and the court repairs by Ocean Pines."

Event organizer Julie Woulfe said 128 players competed on 16 courts, and 29 volunteers helped service the event. Thirty-one sponsors supported the tournament.

"Volunteers make these types of things happen," Woulfe said. "Our wonderful volunteers planned the tournament, solicited sponsors and donations, baked cookies, put together lunches, set up and took down tables and accessories, monitored courts and scores, put together raffle items, gathered snacks and medals, coordinated with ACS, and helped clean up."

Gold, silver and bronze medals were given to the top players. According to ACS, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events "have collectively grown into the nation's largest and most impactful breast cancer movement providing a supportive community for courageous breast cancer survivors and metastatic breast cancer thrivers, including caregivers, and families alike."

That has translated into more than \$71 million invested in breast cancer research grants.

ACS has also responded to a quarter of a million requests for cancer information through the nonprofit's helpline and chat services. An ACS mobile app has connected almost 4,000 women facing breast cancer with trained breast cancer survivors to support them.



PICKLEBALL INDOOR DROP-IN at the Ocean Pines Community Center THROUGH MARCH

Mondays	3:00pm-5:00pm
Tue & Thu	1:00pm-5:00pm
Saturdays	4:00pm-8:00pm

DAILY FEES: OP Pickleball members, free; non-members \$5
Additional indoor play: Call 410-641-7052 for drop-in availability. \$3/player (pickleball members & non-members)

Tennis

The Ocean Pines Tennis Club (OPTC), the players' association, facilitates tennis & social activities through its volunteers at the Racquet Center. OPTC aims to be welcoming, inclusive, & integrate new players into the tennis community & provide opportunities for everyone to play. Great opportunities continue throughout the winter and into spring.

Opportunities to Play Tennis

TENNIS DROP-IN

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:00am-9:00am

Just show up! Everyone is welcome.

The attendant at check-in will direct you.

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

GROUPS PLAYING ON A REGULAR BASIS

Groups may vary by gender, playing level, format, frequency & other factors. Each group has a facilitator. There is usually a good fit for everyone who wants to play in one or more groups. Established groups are typically welcoming to players who fit the profile of their group.

For assistance in learning more about the groups & how to join, text or phone Dale Ash at 443-493-3781.

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- Easy scoring
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- Fenced courts are 1/3 the size of a tennis court
- Play the net! No kitchen!
- Never played? Used to play? All abilities welcome!
- Paddle and low-bounce tennis ball
- We have the equipment for you! Try it!

On the PLATFORM TENNIS COURTS
at the OP Racquet Center (near the Dog Park).
For more info, email oppaddle2020@gmail.com
or stop down at the platform tennis hut!

PLATFORM TENNIS DROP-IN

For up-to-date drop-in days and times,
email oppaddle2020@gmail.com
or visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/platform-tennis



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- Atlantic General Endoscopy and Urology Center
- Emergency Services
- Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center
- Center for Joint Surgery
- Atlantic General Diabetes and Endocrinology Center
- John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center
- Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center
- Stroke Center
- Wound Care Center
- Atlantic General Women's Health Center, West O.C.



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Justin Hartshorne
Director of
Golf Maintenance

Frost FYI and maintenance updates

Cooler weather means inevitable frost delays. While having to delay a morning round for frost is an inconvenience, it's crucial for maintaining turf health. Walking on frost-covered grass anywhere on the course can do damage that takes time and money to correct.

When you visit the course, please keep the following information from the United States Golf Association (USGA) in mind:

- Ice crystals from frost make grass "crunchy" and vulnerable to damage.
- Microclimates on the course can cause frost to develop, even when other areas are frost-free.
- Although frost can occur anywhere on the course, closely mown turf is at greatest risk of damage.
- A little bit of frost anywhere on the course will keep the entire course closed.



• Shade extends frost delays.

Read the complete article from the USGA at <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/articles/2018/01/5-things-to-know--frost-delays.html>.

Maintenance Updates

Although winter is a slow time for golfers, the Golf Maintenance team continues to stay busy with projects, including tree work and drainage.

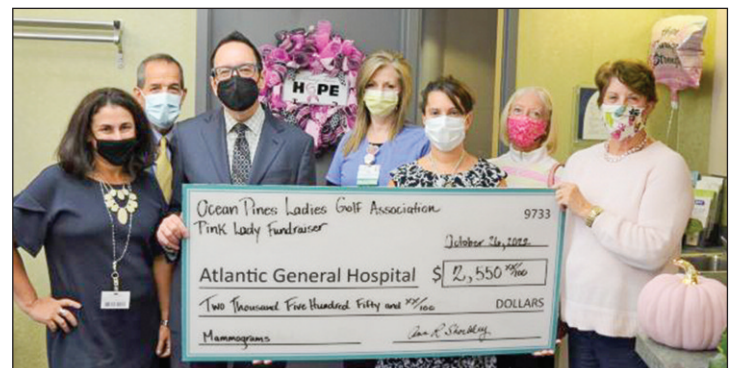
We will also continue to punch holes with the Verti-Quake and deep tine aerators to help prepare for the spring growing season.

OPLGA contributes to AGH mammography

On Oct. 26, members of the Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association (OPLGA) joined Atlantic General Hospital leadership and staff to present a generous donation of \$2,550 to Atlantic General Hospital.

The funds were raised through their recent Pink Lady Golf Tournament, which is held yearly during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the donation will go towards supporting Atlantic General Women's Imaging in West Ocean City and the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital. Their contribution will be used to provide women of the Eastern Shore community with crucial mammogram services, specifically for those who are not able to afford these lifesaving screenings.

The OPLGA has contributed to Atlantic General Hospital for over a decade, totaling more than \$18,000 throughout their 12 years of support. Community support such as this allows Atlantic General Hospital to continue providing the accessible, high-quality care that the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center, which has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology, and the Woman's Imaging Center are known for.



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THE CLUBHOUSE BAR & GRILLE | 100 CLUBHOUSE DR, OCEAN PINES, MD | OCEANPINESGOLF.ORG

OP Golf groups join forces to raise money for mammograms

For 10 years, the Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association's Pink Lady event has raised money for the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation to provide mammograms for those unable to afford them. This year, however, marks the first time the OPLGA has played with the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association in this special outing.

Thirty-four men and women golfers put on their pink and gathered at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on Oct. 12 to play for the foundation, contributing a total of \$2,550 for the life-saving screenings.

Steven Tyson, donor relations officer at the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation, welcomed the golfers and thanked them for their financial gift.

"I do not think at this point in time that there is anyone who has not had breast cancer touch the lives of their family, friends and other loved ones," Tyson said. "Having events such as this which raise much-needed funding for mammograms and other directly related services at our local Women's Health and Diagnostic facilities truly makes a huge difference and directly impacts and saves people's lives."

OPLGA members and event organizers Ann Shockley and Susan Morris said that in previous years, the men's golf group had supported the Pink Lady by dedicating one of their regularly scheduled golf outings to the event, wearing pink and donating money to the cause.

Morris said that when she and Shockley approached OPMGA President John Ferinde about the two groups playing together, however, he embraced the idea.

"I am so appreciative of all who made this event happen and am excited about the new golfers we attracted to play and support this worthy cause," Shockley said.

In addition to playing a nine-hole scramble, participants enjoyed pink ribbon baked goodies, a 50/50 raffle and prizes.

"We are pretty proud of this effort and look forward to broadening this event to include all golfers of Ocean Pines," Shockley said.

The men's and women's golf leagues welcome new players. For more information about the OPLGA, contact Shockley at rexerann@gmail.com. For more information about the OPMGA, contact Ferinde at johnferinde@aol.com.



OP Golf Members Council donates to Toys for Tots

The Ocean Pines Golf Members Council recently made a sizable donation to the Toys for Tots program.

Items were donated during the Members Council's annual Golf Dinner Dance, held at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on Nov. 3.

Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 and is run nationally by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Joe Pantone, a Marine Corps veteran, assisted with the toy collection in Ocean Pines.

"On behalf of all Marines, I would like to thank the Members Council for sponsoring the annual Golf Dinner Dance, and the golf membership for their generous donation of toys in support of our annual Toys for Tots program," Pantone said. "We collected approximately 75 toys, which is an outstanding number, based on past years."

"Your donations will bring much needed happiness on Christmas morning to those less fortunate children in our community," he added.



OPMGA announces 2022 full season results

The Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association hosts "Men's Day" every Thursday, from early April through mid-October.

Pro Shop credits are awarded to the top foursomes each week, and at the end of each half of the season those who have accumulated the most points are awarded additional credits.

This year, Fritz Lahner hit the trifecta by leading the pack for the full season and being on top during both the first and second half as well. Pete Malecki took the runner-up spot for the second half of the season, and Mark Dornes was close behind in third place.

For the full season, Dornes moved up to second place, followed by Walt Lischak in third, who benefited from a strong first-half showing. Full results were:

- **Champion: Fritz Lahner (full season & 1st & 2nd half)**
- **Runner-up: Mark Dornes (full season); Pete Malecki (2nd half); Walt Lischak (1st half)**
- **Second Runner-up: Walt Lischak (full season); Mark Dornes (2nd half); Mark Dornes (1st half)**

The OPMGA is currently in its offseason and, weather permitting, members and prospective members are welcome to show up at the course on Thursdays and participate in some low-key competition.





Eddie Wells
Director

Message from PUBLIC WORKS

Winter projects and updates for a new year

The leaf collection has wrapped up for another year – thankfully! While the bag leaf program and the Public Works’ yard opening ended in December, the leaf vacuum will continue throughout Ocean Pines until all areas are vacuumed at least twice, or until the first snowfall.

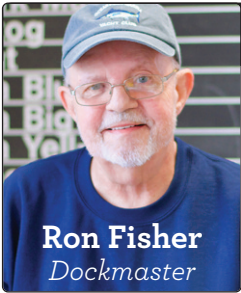
Speaking of snow, Public Works is requesting that **when it does snow, please remove your vehicles from the**

roadways. This makes it easier for us to maneuver the equipment through the already narrow roads and eliminates any damage that could occur to your vehicle.

At the recent Board of Directors meeting, the Fisher Marine contract was renewed again for bulkhead replacement for 2023-2024. A little over 2,000 square feet of bulkhead is scheduled to be replaced in fall of 2023.



Nobie Violante
Manager



Ron Fisher
Dockmaster

Message from MARINAS

New dock & gas line replacement underway

While the marinas remain closed for the season, Public Works and dockmaster Ron Fisher are working on the replacement of “C” dock at the Yacht Club Marina. Along with a

new dock, the gas lines and dispensing pumps are being replaced. This should be completed before the season starts.

Message from MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Get involved in our oyster restoration project

Several of you have asked questions about the oyster restoration project, which was mentioned in our Jan. 18, 2022 minutes, and in some of the local papers earlier this year. Joseph Jankowski, an Ocean Pines property owner, spoke to the members of the Marine Activities Advisory Committee in January about this project, its benefits to the environment and our canals, and how to become involved.

Joe provided the committee members with a presentation on the work being done by the Protectors of the St. Martin River and specifically the Oyster Restoration Project. Joe brought with him one of the cages that he built and are used to grow the oysters.

He shared with the members his knowledge of the use, necessary supplies, and materials used for the project. Joe explained that the cage can protect the oysters from bull rays and the muck at the bottom of our canals and the river, while they are maturing.

Joe builds these and sells them at cost to individuals interested in participating in the project. No license is necessary to participate, and in fact, the State of Maryland encourages property owners to participate. An individual can get up to \$500 a year in tax breaks on their purchase of oyster supplies.

The cost to produce the cages has increased with

inflation, so the present cost for one cage is \$35. The cost of seed oysters has risen to \$5 for 75 of them. A 3-inch oyster will filter 50 gallons of water every day.

As the oysters grow, you may find that you need to purchase a second cage as they become heavier and more difficult to lift out of the water.

The oyster gardener can also donate the mature oysters to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, which is running the restoration project. The Protectors of the St. Martin River coordinates the donation and can provide 75 replacement seed oysters, which presently cost \$5.

Joe explained to us the difference between diploid and triploid oysters, and why you should not eat oysters in months that contain an “r” (these are the months the oysters reproduce), the time it takes for an oyster to mature, and how these oysters can further improve our environment. Joe also talked about the condition of the water in the St. Martin River, and the impact of industrial and agricultural run-off.

Those interested in growing oysters off their dock or bulkhead can contact the Protectors of the St. Martin River at protectorsstmartinriver@yahoo.com. This site can provide you with information on purchasing cages and seed oysters and how to set these up off your docks.








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Meet the Team: Allan Baker

For the last two years, Allan Baker did a job in Ocean Pines that few have seen, but many appreciate.

Baker starts work at 5 a.m., three days a week, and drives the entire length of Ocean Parkway to pick up trash.

He also visits each of the community parks to empty the trash cans. Often, he fills his Ford Ranger pickup truck bed with trash five times.

Recently, Baker has been sidelined because of health issues, but he hopes to return to work soon.

Hunter, truck driver, cowboy

Baker is a quintessential Eastern Shore native, born in the area, growing up in Whaleyville, and now living in nearby Bishopville.

He was one of the original “saltwater cowboys,” helping to run the pony penning operation in Chincoteague, Virginia.



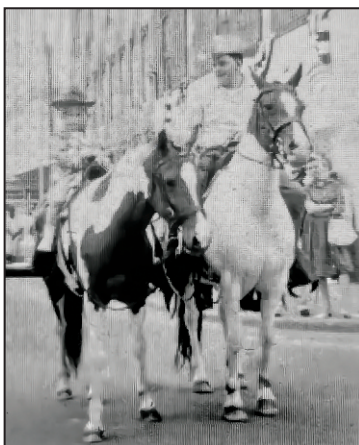
“I was raised on a farm, and I always had horses,” he said. “When I was eight years old, I was picking crops with a horse

with a walking cultivator,” he said. “The horse pulled the cultivator, and you would walk behind it and harvest these peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers.”

Baker met his wife, Shirley, while riding a horse in Chincoteague.

“She denies it now, but she hollered at me!” he said with a laugh. “I was riding down the street after penning the ponies on a Wednesday, and she hollered at me, ‘Hey, you good lookin’ thing, you!’

“I rode down the road about a mile and told a friend of mine, ‘I’m going to go back and find that girl,’” Baker continued. “She was walking across the road to the carnival ground, and I said, ‘Do you want



to go for a ride?”

She did, and the couple have been inseparable ever since.

“If we make it to Jan. 25, we’ll be married 60 years,” Baker said.

For several decades, Baker operated one of the poultry trucks that are ubiquitous on the Eastern Shore.

“I had a crew of men, and we went to the farms and loaded up chickens in the trucks that you see running up and down the road,” he said.

He started working for a company based in Pennsylvania in 1958, and later worked for Allen Family Food for 25 years.

Being a native and long-time resident, Baker remembers when Ocean Pines was little more than a wilderness of hunting grounds, where deer and ducks were prevalent.

“All of us hunted on the opposite side of the St. Martin River,” he said. “There used to be an island that we had three duck blinds on, and we’d take a boat out there.

“For me, too much has changed in my lifetime, but I’ve met a lot of nice people down there,” he added.

Baker had been retired for several years when he took a job with Ocean Pines Public Works.

“I was an old man, and I just got tired of sitting around the house,” he said with a laugh.

Working for Ocean Pines

Public Works Director Eddie Wells has known Baker for many years. Even before he started working for Ocean Pines, Wells said Baker was known for zipping off the road to pick up trash wherever he saw it.

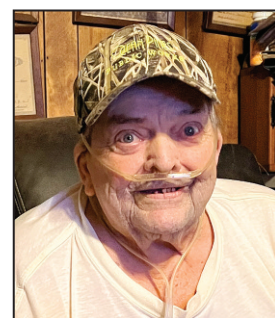
“When I first hired him, he said, ‘If I’d have known I could get paid for this kind of stuff, I would have started years ago!’” Wells said.

Baker said he starts work early each day for both practical and safety reasons.

“It’s easier to start before the traffic gets bad, especially if you’re picking up trash in the middle of the road,” he said. “Being old and stiff, I don’t move real fast.”

He’s found many strange things along the roadside, including wallets and cell phones that he turned in to Ocean Pines Police. He’s also found hunting knives and, once, a large electrical box testing unit accidentally left behind by a local cable company.

One discarded item that stands out was an Old Navy gift



PUBLIC WORKS

card found lying next to an old Coke can.

"I pulled over to get the can and thought I may as well pick up whatever this is too, and I looked at it and figured somebody probably just used it and threw it out," he said.

Unable to find out who the card belonged to, Baker took it home and Shirley later called the store and found there was still some money left on it.

"So, she spent it on the granddaughter for Christmas," he said.

Making friends with the locals

Baker is a lifelong dog lover and currently owns a German shepherd named Sarge, who came from a rescue shelter in Pennsylvania. Most days, Sarge can be found sitting next to Baker on the couch, watching TV or playing with toys.

"He was two-and-a-half years old when we got him, and you couldn't have picked out a better dog," Baker said. Baker has made his affinity for dogs a part of his daily routine in Ocean Pines.

"I like to take them treats on my route, and I've met quite a few dogs down there," he said.

Wells said Baker is beloved by both pet owners and the pets themselves.

"When his truck pulls up, the dogs will come running to him to get the treats every time he comes," Wells said. "They really love to see him. They know the truck and, every time he's out picking up trash, they'll stop and say hi and he'll give a treat to their dogs."

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

"Skippy just loves Bubba - we always call him Bubba. You wouldn't find a kinder man," Hughes said.

She said Baker would often be in the neighborhood at 6:30 a.m., and Skippy would look for him.

"As soon as he saw him on the other side of the parkway, he'd be raring to go," she said. "Bubba always had handful of treats for Skippy. I would tell Bubba, 'Just one more' and he would give him five. I'd tell Skippy, 'Bubba just can't count!'"



They just had a nice friendship, and Skippy misses him," she continued. "He's a wonderful man. We miss him and we love him, and we hope he gets better."

Zero complaints

Baker joked that he has a way of measuring people who live in Ocean Pines.

"If you say 'I'm from Ocean Pines' you're pretty decent. But if you say, 'I'm from The Pines' - you'd better look out for them!" he said. "But I've met a lot of nice people here."

Baker last worked in July, before suffering a series of health-related setbacks. He hopes to return to work soon.



"Ocean Pines is a nice place and I'd like to get back to it," he said. "All those guys [at Public Works] really helped me out a lot."

Wells said there were zero complaints about trash pickup whenever Baker was driving the truck.

"We used to get calls all the time about trash in the parks or trash on the Parkway, but after he started, we never got complaints anymore," Wells said. "He picks up, on average, probably 20-25 trash bags full of trash, three days a week."

Public Works Manager Nobie Violante said it's one of the more unsung jobs in all of Ocean Pines.

"Most people don't know who empties those cans at the parks and how much effort goes into keeping Ocean Pines looking like that," Violante said. "He really does a great job for us."



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Linda Martin
Senior Executive
Office Manager

Keeping Ocean Pines safe & compliant

Please remember that house numbers are required of every home in Ocean Pines. Not having a house number displayed is not only in violation of the Architectural Review Guidelines, but also a safety issue if police or fire/EMS cannot find your property.

Section 500.2.A. of the Guidelines states, "The street address house number shall be posted to be visible from the street. It may be displayed on the front of the house or on a sign in the front yard. House numbers shall not be less than four (4) inches or no greater than eight (8) inches in height, and visible from the street."

An option to comply to this regulation is to order your number plate sign from the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. The signs are constructed of aluminum with green and white reflective material. The signs cost \$42, or \$58 for the sign on a weather-treated post. To order a sign, please stop by the south station, or download the form at www.opvfd.com/page/911-sign and mail it to the fire department (information is on the form).

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



Message from **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Reminder: Avoid violations by following ARC guidelines

Many violations are sent to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) each year by inspectors at the Compliance, Permitting and Inspections Office (CPI) in Ocean Pines.

Most violations occur because homeowners are not aware of the Ocean Pines Association Deed Restrictions and Architectural Guidelines.

To help maintain property values throughout Ocean Pines and help homeowners avoid unexpected violation notices, below is a list of some of the most common violations:

- **Unauthorized signs in yard**
- **Missing house numbers**
- **Trash cans (cannot be left at the roadside and should be screened from view)**
- **Debris in yards**
- **Unregistered vehicles**
- **Unauthorized removal of trees**
- **Fences without permits**
- **Roof debris (moss, mold & vegetation in gutters)**
- **Poorly maintained buildings or grounds**
- **Recreational vehicles on a property**
- **Box trailers, cargo trailers & oversized vehicles on a property**
- **Failure to obtain permits for exterior work**

Unauthorized yard signs have become a particular area of concern. Sign regulations are found in Section 600 of the Architectural Review Guidelines.

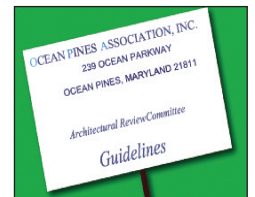
During election season, residents are allowed one sign per candidate, and signs cannot be displayed in the easement or any common areas in Ocean Pines.

Construction signs may only be displayed on a property if the CPI Department has issued a construction permit. Open house signs are only allowed with the words "open house" and directional arrows, and yard-sale signs are only allowed to be displayed on Saturday and Sunday between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.

All other signs must have ARC approval before being placed or displayed.

Full ARC guidelines can be found on the Public Works page of the Ocean Pines website, under "Applications and Documents." Visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/public-works.

For further assistance or questions, contact the CPI office at 410-641-7425.



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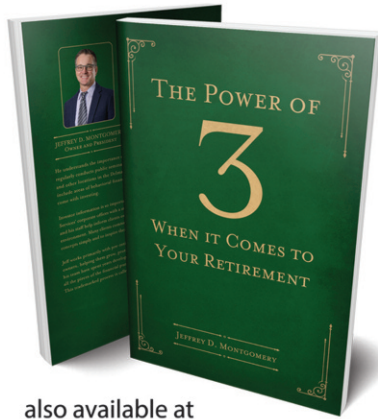
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A legacy of Ocean Pines

How would you describe Ocean Pines to someone from a foreign land? An answer could be it is a community of many trees, many canals, some open space and, of course, many amenities (we cannot forget the amenities!).

That answer describes the legacy of Ocean Pines with the forested areas full of wildlife, ponds and the adjacent bays full of fish. It is a legacy that has been appreciated by many thousands of people for over 50 years.

The Ocean Pines land is not just a setting of trees to place or build your home or a canal to run your boat, but it is an interconnected environment of uplands with trees as old as 100 years that lead to canals and bays that we all enjoy.

In many ways, this environment is fragile and will decline when acres are paved with asphalt and stone, and anything is spilled or dumped into the ditches and canals. The reason we live here becomes degraded if we abuse this legacy acre by acre and yard by yard.

Your home in Ocean Pines is not just what is inside the exterior stud walls covered by vinyl siding. It also includes the open space around it. Many homeowners enhance this space by views of their canal or the bay, a sitting area on a patio with a view of surrounding trees, or other landscaped areas under a healthy tree canopy perhaps bordered by flower gardens, large shrubs and hanging bird feeders.

The woods of Ocean Pines are full of a great variety of birds, which we enjoy around our homes or on a walk through the neighborhood and on the trails. Have you noticed the many robins in our woods and how they become very lively in the morning and the evening during the warm seasons? Have you seen or heard the pileated woodpecker with its bright red crest pecking on a tree limb? Have you caught fish in the big ponds? Have you noticed the golden colors shine through the woods during a sunrise or sunset?

Those homeowners who experience their outside time certainly appreciate nature whether they think about it or not. Ocean City does not provide that kind of entertainment, but Ocean Pines does!

The natural legacy of Ocean Pines and living here comes with a personal responsibility to protect that environment to enjoy in our lives as well as for future generations. If you maintain your home of four walls, you also need to maintain the open spaces around it. If you plan to cut down trees that remove wildlife habitat, think about those healthy ones could be maintained to protect the environment.

Do you really need to remove so many (at a higher cost to you)? Think about how those legacy trees enhance your whole home, including the wildlife that live in them.

Our land leads to the bay waters. We enjoy the canals, ponds and bays, but if we allow discharge of pollutants and excess fertilizer or degrading of the shoreline by erosion or filling a natural wetland, we will inadvertently destroy what



we used to enjoy. What happens to your outside space if the canal water becomes so polluted with dead fish and full of invasive weeds, that the water begins to emit an offensive odor, has a strange color, or may look ugly?

With excessive pavement or the removal of natural landscape, rainfall immediately turns into runoff that floods our roads and gullies. Once the trees are gone and the water is heavily polluted, we have lost the legacy for future generations with very little chance of returning.

How can we preserve that legacy?

- **Prevent pollution runoff as much as possible and stop placing anything in the water to protect that water full of fish, shellfish, and crabs.**
- **Plant a tree to replace a cut one.**
- **Take extra care in maintaining your boat at your dock including fueling, boat cleaning, and engine maintenance.**
- **Remove trash of any kind that not only degrades the natural beauty, but may also harm wildlife.**
- **Volunteer occasionally with energized neighbors working to enhance our legacy. This could be an act as simple as taking a trash bag with you when walking around the South Pond and picking up loose trash.**
- **What else can you do to preserve and improve the natural environment of Ocean Pines?**

After hearing about Ocean Pines, that person from a foreign land may ask, "How do you preserve your home land?" Your assignment, if you wish to accept it, is to look for ways to maintain the incredible legacy of Ocean Pines.

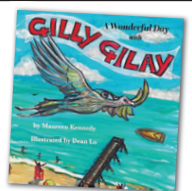
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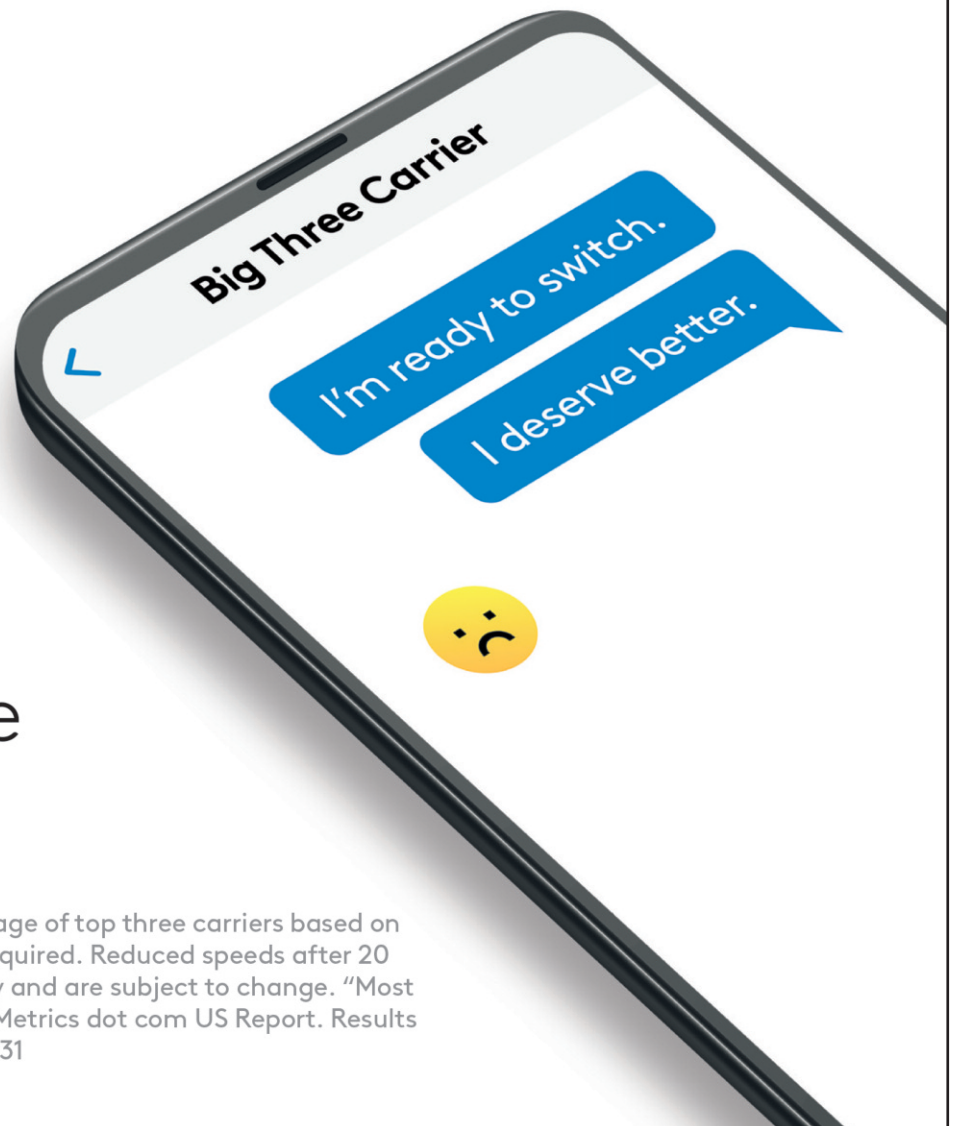
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Local group collecting food for Head Start program

A group of Ocean Pines residents are collecting items to help stave off food insecurity in the community, with a goal of supplying local children with healthy weekend snacks for 30 weeks.

Margit Novack and four neighbors in the Teal Bay neighborhood of Ocean Pines formed the group last year, dubbing themselves the “Teal Bay Mitzvah Team,” after the Jewish word for good deeds.

Mitzvah Team member Helen Johnson said the group has already led several successful charitable campaigns. In 2021, they collected more than 1,000 pairs of shoes for their “Soles for Souls” campaign. Later that year, they amassed more than 2,000 pairs of new socks during a “Joy of Sox” drive. Donated items were then distributed during the holiday season to assisted living facilities, long term care facilities, Diakonia, and Worcester County GOLD.

The group also held a pet food drive for local animal shelters. Johnson said all three goals were met thanks to generous donations from local people.

“We just want to give back to the community and those in need in some way. We feel that we’re all very fortunate, so we want to do what we can for others,” she said.

“We now are focusing on food insecurity, because we knew it was something that children in our community struggle with,” Johnson continued. “There is poverty in this area and you’re always hearing about the need.”

The Mitzvah Team started the latest drive on Facebook, asking for donations for the Berlin Head Start program. Johnson said Head Start supplies food during the week, but, “Come weekends, we don’t know what they have.”

“We thought it would be good to send them home with a little bag of food items, and we’re specifically collecting things suggested by a nutritionist with Head Start,” she said.

The Mitzvah Team is hoping to run the program for 30 weeks, with 30 lunch snacks per student donated and then distributed by the teachers for the children to take home.

They’ve done well so far, delivering 240 bags of food to Head Start over the first eight weeks.

“They [Head Start] were very excited. It’s a federal program, so we had to go through all the proper channels to do this,” Johnson said. “And we’re very happy that this has worked out, so far.”

Johnson said many people found it convenient to order items on Amazon.com and have them shipped directly to Novack at 2 Riverside Court in Ocean Pines.

“People can go online and order a case of Ramen noodles, for example, for just \$15 or \$20 while having coffee in the morning. That goes a long way to help local kids,” Johnson said.

“We’re doing what we can to get the word out. Let’s keep

the giving spirit alive all year!” she added.

Snacks approved by the Head Start nutritionist include:

- **Single serve fruit cups and squeezers**
- **Single serve Cheerios cups**
- **Instant oatmeal packs**
- **Granola bars with no peanuts**
- **Ramen noodles**
- **Small raisin boxes**
- **Fruit roll-ups**
- **Whole grain crackers**
- **Small popcorn bags**
- **Bobos fruit filled mini muffins**
- **Small bags of pretzels**
- **Bel Vita biscuits**
- **Teddy Grahams**
- **Dried apple chips**

Items may be dropped off or shipped directly to Margit Novack, 2 Riverside Court, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

For more information, please contact Novack at margitnovack@gmail.com.



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Veterans Day ceremony held in Ocean Pines

Rainy weather moved the annual Veterans Day ceremony indoors, but did little to dampen the spirits of the patriotic service hosted by the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

The foundation for many years has hosted Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs at the picturesque Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, on Racetrack Road.

This year, the event was held in the Ocean Pines Community Center gym and included patriotic music from the Delmarva Chorus, a color guard presentation of local American Legion representatives, and an address by guest speaker Dr. Jeff Hilovsky.

Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said Col. Hilovsky retired from the U.S. Air Force after a 25-year military career. He retired as the medical commander for the 512th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base.

State, county, and local officials attended the event, including several Ocean Pines Board members.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation's annual Memorial Day service is scheduled to return on May 29, 2023, at Veterans Memorial Park.

The foundation also hosts a Flags for Heroes program,

honoring servicemen and women, first responders, teachers, family members, doctors and hospital workers, and others who inspire local people. Flags for Heroes is scheduled to return on May 20, 2023.

Additionally, the Veterans Memorial Foundation each year invites every fifth-grade class in Worcester County to the Memorial in Ocean Pines, as part of its education outreach.

The foundation released an educational video as part of the program this year.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all volunteer organization.

"Members, donors, volunteers and visitors help make the Veterans Memorial a beautiful and welcoming place to honor and reflect on the service and sacrifice of our veterans," Gilmore said.

Support for the foundation may be done in the form of donations and paid annual memberships. Brick pavers and memorial benches also help support the memorial, and volunteer opportunities are always available.

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



Photos courtesy
Joe Reynolds,
www.oceanpinesforum.com



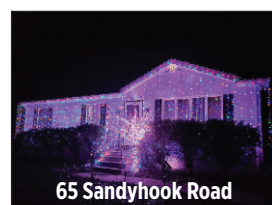
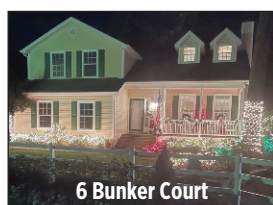
Community brightened in 'Light Up the Pines' outdoor decorating

Dozens of Ocean Pines residents and property owners added holiday cheer to the community by participating in the 2022 "Light Up the Pines" outdoor decorating program.

Those who registered with the program were featured on an online Google map and were entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits donated by program sponsor Choptank Electric Cooperative. The winners were Nathan and Gina Todd, Connie Corbett and the Shahadys.

The first 25 registered participants also received a goody bag, courtesy of Choptank Electric.

"We are happy to see so much participation in this year's Light Up the Pines contest," said Katie Luckett, Choptank Electric's manager of marketing and communications. "Our members are what makes the cooperative shine, especially during the holidays as our crews work around the clock to keep the lights on."





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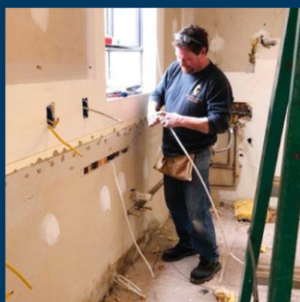
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| <input type="radio"/> Board Position | <input type="radio"/> Golf Cart | <input type="radio"/> RV |
| <input type="radio"/> Boat | <input type="radio"/> Home Renovation | <input type="radio"/> Spouse |
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FAQS about assessments

What does my assessment pay for?

Annual assessments paid to the Ocean Pines Association help fund the community's police department, volunteer fire department, amenities (parks, playgrounds, pools, Beach Club, Yacht Club, Golf Club, Racquet Center, recreation programs, community center), administrative services, Public Works Department, grounds maintenance and snow and leaf removal.

The assessment does not include Beach Club parking, swim, racquet or golf memberships. Memberships for those amenities may be purchased separately, or those wishing to use them may pay the applicable daily fees.

When will I know how much this year's assessment will be?

The assessment is set during the annual budget process, which begins in January each year. The budget for the upcoming fiscal year (which runs May 1-April 30) is usually approved by the Board of Directors in February after a thorough review process.

Following budget approval, assessment bills are mailed to each property owner of record on or around March 15.

When is the assessment due?

The annual assessment is due on or before May 1 of each year.

What happens if I don't pay my assessment in full before the due date?

Any unpaid assessment amount still owed beginning June 1 will be charged an additional 6% annual interest, which will continue to accrue until the entire balance has been paid. All balances must be paid in full by Sept. 30 to avoid having a lien placed on the property.

Please note that the entire assessment and any assessed interest must be paid before an amenity membership may be purchased.

If property owners wish to vote in the annual Board of Directors election or in a possible referendum, the assessment and any assessed interest must be paid at least 35 days prior to the voting deadline to receive a ballot.

Does Ocean Pines offer a payment schedule?

For those unable to pay their annual assessment at one time, Ocean Pines can set up a formal monthly payment plan. Normally a minimum payment of \$150 is required, and payments are due by the 15th of each month. Other options may also be available on a case-by-case basis. Accounts utilizing a payment plan will accrue the additional 6% annual interest until the assessment is paid in full.

Payment plans do not stop the lien process. Those wishing to arrange a payment plan should contact the Assessment and Membership manager at 410-641-7717 ext. 3031 or member@oceanpines.org.

Those wishing to prepay their assessment may do so by submitting an amount of their choosing to the Ocean Pines Administration Building or via the member portal at oceanpines.org.

Where can I pay my assessment bill?

The two quickest and easiest ways to make an annual assessment payment are online via the member portal on the Association's website at oceanpines.org, or by using the drop box in the outer lobby (open 24 hours a day) of the Ocean Pines Administration Building

at 239 Ocean Parkway.

Those wishing to pay their assessment in person may do so at the front window of the Ocean Pines Administration Building, which is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Normal hours of operation may vary for holidays, and additional hours may be available during the spring and summer months.

Payments can also be placed in the return envelope included with your assessment bill. Please note that these payments take longer to apply to your account as they are mailed to the Bank of Ocean City for processing. If you also include an amenity membership payment with your assessment payment using this option, please be aware that the processing of your amenity membership may be delayed.

How do I access the member side of the Ocean Pines website?

To log in to the member portal, visit oceanpines.org, click on the "member login" tab and follow the onscreen instructions. Your member number will serve as your username. (If you do not know your member number, please contact the Assessments and Memberships office at 410-641-7717 or member@oceanpines.org.)

The member number can also be found on the annual assessment bill. Although every owner whose name is attached to the property has a separate member number, please note that only the member number of the owner whose name is listed first in the assessment records will be found on the assessment bill.

If you are visiting the member portal for the first time, your password will be your last name in all lowercase letters. You will then be prompted to enter a new password. New passwords must be at least eight characters and include at least one uppercase, one lowercase and one special character, such as an exclamation mark (!) or "at" symbol (@). Once you've reset your password, you can use it for future visits to the member portal. Finally, you will be asked to select a security question, which can be used to reset your password should you need or desire to. If you receive an error code when you try to reset your password, please email member@oceanpines.org.

What methods of payment are accepted for assessments?

Methods of payment include debit and credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover), check, cash, money order, or ACH payment (direct withdrawal from a bank account, available only for online payments). Users wishing to make an ACH payment must first add a payment method to their account, which can be done via the member portal at oceanpines.org.

Please note that a fee of 3.5% will be applied to all assessment payments made with a debit or credit card; this fee does not apply to ACH payments.

My mailing address has changed. How can I make sure I receive my assessment?

Assessment bills are sent to the mailing address on file with the Assessments and Memberships office. Any change to a property owner's contact information can be made in person at the Ocean Pines Administration Building, by calling 410-641-7717 or by emailing member@oceanpines.org.

Property owners may also update their contact information online via the member portal at oceanpines.org – click on "My Profile" after logging in, then click "Edit." Click "Update" to save the changes.

Come for the shopping, stay for the fun!

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market kicks off the new year with a calendar full of events and happenings. Several new events for 2023 include a spring Strawberry Market, an early fall Apple Harvest Jamboree and a wicked-fun Witchfest in October.

The Ocean Pines market has always hosted many fun-filled events throughout the years, with many of those events becoming community traditions for families near and far. We're hoping this year to add to that list of Ocean Pines traditions celebrated at the Farmers & Artisans market. Come for the shopping and stay for the fun!

Blooms and Bouquets will be a special event to celebrate Mother's Day at the market. It's a day that will be enjoyed by all, regardless of whether you have a green thumb.

In June, the market **celebrates its 12th year** by hosting a fantastic line-up of merchants, artisans, community partners and volunteers with a strong commitment to serving the community. In addition to events, the market will continue to host weekly

happenings with music and theater performances on the Market Stage, crafting and story time in the Kids Market Zone, and cooking demonstrations and DIY workshops from the Marketplace Kitchen.

Amberlina's Adventures, Storytime with Mr. Josh, and children's character actor Kristen Coleman will all be back in the **Kids Market Zone** this spring. Face painting, crafting and some new activities are planned for the popular children's marketplace destination.

Market Chef Bill Curtis has the recipe for another tasty year in the Marketplace Kitchen. Local chefs, food enthusiasts and culinary professionals will be joining Bill as he highlights the wonderful products from our green market. It's apples to zucchini and everything in between on the **Marketplace Kitchen** menu.

Want to learn how to plant the perfect window box planter, make a wreath or create your own jewelry? Check out the schedule for the **DIY Workshops**.

Special market days for 2023

Feb. 11 - Sweetheart Market: Come spend the morning at the marketplace, participate in market activities, enjoy the music, and shop for the ingredients for a special Valentine's dinner.

March 18 - Celebrating the Green: We're all just a little Irish on this day as we welcome the return of spring to our marketplace. Look for the return of many seasonal market merchants.

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

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

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

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

June 10 - Strawberry Market: A new spring tradition begins with the celebration of the strawberry harvest. Those who attend this event will be treated to large displays of locally grown strawberries, strawberry baked goods and so much more. The day will include entertainment and plenty of market shopping fun.

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

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

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

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

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

Oct. 28 - Halloween Market: Gather your market basket for a morning of marketplace trick or treating with our merchants.

Nov. 18 - Thanksgiving Festival: Our merchants come together at the Ocean Pines marketplace to offer all the best fixings for your Thanksgiving table and home. The festival features delicious foods, demonstrations, contests, live music, and more! Come gather the bounty and bring home a Delmarva Thanksgiving to your home.

Tue, Nov. 21, 9-11 a.m. - Turkey Market: It's time to gather your special orders and pick up those last-minute items for a bountiful holiday. Don't forget to shop our artisans for the perfect hostess gift and more.

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Tinsel & Twine Marketplace: This holiday festival is a month-long event, held from the first Saturday in December through the new year. Visit and shop the many unique marketplace shops, boutiques and galleries for one-of-a-kind gifts from merchants who are truly glad you came by!



Ocean Pines Association, Inc.

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Photo by
Patricia McMichael

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— Entrees —

The Cake || Market

Jumbo lump crabcake, old bay cheddar mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables

Not Yo Mama's Meatloaf || 18

Chef's blend of meats & seasonings, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans

Fish & Chips || 19

Hand-battered Alaskan pollock, french fries, coleslaw, classic tartar

Buffalo Ribeye || 38

12 oz. ribeye glazed in buffalo, served over blue cheese mac & green beans

Pork Scallopini || 27

Sautéed pancetta & peas tossed with linguine, finished with egg & parmesan

Cajun Seafood Pappardelle || 29

Sautéed shrimp, scallops, crab with asparagus, onions, peppers in a cajun cream

Filet Bearnaise || 42

8 oz. topped with bearnaise over roasted baby vegetables & fingerling potatoes

Chicken Cacciatore || 29

1/2 chicken braised in white wine, tomatoes, onions, peppers, olives & capers over rice

Eggplant Parm || 23

Baked eggplant parm breaded in panko with marinara & provolone over linguine

Live Entertainment



Feb. 18

The Big House Band

in the Ballroom

6-9pm • \$10 cover



March 24

Eclipse

The Ultimate Journey Tribute Band

6-9pm • \$10 cover