



# OCEAN PINES REPORT



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## Labors of love in the time of COVID

*Community gets creative during three important holiday events*

Ocean Pines, like virtually all communities, has had to do things a little differently this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That was certainly the case this fall, when two popular events were done virtually, and another had to be reimaged.

### Virtual Veterans Day

First, on Veterans Day, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation broke its longstanding tradition of hosting a large ceremony for the public at the Veterans Memorial grounds in Ocean Pines. Instead, the event went virtual.

Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic ruled out having the event in front of a large audience.

"In light of the current environment with COVID-19, rather than cancel our usual ceremony, we have chosen to put together a virtual ceremony," she said. "The segments were recorded separately and compiled into a cohesive video by Josh Davis, the Ocean Pines Association's marketing and public relations director."

The virtual ceremony included an introduction by Gilmore, emcee duties by U.S. Air Force retired SMSgt. Mike Master-son, a keynote address by Maryland National Guard CW3 Kaylan Harrington, and performances by the Delmarva Chorus and Eric Nilsson of American Legion Post 166.

Additionally, American Legion Post 123 of Berlin and American Legion Post 166 of Ocean City jointly offered the posting of colors and a closing rifle volley, and a wreath ceremony honored three female veterans.

Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day events have been a hallmark of the foundation, and Gilmore said the holiday was too important to pass without commemoration. Because of the circumstances this year, Gilmore said a virtual ceremony was



the next best thing.

"We have a duty and an obligation to honor our veterans, to keep their memory alive," Gilmore said. "The mission of the Veterans Memorial Foundation is to remember and honor all those who have served, and Veterans Day is a perfect opportunity for us to do that."

*(continued on pg. 2)*





## Labors of love *(continued from front cover)*

### Thanksgiving family meals

A few weeks later, on Thanksgiving Day, the Ocean Pines Yacht Club also took a different approach to what's normally one of the biggest days of the year.

During previous years, the Matt Ortt Companies that runs the Yacht Club had offered massive buffets and welcomed hundreds of holiday diners. This year, instead, they packaged holiday meals for carryout and delivery, and by the end of Thanksgiving Day had fed nearly 1,300 people in the community.

According to Ralph DeAngelus, cofounder of the Matt Ortt Companies, the 1,280 family meals included more than 1,500 pounds of turkey, 1,500 pounds of stuffing, 2,000 pounds of mashed potatoes and 50 gallons of gravy.

"It took two solid days of preparation and pre-cooking turkeys," he said. "We made almost 1,300 salads – think about how many cucumbers it takes to make 1,300 salads!"

Reservations for the Thanksgiving meals were announced on Oct. 5 and sold out by Nov. 16. DeAngelus said the day easily set the record for to-go meals.

"We also actually beat last year, when we had indoor buffet dining," he said. "We've had days in the summer when we did over 1,300 meals – but that's over a 15-hour period. This was just five hours. We've never done that kind of volume in five hours – never."

By the end of the day, DeAngelus said, the Ortt Companies staff was feeling exhausted, but also extremely proud of their effort.

"We were tired, but completely satisfied. The staff knew they had done something really good, and there was a massive amount of pride in the fact that they were able to get so many families together in their homes during this difficult time," he said.

DeAngelus said the positive



community response was immediate, from dozens of phone calls, to one local woman who came to the Yacht Club, with tears in her eyes, to thank the staff in person.

"We got a lot of phone calls from people who were super happy with what we did," he said. "But when that one nice lady came here just to tell us how much she appreciated the meal that her family had together – that it was big, it was tasty, it was inexpensive and it was delivered right to her door – the second she got teary-eyed I thought, 'OK, we really did do something good here.'"

### Hometown Christmas tree lighting

Two days later, Ocean Pines held another virtual event, this time capturing the 10th annual Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting on video.

In just one week, that video was viewed more than 5,300 times.

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Program Supervisor Katie Goetzinger hosted the virtual ceremony, and Xfinity sponsored the event.

"Although not exactly as we had hoped, our Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting went well as a virtual event," Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said. "The trees are beautiful, everyone did such a great job decorating, and a special thank you to our event sponsor, Xfinity, for participating and helping us to be able to continue with this event."

Ocean Pines will continue to light up the trees each night in White Horse Park, through mid-January, and the public is welcome to walk through the more than three dozen colorful displays. Social distancing and masks are encouraged.

"We look forward to seeing everyone walking through our little winter wonderland, enjoying the trees, and getting a little sense of the holiday season," Donahue said.

Goetzinger said she is grateful for the response to the virtual ceremony, but also hopeful that the event can return to normal next year.

"Seeing the positive response the tree lighting got makes me look forward to next year even more, when we can hopefully all be together again," Goetzinger said.

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# Volunteers continue 'Holiday Gifts for Soldiers' drive, in honor of Foultz

When Anna Foultz passed away last year, she left an enormous void in the Ocean Pines community.

However, a small team of dedicated volunteers has kept her spirit alive by continuing one of her favorite causes: the annual "Holiday Gifts for Soldiers" collection.

Now leading that effort are Barbara Peletier and Susan Walter, both former officers in Foultz's Star Charities nonprofit.

Peletier and her husband, Dan, moved to Maryland from New Jersey in 1963. They later moved to Ocean Pines from Columbia, Maryland in 2004.

Prior to retiring, Peletier worked in office management for medical practices, something she said made her very detail oriented.

Her second career, as a volunteer, started with a local Kiwanis chapter in 2005. Since then, both Peletier and her husband have served as club president.

"He had a friend that said he'd take him along and he checked it out. It was all new to us, because he had just stopped working. But it just snowballed, and I kept going and they kept adding and adding things to do," she said. "As my husband says, I don't know how to say no - except to him!"

With the Kiwanis, Peletier started a program of assembling holiday treats to be delivered to the Meals on Wheels recipients.

"Three times a year, for Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter, I would make up little baskets for them to take with the meal for that day," she said.

She was also a prominent part of the Kiwanis' presence at local events, often selling hotdogs and sodas to raise money for the club.

## Working with Anna

About five or six years ago, Peletier started looking for additional ways to serve the community.

"I thought I'd take a break from Kiwanis, because I was burning out, and that [time off] lasted all of three months," she said with a laugh. "But, during that time, I went and I found Anna."

Foultz was known to many in Ocean Pines as a tireless volunteer and a woman with a keen ability to talk her friends into joining whatever worthy cause she was working on at the moment.

"It was supposed to be

an 'I'm not going to do anything' kind of time, but all of the sudden she had me running things," Peletier said.

Peletier first oversaw a fundraising event for Foultz at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, and soon after she became vice president of Star Charities.

"It just snowballed from there," she said. "Anna was just a cute lady that you couldn't say no to. She just had a way, and she had a heart that was bigger than she was. And she was always giving."

When Foultz passed away in September 2019, Peletier

and Walter scrambled to continue "Holiday Gifts for Soldiers," collecting donations for U.S. Military men and women serving overseas, and then distributing the items around Christmastime.

Foultz had started the campaign more than a decade ago with her late husband, Carl, a combat veteran. Peletier said the annual event also became one of her favorites.

"That was closer to my heart than just raising money all the time. I enjoyed that one the most, and that's why Sue and I decided it had to go on," she said. "They're forgotten - people forget that they're there - and I don't want that to happen and neither does Sue. No soldier should be forgotten."

"Gifts for Our Soldiers" starts each fall and runs through October, with donations then given to Operation We Care in Salisbury and from there shipped to U.S. Military bases overseas.

This year, volunteers over four Wednesdays collected donations in the parking lot near the Ocean Pines Community Center. There were, of course, restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, but Peletier said the collection was another success.

"We had a really good turnout, and it was better than I thought it would be," she said. "We had the masks and the gloves, and people were really good about it. They stayed in their car and popped their trunks or opened their backdoors, and they didn't seem to mind."

Peletier said helping the collection this year was another local woman, Sharon Hilty.

Hilty gathered donations in Ocean City in remembrance of her son, U.S. Army Sfc. John David Randolph Hilty, who died in April while serving in Iraq.

"She emailed me and hooked up with us in the last two weeks, and that put us over the top," Peletier said. "She did it in memory of her son, because he had at one time received something from Operation We Care. He had told his mother how wonderful it was and that everybody in the troop received something."



Peletier said she plans to continue the event for as long as she can – and as long as her friend is willing to help. “Without Sue, this all couldn’t happen,” she said, adding that the Kiwanis and Larry Walton of the local AARP were also instrumental.



“It’s just the right thing to do,” Peletier said. “Anna loved to do it, but I think she most liked hugging the soldiers when they came to pick everything up.”

## Diakonia and looking forward

These days, Peletier also works with Diakonia, a local nonprofit that specializes in homelessness prevention and rehabilitation.

“I’ve been knitting hats to put in their bags for the homeless,” she said. “I’ve also made afghans for all my children and my grandchildren. That keeps me busy!”

Peletier first visited Diakonia around 2005, while working with the Kiwanis.

“We’ve been going there every year to sort and bag Kiwanis’ donations and anybody else’s donations,” she said. “It just feels like I’ve done something, and I can see it when somebody comes, and they say ‘thank you’ for the food. And I didn’t have to sell a hotdog!”

“I love it down there,” she continued. “It’s different. I enjoy raising money, but there’s more enjoyment doing

something when you can see an end result right away.”

For anyone considering volunteer service, Peletier offered a few words of wisdom.

“I’d say if you have an idea that you want to do something, try it. You never know until you try it. That’s what I did. I’m probably the shyest person going, and these days you can’t shut me up,” she said with a laugh.

“It’s also very rewarding to see the response from this community,” Peletier continued. “We couldn’t do it without them, and this really is just the most generous community.”

Donations to Operation We Care can be dropped off year-round at O.C. Carpet in the Route 50 West Business Park on 12319 Ocean Gateway #301, in Ocean City. For more information, visit [www.operationwecare.org](http://www.operationwecare.org).



*Warmest thoughts and  
best wishes for a Happy New Year!*

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**ON THE FRONT COVER:** (top photo)  
A sweet capture of what many  
call a "cotton-candy" sky.  
**Photography by Dan Collins**



## Guest column: Ocean Pines ratepayers protected

**By Chip Bertino**

*Worcester County Commissioner, Ocean Pines District*

No doubt you have noticed the many trenching vehicles and workers installing new lines to bring Comcast service to our community. When this work is finished, we will for the first time have a choice of cable providers. This added competition is expected to bring savings to our residents. This is good.

What some people may not realize is the process required to install these lines and the assistance of County personnel necessary to complete the task. You are aware that utilities in Ocean Pines are underground. As a result, it is necessary to locate where the underground utilities are so that installation of new lines doesn't interfere with what already exists. In the case of County water and sewer lines, Comcast must contact our Water/Wastewater department to request an employee locate and mark pipe locations.

The County responds quickly to these requests. Unfortunately, early on in the installation process, trenching crews either did not understand the process, did not wait for lines to be marked or ignored markings. As a result, there were multiple disruptions to water and sewer service because Comcast subcontractors cut or drilled through lines, knocking out service, sometimes for hours.

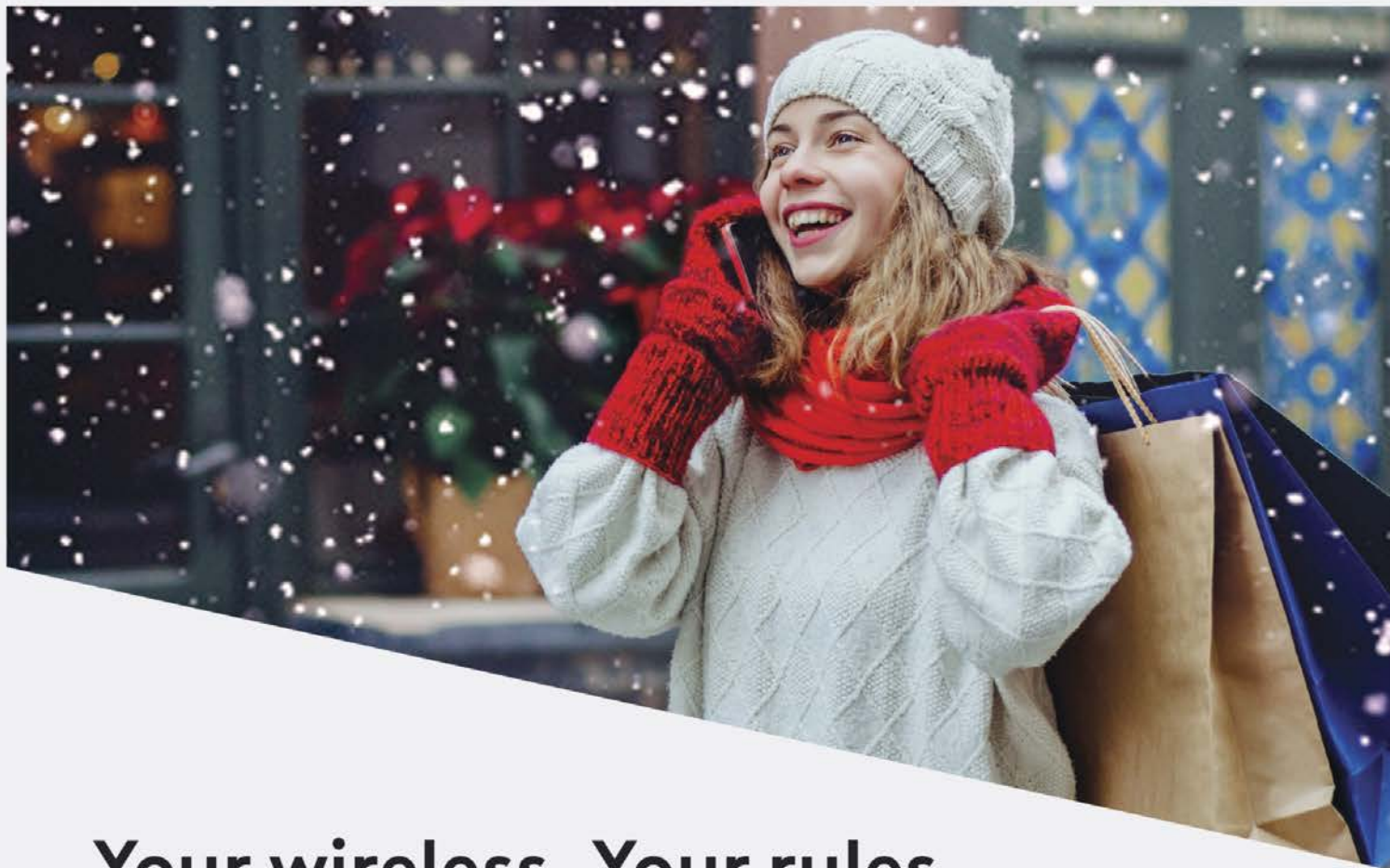
You may have experienced this. I did. When these breaks occurred, County Water/Wastewater crews have been redirected to make repairs, resulting in overtime and other unbudgeted expenses to the Ocean Pines Service Area. Additionally, scheduled work was delayed.

The Ocean Pines Water/Wastewater Service Area is an Enterprise Fund which means its budget and operations are funded by all of us within the service area who pay quarterly. In short, funding for this and other service areas do not come out of the County's General Fund (tax revenue). Rather, ratepayers (you and me) must pay the bills. The costs for these Comcast-related repairs were not budgeted, much less expected. All of us ratepayers in the Ocean Pines service area would have to foot the bill for these cuts and disruptions. This was an intolerable situation.

Working with Comcast, the County developed a plan of action to recoup all the expenses attributed to repairing cuts and breaks as well as the "locates" (the marking of where the underground lines are). As a result of the County's efforts and Comcast's desire to be a good neighbor, the latest figures available show that Comcast has been billed \$206,000 of which they have paid \$175,438. Moving forward, the County has arranged to bill and Comcast has agreed to pay expenses related to breaks and locates. The result? Ocean Pines ratepayers are protected.

## xfinity CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction is still underway and thousands of homes now can subscribe to Xfinity TV, internet, home phone, home security and Xfinity Mobile services. Please refer to the Ocean Pines website for the most up-to-date maps of when Xfinity construction will take place on your street. If your home is scheduled for construction soon, we want you to be prepared when Xfinity services are ready. Call 1-844-201-7176 today to have your outside service line installed for free, or if you are interested in having Xfinity service and want to learn more.



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## Guest column: Taking care of your wellness in 2021

*A message from the Worcester County Health Department*

The Worcester County Health Department wishes everyone in Ocean Pines a happy, healthy 2021. We know this year has been a challenge for many of us and we look forward to turning the calendar to 2021. We wanted to remind you that we are here to help our community residents with changes related to improving healthy lifestyle practices in the new year. We offer a variety of health education, prevention, screening, and disease management programs. The Health Department also continues to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Listed below please find additional information about these efforts.

### COVID-19 Testing

#### Testing Locations and Times:

**Martha and Charles Fulton Senior Center** (Worcester County Commission on Aging, 4767 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863), **Mondays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.** (Jan. 4, 11)

**West Ocean City Park and Ride** (12848 Ocean Gtwy, Ocean City, MD 21842) **Thursdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.** (Jan. 7, 14)

This testing is made available through a partnership between the Worcester County Health Department, Worcester County Commission on Aging, Worcester County Board of Education, Worcester County Emergency Services, and the Town of Ocean City. Eligibility criteria for testing includes:

- **Live or work in Worcester County**
- **Adults and children 8 years and older**
- **Valid photo ID for adults**

Appointments are required. To learn more or to schedule an appointment please call 410-632-1100 option 8 then press 1.

### COVID-19 Vaccines

#### When will we start distributing vaccines?

- To be determined as the vaccine becomes more available. Currently earmarked for high-priority facilities.

#### Where will vaccines be available?

Maryland will distribute the vaccines to four different priority groups in order of patient risk:

- **Phase 1A:** Healthcare workers, residents, and staff of long-term care facilities, first responders.
- **Phase 1B:** People at significantly higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.
- **Phase 2:** People in critical, essential infrastructure roles, including essential non-healthcare and transportation workers, and people at moderately higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.
- **Phase 3:** General population of the state.

### Prevention Programs and Classes

**Youth and Adult Smoking Cessation Programs:** Join one of the smoking cessation classes available throughout Worcester County.

New online youth *Smoking Cessation Program* (Ages 13-17) from 3 p.m.-4 p.m., Wednesdays (Jan. 6-March 10) and from 4 p.m.-5 p.m., Thursdays (Jan. 6-March 11).

Adult *Smoking Cessation Program* From 5 p.m.-6 p.m., Tuesdays (Jan. 5-March 23) *Snow Hill Health Department: 6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD 21863*

- From 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays (Jan. 6-March 24) *Distance Learning Class*
- From 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., Thursdays (Jan. 7-March 25), *Atlantic Club: 11827 Ocean Gateway Ocean City, MD 21842*

**Lifestyle Balance:** Lifestyle Balance is an evidence-based program proven to prevent people with prediabetes from developing type 2 diabetes. Participants learn about goal setting, tracking food and activity, increasing physical activity, improving eating habits, and losing weight. Research has proven that a 5-7% weight loss and being active 150 minutes/week prevents individuals with prediabetes from developing type 2 diabetes. A new program is scheduled to begin in February. For more information call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1108.

**Narcan Training:** Free, virtual Narcan training is now available! You'll receive a free Narcan kit upon successful completion of the course. Email [kelcey.kengla@maryland.gov](mailto:kelcey.kengla@maryland.gov) for more information.

**Just Walk:** Free, self-directed, self-reported, incentive-based physical activity program that rewards members for participating and moving their way. For more information or to enroll call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1108 or visit [www.justwalkworcester.org](http://www.justwalkworcester.org).

**Worcester Wellness Weigh:** WWW is an online program designed to help educate youth, adults, and families about healthy eating, physical activity, weight management, stress, and financial wellness. The program includes wearable technology and each participant has a "Physical Activity Coach" and a "Healthy Eating Coach" who works with them one on one each week to discuss goals, barriers, successes, and solutions for overcoming any challenges. A new cohort is scheduled to begin on Jan. 25! Orientation sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Tue, Jan. 12, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. via Google Meet
- Wed, Jan. 13, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. via Google Meet
- Thu, Jan. 14, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. via Google Meet

For more information or to enroll today call 410-632-1100 Ext 1111. Registration deadline is Jan. 6.

**Parent Education:** Are you interested in taking a free,





online parenting class? Our classes are designed to provide parents/guardians with resources and tools to enhance communication and help their children make healthy life choices for a brighter future. Call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1106 for more information.

**After School Program:** Our Just for Girls and Just for Guys after-school programs are virtual and can be completed at your own pace! Our program teaches life skills, abstinence-only education, alcohol and other drug prevention education and self-esteem building. For each weekly lesson completed, you'll receive an awesome prize mailed right to your house! The program is open to elementary and middle school students. For more information, please call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1109.

**Healthy Youth Newsletter:** Sign up to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter designed for youth in our county by emailing [worcester.health@maryland.gov](mailto:worcester.health@maryland.gov). Topics of the newsletter vary from month to month, but the articles mainly focus on alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention education; healthy behaviors such as healthy eating and physical activity; and strategies for stress management and life skills.

**Colorectal Cancer Screening:** If you are over 50 yrs old, live in Worcester County, have limited income, have no health insurance or a deductible, or just need support getting the screening/follow-up, you may be eligible for cancer screening at no cost to you. Give us a call at 410-632-1100 Ext. 1103 to see if we can help!

**Worcester County Goes Red for Women:** The Worcester County Health Department in collaboration with Atlantic General Hospital will be celebrating the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign during the month of February. Feb. 1-5, virtual cooking and activity demonstrations, encouraging testimonials, tips for quitting smoking, and reducing your risk for heart disease will be featured on our Facebook pages all week long. We will also be sponsoring a month-long physical activity challenge. For more information, please call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1108.

### For more information

To learn more about all of the programs and resources available through the Worcester County Health Department, and to find links to our podcast, YouTube channel, and other social media, please visit [WorcesterHealth.org](http://WorcesterHealth.org) or call 410-632-1100. You can also follow us on Facebook @WorcesterHealth.

## FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

### Do you know the most common reasons Ocean Pines properties are issued violations?

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

- Debris in yards
- Unauthorized removal of trees
- Unauthorized signs in yard
- 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
- Unregistered vehicles
- Fences without permits
- Missing house numbers

Please refer to the ARC Guidelines\* and your Deed Restrictions for everything you need to know about the Ocean Pines requirements for keeping clean and aesthetically pleasing homes in our community. For any assistance or questions, our team at the CPI office is ready to help. Just give them a call at 410-641-5251.

Thank you for helping to keep Ocean Pines beautiful!

\*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](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/public-works).



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## Guest column: New 2021 legislative session focused on COVID-19 recovery

By Mary Beth Carozza

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

I am humbled to represent Ocean Pines in the Maryland Senate. Ocean Pines holds a special place in my heart as my parents, sister and her family live here, and it is the home of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial where I have enjoyed sharing stories about our veterans with local students.

Since March when the legislature adjourned early, I have been working every day to assist my constituents through the COVID-19 pandemic. My top priority has been and remains supporting and helping my constituents with a safe recovery and full reopening. Our team has assisted over 1,000 constituents as they navigate the reopening of restaurants and small businesses, access relief programs, and apply for unemployment benefits. I have continued to support safety improvements to Route 589 and the ongoing efforts to address the drainage problems in Ocean Pines, and am grateful for the State support of this local priority.

The 2021 legislative session will be like no other in Maryland's history. Great efforts are being taken to ensure the safety of the members and staff while ensuring transparency and participation for the public. My Republican colleagues and I helped make the case that all committee and Chamber voting should be conducted in-person, not virtual voting.

When we reconvene on January 13, 2021, I will continue to use my position on the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and the bipartisan Senate Small Business Workgroup to advocate for our Shore priorities. These include COVID-19 recovery on all fronts, expansion of broadband access, policing and public safety, and fairness in representation to ensure the Shore voice is heard. My new leadership position as Senate Republican Policy and Communications Chair allows me to work even harder for our shared goals.

While serving in Annapolis, we often spend time preventing certain bills from moving forward due to the negative impact on local constituents, particularly if it involves an increase in taxes and state spending. At a time when the Maryland Rainy Day Fund is being drained to combat COVID-19 expenses, our State's economic recovery simply cannot afford more spending mandates and tax increases.

With the new session quickly approaching, constituent service in support of our shared Shore goals remains my top priority, especially during these challenging times. I encourage you to stay in contact with me at [MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us](mailto:MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us) or [www.marybethcarozza.com](http://www.marybethcarozza.com).

Onward and Upward to a Strong Shore 2021!

## Overwhelming community support aids OPA holiday donation

Thanks to a tremendous amount of community support, Ocean Pines this year was able to make significant donations to two local families and four area nonprofits ahead of the Christmas holiday.

During the week of Dec. 18, the Association sent an SUV full of toys to Worcester County GOLD, two carloads of food and clothing to Diakonia, and a load of pet supplies to the Worcester County Humane Society.

Additionally, Ocean Pines supported two local families with children, in cooperation with Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

During the week of Christmas, Ocean Pines staff delivered holiday dinner baskets to 10 local families through Worcester County GOLD, as part of an annual donation drive by Association employees.

The Aquatics Department and Recreation and Parks Department also gave through their Angel Tree program and the Be a Santa to a Senior program, respectively.



Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett, who helped coordinate the massive effort along with help from every department in Ocean Pines, said she was overwhelmed by the generosity of people in the community.

Bennett said she would like to thank the Shapeups Fitness Club, Ocean Pines Line Dancers, Cathy Gallagher, OPA staff, and everyone who brought a donation.

"The Ocean Pines community really stepped up and supported our donation drives, but this is no surprise. Ocean Pines is full of caring, compassionate and supportive residents," she said. "Merry Christmas to a wonderful community, and here's to hoping 2021 is a better year for all!"





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## A Message from the ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



**Larry Perrone**

## TAKING A DIFFERENT APPROACH

As 2020 comes to a close, there is an overwhelming tendency to cheer the end of a year that created so many problems for the country, as well as Ocean Pines. I prefer to take a different approach. When we look at the impact COVID-19 had on cities and states, it is clear to me that Worcester County and Ocean Pines fared much better than most.

Yes, we did have some Ocean Pines employees and residents impacted by COVID-19 but, overall, our community banded together to help stop the spread and help each other. I am aware of many situations where our residents stepped up to contribute to the medical community as well as to each other. Individuals as well as several groups made and donated masks, shopped for our most vulnerable residents, and checked to make sure others were dealing with the various lockdowns during the year. Now that the vaccines are starting to be administered, hopefully this pandemic is on its last legs.

Ocean Pines is in the beginning phase of our budget process for fiscal year 2021/2022. Ocean Pines was fortunate to get a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$1.143 million, along with a CARES Act grant of \$125,000. Our Food and Beverage managers also received about \$275,000 in a PPP grant. All of these funds allowed Ocean Pines and Matt Ortt Companies to keep our employees on the payrolls. The real effect is a projected budget surplus of about \$650,000, instead of a budget loss of \$900,000.

As we plan for 2021/2022, there are many unanswered questions. Will the summer crowds return this year? Will there be another PPP opportunity for Ocean Pines? Will our amenities generate more income versus last year? The reality is, we don't know.

We do know that in 2020 Ocean Pines made significant improvements to our infrastructure. We built a new craft building, a new country club and cart barn, invested in drainage at the golf course and several locations in the community, and we built a modern building for our Police Department. With our major infrastructure issues addressed, we are turning our focus on the Racquet Sports center and more drainage projects.

Ocean Pines was awarded \$549,000 in a grant by DNR, and we are awaiting the money to be received by the county so we can move forward with the Bainbridge Pond drainage project. In addition to the money from the state, Ocean Pines has committed \$300,000 to the project. We are planning on budgeting another \$300,000 for drainage improvements throughout the community.

The Ocean Pines drainage system relies on water flowing from one property to the next property. It is critical that homeowners do not blow their leaves or debris into the drainage ditches. If one ditch gets clogged, it creates a backup that affects your neighbors. Ocean Pines does not have the manpower or financial resources to clean every ditch clogged by homeowners blowing leaves and debris into the ditches. I ask that you please consider this when cleaning up your properties after storms or the fall leaf drop.

Managing the Association through this pandemic is a first-time experience for all of us. We are fortunate that we have a dedicated staff doing the best they can under tremendous pressure. I can assure you the Board of Directors appreciates everything our staff and homeowners are doing to get through the pandemic. Hopefully, the vaccines will end the pandemic and we can get back to some normalcy. Please stay safe. I believe we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.



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**John Viola**

### FOCUSED ON MOVING FORWARD

As we head into the New Year, the team is focused on work on the fiscal 2021-2022 budget.

Every department head in Ocean Pines had input on their budget and I reviewed each department budget with them. Department heads were instructed to use a bottoms-up approach and we all followed guidance from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Preliminary proposed budget binders went out to Budget and Finance Committee members and Board members on Dec. 18 this year, which is the earliest they've ever gone out. Credit to the team for putting the work in.

We were also transparent throughout this process, and posted the preliminary proposed budget on our website in December.

Next, the Budget and Finance Committee will review the preliminary proposed budget in January, followed by review by our Board of Directors. The Board will hold a final hearing and vote to adopt the finalized budget in February.

There are many challenges in the budget process this cycle that are unique. Obviously, Ocean Pines has never had to deal with a pandemic, and we're still feeling the impact of COVID-19 on our operations. In particular, Aquatics and Recreation and Parks were affected, along with Beach Parking.

The team is also working on a major drainage project, which continues to be a priority, and we have to keep up with other scheduled drainage projects, including replacing old and worn-out piping throughout the community.

The cost of salaries, health care and liability insurance are also going up, with mandatory minimum wage increases playing a key role.

All of those factors will affect assessments next year. What the Board and the Budget and Finance Committee will have to weigh in their review, is how much of the favorability from this year will go to help offset that. Because of Paycheck Protection Program grants received this year, we're estimating a \$650,000 favorability to budget by the close of fiscal 2020-2021.

The team also continues to study new stimulus packages offered by the state and federal government, and we will pursue those vigorously to help protect the Ocean Pines homeowners and stabilize assessments going forward.



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

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.....

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

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

**Martin Luther King Day:** Mon, Jan. 18

**Presidents' Day:** Mon, Feb. 15

### **Ocean Pines MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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

#### **Marketing & Public Relations Director**

**Josh Davis**

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[jdavis@oceanpines.org](mailto:jdavis@oceanpines.org)

#### **Marketing Coordinator**

**Julie Malinowski**

410.641.7717 Ext. 3014

[jmalinowski@oceanpines.org](mailto:jmalinowski@oceanpines.org)

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## Guest column: Addressing the consequences of the pandemic

By **Wayne Hartman**

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

Greetings from your State Delegate! I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season. As I head back to Annapolis on January 12, it will mark the start of my third session with the Maryland General Assembly. This session will be very different, and it will present many challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. There will be less opportunity for interaction amongst my colleagues, as well as with the public. Access to the House office building is limited, and our committee work will be entirely virtual.

Since last session, I have served on the House Ways and Means Committee. For this committee, input from the public is critical in defeating irresponsible bills, as well as with helping us get bills passed that are important and consistent with our shore way of life. The Ways and Means Committee hears bills involving education, gambling, taxation, and election laws. Last year in committee, we were able to defeat the largest proposed tax increase for Maryland ever; it was the proposed tax on all services that would have generated over \$2 billion annually in additional tax revenue. This would have significantly impacted every Maryland family.

This year when we return to session, a top priority of mine will be addressing the consequences of the pandemic. Coordinating the state efforts in conjunction with federal aid to make sure our Maryland businesses survive these unprecedented times, as well as make sure our families' needs are being met as well. Another topic that will be very much an issue is the desire for police reform. Fortunately, we live in an area where law enforcement is ap-

preciated and we need to make sure that our law enforcement officers have the backing they need in order to do their jobs, as well as have the resources and funding necessary to protect themselves and the citizens they serve.

As the only Delegate representing Maryland's coast, I have introduced again this year the bill to ban the release of helium balloons. This is to protect marine life and wildlife, such as the animals you see on Assateague. Our local farmers are also aided by this bill because their equipment becomes entangled by balloons and their ribbons in the crops. In addition, I am working on other pieces of legislation. To name a few, I will introduce bills to increase Sunday hunting, add first responders as a protected class under the current hate crime legislation, and a bill that would aid those in certain high-risk occupations in obtaining a concealed carry permit.

In closing, I want to remind each of you that my office is available to you as a resource if needed. As your Delegate, my staff members and I can help you navigate challenges you may be facing with any of the state agencies. I can truly say that the job is most gratifying when I am helping a resident of my district bring closure to an issue. I am honored to serve as your Delegate. At this time, it is best to contact my office via email due to the reduced occupancy in the State House office building. Feel free to reach out to my office at [Wayne.Hartman@house.state.md.us](mailto:Wayne.Hartman@house.state.md.us).

Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing everyone after the 2021 session.

## Ocean Pines Advisory Committees seeking new members

Share your expertise and interest while helping to shape the Ocean Pines community by participating on an advisory committee. These volunteer-led committees provide guidance and input for many areas in the Association.

The following committees currently have openings for new members. For more information, please contact Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett at [mbennett@oceanpines.org](mailto:mbennett@oceanpines.org) or 410-641-7717.

- **Aquatics Advisory Committee** Advises the Board of Directors on aquatic matters and aids in promoting the successful operation of all aquatic activities.
- **Budget and Finance Advisory Committee** Advises the Board of Directors and assists the General Manager in the preparation of budgets, both operating and capital; reviews financial performance and updates financial forecasts throughout the year; reviews and provides

recommendations regarding the annual audit of the Association's financial statements; and develops programs of asset management and investment policies and procedures.

- **By-Laws and Resolutions Advisory Committee** Advises the Board of Directors in reviewing and maintaining the principal documents necessary for the governance of the Association.
- **Marine Activities Advisory Committee** Advises the Board of Directors on policies and concerns relating to marine activities affecting Ocean Pines.
- **Strategic Planning Advisory Committee** Advises the Board of Directors and General Manager on how best to align the mission and the vision of the Ocean Pines Association by anticipating future needs and assisting in the development of a strategic multi-year plan that would support and enhance the lifestyles of its owners, residents and guests.



**Colby Phillips**

The Aquatics and Racquet Sports teams, despite the pandemic, have kept busy with our fall and winter classes and lessons. We thank everyone for their continued efforts on wearing masks and following CDC guidelines as we navigate through this tough time.

The winter is a great time to try one of our indoor water exercise classes or come lap swim. Please call us at 410-641-5255 with any questions, or to check out the many offerings we have going on.

Our Tennis Pro, Terry Underkoffler, is also available this winter for lessons and can be reached at 215-808-6457.

The Bainbridge Drainage project should be starting in February/March. Here is a brief description from a past Board presentation on the upcoming project:

- Improvements include:
  - o Replacement of a storm drain inflow pipe
  - o Replacement of the pond's outflow pipes, including the installation of a new pond outfall control structure
  - o Construction of a new forebay
  - o Regrading of the pond perimeter to install aquatic benches
  - o Improvements to the existing gravel park road, which serves as the dam embankment for the facility
  - o Construction of a new weir, which controls water levels and can slow flooding during larger storms
  - o Construction of a new drainage swale downslope of the park road and along the rear of private properties
- Water quality improvements to the outfall swale at Beaconhill Road will include excavating clay soils

## WINTER AMENITIES & OPERATIONAL REPORT

from the bottom of 160 linear feet of existing dry drainage swales and their replacement with a sand/plating soil mix and replanting all disturbed areas

- Project pollutant reduction values:
  - o Total Nitrogen: 1,535lbs/Year
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  - o Total Suspended Solids: 90 Tons/Year
- The Beaconhill Road Culvert replacement entails the replacement of an existing 15-inch CMP culvert under Beaconhill Road with a roughly 36 linear foot concrete box culvert and restoration of areas affected by construction, including reconstruction of all removed sections of asphalt paving.
- The Sandyhook Road Culvert replacement entails the replacement of twin 15-inch CMP culverts under Sandyhook Road with twin 18-inch culverts, and restoration of all areas affected by construction, including reconstruction of all removed sections of asphalt paving.
- The Pinehurst Road Culvert replacement entails the replacement of the existing culvert under Pinehurst Road with a concrete box culvert and HDPE culvert, and restoration of all areas affected by construction, including reconstruction of all removed sections of asphalt paving.

Drainage continues to be a priority for the team, and we are continuing our efforts to get future water quality and stormwater grants, along with Maryland Coastal Bays and Worcester County, who are both huge contributors of this process.

***As always, the team appreciates the support of the community!*** If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [cphillips@oceanpines.org](mailto:cphillips@oceanpines.org) and we will work our best to address them.



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**Chief Leo  
Ehrisman**

## Ocean Pines Police Updates

### **Ocean Pines Police Department Operations:**

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

**COVID Conditions:** Changes in response procedures were made to restrict the amount of person-to-person contact needed to handle a call or complaint. Instructions are being given to callers that need to see or speak to an officer. If you request an officer, you may be instructed to meet the officer at your doorway, porch, or even in the driveway. Any complaints that can be done by phone, e-mail, etc. will limit personal contact and reduce the safety risk for the caller and the officers. Please do NOT let this stop you from calling for help or instructions in any emergency situation you find yourself in.

**New Elder Abuse Program (LEAD TEAM) Update:** The LEAD TEAM is an active participant in the recently created Vulnerable Adult Task Force. This multi-agency task force, headed by our State's Attorney, coordinates the investigation of elder abuse exploitation.

I am happy to report that our police department, in cooperation with the task force, recently convicted a health care worker who victimized an elderly patient by stealing the victim's credit card and using it for theft. Our department has become a starting force specifically commended by State's Attorney Kris Heiser as a great way to protect our citizens.

Even though the start time for this program to begin was delayed, we are excited to report that the full operation of this program will begin January 2021.

**Check Welfare:** Many of our residents with health issues normally have family and/or friends to check on them and their well-being. However, with travel restrictions and other COVID-19 limitations, some of those normal checks are not able to continue. The Police Department saw a major increase in these requests and will continue to respond as needed for you and your families.

**Fraud and Scams:** There was a large increase of fraud and scam cases

over the past few months. The Ocean Pines Police joined in a countywide project to bring attention and awareness to our citizens. Posters and flyers were placed in places where gift cards are sold, as many of the scams request payment by instructing victims to purchase these gift cards. Education was given to cashiers and employees to make their customers aware of these activities. This has been a very large promotional project that the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office has directed and led throughout the county. As of now, this appears to have slowed the number of victims that have fallen prey to these online or phone scams.

**Domestic Violence Arrests:** Since our last report, police made several arrests for domestic violence. Some of these situations are alcohol or drug related. Remember that drugs and/or alcohol will not help with a domestic event. There are several hotlines and resources that may be used to assist with the domestic situations that always seem to increase during the holiday season and winter months in general.

**Drunk Driving Arrests:** Ocean Pines Ofc. Josh Oferrall just received the National MADD award for his level of enforcement for alcohol involved accidents, impaired drivers, and underage drivers with alcohol violations. Ofc. Oferrall's award ceremony was canceled for safety issues, as many COVID-19 related events have been. Lt. Shakhon Toppin was still proud to present him with his award for a job well done and appreciated.

**Death Investigations:** Police handled four death investigations, as we continue to struggle through this time of separation and distancing. The police again ask that you watch out for one another. Stay in contact with your family, friends and neighbors. We also ask that you remain aware of those with mental and medical concerns, as this time of year shows an increase in suicide attempts and other mental health situations that require us to be aware of those who are asking for help.

**Drug Overdoses:** Ocean Pines has also seen an increase in the number of drug overdose calls in the recent months. The police are here to help anyone battling the addiction of any drugs or alcohol, to prevent these accidental overdoses. Police are now connected with the LEAD team, which will become a larger, faster link to resources to help those with addiction issues return to a healthy and normal life.

**Investigations:** The Worcester County Drug Enforcement Team has focused on several cases of drug abuse and distribution in the past several months. This team effort has led to several arrests. These arrests have also closed other crimes, such as thefts from cars, recovery of stolen property, and the recovery of a stolen handgun.

**In Closing:** Ocean Pines Police would like to thank everyone for the strong show of support from this community during these stressful times. Please remember that the police in your community not only work cases, respond to calls and enforce traffic laws, but they are here to help you, serve you, and care for you and your family, as well as your property. We have had the opportunity to meet several neighbors and friends with birthday party surprise ride-by visits, graduation celebrations, and other events altered because of COVID-19. Please remain safe and healthy during your holiday season.

**P.S. The police also wish to thank those that supplied us with Christmas cookies!**

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## Report suspicious activity right away

Ocean Pines Police are reminding residents that, if they see something suspicious, to call police right away at 410-641-7747.

If there is an emergency, always call 9-1-1.

Chief Leo Ehrisman said the Police Department is there to protect and serve the community of Ocean Pines, but that the public also needs to do its part to form a strong partnership.

Ehrisman said residents can be the eyes and ears for officers when police are not in the immediate area, and notifying police right away is always the best approach.

Police, he said, "can't take action for something reported tomorrow that happened last night."

"Call the police anytime something looks out of place in your neighborhood," Ehrisman said. "We have to get there when it's happening, not a day later."

Lt. Greg Schoepf also offered helpful public safety tips for residents:

- **Get to know your neighbors.** You don't have to be best friends or share coffee every morning, but at least be aware of who they are.

- If you are having a problem with your neighbors, try to speak to them about what is bothering you. Often times people don't realize that what they are doing is disturbing to someone. In Ocean Pines, we have folks from many different places with different customs and habits. So, what seems perfectly normal to them is not normal for someone else.

- If a neighborly discussion does not resolve the issue or takes a negative turn, call the police and we may be able to mediate a solution that is acceptable to both parties.

- Any kind of violation of the law requires an immediate notification of the police. We are here 24/7 and 365 days a year and are at your service. It is not mandatory that you give your name, but it is helpful for follow-up of the situation.

- Join the Ocean Pines Neighborhood Watch. They are very involved in the community and are in regular contact with the members of the Police Department. Contact Jim Hamlin at jim1127@mchsi.com for more information on joining this worthwhile community involved group.

"In short, we are here whether it is a loud party, barking dog, parking complaint, or an occurrence of a crime," Schoepf said. "Our officers are highly trained and dedicated to the residents of Ocean Pines. Keeping our neighborhoods safe and secure is our top priority."



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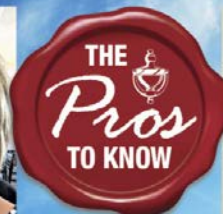
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**Debbie Donahue**

We are working with the local health department and management to bring back as many of the community organizations, leagues and classes as we can possibly do safely. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the Association website for more upcoming events, as we can hopefully start the process of getting back to normal business.

In this newsletter, you will find some of the winter programs coming up from January to March, such as NEW youth dance classes and adult jazz classes, Shape Ups, and Zumba classes. Relax, stretch, and balance with different

## WELCOME TO 2021

*We are all hoping for a bright, healthy, safe and prosperous new year.* The Recreation Department is excited about 2021 and all of the things we have to offer the community.



forms of Tai Chi.

If you are interested in ping pong, stop by Monday, Wednesday or Friday to get information from the community organization that runs the group. They are always looking for new members.

We are also looking forward to getting our community organizations back soon. We miss all of the groups that patronize our community center.

The Pine'er Gift Shop is open on weekends. Stop by for that special gift, or special something for yourself.

The Farmers Market will be open on Saturdays as well, with as many vendors as possible for the winter season.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! I am looking forward to 2021 and getting back to the awesome programs offered here at the Recreation Department.

*Stay safe and healthy! Summer's coming!!!*



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## ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

FOR KIDS, ADULTS & ALL AGES!

### CREATE YOUR OWN LAZY SUSAN WORKSHOP

**WHO:** Adults 18+

**TIME:** Sun, MAR 21, 10:00am-1:00pm

**WHERE:** Community Center

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** \$25/person; all materials provided

### DECORATE YOUR OWN EASTER BONNETS

*Perfect for bonnet contest on 4/3 during Spring Celebration!*

**WHO:** Ages 3-10 (Boys & Girls) (pre-registration required)

**WHEN:** Sun, MAR 21, 1:30pm-3:00pm

**WHERE:** Community Center

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** OP Resident \$10; Non-Resident \$12; all materials provided

### D.I.Y. FAIRY GARDENS ...build your own mini garden!

**WHO:** ALL AGES! (pre-registration required)

**WHEN:** Sun, APR 25, 1:00pm-3:00pm

**WHERE:** Community Center

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** OP Resident \$15; Non-Resident \$20; all materials provided

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### New! YOUTH DANCE CLASS

**AGES:** 11 - 17 (Boys & Girls)

Session	Day	Dates	Times
1	Sat	JAN 9-30	2:00pm-3:00pm
2	Sat	FEB 6-27	2:00pm-3:00pm
3	Sat	MAR 6-27	2:00pm-3:00pm

**WHERE:** Community Center

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kate Carpenter

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Brittany Jarman

**FEE:** OP Resident \$40; Non-Resident \$45

### HAPPY CLEATS INDOOR SOCCER

Ages	Day	Dates	Times
2	Wed	FEB 3-MAR 10	5:00pm-5:30pm
3	Wed	FEB 3-MAR 10	5:40pm-6:10pm

**WHERE:** Gym

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joe Monteverde

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** OP Resident \$40; Non-Resident \$50 (6 classes / 6 weeks)

### PEE WEE INDOOR SOCCER

Ages	Day	Dates	Times
4-5	Wed	FEB 3-MAR 10	6:20pm-6:50pm
6-8	Wed	FEB 3-MAR 10	7:00pm-7:30pm

**WHERE:** Gym

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joe Monteverde

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** OP Resident \$45; Non-Resident \$55 (6 classes / 6 weeks)

### HAPPY CLEATS OUTDOOR SOCCER

Ages	Day	Dates	Times
2	Tue	starting APR 6	5:15pm-5:45pm
3	Thu	starting APR 8	5:15pm-6:45pm

**WHERE:** Somerset Park

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joe Monteverde

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** OP Resident \$40; Non-Resident \$50 (6 classes / 6 weeks)

### PEE WEE OUTDOOR SOCCER

Ages	Day	Dates	Times
4-5	Tue	starting APR 6	5:45pm-6:30pm
6-8	Thu	starting APR 8	5:45pm-6:30pm

**WHERE:** Somerset Park

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joe Monteverde

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**FEE:** OP Resident \$45; Non-Resident \$55 (6 classes / 6 weeks)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Family Fun Night! BINGO

**Fri, FEB 26 & APR 30 • 6pm-8pm • Community Ctr.**

**WHO:** All family & friends welcome! (Volunteers needed!)

**EVENT SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**ADMISSION FEE:** FREE! Donations are accepted.

### BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

**Sat, MAR 27 • 8am-11am • Community Center**

The Easter Bunny will arrive at 8:30am (approx.) & will be available for photos until 11am.

**Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag of individually-wrapped candy to be used at the Easter Celebration.**

**WHO:** All ages! Great family fun event!

**EVENT SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

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

\$5 Ages 4-10; \$7 Ages 11 & Older. **Purchase photos with the Easter Bunny for a \$5 donation to the Rec. Dept.**

### EASTER / SPRING CELEBRATION & EASTER EGG HUNT

**Sat, APRIL 3 • 11am-2pm • White Horse Park**

Enjoy pony rides, face painting, carnival games, bounce houses & food! Children up to age 10 can join Buggy O'Hare in a hunt for Easter eggs. Egg hunt times: ages 1-3: 11:30am, Ages 4-6: 12pm, Ages 7-10: 12:30pm. Kids up to age 10 can bring their decorated Easter bonnet to the Easter bonnet parade contest (at 1pm) for a chance to win a prize bag full of Easter goodies!

**WHO:** All ages! Great family fun event!

**EVENT SUPERVISOR:** Katie Goetzinger

**ADMISSION FEE:** FREE! Donations of bags of individually wrapped Easter Candy are accepted & greatly appreciated.

(Please bring candy to the Community Center)

## ALL AGES FITNESS

### ZUMBA - AM & PM CLASSES

WHO: **ADULTS 18+**

Day	Dates	Times
Tues	JAN 5-FEB 9, FEB 16-MAR 23, MAR 30-MAY 4, MAY 11-JUN 15	8:30am-9:15am
Wed	JAN 6-FEB 10, FEB 17-MAR 24, MAR 31-MAY 5	4:30pm-5:15pm

WHERE: Community Center

INSTRUCTOR: Joyce Landsman

FEE: OP Resident \$30; Non-Resident \$35; Drop-in \$6

### TAI CHI - THE 24 FORMS *created by Dr. Paul Lam*

WHO: **ALL AGES!**

WHEN: Tuesdays, JAN 5-APR 20, 9:30am-10:30am

WHERE: Community Center

INSTRUCTOR: Kim Reed, Radiant Motion for Health

FEE: OP Resident \$132; Non-Resident \$162

### TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS I & II *created by Dr. Paul Lam*

WHO: **ALL AGES!**

Session	Day	Dates
I	Thu	JAN 7-FEB 25
II	Thu	MAR 4-APR 22

TIME: 4:30pm-5:30pm

WHERE: Community Center

INSTRUCTOR: Kim Reed, Radiant Motion for Health

FEE: OP Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$81

### *New!* ADULT JAZZ DANCING

WHO: **ADULTS 18+**

WHEN: Thursdays, JAN 7-28, 5:00pm-6:00pm

WHERE: Community Center

INSTRUCTOR: Kate Carpenter

FEE: OP Resident \$45; Non-Resident \$55

### *New!* INDOOR DROP-IN CORNHOLE

WHO: **ALL AGES!**

WHEN: 2nd & 4th Thursday of Each Month, 6:00pm-8:00pm

WHERE: Community Center

FEE: \$5/person

## ADULT SEMINARS

PRESENTED BY: Back In Action Physical Therapy

WHO: **Adults 18+** WHERE: Community Center

FEE: **FREE!** ...but please register early!

### *New!* SWEET TOOTH, BITTER TRUTH

WHEN: Tue, JAN 5, 11:00am-12:00pm

### IMPROVING BALANCE & PREVENTING FALLS

WHEN: Thu, JAN 7, 11:00am-12:00pm

### *New!* FAT OR FICTION

WHEN: Thu, JAN 14, 11:00am-12:00pm

### *New!* IMPROVING POSTURE

WHEN: Thu, JAN 21, 11:00am-12:00pm

PRESENTED BY: Carrie Dupuie from Raymond James®

WHO: **Adults 18+** WHERE: East Room

FEE: **FREE!** ...but please register early!

### MAXIMIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

WHEN: Wed, JAN 20, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Wed, FEB 17, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Wed, MAR 17, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

### MEDICARE BASICS

WHEN: Tue, JAN 26, 3:00pm-4:30pm

Tue, FEB 23, 3:00pm-4:30pm

Tue, MAR 23, 3:00pm-4:30pm

### ANNUITIES IOI

WHEN: Thu, FEB 4, 5:00pm-6:30pm

### INVESTING IOI

WHEN: Thu, FEB 18, 5:00pm-6:30pm

Thu, APR 22, 5:00pm-6:30pm

### *New!* SAFEGUARDING YOUR IDENTITY

Be an advocate of identity defense & learn how to safeguard your personal info & detect suspicious activity.

WHO: **Adults 18+**

WHEN: Thu, FEB 18, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: Community Center

PRESENTER: Michael A. LeCompte

FEE: **FREE!** ...but please register early!

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## Winter and Spring Programs

### EARLY BIRD LAP SWIM (Mon-Fri, 6:00-7:50am)

**WHEN:** JAN 11-FEB 19, FEB 22-APR 9 (No Class 3/29-4/2)  
APR 12-MAY 21

**FEE:** Swim Member, free / Resident \$50 / Non-Resident \$60  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6

### AQUA YOGA (Wed & Fri, 8:00am-8:45am)

**WHEN:** FEB 17-MAR 26, APR 7-MAY 14

**FEE:** Swim Member \$60 / Resident \$70 / Non-Resident \$86  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### SHALLOW & DEEP WATER SWIMMIN WIMMIN (Mon, Wed, Fri, 8:00am-8:50am)

**WHEN:** JAN 25-MAR 5, MAR 8-APR 23 (No Class 3/29-4/2)  
APR 26-JUN 4

**FEE:** Swim Member, \$55 / Resident \$65 / Non-Resident \$81  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### SHAPE UPS (Tue & Thu, 8:00am-8:50am)

**WHEN:** FEB 2-MAR 11, MAR 23-MAY 6 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member, \$45 / Resident \$50 / Non-Resident \$65  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### WET WORKS I (Mon, Wed, Fri, 9:30am-10:20am)

**WHEN:** FEB 1-MAR 12, MAR 22-MAY 7 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member \$55 / Resident \$65 / Non-Resident \$81  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### WET WORKS II (Tue & Thu, 9:30am-10:20am)

**WHEN:** FEB 2-MAR 11, MAR 23-MAY 6 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member, \$45 / Resident \$50 / Non-Resident \$57  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### CREAKY JOINTS I (Mon, Wed, Fri, 11:00am-11:50am)

**WHEN:** FEB 1-MAR 12, MAR 22-MAY 7 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member \$55 / Resident \$65 / Non-Resident \$81  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### CREAKY JOINTS II (Tue & Thu 9:30am-10:20am)

**WHEN:** FEB 2-MAR 11, MAR 23-MAY 6 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member \$40 / Resident \$45 / Non-Resident \$57  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### CROSS TRAINING W/ JULIE (Tue & Thu, 7:00am-7:45am)

**WHEN:** JAN 5-FEB 11, FEB 23-APR 8 (No Class 3/29-4/2)  
APR 20-MAY 27

**FEE:** Swim Member \$90 / Resident \$95 / Non-Resident \$100  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$8; OP Resident \$10; Non-Resident \$12

### TOTAL BODY FITNESS I (Mon, Wed, Fri, 10:00-10:35am)

**WHEN:** FEB 1-MAR 12, MAR 22-MAY 7 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member \$70 / Resident \$82 / Non-Resident \$102  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### TOTAL BODY FITNESS II (Tue & Thu, 9:00am-9:35am)

**WHEN:** FEB 2-MAR 11, MAR 23-MAY 6 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member \$47 / Resident \$54 / Non-Resident \$68  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$5; OP Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### HYDRORIDER WATER CYCLING

**FEE:** Swim Member \$90 / Resident \$95 / Non-Resident \$100  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$8 / Resident \$10 / Non-Resident \$12

### W/ JULIE (Mon & Wed, 9:00-9:40am)

**WHEN:** JAN 4-FEB 10, FEB 22-APR 7 (No Class 3/29-4/2)  
APR 19-MAY 26

### W/ JEN (Tue & Thu, 10:00-10:35am)

**WHEN:** FEB 2-MAR 11, MAR 23-MAY 6 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

### W/ MICHELLE (Tue & Thu, 9:00-9:45am)

**WHEN:** FEB 2-MAR 11, MAR 23-MAY 6 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

### PM BIKES (Colby/Heather Tue & Thu, 6:05-6:40pm)

**WHEN:** JAN 5-FEB 11, FEB 16-MAR 25 (No Class 3/29-4/2)  
APR 6-MAY 13

### WATER AEROBICS (Tue & Thu, 5:15-6:00pm)

**WHEN:** JAN 5-FEB 11, FEB 16-MAR 25 (No Class 3/29-4/2)  
APR 6-MAY 13

**FEE:** Swim Member \$55 / Resident \$65 / Non-Resident \$81  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6 / Resident \$6 / Non-Resident \$7

### BOOTCAMP (Mon, Wed, Fri, 6:00-6:45pm)

**WHEN:** FEB 1-MAR 12, MAR 22-APR 30 (No Class 3/29-4/2)

**FEE:** Swim Member \$55 / Resident \$65 / Non-Resident \$81  
**Drop-in:** Swim Member \$6 / Resident \$6 / Non-Resident \$7

### New! KIDS BOOTCAMP (Mon & Wed, 5:00-5:45pm)

This fun class will incorporate swimming skills & drills as well as physical fitness activities & exercises while we practice safe social distancing! Strong swimmers only – must be able to swim in deep end for a long period of time.

**WHEN:** FEB 15-MAR 24, APR 12-MAY 19

**FEE:** Swim Member \$40 / Resident \$50 / Non-Resident \$60

### AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION CLASS

**WHEN:** Fri, APR 16 (5:00pm-9:00pm), Sat, APR 17 (9:00am-6:00pm) & Sun, APR 18 (9:00am-6:00pm)

Classroom training will be held at the South Gate fire department & pool instruction will be held at the Sports Core Pool. Registration begins March 1. For more info, call 410-641-5255. Participants may be considered for OP lifeguard positions.



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## From lifeguard to chemist

### *Local girl got her start on Aquatics staff*

**M**ignon Winterling started working for Ocean Pines at age 15 as a lifeguard, and then grew into a senior role in the Aquatics Department while spending her summers and holidays here between college breaks.

A decade later, she is on the verge of finishing a prestigious graduate school program and starting an exciting new career, but says she'll always look back fondly on the time she spent and the lessons she learned in Ocean Pines.

Winterling grew up in nearby Bishopville and used to swim at the Sports Core Pool in Ocean Pines with her family. She joined the Aquatics staff shortly after taking a lifeguard certification class.

"One of my friends had already signed up for the class, so I decided to take it with her," she said. "Most of us certified through that class were then hired by Ocean Pines and became coworkers and friends.

"I have 10 summers of great memories lifeguarding for Ocean Pines," she continued. "I worked year-round through high school ... [and that] enabled me to fund a trip to Europe in my senior year."

After two summers of lifeguarding, Winterling started teaching in Ocean Pines, first with swim lessons and later as a lifeguard instructor.

"When I went to college, I got certified to teach lifeguarding and started teaching for Ocean Pines after that," she said. "Ocean Pines is such a great work environment, and it was nice to know I always had a summer job to come back to and could pick up shifts when I was home on breaks from school."

She later became involved in the Junior Lifeguard program in Ocean Pines, helping to bring up the next generation.

"The Junior Lifeguard Olympics was a lot of fun, [and] the best part was when my Junior Lifeguards were old enough to take the lifeguarding class and I got to certify them," she said. "As a returning lifeguard the last few years, I've particularly enjoyed seeing the guards I trained grow into seasoned lifeguards."

Winterling then became involved in an aquatics program in college, while working on her bachelor's degree.

"I studied chemistry at Towson University, where I also lifeguarded and taught CPR classes and eventually became an aquatics manager at Campus Rec," she said. She also continued traveling, first spending a semester abroad in Australia and later deciding to pursue her

graduate degree abroad.

"I went to graduate school in Europe and spent a year in Paris studying cosmetics and perfumery, followed by a year in Italy studying business and management for the cosmetic industry as part of the European Fragrance and Cosmetics Master program," she said.

### One last summer, and looking ahead

This year, like so many people across the world, Winterling had her plans abruptly changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of continuing her studies abroad, she had to return home. However, that gave her one more opportunity to lifeguard in Ocean Pines.

"When the pandemic shut down my university in Italy, I was grateful to still have a place on the Ocean Pines Aquatics staff," she said. "This year was my last summer lifeguarding. I still plan to keep teaching lifeguarding and CPR courses for Ocean Pines."

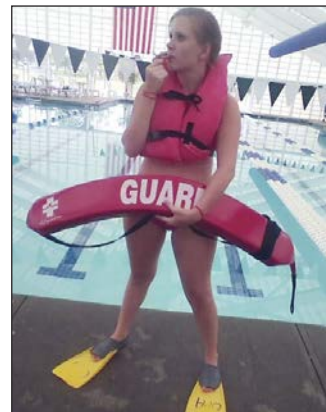
Winterling will also continue her pursuit of a graduate degree and has already started an exciting new job.

"I just started my career as a cosmetic chemist in New York and am working on my thesis – on track to graduate at the end of March," she said. "Unfortunately, I don't get to fly to Paris for my thesis defense as planned, but I will enjoy a virtual graduation with the rest of the class of COVID-19."

Winterling said she will always remember her time in Ocean Pines, and that it was a formative experience that helped shape who she is today.

"Ocean Pines is a unique and welcoming community that I have been blessed to be a part of," she said. "The Aquatics staff became my second family and a support system through college and graduate school. Kathleen Cook, the director of Aquatics and my supervisor for the past seven years, has been an amazing mentor, both personally and professionally. When I look back on my time at OPA, I will always be grateful for the people I worked with, and the patrons that I got to know."

As for the next generation of guards, Winterling had one piece of advice:







"Don't be afraid to blow your whistle. Nobody likes a lame whistle blast when it's time to clear the pool," she said.

## Others on Winterling:

### Front Desk Clerk Susan Karson:

"Mignon has been one of those young people that you work with that just leaves you in awe," Karson said. "She showed strong leadership skills, she was honorable, and she did her job with such dignity. It was very nice to watch her grow over the last three years that I've been here."

Winterling helped to set an example for the younger lifeguards, Karson said.

"She certainly has left a legacy, and I would only hope that the folks coming up behind her can see that they too can do that," she said. "She always earned it. She didn't get anything easy come - she worked for it and she worked hard."

Karson said her absence will create a "huge wake" in the department.

"Almost like the U.S. Titanic!" she said. "She brought such calm, and she did so many of the programs and scheduling. But she also brought that sense of peace and she did it very quietly. She could always calm down a situation that could have gone one way or the other. She just had that uncanny ability, so she really will be sorely missed."

"We want her back!" Karson added with a laugh. "We just wish her the best and, at some point, we're going to have a field trip and go up and visit her in New York."

### Resident Michelle Stewart:

"We moved here six years ago and met Mignon when she was home on spring break, right before she went off to college for the first time, so it was kind of neat to watch her over the years grow and develop and turn into the amazing young woman that she is," Stewart said.

Stewart said Mignon had a positive impact on her grandson, as well as on many other children in the community.

"She's kind of grown up with them, so that's been a very pleasant experience," she said. "We wish her the very best and we're excited for her opportunity in the industry that she studied in. And we're hoping we get the opportunity to see her when she comes home to visit, but she will be very much missed."

### Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook:

"Mignon moved from the ranks of being a lifeguard, to a pool operator, to a senior guard, to a head guard. In the last couple of years, she's also assumed the responsibility of doing the scheduling during the summer - which is not an easy task. When we're running full bore, it's five pools and all the activities, and probably anywhere from 32-35 lifeguards," Cook said.

Winterling also helped develop and further the Junior Guard program that Cook originated.

"Initially, I wrote the junior guard program, which we've had tremendous success with, and probably two or three years ago I turned that over to her, so she's taught all the junior guards," Cook said. "She's also a lifeguard instructor, she's a CPR instructor, and she started doing inventories for me. She just really assumed a strong leadership role and really was a senior leader on the staff."

Cook said the public has grown fond of Winterling as well, and they often ask about her.

"She has such tremendous support behind her. She's been with this community for 10 years and she's probably saved countless children, and it all started at a lifeguarding camp," Cook said. "She's also a very gifted swim instructor and she taught a lot of kids in this neighborhood how to swim."

"The parents in this community love for their kids to work here, because they know that they've got leadership and supervision, they're going to be protected and be safe," she continued. "And you watch them from when they're 15 - and they're 15! They're naïve and they're not the greatest lifeguards, and you have to consider that when you're scheduling. But you watch them blossom."

At first, Cook said, young lifeguards are just that - young and inexperienced. But many go on to flourish.

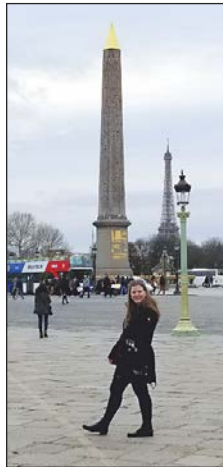
"In the beginning, they resist chores and responsibilities, and then if you go to some of my senior guards, they know what the routine is, they know what they need to do, and they do it without exception," she said. "They watch those pools like a hawk, and they bring the younger guards along. It's amazing for me to watch the transformation."

Cook said she has specially loved watching Winterling grow into a leadership role, and then take those lessons with her into the next chapter of her life.

"It gives me great joy and she's worked so very hard," she said. "If you ask her, she'll tell you she's a scientist, and to receive her degree and move out to follow her passion, I'm beyond humbled and thrilled for her - and we played a role in that. The money that she earned helped pay for her books and her tuition."

"I think it's a great story and we have a lot of them here," Cook continued. "A lot of pool patrons know the lifeguards' names and they know who they are, and they have their favorite guards. And there's some of them that know them because they saved their kid!"

"I just think Mignon was an amazing asset. I was very, very lucky to have her. I'm so thrilled for her and her success, but it does create a tremendous void on our team," Cook said.





**John Malinowski**

## IMPROVING OUR COURSE

Although the golf season is over, this is the time that our golf maintenance crew uses to work on and improve our course.

We continually work to combat the changing characteristics caused by the growth of the community surrounding the course over the past fifty years. As the trees get taller and thicker each year, sunlight and airflow are negatively affected. Likewise, as homes have been built bordering the course, stormwater runoff and drainage have been affected. These changes through the years provide constant agronomic challenges that we continually work to overcome.

The golf maintenance crew has been busy with several projects throughout the fall and will continue through the winter season:

- Over the past three months, we removed tree stumps and added topsoil and seed over several areas of the course that improved playability on the holes.
- Through the first week of December, we aerated and

top-dressed greens using Ninja Tines, which helped in the removal of the layer of organic material two inches below the surface. This work will allow roots to go deeper and stay healthier under the stress of the summer season. It will also help with drainage. The holes created by the Ninja Tines were so small that they did not affect playability of the greens and the results have already helped. We are planning to start again in March to continue the removal of the layer.

- We are currently working on several tree removal and drainage projects and will continue throughout the winter to help improve sunlight, air flow and water removal.

Our winter rates for Ocean Pines residents are \$30 for 18 holes and \$20 for 9 holes, so now is a great time to get out and play. Call 410-641-6057 or visit [oceanpinesgolf.org](http://oceanpinesgolf.org) for tee times.



## Pink Lady golf tournament donates to AGH's Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center

The Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association and the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association held their annual Pink Lady Golf Tournament at the Ocean Pines Golf Club in October to raise money for the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital. The funds will help provide mammograms for patients unable to afford screening.

The associations raised \$2,310 in 2020, bringing their contributions to Atlantic General over the past 10 years to more than \$14,000.



From left, are Ginger Burke, Ocean Pines Pink Lady Committee chair; Dot Waters, Pink Lady co-chair; Susan Morris, Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association chair; Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital; Don McMullen, Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association president; Toni Keiser, vice president of public relations for Atlantic General Hospital; Brooke Williams, Atlantic General Hospital director of imaging.

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## OP Golf Club announces promotion, new hire

Ocean Pines in October announced the promotion of Justin Hartshorne to golf superintendent, and the hiring of Kurt Joseph as assistant golf superintendent.

Hartshorne and his wife, Justine, are both originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The couple have two young children: a 2-year-old son, Aiden, and an 8-month-old daughter, Paisley. They also have a “big Burmese mountain dog,” Hartshorne said.

Hartshorne graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor’s degree in turf grass science. His Maryland certifications include a pesticide applicator’s license and a fertilizer applicator’s license, and he recently completed Links “level two” irrigation software training.

“I’ve also been doing golf maintenance for 18 years now, so I have a lot of experience there as well,” he said.

Hartshorne and his wife moved to the area about four years ago, and he initially worked at the Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club in Dagsboro, Delaware. Last September, he was hired as the assistant superintendent at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

As the new superintendent, Hartshorne will help oversee the entire golf operation. His duties include managing the staff and budget, supervising chemical and fertilizer applications, and maintaining the irrigation system.

“All of that is part of the day-to-day of working on the agronomic aspect of maintaining the golf course,” he said. Hartshorne said the Ocean Pines course is particularly challenging, because of its geographic location.

“Being in a transition zone, the weather certainly creates some issues,” he said. “And almost the entire course is tree-lined, which is definitely challenging when you have those shade and air-movement issues. It certainly keeps us busy.”

What makes the course a pleasure to work on, he said, is the timeless Robert Trent Jones design.

“He’s obviously a fantastic architect and designer, so it’s just kind of a unique property with a great design and a great layout. It’s very cool,” Hartshorne said.

Joseph is originally from Wheeling, West Virginia. He began working at Oglebay Resort Golf in Wheeling in 2003 and later moved locally, to work at the Lighthouse Sound golf course in Ocean City.

He previously worked at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, but had to leave about two years ago to help with family issues back home. In October, he moved back to the area and

rejoined the team in Ocean Pines. He also brought his black lab, Bo, who can often be seen working alongside him.

Joseph said the assistant superintendent’s job is to “basically put out all kinds of fires.”

“I’m Justin’s eyes when he can’t be somewhere,” he said. “Everything that he does, I try to make it easier for him.”

Joseph said he’s very happy to be back in Ocean Pines.

“I think we have a good crew. We have a lot of experience, including a couple guys with 16 years’ experience,” he said.

“It’s a very challenging course, because there’s a fine line of watering here, compared to other courses. And then you’ve got the breeze off the ocean,” he continued. “But I think we’re really going to get a good grasp on the course, and I think Justin and I are going to work really well together and get the course back where it needs to be.”

General Manager of Golf John Malinowski said both men bring an important amount of experience to Ocean Pines, which should benefit the course for many years to come.

“We want everyone to know that, with the team we’ve assembled, the condition of the course is in very good hands. Justin is a very capable superintendent and he’s very experienced. He also knows a lot about our particular golf course,” Malinowski said. “Kurt’s also got a lot of experience and knowledge of our golf course. He was here before for almost a year, so he really knows everything we have going on.”

“I’m looking forward to seeing good things here, and I think the conditions are only going to get better and better,” he added.

For more info on the golf club, visit [oceanpinesgolf.org](http://oceanpinesgolf.org).



**Justin Hartshorne**



**Kurt Joseph**

**Marlene Ott**  
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## Scholarship opportunities for local high school golfers

Applications for 2021 college scholarships awarded by members of the Ocean Pines Golf Club are now available through guidance offices at Stephen Decatur High School and Worcester Preparatory School.

Additionally, students from other local high schools who feel they may qualify can request information and an application from Scholarship Chairman Bob Long at [rmlong@aol.com](mailto:rmlong@aol.com).

Long said the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council has awarded more than \$22,000 to 21 local seniors during the last four years. Students receiving these awards have shown an interest in the game of golf and are judged on the totality of their record. Participation in competitive golf is not a requirement.

Last year, the golf members of Ocean Pines — including members of the golf club, the Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association and the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association — raised more than \$12,000 for the scholarship fund, and matched the previous year's record amount despite having to forgo the annual Ocean Pines Taylor-Bank Scramble and other fund-raising events because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our members found creative ways to give generously to this favorite cause in a challenging year," Long said.

Long said members of the men's and ladies' associations chipped in weekly amounts after rounds of golf, and raised a total of \$3,000. Many members also cleaned out their garages and donated unused clubs and equipment toward an online yard sale that raised more than \$4,000. Several individual members made generous lump-sum contributions as well.

Tee-box advertising signs that are a part of most golf fund-raisers were sold to members, friends, and local businesses, and were put on display at the entrance to the new Ocean Pines Clubhouse. This effort raised another \$1,700.

Taylor Bank, title sponsor of the Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Scramble, supported the scholarship fund with an annual contribution of \$2,000. Deely Insurance, a regular platinum sponsor of the event, again contributed \$500.

"We are grateful for the support of our friends and neighbors at Taylor Bank and Deely Insurance, especially in 2020," Long said. "Their contributions will help fulfill the education goals

of deserving local students."

Long said the membership had little idea in March, as things began to close down, how it would be able to raise funds in the coming months.

"After a summer and fall different from any they ever witnessed, the Ocean Pines Golf members are now looking back on how many small contributions turned into something special," he said. "Those receiving Ocean Pines Golf Members' scholarships in the spring will be the beneficiary of these various efforts."

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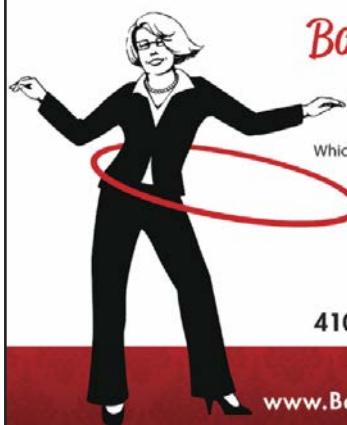


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**Steve Phillips**

Director of Finance  
& Operational Logistics

## Favorable Operating Budget

OPA once again produced a favorable operating budget variance for the month of November, bringing the year-to-date positive operating variance to approximately \$1.35 million. The year-to-date results continue to be driven by the \$1.15 million in Payroll Protection Program funding, combined with labor sav-

ings in various departments and amenity operations due to reduced capacity levels resulting from COVID protocols. If we examine total amenity and Recreation and Parks revenues to date without consideration of the PPP income, net revenues fall short of budget by nearly \$900,000.

There continues to be a high degree of uncertainty associated with revenues over the remaining months of the fiscal year due to COVID. Finance will continue to stay current with any new potential COVID-related funding opportunities, and account for the negative impact the pandemic-related closures/limitations will have on the operating budget, capital expenditures and cash flows for both fiscal year 2021 and 2022.

For the second straight year, the General Manager's proposed budget was released to the public just prior to Christmas. This will give the Budget and Finance Committee and the Board of Directors additional time to closely examine the details prior to the January budget review meetings. The Budget and Finance meetings are scheduled this year for Jan. 6-8.



## Summary Financial Report

Year-to-Date 11/30/2020

### OPERATING ACCOUNT SUMMARY (UNAUDITED)

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)		
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Assessments	\$9,127	\$9,126	\$1
Grants	562	495	67
Amenities (Net)	3,971	4,625	(654)
Recreation & Parks	111	313	(202)
Other fees and Income	1,678	597	1,081
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>15,449</b>	<b>15,156</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>Less transfers to reserve accounts</b>	<b>(3,239)</b>	<b>(3,220)</b>	<b>(19)</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenues</b>	<b>12,210</b>	<b>11,936</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Administration & Management	1,307	1,299	(8)
Amenities	2,971	3,339	368
Recreation & Parks	352	575	223
Police	1,050	1,083	33
Fire / EMS	407	407	0
Public Works / CPI	828	1,133	305
General Maintenance	332	492	160
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>7,247</b>	<b>8,328</b>	<b>1,081</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,963</b>	<b>3,608</b>	<b>1,355</b>
<b>TRANSFERS (New Capital, etc.)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$4,963</b>	<b>\$3,608</b>	<b>\$1,355</b>



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## Meet Frank Brown

Ocean Pines in October week welcomed Frank Brown to the Board of Directors, the governing body of the Association.

Board members by a unanimous 6-0 vote appointed Brown to succeed retiring director Steve Tuttle and to fill out the rest of his term, which expires next August. Originally from the west side of Baltimore, Brown and his family lived in Arnold, Maryland for 20 years before moving to Ocean Pines full time in 2015. He had owned property in the community since 2005.

"My dad and I owned a place in Delaware, and from there we were always driving around and looking at other places in the area. My wife and I found Ocean Pines a long, long time ago," Brown said. "When it got to the point that we were going to buy a place ourselves and retire, we decided to buy a place down here.

"The golf course was the number-one attraction for me, because I'm an avid golfer," he added.

After 10 years of owning a summer home in Ocean Pines, Brown bought a lot in Terns Landing and hired a contractor to build a "shell." He and his wife finished the interior.

"We moved in here on Christmas Eve of 2015, and we have enjoyed it immensely," Brown said.

Before retiring, Brown was a chemistry and physics teacher at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute until 2004. He also owned and operated a contracting business from 1974 until 2014.

He said he's had many offers to continue working in the Ocean Pines area, but always politely declined.

"I've tried real hard not to do it," he said with a laugh. "I enjoy playing golf and going out on my boat too much."

Brown has, however, volunteered often. He joined the Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Advisory Committee three years ago, and he serves on the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council, as the treasurer.

In 2018, Brown and a few other golfers became interested in the planned remodeling of the old golf clubhouse.

"I was tremendously interested in the new clubhouse, because of my building background," he said. "That old clubhouse was an absolute disaster. The entire second floor was gone and the rest of it wasn't much better."

Brown said he met former Board member Ted Moroney at a party and got to talking about the old building. At the time, there were plans for a costly renovation. "I told him that was a waste of money!" Brown said. "We later walked through the old building to see what was really up there, and it was a total disaster." About a month later, Brown, Bob Long and Don McMullen made a pitch to the Board during a public meeting.

"I laid out what I thought about that building," he said. "They were getting ready to spend \$800,000 in the upstairs of the building and I just told them flat out, you're just flushing \$800,000 down the drain. There was no way to save that building." A few Board members held an informal meeting at the clubhouse the next day, and things started to steamroll from there.

"It was Steve Tuttle who really made the difference, because Steve and I laid out how much it would cost to rebuild the old building and he came up with the final number of \$2.4 million - and we'd still have a 50-year-old building," Brown said. "We talked to other contractors in the area and they said they could build a new building for \$1.4 million or \$1.5 million. To me, it was a no-brainer."

Brown's involvement didn't end there. He drew up the original architectural concept for the new clubhouse and continued to serve as a volunteer consultant



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443.791.7724

chorn@oceanpines.org



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410.409.9168

crogers@oceanpines.org



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443.397.3077

dparks@oceanpines.org



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410.790.2677

fdaly@oceanpines.org



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301-335-5007

tjanasek@oceanpines.org



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443-506-5645

fbrown@oceanpines.org

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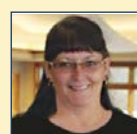


**GENERAL MANAGER**

**John Viola**

410.641.7717 Ext. 3001

jviola@oceanpines.org



**SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

**Michelle Bennett**

410.641.7717 Ext. 3002

mbennett@oceanpines.org



throughout construction. The new building opened in June.

"I think it turned out absolutely perfect," Brown said. "It couldn't be any better if I asked for it."

He also consulted on the police and administration building renovations, which finished this year. Each of the projects finished ahead of schedule and on or below budget.

Brown said Association President Larry Perrone and Vice President Colette Horn approached him about filling the vacancy created by Tuttle's retirement.

"They're people that I respect, and they suggested I might try it," Brown said. "I sort of like to stay behind the scenes and I'm not a guy that likes to jump out [front] all the time and has a lot of opinions about things, but they said, 'It won't be too bad. You'll be fine.'"

"When the opportunity came up I said, 'If you guys want to support me on it, I'll do it for the nine months and see how

it goes.' If it goes well, then I might consider it further. But I haven't made any commitments to anybody about that," he added.

During the next several months, Brown said he would focus on improving amenity performance.

"I want to make sure that they're the best that they can be, and right now I think they are," he said. "There are a few things that need some more help and I'd be someone who would support any amenity. I support them all, because I think that's what's important about Ocean Pines: a great list of varying amenities that go to a wide list of people, not just golfers or tennis players or swimmers."

"That's what makes this community one of the best around, and certainly the best around here because I've checked them all out," Brown continued. "To me, Ocean Pines, by far, was the best choice."

### Tuttle thanked for Board service

Ocean Pines Board members in October thanked retiring Director Steve Tuttle for his volunteer service.

Tuttle announced he would retire to move closer to family on the Western Shore.

A native of Maine, Tuttle bought a home in Ocean Pines in 2014 and moved to the area full time one year later. He served as chairman of the Ocean Pines Elections Committee and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2018, as the leading vote-getter that year.

Tuttle put his civil engineering background to good use several times during the two years as an advisor on Ocean Pines construction efforts including the new Golf clubhouse, Golf cart barn and Artisan Gift Shop, and the renovated Police and Administration buildings.

General Manager John Viola praised Tuttle for his involvement in those efforts.

"I spent many hours working with this gentleman. It was very enjoyable ... [and] I will always remember it," Viola said. "He took on the heavy lifting with us and it's always great to be working with somebody like that ... I appreciate everything he did to help us."

Association President Larry Perrone said Tuttle "did a hell of a job, leading the charge with John and with Frank Brown, on the three construction projects that they were involved in."

Perrone said Tuttle also helped with the planning and construction of the Artisan Gift Shop, which opened in 2019. "His expertise was invaluable," Perrone said. "On behalf of the Board and the community, we're very thankful for your help ... and your time on the Board."

Director Doug Parks, who served as Association President for two years while Tuttle was vice president, also highlighted Tuttle's aid with the construction projects.

"We owe him a debt of gratitude. Somebody that steps up

and serves the community should be recognized for their volunteer effort and the time spent in serving the community," Parks said. "I just want to personally thank Steve for his work."

Tuttle said it had been an honor to serve the community of Ocean Pines.

"As a Board liaison on many of the recent building projects and as vice president for two years, I've had the privilege of getting to know and work with many of the staff who serve Ocean Pines, who serve Ocean Pines with dedication, expertise, and a sincere concern for the good of the community, in particular Colby Phillips, Eddie Wells, Nobbie Violante, Michelle Bennett, Steve Phillips, the Malinowskis, Ruth Ann Meyer, Debbie Donahue, Josh Davis and many others," he said. "OP is blessed to have a stellar team that diligently serves this community every day."

Tuttle also credited the Board with recruiting Viola, who he said "has skillfully guided the Association."

"The Board has exhibited considerable unity but not uniformity, which has resulted in decisions in the best interest of the community of Ocean Pines," he said.

Going forward, Tuttle said his plea to the community was that more consider public service.

"Serve on an advisory committee. Seek to understand and question decisions of your Board. It's easy to sit on the edges and complain, but far more is accomplished when the community engages," he said. "There's a lot of resident expertise in this community and there is ample opportunity to bring your gifts and talents to the community for the good of all."



## OP officials take part in intensive firefighting drills

Several Ocean Pines officials took part in a “Fire Ops 101” event in December, to get a first-hand taste of what firefighters experience during an emergency call. Participants took part in firefighting, search and rescue, vehicle extrication and CPR drills in simulated environments and while wearing authentic fire department gear.

The International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 4916, hosted the event and Ocean Pines participants included Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino, Association President Larry Perrone, Association Vice President Colette Horn, and General Manager John Viola.

Melissa Bragg, president of the Worcester County Professional Fire Fighters Association, said she was happy with how the event turned out.

“It was fantastic,” she said. “We were able to show our elected officials and media that attended what it’s like to do our job.”

The drills were so realistic, she said, that some participants seemed overwhelmed at times. She said one person was fitted for protective gear first thing in the morning, and then took it off to put civilian clothes back on.

“When I came to them and said, ‘OK, it’s time to get started and get ready for the day, go ahead and put your gear on,’ this person in particular lost it and said, ‘But I just took it off!’ And I said, ‘Yeah, I know. And that stinks, but that’s exactly what it’s like in a day with us,’” Bragg said.

Having to put on cumbersome and uncomfortable equipment and leave at a moment’s notice is typical for a firefighter, Bragg said.

“There is no break. Sometimes you don’t get meals. Sometimes you have to hold it and you can’t pee for hours, because if someone’s having an emergency you don’t have time to say, ‘Well, I really wanted to run through the drive through and get something.’ You don’t have time when an emergency happens, and I think that was the No. 1 biggest takeaway for them,” she said.

“Sometimes it’s literally going from fighting a fire, to doing CPR on someone,” she continued. “I always like to say the fire department is like hours of monotony interrupted by moments of chaos. You could go for hours where you’re just cleaning and checking equipment and doing chores all around the firehouse. You could even be asleep at night, and then all of the sudden you’re woken up and you have to be on your A-game and hurry and move fast and get yourself together.”



Bragg said on TV and in movies, first responders will often go into a bright, well-lit area during an emergency.

“That’s not what it’s truly like in a fire,” she said. “In a fire it’s usually very dark and you’re usually feeling your way around. One of the people asked me about wearing your glasses and I said, ‘You don’t need your glasses – you can’t see in a fire.’ It’s part of the job and we learn to adapt to everything in a totally different way than most people expect.”

Bragg said about 14 people attended the event, and everyone she talked to afterward told her what a revelation it was.

“Every single person that attended told me, ‘I had no idea. I can’t believe you guys do this every day,’” she said. “But we’ve just become used to what we’re doing. We know what to expect, whereas they were just completely taken aback.”

“It’s really the most fantastic opportunity to get someone in there to try it and let them see it for themselves. They were all so excited about it, so I

couldn’t have been happier with how it went,” she continued. “Hopefully, we’ll do it again!”

Ocean Pines officials who attended the “Fire Ops 101” event also shared their thoughts:

### General Manager John Viola:

“The International Association of Fire Fighters event last week confirmed my appreciation for our local fire companies. Those of us in attendance were able to get a detailed and close-up look at the daily activities of firefighters and emergency responders. The presentation was both professional and educational, and it demonstrated the expertise and dedication of our first responders.

“I thought it was very well done and a good experience, and I came away very impressed. I’m grateful to have been invited.”

### Association President Larry Perrone:

“I was able to do all the physical activity, including climbing the ladder truck to the third-floor smoke-filled







room to rescue two victims. I also did the flash-over room and the CPR. The static demonstrations were very informative.

"It was a great experience and I want to thank all those who made it happen and, in particular, Melissa Bragg."

### Association Vice President Colette Horn:

"I appreciate having been given the opportunity to participate in the Worcester County International Association of Fire Fighters' 2020 Fire Ops 101. It was a fun and informative experience that gave the participants the opportunity to suit up and walk in the boots of firefighters and EMS professionals for a few hours.

"We got a real taste of how physically and mentally taxing the work is. We also experienced firsthand the value of the many specialty tools and equipment on their trucks. We learned how and why the tools of their mission are so vital to their success and why they are also so expensive.

"The instructors, who volunteered their time to deliver this program, are an impressive group of individuals who effectively showcased the depth and scope of knowledge, expertise and passion for their work that the firefighters and EMS professionals bring to their service to the citizens of Worcester County and Ocean Pines. I came away from the experience with a new appreciation for all that they do for us."



### County Commissioner Chip Bertino:

"The event gave insight into the challenges, responsibilities and preparedness of firefighters. It was very humbling for me to walk in their boots – literally – and experience just a minute fraction of what each of these volunteer and career male and female firefighters/EMTs face and endure each time they are called out. Unless you

have been the focus of their attention during an actual emergency/life-threatening situation, most people may not fully appreciate the high level of training, professionalism and selflessness instilled within these first responders.

"The Fire Ops training was well organized and well thought out, giving each participant an opportunity to experience going into a burning building, attempting to save the life of a patient in distress and using the jaws of life to extract a car accident victim."





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## Mastersons' service to country and community

**O**cean Pines residents Maj. Trish Masterson and SMSgt. Mike Masterson, both retired U.S. Air Force, have more than four decades of military service between them.

More recently, both became involved with the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation in Ocean Pines, an organization dedicated to honoring veterans from the Revolutionary War to the present.

Trish is originally from Tacoma Park, Maryland and is one of eight children. She served in the ROTC while attending college at the University of Maryland and was later commissioned by the Air Force.

She was stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, where she worked in emergency management during four years of active duty.

Trish also served in the Air Force Reserve for 16 years, both at Edwards Air Force Base in California and Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. She retired in 2003.

Mike grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts and joined the Air Force in 1972, right after graduating from high school. He's also one of eight children, including four brothers who served.

After training, Mike was sent to McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Washington.

"The first thing I did, I was part of bringing the POWs home from Vietnam. That was in February of 1973," he said. "After that, I was in an operation called 'REFORGER' [an acronym for 'Return of Forces to Germany'] over in Ramstein, Germany. I was part of the Arab-Israeli War of 1973 and went down to Tel Aviv for a few weeks. After that and a few other things, I ended up going permanently assigned to Germany, where I spent a lot of time in Africa, Europe and Western Asia doing all kinds of stuff."

He met Trish at Hill Air Force Base in 1980, and they were married two years later.

Mike retired from the Air Force after 22 years of service. He also taught at Wor-Wic Community College and worked in the aviation field for companies in Georgetown, Delaware, Wallops Island, and Indianapolis.

The couple have two children, Patrick, a molecular biologist with the National Institute of Health who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Kevin, a computer programmer who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### Ocean Pines and the Memorial Foundation

Trish and Mike decided to move to Ocean Pines while

both were serving at an Air Force base in New Jersey. Mike considered going north, back home to Boston, or moving south.

"I went up there [to Boston] around 1989 and they had a huge snowstorm, and I thought 'the heck with this, I'm going south!'" he said.

Trish's parents had a home in nearby South Point, and the couple stayed with them briefly.

"We were looking to settle here and found a nice house in Ocean Pines in 1994, and we've been here ever since. We love it here," she said.

Not long after moving, both became involved in the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. It was a way, they said, to honor their fellow veterans.

"We've been members of the Veterans Memorial Foundation for a number of years," Trish said. "A few years ago, Sherri Lassahn [the foundation's administrative assistant] asked me if I would consider being a board member. I agreed and I've been on the board now for three years."

"The fact that this memorial is here [in Ocean Pines] and the time and effort and love that's gone into building it and maintaining it is just wonderful," she added. "We get tremendous support from Ocean Pines Public Works. I can't even describe to you how wonderful they are. They do so much for us and they're always willing to zip over here and take care of whatever needs to be taken care of."

### A Virtual Veterans Day

As a foundation board member, Trish has chaired the annual Veterans Day ceremony for the last three years, while Mike has served as the event's emcee.

"Guilt by association," he said with a laugh.

Trish helped put together the virtual ceremony held this year because of concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As time went on, we realized we probably were not going to be able to do [the event]," she said. "There was no way that we could realistically limit the crowd size and, in terms of being six feet apart, there would be people in the McDonald's parking lot. Also, a lot of our attendees are in the vulnerable groups - they're older and they have health issues."

Instead, foundation members put together a videotaped program made available online on Veterans Day.

"We were able to contact the people that usually participate, and they were all willing to come out and film







segments one at a time,” Trish said. “This year was obviously a little different, but everybody who saw it said it was wonderful.”

During the ceremony, Mike became emotional near the end of a speech honoring combat veterans. “We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle, or the 1.4 million who were wounded,” he said at the time.

“I crash-landed five times. I’ve been shot at in three countries and had a gun to my head in another, plus my dad was a Merchant Marine and my four brothers served – the military means a lot to me,” he said. “That last part, the closing part, kind of gets me.”

Mike can also be seen clutching something in his pocket. The item happens to be a keyring from one of the U.S. Air Force C-141 transport planes that carried American POWs, including John McCain, from Hanoi to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines in 1973.

“I’ve had it as my keyring for 47 years,” he said. “It’s my little memento, so I don’t forget what I’m here for.”



each child receives and we’re kind of hoping that, if we can’t do the program this spring, we can at least get the books distributed through the schools.”

The foundation is also working on a virtual education program – essentially a walking tour of the memorial.

“We have a lot of newer things at the memorial that have been added recently. The battlefield cross and the POW chair were both added in the last year or two, and we have commemorative benches and the ‘Patriots Pathway’ that outlines each of the conflicts that the U.S. military has been involved with, starting with the Revolutionary War. We’ll do a walking tour on the video and a brief section on flag etiquette and the history of the flag.”

## Supporting the memorial

The Memorial Foundation is seeking donations to keep their programs going. Memberships are available for \$25, or \$150 for a lifetime membership, and commemorative bricks (\$75) and larger pavers (\$150) are also available.

“There’s opportunities to purchase bricks and pavers for family members, loved ones, or get one for yourself!” Trish said. “That’s a great way to honor someone and to support the foundation.”

The existing bricks and pavers honor service members from all branches, and from all eras, of service.

“Our primary mission is honoring veterans from all over the U.S. – not everyone here is from Worcester County,” Trish said. “And, when you go over to the Army section, the bricks go back to the Revolutionary War, so people are commemorating their entire families.”

“I would encourage everybody to come out and see the memorial,” Trish continued. “It’s for everyone in Worcester County and it’s for all veterans, all the way back to 1775.”

“It honors those who were here before us and those who are presently serving, so we don’t forget what we’re here for,” Mike added.

Visit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial on Route 589, between Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road.

For more information on membership, volunteer opportunities and donations, visit [www.opvets.org](http://www.opvets.org).

## Education programs & challenges of the pandemic

Trish is also involved in the Memorial Foundation’s education programs, including serving as a docent last year.

“Every year, every fifth grader in Worcester County is brought to the memorial as a field trip from the schools and we have docents who teach them about the different parts of the memorial,” she said. “The ROTC cadets from the different high schools teach them flag folding and proper flag etiquette and respect, and we also have a section on the history of the American flag, which is quite interesting.”

The Memorial Foundation funds the entire program, which serves public, private and home-schooled children in Worcester County.

“It’s at no cost to the schools, so that includes the education materials they receive, and we pay for the transportation and everything for the kids to be here,” Trish said. “Some of them are really, really engaged. They ask good questions and it’s really interesting to see the perspective [on the memorial] from children.”

However, the Veterans Day service wasn’t the only thing canceled this year because of the pandemic. Also lost was the Memorial Foundation’s major fundraiser, held each year at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, as well as all education programs planned for 2020.

“We obviously have no idea at this point if children will be able to come next year. It could be until next fall, in which case we would have missed two full fifth grade groups,” Trish said. “We’re in the process of redoing the booklet that





## OP Garden Club continues holiday tradition of 'Decorating the Pines'

Members of the Ocean Pines Garden Club continued a longstanding tradition this fall, by "Decorating the Pines" for the holidays with dozens of festive wreaths and garland. Gail Philippi, head of Ocean Pines Garden Club publicity, said club members met on Monday, Nov. 30 both in the community center and remotely, because of restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In normal times, Garden Club members gather at the community center - usually around 40 decorators - and work together to create their decorations, which are then hung by volunteer husbands and other helpers," she said. "This is followed by a delicious chili luncheon to reward all of the hard, but fun, work."

"This year, we had 14 members working at home and 14 members working at the community center, to comply with COVID-19 restrictions," Philippi continued. "There were 14 wreaths and 38 larger swags made and hung by members and husbands. Unfortunately, we could not have our chili luncheon, but we certainly hope to next year."

"Swag" refers to a suspended wreath, garland or drapery that is fastened up at the end and hangs down in the middle.

Philippi said the Garden Club formed in 1976 and has been "Decorating the Pines" since at least the mid-1990s.

"It started with red ribbons and greenery that members gathered from what is now the area around The Point," she said. "At one point, there was some concern about deer hunting and gunfire being a little too close to those cutting the greenery. The club started using artificial greenery with fresh supplements around that time!"

Since then, Philippi said it's become a tradition for the club to gather on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Each year, Garden Club members "create beautiful wreaths and swags to be displayed at various locations, including the community center, the Administration and Police Department building, the south and north gates, and the entrances of numerous Ocean Pines neighborhoods," she said.

"In addition, OPGC members spruce up smaller swags that OPA's Public Works elves then hang on stop signs throughout Ocean Pines," Philippi said, adding the club created more than 60 such stop-sign decorations this year.

The Garden Club has not held an in-person meeting since March, but members have remained active on Zoom and have already started planning for 2021 activities.


"While we normally have a mixed schedule of speakers, demonstrations, and tours or road trips, we will focus for now on those events we can conduct on Zoom or safely outside, such as our Arbor Day Tree Planting Memorial Ceremony, May Day Basket Display, and Mother's Day Arrangement Sale at the Ocean Pines Farmer's Market," Philippi said. "The Ocean Pines Garden Club is still bloomin'!"

She said the Garden Club currently has about 60 members and is always looking for new people to join. Dues are \$15 each year and include a subscription to the Garden Club newsletter, "The Bloomin' News."

For more information or to join the OP Garden Club, email Garden Club President Patti Lookner at [plookner@gmail.com](mailto:plookner@gmail.com).





A Well Deserved Thank You to the Ocean Pines Garden Club for continuing their tradition of "Decorating the Pines".





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## New technology helps campus keep up with the times

In conjunction with the introduction of new teaching modalities due to the coronavirus pandemic, Wor-Wic Community College introduced a variety of new technology enhancements to create new virtual experiences, increase interactive learning and enable classroom activities to be recorded and/or livestreamed.

More than 65 classrooms and a few conference rooms on campus were outfitted over the summer with technology that enables instructors to use both Zoom and MS Teams through Blackboard, the college's learning management platform, to deliver online, virtual or on-campus classes to multiple classrooms.

In addition, audio-visual technology with interactive display boards, called Clevertouch, and zSpace laptops, have been installed in Henson Hall, Shockley Hall and Brunkhorst Hall. Both can run augmented and/or virtual reality software.

According to Kimi S. Lichty, instructional technologist, the touchscreen capability is extremely beneficial along with the clarity and ability to save annotations. "The touchscreen really lends itself well to interactive software like Visible Body that allows for instructor and student interaction and manipulation," Lichty said.

Visible Body is a virtual software application that can be accessed on a zSpace laptop or Clevertouch board so that the entire class can see what the instructor or student is showing the rest of the class.

It is being used in biology classes such as anatomy and physiology, and other classes for students pursuing degrees in health care fields.



## BJ's Wholesale Club membership offer returns to the Pines in April

BJ's Wholesale Club will again partner with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective April 16-30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

In addition to offering special membership benefits, BJ's will donate \$5 of each membership fee to the foundation.

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

Renewing members can purchase a 12-month Inner Circle Membership for \$40 or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership for \$80 with BJ's Easy Renewal. Renewing members will also receive one bonus month with the offer.



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## OP Anglers Club announces fishing tournament winners

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club has announced the winners of the 2020 Walt Boge Fishing Tournament. Even though COVID-19 put a damper on the season and meetings were canceled for the year, a few dedicated anglers persisted and are recognized as follows:

**Bluefish, 31": Harry Winand**

**Tautog, 18": Budd Heim**

**Flounder, 23": Budd Heim**

**Croaker, 10-1/2": Budd Heim**

**Weakfish, Trout, 22":**

**Jillian Donahue**

**Tuna, 68": Adam Thompson**

**Red Drum, 18":**

**Greg Donahue**

**Black Drum, 18-1/2":**

**Kevin Welkner**

**Black Sea Bass, 16":**

**Jim McWinney**

**Sheepshead, 18-1/2":**

**Budd Heim**

**Large Mouth Bass, 25":**

**Chuck Tornetta**

**Fresh Water Trout, 12-1/2":**

**John Jewer**



Photo: Bob McKinley



## Angler of the Year

Two Ocean Pines anglers were honored by the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association (ACSA) during a brief outdoor ceremony at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club in December.

The ACSA recognized their 2020 "Angler of the Year" in both "Bay" and "Ocean" divisions.

Winners this year were:

**Dale Christensen ANGLER OF THE YEAR Ocean Division**

**Budd Heim ANGLER OF THE YEAR Bay Division**

ACSA Secretary John McFalls presented a cash award, certificate of recognition, and ACSA mugs to the winners.

The ACSA each year awards "Angler of the Year" to the person who catches the biggest fish and the largest variety of fish species.

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Everything you need to know about life in Ocean Pines, from A to Z.  
Looking for answers? Submit question ideas to [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org).

## FAQS ABOUT HOUSE NUMBERS IN OCEAN PINES

### Does my home need to have street address numbers posted?

Yes. According to Section 500.1(A) of the Ocean Pines Architectural Review Committee guidelines, street address house numbers must be posted so that they're visible from the street.

### Why are house numbers needed?

House numbers make it easy for police, fire and other emergency personnel to locate your home and respond to calls more easily.

### Where do my numbers need to be posted?

According to the guidelines, house numbers may be displayed on the front of the house OR on a sign in the front yard.

### I'm building a house and don't know the house number. Is it the same as my lot and section number?

No. The house number is different than the lot and section number and can be obtained from the CPI (Compliance, Permits and Inspections) Department office at 410-641-7425 or [CPI@oceanpines.org](mailto:CPI@oceanpines.org).

### What are the size and color requirements for house numbers?

According to the guidelines, house numbers must be at least 4 inches and no greater than 8 inches high. They must also be a contrasting color and visible from the street.

### What happens if I don't have my house number posted?

Not posting your house number is a violation of the Architectural Review Committee guidelines. The matter will be referred to the CPI Department and the homeowner

will be asked to correct the issue. If no action is taken, it will then be referred to the Architectural Review Committee. If the matter is still not resolved, it is sent to the Ocean Pines General Manager for consideration by legal counsel.

### I've seen yard signs with house numbers in Ocean Pines. Where can I purchase them?

Street number plate signs are available from the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department for \$42 for a sign, or \$50 for a sign and post. Signs may be purchased in person at the south station on 911 Ocean Parkway. Applications are also available at [www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/RSP.jpg](http://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/RSP.jpg) and can be mailed to the department. All hardware is included, and installation is available. All proceeds go to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

### Can I use house numbers that I've purchased at a store like Walmart or The Home Depot?

Yes. Numbers can be purchased at many retailers and posted, as long as they meet the requirements of the guidelines.

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*The Market Turns 10*



This year marks a major milestone for the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, as the marketplace will celebrate its tenth anniversary in the spring.

David Bean, who has served as the market manager in Ocean Pines for the last nine years, said an anniversary celebration is set for June 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in White Horse Park.

"We are ready to celebrate what we've accomplished over this past decade," he said.

Founded in 2012 as a small community farmers market, Bean said the Ocean Pines staple has grown to become the largest year-round farmers and artisans' market on Delmarva. In 2016, the market updated its name by adding "artisans," in recognition of the popular artisan and crafter section.

Bean said the anniversary event would feature live music. Other special activities are also being planned, dependent on the COVID-19 pandemic environment at that time.

"Where Weekends Begin in Ocean Pines" is the market's tag line, he said, and that speaks to the market's success and support from its loyal shoppers.

One thing that makes the Ocean Pines marketplace so unique, he said, is how it has grown over the years.

"The market attracts an outstanding selection of merchants from Delmarva and

beyond," he said. "It's one of the things we are proudest of."

Over the years, the Ocean Pines market has promoted awareness and educational programs through the "Kids' Market Zone," "Meet Me at the Market" DIY workshops, and the extremely popular "Open-air Marketplace Kitchen."

"We collaborate with our market merchants, local chefs, and culinary experts to put on free educational cooking seminars about how to cook with the high-nutrition and low-cost foods found at the market," Maggie Hearn, the market's resident chef instructor, said.

Bean said many who shop at the Ocean Pines market are from neighboring towns, but the draw has also expanded even farther because of the region's vast tourist industry.

"The Ocean Pines market has always been a community hub with locals supporting locals, and we want to continue expanding our programming to grow with the Worcester County community," Bean said. "We're excited about our future."

He added that, because the market works to keep its merchant fees as low as possible, it allows virtually everyone to try their hand at selling their handmade artisan crafts at the market. That promotes the incubation of local small businesses.

"Over the years, we've seen several of our merchants grow their market business into local storefronts in surrounding small-town communities," Bean said.