

SCUTTLEBUTT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer in Ocean City was hot and busy. Our free programs' attendance was up. Perhaps due in part to the new addition. On Mondays the Ocean Pines Players presented performances called the Petticoat Regime. Over an afternoon tea the four feisty and forward-thinking women portrayed revealed their unique and heartbreaking trials and tribulations that brought them to Ocean City. It was entertaining and educational. We're looking forward to next year.

We were happy to participate in the Downtown Association's Octopus Hunt. Kids had to locate the octopus and keep track. We joined 10 other Boardwalk establishments in this event. Over 300 kids visited each of the locations and were rewarded with their own stuffed animal when they returned their results to the Boardwalk Information Cottage. There were lots of happy kids and parents.

Our George and Suzanne Hurley scholarship was awarded to Stephen Decatur graduate Brett Berquist for his essay about James Purnell. Berquist described Purnell as 'a long-serving Worcester County Commissioner, a long-time bus driver for Worcester County Public Schools, and a lifelong human rights activist.' We are so proud to offer the scholarship. See the full essay in the following pages.

The Mayor and Council have designated October 12 - 19 as Ocean City History Week. The week will include our second annual Historic House Tour. We have added City Hall (once a school) to this year's tour and the Mayor has agreed to be on hand as a 'docent.' This year Soriano's Restaurant will offer a limited menu at 1980's prices for participants of the tour. Entering Soriano's itself is like taking a step back in time. Our History Spirit Award will be announced on October 13. If you have a suggestion of someone or some group that has made a contribution to history in Ocean City let us know. The winner of the surfboard so generously donated by Malibu's will be drawn October 13. Ticket's will be available for sale at Malibu's and the Museum until October 11.

On Thursday, October 17, there will be a showing of The Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962 at the Ocean City Library at 10:30 a.m. One of the most memorable storms to hit Ocean City, Maryland - the March 1962 Storm had a tremendous impact on the island. You will see interviews with people who lived through the storm and shared their memories of its devastation. The showing is free and open to the public.

And lastly, our sixth 5K run/walk will be Saturday, November 9. Hope you will be able to come out and support the Museum. Register online at www.octrirunning.com

That's it for now. We're always open to suggestions so please let us know your thoughts. Hope to see you soon.



Nancy Howard
President

FIELD TRIPS & BUS GROUPS

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The Salisbury School brought students visiting from Germany for a field trip in September.



These girls from Delmar Middle School enjoyed the Surf's Up! exhibit.



The Harrison Group brought this bus group for a visit.

THE ALGONQUIN COTTAGE

BY MABLE ROGERS

Fall of 2018 was a sad time for me. The house that I grew up in during the 1950's in Ocean City was torn down. So many memories! My grandparents owned the house at the corner of Third and Baltimore Avenue known as The Algonquin Cottage. We moved to Ocean City in 1948 to help them as they were getting older and could no longer maintain the house. The workload increased during the season from Memorial Day to Labor Day as they took in roomers to supplement their income.

This was a common practice in Ocean City as the population increased tremendously and the hotels were full especially on holiday weekends. Our house had an apartment on the third floor which is where we lived in the "off season." There were also 3 bedrooms on the second floor which shared one bath. Then on the first floor, we would put a bed in the living room to accommodate more guests. This left my grandparents room and the kitchen for family use.

You may ask, what happened to you and your family? We moved into a one car garage behind the house. This was wall to wall beds with a little room for an ice box, sink and small gas stove. There was no electricity in the garage, and we took our meals in the house with my grandparents. But this was not really a hardship as we sort of looked at it as "camping out" for the summer.

Guests at the house were for the most part "regulars" as the same families would rent from year to year. You got to know the families and would look forward to seeing everyone. I was even close to one of the daughters and visited with them at their home. We are still friends and communicate yearly.

Today the rooming house of the 1950's would be a bed and breakfast or guest house. We did not offer meals just a warm and friendly atmosphere. The big wraparound porch was a plus with room for everyone to gather and share the days adventures.



The Algonquin Cottage located at 211 N. Baltimore Avenue, circa 1950

WELCOME ABOARD

NEW MEMBERS!

The President and Board of Directors take great pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

SUPPORTING

Cathy Laws

Salisbury, Maryland

FAMILY

Thomas Lyles

Greensboro, Maryland

INDIVIDUAL

Karen Dyer

Bowie, Maryland

Kelly Howard

Pasadena, Maryland

Mary Nazemi

Baltimore, Maryland

Stephanie Smerechenski

Ocean City, Maryland

Linda Stetler

Limerick, Pennsylvania

JAMES “JIMMY” PURNELL

Hurley Scholarship Award Winning Essay By Brett Berquist

He is quietly strong and genuinely friendly. He has a fierce sense of fairness and amazing energy. At 82 years old, he has seen both the best and worst in people and he remains one of the most positive forces in our local area. This exceptional human being is Mr. James “Jimmy” Purnell, a long-serving Worcester County Commissioner, a long-time bus driver for Worcester County Public Schools, and a lifelong human rights activist. His legacy in Worcester County is truly one that should be honored.

Today’s social turmoils are a reminder of the importance of the life work of Mr. Purnell. With images in the news of achievement gaps, racial profiling, and other social injustices, society today still has work to do to bridge the racial divide. However, we also have to take the time to celebrate how far we have come since black Americans began the fight for equality. It has been said that “you can’t live a positive life with a negative mind,” and Mr. Jimmy Purnell has certainly demonstrated this philosophy throughout his life as he has fought to make Worcester County one of the most progressive and congenial areas in the nation.



James Lee Purnell, Jr.

Despite growing up enduring racial slurs and experiencing racial inequality, Mr. Jimmy never showed anger. Instead, he did something about it and created a positive outcome. When there was an unwritten rule that black teenagers could not apply for the better jobs on the “white side” of Berlin, Mr. Jimmy decided to apply and landed himself a job as the first black employee at Sunshine Laundry. When the black community of Berlin was suffering from an untreated, polluted landfill, Mr. Jimmy decided to lead a group of citizens to force its closing and gain clean water access for the community. When Ocean City marketing campaigns lacked diversity, Mr. Jimmy took action and changed the face of tourism advertisements. When there was a need to re-define voting districts in Worcester County so that black citizens were more fairly represented, Mr. Jimmy led the charge. When there was a 250+ year drought of an elected minority official in Worcester County, Mr. James “Jimmy” Purnell became the first. Mr. Jimmy is not only a trailblazer; he is a life changer.

The beauty of Worcester County comes not only from its surroundings but also from its people. Worcester County is a unique and magical place, populated by some of the most kind, authentic, hardworking, and community-oriented people in the country. Our special area thrives because of the values that are ingrained in our people and we owe it to the work of leaders like Mr. Purnell. He graciously fought for the rights of African Americans and forever changed Worcester County for the better. Because of him, I am proud to call Worcester County my home and I am inspired to embrace challenges. Perhaps most importantly, because of Mr. James Purnell, countless generations are now empowered to become leaders and positive forces in the community.

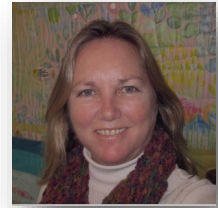
CURATOR'S CORNER

What a wonderful summer we have had! As always, our visitors are some of the most interesting people who enjoy learning and exploring new things and have a passion for history.

This year one of the most important accomplishments we achieved was to put our collections online. As of now we have about 10,000 of our photographs and post-cards online for anyone to search via our website. In the future we hope to add to the photographs and archives as well as including libraries and objects in our collections. This has been an ongoing project that has taken years of hard work and dedication by staff and volunteers and I am extremely proud to be part of it.

To access the online collection simply visit our website www.ocmuseum.org and click on the "Research" tab at the top, then "Search Our Collections" from the drop down menu. Once there you can search a number of ways or simply look at random images.

Locals Appreciation Week is happening again this year during the last week of October. We offer free admission to all Delmarva Locals. Please encourage anyone who has yet to visit us to take advantage of this and check out our little treasure of a museum.



Sandy Hurley

Curator

HURLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Brett Berquist of Bishopville, Maryland was chosen out of several competitors, as the recipient of the George & Suzanne Hurley Memorial Scholarship. A graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, he is currently attending Salisbury University and the \$2,000 award has been applied to his tuition costs.



Brett Berquist (center) poses with his parents and members of the Ocean City Museum Society. Left to Right; Sandy Hurley, Daphne Hurley, Shirley Moran, Mary, Brett, and Steve Berquist, Bob Rothermel, and Nancy Howard.

SUMMER INTERNS

By Christine Okerblom

Assistant Curator

As the summer closes out and fall approaches, the museum staff reflects on our summer season successes! Our dedicated interns Jamie and Allison made an outstanding impact on the number of public programs we were able to offer this summer. Together they conducted a total of 92 public programs and reached a total of 1,239 people!

They have helped strengthen the museum's mission, by providing interpretation about Ocean City's cultural and natural history. Our internship program is a symbiotic relationship, as it offers soon to be professionals, a chance to gain real work experience. By the end of their internship, they have gained excellent interpretation skills, and the ability to write and develop strong museum public programs.

"My intern work with the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum has been transformative towards my professional development and individual growth. The most memorable experiences I'm able to take away from this opportunity has been educating a wide range of Ocean City visitors on our native wildlife and working with and learning from the dedicated staff and challenging myself daily in order to be successful." ~Jamie

"The best part of my internship was having the opportunity to interact with the public during my "All About Sharks" program! It was such a rewarding experience to see the audience get passionate about shark identification and conservation." ~Allison

Our staff and board of directors are always striving to reach more people and ultimately strengthen their appreciation for local history, our internship program aids us in doing just that!



Summer Interns

Jaime Hubbard (L) and Allison McCarty (R)

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS



Mondays
"Petticoat Regime"



Tuesdays
"Beach Safety"



Wednesdays
"Knot Tying"



Thursdays
"All About Sharks"



Fridays
"Land, Sea, and Sky"

**OCEAN CITY MUSEUM
SOCIETY, INC.**

The mission of the Ocean City Museum Society is to inspire and support the interpretation and appreciation of the cultural and natural history of Ocean City, Maryland, the Worcester County coastal region, and equally, the historical role performed by the United States Life-Saving Service, and to preserve with subsequent mandate the 1891 structure that once served as the Ocean City Station.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ October 14th & 28th ~ Little Learners Program
10:30 am to 11:00 am
- ◇ October 12th ~ Historic House Tour
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- ◇ October 19th ~ Harbor Day at the Docks—Outreach—
Come see us at the commercial fishing harbor in
West Ocean City
- ◇ October 25th to 31st ~ Locals Appreciation Week
Free admission to all Delmarva Locals
- ◇ October 25th & 26th ~ Paranormal Investigation
7:30 pm to 10:30 pm
- ◇ October 26th ~ Book Signing— Author Hunter “Bunk”
Mann will be signing his newly released book “Ghosts



OCEAN CITY
Life-Saving Station
MUSEUM

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