



OCEAN CITY/ASSATEAGUE DEMOCRATIC CLUB (OCADC)
DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF OCEAN CITY/ASSATEAGUE (DCOCA)
 Serving Ocean City, West Ocean City, Assateague, and South Point
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DCOCA NEWSLETTER - DEMOCRATIC WONDERINGS
FEBRUARY 2013/MARCH 2013 –VOLUME 2, ISSUES 2&3

GUEST COLUMN

I was incensed that Paul Ryan voted “nay” to \$9 billion to bring relief to the Northeast’s dire situation caused by Sandy. But Ryan at least voted \$162 billion relief in 2008 to his flooded Midwest. Andy Harris thumbed his nose at jobless, homeless, heatless, waterless and powerless people in the North East, and he refused to help Crisfield’s devastation and the depleted beaches in his own district.

In “Les Miserables”, Hugo says needy people in distress seem “as though they were on a planet much further from the sun than we”. Is that how Andy Harris sees the people he represents? Or does he answer only to the noisy minority in his district who wave flags of “Fiscal Responsibility” at the Barricades of Need? I once sent a letter to Mr. Harris about the plight of poor elders in nursing homes if funding was cut. I asked him if we should just send our elders out on ice floes as done in primitive societies. My answer was a form letter thanking me for my input.

Many of these House members voted for 2 wars under President Bush without asking how they would be paid for. Now their pledges to Grover Norquist and radical base will not allow them to give relief for the most serious storm in memory because it wasn’t paid for ahead of time. Americans have always responded to those who need disaster relief.... except 66 Republicans in the 112th Congress, and Andy Harris. (Barbara Doyle Schmid)



SPRING MEETING
OCEANCITY/ASSATEAGUE DEMOCRATIC CLUB
 t/a DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF
 OCEAN CITY/ASSATEAGUE
APRIL 17, 2013 MEETING 11:00 A.M.
DaVINCI'S BY THE SEA
At THE BOARDWALK AND 15TH.

MYSTERY COLUMNIST

First, some background. I am a veteran, a gun owner and a good shot. I had sense enough to leave the NRA in the 1970s when the NRA set out to promote gun ownership, promote a legislative agenda and change the interpretation of the Second Amendment. The NRA and its political allies have spent 40 years promoting fear of the “government” and the need for guns to protect oneself from the government¹.

In my opinion there is no justification for normal citizens owning military type weapons, specifically assault rifles like the AR 15 with removable and large capacity magazines. Particularly when fully automatic conversion kits are available for sale from magazines or the internet. However, any law passed by the Congress to ban these weapons will not do anything about those assault weapons in the almost 300 million guns in circulation in the U.S. now.

The NRA and the gun manufacturers have spent 40 years hampering government at the local, state and federal level from passing any laws or regulations relating to gun control or data gathering on guns and gun violence. While the gun proponents have said for years that “the government should enforce the laws that are on the books”, it has lobbied against funding said enforcement. As a result few states license gun dealers, many have laws against restricting carrying in bars, schools and churches, gun related data collection and transfer have been restricted, and the ATF has been restricted by Congress in its enforcement.

I think that 30,000 gun deaths per year in the U.S. are unacceptable and we need laws at the local, state and federal level to deal with this issue. I agree with the gun proponents that both mental health and the availability of violent movies, games, etc., are contributing factors. Addressing these aspects of the gun violence problem raises even tougher constitutional issues than the Second Amendment.

So what is my solution? For starters, I would require licensing all guns. This could be done at the state level in a manner very similar to licensing cars and drivers. Second, since we are arming schools (also, the NRA’s suggestion), I would tax guns and ammo sales to pay for the armed guards at schools.

HEROES - So many soldiers living on the street, Their spirits broken with defeat.



What must they think, when they look around, Eyes passing by, staring at the ground. Does anger fill them when we turn away, From the debts we owe that should be repaid? What if at that moment, just once, instead, We saluted in honor, right hand to head? To let them know they are not ghosts, Thanking them for being braver than most. If everyone would show them grace, just might find their pain erased. For all the heroes still fighting to live, And for Heroes like

you, who continue to give. If you see someone who is really lost, Please stop and remember, what our freedom cost.

¹ This is almost like promoting revolution and anarchy!

GOVERNOR O'MALLEYS GUN INITIATIVE



At the writing of this newsletter, Governor O'Malley had just issued his proposed initiative for dealing with guns. Where this initiative will go is not clear at this time. If you embrace the principles of this initiative, let Governor O'Malley know.

In releasing this proposed initiative, the Gov stated, "We need a comprehensive approach. That's why in the next few days, I'll unveil a three-pronged strategy focused on gun safety, school safety and mental health."

- 1.) Gun safety: We should ban military-style assault weapons, limit large ammunition capacity, and require licenses for handgun purchases. We respect the rights of hunters and sportsmen and that's why our licensing requirements will NOT apply to shotguns or rifles.**
- 2.) School safety: We will invest in security upgrades for schools, including cameras at entrances, automatically locking doors, shatterproof glass and buzzer entrance systems. We will also establish a "Maryland Center for School Safety," which will amplify our efforts by gathering meaningful data and serving as a central hub for collaboration between our federal, state and local law enforcement partners.**
- 3.) Mental health: We will improve data sharing practices between federal and state officials. In addition, we will invest more to improve mental health services so we can intervene early and reduce the potential for violent behavior. We'll expand crisis intervention teams, expand response services and establish a center for excellence on early intervention for serious mental illness.**

If you want to contact the Governor, here is how: by letter, Governor Martin O'Malley, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401; by phone 1-800-811-8336; or by his on-line email form: www.governor.maryland.gov/mail.

HARRIS WATCH

Eastern Shore Congressman Andy Harris voted against the House's \$9.8 billion Sandy aid package.



The bill was aimed at helping the mid-Atlantic region recover from the humongous Storm Sandy. The bill passed the House of Representatives by a wide-margin 354-67, with all of the no votes from Republicans.

Mr. Harris, apparently, thinks he is smarter than the vast majority of his colleagues in the House. He voted against the bill because **HE** wanted to include reforms for the flood insurance program and believed that it did not have sufficient financial support. This was just a futile attempt to delay passage of the bill.

Harris stated, "Instead of writing another blank check, we should have used this bill as an opportunity to strengthen the program to protect people from future floods that we know will come". He is so pious and such an artful dodger.

Harris continues to march to his own music, none of which helps our MD Congressional District 1 and the constituents he is supposed to represent. One would think that being the only r in the Maryland delegation that he would try to work with his fellow Maryland congressional members. It will get harder and harder for him to adequately represent our district as he continues to not work with his own colleagues and be out of step.

The Maryland Democratic Party quickly rebuked Harris for his total disregard for the needs of his constituents in Ocean City and Crisfield, as well as other parts of his district. The Chairwoman of the MDP, Yvette Lewis stated, "Harris opposed helping disaster victims even though families in his own district were among the hardest hit by the storm", Lewis continued, "His vote once again shows that Harris puts the interests of the Club for Growth² ahead of the welfare of Maryland families.

McDERMOTT WATCH



Guns - Mike McDermott continues to demonstrate that he is a closet member of the tea party. The January 9, 2013 issue of the Daily Times featured McDermott and Charles Otto (R, MD House of Delegates, District 38A). McDermott talked about some of the initiatives that he plans to promote. No doubt using the tragedy in Connecticut, he hopes

to garner bi-partisan support to ***allow stun guns in schools, allow teachers to carry handguns and allow anyone with a concealed carry permit to carry a gun onto school property.*** All measures would be permissive, not mandatory. But surely there must be better ways to protect teachers and school children than having the schools become armed fortresses. Otto and McDermott were drawn into the same legislative district which if both want to stay in the House of Delegates they will have to run against each other. But, rumor has it that McDermott wants to challenge Jim Mathias for a seat in the Senate. The bottom line is this, the Maryland legislature is has a Democrats majority and it serves no good purpose for voters in our district to elect a republican, as he/she will carry little weight in either the House of Delegates or the Senate. It is clear that McDermott is a far to the left politician.



Environment – Mike McDermott is leading an effort to repeal the Sustainable Growth and Preservation Act of 2012. Chanting his mantra – "we are losing our sovereignty rights to the central powers

² The Club for Growth is an economically conservative 501(c)4 organization active in the United States of America, with an agenda focused on taxation and other economic issues. The Club has two political arms: an affiliated traditional Political Action Committee called the Club for Growth PAC and Club for Growth Action, an independent-expenditure only committee or Super-PAC. According to its website, the Club for Growth's policy goals include cutting income tax rates, repealing the estate tax, limited government and a Balanced Budget Amendment, entitlement reform, free trade, tort reform, school choice, and deregulation.^[1] The Club for Growth PAC endorses and raises money for fiscally conservative candidates

in Annapolis, “The passing of last year’s septic bill hurts farmers in the name of preserving them”, McDermott said, “It takes away local sovereignty by employing a cookie-cutter approach dictated by Annapolis bureaucrats.” That statement has two buzz words in it that have been used by ill-advised environmentalist who oppose almost all initiatives to protect the environment, “cookie-cutter” and “bureaucrats”³. Check out what the tea party-type loonies have been using since the beginning of federal and state initiatives to clean up the environment and protect the public health. He also argues that the act threatens farm land values. There is little doubt that farm land values may have had the same financial diminution as residential properties. However, is the ability of the land to produce crops diminished by a decrease in land values, certainly not? But it has diminished the attractiveness of converting the land into residential or industrial use. The bottom line with McDermott is he is another “just say no” republican like Harris.

WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – While it may seem a long time away, the Election Day in 2014 is less than two years away. It is not clear which of the commissioner incumbents will seek another term. But it seems like a good idea to start now assessing the record of each of the incumbents. The Worcester County Times has started profiling the incumbents and we have summarized the following. have been highlighted in ***Democratic Wonderings***.

Commissioner Louise Gulyas – Representing Commissioner District 7(Ocean City), Louise Gulyas has served on the County Commission since 1998. She has been an Ocean City resident since 1947 when her parents built a home in Ocean City. She is a widow who was married for 38 years, has four grown children, five grandchildren and one great-grand-daughter. She views being a commissioner as a fulltime job. She is a republican and has been active in politics most of her life.



She ran for commissioner to help address the issues of growth, education and senior citizens in the county. She considers serving as a commissioner as one of the best things she has ever done. Ms. Gulyas identified the state septic bill as the most important issue facing the county. She believes that the legislation will have a lot to do with the septic bill and increasing the minor subdivisions for farmers. She expects a public hearing about the impact that this law will have. She will have a “wait and see” until the public hearing.

She considers the county’s success in education as one of the top accomplishments while she has been a commissioner.

Her plans for the future are to not run for another term. She does not plan on retiring and would like to be a lobbyist in Annapolis, specifically for education and seniors. (Source: Worcester County Times, January 10, 2013) Disclaimer – Any error in the facts regarding Commissioner Gulyas can be attributed to the Worcester County Times.

³ Bureaucrats - An official who is rigidly devoted to the details of administrative procedure. There is little doubt that many people employed in a bureaucracy become rigid in the execution of their duties. However, the value of the Act should not be expunged because of that. Rather, intelligent regulators should use commonsense in the interpretation and execution of regulations. Perhaps, McDermott should seek ways to use common sense in implementing the rules begat by the act.

OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIONS BY THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

The debates on the effectiveness of the economic initiatives by the Obama Administration have focused primarily on the economic stimulus package. Other, perhaps more sophisticated efforts to add jobs have not drawn the same attention. That is because the republicans do not want the Obama Administration to be given any credit for turning the GOP Great Recession around. The Obama Administration is set to begin negotiations with 47 countries on a trade agreement that could significantly boost exports of services – from engineering and finance to movies and package delivery – and possibly create millions of U.S. jobs. The negotiations will be directed at removing regulatory barriers that hinder U.S. service firms abroad.

BILL OF RIGHTS

The discussion of gun control is founded primarily on the second amendment to the Constitution. The second amendment is one of the first ten amendments to the constitution. These ten amendments are the Bill of Rights which was enacted specifically to protect the people from the government⁴. Below are the preamble and the original bill of rights. The second amendment needs to be considered within the context of the Bill of Rights.

Preamble

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

For formatting purposes, the Amendments follow on the next page.

⁴ What we have to remember is that the founders of the Republic were shaping our country to eliminate the monarchy approach to government which gave all powers into a hereditary divine right ruler. King George's English and Hessian troops in the colonies could knock on any door of any home and demand bed and board and who knows what else.

Amendments

- **First Amendment** – Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause; freedom of speech, of the press, and of assembly; right to petition
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- **Second Amendment** – Militia (United States), Sovereign state, Right to keep and bear arms.
A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed
- **Third Amendment** – Protection from quartering of troops.
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.
- **Fourth Amendment** – Protection from unreasonable search and seizure.
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
- **Fifth Amendment** – due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, eminent domain.
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.
- **Sixth Amendment** – Trial by jury and rights of the accused; Confrontation Clause, speedy trial, public trial, right to counsel
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.
- **Seventh Amendment** – Civil trial by jury.
In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.
- **Eighth Amendment** – Prohibition of excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishment.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

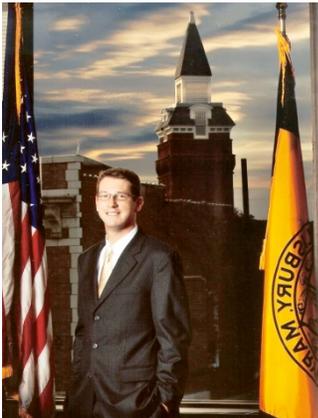
- **Ninth Amendment** – Protection of rights not specifically enumerated in the Constitution.

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

- **Tenth Amendment** – Powers of States and people.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED AND WANTED TO KNOW, OR NOT



Jim Ireton – Jim Ireton, Mayor of Salisbury has filed for another term as Mayor. Mayor Ireton, a Democrat, has demonstrated how a committed public servant can accomplish many good things, even when the Council of Salisbury continues to harp and block his efforts. It reminds one of how the republican controlled U.S. House of Representative is holding the country hostage because the moderates, yes there are some moderate republicans; in their party do not have the “stuff” to challenge a gaggle of arch conservative nay-sayers.

NRA – The NRA continues to resist any controls over weapons. Granted, that controlling weapons (right to bear arms) is a constitutional right. This provision was the result of the actions by King George to disarm all colonists as a way to prevent the rebellion that eventually became our War of Independence and the birth of a really great country.



It is also clear that no one envisioned arms such as you can now almost buy at the corner store. Nor did anyone envision that some of the weapons would be able to discharge an enormous number of bullets. There is no national support for these kinds of weapons. The public supports persons owning handguns, shot guns and rifles and national registration. Surely this should be common ground between controls supporters and opponents to controls.

Gun Control Legislation – The NRA has clearly stated their intent to oppose all efforts to pass any legislation to control guns and require universal registration. Severely injured by an obvious deranged person, then U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Shuttle Commander Mark Kelly have launched a political action committee aimed at curbing gun violence. The **Americans for Responsible Solutions** initiative would help raise money to support greater gun control efforts and take on the powerful gun lobby. The purpose of the organization according to their website (<http://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org>) is to “encourage elected officials to stand up for solutions to prevent gun violence and protect responsible gun ownership by communicating directly with the constituents that elect them.”

The NRA is definitely the 800 pound gorilla in what is going to be a bitter and hard fought war. The NRA spent at least \$24 million in the 2012 election cycle through its

political action committee and \$7.5 million through its Institute for Legislative Action. At this time, the Brady Center of Preventing Gun Violence, organized after Jim Brady, President Reagan's Press Secretary, was permanently impaired from a gunshot wound during the assassination attempt on President Reagan is the only grass roots public entity representing improving how we control weapons. Meagerly funded, they spent only a reported \$5,800 in the 2012 campaign. The **Americans for Responsible Solutions** may be a more substantial grass roots movement.

No Global Warming? – The U.S. set an off-the-charts heat record in 2012. 2012 was a degree warmer than an old record in 1998. Through the first 11 months of 2012, the world was on pace to have its eighth warmest year on record.

Have You Ever Wondered About Our Gasoline Prices? Most of our readers travel frequently to Salisbury to shop, dine, go to a play, etc. Have you noticed that almost invariably the price of gasoline in most gas stations in Salisbury is measurably less than in Ocean City and Ocean Pines? One wonders if there is an import duty assessed on gasoline being imported into Ocean City and Ocean Pines? If so, one wonders where that tax income goes? Or, one wonders if it is capitalism at its worse. Capitalism is supposed to bring about competition there by keeping prices low; not in Ocean City and Ocean Pines. One wonders if an economy based on tourism is founded on the belief that people who come to a place for a good time are used to being soaked just a bit for that good time. But why do the local off-season folks continue to be overcharged?

Have You Ever Wondered If Your Electronic Hotel Room Key Is More Than Just A Key? – Some folks believe that personal information is stored on your hotel room key. Not so, hotel keys only contain the room number and check-in/check-out dates.

Have You Ever Wondered If The Highly Visible VIN Number For Your Car Could Make It Easier For Someone To Steal Your Car? Indeed it might make it easier to get a duplicate key if the VIN number contains what standard key fits your car. On the other hand reputable dealerships and locksmiths will want an ID to get a duplicate. In addition the visible VIN number helps the law identify stolen cars. It is not a good idea to obscure the VIN number.

Home Assessments – The State of Maryland⁵ has begun sending out home assessments. For most homeowners the assessment of the value of their home was not good news. Many homeowners have seen the value of their home to be less than the price they originally paid for that home. Homeowners who have owned their home for an extended time will see that a part of their personal wealth has disappeared, even though they may still have equity above the original price they paid for their home. Historically, we Americans have used the increased value in the ole' homestead as part of the estate passed on to the kids and grandkids. Now part of that personal wealth has disappeared. Long term the value of these properties will increase, but will it ever reach the assessed value prior to 2005?

High-End Retailers – The Eastern Shore and especially the Lower Eastern Shore has not seen the entry of many of the high-end retailers (Harris-Teeter, Neiman-Marcus, etc.) into our area. The main reasons that high-end retailers have not opened stores in Salisbury are based on income and educational levels of the eastern shore market. Studies indicate (as a comparison with say Ellicott City) the 2011 per capita income in

⁵ As they do routinely on a three-year cycle. These assessments reflect the tanking of the real estate market and the value of homes due to the **GOP Great Recession**.

Ellicott City was nearly \$50,000 and almost 64% of the adults 25 and older had college degrees. In Salisbury the per capita income was \$21,339 and only 25.7% had a college degree. Memo Dericker, a business trend analyst and Director of the Business, Economic and Community Outreach Network at Salisbury University, noted, :”Harris-Teeter said there was not enough population with the right kind of income.” He went on to say, “Even stores that exist here tend to have within their organizations different categories of stores. And because of demographic and income profiles, we get their mid-to-lower category offerings.” (Source. The Daily Times, January 13, 2013)

Editorial Comment: Other reasons income and levels of education in our permanent population are such as they are, is low educational attainment and slow technology growth recognition for national and state current social and economic trends. These deficiencies plus weak economic development programs such as has existed in Worcester County for decades has resulted in a major brain drain and lack of interest by modern American based technological and scientific companies to locate here.

Berlin (B) and Berlin Fire Company (BFC)– The wrangling that has been going on for some time now between Berlin and BFC may be on the road to peace in our time. Both parties are working now to seek reconciliation. Berlin has made the initial move in what could be the first step in reconciliation. BFC claims that the money cut from the contribution of Berlin has resulted in cuts in training, inability to keep their equipment up to snuff, etc., etc., etc. Berlin has asked for a financial analysis that will allow the Town to have a sense of the short term and long term needs of the BFC. Stay tuned for what the future may bring.

Transparency – The Ocean City Council and Mayor, as many local governments do, hold public working sessions where most of the real work is done. OC citizens are welcome to attend working sessions, but have limited opportunities to provide public comment. The public is only allowed to provide comments at the end of the meeting – this approach lacks the ability for the public to have any impact on items on the agenda. A more effective and transparent approach is to allow attendees some time while an agenda is under discussion. The Town is now examining this possibility. Interested readers should contact the City Manager David Recor with your views (410-289-8887).

O’Malley Budget – The Governor’s proposed 2014 budget includes some increases into Worcester County compared to the current 2013 budget. The money includes \$3.5 million for Snow Hill High School, \$653,000 in police aid, and \$3.5 million for the Ocean City Center for Performing Arts to mention notable amounts. Funds for the continued dualization of US 113 were not listed in the information that was used for this item. Maybe those monies are somewhere else in some other line item in the budget?

Death Penalty – There is a death penalty law on the books in Maryland. There is a small number of on death row. The state has not executed a human being for some time. Governor O’Malley, as he has in previous years, has proposed legislation to repeal the death penalty in Maryland. Senator Jim Mathias and Delegate Mike McDermott both oppose the repeal of the law.

Purple Wood on the Boardwalk – A purple colored-wood section has been installed on the OC Boardwalk on 4th. Street in front of Shenanigan’s. The purple wood is intended to be a marker on the boardwalk to where the tram route moves from its own

concrete lane and joins the wooden surface. **No intention to celebrate the Baltimore Ravens.**

President Obama's Economic Success – During President Obama's first term the Standard and Poor's 500 index rose 85%. This exceeds first term stock performance of the past four presidents: Bush I, Clinton, Bush II and Reagan. Presidential performance when measured by the Dow Jones industrial average: Franklin Roosevelt holds the number 1 spot, Clinton is number 2 and President Obama is number 3 in stock performance.(Source: USA Today, January 21, 2013) (Editor's Observations: Obviously the republicans know about these facts and it should confirm in the minds of any thinking Americans that the republicans just do not care about America.)

OC's St. Louis Avenue – Currently in the first phase of reconstruction from 17th to 14th Street, the type of lights and the height of sidewalks and light posts are still not decided. Funding for the lights is not currently in the bank. Empty conduits are being installed under the pavement to allow installation of the lights in the future. The second phase of reconstruction from 10th Street to 4th Street will begin this coming fall (2013). The third and final phase will follow in the fall of 2014 from 4th Street to Division Street (Source: The Dispatch, January 18, 2013).

Butter – Did you ever wonder why butter from Ireland has a deep, rich and golden color and butter from the U.S. has a light yellow color?

Lower Shore Suicides – Worcester County had the most suicides in the lower eastern shore with nine suicides in 2011. Compare this to Wicomico County with roughly twice the population had seven and to Somerset with one. State-wide suicides are on the increase in Maryland. The Worcester County Health Department does not keep track of suicides in the county.

RACKLIFFE HOUSE – A WONDERFUL PRESENCE IN WORCESTER COUNTY

Visitors to Assateague State Park have An opportunity to learn about colonial life along Maryland's coast when they visit historic Rackliffe House. Rackliffe, overlooking Sinepuxent Bay, is a beautifully restored 18th-century coastal plantation house located at the end of Tom Patton Lane, just a half-mile from the Assateague Island Visitor Center.

The late Tom Patton, founding President of the Rackliffe House Trust, envisioned the House as a site for coastal heritage interpretation. The Trust, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Assateague State Park, has raised more than \$800,000 for the restoration of Rackliffe House and the archeological investigation of the surrounding property. The Trust is now operating the structure and surrounding three acres of property as a Coastal Maryland Heritage Center. The plantation house is reportedly the only one of its kind and vintage in the Mid-Atlantic region that is open to the public.



The vast majority of the funds raised have been used to complete the restoration of the notable coastal Maryland colonial residence and attached kitchen wing. The Trust is currently working to complete the restoration of the historic milk house and construction of a Colonial-style

outbuilding to house a fire suppression system. Funds are being raised to develop an interpretation and landscaping plan.

Rackliffe House was open last summer for tours on Thursday afternoons. Average visitation was 30 guests each day. The House will be open again in summer 2013, and the Trust will be recruiting volunteers this spring to serve as interpreters, or Docents. Visitors may hike to Rackliffe House any day between dawn and dusk to view the House exterior and explore the grounds. Visitors are asked to park in the lot for the new Assateague Island Visitor Center and walk to the House along Tom Patton Lane. New hiking trails are being created by Assateague State Park that will offer a more scenic path to Rackliffe House.



For more information about Rackliffe House, please visit www.RackliffeHouse.com.

THE MUSEUMS OF WORCESTER COUNTY

Worcester County has a wealth of museums that trace and discuss the settlement and growth of the county. If you are interested in the history of our county check out their united website. info@worcestermuseums.org

SOME NOTABLE MOMENTS IN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL ADDRESSES

(Source: MSNBC)

Who: Franklin Delano Roosevelt; **When:** 1933

What FDR said: *“Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”*

Who: John F. Kennedy; **When:** 1961

What JFK said: *“Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.”*

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Who: Ronald Reagan; **When:** 1981;

What Reagan said: *“In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.”*

Who: Bill Clinton; **When:** 1993

What Clinton said: *“When our Founders boldly declared America’s independence to the world and our purposes to the Almighty, they knew that America, to endure, would have to change; not change for change’s sake but change to preserve America’s ideals: life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness.”*

Who: George W. Bush; **When:** 2001

What Bush said: *“This peaceful transfer of authority is rare in history, yet common in our country. With a simple oath, we affirm old traditions, and make new beginnings.”*

Who: President Obama; **When:** 2009

What Obama said: *“This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed—why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”*

This is the february and March issues of Democratic Wonderings. Attached for our readers who have internet are three other documents we encourage you to download. # 1 is the announcement of our April 17 Spring Meeting and a reservation form for that

meeting. #2 is a reservations form for the 2013 Kennedy-King Dinner, April 13. #3 is the announcement of our participation in the March 16 Ocean City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Always a fun experience we encourage you to sign up to march or ride.