

Spring/Summer 2010

OCEAN CITY

NEWSLETTER

Semi-annual newsletter from the Town of Ocean City, Maryland to keep you, the citizen, informed on activities within the resort • www.ocean.com & www.oceancitymd.gov

Town continues to address economic challenges with cost-saving initiatives

By Dennis Dare, City Manager

Over the past several months, town management has been working on a proposed 2011 budget for consideration by the Mayor and City Council. As we did in the current fiscal year budget, the proposed 2011 budget acknowledges that we remain in a time of economic uncertainty.

In the coming weeks, the Mayor and Council will review the proposed budget before final adoption for the start of the fiscal year July 1.

Last year's fiscal challenges were compounded by the effect of the reassessment of real property in Ocean City, recognizing a decrease of \$1.12 billion from \$11.78 bil-

lion to \$10.66 billion. The town will feel the effects of this decrease for some time to come.

To meet these economic challenges, the town initiated a number of cost savings.

A hiring freeze was adopted in September 2008, with 59 jobs currently vacant, or 10 percent of the municipal government's workforce. Salary increases will be eliminated for a second year.

Earlier this year, the town offered a voluntary retirement plan to 84 full-time city employees who are already eligible to retire. The one-time-only retirement incentive program is intended to help reduce the number of overall positions through voluntary retirements.

The reduction in staff led to the reorganization of several town departments. It also allowed the transfer between departments of numerous employees for more efficiency in staffing and operations.

Last year, we instituted once-a-week trash pick-up in the off-season. In addition, we began having our solid waste delivered to energy-from-waste facilities instead of the Worcester County Landfill, which resulted in a savings of \$600,000 annually. While this move resulted in cost savings to the town, it also put Ocean City's 32,000 ton per year waste stream to good use. Most of the waste is delivered to the Covanta Energy from Waste facility in Chester, PA. This facility produces enough electric-

ity to power 8,000 homes annually.

Numerous other cost savings adopted by the town include the delay of capital projects, which reduced the General Fund 2010 budget over \$5 million less than in FY 2009. The number of take-home vehicles has been reduced, and energy savings measures in town facilities have been put in place. Employee travel and training have been reduced. We merged the town's visitor guide with the Chamber of Commerce guidebook.

We will continue to evaluate the services provided and reduce or eliminate all that are not essential to our mission of providing optimal service and meeting the expectations of residents and visitors.

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds to headline 2010 OC Air Show

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will return to Ocean City for this year's OC Air Show. The event will open the town's summer season in style on the weekend of June 5-6.

The Thunderbirds are the U.S. Air Force's elite aerial demonstration team. Each year they perform at over 70 shows per year throughout the country. They are the ambassadors that proudly represent more than 500,000 service men and women of the U.S. Air Force.

"The entire Thunderbird team is looking forward to returning to Ocean City," said Capt. Jason McCree, Thunderbird #12, the team's public affairs officer. "We are humbled at the opportunity to represent service men and women across the globe who defend our freedoms."

The Thunderbirds will headline a four-hour event each day that will include military aircraft demonstrations, low-altitude flyovers and civilian aerobatic performances

and the return of the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team. The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m. each day and be visible along the entire length of the Boardwalk, creating an inspiring experience for visitors while they enjoy the resort's beaches and attractions. Rehearsal day is Friday, June 4.

Interactive displays and exhibits will be open to the public on the streets surrounding Show Center at 16th Street on the Boardwalk and in the inlet parking lot. Show Center Beach, extending from 14th to 17th streets, offers premium viewing in the drop zone, waterfront clubhouse and the new VIP viewing stand with bleacher and reserved premium seating.

All tickets will also include reserved parking. For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit www.oceancityairshow.com or call 888-695-0888.



The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds soar over the Ocean City beach during last year's air show. (Photo by Erica Mowbray)

Ocean City property owners will receive just one tax bill

Starting July 1, 2010, Town of Ocean City property owners will get only one property tax bill with separate amounts listed for their county, town and state taxes.

Worcester County will bill and collect Ocean City real property taxes with Worcester County real property taxes. Property owners will no longer get a separate tax bill from the Town of Ocean City. Taxes for properties that are owner-occupied will be due on Sept. 30 and Dec. 31. All other property taxes will be due on Sept. 30.

This procedure will simplify payment of taxes for property owners and mortgage escrow service companies.

Additionally, property owners will be able to view their bill using the county's online program. Go to: www.co.worcester.md.us/trs/realproptax.htm and under the Services heading (located on the left-hand side of the page), click on Account Inquiry.

The Town of Ocean City will still collect personal and corporate taxes as well as real property taxes outstanding from prior years.

Design work under way on Convention Center expansion

Design work has begun on the first phase of expansion of the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. This phase of the project will enclose and expand the existing back deck of the Convention Center to create a new bay-view hall with 20,000 square feet of space.

The second phase of the project will convert a portion of the existing ballroom into a fixed-seat auditorium while maintaining 30,000 square feet of second floor ballroom space in a single room. This phase has not yet been approved and is not funded at this time.

The State of Maryland will fund 50 percent of the projected cost. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$8.2 million, with incremental state tax revenues projected to be \$1.1 to \$1.6 million per year. The Ocean City Mayor and Council voted to support a one-half percent reduction in the food tax to fund the bond debt to pay for the town's portion of the project.

Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year. Completion of the first phase is estimated in the spring of 2012. Project updates will be posted on the town's website, www.oceancitymd.gov.



May 6-9, 2010

Join the fun! Springfest has entertainment, arts and crafts and food under four big-top tents at the Inlet Parking Lot. See Page 5 for information.

Kathleen Mathias appointed next City Clerk; longtime City Clerk Carol Jacobs to retire

Assistant to the City Manager Kathleen Mathias will become the next City Clerk for the Town of Ocean City. She will replace longtime City Clerk Carol Jacobs, who recently announced she would retire May 31, 2010.

The Mayor and Council have unanimously approved the appointment of Mathias to the City Clerk's position. As the Town continues its cost-saving measures, Mathias will retain many of her present duties while assuming the Clerk's position. The assistant to the city manager position will not be filled.

"Carol Jacobs has served the Town of Ocean City with distinction and we wish her all the best," said Mayor Rick Meehan. "And while we are all sad to see Carol leave, we are pleased to have Kathy promoted to the City Clerk's post. She has the knowledge and experience to make this a smooth transition."

Mathias has been employed by the Town since 1983, when she became executive assistant to the city manager. From 1985 to 1989, she served as the administrative aide to Mayor Roland E. "Fish" Powell, before assuming her present duties in the City Manager's Office in 1989.

Prior to joining the Town of Ocean City, Mathias was the assistant to the President and Dean of the then newly established Wor-Wic Community College, and currently serves on the Program Advisory Committee for Office Technology at Wor-Wic.

She holds a bachelors degree in political science from Salisbury State University, where she graduated magna cum laude in 1998.

During her tenure with the Town, Mathias developed and continues to maintain the Town's Policy and Procedure Manual. She served as the first editor of the Ocean City Newsletter. She developed and continues to coordinate the Ocean City University program. She completed the National Citizen Survey for the Town in 2007. Mathias has also worked to accomplish a nearly paperless agenda for the Mayor and Council.



Assistant to the City Manager Kathy Mathias has been named City Clerk.

Mathias also chaired the committee for the Town in the All America City competition. The Town was a finalist in the competition in 2000 and received the All America City Award in 2001.

"I am very honored to accept the appointment as City Clerk," Mathias said. "I have been fortunate to work with Carol over the years. She will be a tough act to follow, but I am pleased to follow in her footsteps."

City Manager Dennis Dare said the move of Mathias from his office to the City Clerk's office just across the

Town of Ocean City municipal election Oct. 19, 2010

The office of the mayor and three council positions will be voted during this regular election to be held Oct. 19, 2010, in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Filing deadline for candidates is Sept. 21, 2010. You must be a resident and registered to vote for Ocean City's municipal elections to be eligible to run for office.

Voter registration deadline is Oct. 1. Absentee ballots will be available after filing deadline and must be requested by Oct. 12, 2010.

Contact the City Clerk's Office, Room 220, City Hall, 410-289-8824 or 8842 for more information.



hallway at City Hall is part of the Town's continuing steps to reduce costs.

"I am pleased to see Kathy accept the position," Dare said. "Carol has brought a very high level of professionalism to the clerk's office and Kathy will carry that forward in every way."

Spring cleaning can improve fire safety in your home

A good spring housecleaning can significantly help promote fire safety in your home. Here are a few key areas to address to help protect your home and family.

Garages

The garage is a good place to start. Make sure oily rags and painting materials are properly stored in airtight metal containers with self-closing lids so they can't spontaneously ignite.

Store gasoline only in UL-listed gas containers, always making sure it's stored so you won't run over it with your vehicle and your children won't knock it over. Properly dispose of clutter, like piles of old papers and magazines. Check the area around your water heater and furnace to be certain all combustibles and flammables are a safe distance from heaters.

Clothes dryers

Checking your clothes dryer to make sure it is clean can also prevent a mishap. Recent studies indicate that dryers can be a major fire hazard. By keeping the dryer exhaust duct and housing free of lint, and by using metal ducts instead of plastic ones, you can help minimize the risk involved. Lastly, don't leave home or go to bed while your dryer is on.

Kitchens

When cleaning the kitchen, check the exhaust fan/motor/duct and the stove and oven, making sure they are free from grease build-up. Remove all combustibles from

the area of the stove. To prevent overheating, don't plug more than one major appliance into an outlet. Keep heating elements of appliances clean and don't leave cooking unattended. Turn handles inward so kids can't reach them. Don't wear loose clothing while cooking because clothes ignite easily.

Check for cracking, fraying or wear on cords and plugs, as with all electrical appliances. Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen near an exit door and on each floor of your home, always making sure to check the expiration date.

Grilling requirements

The Town does not allow grills or other outdoor cooking equipment to be used within 20 feet of multi-family dwellings. Multi-family dwellings are those buildings that contain three or more dwelling units, which may include townhouse complexes.

In 2002, according to the National Fire Protection Association, gas and charcoal grills resulted in property loss of close to \$30 million. Almost half of all outdoor cooking-related fires begin on an attached deck or balcony.

Keep grills a safe distance away from any building, and at least 20 feet away from multi-family dwellings. Always maintain a safe zone around the grill to prevent children or pets from getting injured.

Lastly, never use outdoor cooking equipment inside, as this creates a significant fire and carbon monoxide hazard.

Smoke alarm requirements

The fire department reminds property owners to check their smoke alarms. It is important to understand the safety that smoke alarms provide, as well as knowing that providing them is the law.

The Town requires all owners of dwelling units located within multi-family dwellings to provide hard-wired smoke alarms outside of all sleeping areas and on each level of the dwelling unit. Alarms mounted on the wall should be positioned 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling, while ceiling-mounted alarms should be positioned 4 inches or more away from the nearest wall.

Working smoke alarms are vital in notification of a fire, allowing you and your family adequate time to escape. A report published by the National Fire Protection Association stated that the most common reason for smoke detector failure in the United States was missing or dead batteries. It is estimated that approximately 900 lives could be saved annually if all homes had working smoke detectors.

Smoke detectors should be tested at least monthly and should have batteries replaced twice a year. A simple way to remember to change your smoke detector battery is to change the battery when you change your clocks.

Carbon monoxide detector requirements

In 2007, the Town passed legislation to

require the installation of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in new and existing one- and two-family dwellings as well as new and existing multi-family dwellings where fuel-burning equipment is installed or operated. Fuel-burning equipment could be gas water heaters, furnaces, dryers, fireplaces, wood stoves or engine exhaust.

For specific installation locations, visit the Ocean City Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal website and review the code at www.oceancitymd.gov, or call 410-289-8780 (e-mail jsexauer@oceancitymd.gov).

Those affected by the code should install listed CO detectors in a central location outside of all sleeping areas and have a minimum of one on each level of the home. Test CO alarms monthly and replace the batteries according to the manufacturer's recommendation, which is typically twice a year. CO detectors are not a substitute for smoke detectors.

It is also important to have all fuel-burning equipment serviced annually by a professional. Always make sure new heating and cooking equipment is listed by an independent testing laboratory (i.e. Underwriters Laboratories) and installed per the manufacturer's recommendations.

When warming up vehicles in the wintertime, remove them from the garage after starting. Do not run any fuel engines indoors.

Hurricane preparedness is important

The Atlantic hurricane season is from June 1 through Nov. 30. Ocean City closely monitors all tropical storms and stays in touch with the National Weather Service during any pending storms.

Hurricane watches and warnings are issued by the National Hurricane Center in Miami. A "watch" is issued for an area that could experience the effects of a hurricane within 48 hours. A "warning" is issued for an area that will experience the effects of a hurricane within 36 hours. Due to population density and the time required to evacuate Ocean City during the summer months, evacuation recommendations may begin before a hurricane watch is issued.

Local emergency officials evaluate hurricane information to determine when to issue appropriate safety recommendations to the public.

If necessary, the Mayor, through the Emergency Management Director, will issue recommendations and evacuation orders.

It is important to note that an evacuation order may be given while the sun is shining. This is because we must

move all vulnerable residents to safety prior to the arrival of high winds or flooding roadways.

Have a family emergency plan! Leave your home immediately when requested. When an evacuation order is given, it will be issued over the town's new advisory radio station 1670 AM, local radio and TV stations, on the internet at www.oceancitymd.gov, on the local government access television channel, and when necessary, law enforcement, fire and other emergency officials notify people as well.

The evacuation order will be issued in phases. More information can be found at http://oceancitymd.gov/Emergency_Management/hur.html.

Here's how we try to get your attention for emergencies such as hurricanes: the town's new advisory radio station 1670 AM, local radio and television, cable television audio override, electronic signs, direct notification through business, community organizations and emergency officials, banner planes and the internet at www.oceancitymd.gov.

During emergencies we also update a recording for our residents and visitors. Call 410-723-6666.

Tune in to 1670 AM, your radio station for community information

To improve communication and enhance the safety of those living, working and visiting in Ocean City, the Town of Ocean City has installed an AM advisory radio station. The frequency of the station is 1670 KHz on the AM dial and is received throughout the Ocean City area. Every AM radio can receive this frequency.

While the primary use of this station is to inform the public of emergency conditions in the area such as weather events and how to respond to them, the station also broadcasts community information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Having a non-commercial FCC license does not allow any commercial broadcasting.

The portable alert AM radio station was acquired by the Town with a Homeland Security grant.



Neighborhood Watch Officer of the Year nominees pictured with Chief Bernadette DiPino: (left to right) Sgt. Mark Paddack, Pfc. Josh Kelley, Chief DiPino, Dfc. Shawn Jones, Pfc. Andrew Yeager and Pfc. Aaron Morgan.

Pfc. Kelley named Neighborhood Watch Officer of the Year for 2009

The Ocean City Neighborhood Watch Association selected Pfc. Charles "Josh" Kelley to be the recipient of the 2009 Ocean City Neighborhood Watch "Officer of the Year" award. The Neighborhood Watch Association is made up of seven neighborhoods including Caine Woods, Caine Keys II, Montego Bay, Little Salisbury, Bayshore Drive, Edgewater Avenue and Sundowner Park.

Kelley joined the Ocean City Police Department as a full-time police officer in July of 2006, after completing two summers as a seasonal police officer. He was promoted to Police Officer First Class in January 2009. He is active in the training and recruiting of seasonal police officers, an instructor at the entrance level and seasonal police academy as a member of the drill and discipline team, and serves as a mentor to officers.

He is an instructor in the Citizens Police Academy, member of the R.A.A.M. enforce-

ment, police mountain bike and school bus special enforcement.

Pfc. Kelley attended West Virginia University. His education continued at Wor-Wic Community College, where he studied business management and criminal justice.

Perhaps one of Pfc. Kelley's biggest accomplishments was his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Aboard the USS Oak Hill during Operation Enduring Freedom, Pfc. Kelley was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Sergeant. His role as a Platoon Sergeant earned him the Navy Commendation Medal in Combat Operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was discharged in May 2008 where he obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant, after eight years of honorable military service.

Pfc. Kelley returned to his education at Salisbury University and earned a bachelor's degree in interpersonal communications and conflict resolution.

Mayor and Council adopt new codes

The Mayor and City Council adopted new codes to supplement the building, fire and plumbing codes.

Effective Feb. 1, 2010, the Town is enforcing the International Mechanical Code and the International Electrical Code. These codes regulate the installation and replacement of electrical, gas and mechanical systems, and require approval and inspection of these systems.

For further information, contact Kevin Brown, Chief Building Official, at 410-289-8855 or kbrown@oceancitymd.gov.

Boardwalk bench dedication program available

The Public Works Maintenance Division continues to offer the opportunity to purchase a Boardwalk bench and plaque in honor of or in memory of a loved one or friend. The cost of the bench and plaque is \$1,400.

To date, there are 338 dedicated benches along the Boardwalk from the Inlet to 27th Street.

If you are interested in this program, contact the Public Works at 410-524-0391 to receive additional information.

Fire Department captain receives award from Knights of Columbus

Capt. William "Bryan" Bishop of the Ocean City Fire Department-Career Division received the "EMT of the Year" award from the Ocean City Knights of Columbus. Capt. Bishop was recognized for skill, dedication and service to the community.

Capt. Bryan Bishop has been employed with the Town of Ocean City since April 1989. During his employment with the town, Capt. Bishop has served as a firefighter/paramedic and a supervisor with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Capt. Bishop holds two college degrees — an associate's degree in emergency medical services from Wor-Wic Community College and an associate's degree in mortuary science from Catonsville Community College. In addition to his fire training, Capt. Bishop is a Nationally Registered Paramedic. In February 2009, Capt. Bishop was recognized as "Paramedic of the Year" by his peers.

Capt. Bishop is a member of the Showell Volunteer Fire Company and has served as one of its fire chiefs.



Capt. William 'Bryan' Bishop

Ocean City's Spring Clean-Up, Community Yard Sale April 17-18

The Town of Ocean City is once again offering a great opportunity for residential property owners to do their spring cleaning by offering free residential bulk pick-up on Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18. As an added attraction, Ocean City also will offer a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 17, at Northside Park.

Ocean City's bulk pick-up service offers a convenient way for residents to get rid of large household items, such as furniture, appliances, bicycles, carpet, etc., which cannot normally be loaded into a standard refuse truck. Normally, this service does not include building materials, yard debris, etc. However, during the spring clean-up, the town will be accepting these items.

Place your items curbside (staff does not go on private property to remove items) on Friday, April 16, for Saturday, April 17, pick-up from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, April 18, pick-up from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Town is providing bulk pick-up free of charge during this period. (At other times, cost for bulk pick-up is \$15 per pick up of three items or less. Each item thereafter costs an additional \$5.)

Also available during Ocean City's Spring Clean-Up will

be the collection of residential household hazardous material on Saturday, April 17, only. Items such as paint, lawn and garden chemicals, propane tanks, and other items that cannot be legally placed in trash will be collected. For household hazardous material collection, call Solid Waste at 410-524-0318. Calls will be received until 2 p.m.

The town also is offering service to collect items such as old ammunition that residents may have in their household and need to have removed. There will also be an amnesty program to collect fireworks during the weekend. For more information, call Solid Waste at 410-524-0318. If you have an old weapon, you can also call Solid Waste.

As part of the Spring Clean-Up, Ocean City's ninth annual Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 17, from 7 a.m. to noon at Northside Park.

The yard sale will be held on the parking lot at Northside Park on 125th Street in front of the Community Center building. Vendor spots will be available for Ocean City residents and property owners only. Space is limited so apply in advance. The cost is \$15 per double space. If space is still available, participants may register before 7 a.m. on the day of the event for \$20.

Participants can begin setting up their items for sale no earlier than 6 a.m. The sale begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 12 noon. All items need to be removed by 12:30 p.m.

No retail merchandise will be permitted for sale, and no personal or professional services are permitted for sale. Certain items may be excluded for sale including cars, trucks and any powered wheel conveyance; boats, snowmobiles, firearms, martial arts weapons, alcohol, paint, hazardous chemicals, food, produce, beverages or any other item which may be deemed inappropriate on public property. Raffles are not allowed.

To register, stop by the Ocean City Department of Recreation and Parks Northside Park Community Center, 200 125th St. For more information about the Community Yard Sale, call 410-250-0125.

Also during the weekend, Maryland Coastal Bays and the Ocean City Chapter of Surfriders will celebrate Earth Day by gathering teams of volunteers to help pick up trash in wetland areas and on sand dunes in Ocean City. The activity will be held on Saturday, April 17 (rain date is April 18). For more information or to register for the Earth Day event, call 410-213-2297 ext. 107.

Important information for rental property owners

If you rent your property to anyone at anytime, the law requires you to obtain an Ocean City Rental License and an Ocean City Noise Control Permit. This is to assure compliance with all laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to rental housing units within the corporate limits of Ocean City. It is also the purpose:

- To promote and ensure safe, healthy and habitable housing conditions in rental housing units.
- To prevent deterioration of rental housing units.
- To encourage responsible management, maintenance and use of rental housing units by the inspection and licensing of these units.

Section 14-174: Rental License Required

Any person renting for habitation any rental housing unit... shall obtain a license from Ocean City. The holder of the license

shall be the owner of the rental housing unit.

Section 30-401: Noise Permit Required

No real property situated within the corporate limits of Ocean City shall be used to provide shelter on a temporary basis unless a permit for such use shall have been issued by the Noise Control Board.

Section 14-62: Violations and Penalties

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 for each day the violation occurs or continues.

Applications may be obtained:

- At City Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave.;
- By mail: Town of Ocean City, P.O. Box 5000, Ocean City, MD 21843;
- By telephone: 410-289-8833.

Mayor and City Council regular meetings, work sessions

— REGULAR MEETINGS —

The Mayor and City Council meet for their regular sessions on the first and third Monday of every month. If Monday is a holiday, the meeting is the following day. All meetings begin at 6 p.m.

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| • April 5, 2010 | • Tuesday, July 6, 2010 | • Oct. 4, 2010 |
| • April 19, 2010 | • July 19, 2010 | • Oct. 18, 2010 |
| • May 3, 2010 | • Aug. 2, 2010 | • Nov. 1, 2010 |
| • May 17, 2010 | • Aug. 16, 2010 | • Nov. 15, 2010 |
| • June 7, 2010 | • Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010 | • Dec. 6, 2010 |
| • June 21, 2010 | • Sept. 20, 2010 | • Dec. 20, 2010 |

— WORK SESSIONS —

Mayor and City Council work sessions are held the Tuesday prior to each regular Monday night meeting. All meetings are held at noon on Tuesdays unless otherwise noted.

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| • April 13, 2010 | • July 27, 2010 | • Oct. 12, 2010 |
| • April 27, 2010 | • Aug. 10, 2010 | • Oct. 26, 2010 |
| • May 11, 2010 | • Aug. 31, 2010 | • Nov. 9, 2010 |
| • June 1, 2010 | • Sept. 14, 2010 | • Nov. 30, 2010 |
| • June 15, 2010 | • Sept. 28, 2010 | • Dec. 14, 2010 |
| • July 13, 2010 | | |

• Town of Ocean City Ordinances •

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed in public. This includes any street, avenue, alley, sidewalk, Boardwalk, parking lot, on the beach or in any vehicle. Possessing an open container of any alcoholic beverage in public is prohibited.

BICYCLES ON THE BOARDWALK

Bicycles are allowed on the Boardwalk only as follows:

- Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day 2 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Other times: No restrictions except Springfest and Sunfest Thursday through Sunday 2 a.m.-12 Noon.

ROLLER SKATES/BLADES

Permitted on Boardwalk as follows:

- April 1 through Memorial Day and then after Labor Day through Sept. 30 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Holidays, Springfest and weekends from April 1 until May 15 Sunrise to 12 Noon
- Holidays, Sunfest and weekends from May 15 through Memorial Day and the day after Labor Day until Sept. 30 Sunrise to 10 a.m.
- Oct. 1 through March 31 Anytime

SKATEBOARDS

Please do not ride a skateboard on the Boardwalk, public street, alley, sidewalk or public lot. Use Ocean City's Skateboard Park at 3rd Street and St. Louis Avenue. The park features a bowl and half pipe. For hours and regulations, please call 410-289-BOWL.

BOAT TRAILERS

Unless otherwise posted, boat trailers are not to be parked May 1 to Oct. 1 (warning notice must be posted 8 hours prior to ticket) on any street, alley or public lot or they will be towed.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Loud, unnecessary or unusual noise, or any noise that disturbs, annoys or endangers the comfort, peace or safety of others at any time is prohibited. Please respect the Noise Ordinance, especially between 12 midnight and 7 a.m. when any noise audible at a distance of 50 feet from the noise source is a violation, punishable by law.

PARKING

Please do not park by a curb painted red, in front of any driveway without the consent of the owner, on any sidewalk, in a crosswalk, in any intersection, on any bridge, or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. Note that there are posted parking regulations on Ocean City streets. Please read those regulations before leaving your vehicle parked on the street.

Please check your vehicle daily for additional street postings as some are posted on a temporary basis for parades and other special considerations. Also, when parking, park with the flow of traffic. If you receive a parking ticket, you may pay at the Public Safety Building, City Hall or online at www.oceancitymd.gov.

PETS

Pets are not permitted on the beach or Boardwalk between May 1 and Sept. 30; also, please obey the Town's "pooper-scooper" ordinance. Dogs must be on a leash.

RV AND OVERSIZE PARKING

It is illegal to park an RV or other large vehicle (exceeding 21 ft., 2 in. or more in length, and/or 6 ft., 8 in. in width) in any municipal lot, on public streets or alleys between June 1 and Sept. 15. Camping vehicles are not permitted at any time to park in the inlet parking lot.

SLEEPING

Please do not sleep in any vehicle within the city limits of Ocean City except in designated campgrounds. Sleeping on the beach is also prohibited between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Only police and maintenance personnel are permitted on the beach between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

SURF FISHING

Please do not surf fish within 50 yards of swimmers between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily, May 30 through Sept. 15.

SURFING

Surf only at designated surfing beaches as announced on the radio and as posted in area surf shops. These beaches are operated between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. by the beach patrol and are clearly marked with signs and flags as boundaries. A segment of Inlet area beach is designated for surfing only, Monday through Friday during the summer season (excluding July 4). You must use an ankle leash tethered to you and the board at all times.

To report violations of the above ordinances, contact the Ocean City Police Department at 410-723-6610.

Celebrate the season!



Springfest is a four-day festival filled with live entertainment, unique arts and crafts and plenty of delicious food, all taking place Thursday through Sunday, May 6-9, at Ocean City's Inlet Lot.

Welcome the season with plenty of fun for all ages in and around four festive, big-top tents. Many new and unique arts and crafts will be featured among the 186 artists. Satisfy your appetite with a bounty of foods, from famous Eastern Shore delicacies to a wide assortment of ethnic offerings and tempting desserts. Feast on crab cakes, pizza, barbecue, hamburgers, hot dogs and more. Over 30 food and drink vendors will serve up their specialties.

While admission to the event is free, headline shows are offered with paid admission. On Thursday, May 6, take a musical journey with Captain Fantastic playing the music of Elton John. Tickets for this fantastic show are \$5 and \$10.

On Friday, May 7, the evening headline act features the Country Rat Pack Tour of Mark Chesnutt, Tracy Lawrence and Richie McDonald. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$40.

On Saturday, May 8, take a trip down Memory Lane, with the Teen Idols — Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits, Micky Dolenz of the Monkees and Mark Lindsay, former lead singer of Paul Revere and the Raiders. Tickets are priced from \$20 to \$47.

Tickets are now on sale at the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office. Box office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday through Friday; or you can order tickets by calling TicketMaster at 800-555-SEAT; in Baltimore/Washington, call 410-547-SEAT.

Springfest also serves up a variety of free local and regional musical entertainment with sounds sweeping the scale from country to rock and roll. This year Springfest presents J.R. Booker, Frankie and the Pack, Sir Rod, Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys, Rick K and the Allnighters, Mary Lou and the Untouchables, the Fabulous Greaseband, the Broadband, Shore Jazz with Holly Lane, the Janitors, the Bopcats, Jesse Garron and the Recreation Line Dancers.

Added to the Springfest entertainment line-up this year are Dixie Power Trio, Woodstock Nation, Pete Gumbo and the Who Dat Band, Country Grass, Mama Jama, Queen City Funk & Soul, Oh Boy! A Tribute to Buddy Holly, and Cyrus McCormick and the Reapers. Children's roaming entertainment includes Lollipop the Clown on Sunday.

Springfest 2010 is open rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, May 6, through Saturday, May 8, and on Sunday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A special welcoming ceremony will be held on the outdoor stage on Thursday, May 6, at 10 a.m. featuring Ocean City Elementary School's OC Stars.

For more information, call the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department at 410-250-0125 or the Ocean City Department of Tourism at 1-800-OC-OCEAN. You can also visit www.oceancitymd.gov or www.oceancitymd.com.

Indoor Entertainment

Thursday, May 6

10:30 am	The Janitors (variety)
12:30 pm	Recreation Line Dancers (song & dance)
2:30 pm	Frankie & the Pack (oldies)
4:30 pm	Shore Jazz with Holly Lane
8 pm	Captain Fantastic (music of Elton John) (\$5 and \$10 admission)

Friday, May 7

10 am	Rick K. & the Allnighters (variety)
Noon	Country Grass
2 pm	The Broadband
4 pm	J.R. Booker (country)
8 pm	The Country Rat Pack featuring Mark Chesnutt, Tracy Lawrence & Richie McDonald (\$20 to \$40)

Saturday, May 8

10 am	Rick K. & the Allnighters (variety)
Noon	Queen City Funk & Soul
2 pm	Jesse Garron's Tribute to Elvis
4 pm	J.R. Booker (country)
8 pm	"Teen Idols" featuring Peter Noone, Micky Dolenz & Mark Lindsay (\$20 to \$47 admission)

Sunday, May 9

11:30 am	Rick K. & the Allnighters (variety)
1:30 pm	Randy Lee Ashcraft & the Saltwater Cowboys
3:30 pm	Cyrus McCormick & the Reapers

All Entertainment Subject To Change

Outdoor Entertainment

Thursday, May 6

10 am	Opening Ceremony
11:30 pm	The Bopcats
1:30 pm	Dixie Power Trio
3:30 pm	The Bopcats
5:30 pm	Woodstock Nation
6:45 pm	The Janitors (variety)

Friday, May 7

11 am	Randy Lee Ashcraft & the Saltwater Cowboys
1 pm	Pete Gumbo & the Who Dat Band
3 pm	Rick K & the Allnighters (variety)
5 pm	Sir Rod
6:30 pm	The Broadband

Saturday, May 8

11 am	The Broadband
1 pm	Mary Lou & the Untouchables (classic rock)
3 pm	Rick K. & the Allnighters (variety)
5 pm	Mama Jama
6:30 pm	Queen City Funk & Soul

Sunday, May 9

10 am	Queen City Funk & Soul
12:30 pm	Cyrus McCormick and the Reapers
2:30 pm	Oh Boy! A Tribute to Buddy Holly
4:30 pm	The Fabulous Greaseband

Noon-4 p.m. Roaming Entertainment: Lollipop the Clown

All Entertainment Subject To Change

Ride the Bus to Springfest!



Travel to Springfest with ease by taking the bus. The Town of Ocean City offers a ride-all-day fare, which enables you to get on and off as often as you want for just \$2 a day. Also, satellite parking areas are available with Park & Ride bus service.

Park & Ride locations

- The West Ocean City Park & Ride, just off Route 50 in West Ocean City (shuttle bus \$1).
- Public Safety Building, 65th Street.
- Ocean Plaza Mall, 94th Street.
- Gold Coast Mall, 115th Street.
- Northside Park, 125th Street (walk to

125th Street bus stop on Coastal Highway).

Parking is free at all locations. Extra buses will be in use during the festival and will pick up passengers at any bus stop along Coastal Highway. All bus passengers will be dropped off at the Transit Center on South Division Street, just across the Boardwalk from Springfest. If you require assistance with handicapped transportation, call 410-723-1607.

Express Shuttle offered

The Ocean City Transportation Department also offers the Springfest Ex-

press Shuttle. The town's trolleys will offer an express shuttle (no stops) to Springfest from the Convention Center's south parking lot on 40th Street.

The cost is \$2, ride-all-day, same as the regular bus fare. Parking is free at the Convention Center south lot.

Trolleys will depart the lot every 30 minutes from 9 a.m. until 30 minutes following the end of the evening's last concert, Thursday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday. The Springfest Express Shuttle offers convenient service for festival attendees traveling from the northern part of town.

Spring-Summer 2010 Events

April 9-11

Reach the Beach All Star Internationals
Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. American Cheer & Dance competitions. One of the largest all star & college events in the country. Admission. Fri., 6-9 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m.-10 p.m. info@acdspirit.com. www.acdspirit.com.

April 23-24

Region 19 Sweet Adelines Competition
Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. 27 choruses from mid-Atlantic region compete for medals & the opportunity to represent Region 19 at the international convention. Exciting chorus & quartet performances along with "Show of Champions" Sat., 8 p.m. Admission. 717-529-3129. www.region19sai.org.

April 23-25

MD International Kite Exposition
On the Beach, N. Division St.-6th St. Ground & air demonstrations of color & imagination. Sport kite demonstrations, giant kites, kite making lessons. Events & other competitions such as candy drops & rokkaku battles. One of the largest kite festivals in the USA. Fri.-Sun., 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 410-289-7855. www.kiteloft.com.

April 23-25

Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition & Art Festival
Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Carvers & visitors from across the world convene for the most prestigious wildfowl art competition. Benefit auction, classes, seminars, demonstrations, children's activities & over 100 exhibitor booths of artisans & art supplies. Admission. Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with award ceremony at 5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, 410-742-4988, ext. 120. www.wardmuseum.org.

April 24

Boardwalkin' for Pets

Inlet. Worcester County Humane Society annual fun event — walk-a-thon on the Boardwalk to raise funds. Bring your pet for a fun day on the boards to help the animals. 9 a.m.-noon, rain or shine. oceancityhumane.society@gmail.com. www.boardwalkinforpets.com.

May 1

White Marlin Festival & Crab Soup Cook Off

Somerset Plaza (Just off the Boardwalk). The Downtown Association kicks off summer with 6th annual event. Judge resort's finest crab soups for a small fee. Music, clowns, face painters, magicians. Community group exhibits. Noon-3 p.m. 410-289-1413. www.downtownassociation.net.

May 6-9

Springfest

Inlet Lot. Four days of continuous entertainment, arts, crafts, food vendors galore. Over 184 crafters in two huge big-top tents. Free entertainment with exception of evening headline acts on Thurs., Fri. & Sat. at 8

Event dates and times subject to change.

Please check www.ococean.com or call 1-800-626-2326 to confirm events before traveling long distances and making plans.

Ongoing Events

Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum

South End of Boardwalk at Inlet. A glimpse into Ocean City's past with exhibits of shipwrecks & rescues. New exhibit, "The Boardwalk of Yesterday." Displays also include bathing fashions, mermaids, sands from around the world, aquariums. Unique gift shop with nautical gifts, books. Small admission fee. June-Sept., daily, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; May & Oct., daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Nov., Dec. & April, weekends, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. During winter months call for hours. 410-289-4991. sandy@ocmuseum.org. www.ocmuseum.org.

Art League of Ocean City Exhibits & Receptions

Art League Building, 94th St., Bayside. Exhibits featuring local & regional artists, complemented by a monthly reception, held the first Friday of each month, Feb.-Oct., 5-7 p.m. Light refreshments. Free & open to the public. Classes & workshops offered frequently for adults & children. Gallery open Tues.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 1-4 p.m. 410-524-9433. www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

p.m. Free admission to festival. Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets for headline acts on sale at Convention Center Box Office, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or by calling TicketMaster at 1-800-551-SEAT, in Baltimore/Washington, 410-481-SEAT. www.ticketmaster.com. General information about the festival, 800-626-2326. www.ococean.com.

May 7-8

Festivals of Music

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Music festival for middle, junior & high school instrumental & choral organizations. Fri., 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Boardwalk parade, Sat., 9 a.m. 800-323-0974. www.festivalsofmusic.com.

May 15-16

Twisters Level 4 State Meet USA Gymnastics

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Features Mason-Dixon League championships. Events 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Registration fee for participants. Spectator admission. 410-629-0878.

May 15-June 16

Salute to the Services

Townwide. Many hotels, restaurants & attractions offer discounts during this time to active & retired military, police, EMS & fire personnel showing their credentials. Some restrictions apply. www.salutetothetestservices.com. Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, 800-626-2326. inquire@ocvisitor.com.

May 15-16

30th Annual Mid-Atlantic Classic Chevy Festival

Francis Scott Key Motel, Rt. 50. Open to all 1929-84 Chevrolets. Boardwalk cruise Sun., 8:30 a.m. Events also include Chinese auction, games, raffles & "Best

of Show" for engine, paint & interior. Registration 1-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-noon, Sun. Awards at 3 p.m. 302-732-3241.

May 18

International Museum Day

OC Life-Saving Station Museum, South End of Boardwalk. Enjoy free admission to the museum. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 410-289-4991. Sandy@ocmuseum.org. www.ocmuseum.org.

May 20-23

Cruisin' Ocean City

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay, Inlet Parking Lot. Popular car show features 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics, street machines, muscle cars. Live entertainment, celebrity guests, special attractions, Boardwalk parades, manufacturers vendor midway. Admission. Thurs.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 410-798-6304. www.cruisinoceancity.com. infoevent@aol.com.

May 21

Cruisin' Concert

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Enjoy the fabulous Four Tops. All seats \$35. 8 p.m. Tickets: Convention Center box office, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or through www.ticketmaster.com. 800-551-7328.

May 29-30

Spring Arts & Crafts Show

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Ocean City's only Memorial Day weekend craft show featuring vendors displaying garden accessories, jewelry, candles, florals, wood crafts, homemade items. Homegrown plants for sale for yard or patio. Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 410-213-0735. Cropperjl@aol.com.

May 30-June 6

Ocean City Restaurant Week

Participating restaurants offer fixed-priced menus with two- & three-course meals at \$20 & \$30 respectively. No tickets or passes required, but reservations appreciated. OC Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, 800-626-2326, ext. 2. www.oceancityrestaurantweek.com.

June 5-7

Dick Gelfman's Ride Across MD

Francis Scott Key Family Resort & OC Area. Motorcycle ride (but cars & trucks welcome) to benefit fight against breast cancer. Ride begins in Columbia & ends in OC. Participants raise money for breast cancer. Registration. 410-992-9999. www.rideacrossmaryland.org.

June 5

Council of Baltimore Ravens Roosts Annual Parade

Baltimore Ave., 19th St. to 26th St. Annual parade showcasing over 50 member roosts from MD, DE & PA, as they show pride for the Baltimore Ravens. Players, cheerleaders, mascots, bands, floats. Featured appearance by the Pep Band of Baltimore's Marching Ravens. 10 a.m. sdraper65@verizon.net. www.councilrr.com.

June 5-6

OC Car & Truck Show

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Largest automotive & youth culture event in Ocean City & on the East Coast with hundreds of vehicles & live musical acts performing all weekend. Admission. Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 302-436-0183. www.occarshow.com. occarshow02@aol.com.

June 5-6

OC Air Show

Beach & Boardwalk. The popular OC Air Show returns! Events will be visible along entire length of Boardwalk. Spectators may enjoy show free of charge, but VIP seating is available. Show line-up announced throughout the year at www.ocairshow.com. Many activities surround event. Air shows take place beginning at noon Sat. & Sun.; rehearsal day on Fri. General information, 800-626-2326.

June 6

Flag Day Ceremony

Beach at 16th Street and the Boardwalk. Ceremony will be held at opening of the Ocean City Air Show when the U.S. Navy Seals parachute to the beach & deliver the flag to selected veterans. Noon. 410-250-0125. www.ococean.com.

June 6-25

Play It Safe

Ocean City area. High school graduates from the class of 2010 participate in free activities including karaoke, beach volleyball, windsurfing, kayaking, midnight bowling, basketball, mini golf, laser tag, access to health & racquet club, paintball, more. Event participants receive wristbands entitling them to free Town bus transportation. 410-632-1100. www.playitsafeoceancity.com. www.ococean.com.

June 13-16

MD State Firemen's Association Conference & Parade

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay; Parade, Downtown OC. Annual convention for the Maryland Fire Rescue Service. Training programs, business meetings, exhibits. Public is invited to "meet the firemen" & see exhibits. Mon. & Tues., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wed., 9 a.m.-noon. Annual parade, Inlet to 9th St. on Baltimore Ave. Equipment, bands, floats. (approx. 3 hours) on Wed. www.msfa.org.

Let Us Hear From You!

Your evaluation of the semi-annual OC Newsletter is important to us.

Please let us know:

What articles did you enjoy:

Which articles did you find most informative:

What other information would you like to see in future editions:

Please forward your comments to:

Donna Abbott, Editor
 City Hall, P.O. Box 158, Ocean City, MD 21843
 Or e-mail: dabbott@oceancitymd.gov

Passport applications



**Passport applications are accepted in Room 220, Office of the City Clerk
 City Hall • 301 Baltimore Ave.
 410-289-8824**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays,
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

As an added convenience, the City Clerk's Office offers passport photos for \$10.60 per applicant.

June 13**Captain Schoepf Relay**

7th St. on the Beach. OC Beach Patrol members & alumni relay a classic steel buoy the 10 miles of Ocean City's beach. Relay runs from lifeguard stand to stand, then enters water to relay back to starting point at 7th St. 10 a.m. 410-289-7556. kjoson@ococean.com.

June 19-20**Art's Alive**

Northside Park, 127th St., Bayside. Ocean City's 10th annual fine art festival features more than 100 artists selling their treasures & competing for awards. Visit with artists as they exhibit their work around the picturesque lagoon at Northside Park. Listen to music while you enjoy lunch at the Artists' Café. Children enjoy free art activities. Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 800-626-2326. www.ococean.com.

July 4**Fireworks & Concerts**

N. Division St. & the Beach; & Northside Park, 127th St. bayside. Free concert at 8 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket & enjoy the evening beside the ocean on the beach or enjoy the uptown event at Northside Park. 800-626-2326. www.ococean.com.

July 8**OC Beach Patrol Rookie Graduation**

Downtown Beach between pier & Inlet Beach. Great spectator event as 2010 rookie class demonstrates skills & participates in training exercises. 7:30 a.m. 410-250-7556.

July 9-11**OC Tuna Tournament**

OC Fishing Center, off Rt. 50 & Inlet Isle Lane. Over 100 boats weigh in large tuna in hopes of winning over \$500,000 in cash. Weigh-ins Fri. & Sat., 4-7:30 p.m.; Sun., 4-7 p.m. 800-322-3065. www.ocfishing.com.

July 10**Captain Craig Swim**

14th St. on the Beach. Open to the public, competitors swim a measured mile with prevailing current to finish line at 13th St. Commemorative T-shirt included with registration. Ginny Craig half-mile swim also available. Registration fee; begins at 5 p.m. 410-289-7556. kjoson@ococean.com.

July 25-29**Starpower National Talent Competition**

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. One of the largest talent competitions in the world for dancers who qualified at regionals held across U.S. Ocean City is the world championship where dancers will win scholarships, trophies & prize money. 8 a.m. to approx. 10 p.m. 301-870-9550. www.starpowertalent.com.

July 26-28**Jesus at the Beach Music & Ministry Festival**

Convention Center & N. Division St. Beach. Christian praise, worship music, dance, prayer, Holy Spirit ministry. Baptism in ocean Wed. after morning meeting. Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Convention Center; 7-10 p.m. on beach. 410-289-1296. www.jesusatthebeach.org.

July 30-Aug. 1**Greek Festival**

Convention Center, 40th & Bay. Expertly prepared traditional Greek cuisine — mousaka, patsito, stuffed grape leaves, pastries, made by professional Yiayias (Greek Grand Mamas). Food served all day. Carryouts available. Original & reproduction art, jewelry, clothing vendors. Greek band after 5 p.m.; traditional dance performances by the Hellenics. Free parking. Lunch, dinner, desserts & more. Admission. Fri. & Sat., noon-11 p.m.; Sun., noon-9 p.m. St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 410-524-0990. www.stgeorgebythesea.org.

Aug. 2-6**White Marlin Open**

Harbour Island, 14th St. & Bay. World's largest billfish tournament. Thousands watch fish weigh-ins Mon.-Fri., 4-9 p.m. Boats participated last year for \$3 million in prize money. Registration fees for participating boats. Spectators see weigh-ins free of charge. 410-289-9229. www.whitemarlinopen.com.

Aug. 7**OC Beach Patrol Crew Competition**

8th St. (Surf Avenue) & the Beach. Watch OCBP lifeguards compete against each other in events & demonstrate athletic skills. 6 p.m. 410-289-7556. kjoson@ococean.com.

Aug. 7-8**Dub Custom Auto Show**

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Hundreds of show vehicles, celebrity appearances & performances, models, music, DJs, more. Admission. Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 302-436-0183. www.occarshow.com.

Aug. 13-15**Ocean City Antique Show**

Convention Center, 40th St. & Bay. Features silver matching service, formal & country furniture, vintage toys, china, glassware & estate jewelry. Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission. 302-539-3049.

Aug. 14**Kids Crab Round-Up**

Lagoon Dock, Northside Park, 125th St. & Bay. Fun morning of crabbing & learning about Maryland blue crab. Open to children 12 & younger accompanied by adult. Free. 9 a.m.-noon. Ocean City Parrotheads, opbobgil@aol.com.

Free family entertainment available in Ocean City

Ocean City is serving up a summer filled with free events and activities. For more information, call 800-626-2326.

Sundays, July 11 through Aug. 29

Sundaes in the Park: Northside Park, 127th Street & Bay. Spend Sunday evenings listening to live music in the beautiful setting of Ocean City's Northside Park. This family concert series presents free music ranging from country to rock, plus children's activities and entertainment. Create your own ice cream sundae for a small fee. 6-8 p.m.

Mondays & Fridays, June 28 through Aug. 13

Movies on the Beach: 27th Street Beach. Every Monday and Friday, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., enjoy the free Movies on the Beach. Children will enjoy special activities including arts and crafts, games and other assorted fun the first hour, with the movie starting at approximately 8:45 p.m. (weather permitting). Also, free movies on the beach will be at Princess Royale Hotel on Wednesdays and Carousel Hotel on Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, June 29 through Aug. 10

Family Beach Olympics: 27th Street Beach. Family Beach Olympics offer such activities as sandcastle-building contests, tug of way, relay games and more. Children must be accompanied by parents or guardians. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, July 14 through Aug. 25

Free Beach Concerts: North Division Street Beach. Enjoy free concerts right on the beach, just steps from Ocean City's world-famous Boardwalk. The music varies from week to week. Bring your beach chairs or beach blankets. 8-9:30 p.m.

Thursdays, July 8 through Aug. 19

Evening Bonfires: North Division Street Beach. Gather around the bonfire on the beach. Each week features a different guest speaker. The bonfire hour is designed to be entertaining as well as informative. 9 p.m.

Tuesdays, July 6 through Aug. 24

Sunset Park Party Nights: Sunset Park, South Division Street and the bay. Ocean City's downtown bayside park, Sunset Park, will be the scene of a series of free concerts presented by the Ocean City Development Corporation along with several local non-profit organizations and the town's Recreation & Parks Department. 7 p.m.

Mondays-Saturdays, Mid-July through August

Free Summer Programs: Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, South end of Boardwalk. Gather outside the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum for fun facts and topics. A different subject is discussed each day. Topics include beach safety, aquarium feeding, knot tying & all about sharks. 10:30 a.m.

Ocean City Beautification Committee extending Reflections of Life leaf offer

The Ocean City Beautification Committee maintains the Reflections of Life Tree located inside the lobby entrance of the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. For a donation, a loved one can be honored with a gift of a gold, silver or bronze leaf placed on the Reflections of Life Tree sculpture.

At Christmas, the leaves were offered at 50 percent off. This was so successful, the committee is extending this same deal for Mother's Day and Father's Day. You can now order gold leaves for \$250 instead of \$500, silver leaves for \$175 instead of \$350, and bronze leaves for \$125 instead of \$250. This offer expires on Father's Day, June 20.

This is a great opportunity to help the Ocean City Beautification Committee raise funds for the purchase, installation and landscaping of a custom water feature to be installed at the front entrance of the Convention Center while showing your loved ones how much you care during these holidays.

Donation forms are located on www.oceancitymd.gov as well as at the Visitor's Center located in the Convention Center. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Ocean City.

For more information about the Reflections of Life project, call Toni Wagner, project coordinator, at 410-250-0892.

Ocean City's Arbor Day Celebration April 23

The Town of Ocean City will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 23, at Northside Park, 125th Street bayside. The second-grade classes from Ocean City Elementary School will present skits, poems, songs and artwork to entertain the guests and show how important trees are to the Town.

For over 25 years, the Beautification Committee has been fortunate to partner with the students to bring this program to the community.

The Mayor and Council will be presented with two prestigious awards. The first is the National Arbor Day Foundation's "Tree City USA" award, which the town has received for the past 22 years. Ocean City was the first barrier island in the country to receive this award — quite an accomplishment for an island community.

The other is the Maryland Community Forest and the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service's Maryland P.L.A.N.T. (People Loving and Nurturing Trees) Community Award, which Ocean City has received since the program's inception 18 years ago.

The highlight of the day is when the students assist the Mayor and Council and the Town Arborist in planting a tree at Northside Park as part of the Beautification Committee's TreeMendous Program.

The celebration begins at 9 a.m. in the Northside Park



At last year's Arbor Day event, the Town of Ocean City once again was presented with the National Arbor Day Foundation's 'Tree City USA' award, which the town has received for the past 22 years.

community room with light refreshments. The festivities then move outdoors where the ceremony takes place weather permitting.

All citizens and visitors are invited to join the Mayor and Council along with the Beautification Committee for this exciting long-standing tradition.

For more information, call Donna Greenwood, Beautification Committee chairperson, at 410-289-7060, or Town Arborist Gregory Purnell at 410-520-5187.

Ocean City celebrates the Fourth of July

Northside Park and North Division Street locations both feature free concerts and fireworks displays

The Fourth of July will be filled with family fun in Ocean City with two great places to celebrate the holiday, both presenting free concerts and fireworks.

Festivities begin at 8 p.m. with a free concert at Northside Park located at 127th Street and the bay. Rick K and the Allnighters will provide the entertainment.

The spectacular fireworks display will be shot from the west side of the park at 9:30 p.m. You'll hear the oohs and aahs throughout the park as the colorful displays light up the evening sky. Get there early to claim the best location to view the fireworks.

Meanwhile, on the south end of town, you can head to Ocean City's famous Boardwalk with its bright lights, wonderful food, family fun and more fantas-

tic fireworks. Bring your beach chair or blanket and claim a spot on the beach at North Division Street for a free concert at 8 p.m. with Dr. K's Motown Review. Fireworks will also fill the sky over the ocean beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Parking is extremely limited at both locations. It is recommended that you take the bus. Bus service is \$2 a day and runs 24 hours a day.

The West Ocean City Park & Ride on Route 50 is just west of the Route 50 Bridge and offers free parking and \$1 shuttle service to downtown.

For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 410-250-0125 or the Department of Tourism at 1-800-626-2326, or visit www.ococean.com or www.oceancitymd.gov.



Nominees sought for 2010 OC Beauty Spot Awards

The Ocean City Beautification Committee is looking for places of beauty so that they can reward the diligent work of citizens with their annual Beauty Spot Awards. Over the years, these have become very coveted acknowledgments of a job well done.

The committee is seeking nominations in eight categories in which someone can win a 2010 Beauty Spot Award. They include residential, condominium, retail, hotel, motel, commercial, restaurant and Boardwalk. Only nominated properties will be judged.

The Beautification Committee asks for the help of the public in finding those special properties that are evidence of civic pride and community beauty. A property can be nominated by anyone — the resident or owner of a residence or business, a relative, neighbor, friend, customer or just a passerby.

Nominations will be accepted until July 5, after which time the Beautification Committee will travel around town to view all nominated properties.

Judging is based on plants, flowers, trees, shrubbery, grasses, design, layout, etc., that compliment the property.

Even those properties with little or no ground in which to plant can imaginatively use containers, planters, window boxes, hanging baskets or something else to improve the "curb-side" appeal of their property.

Also, those who make an effort to beautify unattractive areas such as dumpsters, electric boxes, etc., can be recognized. In the fall at a City Council meeting, the Mayor and City Council will present the winners with their awards.

To nominate a property, call Donna Greenwood, chairperson, at 410-289-7060 or mail nominations to OCBC, Department of Recreation and Parks, 200 125th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842, before the July 5 deadline.

Please be sure to include the property owner's name, correct street address, phone number and your name with a phone number so that the location and information can be verified.

Art's Alive ready to celebrate 10th anniversary June 19-20

Art's Alive celebrates its 10th year of offering fabulous fine arts in the beautiful setting of Ocean City's Northside Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20, at Northside Park.

From the moment you arrive, you will discover the perfect setting for an art show — winding paths around a beautiful lagoon with a decorative bridge.

Stroll along the path to see beautiful works in the artist tents. Browse through 150 artist tents, listen to the sounds of live entertainment and enjoy lunch at the Artists' Café.

Children can participate in free educational and artistic activities while parents shop for art treasures.

Painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, ceramics, glass, printmaking, mixed media, fiber, furniture, jewelry and fine wood are among the fine art categories. All artwork is available for purchase. Artists compete for \$5,250 in prizes awarded to the "Best in Show" and seven other categories.

Northside Park is located on 127th Street and the bay. Show hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department at 410-250-0125 or visit www.ococean.com.



2009 Beauty Spot Award winners recognized by Mayor and Council

Recipients of the Town of Ocean City Beautification Committee's 2009 Beauty Spot Awards were recognized at the Sept. 21 meeting of the Mayor and City Council.

The Ocean City Beautification Committee sponsors the annual Beauty Spot Awards to recognize the efforts of residential and commercial property owners who contribute to the beauty of the community by planting trees, shrubs, flowers and ornamental grasses.

Judging is based on percentage of flowers and ground cover, percentage of trees, shrubs and grasses, creative landscaping that can include trash container enclosures made of attractive materials and general public visibility.

This year's residential winners are: The Schneiders, 115 Bering Road; Pamela Harrington, 725 Anchor Chain Road; the Rives, 745 Laurel Avenue; the Mestros, 200 139th Street; the Lamonts, 319B South Bay

Drive; the Chapmans, 13335 Ocean Drive; Blackmoore LLC, 6 Surf Avenue; and the Mancinis, 203 Bering Road.

Condominium winners are Hidden Harbor II, Wight Bay, Ocean Villa and Braemar Towers. In the motel category, winners are Barefoot Mailman and Captain Bob's Apartments.

Commercial winners are Buccaneer Booty Golf and Taylor Bank at 20th Street. Retail winners are Ocean Greenery, Donaway Furniture and Malibu's Surf Shop. Restaurant winners are the Bonfire Restaurant and Bayside Skillet.

Special awards were given to the Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645, Sunset Island Community Association, Holy Savior Rosary Garden and Wight Bay Fish Pond — Greg Dennis.

Lifetime Beauty Spot Awards were presented to the Seals, Sea Watch Condominium and Hawaiian Village Condominium.

Recreation and Parks summer camp registration now open

The Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department announces that summer camp registration has started for the 2010 season.

There are several new camps in the line-up, including two new science camps, and OC Baseball Camp powered by Ripken Baseball.

There are many popular sports camps returning, including lacrosse, soccer, basketball, golf, skate and tennis.

A new feature added last year for participants is online registration at www.ocsportsamps.com, where you will also find a complete list of camps as well as registration information.

For additional information, call the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department at 410-250-0125.



Lacrosse is one of the many camps being offered this summer by the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department.

Solid waste collection summer schedule runs May 17-Oct. 17

Residential: Waste wheelers: Twice a week. On Mondays and Thursdays, collection will be from 75th Street to the Delaware line (oceanside) and from 75th Street to 135th Street (bayside). On Tuesdays and Fridays, pick-up is from Inlet to 74th Street (ocean and bayside) and from 136th Street to the Delaware line (bayside).

Commercial: Front-end and 300-gallon containers: On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, all areas.

There will be a solid waste collection fee imposed for all commercial establishments requiring collection more than five times per week. These establishments include hotels, motels, condominiums, apartment/multi-family complexes and restaurants.

This fee structure will be in effect from May 17 through Oct. 1, 2010. The fee will be \$75 per additional pick-up for front-end containers and \$20 per additional pick-up for 300-gallon containers.

In most cases the five-day collection schedule would exclude Tuesdays and

Thursdays. Other days without collection may be possible if arranged in advance with the Solid Waste Manager. We are not in any way going to sacrifice the cleanliness of the Town. Therefore, the Solid Waste Manager shall have the final say on whether a particular location needs seven-day collection service.

.....

Notice to those with waste-wheelers and 300-gallon containers: Stolen or other abuse of carts, which would render them unserviceable, is the responsibility of the owner and a replacement charge will be made.

Residents leaving for the winter or leaving for more than a few days are advised to put the waste-wheeler inside or secure outside, to prevent the wind or someone from carting it off. All metal dumpsters and plastic containers must be secured from being blown off pads into the streets.

Name of the building or address must be on all dumpsters with letters no smaller than three inches. Owners must keep dumpsters painted, all graffiti removed, wheels greased and clean on the inside.

Bulk Pick-Up: Please call 410-524-0318. This service enables citizens to place household items, such as old appliances and furniture, at curbside for pick-up.

Service operates Monday through Friday, May 1 through Sept. 30. From Oct. 1 through April 30, the service operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The cost is \$15 for one to three items and \$5 for each additional item.

For more information, please call 410-524-0318.

Automatic payment option for water and sewer bills

CONVENIENT • EASY • NO CHECKS TO WRITE • TIME-SAVER

In order to better serve our customers, the Town of Ocean City offers an automatic payment option for water and sewer bills. There is no fee for this service and you'll still receive a quarterly statement showing the amount to be deducted from your checking account.

To enroll in this service, please complete the form below and mail to:

Town of Ocean City • Attn: Collections
P.O. Box 5000 • Ocean City, MD 21843-5000

Enrollment in Town of Ocean City's Pre-Authorized Transfer Program

Name (as shown on utility bill) _____

Billing Address _____

Utility Account Number _____

Ocean City Service Address _____

Bank Name _____

Bank Account Number _____

Financial Institution 9-Digit Routing Number _____

***Please enclose a voided, blank check so that we may verify your bank account number and the other bank routing information we need to process your enrollment.**

Authorization Agreement

I authorize the Town of Ocean City to automatically debit my bank, savings and loan or credit union checking account for the payment of the Town of Ocean City water and sewer bills. I have the right to suspend the transfer of funds up to three business days before the transfer date by notifying the Town and will then make other payment arrangements. I understand that the automatic transfer would resume the following month or the Town reserves the right to limit participation to customers whose accounts are in good standing. If I wish to end my participation in the program, I may do so at any time by notifying the Town.

Signature of Bank Account Holder: _____

Date _____ Phone Number _____

Questions? Call 410-289-8833 or e-mail sadkins@oceancitymd.gov

Ocean City Numbers To Know

EMERGENCY

Police, Fire, Ambulance.....911

NON-EMERGENCY

MD Natural Resources Police.....410-548-7070

Poison Control Center.....1-800-222-1222

U.S. Coast Guard.....410-289-7559

CITY OFFICES

Airport.....410-213-2471

Animal Control.....410-723-6649

Beach Patrol.....410-289-7556

Billing & Tax Information.....410-289-8833

City Hall General Information.....410-289-8221

City Hall Fax.....410-289-7385

City Manager.....410-289-8887

City Solicitor.....410-723-1400

Convention Center.....410-289-8311

Eagle's Landing Golf Course.....410-213-7277

or.....1-800-2TEETIME

Engineering Department.....410-289-8845

Fire Dept. (non-emergency).....410-289-4346

Mayor.....410-289-8931

OC Life-Saving Station Museum...410-289-4991

Police (non-emergency).....410-723-6610

Public Works.....410-524-7716

Public Works Construction.....410-524-4733

Public Works Maintenance.....410-524-0391

Recreation & Parks.....410-250-0125

Solid Waste.....410-524-0318

Tennis Center.....410-524-8337

Tourism.....410-289-2800

Transportation Department.....410-723-1606

Visitor Information.....1-800-OC-OCEAN

Water Department/Billing.....410-289-8833

Water Department.....410-524-8388

Wastewater Department.....410-524-6760

OTHERS

Atlantic General Hospital.....410-641-1100

Chamber of Commerce.....410-213-0144

Comcast.....410-524-3401

Coastal Assoc. of Realtors.....410-641-4409

Consumer Protection Agency.....410-713-3620

District Court.....410-723-6935

Downtown Association.....410-289-1413

Humane Society.....410-213-0146

Life Crisis Hotline.....410-641-4357

Legal Aid Bureau Inc.....410-546-5511

Maryland Job Service.....410-341-8533

OC Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Assoc.....410-289-6733

Public Defender.....410-632-1933

OC Public Library.....410-524-1818

Weather.....410-548-9262

Youth Health Center.....410-289-4044

MVA offers convenient service with mobile unit

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's MVA on Wheels mobile unit generally visits Ocean City the second Tuesday of the month. It is parked at the Public Safety Building lot, 65th Street and Coastal Highway. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The following services are offered on the MVA bus: Renew a non-commercial drivers license; renew a Maryland photo identification card; obtain a duplicate drivers license; obtain a certified

copy of a driving record; obtain disability placards; renew a vehicle registration; obtain substitute stickers; obtain duplicate registrations; return tags; change your name and/or address; register to vote and register as an organ donor.

Future MVA visits to Ocean City have been scheduled for April 13, May 11 and June 8. For more information, call the MVA at 1-800-950-1 MVA.

OC University fall semester open for registration

Learn more about your municipal government and the services it provides by attending Ocean City University, a series of courses that provides citizens with a diverse educational background on municipal government and services. Classes are free and are offered in two semesters.

The goals of Ocean City University are to provide a better understanding of government's role and relationship with citizens; that government and citizens can work together to improve quality of life; to give citizens a sense of ownership in government actions and that informed citizens can make a difference in the community.

Classes are held Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

To sign up for the fall semester, which begins Wednesday, Sept. 8, fill out registration form printed here and send

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street/Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Alternate/Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please register me for Ocean City University General Session Classes _____

Please register me for Ocean City University CERT Program _____

Are you an Ocean City resident? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you an Ocean City property owner? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you completed OCU General Session Classes? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you attended the Citizens Police Academy? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you attended the CERT Program? _____ Yes _____ No

to Ocean City University, Attn.: Kathy Mathias, City Clerk, P.O. Box 158, Ocean City, MD 21843. Space is avail-

able on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit www.oceancitymd.gov.

Flood hazard protection in Ocean City

By Jesse C. Houston

Director of Planning & Community Development

All property in Ocean City is in a flood hazard area and subject to flooding from the ocean, coastal bays and heavy rainfall. Minor flooding is not uncommon, and major flooding happens occasionally.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency places properties in flood zones based on their chance of flooding. Property owners can find their property's flood hazard designation by contacting the Department of Planning and Community Development, 410-289-8855 (kbrown@oceancitymd.gov), or City Engineer, 410-289-8845 (tmcgean@oceancitymd.gov).

Natural and beneficial functions of floodplains

Floodplains in their natural state provide many beneficial functions. Primary undeveloped flood plain areas in Ocean City are beaches and dunes, the first line of defense against flood damage from the ocean. Taking care of dunes by not walking in them and maintaining vegetation is essential to retaining their flood protection function.

Bayside, wetlands and other open spaces act as sponges, storing floodwaters before they reach upland areas. These natural areas are protected by federal, state and local regulations.

Flood warning system

Ocean City has developed a flood warning system as part of our Emergency Operations Plan. Since flooding here is caused by storms and hurricanes, the warning system is based on storm severity and location. (See adjacent article on hurricane precautions for more information.)

Flood insurance

Standard homeowners insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Ocean City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes federally backed flood insurance available to property owners. This insurance is required in many cases, such as when

property is purchased with a federally backed mortgage. Property owners can insure buildings and contents against flood damage, and renters can insure possessions. Condominiums should carry a flood insurance policy on the structure itself.

Floodplain development permit requirements

Ocean City Code requires a building permit be obtained for nearly all construction and structural repair work. The

city reviews plans to be sure buildings are constructed to withstand flooding. Permits are also required before any land development (grading, filling, etc.) in the floodplain to ensure activities do not increase flooding potential on or around property.

Part of the permit process involves preparation of elevation certificates, which provide a record of the structure's lowest floor elevation to predicted flood levels. Elevation certificates are maintained for review by insurance agents, property owners and other interested persons. Obtain information and permits from Department of Planning and Community Development at City Hall (410-289-8855, kbrown@oceancitymd.gov). Illegal floodplain activity can also be reported here.

Drainage system maintenance

It is important our drainage system be kept clear of obstructions and debris. The town's littering ordinance prohibits throwing trash onto any public property, including storm drains and sewers. To report violations and clogged drainage ways call 410-524-7716.

Flood protection assistance

The Department of Planning and Community Development and City Engineer can assist with questions about flood protection and flood insurance, including historical flooding information so you can relate flood potential to your property; site visits to advise appropriate flood protection techniques; review retrofitting plans; locate property on flood insurance rate maps to determine flood zones and research elevation certificates for existing buildings to determine height above floodwaters. Call 410-289-8855 (kbrown@oceancitymd.gov) for more information.

This article is published in each edition of the newsletter as required by the Town's participation in FEMA's Community Rating System. Property owners in Ocean City receive a 15 percent discount on flood insurance premiums through this program. For an expanded version of this article, please see the Town's web site: (http://oceancitymd.gov/Emergency_Management/flood.html).

Property protection measures

There are many ways to protect property from flood damage. Make sure your new building is constructed to meet or exceed code requirements. These include requirements for elevation of building, foundations, venting, etc.

There are also ways to retrofit existing buildings to increase protection:

Elevation: Structure can be raised to bring it above floodwater level.

Levees: In areas of shallow flooding with low velocity, a levee can be built around the structure.

Flood walls: Similar to levees, but built of materials such as masonry block or reinforced concrete to keep floodwater away.

Closures involve techniques for protecting gaps left open for daily convenience, such as walks, doors, driveways.

Sealants can be applied to walls and floors to keep water from penetrating.

Utility protection: Flooding sometimes causes costly damage to utility systems. By elevating utilities or shielding them, flooding can be avoided. Moving utilities to less flood-prone locations can also minimize damage.

Beach replenishment project update

By Terry McGean, City Engineer

Last fall's severe storms caused damage to the beach and dunes. Repairs to the most heavily damaged dunes began in February and will be completed in April.

These repairs consist of moving sand from locations along the beach where excess sand built up during the storms, and trucking it along the beach to repair damaged dunes. Certain areas of the beach will be closed for one or two days at a time during this process. In addition, heavy equipment will be moving up and down the beach.

Repairs of dune crossovers will begin once dune repairs are complete. Fence repairs will occur throughout the summer. Because dune vegetation can only be planted after the first freeze, dune planting will take place next winter.

There will also be beach replenishment. Although no firm schedule has been established at this time, work will likely begin in September and continue through November. With the exception of fence repairs, no work will occur between July 1 and Sept. 7. Beach replenishment will resume in the fall and continue through November. During beach replenishment, a maximum of three blocks of beach may be closed at any given

time for a period of three days. The Town will post more information on www.oceancitymd.gov as it becomes available.

In 1994, the State of Maryland, Worcester County and Ocean City accepted responsibility for operation and maintenance of the completed Atlantic Coast of Maryland Storm Protection Project, which consists of the beach renourishment program, dunes, dune crossovers, dune planting and fencing along with the Boardwalk seawall.

The state, county and town have a long-term (50-year) written partnership agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to perform periodic beach renourishment as needed to maintain adequate storm protection. The Army Corps of Engineers designs and manages renourishment dredging operations and funds 53 percent of the cost.

Damaging the dunes in any way is a criminal offense. Only the Department of Natural Resources contractor is permitted to trim vegetation. This action is recommended by the Department of Agriculture and is done on an annual basis.

Maintaining the project takes a tremendous amount of effort from local and state officials. The Ocean City Public Works Department maintains all items mentioned above and the Office of Engineering keeps constant watch on the project. To make

this project successful requires everyone's cooperation.

Installation of fencing, landscaping, decks, planters or any permanent item is prohibited east of the construction limit line, which runs more or less parallel with the dunes and is located approximately 10 feet to the west of the westerly toe of the dunes. This area must be kept clear for easy access, maintenance and monitoring purposes. It can be easily located at your property by measuring back 10 feet from the sand fencing at the toe of the dune. If you have any questions about where the line is or where you should stop your private fencing, please call our office and someone will meet on-site with you.

Also, mid-block crossovers are public property for the use of all visiting the beach. Installation of impediments on these crossovers is prohibited. Any signs, chains, gates, etc., will be removed.

For questions related to the beach replenishment contract, contact either City Engineer Terry McGean, 410-289-8845 (e-mail tmcgean@oceancitymd.gov), or Jordan Loran, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 410-260-8907.

The beach in Ocean City is Maryland's project for everyone's enjoyment. It protects your property and life.

To date, the project has prevented an estimated \$256 million in storm damage.

New volunteer program: Ocean City Wetlands Patrol

The Town of Ocean City has received a mini-grant from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program to create a wetlands patrol. The program will be modeled after the successful dune patrol program that has been in existence for over 15 years.

Volunteers will be organized to clean wetlands and canals throughout the town. This will be an on-going effort done on an as-needed basis. However, two weekends a year will be set aside as specific clean-up weekends, and will coincide with the citywide Spring Clean-Up in April and the Coastal Clean-Up

in September.

Volunteers will either be assigned specific areas or can be rovers. Assignment will respect private property rights of the tidal wetland marshes. Volunteers will be given T-shirts, litter grabbers, trash bags and gloves.

An educational CD must be viewed to understand the sensitivity of wetlands and how to clean up in a tidal wetland.

To volunteer or for more information, call Gail Blazer, Engineering Department, 410-289-8825, or email at gblazer@oceancitymd.gov.

Eagle's Landing offers rewards program to property owners

Attention Ocean City property owners: You now qualify for local rates at Eagle's Landing Golf Course with the new Local Rewards Program.

Play at a discounted rate all year long and earn rewards points every time you play a round.

Rewards points may be redeemed for golf shop merchandise or green fees.

Call the golf shop at 1-800-283-3846 or visit www.eagleslandinggolf.com to find out more about this program that gives you affordable golf at Ocean City's premier golf course.



New playground coming to OC's North Surf Park

A new state-of-the-art playground is coming to Ocean City's North Surf Park.

The Town of Ocean City has awarded a contract to Playground Specialist Inc. of Emmitsburg, Md., for \$85,000 to install the new playground that will replace an existing playground installed in 1995.

The new playground will feature equipment by Playworld Systems Inc. of Lewisburg, Pa., and will meet the Consumer Products Safety Commission Guidelines for commercial playgrounds. The new playground will include Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible features, bonded rubber safety surfacing, three slides, climbers, play panels and a swing set.

Installation of the playground begins in

late March 2010, subject to weather conditions. Disturbance at North Surf Park should be minimal and the park will remain open for public access.

"We are very excited to move forward on this neighborhood improvement," said Tom Shuster, Director of the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department, which operates North Surf Park. "The new playground will be a wonderful addition to the Caine Woods neighborhood and provide much enjoyment for the children."

North Surf Park is located on North Surf Road at Dukes Avenue. The new playground will be funded by a grant from the State of Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.

OCBP on Ocean City's surfing beaches

During summer, two blocks are designated as daily surfing beaches. No swimming or wading is permitted at surfing beaches, and surfers must wear ankle leashes. Surfing beach limits are established using yellow stands, and signs and flags are used to highlight the area. Surfing beaches rotate two blocks south each day.

In addition to the two rotating surfing beaches that have been in effect for nearly 20 years, the town implemented a stationary surfing beach that has been in effect since 2007. Surfing is permitted 200 yards north of the inlet rock jetty. This area is available for surfing Monday through Friday, except holidays, beginning the Tuesday in May after the beach patrol goes on duty for the season. Half of the inlet beach (toward the pier) is still available for all water activities.

The specifics of this surfing area have been worked out between the Ocean City Beach Patrol and representatives of the surfing community. This plan has gained the ongoing approval of the Mayor and City Council, because the pilot year was such a success. This area of the beach, while popular as a surfing area, does not see a large beach population on weekdays. However, weekends see a very large number of visitors to the inlet, and therefore, this area is not used for surfing during this time.

The Eastern Surfing Association publishes a brochure listing daily surfing beaches, and it is available at most surf shops in Ocean City. The schedule is also available on our website.

Surfing beach facilitators (SBFs) are beach patrol members who maintain the surfing beach area. SBFs let beachgoers know when they are on a surfing beach and direct them to the nearest swimming beach.

On days when inclement weather affects Ocean City, the beach patrol captain may decide to allow surfing in all areas. This decision is made with the input of supervisors on the beach, and taking all factors into account. If there



are low numbers of people on the beach, and the weather is poor and not predicted to improve for the day, surfing restrictions may be modified.

On days of inclement weather, ask any SRT on the beach if the surfing restriction has been modified, or call beach patrol headquarters at 410-289-7556. Local surf shops may also know when surfing has been modified.

The two rotating surfing beaches begin operation each year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at 10 a.m., which coincides with the first day the beach patrol goes on duty for the season.

Surfing areas are regulated by Town of Ocean City ordinances and require surfers to remain within the boundaries. It also prohibits anyone without a surfboard from entering the water on a surfing beach. The rotation takes 68 days to complete, which means a surfing location will only rotate to the same beach every 68 days. Additionally, because the rotation continues across years, if the surfing beach is located on your beach this July 4, it will not return on that same date until July 4, 2024. As you can see, the rotating surfing beach system is the perfect way to share this wonderful resource with minimal impact on everyone.

Tennis Center opens for season May 15

The Ocean City Tennis Center opens for the season Saturday, May 15. The facility will host several USTA-sanctioned tournaments for all ages as well as a junior tennis academy and Pee Wee Camp several weeks throughout the summer. Adults can participate in morning doubles flights and evening advanced tennis competitions.

The Ocean City Tennis Center is located at 61st Street and the bay.

For more information, visit www.tennis.ococean.com or call the tennis shop at 410-524-8337 or Recreation and Parks at 410-250-0125.

Ocean City Transportation Schedules

Bus Schedule

May 3-27

Every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Every 30 minutes from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

May 28-Sept. 6

Every 10 minutes from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m.
Every 20 minutes from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Sept. 7-Oct. 31

Every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Every 30 minutes from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Boardwalk Trams

May 29-Sept. 6

11 a.m. to midnight daily.

May 6-9 (Springfest) & Sept. 23-26 (Sunfest)
10 a.m. to midnight Thursday, Friday & Saturday.
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

West OC Park & Ride Shuttle

May 6-9 • May 20-23 • May 28-Sept. 26 • Oct. 7-10
Shuttles run every 20 minutes from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Express Trolley Service

May 6-9, Springfest

39th Street to and from Inlet Parking Lot
Thursday, Friday & Saturday: Every 20 minutes
from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday: Every 20 minutes from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Aug. 2-6, White Marlin Open

39th St., to & from Jacqueline Ave. & 14th St.
Every 20 minutes from 3 to 11 p.m.

Sept. 23-26, Sunfest

39th St., to & from Inlet Parking Lot
Thursday, Friday & Saturday: Every 20 minutes
from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday: Every 20 minutes from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information,
please call 410-723-1606.

Ocean City Newsletter

OC Newsletter is produced by the Mayor and City Council of Ocean City, Maryland, for its citizens.

- Richard W. Meehan**, Mayor
- Joseph M. Mitrecic**, Council President
- Lloyd Martin**, Council Secretary
- Douglas S. Cymek**, Council Member
- James S. Hall**, Council Member
- Joseph T. Hall, II**, Council Member
- Mary P. Knight**, Council Member
- Margaret Pillas**, Council Member
- Dennis W. Dare**, City Manager
- Donna Abbott**, Editor



Mayor & City Council
Town of Ocean City
 P.O. Box 158
 Ocean City, MD 21843

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Ocean City, MD
 PERMIT #41



Ocean City organizational license plate still available

Maryland citizens interested in obtaining an Ocean City, Maryland organizational license plate for their vehicles can order the plates through the City Clerk's Office.

The license plate features the vintage Ocean City logo displaying the white marlin.

The cost to obtain the license plate is \$35 per tag number. An application must be submitted with the fee. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave., or through the town's web site at www.oceancitymd.gov. Have your driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance information handy to complete the application. Your vehicle must be regis-



tered in the State of Maryland. Plate numbers are assigned by the MVA.

Once you receive your new plates, you must return your old plates to the MVA. You can return the old license plates in person at any MVA branch office, including the MVA on Wheels mobile van, which parks at the 65th Street lot generally the second Tuesday of

the month. You can also drop them in one of the MVA license plate return drop boxes. Currently drop boxes are located at the Glen Burnie, Gaithersburg, Columbia, Essex, Waldorf and Salisbury branches. You can also mail plates to the Glen Burnie MVA office. Mailing by certified mail with return receipt requested is recommended. Please note that when you return the license plate, always include your registration card. The MVA Customer Service Center can be reached at 1-800-950-1682 if you need additional information on returning plates.

For more information, call the City Clerk's office at 410-289-8824 or e-mail kallmond@oceancitymd.gov.



Ocean City Mayor and Council Members



Richard W. Meehan
Mayor



Joseph M. Mitrecic
Council President



Lloyd Martin
Council Secretary



Douglas S. Cymek



James S. Hall



Joseph T. Hall, II



Mary P. Knight



Margaret Pillas



Dennis W. Dare
City Manager

