

# Ocean City, Maryland

*Newsletter and Community Calendar • Winter/Spring 2011-2012*



*A rendering of the Convention Center expansion on the bayside of the facility.*



*State and local officials at the ground-breaking.*

## Ground-breaking marks start of Convention Center expansion

On Saturday, Aug. 20, an official ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Roland E. Powell Convention Center expansion project on the west deck of the facility overlooking the bay, showcasing the view of the new ballroom.

Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan officiated and introduced Gov. Martin O'Malley. Both the Mayor and Governor spoke of the long-term relationship between the city and state using the Convention Center as a positive example of a truly successful partnership. Also in attendance from the original ground-breaking were former Ocean City Mayor Roland E. Powell, former Council Member Buck Mann and Sen. Jim Mathias.

Construction is currently moving forward on time and on budget with completion scheduled in late fall of 2012. The expansion will be a welcomed addition to the facility, increasing needed space and provid-

ing breathtaking bay views. The 32,000-square-foot expansion will include a new lower exhibit hall and a new bayfront ballroom exposure.

Total project cost, including design fees, is \$9.3 million, with \$5 million being paid by the town through

the half-cent food tax collection and \$4.3 million contributed by the Maryland Stadium Authority. Estimated new tax revenue for the state once completed is \$1.1 million to \$1.6 million annually and 300 to 400 full-time new jobs.

## Winter/spring newsletter, calendar debuts

In response to the tremendously positive feedback from citizens regarding the Town of Ocean City's 2011 spring/summer newsletter, we are now continuing the format with the debut of this 2011-12 winter/spring newsletter and community calendar, which covers events and activities from November through April. Once again, we are merging the newsletter with the community calendar to provide you with information about town news and upcoming events.

We hope you continue to find this publication to be informative and useful in the coming months, and we again welcome your evaluation of this publication. Please forward comments to Donna Abbott, Communications Manager, City Hall, P.O. Box 158, Ocean City, MD 21843, or email: [dabbott@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:dabbott@oceancitymd.gov).

## Boardwalk reconstruction project begins

The Town of Ocean City will completely reconstruct the Boardwalk over the next two years. The first phase began Oct. 3. It involves the complete replacement of the Boardwalk and its substructure from 27th to 15th streets, and replacement of Boardwalk decking and repair of any damaged substructure between the Inlet and Somerset Street. Next year, beginning in October 2012, the remainder of the Boardwalk will be rebuilt.

Phase I has been awarded to RBCI Construction of Easton, MD.

Work on the north end will start at 27th Street and proceed south to 15th Street. No more than six blocks of Boardwalk will be under construction at any given time. No more than two blocks will be closed at any given time.

While portions of the Boardwalk are under construction, the town will provide 5-foot-wide temporary walkways for public access as long as it is safe to traverse the construction zone (for instance, during a concrete pour or actual Boardwalk demolition, it will not be safe to allow the public on that portion of the Boardwalk, but at other times we will do our best to maintain access). This work is expected to be completed by the end of April 2012. Please keep in mind that the work is very weather dependent.

Work on the south end will begin on or about Nov. 7, 2011. Work will start with the tram lane around the pier and then move to the Boardwalk. In general, no area on the south end will be closed for more than one day, as the contractor is only allowed to remove as much deck as he can replace in the same day.

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*The recipients of the 2011 Beauty Spots Awards were recognized in September by the Mayor and City Council.*

## **Ocean City Beauty Spot Awards presented**

Recipients of the Town of Ocean City Beautification Committee's 2011 Beauty Spot Awards were recognized at the Sept. 19 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 recipients are: the Kostopelacs, 14002 Derrickson Ave.; the Mestros, 200 139th St.; the Valles, 322 S. Ocean Dr.; the

Argentinos, 12301 Jamaica Ave.; the Edwards, 600 Salt Spray Rd.; the Fishbeins, 148 Channel Buoy Rd.; John Danias, 160 Old Wharf Rd. and the Kenningtons, 207 Old Landing Rd.

Condominium recipients were Orleans Court, 140th St. and Coastal Hwy.; Triton's Trumpet, 79th St. and Coastal Hwy.; Braemar Towers, 113th St. and Coastal Hwy. and Camelot, 132nd and 133rd Sts.

In the retail category were Donaway Furniture, 130th St. and Coastal Hwy., and Raggamuffin, 24th St. and Coastal Hwy.

Restaurant recipients were Fresco's, 83rd St. and Coastal Hwy.; Bayside Skillet, 77th St. and Coastal Hwy. and Pirate's Den & Galley, 32nd St. and Baltimore Ave.

Commercial properties receiving awards were Old Pro Golf, 136th St. and Coastal Hwy., and Maui Golf, 57th St. and Coastal Hwy.

## **Boardwalk project**

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However, if damaged structure beneath the Boardwalk deck is found, additional time may be needed for repairs.

Finally, the ramp portion between South First Street and the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum must be reconstructed to meet ADA requirements. This area may be closed for up to two weeks. This work is expected to be finished by the end of February 2012, weather permitting.

Property or business owners with questions or specific concerns regarding access to property during construction can contact the Engineering Department at 410-289-8855.



## **Beach replenishment update**

Beach replenishment is currently not scheduled for the summer of 2012. However, dune fence and crossover repairs along with dune grass planting will occur over the winter.

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. The project consists of the beach renourishment program, dunes, dune crossovers, dune planting and fencing along with the seawall along the boardwalk.

The State of Maryland, Worcester County and Ocean City 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. Per this agreement, the Army Corps of Engineers designs and manages the needed renourishment dredging operations and pays for 53 percent of the cost of renourishment.

Please keep in mind that damaging the dunes in any way is a criminal offense. Only the Department of Natural Resources contractor is permitted to trim vegetation. To request dune grass be trimmed in your area, please contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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 the cooperation of everyone.

Installation of fencing, landscaping, decks, planters or any permanent item is prohibited east of the construction limit line (CLL). The CLL 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 and open 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, call the Ocean City Engineering Department at 410-289-8855 and someone will come out and meet with you.

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

For questions about the beach replenishment contract, contact City Engineer Terry McGean, 410-289-8855, or Andy Hanas at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 410-643-8238, ext. 2201.

Ocean City's beach is Maryland's project for everyone's enjoyment. It protects property and life. To date, the project has prevented an estimated \$256 million in storm damage. Please treat it with respect and extend your cooperation to those who are responsible for maintaining it.

## ***Make sure your street address is visible***

Everyone knows how important fire, EMS and police services are. But can first responders find you in an emergency? At night? During a storm? When the town and the streets are crowded with cars and visitors?

In the wake of Hurricane Irene, please take a moment to verify that your house address and/or unit number is clearly displayed on your property.

Street addresses are the unique way in which we identify business and residential locations. Visitors, service contractors and emergency responders will all benefit from clearly marked structures.

The house or building number must be clearly visible from the street, and individual units or

apartments need to be posted as well. As you get your property ready for the fall and winter, please look closely at the front of your building and take note of the placement and condition of the building number and/or condo name.

If your property is a multifamily structure, you can work with your homeowners association to make sure buildings get properly posted.

If you are not sure of your assigned street address or if it differs from the service address listed at the top of your utility bill, please contact Karen Zera, GIS Coordinator, at 410-289-8466 or email to [kzera@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:kzera@oceancitymd.gov) for clarification.

## **A reminder about hurricane preparedness**

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 advisory radio station 1670 AM, local radio and TV stations, [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov), the local government access television channel, electronic signs, direct notification through business and community organizations. When necessary, law enforcement, fire and other emergency officials notify people as well.

The evacuation order will be issued in phases. During emergencies we also update a recording for residents and visitors at 410-723-6666.

More information can be found at [www.oceancitymd.gov/emergency\\_management/hur.html](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/emergency_management/hur.html).

## **Sewer installation project work begins**

Installation of a new sewer force main on Philadelphia Avenue began Sept. 6. Motorists can expect traffic pattern changes during the project.

The new 24-inch sewer force main is being installed from 15th to 49th streets in the southbound fast lane of Philadelphia Avenue/Coastal Highway. Due to the long duration required to perform this project, the contractor, Bunting & Murray Construction Corp., needs to begin work as soon as possible in order to be completed before the 2012 season begins.

The project will require closure of the fast lane for a three-block working area plus associated space

required for temporary traffic control over nights and on weekends. This lane closure will move north as the project progresses.

During working hours, the contractor will be required to close lane two southbound as well for working room and a safety buffer. This will limit southbound traffic to the slow lane and the bus lane. Motorists are advised this will cause traffic delays.

A new water main will also be installed in the northbound bus lane of Coastal Highway from 45th to 51st streets. This project will begin early next year.



## ***Town receives new buses***

The Town of Ocean City recently took delivery of 14 2011 Eldorado Axxess model buses. These buses meet all 2010 emission standards for diesel engines and burn ultra low sulfur diesel fuel.

They are fully ADA-compliant, low-floor buses with wheelchair ramps instead of traditional lifts. Each bus has the ability to be lowered, making it easier for patrons to board. The ramps are essentially maintenance-free, enabling the town to save money on maintenance and repair costs. The suspension is a full air ride suspension for driver and passenger comfort.

The total cost was \$5.527 million. Federal and state grants totaled \$5.3 million. The cost to the town was \$223,394.

Ocean City was to receive four more buses in October to complete the order.

## **Eagle's Landing: Play the best for less**

Ocean City's premier golf course, Eagle's Landing Golf Course, has two great programs for residents and property owners to play the best golf for less money.

The Talon Club offers the best rates available for those who like to play Eagle's Landing on a regular basis, and the Local Rewards Card offers great rates and rewards points for less frequent golfers.

Town of Ocean City property owners may take advantage of either program. Call the golf shop for more information at 800-283-3846.

## **Winter solid waste collection schedule**

The Solid Waste Department will follow the following collection schedule from Oct. 17 to May 14:

- Residential (waste wheelers): Monday, oceanside (75th Street to 146th Street); bayside (75th Street to 135th Street). Tuesday, all areas (Inlet to 74th Street); bayside (136th Street to 146th Street).
- Commercial: (front-end and 300-gallon containers): Monday, Wednesday, Friday, all areas.

All trash must be placed curbside by 6 a.m. on collection dates. Bulk pick-up service is available for a fee and can be arranged by calling 410-524-0318.

For information about Ocean City's solid waste collection, bulk pick-up and holiday pick-up, visit [www.oceancitymd.gov/Public\\_Works/solid-waste.html](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/Public_Works/solid-waste.html) or call 410-524-0318.