

# Ocean City, Maryland

*Newsletter and Community Calendar • Spring/Summer 2012*



## Boardwalk reconstruction project well under way

The Town of Ocean City is completely rebuilding our famous Boardwalk. The new Boardwalk will have a stronger structure to allow heavier vehicles and fire trucks to ride the entire length of the boards. From North Division to 27th Street, the Boardwalk will also use a new deck board pattern to identify the tram lane.

Phase One of the Boardwalk construction project is on schedule for completion by the end of April. Phase One of the project began Oct. 3. This phase consists of the complete replacement of the Boardwalk and its substructure from 27th to 15th streets, and the replacement of Boardwalk decking and repair of any damaged substructure between the inlet and Somerset Street.

Phase One is being built by RBCI Construction of Easton, MD.

Phase Two, from 15th to Somerset streets, will begin Oct. 1, with completion expected in April 2013. In addition to the complete replacement of the Boardwalk, the Town will be constructing a new comfort station and performance stage on the Boardwalk at Caroline Street next year.

If you have any questions or a specific concern regarding access to your property or business during construction or any problems during con-



**Phase One of the Boardwalk construction project is on schedule for completion by the end of April.**

struction, please contact the Engineering Department at 410-289-8855. We understand that construction work can be disruptive, but hope you will agree that it is necessary and well worth it to have a new Boardwalk that everyone can be proud of for many years to come. Your patience and understanding during the work is greatly appreciated.

## Newsletter/calendar may become annual publication

As the Mayor and City Council begin budget deliberations for fiscal year 2013, they will consider a proposal to revert the town's newsletter back to annual publication versus the twice-a-year mailing residents and property owners have received over the last decade.

The town remains committed to providing citizens with information about programs, services and events. In addition to this newsletter and community calendar, information is continually updated on the town's websites — [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov) and [www.ococean.com](http://www.ococean.com). We also encourage you to sign up to receive news releases via email, which are distributed throughout the year.

We hope you continue to find this publication to be informative and useful in the coming months and welcome your evaluation of this pub-

lication. 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).

## Ocean City municipal election set for Oct. 16, 2012

The Town of Ocean City's municipal election is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012. The mayor and four council seats will be on the ballot. Voting takes place in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Deadline for candidates to file is Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012. Deadline to register to vote is Friday, Sept. 28, 2012. Contact the City Clerk's Office, Room 220, City Hall, 410-289-8824 or 8842 for more information.

## Convention Center improvements continue

Work continues on Phase One of Ocean City's Roland E. Powell Convention Center improvement project. This phase consists of relocating the truck loading docks, expanding the second-floor ballroom and adding a new first-floor bayfront exhibit hall.

In addition to adding much-needed exhibit space at the Convention Center, these new rooms will have beautiful bay views. Construction began in July and is scheduled for completion in October.

Funding of the \$9 million project is shared between the Town of Ocean City and the Maryland Stadium Authority. The town's portion of this cost is funded through the half-percent food tax paid by local bars and restaurants.

Ocean City is currently working with the State of Maryland to develop funding for Phase Two, which consists of construction of a 1,200-seat auditorium and performing arts stage within the existing building. This exciting project promises to bring a whole new level of entertainment and events to the Convention Center.



**Phase One of the Convention Center improvement project is scheduled for completion in October.**

# Beauty Spot Award nominations due by July 5

The Ocean City Beautification Committee is seeking nominations in eight categories in which someone can win a 2012 Beauty Spot Award, including residential, condominium, retail, hotel, motel, commercial, restaurant and Boardwalk. Only nominated properties will be judged.

Help is needed by the Beautification Committee 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.

Once all nominations are in, the Beautification Committee will travel around town to view all the nominated properties.

Judging is based on plants, flowers, trees, shrubbery, grasses, design, layout, etc., that complement 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, please call Donna Greenwood, chairperson, at 410-289-7060, mail nominations to OCBC, Department of Recreation and Parks, 200 125th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842 or email to [ocbeautification@hotmail.com](mailto:ocbeautification@hotmail.com) before the July 5 deadline. Please be sure to include the property owner's name, correct street address and a contact phone number, as well as your name and phone number so that the location and information can be verified.

Visit the Beautification Committee's website at [www.oceancitymd.gov/bc](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/bc) to learn more about the Ocean City Beautification Committee's activities, events, helpful hints on gardening and tree care and to see past Beauty Spot winners and their gardens.

## Tune into 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 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.

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.

# OC Fire Department offers tips for spring safety, health

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

The garage is a good place to start. Make sure all oily rags and painting materials are properly stored in airtight metal containers with self-closing lids so they can't ignite. Also, 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 such as piles of old papers, magazines and rags.

Check the area around your hot water heater, furnace and clothes dryer to be certain that all combustibles and flammables are at safe distances. 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 fire risk. Lastly, don't leave home or go to bed while your dryer is running.

When cleaning the kitchen area, check the stove, oven, exhaust fan motor and duct to ensure they are free from grease build-up. Also, remove all combustibles from the stove area. Never leave cooking unat-

tended. Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen near an exit door and on each floor of your home. Always ensure you know how to use it and make certain to check the expiration date.

## Grilling requirements

As a reminder, the Town of Ocean City does not permit 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 units, and may include townhouse complexes.

In 2002, according to the National Fire Protection Association, gas and charcoal grills caused 1,000 structure fires and 3,500 outdoor fires, resulting in property loss of \$30 million. Half of all outdoor cooking-related fires begin on an attached deck or balcony.

## Smoke/carbon monoxide alarm requirements

The Fire Department reminds property owners to test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly. You must understand the safety these alarms provide, as well as knowing that they are required by law.

The Town of Ocean City requires all owners of units located within multi-family dwellings to provide hardwired smoke alarms outside 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.

In 2007, the Town of Ocean City passed legislation to require the installation of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in new and existing 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. These alarms should be tested at least monthly, and should have their 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 for daylight savings time.

## Home fire safety evaluations

The Ocean City Fire Department offers free home safety evaluations. Firefighters will visit your residence and evaluate it for safety concerns. Examples of the inspection criteria are: smoke/carbon monoxide alarms installed and functioning properly, fire escape plan, space heater safety and other areas you may question. This advisory evaluation will assist you as a homeowner or tenant by providing information on how you can prevent and escape fires. Having a plan is the most important element of surviving a fire.

To schedule a home fire prevention evaluation, contact Capt. Bryon Trimble at 410-289-4346, ext. 7426.

## Free blood pressure checks

Some may live with high blood pressure, or your doctor may ask you to keep a record of your blood pressure to evaluate the need for medication. Stopping by your local fire station is the perfect opportunity to check your current blood pressure.

Stop by any Ocean City Fire Station. If the door is locked, knock. Unless firefighter/EMS providers are out on an emergency, they will be happy to assist you.

For more information about free blood pressure screenings, contact our public information officers [hprice@mail.worcester.k12.md.us](mailto:hprice@mail.worcester.k12.md.us) or [rwhittington@ococean.com](mailto:rwhittington@ococean.com), or call 410-289-4346.

## License, noise control permits required of all rental properties

Anytime your property is rented, a rental license and noise control permit is required by Section 14 of the Code of Town of Ocean City. Failure to comply with the law will result in a municipal citation and the maximum fine of \$1,000 per day.

The purpose of this section of the code is to assure compliance with all laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to rental housing units in Ocean City. It also promotes and upholds safe, healthy and habitable housing conditions in rental housing units, prevents deterioration of rental housing units and encourages responsible management, maintenance and use of rental housing units by the inspection and licensing of these units.

All license fees are due and payable to the Town of Ocean City by May 1 of each year, and all licenses expire on the following April 30.

Condominium units, cooperatives, and townhouse.....	\$116.00
Apartments, cottages.....	\$116.00
Additional sleeping rooms.....	\$8.00
Hotels, motels, inns, motor courts, or cabins.....	\$116.00
Additional sleeping rooms.....	\$8.00
Rooming houses, boarding houses, dormitories or private houses offering rooms for public rental (per room, with a minimum of \$25.00) .....	\$8.00

In addition, rentals of four months or less are subject to 6 percent state sales tax and 4.5 percent county room tax — the same as are paid when renting a hotel room. For more information about remitting county taxes, please contact the Worcester County Treasurer at 410-632-0686, ext. 1211; for information on state retail sales taxes, call 800-492-1751 or go to [www.marylandtaxes.com](http://www.marylandtaxes.com).

Ocean City rental license applications may be obtained at City Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave.; by mail at Town of Ocean City, P.O. Box 5000, Ocean City, MD 21843; by phone at 410-289-8833; go to [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov) and click on "Download a Form" on the left; or email [msherman@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:msherman@oceancitymd.gov).



## No beach replenishment scheduled this summer

Beach replenishment is not currently scheduled for the 2012 summer season. However, repairs to dune fencing and crossovers are planned, along with planting of dune grass.

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 sea-wall 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 the vegetation. This action is recommended by the Department of Agriculture and will be carried out on an annual basis. To request dune grass to 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. Crews of Ocean City's Public Works Department maintain all the items mentioned above and the Office of Engineering

keeps constant watch on the project. Making this project successful requires the cooperation of everyone.

Installation of fencing, landscaping items, 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, please call the Engineering Department 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. 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 at 410-289-8855 or [tmcgean@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:tmcgean@oceancitymd.gov), or Andy Hanas, Department of Natural Resources, 410-643-8238, ext. 2201.

Again, 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. Please treat it with respect and extend your cooperation to those who are responsible for maintaining it.



## 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 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 and, 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).

# 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  
Billing & Tax Information..... 410-289-8833  
City Hall General Information..... 410-289-8221  
City Manager..... 410-289-8887  
Eagle's Landing Golf Course..... 410-213-7277  
or..... 1-800-2TEETIME  
Engineering Department..... 410-289-8855  
Fire Department (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..... 410-524-7715  
Public Works Maintenance..... 410-524-0391  
Recreation & Parks..... 410-250-0125  
Solid Waste..... 410-524-0318  
Transportation Department..... 410-723-1606  
Visitor Center..... 410-289-2800  
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 Association 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 Association..... 410-289-6733  
OC Public Library..... 410-524-1818  
Public Defender..... 410-632-1933  
Weather..... 410-548-9262

# ~ 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 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. to 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 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 Third Street and St. Louis Avenue. The park features a bowl and half pipe. For hours and regulations, please call 410-289-BOWL or visit [www.oceancitymd.gov/Recreation\\_and\\_Parks/oceanbowl](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/Recreation_and_Parks/oceanbowl).

## 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 midnight and 7 a.m. when any noise audible at a distance of 30 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](http://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 feet, 2 inches or more in length, and/or 6 feet, 8 inches 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 the Inlet area is available for surfing only, Monday through Friday during the summer season (excluding July 4). You must use an ankle leash that is tethered to you and the board at all times. For more information, visit the Beach Patrol's web site: [www.oceancitymd.gov/Recreation\\_and\\_Parks/Beach\\_Patrol](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/Recreation_and_Parks/Beach_Patrol).

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

# PASSPORT APPLICATIONS



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

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**IMPORTANT: Please call 410-289-8824 before you visit.**

For passport applications and travel information,  
go to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

We also offer passport photos for \$10.60 per applicant.

## OC University 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.

Classes are held on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. This is a 16-week course beginning mid-September for eight weeks and resuming in January for another eight weeks. To sign up for the fall semester, fill out the registration form printed here and send to Ocean

City University, P.O. Box 158, Ocean City, MD 21843, or visit our web site.

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.

Space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov).

## REGISTRATION FORM

**Ocean City University • P.O. Box 158 • Ocean City, MD 21843**  
**Attn: Diana Chavis, Executive Office Associate**  
**[dchavis@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:dchavis@oceancitymd.gov) • 410-289-8887**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for Ocean City University General Session Classes \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for Ocean City University CERT Program \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for the Citizens Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Ocean City resident? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are you an Ocean City property owner? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Have you attended the Citizens Police Academy? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Have you attended the CERT Program? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

## 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 email [sadkins@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:sadkins@oceancitymd.gov)**

# OCPD accepting applications for fall 2012 Citizens Police Academy

The Ocean City Police Department is currently accepting applications for the 2012 Citizens Police Academy. The academy begins classes on Sept. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. and continues every Tuesday for 10 weeks.

The Ocean City Police Department has been offering citizens the unique opportunity to see the inner workings of the resort police department for nearly 14 years. The Citizens Police Academy was created to enable citizens to learn more about the OCPD and build the relationship between the police and the community.

During this course, students meet a variety of officers to learn about criminal law, traffic enforcement, evidence collection, firearms, arrest procedures, narcotics enforcement and many other topics. Students

also participate in practical scenarios that offer a hands-on opportunity to understand various law enforcement applications.

"Educating citizens about their police department and illegal activity in their community is one of the best forms of crime prevention," said OCPD Chief Bernadette DiPino. "The Citizens Police Academy benefits not only our community but also the officers of the Ocean City Police Department."

The Citizens Police Academy has a limited class size of 25 participants. Interested persons must complete a written application and give permission for the OCPD to conduct a background check to determine if they have a criminal record.

For more information or to receive an application, call the OCPD Public Affairs Office at 410-723-6665.

## Solid waste summer schedule

### Solid waste pick-up

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

A fee is imposed for commercial establishments requiring collections more than five times per week, including hotels, motels, condominiums, apartment/multi-family complexes and restaurants. This fee, in effect from May 17 to Oct. 1, is \$75 per additional pickup for front-end containers; \$20 per additional pickup for 300-gallon containers.

In most cases, the five-day collection schedule excludes Tuesdays and Thursdays. Other days without collection may be arranged. The solid waste manager shall have the final say on whether a location needs seven-day collection service.

Theft or other abuse of all containers, which would render them unserviceable, is the responsibility of the owner and a replacement fee will be charged. Residents leaving for more than a few days should secure it, to prevent the wind or someone from carting it off. The name of the building or address must be on all dumpsters, with letters no smaller than 3 inches. Owners must keep dumpsters painted, graffiti free, any wheels greased and clean on the inside.

### Bulk pick-up

Please call 410-524-0318. Residential property owners within city limits may place household items, such as old appliances and furniture, at curbside for pick-up. The 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 the first item, \$25 for up to three items and \$5 for each additional item.

## Johns named Neighborhood Watch Officer of the Year

Ocean City Police Detective 1st Class Jeffery Johns was selected to receive the Ocean City Neighborhood Watch Association's 2011 "Officer of the Year" award.

Also nominated for the 2011 "Officer of the Year" award were Ocean City Police Officer Justin Hoban, PFC Daniel Jacobs, PFC Chris Snyder, PFC Mike Richardson and Corporal Rick Wawrzeniak.

Detective 1st Class Jeffrey Johns is originally from Pennsylvania and has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He worked as a seasonal officer for two years before being hired full-time in 2004. Detective Johns worked in the patrol division before being assigned to the Vice and Narcotics unit. This was a very special night of recognition, as Detective Johns was not only named the Officer of the Year, Police Chief Bernadette DiPino presented him with the highest police department recognition, the Medal of Honor. Detective Johns received this honor as a result of being attacked and seriously injured last summer while working in an undercover capacity.

Detective Johns was recognized along with the other officers at the annual Neighborhood Watch Association banquet at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. Nearly 150 guests attended the event, including residents and members of the eight Neighborhood Watch Associations in Ocean City: the Boardwalk Group, Bayshore Drive, Caine Keys II, Caine Woods, Edgewater Avenue, Little Salisbury, Montego Bay and Sundowner Park.

## Tull awarded Paramedic of the Year

Firefighter/Paramedic Kimberly Tull is the Ocean City Fire Department's Paramedic of Year recipient. Tull was recognized by the Knights of Columbus.

Tull is a native of Pasadena, MD, and a graduate of Chesapeake High School. After completing high school, Tull attended Salisbury University where she completed a bachelor of science degree in athletic training in 1992.

Tull started her career with the Town in 2003 as a part-time employee with the Fire/EMS Division. In 2006, she was hired as a full-time firefighter/paramedic.

Tull completed her EMT-Basic certification in 1992. In 1993, she completed Firefighter II training, and in 1996, Tull became a nationally registered paramedic. Tull is a Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute fire service instructor, a basic and advanced cardiac life support instructor and a certified athletic trainer.

Tull resides in Fruitland, MD, with her sons Conner, 14, and Cameron, 7. She is a member of the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company.

## Knights of Columbus honor Wawrzeniak as Officer of Year

The Ocean City Knights of Columbus held their annual award ceremony in January. Among their top honors, such as Firefighter of the Year, EMT of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Couple of the Year, the Knights of Columbus awarded Ocean City Cpl. Richard Wawrzeniak with the prestigious title of Officer of the Year.

"I am extremely proud of Cpl. Wawrzeniak," said Chief Bernadette DiPino. "He demonstrates many of the high qualities and standards that are expected of an Ocean City Police Officer."

Cpl. Wawrzeniak is from Bowie, MD. He joined the OCPD full time in 1999, after two summers as a seasonal officer. He is an active member of the department's Bike Unit and Quick Response Team. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division's evening watch.

In addition to being named "2011 Officer of the Year" by the Knights of Columbus, Cpl. Wawrzeniak was recently a finalist for the Neighborhood Watch Officer of the Year and received a Silver Star for his quick and decisive action in December when he witnessed a man assaulting his wife with a knife.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award," Cpl. Wawrzeniak said. "It really has been a special year for me. I'm proud to be a part of such a professional organization. Our officers strive to give their best each and every day. I would like to thank Chief DiPino, all my fellow officers, and my family for their support; and of course, the Knights of Columbus for this award."

# SHA announces pedestrian safety program in Ocean City

## New sidewalk markings direct pedestrians to marked crosswalks

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has started a three-year pilot program using newly designed sidewalk markings to safely guide pedestrians along Coastal Highway.

The new yellow and black pedestrian sidewalk markings will be located 10 feet prior to the intersections at 19th, 33rd and 49th streets in order to direct pedestrians to safe crosswalks.

The pilot program specifically addresses the dangerous behavior of jaywalking.

SHA traffic engineers examined pedestrian crash data for the past three years along Coastal Highway and determined the three locations at 19th, 33rd and 49th streets experienced the highest frequency of pedestrian incidents. Police reports reveal the primary cause of these crashes was failure of pedestrians to cross at marked crosswalks, or walking in a crosswalk against the traffic signal. Efforts and programs to protect pedestrians are closely coordinated between SHA, the Town of Ocean City Public Works Department and the Ocean City Police Department.

"Overall crash fatalities are decreasing in Maryland, but pedestrian crashes have remained relatively un-

changed with an average of 100 pedestrians dying each year. Together with our partners, we are taking a hard look at pedestrian safety issues along key corridors where pedestrian traffic volume is highest," said Maryland State Highway District Engineer Donnie Drewer. "This new pilot project is another example of the innovative way engineering can help influence the behavior of our customers to make better, safer decisions."

The new markings inform pedestrians that a marked crosswalk is just ahead and indicate the direction they should follow. The "thermoplastic" markings are the same material as stamped pavement crosswalks, not painted, which wears out faster. Each marking has a usable life of between 10 to 20 years, and cost approximately \$150.

"Pedestrian safety is a priority for our community because people walk everywhere in Ocean City. They go to and from the beach and to the boardwalk," said Police Chief Bernadette DiPino. "We remind citizens to push the button not your luck. Take a few extra seconds and walk to the closest crosswalk. It's good for your heart, your health and your life."

In addition to monitoring pedestrian crash reports during the three-year pilot program, SHA and partners will observe pedestrian behavior at all three locations. SHA will determine if the new sidewalk pavement markings effectively reduce jaywalking and pedestrian incidents. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office will also provide educational materials to Ocean City businesses to share with customers and guests about the purpose and use of the new pedestrian pavement markings.

SHA advises that a safe summer starts with street smarts and motorists and pedestrians following the basic rules of the road. Drivers must stop for pedestrians at crosswalks according to Maryland state law and should follow the posted speed limit, as speeding only makes it more difficult to safely stop for pedestrians. Pedestrians should cross at marked crosswalks, see and be seen traveling in an "expected" manner, look left, right, left before crossing and when possible, make eye contact with drivers. The extra moment it takes to stop for a pedestrian or to walk to a crosswalk can avert needless tragedies.



One of the new pedestrian safety sidewalk markings installed by the State Highway Administration as part of a pilot program.

## Show community pride with Ocean City license plates

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](http://www.oceancitymd.gov). Have your driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance information handy to complete the application. Your vehicle must be registered in the State of Maryland. Plate numbers are assigned by the MVA.

For more information about the license plate program, call the City Clerk's office at 410-289-8824 or e-mail [kallmond@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:kallmond@oceancitymd.gov).

## Designated smoking areas on the beach; smoking now banned in playgrounds

Once again this summer, for the comfort of all who visit the beach, designated smoking areas will be in place.

The designated areas will be located mid-block along the beach. While this is a voluntary measure, beach patrons who wish to smoke are requested to do so only in the designated areas, which will be within a 50-foot area surrounding a cigarette disposal container.

Smoking is not permitted in the Town's playgrounds, skate park and tennis center.

The Town of Ocean City thanks you for your cooperation.



## OC flag available for purchase

Ocean City, Maryland, a city on the sand we have all come to love. It's a place to relax on the beach and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Boardwalk, but the experience doesn't have to end there.

The Ocean City flag is available for purchase, providing you with the opportunity to always have a piece of Ocean City with you wherever you may be. Flags are available in three sizes:

- 3 feet by 5 feet, \$35.
- 2 feet by 3 feet, \$25.
- 12 inches by 18 inches, boat size, \$20.

Flags can be purchased at the Billing and Collection office at City Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave. Stop by City Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and begin your wave of memories.



# Flood hazard protection in Ocean City

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 by 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 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: [www.oceancitymd.gov/Emergency\\_Management/flood.html](http://www.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:** Raising structure 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 Patrol, National Aquarium pair to rescue Anna

For the past 20 years, the Ocean City Beach Patrol and the National Aquarium in Baltimore have enjoyed an expanding partnership. OCBP has helped the aquarium's Marine Animal Rescue Program (MARP) handle many stranded seals, dolphins and turtles over the years.

Often, these animals have been rehabilitated and returned to the wild.

OCBP Sergeant and Training Coordinator Jamie Falcon arranged for aquarium staff to come to the 2011 surf rescue academies to provide new guards with expanded training for stranded animal care. Last fall, 20 OCBP employees went through a more advanced class in animal rescue, allowing them to become certified as MARP team volunteers. This training was well attended because it occurred right after a successful rescue and rehabilitation of a turtle in Ocean City.

On July 26, OCBP rescued the young adult loggerhead turtle found floating in the ocean off 15th Street. OCBP Sgt. Brent Weingard rescued the turtle from the surf and brought it to shore on a boogie board as a large crowd of onlookers gathered. The loggerhead turtle was severely lethargic and emaciated, and had been the victim of an apparent boat strike.

MARP volunteer Dave Quilter, who also works for Ocean City Public Works, also responded to the stranding.

Through the efforts of Sgt. Weingard, Quilter and others, the turtle was brought ashore to be cared for at the Baltimore National Aquarium. Sgt. Weingard was later given the honor of naming the turtle and chose Anna.

During an extensive rehabilitation, Anna gained 22 pounds and returned to her ideal weight of 95 pounds. Once she regained the weight and shed the organisms from her shell and soft tissue, the loggerhead was ready to be released back into the wild.

She was released off the coast of North Carolina under the direction of the MARP team with assistance from the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center.



**(left) Anna at the time of her rescue, and following rehabilitation.**

This is just one example of the partnership between the National Aquarium and the OCBP. MARP stranding coordinator Jennifer Dittmar will tell you that the recovery of this turtle was truly a team effort, from the invaluable response by OCBP to the staff and volunteers of the National Aquarium and the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center.

A key person in keeping the partnership alive and moving it to the next level is Sgt. Falcon. When Sgt. Falcon is not training new guards or supervising them on the beach, he has been developing a scuba diving club among OCBP members. He arranged for 14 OCBP members who are certified divers to have the opportunity of diving in the aquarium's display tanks with all of the exotic and colorful fish, rays, sharks, eels and turtles.

On Presidents Day the divers had the chance to get up close and personal with some truly fascinating animals. The aquarium staff knows their resident creatures well, and prepared the divers for several scenarios that could develop.

The 490-pound green sea turtle named Calypso, as predicted, chose one of the divers to be her "special friend." It is a little unnerving to have an animal that crushes clam and oyster shells with her mouth, pushing that mouth within inches of your vital body parts and the hoses that supply the air that you are breathing. One diver had a close encounter with a 6-foot Moray eel, whose green body brushed against her as he swam just over her head.

One of the more interesting examples of fish behavior is the way the smaller fish would swim in place as divers picked up handfuls of small gravel from the bottom and showered the tiny rocks over them. The staff explained that this feels like a massage to the fish. It also brought the fish right up to the masks and cameras of the divers, allowing them to appreciate all the different shapes and colors on display.

Those who were not diving volunteered their time at a beach safety booth. The holiday sell-out crowd was able to speak to guards about rip

## OC summer camp registration now open

The Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department's summer camp registration has started for the 2012 season. There are several new camps in the line-up including Kayak Fishing and Marine Explorers Camp, SuperFun Nature Day Camp and Surfing Camp. The summer camp line-up also includes popular sports camps such as lacrosse, soccer, basketball, golf, skate and tennis.

Visit [www.ocsportscamps.com](http://www.ocsportscamps.com) for a complete list of camps as well as registration information. For additional information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 410-250-0125.

## Eagle's Landing: Two ways to play the best for less

Ocean City's premier golf course, Eagle's Landing, 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.

## Tennis Center opening for season May 15

The Ocean City Tennis Center will open for the season on Tuesday, 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 adult tennis competitions.

The Ocean City Tennis Center is located on 61st Street and the bay. For additional information, visit [www.tennis.ococean.com](http://www.tennis.ococean.com) or call the tennis shop at 410-524-8337 or the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department at 410-250-0125.



**The new ADA-accessible playground at Robin Park.**

currents, lost child procedures, and to learn a little of the semaphore flag language used by guards to talk to each other.

The relationship between the aquarium and OCBP has benefited both groups over the years. And it has certainly worked to the benefit of the many animals that the two groups have been able to rescue together.

To read more about the Baltimore National Aquarium and to follow the tracking of the many seals and turtles that have been released, or to become a MARP volunteer visit [www.aqua.org/oceanhealth\\_mar.html](http://www.aqua.org/oceanhealth_mar.html).

## ***New development regulations adopted***

The Mayor and City Council have adopted new development regulations pertaining to outdoor lighting and design of buildings. All new and replacement outdoor lighting fixtures must meet the requirements of the new regulations. New buildings and additions must follow design guidelines.

The new regulations can be found in the City Code. Lighting standards can be found in Section 110-876; design guidelines in Section 110-181. Questions can be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 410-289-8855.

## ***Boardwalk benches still available for purchase***

The Ocean City Boardwalk Bench Program has approximately 50 benches remaining for dedication. The cost of purchasing one of those benches is now \$1,700.

Since its inception in 2004, the Boardwalk bench dedication program has been a great way for citizens to donate a bench to the town in memory/honor of loved ones or friends.

Each dedicated bench has a mounted plaque to commemorate the donation. Applications to purchase one of the remaining available benches will be accepted on a first-come basis. For more information, call the Public Works Maintenance Division at 410-524-0391.



## ***Honor a loved one with a memory bench***

Would you like to remember or honor a loved one or friend with a bench in Ocean City?

The Ocean City Beautification Committee has a number of "TreeMendous" benches in the smaller parks around town. Benches in Robin Park, Little Salisbury, Jamestown Road, Gorman Park, North Surf Park and at the Convention Center are now available for adoption. You can view an example of these benches on the Beautification Committee's web site at [www.oceancitymd.gov/bcl/](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/bcl/). Applications are also available online. For more information, call committee chairperson Donna Greenwood at 410-289-7060.



***Citizens graduating from Ocean City University are recognized by the Mayor and Council at the April 2 meeting. From left are: (front) Valerie Staley, Phil Reid, Donna Reid, Shalimara Kufchak, Monica Cofiel, Beverly Verner, Diana Walsh-Jones, Andre Albrecht, Larry Verner. Back: Gary Masten, Beth Gladstone, Ed Dudley, Richard Nagel, Gene Cofiel, Walter Bozza.***

## ***Citizens earn 'degrees' for completing OC University***

With pomp and circumstance, Ocean City University's class of 2012 was recognized by the Mayor and City Council at the April 2 City Council meeting. Earning masters and doctorate degrees were Walter Bozza, Shalimara Kufchak and Joyce Taylor-Showell. All three completed both the Citizens Police Academy and Community Emergency Response Team

courses in addition to the general courses of Ocean City University.

Bachelor's degrees were presented to Andrea Albrecht, Walter Bozza, Gene and Monica Cofiel, Ed Dudley, Beth Gladstone, Gary Masten, Richard Nagel, Phil and Donna Reid, Valerie Staley, Yvonne Trageser, Larry and Beverly Verner and Diana Walsh-Jones.

## ***Museum volunteer enhances 'Sands of the World' exhibit***

The Ocean City Museum Society is pleased to announce a new, improved "Sands of the World" exhibit at the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, thanks to the efforts of local resident Marcie Wiggins.

Wiggins was employed at the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum during the summer months. She is a full-time student at the University of Maryland. While working at the museum, Wiggins expressed an interest in updating the Sands of the World exhibit. Wiggins discovered that the Museum Society had many more sands that were not on exhibit in its collection and some of the samples were redundant. After her summer employment, she volunteered during her holiday break to reorganize the sands and include some sand that had not previously been on display. She also researched sand so that she was able to add interpretive information to the exhibit.

"I have an interest in museums and history, and I hope to pursue a career in art conservation by currently studying chemistry and art history

at the University of Maryland," Wiggins said. "As a result, I felt it was necessary to spend my time updating the map, ensuring the largest variety of sand was on display, and adding an educational element."

The new Sands of the World exhibit includes 25 new samples, new interpretive panels and an updated map. It is also organized geographically.

"The Sands of the World has been one of our most popular exhibits, and Marcie's work has added a new level of educational value and enjoyment for our audience," said Diane Knuckles, museum assistant curator. "We are delighted that Marcie took the time and interest to make this exhibit even more special."

The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum is located on the southern end of the Boardwalk adjacent to the Inlet parking lot and is open on weekends during winter from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the museum at 410-289-4991.

## OCPD reminds citizens to be alert on roadways

The Ocean City Police Department is reminding citizens of a few important safety tips to keep in mind during this summer:

- Don't drive distracted. In addition to cell phone use, distracted driving also involves all non-driving related objects. When driving, avoid focusing on external objects such as billboards, buildings or stereos.

- Be aware of motorcycle traffic. Often, people cannot see motorcycles because of blind spots in their mirrors. Be extra cautious of this when driving, especially when changing lanes.

- If you see any criminal activity including racing or dangerous driving, try to get a good description of the vehicle and person. If you are not driving, try to write down the tag number and call the police.

In addition to safe driving tips, the Ocean City Police Department also reminds citizens of the importance of pedestrian, bicycle and scooter safety. For individuals who are traveling on foot, on a bicycle, moped or scooter, here are some important safety tips to remember:

- Cross the street at a marked crosswalk or intersection.
- Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy intersections.

- Continue to watch for traffic the entire time you are in the crosswalk.

- It is illegal to wear headphones in both ears at the same time while operating any vehicle.

- Vehicle operators should be extremely vigilant while driving, keeping constantly aware of pedestrians, bicycles, mopeds and scooters.

- Avoid making quick, un-signaled turns or abrupt stops. If you can't make the turn safely, proceed past the turn and turn around when safe.

- Allow plenty of time to stop or proceed through intersections.

- Pedestrians should not take unnecessary risks crossing busy streets against traffic lights.

- Parents are reminded to pay extra attention to children when crossing busy roads. Keep hold of small children's hands while waiting for traffic lights to change and while crossing.

- Bicyclists are encouraged to wear helmets and must ride in the bus lane. In addition, bicyclists must abide by all traffic laws, including stopping at red lights and stop signs.

- Moped/scooter operators and passengers are encouraged to wear helmets and footwear. If you are renting a scooter, you are required to wear a helmet and footwear.



## Ocean City License Plate Rally scheduled for Oct. 20

Anyone who has a vintage Ocean City license plate is invited to drive down the Boardwalk on Saturday, Oct. 20. The Ocean City Downtown Association and the Town of Ocean City are once again sponsoring a rally at the Inlet parking lot that begins with a drive down the Boardwalk. This year's event will have a Halloween flavor as participants are encouraged to decorate their cars and their passengers.

Last year, members of the Downtown Association felt this all-things-Ocean-City rally would be an exciting way to round out the summer.

"We appreciate that there are folks who enjoy Ocean City enough to want to show their attachment to the city through the vintage plates that are available, and last year's debut of this event proved to be very popular," said DTA President Brooks Trimper.

Cars with the vintage plates will parade down the Boardwalk at 1 p.m. to the Inlet parking lot, where there will be a group photograph. Each car

will be photographed on the Boardwalk. Photos of the drive and of the group will be available online. Tents on the Inlet lot will be offered to various OC organizations to share their function with those gathered.

"We're glad the Downtown Association has come up with this idea to bring license plate holders together," said Mayor Rick Meehan. "The Town does mean a great deal to so many people, and this is just another way for visitors and residents alike to show their affection for our town."

There is no cost to participate, but you must register. Current auto insurance is also required. A registration form will be available on the DTA web site at [www.downtownassociation.net](http://www.downtownassociation.net). For further information, call 410-524-1881.

Need a vintage Ocean City license plate? You can get an application at [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov).

## 2012 transportation service schedule

### — Coastal Highway 'Beach Bus' —

South Division Street to & from 144th Street

\$3 ride-all-day or \$1 per boarding

#### **Spring, April 2-May 24**

Every 15 minutes, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Every 30 minutes, 10 p.m.-6 a.m.

#### **Summer, May 25-Sept. 3**

Every 10 minutes, 6 a.m.-3 a.m.

Every 20 minutes, 3 a.m.-6 a.m.

#### **Fall, Sept. 4-Oct. 28**

Every 15 minutes, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Every 30 minutes, 10 p.m.-6 a.m.



### — Park & Ride 'Beach Bus' —

South Division Street to & from Ocean City Outlets

& West Ocean City Park & Ride

\$3 ride-all-day or \$1 per boarding

#### **Springfest, May 3-6**

Every 20 minutes, 6 a.m.-2 a.m.

#### **OC Cruizers, May 17-20**

Every 20 minutes, 6 a.m.-2 a.m.

#### **Summer, May 25-Sept. 3**

Every 20 minutes, 6 a.m.-2 a.m.

#### **Sunfest, Sept. 20-23**

Every 20 minutes, 6 a.m.-2 a.m.

#### **Endless Summer Cruisin', Oct. 4-7**

Every 20 minutes, 6 a.m.-2 a.m.

(Note: Park & Ride service ends at 10 p.m. on the following Sundays: May 6, May 20, Sept. 23, Oct. 7)

### — Boardwalk Tram —

South 1st Street to & from 27th Street

\$3 per person, one way

#### **Springfest, May 3-6**

10 a.m.-midnight Thursday, Friday & Saturday

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday

#### **Summer, May 25-Sept. 3**

11 a.m.-midnight daily

10 a.m.-midnight holiday weekends & special events

#### **Sunfest, Sept. 20-23**

10 a.m.-midnight Thursday, Friday & Saturday

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday

### — Special Event Express Shuttle —

\$3 ride-all-day or \$1 per boarding

#### **Springfest, May 3-6**

40th St. to & from Inlet Lot, every 20 minutes

Thursday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

#### **OC Air Show, June 9-10**

West Ocean City Park & Ride to & from 17th Street

10 a.m.-5 p.m., every 20 minutes

#### **White Marlin Open, Aug. 6-10**

40th St. to & from Jacqueline Avenue & 14th Street

3 p.m.-11 p.m., every 20 minutes

#### **Sunfest, Sept. 20-23**

40th St. to & from Inlet Lot, every 20 minutes

Thursday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

**For additional information, call the Ocean City Transportation Department at 410-723-1606.**