

# 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.

# 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

# OCFD supports breast cancer awareness

The Ocean City Fire Department took off the "blue" and went pink in support of the battle against breast cancer. The department observed August as its awareness month by wearing dark blue T-shirts with pink lettering.

The shirt featured the Ocean City Fire Department logo on the left chest in pink with a breast cancer ribbon in the center. The back of the shirt read "OCFD" in bold pink letters, with a breast cancer ribbon through the letters.

Fire Chief Chris Larmore authorized the wearing of these shirts to show the community that the department is at their side not only during an emergency, but also through difficult personal times such as dealing with cancer.

"Firefighters dedicate their lives to the service of others," said Ryan L. Whittington, Ocean

City Fire Department spokesperson. "We used the month of August to provide community outreach and support for members of the community, firefighters and family members that are stricken not only by breast cancer, but other types of cancers and illnesses."

The change in attire, which lasted the entire month of August, generated a lot of attention. "We had folks on the street stopping to thank us, and individuals at the hospital who stopped to give us a hug and share their personal cancer story with us," Whittington said.

Many fire departments across the nation wear pink shirts during breast cancer awareness month in October, but the Ocean City Fire Department wants it known they support those going through illness such as cancer year round, no matter what month it is.



**OCFD goes pink in support of breast cancer awareness.**

## 2011-2012 transportation service schedule

### — Coastal Highway Bus —

South Division Street to & from 144th Street

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

**Fall, Through Oct. 30**

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

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

**Winter, Oct. 31-April 1**

Sunday-Thursday: Every 40 minutes, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.;

Every 80 minutes 11 p.m.-7 a.m.

Friday & Saturday: Every 30 minutes, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

### — Special Event Express Shuttle —

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

**Springfest, May 3-6**

Convention Center south parking lot at 40th St.  
to & from Inlet Lot, approximately every 20 minutes

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

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

### — Boardwalk Tram —

South 1st Street to & from 27th Street

\$3 regular fare

**Fall/Winter, Through May 2**

Closed

**Springfest, May 3-6**

Thursday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-midnight

Sunday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

### — Park & Ride Bus —

South Division Street to & from OC Outlets &

West Ocean City Park & Ride

\$1 ride-all-day

**Fall/Winter, Oct. 10-May 2**

Closed; please refer to Shore Transit public transit schedule

**Springfest, May 3-6**

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

(Note: On Sunday, May 6, service ends at 10 p.m.)

**For additional information,**

**call the Ocean City Transportation Department at 410-723-1606.**

# 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. To sign up for the spring semester, which begins Wednesday, Jan. 11 and runs every Wednesday through Feb. 29, fill out registration form printed

here and send to Ocean City University, PO Box 158, Ocean City, MD 21843.

The goals of OCU 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

## 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 4 p.m.**  
**Please call in advance of your visit.**

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

# 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)**



# Beach Patrol, State Police partner on water rescues

This summer the Ocean City Beach Patrol and Maryland State Police formed a partnership to enable the two organizations to work more closely on water-related emergencies and rescues. This collaboration started when the MSP helicopter (Trooper 4) from the Salisbury/ Wicomico/Ocean City Airport was positioned at the Ocean City Municipal Airport during weekends over the summer. Statistics showed the majority of the medevac calls received in the summer were generated from the beach on weekends; therefore, the decision was made to deploy the helicopter from the Ocean City Municipal Airport.

Initially, the partnership involved senior OCBP officers in an observer capacity, providing a better vantage point when surveying a potential situation, providing air support during times of high rip current risk, and/or searching for missing swimmers from the helicopter.

Since the most dangerous time for swimmers at the beach is in the evening, after the lifeguards go off duty, MSP and OCBP discussed the plan of using guards during extended evening patrols to look for rip currents from above so that they could then radio information to emergency responders on the ground. Talks progressed to the idea of actually deploying a swimmer from the helicopter.



**An OCBP member is lowered from the MSP helicopter during training.**

The partnership evolved into an efficient, expertly trained and equipped emergency rescue team with top-notch pilots, medics and now rescue swimmers.

In total, 12 OCBP veteran lifeguards along with MSP pilots and paramedics were trained. After many hours in the classroom and on the ground, training culminated in practicing actual air deployments into the ocean off of Assateague Island.

Guards went up in the helicopter two at a time, along with a pilot, co-pilot, trainer and helicopter paramedic. Rescue swimmers were taught how to work the harness, how to be lowered into the water, what type of hand signals to use when communicating with the paramedics waiting above in the chopper, and how to put an injured victim into a basket to be lifted up for immediate treatment.

Once in the water, they practiced the procedure of quickly disconnecting from the cable attached to the helicopter, signaling to the hoist operator that they were okay, and then swimming to a simulated person in distress.

Although no actual life-threatening rescues were performed with Trooper 4 and OCBP this summer, the partnership still proved to be an invaluable asset to the town's emergency response.

The medevac deployment from the Ocean City Airport was beneficial in providing quick response time for several serious neck, back and trauma injuries.

## Ocean Bowl Skate Park gets a facelift

The Ocean Bowl Skate Park received a facelift last spring, receiving rave reviews from the community's youth as well as the professional athletes in town last summer for the Dew Tour competition.

The vert ramp is now 12 feet tall and 32 feet wide with 10.5-foot transitions and 1.5 feet of vertical. Its former steel surfacing has been replaced by Skatelit Pro, the newest ramp surface on today's market.

The pool, one of the park's unique features, received a smoothing over with new, perfectly molded transition slopes, new stone coping and tile, all in and around a smooth 8.5-foot deep shell moving up to a 5.5-foot-deep shallow end. The new, user-friendly dimensions have been a huge hit with skaters of all ability levels.

Ocean Bowl Skate Park is located at Third Street and St. Louis Avenue.

For more information, call 410-289-2695 or visit [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov).

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## Transportation Division awarded grant

The Ocean City Transportation Division was awarded a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the refurbishment the South End Transit Center.

Built in 1991, the South End Transit Center services approximately 3 million residents and visitors annually and connects with Shore Transit and Greyhound Lines on a daily basis.

ARRA funding provided for exterior painting, finish carpentry work, roof gutter replacement, three new flagpoles, three new metal doors and one LED message board. Work also included the replacement of exterior light fixtures, ADA-accessible curb cuts and sidewalk ramps, lane striping and refurbishment of existing signs.



**ADA-accessible curb cuts at the South End Transit Center.**

## 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).





## Ribbon-cutting at Robin Park playground

Town of Ocean City officials celebrated the completion of a new playground in Robin Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last summer. The neighborhood park located on Robin Drive west of Coastal Highway now has a state-of-the-art, ADA-accessible

playground. The playground features new climbers, slides, swings and safety surfacing designed for children ages 5 to 12 years old. The project was funded by a grant from the Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds program.

# City receives recognition for financial reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Town of Ocean City by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been presented to Martha Bennett Lucey, Ocean City Finance Administrator, as the individual designated

by the town as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This is the 23rd year Lucey has received the award.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

## OC Fire Department receives grant for carbon monoxide detectors

The Ocean City Fire Department is pleased to announce that the Volunteer Fire Division was recently the recipient of a fire prevention grant from the Maryland State Firemen's Association for the purchase of carbon monoxide alarms.

The grant, in the amount of \$500, will help fund the purchase of approximately 36 carbon monoxide alarms. These carbon monoxide alarms will be provided to those in need, in addition to the limited

supply of smoke alarms and 9-volt batteries already provided by the fire department.

The Ocean City Fire Department is pleased to partner with the Maryland State Firemen's Association in its fire prevention efforts. Those residents that may be in need of a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, or battery replacement for either, should contact any fire station, or contact Fire Department Headquarters at 410-289-4346.

## Citizens sought for OC 'talent bank'

The Ocean City Mayor and City Council continue to develop a "talent bank" of volunteer citizens that are available to serve on various boards, commissions and projects for the town.

Citizens interested in being a part of the talent bank can obtain an application from the Mayor's Office at City Hall, or visit the town's web site at [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov), go to the "download a form" section and click on the Mayor and City Council bar to obtain a talent bank application.

The application seeks name, address, phone number and field of experience. Citizens can then indicate the boards and commissions they might be interested

in serving on. The talent bank assists the Mayor and Council when vacancies do occur on the various boards.

Boards and commissions include: Board of Port Wardens, Personnel Grievance Commission, Fire Safety Task Force, Beautification Committee, Pension Committee, Recreation Advisory Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Ethics Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Beach Mediation Board, Board of Adjustments & Appeals, Board of Election Supervisors and Noise Control Board.

For more information about the talent bank, call the Mayor's Office at 410-289-8931.

## 2011 Dew Tour deemed a success

*Ocean City was the first stop in the 2011 Dew Tour this past summer. Approximately 73,000 fans experienced the Dew Tour Pantech Open over the course of four days in July on the beach north of the pier. According to Dew Tour officials, this was the highest attendance in the history of the Dew Tour. The event, featuring professional athletes competing in skateboarding and BMX events, was broadcast around the world.*





# 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 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 the 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.





# Public art abounds in downtown Ocean City



**By Glenn Irwin, Executive Director,  
Ocean City Development Corporation**

Since its first public art project, the Ocean City Development Corporation (OCDC) has been promoting the need to create interesting spaces and eye-catching pieces.

In many of these cases, public art has been placed to break up a long expanse of blank wall on a side street building, to change a standard looking utility box into an attractive artwork or to locate a significant artwork at a very visible location within the city limits. But the overall intent is to enhance the visitor experience and enhance the quality of life for residents and tourists.

OCDC's first public artwork was the white marlin sculpture and water feature. This artwork, installed in 2002, is located at the Entry Park at the east end base of the Route 50 bridge. Completed by noted Eastern Shore sculptor, Paul Lockhart, this artwork has become a landmark feature in Ocean City. Not only was it placed as an attractive entranceway feature to Ocean City, but also to highlight Ocean City as the "White Marlin Capital of the World."

This public artwork was soon followed by the historic wall murals completed on Dorchester Street near the Boardwalk. This five-panel artwork highlights items such as the old train bridge that brought visitors into Ocean City before the 1933 storm and the "rollies" that were a popular manual transportation means found on the Boardwalk that operated into the 1940s. This artwork was completed with the assistance of the

property owner, Jerry Greenspan, who allowed his long building wall to contain this appealing new piece of art.

Quickly following this artwork were the enlarged postcards found on the north wall of the Fun City arcades on Caroline Street at the Boardwalk. These six enlarged postcards reflect an era when mailing of these items was very common. The large Ocean City postcard found nearest the Boardwalk has become a great photo opportunity for visitors.

In 2004 and 2005, OCDC teamed up with the Art League of Ocean City to paint 10 utility boxes owned by Delmarva Power. These boxes are located between Baltimore Avenue and the Boardwalk and represent various Eastern Shore themes. Each box was designed and painted by volunteers of ALOC.

Interest in painting additional downtown utility boxes expanded to include several local schools and other boxes by the Art League. In 2011, two additional utility boxes were painted near 17th Street by volunteers from the Ocean City Beach Patrol and students from Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. To date, a total of 19 utility boxes have been painted. OCDC prepares each box for painting and provides paint supplies to each volunteer group. The volunteer group provides artistic ability and labor. Each year OCDC cleans and clear-coats each painted box.

Other popular artworks commissioned by OCDC include the Seahawk sculpture (Philadelphia Avenue and Fourth Street), the eagle sculpture "Spillin' the Wind" (Coastal Highway and 144th Street), the themed brick paver art on the west side of Philadelphia Avenue (south of Caroline Street), two large brick paver artworks (South First Street), and "The

Educator" sculpture at the Ocean City Library. This last artwork was made possible by a generous donation by the late Eunice Sorin. OCDC established the Herman H. and Eunice Q. Sorin Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to fund future public art in Ocean City.

The most recent public artwork is the "OC Cruisin' Showcase" wall mural that recognizes this popular car show that occurs each October. This wall mural is located along Talbot Street just east of Baltimore Avenue. This artwork was completed in August 2011.

The OCDC Public Art Committee is the primary advocacy group in recommending new public art projects and raising funds for such artwork. This committee's members are Louise Gulyas (chairperson), Donna Greenwood, Lauren Taylor, Jody Vaeder, Vicki Barrett and Marion Chambers.

OCDC looks at public art as a very important strategy for attracting people to the downtown area. Fund-raising efforts and private contributions are the means that pay for these pieces of art.

So next time you are downtown or passing by one of these artworks, please recognize the importance of such artwork, the story that it is telling, as well as the many individuals and organizations that made it happen. We hope that you enjoy each one.

Information and pictures of downtown public art program are available at OCDC's web site, [www.ocdc.org](http://www.ocdc.org). You can contact OCDC at 410-289-7739 or e-mail [glenn@ocdc.org](mailto:glenn@ocdc.org). OCDC is a nonprofit organization charged with revitalizing downtown Ocean City.



**Wayne Pryor, Town of Ocean City, with Tom Oneto and Coleman Bunting of the Ocean City Aviation Association with the Huey helicopter OCAA is having restored and eventually placed on display at the Ocean City Municipal Airport in honor of those who have served in the armed forces.**

## Important information for rental property owners

If you rent your property to anyone at any time, 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 and to encourage responsible management, maintenance and use of rental housing units by the inspection and licensing of these units.

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, or by telephone at 410-289-8833.

## MVA on Wheels mobile van offers convenient service

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's MVA on Wheels mobile van visits Ocean City monthly and can be found at the Public Safety Building lot, 65th Street and Coastal Highway. The mobile unit generally visits the second Tuesday of each month from 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.

For more information, call the MVA at 1-800-950-1 MVA.

# ~ 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.
- Springfest and Sunfest  
Thursday through Sunday..... 2 a.m. to noon
- Other times ..... No restrictions

## 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.

## 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 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](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.

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





***Ocean City Elementary School students help Mayor Rick Meehan and town staff plant a tree at Northside Park as part of the annual Arbor Day ceremonies held in April. Details about the 2012 ceremony will be announced in the coming months.***

## Sign up to receive email notices for public hearings, news releases

Citizens can sign up to receive email notices about upcoming Town of Ocean City public hearings as well as news releases.

To receive email notification for public hearings, visit [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov) and click on "View Public Hearings." Here, citizens can view PDF files of upcoming public hearings and sign up to receive an auto-

matic email notification when new public hearings are posted. This service offers a convenient way for all citizens, both residents and non-residents, to be informed about upcoming public hearings.

To receive the town's news releases, click on the "Media" section and you will see the link to subscribe to the news releases via email.

## Ocean City's trophy mantel

**Ocean City has been the proud recipient of numerous accolades over the years. Below is list of awards and honors bestowed upon the town.**

- America's Most Affordable Fun City, Bloomberg Businessweek, 2011.
- Top 10 Best Boardwalks, National Geographic, 2011.
- Second Most Popular Beach in the U.S., The Daily Beast, 2011.
- Yahoo Travel Top 10 Family Destination, 2011.
- Top 10 Amusement Parks and Boardwalk in the U.S., Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice, 2011.
- OC Air Show: American Bus Association Top 100 Event in North America, 2011.
- Winterfest of Lights: American Bus Association Top 100 Events in North America, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011.
- Sunfest: Ranked No. 1 Traditional Art & Craft Show in the nation by Sunshine Artist Magazine, 2011, 2010; ranked No. 3 in 2006, 2009.
- Springfest: Ranked No. 10 Traditional Art & Craft Show in the nation by Sunshine Artist Magazine, 2011; ranked No. 11 in 2009.
- Ten Best U.S. Boardwalks, Sherman's Travel, 2010.
- Natural Resources Defense Council Five-Star Rating for cleanliness and safety of beach water, 2008, 2009.
- Top 50 Motorcoach Destinations, National Motorcoach Network Inc., 2008.
- Ten Best U.S. Beaches by Woman's Day Online, 2007.
- Art's Alive: The National Recreation and Park Association's prestigious Dorothy Mullen National Arts and Humanities Award, which honors the most innovative and effective arts and humanities program in the nation, 2007.
- One of America's "Best Seaside Strolls," Reader's Digest, 2006.
- AAA Top Member Auto Travel Destination, 2003-2006.
- Beach Buddy 2004: One of four beaches recognized by the Natural Resource Defense Council for environmental achievements.
- Roland E. Powell Convention Center: Prime Site Award, Facilities & Destinations Magazine, 2005, 2006.
- Eagle's Landing Golf Course: First place in 2004 and 2005, nationwide Audubon International Bird Count.
- "One of the 10 Great Places to Have Fun on the Boardwalk," USA Today, 2005.
- "Top 10 Family-Favorite Beach Towns in the Country" by the readers of FamilyFun Magazine, 2005.
- Winterfest of Lights: Ranked No. 2 in America Online City Guide's Top 11 Lighting Displays in the Country, 2005.
- One of the "Best Boardwalks in America," The Travel Channel, 2004.
- All-America City, 2001, National Civic League.

## Ocean City's bulk pick-up service fee increases

The Town of Ocean City Solid Waste Division's bulk pick-up service increased July 1. The cost for bulk pick-up service is now \$15 for one item, \$25 for up to three items and \$5 for each additional item.

Ocean City's bulk pick-up service offers a convenient way to rid your property of unwanted items. The town's ordinance code allows for the collection of large household items such as furniture, appliances, bicycles, grills, large umbrellas, clotheslines, carpet, etc., which cannot normally be loaded into a standard refuse truck. This service does not include building materials, roofing, siding, soil, concrete, yard debris, tree stumps, etc. Bulk pick-up service is available to

residential properties only within the corporate limits of the town.

To receive pick-up of large bulk items, call the Solid Waste Division of Public Works at 410-524-0318. City workers are not allowed to go on private property, so items should be placed next to your dumpster, or as close to the sidewalk as possible. Bulk pick-up service operates Mondays through Fridays from May through September; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays October through April.

Monies will not be collected at the time of pick-up, but billed to the address you prefer. For more information, call Solid Waste at 410-524-0318.