



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

REPORT TO CITIZENS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016



TO THE CITIZENS OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND,

In the years since the recession in 2009, and in spite of the subsequent decline in real estate values, Ocean City has retained its status as a premier beach resort and second home community. The recession created challenges for the town government to provide and improve infrastructure and services while retaining a commitment to sound financial management. This report, which summarizes the financial results for the 2016 fiscal year, reflects that commitment.

This report summarizes the Town of Ocean City's finances showing how your tax dollars and service fees were used in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and what we have and owe at year end.

Our goal is to communicate the results of financial operations in a report that is straightforward and easy to read. The information presented in this report was taken from the Town of Ocean City Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2016, (the CAFR), which was prepared by the Finance Department. The financial statements in the CAFR, audited by SB & Company, LLC, give much more detail and disclosures and are prepared in a way that is accepted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We invite you to read the CAFR that is available on the Town's website, www.oceancitymd.gov, or you may get a copy by contacting the Finance Department at 410-289-8858.

MAYOR

Richard W. Meehan

CITY COUNCIL

Lloyd Martin, *President*
Mary P. Knight, *Secretary*
Douglas S. Cymek
Dennis W. Dare

Anthony J. DeLuca
Wayne A. Hartman
Matthew M. James

Douglas R. Miller,
City Manager
Martha J. Bennett, CPA,
Finance Administrator

THE ECONOMY

The Town widely uses advertising, promotions, and social media to publicize the vacation and leisure opportunities in Ocean City, increasing from \$2.1 million a decade ago to \$6.5 million in 2016. For the year ended June 30, 2016, room sales were 5.3%

above the prior year and food and beverage sales were up 5%.

There were 1,855 construction permits issued in 2016, compared to 1,472 in 2015. The estimated value of construction in 2016

was \$61,003,886 compared to \$58,888,098 in 2015. Eight hotels having over 700 rooms are under construction or in the permitting process with an estimated construction value of \$64 million dollars.

MAJOR INITIATIVES AND DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

FIRE HEADQUARTERS RENOVATIONS

The Fire Headquarters building, located at 15th Street and Philadelphia Ave was originally constructed in 1960 as a single bay fire station. The building now serves as both an operational fire station with multiple engine bays and as headquarters for the Ocean City Fire Department. The current \$2.1 million project consists of a complete exterior renovation with new roof, siding, doors and

windows and was funded by the sale of bonds in 2012. The new doors and windows have impact resistant glazing for storm protection. The engine bays were renovated with new paint, floor slabs and drain systems in the north bay and a new direct connection vehicle exhaust ventilation system throughout. New HVAC systems have been installed in the bunk rooms and office areas. A 2,000 square

foot addition was constructed to provide additional office, meeting and training areas for both the career and volunteer staff.



1ST STREET WATER TOWER



In 2013, a study was conducted to assess the water distribution with regards to the fire flow in the downtown area of Ocean City. As a result of that study, the Town decided to erect a new water tower in the downtown area and replace two aging water towers. The Town solicited bids for the project and the bid was awarded to Chicago

Bridge and Iron Constructors (CB&I) of New Castle, Delaware. The new water tower is located at 1st Street. The \$4.9M project was funded by the 2015 General Obligation Bonds.

The new water tank will enhance fire flow, improve water quality as well as reduce maintenance costs. Additionally, approximately 30 parking spaces will be gained with the removal of the water tower in the Worcester Street parking lot, one of the busiest parking lots in the Town. The removal of the water tower at 15th Street allows for the future expansion of the

Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. In June 2015, the design on the water tower was selected by the Mayor and City Council of a beach ball splashing down. The paint used on the new water tower is a Sherman Williams brand and has a life expectancy of approximately 15 years, which is double the life expectancy of the paint on the old water towers. With this design, the water tower will become an iconic Ocean City landmark for visitors for years to come and visible when traveling into Ocean City on Route 50.

OCEAN BOWL SKATE PARK

In 2016, the Ocean Bowl Skate Park celebrated its 40th Anniversary. The Ocean Bowl is located on 3rd Street and St. Louis Avenue and is the oldest operating municipally owned skate bowl in the United States.

Skating gained popularity in the early 1950's when the surfers in California wanted something to do when the waves were flat. By the early 1970's, skateboarding had become the rage. It was around this time that the Town banned skateboarding on the streets within city limits. Left without a place to skate, skaters and their parents, requested that the Town provide a skating place. In June 1976, the Ocean Bowl Skate Park opened with a four foot deep asphalt bowl, then a larger bowl was constructed. In 1984, a metal surfaced halfpipe measuring eleven foot high, twenty-eight foot wide took its place. In 1997, due to deterioration, the skate park was in need of renovations yet again. With the help of the City Council and the Skate

Park Committee, a new skate park was constructed. The Skate Bowl offers those of all skill levels a place to sharpen their skills and a place to enjoy their passion in the sport they love. Currently, the Town offers instructional camps through the Recreation and Parks Department.

Over the years, the skate park has seen pro

skaters and for several years, the Dew Tour was held in Ocean City when pro skaters such as Bucky Lasek, Steve Caballero, Tyler Mumma, Brad McClain, Daniel Cardone, Mike Rogers, Matt Dove, Michael O'Friel and more, visited the skate bowl and now hold the status that few in the sport can claim... they skated on the oldest operating municipal skate park in the United States.



OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT



The Ocean City Police Department's K-9 Unit is an essential group of K-9 teams that have been supporting the department's mission since the unit was first introduced in 1961. The K-9's were originally used solely for patrol functions and in the late 1960's the Department added the first dog trained to detect illegal drugs. Today, the K-9 Unit is made up of five highly skilled

K-9 teams trained in illegal drug detection, tracking of suspects and other high risk criminal apprehension techniques.

Each of the dogs currently assigned to the K-9 Unit underwent a rigorous selection process. The typical breeds that the Department chooses are German Shepherds, Belgium Malinois and Dutch

Shepherds. The handlers assigned to the Unit, are paired with a dog that best suits their personality. A new K-9 team trains for an initial six weeks before being certified by the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA). In addition to the initial training requirements, the K-9 Unit members attend regularly scheduled monthly training sessions and must recertify with the NAPWDA annually.

Given the high risk nature of the deployments that the dogs are often faced with, the department is currently in the process of obtaining functional ballistic and stab proof vests to better protect the dogs, which costs \$2,400 each. These vests are custom fit to each dog and allow for better mobility and functionality with day to day use. The K-9 unit is a vital part of the Ocean City Police Department.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial information in this report distinguishes functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, governmental activities, from other functions that are intended to cover their costs primarily from user fees and charges and are utilities

and business services. The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, general public works and beach, sanitation and waste removal, highways and streets, economic development, recreation and culture, and construction of capital assets. The utilities

and business services of the Town include water, wastewater, the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, transportation, the Ocean City Municipal Airport and Eagle's Landing Golf Course.

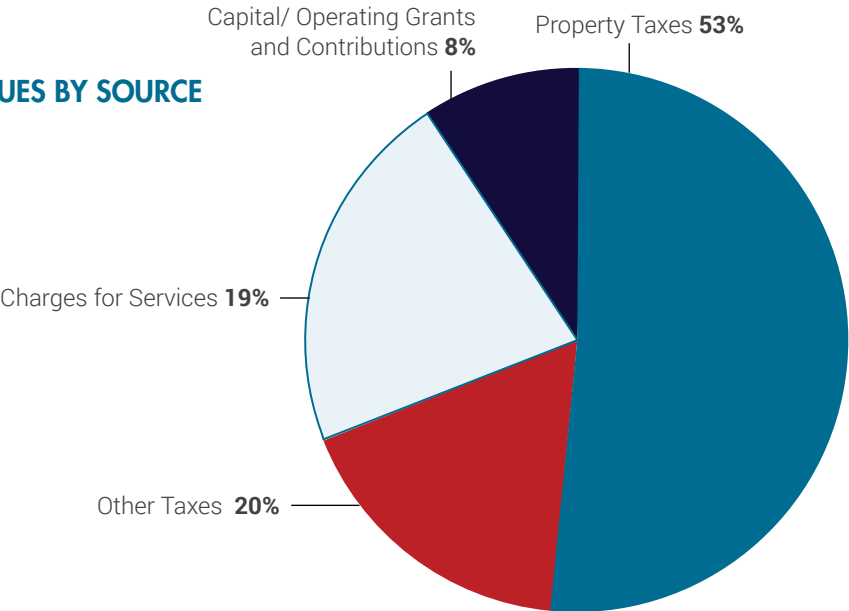
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Governmental activities such as police and public safety, solid waste collection, and community services are generally supported by taxes and revenues shared from the federal government, State of Maryland and Worcester County as the fees collected for each activity do not generally cover all expenses.

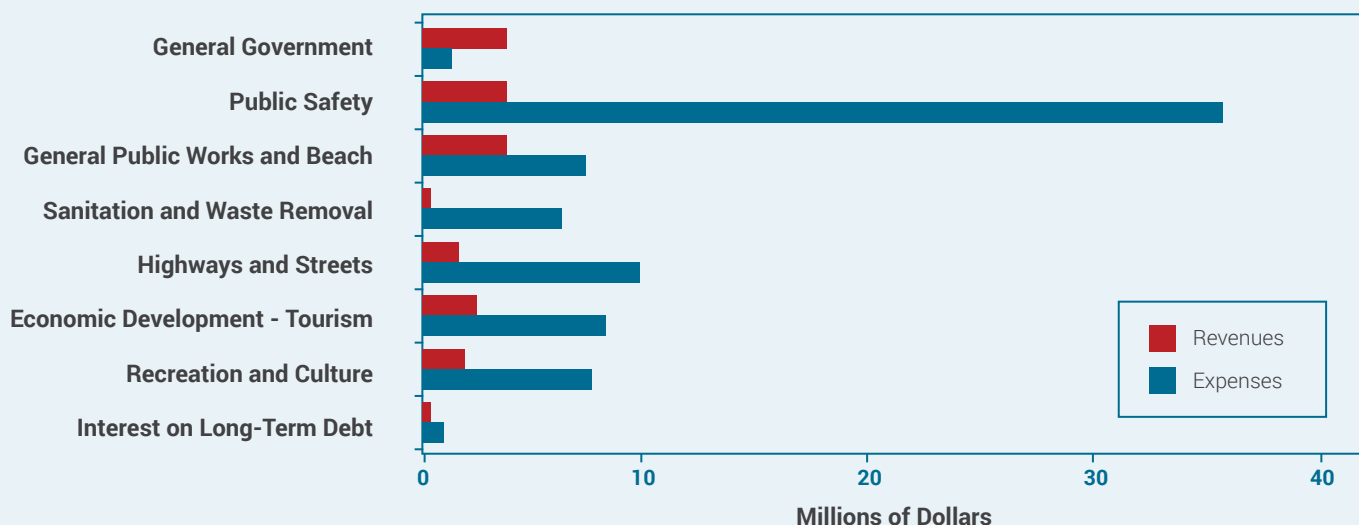
| WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Revenues | 2016 | 2015 |
| Program Revenues: | | |
| Charges for current services | \$ 15,323,925 | \$ 14,632,088 |
| Operating grants and contributions | 3,301,092 | 3,026,042 |
| Capital grants and contributions | 152,732 | 190,351 |
| General revenues: | | |
| Property taxes | 42,717,221 | 42,444,386 |
| Other taxes | 17,205,888 | 16,454,632 |
| Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs | 3,354,162 | 3,139,620 |
| Other revenue (loss) | (706,513) | 968,599 |
| Total revenues | \$ 81,348,507 | \$ 80,855,718 |

| WHERE THE MONEY GOES | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Expenses | 2016 | 2015 |
| General government | \$ 1,019,892 | \$ 852,529 |
| Public safety | 35,138,306 | 32,782,621 |
| General public works and beach | 7,261,653 | 7,240,368 |
| Sanitation and waste removal | 6,256,386 | 5,787,086 |
| Highways and streets | 10,501,844 | 7,102,511 |
| Economic development - Tourism | 8,343,211 | 8,134,166 |
| Recreation and culture | 7,862,334 | 7,479,558 |
| Interest on long-term debt | 1,307,810 | 1,335,105 |
| Total expenses | 77,691,436 | 70,718,944 |
| Increase in net position before transfers | 3,657,071 | 10,136,774 |
| Transfers to other funds | (3,158,019) | (3,022,929) |
| Increase in net position | \$ 499,052 | \$ 7,113,845 |

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - REVENUES BY SOURCE



The following graph indicates the service fees and expenses of governmental activities which shows the extent in which the governmental functions produce revenues to their program costs. Expenses not covered by direct program revenues and fees are covered primarily by taxes, licenses, and state and county-shared revenues. Program revenues and fees covered 24.3% of governmental expenses in FY-2016.



Results from operations of governmental activities were a positive \$499,052. There were losses in business-type activities of \$1,515,861 before transfers of \$3,158,019 from the general fund resulting in an increase in net position of \$1,642,158. The total change in net position from 2015 due to results from operations was an increase of \$2,141,210.

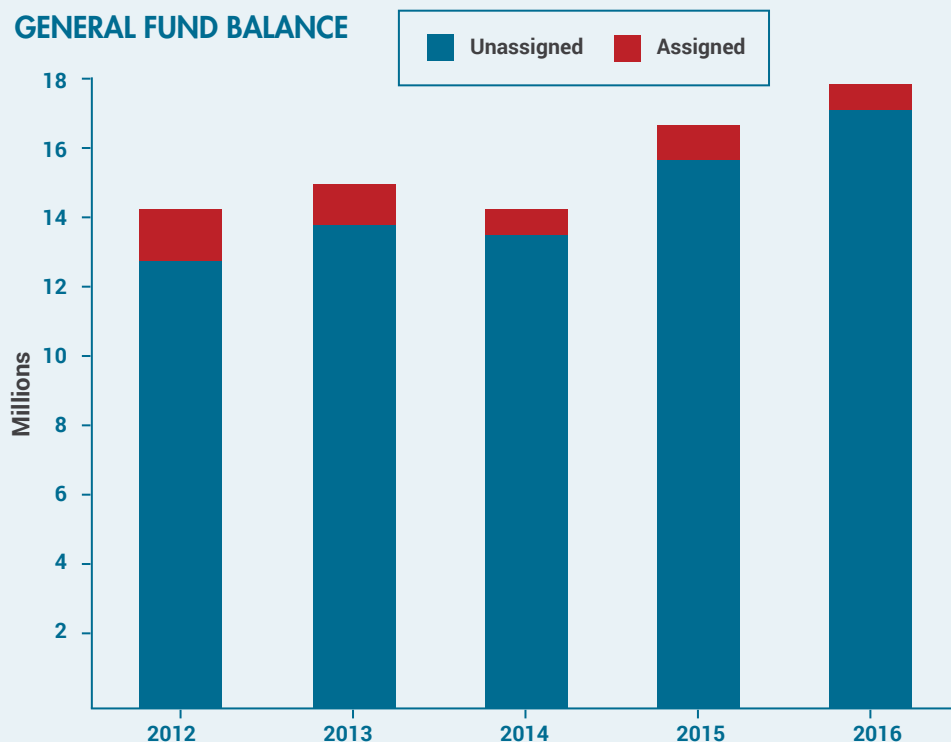
governmental activities. Salaries increased 2.3%, or \$757,546, as a 2% cost of living was given to employees January 1, 2016 and a new pay plan was implemented resulting in rate changes for some positions. In 2016, the increase in net pension liabilities resulted in a pension expense of \$392,290 above the amount of the contribution to the pension funds.

prices reduced energy and vehicle costs \$418,042, the town spent \$2,991,319 more on repairs and maintenance in 2016 than in 2015 which included \$2,731,028 in "Highways and Streets" for new energy efficient street lights. They are anticipated to pay for themselves in lower energy costs over 10 years. The Town made non-capital repairs and asphalt overlays of streets of \$623,658 and capitalized \$1,951,573 in street renovations in 2016.

Personnel costs for wages and employee benefits are 61.3% of total expenses for

Other operating expenses increased \$4,125,984 or 16.7%. Although fuel

GENERAL FUND BALANCE



WHAT IS FUND BALANCE?

"Fund balance" is the difference between assets and liabilities for governmental funds and is a key measure of financial health. The Town of Ocean City subdivides fund balance into Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned portions. The restricted and committed portions represent set-asides for existing obligations. The unassigned portion represents set-asides for future purposes and is available for emergencies. Think of the unassigned as the savings account of the fund. It is the Town's policy to have a minimum of 15% of expenses in unassigned fund balance. At June 30, 2016, the percentage was 23.1%.

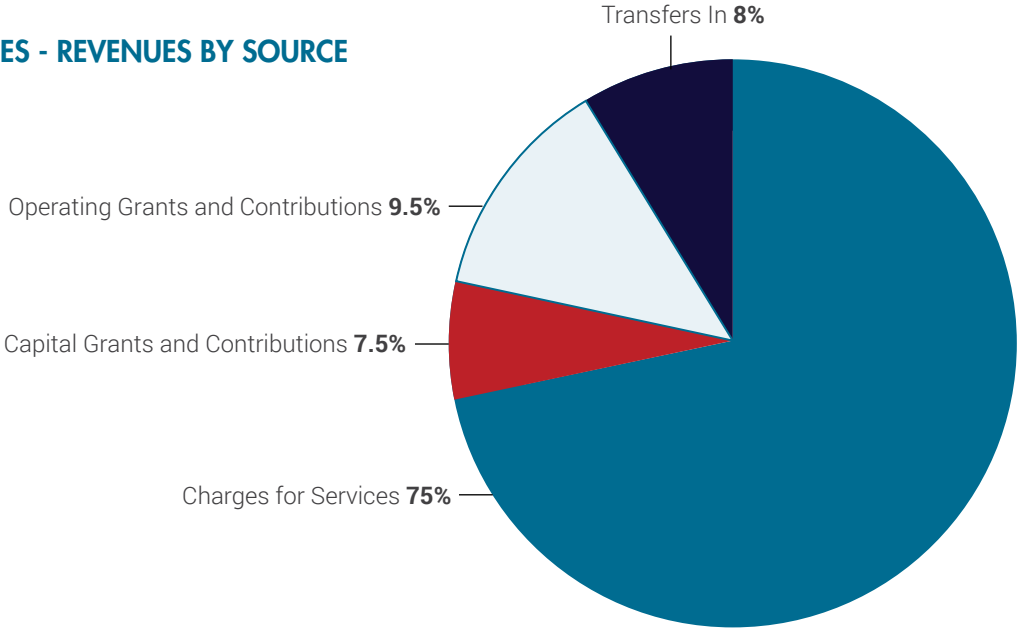
UTILITIES AND BUSINESS SERVICES

The Town operates two utilities and four businesses and accounts for their activities similar to businesses in the private sector. Operating revenues and expenses result from providing services and delivering goods. The Water Fund operates the water treatment plants and distribution system; the Wastewater Fund operates the sewage

treatment plant, pumping stations and collection system; the Convention Center Fund accounts for the activities of the Roland E. Powell Convention Center; the Transportation Fund accounts for the operations of the Town's bus system and boardwalk trams; and the Airport Fund and Golf Course Fund account for the

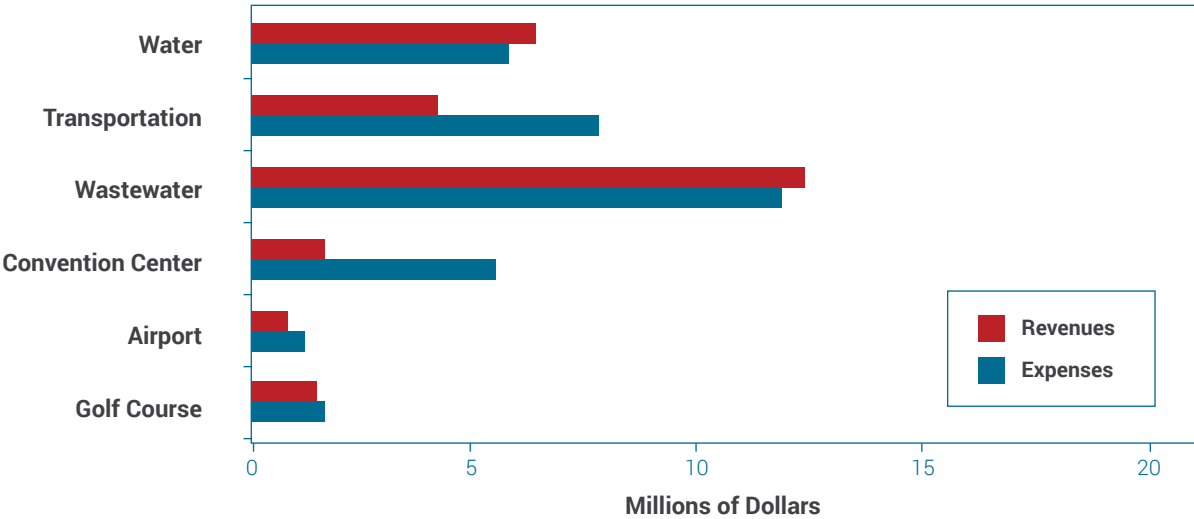
operations of the Ocean City Municipal Airport and Eagle's Landing Golf Course. Fees and service charges are 75% of all revenues in 2016.

BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES - REVENUES BY SOURCE



The following graph indicates the portion of expenses that are covered by service charges to customers for business-type activities. In water, wastewater, and golf funds, service charges or reserves cover all costs. The operations of the transportation, airport, and convention center recovered 45.5% of expenses from user charges.

BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES - EXPENSES AND PROGRAM REVENUES



UTILITIES AND BUSINESS SERVICES

| WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM | | | WHERE THE MONEY GOES | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | | 2016 | 2015 |
| Charges for current services | \$ 28,769,084 | \$ 29,314,132 | Water | \$ 5,869,793 | \$ 6,251,720 |
| Operating grants and contributions | 3,652,214 | 3,680,145 | Wastewater | 12,740,636 | 1,615,099 |
| Capital grants and contributions | 2,894,257 | 1,530,415 | Convention Center | 6,364,714 | 11,966,765 |
| Other revenue (loss) | (13,705) | 64,038 | Transportation | 8,228,957 | 5,438,689 |
| | | | Airport | 1,506,936 | 8,036,903 |
| | | | Golf Course | 2,106,675 | 2,069,805 |
| | | | Total expenses | 36,817,711 | 35,378,981 |
| | | | Increase (decrease) in net position before transfers | (1,515,861) | 3,389,042 |
| | | | Transfers | 3,158,019 | 3,363,267 |
| | | | Increase in net position | \$ 3,342,479 | \$ 6,752,309 |
| Total revenues | \$ 35,301,850 | \$ 34,588,730 | | | |

WHAT WE OWE

The Town borrows most of the money that it spends for major capital improvements by selling general obligation bonds or from loans that do not require collateral. The Town's bonds have interest rates from .2% to 5% and are paid from 10 to 20 years. At the end of 2016, the Town owed \$95,687,473 in debt. \$53,230,825 of the debt, or 56%, will be paid from service fees from business-type activities and the tax on food and beverages. At June 30, 2016, there was \$2,669,665 reserved from food tax receipts to pay principal and interest on bonds for the convention center included in the above amount. The remaining \$42,456,648 in debt will

be paid from general tax revenues.

The Town has several pension plans that its employees participate in and has made a commitment to the employees to fund their future pensions. Per the GASB 68 reporting requirements, the plans had net assets of \$101,091,155 and an actuarial accrued liability of \$130,092,324 at June 30, 2016. This means that \$29,001,169 still needs to be contributed to the plans. Employees contribute 5-8% of their pay to the plans and the Town plans to fund its portion of the liability over the next ten years. The Town had assets of \$25,250,743 to fund

retiree health benefits and an actuarial liability of \$51,647,000. The unfunded actuarial liability is being funded over twenty-two years.

WHY SELL BONDS?

By selling tax exempt bonds, the Town obtains financing at a low interest rate and spreads the cost of the project over many years instead of adding the total cost to your tax bill in one year.

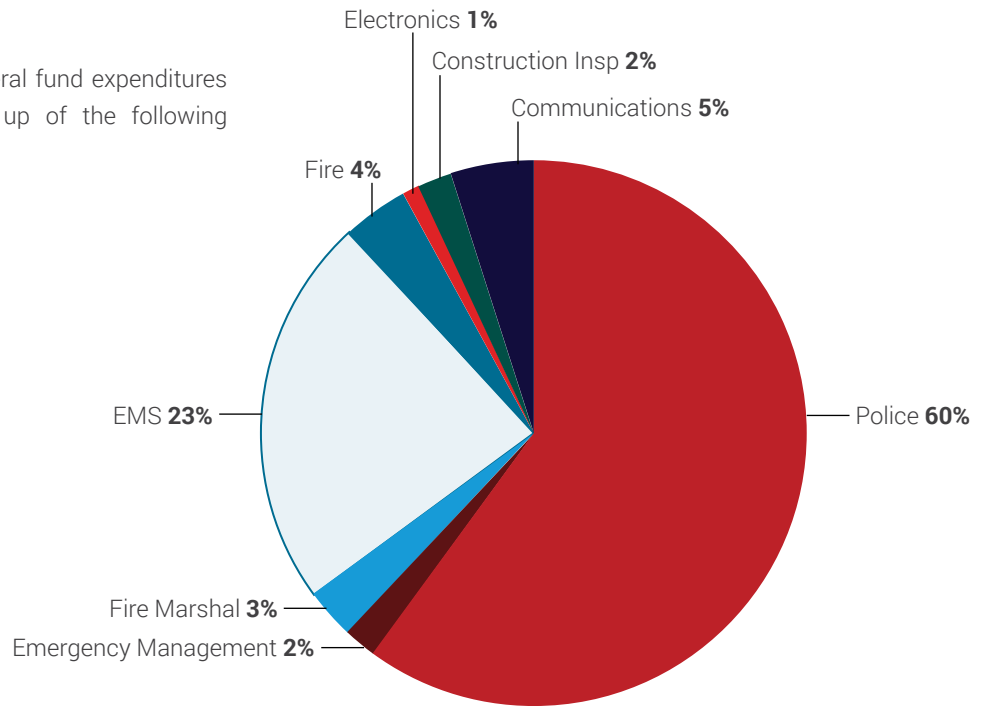
WHERE WE STOOD ON JUNE 30, 2016

The Town's statement of net position provides a "snapshot" of where we stood financially on June 30th, 2016, the last day of the fiscal year. Net position represents the Town's spendable resources and ownership (equity) in the assets that make up the Town's land, infrastructure, and buildings.

| | Governmental 2016 | Business-type 2016 | Total 2016 | Change from 2015 |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Cash and current assets | \$ 36,751,735 | \$ 33,634,074 | \$ 70,385,809 | (9.9)% |
| Capital assets | 97,226,580 | 120,044,426 | 217,271,006 | 2.6 |
| Total assets (Owned) | 133,978,315 | 153,678,500 | 287,656,815 | (0.5) |
| Deferred outflows or resources | 12,715,034 | 2,362,500 | 15,077,534 | 1023.5 |
| Long-term liabilities outstanding | 72,131,015 | 59,306,100 | 131,437,115 | 10.1 |
| Other liabilities | 9,980,087 | 3,613,744 | 13,593,831 | 3.6 |
| Total liabilities (Debts) | 82,111,102 | 62,919,844 | 145,030,946 | 9.3 |
| Deferred outflows or resources | 641,863 | 188,014 | 829,877 | 100.0 |
| Excess of assets over debts: | | | | |
| Invested in capital assets, net of debt | 55,670,509 | 77,730,796 | 133,401,305 | 1.6 |
| Restricted for loans and food tax receipts | - | 2,289,651 | 2,289,651 | (46.6) |
| Unrestricted | 8,269,875 | 12,912,695 | 21,182,570 | 10.9 |
| Total Excess of Assets over Debts | \$ 63,940,384 | \$ 92,833,142 | \$ 156,873,526 | 1.4% |

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety comprised 45.5% of all general fund expenditures in 2016, or \$33,456,922 and is made up of the following departments:



OPERATING INFORMATION FOR 2016

General Information:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Year-round residents | 7,102 |
| Registered voters | 5,703 |
| Average summer population | 242,500 |

General Government:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Construction permits issued | 1,855 |
| Value of construction built | \$61,003,886 |

Solid Waste

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Trash processed & recycled (tons) | 33,794 |
| Transportation bus passengers | 2,611,384 |

Wastewater:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Daily average treatment (gallons) | 5,528,000 |
| Summer treatment average (gallons) | 9,330,00 |
| Plants daily capacity (gallons) | 14,000,000 |

Water:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Daily average consumption (gallons) | 4,179,104 |
| Plants daily capacity (gallons) | 18,000,000 |

Fire and Emergency Services:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Fire responses | 1,158 |
| Ambulance responses | 4,698 |
| Fire safety inspections/re-inspection | 2,308 |
| Fire investigations | 45 |
| Volunteer Firemen, Life Honor, Gold Badge | 226 |
| Classified Emergency Medical Technicians/Fighters | 42 |
| Seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians | 69 |

Public Safety – Police:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Total arrests | 2,312 |
| Parking violations | 9,344 |
| Classified officers | 105 |
| Seasonal officers | 100 |

Tourism and Recreation:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Seasonal Beach Patrol personnel | 175 |
|---------------------------------|-----|

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR UTILITY BILL SENT TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

If so, please email the following to: myocwaterbill@oceancitymd.gov

- Account Number
- Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address

Please indicate if you would like email only or email and printed bill.

Visit our website to check your utility and tax account balances or to pay these bills online. WWW.OCEANCITYMD.GOV





TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND **FALL** Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016 TO APRIL 2017

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2** MUNICIPAL ELECTION
DRAWING NEAR
WINTER SCHEDULES
- 3** OCEAN CITY PROJECTS
- 4** FILL YOUR FALL
WITH FUN!
- 5** PROTECT YOUR
PROPERTY FROM
FLOODING
- 6** OCEAN CITY REMINDERS
& ADVISORIES
- 7** WORK HARD!
PLAY HARD!
IN OCEAN CITY,
LIFE'S A BEACH!



ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR ENEWS?

The Town of Ocean City remains committed to providing you with information about programs, services, current news and events. In addition to this publication, the town continually updates residents and visitors through eNews and social media sites. Sign up for eNews at oceancitymd.gov/enews or find us on social media



MUNICIPAL ELECTION DRAWING NEAR

The Town of Ocean City Municipal Election is held in conjunction with the National Election. The elections are conducted independently, but registered Ocean City Voters can vote in both elections at this location by registering at each desk that day. Assistance will be available.

WHAT: Municipal Election / National Election
WHEN: Tuesday, November 8, 2016
 Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Roland E. Powell Convention Center
 Exhibit Hall A / Exhibit Hall B
 4001 Coastal Highway
 Ocean City, MD

2016 MUNICIPAL ELECTION SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Fri., Oct. 21, 2016 | Ocean City's Registration Deadline |
| Mon., Oct. 31, 2016 | Absentee Ballot Request Deadline |
| Mon., Nov. 7, 2016 | Interim Campaign Expenditure Report Due |
| Tues., Nov. 8, 2016 | ELECTION DAY |
| Thurs., Nov. 10, 2016 | Organizational Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., Nov. 21, 2016 | Final Campaign Expenditure Report Due |

MUNICIPAL ELECTION ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

An Absentee Ballot Application must be received by the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Ocean City, c/o the Office of the City Clerk, 301 N. Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland, 21842, no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 7, 2016.

Please allow ample time for mailing the application, receiving the ballot and returning the ballot which must be returned to the Board of Supervisors of Elections (City Clerk's Office) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2016. Ballots will be mailed shortly after the October 11, 2016, candidate filing deadline.

Organizational Meeting: The newly elected Mayor, together with the newly elected Councilmembers and the incumbent Councilmembers shall meet at 7:30 p.m. on the Thursday in November immediately following the election, for the purpose of organization. At said organizational meeting, the Councilmembers shall elect one (1) of their members as President, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and shall preside at meetings of the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor and Council shall appoint one (1) member of the Council to serve as Secretary.

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

| FOR MAYOR | VOTE FOR ONE (1) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| RICK MEEHAN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FOR COUNCIL | VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) |
| DOUGLAS S. CYMEK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DENNIS W. DARE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TONY DELUCA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| JOHN GEHRIG, JR. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MARY KNIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> |

WINTER SCHEDULES:



WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS SHINES FOR 24TH YEAR

Join Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus at Ocean City's Winterfest of Lights, November 17th through January 1st. Take a ride on the magical Winterfest Express for a one mile journey through 58 acres of spectacular lights. Accompanied by holiday classics, the Winterfest Express features themed displays and a ride past our 50-foot Christmas tree! Guest can warm up after the ride with a cup of hot chocolate at the Winterfest Pavilion and browse the Yukon Cornelius Gift Shop.

Santa will be available every evening through December 23rd.

NOV. 17, 2016 – JAN. 1, 2017

Special tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, November 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Northside Park's Winterfest Village at 127th Street and the bay, is free and open to the public.

Sunday-Thursday

5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday

5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for those 12 years and older, and FREE for those 11 years and younger.

Trams are handicap accessible.



COASTAL HIGHWAY "BEACH BUS":

OCT. 31, 2106 – APR. 1, 2017

Sunday-Thursday

6:20 a.m. – 11:35 p.m. - Every 40 minutes

11:40 p.m. – 6:15 a.m. – NO BUS SERVICE

Friday and Saturday

6 a.m. – 6 a.m. - Every 30 minutes

Holiday Closing Reminder: The Town of Ocean City's administrative offices will be closed on the following observed holidays:

Veterans Day (November 11)
 Thanksgiving (November 24 & 25)
 Christmas (December 23 & 26)
 New Year's Day (January 1)
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 16)
 Presidents Day (February 20)

OCEAN CITY PARKS, PROJECTS & INITIATIVES



• Boardwalk Playground Coming Soon!

A new Boardwalk amenity is slated for construction this off-season thanks to a recent \$120,500 grant from the Department of Natural Resources' Community Parks & Playgrounds Program. Maryland's first Oceanside playground will be established on an extension of the concrete portion of Ocean City's famed boardwalk adjacent to North Division Street.

With over 8 million visitors to the resort each year, the Town of Ocean City is consistently searching for ways to increase the beach experience. In an effort to address public oceanfront activities for the youth, Ocean City has focused on installing free, safe, and enjoyable areas for children ages 5 – 12 years old. The proposed 1,350 sq. ft. play area will provide recreational activities for visitors who are walking on the Boardwalk and or enjoying the beach. The play surface will be constructed of recycled rubber products, and will be installed by a bonded and certified contractor. The Boardwalk Playground's expected completion date is May 2017.

The playground will join two other play structures installed in the past couple of years on the beach along the boardwalk in effort to replace the wooden "beach toys." A few years ago the locally made beach toys had become worn down and were eventually ruled unsafe. Needless to say, the beach toys were missed by many and the Town began exploring options in returning new, safe and enjoyable areas for children along the

boardwalk. With the help of donations made by several business owners and councilman a Dino play structure was installed on the beach off of 3rd street a couple of years ago, and most recently this past summer a "Wally the Whale" play structure was placed on the beach near Somerset Street.

Ocean City's newest playground will join the list of Department of Recreation & Parks Downtown parks including Sunset Park, Entry Park, and the Recreational Complex and Skate Park located between 3rd and 4th Streets. Each recreational space is intended to provide our residents and visitors with the perfect choice to get active and be healthy while having fun.



• Beach Ball Water Tower Nearing Completion

Residents and visitors will notice a new view in downtown Ocean City, as the highly anticipated beach ball water tower received its final coat of paint this weekend. The brand new landmark, which has been under construction since June of 2015, will replace two aging water towers and is expected to enhance fire flow, improve water quality and reduce maintenance costs.

The beloved beach ball, which is slated for completion in November, will hold one million gallons of water, allowing the town to remove existing towers on Worcester Street and 15th Street. Located at 1st Street, the project cost approximately \$4.9 million dollars and was funded by general obligation bonds.

The removal of the aging water towers not only improves the water distribution but will allow for future expansion of the Ocean City Fire Department Headquarters and approximately 30 additional parking spaces on Worcester Street.

With the paint job complete, Ocean City's public works department will continue to work with Chicago Bridge and Iron (CB&I) subcontractors to finish site work, including fencing, landscaping and the eventual in-service placement of the tank, once sterilization is complete. Ocean City officials are optimistic that the water tower will not only improve the water distribution but will also add a fun and memorable charm to Ocean City's downtown horizon.

• Ocean City Parks Master Plan Underway

As part of the Town of Ocean City's Strategic Plan, a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, was placed as a priority under this year's Policy Agenda. In creating the Parks Master Plan, Ocean City Recreation and Parks partnered with The Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) of the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University in conducting a Vision Survey last April. The survey helped gather the opinions of Ocean City residents and property owners in how they would like to see the Ocean City Parks System improve.

During the last several months, the town has conducted a series of public meetings to provide more information from Ocean City residents and property owners. These meetings permitted citizens an opportunity to give feedback on what they'd like to see in their neighborhood parks. If you were unable to attend these meetings, there is still time to make recommendations. For more information, please call Recreation & Parks Department at **410.250.0125**.



SOLID WASTE SCHEDULE: OCT 12, 2016 – MAY 10, 2017

RESIDENTIAL: (waste wheelers)

Monday

Oceanside (75th St. to 146th St.)

Bayside (75th Street to 135th Street)

Tuesday

All Areas (Inlet to 74th St.)

Bayside (136th St. to 146th St.)

COMMERCIAL:

(Front-end and 300-gallon containers)

Monday/Wednesday/Friday – All Areas

Reminder: Bulk Pick-Up is Available: Bulk Pick-Up allows residential property owners within the corporate limits of Ocean City, to place household items, such as old appliances and furniture at curbside for pickup. (The Town DOES NOT GO ON PRIVATE PROPERTY). Service operates Monday through Friday from May 1 through September 30. From October 1 through April 30, the service operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The cost is \$20 for the first item, \$30 for up to three items and \$5 for each additional item.

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

FILL YOUR FALL WITH FUN IN OCEAN CITY, MD:



Ocean City's summer season might be over, but the staff at Ocean City's Recreation & Parks Department are in full swing with a fall and winter lineup that will kiss the winter blues goodbye! Offering more than one hundred classes, programs, activities and events for both residents and visitors all year-round, the town of Ocean City welcomes a new season of fun at Northside Park!

HOLIDAY FUN BEING OFFERED BY RECREATION AND PARKS INCLUDES:

- The annual Halloween Spook Out Party will be held on Sunday, October 30, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Northside Park Recreation Complex**. Get your Halloween costume ready for the costume contest and join all the other goblins in carnival games, arts and crafts, hayrides and snacks!

- Turkey Trot Golf Tournament on Saturday, November 19, at Eagle's Landing Golf Course with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. The 4-player scramble popular golf tournament is followed by a turkey dinner feast.

- Pizza Party with Santa on Wednesday, December 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Northside Park Complex. Activities include arts and crafts, a ride throughout the spectacular Winterfest of Lights, cookie-decorating, refreshments, visits with Santa and more!

- Christmas Luncheon, an annual affair sponsored by the Recreation Department in cooperation with the Senior Center of Ocean City, is being held on Wednesday, December 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is to be determined.

- Super Bowl Scramble Golf Tournament is on Sunday, February 5, at Eagle's Landing Golf Course starting with a Tailgate Brunch Party at 9 a.m. followed by a kick-off start at 10 a.m. It is a 4-player scramble with a unique scoring format. The team consists of a Coach, Quarterback, Running Back and Wide Receiver.

- Valentine Dinner Dance sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department for Senior Adults is being held on Tuesday, February 14, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Town contributes to the ticket

price for resident seniors, and non-residents are also welcome to attend at a discounted price. The evening includes complimentary hors' d'oeuvres and happy hour drink prices for two hours, followed by a sit-down dinner and dancing! This is the biggest dance of the season, so reserve your table early with the Senior Coordinator. The location is to be determined.

- St. Patrick's Scramble is on Saturday, March 11, at Eagle's Landing Golf Course with lunch of Irish American favorites being served following play. The tournament has a shotgun start at 9 a.m. It is 4-player scramble with the teams playing 6 holes from each Gold, White and Blue Tee. The teams will choose the holes they play, and if your ball lands in a field of clovers the ball is deemed holed!

To personalize the fun in your family, Ocean City Recreation and Parks offers party services for your special events. Party themes include Soccer, Gladiator Dodge Ball, Basketball, Volleyball, Pre-School Fun, and Floor Hockey. Prices vary depending on the number of participants, and for residents and non-residents. Call Recreation and Parks for more information at

410-250-0125.

OCEAN CITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Ocean City's Performing Arts Center continues to be the hidden gem in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. The 1,216 seat auditorium impresses visitors with an extraordinary sound system, breathtaking acoustics and 2,400 square-foot stage. Whether you are seated in the orchestra pit or soaring in the mezzanine, there is not a bad view in the house!

With a nearly full schedule year-round and the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra recently charming the crowds in October, the Performing Arts Center is thrilled to welcome the following acts to round out the 2016 season:



SLEEPING BEAUTY BALLET
November 5, 2016



BIG DADDY WEAVE
November 11, 2016



CELTIC YULETIDE
December 3, 2016

For more information, visit <http://ocmdperformingartscenter.com>. Performing Arts Center tickets are available from Ticketmaster, online at ticketmaster.com or by phone at 800-745-3000 or 800-551-7328. Tickets links for each event are included on the Events page. You can also purchase tickets at the 40th Street Visitors Center Monday - Friday from 8am to 4:30pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 3pm.

SIGN UP FOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER E-NEWS:

Be among the first to learn about upcoming shows and events by subscribing to e-newsletters at <http://ocmdperformingartscenter.com>.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODING:

The Town of Ocean City is reminding property owners to understand your vulnerability to flooding and take the proper steps in advance to protect your family and your home. Located on a barrier island, many Ocean City properties are at risk for coastal flooding, storm surge, and high winds. The Town of Ocean City is concerned about repetitive flooding and has an active and ongoing program to help you protect properties from future flooding.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. Know your flood risk zone.

- Find your property on the flood insurance rate map, and "know your zone" for flood warnings
- Talk to Building Department staff about the causes of repetitive flooding. The staff can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.
- Look up flood hazard information on the Ocean City website: www.oceancitymd.gov.

2. Prepare for flooding.

- Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place for you and your family to go.
- Develop a disaster response plan. See the Red Cross's website at www.redcross.org.
- Get a copy of Repairing Your Flooded Home.

3. Protect your property.

- Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
- Check your building for water entry points & do not block required foundation flood vents.
- More information can be found at FEMA's website, www.ready.gov/floods.

4. Build responsibly and get a permit before you build

- Elevating your repetitive loss building above

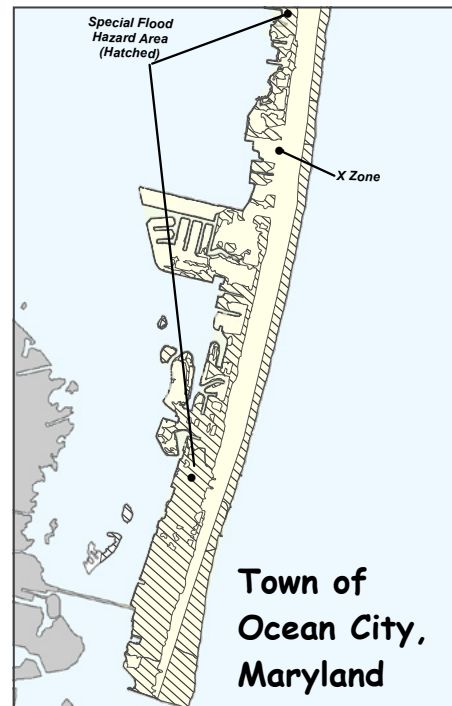
flood level may be eligible for a FEMA assistance grant.

- Learn about substantially damaged buildings and Flood Ordinance requirements before you repair or rebuild.
- Some flood protection measures may need a building permit and others may not be safe for your type of building, so be sure to talk to the Building Department first (410) 289-8855.

5. Insure your property for the flood hazard.

- Maintain a flood insurance policy even if your property is located in an X zone. If your area is no longer mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area based on the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (adopted July 16, 2015), you may qualify for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage. More information can be found at the NFIP website, www.floodsmart.gov.

6. Help to protect the beach, dunes and bayside marshes because they protect you.



RENTAL PROPERTY ADVISORY: WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AS A PROPERTY OWNER TO RENT YOUR HOME!

If you rent your property to anyone for dwelling purposes at any time, the law requires you to obtain an Ocean City Rental (or Business) License and an Ocean City noise control permit. Applications are available at <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/finance/>.

Compliance with the laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to rental housing units within the corporate limits of Ocean City will minimize conflicts of short term rental use with surrounding established residential neighborhoods, and ensure safe, healthy and habitable housing conditions in rental housing units to prevent deterioration of rental housing units and encourage responsible management,

maintenance and use of rental housing by the inspection and licensing of the units.

All rental housing units are subject to maximum occupancy based on adopted building code standards. Request a building inspection to determine your maximum permitted occupancy before you rent or lease at the number below.

Community members are encouraged to report properties that are not in compliance to the Property Review and Enforcement Strategies for Safe-Housing Committee (PRESS) at 410.289.8855.

The Property Review and Enforcement Strategies

for Safe-housing (PRESS) Committee is a group of town officials authorized to address communitywide quality of life issues which historically affect Ocean City during the summer season. The various department representatives join together to address property issues and violations related to noise, sanitation, fire and life safety, overcrowding and building code violations.

The P.R.E.S.S. Committee encourages all community members to report properties that they feel may be in violation of a safety, building or health code. Citizens with complaints or concerns are asked to contact the Office of Planning and Community Development at 410.289.8855

A HEALTHIER OCMD: OCEAN CITY JOINS HEAL CAMPAIGN

Healthier food options are on their way to Ocean City, MD. The Ocean City Mayor and Council voted to join the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities and Towns Campaign, and in late June the town was awarded the title of a HEAL City during the Maryland Municipal League conference.

The HEAL Campaign is a nationwide initiative to promote healthier food options and opportunities for community members to get active. The Institute for Public Health started the program with funding from the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States and a partner-

ship with the Maryland Municipal Leagues. Ocean City and 34 other cities in Maryland are part of the Mid-Atlantic region branch. The Campaign works with municipal leaders to access and identify ways to create a healthy town.

The Ocean City Mayor and Council is focusing on healthier vending options at Recreation and Parks concession stands and in vending machines, and creating a healthy vending policy. The Mayor and City Council are also interested in having worksite wellness becoming a priority within the Town by having health related materi-

als readily available to town employees, as well as aiming their efforts in having more accessible bike and walking paths by providing bike access ways through the connection of existing lanes and streets within the Town.

The HEAL Cities & Towns Campaign for the Mid-Atlantic is part of a growing national campaign that is currently taking place in California, Colorado, and Oregon. The Institute for Public Health Innovation embarked on this initiative in 2012 in strategic partnership with the Maryland & Virginia Municipal Leagues.

REMINDERS & ADVISORIES FROM THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

REMINDER:



KNOW YOUR ADDRESS & KNOW YOUR ZONE

We know, we know...knowing your address is something that should have been learned in elementary school, however; the Town of Ocean City's Emergency Services Department insists that all too often callers don't know their location. The address, which may not seem like a "must know" to visitors (particularly hotel guests & renters), can be critical for first responders, including fire, EMS and police, during emergency and lifesaving response time.

According to Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald, most visitors disregard the address where they're staying as soon as they arrive. "Once they turn off their GPS and park their car, they are officially in vacation mode," Theobald commented. "Unfortunately, if one of our visitors is in need of medical attention or calls 911 for emergency response, they often times don't know their location and it can be quite challenging for our personnel to try to determine where they are located rather than immediately sending help their way."

Owners of rental properties are encouraged to display a complete address, including the name of the building, on the back of the front door of their rental. Lastly, visitors are encouraged to know where they're staying. 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 call Karen Zera, GIS Coordinator for the Town of Ocean City at 410.289.8466 or email kzera@oceancitymd.gov.



TRIM YOUR TREES

The Town of Ocean City is reminding property owners to trim trees and shrubbery on your property that are blocking or overhanging sidewalks, traffic control devices and neighborhood properties. All trees or shrubs must be trimmed back to the property line and tree limbs should be cut to allow a vertical height clearance of seven feet from the top of the sidewalk to the lowest limb and a vertical height clearance of fourteen feet from the street.

If violations continue, the town is authorized to bill you. The Town encourages you to have your property maintained on a regular basis during the growing season so as not to incur these charges.

ADVISORY:

ZIKA VIRUS

In May 2015, Zika virus was identified in Brazil and resulted in a large outbreak that has now spread to most other countries in South America, Central America and the Caribbean. Zika virus is a virus spread to people through mosquito bites of Aedes species mosquitoes; sexual transmission of Zika virus is also known to occur. While reports of local mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus in the United States have been limited, residents are encouraged follow prevention advice and eliminate areas where mosquitoes might be present.

The best way to avoid the Zika virus is to prevent mosquito bites. And the best way to avoid bites is to eliminate areas where these mosquitoes lay their eggs. These areas are called "breeding sites."

FOR PREVENTION TIPS, VISIT:

- MD Department of Agriculture Mosquito Control
- MD Department of Agriculture Zika Prevention
- MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Zika Virus Information
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Zika Virus

FROZEN PIPES

The Ocean City Fire Department is reminding citizens and property owners to follow simple maintenance tips to ensure that fire sprinklers and domestic pipes do not freeze and break during severe temperature drops over the winter months.

INSIDE YOUR HOME

Anywhere cold air blows on a pipe, it creates the potential for freezing. To make sure your pipes are well-insulated, close crawl space vents and stuff insulation over the openings. Even a tiny hole can let a lot of cold air blow in. Make sure you fill in all the cracks.

- A bathroom or laundry room located above or next to a garage can be particularly vulnerable, so keep the garage door closed to maintain maximum heat.
- If your bathroom pipes run along an outside exterior wall, try keeping the vanity door(s) open to allow heat inside.
- Finally, never turn off the heat when you leave home during the winter. Instead, set the temperature to at least 55 degrees F (higher if you've had problems in the past or live in an area of extreme cold). If you have multiple heat zones, be sure to adjust all thermostats appropriately.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Disconnect and store garden hoses. If your home has a separate shut-off for external faucets, turn it off and drain the water from those faucets.

- Turn off and drain sprinkler systems. You may want to call in a professional company to blow out any leftover water in the underground lines. A broken sprinkler pipe can do damage to the delicate components that make up the entire system, increasing the cost of repair.
- Know where your main waterline shut-off is before problems arise. Depending on the age of your house, it can be inside a garage, basement or laundry room, or underground in your yard. After turning the water off, turn on faucets to allow the water to drain and release the pressure in your pipes.

Finally, emergency contact numbers should be posted on the outside of the building, which can help the fire department contact responsible parties in the event of a pipe break. Also, key lock boxes, which can be purchased from the fire department headquarters at 15th Street, can allow access into a building in the event of an emergency to allow firefighters to turn off water mains and minimize damage within units.

For more information on precautionary measures to take to prevent pipe breaks, contact the Ocean City Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal at 410-289-8780.

WORK HARD! PLAY HARD!

IN OCEAN CITY, LIFE'S A BEACH!

Life's a Beach and at the Town of Ocean City each "work" day is another opportunity to soak in the sun, sand and salt air! With hundreds of seasonal positions to be filled, our Human Resources department wants to know....WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

SEASONAL JOB OPENINGS:



BUS DRIVERS & TRAM DRIVERS:

Do you love the sounds and sights of Ocean City? Spend your summer days taking in the beach and Boardwalk views as an employee of the Ocean City Transportation Division. Don't worry, we offer paid training to get you the qualifications you need! Learn more at oceancitymd.gov.



OCEAN CITY POLICE OFFICERS, DISPATCHERS & PUBLIC SAFETY AIDS:

Seasonal Officers, Dispatchers and Public Safety Aids are temporary employees who supplement the year round police force in its mission to the community. This assignment gives college-level criminal justice and other qualified and interested persons the chance to experience first-hand the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement. Learn more at <http://joinocpd.com/>



LIFEGUARDS (SRT'S):

Be our next beach ambassador by applying as a Surf Rescue Technician. Testing for the 2017 season is currently underway, with on-site and off-site test dates scheduled. To get more information or to learn more about the job, email ocbp@ococean.com or visit oceancitymd.gov.

Our seasonal employees are vital to ensuring Ocean City residents and visitors enjoy their OC experience. With hundreds of positions to fill, including day camp counselors, golf course maintenance employees, Boardwalk maintenance workers and comfort station attendants, the Town of Ocean City may have just the right position for you! If you are interested in a great job with a competitive pay, apply today! For more information or for a list of our currently openings, visit: www.oceancitymd.gov.

TRAILER ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

The Town of Ocean City has implemented a new trailer parking ordinance which prohibits trailer parking on city streets from May 1st – October 31st. Permits are available only to registered participants of Cruisin' Ocean City, OC BikeFest and Endless Summer Cruisin' for a fee of \$50 from the event promoter. Special event participants who will be parking a trailer on city streets

will need a trailer parking permit, however; participants should be reminded that trailer and/or oversized vehicle parking on Baltimore Avenue is prohibited at ALL times.

Limited free trailer parking during special events is available at the route 50 Park & Ride (located at the south side of route 50 just before you

cross the bridge into Ocean City) and limited paid parking at the 100th Street Parking Lot.

For more information, and frequently asked questions, please visit: <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/city-clerk/trailer-ordinance/>

KNOW YOUR ADDRESS. KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION:

Emergency Managers are counting on you to be prepared & do the right thing to keep yourself and your family out of dangerous situations. KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION and have a plan for where you will go should something happen during hurricane season and beyond. Also remember to have your address clearly marked (inside and outside) for emergency responders and family members, renters or guests of your home.

| OCEAN CITY DIVISIONS | | | OCEAN CITY FLOOD INUNDATION ZONE | |
|----------------------|--------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | RED | Inlet to 33 rd Street | A | 4' FLOOD INUNDATION ZONE |
| 2 | YELLOW | 33 rd Street to 62 nd Street | B | 5' FLOOD INUNDATION ZONE |
| 3 | BLUE | 62 nd Street to 100 th Street | C | 6' FLOOD INUNDATION ZONE |
| 4 | ORANGE | 100 th Street to DE Line | | |

KNOW YOUR ADDRESS:

In case of an emergency, first responders can come to:

KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION:

In case of an emergency, my property is located in:

SAVE THE DATE OCMD UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 7
WICOMICO STREET
WINTER FESTIVAL**
Wicomico Street
near Boardwalk

**NOVEMBER 12
STORM WARRIORS
BOARDWALK 5K RUN/WALK 2016**

**NOVEMBER 17 – JANUARY 1
WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS**
Northside Park,
125th Street

**NOVEMBER 19
TURKEY TROT
GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Eagle's Landing Golf Course,
West OC

**NOVEMBER 19
LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN**
Visit:
www.downtownassociation.net

**NOVEMBER 25-26
HOLIDAY SHOPPER'S FAIR**
Convention Center, 40th Street

**NOVEMBER 25-26
DELMARVA WOOL
& FIBER EXPO**
Northside Park

**DECEMBER 3
OC CHRISTMAS PARADE**
Coastal Hwy from 100th St. to
115th St.

**DECEMBER 3
CELTIC YULETIDE**
Performing Arts Center,
40th Street & Coastal Highway

**DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS**
Northside Park, 125th Street

**JANUARY 1, 2017
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
OPEN HOUSE**
Performing Art Center

