

Report TO CITIZENS



FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

To the Citizens of Ocean City, Maryland,

Always a tourist destination, Ocean City is also an active residential community of citizens that enjoy living on a slender barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and wide coastal bays. Many of the Town government's efforts in the 2017 fiscal year addressed the quality of life for residents in a vibrant tourist resort. This report, which summarizes the financial results for the 2017 fiscal year, also identifies those efforts.

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, 2017 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, 2017, (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 obtain a copy by contacting the Finance Department at 410-289-8858.



Paddleboarding camp at Northside Park

MAYOR

Richard W. Meehan

CITY COUNCIL

Lloyd Martin, *President*
Mary P. Knight, *Secretary*
Dennis W. Dare
Anthony J. DeLuca

John F. Gehrig, Jr.
Wayne A. Hartman
Matthew M. James

CITY MANAGER

Douglas R. Miller

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Martha J. Bennett, CPA

Economy

The Town widely uses advertising, promotions, and social media to publicize the vacation and leisure opportunities in Ocean City and at the Performing Arts Center. Also, youth and family sporting events are encouraged and the Town hosts various tournaments and competitions such as softball, lacrosse, cheerleading, soccer, and skateboarding. The Town also sponsors family activities and movies on the beach, concerts, both on and off the beach, and various entertainment venues at Northside Park on 125th Street and at Sunset Park located on the bay front in downtown Ocean City.

There were 1,810 construction permits issued in 2017, compared to 1,855 in 2016. The estimated value of construction in 2017 was \$86,385,559 compared to \$61,003,886 in 2016. Eight hotels having over 800 rooms are under construction or in the permitting process with an estimated construction value of \$90 million dollars.

Major Initiatives And Departmental Activities

Comprehensive Parks Master Plan

As part of the Town of Ocean City's strategic plan, and its leadership's continued desire to provide an enhanced quality of life for the people of Ocean City, a Comprehensive Parks Master Plan was placed as a priority under the 2016 Policy Agenda. In an effort to collect input from the community as to what amenities and services are important to Ocean City's residents and visitors, the Recreation and Parks Department partnered with Salisbury University's BEACON (Business Economic and Community Outreach Network) program of the Franklin P. Perdue School of business in the creation and conducting of a Vision Survey in April 2016. The survey, offered both online and in hard-copy formats, helped gather the expressed needs and interests of the Town's residents and property owners and their opinions as to how they would like to see the Ocean City Parks System grow.

As the next step in the process, the Recreation and Parks staff scheduled a series of public meetings in the fall of 2016 to provide Ocean City residents and property owners another opportunity to give feedback on what they'd like to see in their neighborhood parks. Five



meetings were held at various locations to discuss the Town's various parks and recreational amenities, enticing interested park users to share their thoughts with Recreation and Parks Department staff members. The Comprehensive Parks Master Plan continues to be a work in progress and is scheduled for further discussion at the Town's fall Strategic Planning sessions.

Eagles Landing Golf Course



700 mHz Radio System and Communications Department Upgrade

The Communications Department located at the Public Safety Building is responsible for dispatching fire and police to various types of calls. For this fiscal year, the Communications Department processed an excess of 100,000 calls and of that total over 91,000 calls for service, which includes Police, Fire/EMS, and Beach Patrol. The system that is presently in use was installed in 1993 & 1994. A complete remodel and upgrade was needed in order to service the growing population. The present system is an Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS) and its outdated technology is no longer supported.

The project consists of a complete remodel of communications and radio equipment that is fully integrated with Worcester County as well as other local government agencies. The upgrade will be completed in phases and will take two or more years to complete. It will run concurrent with the installation of the upgrading of the 911 system. Phase 1 will consist of the 911 system's foundation hardware and will include technology, hardware and console modifications in the communications dispatch center. Phase 2 will consist of mobile radio installations in all emergency vehicles and city buses. Phase 3 will consist of the installation of the system hardware to be totally operational for the spring/summer season of 2018. Supplemental expenses to the project are: 1) new flooring in the Communications Dispatch Center, 2) replacement of the fire station alerting system and 3) ancillary project funding to cover supplementary expenses associated with the project.



Spray Irrigation System at Eagle's Landing Golf Course

Due to aging irrigation equipment and the expected costs of repairs, The Town of Ocean City entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Worcester County to install a new spray irrigation system at Eagle's Landing Golf Course in August 2016. The MOU allows the treated wastewater effluent from the Mystic Harbour Wastewater Treatment Facility to be stored and spray irrigated on the lands of Eagle's Landing Golf Course.

The MOU includes the planning, construction, installation and utilization of the holding ponds and spray irrigation system and will remain in effect unless earlier terminated by either party for cause, and not for convenience. It also grants the County an

easement for a term of 40 years, at which time the County may renew the easement for an additional 40 years with the same terms and conditions contained in the MOU, except that there will be no additional payment for the spray rights. Due to the seasonal nature of irrigation, the Town has agreed to allow treated effluent redirection on an "as needed basis only". During the "off season" months when irrigation is not needed at the Golf Course, the effluent will be periodically redirected to the Town through the West Ocean City Sanitary Service Area.

When necessary and if financially and engineering feasible, the County will complete dredging of the golf course ponds for storage of excess treated effluent and any improvements. The County will pay for the wastewater lines to the Town's property lines for the golf course and the Humane Society facility, with the Town constructing

all piping for the airport connection. Costs for maintenance, repair and replacement including labor for repairs of the spray irrigation system, including any permit required groundwater monitoring, shall be the sole expense of the County. The Town will receive a credit for water and wastewater equivalent dwelling unit equity contribution charges and future capital improvement charges as well as provide compensation for future wastewater equivalent dwelling unit charges at the Town facilities. This agreement is a cost savings to the Town because the Town will not be required to replace the aging equipment or maintain the new system.

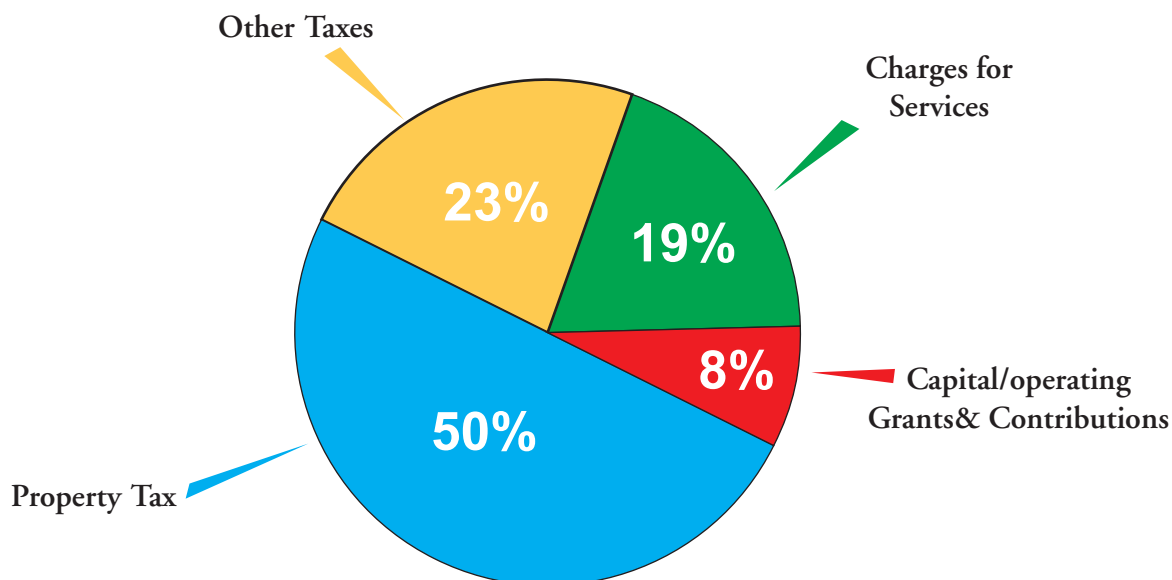


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

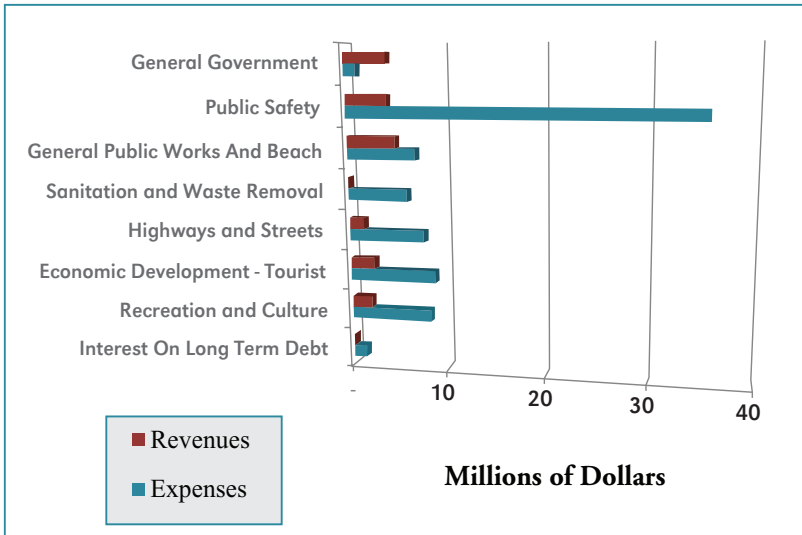
The financial information in this report distinguishes functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, governmental activities, from other functions that are intended to cover their costs primarily from user fees and charges and are utilities and business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

Government Activities

Where the Money Comes From			Where the Money Goes		
	2017	2016		2017	2016
REVENUES			EXPENSES		
Program Revenues:			General government	\$ 1,117,684	\$1,019,892
Charges for current services	\$15,989,689	\$15,323,925	Public safety	35,363,774	35,138,306
Operating grants and contributions	3,370,747	3,301,092	General public works and beach	7,035,384	7,261,653
Capital grants and contributions	335,711	152,732	Sanitation and waste removal	6,104,169	6,256,386
General revenues:			Highways and streets	7,796,282	10,501,844
Property taxes	42,938,816	42,717,221	Economic development - Tourism	8,813,147	8,343,211
Other taxes	18,645,893	17,205,888	Recreation and culture	8,234,584	7,862,334
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	3,419,106	3,354,162	Interest on long-term debt	1,301,378	1,307,810
Other revenue (loss)	1,396,553	(706,513)	Total expenses	75,766,402	77,691,436
Total revenues	\$86,096,515	\$81,348,507	Increase in net position before transfers	10,330,113	3,657,071
			Transfers to other funds	(2,627,828)	(3,158,019)
			Increase in net position	\$7,702,285	\$499,052



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



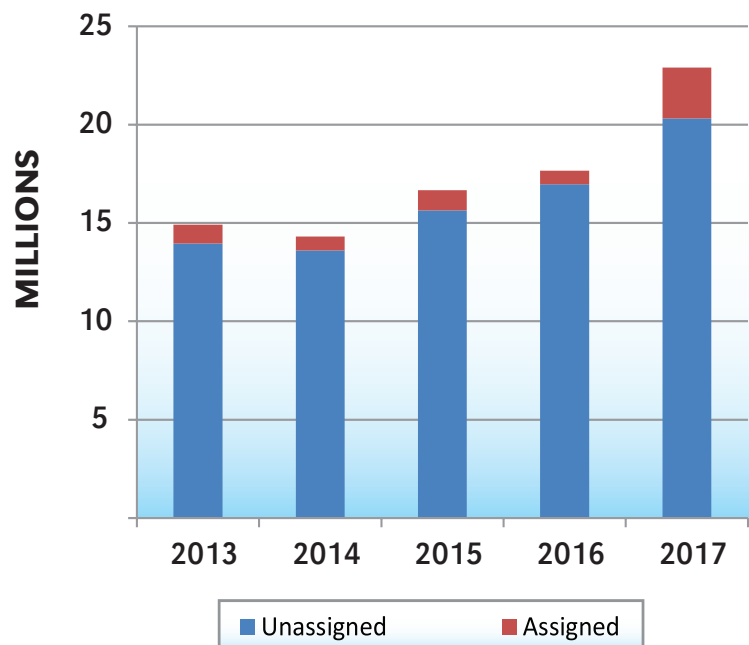
The following graph indicates the service fees and expenses of governmental activities which shows the extent in which the governmental functions produce revenues to their program costs. Expenses not covered by direct program revenues and fees are covered primarily by taxes, licenses, and state and county-shared revenues. Program revenues and fees covered 26.1% of governmental expenses in FY-2017.

Results from operations of governmental activities were \$10,330,113. There were losses in business-type activities of \$903,372 before transfers of \$2,627,828 from the general fund resulting in an increase in net position of \$1,724,456. The total change in net position in 2017 was \$9,426,741 compared to \$2,141,210 in 2016.

Personnel costs for wages and employee benefits are 63.1% of total expenses for governmental activities. Salaries increased

2.7%, or \$845,618, as increments were given to employees January 1, 2017 and police officers also received a 2% cost of living adjustment. Other operating expenses decreased \$2,505,771 or 8.6%. Due to the improved lighting systems and lower fuel prices, energy costs were 4.7% lower in 2017, a savings of \$62,985. Repairs to buildings increased \$456,776, which included repairs to Northside park facilities and the Public Safety building. The Town made non-capital repairs and asphalt overlays of streets of \$259,290 compared to \$623,658 in 2016, a decrease of \$364,368 and capitalized \$1,531,485 in street renovations in 2017. Also, canal dredging expense was \$235,222 less in 2017 than in 2016.

General Fund Balance

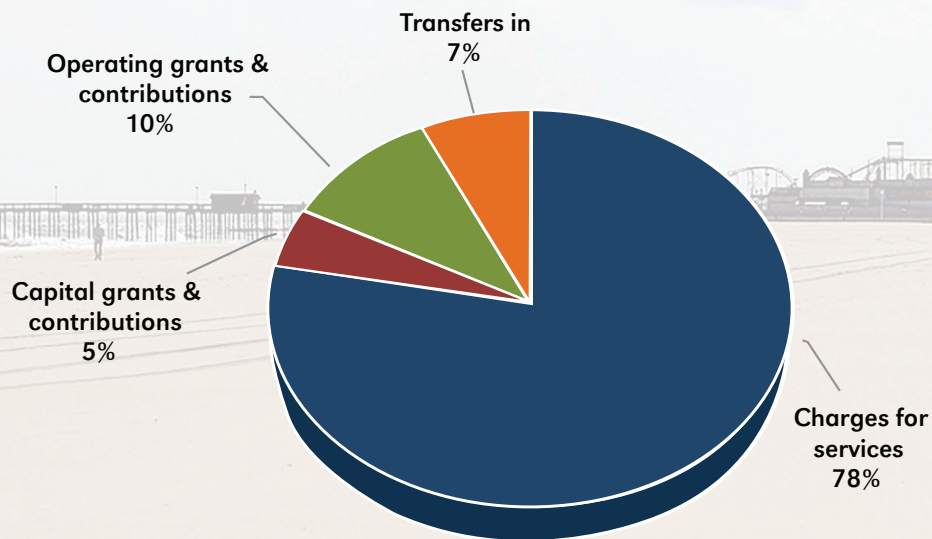


What is Fund Balance?

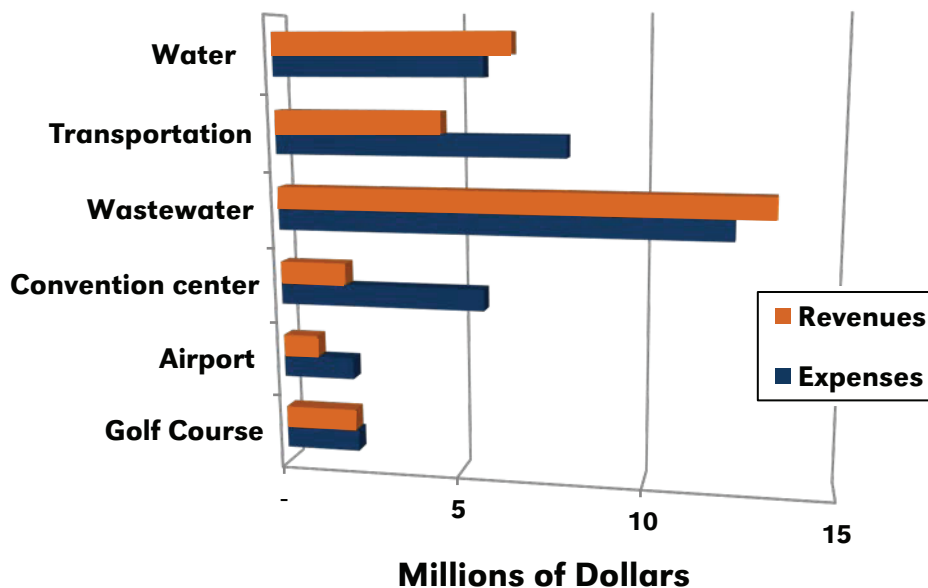
"Fund balance" is the difference between assets and liabilities for governmental funds and is a key measure of financial health. The Town of Ocean City subdivides fund balance into Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned portions. The restricted and committed portions represent set-asides for 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, 2017, the percentage was 25.7%.

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 78% of all revenues in 2017.



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.



Utilities and Business Services

	2017	2016
Where the Money Comes From:		
Charges for current services	\$29,235,669	\$28,769,084
Operating grants and contributions	3,823,027	3,652,214
Capital grants and contributions	1,705,045	2,894,257
Other revenue (loss)	59,154	(13,705)
Total revenues	34,822,895	35,301,850
Where the Money Goes:		
Water	5,751,275	5,869,793
Wastewater	12,278,771	12,740,636
Convention Center	5,699,119	6,364,714
Transportation	7,929,697	8,228,957
Airport	1,985,010	1,506,936
Golf Course	2,082,395	2,106,675
Total expenses	35,726,267	36,817,711
Decrease in net position before transfers	(903,372)	(1,515,861)
Transfers	2,627,828	3,158,019
Increase in net position	\$1,724,456	\$ 1,642,158

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 2017, the Town owed \$95,080,195 in debt. \$48,666,562 of the debt, or 51%, will be paid from service fees from business-type activities and the tax on food and beverages. At June 30, 2017, there was \$2,994,035 reserved from food tax receipts to pay principal and interest on bonds for the convention center included in the above amount. The remaining \$46,413,633 in debt will be paid from general tax revenues and fees.

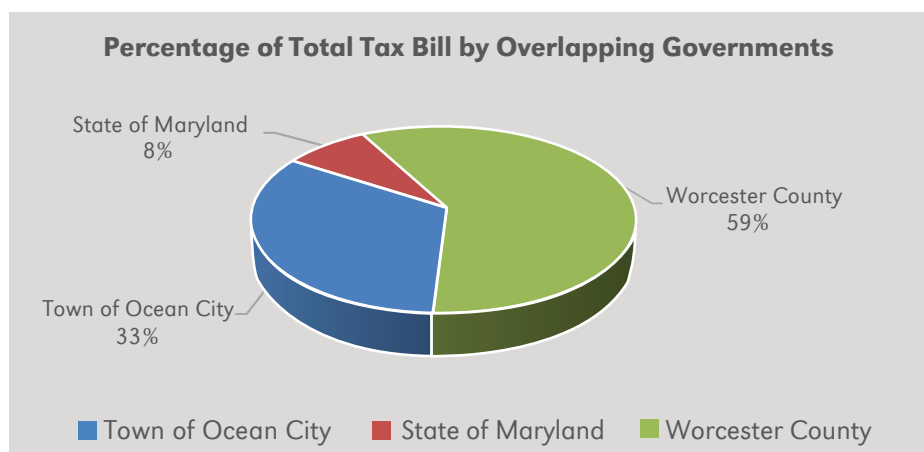
The Town has several pension plans that its employees participate in and has made a commitment to the employees to fund their future pensions. Per the GASB 68 reporting requirements, the plans had net assets of \$111,017,229 and an actuarial accrued liability of \$134,750,107 at June 30, 2017. This means that \$23,732,878 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 \$29,451,648 to fund retiree health benefits and an actuarial liability of \$57,326,000. The unfunded actuarial liability of \$27,874,352 is being funded over twenty-one 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, 2017

The Town's statement of net position provides a "snapshot" of where we stood financially on June 30th, 2017, 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 2017	Business-type 2017	Total 2017	Change from 2016
Cash and current assets	\$44,101,373	\$27,278,782	\$71,380,155	1.4 %
Capital assets	102,355,191	123,066,796	225,421,987	3.8
Total assets (Owned)	146,456,564	150,345,578	296,802,142	3.2
Deferred outflows or resources	10,386,056	1,672,817	12,058,873	(20.0)
Long-term liabilities outstanding	71,614,255	53,116,461	124,730,716	(5.1)
Other liabilities	11,231,519	3,544,239	14,775,758	8.7
Total liabilities (Debts)	82,845,774	56,660,700	139,506,474	(3.8)
Deferred outflows or resources	2,354,177	700,097	3,054,274	268.0
Excess of assets over debts:				
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	58,962,839	77,570,432	36,533,271	1.6
Restricted for loans and food tax receipts	-	2,612,045	2,612,045	14.1
Unrestricted	12,679,830	14,475,121	27,154,951	5.5
Total Excess of Assets over Debts	\$71,642,669	\$94,657,598	\$166,300,267	6.0 %



OPERATING INFORMATION FOR 2017

General Information:

Year-round residents	7,102
Registered voters	6,067
Average summer population	275,509

General Government:

Construction permits issued	1,810
Value of construction built	\$86,385,559

Solid Waste:

Trash processed & recycled (tons)	35,823
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Transportation:

Bus passengers	2,554,385
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Wastewater:

Daily average treatment(gallons)	5,699,000
Summer treatment average (gallons)	9,743,000
Plants daily capacity (gallons)	14,000,000

Water:

Daily average consumption (gallons)	4,278,040
Plants daily capacity (gallons)	18,000,000

Fire and Emergency Services:

Fire responses	1,323
Ambulance responses	5,006
Fire safety inspections/re-inspection	2,269
Fire investigations	26
Volunteer Firemen, Life Honor, Gold Badge	215
Classified Emergency Medical Technicians/Fighters	44
Seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians	67

Public Safety – Police:

Total arrests	2,252
Parking violations	9,619
Classified officers	105
Seasonal officers	80

Tourism and Recreation:

Seasonal Beach Patrol personnel	194
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Visit our website to check your utility and tax account balances or to pay these bills online.

www.oceancitymd.gov



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

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

- Account Number
- Phone Number
- Name
- Email Address

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



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

OCTOBER 2017 TO APRIL 2018

Fall Newsletter



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



WHAT'S INSIDE

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The summer season is over and the local's favorite season (the fall) is here! It's a beautiful time of year at the beach, with crisp days that are perfect for a stroll on the Boardwalk or a jog at Northside Park. Please remember, that with new temperatures comes new seasonal schedules. Here are your fall & winter schedules from the Town of Ocean City:

WINTER SCHEDULES:

Solid Waste Schedule:

October 12, 2017 - May 10, 2018

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

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**

Ocean City Skate Park: As the world's oldest operating municipal skate park, the Ocean Bowl offers skateboarders and inline skaters of all ability levels an exceptional Ocean City experience. The 17,000 square foot concrete-based park takes advantage of every inch of space, with transitions allowing flow from one end of this "carvable" park to the other. The renovated bowl and vert ramp offer smooth riding surfaces and the mini-ramp and bird bath continue to be user favorites!

NOVEMBER-MARCH

Weekdays 2:00 p.m. – dark

Closed Wednesdays

Weekends 9:30 a.m. – dark

HOLIDAY CLOSING REMINDER:

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

Veterans Day (November 10),

Thanksgiving (November 23 & 24),

Christmas (December 22 & 25),

New Year's Day (January 1),

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 15)

Presidents' Day (February 19)

Ocean City Transportation Updating Automatic Vehicle Locator System

After a 13 year run with a fleet tracking software called Air-Trak, Ocean City buses will soon have a new tracking and locator system that will allow viewing by the public. The current system, while functional in many ways, continued to suffer operational outages and growing concerns of lost service. The new system, however, will be more reliable and will allow more accurate location estimations for both staff and patrons.

The new system (TransLoc) is one of the industry leading providers in mobile GPS applications in the public transportation service industry. The mobile application will allow cell phone users to download an application to view the location and arrival of the buses. In addition, there will be a web-based site through the Ocean City home page where a viewer can locate the buses in real-time on a map. To further communication, text message notifications will be available for those who sign up through the application on the phone or on the web page. The notification will provide information based on the user's location the position of the next bus and the arrival time.

The TransLoc application is also in the GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification) that can be seen in Google Maps. Currently on Google Maps in an image of Ocean City, one can determine the location of bus stops and the scheduled arrival time. With the updated software on Google Maps, the feed will indicate the real-time location of the buses.

Named the #1 Golf Course in Maryland by GolfAdvisor.com in 2016, Eagle's Landing boasts the most scenic and challenging golf course on the Eastern Shore. With a variety of link style holes, marsh and wetland carries with rolling Bermuda fairways, Eagles Landing is the perfect place for your next round. Check out our Fall Tournaments or Visit Book a Tee Time: eagleslandinggolf.com or 443.736.2224.

Swing For Youth Golf Open:

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Turkey Trot Open:

Saturday, November 18, 2017

Super Bowl Scramble:

Sunday, February 4, 2018

St. Patrick's Irish Scramble:

Saturday, March 17, 2018



In the winter or off-season months when buses may be thirty minutes or more apart, the new technology will reduce wait time for the customers as one can better plan for the arrival of the bus knowing the location. In the busy summer months, that need may be reduced with buses every ten minutes, but for the thousands of visitors, the information will still be helpful in planning their trip. For all Ocean City Bus dispatchers and managers as well as other employees will be able to locate each bus as needed. All of this information will be tablet based, this being a portable system given the seasonality of the Ocean City visitation and varying seasonal population.





Kenny Rodgers
November 3, 2017



The Ten Tenors "Home for the Holidays"
December 2, 2017

Mayor's New Year's Day Concert
FREE January 1, 2018

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, conveniently located in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, continues to impress 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!

Performing Arts Center tickets are available from Ticketmaster, online at ticketmaster.com or by phone at 800-745-3000 or 800-551-7328. 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. Finally, be among the first to learn about upcoming shows and events by subscribing to e-newsletters at <http://ocmdperformingartscenter.com>.



Winterfest of Lights Shines for 25th Year:

Celebrating it's 25th year as a signature event in Ocean City, Winterfest of Lights returns to Northside Park with a new look! As visitors marvel in the magic of this holiday wonderland, nearly one million lights will sparkle and a new Christmas Tree will grace the grounds. In addition, the Winterfest Pavilion will have a brand new look, with something fun for everyone!

Santa will be available every evening through December 23rd.

November 16, 2017 – January 1, 2017

Join us for a 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 through Thursday from

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.

Winterfest Trams are handicap accessible.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS:

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS: The 25th Annual Winterfest will go out with a bang on New Year's Eve as the Town of Ocean City hosts a New Year's Eve Fireworks Show at Northside Park to celebrate the beginning of 2018 and the end of Winterfest of Lights. The fireworks display, which will begin promptly at midnight, will be accompanied by live entertainment, warm hot chocolate, and the opportunity to ride through the Winterfest of Lights. For more information, visit: ococean.com/events

Fall Into Fun at Ocean City Recreation & Parks - Fun For All Ages

Just because summer is over doesn't mean the fun has ended! Ocean City Recreation and Parks offers more than one hundred classes, programs, activities and events for both residents and visitors all year-round.

As the holiday season nears, Ocean City Recreation & Parks has plenty of fun offered for your family throughout the remainder of the year!

- **Pizza Party with Santa:** on Wednesday, December 6, 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 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is still to be determined.

- **Soccer Winterfest Camp:** for boys and girls ages 6 to 16 is being held on December 26 – 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Northside Park Complex. Sign up for the holiday camp and receive a soccer ball, t-shirt and lots of giveaways! Campers will also receive a 4x6 photo with their coaches, a certificate of completion, and a pizza party on the last day.

Children of all ages can enjoy a variety of activities from basketball to dodgeball, indoor soccer, cheerleading, dance classes, martial arts, and programs to express creativity while developing motor skills. Adults and seniors are not left out of the fun with aerobics, an assortment of dance classes, yoga, hockey, indoor lacrosse, soccer and Bubble Soccer, flag football and volleyball scheduled throughout the off-season.

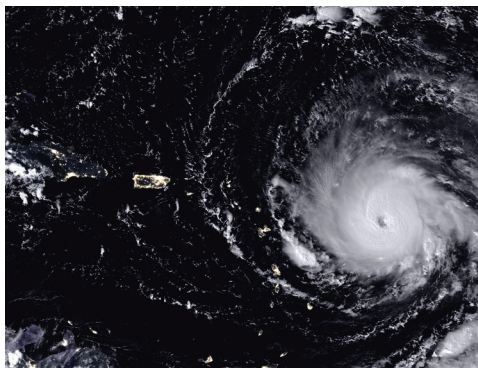
Ocean City Recreation and Parks is now offering party services for your special events. Party themes include Soccer, Gladiator Dodge Ball, bubble Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Pre-School Fun, and Floor Hockey. Call Recreation and Parks for more information at 410-250-0125.

Hurricane Season: Prevention & Lessons Learned

In light of the 2017 Hurricane Season, and the devastation that has taken place in Texas and Florida, as well as many Caribbean communities, the Town of Ocean City is once again reminding property owners to **Be Informed, Make a Plan and Build A Kit** for emergency situations. Two keys to weather safety are to prepare for the risks and to act on those preparations when alerted by emergency officials.

Be Informed: The first step to being informed is to **KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION**. Know what disasters could affect your area, how to get **Emergency eNews Alerts**, and where you would go if you and your family need to evacuate. In addition, it is also important to assess your risks and know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. It's also essential to have a list of contact information for reference before a storm occurs, including emergency hotlines and numbers to State, County and Town of Ocean City Government. Finally, be sure to follow the town's Facebook page & Twitter account, and listen to Ocean City Emergency Services radio at 99.5 FM! All property owners should sign up to receive emergency alerts (**by visiting: <http://oceancitymd.gov/enews>**) and programing Ocean City's FM Emergency Advisory Radio Station 99.5 into your radios.

Make a Plan: Everyone needs to be prepared for



the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes, so all families are encouraged to establish a Family Communications Plan in advance to establish what you will do in difference situations during an emergency. Put together a plan by discussing four important questions with your family, friends or household: How will I receive Emergency eNews Alerts? What is my Zone & Division? Where is the nearest Shelter? What is my family communications plan? After you answer these questions, be sure to consider specific needs in your household (care of children, pets, medical & dietary needs). You should also inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school, faith

organizations, sports events and during commuting. Finally, fill out a Family Emergency Plan & practice your plan with your family/household.

Note: Ready.gov has made it simple for you to make a family emergency plan. Download the [Family Communication Plan for Parents and Kids](#) and fill out the sections before printing it or emailing it to your family and friends.

Build a Kit: A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days. Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Hurricane Irma Satellite image NASA

Before the Decision: Know Your Zone & Division

In times of an emergency, specifically a hurricane or natural disaster, the Town of Ocean City wants residents, property owners and visitors to **KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION** where you live and visit! Your zone and division are determined by two variables: Property location and vulnerability to flood inundation.

Is a Flood Inundation Zone the same as an Evacuation Zone?

No! Flood zones are areas established by the National Weather Service using historical and statistical data of flooding and/or tidal surge potential to Ocean City, which provide residents and property owners their degree of flood risk. Emergency Managers use flood inundation, tidal surge, and winds to determine potential risk to the various communities throughout the Town, specifically in a storm or emergency. It is important for our residents, property owners and visitors to know which zone and division they reside, incase an evacuation is required.

What is our community's evacuation plan?

Should a hurricane (or natural disaster) threaten the Ocean City area, an evacuation order may be issued. An evacuation order is a protective action whereby citizens are moved from a place of danger to a place of relative safety when a disaster is a threat to life, and/or the property of our residents and visitors in Ocean City.

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		

The Town of Ocean City's Hazard Plan for Evacuation is developed from data in the US Army Corps of Engineers Hurricane Evacuation Study, and additionally, the National Hurricane Center's SLOSH (Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes) Model to further calculate potential flooding effects that could be expected by storm surge. The study and model focus on a "worst case scenario" to ensure the protection of our population. The "worst case" approach was used in presenting possible hurricane effects because of the inaccuracies in forecasting the precise track and other parameters of approaching hurricanes; to assist our government in making critical protective and evacuation decisions. This information is utilized in the decision making process for evacuation decisions when coastal storm events are approaching the Ocean City area in conjunction with information provided by the National Weather Services and the National Hurricane Center.

Because of life safety concerns and property damage caused during a disaster or other unusual

occurrence, specific properties, multiple locations or the entire City may require evacuation. Both actual damage and potential hazards must be considered. The lack of sanitary facilities, utilities services, or other health hazards may also necessitate such actions.

The Town of Ocean City uses the concept of phased decision points based primarily on the National Weather Service (NWS) storm classifications (advisory, watch, warning, etc.). These decision points will be used as an overall philosophy in hurricane planning, response, and recovery, and facilitates the actions necessary to give an evacuation order. Evacuation phases are built into these classifications. Hurricanes are classified using the Saffir/Simpson scale, which categorizes hurricanes based upon their intensity, and relates this intensity to damage potential. A significant number of hurricane injuries can occur from the approaching system and the strong winds and flooding that will result from the storm surge.

View an Interactive Map at:
oceancitymd.gov/knowyourzone

Town of Ocean City Presents Update to Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Ocean City Planning and Zoning Commission has completed a chapter by chapter review of the 2006-2009 Comprehensive Plan. The document, which guides the general arrangement of land uses within the community, provides a way to communicate a shared vision of the community, and a common set of objectives for managing growth and change.

"The comprehensive plan provides a vision for the future and sets out specific goals, policies and land use planning that specify how to achieve that vision," commented Planning and Community Development Director, Bill Neville. "In addition, the plan provides direction for decisions about economic development, land use and development, and core infrastructure such as water, recreation, public facilities and emergency services and aligns partnerships with community organizations to implement this plan."

The updated plan, which has not yet been adopted by the City Council, identifies the current and most important ideas for adapting to change and growth so that Ocean City will continue to be a first choice place to live, play and invest in the future. For more information about the updated plan or the public hearing, please contact the Planning and Community Development Department at 410.289.8855 or visit www.oceancitymd.gov.

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 from 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. Check with the Planning & Community Development

Department (Building Department) at City Hall on the extent of past flooding in your area. Department staff can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, how the City manages it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. The staff can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.

2. Prepare for flooding by doing the following:

- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
- Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
- Make a household inventory, especially of ground level contents.
- Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc., in a safe place.
- Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc., in a handy place.
- Develop a disaster response plan. See the Red Cross's website at www.redcross.org for information about preparing your home and family for a disaster.
- Get a copy of Repairing Your Flooded Home. We have copies at the Building Department or it can be found on the Red Cross' website, too.

3. Consider permanent flood protection measures:

- Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
- Check your building for water entry points, such as first floor windows and doors, the crawlspace, and dryer vents. These may be protected with low walls or grading for positive drainage away from the structure, however do not block or obstruct required foundation flood vents.
- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power to the lowest levels before a flood can reduce property damage and save lives.
- More information can be found at FEMA's website, www.ready.gov/floods.
- Note that 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.

4. Talk to the Building Department for information on financial assistance that may be available through FEMA.

- If you are interested in elevating your building above the flood level, a Federal grant may be available to cover 75% of the cost.



- Get a flood insurance policy – it will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases, it will help pay the costs of elevating a substantially damaged building.

5. Get a flood insurance policy.

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Since our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Our community participation in the Community Rating System may also qualify your property for a reduction in the insurance premium.
- 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.
- Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in Ocean City, there may also be damage to the furniture and contents. Be sure you have contents coverage.
- 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. More information can be found at the NFIP website, www.floodsmart.gov.
- **Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.**

WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS - PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY THIS WINTER SEASON:

As you ready your house for the colder months ahead, don't forget about your water system. When water freezes, it expands. So if the temperature of your pipes drops below 32 degrees, even for a short period, you run the risk of a pipe fracture or worse. Take the following precautions now to avoid a major headache later.

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. If you're anticipating a deep freeze, consider using a fan to help circulate the air near the pipes, or purchase a small space heater for some extra temporary heat.
- 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.

While frozen pipes can cause significant damage to properties during the winter months, residential fires caused by heating equipment also cause concern. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fires caused by heating appliances occur because the devices weren't cleaned regularly, were placed or installed too close to combustible materials, had design or operational flaws, or were fueled improperly.

1. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heating devices.
2. Have heating equipment, including chimneys and flues, cleaned and inspected at least annually by a professional.
3. Always use the right kind of fuel for your heating equipment, as specified by the manufacturer.
4. Fireplaces should always be screened during use to keep embers and sparks from igniting floor coverings within your home.
5. Do not use your oven or stovetop to heat your home.
6. Inspect electric heaters for damage, like frayed or worn cords, every year.
7. Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test yours every monthly by pushing the test button.

PROPERTY REMINDERS:

RENTAL LICENSE REQUIRED:

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. The purpose of these requirements is to maintain the character of single family residential districts and assure compliance with the laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to rental housing units within the corporate limits of Ocean City. Further, it is to 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.

R1 Property Owners: R1 is defined as low density single family residential development. A condition of having a rental license in an R1 zone, is you cannot rent to more than 4 unrelated people. For more information, or determine if your property is in a R1 area, please visit: www.oceancitymd.gov.

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.

LANDSCAPING:

The Town of Ocean City is reminding residents and property owners of the purpose and intent of the city's landscaping requirements. Not only does landscaping help to protect, preserve and promote the aesthetic appeal, scenic beauty, character and value of Ocean City; but it also promotes public health and safety through the reduction of noise pollution, storm water runoff, reduces heat island effect, prevents erosion, and improves air quality, visual pollution and artificial light glare. The town's landscaping code includes a maintenance provision. Although understandable that trees and landscaping may have had to be removed for various reasons, it is important that landscaping required at one time is replaced and maintained. In order to assist property owners, the town has developed a number of grant and rebate programs to offer incentives to plant more landscaping. For more information about these programs, please contact Gail Blazer in the Engineering Department at (410) 289-8825.

Natural Gas Conversion:

Please be advised that Chesapeake Utilities/Sandpiper Energy has resumed the conversion to natural gas for their customers in the area. The fall, they are expected to convert homes from 10th Street to 90th Street. An updated map depicting areas for conversion can be found at sandpiper-energy.com/oc.



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 law enforcement. Learn more at <http://joinocpd.com>



Lifeguards (SRT's): Be our next beach ambassador by applying as a 2018 Surf Rescue Technician. To get information on testing dates 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 current openings, visit: www.oceancitymd.gov.

Join the Ocean City Fire Department: Be A Volunteer, Cadet or Live In!



What are the benefits of joining the OCFD?

There are many benefits to becoming part of the Ocean City Fire Department! Not only will you have the privilege to serve your community, but you will also receive tons of fire/ems training with unmatched experience. A combination department of volunteer and career personnel, the OCFD is a full spectrum life safety agency responding to more than 6,000 calls each year. For more information, visit: www.ocvfc.com

Why should I be a Cadet? The OCFD Cadet Program provides young people from the community an opportunity to experience leadership roles, operational experience and the skills necessary to function efficiently within the fire service. If you are between 14-18 and are anxious to learn and make new friends, all while keeping your community safe, then this program is for you! For more information, visit: www.ocvfc.com

How can I live at the beach...For FREE! Don't just work at the beach, LIVE at the beach!! The Ocean City Fire Department Live-In Program, available at three out of five fire houses in Ocean City, provides excellent learning and firefighting experience while giving you the opportunity to have free housing for the summer season or year-round. The Live-In Program is open to any person that is at least 18 years old with previous firefighting experience. Those participating in the program must maintain employment and/or post-secondary student status and dedicate 48 hours a week to answering calls. Seasonal Town of Ocean City employees (Beach Patrol, Police, Communications etc...) are strongly encouraged to apply. Many of our previous live-in personnel have moved on to become successful ranking officers in the Ocean City Fire Department as well as regional departments.

OCPD Hosts Coffee with Cops Events

Community policing is more important than ever before and the Ocean City Police Department is committed to ensuring positive relationships between the community and Ocean City police officers. This summer, the OCPD began holding "Coffee with Cops" events at coffee shops throughout the resort. The events give officers and attendees the opportunity to chat with officers over a casual cup of coffee.

This new initiative has allowed officers to hear about issues that affect the communities directly from the people that live there. "Our first Coffee with Cops events have been a huge success and we've enjoyed speaking with each of the attendees," commented Chief Ross Buzzuro.

To learn more about upcoming Coffee with Cops events, follow the Ocean City Police Department on social media.

Get your Mounted Police Trading Cards

For years, officers have been handing out junior police badges to children on the boardwalk or at events but now officers have a collector's item to offer. Each of the four OCPD police horses are now featured on trading cards that officers carry with them on patrol.

The OCPD Mounted Unit has become a staple on the boardwalk and not only offer an added level of safety to the Ocean City landmark but also a popular topic of conversation for visitors. Children and adults alike often approach mounted officers and ask to pet the horse and chat with the rider. Residents and visitors remember the horses and can now take a piece of memorabilia home with them.

To get your own trading card, look for an OCPD police horse on the boardwalk or at the next event and ask the officer.

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	
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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

O.C.Toberfest
October 21-October 28, 2017
Various Events & Locations
Visit: ococean.com/events for more info

Swing For Youth Golf Tournament
October 28, 2017
Eagles Landing Golf Course

Seaside 10-Mile/5K
October 28, 2017
Inlet Lot & Boardwalk

Shore Craft Beer Fest
October 28, 2017
Sunset Park – S. Philadelphia Ave on the Bay

Halloween Spook-Out
October 29, 2017
Northside Park

First Friday Day Opening Reception
November 3, 2017
OC Center for the Arts

Kenny Rogers "The Gambler's Last Deal"
November 3, 2017
Ocean City Performing Arts Center

Walk/Run for Recovery
November 4, 2017
Boardwalk: Inlet to 27th Street

Fall Restaurant Week
November 5-19, 2017
Various Locations – visit ococean.com/events

Storm Warriors 5K
November 11, 2017
Boardwalk – Inlet area

25th Annual Winterfest of Lights
November 16, 2017 – January 1, 2018
Northside Park

Turkey Trot Golf Open
November 18, 2017
Eagles Landing Golf Course

Light Up Downtown Festival
November 18, 2017
www.downtownassociation.net

Holiday Shoppers Fair
November 24-26, 2017
Roland E. Powell Convention Center

First Friday Day Opening Reception
December 1, 2017
OC Center for the Arts

Holiday Artisan Fair
December 1-2, 2017
OC Center for the Arts

OC Christmas Parade
December 2, 2017
120th Street Coastal Highway

The Ten Tenors "Home For The Holidays"
December 2, 2017
OC Performing Arts Center

Pizza with Santa
December 06, 2017
Northside Park

New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks
December 31, 2017
Northside park

Mayor's New Year's Day Concert
January 1, 2018
*FREE ADMISSION
OC Performing Arts Center