



REPORT TO CITIZENS

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018



Cover Photo by Chris Parypa

Note: the picture is used courtesy of the photographer and cannot be reproduced for any reason. Please visit the photographer's webpage: <https://www.chrisparypaphotography.com>

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 2018 fiscal year addressed the quality of life for residents in a vibrant tourist resort. This report, which summarizes the financial results for the 2018 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 ended June 30, 2018 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's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2018, (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*

Dennis W. Dare

Anthony J. DeLuca

John F. Gehrig, Jr.

Wayne A. Hartman

Matthew M. James

City Manager

Douglas R. Miller

Finance Director

Charles Bireley, CPA

Major Initiatives And Departmental Activities

Public Works Campus Plan



Existing buildings appear in gray

In 1984/1985, the Town constructed the Public Works complex which consisted of the Procurement Department, stock room, locker facilities, restrooms, service center for fleet maintenance, a bus storage facility and a fuel depot. The Town's transit fleet consisted of approximately 13 buses and staffing consisted of approximately 20 employees. In 2006, the fleet had grown to over 60 buses and staffing was over 150 employees. Thus, the overall ability to store, maintain, and service the vehicles had surpassed the ability of the Town's resource as well as its daily office facilities, restrooms and locker room. At this time the Town, working in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Transportation/Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), began discussing the overall inadequacies of the Transit facility at the Public Works Complex. In 2008, a Transit Needs Assessment was completed by MTA. This assessment allowed the Town to proceed with site planning, spatial needs and construction estimates for future capital improvements to the site.

In 2018, ten years after the initial study and exhaustive efforts on planning and funding, the Town solicited bids for the forthcoming construction and awarded the project to Harkins Contracting of Salisbury, Maryland. The project is valued in excess of \$25 million dollars, consisting of: 1) demolition of the existing bus storage facility, procurement department and stock room fueling depot; 2) construction of new bus storage facility, Procurement Department, stock room, bus dispatch center, lunch room, restrooms and locker rooms, bus washing facility, service facility for transit fare processing, two new fuel depots (one dedicated for transit fleet), storage facility for Fire, EMS, Police and Public Safety, emergency standby generator to support new facilities critical infrastructure, surface parking lot for both the Police Department and Transit staff; and 3) expansion of the fleet service facility containing four additional service bays for fleet maintenance; and an office area for the State of Maryland Juvenile Services. It is expected the project will take approximately two years to complete.

The Economy

The Town widely uses advertising, promotions, and social media to publicize the vacation and leisure opportunities in Ocean City. 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 1,885 construction permits issued in 2018, compared to 1,810 in 2017. The estimated value of construction in 2018 was \$78,539,236 compared to \$86,385,559 in 2017. Five hotels having over 400 rooms are under construction or in the permitting process with an estimated construction value of \$50 million dollars.



Major Initiatives And Departmental Activities



64th Street Boat Ramp

The 64th Street Boat Ramp project is the result of a collaborative effort between the Town of Ocean City and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR). Terry McGean, P.E., City Engineer, completed the extensive preliminary work for the project, including: acquisition of an easement through the private property that the actual boat ramp is located on; coordination of a Private Wetlands Permit and wetland mitigation with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Army Corps of Engineers; Critical Area approval; Stormwater

Management Environmental Site Design (ESD) approval; Sediment & Erosion Control approval through Worcester Soil Conservation District (WSCD); and securing of funding for the project through the MD DNR Waterway Improvement Fund. The Waterway Improvement Fund provided funding for 100% of the dredging activity, 50% of the site work, and 50% of the Comfort Station. Davis, Bowen, & Friedel, Inc. (DBF) was selected as the design consultant and successfully completed development of the plans for the site and boat ramp.

The construction of the 64th Street Boat Ramp was managed by Engineering Manager, Paul Mauser, P.E. as 2 separate projects, the Site Work/Boat Ramp portion which was completed in May 2017 by Murtech Marine, Inc. and the Comfort Station portion which was completed in July 2018 by Root Companies, Inc. Both projects were completed below budget. The boat ramp is located at the intersection of 64th Street and Seabay Drive, at the base of the Town's water tower. The site includes a 31 space parking lot with 10' wide x 50' long parking stalls and the site is ADA compliant. There are 2 launches each 15' wide and a 100' long aluminum floating dock. The channel leaving the boat ramp was dredged to a depth of -4.0 MLW in September 2016. The new Comfort Station provides ADA accessible restrooms. Governor Larry Hogan, among other elected officials, spoke at the official Ribbon Cutting of the boat ramp on June 27, 2017.

Community-Police Outreach

In partnership with the community, the Ocean City Police Department held two community events to provide our community the opportunity to become better acquainted with the Ocean City Police Department (OCPD).

First, the Police Department hosted an Open House at the Bay Point Equestrian Center in Ocean Pines which featured the mounted unit. Attendees had the rare opportunity to meet each of the four police horses – Benson, Tucker, Trevor, and Scout. Mounted officers demonstrated the daily procedure for grooming and tacking the horses as well as each horse exhibited their expertise on completing an obstacle course. The horses also played a 2-on-2 soccer game, which is used for de-sensitivity training. Additionally, part of the open house also included the K-9 unit, PFC Danielle Braniff and her K-9 partner, Klem, a Belgian Malinois, who performed two demonstrations throughout the afternoon. The K-9 unit featured obedience skills, an overview of the specific training the dog has had in order to assist law-enforcement personnel, and personal information about Klem such as his place of origin and daily life.

Secondly, OCPD hosted several Coffee with Cops at Starbucks on 16th

Street in Ocean City. This provided the opportunity for attendees to engage in casual conversation with the OCPD leadership and patrol officers while enjoying a cup of coffee. It has proven to be a relaxed environment in which citizens have the opportunity to address their concerns that are unique to their neighborhood. It has allowed for a continuing, open conversation between the community and the Ocean City Police Department as well as the opportunity to form relationships with the citizens and visitors of Ocean City.



REPORT TO CITIZENS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

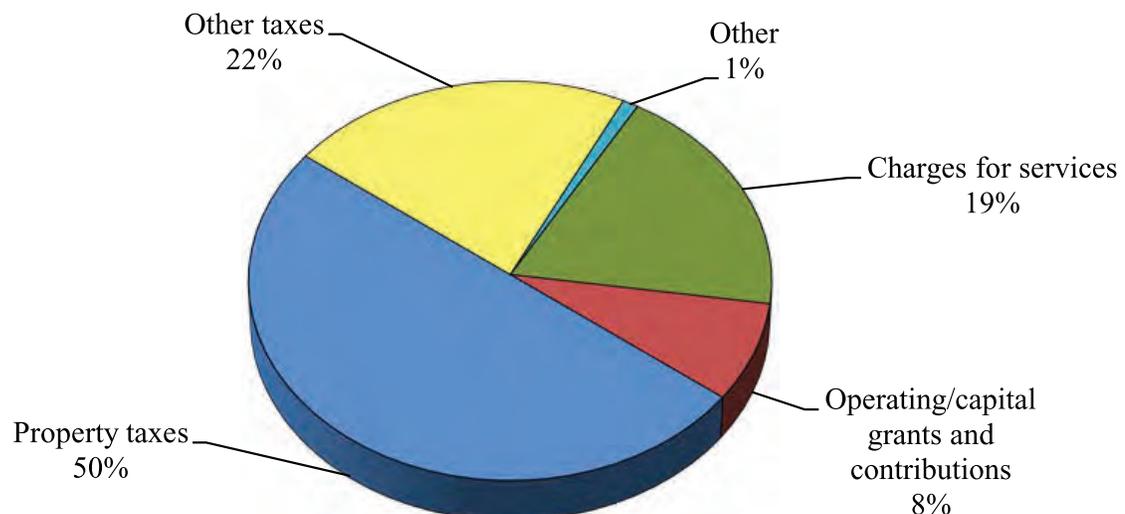
The financial information in this report distinguishes functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, governmental activities, from other functions that are intended to cover their costs primarily from user fees and charges and are utilities and business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

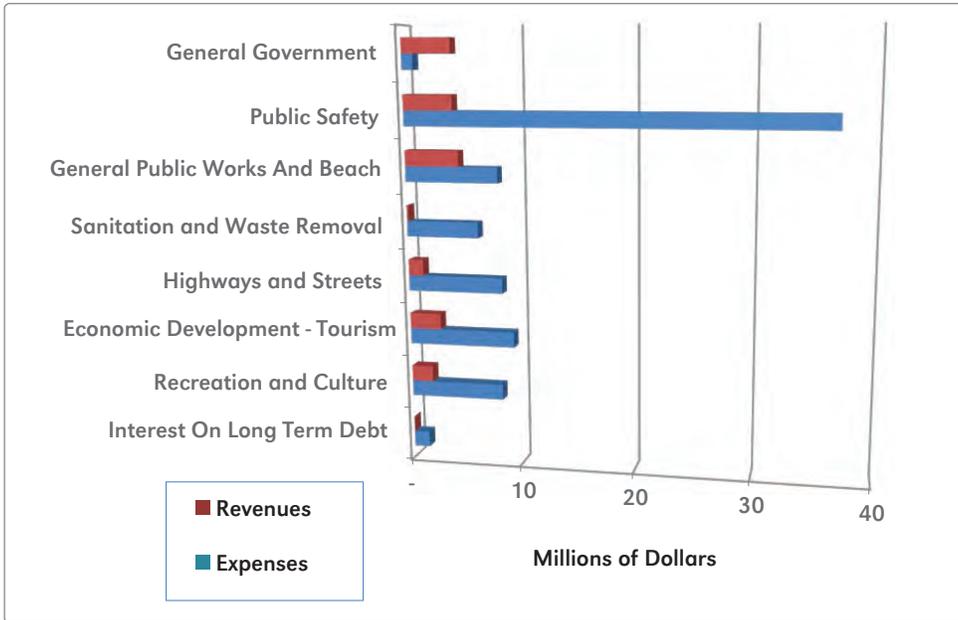
Governmental activities such as police and public safety, solid waste collection, and community services are generally supported by taxes and revenues shared from the federal government, State of Maryland and Worcester County as the fees collected for each activity do not generally cover all expenses.

Where the Money Comes From			Where the Money Goes		
	2018	2017		2018	2017
REVENUES			EXPENSES		
Program Revenues:			General government	\$ 978,045	\$ 1,117,684
Charges for current services	\$ 16,193,454	\$ 15,989,689	Public safety	36,827,677	35,363,774
Operating grants and contributions	3,302,181	3,370,747	General public works and beach	8,190,991	7,026,384
Capital grants and contributions	102,407	335,711	Sanitation and waste removal	6,353,497	6,104,169
General revenues:			Highways and streets	8,424,668	7,660,939
Property taxes	43,239,535	42,938,816	Economic development - Tourism	9,389,746	8,813,147
Other taxes	18,721,093	18,645,893	Recreation and culture	8,282,474	8,234,584
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	3,345,442	3,419,106	Interest on long-term debt	1,367,535	1,301,378
Other revenue	1,156,499	1,252,210	Total expenses	79,814,633	75,622,059
Total revenues	\$86,060,611	\$85,952,172	Increase in net position before transfers	6,245,978	10,330,113
			Transfers to other funds	(3,595,376)	(2,627,828)
			Increase in net position	\$2,650,602	\$7,702,285

Governmental Activities – Revenues By Source



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

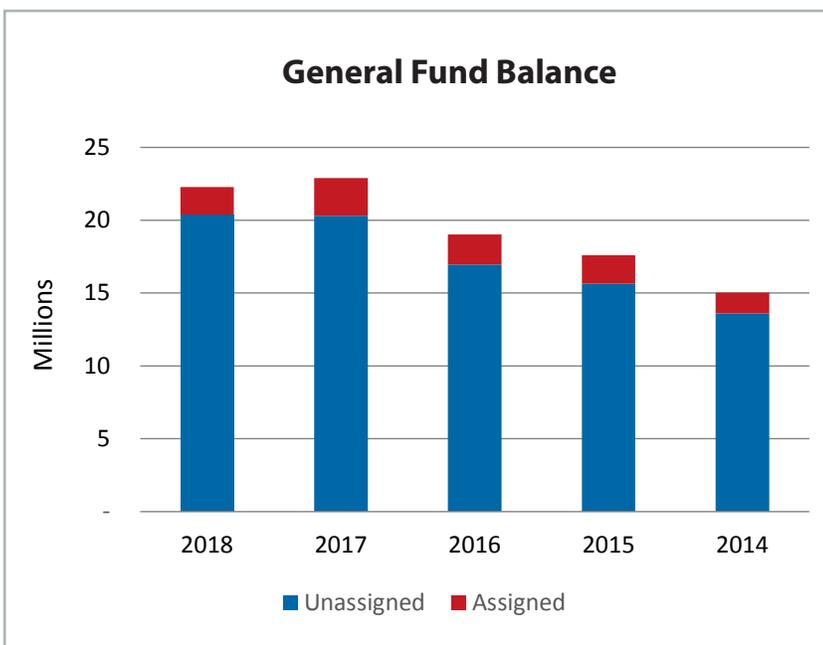


The following graph indicates the service fees and expenses of governmental activities, which shows the extent in which the governmental functions produce revenues to offset their program costs. Expenses not covered by direct program revenues and fees are covered primarily by taxes, licenses, and state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

Results from operations of governmental activities were \$6,245,978 before transfers out of \$3,595,376 resulting in a net increase of \$2,650,602. There were gains in business-type activities of \$6,333,000 before transfers in of \$3,595,376 from the general fund resulting in an increase in

net position of \$9,928,376. The total change in net position in 2018 was \$12,578,978 compared to \$9,426,741 in 2017.

Personnel costs for wages and employee benefits are 57.1% of total expenses for governmental activities. Salaries increased \$867,369, as increments were given to employees on January 1, 2018, and police officers received a 2% cost of living adjustment. The cost of employee benefits increased \$281,497 and pension costs increased \$652,909.

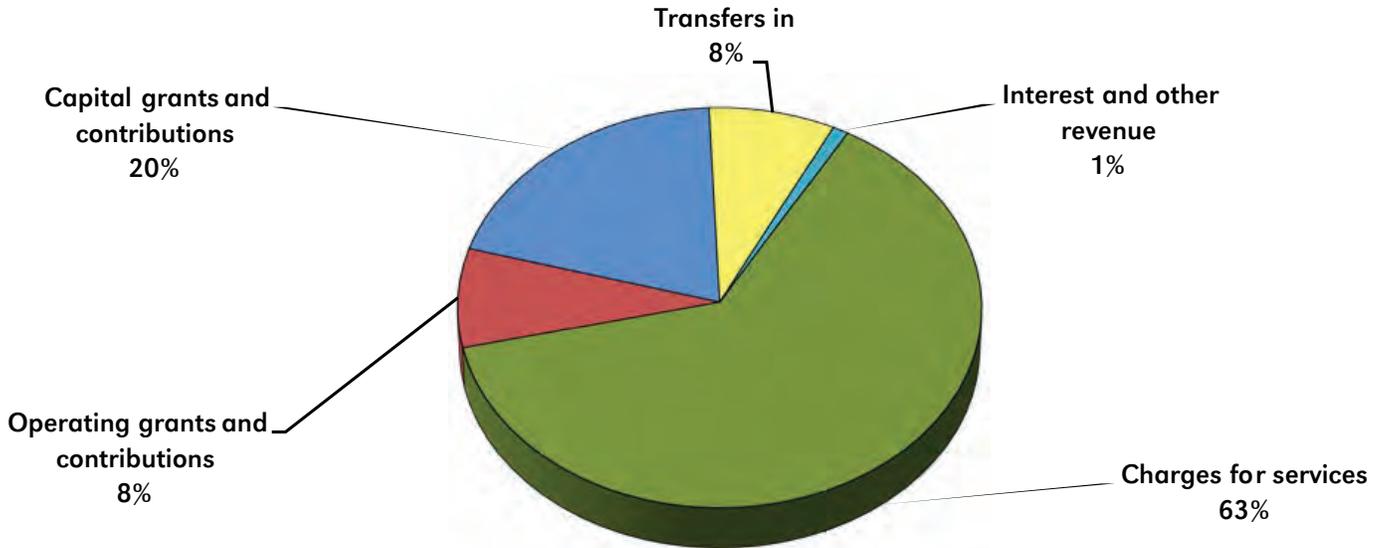


What is Fund Balance?

“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, Nonspendable, 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, 2018, the percentage was 25.8%.

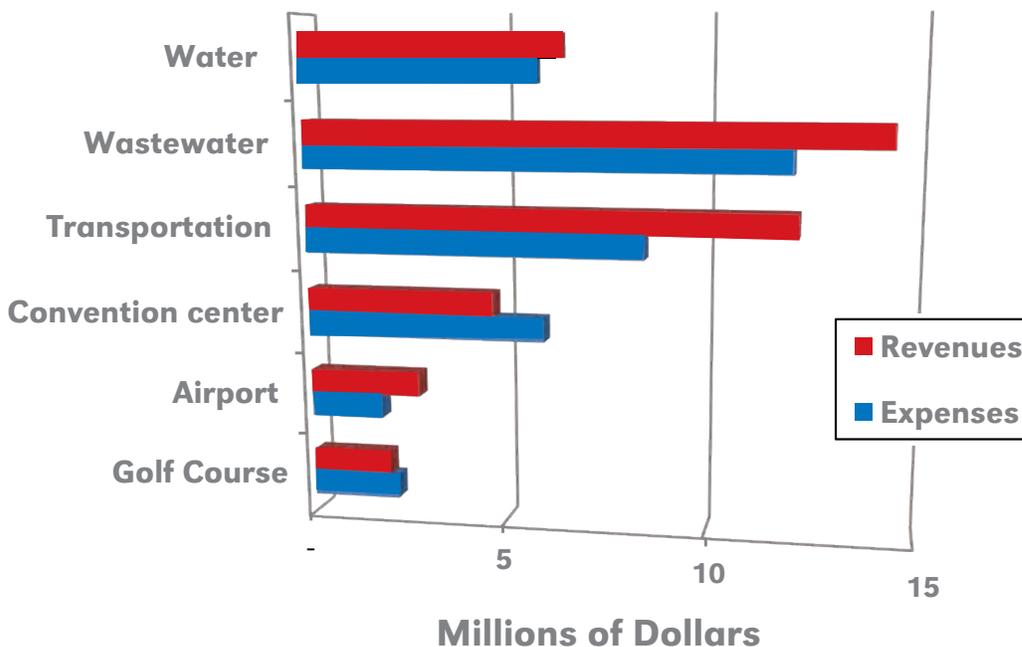
Utilities and Business Services

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, respectively. Fees and service charges are 63% of all revenues in 2018.



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 47.2% of expenses from user charges.

Business-Type Activities – Expenses And Program Revenues



Utilities and Business Services

	2018	2017
Where the Money Comes From:		
Charges for current services	\$29,264,473	\$29,235,669
Operating grants and contributions	3,821,429	3,823,027
Capital grants and contributions	9,348,123	1,705,045
Other revenue	243,267	82,619
Total revenues	42,677,292	34,846,360
Where the Money Goes:		
Water	5,826,613	5,751,275
Wastewater	12,000,680	12,331,189
Transportation	8,476,581	7,929,546
Convention Center	6,012,638	5,670,317
Airport	1,823,343	1,985,010
Golf Course	2,204,437	2,082,395
Total expenses	36,344,292	35,749,732
Increase (decrease) in net position before transfers	6,333,000	(903,372)
Transfers	3,595,376	2,627,828
Increase in net position	\$9,928,376	\$ 1,724,456

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 2018, the Town owed \$111,548,637 in debt. \$56,925,145 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, 2018, there was \$3,029,456 reserved from food tax receipts to pay principal and interest on bonds for the convention center included in the above amount. The remaining \$54,623,492 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 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), GASB 68 reporting requirements, the plans had net assets of \$117,082,449 and an actuarial accrued liability of \$143,307,641 at June 30, 2018. This means that \$26,225,192 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 \$33,094,013 to fund retiree health benefits and an actuarial liability of \$61,307,427. The unfunded actuarial liability of \$28,213,414 is being funded over twenty-one years.

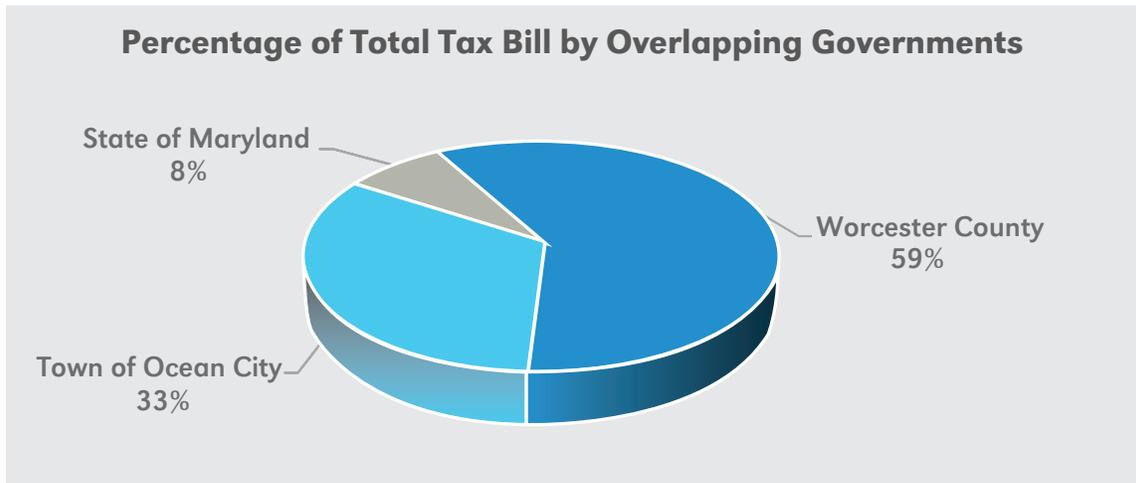
Why sell bonds? By selling tax exempt bonds, the Town obtains financing at a low interest rate and spreads the cost of the project over many years instead of adding the total cost to your tax bill in one year.

WHERE WE STOOD ON JUNE 30, 2018

The Town's statement of net position provides a "snapshot" of where we stood financially on June 30, 2018, 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 2018	Business-type 2018	Total 2018	Change from 2017
Cash and current assets	\$58,202,454	\$36,683,683	\$94,886,137	32.9%
Capital assets	103,765,945	133,188,396	236,954,341	5.1
Total assets (Owned)	161,968,399	169,872,079	331,840,478	11.8
Deferred outflows of resources	10,216,599	1,620,828	11,837,427	(1.8)
Long-term liabilities outstanding	103,563,900	70,723,855	174,287,755	39.7
Other liabilities	13,576,715	3,916,568	17,493,283	18.4
Total liabilities (Debts)	117,140,615	74,640,423	191,781,038	37.5
Deferred outflows of resources	495,145	396,829	891,974	(70.8)
Excess of assets over debts:				
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	59,880,188	88,271,380	148,151,568	8.2
Restricted for loans and food tax receipts	–	3,029,456	3,029,456	16.0
Unrestricted	(5,330,950)	5,154,819	(176,131)	(100.7)
Total Excess of Assets over Debts	\$54,549,238	\$96,455,655	\$151,004,893	(9.2)%

REPORT TO CITIZENS



OPERATING INFORMATION FOR 2018

General Information:

Year-round residents	7,102
Registered voters	6,227
Average summer population	276,812

General Government:

Construction permits issued	1,885
Value of construction built	\$78,539,236

Solid Waste:

Trash processed & recycled (tons)	34,479
-----------------------------------	--------

Transportation:

Bus passengers	2,563,434
----------------	-----------

Wastewater:

Daily average treatment (gallons)	5,895,466
Summer treatment average (gallons)	10,254,228
Plants daily capacity (gallons)	14,000,000

Tourism and Recreation:

Seasonal Beach Patrol personnel	207
---------------------------------	-----

Fire and Emergency Services:

Fire responses	1,348
Ambulance responses	4,658
Fire safety inspections/re-inspection	2,216
Fire investigations	39
Volunteer Firemen, Life Honor, Gold Badge	215
Classified Emergency Medical Technicians/Fighters	44
Seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians	74

Public Safety – Police:

Total arrests	2,338
Parking violations	4,821
Classified officers	105
Seasonal officers	80

Water:

Daily average consumption (gallons)	4,282,348
Plants daily capacity (gallons)	18,000,000

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 2018 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

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 9 | Sign Up for eNews | 13 | Boardwalk Safety/Convention Center Expansion |
| 10 | RIP Roland Powell/
Performing Arts Schedule | 14 | Winter Safety/Property Reminders |
| 11 | Winterfest of Lights/
Northside Park Award | 15 | Dune repair/Protect from Flooding |
| 12 | Clean Energy in OC/
Park Mobile | 16 | Know Your Zone/Join the TOC Team |

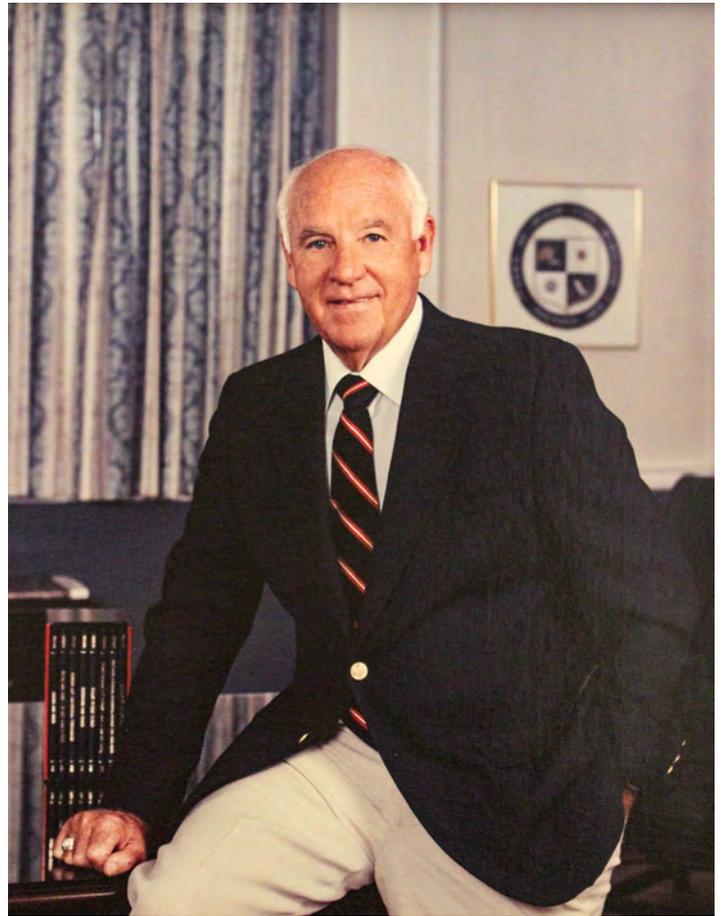
Ocean City Says Goodbye to Former Mayor Roland E. Fish Powell

Known for his down to earth personality and compelling leadership ability, Roland E. Powell was more than a former elected official on the Eastern Shore; he was a neighbor, a firefighter, a mentor and a friend. Serving as Mayor from 1985 to 1996, Powell, more affectionately known as "Fish", passed away on August 28, 2018, just days before his 90th birthday.

Along with his role as mayor, Powell also held positions as City Council President and President of the Worcester County Commissioners. However, it was his role as fire chief that he was most proud of. His 65 year service with the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, where he served as chief on and off for nine years, earned him the status of gold badge life member and were the best years of his life, according to those who knew him well.

Under his leadership, the Town of Ocean City made great strides in transitioning from a seasonal beach town to a year-round resort destination. Powell often used his strong relationships with local, State and Federal representatives to advance the future of Ocean City. Projects such as Beach Replenishment and the expansion of the Ocean City Convention Center, which now bears his name, are largely attributed to his commitment to grow, protect and serve the Ocean City community.

Family, friends, colleagues and members of Ocean City community gathered on what would have been his 90th birthday, September 5, to honor Powell in a touching memorial service. Although he is no longer with us in person, his legacy and enormous spirit will live on in Ocean City forever.



Performing Arts Events WILL WOW YOU!

The reviews are in: the new Performing Arts Center is Ocean City's premier entertainment venue. Located in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, the state-of-the-art theater offers an intimate setting for concerts, musicals, dance performances and more. Whether you choose balcony or orchestra seating, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Check out the theater's upcoming events:

<p>Artrageous October 28, 2018</p> <p>Peppa Pig Live November 1, 2018</p> <p>The Dueling Pianos November 6, 2018</p>	<p>It Was A Very Good Year: Frank Sinatra Tribute December 1, 2018</p> <p>Christmas Cabaret December 5, 2018</p>	<p>Mid-Atlantic Symphony December 9, 2018</p> <p>Brian's Christmas Songbook: Featuring the Mid-Atlantic Symphony December 5, 2018</p>	<p>The Mayor's New Year's Day Concert January 1, 2018</p> <p>So Much More... Visit: ocmdperformingartscenter.com</p>
---	--	---	---



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>.



Celebrate the 26th Annual Winterfest of Lights

Santa will be available every evening through December 23rd.

November 15, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Special tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, November 15, 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:

The 26th 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 2019 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.

OC Surfriders Celebrate Strawless Summer Success

The Surfrider Foundation's Ocean City Chapter just completed its first Strawless Summer program with extraordinary success. Its "straws upon request" pledge was signed by 67 restaurants, as well as almost 500 individuals. In addition, some restaurants went further than the pledge asks by reducing additional single-use plastics and using environmentally-friendly cups, tableware, carry out containers, as well as providing paper straws when straws were requested.

Did you know, Americans use and throw away about 500 million drinking straws every day. That's enough straws to fill about 46,400 school buses every single year.

The Surfrider Foundation has these tips for individuals:

- Let wait staff know ahead of time that you don't want a straw.
- Purchase environmentally friendly straws and carry one with you.
- Encourage restaurants to participate in Strawless Summer.
- Tell your friends to do the same.

The Surfrider Foundation also encourages restaurants to:

- Commit to providing straws to customers only upon request and explain to customers why.
- Train staff on "Straws Upon Request" policy and explain rationale for participation.
- Up your game by participating in our Ocean Friendly Restaurant Program.
- Provide feedback on reduction in straw use and customer response.

The Ocean City chapter is continuing the program throughout the upcoming months, in order to engage more restaurants in ocean-friendly practices. Sign the pledge here:

<https://form.jotform.com/80544479384164>



Northside Park Awarded 2018 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence

Ocean City Recreation and Parks (OCRCP) recently received a TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence for the fifth year in a row, earning an esteemed spot in their Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame. According to TripAdvisor, among 55 attractions in Ocean City, Northside Park reviewed as the #1 attraction, surpassing Ocean City's beautiful beach and Boardwalk.



Now in its eighth year, the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence celebrates hospitality businesses that have earned great traveler reviews on TripAdvisor over the past year. Certificate of Excellence recipients include accommodations, eateries and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a quality customer experience.

The Certificate of Excellence accounts for the quality, quantity and recency of reviews submitted by travelers on TripAdvisor over a 12-month period. To qualify, a business must maintain an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five, have a minimum number of reviews and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

Wind Down this Winter at Eagles Landing Golf Course

Ocean City's Premier Golf course offers a great program for Town of Ocean City residents and property owners to play the best golf for less money. The Local Rewards Program offers great rates, rewards points that can be redeemed for free golf and exclusive online reservations. To obtain a Local Rewards Card visit our pro shop and present an Ocean City, MD driver's license or utility bill from your Town of Ocean City property. For information about all of our programs call 410-213-7277. Visit us online at www.eagleslandinggolf.com.

Also, grab a foursome and check out the upcoming tournament days:

Swing for Youth: October 27, 2018

Turkey Trot Open: November 17, 2018

Super Bowl Scramble February 3, 2019

St. Patrick's Irish Scramble: March 16, 2019

Lastly, Save the Date for incredible clinics & camps:

Spring Junior Golf Clinic: Grades 4-9.

April 11, 2019 – May 16, 2019

Junior Golf Camps: Ages 7-16.

June 24-27, 2019 and July 8-11, 2019



Billing More Efficient for OC Fire Marshal

The City Council recently approved a modification to the Fire Prevention Code that will make bill paying more efficient. The adjustment allows the Office of the Fire Marshal to change the timing of bills sent to property owners, in order to cover the cost of review, quality assurance, and deficiency follow-up for the testing of fire protection systems throughout the town.

Formerly, property owners were billed at various times throughout the year, as each fire protection system came due for testing. With the recent code modification, customers will instead receive an annual, consolidated bill for all of a building's fire protection systems. The annual bill will be sent directly to property owners to limit confusion and eliminate wasted resources. This should also ease record keeping and administrative work for property owners and management agents.

The modification is expected to begin in February 2019. There will be no increase in fees as a result of this change. For questions or concerns, please contact the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Office at 410.289.8780.

Ocean City Teams Up with Constellation to Provide More Clean Energy to OC



In August 2018, the Town of Ocean City and Constellation, an Exelon company, broke ground on a 10 megawatt (DC) solar energy project. The project will account for nearly 25 percent of the Town of Ocean City's annual energy use.

Sited near the intersection of Routes 50 and 90 (about 10 miles west of downtown Ocean City), the solar array will provide energy for several of the town's key buildings, including its city hall, convention center, and water plant.

The solar array is a leading project of its kind and a true example of the Town of Ocean City's commitment to renewable energy and a sustainable future for our resort community. In the first year, the Town of Ocean City expects to receive nearly 6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity from this solar generation project, and a lower energy rate than conventional renewable electricity supply, saving Ocean City taxpayers an expected \$120,000 per year.

Along with the financial savings, the system is expected to produce more than 5.6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity for the Town of Ocean City and reduce carbon emissions by nearly 4,200 metric tons in the first year, the greenhouse gas equivalent of 899 passenger vehicles driven, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates.

United Renewable Energy will provide day-to-day oversight and coordination throughout the construction process. The project is slated to be completed before the end of 2018.

Getting Around OC Easier Than Ever

It was quite a summer for Ocean City Transportation! Highlighted by 11 new 40-foot buses, a new video security system and a new look for the 60-foot articulated bus, the summer season was full of upgrades that made traveling in Ocean City more convenient and comfortable than ever. Even the Boardwalk added two new jeeps to pull the trams.

Perhaps the most exciting addition was the introduction of the highly anticipated bus locator application. The new service allows bus patrons to view real-time locations of buses with the TransLoc Rider app. Gone are the days of asking, "Where's the Bus" since patrons can now watch OC buses moving in real time. In addition, for those who would rather not download the app, a text message feature allows patrons to get an arrival prediction of buses to their exact location. To learn more, visit: oceancitymd.gov



CLIP IT

Questions About Pay-by-Plate Parking? Here's What You Need to Know! Skip the Kiosk & Download the ParkMobile App for your Parking Needs!

Ocean City recently upgraded the beach parking kiosks which makes parking in the downtown area easier than ever! The new system charges for parking based on vehicle license plate numbers, which replace the "pay and display" meters.

If you have never used the Pay-by-Plate Kiosks, here's what you need to know:

1. **Push Start to Begin.**
2. **Enter license Plate Number, then Press the Green Button.**
3. **Insert Coins or Credit Card and Follow on Screen Instructions.**
4. **Press Green Button to Complete Transaction & Print Receipt (if desired).**
5. **There is No Need to Place a Receipt on the Dashboard, You Simply Pay & GO PLAY!**

For Parking in the Inlet Lot: You can pay for your desired amount of time when you park OR you can pay before you leave the lot by paying for the amount of time you stayed.

For Parking On-Street or in Municipal Lots: You MUST pay for your desired amount of time when you park.



Q: Do I have to place my receipt on the dashboard?

A: No, you can just pay & go!

Q: How does the enforcement officer know that I have paid?

A: The parking enforcement officers use a handheld device that displays a listing of paid plates!

Q: Do I Pay when I park or do I pay when I leave my space?

If you parked On-street or in a municipal lot: you MUST pay for your desired amount of time when you park

If you parked in the Inlet Lot: You can pay for your desired amount of time when you park OR you can pay before you leave the lot by paying for the amount of time you have stayed.

Q: Can I extend my parking session at the kiosk?

A: yes, if you make an initial transaction at an on-street kiosk you can extend your time from another kiosk up to the maximum time limit.

If you make a payment at the Inlet Lot you can only extend at kiosks in the Inlet Lot. You can also download the Parkmobile App and pay from your smartphone.

Boardwalk Getting Permanent Safety Solution



The Town's Boardwalk security project is moving into a final phase, as the temporary barriers will soon be replaced with permanent structures. Last year, the City Council voted to approve \$155,000 for design of a Boardwalk access security system. In May 2018, the first phase of the project was implemented, as temporary security barriers were installed to prohibit unauthorized vehicles from reaching the Boardwalk crowds.

The final phase of the project, which will be completed before the summer of 2019, will include permanent vehicle access controls, as well as heavy planters or barriers at every vehicle access point, as well as other areas on the Boardwalk.

The total project cost is expected to be 3 million.



Governor Larry Hogan Announces Funding for Final Expansion of Ocean City Convention Center

Governor Larry Hogan announced late this summer that he authorized the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) in conjunction with the Town of Ocean City to move forward with funding the final phase of the addition and renovation of the Roland E. Powell Ocean City Convention Center. The \$34 million project cost will be funded via \$20 million from the state through the Maryland Stadium Authority, in addition to Ocean City's contribution of \$14 million.

"This facility has long been an important economic driver for Ocean City, bringing in thousands of visitors for conferences and events like MACo and allowing local businesses to stay open and continue to hire year-round," said Governor Hogan. "I want to thank Mayor Meehan, as well as the team at the Maryland Stadium Authority, for working with us to make today's announcement possible. With their partnership, we are able to speed up this important project, which is expected to have an economic impact of as much as \$67 million and continue creating jobs right here on the Eastern Shore."

Legislation will be submitted for the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly to allow MSA the needed capacity to finance the project. The convention center brings visitors to Ocean City, especially during the shoulder seasons, allowing local businesses to stay open year-round and provide full-time employment for Marylanders. Currently, the convention center has existing clients whose events have outgrown the facility and may seek out-of-state alternatives.

Not only does the Convention Center generate revenue locally but has a positive economic impact on the State," said Mayor Meehan. "We are thankful for the support of Governor Hogan and the partnership with the Maryland Stadium Authority."

The expansion will add 30,000 square feet of much needed new exhibit space, along with a new bayside gallery and business center.

Market research suggests that the expansion will allow the convention center to better accommodate existing users, as well as attract new business in niches that are well-suited to Ocean City's strengths, including state and regional organizations, trade shows, and sports competitions that attract overnight attendees who look for affordable family-friendly destinations. The expansion is expected to create between 470 and 670 new jobs and generate up to \$67 million in to the States economy.

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!

Ocean Bowl Winter Hours
November – March
Weekdays 2 p.m. – dark
Weekends 9:30 a.m. – dark
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS



Ocean City Fire Department Reminds: Stay Safe This Winter

With heating equipment leading the causes of home fire deaths, winter is a dangerous season in terms of Fire Prevention. Usually, 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. The Ocean City Fire Department wants you to remember to keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heating devices and have heating equipment, including chimneys and flues, cleaned and inspected at least annually by a professional.

Also, 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.



Be Fire Safe this Holiday Season

Now that we have protected your home from heat and frozen water, the Ocean City Fire Department wants to make sure you have a safe holiday season at home. Did you know that the holiday season is the leading time of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment? While deep frying your Thanksgiving turkey has become an increasing trend, the Ocean City Fire Marshal strongly urges against it, while also advising to refrain from excessive alcohol consumption while cooking.

Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Keep children away from the hot stove and oven. You should always create a safety zone of at least 3 feet around cooking equipment.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test yours monthly by pushing the test button.
- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Keep children away from the hot stove and oven. You should always create a safety zone of at least 3 feet around cooking equipment.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test yours monthly by pushing the test button.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit, and is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.
- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree and always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.

After Christmas, remember to get rid of your tree and Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.

REMINDER: *Christmas Tree Drop-Off Site Located at 100th St. Municipal Parking Lot. Once again, the Town of Ocean City will help you dispose of your Christmas tree. Learn more: oceancitymd.gov*

Dune Fence, Planting and Crossover Repairs Will Occur Throughout Winter and Spring

While there is no scheduled beach replenishment work in 2019, there will be repairs to the dune fence, planting and crossovers throughout the winter and spring of 2019. Also being reviewed before the 2019 summer are new dune crossover mats, which were installed at 94th street and 130th street on a trial basis. The City and State will review the performance of the mats over the winter and may install additional mats next season but ONLY at other existing handicapped accessible dune crossovers.

Maintaining the Project takes a tremendous amount of effort from local and state officials. Crews of Ocean City's Public Works Department maintain all the items mentioned above and the Office of Engineering keeps constant watch on the Project. To make this Project successful requires the cooperation of everyone.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

Veterans Day
November 12

Thanksgiving
November 22 & 23

Christmas
December 24 & 25

New Year's Day
January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 21

Presidents Day
February 18

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.**

Join the Town of Ocean City Team

Our employees are vital to ensuring Ocean City residents and visitors enjoy their OC experience. With hundreds of seasonal 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 competitive pay, apply today! For more information or for a list of our currently openings, visit: www.oceancitymd.gov.

Bus & Tram Drivers: 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 2019 Surf Rescue Technician. To get information on testing dates or to learn more about the job, email ocbp@ococean.com or visit oceancitymd.gov.



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: