

FALL NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

October 2020 to April 2021



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.

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Keep Yourself and Others Safe from Covid-19

There is no doubt 2020 has brought unique challenges and months of unprecedented change for our country and our community. The Coronavirus (Covid-19) has not only impacted daily lives in Ocean City, but has changed the way people live around the world. As we enter into various stages of recovery, it's important for our residents, property owners, business community and visitors to all work together to keep Ocean City moving forward. Practicing safety precautions, such as physical distancing and frequent hand washing, are essential in protecting yourself and those around you. While conditions may improve, Covid-19 is going to be with us for some time.

The following information is meant to help you stay safe during the reopening of Ocean City. Remember, staying informed and taking simple actions every day will help prevent the spread of this virus.

Protect Yourself and Others

What you should know to stop the spread of germs and respiratory disease like Covid-19.

- 1. Wear a Mask:** Everyone should wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- 2. Physical Distance:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick and put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home.
- 3. Wash Hands Often:** Wash hands often with soap after you have been in a public place and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- 4. Know How It Spreads:** The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

People who are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and other clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.



Visiting Public Places?

The Do's and Don't's of Getting Out & About

Do:	Don't:
Do: Protect yourself while shopping. Stay 6 feet away from others, cover your mouth and nose.	Don't: Leave home when you are sick.
Do: Disinfect frequently touched surfaces (handles) and use touchless payments.	Don't: Touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
Do: Monitor your health daily. Be alert for symptoms and take your temperature.	Don't: Forget to protect yourself. Bring disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer or face coverings.
Do: Order groceries online, use curbside/carry out or shop during off-peak times.	Don't: Underestimate symptoms. Keep away from sick people and stay home if you have a fever or cough.

Tips to Master Covid-19 Stress

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Taking care of yourself, your friends, and your family can help you cope with stress. Helping others cope with their stress will also make our community stronger.

Take Breaks: Take breaks from watching, reading or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.

Take Care of Yourself: Take deep breaths, stretch, meditate and eat healthy. Step outside, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep. Avoid alcohol & drugs. Make time to relax & unwind.

Connect with Others: Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling. Experience virtual opportunities (FaceTime, Skype, Zoom) to prevent feeling isolated.

Need Help or Do You Know Someone Who Does?

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others:

- Call **911**
- Call the Disaster Distress Helpline **1-800-985-5990**
- Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline **1-800-799-7233**
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline **1-800-273-8255**

For More Information and Resources Visit: oceancitymd.gov/Covid19 [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov)

A WALK THROUGH NORTHSIDE PARK'S WINTER WONDERLAND



November 19, 2020 – January 2, 2021

Wednesday through Sunday from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Ocean City's original holiday light show will return for its 28th year as an outdoor, walking tour. Due to safety precautions associated with the prevention of COVID-19, modifications have been made to this holiday tradition. Although the experience will look very different for 2020, the same extraordinary holiday memories are waiting to be made at Northside Park.

Grab a cup of hot chocolate and come experience the magic of the season close up. The wandering path is approximately a half mile and contains lots of surprises along the way. Walk through the Candy Cane Woods or find the spot to take that perfect family photo or even a selfie to post online. The spectacular light displays will include some favorites like Santa's Workshop and the Reindeer Flight School and many more. On your journey, don't miss the amazing, 50-foot Winterfest Christmas tree "performing" a show several times an hour.

The Winterfest gift shop will be open to find that unique present for a special someone. With precautions in place, Santa will be able to visit and hear everyone's wish list for Christmas 2020. Santa will be available for photos every night through December 23.

Advance admission will be available online closer to the event.

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

FOR YOUR SAFETY, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Masks are required inside the gift shop and for visits with Santa.
- Please practice social distancing.
- Health screenings are required to enter building.
- Strollers, wagons, wheelchairs are welcome.
- Bikes are not permitted in the park during event hours.

**For more information go to ococean.com or contact
1-800-626-2326**

Holiday Shoppers Fair

'Tis the Season!

It's officially the holiday season in Ocean City and what better way to get into the holiday shopping spirit than a visit to Ocean City's 38th Annual Holiday Shopper's Fair. The Holiday Shopper's Fair, taking place from November 27-29 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, was started in 1983 as part of the effort to bring visitors to the resort during the holiday season.



This year's fair features unique gifts for everyone on your shopping list, including art and craft items, hand painted furniture, quilted handbags, ornaments, candles, jewelry, florals and other specialty gift items. You'll also find toys, pet items and sports related memorabilia, nautical items, stained glass, country woodcrafts, lighted baskets and ceramics. Unfortunately, due to health and safety precautions, children's activities and visits with Santa will not be available this year. However, the non-shopper in the group can continue to enjoy a television room showing football games.

Show hours are Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, November 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free for the weekend. For more information about the 38th Annual Holiday Shopper's Fair, call **1-800-OC-OCEAN, 410-289-2800** or e-mail **mcollins@oceancitymd.gov**.

Winter Wellness with OCRP

Ocean City Recreation and Parks is pleased to be safely continuing Fall & Winter programs, events and tournaments. Classes, programs, and activities are offered for all different age groups all throughout the year. We highly recommend signing up for e-news notifications and recreational information. You can sign up and stay connected by visiting www.oceancitymd.gov/rec.



Please Note: Ocean City's programs and recreational activities may require face coverings, health screenings and modifications in order to follow local Health Department guidelines and State of Maryland orders.

PREVENTION IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Five Ways to Protect your Family & Property This Winter

Festive celebrations, flickering lights and winter greens are hallmarks of the holiday season, but they also present fire risks that can quickly turn this festive time of year into a devastating one. The Ocean City Fire Department, in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association, works to educate the community about potential fire risks during the holidays, offering helpful information to help you and your family stay safe this winter season.

1. **Holiday Cooking & Entertaining:**

- Keep children and pets away from the hot stove, oven and lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

2. **Holiday Decorating:**

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched and add water daily.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk and make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Also, make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect. Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

3. **Frozen Pipes:**

- Anywhere cold air blows on a pipe, it creates the potential for freezing. Make sure your pipes are well-insulated, close crawl space vents and stuff insulation over the openings.
- Never turn off the heat when you leave home during the winter. 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.
 - Know where your main waterline shut-off is before problems arise.
 - After turning the water off, turn on faucets to allow the water to drain and release the pressure in your pipes.
4. **Heating Safety:**
- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
 - Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
 - Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
5. **Have a Plan:**
- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
 - Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light or mailbox) a safe distance from the home.
 - Practice, Practice, Practice!

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

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

Have Fun With Your Furry Family Member at the 94th Street Dog Park

The Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant award from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Community Parks and Playgrounds program, which will enable the town to continue its Phase 2 improvements of the 94th Street Dog Playground. The improvement project is slated for a January through April construction period which will require the closing of the park; however, the enhanced amenities will be worth the wait. Passholders will be notified of planned park enhancements and operational modifications as the project moves forward, but early design ideas include the inclusion of additional shade, a water feature, agility stations and more. For additional information, please call the Recreation and Parks Department at **410-250-0125**.



Protect Your Property from Flooding with a few simple steps

1. **Check with the Planning & Community Development Department:**
 - Department staff can tell you about the extent of past flooding in your area, 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, and provide information regarding flood risk zones, base flood elevation, approximate flood depth and copies of elevation certificates on file.
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.
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.
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 Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

Nuisance Flood Plan Underway

The Town of Ocean City is working to document the effect and impact of extreme high tides and precipitation on our community's coastline; in low areas that are the first to flood and typically cause a short-term inconvenience without major property damage. A local 'Nuisance Flood Plan' proposes new ways to measure and monitor these flood prone areas as a first indicator of changing conditions and guide for future management actions.

What is Nuisance Flooding?

There are two types of nuisance flooding that we experience in Ocean City.

The first is commonly known as high tide or sunny day flooding that can interrupt day to day activities leading to a public inconvenience such as road closures, and overwhelmed storm drains.

The second type can occur from increased precipitation leading to sudden large quantities of water that can overwhelm storm water systems, flood roadways, disrupt public transportation and cause minor flooding of properties.

We Need Your Help.

Please help us capture and document nuisance flood events from either high tide or intense precipitation by using the app: mycoast.org/md

- Take pictures and record the time and location (mycoast.org/md).
- Review the draft Nuisance Flood Plan progress (oceancitymd.gov/flood).
- Report storm drain obstructions and property damage from flood events.



Renting Your Property? Here's What You Need To Know!

When deciding whether to rent your Ocean City property, it's important for you to understand how the laws, ordinances and codes work in our resort community. As a homeowner, it is your responsibility to follow these specific requirements, including obtaining a rental license before you list your property or accept guests. In addition, certain types of short-term bookings may be prohibited altogether depending on where your property is located. Finally, it is also the responsibility of the property owner to collect and remit local and State taxes.

What Regulations Apply in Ocean City?

Rental License: If you rent your property to anyone, for any length of time, the law requires you to first obtain an Ocean City rental license and Ocean City noise control permit. Online rentals or third party vacation site rentals must also comply. If you already have a rental license, continue to renew each year before the expiration date. Rental applications for new properties may be obtained at City Hall, on the website at oceancitymd.gov or by contacting 410-289-8833.

R-1 & MH Single Family Residential Zones: Properties located within the R-1 and MH single family residential zoning districts must use a different rental license application and meet occupancy criteria limited to no more than 4 unrelated people. Please contact the Department of Planning and Community Development for a pre-season inspection of your property to confirm compliance with building and fire codes, and to determine maximum occupancy permitted. 410-289-8855.

Resident Agent: When renting your property, you are required (by Town Code) to provide us with the name, address, and telephone number of a Resident Agent, who must reside in the State of Maryland within 30 miles of Ocean City (if there is no owner who maintains a permanent residence in Ocean City). Please make sure that this information is kept up-to-date. This local point-of-contact is essential to quickly address complaints of overcrowding, noise, trash, property maintenance, etc.

Rental Tax: Rental of hotel or motel rooms, apartments, rooms, condominiums, cottages, mobile homes, or any other sleeping accommodation is subject to the State of Maryland 6% sales tax and the Worcester County 5% room tax. If you plan to utilize your property for rentals, it is your responsibility to ensure the required occupancy tax is calculated, collected, and remitted for each rental. An application for room tax must be filed, and room tax reports must be submitted with payment each month. If you are handling the rental yourself and are not using a real estate agent, please call the Worcester County Treasurer's Office for an application for room



tax. Room tax reports for rentals handled by a real estate agent or rental agency are submitted by the agent or agency. Note: *room tax is not applicable if the property is rented to the same individual for longer than four months and one day.*

Rental Home Helpful Hints

The Town of Ocean City is committed to working with our property owners to help understand and abide by the rental requirements for our community. Below are a few additional tips to make sure your rental property is an easy and enjoyable experience for you and your guest.

Send Guests an Email a Week Prior to Their Arrival. This is a great opportunity to provide information about what's going on in Ocean City, give recommendations for unique activities, dining and special events. It is also a great way to set honest and truthful expectations about what's going on in our resort community. For example, what may be a great location to some (*near the Boardwalk or lively downtown*) could be the worst nightmare for others. Be honest about and give your guests helpful information about your property that will help manage their expectations.

Make Rules Clear. Leave clear instructions for your renters on any regulations in your neighborhood, including where to park, noise restrictions or how and when to properly dispose of garbage. Whether it's a handwritten note or a contract, setting the right expectations before a trip can contribute to a better experience for the host and your guests.

Notify the Town of Any Changes. Please be sure to notify our Finance and Licensing office of any changes to your mailing address, telephone number, email address, and/or local contact information. Send changes in writing to: TOC Licensing Dept., PO Box 5000, Ocean City, MD 21843; email to: myoclicense@oceancitymd.gov or call 410-289-8833 for more information.



Problem Properties Reminder:

Properties that may be in violation of their rental license(s) or in violation of a safety, building or health department code should be reported to the Ocean City Property Review and Enforcement Strategies for Safe-Housing (P.R.E.S.S) Committee at **410-289-8855**.

Why Not Work Where You Play?

There is nothing better than a day at the office that consists of salt air and the Boardwalk breeze. At the Town of Ocean City each "work" day is another opportunity to soak in the sun, sand and fresh ocean air! With hundreds of seasonal positions to be filled, our Human Resources department wants to know....**What Are You Doing This Summer?**



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 protect the community. Recruitment for the Summer 2021 is underway. Applicants can apply or view more information regarding testing dates and hiring at www.joinocpd.com.



Lifeguards (SRT's):

The Ocean City Beach Patrol (OCBP) will hold pre-employment physical skills evaluations at several locations for the 2021 season. There are no pre-certification requirements and experience in ocean rescue is not necessary to apply. All training and certifications will be provided during a paid training course.



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.

Call or check the website for an update on testing dates and times

Remember to sign up for Job Alerts by visiting oceancitymd.com/enews.

Enjoy The Outdoors at Eagles Landing

Eagle's Landing Golf Course is a beautiful seaside golfing paradise with a sweeping vista of land, water and sky. With a variety of link style holes, marsh and wetland, Eagle's Landing Golf Course is the perfect place for your next round. Join us for pristine views, refreshment options and deals on tee times, all overlooking the serene Sinepuxent Bay and the unspoiled beauty of Assateague Island National Seashore.

Turkey Trop Open - November 21, 2020

New Year's Knockout - January 2, 2021

Super Bowl Scramble - February 7, 2021

St. Patrick's Irish Scramble - March 13, 2021

EaglesLandingGolf.com or (443) 736-1455



Ocean Bowl Skate Park offers skateboarders and inline skaters 17,000 square feet of space that welcomes all abilities. The park includes a pool bowl with a deep and shallow end, large vert ramp, mini ramp, and a concrete street course with hit walls and hips. Please bring your own safety equipment. NO equipment rentals available at this time.

OCEAN BOWL HOURS

JUNE - AUGUST

Open Daily 9:30 a.m. – Dark

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Weekdays 12:00 p.m. – Dark

Weekends 9:30 a.m. – Dark

NOVEMBER - MARCH

Weekdays 2:00 p.m. – Dark

Weekends 9:30 a.m. – Dark

(Closed Wednesdays

January – March)

APRIL - MAY

Weekdays 12:00 p.m. – Dark

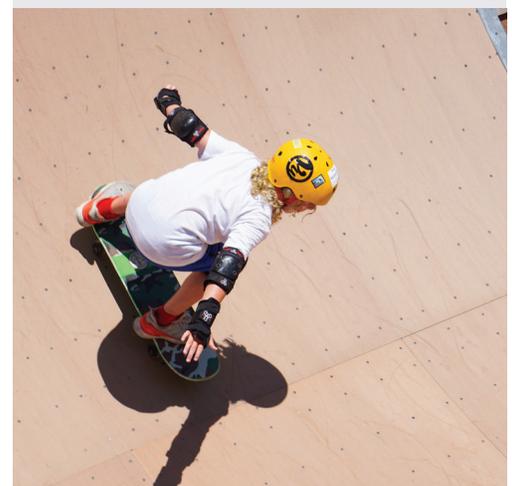
Weekends 9:30 a.m. – Dark

Weekend Daily Pass \$15

Weekly Pass \$42

Annual Pass \$110

Weekday Daily Pass \$12



Embrace the Arts in Ocean City

Take a virtual class, browse a new exhibit or enjoy an evening show. Although things may look a little different in 2020, Ocean City still offers a variety of unique experiences that allow residents and visitors to explore artistic experiences in our coastal community. Learn more about programs, events and experiences you and your family can enjoy:



Ocean City Performing Arts Center: www.ocmdperformingartscenter.com

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 EVACUATION ZONES	
Division 1	RED	Inlet to 33rd Street	ZONE A	
Division 2	YELLOW	33rd Street to 62nd Street	ZONE B	
Division 3	BLUE	62nd Street to 100th Street	<small>Remember: Atlantic Hurricane Season is June 1 - November 30. As always, the town remains committed to keeping residents and visitors informed with accurate information before, during and after the storm. Citizens should subscribe to Emergency Alerts and follow the Town's social media channels to stay informed! Visit oceancitymd.gov/news to sign up today.</small>	
Division 4	ORANGE	100th 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:

Visit: www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/emergency-services/emergency-management/know-your-zone/