

# Fall Newsletter 2021

Town of Ocean City, Maryland



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## E-NEWS

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](http://oceancitymd.gov/eNews) or find us on social media.

Winterfest & Other Events

[OCOCEAN.COM/EVENTS](http://OCOCEAN.COM/EVENTS)



**WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2021 - JANUARY 1, 2022!**

The 2021 Winterfest of Lights will return as a walking holiday event with an even larger path route!

Northside Park - 200 125th Street, Ocean City, MD, 21842  
Wednesday - Sunday from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Admission is only \$5 for guests 12 years and older and FREE for children 11 years and younger.

The Winterfest of Lights is subject to closure for inclement weather.

*Please always check the Town of Ocean City Facebook for updates before planning your visit!*

Call 410-250-0125 for more information **or visit [ococean.com](http://ococean.com)**



*See how Ocean City, MD, sparkles this winter and visit the Winterfest of Lights! The 2021 Winterfest of Lights will be an expanded walking tour that takes you through thousands of sparkling holiday lights and many animated light displays located along a paved path in Northside Park. Sip hot chocolate, take a photo with Santa, visit our gift shop and enjoy the array of holiday exhibits – including many surprises. Come see the 50-foot Christmas tree put on a show for you and soak up all of the holiday spirit at Winterfest of Lights. So grab your family and friends, and don't miss this award-winning holiday event.*

**HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR**

**NOVEMBER 26-28, 2021**

Unique merchandise as well as handmade products, nautical, candles, photography, florals, jewelry, ceramics. Great gifts & household items. Children's activities & face painting. Over 150 Vendors! Hosted at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. Free parking, food court, non-shoppers lounge, door prizes.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION AND FIREWORKS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2021**

The Town of Ocean City will be hosting a New Year's Eve Fireworks Show at Northside Park to celebrate the beginning of 2022 and the 29th Annual 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 experience the Winterfest of Lights.

**MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT**

**JANUARY 1, 2022**

To kick off 2022, Mayor Rick Meehan and members of the Ocean City Council will host a concert at the beautiful Performing Arts Center on New Year's Day. All residents and visitors are welcome to attend the free event. After a brief meet and greet with Ocean City elected officials and community partners, the 2022 Mayor's New Year's Day Concert will begin.

## Performing Arts Center



The 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.

**Sign up for Performing Arts Center E-News at [www.ocmdperformingartscenter.com](http://www.ocmdperformingartscenter.com).**

## Art League

### EXPERIENCE THE ARTS IN OCEAN CITY THIS WINTER

When the weather gets chilly and activities move indoors and off the beach, visit Ocean City's most outstanding cultural amenity – the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside. The center is open every day of the week, year round, rain or shine, with free admission to the galleries.

This waterfront home of the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City features a spacious two-story gallery with major art exhibits that change every month, featuring the original work of local and regional artists. The exhibits kick off with a free opening reception from 5-7 p.m. on the First Friday of each month, and you are invited to meet the artists and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Visit the Art Center's in-house gift shop for holiday gift ideas, and tour our pottery studio, classrooms, art library, and the studios of working artists. We also offer perfect indoor activities, including art classes and workshops for all ages, skill levels, and interests, including family activities.

December brings the annual Artisan Fair at the Arts Center on December 3rd and 4th, where you'll discover handmade one-of-a-kind gift ideas you won't find anywhere else. Our Ocean City Film Festival Monthly Film Nights continue on the 3rd Saturday of every month through the fall and winter, culminating in the annual Film Festival, coming up in March 2022. The last Wednesday of every month features Originals Only, live music by up-and-coming artists.

Looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity? There are many ways you can help out at the Arts Center, have fun, and make new friends. Whether you are an artist or simply an art appreciator, we invite you to visit the Ocean City Center for the Arts and be inspired.

The best way to stay in touch with what's going on with the Art League and at the Arts Center is on our website – [www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org](http://www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org). Or call us anytime at 410-524-9433.



## Rental Property Information You Need to Know

As an Ocean City homeowner who may be considering renting their property, it's important to understand how the laws, ordinances, and code work in our resort community. It is your responsibility to follow specific requirements, including obtaining a rental license before you list your property or accept guests. 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](http://oceancitymd.gov) or by contacting 410-289-8833.

- It is mandatory for anyone renting their property, either personally, through a rental agent, or by using an online vacation rental website (example: VRBO, Airbnb, Home Away, to first obtain an Ocean City rental license and noise permit (Section 14-174 and Section 30-401 Code of the Town of Ocean City).
- The license is effective from May 1, 2021 to April 31, 2022.
- Keep in mind, if you own more than one property in the city limits of Ocean City, Maryland, you will need to complete a rental license application for each property you are renting.
- As a reminder, any property owner found in violation of these codes shall be fined no less than \$500 per day and no more than \$1,000.00 per day for each offense (Section 14-62 Code of the Town of Ocean City). Note: a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day which a violation occurs or continues
- Along with a rental license and noise permit, all rental revenue is subject to 5% county room tax (paid directly to Worcester County) and 6% state sales tax (paid directly to the State of Maryland) each month. (Note: For property owners renting their property for more than four months and one day consecutively to the same person, you are not required to pay room tax to Worcester County, Maryland).
- Properties that may be in violation of their rental license(s) or in violation of 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? SEASONAL JOB OPENINGS:



## OCPD

### 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. Applicants will be able to apply for full-time as well. For more information on the testing and/or job opportunities, please visit [www.joinocpd.com](http://www.joinocpd.com)

#### Testing Dates:

- November 20 & 21, 2021
- December 18 & 19, 2021
- January 8 & 9, 2022
- January 29 & 30, 2022
- February 19 & 20, 2022



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Bus Drivers, Tram Drivers, Beach Tractor Operators, Solid Waste 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 Public Works Department. Don't worry, we offer paid training to get you the qualifications you need! Learn more at [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov)

## OCBP

### Lifeguards (SRT's):

The Ocean City Beach Patrol (OCBP) will hold pre-employment physical skills evaluations at several off-site locations March through April with the last test for the 2022 season in Ocean City on Saturday, May 30th. 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 (\$15.25 hr) training course.

#### Lifeguard Testing Locations:

Feb - March 2022 (exact date TBA)  
Salisbury, Maryland

March 2022 (exact date TBA)  
York, Pennsylvania

March 2022 (Sunday)  
Annapolis, Maryland

April 24 2022 (Sunday)  
Ocean Pines, Maryland

June 4, 2022 (Saturday)  
Ocean City, Maryland



## OCFD

### 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](http://www.ocvfc.com) Learn more at [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov).

#### 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](http://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.

## Recs & Park Winter Programs

### Mark Your Calendars for Winter Programs & Events!

Ocean City Recreation and Parks offers programs, events and tournaments throughout the Fall and Winter. Quality recreation and social opportunities are available for different age groups! Sign up for notifications and recreational information at [www.oceancitymd.gov/rec](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/rec).



#### OCEAN BOWL SKATE PARK

As the world's oldest operating municipal skate park, the Ocean Bowl offers skateboarders and in-line skaters of all ability levels an exceptional Ocean City experience. The 17,000 square ft. concrete-based park takes advantage of every inch of space, with transitions allowing flow from one end of this "carvable" park to the other. Skaters must wear required safety gear (available for rent). \*Scooters are permitted in the park during weekend morning hours.

#### Ocean Bowl Winter Hours

##### November-March:

Weekdays 2:00 p.m. -dark  
(closed on Wednesdays)  
Weekends 9:30 a.m. -dark

##### Pass Prices:

Weekday Daily Pass | \$12  
Weekday Winter Daily Pass | \$6  
(November-March)  
Weekend Daily Pass | \$15  
Weekday Morning Pass | \$6  
Weekend Morning Pass | \$8  
Weekly Pass | \$42  
Annual Pass | \$110  
Resident Annual Pass | \$60



#### GOLF

##### Enjoy The Outdoors at Eagle's Landing

Eagle's Landing Golf Course is a beautiful seaside golfing paradise with a sweeping vista of land, water and sky. Located just minutes from Ocean City, Maryland, Eagle's Landing Golf Course overlooks the serene Sinepuxent Bay and the unspoiled beauty of Assateague Island National Seashore.

**Turkey Trot** - November 20

**New Year's Knockout** - January 2

**Superbowl Scramble** - February 6

**St. Patrick's Scramble** - March 12

Call Eagle's Landing at  
410-213-7277 for more  
information or to register.

## Passport Appointments

### Make An Appointment to Apply For a Passport

City Hall is a recognized passport acceptance facility. Services are offered between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, and days when ample staff is not available to assist with this service. Services for new passports are provided by appointment only. To make an appointment please visit <https://passports.oceancitymd.gov/> or by calling the Clerk's Office at 410-289-8824.



## Beach Renourishment

In 1994, the State of Maryland, Worcester County and Ocean City accepted responsibility for operation and maintenance of the completed Atlantic Coast of Maryland Storm Protection Project. The project consists of the Beach Renourishment program, dune, crossovers, planting and fencing along with repairs to the seawall along the boardwalk.

Approximately every four years, the Army Corps of Engineers perform beach renourishment to maintain adequate storm protection.



**Beach renourishment is underway. Updates are posted each day with progress reports and scheduled beach closures. To stay up to date on the project, visit [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov).**

The beach in Ocean City is Maryland's Project for everyone's enjoyment. It protects your property and life. To date, the project has prevented over \$900 million dollars in storm damage. Please treat it with respect and extend your cooperation to those that are responsible for maintaining it.

## Baltimore Ave Improvements

The Town of Ocean City has started preliminary design work for improvements to Baltimore Avenue from North Division to 15th Street. The proposed project currently includes undergrounding all utilities along Baltimore Avenue from North Division to 15th Street and on all side streets in the areas between Baltimore Avenue and the boardwalk. The project also includes widening sidewalks along Baltimore Avenue between North Division and 15th Street. This will involve improvements to some of the currently unimproved right of way behind the existing sidewalks along Baltimore Avenue. At the conclusion of the project, the Town anticipates donating any remaining unused right of way to the adjacent property owners.

Construction on the project is expected to begin in the fall of 2022 and will take two full off seasons to complete. Although no work will occur in the summer season, the road surface during the summer of 2023 will likely have numerous pavement patches and some steel plates.



## Boardwalk Deck Replacement

The iconic Ocean City Boardwalk will be receiving a facelift over the upcoming two off seasons. The constant exposure to sun and salt spray, means these boards only last for ten years before they need replacement.

Beginning this off season, work will begin to replace all the boardwalk deck boards. The project will take two off seasons to complete. In the first year, starting right after Columbus Day through April 14, 2022, we will replace the boards from 27th to 15th streets and from the Life-Saving Station Museum to the north side of the pier. Next off season (2022-23), we will replace the boards from the pier to 15th street.

During the work, there may be some detours off the Boardwalk during the weekdays; however, the Boardwalk will be fully passable on weekends and holidays. In addition to replacing the Boardwalk deck boards, the steel sheet piling that supports the seawall along the Boardwalk will be recoated to prevent the steel from corroding.

## 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		
Division 1	RED	Inlet to 33rd Street
Division 2	YELLOW	33rd Street to 62nd Street
Division 3	BLUE	62nd Street to 100th Street
Division 4	ORANGE	100th Street to DE Line

OC EVACUATION ZONES
<b>ZONE A</b>
<b>ZONE B</b>
<i>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 <a href="http://oceancitymd.gov/enews">oceancitymd.gov/enews</a> to sign up today.</i>

## 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:

## Flood FEMA Information

### What You Need to Know to Protect Your Property from Flooding

#### FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

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 yourself and your property from future flooding. Here are some things you can do:

#### 1. Check with the Planning and 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, and provide information regarding flood risk zones, base flood elevation, approximate flood depth and copies of elevation certificates on file. Contact by phone: (410) 289-8855, website: [www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/contact-us/](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/contact-us/) or email: [bneville@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:bneville@oceancitymd.gov).

#### 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](http://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 some 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](http://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. Contact the Department of Planning and Community Development by phone (410) 289-8855, Jake Doub – Floodplain Administrator [jdoub@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:jdoub@oceancitymd.gov), or Bill Neville – Floodplain Manager [bneville@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:bneville@oceancitymd.gov).

#### 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.

- Effective October 1, 2021, FEMA will implement Risk Rating 2.0 to establish flood insurance premiums. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.
- Homeowner's insurance policies alone do not cover damage from floods. However, because 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 of the insurance premium.
- Usually flood insurance 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](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

## Event Calendar 2021-2022

### NOVEMBER

- Nov 8** - Holiday Craft Workshop - Northside Park
- Nov 13** - Storm Warriors 5K Run/Walk - Inlet & Boardwalk
- Nov 18 - Nov 30** - Winterfest of Lights - Northside Park
- Nov 20** - Turkey Trot Open - Eagle's Landing
- Nov 26 - 28** - Holiday Shoppers Fair - Convention Center

### DECEMBER

- Dec 1 - Dec 31** - Winterfest of Lights - Northside Park
- Dec 4** - OC Christmas Parade - Coastal Hwy, Old Landing Rd - 120th St.
- Dec 5** - Mid-Atlantic Symphony: Holiday Joy - Performing Arts Center
- Dec 5** - Holiday Open House - Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum
- Dec 8** - Pizza Party with Santa - Northside Park
- Dec 31** - New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks - Northside Park

### JANUARY

- Jan 1** - Winterfest of Lights - Northside Park
- Jan 1** - Mayor's New Year's Day Concert - Performing Arts Center
- Jan 2** - New Year's Knockout Tournament - Eagle's Landing
- Jan 14 - 15** - Ocean Pines Children's Theater presents "Disney's Frozen Jr." - Performing Arts Center
- Jan 15 - 16** - Delmarva Art Expo - Convention Center

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

- Thanksgiving**, November 25 & 26
- Christmas**, December 23 & 24
- New Year's Day**, December 31
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, January 17
- Presidents Day**, February 21

