



# REPORT TO CITIZENS

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

*Cover Photo by Chris Parypa*

*Ocean City comes to life at night as the sun sets on the bay.*

*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>*

Mayor:

Richard W. Meehan

City Council:

Lloyd Martin, *President*

John F. Gehrig, Jr.

Mary P. Knight, *Secretary*

Matthew M. James

Dennis W. Dare

Mark L. Paddock

Anthony J. DeLuca

City Manager:

Douglas R. Miller

Finance Director:

Charles Bireley, CPA

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 2019 fiscal year addressed the quality of life for residents in a vibrant tourist resort. This report, which summarizes the financial results for the 2019 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, 2019 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 (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2019, 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 by downloading it from the Town's website, [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov), or you may obtain a copy by contacting the Finance Department at 410-289-8858.

# REPORT TO CITIZENS

## MAJOR INITIATIVES AND DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### Boardwalk Access Control Barriers:

In November 2017, the Town proposed to install barriers at all vehicle access points along the boardwalk. The initiative was developed to positively restrict unauthorized vehicle access on the boardwalk by constructing a combination of permanent, semi-permanent, and operable barriers at every potential vehicle access point. At the time of the initial proposal there were over 36 different vehicular entry points onto the boardwalk, primarily at the ends of the public streets, which were open with no barriers or gates of any type. After a request for proposals was submitted and received, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. was awarded the contract to design the two-phase project. The first phase consisted of temporary gates and barriers to restrict vehicle access in time for the 2018 summer season. The second phase replaced the temporary barricades with permanent gates, bollards, and cable barriers.

The total cost for the project was initially estimated to be \$4.6 million but the Town requested additional value engineering discussions to determine the best configuration of fixed barrier options and the most cost-efficient design. This value engineering reduced the cost \$2 million from the original proposal. In 2018, the Town approved financing the second phase of the project. Federal grants exist for this type of project; however, these grants are limited to "32 of the nation's high-threat, high-density areas." Ocean City is not one of these 32 areas and, therefore, was unable to secure federal grant funding. Financing for the second phase was secured through Bank of America under a 10-year capital lease.

The temporary barrier phase of the project was installed by Apex Construction starting in March 2018 and was completed in May 2018. A request for bid for the construction of the permanent barriers



was completed and awarded to Hercules Fence of Maryland. Construction began in December 2018 with the installation of barriers at each street. The barriers consist of a combination of concrete-filled pipe bollards covered with a decorative sleeve, posts and cable systems, and operable gates to allow emergency responders and maintenance crews to gain access to the boardwalk. Two of the ten operable gates are powered and controlled through the Town's city-wide access control system. The remaining gates are manually operated. The project was completed in June 2019.

### New Public Works South Building:



In the early 1970s, the Town's Department of Public Works constructed a building which came to be known as "Whiteside" (adopted from the previous owner's last name) on South 1st Street near the inlet. Since its inception, the building housed the Public Works Maintenance and Transportation departments. Over the years, repairs have been made to the building to keep it operational. In January 2017, the Council voted to purchase land located at 200 St. Louis Avenue in order to construct a new Department of Public Works South Building. The cost of the land purchase was \$2 million, with the Town providing an initial down payment of \$400,000. The remaining \$1.6 million was financed by the sale of a 10-year general obligation bond. The cost of the building was just over \$3.8 million and was funded through a separate bond issue, which included other projects.

The new pole-style building was designed by Becker

Morgan and constructed by Delmarva Veteran Builders, LLC. The building will be used in the same way as the old Whiteside building but with a better flow for each individual operation housed at the building. While the Maintenance Department and the Transportation Department are separate departments under Public Works, they work closely with each other. Thus, the building has four major designated areas for each department with slightly overlapping work spaces. The first designated area is for the boardwalk trams. It allows the Jeeps, with the attached trams, to easily pull into the building at the end of the day and pull out in the morning. There will be enough room for ten completely outfitted trams to park inside the building. The second designated area is for the six beach tractors, with the beach sanitizers attached, which can be parked for easy exit when it's time for the nightly cleaning of the beach. The third designated area is a maintenance shop, which will be used for maintenance and repairs on the Maintenance Department's equipment. The fourth designated area is for the boardwalk cleaning equipment, which consists of mini brooms, garbage trucks, boardwalk scrubbers, gators, and a utility task vehicle. The building's remaining space will be used for offices for the Tram and Maintenance supervisors, a break room, and a boardwalk bathroom storage supply area.

Much thought went into the design of the outside of the building as well. The building was made to

be more aesthetically pleasing to the surrounding area with its "coastal" architectural style. Special lighting was installed on the outside of the building so that it will not be offensive for nearby residents. A faux stone veneer was added and a picket fence will be installed to further enhance the building's aesthetics. The project is expected to be completed in November 2019.

### *The Economy*

The Town uses advertising, promotions, and social media to publicize the vacation and leisure opportunities in Ocean City. 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, and concerts (both on and off the beach and at various entertainment venues at Northside Park on 125th Street and at Sunset Park located on the bay-front in downtown Ocean City).

There were 1,852 construction permits issued in FY 2019, compared to 1,885 in FY 2018. The estimated value of construction in FY 2019 was \$54,474,168 compared to \$78,539,236 in FY 2018.

## Recreational Activities and Special Events:



The Town of Ocean City's Recreation and Parks Department is a hub of activity emphasizing positive lifestyle choices in the pursuit of healthy and active living, all while having fun! Recreation and Parks is responsible for managing and maintaining the cleanliness and utility of the Town's parks, sports fields, and public grounds and facilities, as well as coordinating a vast number of programs for individuals of all ages throughout the year. Many of its programs are designed to develop children's knowledge and skillset of a particular sport. Other educational programs allow children to explore their interests in science, nature, theater, dance, art, and more. The adult and senior programs offered by Ocean City Recreation and Parks consist of exercise, dance, and art classes, as well as sports leagues and social gatherings. The Department joined the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Cities and Towns Campaign and, in 2016, Ocean City was officially named a HEAL city. In that same year, the Department was also recognized as a Maryland's Healthiest Business by providing healthy snack options in its vending and concession operations. The Town and Department have been granted both recognitions every year since then. The Recreation and Parks Department's staff continues to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles through the fun programs offered at its parks and facilities, among them, Eagle's Landing Golf Course, the Ocean Bowl Skate Park, the Ocean City Tennis Center and the Northside Park Recreation Complex.



The Special Events Department is responsible for most events that utilize public spaces within the Town. Although the Special Events Department often works closely with the Recreation and Parks Department, it is a separate entity. Throughout the year, Special Events coordinates several large-scale multi-day festivals including Springfest, Sunfest, Winterfest, and ArtX. They manage July 4th fireworks celebrations in two locations, the Town's Christmas Parade, and multiple summer-long free event series such as Sundaes in the Park, OC Beach Dance Parties, and Sunset Party Nights. All Town-sponsored events focus on family-oriented activities and promote the family-friendly image that Ocean City has so carefully cultivated. Additionally, Special Events oversees the Town's interests with the more than 70 private events that occur in Ocean City each year, among them the Ocean City Air Show, Sand Soccer, and Bike Week. The Department also partners with local businesses and event promoters to bring in new attractions for all Town residents and visitors to enjoy.



# REPORT TO CITIZENS

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

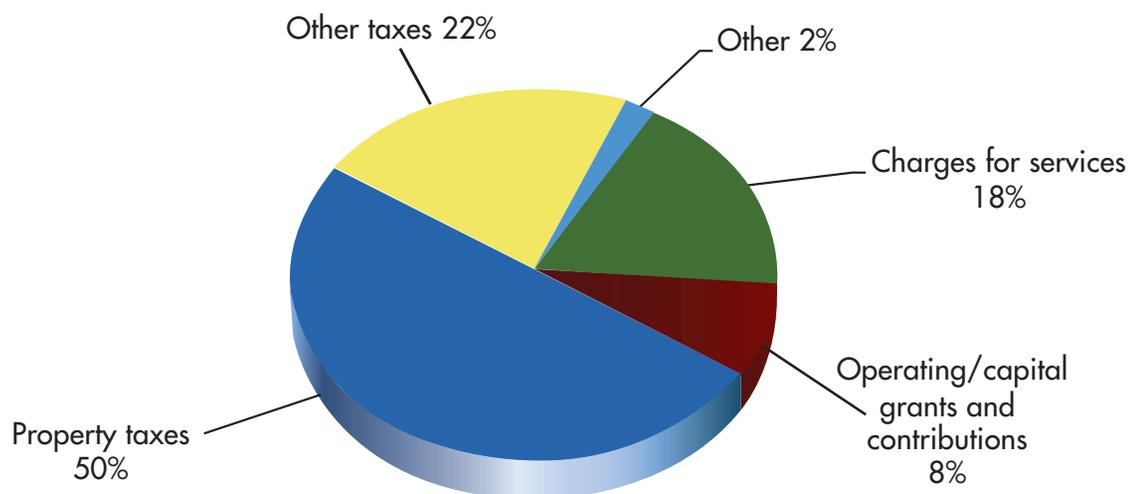
The financial information in this report distinguishes functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, governmental activities, from other functions that are intended to cover their costs primarily from user fees and charges and are utilities and business 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 generally do not cover all expenses.

Where The Money Comes From			Where The Money Goes		
	2019	2018		2019	2018
<b>REVENUES</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program revenues:			General government	\$ 961,507	\$ 978,045
Charges for current services	\$ 16,128,068	\$ 16,193,454	Public safety	37,934,242	36,827,677
Operating grants and contributions	3,087,434	3,302,181	General public works and beach	8,038,416	8,190,991
Capital grants and contributions	293,883	102,407	Sanitation and waste removal	6,578,821	6,353,497
General revenues:			Highways and streets	9,938,469	8,424,668
Property taxes	43,732,086	43,239,535	Economic development - Tourism	8,649,731	9,389,746
Other taxes	19,108,527	18,721,093	Recreation and culture	8,477,292	8,282,474
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	3,533,530	3,345,442	Interest on long-term debt	1,548,752	1,367,535
Other revenues	2,237,302	1,156,499	<i>Total expenses</i>	82,127,230	79,814,633
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 88,120,830</b>	<b>\$ 86,060,611</b>	Increase in net position before transfers	5,993,600	6,245,978
			Transfers to other funds	(4,203,223)	(3,595,376)
			<i>Increase in net position</i>	<b>\$ 1,790,377</b>	<b>\$ 2,650,602</b>

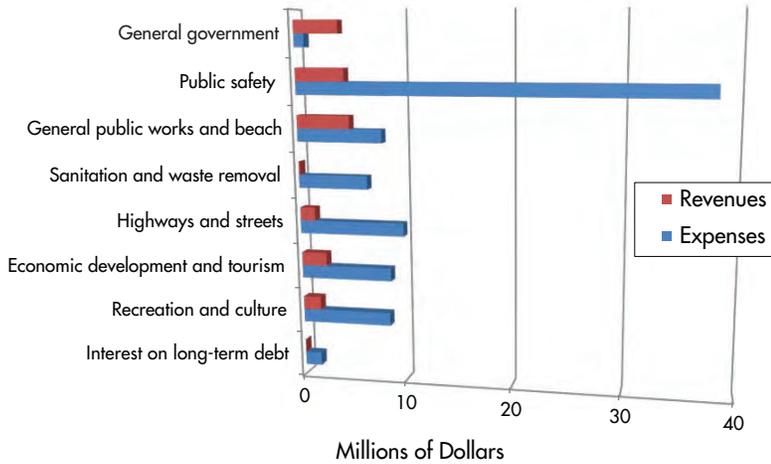
### GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - REVENUES BY SOURCE



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following graph indicates the service fees and expenses of governmental activities, which shows the extent to 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.

### GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - EXPENSES AND PROGRAM REVENUES



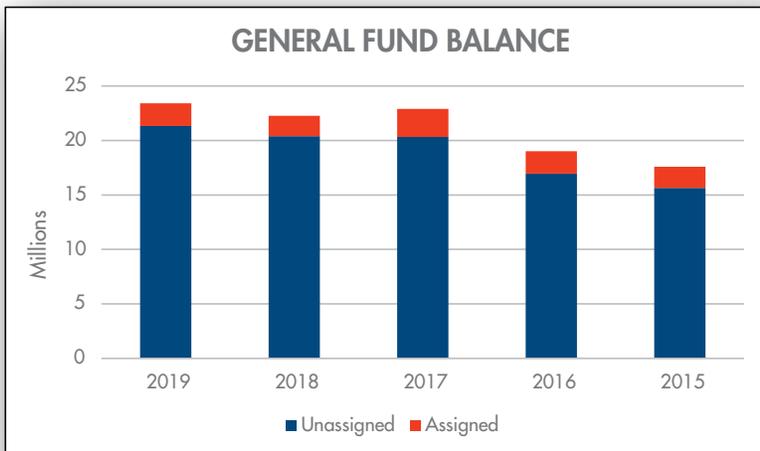
During FY 2019, there was a gain from governmental activities' operations of \$5,993,600, less transfers of \$4,203,223, which resulted in a net increase of \$1,790,377. There were gains in business-type activities of \$4,404,161 before transfers of \$4,203,223 from the general fund, which resulted in an increase in net position of \$8,607,384. The total change in net position for the primary government in FY 2019 was \$10,397,761 compared to \$12,578,978 in FY 2018.

Salaries increased \$337,790, as increments were given to employees on January 1, 2019, and police officers received a 2% cost of living adjustment. The cost of employee benefits decreased \$574,490, which was primarily due to decreases in retiree health and group health insurance premiums of \$634,856 and \$228,736, respectively. Those costs were partially offset by increases in other benefits.

### 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 Nonspendable, Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned portions. The restricted and committed portions represent set-asides for existing obligations. The unassigned portion represents set-asides for future purposes and is available for emergencies. Think of the unassigned as the savings account of the fund. It is the Town’s policy to have a minimum of 15% of expenses in unassigned fund balance. At June 30, 2019, the percentage was 27.5%.

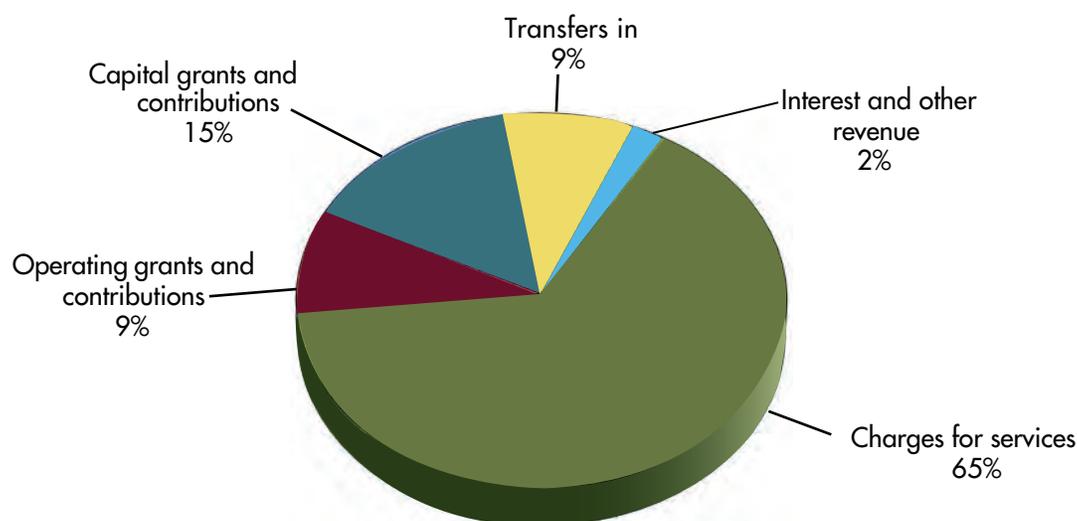
### GENERAL FUND BALANCE



## UTILITIES AND BUSINESS SERVICES

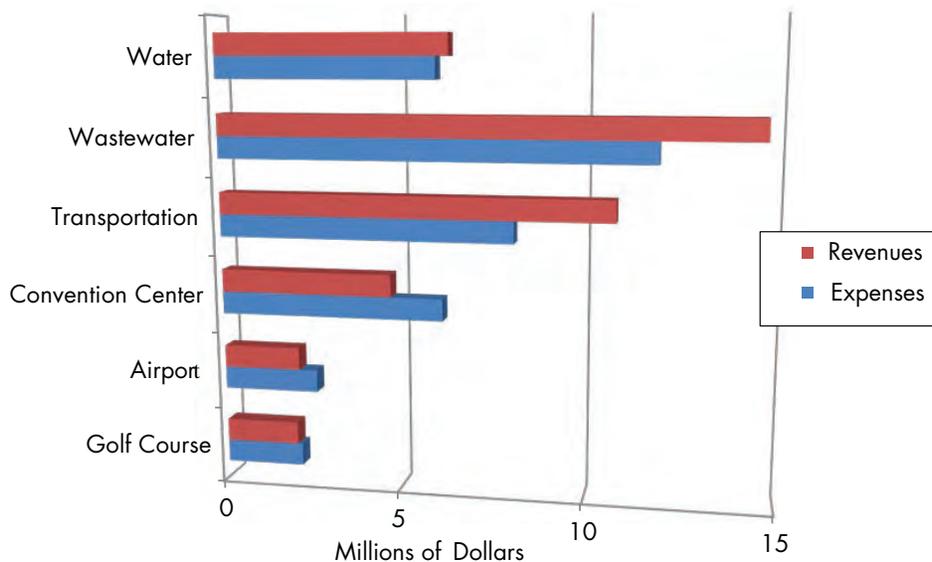
The Town operates two utilities and four businesses and accounts for their activities similar to businesses in the private sector. Operating revenues and expenses result from providing services and delivering goods. The Water Fund operates the water treatment plants and distribution system; the Wastewater 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 were 65% of all revenues in FY 2019.

### Business-Type Activities – Revenues By Source



### Business-Type Activities – Expenses And Program Revenues

The following graph indicates the portion of expenses that are covered by service charges to customers for business-type activities. In the Water, Wastewater, and Golf Course Funds, service charges or reserves cover all costs. The operations of the Transportation, Airport, and Convention Center Funds recovered 42.9% of expenses from user charges during FY 2019.



## UTILITIES AND BUSINESS SERVICES

	2019	2018
<b>Where the Money Comes From:</b>		
Charges for services	\$ 29,674,209	\$ 29,264,473
Operating grants and contributions	3,951,925	3,821,429
Capital grants and contributions	7,026,427	9,348,123
Other revenues	714,857	243,267
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>41,367,418</b>	<b>42,677,292</b>
<b>Where the Money Goes:</b>		
Water	6,036,469	5,826,613
Wastewater	11,847,685	12,000,680
Transportation	8,104,072	8,476,581
Convention Center	6,181,811	6,012,638
Airport	2,631,481	1,823,343
Golf Course	2,161,739	2,204,437
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>36,963,257</b>	<b>36,344,292</b>
Increase in net position before transfers	4,404,161	6,333,000
Transfers	4,203,223	3,595,376
<b>Increase in net position</b>	<b>\$ 8,607,384</b>	<b>\$ 9,928,376</b>

**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 0.2% to 5.82% and are paid from 10 to 20 years. At the end of FY 2019, the Town owed \$106,834,774 in debt principal. \$52,826,113 of the debt, or 49%, will be paid from service fees from business-type activities and the tax on food and beverages. At June 30, 2019, there was \$3,063,906 reserved from food tax receipts to pay principal and interest on bonds for the convention center included in the above amount. The remaining \$54,008,661 in debt principal 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) Statement 68 reporting requirements, the plans had net position of \$121,705,447 and a total pension liability of \$150,294,412 at June 30, 2019. This means that \$28,588,965 still needs to be contributed to the plans. Employees contribute 5-9% 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 \$35,357,408 to fund retiree health benefits and an actuarial liability of \$56,947,673. The unfunded actuarial liability of \$21,590,265 is being funded over twenty 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.

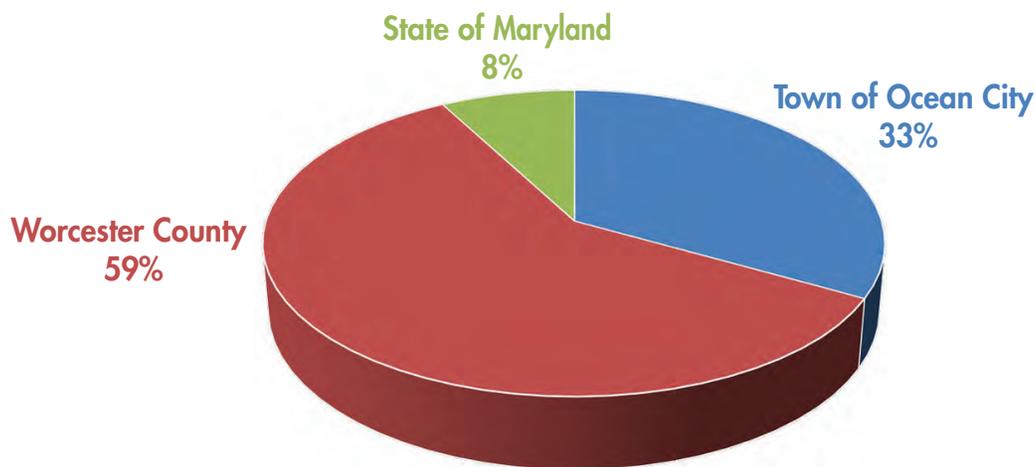
**WHERE WE STOOD ON JUNE 30, 2019**

The Town's statement of net position provides a "snapshot" of where we stood financially on June 30, 2019, 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 2019	Business-type 2019	Total 2019	Change from 2018
Cash and current assets	\$55,704,367	\$ 36,101,092	\$ 91,805,459	(3.2)%
Capital assets	109,621,919	138,006,318	247,628,237	4.5
<b>Total assets (owned)</b>	<b>165,326,286</b>	<b>174,107,410</b>	<b>339,433,696</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Deferred outflows of resources	11,965,592	2,046,371	14,011,963	18.4
Long-term liabilities outstanding	100,729,330	64,083,150	164,812,480	(5.4)
Other liabilities	13,845,346	4,416,898	18,262,244	4.4
<b>Total liabilities (owed)</b>	<b>114,574,676</b>	<b>68,500,048</b>	<b>183,074,724</b>	<b>(4.5)</b>
Deferred inflows of resources	6,377,587	2,590,694	8,968,281	905.4
Excess of assets over liabilities:				
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	63,840,069	96,802,988	160,643,057	8.4
Restricted for loans and food tax receipts	–	3,063,906	3,063,906	1.1
Unrestricted	(7,500,454)	5,196,145	(2,304,309)	1,208.3
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$56,339,615</b>	<b>\$105,063,039</b>	<b>\$161,402,654</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

# REPORT TO CITIZENS

## Percentage of Total Tax Bill by Overlapping Governments



### OPERATING INFORMATION FOR 2019

#### General Information:

Year-round residents	7,028
Registered voters	5,740
Average summer population	277,932

#### General Government:

Construction permits issued	1,852
Value of construction built	\$54,474,168

#### Solid Waste:

Trash processed & recycled (tons)	34,957
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#### Transportation:

Bus passengers	2,391,312
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#### Wastewater:

Average daily treatment (gallons)	5,713,227
Average daily summer treatment (gallons)	9,426,935
Plants daily capacity (gallons)	14,000,000

#### Tourism and Recreation:

Seasonal Beach Patrol personnel	186
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#### Fire and Emergency Services:

Fire responses	1,245
Ambulance responses	4,855
Fire Marshal inspections	1,529
Fire investigations	756
Volunteer Firefighters, Life Honor, Gold Badge	240
Classified Emergency Medical Technicians/Fighters	44
Seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians	82

#### Public Safety - Police:

Total arrests	2,271
Parking violations	3,358
Classified officers	106
Seasonal officers	56

#### Water:

Average daily consumption (gallons)	3,966,756
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](http://www.oceancitymd.gov)



**PAY BILLS ONLINE**

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

*If so, please email the following to:*  
[myocwaterbill@oceancitymd.gov](mailto: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 2019 to April 2020



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

- |           |                            |           |                          |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| <b>9</b>  | Sign Up for eNews          | <b>13</b> | Protect your Property    |
| <b>10</b> | RIP Guy Ayres              | <b>14</b> | Life Saving Station      |
| <b>11</b> | Prestigious Maryland Award | <b>15</b> | Job openings/ Fire Cadet |
| <b>12</b> | Winter Schedule            | <b>16</b> | Save the Date            |



## *Ocean City Loses a Legend with passing of Longtime City Solicitor Guy Ayres*

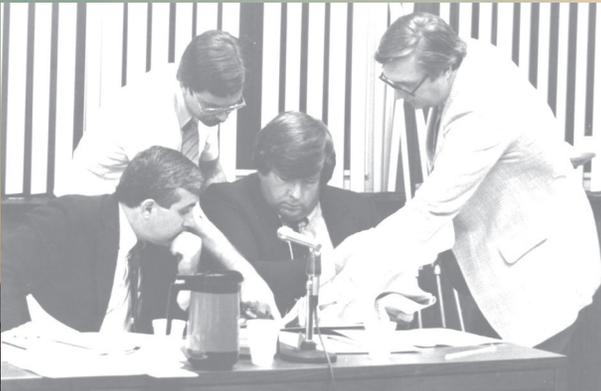


After 37 years of dedicated service to the Town of Ocean City, longtime City Solicitor, Guy R. Ayres III, passed away at his home in the early hours of Saturday, August 31. A dedicated and passionate public servant, Ayres served the Town of Ocean City for more than four decades. After being admitted to the bar in 1971, he was later elected to City Council on September 18, 1978. Four years later, on January 4, 1982, Ayres was appointed to City Solicitor, a position he held with integrity and devotion until the day of his death.

"Guy's passing is a tremendous loss for his family, friends and for the Town of Ocean City," commented Mayor Rick Meehan. "His love, compassion and knowledge can never be replaced. Guy was our rock."

With 37 years of service as City Solicitor, Ayres truly was a "rock" in our town government. Nearly memorizing the city code, Ayres could recite ordinances and reflect on past motions with institutional knowledge and experience unlike anyone else. Along with his work with the Town, Ayres also was a partner with the law firm of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand. His practice areas included Municipal Law, Administrative Law, Real Estate, and Civil Litigation, which he used to litigate hundreds of cases for the Town of Ocean City.

"As we join Kay, Courtney, Chase and Chip, along with the entire Ayres family, in mourning Guy's passing, we also celebrate the life and fond memories of our beloved City Solicitor and friend," Mayor Meehan continued. "Though he is no longer with us in person, his legacy and enormous spirit will live on in Ocean City forever."



## Immerse Yourself in the **Arts** this Off Season in Ocean City, MD

Wondering what to do this off-season? We invite you to visit Ocean City's most outstanding cultural amenity – the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside, open every day of the week, year-round, rain or shine, with free admission.

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 ten 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 on December 6th and 7th, where you'll find imaginative gift ideas you won't find anywhere else. Our \$5 Film Nights continue on the 3rd Saturday of every month, culminating in the annual Ocean City Film Festival, March 5-8, 2020. The Festival showcases more than 100 independent films from around the world, and brings together filmmakers and film lovers.

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.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, classes, and volunteer opportunities, please call 410-524-9433 or online at [ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org](http://ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org).



## *Ocean City Awarded Sustainable Maryland Certified Status Again*



Councilman Mark Paddack, Environmental Engineer Gail Blazer and Mayor Rick Meehan accept Maryland Certified Award during the Maryland Municipal League award ceremony in October.

The Town of Ocean City recently earned the prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certification by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center. The award recognizes Maryland municipalities for implementing cost-effective and strategic ways to protect our natural assets and revitalize the community. The Town earned this award by using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food and economy.

We are very proud to showcase the following innovative projects that made this award possible:

Adopt-Your-Beach and Adopt a Street program  
Bicycle Friendly Community

- Promoting local businesses
- Comprehensive Energy Audit and Implementation
- Pollution Prevention Outreach

To learn more about Sustainable Ocean City go to [oceancitymd.gov](http://oceancitymd.gov)

## *Ocean City Performing Arts Center Amazes Audiences*

**We Will Rock You – The Queen Musical**

November 8, 2019

**The Ten Tenors – Home for the Holidays**

November 29, 2019

**Red Doors - Christmas Cabaret**

December 4, 2019

**The Oak Ridge Boys Christmas Celebration**

December 7, 2019

**Mid-Atlantic Symphony**

December 8, 2019

**Brian's Christmas Songbook:  
Featuring the Mid-Atlantic Symphony**

December 13, 2019

**The Nutcracker**

December 15, 2019

**Yakov Smirnoff – Happily Ever After**

December 28-29, 2019

So Much More...Visit: [ocmdperformingartscenter.com](http://ocmdperformingartscenter.com)



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. Check out the theater's upcoming events:

**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>.**



## *A Holiday Tradition the Entire Family Can Enjoy*

Celebrating its 27th year as a signature event in Ocean City, Winterfest of Lights returns to Northside Park! With a 50 foot Christmas tree and a new look inside of the Winterfest Pavilion, guests will be treated to a holiday experience like never before. More than one million holiday lights twinkling throughout the town, as Ocean City's Winterfest of Lights creates a long lasting holiday memory for you and your family.

For more information on Winterfest Special Tree Lighting Ceremony & New Years Eve Celebration, visit [oceancitymd.gov](http://oceancitymd.gov).

## Holiday Closing

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

**Veterans Day**  
November 11

**New Year's Day**  
January 1

**Thanksgiving**  
November 28 & 29

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
January 20

**Christmas**  
December 24 & 25

**Presidents Day**  
February 17

## Ocean City Transportation Ride the Beach Bus



Ride with us, on Ocean City's municipal buses that travel along Coastal Highway. Our buses are safe, clean, reliable, and convenient. A \$3 Ride-All-Day pass allows you to ride from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. the next morning. Our friendly and knowledgeable drivers will be glad to take you do

### WINTER SCHEDULE:

November 11, 2019 - April 2020

#### SUNDAY-THURSDAY:

6 a.m.-12 a.m./Approximately Every 40 minutes

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

#### FRIDAY:

6 a.m.-6 a.m./Approximately Every 30 minutes

#### SATURDAY:

6 a.m.-10 a.m./Approximately Every 30 minutes

10 a.m. – 11 p.m. /Approximately Every 15 minutes

1 p.m. – 6 p.m./ Approximately Every 30 minutes

Remember to track your bus in real time with Ocean City's new bus locator. It's fast, reliable and easy to use! Download the **TRANSLOC RIDER APP** from your App Store! Or Text your bus stop ID Number to 414-11 when you are at the bust stop!



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

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS January - March

Weekends 9:30 a.m. – dark

Weekend Daily Pass \$15

Weekly Pass \$42

Annual Pass \$110

Weekday Daily Pass \$12

Resident Annual Pass \$60



## Solid Waste Schedule:

October 12, 2019 - May 8, 2020

### RESIDENTIAL: (waste wheelers)

Monday – Oceanside (75th Street to 146th Street)

Bayside (75th Street to 135th Street)

Tuesday – All Areas (Inlet to 74th Street)

Bayside (136th Street to 146th Street)

### COMMERCIAL: (Front-end and 300-gallon containers)

Monday/Wednesday/Friday – All Areas

**Reminder:** Bulk Pick-Up is Available: Bulk For more information, please call 410-524-0318.

## 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 properties from future flooding.

Here are some things you can do:

- 1. Check with the Planning & Community Development Department** (Building Department) at City Hall for our Map Information Service. 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](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 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.
- 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](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

### Important Ordinance Reminders:

**RENTAL LICENSE REQUIRED:** If you rent your property to anyone at any time, the law requires you to obtain an Ocean City Rental License and an Ocean City noise control permit ([www.oceancitymd.gov/rentallicense](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/rentallicense)). The purpose of these requirements is to maintain the character of single-family residential districts and assure compliance with the laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to rental housing units within the corporate limits of Ocean City. Further, it is to ensure safe, healthy and habitable housing conditions in rental housing units to prevent deterioration of rental housing units and encourage responsible management, maintenance and use of rental housing by the inspection and licensing of the units.

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

- **NOTE: R1 Property Owners:** R1 zoning is defined as low density single family residential development. A condition of having a rental license in an R1 zone, is you cannot rent to more than 4 unrelated people. **Maximum occupancy regulations also apply based on room size.** For more information, or determine if your property is in a R1 area, please visit: [www.oceancitymd.gov/rentallicense](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/rentallicense).

## Enjoy the Winter Wonder at Eagles Landing



Fall and winter are great times of the year to play golf in Ocean City, especially at our very own Eagles Landing Golf Course. Recognized as one of the best golf courses in the State by national publications, 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](http://www.eagleslandinggolf.com).

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

**Swing for Youth: October 26, 2019**  
**Turkey Trot Open: November 23, 2019**  
**Super Bowl Scramble: February 2, 2020**  
**St. Patrick's Irish Scramble: March 14, 2020**

## What Off Season? The Summer May be Done, But the Fun has Just Begun!

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

Children of all ages can enjoy a variety of activities from basketball to dodgeball, indoor soccer, archery, dance classes, and programs to express creativity while developing motor skills. Adults and seniors aren't left out with great programs like aerobics, dance classes, yoga, Ageless Grace, as well as league sports like softball, soccer, and volleyball, too!

As the holiday season approaches, Ocean City Recreation and Parks offers plenty of family-friendly events fun programs for you to enjoy throughout the remainder of the year!

**Pizza Party with Santa** on Tuesday, December 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Northside Park Recreation Complex. Activities include arts and crafts, a ride through the spectacular Winterfest of Lights, cookie decorating, visits with Santa, and more!

**Christmas Luncheon**, an annual affair for adults 50 years and over, is being held on Wednesday, December 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy great musical entertainment, as well as a performance by the talented Ocean City Recreation Dancers.

**Winterfest Soccer Camp** for both boys and girls ages 6 to 14 runs December 30 – 31 at the Northside Park Recreation Complex. Camp begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Sign up for this fun holiday camp and receive a soccer ball, t-shirts, and lots of giveaways!

## OCEAN CITY LIFE SAVING STATION:

The Ocean City Life Saving Museum, located at the inlet, offers unique historical insight into the surrounding area and the U.S. Life Saving Service with engaging and interactive programming for all ages. Stop in and say Hello to the diamondback terrapin turtle, go on a scavenger hunt for Sherlock the shark; and don't forget to look down into a 26-foot surfboat to imagine the heroic surf men who once manned the boat.

### UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS:

- We invite you to check out the **Little Learners program!** It is an opportunity for children (ages 1-5) and adults to learn about local history and the natural world through story time, crafts, and interactive activities. The Little Learners will explore exciting topics such as what sleepy animals hibernate in winter and how to grow a flower from a seed. The program runs October-May, and is the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, excluding holidays. Children 6 and under are free; \$5.00 per adult.
- Saturday, November 9th, 2019 marks the 6th Annual **Storm Warrior 5K Run/Walk**. This 3.1 mile event starts at the museum (south end of the boardwalk) goes up to 15th street and back. Sign-in/register is at 8:00 AM at the museum, the race is from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The entire event will take place on the Boardwalk. For parking, the Inlet parking lot will be available at no cost to participants. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the event. To register online – [www.octrirunning.com](http://www.octrirunning.com)
- To get into the holiday cheer, the Museum will host a Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 1st, 2019 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. **FREE ADMISSION**. It is a great opportunity to learn about the Museum and also see the old Life-Saving Station decked out in beautiful holiday decorations.
- 2020 is the Year of the Maryland Women! The spring of 2020 the OC Life-Saving Station Museum will feature A Feminine Touch: The Women of Ocean City. This exhibit will offer a glimpse into the trials and triumphs of influential women of Ocean City, Maryland from the 1800s through the 1990s. This exhibit is in support of the Maryland Office of Tourism celebration of the 100th Anniversary of women's right to vote in America.



From more information and a complete schedule of Museum events, please email [christine@ocmuseum.org](mailto:christine@ocmuseum.org) or visit [ocmuseum.org](http://ocmuseum.org).

## Why Not Work Where You Play?

A day at the office is like a day at the beach in the Town of Ocean City! Where else can you work and enjoy the Boardwalk breeze, soft sand, and fresh ocean air! Hundreds of seasonal positions are available so the Human Resources Department wants to know.....WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

### SEASONAL JOB OPENINGS:

Remember to sign up for Job Alerts by visiting [oceancitymd.com/enews](http://oceancitymd.com/enews).



**We will have several testing dates for interested candidates.**

**The dates include:**  
**November 16/17**  
**December 14/15**  
**January 4/5**  
**January 18/19**  
**February 8/9**

**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. Ocean City Police Officers and Custody Officers will be recruiting at seventy six (76) colleges and universities this fall. They will be recruiting for the Summer 2020 position for Seasonal Police Officer, Seasonal Public Safety Aide and Seasonal Communications Operator. 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)



**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](http://oceancitymd.gov).



#### Lifeguard Testing Locations:

- Salisbury University March 2020 Exact date TBA
- University of Maryland, College Park March 2020 Exact date TBA
- York College, York PA March 2020 Exact date TBA
- Ocean Pines April 26th
- Ocean City, MD May 30

**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 2020 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.

**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)

**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.

## Save the Date...Ocean City Upcoming Events:

### November

- NOV 9 Storm Warriors 5K Walk/Run – Inlet & Boardwalk  
NOV 21 DEC 31 Winterfest of Lights – Northside Park, 125th Street  
NOV 23 Light-Up Downtown Winter Festival – Boardwalk & Inlet  
FREE!  
NOV 23 Turkey Trot Golf Open – Eagle’s Landing Golf Course  
NOV 29 The Ten Tenors – Home for the Holidays – Performing  
Arts Center, 40th St.  
NOV 29-DEC 1 Holiday Shopper’s Fair – Convention Center,  
40th Street

### December

- DEC 1-31 Winterfest of Lights – Northside Park, 125th Street  
DEC 1 - Life-Saving Museum Holiday Open House – Life-Saving  
Station Museum FREE  
DEC 3 Pizza with Santa (registration required) – Northside Park,  
125th Street  
DEC 7 Oak Ridge Boys’ Christmas Celebration Tour OC  
Performing Arts Center, 40th Street  
DEC 7 OC Christmas Parade – Coastal Hwy from Old Landing  
Rd. to 120th St. FREE  
DEC 8 Mid-Atlantic Symphony “Holiday Joy: A Salute to the  
Music of the Big Band Orchestras” – Performing Arts  
Center, 40th Street

- DEC 13 Brian’s Christmas Songbook Featuring Mid-Atlantic  
Symphony Performing Arts Center, 40th Street  
DEC 14 Comic Con – Convention Center, 40th Street  
DEC 15 The Sussex Dance Academy presents, “The Nutcracker”  
Performing Arts Center, 40th Street  
DEC 28-29 Comedian, Yakov Smirnoff’s “Happily Ever Laughter” –  
Performing Arts Center, 40th Street  
DEC 31 New Year’s Eve Celebration and Fireworks – Northside  
Park, 125th St. FREE  
DEC 31 FREE New Year’s Eve Bus Service