



Report to Citizens

Town of Ocean City, Maryland

For Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2021



To the Citizens of Ocean City, Maryland:

The Town of Ocean City, Maryland (the “Town”) is not only a popular mid-Atlantic tourist destination; it’s a year-round and seasonal home to those who enjoy living on a slender barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and wide coastal bays.

The 2021 fiscal year began with much uncertainty, especially as COVID-19 continued to impact our lives in countless ways. For the Town, health and safety protocols, travel and capacity restrictions, worker shortages, and supply chain interruptions were just a few of the pandemic-related concerns during FY 2021. However, despite the challenges, the Town’s financial results for the fiscal year were as astounding as they were unexpected. This report details those results and how they were achieved.

The following pages summarize the Town’s finances as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021; showing how your tax dollars and service fees, as well as external grants and other funding sources, were utilized to provide the services you depend on and improve the Town’s service capacity for years to come. In addition to providing financial information, the purpose of this report is to communicate the financial results in an easily readable and understandable format.

The information presented in this report was taken directly from the Town’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ended June 30, 2021, which was prepared by the Finance Department. The financial statements included in the ACFR, audited by SB & Company, LLC, provide much more detail, explain certain terminology, and contain disclosures as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We invite you to read the ACFR by downloading it from the Town’s website at www.oceancitymd.gov.

MAYOR

Richard W. Meehan

CITY COUNCIL

Matthew M. James, President
Anthony J. DeLuca, Secretary
Peter S. Buas
John F. Gehrig, Jr

J. Franklin Knight
Lloyd Martin
Mark L. Paddack

CITY MANAGER

Douglas R. Miller

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Charles Bireley, CPA

Ocean City Fire Department

Over the past year, the Ocean City Fire Department (OCFD) accomplished several goals established during the creation of its strategic plan. These goals included providing life safety training to residents and visitors, improving response times during special events, and focusing on the health and wellness of the department's firefighters and EMS providers.

During June and July, the OCFD hosted its 2nd Annual Junior Fire Camp, where Town firefighters trained 106 children between the ages of seven to fourteen-years-old. During Junior Fire Camp, children were taught CPR, how to dial 9-1-1, what to do in case of a fire, and other life safety tips while learning team-building traits such as respect, honesty, and kindness.



OCFD BIKE TEAM

During special events and holidays, traffic increases and, at times, this can make it difficult for Town ambulances to navigate the roadways. To improve response times during special events, the department has developed a Bike Medic Program. The primary purpose of the OCFD Bike Team is to provide a rapid response of two fire department paramedics to a person in need of emergency services during special events and festivals, or any time large crowds are present. The bikes ridden by Team members are outfitted with advanced life support equipment, much like what is carried in an ambulance. The Team is prepared to treat a patient for various illnesses or injuries until an ambulance can reach the scene. The OCFD has 16 medics trained through the International Police Mountain Bike Association—EMS Cyclist course. This advanced course taught paramedics how to maneuver a fully loaded bicycle and perform essential bike maintenance and on-road repairs, and included night operations, scenarios, and defensive measures.



OCFD FIRE BOAT

The OCFD provides rescue swimmers during the summer and shoulder seasons for ocean and bay rescue emergencies. Additionally, the OCFD operates a rapid-response fire boat capable of responding to fires, rescues, and medical emergencies.



PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The department implemented a mental health and wellness initiative over the summer. This program was vital for OCFD members as firefighters and emergency medical responders are routinely eyewitnesses to scenes of catastrophic incidents involving severe injuries, the tragic loss of human life, and property loss. The cumulative effects of these exposures on emergency personnel can result in psychological injuries and even suicides. With the establishment of the OCFD PEER Support Team, department members have the necessary knowledge and skills to provide support to their peers, have a basic understanding of common behavioral health issues affecting the fire service, and serve as a bridge to community resources or behavioral health treatments when indicated. Nutrition and fitness are also part of the initiative, and Support Team members are more conscious of what they eat, prepare healthier meals, and work to stay physically fit. A fit and healthy firefighter and/or EMS provider means better service to Town residents and those who visit Ocean City.

Ocean City Bicycle & Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements



The Town of Ocean City hosts an increasingly larger group of bicyclists every year, with skill levels ranging from beginner cyclists to expert road bikers. Town staff has worked diligently to continually improve the safety and availability of biking facilities and, over the past few years, the Town has completed a number of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements with the support of Town Council and through the development of an Ocean City Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (OC BPAC).

The OC BPAC, now in its third year since its inception in July 2018 via Town Resolution 2018-12, consists of 11 members representing various Town departments (e.g., Engineering, Public Works, Police, and Planning & Zoning) as well as the Ocean City Development Corporation, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), Town businesses, Town residents, and a liaison to the Town Council. The purpose of the BPAC is to “advise and provide recommendations to Town officials and Town staff on all matters relating to the use of a bicycle as a means of transportation and recreation in Town.”

The Town recently completed specific bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvement projects: shared bike lanes and crosswalks on Assawoman Drive, Jamaica Avenue, and Wight Street; dedicated bike lanes and crosswalks on Sinepuxent Avenue. The Town also recently incorporated significant bike and pedestrian improvements to adhere to the Town’s “Complete Streets” policy while reconstructing the 139th Street, 141st Street, and Robin Drive corridors. The Town’s “Complete Streets” policy (adopted in November 2018) officially established the Town’s past and ongoing efforts to take all road users into account when reconstructing travel corridors.

The BPAC has developed many new bike infrastructure and safety improvements in Town, including a “Lights on Bikes” program, oceanside street-end bike racks, coordination of biking events, biking education for J-1 visa students, and more. The BPAC is currently working with Town staff and an engineering consultant on developing a strategic biking plan focusing on improving biking infrastructure in several Town corridors. This strategic biking plan is set to be completed in May 2022.

In addition to Town and OC BPAC efforts, the SHA has been working hard to improve biking safety in and around Ocean City as the state recently completed the new “Hiker/Biker Trail” extending from Stephen Decatur Highway (Maryland Route 611) to the west abutment of the Harry W. Kelley Memorial Bridge. The SHA also officially designated the western sidewalk on South Philadelphia Avenue as a “shared-use path,” which allows bicyclists to legally ride their bikes on this sidewalk area.

Economic Highlights

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge and impact the Town’s operations during FY 2021, the fiscal year was a successful one for the Town, financially, primarily due to a combination of federal stimulus funds, pent-up demand, and favorable weather.

Capacity restrictions necessary to adhere to health and safety guidelines severely limited bus and tram operations and contributed to the cancellation or postponement of many events that were scheduled to be held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. The resulting revenue reductions for transportation and the convention center, while significant, were offset by over \$1.1 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds and over \$6.8 million awarded to the Town as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (half of which was received during the fiscal year).

With international and even domestic travel hampered by COVID-19, many people, including those with “pandemic fatigue,” were drawn to Ocean City’s 10 miles of clean beaches, 2.5-mile-long boardwalk, and numerous open-air dining options. As a result, room and food tax collections rebounded from the prior fiscal year. Room taxes increased nearly \$3.5 million from FY 2020 to FY 2021—a 23% gain. This increase was aided by a full year of collections at a 5% tax rate (increased from 4.5% beginning in January 2020); however, gross room sales during FY 2021 were 4.7% higher than FY 2019, the most recent pre-pandemic year.

Eagle’s Landing, the Town’s golf course, typically utilizes a General Fund subsidy to help pay for operating costs. The closure of several competing courses, great weather, and the early easing of pandemic-related restrictions for golf courses helped contribute to a solid year for Eagle’s Landing. The course posted a \$554,286 profit for FY 2021, with no General Fund advance necessary to maintain operations.

The financial information in this report distinguishes functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, **governmental activities**, from **utilities and business services**, which are intended to cover their costs primarily from user fees and charges. The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, general public works and beach maintenance, sanitation and waste removal, highways and streets, economic development (tourism), recreation and culture, and construction of capital assets. The utilities and business services of the Town include water, wastewater, transportation, the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, the Ocean City Municipal Airport, and Eagle’s Landing Golf Course.

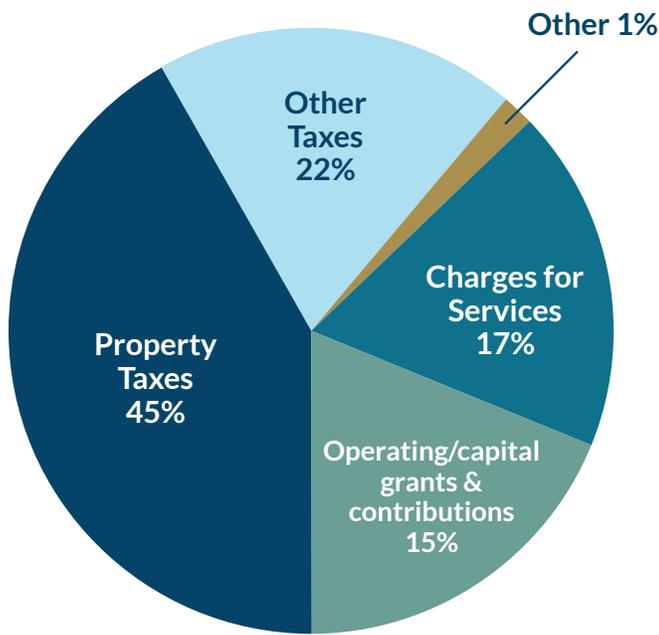
Governmental Activities

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

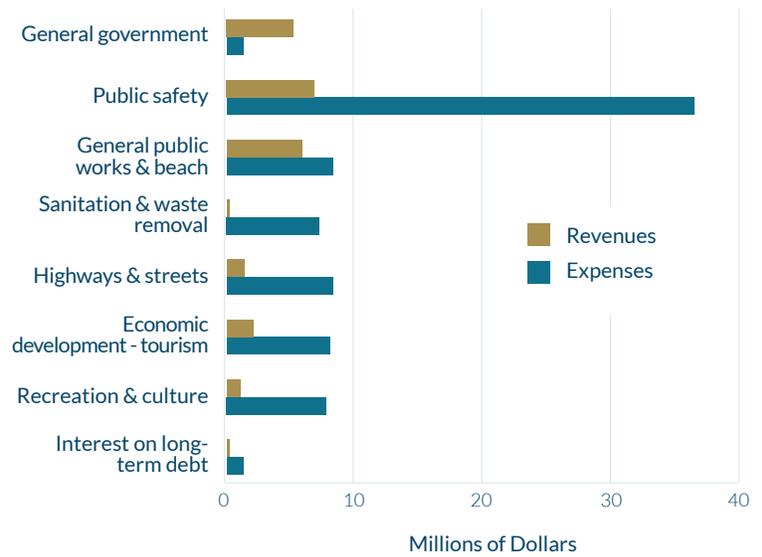
The following table shows where the money for governmental activities came from and how it was spent during the last two fiscal years:

SOURCES OF MONEY			USES OF MONEY		
	2021	2020		2021	2020
REVENUE			EXPENSES		
Program Revenue:			General government	\$258,640	\$1,005,541
Charges for services	\$16,375,491	\$16,408,322	Public safety	36,162,036	41,931,460
Operating grants and contributions	4,145,643	3,335,627	General public works & beach	7,565,437	7,947,190
Capital grants and contributions	164,623	-	Sanitation & waste removal	6,856,099	6,709,292
General Revenue:			Highway & streets	7,578,264	8,901,892
Property taxes	44,753,212	45,095,552	Economic development - tourism	7,300,049	8,346,286
Other taxes	22,049,614	18,675,635	Recreation & culture	7,691,127	7,933,083
Grant & contributions not restricted to specific programs	10,687,803	3,456,150	Interest on long-term debt	1,322,736	1,496,052
Other revenue	1,208,640	2,149,731	Total Expenses	\$74,734,388	\$84,270,796
Total Revenue	\$99,385,026	\$89,121,017	Change in net position before transfers	24,650,638	4,850,221
			Transfers to other funds	(3,848,044)	(4,285,459)
			Change in net position	\$20,802,594	\$564,762

The following chart illustrates the allocation of governmental activities' revenue by source:



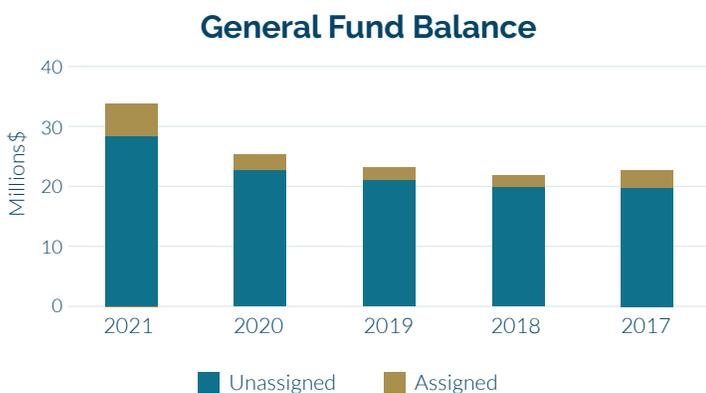
The following graph indicates the service fees and expenses of governmental activities, showing the extent to which the governmental functions produce revenue to offset their program costs. Expenses not covered by direct program revenue and fees are covered primarily by taxes, licenses, and state and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



The change in net position (similar to a private entity's "net income") for the Town's governmental activities during FY 2021 was an increase of \$20.8 million. Additional revenue from federal grants and room taxes, as discussed previously, contributed to the increase in net position; however, the primary reason for the change was a significant decrease in expenses related to the Town's pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) plans, which is explained later in this report.

Readers of the Town's financial statements are often interested in analyzing the performance and fund balance of the General Fund, which is the primary fund that supports the governmental activities of the Town. Financial reporting for the General Fund focuses on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources, which is useful in evaluating the Town's current financial needs. Fund balance is the difference between the assets (including future outflows) and liabilities (including future inflows) for governmental funds and is a key measure of financial health. There are five potential components to fund balance—Nonspendable, Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned. The nonspendable portion cannot be spent, typically due to its form; restricted amounts often have external or legal limitations imposed on them; committed fund balance has been formally designated by the Town's governing body; the assigned portion is for planned uses; and the unassigned amount is everything that's left over and is available for future purposes and emergencies. The unassigned fund balance can be thought of as the General Fund's "savings account." It's the Town's policy to maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance equal to 15% of the General Fund's total annual expenditures. The unassigned fund balance percentage as of June 30, 2021, was 36.9%.

The following graph shows the Town's unassigned and assigned fund balances for the General Fund over the last five fiscal years:



Utilities & Business Services

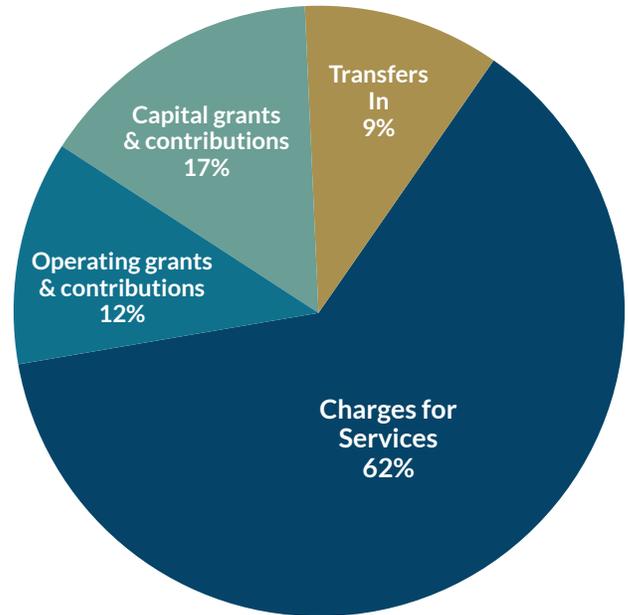
The Town operates two utilities and four "businesses" and accounts for their activities similar to businesses in the private sector. Operating revenue and expenses result from providing services and delivering goods. The Water Fund operates the water treatment plants and distribution system; the Wastewater 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.

The following table, on page 6, shows where the money for utilities and business services came from and how it was spent during the last two fiscal years:

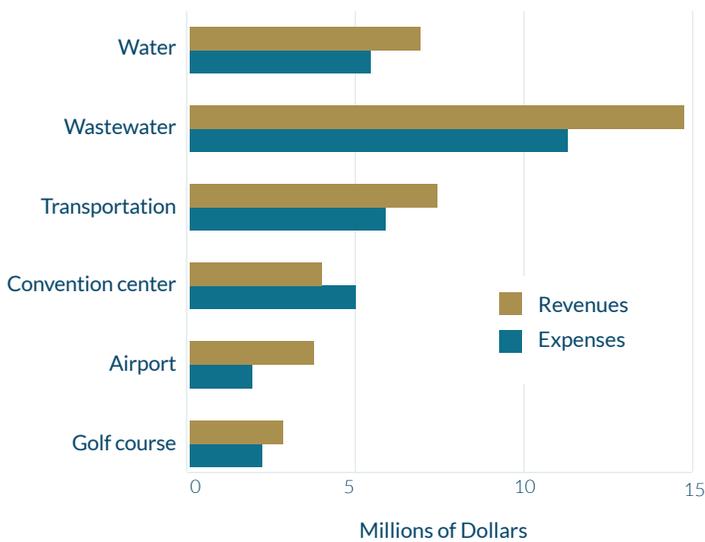
UTILITIES & BUSINESS SERVICES

The following chart illustrates the allocation of business-type activities' revenue by source:

	2021	2020
SOURCES OF MONEY:		
Charges for services	\$26,682,400	\$27,790,625
Operating grants and contributions	5,230,089	3,827,761
Capital grants and contributions	7,239,346	10,829,317
Other revenue	49,507	468,348
Total Revenue	39,201,342	42,916,051
USES OF MONEY:		
Water	5,600,246	6,030,102
Wastewater	11,284,560	12,873,389
Transportation	6,027,237	7,276,681
Convention Center	5,197,788	5,918,274
Airport	1,620,583	3,255,852
Golf Course	2,043,049	2,371,013
Total Expenses	31,773,463	37,725,311
Change in net position before transfers	7,427,879	5,190,740
Transfers	3,848,044	4,285,459
Change in net position	\$11,275,923	\$9,476,199



The following graph indicates the degree to which expenses are covered by charges for services to customers, operating grants, and capital grants for utilities and business services.



The Water, Wastewater, Transportation, Airport, and Golf Course Funds were self-supporting and user fees, grants, or reserves covered all costs during FY 2021. The operations of the Convention Center Fund were subsidized by the General Fund.

The change in net position for the Town's utilities and business services during FY 2021 was an increase of nearly \$11.3 million. Substantial decreases in pension and OPEB expenses benefitted all of the Town's business-type funds. The Water and Wastewater Funds saw increased revenue from impact fees related to new construction. The Transportation Fund suffered a large decrease in charges for services due to reduced bus and tram operations; however, these losses were offset somewhat by the corresponding reductions in operating expenses, as well as federal stimulus funds. The Airport Fund received nearly \$1.5 million more in capital contributions in FY 2021 than during the prior fiscal year, and saw a large decrease in operating expenses. As detailed previously in this report, the Golf Course Fund had a banner fiscal year with a substantial increase in revenue.

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 1.92% to 5.00% and are typically paid off in 10 to 20 years. At the end of FY 2021, the Town owed \$93,745,425 in debt principal. \$49,156,408 of the debt, or 52%, will be paid from service fees from business-type activities and the tax on food and beverages. At June 30, 2021, there was \$2,925,283 reserved from food tax receipts to pay principal and interest on bonds for the convention center included in the above amount. The remaining \$44,589,017 in debt principal will be paid from general tax revenues and fees.

Why sell bonds? By selling bonds, especially tax-exempt offerings, the Town is able to obtain financing at favorable interest rates. This spreads the cost of projects over many years and ensures that taxpayers and those benefitting from a project pay it off during its useful life, as opposed to front-loading the total costs onto your tax bill in one year.

The Town has several pension plans that its employees participate in and has made a commitment to the employees to fund their future pensions. Employees contribute 5-9% of their pay to the plans and the Town funds its portion of the liability over a determined number of years. The Town also maintains an OPEB trust to fund retiree health benefits.

As mentioned previously in this report, primary factors in the Town-wide increase in net position during FY 2021 were the favorable experience and investment results of the Town’s post-employment plans. Depending on the plan, annual or biennial actuarial studies are done to evaluate each plan’s terms, assumptions, expected-versus-actual experience, and to determine the annual Town contribution necessary to properly fund the plans over a prescribed period of time. The total Town liability for both pension plans held fairly steady from FY 2020; however, the return on investments for the plans was over 22%, which was well above the 1.86% return seen during FY 2020 and far exceeded the annual target return of 7%. Because of this, the net amount that will need to be funded by the Town for the pension plans decreased by \$23.4 million during the fiscal year. The OPEB plan also posted a sizeable investment gain in FY 2021, with a 21.49% return. This return, combined with a \$6.5 million decrease in the total OPEB liability due to favorable assumption changes and experience results, led to a reduction in the Town’s net OPEB liability of nearly \$14.4 million.

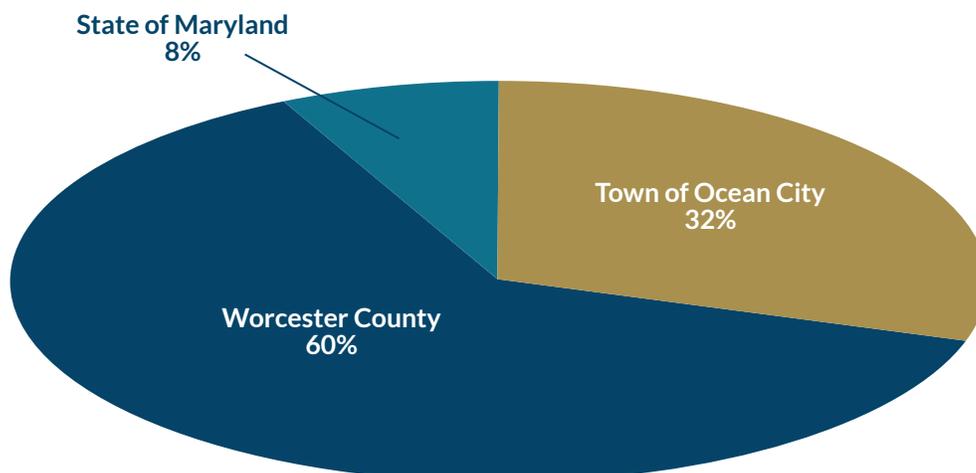
As of June 30, 2021, the net OPEB liability for the Town was \$6,280,499 (down nearly 70% from FY 2020), and the net pension liability for the Town’s pension plans was \$7,953,886 (a 74.6% decrease from the prior fiscal year). The large reduction in all of the Town’s post-employment liabilities created negative pension and OPEB expenses (effectively reducing the Town’s total expenses) for FY 2021, which was a key component of the Town’s increase in net position for the fiscal year.

WHERE WE STOOD ON JUNE 30, 2021

The Town’s Statement of Net Position provides a “snapshot” of where we stood financially on June 30, 2021, the last day of the fiscal year. Net position represents the Town’s spendable resources and ownership (equity) in assets, such as the Town’s land, infrastructure, and buildings. The following table summarizes the Town’s net position by activity as of June 30, 2021:

	Governmental 2021	Business-Type 2021	Total 2021	Change from 2020
Cash and current assets	\$62,221,216	\$32,105,410	\$94,326,626	1.2%
Capital assets	112,279,678	159,817,861	272,097,539	5.0
Future outflows of resources	1,091,555	142,026	1,233,581	-89.4
Current and future amounts “owned”	175,592,449	192,065,297	367,657,746	1.0
Long-term liabilities outstanding	64,344,419	55,347,519	119,691,938	-28.4
Other liabilities	10,047,038	4,256,533	14,303,571	-5.5
Future inflows of resources	23,494,021	6,646,084	30,140,105	197.8
Current and future amounts “owed”	97,885,478	66,250,136	164,135,614	-14.7
<i>Equity (amounts “owned” less amounts “owed”):</i>				
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	66,130,826	115,219,474	181,350,300	4.2
Restricted for paying debt	-	2,925,283	2,925,283	-4.5
Unrestricted	11,576,145	7,670,404	19,246,549	N/A
Total equity	\$77,706,971	\$125,815,161	\$203,522,132	18.7%

The following chart illustrates how a typical Town taxpayer’s real property tax bill is allocated, based on the tax rates assessed by each jurisdiction:



Report to Citizens

OPERATING INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Year-round residents	6,944
Registered voters	6,523
Average summer population	301,275

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Construction permits issued	2,166
Estimated value of construction	\$68,894,340

SOLID WASTE:

Trash processed and recycled (tons)	34,603
-------------------------------------	--------

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus passengers	697,703
----------------	---------

WASTEWATER:

Average daily treatment (gallons)	5,713,000
Avg. daily summer treatment (gals.)	8,938,000
Plant's daily capacity (gallons)	14,000,000

TOURISM AND RECREATION:

Seasonal Beach Patrol personnel	203
---------------------------------	-----

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

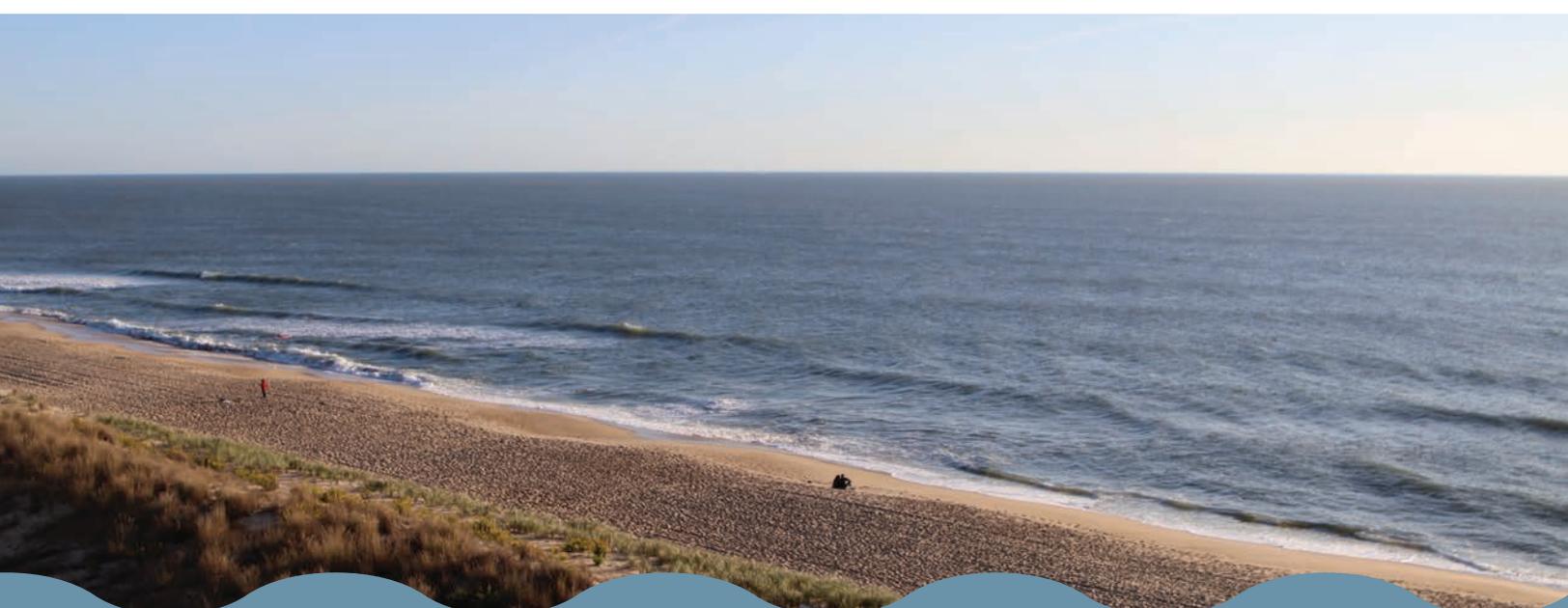
Fire responses	1,118
Ambulance responses	5,194
Fire Marshal inspections	1,395
Fire investigations	675
Volunteer Firemen, Life Honor, Gold Badge	225
Classified Emergency Medical Technicians/Fighters	44
Seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians	68

PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE:

Total arrests	3,032
Parking violations	2,659
Classified officers	112
Seasonal officers	45

WATER:

Average daily consumption (gallons)	4,030,000
Plant's 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



PAY BILLS ONLINE

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

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

Account Number
Phone Number
Name
Email Address

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

Fall Newsletter 2021

Town of Ocean City, Maryland



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 10** *Winterfest and Events*
- 11** *Art League & Renting Your Property*
- 12** *Job Openings*
- 13** *Rec & Parks Winter Programs*
- 14** *Major Initiatives*
- 15** *Flood Protection*
- 16** *Event Calendar*

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 or find us on social media.

Winterfest & Other Events

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**



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.

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. 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 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

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

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 Learn more at 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

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.



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.

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
ZONE A
ZONE 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 oceancitymd.gov/enews 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/ or email: 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 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.
- 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, or Bill Neville – Floodplain Manager 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

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

