



The Greater Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce

Things You Need to Know This Week

September 24

Member Notice

Special Event Zone in Ocean City Through Sept. 26



In anticipation of the unsanctioned pop-up car rally, Ocean City has established a Special Event Zone that will be in place through September 26, intended to help deter dangerous driving and motor violations by lowering speed limits and increasing fines and penalties. Significant traffic congestion, alternate traffic patterns, a high volume of pedestrians and a heavy police presence is anticipated throughout the weekend. Similar to a Construction Zone, violators of the Special Event Zone will face increased fines, or in some cases arrest.

Residents and visitors can access FAQs about the pop-up car rally, as well as the Special Event Zone that will be in effect on the [Town of Ocean City's website](https://www.oceancitymd.gov/special-event-zone).

Town of Ocean City Alerts to Virtual Hearings on September 28 & 30 Hosted by the Public Service Commission on Offshore Wind Projects

Our 10 mile, beautifully maintained beach and three-mile historic Boardwalk often rank among the nation's top beaches, offering families like yours the perfect place to relax and enjoy the naturally beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately, our natural viewshed is in danger

of being changed forever.

As you may or may not know, two companies are planning to build offshore wind farms directly off of Delaware and Maryland beaches. This project will forever change the natural beauty of our beach, not only for us but for future generations. These companies are now proposing to expand these projects to add over 150 turbines beyond what has already been approved. One company, US Wind, proposes to construct 104 turbines as close as 13 miles from our beach.

Other states have taken steps to protect their coastal communities from the harmful visual impact of these projects. For example:

- New York requires that these giant turbines be at least 20 miles from shore
- Virginia's closest turbines are 27 miles from shore.
- The Kitty Hawk project off the North Carolina Outer Banks closest turbines are 30 miles from shore.

We think Maryland should do the same by requiring that these supersized offshore wind turbines be at least 30 miles from our coast. This distance would allow the project to continue without having any impact on our viewshed, our tourism, our home values, our economy and future generations.

The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold two virtual public comment hearings on the applications submitted by two offshore wind developers under Maryland's Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019 (CEJA). The CEJA provisions called for an additional 1,200 MW of offshore wind generation in order to meet Maryland's clean energy goals.

The hearings will be held on Tuesday, September 28 and Thursday, September 30, 2021, each beginning at 6pm. Members of the public who wish to comment should send an email by **noon TODAY, Friday, September 24** to susan.howard@maryland.gov. Participants should indicate which day they would like to speak and will receive a link to the WebEx platform to join that day's hearing. The hearings will also be livestreamed.

[**Maryland Public Service Commission Letter**](#)

[**More Info on OC Supports Green & Unseen Wind Farms**](#)

Businesses: Encourage Your Guests to Complete the Ocean City Visitor Survey by September 30

The Town of Ocean City's Tourism & Business Development Office is conducting a visitor survey to collect 'intercept' information. This baseline perceptions survey will help us better understand our visitors.

Your participation is valuable in helping us create the ultimate Ocean City experience for future visitors. Please print and display the attached infographic in a visible location and encourage your patrons to complete the survey online or on paper. The infographic includes a QR code to www.OCMDSURVEY.com. **Everyone who completes the survey will be automatically entered into a drawing for a chance to win a randomly selected \$50 Amazon gift card each week.**

Surveys will be collected through September 30. We are confident that this questionnaire will provide us with valuable insight and look forward to sharing the findings with you. We hope to receive a strong response and your partnership is key to its success.

[Ocean City Visitor Survey Graphic](#)

Join the OC Chamber & CQI Associates Commercial Energy Purchasing Cooperative by October 1

By joining the Commercial Energy Purchasing Cooperative, you increase the purchasing power for all members, resulting in more affordable and consistent electric and natural gas rates. As a member, your organization's energy prices will be significantly lower than it is purchasing power as an individual business. There are NO FEES to join. One application covers ALL of your electricity and natural gas accounts for ALL locations. The Fall Campaign runs through October 1.

[Learn More About the Commercial Energy Co-Op](#)

Maryland Relief Act Grants Online Sales & Teleworking Support Grant Program; Application Deadline October 1

Funding for the Worcester County Online Sales and Teleworking Support Grant Program is provided by the State of Maryland Relief Act, and the Maryland Department of Commerce to assist Worcester County businesses with expenses related to establishing or expanding online sales and/or offering employees telework opportunities during COVID-19 (after March 9, 2021).

Grant Process

Please submit a complete and accurate online application with all required supporting documentation by **5:00 p.m. on October 1, 2021**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Please also verify that you are in good standing with the state of MD

[Register Your Business Online | Maryland.gov](#)

Click the link below for the application and submit to Worcester County Government- Kim Reynolds- One West Market Street Room 1103 Snow Hill, MD 21863 or Fax 410-632-3131

[Worcester County Small Business Online Sales/Telework Assistance Grant](#)

Please Complete the 2021 J-1 Exchange Visitor Host Impact Survey by October 8

In partnership with the Alliance for International Exchange, **InterExchange Work & Travel USA** is surveying businesses to gather data on how the reduced number of J-1 Visa Exchange Visitors have impacted local seasonal businesses. The deadline for the survey is **Friday, October 8th 6pm.**

Host businesses for the J-1 Summer Work Travel program are encouraged to fill out a survey to collect aggregate industry data to demonstrate how the reduction in number of Summer Work Travel participants impacts seasonal businesses in Maryland. The survey will take no more than 7 minutes to complete.

[Take the survey](#)

Advance Your Career or Upgrade Your Skills - Apply for Our Eunice Q. Sorin Workforce Scholarship by October 30

If you live or work in Worcester County and want to advance your career or upgrade your skills, apply for the Eunice Q. Sorin Workforce Scholarship. The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Foundation developed the Eunice Q. Sorin Scholarship to enhance workforce and economic development in our region. This scholarship is also made possible by the fundraising efforts of the Young Professionals of Ocean City. **The deadline to apply is October 30, 2021.**

[Apply for the Eunice Q. Sorin Workforce Scholarship](#)

[Workforce Scholarship Flyer](#)

In Partnership With

