



Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce

Things You Need to Know This Week

February 24, 2023

Member Notice

[2023 Actively Monitored Legislation Update](#)



The OC Chamber maintains an Actively Monitored Legislation list that impacts our region and member businesses. We have an active Government Relations Committee as well as a contracted lobbyist, Dennis Rasmussen, who works on our behalf in Annapolis. The committee maintains contact with our Eastern Shore delegation as well as federal representatives on issues that could impact our membership.

Save Restaurant Server Tips! Send an Email to Legislators Today!



The Maryland General Assembly is considering [Senate Bill 803](#) and [House Bill 1256](#), which would phase out Maryland's tip credit and ultimately require full-service restaurants to pay tipped employees a minimum tip wage of \$15/hour instead of the \$3.63/hour allowed under current law. This would be devastating to full-service restaurants and would significantly reduce the earnings of tipped employees as most restaurants would be forced to replace customary tipping with a service charge due to the higher labor cost. A public hearing on this bill has been scheduled for March 2nd.

WE NEED TIPPED EMPLOYEES TO CONTACT LEGISLATORS NOW to help defeat this legislation that jeopardizes their tips. Full-service restaurants should share this important information with tipped employees and ask that they immediately contact lawmakers as part of our efforts to save restaurant server tips!

Tipped employees can [CLICK HERE](#) to easily send a message to their legislators (*this link will automatically identify legislative representatives using the address and zip code provided by servers and includes template message text that servers can also personalize*). Hearing directly from tipped employees is a CRUCIAL part of our efforts to persuade lawmakers to defeat this proposal.

Think Spring! Think OC Chamber Visitor Elerts!

Think Spring! Think OC Chamber Visitor Elerts!

Spring is almost here - promote your St. Patrick's Day weekend specials in the Ocean City Chamber Visitor Elerts! Reach 20,000+ potential visitors who have expressed an interest in Ocean City and shared their email addresses with us.

CONTENT DEADLINE IS WED., MARCH 1ST BY NOON

VISITOR ELERT SCHEDULE

| Month | Visitor Elert Send Date | Deadline to Submit Request & Flyer |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| March | Tuesday, March 7 | Weds, March 1 by Noon |
| April | Tuesday, April 4 | Weds, March 29 by Noon |

Want to promote your St. Patrick's Day specials in the March 7 OC Chamber Visitor Elert? Submit content by March 1!

ACTION ITEMS FOR YOU:

- [Submit your request to Jill Brady, E-Marketing Manager](#)
- Submit a completed flyer (pdf) or web link that details your special
- Submit your logo (minimum 200px x 180px)
- Content deadline is March 1
- Cost: Listing = \$85; Leaderboard Ad = \$115; Partner Spotlight = \$150

[Join the OC Chamber & CQI Associates Commercial Energy Purchasing Cooperative by March 3](#)



JOIN THE CHAMBER ENERGY PURCHASING COOPERATIVE

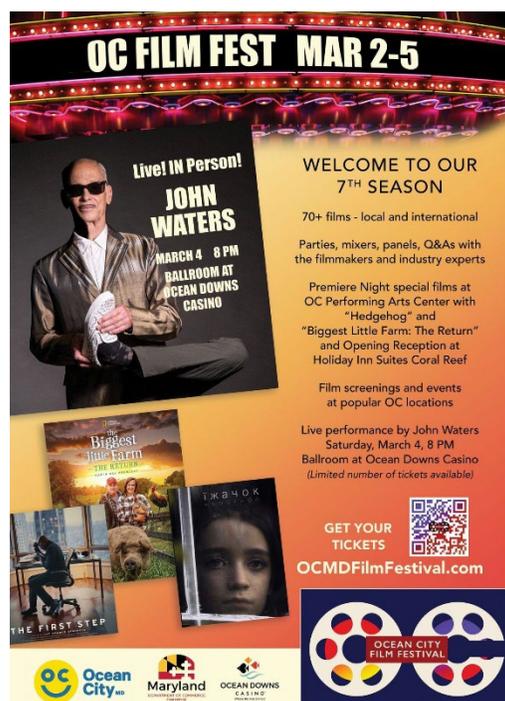
Combine your usage with other members to receive lower rates

To learn more and schedule a FREE energy bill analysis, call 443-472-3870 or email joe@cqiassociates.com

The war and the economy continue to escalate utility prices to historic levels. Join The Chamber Energy Co-Op today! The OC Chamber has partnered with nationally recognized energy management experts and consultants, CQI Associates, to run the cooperative. The Chamber Energy Co-Op program provides competitive electric and natural gas rates for your business and your home.

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's purchasing power as an individual business. There are NO FEES to join. One application covers ALL your electricity and natural gas accounts for ALL locations. **The Spring Campaign runs through March 3.**

[Take Your Seat at the Ocean City Film Festival March 2-5!](#)



OC FILM FEST MAR 2-5

Live! IN Person!
JOHN WATERS
MARCH 4 8 PM
BALLROOM AT OCEAN DOWNS CASINO

WELCOME TO OUR 7TH SEASON

70+ films - local and international

Parties, mixers, panels, Q&As with the filmmakers and industry experts

Premiere Night special films at OC Performing Arts Center with "Hedgehog" and "Biggest Little Farm: The Return" and Opening Reception at Holiday Inn Suites Coral Reef

Film screenings and events at popular OC locations

Live performance by John Waters
Saturday, March 4, 8 PM
Ballroom at Ocean Downs Casino
(Limited number of tickets available)

GET YOUR TICKETS
OCMDFilmFestival.com

OC Ocean City
Maryland STATE OF MARYLAND
OCEAN DOWNS CASINO

OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Passes are now on sale for the 7th annual Ocean City Film Festival March 2nd-5th! Over 70 films from local and international film makers will be showing plus parties, mixers, panels, and filmmaker Q&As!

Make plans to attend opening night of the Film Festival on Thursday, March 2 at the PAC Center: \$10 locals' night, pay at the door.

The OC Chamber is a proud sponsor of the Ocean City Film Festival and we have 4-day passes to give away (\$125 value) on our EXPERIENCE OC APP CHALLENGE!!



1. Download the Experience OC app and choose "Challenges." **Download on the [App store](#) or [Google Play](#).**
2. Check in at 4 locations by 2/28 to be entered into a drawing to win a pass! The members listed in the challenge will be hosting film festival events.
3. Check your email on Feb. 28th to see if you've won!

Want to be added to Senior Week Accommodations List?



We are receiving calls about senior week and updating the list of properties that welcome graduating seniors. The document is available to the public on our website. Contact Kathy Smith at Kathy@oceancity.org or 410-213-0552 if you would like to be added.

Make Plans to Attend These Upcoming Chamber Events!

[March Alive after 5 on Thursday, March 2](#)



Time to unwind, wear your green and network with fellow OC Chamber members at the Greene Turtle West OC on Thursday, March 2 from 5-7pm! There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres, drink specials, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing.

[OC Chamber Annual Awards Celebration on March 3](#)



We are excited to celebrate our honorees at the OC Chamber Annual Awards Celebration on Friday, March 3, 5:30-10pm at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Bayfront Ballroom.

We will be honoring the following recipients:

- Lifetime Achievement: **John Fager, Fager's Island/Hotels at Fager's Island/Bad Monkey**
- Business Person of the Year: **Glenn Irwin, Ocean City Development Corporation**
- Citizen of the Year: **Bob Rothermel, Special Events Productions**
- Young Professional of the Year: **Rush Stehley, Taustin Group**

- First Responder of the Year: **Galen Curtis, Ocean City Fire Department**
- Nonprofit of the Year: **Joshua M. Freeman Foundation**

Your ticket includes a plated surf & turf dinner, champagne toast and 2 drink tickets. If you wish to purchase additional drinks, please note that the Convention Center is cashless so bring your debit/credit card!

A new feature this year will be the Mystery Wine Pull station for \$25/bottle (collected by the OC Chamber so payable by cash or credit card).

Dance the night away to music by local band Teenage Rust and continue the party by staying in town! Book a discounted courtesy block hotel room at either The Aloft on 45th St. or Hampton Inn & Suites on 43rd St.

[Book at The Aloft Ocean City](#)

To Book at Hampton Inn & Suites Bayfront, call 410-524-6263 and select option 0.

[Email Colby Noble](#) or call 410-213-0144 x110 for more information.

In Partnership With



Please contact the Chamber for additional information
(410) 213-0144 | mychamber@oceancity.org | www.oceancity.org