



September 2016

Hospitality Hotline

Connecting the industry through
Advocacy, Education and Partnerships

News from...
SUSAN JONES,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OC Bikefest Rollin' Into Town

Many thanks to Kathy Michael and her team for developing an outstanding entertainment line-up. The inlet will be in full swing with bands like Styx, KIX, Slaughter, Autograph, 3 Doors Down, Candlebox to name a few! Also at the inlet, vendors, an artisan bike show, stunt shows and a Nascar simulator. It takes a lot of work to make sure this event flows smoothly; make sure you roll out the welcome mat and thank the promoter for keeping the event in our City! Please post **Welcome Bikefest** on your marquee!

Paid Sick Leave

Recently we met with the Chamber and the MD Retailers Association to discuss paid sick leave. This issue is predicted to return to 2017 Legislative Session as it was close to passing this year. We are working together to gather opinions and develop a unified voice. Among the discussion was striving to change the definition of part-time from 8 hours per week to 30 hours, to push the current 14 employee threshold to be in line with the federal number of 50 and to push the 90 day to 120 days. It will be CRITICAL for businesses to make the trek to Annapolis to testify before committee hearings. They are used to hearing from lobbyists and may tune them out, but when they see constituents in front of them, it is much more impactful!

Facts about school after Labor Day

- There will be no impact on the learning experience of students with a post-Labor Day start. A 19-member, non-partisan legislative task force found no evidence of an impact on students' learning experience and teachers' ability to plan an perform their duties.

- An overwhelming 71-percent of Marylanders support a post-Labor Day Start.

- Starting school after Labor Day has wide bipartisan support – two Governors, the Comptroller, and 57 Republican and Democratic legislators.

- There is absolutely no cost for Maryland taxpayers for a post-Labor Day start.

- Beginning school after Labor Day would provide families with additional time together, and generate millions of dollars in economic activity and revenue for our state and local government.

- School Starting after Labor Day could generate an additional \$74.3 million in direct economic activity, including \$3.7 million in new wages.

- Students will still be finished the year in early to mid-June. Governor Hogan's Executive Order requires that the school year be completed on June 15th.

- Inclement weather days will not extend the school year beyond acceptable boundaries. School systems will continue to have the ability to submit waiver requests to the State Department of Education.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY CLICKING HERE!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE BY CLICKING HERE!

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C2ES RESILIENCE SURVEY

Small- and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of Maryland's economy and can be affected by extreme weather events and climate change. The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) is conducting research on businesses in Maryland, and will use the information gathered in the survey to identify what information and resources are needed by Maryland businesses to minimize the impact and be more resilient to extreme weather and climate change. We're interested in hearing how your business has dealt with these events, and challenges you have faced.

This survey will only take a maximum of 10-15 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. In addition, if you

give us your email, you will be entered in a chance to win one of five \$100 gift card prizes! Please be assured that we will not share your email or use your survey answers in any way other than for our aggregated research.

Take the survey by clicking here. We will be collecting survey responses until September 30, 2016.

Feel free to forward this survey to anyone in the small- or medium-sized business community in Maryland. If you have any questions about the survey or how it will be used, please contact Katy Maher at maherk@c2es.org.



Congrats to **Don Chesser** and **EMR** on their expansion into Tidewater and Hampton Roads Virginia Regions. Congratulations to **Kim Wooteon** who was promoted to Director of Sales at the **Grand Hotel** and **Neil Little**, new sales manager. Congrats to the team at **Delaware Elevator** on celebrating 70 years. The **Microtel** in West Ocean City is now open- congrats to owners **Michelle and Paul Abu-Zaid**. Welcome **Dan Hallon**, new local Account Executive for

Comcast. Welcome back **Mark Huey**, who is joining **Worcester County Tourism** as their social media coordinator. Congrats to **G. Hale Harrison**, who was appointed to the **MD Tourism Development Board**. Great employee adventure to celebrate the start of second season! **The Pocomoke River Conoe Company** is offering **10% off** all paddling adventures when anyone mentions that they work for a member of OCHMRA!

Condolences to **Melanie Collins**, Ocean City Visitors Center, on the passing of her brother, **Doug Baker**.



You're invited to a Ribbon Cutting

Eastern Shore Self Storage, located behind Eastern Shore Coffee & Water

September 20 4:30-6:30PM

Refreshments will be served



On September 10 from 1 om-5pm, overlooking Assawoman Bay, the **8th Annual Brews on the Beach Craft Beer Festival** will feature live music and local beer from one of 12 or more Shore breweries. Food will be available for purchase throughout the Brews on the Beach Fest. There will be brewers and brewery reps on hand to discuss the art of making beer, as well as, specifics on the beers you will be sampling. This event is the oldest OC craft beer festival and is hosted by the fine folks at Fin City Brewing. Until September 7th, the price is \$25 for unlimited tastes from available brewers. After that, the online price will be \$30. (ShoreCraftBeerFest.com) Tickets will be \$35 at the door. The event is under a big tent ~ rain or shine!



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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SUSAN CROPPER



Born and raised in Worcester County, Susan Cropper is an HMRA legend. One of the "original" HMRA founding ladies, Susan served as President in 1977-78. It is fair to say that we would not exist today without the dedication in the early days of Susan Cropper. She took on the task of organizing membership and dinner meetings, as well as diligently working for many, many years on the tradeshow. Her interest in the Association has never waned, she often attended meetings upon meetings and phones regularly to stay in touch. In 1985, Susan was pleased to have received the Paul Hazard Award, which is named in honor of the late Paul Hazard, third President of Association. This award is not presented annually, only occasionally, to recognize outstanding community service and dedication. In 2007, she was named a "Steel Magnolia," otherwise known as a lady pioneer of hospitality. Through her hospitality years, she owned the Misty Harbor, Kings Arms and Empress Motels. Upon retirement, she was happy to have a summer off! Currently, she enjoys her grandchildren, Myra and Hugh Thomas. One of her favorite activities remains shopping trips. She is also staying busy as the Treasurer at the Rackliffe Plantation House Museum.

TRAILER PARKING INFO FOR OC BIKEFEST

Ocean City has given the producers of OC BikeFest permission to sell the Trailer Parking Permit to our customers at a cost of \$50/per permit which would allow trailers and oversized vehicles to park Wednesday through Sunday, September 14 – 18, 2016, on any street or parking lot appropriately marked, except for Baltimore Avenue.



In an effort to accommodate customers who may be planning to arrive early, OC BikeFest has partnered with Jolly Roger Park, 2901 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842, to make parking available from Sunday, September 11th through Sunday, September 18th. [Click here for all the rates and information](#)

CRUZAN THE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP DAY
SEPT 13TH 2016
12:30-5PM
FISH TALES

As the second season will be upon us, this is a great opportunity for businesses, friends and clubs to form a small team to pick up debris around the marshes and side streets.

The cost for the event, at least an hour or two of your time dedicated to helping keep our bays clean by picking up debris. Registration will begin at 12:30 at Fish Tales. You'll need to register your location, sign a waiver and pick up your bags and gloves. Clean up can be by land or by sea.

[MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)



DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A
2016 Maryland Department of Agriculture



MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LAUNCHES 'MD'S BEST RESTAURANT' PROMOTION

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Maryland's Best program is launching a new state-wide seasonal promotion with restaurants. Maryland's Best is the source to find the best local food and products from Maryland farmers. The promotion, "Maryland's Best Restaurants" runs August through October, encouraging restaurants to source, purchase, prepare with, and promote local Maryland specialty crops on their menus and online.

"We're encouraging restaurants to buy from and promote their support of local farmers who are now offering seasonal specialty crops, such as melons, tomatoes, and sweet corn," said Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder. "Restaurants participating in this campaign will not only appeal to customers who want to eat local but also contribute to the economic growth of Maryland."

Participating restaurants can sign up at <http://marylandsbest.net/marylands-best-restaurant-promotion>. Benefits include the following:

- Maryland's Best window decal, stickers and check inserts to publicize support
- Maryland's Best grocery bag for farmer's market shopping
- Maryland's Best Restaurants live link listing on Maryland's Best and mentioned on all MDsBest social media accounts

- Maryland's Best logo for use on restaurant web and social media sites
- Maryland's Best Restaurants listing on a future mobile app (software application) being developed by MDA for consumers to find eateries cooking with local produce

Using social media, the department is also encouraging Maryland restaurateurs to snap "selfies" with their favorite farmer, specialty crop and/or local summer produce menu item and post them on the Maryland's Best Facebook page and on Twitter using @MDsBest and the hash-tags: #BuyLocal, #FarmersMarket, #MDsBest #GetYourFreshOn. The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Maryland's Best program will monitor the contest to determine the restaurant with the most posts, to be announced in November.

The late summer/early fall months are traditionally strong months for Maryland farmers, selling carrots, peaches, grapes, watermelons, tomatoes, sweet corn, cantaloupes, honeydew, a wide variety of berries, pumpkins, beets, pears, plums, apples, sweet corn, garlic, potatoes, eggplant, honey, and all types squash and greens. To find local farmers markets, pick your own operations and agritourism operations in Maryland, visit the Maryland's Best website.



SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2016 IN



The Robert E. Warfield Memorial Tournament AGH's 23rd Annual Fall Golf Classic

Thursday, September 22, 2016
 Ocean City Golf Club
 More Information - [Click Here](#)



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The Harman family welcoming Gov. Hogan to the Poor Girls Open



The awesome "Take a Selfie" OCHMRA sponsored Sand Sculpture at this year's Sandfest!

Big Thank You! to Seacrets for taking us on a distillery tour. If you have not been there, make sure to check it out! Kendra Paulman, Susan Jones, Donna Greenwood & Liz Walk, OCHMRA.



Lisa Layfield & Melanie Pursel, Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Susan Jones and Liz Walk, OCHMRA, being "lunch ladies" at Surfers Healing at Castle in the Sand.



REGISTER TODAY!

Saturday,
October 15th

Run/Walk
9-11 AM



Go to: octrirunning.com to register for this event!

\$25 Entry Fee



will benefit the LLLR Memorial Endowment Fund
Includes: **Event T-Shirt, LLLR Wristband, LLLR Sticker**

**5K will start at the Dough Roller
on South Division Street &
the Boardwalk at 9 AM**



**Awards for 1st and 2nd Place in
each Age Group (Male & Female)**

5K RUN AGE GROUPS:

14 and Under	40 - 49
15 - 19	50 - 59
20 - 29	
30 - 39	60 and Over

1 MILE FUN RUN is FREE!