

HOSPITALITY HOTLINE



OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND
HOTEL • MOTEL • RESTAURANT • ASSOCIATION • INC.

Official Newsletter of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association

5700 Coastal Hwy. #302 Ocean City, MD 21842 • (410) 289-6733 • OCVisitor.com • Inquire@ocvisitor.com



Susan Jones
Executive Director



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What's in this issue?

Blood Bank of Delmarva Blood Donation Experience in Ocean City - pg. 3

Meeting Recap for Maryland Security Guard Regulations - pg. 4

FAMLI Regulations and FAQ's - pg. 4

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Dates for your Calendar

MD Travel & Tourism Summit

Nov. 6 - 8
Owings Mill, MD

Storm Warriors 5K

Nov. 9 - 9am
Ocean City Life-Saving-Station Museum

Diakonia Turkey Trot

Nov. 28 - 8am
S. 1st St. on Boardwalk

OCHMRA Networking Dinners

6pm to 9pm

November 14

Sodexo Convention Center Ballroom

December 12

Captain's Table

January 16

Carousel Resort Hotel

February 13

Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort

April 10

Secrets

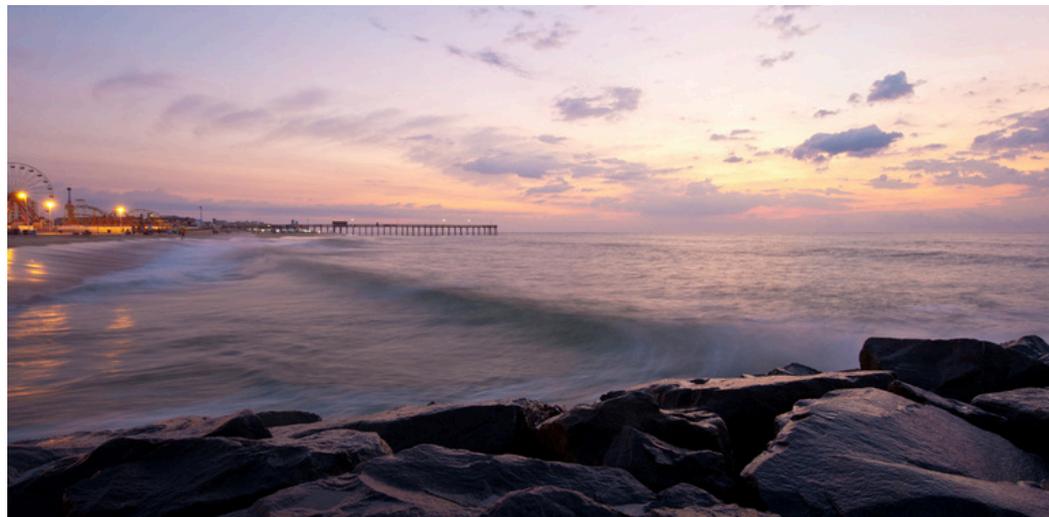
Member Message

From Executive Director, Susan L. Jones

Kudos to **Chef Phil Cropper** and the students at WTHS for the recent opening of the Pines Café. I encourage you to stop by and see for yourself - super-sized sandwiches, delicious desserts, fresh breads, and lots of homemade goodies! This first-of-its-kind teaching café is a wonderful example of how hospitality flows from students to adulthood. You can learn more at our first networking dinner where Junior Achievement, Worcester Technical High School, and Wor-Wic Community College will share more on hospitality workforce paths.

We're excited to kick off the planning for our **51st Annual Trade Expo** on **March 2 & 3**—mark your calendars! Allied Members, this is a fantastic chance to connect with mid-Atlantic hospitality businesses you serve. With only one-third of the booths left, be sure to register soon!

The Maryland Department of Labor's Family and Medical Leave program (**FAMLI**) has been gaining attention, and it's important to stay informed and prepared, as the program is set to launch in **July 2025**. For all the details, be sure to check out the **links on page 4**. 😊



Hospitality Highlights

Whats new in the industry?

WARM WELCOMES & CELEBRATIONS

Offering a warm welcome to **Julia Rybakova** as the new Administrative Assistant in the **Dough Roller Corporate Offices**. The **Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort** has welcomed **Jaimie Joyner-Grazioso** as their new Sales Manager. The **Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton** recently welcomed their newest Taskforce General Manager, **Leandra James**. Welcome to all! Congratulations to the **Chef Phil Cropper/Pines Cafe** on their official ribbon-cutting ceremony on 10/28/2024. The cafe represents an outstanding educational opportunity and community partnership. This remote teaching cafe is a collaboration between TidalHealth and **Worcester Technical High School Culinary Arts Program**. Be sure to stop by and enjoy some delicious breakfast or lunch!

ALLIED

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delmarvaprinting.com

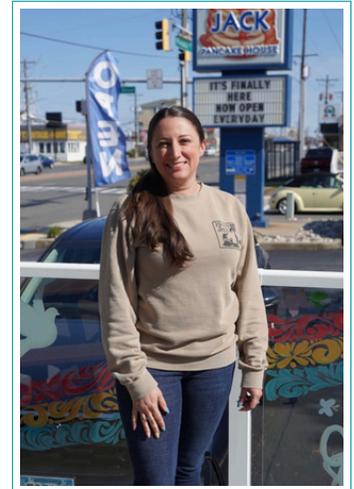


Check out Ocean City Tourism's [Sept./Oct. Newsletter](#)

BEHIND THE BOARD - MEGAN ALVARADO

Megan Alvarado serves as a 3-Year Director of the OCHMRA and is the proud owner of Happy Jacks Pancake House.

Megan's journey in the restaurant industry began at Happy Jacks, where her father worked before she was even born. Growing up in the restaurant, she created some of her earliest memories there and later worked as a host and server throughout high school and college. After graduating summa cum laude from Salisbury University in 2007 with a degree in History and Economics on an education track, Megan lived in Pittsburgh, PA, and Washington, DC. Ultimately, her desire to return home led her back in 2014, just after her son was born, to work alongside her father at the restaurant. Together, they formed a strong business partnership, with her dad fully supporting her ideas and helping her grow. Following his unexpected passing in June 2023, Megan is dedicated to carrying on his legacy and the values they built together at Happy Jacks for years to come.



Megan is also a published author, with one of her college papers featured in a book on Delmarva's history. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her husband and children, enjoying sports, beach outings, and dining out. A lover of travel and new experiences, she is also passionate about music and enjoys attending concerts whenever possible.



Restaurant Week Returns in Spring

Make plans to participate in Restaurant Week next Spring! Mark your calendars for April 27 - May 11. More details coming soon, save the date!

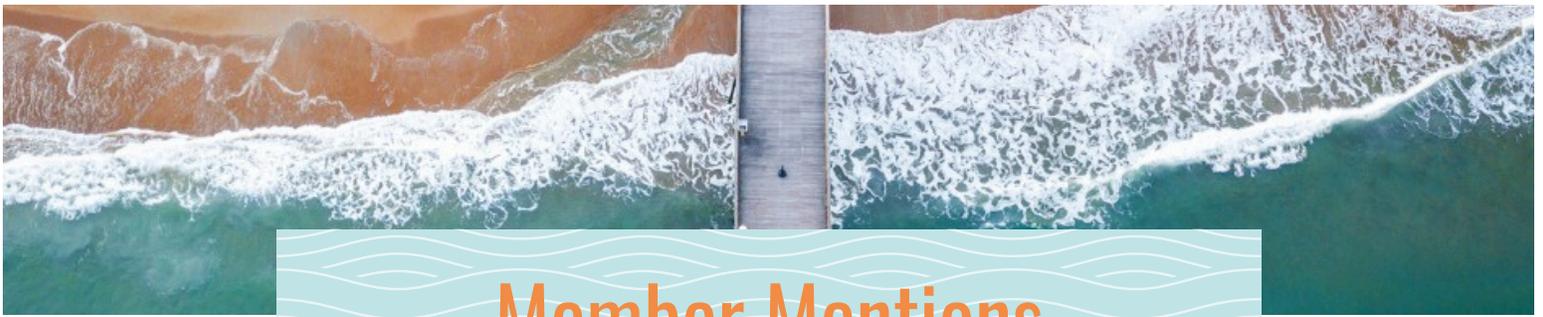
FEATURED PARTNERS:



(410) 543-0693



(410) 779-1275



Member Mentions

Blood Bank of Delmarva Blood Donation Experience in Ocean City

State-of-the-art blood donation pod offers elevated blood donation convenience and experience

Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD) has launched its new blood donation experience with the introduction of its state-of-the-art Blood Donation Pods. These portable and sustainable Pods are designed to provide a more comfortable, efficient, and convenient donation experience.

The Blood Donation Pods are portable donor centers equipped with comfortable donor beds, a climate-controlled environment, and entertainment options, including access to streaming services and music to keep donors entertained throughout their donation process. Donors have the option of donating whole blood, double red cells, or platelets – a much-needed donation type that is typically limited to fixed donor centers only.

Recognizing that the average person is willing to travel only ten minutes or ten miles to donate blood, BBD is prioritizing convenience and bringing lifesaving opportunities to every corner of the tri-state area. Given the limited number of donor centers – only 19 in the region – these portable Pods serve as convenient, mobile donor centers, making it easier for communities far from established centers to participate in this lifesaving mission. Cities, towns, and organizations can host a Pod in their communities from a few days to multiple weeks, providing flexible access to blood donation.

Outlets Ocean City, located at 12741 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD., is partnering with **BBD** by hosting a Pod at their West Ocean City location through 11/15/24. To make an appointment at the Outlets Ocean City pod location, visit delmarvablood.org/pod.

Blood donors can give every 56 days, and platelet donors can give twice per month. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently lifted several blood donor eligibility restrictions; for updated guidelines, visit delmarvablood.org or call 1-888-8-BLOOD-8.



If you are a registered Ocean City voter and have not yet attended a candidate forum [here is a great video resource](#) that is available to get an in-depth look at the Mayor and City Council candidates that the IAFF Local 4269 hosted.



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Mark your calendars! The annual RAM Awards Gala brings an exciting new twist in 2025! For the first time ever, RAM is partnering with us (OCHMRA), allowing their Gala to coincide with the 2025 Spring Trade Expo. The expo will be held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center on Sunday, March 2, and Monday, March 3 - both during daytime hours. The [RAM Awards Gala](#) will take place the evening of March 2, from 6:30 - 10:30pm.

Meeting Summary for Maryland Security Guard Regulations Update

The meeting covered Maryland's new Security Guard Law, including training requirements, insurance mandates, and upcoming changes to the application process. **Evan Avnet**, USTASC, the acting President of the Maryland Investigators and Security Association, provided insights on the complexities of security regulations and the importance of compliance for security companies and property owners.

[Click here](#) to view the meeting



BUSINESS BRIEFS

FAMLI Proposed Regulations Published

The MD Dept of Labor announced that the [proposed regulations](#) for Maryland's forthcoming Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) system are now published in the Maryland Register. The formal comment period is open until November 18, 2024.

Passing the Time to Care Act set the stage for the paid family and medical leave system in Maryland, but regulations are needed to set the details. Regulations are the rules for the system. Before writing the regulations, DOL hosted 9 informal engagement sessions, released 12 discussion documents, shared 2 drafts of regulations, and heard from Maryland employers and workers during over 70 public presentations. The proposed regulations incorporate your feedback to meet the needs of workers and employers in Maryland.

Please email written comments to famli.policy@maryland.gov by November 18, 2024. Thank you all for engaging with us over the last year and a half. We look forward to hearing your feedback during this formal regulatory process and bringing the FAMLI system one step closer to delivering paid family and medical leave.



Make sure you include FAMLI in your 2025 business plans!

July 1, 2025: Contribution period for the State Plan begins.

This means payroll deductions will begin on July 1, 2025, and employers will remit the first payment to the State in October 2025.

[Click here for details and guidance](#)

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Insider Insights

Playing Ball: Summertime Isn't the Only Time to Solicit Sports Tourism & Travel-Team Bookings

By: Donna Oglesby

Hoteliers missing out on relationships with travel sports teams may find they're leaving big money on the table. The sports tourism segment is booming, with \$52.2 billion in direct spending last year and a record 204.9 million sports-related trips. By building connections with league agents and tournament organizers, hotels can enjoy stable, year-round occupancy and reduce seasonal fluctuations. Sports teams need reliable, often longer-term lodging, creating steady revenue and community visibility. [Read more](#) on how to make your property the go-to choice for teams and families alike!

Booking.com Reports Conventional Travel to Be Redefined in 2025

By: LODGING Staff

Booking.com's 2025 Travel Predictions reveal that travelers are redefining their travel experiences, seeking deeper connections and personal growth. Based on research from over 27,000 participants across 33 countries, here are a few trends expected in 2025:

1. **Noctourism** – People are drawn to nighttime travel, with 62% interested in dark-sky destinations and cosmic events.
2. **Passport to Immortality** – Wellness retreats focused on longevity are becoming popular, with 60% seeking health-based vacations.
3. **AI = Alternative Itineraries** – Travelers are using technology to curate sustainable, authentic trips, with 41% interested in AI planning.
4. **Multigen Megatrips** – Families are opting for "SKI" vacations (spending kids' inheritance) to create shared memories.

These trends showcase travelers' desires for unique, meaningful adventures in 2025. [Read more](#) to explore all nine predictions.

Small Business Saturday is back!

Restaurants, take advantage of the event that's become an integral part of our country's busiest shopping season. Every year, on the Saturday between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, consumers are encouraged to celebrate Small Business Saturday, a day designated for dining out and shopping at locally owned-restaurants and retail establishments. The event supports small business operators and the work they do for the communities they work and live in.

This year, [Small Business Saturday](#) is Nov. 30. Founded by American Express in 2010, and co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration and Women Impacting Public Policy, the event is now an important part of the busiest shopping season for small restaurant and retail businesses around the country.

Promote your business with these [Shop Small® designs](#). Simply choose your industry, select and download materials, then post directly to your accounts.

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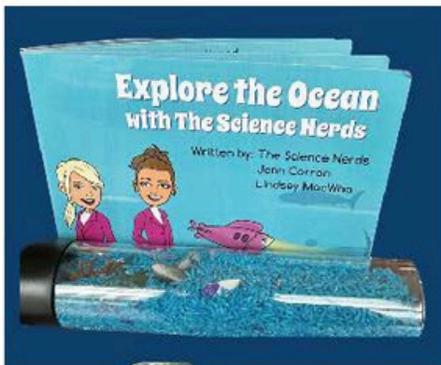
Community Connections

ARE YOU LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING
NEW AT YOUR
HOTEL?

THINK SCIENCE



Thoughtful amenities create lasting impressions. Families are likely to remember a hotel that goes the extra mile to cater to children, leading to repeat visits and positive word-of-mouth.



Science Keepsake at Check-In

A small gift can create a more welcoming environment for families, making the hotel a preferred choice for parents traveling with children. This book is written and made in Berlin and can also be sold in gift shops.

GIFT SHOP SCIENCE

Sell an educational and fun science kit that is ocean themed. The kit can provide educational content, fostering learning about marine life. This can be a unique selling point for families looking for enriching experiences.



SCIENCE EVENTS

Let us provide LIVE events for the kids! Providing activities that keep children entertained allows parents to relax, making their stay more enjoyable and stress-free. Themed events throughout the year are also available.



Contact: nerds@thesciencenerds.com or call 443-235-1509 for more information.



please join us for the

OCHMRA

November Dinner Meeting

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

CONVENTION CENTER BAYFRONT BALLROOM - 40TH ST.

.....
FIRST COURSE

Roasted Beet and Feta Salad with Honey Dijon Vinaigrette

SECOND COURSE

Petite Filet Wellington

Petite Filet of Beef and Mushroom Duxelle, individually wrapped in Puff Pastry and served with a Cabernet Demi Glaze

OR

Eastern Shore Salmon

Panko and Herb Crusted Salmon served with a rich sauce of Shrimp, Crab, and Bacon

THIRD COURSE

Chef's Seasonally Inspired Dessert

.....
Cash Bar Cocktail Hour at 6pm • Dinner at 7pm • \$55pp inclusive

Speakers: Worcester Tech High School, Junior Achievement, & Wor-Wic Community College

Please RSVP by Friday, November 8th to (410) 289-6733 or susanjones@ocvisitor.com

You can book & pay online at: <https://oceancitymdassoc.weblinkconnect.com/atlas/events/november-2024-ochmra-networking-dinner-186/register>

*Payment is required in advance or at the door.
Reservations not honored may be billed.*



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Park Place
JEWELERS

WINTER COAT DRIVE



COLLECTION DATES
SEP. 18 - DEC. 5, 2024



Please help **LOCAL KIDS** in need by donating warm clothing that can get them through the winter. All sizes needed. All Items will be **DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY** to our Schools and Neighbors in need.

DROP OFF IN PERSON

Park Place Jewelers
12720 Ocean Gateway
W. Ocean City, MD 21842

SHIP TO

Randy's Crew
48 Ocean Parkway
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

DONATE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

One Raffle Ticket per Item!

Needed Items:

Teenage Size Coats for Boys & Girls
Must be new or gently used!

Kids Winter Coats

New Gloves, Winter Hats, Socks
All Ages

New Underwear and Pajamas
For younger kids only

DONATE CASH

No time to shop?
Financial contributions are welcome & needed.

CHECK: (payable to)

Randy's Crew
48 Ocean Parkway
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

CREDIT CARD:

<http://www.randycrow.com>

443-978-0680

Winner will be drawn on Thursday, December 5, 2024 & will win a

Gift Basket valued over \$750.00

Includes a Park Place Gift Card, Gift Cards and Certificates to Local Businesses & much more!

randypaw00@gmail.com • www.randycrow.com

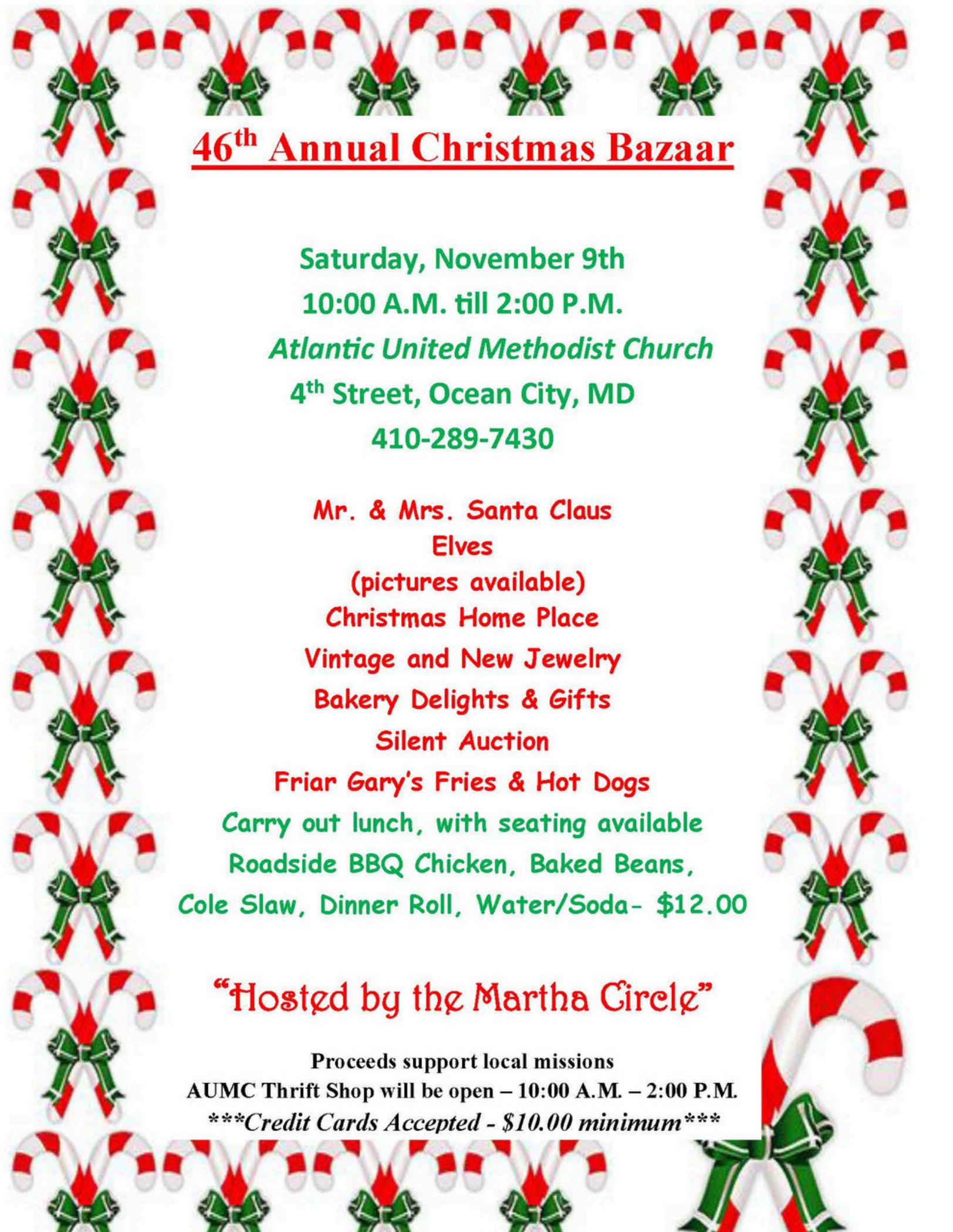


RANDY'S
CREW

HELPING OTHERS... ONE PAW AT A TIME

Our mission is to enrich the lives of the LOCAL COMMUNITY, by providing financial support to charitable organizations & civic events, that benefit the welfare of people & animals.

Randy's Crew, Inc. is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Donations to Randy's Crew, Inc. are tax-deductible, as allowed by law.



46th Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 9th

10:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

Atlantic United Methodist Church

4th Street, Ocean City, MD

410-289-7430

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus
Elves

(pictures available)

Christmas Home Place

Vintage and New Jewelry

Bakery Delights & Gifts

Silent Auction

Friar Gary's Fries & Hot Dogs

Carry out lunch, with seating available

Roadside BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans,

Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll, Water/Soda- \$12.00

“Hosted by the Martha Circle”

Proceeds support local missions

AUMC Thrift Shop will be open – 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

****Credit Cards Accepted - \$10.00 minimum****