

# The King's English

A Publication of English Towers Condo Association

Greg Davis, Editor

Fall 2018



## A “Fobulous” Transition

The recently installed fob system is working as designed and provides a higher level of building security as each fob contains an identifiable code which is traceable. All fobs have information registered in a software program which is managed by Property Manager, Russell Hobbs (The Fob Master). Questions regarding the fob system, including lost fobs and requests for additional fobs (up to the allowable limit – 8 fobs for 2-bedroom units and 9 fobs for 3-bedroom units) should be referred to The Fob Master. As a reminder, doors are now locked at 4:00 PM and require fob access. The security guards are instructed to require fob access, unless the individual is known to them as an owner or staff. As a reminder, 3-bedroom units may now receive up to three fobs free of charge.

## English Towers Gardens

The flower gardens gracing the entrance to English Towers Condominium provide a serene surrounding to the entrance complementing the new walkway and canopy. Thank you, English Towers’ staff and volunteers, for proper care and feeding of the gardens. They have never looked better. Also, the polite posted signage regarding pets in the gardens has helped elevate attention to managing our four-legged friends away from the planted areas.



## Winter 2019 Projects

With the Fall season now upon us, the ET staff is preparing to address 2019 building projects along with quite a few FFS jobs for owners. One of the building projects will expand the key fob entry system for the Office, Maintenance Room, Electric Meter Room, and the Community Room. We will also be repairing the concrete ceilings in the garage area and spray foaming/insulating the ceiling bringing it to code. Once again, painting will be on the schedule for the Fall/Winter session for select areas in the

## The King's English

building as part of the ETCA Preventative Maintenance Program. Work in the pool area will include cleaning of the deck, installation of exhaust fans in the chemical storage areas and installing LED underwater lights in the shallow end. The South lobby door leading to the loading/unloading zone is scheduled to be replaced. These are a few of the 2019 planned building projects.  
---Russell Hobbs

### English Towers Fee for Service (FFS)

The ETCA FFS handyman program, designed to provide maintenance service to unit owners for a competitive fee, continues to flourish. Advantages of the FFS program include trusted personnel who are onsite employees (minimizing travel time charges) of the ETCA and are familiar with our building as well as the overall layout of each unit. These advantages result in cost-effective services which are more competitive and typically more reliable than outside contractor services. FFS is a dedicated program for ETCA unit owners.

The new 2019 rate for FFS is:

- LABOR CHARGE for all services: Minimum of half hour or \$25 (\$50/hr. in 15-minute increments after first half hour)
- PARTS CHARGE: Cost + 20% and/or owner-provided (good quality to ensure satisfactory results)

English Towers will provide a quote when possible for larger jobs based on the time & material required (e.g., painting an entire unit). If you would like to have the ET staff do some minor service work, please send the completed form found at [englishtowers.org/fee-for-service](http://englishtowers.org/fee-for-service) to [etcaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:etcaoffice@gmail.com) and your projects will be added to the task list.

If for some reason your requested service is beyond the scope, timeframe or skill set of the workers, Russ Hobbs will notify you.

Some jobs done in the past years include repairing plumbing & electrical fixtures; installing keyless entry locks; installing kitchen backsplashes and kitchen cabinets; installing both tile & engineered wood floors; installing lights & ceiling fans; repairing furniture; and the list goes on.  
---Russell Hobbs

### Meet the Office Staff



**Russell Hobbs and Jenny Hysan**

Russell Hobbs, Building Manager, ETCA (November 2014-present)

Russ and Iris Hobbs have been married over 40 years and are the proud parents of 4 children and proud grandparents of 8 grandchildren. Russ and Iris moved to the beach upon Russ' retirement from 25 years of service with the Hobart Corporation. After retirement from the corporate world, Russ moved to self-employment as owner/operator of "Services at the Beach", a service company operating in Ocean City and lower Delaware. Russ also holds a Captain's license and has worked as a Charter Boat and Parasailing Captain.

Jenny Hysan, Administrative Assistant (August 2014-present)

We asked Jenny to tell us about herself and these are her words: "I'm originally from PG County, MD and moved to Ocean City 4 ½ years ago. It has always been my dream to live here and I finally moved into the condo

I've owned since 2002. I now get to spend as much time as possible on the beach! I'm also a licensed mobile notary/real estate signing agent, with past experience in the legal secretarial and real estate title fields. I do real estate closing work part-time. I have a 4-year-old grandson who is my pride and joy. I really enjoy all the folks I work with and for at English Towers."

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### Winter Preparation

As the Winter months approach, please remember to leave your heat set to 55+ degrees as recommended by our Master Insurance Policy. Ensure that batteries are replaced in programmable thermostats. Also remember to turn off your hot water heater at the circuit breaker and turn off your water and ice maker if you leave your unit for more than a day. Please close hurricane shutters when you leave Ocean City for the winter to help alleviate wind and water damage. Owners in the 01 and 02 Units should ensure the space heater is on in their water heater room. As always ETCA will be doing Heat Checks during the winter months and if you need assistance in preparing for winter please give the office a call.

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### Rules and Regulations

Our pamphlet for ETCA Rules & Regulations is in the process of being updated. In addition, a schedule of warnings/fines has been created. Our staff spends quite a bit of time ensuring that our rules are followed for many reasons – to ensure the aesthetics and continued maintenance of our building, to ensure safety of owners and guests, and to comply with local and state laws. 2018 was a

challenging year especially with regards to pool rules, luggage cart rules, and the supervision of children. To this end, warnings and fines will be instituted for 2019 for infractions. Remember, we all should take pride in English Towers and we all own the common areas. Please do your part in helping to enforce the rules.

### IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Mention to someone that they are breaking a rule or reach out to our Staff or Board Members for help. Let's prevent accidents from happening, prevent damage to our building and keep English Towers the "Best on the beach."



### Fitness Center

We are exploring options for a Fitness Center. Discussions with equipment providers revealed that the game room space is inadequate, and should we have one, the Fitness Center would need to be placed in the Community Room. We plan to discuss this option at the October Homeowners' Meeting.

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### Bark Less, Wag More at the Ocean City Dog Park on 94<sup>th</sup> St Bayside

If you're bringing your dog to Ocean City, you'll want to make sure they have just as much fun on vacation as you do. The dog playground on 94<sup>th</sup> St is the only outdoor area within town limits where dogs are allowed off-leash on public property, and it's also the only dog park within a 25-mile radius. For more information on access visit <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/dog-playground/>.

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### Winterfest of Lights

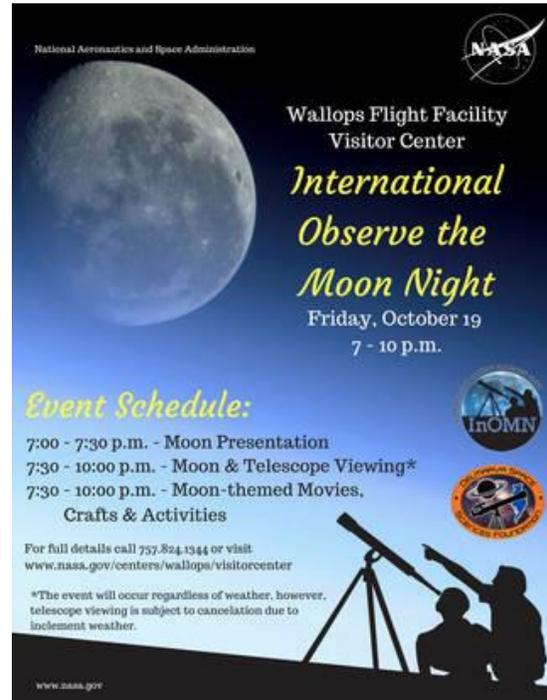
Winterfest of Lights is Ocean City's most dazzling attraction from November 15, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The spectacle of lights is open Sunday through Thursday from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Friday and Saturday 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM. Also, visit the Winterfest Village where you can walk past, through and around thousands of lights. Enjoy hot chocolate at the Winterfest Village inside the Yukon Cornelius tent. If you're looking for souvenirs check out the Gift Shop for presents. You'll be able to find Santa in the Gift Shop too! The Winterfest Express is a tram-car ride that will give you a tour of the Winterfest's hundreds of animated displays. The ride costs \$5.00 for those 11 years and older and is free for those 10 and under. The Winterfest of Lights is located at Northside Park: 127<sup>th</sup> St and the Bay.

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### Day Trip: Wallops Flight Facility

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center offers a unique opportunity to explore the past, present, and future of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility. The Visitor Center features exhibits about aeronautics, orbital and sub-orbital rockets, scientific balloons, current missions, and the history of Wallops Flight Facility. In addition to exhibits, the Visitor Center also features an auditorium, a Science on the Sphere Theater, an observation deck, as well as numerous free public programs, events, and group tours of the facility. The Visitor Center also serves as the viewing site for rockets that launch from Wallops Island. Plan a visit as part of your next trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. *Admission is always FREE!* Visit <https://www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/about-us> for driving

directions and more information on upcoming events.



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### ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund

ETCA owners continue to generously support ETCA employees' extra effort "beyond the call of duty" through the ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund. Our employees are engaged daily in helping ETCA earn the reputation of "Best on the Beach". Future contributions to the Fund may be made to the current ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund Coordinator at ETCA, c/o Michele Leahy, 10000 Coastal Highway, Unit 1107, Ocean City, MD 21842 or may be dropped off to Jenny Hysan in the ETCA Office. If you have any questions, please feel free to email [mleahy20@comcast.net](mailto:mleahy20@comcast.net) or call 443.632.6252. While contributions may be made at any time, we will continue to have our ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund Campaign during the fourth quarter. Thanks to all!

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**New Owners**

We would like to welcome our newest Owners: Salvatore and Bonnie Lombardo, Unit 1604. The Lombardo's are former owners at English Towers and decided to once again join the community. Welcome back! Late breaking news---we have additional new owners at English Towers: Joe and Beth Connor, Unit 1607. We wish you a warm welcome.

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**Join a Committee**

Condominium association board members and property managers are but a part of the team which supports and nurtures a successful condominium community. Committees composed of owner-neighbors promote this success. Volunteer owners provide input to the Board on many and various aspects of condominium life to include opinions and preferences on services and common areas.

Well-functioning committees were integral to the elevator project, the blasting of the pool shell, and the "uptown upgrades" to the front entrance. In 2019 there are several topics open to discussion on the pool and with the pool season still months away, volunteers are needed to serve on the Pool Committee. Join the Committee; make a new friend; be part of a solution. Volunteers can contact Russ Hobbs.

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*Civility costs nothing but buys everything.*

--- Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762)

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**ETCA Contact References:**

Mr. Russ Hobbs, Building Mgr.  
(410) 299-1448 (cell)

Ms. Jenny Hysan, Administrative Asst.  
(410) 524-4196 (office)  
(410) 723-2238 (fax)

Mr. Bruce Farquhar, ETCA Board Pres.  
(703) 727-7504 (cell)

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**Current Board Members**

Bruce Farquhar (Unit 103)  
Tony DiMarco (Unit 101)  
Claire Wright (Unit 1104)  
Stu Young (Unit 703)  
John Bostwick (Unit 403)  
Gene Deems (Unit 1504)  
Ark Rozental (Unit 1007)  
Sonny Nazemian (Units 1203/07)  
Michele Leahy (Unit 1107)

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**How to Critique the Editor**

Should you have any comments or suggestions concerning the format or content of the newsletter, or if you would like to contribute, please feel free to contact me directly at: [gdavis2121@comcast.net](mailto:gdavis2121@comcast.net) .



# The King's English

## Useful Numbers

### Police / Fire / Ambulance 911

Atlantic General Hospital, Berlin MD .....	(410) 641-1100
Beach Patrol .....	(410) 250-0125 or (410) 289-7556
Coast Guard .....	(410) 289-7559
Marine Police .....	(410) 548-7070
State Police .....	(410) 641-3101

### Ocean City MD Important Phone Numbers – Municipal

Ocean City Municipal Airport .....	(410) 213-2471
Animal Control .....	(410) 723-6610
Beach Patrol, Worcester St. ....	(410) 289-7556
City Hall, 3rd St. & Baltimore Ave- .....	(410) 289-8221
Roland E Powell Convention Center, 40th St. ....	(410) 289-8311
Convention Center Box Office .....	(410) 289-8314
District Court, 65th St. ....	(410) 723-6658
Emergency Medical Services, Office .....	(410) 723-6616
Fire Department Headquarters, 15th .....	(410) 289-4346
Humane Society .....	(410) 213-0146
Ocean City Library .....	(410) 289-7297
Mayor/City Council, 3rd St .....	(410) 289-8221
MD State Job Service, Main St., Berlin .....	(410) 629-1445
Police Department, 65th St. ....	(410) 723-6610
Public Relations, 40th St. ....	(410) 289-2800
Recreation Complex, 126th St. ....	(410) 250-0125
Recycling Center, 65th St. ....	(410) 524-5356
Sanitation Department, Keyser Point RD .....	(410) 213-0500
Transfer Station, 65th St. ....	(410) 524-5356; (410) 524-0318
Transportation Department, 66th St. ....	(410) 723-1607
Visitor Information, 40th St .....	(410) 289-2800; (800) OC-OCEAN
Water Department, 65th St. ....	(410) 524-8388

### Ocean City MD Tourism

Worcester County Tourism .....	(800) 852-0335
Ocean City Tourism .....	(800) OC-OCEAN
Ticket Master: Toll Free .....	(800) 551-SEAT
Ticket Master: Baltimore .....	(410) 481-SEAT
Ticket Master: Washington, DC .....	(202) 432-SEAT

### More Ocean City MD Important Phone Numbers

Atlantic General Hospital .....	(410) 641-1100
Alcoholics Anonymous .....	(410) 546-8799
Auto Club (AAA) Mid-Atlantic, Salisbury .....	(410) 749-0303
Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Rt- 50 .....	(410) 213-0552
Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau .....	(410) 289-8181
Ocean City Convention Center .....	(410) 289-8311
Ocean City Convention Center – Tickets .....	(410) 289-8314
OC Hotel/Motel/Restaurant Association .....	(410) 289-6733
Ocean City Library .....	(410) 289-7297
OC Life-Saving Station Museum .....	(410) 289-4991
US Post Office, 408 N- Philadelphia Ave- .....	(410) 289-7819
Senior Citizens Activity Center .....	(410) 289-0824
Weather .....	(410) 742-8400; (410) 548-9262
Western Union .....	(410) 524-5387; (410) 723-0111

### Ocean City MD Transportation Phone Numbers

Atlantic Taxi .....	(410) 289-1313
Carolina Trailways Buses .....	(410) 289-9307

### Ocean City MD Visitors Center

OC Visitors Center/Public Relations .....	(410) 289-2800
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