

The King's English

A Publication of English Towers Condo Association

Greg Davis, Editor

Spring 2019



English Towers Technology Upgrade: Streaming is Here

Arrivederci to DirecTV, Ciao to the freedom of choice through the power of streaming technology. As announced in the *Special Edition of The King's English*, DirecTV will cease connectivity on March 21, 2019. By now you should have returned your Questionnaire indicating any technology choices to the ETCA office. After the DirecTV termination date, Mr. Hobbs and his team will collect the DirecTV boxes and remotes from each unit and deliver them back to DirecTV. Each Serial Number (S/N) will be recorded with the associated unit number so that we have proof of return.

Please ensure that your equipment is accessible; missing equipment is billed back to the unit owner. **You are responsible for calling DirecTV at 800-531-5000 to cancel your individual account invoicing by your account number found on your bill, even if you are billed \$0.** Installation of dual-band routers and Ethernet drops, if

requested, will begin March 5 and continue for about 4 weeks. If you have also requested a Roku or similar product, that will be installed as well. There are numerous streaming service companies from which to choose. **Arrangements with these companies are needed to replace the current DirecTV service with a similar, but user-customized service.** Mr. Hobbs identified that local (Ocean City/Salisbury) channels are available through Hulu + Live TV. Channels local to where you live can usually be obtained through DirecTV Now (not to be confused with your current Amtech DirecTV service). Also, if you have expandable streaming services at your home simply bring your passwords.

Rental agents have been notified that we will be a "streaming property." Unit owners who rent may want to develop a "Renter TV Guide" to advise of the services that you may be providing thus assuring the best experience for your renters. Always remember to log out of personal streaming services prior to renter move in to avoid renters from accessing on demand products via the owner account.

Fitness Center Coming Soon!



The English Towers Fitness Center (the old Community Room) has opened! Enjoy treadmills, an elliptical, a bike, a rowing machine, and a training machine. All Fitness Center users are required to sign the indemnification agreement before use. Be sure to read the Fitness Center Rules and sign your Indemnification Agreement in the Office so that your fob can be programmed for access to the Fitness Center which will be open from 6 AM to 10 PM. Renters will receive a specially programmed fob with a refundable \$10 deposit once the Indemnification Agreement has been signed. Children under 15 years of age must be supervised by a parent or guardian (the same as with the pool). A bottle-less water dispenser (bring your own unbreakable container) and sports drink/water vending machine has been added to the Fitness Center.



Winter 2019 Projects

This Winter has been a busy one for the ETCA staff with projects being worked on all over the building. As mentioned above, the Fitness Center was designed, equipment ordered, electricity run, and a Fob system installed. Additional Fob installation are now complete throughout the building with the addition of Fob access to the Office, Shop, and Electric Room as well. The old Game Room was converted to our new Meeting Room. The old equipment was moved out, the room was freshly painted, and two flat screen television monitors were installed to allow for presentations during meetings. A snack machine was relocated to the north entrance area and the Coke machine is now located just outside of the East door near the walkway to the beach. The parking garage ceiling has been under construction for the past two months. Damaged concrete has been repaired and new spray foam insulation has been installed bringing the ceiling up to current building code and providing some additional energy efficiency to the building. The pool underwent deck cleaning and installation of LED lights in the shallow end – the entire building has now been upgraded to LED lights! New secondary exhaust fans were installed on the east end of the pool building to help reduce the heat buildup in the Summer. New Rules and Regulation signs were posted including Health code rules such as “NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN POOL.” Please take the time to read the signs and help us follow the guidelines set by the

State. The State of Maryland issued English Towers a "Certificate of Excellence" for the pool in 2018 and we would like to receive one for the upcoming 2019 year.

As everyone comes through the Lobby, notice that the office is being updated. We are updating walls and furniture and de-cluttering. Doors to owner units and hallway doors on each floor have been grinded to remove rust and are being sealed and painted. This work is expected to be completed by SunFest (September 19-22), weather permitting. These are just some of



the projects we have been working on as well as continuing with the very successful Fee-for-Service program.

---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. Just a reminder of the new 2019 labor rates:

- 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)

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 to etcaoffice@gmail.com and your projects will be added to the task list.

English Towers Staff Spotlight



Barry Parker

Naturally, everyone is familiar with English Towers maintenance technician, Barry Parker who has been with us for 3 years. Barry and his wife, Peggy, have called Ocean City home for 6 years and enjoy boating, traveling, fishing, long walks on the beach and spending time with their rescue dogs, Kong and Auto. Barry has over 30 years of experience in maintenance and plumbing services. Thanks Barry, for all you do for English Towers.

Scene in Ocean City

Listing all the informative and interesting events and attractions coming to a town as vibrant and diverse as Ocean City would

be...well, as time consuming as maintaining a 100% sand free condo unit. But, wait! There is an easy way to keep up with what's happening – all in one place.

- The Ocean City website <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/> has information and details on everything from events to governance information. You can easily access OC council meeting minutes, if so inclined. The site is easy to navigate even for tech-challenged Baby Boomers like your Editor.
- Municipal bus schedules and rules are published and you can download the bus app for free (www.translocrider.com . See the schedule and find out when the next bus will be at your stop: <http://oct.transloc.com/m/> .
- You can opt to receive email messages from the city to include Press Releases, Current Events, and numerous other topics of interest. For example, recently an email arrived in my Inbox concerning offshore drilling.
- The Website also is a good place to check for answers on Ocean City ordinances – everything from parking to public smoking. Note: The Boardwalk in Ocean City is a smoke-free area.
- If you just want to ask a question or speak with someone at City Hall, call 410-289-8221 or send an email via this link: <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/contact-us/> .
- Ocean City publishes a hard copy calendar of events which is typically available in May. You can pick up your copy at the Convention Center, City Hall, or the Recreation Center at Northside Park.

Scene in English Towers Condominium Association

The English Towers pool re-opened March 1, 2019. Please read the new Rules and Regulations sign.

Replacement luggage carts are on the way...still cannot be driven in the lobby. ☹️

Don't miss the new Fitness Center.

We are switching from a local bank to a larger regional financial institution for 2019. This will make it much easier on your Employee Appreciation Fund Coordinator, and future assessments can more conveniently be deposited electronically.

Did You Know...

The Town of Ocean City is converting from propane to natural gas. The conversion for our furnaces and boiler for the pool is coming soon as the City moves to the north.

Parking Sticker Reminder

You are given parking passes when you purchase your unit based on our bylaws. If you sell your vehicle or it is totaled please bring in at least a piece of your old sticker to avoid paying for a new parking sticker. Lost sticker costs are below.

First lost sticker = \$25.00
Second lost sticker = \$50.00
Third lost sticker = \$100.00
Fourth lost sticker = \$200.00

Event: Jellyfish Festival, June 21-23

THREE NIGHTS OF LIVE MUSIC

The core of Jellyfish is the mainstage, right off the Boardwalk in downtown Ocean City north of the pier, stretching to North Division Street, which will host three days and night of top-level regional and national music acts.

Jellyfish FESTIVAL
JUNE 21-23, 2019

LIVE MUSIC LINEUP

FRESH FRIDAY 21 ST	CLASSIC SATURDAY 22 ND	MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE SUN 23 RD
TICKETED SHOW GATES OPEN 5PM	TICKETED SHOW GATES OPEN 5PM	TICKETED SHOW GATES OPEN 4PM
BADFISH BALLYHOO KING SCHASCHA SWEET LEDA	STYX CRACK THE SKY RAVYNS STONE SENATE	NEWSBOYS CROWDER
FRIDAY OPENING ACTS: 11AM - 4:30PM	SATURDAY OPENING ACTS: 11AM - 4:30PM	
MUSKRAT LIGHTNING THE SWELL FELLAS PHANTOM LIMBS LOWER CASE BLUES ROGUE CITIZENS MELISSA ALES!	BLUE MIRACLE LAUREN GLICK BAND DON HALL MAIN STREET BLUES BAND MONKIE PAW FRANKIE MORAN SKRIBE	MORE ACTS BEING ADDED TO ALL 3 DAYS
SOMERSET ST. ON THE BEACH OCEAN CITY JELLYFISHFESTIVAL.COM		

New Owners

We would like to welcome our newest Owners: Tamara and Michael DeHaven, Unit 602 and Bernadette and Matt Scarborough, Unit 1606. Welcome to 10000 Coastal Highway, "Best on the Beach."

ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund

Thank you to everyone who participated in giving to the 2018 ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund. Your contributions were much appreciated by our staff. Contributions can be made to the Fund at any time of the year. Checks may be made out to the ETCA Employee Appreciation Fund and mailed to 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, 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!

Rest in Peace

With sadness, we share with the Community the passing of ETCA owners:

Ronald King, December 3, 2018, Unit 1404

Elaine Vande Hei, February 24, 2019, Unit 1204

Join a Committee

Please consider sharing your time and talents by serving on a committee; you will be rewarded by feeling a part of the continuing success of the ETCA community. And, you may even make some new friends! Ask any Board Member or Mr. Hobbs for about volunteerism.

“ALONE, WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH” – HELEN KELLER

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)

How to Communicate with 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 .

Current Board Members

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

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