

# HC DrugFree

Empowering the Community

*Special Edition*

for Howard County high school seniors  
and their families

(or anyone visiting Ocean City this summer)

**KNOW** before you go!

**Virtual Learning Experience is LIVE!**



**New!** While Senior Week in Ocean City can be fun for recent high school graduates, each year many teens opt to engage in risky behaviors that can sour the experience for themselves and others. In an effort to keep our kids safe, HC DrugFree created this virtual learning experience for teens and their families.

Parents (or grandparents), please take the time to **view this important video with your teens** between now and when the seniors leave for the beach.

While we want teens to have fun and celebrate their graduations, HC DrugFree is **not encouraging teens to go to Senior Week**. If possible, we strongly encourage parents (again, or grandparents) to consider taking your vacations during Senior Week so you are close to your teens.

We remain committed to helping teens keep themselves and each other safe

while helping parents/adults to understand some of the many dangers facing unsupervised youth. It is our hope that by creating this video and sharing stories, Howard County teens planning to attend Senior Week will have additional information to make wise decisions.

We urge parents to talk with your teens about the very real dangers at beaches this year - guns, knives, assaults, drugs, alcohol, etc. From what we are hearing, there seems to be a surge in risky behaviors and dangerous encounters!!!

**Senior Week: Staying Safe in Ocean City** video features:

- *Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree*
- *Corporal Howard Caplan, Ocean City Police*
- *Recent HCPSS Graduates who experienced Senior Week firsthand*
- *Beach Safety*

Thank you to all who made this video possible! Remember, it takes a village to keep our youth safe.

[View Senior Week: Staying Safe in Ocean City on the Senior Week page on the HC DrugFree website.](#)

[Click here](#) to print the Senior Week flier.

[View the event page](#)

[View the Facebook event page](#)

[Visit the Senior Week page on the HC DrugFree website](#)



The flier features a woman with a concerned expression. The text on the flier includes: "Worried About Senior Week?", "You are not alone!", "HC DrugFree Empowering the Community", "Presents Senior Week: Staying Safe in Ocean City", "Featuring Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree, Corporal Howard Caplan, Ocean City Police, Recent HCPSS Graduates, Beach Safety", "Virtual Presentation", "Available at hcdrugfree.org/senior-week beginning Thursday, June 10, 2021", "Be a Parent Not a Friend", "For additional safety tips and Ocean City police contacts, visit our website and click on Senior Week in Ocean City", "Don't make alcohol available to teens", and "443-325-0040 • www.hcdrugfree.org".

## **Parents and Teens, Must Read: True Senior Week Stories Submitted by HoCo Residents**

Senior Week may seem like a "rite of passage" for many graduating teens, but many kids return with regrets and negative experiences rather than warm memories of fun in the sun. Set your child up for success by learning from the experiences of others.

[Click here to read these stories and more on the HC DrugFree Senior Week page.](#)

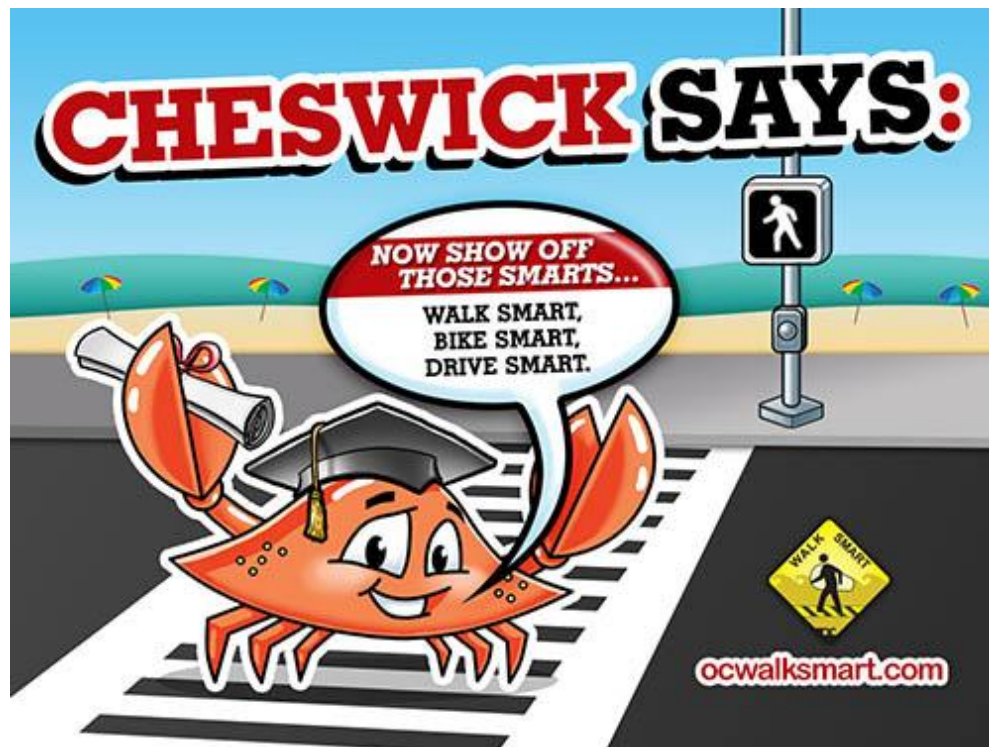
## **Risky Drinking Can Put a Chill on Your Summer Fun**

During the summer months, while many people are enjoying vacation or outdoor gatherings alcoholic beverages are seen as a way to cool off or celebrate. It's important to be informed of how those beverages may influence your behavior and ability to navigate both practical and recreational activities.

[Read more.](#)



## Ocean City Pedestrian Safety



There are many great places to walk in Ocean City. No matter where you walk, you must follow the rules and signals. Never walk or run out in the middle of Coastal Highway or any other roadway. Always Walk Smart and remember these tips:

- Press the crosswalk button.
- Always cross at and within marked crosswalks.
- Look, pay attention, then cross.
- Follow all traffic signal signs and lane markings.
- Use the sidewalk – do not cross in the street.
- Wear light-colored or reflective clothing so drivers see you.
- Make eye contact with drivers.

For more safety tips about getting around in Ocean City, [click here!](#)



Please make your **much-appreciated** tax deductible gift to **HC DrugFree** today!



## Stay Connected

Friends keep friends informed! This newsletter and social media remain the best ways for us to share vital information with you! Please Like & Share our content on social media or forward this newsletter to a friend to help us with our mission of keeping Howard County SAFE & INFORMED.

If you haven't already done so, please [Subscribe to our newsletter](#) and invite your friends to subscribe, too!



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