

➔ OCEANS OF FUN

What's new at the Maryland-Delaware beaches.

BY ALEXANDRA PANNONI

When vacationers travel to the beach towns this year, they'll discover new shops, restaurants, and exciting activities to keep them busy.

Ocean City: A "Beach Lights Spectacular" laser show on Sundays and fireworks on Tuesdays, both free, at North Division Street (ocbeachlights.com); 45th Street Taphouse (4507 Coastal Hwy., 45th Street Village, 443-664-2201), an outpost of the Taphouse Bar & Grille, Ninth Street and the Boardwalk; AquaLoop, a water slide that propels riders into a full loop, at Jolly Roger (2901 Coastal Hwy., 410-289-3477).

Fenwick Island: Popular restaurant Catch 54 re-opens after a fire last summer (54 Madison Ave., 302-436-8600); Just Hooked, a seafood restaurant from the owners of Off the Hook in Bethany Beach (1500 Coastal Hwy., 302-581-0098); Delmarva Board

Sports Adventures retail shop (39084 Harpoon Rd., 302-537-6500); Darius Rucker, frontman of Hootie & the Blowfish, at The Freeman Stage at Bayside, July 26 (freemanstage.com).

Bethany Beach: Odysea, a second location for the Rehoboth Beach boutique (123 Garfield Pkwy. No. 7, 302-537-6707); Tidepool Toys & Games (104 Garfield Pkwy., 302-537-1206); Turquoise restaurant in The Marketplace at Sea Colony (116 Marketplace, 302-616-1039), featuring a Greek and American menu.

Dewey Beach: A Kids Beach Party and Bonfire, entertainment and activities, June 20, on the beach near the Dagsworthy Street entrance (beach-fun.com); Whiskey Beach BBQ & Saloon, a Southern-style barbecue joint (1306 Coastal Hwy., 302-227-3119).

Rehoboth Beach: Parkmobile, a pilot program that allows visitors to pay for

parking by phone (parkmobile.com); Cabo (was Porcini House), a Mexican-style restaurant, with the same owner/chef (210 Second St., 302-226-8226); Big Fish Restaurant Group takes over Salt Air with an updated menu (50 Wilmington Ave., 302-227-3744); New York & Company and Vineyard Vines at Tanger Outlets; Go Brit! the latest from the Go Fish! folks (18388 Coastal Highway, 302-644-2250); Big Chill Surf Cantina, with a Baja-California-style menu and bar (19406 Coastal Hwy., 302-727-5568).

Lewes: Free events, including concerts, movies, and yoga, Lewes Canalfront Park (lewes-canalfrontpark.org); Touch of Italy Bakery, The Village of Five Points, scheduled to open in June (touchofitaly.com); East of Maui Surf Shop, second location of the Dewey shop, (34 Cape Henlopen Dr., 302-227-4703).