

The Oceanport Bulletin



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January/February 2019

Mayor's Message

2018 is now in our rear-view mirror and the untraveled road that is 2019 is rushing towards us as Oceanport begins preparation for its 100th birthday in 2020. Oceanport has undergone a lot of changes over the past 99 years, but 2018 was especially transformative.

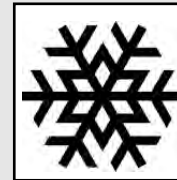
Monmouth Park Racetrack, Oceanport's biggest taxpayer and employer, was teetering on the edge of irrelevancy prior to 2018. But, on June 14, 2018, Governor Phil Murphy placed the first legal sports bet in New Jersey at The Monmouth Park Sports Book by William Hill and Monmouth Park's financial outlook changed much for the better. Then, on December 17, 2018, the New Jersey Senate unanimously approved a bill that would provide 50 million dollars' worth of purse supplements to the thoroughbred horse industry over the next 5 years.

While sports betting makes Monmouth Park, as a whole, more financially stable (pun intended), these purse subsidies specifically bolster New Jersey's horse racing industry and make it possible for Monmouth Park to once again compete on equal footing with racetracks in surrounding states, all of which have long-standing subsidized purse structures. Monmouth Park Racetrack is THE most historic and most beautiful racetrack on the East Coast and these purse subsidies will allow for it to reclaim its premier racing venue status. Across the board, 2018 was a big win for Monmouth Park and Oceanport.

Great strides were also taken in 2018 regarding the redevelopment of the Oceanport section of Fort Monmouth. Indeed, we are at the point that there are only two areas in Oceanport left to be offered for sale: the McAfee Building (formerly the Army's hi-tech site) and the 400 District (the land on Oceanport Avenue across from the main post). During 2018, FMERA entered into contracts for the sale of the Allison Hall Complex District (commercial & retail), Squier Hall (for use as a college baccalaureate completion site in conjunction with New Jersey City University), the Lodging District (180 plus residences by the same developer, Somerset, that reopened Bell Works) and the Dance Hall property (for use as a microbrewery, coffee house, and multi-purpose event space). Most significantly, legislation was passed in August of 2018 allowing for four liquor licenses to be issued by the Borough of Oceanport to businesses locating within the boundaries of Oceanport's section of the Fort. These four additional licenses must remain on the Fort Monmouth property until FMERA is dissolved, at which time the licenses may be transferred to anywhere in Oceanport. These licenses make the site more attractive to developers and will provide additional (and much needed!) revenue to the Borough when they are issued.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 3)

Calendar of Events



January

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 8 Planning Board Meeting
- 9 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 14 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 14 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 17 Mayor & Council Regular & Workshop Meeting
- 19 Oceanport Free Rabies Clinic
- 21 Borough Offices and Recycling Yard Closed
in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22 Planning Board Meeting
- 30 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 31 Dog & Cat License Renewal

February

- 1 Quarterly Property Taxes Due
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 7 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
- 11 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 11 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 12 Planning Board Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 21 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 26 Planning Board Meeting
- 27 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting

March

- 3 Fire Explorers' St. Patrick's Day Breakfast
- 7 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12 Planning Board Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 20 Oceanport Board of Education
- 21 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 26 Planning Board Meeting

Recycling

- Zone 1 First and Third Wednesday of the Month
- Zone 2 First and Third Thursday of the Month

COMMUNITY NEWS

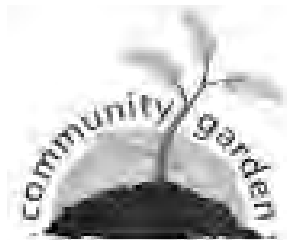
CLOSURE OF BOROUGH'S RECYCLING CENTER

Unfortunately, due to the pending sale of the former Borough Hall property, combined with significant cost increases to the Borough for the disposal of materials being brought to the Recycling Center, the Borough has made the decision to close the Recycling Center effective January 31, 2019.

The Borough urges all residents to take advantage of your curbside recycling, with the exception of electronics, which are accepted free of charge at the Monmouth County Reclamation Center, 6000 Asbury Avenue, Tinton Falls. The Borough is working to secure a recycling container for each household to encourage curbside recycling. Please continue to contact Borough Hall to schedule pickup of appliances and tires, which is done by our Department of Public Works.

Overnight Parking Ban

Please be aware overnight parking on Borough streets is prohibited when the streets are covered in snow – whenever snow has fallen, and the accumulation is such that it covers the streets. The parking prohibition shall remain in effect after the snow has ceased until the streets have been plowed sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.



Community Garden On-Hold

With the pending sale of the former Borough Hall property, the Borough will not have property available this season for a Community Garden. It was wonderful to see the success of our Community Garden over the past years, with so many of residents working together to produce their “home grown” eats! Plans for a Community Garden are a part of the Borough’s vision at their new municipal complex at Fort Monmouth. It is the Borough’s hope to offer this to residents again in the Spring of 2020.

Oceanport Borough Provides FREE Rabies Clinic

Saturday, January 19th
9:00 – 11:00 am

Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Co., on Myrtle Avenue

Please take advantage of this free service provided by the Borough. Dogs must be on a leash and cats should be in a carrier.



Dog & Cat License Renewal by January 31st

The Borough began issuing 2019 dog and cat licenses beginning the first of the year. If you have not renewed your pet’s license with the Borough this is a friendly reminder to please come into Borough Hall to pick up or renew your pet’s license. Pet licenses are required and are to be renewed by January 31st, 2019. In accordance with state regulations, your pet’s rabies vaccination must be valid through October 2019 for a license to be issued. Additionally, please advise the Borough if your pet is deceased. If you have any questions, please call the Borough Office at (732) 222-8221.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas trees for disposal can be placed at the curb on your 2nd garbage pickup of the week up until January 31st.



SAVE THE DATE!! Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Explorer’s St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast

21 Main Street

Sunday, March 3rd • 8:00 am - 11:30 am

Buffet Style (pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, pork roll, corned beef hash, and assorted beverages)

Come out and support the Oceanport Hook & Ladder’s Explorers Program. All proceeds will go towards purchasing new gear, training and helping enhance the program as the explorers prepare for the Fire Academy!

For more information please call (732) 996-6531.



Oceanport's Centennial Celebration

The Oceanport Historical Committee is asking for help from members of the community as it prepares for Oceanport's Centennial Celebration in 2020. The Committee is looking for pictures, newspaper articles, historic maps, and old programs from days gone by, as well as anecdotes from residents and former residents, to augment the "Oceanport in Retrospect" book that was published in 1970 to commemorate Oceanport's 50th anniversary. If you have anything - including memories and stories about all things Oceanport, please contact the Historical Committee at historical@oceanport.com with all submissions.

Congratulations to the Parks & Recreation 2018 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners!

The Parks & Recreation Committee thanks all residents whose homes were beautifully decorated and lit up Oceanport for the holiday season. It truly was a pleasure driving through the Borough! As always, it is difficult to narrow the many down to a few but here are the 2018 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners.

Best Overall:

38 Wolf Hill Avenue

Best Tree:

18 Iselin Avenue

Best Yard:

42 Pemberton Avenue

Best Door/Window:

30 Steeplechase Court

Best Condo/Townhouse:

54 Steeplechase Court

Most Original:

31 Massaro Street

Congratulations to them and once again, thank you to all of those that decorated their homes!

Pooper Scooper Law, Dog Barking, and Dog Walking Etiquette

Please note Oceanport has a pooper scooper law in effect. If you do not clean up after your dog, a summons will be issued. This includes not only private property, but in Oceanport's parks too. **Residents walking their dogs on sidewalks should be considerate of other people's property. Please be courteous to your neighbors and keep your pets off private property.**

Also, all dogs are required to be kept on a leash at all times when off the premises of the owner's property. This includes when you have your dog at Oceanport's parks as well.

Oceanport has a Noise Nuisances ordinance which applies to habitual dog barking. Please keep your dog's barking to a minimum and be considerate to your neighbors especially during early mornings and later in the evening. Ask yourself, why would my neighbors want to hear my dog continually bark?

Oceanport's Own Dog Park

In case you didn't know, Oceanport is home to Wolf Hill Dog Park. This is one of two Off-Leash Dog Areas operated by the Monmouth County Park System. This 4-acre area combines an area for dogs of all sizes as well as an area for smaller dogs weighing 35 lbs or less. Dog waste bags and garbage cans can be found in both dog areas, and there are portable toilets near the parking lot. There is no water source available at the site for dogs and owners, so bring your own water bottles or jugs. If you are a dog owner this park is a convenient gym or play date for your pooch!

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

Last, but not least, the residents of Oceanport survived (some, admittedly, better than others) the Borough's first real property tax revaluation in a decade. Going forward, there should be no reason for such a long delay between revaluations.

Notwithstanding all the above, there is a lot that has to be done in 2019. We're hoping that the former site of the municipal building at the corner of Myrtle and Monmouth will be under construction this year and we're certain that the rehabilitation of the new municipal complex will begin in 2019! Our governing body is also acutely aware that the flooding situation in town has grown worse and we are hoping that the installation of the storm sewer check valves in 2019 (as part of a 3-year program) will help mitigate street flooding. The painful, laborious process of developing and passing our 2019 municipal budget has begun and, as always, will force our elected and appointed officials to examine what it is that the Borough needs --- as opposed to what it wants --- so that we can remain, as our motto says, "A Great Place to Live."

Of course, as we all know, any place that has Buddy Brocklebank living in it is a great place to live and he'll be at every meeting of the Governing Body in 2019 to ensure that it stays that way. Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Thank you!

A huge Thank You to everyone who came out to support the Oceanport Volunteer First Aid Holiday Bazaar. It was tremendous success which is a statement to the generosity of all who came and shared the day with us. Hoping everyone had a Joyous Holiday and wishing all a Happy New Year...

~The Oceanport First Aid Squad



Cub Scouts not only enjoyed learning how to make a bagel but they enjoyed eating it even more thanks to Bage Masters in Shrewsbury.

Garden Club News

The Oceanport Garden Club meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at Blackberry Park Pavilion. Social time is from 10:00 - 10:30 am with a business meeting to follow running until 11:30 am. An interesting, fun, and informative program starts at 11:30 and runs until 12:30 pm. The only change to the dates is if a holiday falls on a meeting date, then it is moved back a week.

The Garden Club held its annual Holiday Workshop and Luncheon this past December. The members enjoyed a catered luncheon and enjoyed making holiday decorations for Borough Hall and the school's offices and libraries in Oceanport and West Long Branch.

The January 2019 Garden Club meeting will be held on the January 24th and will feature a program given by Jeannie Ceremaia. She will be speaking about a flowering winter plant "The Hellebores."

On February 28th there will be a Members Craft & Hobby Fair. Every month four members are chosen to make an arrangement, and during the month of February the theme will be the tradition of giving Valentines.

If you or a neighbor would like to join the Garden Club, please contact the following to get more information: Penelope Gabriel at (732) 229-8274; MaryLou Chace (732) 299-1837; and Sandy Crome (732-741-4080. Remember, you do not have to be a resident of Oceanport. The club has members from other communities including Middletown and Manchester.

Cub Scout Corner

2019 has great things planned for Oceanport Cub Scouts Pack 58! Here is a look at what is planned for the winter months, as well as a few den updates:

The Cubs finished out December 2018 with a fun Pack meeting doing skits and playing games, while donating socks, hats, and gloves to a local church. The Cubs are looking forward to January's Pack trip which is a sleepover in the Liberty Science Center. Scouts, parents, and siblings have an opportunity to spend the night exploring the museum and participate in special programs just for the overnight guests. The pack will also enjoy a pizza party and snacks before lights out!

In February, the Pack is holding their annual Pinewood Derby. The boys have been working on their wooden cars and will race them in hopes of having the fastest car. This is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year which creates memories for years to come. March will be the "Crossing Over Ceremony" for the Webelos II Den. Nine boys have completed all of the requirements as Cub Scouts and will be recognized for their hard work before they become Boy Scouts. The Pack is very proud of August, Ashton, Donovan, Holden, Jack, Kevin, Logan, Matteo, and Zach.

Den highlights/special meetings and Go Sees: Webelos II had a den meeting with a congressman. They are enjoying their last few weeks as Cub Scouts and planning a spring rafting trip! The Webelos I Den had one of the best Go See visits to date: a tour of Bagel Masters in Shrewsbury! They learned about running a business as well as how they make those delicious bagels. The best part of the tour was a custom baked bagel for each boy. Thank you, Bagel Masters! This den is planning on a visit to the Great Falls in Paterson, a 3-mile hike, and a fitness workout at Our Team Fitness in the next few months. Some of the scouts are attending a rock concert from School of Rock to cheer on one of pack that is in the band! The Bear Den earned their whittling chips. These boys are starting to plan the requirement of the Bear carnival, a chance for each boy to plan his own carnival game for the other dens to enjoy. The Wolves would like to thank Shore Bells Gym for a fitness Go See and First Constitution Bank in Little Silver for their visit - complete with a look at the vault! They are also planning to do an Oceanport Cleanup day soon. And not to be forgotten, Tigers are learning to be Tigers! The newest members of the pack have been working on their first-year adventures with a lot of enthusiasm.

Oceanport Pack 58 is a very successful pack due to the commitment of the boys, parents, and the Oceanport community. The Pack encourages friendships, kindness, confidence, and teamwork. The boys learn and grow from each activity. Their leaders volunteer their ideas and time and to enrich so many lives.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining or volunteering, please contact our Cubmaster at just.elk@gmail.com.

SCHOOL/LIBRARY NEWS



Maple Place School Teacher's Room Gets a New Year Redo!

Thanks to two entrepreneur Oceanport moms, Francesca Weber and Amy White, the teacher's room at Maple Place School got some tender loving care. Their specialty happens to be designing beautiful spaces on an affordable budget. The two had been on the Oceanport PTO Hospitality committee last year and were setting up a staff lunch when they realized the teacher's lounge was desperate for a much-needed makeover.

Francesca and Amy decided to volunteer their time to make over this room. The teachers put together a wish list of items they would like to have for the lounge, but unfortunately the school did not have funds available for the project. They decided to ask Oceanport parents for gift card donations of any amount and for products that they could put towards the project. Many parents generously contributed, and the pair were able to get most of the items on the list. When the staff returned from winter break, Francesca and Amy revealed the new space to the staff including a breakfast with the remaining funds. It was warmly welcomed by the Maple Place School Staff!

For more information on this project or about Arrow Design, you can follow them on Facebook or Instagram @2homegoodaddicts or email arrowdesign2@gmail.com.

APPLICATION FOR OCEANPORT LIONS SCHOLARSHIP

The Oceanport Lions Club has a scholarship available for High School Seniors planning to further their education by attending a college or university. Any senior high school student who resides in Oceanport or is a son or daughter or grandchild of a Lion member in good standing may apply.

The award will be based on school academic achievements, school activities, community service, and a TYPEWRITTEN essay of at least 500 words. Applications may be obtained from your Guidance Counselor.

For additional information, please contact your high school scholarship counselor first or you may contact Mark Barreca, Lions Club Scholarship Committee Chair, at (201) 563-2948 or at mjbarreca@comcast.net.

Warm up with a book!

Happy New Year from the Oceanport Library! Fight the winter blahs by coming to the library and browse their wonderful collection of books, DVDs, magazines, CDs, and so much more.

There is time change to the Library's Family Storytime. The new time is Thursdays from 2:00 - 2:30 pm instead of 11:00 to 11:30 am. If your children attend a morning preschool we would love to welcome them to our afternoon storytime. Other programs are also Thursdays at the following hours:

Baby Storytime – 9:30 to 9:50 am

Toddler Storytime – 10:00 to 10:20 am

School Age Adventures – 4:00 to 4:30 pm

The library is happy to have some exciting programs for January and February. Please stop in or call the library (732) 229-2626 to register.

Thursday, January 10th, 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Musical Fun with Miss Amanda – Ages 4 and up.

Sing-along, dance, and play rhythm instruments with Miss Amanda from Music Together Coastal Melodies! Registration begins December 27th.

Thursday, January 17th, 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Coffee Filter Snowflakes Craft – Ages 4 and up.

Listen to winter stories and create a beautiful coffee filter snowflake.

Registration begins January 3rd.

Thursday, January 31st, 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Read to Spice – Ages 3 and up.

Ring in the New Year with our therapy dog Spice! If you are reading a book at home bring it or choose one of ours. If you are not yet reading, tell Spice a story or talk about the pictures in a book. Registration begins January 17th.

Thursday, February 7th, 4:00 to 4:30 pm

Marshmallow Snowmen – Ages 3 and up

Listen to stories and make a marshmallow snowman. Registration begins January 28th.

Thursday, February 21st, 4:00 to 4:30 pm

Keep That Healthy Happy Smile – Ages 3½ and up.

Tender Smiles 4 Kids will present a fun, informative and interactive lesson on good dental habits. Helpful and informative.

Registration begins February 7th.

Happy reading in 2019!

The Oceanport Bulletin

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LAURA McCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)
MICHAEL O'BRIEN, Councilman and *Bulletin* Liason
Deadline for the MARCH/APRIL *Bulletin* is FEBRUARY 14, 2019.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oceanport Lions Club We Are Lions, We Serve

Here are some of the ways the Lions Club serves all Oceanport residents.

Oceanport Lions Vision Screening & Screening Program for Accurate Detection

SPOT accurately detects the potential of these common vision problems:

- Myopia (nearsightedness)
- Hyperopia (farsightedness)
- Astigmatism (blurred vision)
- Anisometropia (unequal refractive power)
- Strabismus (eye misalignment)
- Anisocoria (unequal refractive power)

Since 2015 the Oceanport Lions Club has performed vision screenings on over a thousand students! All vision screenings are provided free of charge by volunteers of the Oceanport Lions Club. Some of the schools tested are:

- Wolf Hill School, Oceanport
- St. Jerome's School, West Long Branch
- Lenna W. Conrow School, Long Branch
- Morris Avenue School, Long Branch
- Joseph M. Ferraina ECLC, Long Branch

For more information please contact: Joan Lennon, vision testing chairperson at (908) 418-3183.

When you no longer need your eyeglasses drop them in the Lions Collection Box located in front of Circle K Convenience Store. Look for the white mailbox in front of the Circle K, 275 E Main Street, Oceanport.

The Oceanport Lions Club also has a scholarship available for High School Seniors planning to further their education. More information is available about this on page 5 in the School/Library section.

Give the gift of serving.

The Oceanport Lions Club needs you as a member. If interested in considering becoming a lion please contact with no obligation:

John M. Bonforte Sr.,
Oceanport Lions Club
Program & Membership
Chairperson, at (908) 489-9090
(cell), (732) 229-3444 X12
(office), or email
johnsr@monmouthrubber.com.
You can also get more
information on the web at
www.oceanportlionsclub.com.



Lion President Kevin Lennon donates his time and talent to vision test students for absolutely no cost to the students nor the school.

Senior Club Notes

Membership in the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport is open to any Oceanport resident who is 55 years old or older. The club generally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, weather permitting, at the Blackberry Bay Pavilion. Social time with refreshments begins at 1:00 pm, followed by a meeting at 1:30. Many meetings include an informative presentation by a guest speaker or entertainment.

The November 15, 2018 meeting featured a beautiful presentation of flower arrangements by Sigrid Lenzing, a member of the Oceanport Garden Club. In addition the following officers were elected to serve in 2019: President: Barbara Josselyn, First Vice President: Jo Bartlow, Assistant First Vice President: Lois Olsen, Second Vice President: Fran Katzenberger, Assistant Second Vice President: Kathy Maida, Treasurer: Marie Quackenbush, Assistant Treasurer: Katherine Joyce, Recording Secretary: Barbara Scerbo, Assistant Recording Secretary: Patty DeSantis, Corresponding Secretary: Addie Nelson, and Assistant Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Bell.

Join the fun by becoming a member of the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport! Please contact Fran Bendock at (732) 229-0278 for information about joining. Annual membership dues are only \$20, a bargain considering that some meetings include free lunch, and refreshments are served at all the others.

Some Club members meet to play cards at 9:00 am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Port-au-Peck Firehouse. Any club member is welcome to join them. Call Marie Quackenbush at (732) 229-0454 for more information.