

From the Desk of Mayor Coffey

October/November 2020

As everyone should know by now, the State of New Jersey has mandated that all active registered voters will receive mail-in ballots for the November 3, 2020 election. For better or worse, this is how the State of New Jersey has decided we will be conducting the election this year. By the time you read this message, you should have already received your ballot. If you have not received your ballot by October 13th, you should contact the County Clerk's office at 732-431-7790.

Because of the State's unprecedented decision to conduct comprehensive mail in voting, the Borough of Oceanport will only have TWO polling locations this year: (1) The Pavilion at Blackberry Bay Park and (2) the Oceanport Hook and Ladder building at 21 Main Street. Please be warned, however, that the voting machines at these two locations will only be available "to those voters who need an ADA accessible ballot marking device because they are unable to vote a paper ballot."

As such, if you show up at one of our two polling places on election day to vote (you will receive a post card advising you of your polling place) and you are NOT in need of an ADA accessible ballot marking device, you will NOT be allowed to vote in a machine. Instead, the poll workers provide you with a provisional paper ballot. This provisional ballot will look exactly like the ballot previously mailed to you. The County recommends that if you insist on going to a polling location, it would be best if you bring your completed mail-in ballot and drop it off with the poll workers. Please note that if you vote via provisional ballot at a polling place, your ballot will be counted AFTER all of the mail-in ballots are counted.

There are four ways you can submit your mail-in ballot after you fill it out: (1) you can mail it in via the U.S. Post Office, (2) you can bring it to the secure drop boxes located throughout the County, (3) you can bring it directly to the Board of Elections Office at 300 Halls Mill Road in Freehold, or (4) you can bring it to your polling location. The drop box locations can be found at www.MonmouthCountyVotes.com.

The Borough of Oceanport is doing everything in its power to make the election process as seamless and trouble-free as possible. The County recommends that you return your ballots as soon as possible so that the collection and counting process can begin as soon as the law allows. If you have questions about the ballot process, please call the Monmouth County Clerk of Election (732-431-7790), the Superintendent of Elections (732-431-7780) or the Board of Elections (732-431-7802).

In addition to having a confusing election process, we are also facing a Halloween of uncertainty. The Borough of Oceanport is leaving it up to our residents as to whether or not they will participate in door to door Halloween activities. It would be helpful, however, if the trick-or-

trick-or-treaters had a way of knowing whether or not they should approach someone's door on Halloween. To that end, we suggest that anybody who wants to allow trick-or-treaters to come to their door place a small sign in their front yard or on their front door indicating that they are participating in Halloween and that it is safe to approach. We also ask that candy be given out in plastic bags and that it be handed out while wearing a mask and gloves. Please note that Oceanport Recreation is holding a Trunk-or-Treat on October 25th. If we are lucky, maybe we can get Buddy Brocklebank to trick out his trunk this year.