

From the Desk of Mayor Coffey

September/October 2019

We had a fabulous summer here in Oceanport and it was closed out by another incredible Summer's End event at Blackberry Bay Park. Once again, Oceanport's Parks & Recreation Committee put together a perfect evening for all of us to enjoy and the closing fireworks display was, as usual, second to none. We owe a debt of gratitude to the paid staff and volunteers who put this event together every year. It is a town wide celebration of all that is wonderful about Oceanport.

One of the other wonderful things about Oceanport is our commitment to helping others and the Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at Monmouth Park on August 4th was Oceanport at its finest. With over 650 people participating in the race and hundreds more volunteering and participating in the fund-raising portion of the event, this year's Challenge met its goal of raising \$100,000.00 for research and education related to the treatment of pediatric brain and central nervous system tumors. Kudos to Oceanport, the Kortney Rose Foundation, the Gillette family and everybody who volunteered or participated in this event.

Looking ahead, as most of you are aware, the Borough of Oceanport is relocating its Municipal Complex to a 13.25-acre parcel of land on the old Fort Monmouth property located just off Main Street by the Razor Drive entrance to the Fort. Demolition work has begun on certain of the buildings there and the renovation of the remaining buildings will begin shortly thereafter. When the project is complete (we hope to be done by the third quarter of 2020), our police station will be moved from its current site at the old Fort Monmouth firehouse to the former State Police building and next door to that will be our Municipal Building. The new Municipal Building will house Oceanport's Municipal Court, our Department of Municipal Works office and all the municipal services currently located 315 East Main Street. The Department of Public Works' maintenance building and yard are already located at the site. All in all, the new complex will allow for "one stop shopping" for our citizens when completed.

Recreation soccer has started up again at Blackberry Bay Park and that means we need to be reminded that the speed limit on Port-Au-Peck by Blackberry Bay is 25 miles an hour, not 150 miles an hour. In fact, the top speed limit on ALL but three of the municipality's streets is 25 miles an hour (Main Street, Port-Au-Peck past Branchport and Crescent being the three exceptions), so please slow down when you are driving through Oceanport. I know that this is a constant theme in my messages, but speeding is a constant problem in our town.

Longtime Oceanport Rick McKenna recently stepped down as a member of the Shore Regional High School Board. Rick has been one of the most dedicated volunteers this town has ever

known, and he has represented Oceanport well on both the Shore Regional and Oceanport Boards of Education over the past two decades. Oceanport is going to miss him, and we need more people like him to step forward and volunteer their time. Finally, I'd like to extend a belated Happy Birthday to Oceanport Mayor Emeritus Clem Sommers, who celebrated his 90th birthday with his family and friends in August, but he still isn't as old as Buddy Brocklebank.