

## From the Desk of Mayor Coffey

June/July 2021

Summer is rushing towards us, but not as fast as motor vehicles are rushing through Oceanport's streets. This isn't really a new thing and, quite frankly, even though summer traffic exacerbates the situation, it really isn't even a summer thing. No matter the time of year, whether you are on Comanche, Port-Au-Peck, Burnt Mill Circle, East Main Street, Main Street, Pemberton, Bridgewater, Asbury, Monmouth Boulevard, Asbury or pretty much anywhere else in town, you've undoubtedly noticed a lot of cars going well in excess of the posted speed limit. And it isn't only out of towners cutting through Oceanport who are speeding. The number of Oceanport residents speeding through town – even in their own neighborhoods -- is both disappointing and frustrating to say the least.

Unlike Monmouth Beach and Sea Bright, however, Oceanport has more than one main vehicular artery and the advent of community-based GPS programs like "Waze" has allowed drivers to avoid speed traps and traffic. Chief Kelly will be allocating his resources so that we will increase both radar-based speed control signage throughout Oceanport and targeted radar/stop sign enforcement throughout the Borough. These targeted radar/stop sign details will be augmented by "Special 2" police officers the Borough recently hired. The Borough's Governing Body, Police Department, and Municipal Court system are going to do everything in their power to ensure that speeding in Oceanport is no longer an option.

Simply stated, if you are pulled over by the Oceanport police for driving in excess of the posted speed limit, you will not get a warning. Instead, you will get a ticket. Under the motor vehicle laws of the State of New Jersey, the fine for driving one mile over the speed limit is the same as it is driving nine miles over the speed limit. The faster you go, the higher the fines climb. The same is true for the points that will accrue to your driving record, except that driving one mile over the posted speed limit results in the same number of points (two) as if you are driving fourteen miles over the speed limit.

The one upside to getting a speeding ticket, though, is that it entitles you to an appearance before the Honorable John A. Patti in Oceanport's Municipal Court. In my personal opinion, the Walt Disney Corporation offers the only other ticket providing more entertainment value than spending a hot, humid Monday afternoon watching Judge Patti adjudicate his motor vehicle docket. As an added bonus, moreover, you are much more likely to have a Buddy Brocklebank sighting at our Municipal Complex than at Disneyworld.

While Monmouth Boulevard is subject to a good number of speeding vehicles on a daily basis, one day that was an exception was May 31, 2021, during the Borough of Oceanport's Memorial Day Parade. Led by Grand Marshal, Navy veteran and Oceanport Legend Al DeSantis, Sr., this year's parade (after a one-year absence) was bigger and better than ever. A parade, especially in a small town like Oceanport, is one of those special, life affirming events that reminds us all of what being part of a community is all about. And this was certainly a community event! Special thanks to Kim Parent, Paula Lombardo and the Historical Committee, Councilman Billy Deerin and the Recreation Committee, our Department of Public Works and everybody else who helped organize and conduct a fantastic parade through town and a solemn, poignant post-parade memorial service at our new Borough Hall complex.

Speaking of the new Borough Hall complex, the Municipal Building (located at 910 Oceanport Way, just off Main Street) is now open to the public and we will be conducting a formal opening ceremony on July 31, 2021, at which time the Municipal Building will be dedicated to former Mayor Clement V. Sommers. Information regarding the July 31, 2021, dedication ceremony will be forthcoming on the Borough of Oceanport's website. The Borough Council and I look forward to seeing all of you at that event. But remember to take your time driving there.

April was not kind to Oceanport in that Jim Slattery, Richard Gallo, Sr. and Joan Schiavone all passed away. They were part and parcel of the fabric of our community for many years, helped make Oceanport the great place it is today and will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

Last, but certainly not least, the Borough of Oceanport has introduced its 2021 budget and the public hearing is being held at the Borough Council's regular meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021. This meeting is being held remotely. If you have any questions or comments about the budget, please avail yourself of the opportunity to attend this meeting. Instructions for remote attendance of our municipal council meetings can be found on the Borough's website. We hope to be back to in person meetings at the new municipal complex this summer after we dedicate the complex. I hope to see you all at the Memorial Day Parade!