

Mayor's Message

April/May 2022

With the change of the seasons, we are seeing a great number of new potholes on Borough streets. This happens every spring and our Department of Public Works is now taking an inventory of our streets and will be addressing the potholes on an as needed basis. In addition to the patching of potholes by our DPW staff, the Borough has an aggressive road improvement program this spring involving the following streets:

Comanche Drive Phase2 – Mohican to Genesse (or Genesee depending on which sign you read)

Shore Road – entire street

Gooseneck Point Road – entire street

Fairfield Avenue – entire street

Pocano Avenue – Comanche Drive to eastern terminus

Seawaneka Avenue – northern section

Pemberton Avenue – Oceanport Avenue to East Main Street

For the 2022 budget, the following streets (a total of approximately 1.7 miles) are going to be addressed:

Comanche Drive Phase 3 – Mohican to Pocahontas

Belmar Avenue – entire street

Driveway (yes, that is the name of the street!) – entire street

Manitto Place – Itaska to Winhar

Horseneck Point – east of the railroad tracks

Tohicon Place – entire street

Seneca Place – Itaska to Winhar

Sagamore – Port Au Peck to Comanche

Oceanport's governing body is committed to making our streets safe, functional and aesthetically pleasing and our five-year road program is designed to meet these goals.

Speaking of meeting goals, Oceanport Knights' Mid-Monmouth U-10 Girls basketball team, coached by Dennis Coyle and Jon Dougherty, accomplished something that has never been done in the history of the Oceanport Knights program when they defeated Rumson 22-11 in the 2022 Mid-Monmouth Basketball championship game. With that win, Coach Coyle's Knights became the first girl's team to win the Mid-Monmouth championship in any age group, joining Coach Jim Mahoney's U-13 Boys (2004) and Coach Jim Reid's U-8 Boys (2010) as the only overall Mid-Monmouth Champions. Congrats to team members Emily Coyle, Chloe Coyle, Audriana Dougherty, Summer George, Charley Sheridan, Mia Painchaud, Daphne Zilincar, Savannah Giunta, Avery Matranga, and Morgan Vecchio. Coach Wishart of Shore Regional's 2022 Girls Basketball Group 1 Sectional Champions and Group 1 Finalists should be very happy that these girls are in Shore Regional's basketball pipeline. And, while I'm at it, kudos to Shore Regional's 2022 Girls Varsity Basketball team for their tremendous season, especially Oceanport residents Alana Martin, Rylee Drahos, Reese Fiore, Julia Ianuzzelli, Conley Smolokoff, and Kendall Bennett, the last five of whom played for the Oceanport Knights and the Maple Place Chargers when they were in grammar school.

We've got lots of home improvements in progress in Oceanport and our residents should be aware of Oceanport's new Home Improvement Program. This is a wonderful opportunity provided by the Borough for homeowners to obtain financial assistance for eligible repairs or replacement of major systems (e.g., roof, electric, heating and plumbing). There is no cost to apply. There are no credit checks. There are no monthly payments. This program provides for an interest-free, forgivable loan. The Borough of Oceanport has retained Community Grants, Planning & Housing, LLC (CGP&H), a consulting firm specializing in these types of programs, to administer Oceanport's Home Improvement Program. Please visit hip.cgph.net to learn more and to submit an easy, online pre-application. If you have questions about how to qualify under the program's parameters, or if you do not have internet access, you may call the administrator at 609-664-2783. **The deadline to submit your pre-application is June 15, 2022. All pre-applicants will be entered into a computerized random lottery drawing to determine the order in which full application packages will be distributed for the available openings.** This program is funded via the Borough's affordable housing trust fund.

Nice weather means that more people, most notably kids and Buddy Brocklebank, will be using our recreational facilities and taking walks along our Borough's throughfares. As such, please be reminded to SLOW DOWN when you are driving in Oceanport! Our police department is, once again, going to be committing resources to combat this scourge throughout the spring and summer months. **Speeders will be stopped and they will be ticketed.** But our police can't be everywhere, and we know that a great deal of the speeding in town is done by Oceanport residents. Please help us help ourselves by SLOWING DOWN while you are driving in Oceanport. Remember, speed "limits" set the upper end of the range at which vehicles can operate. The law doesn't say you HAVE to drive at the speed of the posted speed limit, it merely states that you are violating the law if your vehicle is moving in excess of the posted speed limit. For once, I would love to start receiving complaints about how slowly people are driving in Oceanport. There is no shame associated with driving 18 or 20 or 22 miles an hour in a 25 mile an hour zone. Indeed, give what's at risk, people's lives, it is something drivers should be lauded for. So, how about this: I will buy a quart of ice cream the first 25 people our police department spots driving UNDER the speed limit. I just hope I don't end up eating all 25 quarts.