

Mayor's Message

Feb/Mar 2024

I want to thank the residents of Oceanport for allowing me the opportunity to serve this wonderful community for the next four years as Mayor. Oceanport is growing and developing, and it is important to me that our residents feel included and have a voice in this growth and development. Communication between the Borough's government and our residents will be a priority during this administration. No less important will be the continuation of the great relationships that have been developed between our municipal government and the volunteers who support our community through their time and selfless dedication to Oceanport's residents.

Re-organization day is always a very special event and this year it was especially noteworthy. We swore in our newest volunteer officers in the First Aid Squad and Fire Department, recognized outgoing Fire Chief Tommy Gallo, honored local living legend Clarence "Buddy" Brocklebank with the Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award, and recognized outgoing Mayor Jay Coffey with a proclamation. If you have a chance, I highly recommend you watch the re-organization meeting online. Someone mentioned they have not seen that many people with watery eyes in one room in a long, long time.

During the first two weeks of the new year, we managed to survive our first Nor'easter and our first ice storm, while we narrowly missed a snowstorm. As always, kudos to our Department of Public Works crew, Office of Emergency Management, and all our first responders for their tireless efforts and making sure the streets were clear and safe for Oceanport's residents.

Safety is the first order of business when it comes to our school children and the Borough has finalized an agreement with the Board of Education whereby, we will always have two active police officers present during school hours. This could not have happened without the hard work of the members of the Board of Education, Oceanport School District's outgoing Superintendent, Laura Godlesky and her incredible administrative staff, as well as the Borough's Business Administrator, Donna Phelps, our CFO, Katie LaPorta, Police Chief Michael Kelly, and the Borough Council, all of whom worked together to put together a fiscal and operational gameplan to best protect the health and safety of our students.

If you're driving by Sommers Boy Scout Park, you will notice construction fencing has been placed around the perimeter of the park. The park will be closed for up to two years to allow for Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority to complete its long-awaited and much needed upgrade to our sewer system. While the extended closure of the park and the construction taking place will be an inconvenience, the long-term benefits of this extensive upgrade will far outweigh the inconveniences. Unfortunately, as a result of this project, the Borough will lose two mature shade trees that are currently in the park. Additionally, the monuments, benches, and flagpole be removed and placed in storage until such time as the project is completed. Once the project is completed, the monuments, benches and flagpole will be re-installed. Please note there will be site lighting for security purposes and the site will be secured each night. Please also be aware that the contractor will be installing office trailers on site as well as implementing soil stockpiling handling areas. There will be no interruption of utility services, and the contractor is responsible for obtaining its own electric and water service. Portable bathrooms will be on site as well. The work involves excavating a 40-foot diameter shaft approximately 90 feet deep and diverting the existing 48-inch sewer pipe into the new 54-inch pipe that will be tunneled under the river from Monmouth Beach. Ultimately, the site will be restored at the direction of the Borough's Parks and Recreation Committee. There will be a hatch at grade and a vent pipe above grade in the future. The existing walking path will be slightly relocated closer to the waterfront. When the project is completed, new trees will be planted and there will be a "rededication" ceremony. By the time you read this, the Borough will have a site plan and updated timeline posted on the Borough's website. I plan on sitting with the Planning and Development committee and representatives of both the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority and the contractor for a preconstruction meeting.



Sadly, Oceanport suffered two heavy losses early this year with the passing of Barbara “Bobbie” Baldanza and Samuel “Sam” Scerbo. Sincere condolences to Bobbie’s husband, Mauro (better known as Buzzy), her son, Robert, and her family and friends and to Sam’s wife Barbara, his daughter Mary, his sons Christopher and Michael, his beloved grandchildren, and extended family and friends. Bobbie and Sam were admired and respected by all. They will be deeply missed.