

The Oceanport Bulletin

1920-2020



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July/August 2020

Mayor's Message

The advent of the COVID-19 virus brought about a global game of "sink or swim" and Oceanport has been a "swimmer" throughout this entire crisis. Notwithstanding state imposed social distancing regulations, stay at home orders, and work from home directives, our municipal government has continued to operate without missing a beat while employing protocols designed to protect both our municipal employees and citizens. Our parks and recreational facilities have remained open (with the exception of playgrounds for a while), subject to social distancing practices and Oceanport was one of the first communities in New Jersey to use technology to conduct virtual council, school and planning board meetings that allow for members of the public to not only watch, but participate in the meetings in real time. We are excited to see homes rising up and out of the soil at site of our old Municipal Complex at the corner of Myrtle and Monmouth, and our new Municipal Complex on the old Fort Monmouth property is moving along quickly. We now expect to be in the new Police Building by September and the Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building should be ready to occupy by December.

While we were able to pass our 2020 municipal budget on June 25th, we were required to send out estimated third quarter property tax bills. Estimated 3rd quarter tax bills are not the norm for Oceanport, but the State of New Jersey will not be finalizing its budget until September because of COVID-19 and the applicable laws required our Tax Collector to send out estimated bills. The estimated 3rd quarter bill needs to be paid by August 1, 2020. This is NOT an additional tax bill, it's just an estimated bill. After the State completes its budget, we will reconcile everybody's 2020 real property taxes when we issue a final 4th quarter bill in the fall. For a more complete explanation about the estimated 3rd quarter tax bill, please visit the Borough of Oceanport's website and read "COVID-19 Update No. 16."

Our road improvement program continues unabated and portions of Turf, Genesse, Blackberry, Comanche, Winhar, Werah, Ithaca, Mohawk, Allenhurst, Avon and Myrtle are all scheduled for work before the end of the year. We have a new, albeit much more expensive, garbage and recycling contract with the same provider (Roselle), the only significant change to which is that the Borough's Department of Public Works has taken over the duty of providing bulk trash pickup effective as of June 1, 2020. To schedule a bulk trash pickup, please e-mail publicworks@oceanportboro.com or call (848) 456-4668.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events

July

- 4 Happy Independence Day, No Trash Pickup
- 7 Primary Election Date (Revised from June 2nd)
- 8 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 13 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 13 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
- 14 Planning Board Meeting
- 16 Mayor & Council Workshop & Regular Meeting
- 23 Parks & Recreation Mini-Golf Tournament
- 23 Shore Regional High School District Board of Education Meeting
- 31 Movies in the Park at Blackberry, *Moanna*



August

- 1 Third Quarter Property Taxes Due
- 10 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 10 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
- 11 Planning Board Meeting
- 12 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 20 Mayor & Council Workshop & Regular Meeting
- 27 Shore Regional High School District Board of Education Meeting

September

- 3 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
- 7 Labor Day, Borough Offices Closed, Trash Will be Picked Up
- 8 Planning Board Meeting
- 9 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 12 Movies in the Park at Blackberry
- 17 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 18 Movies in the Park at Blackberry, Movie TBA

Recycling

- Zone 1 First and Third Wednesday of the Month
- Zone 2 First and Third Thursday of the Month

COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough Notes and Reminders

- Please do not blow grass in the street.
- Please no parking on the grass.
- Garbage cans should only be placed out after 6:00 pm the night before your collection day and should be removed from the curb before end of collection day.
- Please clean up after your dog or you will be issued a summons, dogs are required to be kept on leash when off owner's property, and please remember Oceanport as a Noise Nuisance ordinance which applies to habitual dog barking so keep barking to a minimum.

Oceanport Centennial News

The Historical Committee would like to update you on upcoming plans. Due to the Corona Virus, some events have had to be canceled or postponed. At the time of printing of this edition of the *Bulletin*, there is hope to present the following events but plans may have to change due to the virus as things are evolving day-by-day.

There are still plans for a social scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at the Blu Grotto, but that may change due to limitations because of the virus. Also, hoping to have a family-friendly event with some golfing at Blue Grass Mini Golf. Stay tuned for further details.

Unfortunately, the decision has been made to postpone the Centennial Gala, which was planned for Saturday, October 17th, to sometime in the spring. There was some hope to be able to host the Gala at that time as originally planned without the need for social distancing, masks, etc.

The Historical Committee is looking to have a Halloween window painting with participating businesses in town. If you're interested in having your window(s) to be painted, and if you're interested in painting, please reach out at oceanportcentennial@gmail.com, or on the Oceanport Centennial Facebook page.

As mentioned, there are plans to host a second Holiday Home Tour on December 6th. Would you like to have your home, dressed up in its holiday best, showcased? Please keep the date in mind, and reach out to oceanportcentennial@gmail.com for questions and to register. Keep an eye on upcoming editions of the *Bulletin* and the Oceanport Centennial Facebook page and the Oceanport Residents Facebook page for more details.

The Committee would love to recognize Oceanport's oldest resident, and the Oceanport resident who has lived in Oceanport the longest continuous time. If you know someone who qualifies, please reach out to the Historical Committee at oceanportcentennial@gmail.com. There have been discussions about recognizing Oceanport's oldest home as well. Do you think you live in it? Help us by providing to us the information you have that will prove the age of your home.

Don't forget to look through your photos to share with the Committee your photos of Oceanport residents' past and present – at the parade, at Summer's End, etc. – doing things in Oceanport.

The Historical Committee looking forward to being able to celebrate Oceanport's Centennial with you as soon as we are able.

Changes to Bulk Trash Collection Services

Effective June 1, 2020, the Borough's service for bulk trash has changed and will no longer be picked up by the garbage contractor. In an effort to reduce the ever-increasing costs of garbage, recycling, and bulk material, the Borough's Department of Public Works will be responsible for bulk pick up for our residents.

What is a bulk item?

Bulk items are furniture, carpeting, mattresses, and are limited to (3) three items per scheduled pickup. Building materials are anything used to construct the home such as cabinets, vanities, sheetrock, tile, wood, windows, doors, etc. Construction debris, wood, windows or doors will NOT be collected and cannot be placed at the curb with your bulk. Contractors are responsible for removal and disposal of their debris.

Please note the Borough's service does not include move-outs or clean-out contents from an entire home. Resident will have to call a private dumpster company for disposal.

Bulk Trash Pickup By Appointment Only

To schedule pickup:

Email (preferred method): publicworks@oceanportboro.com
Call (848) 456-4668

Public Works will respond ASAP with a pick-up date. Items must be placed at the curb (not in the street) prior to 7:00 am on that date.



Garden Club News

The Garden Club is on summer hiatus and will hopefully return to Meetings in September. However, the Garden Club is looking for a new home. The Club was meeting at the First Aid Building from September through February this year but is no longer able to use that space. If anyone has any suggestions for a place where the Club can meet, please contact Garden Club President Deb Smith at (732)547-7233.

If possible, there is a Flower Show planned for the Church on the four corners in Shrewsbury on September 24th. The Club is working on their calendar for the coming season which is from September to June.

Anyone interested in joining the Club can contact Penny Gabriel at (732) 229-8274 or Diane Dineen at (732) 688-2688. Dues are only \$25.00 a year. Meetings are interesting, informative, and fun. Refreshments are always served!!

COMMUNITY NEWS



VIRTUAL KORTNEY'S CHALLENGE **2 MILE FUN RUN WALK**

Registration is now open for Virtual Kortney's Challenge!

The 15th annual Kortney's Challenge 2 Mike FUN Run/Walk is going Virtual! This allows people to get involved and support the foundation who may not have been able to make the actual event in the past. This is the signature event of The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF). KRF began in 2006 after the death of our 9-year old daughter Kortney to a brain tumor. We knew we needed to take action when we learned that brain tumors are the #1 cause of death by disease in children, and that only 4% of our annual government's research budget goes to all pediatric cancer research. That's right, 96% of our federal research funding goes to adult cancers and only 4 % to kids! Kids continue to get diagnosed, treated for, and die from brain tumors no matter what else is going on in the world. We can't take our foot off the gas and need to keep funding this research. It's small foundations like KRF that are bridging this gap in funding. We've been hard hit as well from the pandemic and would be grateful for any amount you may be able to donate.

Please help us spread this event Coast to Coast and beyond by sharing our link with your family and friends in other states. It's only \$10 so we're hoping people will choose to participate.

We've all been looking for months at COVID dots on the US map. Let's change this visual to something positive as we track participants for our virtual event. Together, but apart, we stride taking steps to Help Get Brain Tumors Off Kids' Minds. It's only \$10/participant and you're supporting lifesaving research. Please join us and spread the word, near and far, so we can fill in our map! Go to: runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Oceanport/KortneysChallenge

For more information about KRF, please visit our website. thekortneyrosefoundation.org

Thank you,
Kristen Gillette
Founder/Executive Director
The Kortney Rose Foundation
thekortneyrosefoundation.org



Tennis Court Reservations Made Online

You can now reserve tennis courts easily online! Just go to oceanportboro.com and pull down the Department tab and click on Recreation. On the left side you will see General Tennis - Reserve a Court. Just click on that and you will be able to reserve courts at either Blackberry Bay or at the Community Center. Please be courteous and arrive on time for your reservation and please cancel if your plans change.

Oceanport Parks & Recreation Committee

Presents:

2020 Movies in the Park

Blackberry Bay Park at dusk

Friday, July 31: *Moana*

Movie is free of charge!

Bring a blanket, bring a chair. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages - no alcohol permitted. Please be mindful of social distancing with non-related/social groups.



An evening of fun at the Oceanport Parks & Recreation Committee 8th Annual Mini-Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 23rd

5:00 – 9:00 pm

Blue Grass Mini Golf Course – Monmouth Park

The tournament is FREE to Oceanport residents. Age groups are as follows: K – 4th grade, 5th – 8th grade, high schoolers, and adults.

Registration opens at 5:00 pm

Championship round will be played at 8:30 pm

COMMUNITY NEWS

A message from Oceanport Police Chief Michael P. Kelly

As I watched the video of the incident in Minneapolis which lead to the death of George Floyd while in police custody I was horrified and angered because an officer who wears the same type of uniform and badge caused the senseless death of a human being. All the officers within the department relayed to me their disbelief and sadness of that incident. I am also angered by the inactions of the other officers who were at the scene. These officers' actions, and inactions, go beyond the policies, practices, and training of police agencies within our country. That incident has tarnished the badge we wear and the oath we have promised to uphold to protect and serve all regardless of race, nationality, creed, and religion. We must now work together to continue to build trust, understanding, compassion, and transparency within our police profession. We cannot efficiently and effectively serve our communities without these common bonds.

In my 25 years in law enforcement I have worked with many exceptional and professional police officers, here in Oceanport and in 3 other police agencies that I worked in prior to being hired in Oceanport. The officers I have worked side by side with, sometimes during many stressful and fluid situations, have always committed 100% of their efforts and focus on ensuring that our profession is not tarnished or looked at in a negative view.

I commend our Oceanport Police Officers for the work they perform each day and the dedication to their profession. The officers have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our residents. They have shed a calming light into a very unknown and stressful time in our community and nation, first with COVID and now with the attention placed on negative law enforcement actions and how we are perceived as a profession within our country. Whatever the perception is, we must work even harder and change the negatives views and perception into positive views and perceptions.

During the last two weeks our Oceanport officers have been called to assist our surrounding neighboring towns in

ensure everyone right to peaceful and beneficial protests. Our officers have assisted our neighboring jurisdictions in Long Branch, Asbury Park, and tonight in Eatontown standing side by side with all citizens in unity for peace, justice, and freedom. The officers have performed their tasks with professionalism, honor, and restraint. The officers have been on the receiving end of many angry protesters' taunts and ridicule, but they understand the frustration of the protesters. The officers understand they are the line between the peaceful and those who want to cause harm, injury, and destruction. Officers assigned to Asbury Park witnessed unruly subjects throwing rocks and bottles and subjects physically assaulting officers, as one of our own was bit on the leg during an arrest. These actions do not promote change but lead to more unrest and only shed a negative light on the meaning of peaceful protest and change.

The members of the Oceanport Police Department continue to hold their positions and the oath that they have all taken in the highest regards and remain steadfast in securing the safety, security, and freedom of all residents of, and visitors to, Oceanport. We remain committed to our core values and code of ethics, as well as all the trust that is instilled upon us by the citizens we serve and protect.

If there is anything, I, or any member of the department can do to answer questions or be of any assistance please do not hesitate to call us. We will be working harder, and with more determination than ever, to ensure security, peace, and unity within our community as well as the freedoms this great country has to offer.

Thank you for all that you do for us and for your unwavering support.

Chief Michael P. Kelly

Oceanport Police Department

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad continues to meet the many challenges of the COVID pandemic. The squad would like to thank the community for the continued support during this unprecedented time. The squad continues to do their best to serve the community even with limited staff and is always looking for new members. Please be on the lookout for our annual fund drive letter. All donations are greatly appreciated. The squad is here to serve you!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Senior Club Notes

Special Message from Club President Barbara Josselyn: I hope that everyone is well, practicing social distancing, and wearing masks when out and about. Unfortunately, there will be not be an ice cream social this summer, but the Senior Club has tentatively scheduled Casino Day for the third Wednesday of September, September 16th, assuming we can meet at that time. We will reach out to you when we know for sure. I miss your smiling faces and am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you in the fall.

SPECIAL TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND

The Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster Pennsylvania re-opens on July 16, 2020, so we are still planning a special bus trip to Sight & Sound to see the "Queen Esther" production. After the show, an enjoyable family style meal will be served at Good n Plenty. Cost is \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members. Trip goers will meet at the Port au Peck firehouse on Myrtle Avenue at 6:45 AM. The bus will depart at 7 AM. For more information and reservations, please contact Marie Quackenbush at (732) 229-0454.

Membership in the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport is open to any Oceanport resident who is 55 years old or older. Meetings are suspended for now, but when they resume, the club will meet on the third Wednesday of each month, weather permitting, at the Blackberry Bay Pavilion. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings begin at 12:30 PM and include informative presentations by guest speakers, entertainment, or other special events. Join the fun by becoming a member of the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport! Please contact Fran Bendock at (732) 229-0278 for information about joining.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

Email is the preferred method and we ask you include your name, address, and a brief description of the items being picked up. Please visit the Borough's website to see what constitutes bulk trash and see the article on page 2 for more information.

While we had to cancel our annual Summer Action Camp due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the New Jersey Department of Health, our youth and adult recreational sports programs have re-started (with certain restrictions) and our Recreation Committee has arranged for COVID-19 compliant youth sports camps at Blackberry Bay Park From 7/13 to 7/17 and 7/20 to 7/24 through the U.S. Sports Institute and a COVID-19 compliant Marine Science Camp from 8/24 to 8/28. More information on these camps can be gotten from the Recreation Committee's section of the Borough's website.

We are looking for more participation at our municipal council meetings. We meet once a month during the summer and twice a month for most of the rest of the year. While I will admit that our meetings are about as exciting as watching Mike MacStudy umpire, the Borough would benefit greatly from more involvement, input and comment from the general public during these meetings. The irony of the COVID-19 lockdown is that it is actually easier than ever to watch and/or participate in a municipal council because you don't even to leave your home. You can now watch meetings live on FIOS Channel 28 and, once you've registered on the Borough's website, you can both watch and participate in meetings on your computer or smartphone. We've also made past meetings of the Borough Council available for viewing from the Borough's website. Please, please, please visit the Borough's website and register to watch and participate in our upcoming meetings. If you have FIOS, you can also turn to channel 28 to see important updates regarding our town.

None of this would have been possible, however, if Oceanport as a community had not responded to this crisis with such grace, reason, and intelligence. We've spent the last 90 days deluged by conflicting, contradictory and confusing information from virologists, immunologists, epidemiologists, the CDC, county departments of health, state departments of health, international health organizations, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, elected officials, appointed officials and even people who just look official and the only thing one can conclude from all this is that uncertainty is the only certainty when it comes to COVID-19. The COVID-19 virus has been making decisions for us for several months, but we are at the point where people are making decisions for themselves as to how they are going to deal with the COVID-19 threat going forward. Over the past 90 days, we have had to develop our views on masks, social distancing, handshakes, work, hugs, supermarkets, sports, kids, school, parties, outdoor gatherings, indoor gatherings, et cetera. The problem we have is that not everyone has the same approach or the same level of comfortability. This plays out most notably when we meet someone on the street or at the store and we start doing the "chicken dance" with our elbows, hands and feet trying to figure out how to properly greet each other.

On a national level, the next 90 days are probably going to be more difficult than the past 90 days because of the disparity in how each state is dealing with the crisis and how the COVID-19 virus is spreading. On a local level, it doesn't have to be that way. We are a small, close-knit community. If we remain considerate of each other, if we keep communicating with each other and if we continue to take care of each other, Oceanport can weather this storm no matter how long it goes on. With a little luck, we'll get to enjoy the next few months of summer before we have to figure out how to deal with all the social distancing protocols that will be put in place for the school year. The track is partially open, Oceanport's parks and recreation facilities are fully open, the Shrewsbury River is cleaner than it has been in years and our restaurants now have some outside seating. Get out and enjoy what Oceanport has to offer but remember that we need to respect the needs and concerns of others as we do. Whether you want to wear a mask or not, whether you want to socially distance or not, if you are out and about in Oceanport, the Buddy Brocklebank rule is in effect: do the right thing for others and they will do the right thing by you. It's that simple.

The Oceanport Bulletin

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Safety Awareness, Crime Prevention, and Traffic Safety Information From the Oceanport police

- The Police Department is open to the public and the Department has resumed standard operations following COVID protocols. We ask when the public arrives at headquarters to wear a mask. We have a supply of masks in the foyer for public use. We also ask to utilize the hand sanitizer prior to passing or handing the clerk or officers items.
 - The Oceanport Police are aware of the speeding issues on many of the street within town. We will be conducting an increased Speed Enforcement initiative targeting specific roadways within town. Officers will conduct stationary and moving radar details accompanied with an increase educational campaign of the dangers of speeding. We ask residents with specific speeding or other traffic complaints to call the Oceanport Police Department and advise us of the location of the complaint and any other specifics related to vehicle or driver descriptions.
 - Police have responded to several reports of elderly residents being scammed by callers pretending to be bail bondsman or relatives asking for bail money. They ask for money to get them out of jail. These scammers also report to be layers for the victims' relatives. These callers may ask to come to your home to retrieve the money or "bail".
1. Never wire money to someone you do not recognize by voice or to an unknown party.
 2. Do not give out personal information over the phone to an unknown party.
 3. Ask the caller to speak with the relative or a police officer or judicial officer.
 4. Never give in to a request for someone to come to your home to receive money or "bail money".
 5. Call the police to report any suspicious calls.
- There has been an increase in motor vehicle break-ins and motor vehicle thefts recently in Oceanport and throughout the county. Thieves are targeting unlocked high-end motor vehicles to steal. They work in groups and usually operate other stolen vehicles and drop subject(s) off to walk around neighborhoods, usually during the darkness, to look for their targeted vehicles. We ask residents:
1. To lock and remove keys and key fobs from within vehicles.
 2. Parked locked vehicles in driveway or garage.
 3. Make sure all valuables are removed from sight within your vehicle.
 4. Report any suspicious people or vehicles to the police.

As always please do not hesitate to call the Oceanport Police Department with any questions and/or concerns at (732) 222-6300.

SCHOOL/LIBRARY



Summertime Library News

Greetings from Miss Barbara, Miss Florence, Miss Arlene, and Miss MaryAnn! We want to let you know how much we miss you and cannot wait to see you in person at the Oceanport Library! We have some great events for you this summer. Our summer reading programs began on June 15th ends on August 15th but there is still time to join! There is always time for reading! You can find out all about the library's programs by going to the Monmouth County Library website at monmouthcountylib.org and go to the KIDS page and access the slide with the picture of Puss n Boots. This slide will tell you all you need to know about summer reading programs. You can also access this information on the Monmouth County Library Facebook page. In addition, we had a wonderful kick-off event beginning June 6th. Science tellers presents *Dragons: Return of the Ice Sorceress* which you can access by going to the Monmouth County Library website. Don't worry if you missed the premiere. The program will be on all summer until August 31st.

Don't forget you can still enjoy library storytimes by going to the library's website for virtual storytime and craft every day at 1:45 pm. On Fridays there is a special STEAM storytime with experiments that you can do at home!

Miss Barbara also has a message for our patrons at Oceanport Library.

Oceanport Library is only open once a week on Mondays from 1:00 - 9:00 pm for curbside pickup service only. The curbside service hours are 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Please call (732) 229-2626 during those hours for assistance.

The Oceanport Library Association is proud to present the Sal Gentile \$1,000 scholarship to Jimmy Donohoe! Jimmy will attend DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, to study computer science and mathematics. Congratulations and best wishes to Jimmy!