

The Oceanport Bulletin

1920-2020



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APRIL/MAY 2022

Mayor's Message

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 Genesee (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

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events



April

- 1-30 Spring Leaf Collection
- 1-30 Women's Summer Tennis League Sign-Up
- 1 Oceanport Boy Scout Troop 58 Spaghetti Dinner
- 6 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 7 Mayor and Council Meeting
- 9 Easter Egg Scramble (Rain date 4/10)
- 11 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 11 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 12 Planning Board Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 15 Registration Opens for Action Camp Through May 15th
- 21 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 26 Planning Board Meeting
- 28 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 30 National Rx Drug Take Back Day

May

- 1 Quarterly Property Taxes Due
- 5 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 6 Oceanport Mini Golf Tournament
- 7 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 7 Water Watch Committee
- 10 Planning Board Meeting
- 11 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 15 Last Day to Register for Action Camp
- 18 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 19 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 26 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 30 Memorial Day Parade

June

- 2 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 8 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 14 Planning Board Meeting

Recycling

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring Leaf Collection April 1st – 29th

Leaves ONLY are collected only during the month of April. LEAVES only should be raked to the curb free of any debris, twigs, stones, branches, etc. for pick up by the Public Works Department. Please do not put leaves in plastic bags.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Oceanport's Annual Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 30th at 9:00 am

Join your neighbors and friends to watch Oceanport's Annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade will march from Blackberry Bay Park to the Port-Au-Peck Firehouse along Monmouth Blvd. Classic cars and bagpipers will be among the many marchers! There will be a wreath presentation at the firehouse after the parade.

Any residents interested in participating or helping with the parade please call the Borough Clerk at (732) 222-8221, option 4.

Monmouth County Paper Shredding Dates

Is it time for you to dispose of confidential documents and old files? Monmouth County is providing residents opportunities to eliminate unnecessary paperwork and documents which not only helps declutter your home, but it can also help protect you against identity theft. Bring your documents to be shredded on location in the mobile truck.

All shredding events take place from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the following locations.

- Saturday, April 9 – Manasquan, 4th Ave. Parking Lot, Corner of Main St. & 4th
- Saturday, April 30 – Avon, 301 Main St., rear of building
- Saturday, May 21 – Eatontown Municipal Lot off Throckmorton Ave.
- Saturday, June 4 – Upper Freehold Municipal Building, 314 Rt. 539 Cream Ridge
- Saturday, June 18 – Howell, Memorial/Adelphia School, 485 Adelphia Rd.

Remove large binder clips. Staples and paper clips can remain. Limit of 100 lbs. of documents which is equivalent to four office paper boxes or four large size trash bags. All papers will be shredded on location in the mobile truck and the event will end once the mobile truck is full or its scheduled end time.

Free service to Monmouth County residents only. No businesses allowed. For more information please call (732) 683-8686 ext. 8967 or visit www.visitmonmouth.com.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY Roadway Closure – Detours

There will be a 3-week closure of Oceanport Ave – between Main Street and the east gate entrance to Fort Monmouth/County Road 537.

Oceanport Avenue will be closed to all traffic between Main Street and the East Gate entrance to Fort Monmouth/County Road 537 beginning Monday, March 28th for approximately three weeks due to repairs of the bridge over Oceanport Creek.

Detours will be in place at Oceanport Avenue, Main Street, County Road 537 through the Fort, and East Main Street in Oceanport. The detour route will also utilize HWY 7 (Broad Street), Highway 35, and County Road 537 in Eatontown. Motorists are urged to use HWY 35, Seven Bridges Road, or Ocean Avenue as alternate routes for north/south travel within the area. Please allow for extra time when travelling in the area and follow all posted detours.

Save the Date!

The Historical Committee is happy to announce the 63rd Army Reserve Training Unit Military Band from Sea Girt will perform an outdoor evening concert on Thursday, June 30th. Blackberry Bay Park is the tentative sight. Please keep your eyes and ears out for confirmed time and venue. The June/July OP Bulletin will have the final details!

SEE A POTHOLE? REPORT A POTHOLE!

Please report those pesky potholes you see by going to the Borough website at oceanportboro.com through "Citizen's Request" or by emailing the Public Work's Department directly to publicworks@oceanportboro.com.

Senior Club Notes

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club will be meeting at 12:30 PM on April 20th, for Casino Day and May 18th, for Spin the Wheel, at Blackberry Bay Pavilion. Membership in the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport is open to any Oceanport resident who is 55 years old or older. Meetings include informative presentations by guest speakers, entertainment, or other special events. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport, please contact Fran Bendock at (732) 229-0278 for information about joining. Membership dues for 2022 are \$20.

Cards: Seniors interested in playing cards are invited to gather every Tuesday and Thursday at the Port Au Peck Fire House, 433 Myrtle Avenue, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

"My health is good; It's my age that's bad." Country music star Roy Acuff

COMMUNITY NEWS



Cub Scout Corner

March was filled with excitement for the Pack 58 Cub Scouts! The dens have come out from winter hibernation and have begun to meet up to learning and explore. Some of the younger dens were seen near the beach learning how to tie basic knots. There was a lot of laughter at that meeting while the kids took turns doing MadLibs and entertaining their peers!

The pack which is all the dens held their annual Pinewood Derby event in March. A BIG thank you to Celtic Concepts for hosting the event! It a great turnout with lots of happy faces especially when they were treated to ice cream. Thank you to Best Day Ever Ice Cream Truck!

Following the big car race, the oldest den, Arrow of Light (Webelos II) held their Crossing Over Ceremony. These loyal scouts are now members of Oceanport's Boy Scouts Troop 58. Congratulations and great work!

Future planned activities for the cubs will be some local hikes, rock wall climbing, and a shark tooth hunting afternoon. Please be on the lookout for their annual Mother's Day fundraiser. The boys will be selling local honey and gorgeous hanging baskets of flowers. Thank you to Councilman Rick Gallo!

Cub Scouts is a great activity in our town and run by amazing parent volunteers. Boys can join in first through fifth grade. Then in March of fifth grade, the boys become Boy Scouts. The new scouting year begins every September, although there is always a fun kickoff event held in August, usually a beach bonfire! If you or someone you know is interested in joining cub scouts, please email just.elk@gmail.com.

Boy Scout Buzz

Oceanport Boy Scout Troop 58 has been very active this Spring! These boys are getting in many volunteer hours and making a positive presence and impact around town. They are all hard working, adventurous, and all-around great teens! Two boys recently achieve the highest rank of Eagle Scout, and many of the boys are working hard at approaching the next higher ranks.

The troop welcomed five new Boy Scouts in March! Four of these boys recently crossed over from Oceanport Pack 58 Cub Scouts. Boy Scouts differ from Cub Scouts, in that the meetings are run by the boys themselves. These kids are learning invaluable leadership qualities with their peers. They are accountable for a certain number of volunteer hours, which is very useful while filling out school applications and the opportunities for the boys to experience and learn are numerous and wonderful. In March, the boys held their annual Monmouth Candies sales fundraiser. They have also helped their fellow Eagle scout with his project to build picnic tables and benches for the SPCA. The next big trips these kids are planning to do are the overnight at Allaire in April and a ziplining two-night trip in May. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Boy Scouts, please email Oceanporttroop58@gmail.com

Be Prepared for Hurricane Season!

Hurricane season is June 1st to November 30th and will be upon us soon shortly. The Oceanport Emergency Management (OEM) asks all residents to take the time to sign up for Code Red, so you will get important messages from the OEM in the event of severe weather, emergency situations, or critical community alerts related to Borough operations.

For Code Red enrollment, please go to the Oceanport Borough website at oceanportboro.com. Then go to Departments and slide down to OEM. That will take you to the OEM page. On that page will be the Code Red logo. Click on the logo and the enrollment form will appear. Here you can start an account to that will allow you access to modify your existing notification settings and contact information. You may also further customize the types of notifications you receive and add an additional address.

Another important information tool is Know Your Zone. Know Your Zone is a public education campaign implemented by the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management and Oceanport Emergency Management. It informs residents, businesses, and visitors of Monmouth County of the new hurricane evacuation zones and their vulnerability to storm surge. The Know Your Zone campaign was developed in partnership with the municipal emergency management coordinators within the coastal towns and is based on the threat, strength direction, and forecasted storm surge of an impending hurricane, nor'easter or other coastal flooding event. The campaign also reflects the National Hurricane Center's (NHC) decision to separate the association of storm surge inundation from the category of storm. Evacuation Zones should not be confused with flood zones. Evacuation zones are based on storm surge values using various hypothetical storm models bases on worst case scenarios. Zones are established based on threat strength direction and storm surge. Knowing your zone in advance of a storm is critical to your survival.

Simply input your address and information about your zone will appear.

Ready.Gov is offered by FEMA and it provide you with how to Be Ready, Plan Ahead for Disasters and Talk with your family. It even has a Kids Page. On the OEM pages there is even information of Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies.

Please take some time to review the information and be prepared for the upcoming hurricane season!

RECREATION NEWS



WOMEN'S SUMMER TENNIS LEAGUE

Whether you are a veteran tennis player or have been meaning to start/restart playing, this is the league for you! The Oceanport Women's Tennis Program is a fun league (with some mild competition) where you get out on the courts, meet new people, move around, and have fun!

Sign-up (singles and doubles, evening and daytime) begins April 1st and ends April 30th. Participants must be Oceanport residents. Sign up is online at <http://bit.ly/OCPTennis>. League play begins Monday, May 30th.

Daytime doubles matches are played weekday mornings beginning at 8:00 am and 9:00 am. Evening matches are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. ****Please check that you are available for your scheduled day of play before you sign up!**** Singles matches are played at times arranged by players within a scheduled time frame. Double matches scheduled during the weeks when school is still in session are played at either 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. All daytime matches are played at the Community Center tennis courts on Port au Peck Ave. Evening matches are played at both Community Center and Blackberry Bay Park, if needed.

****If you have vacation scheduled for two weeks or more during June and July, please do not sign up as rescheduling is burdensome for all players.****

Doubles Daytime League Schedule*

“A” league – Tuesday

“B” league – Wednesday

“C” league – Thursday

* A “D” league may be added on Friday or Monday if more than 36 people signed up for doubles.

Evening doubles league play will be limited to 16 players. League positions will be assigned first to those who played last year. New players are added in order of their sign-up and will be called if we are unable to accommodate you.

One scorekeeper is needed for each league. If interested, please indicate on the sign-up sheet. Please also indicate if you are available to play as a substitute or are a new player. You will be called prior to league play to advise if there will be a new player meeting.

Match schedules and rules will be emailed beginning May 9th. If you have any questions, please contact either league coordinator Debbie Peterson: DebbieP87@comcast.net; call/text (401) 474-6477 or co-coordinator Natalie Zilincar: natalie1@gmail.com; call/text (908) 309-3664.

To sign up online beginning April 1: <http://bit.ly/OCPTennis>

Summer Action Camp News!

Registration is open April 15th through May 15th ONLY.

Registration Forms will be available on the Borough of Oceanport website at oceanportboro.com and will be processed on a first come, first serve limited basis.

Action Camp will run this summer from June 27th – July 29th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for grades Kindergarten through 7th. \$300 per camper for the five-week program. Camp will take place at Community Center Park.

For questions, please email

OPRecreation@oceanportboro.com.

Action Camp is fun for the kids and close to home!



The Parks & Recreation Committee invites you to hop on by for the Annual Easter Egg Scramble!

Open to All Oceanport Children

Saturday, April 9th at 11:00 am

(Rain date is Sunday, April 10th at 2:00 pm,
please note time change.)

Blackberry Bay Park

Candy, prizes, and free photos with the Easter Bunny! –
Bring your camera



Oceanport Parks & Recreation's Annual Mini-Golf Tournament

Friday, May 6th

Blue Grass Mini Golf Course at Monmouth Park

Play for a championship prize between 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The tournament is FREE to Oceanport residents ages 6 through adult. For questions, please email OPRecreation@oceanportboro.com.

Sponsored by Blue Grass Mini Golf

SCHOOL/LIBRARY NEWS

Oceanport Library is Happy to Announce Full-time Hours Have Resumed!

Monday: 1:00 – 5:00 pm, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Friday: 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Children's Programs are still on Thursdays!

Oceanport Library
8 Iroquois Ave.
(732) 229-2626

Library News

Great News! The Oceanport Library has resumed its full-time hours as of March 14th. The library is open Mondays, 1:00 – 5:00 pm and 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 – 5:00 pm, and Fridays 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Please come in to take out books and browse our large collection! It will be great to see you again!

Children's programs have resumed on Thursdays as well! April program times are as follows:

Baby Storytime – Ages 6 months to 23 months (with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 10:00 - 10:20 am.

Join us indoors to share stories, songs, and finger plays.

Family Storytime – All Ages Welcome (with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 2:15 - 2:35 pm.

Join us indoors for stories, songs, finger games and pick up a take-home craft kit.

After School Adventures – Ages 3 to 7 (with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 28 from 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Join us indoors for stories and take-home craft kits.

The dates for the May programs will be on the May publicity. The times will be the same.

Kindly register for programs one week before each date online at <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, or by calling the library at (732) 229-2626 or come in person to register.

Please note that face coverings for everyone above 2 years of age are recommended when attending indoor programs. Be advised, this status may change at any time to match current mandates.

Take 'N Make Crafts for April and May are:

April 1st – Butterfly

April 15th – Rainy Day Duckling

May 1st – May Flowers

May 15th – Rocket Ship

There is still Virtual Storytime – Enjoy songs, finger-plays, stories and crafts!

<https://bit.ly/MonCoLibraryStoryCraftTime>

Don't forget to check out the KIDS page of the Monmouth County Library website (www.monmouth-

Kindergarten Registration for the 2022-23 School Year is Now Open!

Register in person at Wolf Hill School Monday – Friday during operating business hours. The registration packet can be found on the district and school website at oceanportschools.org.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

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 thoroughfares. 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.

The Oceanport Bulletin

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Deadline for the JUNE/JULY *Bulletin* is MAY 14, 2022.

POLICE NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE OCEANPORT POLICE

Traffic Safety

➤ Drivers are reminded to watch your speed when travelling within the Borough. Oceanport Police Officers continue to conduct radar enforcement details throughout the Borough. Sign board and radar display boards will be placed in targeted locations to educate drivers and slow them down. Residents with speeding complaints are asked to please call the Oceanport Police Department at (732) 222-6300.

Crime Prevention

➤ The Oceanport Police reminds residents to lock your vehicles, remove key fobs and valuable items from within your parked vehicles. The OP Police continue to respond to vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts and it continues to be a problem in our community. It only takes a second to lock your car. Do not give the criminals the opportunity to steal your car and place other people at risk. If you see someone or something suspicious in your neighborhood, please call the police at (732) 222-6300, or if the matter is serious in nature call 911. (An active car burglary, theft in progress...etc.)

Properly Discard Prescription Drugs

➤ The Oceanport Police Department will be participating in the annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which will be held on Saturday, April 30th, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications. Residents are encouraged to discard

their old and unused prescription medication by dropping them off at the Drug Drop-off Box located in the foyer of the Oceanport Police Department at 930 Oceanport Way. **These prescription drugs can be dropped off anytime during normal business hours.** Liquids and needles (sharps) will not be accepted.

Opioid Use and Abuse

➤ The opioid epidemic continues to inflict a staggering toll on our citizens of Monmouth County. In 2021 there were 174 reported fatal overdoses in Monmouth County and 956 Naloxone (Narcan) administrations. The Oceanport Police Department has partnered with the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office in Operation Helping Hands which allows officers to pass along recovery and support services information to those who have overdosed as well as the families of those affected by opioid use/abuse. Officers will also "leave behind" Naloxone spray (Narcan) to those who have suffered from an overdose.

The following is a listing of services available to those in need:

- Recovery Advocates for The Shores (RAFTS), in partnership with Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Operation Helping Hand Program, is offering 24/7 telephone peer recovery services.
1-833-2B-SOBER (Press 1 for a recovery coach)
- RAFTS connects individuals to CPC Behavioral Healthcare, which provides virtual intake and counseling. To contact CPC Behavioral Healthcare directly, call: 800-250-9811.
- Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Operation Helping Hand Program is offering a 24/7 Helpline at 1-833-OHH-CARE (1-833-644-2273).

Reminder:

April 30th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day!
Discard old and unused Rx medication to the Drug Drop Off Bay
located at the OP Police Station at 930 Oceanport Way.
No liquids and needles accepted.