

The Oceanport Bulletin



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August/September 2022

Mayor's Message

If you've driven around Oceanport lately (while observing the posted 25 MPH speed limit, of course), you've probably noticed a lot of construction going on. Oceanport is undergoing a facelift like it hasn't seen in a long, long time. If you enter Oceanport from Little Silver, you'll notice that Oceanport Avenue has been re-paved all the way to Port Au Peck Avenue. Make a right into the Fort and you'll see that three large redevelopment projects are now under way: Allison Hall (a \$25 million dollar repurposing of about 12 acres along Oceanport Avenue limited to office, retail and commercial uses), The Lodging Area (a \$30 million dollar repurposing of about 15 acres that will result in 144 high end, for sale town home units and 36 affordable housing rental units), and Barker's Circle (a \$22 million dollar repurposing of about 20 acres and seven buildings that will result in 75 residential for sale units, an office building, and a restaurant). A little further in, Fort Monmouth's former Dance Hall property has been completely renovated by owners Trip Brooks and Alecia Brooks. This site will re-open shortly as The Park Loft, an event space for weddings, parties, and larger celebratory functions. I was given a tour of The Park Loft in July and the Brooks' transformation of this 1941 government building is nothing short of spectacular.

While these Fort Monmouth related projects are all being done by private developers, the Borough of Oceanport is also in the process of upgrading our recreational facilities on a grand scale. Many of you may have noticed that Maria Gatta Park (across from Monmouth Park on Port Au Peck) has been torn up and trucks on the site are moving large piles of dirt back and forth all day long. Contrary to some of the rumors going around, the park is not being converted into a housing project, a mall, an air strip or more parking for the racetrack. In fact, the fields --- which were really just an old, macadam parking lot with a few inches of dirt on it --- are being converted to an artificial turf surface that will maximize the playing area and allow for multiple sports (e.g., soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, football) to be played simultaneously on an almost year-round basis.

This is a multi-phase project and will cost a little over 3 million dollars. This will be funded by a Monmouth County Improvement Authority Bond which will be paid down over the term of 20 years. Once completed, Oceanport's recreation youth sports teams and school teams will be able to use these fields for free. The demand for this type of field facility in our area is so great, however, that the annual debt service on the bonded indebtedness is projected to be paid by user fees (travel teams, club teams, tournaments, etc.).

Calendar of Events

August

- 1 Quarterly Property Taxes Due
- 6. Paper Shredding @ Freehold Borough Park Ave. School
- 8 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 8 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 9 Planning Board Meeting
- 10..... Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 15 Registration for Garage Sale Weekend
Begins - Sept. 15th
- 18..... Mayor & Council Meeting
- 20 Movies in the Park, *Encanto*
- 20 Paper Shredding @ Aberdeen Municipal Building
- 25 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting

September

- 1 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 10 Paper Shredding @ Union Beach Recycling Center
- 10 Summer's End Festival (Rain date September 11th)
- 12 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 12 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 13 Planning Board Meeting
- 14 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 15 Last Day to Register for Garage Sale Weekend
- 15 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 21 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 24 & 25 Annual Garage Sale Weekend
(Rain date Oct. 1st and 2nd)
- 24 Paper Shredding @ Marlboro Municipal Complex
- 29 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting

Recycling

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

Additionally, Oceanport's Community Center Park is going to be getting some long needed tender loving care in August after the Borough's Action Camp concludes. The plan is to reconstruct the baseball field by regrading it, installing a new backstop, fencing, benches, and bleachers (making them ADA accessible), reconstructing the Port Au Peck parking lots with curbs and pavement, installing a curb along Tohicon Avenue to stop the erosion on that side of the park, replacing the tennis fencing and benches, and putting in a sidewalk to allow for access to the playground and basketball court. The cost of this \$419,000 project will be

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 3)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough Notices

REMINDER PARK CLOSURES

The Mayor & Council have authorized improvements to Community Center Park and Maria Gatta Community Park. Improvements have started on Maria Gatta Park which will remain closed until October 1st. Further details and project plans are available on the Borough website at www.oceanportboro.com.

LEAF PICKUP

Reminder Leaf Pickup will begin towards the end of September. Look for more information in the near future on oceanport.com and in the October/November *Oceanport Bulletin*.



Oceanport's Annual Townwide Yard Sale

Saturday, 9/24 and Sunday, 9/25

Rain date: 10/1 and 10/2

Clean out made easy! Residents will not be required to obtain a permit for the event but will need to register their address on the Borough website at oceanportboro.com home page.



Oceanport Parks & Recreation Committee Presents: 45th ANNUAL SUMMER'S END FESTIVAL!!

Saturday, September 10th

5:00 - 9:00 pm

(Rain date is Sunday, September 11th 5:00 – 9:00 pm)

New Event Layout which will have all activities in the same area near the stage, Children's Activities and Rock Wall, Live DJ, Food Vendors, Chili and Salsa Contest, FIREWORKS & More! Lots of fun with your family, friends & neighbors!

Please help Support the Summer's End Fireworks Spectacular!

The Oceanport Parks and Recreation Committee is thrilled to be gearing up for their annual Summer's End Festival on September 10th. Your continued support is needed for the spectacular fireworks display! Please consider donating to the fireworks fund by sending in envelope which was enclosed in the June/July OP Bulletin or send your own addressed to:

Borough of Oceanport Summer's End

910 Oceanport Way

Oceanport, NJ 07757

Please make checks payable to the Borough of Oceanport Summer's End. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of this Oceanport pastime!



8th Annual Chili/Salsa Cook-Off Contest

Back at Summer's End!!

This year we have a surprise celebrity chili entry! Who can beat it?

Calling all chefs! Enter your prized chili and/or salsa dish in our Community Garden's Annual Contest. Please fill out the entry form found on the on the Oceanport Borough website at oceanportboro.com or at the day of event. Bring your dish ready to present: chili hot in a crock pot, salsa in an ice bath at 5:30 pm to the Community Garden table at Blackberry Bay. Questions, please call Ellynn at (732) 614-2317.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Club Notes

Remembering Barbara Josselyn, President of The Oceanport Senior Citizens Club. Barbara died peacefully in her beloved Oceanport home on June 17, 2022. She was vital and independent right up to her 84th birthday and was active in the Oceanport Garden Club and the Monmouth and Ocean Counties Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association. She loved to laugh and be with people, and she had a great work ethic. Within a few months of retiring from her job as the tax collector in Eatontown, she went back to work running the office for her friend Terry Gribben's court transcription service. She led the Senior Citizens Club ably for many years. We cherish her memory and wish her successor, Mimi Paolise, much success in her new role.

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club will be meeting at 12:30 PM on August 17th for an ice cream social; on September 21st for a presentation on aging; and on October 19th for chair yoga. Until the renovation of Old Wharf House is completed, the meetings will take place at the BlackBerry Bay Pavilion building. 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 AM to 12 Noon.

"Of late I appear/To have reached that stage/When people look old/Who are only my age." Richard Armour

Reminder 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, Aug. 6 – Freehold Borough, Park Ave. School, 280 Park Ave.
- Saturday, Aug. 20 – Aberdeen Municipal Building, 1 Aberdeen Sq.
- Saturday, Sept. 10 – Union Beach Recycling Center, 1400 Florence Ave.
- Saturday, Sept. 24 – Marlboro Municipal Complex, 1979 Township Dr.
- Saturday, Oct. 1 – Colts Neck, Town Hall Parking Lot, 124 Cedar Dr.
- Saturday, Oct. 8 – Freehold Township Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza
- Saturday, Oct. 22 – Sea Bright, Borough Hall Parking Lot, 1099 Ocean Ave.

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.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

offset, in part, by a \$150,000 Monmouth County Open Space Grant.

Councilman Bill Deerin and the entire Recreation Committee, Councilman Bryan Keeshen and Councilman Mike O'Brien have all worked non-stop to ensure that these projects have moved forward as planned. Without their collective commitment and dedication these infrastructure improvements and investments in our future would not be taking place. Kudos to all!

You'll also notice that Trinity Park, BlackBerry Bay Park, Charles Park, the Seawaneka Launch and various other locations in town have been given a lot of attention by our Department of Public Works this summer. Most notably, however, our Department of Public Works took on the task of rehabbing the Old Wharf House (where we housed our Municipal Offices from 2013 to 2021) as we transition the facility back into a Senior Center. The DPW's efforts saved the Borough tens of thousands of dollars and expedited the projected time frame for bringing the seniors back into the building by several months. By the time you read this, our seniors should be back enjoying the amenities of the Old Wharf House for the first time since the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

And it's not only our seniors who will be enjoying upgraded facilities! Both Maple Place and Wolf Hill schools have had a substantial amount of work done as the Oceanport Board of Education's upgrade to both sites continues. In 2019, the Borough's residents approved (by a 61-39 majority) a 33.8 million dollar referendum to pay for renovations to both schools. This comprehensive, four-year, multi-phase infrastructure improvement project will bring classrooms, cafeterias, and gyms into the 21st century, provide for new boilers and roofing, remove asbestos and asbestos related materials, and update both the fire prevention, and security systems. You can view the project plans and watch project related videos by visiting the Oceanport Board of Education's website and clicking the "referendum" button.

If you happen to see Oceanport residents Bert Lynch, Tim Britton, or Katheen Cawley around town, make sure to thank them for their part in rescuing people who were in desperate need of help in the Shrewsbury River. On the evening of July 7, 2022, Bert, a former Oceanport councilman and current man about town, and Tim, who some refer to as "Oceanport's Al Bundy" because of his high school gridiron heroics, worked together --- in the dark, mind you ---- to bring in a woman whose kayak had capsized off of Paul Sommers Boy Scout Park as the result of high winds. As Tim, who is not a marine biologist, noted, "The sea was angry that day, my friends. Like an old man trying to send back soup in

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Cub Scout Corner and Boy Scout Buzz

Oceanport Cub Scouts Pack 58 and Boy Scouts Troop 58 are getting ready to start up another wonderful year! In our town, Cub Scouts begin when entering first grade. They remain in Cub Scouts until mid-fifth grade. Usually, in March, there is a Cross Over Ceremony and the boys become Boy Scouts. Boys can remain in Boy Scouts through high school. Both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts have a strong presence in Oceanport.

Cub Scouts are grouped together into dens by grade. First grade boys are known as the Tiger den, second graders are Wolves, third graders are the Bears, fourth graders are Webelos and fifth graders are in the Arrow of Light den. Each den has adult den leaders. These are usually parent volunteers. Many parent volunteers have zero experience when they start. One OP parent sighted that her only experience was watching the movie "Troop Beverly Hills". Parents will always say the experience was fun and very rewarding!

In Oceanport, siblings and family members are included at almost all activities and events. Each den has a handbook of activities for the boys to complete. Some of these activities are required and some are elective. All activities include fun, friendship, kindness, and learning how to be respectful members of our community. Dens go on hikes, nature walks, help our town's garden club, plan sightseeing adventures around the county, and of course, camping! Recently, some of our kids and parents went on a canoe and camping trip! If you see a scout in town, please say "Hi", ask them what they are learning, or teach them a fun fact! They are a great group of polite kids and always up for learning, adventure, and helping others! Future events being planned are a Lakewood BlueClaws game, a beach bonfire, and an overnight campout in Blackberry Bay Park. If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, please contact just.elk@gmail.com.

Since Boy Scouts are a little older, they run their meetings a little differently. Instead of meetings run and planned by adults, Boy Scout meetings are run by the scouts themselves! There are different ranks you can earn, and you can achieve them as fast or as slow as you would like. Scout activities and trips are more intense than Cub Scouts. They have more responsibilities as individuals, as well as as a whole.

The first Scout rank, you can earn it by participating during camping trips and knowing the basics of scouting. The second rank is Tenderfoot. You earn this by going on camping trips and practicing the outdoor code as well as first aid! First aid training is beneficial for everyone! Next, there is Second Class, followed by First Class, Star, then Life rank and finally, Eagle. Eagle is the most important rank, and the hardest to earn. To earn this rank you must create your own service project, be active in your troop for six months, prove that you live the Scout Oath and Law, and earn at least 21 merit badges! All of this process and going through it is very fulfilling and boosts confidence, responsibility, communications skills, and maturity.

There are only about two million boys that have made it to Eagle Scout worldwide! Oceanport Troop 58 has an extremely high rate of producing Eagles. There is a strong support system of boys as well as adults! The troop has fun, they learn so much, and they help Oceanport become a stronger and more connected community. They also go on at least one camping trip per season which is an awesome and memorable experience for the boys. Their spring trip was a zip lining/camping weekend. Over the summer, some of the boys went to a week of summer camp in upstate New York. There will be a fall trip to be determined as well. If you or someone you know would like to get involved with Boy Scouts in town, please do not hesitate to contact oceanporttroop58@gmail.com.

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a deli." After hearing her screams for help, Tim immediately kayaked out to the woman to ensure that her situation would not worsen. Bert, who lives a few doors down from Tim, heard the same cries of help coming from the water, jumped into his boat, drove out to the capsized kayak and, with Tim's assistance, got the victim into his boat and brought her back to shore. Oceanport OEM, First Aid, Fire and Police took over from there.

Then, on July 17th, while on her pontoon boat, Kathleen Cawley happened upon a small, capsized vessel with 5 people clinging to it in the widest part of the Shrewsbury River. In short order, Kathleen was able to get the 5 people out of the water, contact the Coast Guard, enlist the help of a passing boater to right the capsized boat, tow it out of the channel and salvage a great number of personal items from the water, all which were returned to the owners. This rescue and recovery effort took several hours, and I would be remiss if Captain Cawley's efforts weren't recognized. Thank you to Lynn Greco for bringing this to my attention.

Oceanport is blessed to have access to the Shrewsbury River, but we need to remember it can be as dangerous as it is

beautiful. If you are going out on the river, make sure you are aware of the weather, wear a life vest and, if you are going out alone, make sure that somebody knows you are out on the water. As Buddy Brocklebank is fond of saying, "Safe Boating is No Accident."

Enjoy the rest of the summer and make sure that as you are enjoying it, you are driving slower than the posted speed limit here in Oceanport.



Councilman Tom Tvrdek and FMERA Executive Director Kara Kopach donated blood at the first annual Blood Drive at New Jersey City University at Fort Monmouth.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oceanport PTO Presents its 10th Annual Fall Festival!

**Saturday, October 22nd
12:00 - 4:00 pm
Maple Place Middle School
Rain or Shine**

The fun festival will include pumpkin picking/painting, children's games, the INFAMOUS Haunted Hallway, food truck, 50/50, gift basket raffle, junior vendors.....and SO much more!

Oceanport Girl Scout News

The Bronze Award is the most prestigious honor a Junior Girl Scout can achieve. Oceanport's 6th grade Girl Scouts were honored with The Bronze Award this summer. The Bronze Award recipients must have completed a Junior Journey and have worked on their service project for at least 20 hours. Troop 60710 began brainstorming about the Bronze Award project two years ago.

Since most of girls in the troop love reading and storytelling, they began researching a Little Library for Blackberry Bay Park. After gaining approval from the town, the girls constructed the Little Library that is in constant use today. Over the past year they have held Book Drives and collected so many great books and stories to share with our community. In addition to the Little Library, the girls wanted to motivate younger children to read. For one of their outings, the troop showed children how fun reading can be by reading them stories. During this service project, the girls in the troop came together, identified their strengths, and worked as a team to make a difference in our community.

Troop 60710 also bridged from Juniors to Cadette Girl Scouts. Some of their fundraising and volunteer work include Blessing Bags, Beach Sweeps, Park Clean-Ups, handmade holiday placemats, SPCA donations (handmade pet toys and blankets), Egg My Yard event and selling cookies. They have also participated in self-defense class, ice skating, beach days, camping trips, archery, hikes, and much more! Congratulations to Troop 60710: Willow DeAngelis, Grace Fleming, Alice Garcia, Lucia Garcia, Caroline Newman, Estella Ostering-Dibble, Sam Pasquariello, and Zoe Taboada.



Action Camp was a Summer Success!

Action Camp wrapped up last month filled to capacity with 130 campers and an all-new 25 member staff! Kids had fun-filled days participating in sports, games, crafts, a scavenger hunt, field day, weekly water slide, carnival day, action camp Olympics, and make your own Sunday. The Carnival Day featured a bounce house, water slide, and face painting. It was awesome to have the kids back as campers having summer fun!

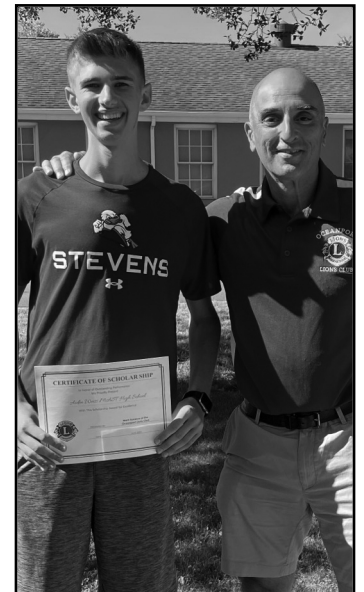
Be on the look out for Action Camp 2023 registration which will be open on April 15, 2023.



Congratulations to the Oceanport Lion's Club 2022 Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to this year's Oceanport Lion's Club Scholarship winners Julia Santana and Aidan Weiss. Julia graduated from Shore Regional High School and will attend Rutgers University to study Biology and then on to their 3X3 Physician's Assistant Program. Aidan graduated from Marine Academy of Science and Technology and will be attend Steven's Institute of Technology and study Quantitative Finance and Computer Science.

Additional thank you to Our Team Fitness in Oceanport, and the owner, Jon Wells, who worked with the Oceanport Lion's to help raise supplemental funds to support their annual scholarship. Thank you, Jon, and the awesome OT Fitness Team for that support!



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Deadline for the OCTOBER/NOVEMBER *Bulletin* is SEPTEMBER 14, 2022.

LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Oceanport Library News

Beat the heat and stop by the Oceanport Library to see the many books it has to offer! If the OP Library does not own the book you are looking for the helpful librarians can get it for you from another branch.

Just a reminder of the OP Library hours

Monday – 1:00 - 5:00 pm and 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Tuesday – 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Wednesday – Closed

Thursday – 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Friday – 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday – Closed

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Summer Reading Challenges, your efforts were appreciated! Please come to the library to claim your rewards through September 15th.

The children's schedule for August and September are as follows. Storytime indoors or outdoors (weather permitting).

Baby Storytime – Ages 6 months through 2 years

(with parent/caregiver) Thursdays from 10:00 - 10:20 am on August 4, 11, 18 and September 8, 22, 29. Join us stories, songs, finger games and bubbles.

Family Fun Storytime – All Ages Welcome

(with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays from 2:15 - 2:35 pm on August 4, 11, 18 and September 8, 22, 29.

Join us for stories, songs, finger games and a craft.

Family Storytime – Ages 3 through 7 (with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays from 4:00 to 4:30 pm, August 4, 11, 18. Join us for stories and a fun craft. After School Adventures - Ages 3 through 7 (with parent/caregiver) Thursdays from 4:00 to 4:30 pm on September 8, 15, 29. Join us for stories and crafts.

Special Events – Registration required beginning August 1st for August Events and September 1st for September events online <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, by phone or in-person.

Read-To-Me Club & Vacation Reading Club Celebration - The Magic of Matt Cadabra.

Thursday, August 25th from 10:30 - 11:30 am – All ages welcome. Watch magician Matt Cadabra perform amazing feats of magic. This program will be followed by an end of summer celebration!

Coastal Melodies Music and Movement - Ages 6 - 24 months (with parent/caregiver) Thursday, September 15th from 10:00 - 10:45 am. Come for a fun-filled family music time, from

lullabies to a jam session with instruments. Register online at <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, by phone or in-person.

Read to Josie A Therapy dog – A Family Event

Thursday, September 22nd from 3:45 - 4:40 pm.

Grab a good book and come read to a therapy dog at the library. Choose a fifteen minutes time slot from 3:45 - 4:00 pm, 4:00 - 4:15 pm, and 4:20 - 4:35 pm. One registration per family. Register online at <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, by phone or in-person. After registration you will be e-mailed a confirmation of your time slot. If not reading, talk about pictures in a book or tell a story.

Take 'n make crafts

Pick up a craft kit to make-at-home!

August 1-14: Sand Castle

August 15-31: Happy Birthday!

September 1-14: Bookworm for 100th

September 15 -30: Apple Tree



Reminder: Oceanport Library Offers Home Bound Library Service

Home bound library service is available to all residents of Oceanport who are home bound due to illness, disability, age, and are physically unable to visit the library. If you don't have a library card the library has an application. For further information, please contact Barbara at the library. She can be reached at (732) 229-2626 or beckert@monmouthcountylib.org.