

The Oceanport Bulletin



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January/February 2023

Mayor's Message

We said goodbye to 2022 and welcomed in 2023 and what I am most amazed at is how incredibly long it now takes me to scroll back to my "year of birth" when entering information on computer forms. Its as if my computer is mocking me. This backwards scroll also serves to remind me how, at once, things change while they stay the same. The Borough of Oceanport is actually a great example of that. The Oceanport Historical Committee recently published its long-awaited celebration of Oceanport's first 100 years – aptly titled "Oceanport A Great Place To Live" -- and this meticulously researched, beautifully written and visually arresting retrospective of all things Oceanport documents how dramatically Oceanport's infrastructure has changed while, at the same time, its small town sense of community and commitment to volunteerism have remained the same.

Within the book's 336 pages, the Oceanport Historical Committee – specifically, Frank Baricelli, John Bonforte, Tom Cavanaugh, Robin Kelly, Rosanne Letson, Paula Lombardo, Mike MacStudy, Barbara Sheppard, Ric Siciliano, and Toni Sverapa – has memorialized the amazing metamorphosis Oceanport has undergone over the past century and, given the continuing redevelopment of Fort Monmouth, will continue to experience in its second century. "Oceanport, A Great Place To Live" is a labor of love towards which each Historical Committee member volunteered hours upon hours of their free time.

No member, however, dedicated more time, effort and love towards its publication than Oceanport's Historian, Frank Baricelli. Quite simply, without Frank Baricelli's single-minded devotion to this project and his encyclopedic knowledge of Oceanport's history, this project would not have been as successful. Anybody who has come into contact with Frank, knows that he served as Oceanport's historian long, long before he was appointed as our official Historian in 2018. Frank passed away on November 27, 2022 shortly after "Oceanport A Great Place To Live" was completed and sent to the printer. Sadly, he did not get to see the finished product and the people of Oceanport have been forever deprived of the opportunity to speak with Frank about the borough's history. Frank was a walking, talking irreplaceable font of information about Oceanport whose comprehensive knowledge rendered the phrase "Google it" unnecessary when it came to our town. In fact, if you Google questions about Oceanport, the response comes back as "What are you asking us for? Ask Frank Baricelli." Google now has some work to do.

I like to think that when somebody dies, a little piece of them remains behind in all the people they have come in con-

Calendar of Events

January

- 1 Reorganization Meeting
- 2 Borough Office Closed
- 4 . Oceanport Board of Education Reorganization Meeting
- 5 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 9 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 9 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 10 Planning Board Meeting
- 11 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 14 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 19 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 21 Free Rabies Clinic @ Port-Au-Peck Firehouse
- 31 Dog/Cat Licenses Due

February

- 1 Quarterly Property Taxes Due
- 2 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 8 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 11 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 13 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 13 Water Watch Meeting
- 14 Planning Board Meeting
- 16 Mayor & Council Meeting

Recycling

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

tact with during their lives. Well, in this case, a great big piece of Frank Baricelli remains for us and generations to come in "Oceanport A Great Place To Live." The Oceanport Historical Committee is selling softcover versions of this book for \$30.00 and hardcover versions for \$75.00. Please contact Toni Sverapa at 732-539-1620 (after 9:00 am, please) or the Borough Clerk at 732-222-8221 to get your copy. Every coffee table in Oceanport should have a copy of this book prominently displayed on it. And if you don't have a coffee table, Buddy Brocklebank will make one for you at cost.

About fifty years from now, Oceanport's next written historical retrospective will certainly begin with the commercial and residential redevelopment of Fort Monmouth. In 2021, the Fort Athletic Club opened its doors and by the third quarter of 2022 had become the premiere multisport fitness facility in the Two Rivers area and certainly the only one with its name emblazoned on a historic water tower. The Park Loft, located in what was originally a Dance Hall built by the Army in 1941, opened its doors in 2022 to great acclaim. If you visit this site, I promise

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough Notices

Overnight Parking Ban

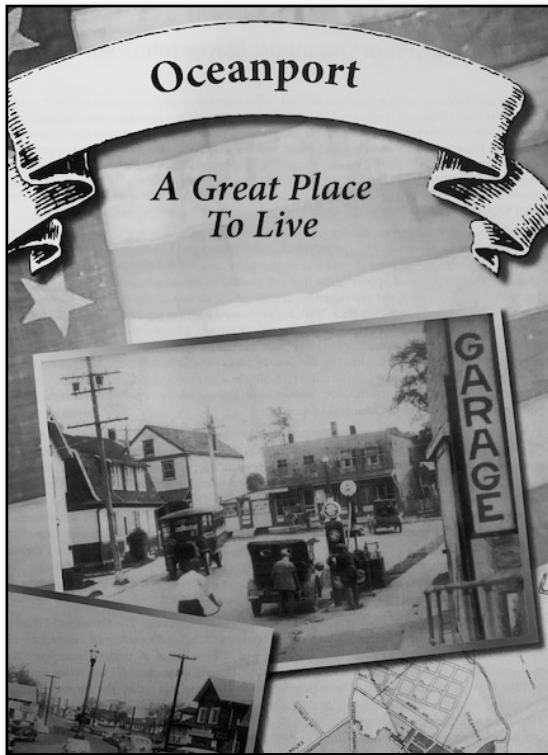
Please be aware overnight parking on Borough streets is prohibited when the streets are covered in snow – whenever snow has fallen, and the accumulation is such that it covers the streets. The parking prohibition shall remain in effect after the snow has ceased until the streets have been plowed sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

Leave Collection Ended in December

Please note no more leaves in the street once your leaf pick up time is over.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Place at the curb with your regular garbage during the month of January.



Oceanport Certainly is A Great Place to Live!

The Oceanport Historical Committee is proud to announce that Oceanport A Great Place to Live, the book the Committee has written detailing Oceanport's second 50 years, is now available for purchase. Please contact Toni Sverapa at (732) 539-1620 for information about purchasing a copy. The Borough Hall also has copies for sale. Softcover copies are \$30.00, and hardcover copies, which will be available beginning in February 2023, are \$75.00. Shipping charges are additional for those who require copies to be shipped. Further information will be posted on the Borough of Oceanport's website (oceanportboro.com) and Facebook page (Borough of Oceanport), and on both the Oceanport Centennial Facebook page and the Oceanport Residents Facebook page.



Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

Bingo Nights for 2023

The OP Volunteer First Aid is happy to announce Bingo Nights will continue in 2023! The dates are January 14th, February 11th, March 11th, April 15th, and May 13th at the First Aid Building on Pemberton Avenue. Doors open at 6:00 pm and games begin at 7:00 pm. \$10 admission includes six regular games. Specialty games will also be played. Additional cards for all games will be available for purchase along with light refreshments. All cash prizes!

Dog and Cat License Information

The Borough of Oceanport requires all dogs and cats to be licensed every year and to have a current rabies vaccine. The State of NJ mandates current as valid through October 31st of the licensing year.

Application for new or renewal of license for 2023 is due January 31st, 2023 ONLINE at:

www.sdlportal.com/towns/nj/monmouth/oceanport/requests/petlicense

Fee: \$18 per pet if not spayed/neutered or \$15 per pet if spayed/neutered. Licenses expire January 31st, 2023 and a late fee applies after February 28th.

Top Reasons to License Your Animal:

- It greatly improves your chance of getting your animal back if it goes missing.
- It lets law enforcement know your animal is up to date on its rabies vaccine.
- Animal license fees fund animal control and assistance for injured animals and wildlife.
- State Law and Borough Ordinance requires dogs and cats to be licensed.

For more information please contact the Borough's Clerks Office at (732) 222-8221 option 4.

FREE Rabies Clinic

Sponsored by the
Monmouth County Board of Health

Saturday, January 21st

9:00 – 11:00 am

Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company Firehouse
Myrtle Avenue

Please take advantage of this free service provided by Monmouth County. Dogs must be on a leash and cats should be in a carrier.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Club Notes

Election of Officers: The Oceanport Senior Club elected the following officers at its meeting on November 16, 2022: President, Barbara Scerbo; 1st Vice President, Mimi Paolise; Assistant, Neil Bonello; 2nd Vice President, Diane Schmid; Assistant, Fran Katzenberg; Recording Secretary, Diane Dineen; Corresponding Secretary, Rosina MacStudy; and Treasurer, Lillian Lockwood

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club will be meeting at the Old Wharf House, weather permitting, at 12:30 PM on the third Wednesday of January and February. Members will be notified.

Special Event: "Million Dollar Quartet" ("Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash"), Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Bus leaves from Port-au-Peck Firehouse parking lot at 9:30 AM. Price, which includes the bus, lunch, and the show, is \$95 for members. Non-members are also welcome (Price \$110). Payment by cash or check made payable to "Oceanport Seniors" should be mailed or delivered no later than March 1, 2023, to Mimi Paolise, 49 Wyandotte Avenue, Oceanport, NJ, 07757

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. Lunch or light refreshments are served. 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. Annual Membership dues are \$20.

Cards: Seniors interested in playing cards are invited to gather every Tuesday and Thursday at the Old Wharf House from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

"The best thing about getting old is that all those things you couldn't have when you were young you no longer want."
L.S. McCandles

2023 Shore Regional Little League Registration Opened December 1st!

Important Dates

- Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball Registration Opened December 1, 2022.
 - Take advantage of the Early Bird Discount before January 15th, 2023
 - Registration Closes February 1, 2023
 - Mandatory Player Evaluations will be February 5, 2023
- To register, please go to ShoreLittleLeague.com.

Shore Regional Little League (SRL) is a recreational baseball and softball program open to any child who attends a school located in or who has at least one parent or legal guardian residing in the towns of Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Sea Bright, or West Long Branch and who is between the ages of 5 and 14.

Additional Information can be found on Shore Regional Little League's Facebook and Instagram pages @shorelitttle-league or email shoreregional11@gmail.com

Play Ball!

Oceanport Garden Club News

The November meeting had the Oceanport Garden Club (OGC) making Christmas ornaments, some with photos of club members, and many one of a kind using Mother Nature's seed pods and pinecones, etc. to decorate the Christmas tree at the Old Wharf House where the OGC and the Senior Citizens Club meet. In December there will be a workshop creating holiday arrangements for the Wolf Hill, Maple Place, and Shore Regional High School offices, the Oceanport, and West Long Branch Libraries, swags for the Old Wharf, a wreath for the Blue Star Memorial on Rt 36 and Monmouth Rd., and basket arrangements for offices using a variety of fresh evergreen foliage and traditional holiday holly. The Oceanport Garden Club thanks Molzon Landscape Nursery for an informative demonstration on trimming shrubs and bushes in our October visit. Upcoming events in 2023 include a trip to Allaire State Park and its natural habitat and an arrangement demonstration by an OGC member.

The Oceanport Garden Club meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month, from September thru June, at Old Wharf House, 316 East Main St., Oceanport. Meetings begin at 10:30 am. Interested individuals can call Penelope Gabriel, (732) 229-8274, to verify venue or changes in schedules.

An OGC tip: While cleaning up your yard/garden this autumn save a bit of garden debris for Mother Nature's critters; in the spring you can do clean-up after daytime temperatures reach the 50s.

Opening Day at Maria Gatta Park!



On Saturday, November 5th, the new turf fields at Maria Gatta Park opened up! Shore Youth Recreation Soccer and the Shore Regional High School Field Hockey team were among the first to use the fields.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Scout Scoop



October and November were a lot of fun yet busy months for both Cub and Boy Scouts! And December and January are definitely months Scouts look forward to. Pack 58 (Cub Scouts, grades 1 - mid 5th) and Troop 58 (Boy Scouts) have a positive vibe in and around Oceanport. The older boys have been helping the younger dens in multiple activities. In October, the Boy Scouts organized learning stations to teach skills to the Cubs during the Cub Scout overnight in Blackberry. All ages had a great time! They had a campfire with s'mores, watched an outdoor movie, and slept in tents. Brand new Tiger scouts (1st graders) were invited to participate and even learned a skit from the 3rd grade Bear Den.

During Oceanport's Trunk or Treat event, both the Boy Scouts and the Cub Scouts had trunks and enjoyed the day! Both Cub and Boy Scouts also attended the Oceanport Tree lighting ceremony on December 4th to ring in the holiday season with their Oceanport community.

Another successful Cub Scout activity was a fossil hunt at Poricy Park in Middletown. Many discoveries were made and there was a unanimous vote to do it again! The Cubs also held an indoor climb wall event in November. "Shark in the Dark" is the big winter plan in January for the Pack which is an overnight trip at the Camden Aquarium.

Boy Scouts went fishing and camped out on the beach in October and went on a cool weekend trip at Stokes campground. Volunteering and helping the community is also an important to scouting. In November one of the big events was community service hours cleaning up the garbage at the new Maria Gatta Park before the Shore Cup games were played! In December, the troop will appreciate the arts by attending the Shore Regional's Shore Players presentation of Love, Stress, and the IRS Play to support a few scouts in the troop that are in the play! The Troop's Court of Honor will also take place in December which is a ceremony that awards new earned merit badges and acknowledges the boys that move up in rank.

Be on the lookout for information and details for the annual Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner, which will be held late winter/early spring. This is a wonderful event the community and the Scouts love and look forward to!

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that you will be stunned by how meticulously and beautifully this old building has been reimagined. The developer has reused all the old wood to create a space that is, at once, historically significant and stunningly modern, a place where the Tommy Dorsey Band AND Brian Kirk and the Jirks could play on the same night at the same event. Birdsmouth Brewery opened in 2022 at the site of the old Commissary and an ice cream factory --- yes, you read that right, an ice cream factory --- began construction next door to the brewery in October. And, in October of 2022, it was announced that a new sports bar and restaurant --- Baseline Social --- will be opening in the last remaining spot in the Commissary building in 2023. But Baseline Social will be much more than a sports themed place to eat: its plans include a large LED viewing wall, a 38-seat platform lounge, five virtual golf bays and an outdoor fire pit lounge.

But the big news in commercial development at Fort Monmouth is that FMERA approved a contract of sale with Netflix for the conveyance of close to 290 acres of property for about 47 million dollars. This is the biggest and best news for the Borough of Oceanport since Buddy Brocklebank was born. When the transaction closes, Netflix will own just about everything on the main post in Eatontown from the Main Gate on Route 35 to the bowling alley. In Oceanport, Netflix will end up with about 140 acres, including the McAfee Center and its campus, the FMERA office (the old library), the marching grounds, Cowan Park and the 400 Area (the land across the street from the main post on Oceanport Avenue). The net effect of the sale of these lands to Netflix is that there are no remaining parcels to be sold in the Oceanport section of the Fort.

A little over a decade ago, Oceanport's most important economic and social driver, Fort Monmouth, closed. When the Fort shut down, thousands of jobs disappeared, families moved away and an empty barren Fort Monmouth served as a constant reminder of what we had lost. From a redevelopment standpoint, what FMERA has done with the Oceanport section of Fort Monmouth is nothing short of remarkable. Netflix's arrival allows for an incredibly advantageous and creative re-use of this property and will serve to restore a great deal of vitality and social energy to Oceanport, Eatontown and Monmouth County at large. We are thrilled to be part of the proposed redevelopment and we look forward to participating with Netflix and FMERA in the continued economic and social revitalization of Fort Monmouth.

2022 also saw Oceanport's Gatta Park receive a long needed upgrade and three multi-sport turf fields opened on November 5th to great fanfare. Oceanport's recreation soccer program christened the new surface with a full slate of games that started at 9:30 am and ended just before sunset. By the time spring arrives, it is expected that the turf fields will be in use on an almost non-stop basis by the Borough's recreation teams, travel teams, school teams, and various third party sports organizations. The Gatta Park fields cost about 3.2 million dollars to build and the annual

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POLICE NEWS

Borough of Oceanport • Office of Emergency Management The Mandatory Purchase of Flood Insurance Requirement

This community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all eligible buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems.

The NFIP insures buildings, including mobile homes, with two types of coverage: building and contents.

Building coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately, if the contents are in an insurable building.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 made the purchase of flood insurance mandatory for Federally backed mortgages on buildings located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). It also affects all forms of Federal or Federally related financial assistance for buildings located in SFHAs. The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" or "V."

The requirement applies to secured mortgage loans from financial institutions, such as commercial lenders, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions that are regulated, supervised or insured by Federal agencies such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision. It also applies to all mortgage loans purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac in the secondary mortgage market.

Federal financial assistance programs affected by the laws include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA.

How it Works: Lenders are required to complete a Standard Flood Hazard Determination (SFHD) form whenever they make, increase, extend, or renew a mortgage, home equity, home improvement, commercial, or farm credit loan to determine if the building or manufactured (mobile) home is in an SFHA. It is the federal agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to determine if the building is in an SFHA. Copies of the FIRM are available for review in most local government building or planning departments. Lenders may also have copies or they may use a flood zone determination company to provide the SFHD form. If the building is in an SFHA, the Federal agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building. Federal regulations require building coverage equal to the amount of the loan (excluding appraised value of the land) or the maximum amount of insurance available from the NFIP, whichever is less. The maximum amount available for a single-family residence is \$250,000. Government-sponsored enterprises, such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, have stricter requirements. The mandatory purchase requirement does not affect loans or financial assis-

tance for items that are not covered by a flood insurance policy, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping, and vacant lots. It does not affect loans for buildings that are not in an SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be. While not mandated by law, a lender may require a flood insurance policy, as a condition of a loan, for a property in any zone on a FIRM. If a person feels that an SFHD form incorrectly places the property in the SFHA, he or she may request a Letter of Determination Review from FEMA. This must be submitted within 45 days of the determination. More information can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/how-request-flood-hazard-determination-review-fema>

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debt service on the bond that was used to finance the improvements will be about \$220,000.00.

If we were only to rent out the fields for 40 weekends a year, 8 hours a day, we would generate about \$240,000.000 in revenue, thereby covering the debt service. The fields at Gatta Park will be utilized and rented seven days a week, however, and we are projecting that the revenue generated will far exceed our annual debt service. In addition to the Gatta Park turf fields, renovations to Community Center Park were completed and five pickleball courts were installed at Blackberry Bay Park where the roller hockey rink used to be. For those of you who have not gotten out to see the newly improved parks, we have drone videos of the park improvements on the Borough website's home page.

I am limited in the amount of space I can dedicate to analyzing and explaining this development in this newsletter. If you'd like to see a complete summary of both the property development in the Oceanport section of Fort Monmouth and the improvements to Gatta Park, Community Center and Blackberry Bay Park, please visit the Borough's website and look under "News and Announcements" on the home page.

The Borough held its annual Christmas Tree lighting on December 4th, and the Port Au Peck fire house was packed to the rafters with kids, adults and one very, very busy Santa Claus. This annual gathering is emblematic of everything that is good about being in a small town like Oceanport and it was great to see the event so crowded and the kids so enthusiastic. Earlier that day, the Port Au Peck Firehouse hosted the 4th annual KIDSGIVE gift wrapping and gift giving event. Over 150 gifts were wrapped and over 200 personalized Christmas cards and ornaments were made by children in our community as part of "Operation Sleighbells." At the end of the event, the volunteers (all children) formed a human chain and loaded every single gift, card and ornament into a truck for delivery to Family and Children Services of Monmouth County and Beacon of Life. While the kids were loading the presents, handing them from one to another as the gifts made their way from the fire house to the delivery truck, I was reminded of the Whos in The Grinch Who Stole Christmas. It was a very powerful and uplifting moment and I would highly recommend everyone to get involved with the event next year.

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LAURA MCCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)
Deadline for the MARCH/APRIL *Bulletin* is FEBRUARY 14, 2023.

LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS



Library News

Warm up this winter with a book from the Oceanport Library! So many selections and genres to choose from.

Just a reminder Library hours are:

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

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

Wednesday - Closed

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

Friday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Children's programs are on Thursdays. The times of the programs are:

Baby Storytime – Ages 6 months to 23 months (with parent/caregiver) from 10:00 am - 10:20 am. Join Florence, the Children's Librarian, indoors to share stories, songs, and finger plays and bubbles.

Family Storytime – All Ages Welcome (with parent/caregiver) from 11:00 am - 11:20 am. Join Florence, the Children's Librarian, indoors for stories, songs, finger games, and a craft.

After School Adventures – Ages 3 to 7 – (with parent/caregiver) from 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm. Join Florence, the Children's Librarian, indoors for stories and a craft.

Special Events for January:

Space is limited; registration recommended beginning January 1st for January special events, online <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, by phone at (732) 229-2626, or in-person.

Winter Tree Painting – Ages 3 and up (with parent/caregiver) Thursday, January 12th from 4:00 - 4:30 pm.

Listen to a winter story and paint a lovely winter scene using cotton swabs or pompoms. Please wear smocks or old clothing.

LEGO® Storytime – Ages 2 and up. (with parent/caregiver) Thursday, January 26th from 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Listen to LEGO® stories and make your own LEGO® creation. LEGOS® and DUPLO® will be provided by the library.

TAKE 'N MAKE CRAFTS

Pick up a craft kit to make-at-home! Find directions and themed reads in the Kids page slideshow.

December 1 – 14: Dinosaur, December 15 -31: Penguin

January 1 – 15: Mittens with Mugs, January 15 - 31: Rabbit

The Oceanport Library staff wishes everyone a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy 2023 too!

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 5)

The following Friday, a bunch of Morris Avenue neighbors go together and had their own neighborhood tree lighting at Ron and Lynne Sickler's house. Ron and Lynne, two of the nicest people in the world, had smiles on their faces from ear to ear the entire evening. I was privileged to attend this event and I think it is something that every neighborhood should look to do in the future. Kudos to Carly Dietrick, Tom Tvrdek and the entire Morris, Vreeland Shippen and River neighborhood for putting this all together

Our Municipal Council's reorganization meeting was held on January 1, 2023. We welcomed in a newly elected council member, Keith Salnick, and said goodbye to former Council President Meghan Walker. Meg served Oceanport for three years on the municipal council, chaired the Health and Human Services Committee and served as a member of both the Park & Recreation and Public Safety committees. Meg was also the council's liaison to both the Public Library and the Oceanport Board of Education. Meg's commitment to the Borough of Oceanport was second to none and, although she will be serving on the Environmental Commission and volunteering in other areas, she will be missed greatly on the council.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteer firefighters, volunteer first aid squad members, volunteer coaches, volunteers in general, our teachers and school staff members, our crossing guards, our DPW workers, police, construction department, municipal court and our administrative staff at Borough Hall and EVERYBODY here in our town for making Oceanport what it is today and always has been: A Great Place to Live.

Halloween Costume and Trunk Contest Winners!

It was a beautiful fall day for the Oceanport Halloween Trunk or Treat! It was not an easy task to choose the winners but here they are.

Best in Show - #56 Minion and Gru, The Zaun Family

Scariest - #72 Skeletons, Lilly and Parker Saybolt

Most Original - #16 Titanic, Yoell Boyle

Group/Family - #63 Witches/Vampire,

The Glubo Family

Best Trunk - Willy Wonka, The Johantgen Family

Thank you to all who participated and joined in on the Halloween fun.