The Oceanport Bulletin



MAYOR Jay Coffey COUNCIL MEMBERS Richard A. Gallo, Council President William Deerin, Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Keith Salnick, Thomas Tvrdik BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR Donna Phelps BOROUGH CLERK Jeanne Smith

March/April 2023

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Mayor's Message

We're slowly but surely getting close to enjoying spring in New Jersey and residents of Oceanport are ready to experience all that our town offers in the way of outdoor activities. This spring is an especially auspicious one for enjoying the great outdoors because Maria Gatta Park and Blackberry Bay Park have more to offer than ever before. As most of you have probably noticed, play on the new artificial turf fields at Maria Gatta Park has already begun and kids of all ages from Oceanport (maybe even Buddy Brocklebank) have been on the fields playing football, lacrosse, soccer, and field hockey on pretty much every day the weather was dry in January and February. These fields are now fully operational, fully equipped, and are soon to be fully utilized. The investment the Borough made in converting these fields from an unsafe lunar landscape into state-of-the-art turf fields was well worth it.

As noted in a previous missive, the Borough spent over \$3,000,000.00 to convert this site and the annual debt service is approximately \$220,000.00. Aside from the fact that our children needed playable fields, our council members were convinced that "if we build it, they will come" and the fields would pay for themselves. Well, we built it, and they are coming. Indeed, for the Spring season, the Borough is assured of rental revenue in the amount of approximately \$95,000.00. That's just for those four months, folks. The projected revenue derived from the rental of the fields at Maria Gatta Park will pay the annual debt serve AND pay for additional phases at the park or improvements to other parks in Oceanport. Councilmen Bill Deerin, Byan Keeshen, and Mike O'Brien along with Oceanport's Recreation Committee have done the Borough proud and their foresight and planning will benefit the residents of Oceanport for years to come.

Over at Blackberry Bay Park, five new pickleball courts have been installed at the old roller hockey rink and the Borough will be implementing a revised court reservation system for our tennis and pickleball courts to ensure that all the courts are being utilized to their fullest. The pickleball courts will be undergoing further improvements during the spring and summer, but they are ready for play. Our Recreation Committee and members of the Borough Council have also moved forward with preliminary plans designed to facilitate greater use of the dock at Blackberry Bay by making it more accessible to crew teams, kayakers, and paddleboarders. Indeed, this may be the first step in resolving what will be done with the pool site. Given the pool area's location, the idea is to see if we can coordinate a redevelopment of the site

Calendar of Events March

2	Mayor & Council Meeting
	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
9	Historical Committee Meeting
11	Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
13	Environmental Commission Meeting
13	Water Watch Committee Meeting
14	Planning Board Meeting
15	Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
16	Mayor & Council Meeting
16	Shore Regional Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
25	Easter Egg Hunt (Rain date 3/26)
28	Planning Board Meeting

April

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1-28 Spring Leaf Collection
1-30 Women's Summer Tennis League Sign-up
1 Registration begins for Action Camp through May 1st
2 Oceanport Hook & Ladder Annual Ham Dinner
6 Mayor & Council Meeting
10 Environmental Commission Meeting
10 Water Watch Committee Meeting
11 Planning Board Meeting
12 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
13 Historical Committee Meeting
15 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
20 Mayor & Council Meeting
22 Nat'l Prescription Drug Take Back Day
@ Oceanport Police Department
22 Shore Regional Little League Opening Day
22 Paper Shredding @Long Branch Community Pool
Atlantic Ave.
25 Planning Board Meeting
26 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
27 Shore Regional Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
30 Oceanport Boy Scout Troop 58
Annual Spaghetti Dinner

May

1	Quarterly Property Taxes Due
4	Mayor & Council Meeting
5	Annual Mini-Golf Tournament

Recycling

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough Notices

• Spring Leaf Collection April 1st – 28th 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!

- REMINDER: Before hiring a landscaper, check to make sure they are registered with the Borough as required by ordinance & State law. A NEW State law requires that they provide the Borough with proof of liability insurance – for your protection!
- REMINDER: Grass should not be blown into the streets or left in roadways as well as sticks and leaves. When it rains it gets into and clogs the Borough's stormwater system. Please do your part to keep our roadways clean!
- Save the Dates for the Annual Mini Golf Tournament on May 5th, the Annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29th and the 63rd Army Band Concert on June 28th.

2022 Holiday Decorating Winners

Congratulations to the Parks & Recreation Committee 2022 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners! The Committee thanks all residents whose homes were beautifully decorated and lit up Oceanport for the holiday season. As always, it is difficult to narrow the many down to a few.

Most Outrageous: 31 Massaro Court – The White Family Best Yard: 33 Trinity Place – The Sommers Family Best Window/Door: 20 Russel Avenue – The Boyle Family Most Traditional: 25 Port Au Peck – The Rhodes/ Doyle Family





Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Open to All Oceanport Children Saturday, March 25th at 11:00 am (Rain date is March 26th at 2:00 pm, please note time change.) Blackberry Bay Park Candy, prizes, and free photos with the Easter Bunny! – Bring your camera

The Scout Scoop

Oceanport's Pack 58, "Cub Scouts" and Troop 58, "Boy Scouts" are great organizations in town. They plan many activities for kids to learn and grow, as individuals and with their peers. Cub Scouts are for boys 1st - mid 5th grade. They participate in group activities and learn the basics of being good members of a community, how to gain confidence, learn fun lessons, and basic outdoor skills.

This winter the pack spent a night at the Camden Aquarium and had a great time. Parents and siblings were invited to join in the fun too. Currently, they are turning wooden blocks into cars to compete in the annual Pinewood Derby race on April 1st. It will be held at Celtic Concepts - Thank you for the use of your space! Other group activities will be hiking, a beach cleanup, and Whitling Chip requirements.

Cub Scouts will be doing a Mother's Day flower sale fundraiser, with help from Oceanport's Rick Gallo! Lookout for sale dates.

Boy Scouts in our town is truly impressive. They held their Court of Honor ceremony and honored rank advancements of the boys. There were 10 rank advancements and 74 merit badges earned over the past six months! That's something to be proud of. One of the scouts even treated everyone to a cello concert.

The troop meets once a week and are always busy. They held a meeting and invited the 5th grade Cub Scout Den, Webelos Arrow of Light Den, to participate. These younger scouts will be having their Crossing Over Ceremony soon and will become the newest Boy Scouts.

The troop organized an all-day event at Gravity Vault and scouts in attendance earned a merit badge. There was a weekend trip called Winterburg which included cabin camping with fun activities. They will fundraise by selling Old Monmouth chocolates for Easter and are holding their annual spaghetti dinner on April 30th. This is their biggest fundraiser, and it helps with the cost of their trips.

Many of the Boy Scout ranks require hours of volunteer work in which they learn valuable skills and become great humans. Oceanport is very supportive with volunteering opportunities and helps give the Scouts chances to learn and grow. The troop wouldn't be as successful if it didn't have the amazing adults who volunteer their time.

If you know of someone that would like to join, volunteer or give opportunities, please contact just.elk@gmail.com for cub scouts, or oceanporttroop58@gmail.com for Boy Scouts.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

Please make sure house, apartment, and business address numbers are clearly visible for first responders in case of an emergency. This is important so not to delay any help you may need.

Reminder Bingo Nights 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!

Also, the first aid squad is seeking new members. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help your community please go to OPFA.org.



The Hook's Ham Dinner is Back! Sunday, April 2nd 12:00 – 5:00 pm Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Company 21 Main Street

Come one, come all to the Annual Ham Dinner hosted by the Oceanport Hook & Ladder Volunteer Fire Company. This is the Hook & Ladder's largest fundraiser of the year and they need your help to make it successful. Dinner will include the usual favorites: Creamy Mashed Potatoes, String Beans with Bacon, Ham complete with the Famous Raisin Gravy, Salad, Cole Slaw, Apple Sauce, Bread, Desserts, Coffee, Various Refreshments, and more! As always, the dinner will be served Family Style, for one low price per person:

Adults: \$10.00 • Seniors: \$8.00 Kids (Under 10) - \$5.00 • Toddlers (Under 5) - FREE

Free delivery is available to Oceanport Gardens and to Meadowbrook Senior Living.

Hook & Ladder looking for corporate sponsorships. If you are interested in becoming a placemat ad sponsor or a headline sponsor or if you have any questions please call (732) 542-6928 As always, Don't Make Mom Cook, Bring Her To The Hook!

Summer Action Camp 2023 News!

Registration is open April 1st through May 1st ONLY. Registration Forms will be available on the Borough website at oceanportboro.com and will be processed on a first come, first serve limited basis.

Action Camp will run this summer from June 26th – July 28th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for grades Kindergarten through 7th at Community Center Park. \$325 per camper for the five-week program. This is a playground activity program including sports, crafts, games, and special events.

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

Senior Club Notes

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 March (St. Patrick's Lunch) and April. Members will be notified.

Special Event: "Million Dollar Quartet" ("Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash"), Tuesday, April 11th 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 1st, 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 \$25.

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.

"I have discovered the secret formula for a carefree Old Age: ICR=FI, 'If You Can't Recall It, Forget It." Goodman Ace



Support Oceanport Girl Scout Troop's Annual Egg My Yard Fundraiser

Please help support your local Oceanport Girl Scout Troop 710 and sign up for Egg My Yard! The girls will hide stuffed Easter Eggs in your yard on Saturday, April 8th. To sign up, email girlscouttroop710@gmail.com with your name, cell phone number, address, brief description of your house, number of eggs, number of children and gender. The cost is 25 eggs for \$32 or 50 eggs for \$58. Venmo @Oceanporttroop-710. Girls will begin egging late afternoon/early evening. They will hide eggs in your front yard, unless you specify another place. In the event of rain, girls will drop off eggs at your front door. Please send an email with any questions. Deadline to sign up is Saturday, April 1st.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Women's Summer Tennis League

Whether you are a veteran tennis player or have been meaning to start/restart playing, this 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 30thth. Participants must be Oceanport residents. Sign up is online at http://bit.ly/OCPtennis. League play begins Monday, June 5th.

Daytime doubles matches are played weekday mornings at 8:00 am and 9:00 am. Evening matches are played Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. 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 pm or 5:00 pm. 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 Wednesday
- "B" league Thursday "C" league – Tuesday

*A "D" league may be added Friday or Monday if we get more than 36 people signed up for doubles.

It is mandatory for new sign-up players to attend a meeting about the league where questions are encouraged. There will be two scheduled meetings to accommodate schedules but only one needs to be attended. Any veteran player is also welcome to attend. The meetings are on Sunday, May 7th at 11:00 am or Monday, May 8th at 7:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Match schedules and rules will be emailed beginning May 15th. 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. Let the games begin!

Old Wharf House is Available for Rental!

The newly renovated Old Wharf House at 315 E. Main Street, Oceanport, is available to rent for events like a Baby Shower, Birthday, Anniversary, Engagement, Christening, and much more. There is a full kitchen, restrooms, and an outdoor deck with water views. Rates are the following: Residents are \$75.00/hour and Non-Residents are \$100 per hour. There is also a refundable deposit of \$300.00 and insurance required which is available through the Borough.

For more information contact the Borough Clerk's Office at (732) 222-8221, option #4 or visit oceanportboro.com/departments/clerk.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

that allows for greater use of the waterfront at Blackberry Bay Park by our residents. More to come on this topic in the very near future.

The Community Center Park has had a complete upgrade and the Shore Regional Little League will be celebrating Opening Day on April 22nd. This year's Opening Day is especially notable, however, because the baseball field is going to be dedicated to Oceanport's Mike MacStudy in recognition of all the volunteer time Mike put into our recreation baseball and softball programs from 1998 through 2020 as a coach and as President of the Oceanport Baseball Association. Mike coached scores of kids in baseball and softball and nobody spent more time than Mike MacStudy making sure the Community Center field (and the fields at Blackberry Bay and Wolf Hill) was ready and safe for the kids of Oceanport to play on. Mike coached all four of his kids (Michael, Mark, Maddie, and Martin) from tee ball forward and, as evidence of his complete love of baseball and Oceanport and his wife Molly's desire to keep him occupied and out of the house, he remained as President of the Oceanport Baseball Association five years after his youngest child graduated from the program. When Mike MacStudy throws out the first pitch on Opening Day, I am very happy to say that he will be on the mound at "Mike MacStudy Field," and I would hope that the sidelines are filled with friends, family, and a good number of kids he coached over the years. This will be one of those small-town days that everyone should experience.

The dedication of Mike MacStudy Field will be one of those "feel good days" that makes Oceanport a great place to live. Over the past few months, however, Oceanport has lost some people who made EVERY day a feel-good day in Oceanport. We said goodbye to everybody's favorite bus driver and an absolutely fantastic woman, Barbara Bell, in January. Mrs. Bell had a profound, positive impact on all the kids who got to ride on the bus with her. Her smile was infectious, and she was an important part of a LOT of people's lives in Oceanport. Karen Long, a longtime resident and a very frequent and very vocal attendee at Borough Council meetings passed away in December. We also lost Tommy George, another individual whose smile, positive vibes, and overall congeniality made everybody's day that much better. Tommy was a spectacular athlete and an even better person. Our hearts go out to the Bell, Long, and George families. On behalf of the people of Oceanport, please know that Barbara, Karen, and Tommy were part of the fabric of our community and that they will be greatly missed.

LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Library News

Soon it will be spring although we cannot complain about this mild winter so far. There are a lot of fun and interesting activities at the Oceanport Library. It would be great to see more faces at our Thursday 4:00 pm Storytime. When there is not a special event a craft will be still be done.

Our special programs are as follows: Meet A K-9 Dog! A Family Event

Thursday, March 9th from 4:00 to 4:30 pm – How do dogs help police with law enforcement? See a K-9 demo presented by Monmouth County Sheriff officers. Call the library (732-229-2626) or sign up online at http://bit.ly/OceanportKids beginning March 1st.

Make Your Own Collage Hand Puppet – Ages 3 and up Thursday, March 23rd from 4:00 - 4:30 pm. The library will provide the puppets for decoration, you provide the inspiration. Use pipe cleaners, pompoms, buttons, markers and other items to create a beautiful puppet. Call the library to sign up or sign up online beginning March 1st.

Miss Cristine's Musical Program – Ages 6 months to 3 years (with parent/caregiver) Thursday, April 20th from 10:00 - 10:30 am. Come for a fun-filled family music time, from catchy tunes to a jam session with instruments. Sign up begins April 1st.

Crank the Toons with Doodle Dude – Ages 5 and up. Thursday, April 27th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Have a fun time creating entertaining and cool cartoons with cartoonist Doodle Dude. Sign up begins April 1st.

Take 'n Make Crafts – Pick up a craft kit to make-at-home! Find directions and themed reads in the Kids page slideshow. March 1-14: Maker's Day Robot. March 15-31: Spring Robin. April 1-14: Wolf. April 15-30: Earth Day.

CELEBRATE NJ MAKERS DAY! Saturday, March 25th from 12:00 – 4:00 pm at Eastern Branch Library, Shrewsbury. All ages welcome! Go to www.monmouthcountylib.org for more details.

The Library also offers virtual events in March like Minecraft Mania on March 13th and Dance Workshop with Talewise on March 20th. For more information and to register go to the kids page slideshow at www.monmouthcountylib.org.



Pictured here are Caroline Donohoe, the 2022 Sal Gentile Scholarship winner along with Linda Risden, President of the Oceanport Library Association. Caroline attends the University of Richmond. Congratulations to her!

Oceanport Lions Club Scholarship Application Information

Lions Clubs International is one of the world's largest service club organizations. Its 1.4 million members, 47,000 local clubs globally, which Oceanport Lion's Club is one of, are dedicated to better-ing the quality of life for the disabled, the poor, the sick, and the aged. The motto of Lions Clubs Inter-national is "WE SERVE," and Lions live this motto with enthusiasm!

For many years our annual scholarship has been made available to a high school student who resides in Oceanport or is the son, daughter, or grandchild of an Oceanport Lion member in good standing and planning to further their education. The scholarship application prioritizes academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, school activities, community service, and a TYPEWRITTEN essay of 500 words or less.

The Lions Club goal is to provide a scholarship opportunity that is inclusive and to consider all stu-dents who can benefit from the \$1000 grant who wish to continue their education in any fashion. Service is a Lions Club priority and is demonstrated in many ways by young adults, and our application strives to learn this about our applicants.

Applications may be obtained from your Guidance Counselor or downloaded at the Oceanport Lion's Website at https://oceanportlionsclub.com/application-for-oceanport-lionsscholarship/. For additional information, please contact your high school scholarship counselor first, or you may contact Mark Bar-reca, Lions Club Scholarship Committee Chair, at (201) 563-2948 or at mjbarreca@comcast.net. Our club is excited to see this year's candidates! Deadline for submissions is April 19, 2023.

Oceanport Library Association Sal Gentile \$1000 Scholarship

Requirements

- 1. Must be an Oceanport resident.
- 2. Must be a high school senior furthering their education.
- 3. Must submit a high school transcript.
- 4. Must submit a letter of recommendation from a subject area teacher.
- 5. Must submit a typed 200 minimum word essay on: How the library (school, local, county, or other) contributed to your education.
- 6. Must submit by April 5, 2023 to: Oceanport Library,
- 8 Iroquois Ave., Oceanport, NJ 07757 Attention: Mrs. Risden

Address

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Name

Name of High School_____

College, trade, or vocational school enrolled - Fall of 2023

StudentSignature:_____

Date

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910 Oceanport Way PO Box 370, Oceanport, NJ 07757 www.oceanportboro.com (732) 222-8221



POSTAL PATRON OCEANPORT, NEW JERSEY 07757

LAURA McCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net) Deadline for the MAY/JUNE *Bulletin* is APRIL 14, 2023.

POLICE NEWS

A Message from Oceanport Police Chief Michael P. Kelly

The Oceanport Police Department has seen a significant increase in our response to mental health and crisis intervention calls. This is an alarming trend that has occurred throughout our state and country. Since 2019 the Oceanport Police Department calls for response to mental health and crisis calls went from 39 calls to 62 calls in 2020 and the call volumes have remained steady with 50 calls in 2021 and 54 calls in 2022. These rates may not seem concerning, but they are for a town with just over 6200 residents.

Many times, when the police respond to these calls the person is in their most vulnerable and hopeless state of mind and that person, family and/or friends do not know who else to call.

There are many referral services and centers that are available to those in need, and I would like to pass that valuable information onto our residents.

• For Crisis with imminent risk to harm to self, others or property always call: 911.

• There is the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

• Monmouth County Psychiatric Emergency Screening Service at Monmouth Medical center-Child and Family Crisis Clinicians at (732) 923-6999.

• Riverview Medical Center Behavioral Health Services at (732) 450-2900.

- Mental Health Association of Monmouth County at (732) 542-6422.
- 2nd floor youth hotline at 888-222-2228.
- NJ Hopeline at 855-654-6735.
- Suicidepreventionlifeline.org 800-273-8255.

• Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide -info@sptsusa.org or (732) 410-7900 (Information and referral).

Oceanport Police Officers who respond to mental health and crisis calls respond with referral information and have training in Crisis Intervention, Behavioral Health Training (BHT), and Responding to Behavioral Health Crisis. Obviously, our officers are not doctors, counselors, clinicians, or social workers. We are sometimes just the first line of help for that person in need to be guided in the right direction. From a personal family perspective, I understand the stigma associated with mental and behavioral health crises as well as the fear of the unknown. We must overcome that stigma and fear. We need to be supportive and understanding. The Oceanport Police have posted several informational brochures and pamphlets related to mental health and suicide awareness inside the foyer at police headquarters. Please stop in and pick some up.

PROPERLY DISCARD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The Oceanport Police Department is participating in the annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22nd 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. Prescription drugs can be dropped off anytime during normal business hours. Liquids and needles (sharps) will not be accepted.

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. Signboard and radar display boards will be placed in targeted locations to educate drivers and slow them down. We ask residents with speeding complaints to call the Oceanport Police Department at (732) 222-6300.

CRIME PREVENTION

The Oceanport Police remind residents to lock your vehicles, remove key fobs, and valuable items from within your parked vehicles. We continue to respond to vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts. It remains a problem within our area. 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.)

From all of us at the Oceanport Police Department please stay healthy and stay safe.