

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

VOL. XXXIII, No. 6

December 2023/January 2024

Mayor's Message

If you read newspapers, listen to talk radio, follow a news feed online, or watch the news on television, it seems as if nothing good happens anywhere, ever, to anybody, that our world is in the worst shape in history and things are only going to get much, much worse. On a grand scale, we are bombarded with negativity 24 hours a day by media outlets, and the harsh, unforgiving divide in our political class has been cultivated and exacerbated news media's insatiable appetite for content. If you are wondering why it seems that people in general seem angrier and less civil than ever before, look no further than how our media portrays our world on a daily basis. But, if we're honest about it and apply a bit of perspective, the media, with the complicity of our political leaders, are collectively producing the world's greatest work of fiction. Things are not worse than ever, they're better than ever.

One hundred years ago, we were just emerging from the "war to end all wars" that killed 20 million people and wounded another 21 million. That was just the warm-up. Between 1929 and 1979, we had a worldwide depression, a decade long drought in the Midwest US that resulted in the "Dustbowl," a SECOND world war that resulted in another 75 million deaths, the Korean "conflict," the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of a President, the Vietnam War, and a gas shortage that brought our country to a halt. Compare all that to the last 43 years, and all of sudden things don't look too bad. The big difference is that everything from 1929 through 1979 wasn't televised 24/7/365. Every military conflict, natural disaster, salacious crime, and political conflict is now fodder for hours and hours of media coverage. Congressional hearings are now television shows. If the Dustbowl took place today, it would have its own cable network. Somehow, people slogged through these cataclysmic events and maintained a sense of hope, civility, and community. Unlike today, what was going on in the world didn't take precedence over living their lives.

And that brings us to Oceanport. If we stop looking outward through the prism of the media and start looking inward through the prism of our own experiences, we would begin to appreciate how much we have and how good it is to be living on this planet in 2023. Oceanport, like thousands and thousands of small communities throughout the world, is living proof that the human condition is a good one and that things are not as bad as they seem. Oceanport is a town built on the backs of volunteers and it thrives on community involvement. Our Oceanport Residents Facebook page can get pretty amus-

Calendar of Events

December

- 3 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
- 7 Historical Society Committee Meeting
- 11 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 11 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 12-14 Holiday Decorating Contest
- 12 Planning Board Meeting
- 13 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 14 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 25 Merry Christmas, No Trash Pickup

January

- 1 Happy New Year! Borough Offices Closed
- 3 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 4 Mayor & Council Reorganization Meeting
- 4 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 8 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 8 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 10 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 18 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 20 Oceanport Rabies Clinic
- 20 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 23 Planning Board Meeting

February

- 1 Quarterly Property Tax Payment Due
- 1 Mayor & Council Meeting

Recycling

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

ing and a little hostile, but on the whole the "hot" issues raised there (overly aggressive turkeys, feral foxes, lost animals, road construction, garbage cans, gunshots during duck hunting season) are incredibly benign. We have it very good here in Oceanport and we need to remember that.

And it isn't that hard to remember how wonderful it is to live in Oceanport. Wake up early and look at the sun as it shines across the Shrewsbury River. Spend some time watching our kids play sports at our beautifully maintained playing fields. Even better, watch the PARENTS watching their kids playing sports. Take a walk and take notice of how beautiful the homes are and count how many people stop and talk to you. I walk at night because when I walk during the

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 4)

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 Ends in December

Please note no more leaves in the street once your leaf pickup time is over. Please go to oceanport.com for Leaf Collection Schedule.

Christmas Tree Disposal

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

Some Tips on Recycling from the OP Environmental Commission

On behalf of the OP Environmental Commission here are some suggestions we can all do to keep our town at its best. For those of you who are taking advantage of the twice monthly recycling pick-ups it is appreciated. The OP head of public works, Steve Briskey, offered some tips which will help minimize our costs and keep resources out of the landfill.

1. Please break down cardboard boxes and bundle them with twine. Oceanport gets paid for this!
2. It's best to either throw out bottle caps with trash, or leave them on the bottle, since they can clog the processing machine.
3. No plastic bags with the recycling.
4. Continue to bundle your brush or place it in garbage cans or bags. Unfortunately, public works does not have a chipping/mulching machine to process this.
5. Try to keep leaves and other debris away from storm drains to minimize flooding.

Mr. Briskey is willing to open the drop-off center on Saturday mornings if we have volunteers to provide oversight. Anyone interested in volunteering, please email Litwins@com-cast.net. You will have the pleasure to meet fellow Oceanporters and support our town.

Other ways to help conserve and keep our environment cleaner:

Please don't water the lawn if it's rained recently.

Try to minimize idling in your vehicle. DEP regulations limit engine idling to three minutes, with limited exceptions.

Please reach out to the OP Environmental Commission if you have other ideas for making Oceanport a cleaner, greener place. Thank you for doing your part for our town, as well as the environment.

Oceanport A Great Place to Live



Are you looking for a thoughtful last minute Christmas gift?

Oceanport A Great Place To Live, a comprehensive history of Oceanport's second 50 years is a great idea! Copies can be purchased from Toni Sverapa (please call (732) 539-1620), any member of the Historical Committee, or at Borough Hall. Hardcover copies are available for \$75, and softcover copies are available for \$30, cash or check made payable to the Borough of Oceanport.

FREE Rabies Clinic

Sponsored by the Monmouth County Board of Health
Saturday, January 20th, 2024

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.

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 2024 is due January 31st, 2024 ONLINE at: [www.sdlportal.com/towns/nj/monmouth/oceanport/requests/pet license](http://www.sdlportal.com/towns/nj/monmouth/oceanport/requests/pet-license).

Fee: \$18 per pet if not spayed/neutered or \$15 per pet if spayed/neutered.

Licenses expire January 31st, 2024 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 cates to be licensed.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Parks and Recreation Committee is happy to announce the winners of its first annual decorating contest!

Spookiest: Jonathan Rhodes, 25 Port-Au-Peck Avenue

Most Creative: Karen Livinstone, 10 Serand Avenue

Family Fun: Daureen Vales, 26 Dwayne Street

Best Townhouse/Condo: Fischer Family, 50 Steeplechase Court

Also, congratulations to the Halloween Trunk or Treat costume contest winners!

Best in Show: Hulk Hogan (Leo Patterson)

Most Original: The Grannies (Ava & Lily Patterson)

Group/Family: Toy Story (Carissa Bavos)

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



Oceanport Volunteer First Aid Squad 911 News

The Oceanport Volunteer First Aid Squad would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! Thank you to those who have supported the Squad this past year, either through donations or coming out to our Bingo nights. As the Squad will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary this spring, your continued support will be appreciated.

Bingo Nights will continue in 2024!

Doors open at 6:00 PM

Bingo starts at 7:00 PM

Dates:

Jan. 20th	Feb. 10th	Mar. 23rd
Apr. 13th	May 11th	June 8th
July 13th	Aug. 10th	Sept. 21st



2024 Shore Regional Little League Registration Opens December 1st

Important Dates

- Baseball Softball & Tee Ball Registration Opens December 1, 2023.
- Take advantage of the Early Bird Discount before January 15th, 2024
- SRLL Used Merchandise Sale is January 27-28, 2024
- Baseball and Softball Registration Closes February 4, 2024
- Tee Ball Registration Closes March 15, 2024
- Player Evaluations will be February 4, 2024 and February 11, 2024 (attendance at either date is mandatory)

To register, please go to ShoreLittleLeague.com

Shore Regional Little League (SRLL) 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 their Facebook and Instagram pages @shorelitttleleague or email shoreregional11@gmail.com

Oceanport Garden Club News

Spread the Holiday Cheer Workshop---making Christmas baskets for the Borough Hall, schools, and local libraries, and decorating the Old Wharf House Christmas tree ended the year for the Oceanport Garden Club members! This will be followed in January 2024 by 'Enjoy a Four-Season Garden' - with speaker Patti Schleg from Rutgers Master Gardeners, and a program showing how different plants can create attractions throughout the seasons. February has the OGC members making floral arrangements (95 to 100) for the Oceanport Gardens seniors, an early 2024 workshop. Time to see our club in action - come, visit, participate, and enjoy. Bring a friend to the workshop in February. The Oceanport Garden Club meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month, from September thru June, at Old Wharf House, 316 East Main Street, Oceanport. Meetings begin at 10:30 AM. Interested individuals can call Diane, (732) 688-2688, to verify venue or changes in schedules.

OGC Tip: it is never too early to start planning your next garden plot, container pots, and planters: think about changing your current location, bed size, with a new variety or crop. Treat yourself to something new.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Club Notes

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club meets at Old Wharf House at 12:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. December 20th will be their Christmas meeting. Wine, cheese, and finger sandwiches will be served. The January 17, 2024, meeting will feature Bingo. Members will be reminded of meeting dates.

Oceanport Senior's Club Facebook (Meta) Page: The new "Oceanport Senior's Club" Facebook (Meta) page is a private page open for viewing by any senior citizen living in Oceanport. There you can learn about the club and view their monthly functions, trips, and parties. On Facebook, search for "Oceanport Senior's Club." When you find the page, click on the request to join button. Contact Lois Olsen at (732) 229-9986 if you have any questions.

2024 Officers: The following officers were elected for the coming year: President (Barbara Scerbo), 1st Vice President (Mimi Paolise), 2nd Vice President (Diane Schmid), Secretary (Diane Dineen), Treasurer (Lillian Lockwood), and Corresponding Secretary (Rosina MacStudy).

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. Please send dues payments to Lillian Lockwood, 132 S. Pemberton Avenue, Oceanport, NJ 07757. Phone: (732) 542-3826.

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

"People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day." A.A. Milne

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE from page 1)

day, I spend most of my time standing and talking. Visit the First Aid Squad, Port Au Peck Firehouse or Hook & Ladder Fire House and talk to our volunteers about all the things they do for us behind the scenes. Take a moment to talk to one of our DPW workers as they fix up our parks and roads (but not too long because they are on the clock). Pop into a Board of Education, Planning Board or Municipal Council meeting and see how our volunteers and Borough employees are working tirelessly to ensure Oceanport remains "A Great Place to Live." And it really is.

This is my last message. This space is too limited to thank all the people who made my life easier as Mayor for the past eight years. But I want to specifically thank Laura McCrae, the woman who puts this newsletter together every two months, the woman who is tortured by me every other month because I get these long missives to her two weeks late, the woman who we all need to be thankful for because she makes this all possible. Thank you, Laura. Oh, and Buddy Brocklebank. It's always good to thank Buddy Brocklebank. Thank you, Buddy Brocklebank, and thank you, Oceanport.



Oceanport Fire Department News

The Port Au Peck Chemical Hose Company #2 proudly announces its two newest members: Dylan Drahos and Jake Pinto.

The Hook and Ladder proudly does the same and announces its two newest members: Sal Larosa and Mike Ciaglia.

These four men have successfully completed Firefighter 1 at the Monmouth County Fire Academy and the Middletown Fire Academy respectively. Each member participated in 190 hours of classroom and fire ground training.

Thank you to them for their dedication and well wishes to them for a safe career in fire service.



2023 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Mayor Jay Coffey poses with Santa at his last tree lighting as Mayor of Oceanport.

The Oceanport Bulletin

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

POSTAL PATRON
OCEANPORT, NEW JERSEY 07757

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #361
Red Bank, NJ
07701
EDDM ECRWSS

LAURA MCCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)

Deadline for the JANUARY/FEBRUARY *Bulletin* is JANUARY 14, 2024.

LIBRARY NEWS



Congratulations to Catherine DeSousa, the Oceanport Association's Sal Gentile Scholarship Winner! Best wishes to Cate as she begins her new chapter at the University of Virginia.



The magician, Amazing V, entertained the children who completed their summer reading. They also celebrated with pizza and ice pops provided by the Oceanport Public Library Association.



Children had fun and cooled off with popsicles at the Oceanport Public Library Association popsicle party in July.