

The Oceanport Bulletin



MAYOR
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Michael O'Brien, Keith Salnick
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR
Donna Phelps
BOROUGH CLERK
Jeanne Smith

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February/March 2024

Mayor's Message

I want to thank the residents of Oceanport for allowing me the opportunity to serve this wonderful community for the next four years as Mayor. Oceanport is growing and developing, and it is important to me that our residents feel included and have a voice in this growth and development. Communication between the Borough's government and our residents will be a priority during this administration. No less important will be the continuation of the great relationships that have been developed between our municipal government and the volunteers who support our community through their time and selfless dedication to Oceanport's residents.

Re-organization day is always a very special event and this year it was especially noteworthy. We swore in our newest volunteer officers in the First Aid Squad and Fire Department, recognized outgoing Fire Chief Tommy Gallo, honored local living legend Clarence "Buddy" Brocklebank with the Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award, and recognized outgoing Mayor Jay Coffey with a proclamation. If you have a chance, I highly recommend you watch the re-organization meeting online. Someone mentioned they have not seen that many people with watery eyes in one room in a long, long time.

During the first two weeks of the new year, we managed to survive our first Nor'easter and our first ice storm, while we narrowly missed a snowstorm. As always, kudos to our Department of Public Works crew, Office of Emergency Management, and all our first responders for their tireless efforts and making sure the streets were clear and safe for Oceanport's residents.

Safety is the first order of business when it comes to our school children and the Borough has finalized an agreement with the Board of Education whereby, we will always have two active police officers present during school hours. This could not have happened without the hard work of the members of the Board of Education, Oceanport School District's outgoing Superintendent, Laura Godlesky and her incredible administrative staff, as well as the Borough's Business Administrator, Donna Phelps, our CFO, Katie LaPorta, Police Chief Michael Kelly, and the Borough Council, all of whom worked together to put together a fiscal and operational game-plan to best protect the health and safety of our students and faculty.

If you're driving by Sommers Boy Scout Park, you will notice construction fencing has been placed around the perimeter of the park. The park will be closed for up to two years to allow for Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority to

Calendar of Events

February

- 1 Quarterly Property Tax Payment Due
- 1 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 10 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 12 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 12 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 13 Planning Board Meeting
- 14 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 15 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 22 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 27 Planning Board Meeting
- 28 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting

March

- 7 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 8-10 Shore Players Presents *Beauty & the Beast*
- 11 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 11 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 14 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 15-17 Shore Players Presents *Beauty & the Beast*
- 20 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 21 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 23 Easter Egg Scramble
- 23 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 26 Planning Board Meeting

Recycling

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

complete its long-awaited and much needed upgrade to our sewer system. While the extended closure of the park and the construction taking place will be an inconvenience, the long-term benefits of this extensive upgrade will far outweigh the inconveniences. Unfortunately, as a result of this project, the Borough will lose two mature shade trees that are currently in the park. Additionally, the monuments, benches, and flagpole be removed and placed in storage until such time as the project is completed. Once the project is completed, the monuments, benches and flagpole will be re-installed. Please note there will be site lighting for security purposes and the site will be secured each night. Please also be aware the contractor will be installing office trailers on site as well as implementing soil stockpiling handling areas. There will be no interruption of utility services, and the contractor is responsible for obtaining its own electric and water service. Portable bathrooms will be on site as well. The work involves

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Debris Cleanup Clarification

Please note the Guidelines for Placement of Debris which appeared in the Dec2023/Jan2024 *OP Bulletin* is not related to the normal Public Works bulk collection, nor is it regarding the normal garbage/recycling collection. The guideline is for the placement of debris after having suffered from a disaster, like we did with Sandy. Please keep this guideline for future reference and it also appears in the Borough website under OEM. Apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

Borough News

Reminder: 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.

Sommers Park Closure

Please note Sommers Park will be closed for up to two years due to work done by the Sewer Authority. Mayor Tvrdik provides more details in his Mayor's Message on page 1 and information can also be found on Oceanportboro.com under News and Announcements.

Reminder: Dog and Cat Licenses Are Due

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 rabies vaccine 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: sdlportal.com/towns/nj/monmouth/oceanport/requests/petlicense

Connect with your Community!

The Borough is seeking volunteers for the following committees - Parks & Recreation, Historical, Water Watch, Green Team, Cable/Technology, and the Board of Health. Here is your chance to participate and help give back to this beautiful town and continue to make it a better place to live. For a Volunteer/Call to Service Application please go to Oceanportboro.com and look under News & Announcements for Seeking Volunteers for Committees.

Action Camp 2024

The Parks & Recreation Committee is happy to announce that camp staff applications are now being accepted. To apply please go to Oceanportboro.com and look under News & Announcements for Action Camp Staff Applications. Also, to register your child(ren) please be on the lookout as online registration will begin on April 1st. More information will be available in the April/May *OP Bulletin*.



Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Company's Annual Ham Dinner

Sunday, March 24
12:00 – 5:00 pm
21 Main Street

Dinner includes ham complete with the Hook's famous raisin gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, salad, cole slaw, apple sauce, bread, desserts, coffee, tea, and beverages.

Toddlers (Under 5): Free
Kids (Under 10): \$8.00
Seniors: \$10.00
Military: \$10.00
Everyone Else: \$12.00

Free delivery is available to Oceanport Gardens and to Meadowbrook Senior Living. If you have any questions please call (732) 542-6928.

As always, Don't Make Mom Cook, Bring Her To The Hook!
In loving memory of lifelong member Bob Howie



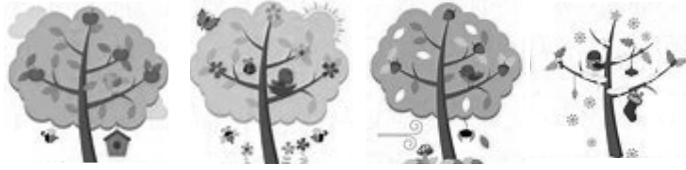
Community Garden is Back!

Exciting news! After a few long years post Sandy, the Oceanport Community Garden will be ready to reopen this spring. The Mayor and Council have set aside an area near Borough Hall, and they are looking forward to filling it up. If you are an avid gardener or just want to plant tomatoes and basil to make a sandwich, please go to Oceanportboro.com for more information and an application. The Community Garden Committee would love to have you join their garden community! Donations of gardening tools, wheelbarrows, and a picnic table or small table and chairs are needed so please consider donating.

For donations, please contact Christine at (732) 939-1145 and for questions regarding the garden, please contact Ellynn at (732) 614-2317.

"To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow."
-Audrey Hepburn

COMMUNITY NEWS



Garden Club News

In January the Oceanport Garden Club program, 'Enjoy a Four-Season Garden' by Master Gardener Patti Schleg, explained how different plants can create various interests throughout the growing year. February had the club making floral arrangements for the Oceanport Garden residents and delivering them door to door. This workshop is an annual event enjoyed by the Garden Club members and Oceanport Gardens residents. Included in these months were the continuing standing committee Horticulture where club members bring in a specified item per month for 'Show and Share': a container grown plant or an interesting bare branch.

The two-year term of garden club officers is up this June and a nominating committee was formed to accept names for the upcoming election in April of club officers. The Oceanport Garden Club meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, from September thru June, at Old Wharf House, 316 East Main Street. Meetings begin at 10:30 AM. Interested individuals can call Diane Dineen, 732-688-2688 for additional information.

Oceanport Garden Club Tip: Let your too wet ground dry before you begin spring clean-up. Wet soil compacts: time for stepping stones or boards to walk on.



Dead History Presentation

The Oceanport Historical Committee will be hosting a free presentation by T.J. Fallon, the "Dead History" Guy, on Thursday, May 9th. T.J. began locating and documenting the graves of presidents, vice presidents, and signers of the Declaration of Independence when he was furloughed during Covid. He has begun to branch out to new themes, and will bring his Baseball presentation to Oceanport, which covers the gravesites of Hall of Famers, some of their childhood homes, and some sites of former ballparks. This is sure to be a fun and interesting presentation. Details to follow in April/May *OP Bulletin*.



Annual Easter Egg Scramble

Saturday, March 23rd at 11:00 AM Sharp!

Blackberry Bay Park

(Rain date is March 30th.)

There will be over 1,000 eggs in place for the children to find by age group.

Ages 1-3 Ages 4-5 Ages 6-7 Ages 8-9

Come with a bag or basket to fill with prize filled eggs and try to find the Golden Egg!!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Recreation Office at 732-222-8221 ext. 1040 or email oprec@oceanportboro.com

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. On February 21, Chris Brown (She hosts Casino) will be back to host a fun meeting. At the March 20th meeting, a St. Patrick's Day lunch will be served. Kat Verdi will present on Self Care at the April 17th meeting. 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 our monthly functions, trips, and parties. On Facebook, search for "Oceanport Senior's Club." When you find our page, click on the request to join button. Contact Lois Olsen at (732) 229-9986 if you have any questions.

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 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon.

"By the time you're 80 years old, you've learned everything. You only have to remember it."

-George Burns

COMMUNITY NEWS

WOMEN'S SUMMER TENNIS LEAGUE

The Oceanport Women's Tennis Program is a fun league (with moderate competition) where you get out on the courts, meet new people, make new friends, and move around. Whether you are a veteran tennis player or have been meaning to start/restart playing, this is the league for you, and even if you have not played before.

Sign-up (singles and doubles, evening and daytime) begins April 1st and ends April 30th. Participants must be Oceanport residents. League play begins Monday, June 3rd.

Daytime doubles matches are played weekday mornings beginning at 8:00 and 9:00 AM. Evening matches are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 and 7:00 PM. Singles matches are played at times arranged by players within a scheduled time frame. Doubles matches scheduled during the weeks when school is still in session are played at either 4:00 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 courts.

****Please only sign up if you intend to play for the 11 weeks. 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.****

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. Only one needs to be attended. Any veteran player is welcome to attend.

Dates and times of the meetings will be emailed and posted on Oceanport Residents Facebook and Instagram. Stay tuned. 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 go to <http://bit.ly/OCPTennis>

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid Squad 911 News

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid has several new members who are currently enrolled in EMR certification classes. This encompasses 80-120 hours of class instruction and practical applications. In the spring the Squad will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary of continued commitment to the residents of Oceanport.

Reminder Bingo Nights continue in 2024!

Doors open at 6:00 PM and Bingo starts at 7:00 PM

Dates:

Feb. 10th, Mar. 23rd, Apr. 13th, May 11th, June 8th, July 13th, Aug. 10th, Sept. 21st, Oct. 19th, and Nov. 16th.

Win Cash Prizes!

Save the Date!

The Oceanport Historical Committee is happy to again host the 63rd Army Band for a free concert this summer! Please mark your calendars for Monday, July 1.

Monmouth County Paper 2024 Shredding Dates Residents can dispose of old documents safely.

The Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners is hosting paper shredding events at locations throughout the County so residents can dispose of their old documents and confidential files safely. These are free events to not only help residents remove some of the clutter from their homes, but it also helps residents protect their personal information on documents such as bank statements, medical records, legal documents, and utility bills from identity thieves.

Except for the July 15 event, all the 2024 shredding events will be held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the following locations.

Saturday, March 23: Howell Township – Memorial/Adelphia School, 485 Adelphia Rd.

Saturday, April 6: Manasquan – 4th Avenue Parking Lot, corner of Main Street & 4th Ave.

Saturday, April 20: Keyport – Fireman's Park, next to 103 West Front St.

Saturday, May 4: Upper Freehold Township – 314 Route 539, Cream Ridge

Saturday, May 18: Marlboro – Marlboro Municipal Complex, 1979 Township Dr.

Saturday, June 1: Neptune Township – 2201 Heck Ave. (Recycling Yard)

Saturday, June 15: Shrewsbury Borough – Shrewsbury Municipal Center, 419 Sycamore Ave.

Monday, July 15, 4:00-8:00 PM: Ocean Township – Joe Palaia Park, Whalepond Rd.

Saturday, Aug. 10: Aberdeen Township – 1 Aberdeen Square

Saturday, Aug. 24: Eatontown – Borough Hall Parking Lot, 47 Broad St.

Saturday, Sept 7: Freehold Township – Freehold Twp. Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza

Saturday, Sept 21: Monmouth Beach – Monmouth Beach Bathing Pavilion, 29 Ocean Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 5: Colts Neck – Town Hall Parking Lot, 124 Cedar Dr.

Saturday, Oct. 19: Matawan – Matawan-Aberdeen Train Station, Parking Lot #1

Saturday, Nov 2: Allenhurst – Beach Club at the end of Corlies Ave., near Ocean Ave.

Saturday, Nov 16: Middletown – Middletown High School North, 63 Tindall Dr.

County residents may shred up to 100 pounds, which is equivalent to four office paper boxes or four large-size trash bags. All papers will be shredded on location in the mobile trucks and the event will end once the mobile trucks are full or at the event's scheduled end time. Large binder clips must be removed from documents; staples and paper clips can remain.

Information about the paper shredding events and recycling can be found in the recycling section of the County's website, www.visitmonmouth.com, or call 732-683-8686, ext. 8967.

COMMUNITY 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 assistance for items that are not covered by a flood insurance policy, such as vehicles, business 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>

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

excavating a 40-foot diameter shaft approximately 90 feet deep and diverting the existing 48-inch sewer pipe into the new 54-inch pipe that will be tunneled under the river from Monmouth Beach. Ultimately, the site will be restored at the direction of the Borough's Parks and Recreation Committee. There will be a hatch at grade and a vent pipe above grade in the future. The existing walking path will be slightly relocated closer to the waterfront. When the project is completed, new trees will be planted and there will be a "rededication" ceremony. By the time you read this, the Borough will have a site plan and updated timeline posted on the Borough's website. I plan on sitting with the Planning and Development committee and representatives of both the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority and the contractor for a preconstruction meeting.

Sadly, Oceanport suffered two heavy losses early this year with the passing of Barbara "Bobbie" Baldanza and Samuel "Sam" Scerbo. Sincere condolences to Bobbie's husband, Mauro (better known as Buzzy), her son, Robert, and her family and friends and to Sam's wife Barbara, his daughter Mary, his sons Christopher and Michael, his beloved grandchildren, and extended family and friends. Bobbie and Sam were admired and respected by all. They will be deeply missed.



2023 HOLIDAY CONTEST DECORATING WINNERS

The Parks & Recreation Committee is happy to announce the 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.

Best Overall – 52 Hiawatha Avenue

Most Outrageous – 15 Irma Place

Most Traditional – 20 Russel Avenue

Best Yard – 25 Port-Au-Peck Avenue

Best Condo – 57 Bridgewater Drive #113

Best Door – 115 Bridgewater Drive

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LAURA McCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)
Deadline for the APRIL/MAY *Bulletin* is MARCH 14, 2024.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library News

It has been a busy few months at Oceanport Library. Storytimes have been going well but it would be great to see more smiling faces at the various programs at 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The 11:00 AM program includes stories and a fun craft for children two years and older. At the 4:00 PM Storytime program longer stories are read and it also offers a fun craft. At that program children three years and older are welcome.

The special programs for the next two months are as follows. Registration is appreciated for each program. To register online go to <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, or register by phone at (732) 229-2626, or in person.

Read to a Therapy Dog – A Family Event

Thursday, February 8th, 3:45 - 4:40 PM

Grab a good book and read to Molly who is back by popular demand. Register for ONE 15-minute time slot per family and you will be e-mailed a confirmation. If not yet reading, talk about pictures in a book or tell Molly a story. Registration begins February 1st.

Miss Cristine's Musical Program – Ages 6 months to 3 years (with parent/caregiver)

Thursday, February 29th, 10:00 - 10:30 AM

Come for a fun-filled family music time, from catchy tunes to a jam session with instruments. Registration begins February 1st. Thank you to the Oceanport Library Association for supporting this program.

STEM Program – Making Rain – Ages 3 years and up

Thursday, March 14th, 4:00 - 4:40 PM

How do clouds make rain? Learn how by doing a simple experiment. There will be a small craft as a follow-up. Registration begins March 1st.

Spring Trees – Painting – Ages 3 and up

Thursday, March 28th, 4:00 - 4:30 PM. Make a beautiful spring tree using cotton balls and clothespins. Dress for mess. Registration begins March 1st.

Read to a Therapy Dog – A Family Event

Thursday, April 4th, 3:45 - 4:40 PM. Grab a good book and read to either Tristan or Jimmy. One fifteen minute time slot per family and you will be e-mailed a confirmation. If not yet reading, talk about pictures in a book or tell the dogs a story. Registration begins March 25th.

TAKE'MAKE CRAFTS

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

February 1 – 15, Heart Mouse February 16 – 29, Teddy Bear

March 1 – 14, Rocket Craft March 15 – 31, Leprechaun Hat

Stay warm and healthy and don't forget to visit the fun and interesting OP Library!

Shore Regional High School is Proud to Present: A Shore Players Production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*

Shore Players the esteemed drama club of Shore Regional High School is delighted to bring the enchanting tale of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* to the stage. This timeless classic, filled with magic, romance, and memorable characters, promises to captivate audiences of all ages. This beloved tale is a timeless masterpiece that has captured the hearts of audiences worldwide.

Performances and Times:

March 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th at 7:00 pm

March 10th & 17th at 2:00 pm

Shows are presented in the Shore Regional High School Performing Arts Theatre, Shore Regional High School, West Long Branch. Tickets are available NOW for \$10.00 at sp.booktix.com. Beginning Friday, March 8th all tickets are \$15.00. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the door on show days.

Please support your local school theater and the talented actors of Shore Players and come to enjoy this magical tale as old as time!

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, 2024 to: Oceanport Library, 8 Iroquois Ave., Oceanport, NJ 07757
Attention: Mrs. Linda Risden

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Name of High School _____

College, trade, or vocational school

enrolled – Fall of 2024 _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____