

The Oceanport Bulletin



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July/August 2024

Mayor's Message

Summer is here and Oceanport is bustling. My favorite part of this time of year is when I drive or walk around Oceanport and see our parks, waterways, and recreation facilities being utilized more than ever by Oceanport residents and people from all over the County. Speaking of parks, I want to give a big thank you to our Parks and Recreation team, led by Council President Bill Deerin, Kelle Burrough, Kim Parent, and Paula Lombardo for putting together a beautiful tribute to our service men and women at our annual Memorial Day Parade. Council President Deerin used his vast array of connections to ensure the bad weather held off until we finished our march down Monmouth Boulevard to the Port Au Peck Fire House. Oceanport's very own Sean Burrough led the parade on the bag pipes. We were honored to have Staff Sergeant James Cavanaugh, who still serves in the National Guard as a Primary Training Officer with our Officer Candidate School in Sea Girt, as our Grand Marshal.

Last month, teams consisting of professionals, emergency responders, and Borough employees from Oceanport and Eatontown met with representatives from Netflix to discuss matters associated with the continued development of the Netflix project. Netflix has submitted several applications to the planning/zoning boards of the two Boroughs in the hope that the first phase will be considered by the respective boards in August and/or September. If that time is met, then it is projected that the second phase will be presented by the end of 2024. The anticipated closing date (the date upon which Netflix actually buys the properties) with FMERA is currently scheduled for October/November of 2025. Please note in November of 2024 you are most likely to see the start of the demolition of the buildings that Netflix does not plan to reuse. The first set of soundstages will be constructed right here in Oceanport alongside the McAfee Center. Of course, given the size, nature and complexity of this redevelopment project, we must keep in mind that these dates are not set in stone. At our July Council Meeting, we should have a much better idea of how real these projected dates are.

Monmouth Park – the most beautiful and historic race-track on the Eastern Seaboard -- kicked off its 79th season of racing on May 7th. Just a reminder, if you are interested in obtaining tickets for use of the Borough of Oceanport's box at the track, please contact the Borough Clerk's office at (732) 222-8221. The box, which is free, is available to Oceanport residents on a first come first serve basis.

Oceanport representatives recently met with the developers of Monmouth Park to discuss their plans and projected performance timeline. The proposed over 55 housing element of

Calendar of Events

July

- 1 63rd Army Band Concert at Blackberry Bay Park
- 1 First Day of Action Camp
- 4 Happy Independence Day, Borough Offices Closed
- 8 Oceanport Library Popsicle Party
- 8 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 8 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 9 Planning Board Meeting
- 10 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 13 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 17 . Oceanport School District Board of Education Meeting
- 18 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 25 Shore Regional HS Board of Education Meeting
- 26 Movies in the Park – *Wall E*

August

- 1 Quarterly Tax Payment Due
- 1 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 9 Movies in the Park – *Kung Fu Panda*
- 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 HS Board of Education Meeting
- 27 Planning Board Meeting

Recycling

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

the plan (298 rental units) is expected to begin sometime in the late third to early fourth quarter of 2025. The developers are currently working on the details for the construction of the proposed hotel and recreational facilities (which has the potential to add more athletic fields and courts to the area, including, but not limited to, pickleball, tennis, lacrosse, field hockey, football, soccer, baseball, and basketball. When finished, this redevelopment project will be a tremendous economic drive to the area. It will also provide additional tax revenue to the Borough, enable Monmouth Park to diversify its own revenue stream, and ensure that Monmouth Park Racetrack remains alive and viable for years to come. These additional improvements to the track property will also help to serve existing businesses in our downtown area and, likely, entice new business investment in the East Main Street corridor.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

COMMUNITY NEWS



Save The Date for Summer's End Festival!

**Saturday, September 7th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm
(no rain date)**

The Borough of Oceanport in conjunction with the Oceanport Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting its 47th annual Summer's End Festival at Blackberry Bay Park!

Highlights include a spectacular fireworks show, music by DJ Skills, food vendors, children's activities, displays from local civic organizations & emergency services, famous chili and salsa contest, and more!

This event can not happen without your help. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and the Committee is asking for your financial support with this long running and beloved event. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation and make your check payable to: "Borough of Oceanport Summer's End". Or, you can donate online. Online donations (service fees may apply) can be made at:

www.sdlportal.com/towns/nj/monmouth/oceanport/forms/278d2b44-5541-4b7c-885a-64516dd159f5?wf=1

Or by following this QR Code:



Your generosity is much appreciated!

New Membership & Reservation System for Pickleball and Tennis

The Borough has invested in a new system, Community Pass, which allows the public to purchase an annual membership badge (Residents \$25, Non-Residents \$50 – Ordinance #1082).

Members will then be given access to use the new reservation system to secure a court. There is no additional fee(s) for reserving a court. ALL players MUST obtain a membership badge in order to reserve or play. To register go to the Boro website at Oceanportboro.com and click on the Community Pass icon to the left on the home page.

System went LIVE on June 1st !



Pooper Scooper Law & Disposal Etiquette, Dog Walking Etiquette, & Dog Barking

Please note Oceanport has a pooper scooper law. If you do not clean up after your dog, a summons will be issued. This includes not only on private property but in Oceanport's parks and on school property, on streets, and sidewalks too. Also, residents walking their dogs on sidewalks should be considerate of other people's property and dispose of their dog's poop bags in their own garbage cans. While it may seem harmless to dispose of your dog's poop bag in someone else's empty can at the curb, you are disposing of it in someone else's property. It will then sit there in the bottom of a can and stink for days on their property before the next garbage pickup. Please be considerate and bring your dog's poop bag back to your own garbage can for disposal.

Also, all dogs are required to always be kept on a leash when off the premises of the owner's property. This includes when you have your dog at Oceanport's parks as well.

Remember Oceanport has a Noise Nuisances ordinance which applies to habitual dog barking. Please keep your dog's barking to a minimum and be considerate to your neighbors especially during early mornings and later in the evening. Ask yourself, why would my neighbors want to hear my dog continually bark?



Oceanport Box Passes @ Monmouth Park

Available to all OP residents on a first come, first serve basis, and free of charge. Contact the Clerk's Office at (732) 222-8221 opt #4 to check date availability!

The Oceanport Historical Committee is happy to again host the 63rd Army Band!

Monday, July 1

6:30 PM in Blackberry Bay Park

Come enjoy an evening of patriotic music and more performed by the 63rd Army Band which is the only National Guard Army Band in NJ. This is a perfect addition to the July 4th holiday and a great way to celebrate America's independence! Bring a lawn chair as seating is limited.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid Squad 911 News

Community CPR Day was June 15th at the First Aid Building. A free CPR class was offered and open to the public. While we hope you never have to use it, the Squad wants to help the community be prepared!

Congratulations to the following members photographed here for completing training courses, Anna Smith, Daniel Schmid, James Polliphone, and Gerry Cooper. The Oceanport First Aid Squad also celebrated its 75th anniversary! Thank you for your many years of dedication and support to the Oceanport community. Photographed here under 75th Anniversary banner are dedicated officers, Captain Fred Filippone, 2nd Lieutenant Will Reger, Sargeant Doris Agaman, and 1st Lieutenant Jonathan Ryan.

Bingo Nights continue this summer!

Doors open at 6:00 PM and Bingo starts at 7:00 PM
Dates: July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, and Nov. 16.
Win Cash Prizes!



With Summer There Will be Movies in the Park!

Blackberry Bay Park at dusk

Friday, July 26th - *Wall-E*

Friday, August 9th - *Kung Fu Panda*

Friday, September 13th - *Ghostbusters*

Enjoy a free and fun night at the movies under the stars at Blackberry Bay this summer! Please bring a blanket and chair to be comfortable. You are also welcome to bring your own food and beverages too (no alcohol permitted).

Congratulations to this year's Mini Golf Winners!

K-4th Grade: Conor Corsi (49)

5th – 8th Grade: 3 Way Tie (47)

Luke Cistaro

Brody Farmer

Frank Marcantonio

High School: Bill Nagy (54)

Adult and Overall: Janet Griffith (37)

Thank you to Blue Grass Mini Golf for sponsoring this event and to all of those who participated in this annual OP staple!



Oceanport was honored to have Staff Sergeant James Cavanaugh as the Memorial Day Parade's Grand Marshal. Sergeant Cavanaugh serves in the NJ National Guard.

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. The July meeting will feature a BBQ Lunch, and there will be an Ice Cream Social at the August 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 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.

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 number for questions is: (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.

"I always used to think that we should have two lifetimes: one to try it out and the second one to know what's coming."
-Chita Rivera.

Garden Club News

Congratulations to our 2024-2025 newly elected Oceanport Garden Club board: President: Christina Grimley, Vice-President: Genevieve Diamante, Recording Secretary: Liz McEnroe, Treasurer: Linda Dennis, and Corresponding Secretary: Viola Trollan. Standing committees have not all been filled. The new board installation of officers was performed at the Salt Creek Grille, Rumson, at the June meeting. The Club's yearly "Begonia Challenge" was part of the ceremony. Members were encouraged to take home an individual 3-inch potted flower and nurture it through the summer months, returning in September for meeting with begonia in tow. It is interesting to see how ten people take care of or transplant these flowers---participants are all champions in this contest.

Even though the club does not meet in July and August, many members are busy around town taking care of plantings for the enjoyment of others. Meetings are scheduled usually the fourth Thursday of the month and begin at 10:30 AM. Interested individuals can call Diane Dineen at (732) 688-2688 for changes in schedules and additional information.

OGC Tip: The water company reminds us to collect water in rain barrels or tubs for use, to choose native plants, and to mulch flower beds. All good ideas to save resources.



Watching Our Waterways

Update From the Oceanport Water Watch Committee

Do you know that Oceanport has had a Water Watch Committee (WWC) since the 1990's? Edward Miller, a science teacher at Shore Regional was an integral part of starting the WWC at the encouragement of Oceanport residents concerned about river surface water quality. The group was originally convened to monitor point sources of potential surface water impacts around the Borough and provide data upon which environmental decisions could be made. Data collected by our WWC was instrumental in supporting the wastewater treatment improvements at Monmouth Park.

The current mission of the all-volunteer WWC is to monitor the water quality of the rivers, bays, streams, and other waterways in and surrounding the Borough of Oceanport, to detect sources of potential surface water quality impacts so that action may be taken or adopted by the Borough or State Agencies to eliminate or reduce potential impacts. Under the leadership and volunteer efforts of past members including Doc William Kaloss, Ellyn Kahle, Richard Gruskos, Joe Foster and Joan and Tom Cox, among others, we have collected water quality data including fecal coliform and dissolved oxygen along with other basic water quality parameters for more than 20 years. Elevated bacteria levels in waterways can have harmful health impacts on humans and wildlife. Thanks to the WWC, Oceanport has the longest running surface water quality monitoring program in the Shrewsbury River watershed! We share our data and collaborate with Clean Ocean Action (COA) and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). While there is currently no regular pattern in the data, bacterial concentrations have remained constant or declined over the past 10 years and are found to be highly dependent on precipitation events and tidal stage.

The WWC is currently in a transitional stage. The Committee will be looking at the existing surface water sampling program to see what changes might be made in station locations and/or sampling parameters to address on-going land use activities in the Borough that have the potential to impact our surface waters.

If WWC sounds interesting and you would like more information, or if you would like to participate on the Committee or the sampling effort, please fill out the volunteer application on the Oceanport Borough website under Government/Applications & Forms/Clerk's Office available here: oceanportboro.com/government/forms or call the Borough Clerk's office for more information. You must be 18 years or older to participate; no experience is necessary other than a desire to maintain and improve the quality of our surface water resources in the Borough and to learn more about this sensitive area! The WWC meets the second Monday each month at 7:00 PM at the Old Wharf building. Come see what we are about.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Information From the Oceanport Police Department

TRAFFIC SAFETY

With the summer months upon us, the Oceanport Police Department is requesting drivers to be more responsible and to watch your speed when travelling within the Borough, especially near parks, school, and within our neighborhoods. 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.

Be aware that more people are out walking and riding bikes due to the warm weather. Remind this to the younger drivers in your household. There is also a significant increase in traffic. Please be extra cautious and aware of your surroundings when operating your motor vehicle.

We ask residents with speeding, or other traffic related complaints, to call the Oceanport Police Department at (732) 222-6300. Or email the Traffic Safety unit at traffic@oceanportpolice.org.

E-BIKES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

Throughout the state and county Police Departments have seen an increase in crashes involving e-bikes and scooters. There has also been an increase in observable and enforceable traffic violations involving operators of these bikes and scooters. There are many misconceptions and misinformation circulating about e-bikes and electric scooters and we would like to make clear some important points.

By definition - An electric bicycle is a motorized bicycle with an integrated electric motor used to assist propulsion. Many kinds of e-bikes are available worldwide, but they fall into two broad categories: bikes that assist the rider's pedal-power and bikes that add a throttle and integrating moped-style functionality. These e-bikes and scooters fall within the Motor Vehicle code that is Title 39 and operators of these devices can be ticketed for actions that violate state motor vehicle and bicycle laws.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Your Electric Bicycle Need to Be Registered & Insured?

- It depends. If the bicycle can attain speeds of over 20 mph on a flat level surface, has more than 750 watts, or more than 50 cc, the bicycle must be registered/insured as it is considered a 'motorized bicycle'. If the bicycle falls under all the stated regulations of under 750 watts, 50 cc, or 20 mph, there is no age limit for this type of bicycle. If it must be registered and insured, you must be 15 years old with a valid moped license.

Can Receiving a Summons Prior to obtaining your Driver's License affect you?

- Depending on the type of summons the person receives it may affect their ability to receive their license. Some violations carry a penalty of points and in some cases, suspension.

Can Law Enforcement Confiscate Electric Bicycles?

- Enforcement can impound electric bicycles that are unregistered and uninsured (39:3-4 & 39:6B-2). Electric bicycles that also fail to display the classification sticker (39:4-

14.16(b)) may also be impounded until it can be confirmed or denied if the electric bicycle needs to be registered and insured.

What are the helmet requirements?

- Moped and motorized bicycles-helmets are required for all riders regardless of age.
- For electric bikes, the same applies to (a.) above based on age. (depending on the classification of the electric bike, based on motor size and its speed, helmets may be required by all riders regardless of age.)

CRIME PREVENTION

"Lock it or Lose it"- 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 remain a problem in 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.)

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

And our East Main Street corridor just welcomed a brand-new business! Almost Home, a breakfast and lunch restaurant located across the street from the Post Office, just opened its doors and, based on all the cars in the parking lot, people have taken notice! Oceanport has been waiting a long, long time for a breakfast place. We haven't had one since Soffel's closed. If you remember Soffel's, you are an Oceanport lifer. Almost Home might be Oceanport's newest business, but I want to extend congratulations to Just Hair and Nails on celebrating its FIFTIETH year in business (that's close to my age but not as old as Council President Deerin). Fifty years for any business is an eternity, so Just Hair and Nails must be doing something right! As long as we are celebrating things, I want to wish Happy Birthday wishes to venerable Oceanport residents Bob Kelly and John Bonforte, both of whom turned a very active 39 (or so) recently. But they are not as active as the development in the Fort Monmouth section of Oceanport. I would like to welcome all the new residents who have moved into Pulte Development's townhomes and the new residents who have moved into the Somerset Development right next door, the latter of which consists of two beautifully renovated army buildings. So far, the Borough of Oceanport has issued over 50 Certificates of Occupancy to these two residential projects. As you may recall from previous Mayor's Messages and municipal meetings, when finished, these two projects will be comprised of 180 total units.

The Boujee Food Festival took place the weekend of June 2nd at Russell Hall. This event, sponsored by the Riverwalk development project on Oceanport Avenue (which runs from the gate to the water where the old geodesic domes used to be) was a tremendous success for the second straight year. In addition to providing top notch food offerings and incredible musical entertainment, the two-day festival raised \$7500 for Oceanport's three volunteer emergency service organizations. I was "volunteered" to be a part of the festival's dunk booth which raised an additional \$2050 for the Tunnel to Towers organization. Oceanport residents Michael Abboud and

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 6)

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LAURA McCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)
Deadline for the SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER *Bulletin* is AUGUST 14, 2024.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library News



The staff at the Oceanport Library is happy to announce the Summer Reading Challenge will start on June 1st and run through August 15th. The theme this year is Adventure Begins at Your Library. The Reading Challenge is for and includes Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers, K thru 6th grade, Young Adults, and Adults. There is a Read to Me component for children who are not reading and one for children who are reading. Nice prizes for all! To sign-up for this program please go to monmouthcountylib.org/ and click on the slide promoting the program or click on the Kids tab. Summer reading is a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn, engage their curiosity, and use their imagination. The list of benefits is endless!

The Library's annual Vacation Reading Program summer celebration will be held on Thursday, August 22 beginning at 10:30 AM. Back by popular demand is *The Amazing V*. Following the presentation there will be a pizza party. Sign-ups will begin on August 1.

The 11:00 AM Family Storytime will not run in July but will resume in August as Florence the Children's Librarian is doing outreach with Action Camp.

TAKE' N MAKE CRAFTS

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

July 1-14 – Binoculars July 15-31 – Cactus

SPECIAL IN-PERSON EVENTS – Registration is appreciated beginning July 1st. You may register online <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids> or by phone and in person.

Magic Magnets – Ages 3 and up • Thursday, July 18th, 4:00 - 4:30 PM
Color a paper plate and attach a cutout to the plate and see it move with magnets.

Peas and Carrots Band – All Ages Welcome • Thursday, July 25th, 11:00 - 11:45 AM. Enjoy interactive music while singing, dancing, and clapping along with Peas and Carrots!

Take advantage of all the Oceanport Library and the Monmouth County Library has to offer you and your family to make your summer vacation a more enjoyable one!

You are invited...
to a POPSICLE PARTY!

At the Oceanport Library
8 Iroquois Avenue
Monday, July 8th, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Get a FREE Library Card!
Sign up for Summer Reading!
Arts, crafts, and storytime too!

Have an Ice Pop on us!

Rain or shine, under the Action Camp tent.

Sponsored by the
Oceanport Public Library Association.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 5)

Christopher Ilvento are the developers of the Riverwalk project, and I cannot thank them enough for their kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to Oceanport. There are going to be many new businesses coming to town as part of this development, and I am pleased to announce that some of the tenants include Playa Bowls, Skillet by Sal, Rogue Hair Salon, Skinny Flowers Brewery and Broadway Chicken.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that the Borough Council recently passed the 2024 municipal budget unanimously. I am happy to report the budget will remain flat at \$7.86 million, so there will be no increase in municipal taxes. In fact, the municipal tax rate fell to 0.422 cents per \$100 of assessed value, down from 0.452 cents per \$100 of assessed value in 2023). The average assessed value of a home in Oceanport increased to \$768,124.29 in 2024, up from an average assessment of \$722,769.52 in 2023 – an increase of \$45,354.77 year over year. Notably, the Borough issued no new debt and will address this year's road program and capital expenses via use of surplus.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe summer and I look forward to seeing you out and about in Oceanport, which, as always, is a Great Place To Live!