

The Oceanport Bulletin



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Mayor's Message

Two months ago, most people would have guessed that COVID-19 was a Russian spy satellite, the name of an 80's cover band from Long Island or a banned food additive. Today, there is nobody from Kathmandu to Kokomo who doesn't know COVID-19 is a virus that is disrupting life and lifestyles across the globe, decimating economies, overwhelming social networks, and crippling governments. COVID-19 has descended upon us so quickly, fiercely, and completely that we tend to forget the fact that only two months ago most of us looked at it as a matter that only involved other countries, something that we could read about or watch on TV comfortable in our detachment from the devastation it was actually causing to the afflicted people and countries. Like most of the trouble and turmoil that we see every day in the news, we viewed COVID-19 was a terrible problem for the people of countries other than ours and, while we felt bad for them, we all had, as Harry Chapin sang, "planes to catch and bills to pay," so our lives went on as usual. Then, it became our problem.

When COVID-19 first reached our shores, it really didn't seem like a big deal. We did the math. COVID-19 had killed a couple thousand people, but upwards of 500,000 people lose their lives to the flu virus each year globally and nobody seems to notice, so we wondered what all the fuss was about. We're accustomed to the flu virus. We get flu vaccines and our pharmacies are filled with over the counter flu remedies we take during the "cold and flu season." The flu is so ingrained into our lives that it has its own season! Like the Kardashians, the seasonal flu and the deaths that go along with it are just an accepted part of the human condition. We soon came to learn, however, that COVID-19 isn't like

Calendar of Events

May

- 1 2nd Quarter Property Taxes Due
(10-day grace period ending on May 11th)
- 7 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
- 10 Happy Mother's Day
- 12 Planning Board Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 21 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 26 Planning Board Meeting

June

- 4 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
- 9 Planning Board Meeting
- 10 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 18 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 21 Happy Father's Day
- 23 Planning Board Meeting

July

- 4 Happy Independence Day, No Trash Pickup
- 7 Primary Election Date (Revised from June 2nd)
- 16 Mayor & Council Workshop &
..... Regular Meeting

Recycling

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

the flu and COVID-19 is NOT part of the human condition. It is something else entirely. And it is here, changing our lives as quickly and profoundly as it has all over the world.

By now, we all know somebody who has all the symptoms of COVID-19, is self-isolating and trying to fight through the cough, fever, headaches and body aches that accompany the virus. We all know somebody who has recovered from the virus and we probably all know someone who has not. Even if we "flatten the curve"

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

How to Protect Yourself & Others

Visit the Oceanportboro.com home page for helpful links to guide you and help answer questions you may have during this challenging and difficult time. Below is an abbreviated version of *How to Protect Yourself & Others* from the CDC website at cdc.gov/coronavirus.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) therefore social distancing and putting distance between yourself and other people can help prevent exposure. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and keep your distance from those who are higher risk of getting sick.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water is not available use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others in public. You can spread COVID-19 even when you are not showing symptoms and do not feel sick. Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others, the face mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes. Remember to always cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, phones, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Change to BULK Trash Pickup Effective June 1st

Please keep an eye out on Borough website at Oceanportboro.com for more information and details to come.

Property Taxes Due

Please be advised that Governor Murphy's Executive Order No. 130 (issued on 4/28/2020) **did NOT extend the grace period for the payment of 2nd quarter real estate taxes to June 1, 2020.** Instead, Executive Order No. 130 merely allows "any governing body of a municipality with a calendar year budget" (such as Oceanport) to "adopt a resolution instituting a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second quarter property taxes."

While Executive Order No. 130 seems to be beneficial for the taxpayers, it does not relieve municipalities obligations to make their statutorily required payments to the schools and the county, nor does it provide for any assistance to the municipalities in connection with these payments. Simply stated, Executive Order No. 130 really doesn't provide taxpayers with relief because the taxpayers are the municipality and the municipality still has to pay its statutorily required bills on time.

As it stands now, 2nd quarter real property taxes in Oceanport remain due and payable on May 1, 2020, subject to the normal, statutory ten-day grace period ending on May 11, 2020.

Borough Hall Staff and Building

In order to comply with the mandates and the Governor's Executive Order No. 107, the Borough of Oceanport's municipal building will be manned by a reduced staff and on-site staffing will be staggered so as to reduce person to person contact among the work staff. Consistent with the directives of Executive Order No. 107, moreover, Borough employees who can work from home will be directed to work from home.

Public access to Borough Hall remains curtailed, but the front lobby is open Monday – Thursday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm and has drop boxes and contact instruction forms for use by the general public to facilitate document filings, payments, and all other transactions necessary for the Borough and the public to keep the daily business of government moving forward.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Looking out for your neighbors!

The OCHO –

Oceanport Community Helping Others

OCHO is a group established for Oceanport residents to seek help from their neighbors or to offer assistance to the community where needed. Residents looking to offer or ask for help can find the OCHO page on Facebook, send an email to: opocho@gmail.com, or call the hotline at (732) 728-0962.

If you are able to help others in your community that need it, please reach out. If you need help yourself, PLEASE do not hesitate to call!

How to Attend a Remote Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Borough Council meetings are taking place remotely. Residents are encouraged to watch our remote meetings on FIOS Channel 28. Residents can also watch on their smart phones, computers or tablets by going to the Borough's website at Oceanportboro.com and clicking on the "Watch Live" button. Residents can also participate in the remote meetings via land line, smartphone, computer or tablet by going to the Borough's website and clicking on the "Instructions for Participation in Virtual/Remote Meetings" button and choosing the option (voice, text, e-mail, phone call, etc.) that best suits their needs and available technology.



Reminder Dog/Cat Licenses are PAST Due

If you have not renewed your pet's license with the Borough please do so. Licenses may be renewed by mail and online at Oceanportboro.com under the Government tab and then select Applications/Forms. Please note that a dog/cat license application submitted online is not complete until the required fee is received by the Borough. Pet license fees are \$15 and \$18 if pet is NOT spayed/neutered and are now subject to \$10 late fee since license was not renewed by February 28th. Please make check payable to Borough of Oceanport, and mail to 315 E. Main Street.

Help Support the Fearless Frontline Workers!!

FLAG – Front Line Appreciation Group is an initiative started by Oceanport resident Amy Stark to collect donations from residents of Oceanport and Monmouth Beach to feed frontline healthcare workers at Monmouth Medical and Riverview Medical Center.

Meals are purchased from local restaurants to help support our small businesses during this crisis. To date more than \$8,000 has been raised, 594 meals have been hand-delivered to area hospitals, and \$6,000 has been spent in area restaurants. For more information, please visit them on Facebook. To donate, Venmo or PayPal funds to [FLAGOceanportMonmouthBeach](https://www.venmo.com/FLAGOceanportMonmouthBeach). For questions, please contact Amy Stark at (732) 796-3217.

Oceanport Parks and Recreational Facilities Are Open!

With the exception of playgrounds, the Borough of Oceanport has kept its parks and recreational facilities open at all times during the COVID-19 crisis while, at the same time, implementing and enforcing social distancing protocols during their use. Consistent with paragraph 2 of Executive Order No. 133, the Borough of Oceanport's picnic areas, playgrounds, pavilions and restrooms shall remain closed to the general public until further notice. Similarly, contact sports and organized recreational programs remain prohibited.

Oceanport fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts will remain open, subject to existing social distancing protocols. Consistent with Executive Order 107, all individuals using Oceanport's recreational fields and facilities "must practice social distancing and stay six feet apart whenever practicable, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners." While it is not mandated it is strongly recommended that a cloth face mask covering be worn by everyone using Oceanport's recreational fields and facilities, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy 100th Birthday to Oceanport!

The Historical Committee would like to update you on their upcoming plans. Due to the Corona Virus, some events had to be cancelled or postponed. At this time, there is a social scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at the Blu Grotto. There will be a live band, and this plans to be a family-friendly event with some golfing at Blue Grass Mini Golf. Stay tuned for further details.

The Centennial Gala is planned for Saturday, October 17th. This will be a grand event with music and dancing, dinner, and a Roaring '20's theme. The committee is looking forward to seeing everyone in Roaring '20's costumes while celebrating Oceanport's 100th!

Back by popular demand will be the Holiday Home Tour on December 6th. Would you like to have your home, dressed up in its holiday best, showcased? Please keep the date in mind and keep an eye on upcoming editions of the *Bulletin*, as well as Oceanport Centennial and Oceanport Residents Facebook pages for details.

The Committee would love to recognize Oceanport's oldest resident, and the Oceanport resident who has lived in Oceanport over the longest continuous time. If you know someone who qualifies, please reach out to the Historical Committee. The Committee has also talked about recognizing Oceanport's oldest home. Do you think you live in it? Help by providing the Committee the information you have that will prove the age of your home.

Don't forget to look through your photos to share with us your photos of Oceanport residents past and present – at the parade, at Summer's End, etc. – doing things in Oceanport.



Branch and Grass Clipping Disposal

Branches

Branch disposal is included with your trash pickup service. Service does not include branches more than 3" in thickness.

PLEASE TIE AND BUNDLE ALL BRANCHES. Three (3) bundles can be placed at the curb each trash pickup day for that site. The trash contractor will not pick up bundles larger than (3) feet in diameter or in lengths exceeding (5) feet. This includes hedge and bush clippings. Alternatively, you may use a trash can or lawn debris bags available at Lowe's and Home Depot. Please do not use plastic bags as they will be left at the curb.

The trash contractor shall not be required to pickup any tree stumps nor individual tree limbs or branches which exceed (3) INCHES in diameter.

Disposal of these size items is the responsibility of the property owner who may seek a 3rd party service or bring them directly to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center in Tinton Falls.

Grass Clippings

The Borough does not provide for the disposal of grass clippings. Grass can be recycled by leaving clippings on the lawn when you mow or can also be brought to a third-party source such as the County Reclamation Center in Tinton Falls.

Please be aware of the following:

All grass **MUST** be blown back onto your property. Grass is **NEVER** to be blown into the streets, down storm drains, or into our waterways.



Pooper Scooper Law, Dog Barking, and Dog Walking Etiquette

Please note Oceanport has a pooper scooper law in effect. If you do not clean up after your dog, a summons will be issued. This includes not only private property, but in Oceanport's parks too. Residents walking their dogs on sidewalks should be considerate of other people's property.

Also, all dogs are always required to 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.

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?

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Club Notes

Special Message from Club President Barbara Josselyn: *“I hope that everyone is well and staying home. I miss your smiling faces and I can’t wait see to each and every one of you. I know this is a very difficult time for everyone; however, if we listen to our leaders and follow their lead, we will conquer this horrible virus. I hope everyone had a good holiday, whatever you celebrate. It was different this year, but, hopefully next year will be better.”*

Special Trip to Sight & Sound

Assuming the theater re-opens, on October 27, 2020, there will be a special bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster Pennsylvania to see the “Queen Esther” production. After the show, an enjoyable family style meal will be served at Good n Plenty. Cost is \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members. For more information and reservations, please contact Marie Quackenbush at (732) 229-0454.

Membership in the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport is open to any Oceanport resident who is 55 years old or older. Meetings are suspended for now, but when they resume, the club will meet on the third Wednesday of each month, weather permitting, at the Blackberry Bay Pavilion. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings begin at 12:30 pm and include informative presentations by guest speakers, entertainment, or other special events.

Join the fun by becoming a member of the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport! Please contact Fran Bendock at (732) 229-0278 for information about joining.

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

The Squad continues to assist our residents and friends during this unusual pandemic event. Please continue to follow good health guidelines as outlined from the CDC.

All planned activities in May related to EMS week will be cancelled due to the current situation. Please continue to monitor the Oceanport Borough website for important information and updates. Important updates relating to health can also be found on NJ websites nj.gov/health/ and nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml

The Oceanport Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad looks forward to the summer months ahead and a time of seeing our neighbors and friends once again.



Covid-19 Tennis Court Rules

Executive order no. 107 (2020) mandates, in part, that “all New Jersey residents shall remain home or at their place of residence unless they are...6) walking, running, operating a wheelchair, or engaging in outdoor activities with immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners while following best social distancing practices with other individuals, including staying 6 feet apart...” to that end, so long as these courts remain open, the Borough of Oceanport is limiting play as follows:

1. Doubles shall only be permitted when all four players are wearing protective cloth face covering or all four players are immediate family members or household members.
2. All players shall observe social distancing practices (6 feet apart).
3. One-hour limit of play for both doubles and singles when people are waiting.
4. Absolutely no lessons. Absolutely no league play. Facility use permits, fees and insurance certificates are required for lessons and league play. Violators will be ticketed and fined.
5. Limit of three balls to a court. No ball hoppers.
6. Players waiting to play shall not congregate on benches or at tables while waiting for courts. Maintain social distance!
7. We strongly suggest the use of masks while playing.
8. Court reservations are available to Oceanport residents only. OP residents only: call (732) 222-8221, leave your name, address, phone number and e-mail address and someone will get back to you.
9. If you are playing without a reservation, you must leave the court if someone shows up with a reservation.

COMMUNITY NEWS

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued FROM page 1)

and New Jersey re-opens, life isn't going to be the same. Something as simple as a handshake, a kiss or a hug is going to be problematic. That doesn't mean things will be better or worse than they were before, they'll just be different. And that's OK, because as human beings our ability to adapt to changed circumstances may only be exceeded by that of our ability to change circumstances. And change them we will.

Oceanport is a town of a little less than 6,000 people. People with the ability to change circumstances walk among us. We have actual heroes living in Oceanport, people who change circumstances. Nurses, doctors, hospital workers, volunteer firefighters, volunteer first aid workers, OEM personnel, police officers, cashiers, truck drivers, social workers, postal workers and a whole host of others — some of them who don't even realize that they are on the front line — leave their families every day to change the circumstances in which we live. And Oceanport has no shortage of people who adapt to changed circumstances. Our municipal employees have kept our local government running as if nothing has changed, our residents have been exemplary at practicing social distancing protocols when in public and our parents and teachers have continued to educate our children remotely. Nothing is the same as it was before. But, somehow, despite all that has been imposed on us, everything is the same because we have come together as a community and done ourselves proud.

On April 15, Oceanport lost a man who would have been very proud of us and how we have handled the COVID-19 crisis on all levels. Clement V. Sommers, who had been alive for 91 of Oceanport's 100 years, passed from this earth taking with him a treasure trove of first-hand accounts of Oceanport's history, but leaving behind countless examples of the incredible, lasting impact he had on Oceanport's development. Clem was the President of his Wolf Hill School graduating class, was Oceanport's Troop #58 first Eagle Scout, and served as our Mayor from January 1, 1976 through December 31, 1983 and as Councilman from January 1, 1960 to December 31, 1968 and January 1, 1972 to December 31, 1975. He was an instructor and treasurer of the Oceanport First Aid Squad, recognized in 1973 as First Aider

of the Year. He joined the Oceanport Hook & Ladder Co. where he served as 2nd Lieutenant, Captain and President and was a 50-year Life Member and Exempt, served as 1st Assistant and Chief of the Oceanport Fire Department and for over 50 years served as Treasurer of the Oceanport Fireman's Relief Association, and was vested with Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Company Honorary Membership in 2011. It is fair to say that nobody has served, or will ever serve, Oceanport like Clem did. In recognition of the impact Clem had on Oceanport's development, on April 23, 2020, our Borough Council passed a resolution whereby the Borough's new municipal building will be named the "Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building" when it is completed later this year. Clem was prone to say "keep smiling" at the end of every conversation and I would ask that everybody in Oceanport keep smiling in honor of this great man.

Finally, as you may or may not be aware, due to the COVID-19 crisis our Borough Council meetings are taking place remotely. Members of the public are encouraged to watch our remote meetings on FIOS Channel 28. Members of the public can also watch our meetings on their smart phones, computers or tablets by going to the Borough's website at [www.oceanportnj.gov](#) and clicking on the "Watch Live" button. **Members of the public can participate in the remote meetings via land line, smartphone, computer or tablet by going to the Borough's website and clicking on the "Instructions for Participation in Virtual/Remote Meetings" button and choosing the option (voice, text, e-mail, phone call, etc.) that best suits their needs and available technology.** We're even going to figure out a way to have Buddy Brocklebank at these remote meetings. Please note that the Borough's website has also been updated to include videos of previous meeting (this is an ongoing process) and our home page has a whole host of COVID-19 related material including all of the town's COVID-19 updates, Governor Murphy's Executive Orders, and links to every COVID-19 site imaginable. We need your input and insight, so please take the time to visit the website and participate in our meetings.

Stay healthy, wear a mask, and wash your hands!

Safety Awareness Information From the Oceanport Police Department

Car burglaries and thefts: Over the past two months, the Oceanport Police has responded to numerous reports of vehicle burglaries throughout town. These vehicle burglaries and high-end car thefts are occurring at an alarming rate throughout the county and state. To prevent these burglaries and thefts the Oceanport Police asks residents to follow these simple preventive measures:

- Remove key fobs and keys from within your vehicles.

- **LOCK YOUR VEHICLES**

- Remove any valuables from sight within the vehicles.
- Park your vehicles in your driveways.
- Ensure motion lights around your home are working and properly set.
- Notify the police when observing any suspicious vehicles or persons in your neighborhood.

Elderly Scam and Bail Money Request:

Police Departments throughout the state have responded to reports of the elderly being scammed out of large amount of cash believing that a relative or grandchild was being incarcerated and required bail money to be posted for their release. Criminals have been calling elderly people, using real information, including names, addresses and other relevant information. The scammers, act as the relative, or portray themselves as an attorney, or bail bondsman requesting bail money. They ask for the elderly persons address and to have money ready. They arrive at the home, looking and acting as a legitimate party and take the money, sometimes in the range of thousands of dollars. The Oceanport Police remind residents:

- Remain calm and ask who the arresting party was (law enforcement agency), if they mention the agency call that agency to confirm arrest.
- As the caller for identifying information, name of the company, address, name of the bail

bondsman, phone number. Most of these scammers are calling from blocked or unlisted numbers.

- Never give out personal information to anyone over the phone, especially in situations such as these.
- Call the police if you believe you are being scammed. Bail bondsman never should come to your home.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety: In light of the recent stay at home orders and more people being home, as well as the weather getting warmer, we ask you follow these traffic and pedestrian safety tips:

When driving:

- Watch the posted speed limits and reduce your speed when travelling near pedestrians.
- Wear your seatbelts and stay off the phone.
- Take extra precautions when driving in works zones and move over when coming upon stopped emergency vehicles.
- Do not drink and drive or abuse prescription medications and drive.

When riding a bicycle:

- Follow the rules of the road, bicyclists must follow the same rules a driver of vehicles.
- Helmets are recommended for a bicyclist but mandatory by law for those 17 years of age or younger.
- When riding a bike at night, the bike must be equipped with front and rear lights/lamps.

When walking or running:

- If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- Always cross at corners, within marked crosswalks where available.
- Obey traffic signals.
- Remain alert, do not assume cars are going to stop.
- Wear reflective clothing when walking at night.

The Oceanport Bulletin

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POLICE NEWS

A message from Oceanport Police Chief Michael Kelly

As we enter the 9th week of the COVID-19 pandemic I want to assure our residents that the members of the Oceanport Police Department remain committed and ready to respond to any assistance and help that you may require.

We are all coping with, and adjusting to, an environment that we have never thought we would ever have to face. This has changed the way we socialize and run our daily lives.

The officers of the Police Department have had to adjust as well, not only with their personal lives, but with how we serve and protect. Our officers are following guidelines to maintain their social distancing, in headquarters, and out in public. At times this cannot be done since our profession requires us to get “up close and personal”. We are wearing our Personal Protective Equipment during all citizen encounters, disinfecting, and cleaning the inside of our headquarters and patrol vehicles and doing this again and again and again. We are asking citizens to call us for minor incidents and handle matters over the phone or via email. We are not entering homes or businesses when matters are not of an urgent or life threatening manner. This is all being done so that our officers remain healthy to perform our day to day functions and not become unnecessarily exposed to the virus which would affect our continuity of operations and our service to you and our community.

Throughout my 22 years of service with this department I have witnessed officers of the Oceanport Police Department maintain their professionalism and go “above and beyond” in their service to the community during 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, blizzards, Nor’easter storms, power outages, large events, and many other traumatizing and chaotic incidents. The officers have remained focused and determined in their service to our community. This pandemic is no different. We will remain strong and focused on our mission and goals to you, our Oceanport Community.

On behalf of the 15 members of the Oceanport Police Department, I would like to thank all those residents and businesses who have sent us masks, gloves, shields, food, cards, cleaning supplies, well wishes, and prayers. We cannot thank you enough for the caring and support. Your acts of kindness strengthen our hearts and empower our spirits. You are the best and we cannot thank you enough.

In closing, we ask that you continue to follow the recommended guidelines of social distancing, restricted travel only when necessary, utilize the personal hygiene best practices, and to remain calm, and healthy. We will get through this by working together and relying on each other.... that is what makes a “community”.

We are here for you and are committed to upholding our oath of serving and protecting.

Stay Healthy and Safe.
Michael P. Kelly
Chief of Police
Oceanport Police Department