# The Oceanport Bulletin

VOL. XXX, No. 6

1920-2020
Oceanport

#### MAYOR

Jay Coffey

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Richard A. Gallo, Council President William Deerin, Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Thomas Tvrdik, Meghan Walker

#### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR**

Donna Phelps
BOROUGH CLERK

Jeanne Smith

November/December 020

# Mayor's Message

We are about to close out one of the strangest and unsettling years ever and, inasmuch as I am writing this message before the election, my guess that it has probably gotten even more strange and unsettling after November 3rd. Having said that, we here in Oceanport have weathered the coronavirus better than most.

On October 25th, the Oceanport Parks and Recreation Committee hosted a phenomenal "Trunk or Treat" Halloween celebration at Blackberry Bay. This event was very well attended (an estimated 300 people) and provided our residents with an outdoor, COVID-19 compliant venue for trick or treating in a somewhat controlled environment. Most neighborhoods had a fair number of kids trick or treating on the 31st and, overall, the day seemed to go along swimmingly. I was very surprised and pleased, furthermore, with the number of kids and adults – mostly adults -- who came to my door dressed as Buddy Brocklebank. One can never get enough of Buddy Brocklebank, especially on Halloween.

Our municipal council, planning board, and board of education meetings have continued unabated, albeit remotely, and the beneficial unintended consequence of the remote meeting setup is that it has actually become easier to watch, attend, and participate in public meetings than ever before. Despite the fact that the interior of our municipal building on East Main Street has been closed to the public for seven months, our municipal staff and residents have adapted well to the COVID-19 compliant arrangement at the building and the business of government has gone on pretty much uninterrupted. We are confident, moreover, that our new municipal complex on Oceanport Way will be up and running by January 1, 2021 and that the size and layout of the building will permit us to allow for greater public access while remaining COVID-19 compliant. Our DPW staff has more than ably responded to everything Mother Nature has thrown at them these past seven months and they are ready for anything she has in store for them this winter. Oceanport's parks, playgrounds, fields, and courts remain open and, notwithstanding the lack of organized recreation leagues, our children have been able to enjoy a modified outdoor fall sports season. Monmouth Park, in addition to being the most beautiful, historic racetrack on the East Coast and a better alternative to Atlantic City for sports betting, proved that it can serve as a world class entertainment venue via its successful, summer long partnership with the Count Basie Center for the Arts.

Redevelopment at the Fort Monmouth property has not stopped, and the most recent property sale will have a very positive impact on the Borough of Oceanport. OPort Partners, LLC, an entity owned by Denholz Properties, closed on the first of two

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 3)

# **Calendar of Events**



### **November**

1 Property Taxes Due, Daylight Savings Ends
3 Election Day
5 Mayor & Council Regular & Workshop Meeting
9 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
9 Water Watch Committee Meeting
10 Planning Board Meeting
11 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
11 Veterans Day
18 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
19 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
24 Planning Board Meeting
26 - 27 Happy Thanksgiving, Borough Offices Closed

### **December**

3 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
8 Planning Board Meeting
9 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
14 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
14 Water Watch Committee Meeting
15 - 17 Holiday Decorating Contest
16 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
17 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
25 Merry Christmas, Borough Offices Closed

## **January**

1 Happy New Year!
7 Borough Reorganization Virtual Meeting
12 Planning Board Reorganization & Regular Meeting
21 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
26 Planning Board Meeting
31 Cat & Dog License Renewal Due

#### Recycling

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



In honor of all the men and women who served and continue to serve this country, "Happy Veterans Day!"

Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

# **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.



# **Annual Home Decorating Contest**

Deck the halls with boughs of holly....

Please note a change to this year's decorating contest. To be considered for an award, register by emailing your address to: OPRec@oceanportboro.com. And, then please leave your lights from 5:00 – 9:00 pm Tuesday, December 15th through Thursday, December 17th, to be included in the Borough's annual decorating contest. Dust off those decorations and plug in those lights! Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Best Overall, Best Yard/Trees, Best Door/Windows, and Most Original.

# Notice from the Oceanport Lions Club

Due to the COVID Virus, the Lions Club cannot collect glasses at this time. Please hold them at home until further notice.

# BOROUGH HALL REMAINS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Borough Hall Offices remain closed to the Public due to the ongoing COVID19 health emergency. The front foyer of Borough Hall (315 E. Main Street) is open for the public to facilitate document filings, payments, and all other transactions. Please use the provided drop off containers as marked.

Front foyer doors are open Monday - Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and Fridays 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please know Borough staff are doing their best to facilitate resident needs and still remain compliant with the Governor's Orders and that of the Mayor & Council. Staff continue to work both in office and remotely on staggered schedules and are available via phone and email (available at www.oceanportboro.com/government/directory). THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING & YOUR COOPERATION!



### **BOROUGH FYI's**

- NO Trash Pickup on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.
- December has five weeks NO recycling pick up the last week of December.
- FREE Rabies Clinic will be held sometime in January, 2021. Please keep an eye out on Borough website and January/February OP Bulletin.
- Cat and Dog License Renewals are due by January 31, 2021

### **Senior Club Notes**

Special Message from Club President Barbara Josselyn: All activities of the Senior Club remain on hold because of the Covid 19 pandemic. In addition, the Holiday Luncheon planned for 12/2/20 at Rooney's in Long Branch has been canceled. Work will be done this winter to restore the Old Wharf House where hopefully the Senior Club will be able to gather next year. Meanwhile, I wish that everyone will stay well and enjoy the Holidays safely with families and friends.

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 P.M. 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 Oceanport Volunteer First Aid and Rescue Squad would like to thank the residents of Oceanport for their support this year. It has been a challenging year but the response from community members has been wonderful.

Help us help you! The annual fund drive is in full swing. Please continue to send in your donations especially since the Squad will not hold its annual bazaar in December. Many thanks to all our neighbors who have already donated!

Save a life! Watch for upcoming classes for CPR. The American Heart Association is currently updating CPR protocols. There will be opportunities coming early next year to sign up for CPR.

Christmas trees, wreaths, and grave blankets will be available again this year! Please look for times and days posted outside the building starting the last week in November. In addition to tree sales there will be a calendar raffle as well as a 50/50 raffle. Come by the squad building, say hello, and take a chance to win!

# Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone Information

The Borough of Oceanport currently participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The CRS administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides that a community, who performs specific activities related to flood protection, flood awareness, and flood prevention, can secure reduced flood insurance premiums for all property owners within the community.

As a public service, the Borough of Oceanport will provide you with the following information upon request:

- Whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) of the City.
- Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the FIRM zone and the base flood elevation or depth, if shown on the FIRM.
- Oceanport Borough has a handout on the flood insurance purchase requirement that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.
- Oceanport Borough has copies of completed FEMA Elevation Certificates for buildings built in the floodplain over the past several years.

If you want to make an inquiry, please provide the street address and, if available, the lot, and block number. During the present COVID-19 restrictions, please phone in your information since access to Borough Hall is restricted. Staff in the office can provide the needed information. There is no charge for this service.

Oceanport Borough staff within the Construction office and Office of Emergency Management will be able to provide you with information; however, the staff will not decide for you as to whether you need the coverage.

Additional Information is available that would be of help is available at www.Region2Coastal.com. Once on the site, click on the "View Flood Hazard Info" tab and "Homeowners and Renters" tab.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from front cover)

properties it has contracted to purchase from FMERA. The first of the sales closed in mid-October. This property, known as District A, is comprised of the former Commissary, PX, Post Office, and Warehouse District. Under the terms of the purchase agreement with FMERA, OPort Partners will pay \$4,350,000 for a total of 26 acres and will invest over 60 Million dollars into the overall project. OPort Partners plans to develop a mix of commercial uses on the site, including 215,000 square feet targeted for medical and general office uses, light fabrication, and technology. The centerpiece of the project will be the renovated Commissary Building, which will house 53,000 square feet of commercial space. The rehabilitation of the Commissary Building is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2021 and is projected to be completed within 12 months. These new com-

mercial developments will serve to diversify our tax base and provide jobs for our residents. The fact that Denholz Properties, a privately-held real estate development, investment, and management company with more than 60 years of commercial real estate experience, has committed to establishing a large presence in Oceanport will help to drive additional, much-needed commercial development at the Fort.

On behalf of Oceanport's entire Governing Body, I want to extend our condolences to Karen Long and the family of Richard Joline, Sr. who passed away on October 27th. Karen and Rich have regularly attended and participated in our Municipal Council meetings over the past five years and Rich's calm, cool and collected presence will be sorely missed when we return to our live meetings.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving, have a merry Christmas and let's all have a VERY, VERY Happy New Year!

# **Important information from the Oceanport Police Department**

#### TRAFFIC SAFETY

**"Be Alert, Save a Life"-** Motorists are reminded that schools are reopening and to be extra careful when driving in or near school zones. Watch for Crossing Guards, stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks, be aware that speed limits are 25mph in or around school zones, allow for extra travel time, and do not drive distracted.

Oceanport Police officers continue to conduct speed enforcement details on targeted streets throughout the Borough. We have, and continue to issue summonses, hand out informational pamphlets regarding the dangers of speeding , but most importantly, show a presence in problem areas so that drivers are aware of their speeds and are cognizant of their driving habits and the hazards around them.

#### **CRIME PREVENTION**

**"Knock, Knock, Whose There?"** - The Borough has in place a No-Knock ordinance for solicitors and Companies who registered and have background checks completed by the Police Department. Solicitors who apply for a solicitor permit through the Borough, once checked, are given the No-Knock List, and are given a Permit which they must visibly have on their person along with a company ID.

Many times, companies come into town and solicit without a permit and the Borough and Police Department are unaware of this until a complaint is received or the police are called. Residents should:

- When observing a subject soliciting on their property and the resident is on the No-Knock list please contact the police department of the incident, including a description of the person(s) soliciting.
- Contact the police of any suspicious incidents, vehicles, or subjects.
- Log onto the Oceanport Borough Website at Oceanportboro.com to add your address to the No-Knock List.

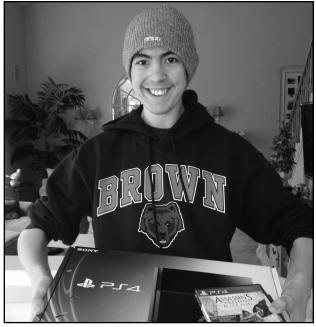
"Lock it or Lose it" - The Oceanport Police remind residents to lock your vehicles, remove key fobs, and valuable items from within your parked vehicles. We continue to respond to vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts remain a problem in our area. It only takes a second to lock your car. Do not give the criminals the opportunity to steal your car and place other people at risk.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**"Don't Be the Dealer"** - Do not leave prescription drugs around the home. The Oceanport Police utilize a Drug Drop Off Box located at Police headquarters. Drop off unwanted and unused pills and prescription drugs. No paperwork needed to be filled out and no questions asked. \*\*\*\*\*\*SYRINGES AND LIQUIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DROP OFF\*\*\*

Also, the police department is receiving a large number of requests from residents for Firearms Permits and Purchase Cards. The process is automated and for firearms permit process information and forms log onto www.njsp.org/firearms.

"We Will Be Moving" - The Oceanport Police Department will be moving from our current location at the old Fort Monmouth Firehouse, to our new location at the new Oceanport Borough Complex at 930 Oceanport Way (formally Murphy Drive) on Fort Monmouth. The move should take place sometime in December. We will make notifications when the move is complete via social media, the Borough Website and through the Reverse 911 system.



### Alex's Wish

We moved to Oceanport when Alex was one month old. I still remember putting his car seat on my kitchen island and leaning down to whisper to him, "We are home."

When Alex was 15, we discovered that he had a brain tumor. Cancer. The prognosis was quite good, and although his battle was very difficult with weeks and months at a time in the hospital, we thrived on hope.

One year later, a week before his final chemotherapy treatment, Alex's cancer returned. He passed away just nine days before his 17th birthday, in November. And so each November, we aspire to help Alex fulfill his last wish.

Alex asked us to "help teens fighting cancer in the hospital." The hospitals have so much for little children, and this is wonderful. But, teens have special needs, and they face a cancer diagnosis in ways that a small child may not.

Our family has been honored to take on this selfless request. This is our sixth year, and we continue to be so touched by our community's support, love, and generosity.

This year, we all face new challenges. One of the largest partner hospitals that we support, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, is not accepting physical donations from the public this year. Our hope is to raise funds for items and programs for teens through grants to the hospitals. Your donation is tax deductible and 100% of your gift goes directly to these hospitals, specifically to their teen funds. Our family pays all administrative fees.

Please consider a donation to help these children and their families feel the love and support that our family was so fortunate to receive.

#### alexmunoz.org

Alex's nickname was Champ. We are blessed to live on a block renamed "Champ's Corner," and so grateful to all of you who made our Champ's last days golden. Thank you with all of my heart, Laura Muñoz

### **Leaf Collection Guidelines & Schedule**

As noted in the last OP Bulletin leaf pickup began on September 25th. Leaves have already been picked up two different weeks in each of the three zones. Each zone has one or two more pickups scheduled but please note the last weeks are dependent upon weather conditions. Please refer to the street listing to see what zone your street is in and mark your calendars with your leaf pickup weeks.

When can I put out my leaves? Leaves can go out the weekend BEFORE your pickup week and must be out no later than Monday of your week. This allows residents (or their landscaper) two weekends to get leaves out for their pickup week. Be sure to get your leaves out as early in the schedule as possible as the last weeks are dependent upon weather conditions. If someone services your property other than yourself, please be sure they have registered with the Borough as a copy of the schedule below is mailed to all registered landscapers every September.

#### **Leave Collection Guidelines**

- 1. LEAVES ONLY to be places at the curb which should be free of branches, stones, hay, and other debris. These items make it difficult for vacuum to pick up the leaves. More importantly, the flying debris can cause injury to the Public Works employees and can also damage equipment. Any piles that contain such debris will be left behind, not cleaned up, and you will receive a notice.
- 2. Please keep piles straight, neat, and in the street as close to the curb as possible. Try not to make the piles any larger than four feet wide and four feet high if possible. Please be careful not to block off too much of the road with your piles. Cars must go around these piles sometimes going into the oncoming lane which can cause accidents. Cars also tend to drive through these piles scattering leaves all over the road which can create hazardous road conditions when it rains.
- 3. Do not place leaf piles on top of storm drains. This will impede proper storm water runoff and create flooding in the road-

ways. The leaves get inside the catch basin and will eventually clog pipes. Also, if you live on a corner lot, please try to place leave piles on the street that has less traffic.

4. Please remember the Public Works Department does not pick up branches or sticks. The garbage contractor will pick up 3 tied and bundled branches and tree limbs each trash pickup day for that site. For bundles to be picked up they must be tied and bundled and not to exceed 5 feet long by 3 feet in diameter piles. The garbage collector will also take branches placed in garbage can as long as they do not stick out of the can and the can is able to be dumped easily and not jammed in. Contractor is not required to pick up any tree stumps nor individual tree limbs or branches that exceed 3 inches in diameter.

Following these simple guidelines will help the operations run smoother and will help the Public Works Department better serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact them at (848) 456-4668 or by email at publicworks@oceanportboro.com if you have any questions.

#### REMAINING FALL LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE

#### Zone 1

#### Nov. 6 - Nov. 12 • Nov. 26 - Dec. 3

Arcana Avenue Elizabeth Drive Branch Avenue Evergreen Lane Fairfield Avenue Brookview Drive Burnt Mill Circle Gold Street Center Street Haskell Way Dwayne Street Hedge Drive Eatontown Blvd. Hill Court Horseneck Point Road East Main Street WEST of Pemberton Ave. Irma Place

Iselin Lane Osprey Lane Main Street Park Street Maple Court Pemberton Avenue Maple Avenue Pine Tree Lane Massaro Court Pleasant Place Monmouth Road Port Au Peck Avenue Monmouth Park Place WEST of East Main St. Riverside Avenue Oceanport Avenue Orchard Lane South Pemberton Avenue

Springfield Avenue Summerfield Avenue Trinity Place Turf Drive Willow Court Whitehall Circle Wittenburg Court Wolf Hill Avenue Woodbine Way

#### Zone 2

#### Nov. 13 - Nov 19 • Dec. 4 - Dec. 10

Bridgewaters Drive Adrian Avenue Elliot Place Myrtle Avenue Rossiter Place Gooseneck Point Road Allenhurst Avenue Bungalow Avenue Sea Girt Avenue Onandaga Avenue Arnold Avenue Centennial Drive Lake Drive Port Au Peck Avenue between Shapen Way Myrtle and Branchport Aves. Asbury Avenue Colonial Drive Leeward Court Shore Road Spring Lake Avenue Avon Avenue Deal Avenue Long Branch Avenue Relwof Place Vreeland Place Belmar Avenue Doreen Drive Milton Avenue Revere Place Blackberry Bay Drive Driveway Monmouth Blvd. River Bend Windward Court Bradley Avenue East Main Street WEST of Myrtle Avenue River Street Woodside Place Riverview Road Zocco Lane Branchport Avenue EAST of Pemberton Avenue Morris Place

#### Zone 3

#### Nov. 5 • Nov. 20 - Nov. 26 • Dec. 11 - Dec. 17

Algonquin Avenue Genesse Avenue Maple Place Pocano Avenue Smith Street Ausable Avenue Herbert Place Mohawk Avenue Port Au Peck Avenue Tecumseh Avenue Bay View Avenue Hiawatha Avenue Mohican Avenue EAST of Branchport Avenue Ticonderoga Avenue Blue Point Cove Horicon Avenue Monmouth Blvd. Sagamore Avenue Tohican Place Wardell Circle EAST of Myrtle Avenue Seawaneka Avenue Cavuga Avenue Iroquois Avenue Comanche Drive Itaska Avenue Nicholson Place Seneca Place Werah Place Ithaca Avenue Oneida Avenue Winhar Place Elinore Avenue Serand Avenue Fiore Court Manitto Place Pocahontas Avenue Shrewsbury Avenue Wyandotte Avenue

# The Oceanport Bulletin

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MEGHAN WALKER, Councilwoman and *Bulletin* Liason
Deadline for the JANUARY/FEBRUARY *Bulletin* is DECEMBER 14, 2020.

# LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

# The North Pole Express Post is Coming to Oceanport!!

He's making a list and checking it twice... Which list will you be on this year? Do you want to send Santa a letter to let him know you how good you have been.

Santa will have one of his special mailboxes at 52 Hiawatha Avenue, Oceanport. You can send him a letter and you may even get one back!!

All letters should be mailed between November 27th – December 13th to be sure Santa has plenty of time to read them all.

# **Library News**

The Oceanport Library is still open from 1:00-5:00 pm and 6:00-9:00 pm on Mondays. Unfortunately, there are still no inperson children's programs. However, the Monmouth County Library is offering some terrific programs for children in November and December.

You may still view *Snakes N Scales* - A Halloween Virtual Adventure until November 6th. Visit the home page (www.monmouthcountylib.org) and go to the Kids heading. Click on the slide advertising the show and enjoy. On November 5th through Nov. 19th at 10:00 am, Robert Rivest, a comic mime will present an uproarious show. Click on the slide in the Kids category for access. In December, Jumpin' Jamie, a musician, will present a musical show. Information will be forthcoming on a slide in the Kids heading. Don't forget that each weekday at 1:45pm, a NEW Storytime Link opens, offering stories, new crafts and some special programs! Everything is available on the Library's YouTube channel: @MonCoLibrary

Please come to the library and pick up a take and make craft! For November there will be a scarecrow and a turkey. The scarecrow is available beginning November 2nd and the turkey will be available as of November 16th. In December, there will be a penguin and a gingerbread craft. You may go the library on Mondays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm and 6:00-9:00 pm to pick up the craft. Supplies and directions are in the bags.

Additionally, there are many virtual programs that would appeal to adults. They run the gamut from movies and literature to self-help. The programs are on our home page www.monmouthcountylib.org and Find it Here. The staff at the Oceanport Library wishes you a pleasant holiday season! Stay well and safe.



# **Support Maple Place Class of 2021 Thanksgiving Pie Sale**

November means Thanksgiving and everyone's favorite part of the dinner is dessert!! Let the Class of 2021 take some of the stress out of your Thanksgiving planning. Both local and delicious, Caputo's Pastry Shoppe will be providing the pies to support the Class of 2021.

Orders are due by November 20th! All pies serve 8-10 people. Please provide with the form filled out below exact cash or checks made out to: Maple Place Class of 2021. Send into the Wolf Hill or Maple Place office or mail or drop to Joelle Caputo, 54 Tecumseh Ave., Oceanport, NJ, 07757.

\*\*All pies are to be picked up Tuesday, November 24th at 54 Tecumseh Ave., Oceanport between 3:00 – 5:00 pm.\*\*

Please call Joelle Caputo at (732) 620-0093 if you have any questions. Thank you for your much-appreciated support!!

	Pumpkin x \$14.00 each =	
	Apple x \$14.00 each =	
	Blueberry x \$14.00 each =	
	Cherry x \$14.00 each =	
	Coconut Custard x \$14.00 each =	
	Total \$	
Name:		
Phone:		