The Oceanport Bulletin

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1920-2020
Oceanport

MAYOR

Jay Coffey

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February/March 2021

Mayor's Message

On July 31, 2017, the Borough of Oceanport purchased 13.25 acres of land and about 40,000 square feet of office space from the Fort Monmouth Economic Redevelopment Authority for \$1,053,000 so that the Borough could build a new municipal center to replace the one that had been destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012. For the better part of the decade after Sandy, the Borough housed its police station in an old fire house on Fort Monmouth, held its council meetings at Maple Place School and conducted its daily business at the Old Wharf Meeting Place. The Borough's 2017 purchase was the start of a long, laborious, often contentious pandemic delayed process that involved demolishing several buildings and rehabilitating two buildings so that the Borough could, once again, consolidate its quarters in one convenient, modern complex.

In early January of 2021, our police department began the process of moving into its new quarters at the old State Police barracks at 930 Oceanport Way. A few days later, our municipal workers began moving into the new municipal building at 910 Oceanport Way. With the exception of the Municipal Court/Council Meeting room, the municipal complex is now fully operational. We expect the Municipal Court/Council Meeting room to be completed within the next few months. Inasmuch as the Court and Council are operating remotely, however, this delay hasn't prevented the Court or Council from conducting business at all. Due to COVID restrictions, the interior of the Municipal Building, for the most part, remains closed to the public, but in-person deliveries and payments can be made through the front entrance. We'll be having a dedication ceremony for the new complex as soon as COVID permits. If you have a few minutes, take a drive over to the new complex, familiarize yourself with it, and then explore the rest of the Oceanport section of Fort Monmouth. Councilman Bill Deerin will be leading a bike tour of the Oceanport section of the Fort in the spring, but in the interim take a car tour on your own.

But make sure that you take the car tour AFTER the roads are plowed! This winter has been especially rough from a weather standpoint, but our Department of Public Works has been more than up to the task. Max Lopez, Rich Arlt, Jorge Segura, Mike Natale, Juan Merino, Milton Zarate, Steve Tagerty, and Wes Sherman have brined, salted, and plowed the streets, municipal and school lots more this year than the past five years combined, and we should all be grateful that we have such a dedicated, talented, and determined group of men in our employ. In case we have a few more snow events this winter, though, I want to remind everybody that (a) you should wait until we've completed plowing at the end of the snowfall before you shovel your sidewalks, (b) our ordinance requires you to clear your sidewalks

Calendar of Events

February

1 Quarterly Property Taxes Payment Due
2 Groundhog Day
4 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
8 Water Watch Committee Meeting
8 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
9 Planning Board Meeting
10 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
14 Happy Valentine's Day
18 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
23 Planning Board Meeting

March

April

1	Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
1	Wayor & Council Workshop McCanig
12	Water Watch Committee Meeting
12	Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
13	Planning Board Meeting
14	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
15	Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
Recycling	

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

of snow and ice within 48 hours after a snow event and (c) there is NOTHING we can do about the plows putting snow in front of your driveway two minutes after you've finished clearing it. We tried to get Buddy Brocklebank to clear everybody's driveways after we plow, but he is too busy with his interpretive dance theater obligations.

Finally, we've had a lot of complaints about people who fail to clean up after their dogs. Here's the poop on dog waste: a single gram can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria (the bacteria that can make humans sick), as well as parasites, excess nutrients, and other diseases. Dog waste is not only unsightly, but

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sidewalk Clearing after Snow Fall; No Snow to Street After Plowed

The owner, tenant, or occupant of any building or lands abutting upon any street within the Borough of Oceanport shall cause the sidewalk in front of the property to be cleared of snow or ice to a width of at least two feet within 48 hours after the cessation of the snowfall or formation of ice. In case of ice on the sidewalk, should it be impracticable to remove same, then the sidewalk shall be covered with sand or some other suitable substance so as to cause the sidewalk to be made safe for persons traveling thereon. Deposit of snow or ice on plowed streets prohibited. No person shall sweep, throw or deposit any snow or ice in that part of the street which has been or is being plowed, swept, cleaned or cleared by the municipality for the passage of traffic.

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.

Free Rabies Clinic Postponed

Due to the pandemic the State/County want the annual Oceanport Rabies Clinic held outside, therefore; it will be post-poned until the weather gets warmer. Please keep an eye on the Borough website or the OP Bulletin for the new date.

Reminder Dog/Cat Licenses are Now Due

The Borough began issuing 2021 dog and cat licenses on January 1st. If you have not renewed your pet's license with the Borough this is a friendly reminder to 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. Please make check payable to Borough of Oceanport, and mail to Borough Hall's new address, 910 Oceanport Way. A \$10 late fee will be added if the license is not renewed by February 28th.

Also, in accordance with state regulation, your pet's rabies vaccination must be valid through October 31st, 2021 of the licensing year. Please advise the Borough if you no longer have the pet. If you have any questions, please call the Borough Clerk's Office at (732) 222-8221.

Borough Hall Has a New Home!

Effective Friday, January 22, 2021 borough offices have moved to a new location at 910 Oceanport Way, PO Box 370

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, Borough Offices will remain closed to the public. However, the public will be able to make in-person deliveries and payments at the front entrance beginning Monday, January 25, 2021, follow posted directions for a staff person to greet you. In the meantime, you may call the main number (732) 222-8221 and leave a message and staff will return your call as soon as possible.

Police Station Has a New Home!

Effective Friday, January 8, 2021, the police station has moved to a new location at 930 Oceanport Way. PO Box 370

The building originally served as the Provost Marshals Office, then NJSP Ft. Monmouth station and now has been renovated to a new modern police facility.

To access the new Police Station and Borough Hall, there are two routes: Oceanport Avenue to Saltzman Avenue to Oceanport Way (formerly known as Murphy Drive or Stephensen Avenue) OR Main Street to Anson Avenue (old Ft. Monmouth Razor Gate) to Oceanport Way.

Go to Oceanportboro.com to see an aerial view of the Boro's new municipal complex!

PLEASE CLEAR A FIRE HYDRANT

The Oceanport Fire Department is requesting the help of Borough residents who have a fire hydrant near their property to please clear the hydrant of snow. This will help firefighters in quickly locating the hydrants and giving them access in an emergency. Please clear an area 3 ft out on all sides.

Garden Club News

The Garden Club was happy to make holiday baskets and wreaths for the doors at Borough Hall, and the Oceanport and West Long Branch Libraries. The Club also proudly placed a wreath at the Blue Star Memorial on Route 36 in front of Shop Rite and by placing this wreath it was part of National Wreaths Across America which took place on December 19th. The mission of this program is to remember our fallen U.S. Veterans, honor those who serve, and to teach our children the value of freedom.

The Garden Club now has a website at: oceanportgardenclu.wixsite.com/website. Please check it out to find out the Club's meeting dates, events, and you can also subscribe on the site to get Garden Club Updates.

The Club is counting down the days until spring! It can not come quick enough!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oceanport Lions Club Thanks All Essential Workers!

The Oceanport Lions Club would like to thank all of Oceanport's essential and healthcare workers for their sacrifice and courage. Their steadfastness has gone above and beyond this past year. There are so many unsung heroes who have given up so much and continue to do so, so that we receive the utmost of care. You have not gone un-noticed! Thank you all!

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. Work is being done this winter to restore the Old Warf House, where I am hoping that the Senior Club will be able to meet later this year. Meanwhile, please be careful to follow public health precautions (mask wearing, social distancing, etc.), stay well, and enjoy your 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. Hopefully, as more members are vaccinated and building capacity limits are raised, the club will be able to resume monthly meetings on the third Wednesday. When the meetings resume, they will include informative presentations by guest speakers, entertainment, or other special events. 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.

Oceanport Centennial News

Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of most scheduled events during the centennial year of 2020, the Historical Committee does plan to host the Oceanport Centennial Gala on October 16, 2021. Additionally, other activities promoting a better understanding of the borough's history will continue in 2021, and the Committee hopes to reschedule some of the events planned for 2020. The Historical Committee will publish a book celebrating Oceanport's Centennial, and looks forward to bringing you another Holiday House Tour in December 2021, along with another ornament related to Oceanport's history. Please be sure to "like" our Oceanport Centennial Facebook page so that you can participate in our discussions of Oceanport's past.

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

The Oceanport Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas tree sales. This year was amazing as trees, wreaths, and grave blankets were a hot item. The calendar raffle and 50/50 were a fun addition to this year's fundraising efforts as well. Thank you to all who helped make these endeavors a success!

The Squad would also like to thank all those who donated to the 2020 fund drive. The generosity of our community friends helps the Squad help others.

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid and Rescue would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe New Year!

Cub Scout Corner

The cold winter days can't stop Oceanport Cub Scouts Pack 58! They have continued to stay active and fit while working on rank requirements! COVID restrictions have made planning meetings a little challenging, but the scouts continue with the spirit of the Cub Scout Motto, DO YOUR BEST!

The individual dens have been creatively holding outdoor meetings and hikes to keep the boys involved. The Webelos den recently held their fitness requirement badge on a brisk morning. They also did a beach sweep to help clean our environment. The youngest members, the Tigers, have had many hikes on Wolf Hill's disc golf field, creating their own games and challenges as they hiked. Arrow of Light den is preparing to move on to become Boy Scouts, and the Wolf and Bear dens have also kept up with requirements.

The best news is that the yearly PWD, or Pinewood Derby, is ON! The highly anticipated wooden car race will take place early March. If you see any of our scouts, wish them luck!

If you know of anyone interested in participating, please contact just.elk@gmail.com.

Boy Scout Buzz

Boy Scout Troop 58 has continued to run smoothly all winter. The boys in this troop have been participating at outdoor bonfire meetings most weekends. They work on their goals for merit badges and plan out their next camping trip and outdoor adventures. One of the 6th graders came up with a list of how he feels about being a part of Troop 58:

"5 Reasons Why You Should Join Boy Scouts"

- 1. The best part of Boy Scouts is the people. You make lots of lasting friendships.
- 2. Do you love the outdoors? We go camping, canoeing, and hiking all year long!
- 3. People are so impressed when they hear you are a scout. Every time I wear my Boy Scout hat, people want to talk to me, ask questions, and tell me interesting stories. You can also list Boy Scouts on a college resume or job application!
- 4. Endless adventures! We canoe, hike new trails, and cook over campfires. We learn to work as a team, but also take turns being in charge.
- 5. There is a merit badge for almost everything you can think of. Sports, hobbies, life skills... we learn it all. We do some of the work on our own, some at meetings, and even have opportunities in virtual workshops.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Troop 58, please contact graypeto@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crime Prevention and Information From the Oceanport Police

The Police Department is proud to be operating out of their new Police Headquarters located at 930 Oceanport Way (formerly Murphy Drive) on Fort Monmouth. The phone numbers (732) 222-6300 and (732) 222-6301 and email address info@oceanportpolice.org remain the same. The building is open to the public and the Department has resumed standard operations following COVID protocols. The public is asked to wear a mask while at Police HQ. There is a supply of masks in the foyer for public use as well as hand sanitizer the public is asked to use prior to passing or handing the clerk or officers items. If matters can be handled over the phone, please call first to determine if travelling to headquarters is necessary. As usual for any emergency call 9-1-1.

The Oceanport Police are aware of the speeding issues on many of the Borough streets. They are conducting an increased speed enforcement initiative targeting specific roadways within town. Officers will conduct stationary and moving radar details accompanied with an increase educational campaign of the dangers of speeding. Residents with specific speeding or other traffic complaints are asked to call the Oceanport Police Department to advise them of the location of the complaint and any other specifics related to vehicle or driver descriptions.

Residents are encouraged to discard their old and unused prescription medication by dropping them off at the drug drop off box located in the foyer of the Oceanport police department during normal business hours. Liquids and needles (sharps) will not be accepted.

Police have responded to several report of elderly residents being scammed by callers pretending to be bail bondsman or relatives asking for bail money or money to get them out of jail. These scammers also report to be layers for the victims' relatives. These callers may ask to come to your home to retrieve the money or "bail".

- Never wire money to someone you do not recognize by voice or to an unknown party.
- Do not give out personal information over the phone to an unknown party.
- Ask the caller to speak with the relative or a police officer or judicial officer.
- Never give in to a request for someone to come to your home to receive money or "bail money".
- Call the police to report any suspicious calls.

There has been an increase in motor vehicle thefts recently in Oceanport and throughout the county. Thieves are targeting unlocked high-end motor vehicles. They work in groups and usually operate other stolen vehicles and drop subject(s) off to walk around neighborhoods, usually when it is dark, to look for their targeted vehicles. Residents are reminded:

- To lock and remove keys and key fobs from vehicles.
- Parked locked vehicle in driveways or garages.
- Make sure all valuables are removed from sight within your vehicles
- Report any suspicious people or vehicles to the police.

A Message From Oceanport Police Chief Michael P. Kelly

On behalf of the members of the Oceanport Police Department I would like to thank the residents of Oceanport for their support, show of appreciation, and words of encouragement during the difficult times that 2020 presented to our profession, community, and country.

While working through COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest throughout our nation, a tropical storm, power outages, and reductions of the police force operations due to officer quarantine, we remained committed to our goals and service to our community. The department had to modify our patrol functions and change the way we police and respond to calls to ensure the safety of our officers and maintain our operational readiness to better serve our Oceanport community.

We apologize for taking minor calls over the phone, restricting access to our Police Building, or advising residents that we have to social distance when we would normally shake hands, give high fives to our school age children, hug traumatized victims, or hold crime prevention events with our senior citizens. This was, and is, a difficult change for us, and our community policing function.

2020 was a challenging year, but we could not have served you, our citizens, professionally and efficiently without the help of our other Emergency services, most of whom volunteer their time while responding in the time of COVID-19. Thank you to our Fire Chiefs and the members of both Fire Departments, the First Aid Captain and the Oceanport First Aid Squad, Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management and staff, as well as the staff of the Department of Public Works.

This year brought us together as a team and without the hard work and collaboration of all these public safety professionals' involvements, many incidents and situations could not have been safely and efficiently handled.

We thank all the residents who dropped off or sent in cards, candy, cakes, food of all kinds, painted rocks of encouragement, prayers, masks, hand sanitizers, and signs of appreciation. These many gestures raised our spirits and our hearts during difficult times. We are forever grateful to you all.

As we settle into our new police headquarters, we are thankful and appreciative to all those, who over the last 6 years, were involved in the planning and building of this great facility. Thanks to the Mayor, all the Borough officials, past and present, who were involved in this process, our former Police Chief Dan Barcus, the architects, builders, contractors, and fellow officers who played important roles in ensuring the project's successful completion.

Lastly, I would like to thank the officers and members of the Oceanport Police Department. Throughout this past year they showed professionalism, determination, strength, compassion, and the hallmark of our officers' oath, dedication to community, all while working and navigating through the difficult time that this past year present. These unprecedented times caused increased demands placed upon these fine officers through updated procedures, endless directives, guidelines, and training.

The members of the Oceanport Police Department look forward to the coming year where we will serve with pride and professionalism. We are honored to be part of such a wonderful community and continue to work with all to ensure the safety and security of Oceanport.

SCHOOL/LIBRARY NEWS



Library News

The Oceanport Library Staff wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2021 with hopes to resume children's programs sometime this year. The Oceanport Library is currently open on Mondays from 1:00 – 5:00 pm and 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

The Library has virtual story times!

The children's librarians share songs, fingerplays, stories, and crafts on Monmouth County Library's You Tube Channel at https://bit.ly/MonCoLibraryStoryCraftTime. Enjoy a new story time and craft every weekday at 2:00 pm! Bedtime stories are also read (narrated by authors and celebrity readers) on Facebook, weekdays at 6:30 pm @MonCoLibrary.

Every month the Oceanport Library has Take and Make crafts for the children to create. They are available at the Oceanport Library usually on the 1st and 15th of the month. For February enjoy making a heart clock available on February 1st and a Chinese New Year Dragon Craft in the middle of the month. In March, the crafts are Dr. Seuss for March 1st and St. Patrick's Day (Irish theme) for March 15th. Stop in and pick one up for your child or children!

There are also special family virtual events. Songs and Silliness with Mr. Jon will premiere Saturday, February 6th at 10:00 am. It is a musical comedy show and it will be accessed via a link on the Monmouth County Library (MCL) Kids Page through March 31st. On March 19th and 20th there will be a Virtual Maker's Day. Check the MCL Kids Page for further details.

Kanopy Kids has streaming movies and shows just for kids! Go to the Monmouth County Library website (www.monmouthcountylib.org) and scroll down to the red Kanopy block and create an account with your MCL card. Once you log in click on "Go to Kanopy Kids" on the top and you will be able to enjoy an abundance of programs geared for children.

Stay safe and well. Come by the Library and browse the many books it has to offer you! Beat the winter blues by enjoying a good book!!

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

it is a human health hazard, and environmental pollutant. Dog waste left on surfaces in town is carried by stormwater into local waterways, where we wade, swim, paddle, fish, boat, and otherwise recreate. Please, if you walk your dog, bring a bag, clean up and dispose of it properly (i.e., not in somebody else's garbage can on the street).

See you at the new municipal building!

APPLICATION FOR OCEANPORT LIONS SCHOLARSHIP

Oceanport Lions Club will award a \$1000 scholarship to High School Senior planning to further his or her education by attending a college or university. Any senior high school student who resides in Oceanport or the son, daughter, or grandchild of an Oceanport Lion member in good standing may apply.

The award will be based on school academic achievements, school activities, community service, and a TYPE-WRITTEN essay of at least 500 words. Applications may be obtained from your Guidance Counselor or can be downloaded at oceanportlionsclub.com.

For additional information, please contact your high school scholarship counselor first or you may contact Mark Barreca, Lions Club Scholarship Committee Chair, at (201) 563-2948 or at mjbarreca@comcast.net.

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 16, 2021 to: Oceanport Library, 8 Iroquois Ave., Oceanport, NJ 07757 Attention: Mrs. Risden

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Name of High School
College Enrolled – Fall of 2021
Signature of Student
Data

The Oceanport Bulletin

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LAURA McCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)
MEGHAN WALKER, Councilwoman and *Bulletin* Liason
Deadline for the APRIL/MAY *Bulletin* is MARCH 14, 2020.

RECREATION NEWS

2020 HOLIDAY DECORATING WINNERS

Congratulations to the Parks & Recreation 2020 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners! The Committee thanks all residents whose homes were beautifully decorated and lit up Oceanport for the holiday season. For those who especially love to decorate with exterior illumination a new category, Clark Griswold House, was added this year.

As always, it is difficult to narrow the many down to a few but here are the 2020 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners.

Best Overall
1st: 52 Hiawatha Ave.
2nd: 40 Itaska Pl.
3rd: 22 Cayuga Ave.
Clark Griswold House
31 Massaro St.
Best Yard
37 Morris Pl.
Best Tree
142 S. Pemberton Ave.
Best Door/ Windows
5 Arcana Ave.
Most Traditional
26 Branch Ave.

Congratulations to them once again! Thank you to all of those that decorated their homes, you make it more of a pleasure to drive through Oceanport during the holiday season!



Little League Registration Opened January 1st, 2021

Shore Regional Little League is happy to announce the opening of our 2021 season! The League is offering Tee Ball, Baseball, and Softball for kids ages 5-14. Please go to www.ShoreLittleLeague.com for more information and to sign up. Registration is open through February 21st.

2021 Oceanport Parks and Recreation Tentative Schedule

(events, dates, and times subject to change)

Egg Scramble - March 27th @ 11:00 am (rain date March 28th @ 2:00 pm)

Mini Golf Tournament - April 30th @ 6:00 pm

Memorial Day Parade - May 31st @ 9:00 am

Action Camp - June 28th - July 30th, Registration begins May 1st **Disc Golf -** TBD

Movie in the Park - July 30th @ dusk

Summers End Festival September 11th @ 5:00 pm (rain date Sept. 12th)

Movie in the Park - September 18th @ dusk

Halloween Trunk or Treat Parade Parade/Party - October 23rd @ 11:00 am

Tree Lighting - December 5th @ 5pm

Holiday Decorating Contest - December 14th, 15th, & 16th

Oceanport Lions Pool Possibilities

On January 22, an ad hoc group met at the Oceanport Lions Pool to see if it is possible to resurrect the pool, snack bar, and the surrounding area. All agreed that IF it is possible, the group would be challenged to move forward with little to no cost to the taxpayers or town. We all came away very excited to see if this project can get off the ground.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could create a community pool for everyone to enjoy? Perhaps the kids go for a swim, right from the ball field after their game. Maybe we could have a movie night and see a show under stars. If this project could be completed there could be a plethora of uses for the area. Perhaps even using it for private parties...

We would like feedback from both current and former residents of Oceanport. Did you work at the pool, were you a lifeguard or other employee? Perhaps you worked in the snack bar. Maybe you were one of the kids who attended one of the Recreation Departments programs there. What did you like about the program, what didn't you like? Maybe you were a resident who went over for a refreshing swim after a long day at work. Maybe your kids went to the pool alone while you were at work.

We are looking to get feedback from all areas of the pool, the employees, the residents and anyone who used the pool. Let us know what you liked, what you did not like, what would you like to see?

Please send your thoughts to mortons13@verizon.net.