The Oceanport Bulletin_



MAYOR

Jay Coffey

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VOL. XXXI, No. 3 April/May 2021

Mayor's Message

Spring is upon us and the Borough of Oceanport is once again going to be keeping our public parks and recreation facilities open to the general public. Our baseball fields, softball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, river access points, and playgrounds remain open to all and we encourage our residents to enjoy these wonderful amenities. Monmouth Park Racetrack will be re-opening soon and the Borough's Governing Body has done everything in its power to enable our local restaurants to offer outdoor dining consistent with what is allowed by the State of New Jersey under the existing state of emergency. Enzo's, Mia, Federico's, The Marina, and The Blu Grotto are all offering indoor and outdoor seating for their customers. In short, Oceanport is open for business and open for recreation, and we want our residents to enjoy everything that Oceanport has to offer.

Speaking of enjoying what Oceanport has to offer, I am pleased to announce that our Recreation Committee has been burning the midnight oil making plans for the Borough's 2021 Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2021. While there will not be a ceremony at the Port-Au-Peck Firehouse afterwards because of COVID-19 concerns, we are hoping that, after the trials and tribulations we have all encountered over the past year, this year's parade will be the best attended Memorial Day Parade ever. Councilman Deerin and the Recreation Committee are pulling out all stops to make this year's parade a most memorable one (Buddy Brocklebank will have his own car) and we would love for Oceanport's residents to turn out in droves along Monmouth Boulevard for this event. For those of you who are new to town, our Memorial Day Parade is a fun event for kids and represents all that is good about life here in small town America.

And Oceanport is going to be able to offer a lot more as the Fort Monmouth property continues to redevelop. If you take a quick trip through the Fort property, you will see that our Municipal Complex is, for all intents and purposes, completely finished and open for business. We hope to open the building up to the public in a COVID compliant fashion in May. The Dance Hall property's rehabilitation is well under way, Squier Hall is nearly complete (meaning that New Jersey City University will be up and running there this fall) and the former gym site is nearly completed. A substantial amount of work has begun on the commercial/professional space at the site of the Commissary/Post Office buildings (I would invite you to visit this site to see the beautiful wall mural that is currently under way) and the developer of this property, Oceanport resident

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events

April
1 – 30
May
1
June
 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting Paper Shredding @ Keyport Fireman's Field Planning Board Meeting Oceanport Board of Education Meeting Monmouth County Rabies Clinic, Neptune Twp. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting Planning Board Meeting Planning Board Meeting

Zone 1 First and Third Wednesday of the Month

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough Notices

Borough Hall and the Police Station Have a New Home!

Borough offices and the Police Station have moved to a new location at 910 Oceanport Way. Please note and add "PO Box 370" when mailing items to the Borough or to the Police Department. Go to Oceanportboro.com to see an aerial view of the Borough's new municipal complex!

Action Camp Update

The Borough of Oceanport will not offer Action Camp during the summer of 2021. While this was a difficult decision, it was made with a great deal of consideration for the safety and wellbeing of both campers and staff. The Borough will continue to present special events this summer within the guidelines of COVID regulations and work to support local programs and activities providing recreation and leisure services to Oceanport.

Memorial Day Parade

There will be a Memorial Day Parade this year! The usual start will be at Blackberry Bay Park and will finish at Port-Au-Peck Firehouse. Unfortunately, there will not be a ceremony. Please remember to thank a veteran for their courage, service, and dedication!

Pooper Scooper Law, Dog Barking, and 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 required to be kept on a leash at all times when off the premises of it's 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?

Monmouth County Rabies Vaccine Clinics

Saturday, May 8th & Saturday, June 12th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Neptune Township Public Works Garage, 2201 Heck Avenue.

Clothes Donation Bin at Oceanport United Methodist Church

The is a "new blue" clothing bin now in the Oceanport United Methodist church parking lot. It is for clothes and shoes ONLY. No household goods, toys, or auto accessories. The address of the church is 50 Main Street on the corner of Main and Center Street.

Spring Leaf Collection

April 1st - 30th

Leaves ONLY are collected only during the month of April. LEAVES only should be raked to the curb free of any debris, twigs, stones, branches, etc. for pick up by the Public Works Department. Please do not put leaves in plastic bags. For questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (732) 222-8221, Option#2 or publicworks@oeanportboro.com

Reminder Dog/Cat Licenses are Now 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. The late fee of \$10 has been waived until May 1st due to COVID and the delay of the rabies clinic. Please make check payable to Borough of Oceanport, and mail to 315 E. Main Street. Funds from pet licenses are used to address animal control in the Borough.

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" the Oceanport Centennial Facebook page so that you can participate in our discussions of Oceanport's past.

Classic Cars to Cruise in the Memorial Day Parade!

The Oceanport Historical Committee is proud to announce that the classic car club who paraded with them in 2019 Memorial Day Parade will be back once again! If there are any Borough residents who have a car or truck, made up to and including 1970 only, who would like their classic car to be in the Parade, please email Kim Parent at kparent@oceanportboro.com to register your vehicle with "Memorial Day Classic Car" in the subject line, and attach a photo of your vehicle noting the year, make, and model. All vehicles must be registered in advance no later than May 1, 2021. The number of vehicles may be restricted based upon the parade route.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad continues to respond to community members during the pandemic. Even during this uncertain time, the Squad is available to residents at their time of need. In addition, three new members have recently been added to the ranks. The Squad is always looking for new members as Oceanport continues to grow. Please consider becoming a volunteer. If interested and/or have questions, please reach out by email to oceanportfas@gmail.com.

Please use spring as an opportunity to review important documents and update medical information. The Squad supplies orange emergency cards to list medications and important information such as allergies to medications. These cards should be posted on your refrigerator so medical information is available in case of an emergency. Please email the Squad at oceanportfas@gmail.com with your name, address, and the number of people in your household if you need orange cards.

As always, Oceanport Volunteer First Aid & Rescue wishes the community a happy, healthy, safe spring. Please watch for our annual fund drive coming Summer 2021.



Oceanport Lions Club Has a New Program for Oceanport Residents

The Oceanport Lions Club is excited and pleased to announce they have a limited supply of hearing aids that they will donate, free of charge to Oceanport residents. These hearing aids, some almost new will offer needed assistance to Oceanport residents that need the help. The Lions Club will clean them and check to see if they are working. The individual receiving the hearing aid will be responsible for adjustments to their hearing condition.

Lion member John M. Bonforte Sr. started the program. The Lions Club will now be accepting donations of any excess hearing aids that you would like to donate to help make this program a success.

To receive a hearing aid, or to donate a hearing aid, please contact:

John M. Bonforte Sr.

111 Horseneck Pt. Road, Oceanport, NJ, 07757 Cell (908) 489-9090 • E-Mail: johnsr@monmouthrubber.com

Monmouth County Paper Shredding 2021 Dates

Is it time for you to dispose of confidential documents and old files? Bring your documents to be shredded on location in the mobile truck. Do not be a target of identity theft!

Monmouth Beach, Monmouth Beach
Bathing Pavilion, 29 Ocean Ave.
Wall Twp., Wall Twp. High School,
1630 18th Ave.
Keyport
Fireman's Field Parking Lot, West Front St.
Shrewsbury Boro' Shrewsbury Municipal
Bldg., 419 Sycamore Ave.
Freehold Boro, Park Avenue School,
280 Park Ave.
Matawan, Matawan-Aberdeen Train Station
Parking Lot 1
Aberdeen, Aberdeen Municipal Bldg., 1
Aberdeen Square

All events take place from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm unless the truck fills first. Remove large binder clips. Staples and paper clips can remaun. Limit of 100 lbs. of documents. (Which is equivalent to four office paper boxes or four large sized trash bags.) Free service to Monmouth County residents only. No businesses allowed.

For more information please call (732) 683-8686 ext. 8967 or visit www.visitmonmouth.com. More dates in the fall are listed on Borough website.

Oceanport Lions Pool Possibilities, Survey Results, and Next Steps

A survey was put out on Facebook and to date has received 267 responses! An overwhelming majority of current residents (88%) believe the Borough should hire a pool consulting company to determine what the actual condition of the pool is so the council can decide once and for all what to do with the pool. Additionally, roughly the same percentage of people (85%) think the pool should be fixed, while 13% think it should filled in. About 3% of people think the town should do nothing and let it sit and further deteriorate.

A subgroup of the committee has been communicating with the mayor and other town representatives. A decision to hire the pool company was brought up at the beginning of the last town council meeting. The committee is happy to report the council agreed they need to figure things out and approved hiring a consulting company. Pool Operation Management has been scheduled to complete a thorough inspection of the pool and provide the Borough with a report as to what is required to bring the pool up to code.

Stay tuned for further news....

COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough of Oceanport Office of Emergency Management

The Mandatory Purchase of Flood Insurance Requirement

This community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all eligible buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems.

The NFIP insures buildings, including mobile homes, with two types of coverage: building and contents. Building coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately, if the contents are in an insurable building.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 made the purchase of flood insurance mandatory for Federally backed mortgages on buildings located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). It also affects all forms of Federal or Federally related financial assistance for buildings located in SFHAs. The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" or "V."

The requirement applies to secured mortgage loans from financial institutions, such as commercial lenders, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions that are regulated, supervised or insured by Federal agencies such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision. It also applies to all mortgage loans purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac in the secondary mortgage market. Federal financial assistance programs affected by the laws include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA.

How it Works: Lenders are required to complete a Standard Flood Hazard Determination (SFHD) form whenever they make, increase, extend, or renew a mortgage, home equity, home improvement, commercial, or farm credit loan to determine if the building or manufactured (mobile) home is in an SFHA. It is the federal agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to determine if the building is in an SFHA. Copies of the FIRM are available for review in most local government building or planning departments. Lenders may also have copies or they may use a flood zone determination company to provide the SFHD form. If the building is in an SFHA, the Federal agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building. Federal regulations require building coverage equal to the amount of the loan (excluding appraised value of the land) or the maximum amount of insurance available from the NFIP, whichever is less. The maximum amount available for a single-family residence is \$250,000. Governmentsponsored enterprises, such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, have stricter requirements. The mandatory purchase requirement does not affect loans or financial assistance for items that are not covered by a flood insurance policy, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping, and vacant lots. It does not affect loans for buildings that are not in an SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be. While not mandated by law, a lender may require a flood insurance policy, as a condition of a loan, for a property in any zone on a FIRM. If a person feels that an SFHD form incorrectly places the property in the SFHA, he or she may request a Letter of Determination Review from FEMA. This must be submitted within 45 days of the determination. More information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/how-request-flood-hazard-determination-review-fema

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 planned but not yet underway 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 about joining.



Cub Scout Corner

Oceanport Cub Scouts Pack 58 may have been super busy in March but wait until you hear what they are planning for April and May! The pack held their annual Pinewood Derby Race (thank you Celtic Concepts for the use of your building!) with huge success. New this year, the races were able to be viewed online for family members to watch. Each boy designed and shaped his car, painted, and named it, then raced it against all the other cars. There was a winner for each den, but the overall winner was a member of the Tiger den! Way to go, Forrest!In early March, the oldest members, "crossed over" from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. All 5 boys will continue with Troop 58. Great job guys! March was also a big month to give back to our community. Many members of Tiger Den helped

RECREATION NEWS



WOMEN'S SUMMER TENNIS LEAGUE

Whether you are a veteran tennis player or have been meaning to start/restart playing, this is the league for you! The Oceanport Women's Tennis Program is a fun league (with some mild competition) that gets you out on the courts, to meet new people, and to move around.

Sign-up (singles and doubles, evening and daytime) begins April 1st and ends April 30th. Participants must be Oceanport residents. This year is online sign up only at http://bit.ly/OCPtennis. League play begins Monday, May 29th.

Daytime doubles matches are played weekday mornings beginning at 8:00 am and 9:00 am. Evening matches are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. **Please check that you are available for your scheduled day of play before you sign up!** Singles matches are played at times arranged by players within a scheduled time frame. Double matches scheduled during the weeks when school is still in session are played at either 4:00 pm or 5:00 pm. All daytime matches are played at the Community Center tennis courts on Port au Peck Ave. Evening matches are played at both Community Center and Blackberry Bay Park, if needed.

If you have vacation scheduled for two weeks or more during June and July, please do not sign up as rescheduling is burdensome for all players.

Doubles Daytime League Schedule

"A" league – Monday "B" league – Tuesday
"C" league – Wednesday "D" league – Thursday
"E" league – Friday

Daytime doubles league play will be limited to 60 players. Evening doubles league play will be limited to 16 players. League positions will be assigned first to those who played last year. New players are added in order of their sign-up and will be called if we are unable to accommodate you.

One scorekeeper is needed for each league. If interested, please indicate on the sign-up sheet. Please also indicate if you are available to play as a substitute or are a new player. You will be called prior to league play to advise if there will be a new player meeting.

Match schedules and rules will be emailed beginning May 10th. If you have any questions, please contact either league coordinator Debbie Peterson, at 4xpeterson.ddtj@comcast.net or call/text at (401) 474-6477 or co-coordinator, Natalie Zilincar, at natalie1@gmail.com or call/text at (908) 309-3664.

To sign up online beginning April 1st please go to http://bit.ly/OCPtennis.

Oceanport Parks & Recreation 9th Annual Mini-Golf Tournament

Friday, April 30th 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Blue Grass Mini Golf Course

The tournament is FREE to Oceanport residents. Play your round anytime between 5:00 – 8:00 pm Prizes awarded for each age group: K – 4th, 5th – 8th, high school, and adults.

Pre-registration is recommended but not required. For questions and/or to pre-register please email OPRecreation@oceanportboro.com.

Masks and social distancing required.

Sponsored by Blue Grass Mini Golf

Tennis Court Reservations Made Online

Tennis season in Oceanport officially opens on March 15th! There is an online court reservation system in place. To reserve, go to this link: https://ocpcourts.skedda.com/. (This link is also on the Oceanport Borough website.)

People may sign up for no more than two hours of court time at one time. Reoccurring reservations are not allowed. You may only sign up six days in advance. If someone needs to cancel, they should remove their reservation from the online system as soon as possible to allow for others to reserve.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

Steve Denholtz, has advised us that two of the tenants in that project are "Bird's Mouth Brewery" and "Relish Your Chef" (a caterer's kitchen space). Finally, The Marina is now part of Oceanport since FMERA was finally able to complete the transfer of the property to the long-time operator, Mario Criscione. While The Marina has been here for several years as a tenant of FMERA, I want to officially welcome and congratulate Mario, his family and his staff now that they are actually a part of the Borough of Oceanport. Your first tax bill awaits you, Mario! The Borough has also made a request to FMERA for a public benefit conveyance of both Greeley Field (the former "marching grounds" located behind Russel Hall) and Cowan Park (the large expanse of passive parkland located in front of Russel Hall as you enter Fort Monmouth from Oceanport Avenue). We are hopeful that both parks will soon become part of Oceanport's passive and active greenspace.

April was not kind to Oceanport in that Jim Slattery, Richard Gallo, Sr. and Joan Schiavone all passed away. They were part and parcel of the fabric of our community for many years, helped make Oceanport the great place it is today and will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

Last, but certainly not least, the Borough of Oceanport has introduced its 2021 budget and the public hearing is being held at the Borough Council's regular meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021. This meeting is being held remotely. If you have any questions or comments about the budget, please avail yourself of the opportunity to attend this meeting. Instructions for remote attendance of our municipal council meetings can be found on the Borough's website. We hope to be back to in person meetings at the new municipal complex this summer after we dedicate the complex. I hope to see you all at the Memorial Day Parade!

The Oceanport Bulletin

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MEGHAN WALKER, Councilwoman and *Bulletin* Liason
Deadline for the JUNE/JULY *Bulletin* is MAY 14, 2021.

SCHOOL/LIBRARY NEWS



Library News

Spring is upon us and with the increase of vaccinations, hopefully in person programs are not too far behind. The Oceanport Library is still open on Mondays from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Stop by and choose one of the many books your neighborhood library has to offer!

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

Every month the Library also has Take and Make crafts for the children to create. They are available at the OP Library usually on the 1st and 15th of the month. For April enjoy making a Funny Spring Bunny at the beginning of the month and A Very Hungry Caterpillar in the middle of the month. In May the crafts are Star Wars on May 3rd and the Dotted Frog on May 17th. The May virtual event is Famous Penguins. Go to https://monmouthcountylib.org/ and click on the Kids tab for this virtual event.

Oceanport Library will once again have a summer reading club. More information will be available in the June/July *OP Bulletin*.

Enjoy the warmer spring weather! Stay well and safe.

Attention Child Find

The school districts in Interlaken, Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Sea Bright, West Long Branch, and Shore Regional High School seek to identify and evaluate children ages 3 – 21 who may be experiencing physical, sensory, communication, cognitive, and/or social difficulties. This search includes migrant and homeless students, two-year olds reaching the age of three within 120 days, preschoolers between three and five, and school-aged children who are not currently receiving school services.

Please contact in Monmouth Beach, (732) 222-6139, ext. 251, in Oceanport and Sea Bright, Lauren Malaney at (732) 229-0267, in West Long Branch, Allenhurst, Interlaken, and Loch Arbour contact Lolita Yacona at (732) 222-5900, ext. 1257.

Cub Scouts (continued from page 4) collect canned food for families in need. You may have noticed how clean the Black Berry boat ramp looks... Thank you Webelos den, you did an amazing job of cleaning up the garbage. They also conducted a collection of activity items that were donated to Lunchbreak in Red Bank. Tigers also had a meeting to learn Oceanport history, had a follow the leader chalk maze, and picked up garbage at Old Wharf Park.In April keep your eyes open for the first Tiger bike parade! These Cubs will have a lesson on bicycle safety, taught by our Oceanport policemen, followed by a parade through some streets of BlackBerry. The boys

are going to decorate their own bikes in their own unique way. If

you see us peddling by, make sure you wave!

The Troop will also be holding a Mother's Day fundraiser this year. They will be selling locally grown, florist quality hanging baskets, and honey. These adorable Cub Scouts will deliver Mother's Day morning within Oceanport or you can pick up at the greenhouses. Order forms will be posted on Oceanport Residents page or reach out to kydogs2@yahoo.com

The rest of May will be filled with hikes and outdoor activities as well as fulfilling the rank requirements to advance to the next den in June. The Troop thanks this great community for supporting these kids and providing such great opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or joining Cub Scouts, please email just.elk@gmail.com

Boy Scout Buzz

The Oceanport Boy Scouts have been buzzing with activities lately. Last month, they teamed up with Old Monmouth Candies to hold their annual chocolate selling fundraiser, delivered before Easter. Oceanport must really like chocolate because they sold over \$2000! These profits help fund the troop's activities. Thank you Oceanport residents for your generous donations and sales.

Many of the boys have been working hard to achieve the merit badge Citizenship in the Community. They have been learning about how the town council works and how our town is run and governed.

The Troop is happy to welcome five new members to Troop 58! An amazing "crossing over ceremony" was held complete with cupcakes, Gatorade, and encouraging and funny speeches. These newest members worked their way up from Tiger cub scouts to Scout rank Boy Scouts.

Once again, thank you Oceanport for your generosity and a big thanks to the town council and the fire department for the use of the firehouse. If anyone is interested in learning about Troop 58, please contact graypeto@gmail.com.