

The Oceanport Bulletin



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December 2021/January 2022

Mayor's Message

Based on the volume of posts on the Oceanport Residents' Facebook page involving lost dogs and cats, I would estimate that humans are outnumbered two to one by cats and dogs within the Borough. Oddly, however, although we have a little over 6,000 residents and about 2,000 properties in town, only 435 dogs and 14 cats were licensed with the Borough this year.

Under Borough Ordinance No. 127-1(A), "Each and every dog shall be duly licensed and shall bear evidence of such license at all times in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey." Under Borough Ordinance No. 127-10, "any cat which has attained the age of seven months, or which possesses a set of permanent teeth" must be licensed. Based upon my latest conversation with Buddy Brocklebank, I have come to learn that "possesses a set of permanent teeth" doesn't mean the cat has ownership of the kind of teeth my grandfather kept in a glass of water on his dresser when I was a little kid. Having said that, however, it is readily apparent that the vast majority of our residents' dogs and cats are not properly licensed.

The license fee is \$11.00 for each unneutered cat, \$8.00 for neutered cat, \$18.00 for each non-spayed or non-neutered dog, and \$15.00 for a spayed or neutered dog. Those are minimal fees, so the lack of properly licensed cats and dogs in town really isn't about the money. Under our ordinances, moreover, the Governing Body can appoint an Animal Control Officer or enter into a contract for animal control services to enforce licensing compliance. This is Oceanport. A very small town where everybody knows everybody. We shouldn't have to spend money on something like that. The funds we collect from these fees would be better utilized to implement projects and protocols designed to make Oceanport more pet/animal friendly. So, if you are a dog or cat owner, I am asking that you stop by our new Borough Hall at your earliest convenience and ensure that your pets are properly licensed. Once we've tackled that problem, maybe we can deal with the foxes, raccoons, weasels, opossums, and deer that dominate the remainder of our local Facebook posts.

As the weather begins to change, leaves begin to fall and brush begins to die, please remember that (1) sticks and brush must be tied and bundled for the garbage contractor to remove them, (2) our DPW does not pick up logs, stumps, or branches, (3) leaf collection is for just that: leaves. The NJDEP does not allow us to place anything in our leaf compost facility except leaves. As such, don't put plants, pots, stumps, bricks, logs, or grass in your leaf piles. All of this is especially

Calendar of Events

December

- 2 Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting
- 5 Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 8 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 13 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 13 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
- 14 Planning Board Meeting
- 15 Oceanport School District Board of Education Meeting
- 14-16 Holiday Decorating Contest Takes Place
- 16 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 24 ... Borough Offices Closed in observance of Christmas

January

- 1 Reorganization Meeting

Recycling

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

important this fall and winter because our DPW is cleaning storm drains and running street sweepers now more than ever before and debris in the roadway causes the storm drains to clog and the street sweeper to operate less efficiently.

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, all the hard work the individual members of the Oceanport Historical Committee have put in on behalf of the Borough of Oceanport for close to two years was finally rewarded at the Borough's Centennial Gala in the Turf Room at Monmouth Park Racetrack. Well over 100 residents and friends of Oceanport --- most dressed in their finest 1920's attire -

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 4)



Happy Birthday Kortney Rose

**Celebrate Kortney's
25th Birthday
November 27, 2021**

with a gift to help fight
pediatric brain cancer.

(See story on page 5)

COMMUNITY NEWS



Happy Veterans Day!

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.

BOROUGH FYIs

REMINDER:

- Leaf Collection Guidelines & Schedule are available on Oceanportboro.com
- The Garbage Contractor does not use a machine to pick up cans. Trash can size should be limited to 40 gallons.
- NO trash pickup on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.
- Please DO NOT mix recycling with regular trash – the garbage contractor will not take if its mixed.
- December has five weeks – No recycling pick up the last week of December.
- Cat and Dog License Renewals are due January 31, 2022.

BULK & METAL SPECIAL CKUPS NOW SCHEDULED ONLINE!

To schedule a special pickup for metal or bulk www.oceanportboro.com and you will be notified by email of the first available collection date.

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.

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad 911 News

The Squad would like to thank the Oceanport community for their generous response to the fund drive request. Support from the community helps the squad update equipment and continue crucial training to better serve Oceanport. Please be on the lookout for our holiday sales on the board at the first aid building.

Best to all for a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season!



Tis The Season!

Oceanport's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 5th at 5:00 pm

Port-Au-Peck Firehouse

Usher in the holiday season, light the tree, and sing some carols at this Oceanport traditional event! Fee photos with Santa and goodie bags too!

Annual Home Decorating Contest

Deck the halls with boughs of holly....

December 14th – 16th

Please note to be considered for an award, register by emailing your address to: OPRec@oceanportboro.com by December 13th. And, then please leave your lights from 5:00 – 9:00 pm Tuesday, December 14th through Thursday, December 16th to be included in the Borough's annual decorating contest. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Most Outrageous which is a new category this year, Best Overall (only one), Best Yard, Best Condo/Townhouse, Best Door/Windows, and Most Traditional. Dust off those decorations and plug in those lights!

Senior Club Notes

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club will be meeting on the following dates:

Thanksgiving Luncheon: Wednesday, November 17th at 12:30 PM at the Blackberry Bay Pavilion. No charge for members.

Christmas Party: Wednesday, December 1st, at 12:00 PM at Rooney's Oceanfront Restaurant, 100 Ocean Avenue N, Long Branch. Cash bar. Choice of chicken francaise, penne vodka, or poached salmon. Entertainment by Bruce Foster. Cost: \$25 for members and \$40 for guests. Send your check made out to "Oceanport Seniors" to Bianca Kellam, 26 Fairfield Avenue, Oceanport NJ 07757. If you have any questions, please call Mimi Paolise at (732) 870-2519.

Regular Club meetings with light refreshments are scheduled for 12:30 PM on December 15th and January 19th, weather permitting, at Blackberry Bay Pavilion.

Membership in the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport is open to any Oceanport resident who is 55 years old or older. Meetings include informative presentations by guest speakers, entertainment, or other special events. 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. Membership dues have been waived for 2021.

Seniors interested in playing cards are invited to gather every Tuesday and Thursday at the Port Au Peck Fire House, 433 Myrtle Avenue, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Cub Scout Corner

The warm fall weather has allowed Oceanport Pack 58 to stay busy outdoors. The kids have been exploring local trails, flying kites by the beach, and learning about gems and collections. The scouts also had a successful fundraiser selling desserts and coffees. Deliveries should be the week before Thanksgiving. Thank you Oceanport for supporting our scouts! The boys and siblings will continue to be active in the community the next few months with the flag ceremony at Oceanport's tree lighting and more outdoor events. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Cub Scouts, contact just.elk@gmail.com.

Boy Scout Buzz

Oceanport Troop 58 meets each week at the fire house to work on requirements and plan outings. A few of the boys just returned from Forestburg, NY for a weekend of "Mission Impossible". They learned hatchet throwing, Alpine skiing, orienteering, first aid, and lifesaving. The boys also enjoyed a hike that included climbing a waterfall and cooking over a fire that was started with items found on the trail.

During the November 11th Court of Honor ceremony, Troop 58 was joined by two Oceanport veterans shown here in the photograph. They shared their experience in serving and were kind enough to do a Q & A session with the scouts. John Sheeran, Junior Vice Commander VFW Post 2226, served in the Army from 1962-1964 and was in Korea from 1963-1964. His rank was Corporal. Joe Bambach, Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 2226, served active duty in the Army from



1965-1975 and was in Vietnam from 1969-1970. Joe served 12 years in the NJ National Guard and Army Reserve retiring in 1987 with the rank of Major.

Upcoming events include the Winter Klondike Derby camping trip and the return of the Annual Spaghetti Dinner in March 2022! If you or someone you know is interested in joining Boy Scouts, please contact oceanporttroop58@gmail.com.

Oceanport is Eagle Scout Proud!!

Aidan Weiss is a member of Oceanport Boy Scout Troop 58 and a senior at MAST. He recently completed his Eagle Scout project with OP residents as his beneficiary. Aidan has been a Cub Scout in OP since first grade and obtaining his Eagle Scout has been a long-term goal.

Aidan built three Little Free Libraries. Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. They function on the honor system. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. If you take a book or two from a little library, try to bring some to share to that same library, or another in your area, when you can.

Building the libraries took over 100 man hours. He received help and donations from family, community members, and boy scouts from the troop. **The libraries are located at the Oceanport Community Center and Park, near the corner of Tohicon and Itaska Pl., Old Wharf Park on East Main St. (Across from the First Aid Squad), and on Bungalow Pl.**

Aidan thanks the community for their support and donations, his fellow scouts and adult leaders of Troop 58, as well as continued support from family. He hopes residents enjoy using the Little Free Libraries!



COMMUNITY NEWS

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

-- enjoyed a fabulous 4 hours of dining and dancing as Oceanport celebrated its 100th birthday in grand fashion, albeit a year late. Frank Baricelli, John Bonforte, Robin Kelly, Rosanne Letson, Tom Cavanagh, Barbara Cavanagh, Barbara Sheppard, Paula Lombardo, Mike MacStudy, Toni Sverapa, and Ric Siciliano are all owed a debt of gratitude by our residents for volunteering so much of their free time to this event. Pictures from the Gala can be viewed on the Oceanport Centennial Facebook page.

The Historical Committee's book "Oceanport in Retrospect, Volume 2" will be coming out shortly and it will be the definitive history of Oceanport's first hundred years. Every coffee table in Oceanport should have one. If you don't have a coffee table, order one now because "Oceanport in Retrospect, Volume 2" is going to be bigger than Cosmo Kramer's Coffee Table Book.

Many of you have read about Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority's MEGA-RFOTP (Request for Offers to Purchase) for the unsold properties in Eatontown and Oceanport, totaling about 289 acres. Bid submissions are due on January 12, 2022, and FMERA is seeking a large scale development that would generate jobs and substantially increase the economic impact on the region and State of New Jersey. If you would like to learn more about the MEGA-RFOTP, you can visit FMERA's website at <https://www.fortmonmouthnj.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Mega-RFOTP-Final.pdf>. The two main parcels in Oceanport are the McAfee Center (the Army's old high technology building on the Eatontown border) and the 400 Area (the land located on your right as you drive to Little Silver on Oceanport Avenue). There is a map attached as Exhibit A to the MEGA-RFOTP that provides a fantastic visual overview of the proposed project.

I would also invite you to take a ride through the old Fort Monmouth property so that you can see all that has gone on over the past few months. New Jersey City University and The Fort Athletic Club have opened, Denholtz Properties has demolished and removed all of the old, dilapidated buildings on its site and will begin construction of new commercial space shortly, and "The Loft" (formerly the Fort Monmouth Dance Hall across from Triumphant Life Church) is almost complete. It's an amazing, ongoing metamorphosis that we can watch in real time by driving through the property. We've also resumed in person Municipal Council meetings in the Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building at 910 Oceanport Way, and we'd love to see more residents at them going forward.

On a sad note, Walter J. O'Neill, Sr. and John Raymond Carroll, the patriarchs of two of Oceanport's most revered and active families, passed away on October 13, 2021 and September 27, 2021, respectively. Heaven's gain is Oceanport's loss, and our collective condolences go out to the O'Neill family (his wife, Judy, and their five children, Walter, Mark, Michael, Donna, and Paul) and the Carroll family (children, John, Kenny, and Nancy). If you are of a certain age, you know how intertwined these families are in the fabric of Oceanport.

And the fabric of Oceanport was prominently displayed on November 11, 2021 as our Municipal Council Chambers were filled to capacity for the Borough's celebration and veneration of our armed forces on Veterans Day. Oceanport's Rusty Kleiberg, a

veteran of the Vietnam War, gave the keynote speech and Maple Place 8th grader August Zilincar, winner of this year's Veterans Day essay contest, provided his personal perspective on those who have served and currently serve our country and protect our way of life. The Oceanport Veterans Day celebration is one of the special, small town events that underscores how lucky and privileged we are to live in the United States. Special thanks to our Borough Clerk Jeanne Smith, Kim Parent, Amy Parent, Federico's, Anna's Flowers and Gifts, and our Business Administrator, Donna Phelps for helping to make the day a fabulous one

Our kids are back in school, youth and high school sports have started up again, Summer's End was, as always, an unqualified success and Halloween was celebrated this year much like it was before COVID-19 hit. While we're still a little bit unsure about everyday social interactions (Fist bump? Handshake? Ankle tap? Elbow bump? Hug? No hug? Mask? No mask? Is it ever going to be OK to cough or sneeze in public again?), the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hannukah holidays are right around the corner and, given what we have all gone through since March of 2020, I hope and pray that we get to celebrate them freely and happily, unencumbered by any sense of foreboding or worry, and that we all remember that we have more things in common with each other than we have differences. Enjoy Thanksgiving, have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hannukah, and a VERY Happy New Year. Toodaloo till '22.



Maple Place 8th grader Augie Zilincar with his grandfather and Army Veteran Greg Papailiou at the Oceanport Veterans Day Ceremony. Augie's Veterans Day essay was one of the contest winners.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Historical Committee News

The Oceanport Historical Committee hosted the Oceanport Centennial Gala + 1 on Saturday, October 16th in the Turf Room at Monmouth Park with a roaring '20's theme. Although delayed by a year due to covid, spirits were high and everyone who attended had a roaring good time! New friends were made, photos were taken, and dancing was done, with the highlight of the evening spectacular dancing to "The Time of My Life" from the movie Dirty Dancing, co-composed by an Oceanport resident!

While the Committee is unable to host the Holiday Home Tour again this year due to covid concerns, they are selling Oceanport 100th Anniversary magnets to help with the cost of publishing their book Oceanport in Retrospect Part 2. They are great as housewarming gifts for new neighbors, or to put on your car, your mailbox, or your fridge. Additionally, they will have their second annual Christmas tree ornament available for sale in later November and early December. This will be a nice addition to your Oceanport ornament collection. Look for details on the Oceanport Centennial Facebook page and the Oceanport Residents Facebook page in mid to later November, and please contact Toni Sverapa for details at (732) 539-1620 about the magnets now, and about the ornaments a little later.

Congratulations to the Halloween Costume and Trunk Winners!

Costumes

French Fry - Hudson Veltri • Robot - DZ Tomaino

Crazy Cat Lady - Evelyn Negrante

Family/Best in Show

S'mores/Camping Family - Tomanios Family. • Fishing/Parrot Family
- Moczerniuk Family • Candy Family - Jones Family

Trunks

Minecraft - Di Maggio Family • Paw Patrol - Beetle juice

The Parks & Recreation Committee would like to thank the following Summer's End Sponsors

These sponsors truly helped make this event possible!

RWJ Barnabas Health Monmouth Medical Center

ProCraft Auto Body • Oceanport Partners / Denholtz Properties

• CK Landscape Construction • The Marina at Oceanport

• Beacon of Life • Fiore Paving Co.

• The Residents of Oceanport

Happy Birthday Kortney Rose

Did you know in 1962 astronaut Neil Armstrong's daughter Karen died of a Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) brain tumor? In 2006 our 9-year-old daughter Kortney died of the same kind of brain tumor. It's remarkable we can put people on the moon, but after more than 60 years of cancer research, the fact remains every child diagnosed with a DIPG brain tumor will die.

We knew we had to do something to help to change this, so we established The KRF 16 years ago to create Kortney's legacy of helping other children with brain tumors through the promise of research. With your support we have raised and donated over \$2.6 million toward that end and helped to improve the pediatric brain cancer research landscape. Together we've made a direct impact by helping to create the Children's Brain Tumor Network (CBTN), and supporting the growth of the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Program of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), among other accomplishments.

It's hard to believe that on November 27th, Kortney would have turned 25 years old, and therefore our 2021 annual appeal is aptly named "Kortney's 25th Birthday Campaign." Your gift of \$25, \$125, \$250, \$525, \$1,025, \$2,500 or any amount, in honor of Kortney's birthday will help us launch the Kortney Rose Foundation Legacy Fund and continue to support our mission of funding pediatric brain tumor research through the CBTN.

We cannot thank you enough for being with our family through the past 16 years. We have met the most wonderful and generous people. If there's a silver lining, it's that Kortney has touched many lives in many ways. We couldn't be more grateful and humbled by your love and support. We hope you will continue to support Kortney's legacy and pediatric brain tumor research through the Legacy Fund.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and all our best as we head into 2022. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, kortneyroseorg@gmail.com.

Gratefully,

Kristen Gillette, Kortney's Mom

Founder/Executive Director, (732) 222-1491

Congratulations to Summer's End Festival Chili and Salsa Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated either by entering or eating. The entries as always tasted delicious!

Chili Winners

1st Place – Colette Tabor

2nd Place – Ellynn Kahle

3rd Place – Bill Hayet

Salsa Winners

1st Place – Patty Conte

2nd Place – Melina Stock

3rd Place – Rick Bray

Congratulations to the winners! It is not too early to start thinking about your recipes for the 9th annual contest!

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MEGHAN WALKER, Councilwoman and *Bulletin* Liason

Deadline for the JANUARY/FEBRUARY *Bulletin* is DECEMBER 14, 2021.

LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Library News

The Oceanport Library is still open only on Mondays from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Cuddle up with a book this winter! The OP Library has so many great choices and a big selection of all sorts of books. Also, the library has indoor children story times on Mondays and still offers Take N' Make crafts as well. The hours for story times are as follows: Ages 18 months - 5 years, 2:15- 2:35 pm and Ages 2 - 7 years, 4:00 - 4:30 pm. The following programs are being offered in December:

December 6 - Hat and Mittens • December 20 - Reindeer

Registration is required for each program. Go to the library website (monmouthcountylib.org) and click on the Kids page or View All Events which is on home page to register. There are adult and teen programs at other libraries that may interest you as well.

In addition, Monmouth County Library offers virtual story time which includes songs, fingerplays, stories, and crafts. Go to <https://bit.ly/MonCoLibraryStoryCraftTime> to access programs.

On behalf of the Oceanport Library, the staff wishes everyone a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Oceanport Library Now Offers Home Bound Library Service

Home bound library service is now available to all residents of Oceanport who are home due to illness, disability, age, or are physically unable to visit the library. For further information, please contact Barbara at the library. She can be reached at (732) 229-2626 or beckert@monmouthcountylib.org.



Congratulations to the winners of the Oceanport Library Association's Sal Gentile Scholarship!

James Donohoe was the 2020 recipient and the 2021 winner was Jenna Sempkowski. James is attending DeSales University and Jenna is attending Fairfield University. Best wishes to the both of them!

Veterans Day Essay Winners

Congratulations to the following essay winners for graciously expressing what Veterans Day means to them.

- Tessa Caputo, Grade 4
- Madigan Miller, Grade 4
- Alexandra Menconi, Grade 5
- Carina Reginio, Grade 6
- Grace Greene, Grade 7
- Augie Zilinear, Grade 8

Shore Regional High School's Shore Players is proud to present School House Rock Live!

Friday, Dec. 3rd @ 7:00 pm
Saturday, Dec. 4th @ 2:00 pm
Saturday, Dec. 4th @ 7:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 5th @ 2:00 pm

For tickets, please visit <https://sp.booktix.com>.