

The Oceanport Bulletin

1920-2020



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JUNE/JULY 2022

Mayor's Message

One of the benefits of living in a small town like Oceanport is that it is easy to get to know your neighbors and get involved in the community. But even in small towns, it is easy to take for granted what should be treasured. On May 14th, I had the distinct honor and privilege of speaking at a memorial service for Steven Widmaier at the Oceanport Hook and Ladder Company. Norman Rockwell could not have painted a more moving picture of small-town America than that service. For those of you who didn't know him, Steve was a volunteer firefighter here in Oceanport. For those of you who did know him, he was much, much more than just a volunteer firefighter. Steve was everything good that Oceanport has to offer. Need a buddy? Steve. Need a ride? Steve. Need someone to talk to? Steve. Need somebody to sit quietly with? Steve. Need help moving? Steve. Need somebody to fight a fire? Steve. Need somebody you can count on? Steve. Need somebody to tell you what you really need to hear? Steve. Need somebody to just say nothing? Steve.

The funny part is that I really didn't know Steve. But I didn't need to know him, because I looked around and realized that Steve is actually all the people who came to mourn, honor, and celebrate him that day. Steve is the volunteer firemen, the policemen, the first aiders, the teachers, the softball players, the executives, the custodians, the moms, the dads, and everybody else who said goodbye to their friend that day. They were saying goodbye to someone who was just like them. A big piece of Oceanport was taken away from us when Steve died, but the little pieces of Steve living in the hearts, souls, and memories of all the people whose lives he touched add up to something much greater. Oceanport is filled with people like Steve Widmaier and we should not take that for granted. If, like the song says, "sometimes you want go where everybody knows your name and their always glad you came," then we don't have to go anywhere because Oceanport is that place. And we shouldn't take that for granted, either.

Oceanport's footprint got just a little bigger in May. The Allison Hall property (where the big, geodesic structures used to be on Oceanport Avenue) on the east end of Fort Monmouth finally closed and is now on the tax rolls of the Borough of Oceanport! FMERA sold the property to Fort Monmouth Business Center, LLC, which is owned by two Oceanport residents who are investing in their own community. The Allison Hall site is comprised of about 12 acres between the East Gate and the Little Silver bridge on Oceanport Avenue. Its redevelopment will include the re-use of the historic 36,000 square foot Allison Hall building as well as construction of new retail, office/research and development space and some open

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events

June

- 2 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 4 . Paper Shredding @ Upper Freehold Municipal Building
- 8 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 13 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 13 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 14 Planning Board Meeting
- 16 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
- 18 Paper Shredding @
Memorial Adelpia School, Howell
- 22 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 23 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 27 Summer Action Camp Begins and Runs Until July 29th
- 28 Planning Board Meeting
- 30 63rd Army Band Concert at Blackberry Bay Park

July

- 4 Happy Independence Day! Borough Offices Closed
- 7 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 9 Paper Shredding @ Matawan-Aberdeen
..... Train Station, Parking Lot 1
- 11 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 11 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 12 Planning Board Meeting
- 13 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 20 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 21 Mayor & Council Workshop & Regular Meeting
- 26 Planning Board Meeting
- 28 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 29 Movies in the Park, Sing 2

Recycling

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



Oceanport comes together to pay tribute and thanks to the fallen at its annual Memorial Day Parade.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BOROUGH NEWS

IS YOUR LANDSCAPER REGISTERED WITH THE BOROUGH?

When using a landscaper to care for your property be sure to ask them if they are registered with the town. Borough ordinance requires that they be registered so they are provided with the most current information on Borough ordinance for disposal of debris. Thanks for doing your part!

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Reminder, the Borough does not provide for the disposal of grass clippings. Grass can be recycled by leaving clippings on the lawn when you mow. Grass **MUST** be blown back onto your property and is **NEVER** to be blown into the streets, down storm drains, or into our waterways. When it rains it gets into and clogs the Borough's stormwater system. Please do your part to keep the roadways clean!

REMINDER

Tree/bush limbs that are too large to be tied and bundled for garbage service should not be placed at the roadway. Residents/Landscapers may bring this material to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center for a fee. Please help keep our roadways clear – this especially helps with stormwater runoff in upcoming hurricane season.

NOTICE OF UPCOMING PARK CLOSURES

The Mayor & Council have authorized improvements to Community Center Park and Maria Gatta Community Park which are anticipated to begin mid/late summer (Aug/Sept). Park closures or limited closures are anticipated. Further details will be available on the Borough website (www.oceanportboro.com) prior to construction commencing.



JCP&L TREE TRIMMING MAINTENANCE

JCP&L tree trimming is underway across thirteen counties in NJ and including Oceanport. This is part of their ongoing efforts to help enhance electric service reliability. This year's \$40 million program will help keep power flowing to customers by helping to reduce tree-related outages, like those that can occur during severe weather. Tree trimming is conducted by certified forestry contractors under JCP&L's direction and trees are pruned in a manner that helps preserve the health of the tree while maintaining proper clearances around electrical equipment. Please note that customers living in areas along company right-of-way are notified to work being performed.

VIEWING MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETINGS

Just a reminder that you are able to view live Mayor and Council Meetings and past meetings as well. Click on the "Watch Meeting" icon on the oceanportboro.com homepage.



Save the Date!

**Oceanport Parks & Recreation
Committee Presents:**

45th ANNUAL SUMMER'S END FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 10th

5:00 - 9:00 pm

(Rain date is Sunday September 11th 5:00 – 9:00 pm)

Tentative Activities – More Details TBD

New Event Layout, Children's Activities and Rock Wall, Live DJ, Food Vendors, Chili and Salsa Contest, FIREWORKS & more! Lots of fun with your family, friends & neighbors!

The Committee needs your help; rising costs require that they ask for your support more now than ever...

Please support the fireworks fund via the enclosed envelope and donate to Summer's End. Make checks payable to the Borough of Oceanport Summer's End. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Pooper Scooper Law, Dog Walking Etiquette, and Dog Barking

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. All dogs are required to be kept on a leash at all times when off the premises of the owner's property. This includes when you have your dog at Oceanport's parks as well.

Also, Oceanport has a Noise Nuisances ordinance which applies to habitual dog barking. Please keep your dog's barking to a minimum and be considerate to your neighbors especially during early mornings and later in the evening. Ask yourself, why would my neighbors want to hear my dog continually bark?

COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminder!

BULK & METAL SPECIAL PICKUPS NOW SCHEDULED ONLINE!

To schedule a special pickup for metal or bulk items, please use the "Citizen Request" button at oceanportboro.com and you will be notified by email of the first available collection date.

Just a reminder bulk items are furniture, carpeting, mattresses, etc. if bundled correctly. Please note bulk items are limited to three items (bundles, bags, etc.) no matter the size. Building materials are NOT considered bulk. Building materials are anything used to construct the home such as cabinets, vanities, sheetrock, tile, wood, windows, doors, etc. Construction debris, wood, windows or doors will NOT be collected and cannot be placed at the curb with your bulk. Contractors are responsible for the removal and disposal of their debris. Items shall not be placed at the curb until dusk the night preceding your scheduled collection date but MUST be at the curb by 7:00 AM on the day of the scheduled pick-up.

Metal Pickups

Appliances, tires, and metal will also be picked up by the Oceanport Public Works Department. To schedule a metal pick-up follow the same procedure noted above through oceanportboro.com, call (732) 222-8221 or email publicworks@oceanportboro.com. Please item(s) at the curb by Sunday evening.

Summer Action Camp News!

The Parks & Recreation Committee is happy to announce Summer Action Camp is back!

Camp registration was held April 15th through May 15th and is now full. Action Camp will run for five weeks, June 27th – July 29th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for kindergarten through 7th graders at Community Center Park. Some camp activities include sports, games, crafts, and some surprises too. The Action Camp staff is excited to have the kids back and is looking forward to a fun and action packed summer!



Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 9-1-1 News

The Oceanport Volunteer First Aid is sponsoring Bingo Nights this year at the First Aid Building. Mark these Saturday dates for a night of fun and games!

June 18th, July 16th, Aug 20th, Sept 24th, Oct 15th, & Dec 3rd
Doors open at 6:30 pm and games begin at 7:30. \$10.00 admission includes six regular games. Specialty games will also be played. Additional cards for all games will be available for purchase, along with light refreshments for purchase.

Hope to see you at the First Aid Building! Email oceanportfas@gmail.com for questions.

Music in the Park

The Oceanport Historical Committee is Sponsoring a Free Concert at Blackberry Bay Park!

The 63rd Army Band from Sea Girt will perform on Thursday, June 30th, 6:30 pm at Blackberry Bay Park on the skating pad overlooking the river while the sunsets.

Come join your friends and neighbors and enjoy the music! The only thing you need to bring is your chair and love of both military and concert music. There is no rain date, so let's all hope for a beautiful evening.



Oceanport Parks & Recreation Committee Presents the 9th Annual:

Movies in the Park

Blackberry Bay Park at dusk

Friday, July 29th: *Sing 2*

Saturday, August 20th: *Encanto*

Enjoy a free and fun night at the movies under the stars at Blackberry Bay this summer! Please bring a blanket and chair to be comfortable. You are also welcome to bring your own food and beverages too (no alcohol permitted).

Senior Club Notes

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club will be meeting at 12:30 PM on June 15, 2022, at Blackberry Bay Pavilion for a presentation about the importance of hydration for good health. There will also be an ice cream social meeting this summer. Scheduling is subject to the renovation completion of the Old Wharf House, to which the Senior Club will be returning. For further information about future meetings and events, call Mimi Paolise at (732) 245-4987.

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 for 2022 are \$20.

Cards: 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 to 12:00 Noon.

Regarding old age, Moms Mobley said: "You just wake up one morning, and you got it."

POLICE NEWS

Crime Prevention and Information from the Oceanport Police

CRIME PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

Due to the alarming increase of vehicle thefts within Monmouth County the Oceanport Police remind residents to lock their vehicles and report any suspicious activity in their neighborhoods and streets.

Vehicle Theft Prevention Tips:

- Ensure your vehicle is always locked.
- Never leave a window open.
- Ensure all valuables are kept out of sight.
- Never leave your vehicle running.
- Never leave your keys/key fobs in your vehicle.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lighted area.
- If your vehicle has a valet key (the key in the owner's manual) remove it from the manual/vehicle.
- Never leave the title or registration in your vehicle when it is unattended. **A thief will use these documents to assist in selling your vehicle.**
- Lock and secure your garage.
- Identity Theft

The Scam

Identity theft requires only a few pieces of valid personal information. With them, thieves can apply for and receive credit cards or debit cards in your name. Your credit can be damaged quickly and your efforts to correct these problems can become a nightmare.

The acquisition of key pieces of identity—such as name, address, date of birth, social security number and mother's maiden name—allows the identity thief to commit numerous forms of fraud that include taking over the victim's financial accounts, opening new bank accounts, making expensive purchases, applying for credit cards, loans, and social security benefits, renting apartments, and establishing accounts with utility and telephone service providers.

What Can I Do?

Credit Card Safety

If a credit card you applied for does not arrive in a timely fashion, notify the issuing bank.

Never provide personal information over the phone, such as social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card or bank PIN numbers unless you initiated the call. Release this info only when necessary. Be cautious of unsolicited emails and messages that request you to confirm credit card numbers, passwords, and other info. Do not carry extra credit cards in your wallet or purse and cancel the ones you no longer use.

Shred

Shred all bills, credit card charge receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, bank statements, expired charge cards, and pre-approved credit offers before throwing them into the garbage.

If You Become a Victim, Contact:

- Your creditors and banks to change all passwords and PINs.
- Credit bureaus to request a fraud alert/victim Impact File:

- Equifax www.equifax.com or call 1-800-685-1111
- Experian www.experian.com or call 1-888-397-3742
- Trans-Union www.tuc.com or call 1-800-916-8800
- If you are a victim of check fraud, you should call:
 - Telecheck at 1-800-710-9898
 - Equifax at 1-800-437-5120
- Dept. of Motor Vehicles
- Social Security Adm. Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271
- Nearest U.S. Postal Inspection Office
- Federal Trade Commission's identity theft hotline at 1-877-438-4338

Opting Out

You can opt out of pre-approved credit offers by calling 1-888-5-OPTOUT (567-8688) or go to National Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222.

PROPERLY DISCARD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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 at 930 Oceanport Way. These prescription drugs can be dropped off anytime during normal business hours. Liquids and needles (sharps) will not be accepted.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Officers of the Oceanport Police Department have recently taken an influx of complaints pertaining to speeding on residential streets throughout town. Speed enforcement has three components: education, enforcement, and engineering. The information listed below is to inform motorists of the hazards of speeding in hopes to increase adherence to posted speed limits. We all know the frustrations of modern life and juggling a busy schedule, but speed limits are put in place to protect all road users: motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Speeding is usually defined as driving more than the posted speed limit. Driving too fast can have several dangerous consequences including:

- **Reduced ability to negotiate curves**
- **Reduced ability to avoid obstacles**
- **Extended stopping distance**
- **Increased distance during reaction delay**
- **Increased risk of crashes and injuries**

Many complainants believe the root of the problem to be people cutting through neighborhoods or "out of towners." Unfortunately, many of the speeders pulled over by this agency are in fact our neighbors. We encourage you to speak with your neighbors about the importance of obeying posted speed limits. Together, as a community, we can solve the speeding problem that does not result in the issuance of tickets and the accrual of insurance points, fines, and court costs.

The Oceanport Police Department encourages residents to report perceived speeding violations in a timely manner. If not an immediate hazard, please call the Oceanport Police Department at (732) 222-6300 or send an email to: traffic@oceanportpolice.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Congratulations to our very own Maple Place Girls Softball Team!
The team won the 2022 Middle School Championship, 5-4, over West Long Branch's Frank Antonides Middle School. Very exciting way to end their season!



Reminder Monmouth County Paper Shredding Dates

Is it time for you to dispose of confidential documents and old files? Monmouth County is providing residents opportunities to eliminate unnecessary paperwork and documents which not only helps declutter your home, but it can also help protect you against identity theft. Bring your documents to be shredded on location in the mobile truck.

All shredding events take place from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the following locations.

- Saturday, June 4 – Upper Freehold Municipal Building, 314 Rt. 539 Cream Ridge
- Saturday, June 18 – Howell, Memorial/Adelphia School, 485 Adelphia Rd.
- Saturday, July 9 – Matawan-Aberdeen Train Station, Parking Lot 1
- Saturday, Aug. 6 – Freehold Borough, Park Ave. School, 280 Park Ave.
- Saturday, Aug. 20 – Aberdeen Municipal Building, 1 Aberdeen Sq.

Remove large binder clips. Staples and paper clips can remain. Limit of 100 lbs. of documents which is equivalent to four office paper boxes or four large size trash bags. All papers will be shredded on location in the mobile truck and the event will end once the mobile truck is full or its scheduled end time.

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.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

space/recreational use space. It is expected that a minimum of \$14,000,000 will be invested in the property and that, upon completion of the development, close to 150 full and part-time permanent jobs will be created.

The conveyance of the Allison Hall property leaves only the Nurse's Quarters (on Main Street), the MacAfee Center (large building near the Eatontown border by the old bowling alley), and the 400 Area (on the right side of Oceanport Avenue as you head into Little Silver) to be developed in the Oceanport section of Fort Monmouth. The 400 Area and the McAfee Center are expected to come off the market on June 6th when FMERA accepts proposals for its long awaited "Mega-RFOTP" (Request For Offers To Purchase). The Mega-RFOTP covers close to 300 acres of property in Eatontown and Oceanport designated by the State to function as a regional hub for high-wage, high growth sectors including, but not limited to, arts and cultural centers, film production studios, research and design facilities and high-tech facilities featuring incubator spaces. Submissions for the Mega-RFOTP are due on June 6, 2022 and, given the fact that, if successful, this type of redevelopment would be the most transformative economic driver in the region, there will be no shortage of news articles about the bidders and their designs for the property. Much more to follow on this matter in the coming months.

In what is either a sign of good governance or a sign of the apocalypse, the long-awaited repairs to Gooseneck Point Road and Shore Road have begun! Inasmuch as it seems that Buddy Brocklebank was in diapers the last time these roads were addressed, this is quite an auspicious moment for the residents of these two streets and we hope that in a month or two we can finally hold the "Gooseneck Point Rollerblade Rally" that has been delayed for far too long.

Monmouth Park Racetrack is open and the restriction on coolers in the picnic area (known to locals as the "Anti-Galvin Edict") has been rescinded for 2022! Once again, patrons, even those named Galvin, are permitted to bring coolers no larger than 15" by 25" into the first-come, first served, or group picnic areas. In fact, on June 11th the first 5,000 paying fans will receive a FREE Monmouth Park cooler. See, Tommy Galvin, dreams can come true, especially in Oceanport!

Finally, it wouldn't be a Mayor's Message if I didn't say "SLOW DOWN WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING IN OCEANPORT!" Tell your friends. See you all in August.

The Oceanport Bulletin

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MEGHAN WALKER, Councilwoman and *Bulletin* Liason
Deadline for the AUGUST/SEPTEMBER *Bulletin* is JULY 14, 2022.

SCHOOL/LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

Good news! The library has just received tablets that can be used for one hour only in the library. A library card is needed to retrieve the tablets. The tablets will allow patrons to access the internet and more.

Children's programs in June:

Baby Storytime – Ages 6 month to 2 years

(with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, June 9th, 16th, 30th, 10:00 - 10:20 am

Join us for stories, songs, finger games and bubbles.

Family Fun Storytime – All Ages Welcome (with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th, 2:15 - 2:35 pm

Join us for stories, songs, finger games, and a craft.

After School Adventures – Ages 3 to 7

(with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, June 2nd, 16th, 30th, 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Join us for stories and a craft.

Children's programs in July:

Family Fun Storytime – All Ages Welcome

(with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, July 14th, 21st, 28th, 10:00 - 10:20 am.

Join us for stories, songs, finger games, and a craft.

Family Storytime – Ages 3 and up (with parent/caregiver)

Thursdays, July 7th, 21st, 28th, 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Join us for stories and a fun craft.

Special Events! Registration required either one or two

weeks in advance in person, by phone at (732) 229-2626 or

online <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>

Story and Drawfest – Ages 2 to 7 (with parent/caregiver)

Thursday, June 9th, 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Illustrator Morgan Spicer will do a storytime and drawfest.

The story is entitled *An Armadillo on My Pillow: An Adventure in Imagination*. Following the story Ms. Spicer will do a drawfest in which she will draw animals upon request. Please register one week in advance.

Peas and Carrots Band – All Ages Welcome

Thursday, July 7th, 11:00 - 11:45 am

Join us for an interactive music event with Peas and Carrots Band! Enjoy the music while singing, dancing and clapping along! Please register a week in advance.

Yoga with Lauren Kranich – Ages 3 and up

Thursday, July 14th, 2:15 - 3:00 pm

Join us for a fun filled yoga adventure. You may register two weeks in advance.

The Library's annual Vacation Reading Clubs will take place from June 1st through August 15th. Hopefully, there will be an increase in participation this year! Reading enriches a child's life! The theme for Read to Me, Vacation Reading Club, Teens and Adults is *Oceans of Possibilities*. There are wonderful prizes for each age group. More information will be forthcoming in flyers as well as on the Kid's Page of the county's website. (www.monmouthcountylib.org).

Stop by and enjoy your local Oceanport Library where there is an ocean of possibilities!

Reminder: Oceanport Library is Happy to Announce Full-time Hours Have Resumed!

Monday: 1:00 – 5:00 pm, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Friday: 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Children's Programs are still on Thursdays!

Oceanport Library
8 Iroquois Ave.
(732) 229-2626

