

The Oceanport Bulletin



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Michael O'Brien, Thomas Tvrdik,
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR
Donna Phelps
BOROUGH CLERK
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Mayor's Message

After being displaced for nearly a decade, the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport is finally back home at the Old Wharf House on East Main Street. Shortly after Hurricane Sandy rendered the Borough's Municipal Building unusable, the Borough's administrative offices were moved into the Old Wharf House on a temporary basis. Temporary turned out to be about seven years, during which time the Senior Citizens Club of Oceanport was forced to use the Pavilion at Blackberry Bay as its base of operations. The Pavilion is not exactly the perfect setup for senior citizens, and they missed the Old Wharf House and all the comforts and conveniences it had offered since they opened it up in 1987.

Under the watchful eye of Board Member Barbara Scerbo and the direction of Borough Administrator/Interior Designer Donna Phelps, our Department of Public Works spent the better part of a year transforming the site from the Borough's "temporary" Borough Hall into a place where our seniors could, once again, meet, greet, and enjoy themselves. Barbara Scerbo, a Senior Citizens Club Board Member, was thrilled with rehabilitation efforts. "Much work had to be done to make this building usable again. The Borough Council, our B.A., Donna Phelps, and especially Steve Briskey and the entire Department of Public Works worked together tirelessly to give this building back to the seniors. And, at the end of the day, the building is absolutely better than it was before. The members of the organization are thrilled with how the building turned out and we want to thank all who helped make our return possible."

Members of the Senior Citizens Club filled the Old Wharf House as they and the Borough celebrated the re-opening of the building with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 21st. The ribbon cutting ceremony was especially notable in that four Borough officials who were at the original ribbon cutting in 1987 --- former Mayor and retired Superior Court Judge Tom Cavanaugh, former Councilman/Freeholder/Senator and retired Superior Court Judge John D'Amico, former Councilwoman Mary Ann Becker, and everybody's favorite former Councilman and current man about town, Bill McNish --- were able to participate in this year's ceremony. Marie Quackenbush the club's longest serving member, and Barbara Nye, the club's oldest member (and proud of it!), were also on hand to enjoy the festivities.

Summer's End, our annual celebration of all things Oceanport, was, as always, an incredible success and the Borough's Recreation Committee deserves a round of

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 3)

Calendar of Events

October

- 1 Paper Shredding @ Colts Neck Town Hall
- 3 Mini Golf Tournament
- 6 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 8 Paper Shredding @ Freehold Township
Municipal Building
- 10 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 10 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 11 Planning/Zoning Board
- 12 Parks & Recreation Committee
- 19 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 20 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 20 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 22 Oceanport PTO Fall Festival
- 22 Paper Shredding @ Sea Bright Borough Hall
- 25 Planning Board Meeting
- 29 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
@Oceanport Police Station
- 30 Halloween Trunk or Treat
- 31 Happy Halloween

November

- 1 Quarterly Property Tax Payment Due
- 3 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 8 Election Day
- 8 Planning Board Meeting
- 9 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day Ceremony
- 14 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 14 Environmental Commission Committee
- 16 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 17 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving, Borough Offices Closed
- 25 Borough Offices Closed

December

- 1 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 4 Christmas Tree Lighting
- 13-15 Holiday Decorating Contest
- 13 Planning Board Meeting

Recycling

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

COMMUNITY NEWS



Attention Residents and Landscapers FALL LEAF COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Fall leaf pick up began the end of September and runs through early December.

All leaves must be raked to the curb. Please do not put leaves in plastic bags! Please put leaves as close as possible to curb so to not block much of the road and do not place leaf piles on top of storm drains.

For the safety of the DPW workers and the equipment being used PLEASE – NO debris, NO branches, NO twigs, NO stones, and NO plant pots. ONLY LEAVES for pick up by Public Works.

Please remember the DPW does not pick up branches and sticks. The garbage collector will pick up 3 tied and bundled branches and tree limbs each trash pickup day for that site. Bundles must be tied and not exceed 5 feet by 3 feet in diameter piles. The garbage collector will also take branches placed in garbage can as long as they do not stick out of can and the can is able to be dumped easily.

If you use a landscaper, please note it is the property owner's responsibility to make sure the Landscaper is registered and has a permit to operate within the Borough of Oceanport.

Visit www.oceanportboro.com for this year's collection schedule.

Thank You Summer's End Sponsors!

The Oceanport Borough Parks & Recreation Committee would like to thank the following Summer's End Sponsors. These sponsors truly help make this event possible and helped to make Summer's End great!

ProCraft Auto Body
CK Landscape Construction
Circle Infiniti
Beacon of Life
Fiore Paving
Blu Grotto Restaurant
Poulos LoPiccolo Law Firm
Oceanport Dental

Also, a special thanks to Mayor and Council, the Police, Fire, First Aid, OEM, and DPW departments, as well as the Borough staff. Thank you to food vendor's Enzo's Pizza and Subs and to Best Day Ever Ice Cream Truck. And most of all, thank you to the Residents of Oceanport!

Report a Streetlight Outage!

If you see that a streetlight is not working, please report it by going to www.oceanportboro.com pull down the RESIDENTS tab and click on "Report A Streetlight Outage" to report directly to JCP&L. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 30th. 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Borough Hall

Trunkers should register by
emailingOPRec@oceanport.com.

Event is free and there will be a costume contest, candy, and photo opportunities! Trunks will include Police, Fire, and Public Works. The Park & Recreation Committee hopes to double the number of trunks from last year!

Veterans Day Ceremony

Friday, November 11th at 11:00 am

Borough Hall

Please share in this ceremony to honor the brave men and woman who have served to keep us free and safe. Students in grades 4th – 8th grades are preparing essays on the importance of Veterans Day and what it means to them. Winners from each grade will be invited to attend with Mayor Coffey reading one of the selected.

Tis The Season!

Oceanport's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 4th 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! Free photos with Santa and goodie bags too!



Annual Home Decorating Contest

Deck the halls with boughs of holly....

December 13th – 15th

Please note to be considered for an award, register by emailing your address to: OPRec@oceanportboro.com by December 12th. And, then please leave your lights from 5:00 – 9:00 pm Tuesday, December 13th through Thursday, December 15th 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!

COMMUNITY NEWS

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)



The ribbon cutting ceremony took place on September 21st to celebrate the reopening of the Old Wharf House. After almost 10 years the Senior Citizens Club and the Garden Club are happy to begin using it again!

Senior Club Notes

Reopening of Old Wharf House: The Senior Club thanks the Mayor and Council and the Department of Public Works for doing a great job renovating the Old Wharf House, which reopened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 21st. We also thank Boy Scout leaders William (Bill) Nagy and Nick Katzenberger and the following Scouts for helping us move back to our "new" old home: Augie Zilincar, Billy Nagy, Kyle Stephnacs, and Aidan Kelly.

Upcoming Meetings: The Senior Citizens Club will be meeting at the Old Wharf House at 12:30 PM on October 19th for chair yoga. A Thanksgiving luncheon will be served at our November 16th meeting. The Oceanport Senior Christmas Party will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Mia's Restaurant, 249 E. Main Street, Oceanport. Cost: \$25 for members and \$35 for guests. For more information, contact 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. Annual Membership dues 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 AM to 12 Noon.

"Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young."

~Theodore Roosevelt

applause (because we aren't going to pay them) for putting everything together and making the day run so smoothly. Buddy Brocklebank was in charge of the weather and, once again, he came through in the clutch. Thanks, Buddy, you are still Oceanport's ray of sunshine.

Maple Place School and Wolf Hill School opened in September and the much needed, long awaited, multi-year rehabilitation project of the two buildings is 50% complete and the Board of Education's October 13, 2022 ribbon cutting ceremony at Wolf Hill School marks the school system's celebration of the work done to date.

Wolf Hill School has new HVAC, sprinkler and fire alarm systems, new electrical and lighting throughout the building, a secure vestibule area, a renovated main office suite, all new bathrooms, doors and windows, a new roof and a 21st century LED outdoor sign. The Wolf Hill Gym was completely renovated and, most notably, the new addition (with a media center, cafeteria, restrooms, and staff offices) was completed. If you take a drive by Wolf Hill School, you'll also see that there has been a complete overhaul of the exterior, including two new playgrounds and a full basketball court.

Maple Place School has had both its gym, bathrooms, and cafeteria renovated, and now has new roofing, a secure vestibule, a new façade, a revised front entrance, and all new windows and doors. Additionally, classrooms in the rear of the building have been updated and all new lighting, fire/sprinkler and electrical systems have been installed. The exterior has been overhauled to include new storage space, an LED sign, lights, a larger parking lot, two basketball hoops, and four-square courts.

The schools also now have roll-up capability for generators in the event of a wide-spread power outage (although we know that NEVER happens in Oceanport) and Oceanport's Office of Emergency Management will have more available options and space in the event of a serious storm or other disaster.

Monmouth Park Racetrack had a very successful run this summer. Over 365,000 patrons walked through the gates and there was an increase in both the total (+25.2%) and on-track (+16.07%) handles. And Oceanport's own Dave Gruskos ended up in a four-way tie for leading owner!

Sadly, we said goodbye to former Mayor Elwood Baxter and Michelle Perry Maida, both of whom passed away recently. Both Elwood and Michelle were part of the fabric of different generations of our wonderful community and our prayers go out to the Baxter and Maida families.

There is so much going on in Oceanport that the space this message affords me is inadequate to include everything you should know about. So, please take the time to attend or watch our Borough Council meetings on TV or on your computer. You can watch them live on the Verizon Fios Municipal Channel 28 or get the link from the Borough's website to watch them live or on your computer. You can even watch past meetings by going to the Borough's home page, scrolling down and clicking on "watch meetings." They may not be exciting, but they sure are informative. Enjoy the cool weather and see you in a few months!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Congratulations to Summer's End Festival Chili and Salsa Contest Winners!

The Oceanport Community Garden would like to thank everyone who participated either by entering or eating. The entries as always tasted delicious! There are some pretty impressive chefs right here in Oceanport!

Chili Winners

- 1st Place – Walter Karas
- 2nd Place – Colette
- 3rd Place – Ellynn Kahle

Salsa Winners

- 1st Place – Rick Bray
- 2nd Place – Patti Conti
- 3rd Place – Rick Bray

Oceanport Garden Club News

The Oceanport Garden Club meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month, from September thru June, at Old Wharf House, 316 East Main St., Oceanport. Meetings begin at 10:30 AM although members and guests start to arrive at 10:00 AM to arrange/set-up their standing committee, greet arrivals, and get refreshments. The Club is happy to be back at the Old Wharf House and attended a ribbon cutting last month to celebrate its reopening!

Membership in the Oceanport Garden Club is open to all regardless of gender and one does not have to be a resident of Oceanport to join the club. A candidate is expected to be interested in home gardening and better horticultural practices. A guest may attend two, but no more than three, visits before applying for membership. Meetings include a monthly theme with a guest speaker, a holiday/spring workshop, or a floral design demonstration, with meetings ending at 2:00 PM Interested individuals can call Penelope Gabriel, (732) 229-8274, to verify venue or changes in schedules.

Cub Scout Corner/Boy Scout Buzz

Each fall season starts a new scout year. Oceanport Pack 58 Cub Scouts is for boys grades 1-5. Troop 58 Boy Scouts is for boys in grades 6-12. Oceanport has a strong group of adult volunteers that encourage and teach the kids to have life skills, leadership qualities, and lots of fun!

In Cub Scouts, boys are grouped according to grade level into dens. Each grade level has a handbook of requirements and electives to accomplish throughout the year. Den leaders schedule activities such as hikes, visiting local historic places, exploring our community, and community service activities such as gardening and beach cleanups. All dens also meet together as a pack to do bigger activities such as attending BlueClaws baseball games, beach bonfires, and camping overnight in Blackberry. All Cub Scout activities are family friendly, and siblings are always invited to participate. If you would like to find out more, please contact just.elk@gmail.com.

Boy Scouts is run a little differently. The boys each hold various positions of leadership and run the meetings themselves. It is a self-driven program that the boys decide how they progress through the program. There is one Boy Scout handbook that lists what is needed to earn each rank.

During the weekly meetings, the boys talk about what they need to advance rank, which exciting trips they want to take, and ways to volunteer in our community. Since September, the boys have helped the town move some belongings to the Old Wharf building as well as a beach cleanup. They are planning a fishing beach camping under the stars trip in October as well as camping trips to Stokes State forest and Camp Evans later in the season.

Both programs offer our youth great opportunities to grow into great people and members of our town. If you see any of the boys around town, give them a high five or congratulate them for doing a good job! Positivity goes a long way. If you know anyone that would like more information, please contact Oceanporttroop58@gmail.com

Fun fact: The highest and hardest rank to earn is Eagle Scout. Across the nation, only 4% of boys attain Eagle rank. However, Oceanport has produced a significantly higher percentage! Go Troop 58!



Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts help keep our beaches clean! One of their many community services projects.

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 (they 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.

Properly Discard Prescription Drugs

The Oceanport Police Department will be participating in the annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which will be held on Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications. 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

Drivers are reminded to watch your speed when travelling within the Borough. Oceanport Police Officers continue to conduct radar enforcement details throughout the Borough. Sign board and radar display boards will be placed in targeted locations to educate drivers and slow them down. If you have speeding complaints, please call the Oceanport Police Department at (732) 222-6300 or email Traffic Safety at traffic@oceanportpolice.org.

Oceanport Police Department Use of Body Worn Cameras

The Oceanport Police Department utilizes the Watchguard V300 Body worn Camera system. The public can now expect to see, and interact, with members of the Oceanport Police assigned to the uniform patrol division wearing and utilizing these cameras while on duty.

The Oceanport Police Department's Body Worn Camera policy is in accordance with State Law and New Jersey Attorney Generals Guidelines, as well as the Monmouth County Prosecutor's office policies and directive. Residents are encouraged to reference the body worn camera policy established by

the New Jersey Attorney General's Office for further information: https://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/agguide/directives/ag-directive-2021-5_BWC-Directive.pdf

Police Department News

The Oceanport Police welcomes its newest Police officers, Christopher Henry and Frank Skovern who were both sworn in as probationary police officers in August. Congratulations to both officers.

The Department also congratulates Gary Grimes who was promoted to Sergeant within the Police Department. Sgt. Grimes was promoted to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Detective Sergeant Jon Tucci who retired last October. Congratulations to Sgt. Tucci for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Oceanport Community and Police Department and wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

The Department announces the retirement of Cristi Milone. Cristi retired on September 30th after 28 years of service to the Police Department and community of Oceanport as a Dispatcher and Records Clerk. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News



Bingo Nights!

The OP Volunteer First Aid is sponsoring Bingo Nights on Saturday, October 15th and Saturday, December 3rd at the First Aid Building. Doors open at 6:00 pm and games begin at 7:00 pm. \$10 admission includes six games regular games. Specialty games will also be played. Additional cards for all games will be available for purchase along with light refreshments. All cash prizes!

Wreaths and Grave Blankets

The Squad is making preparation to sell wreaths and grave blankets for the holiday season. More information to follow. They are hoping to sell trees as well, but trees took a hit due to the summer drought.

The Oceanport Bulletin

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Deadline for the DECEMBER/JANUARY *Bulletin* is NOVEMBER 14, 2022.

LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS



Library News

On Tuesdays the Oceanport Library would like to sponsor activities and/or programs of interest to adults. If you have any suggestions, please convey them to Branch Manager, Barbara Eckert either in person or by phone at (732) 229-2626.

Please note as of October the Family Fun Storytime which welcomes all ages, scheduled previously from 2:15 to 2:35 on Thursdays, will now take place from 11:00 - 11:20 am. The other story times on Thursdays, are from 10:00 - 10:20 am for babies and toddlers and the After-School Adventures for ages 3 to 7 are from 4:00 - 4:30 pm. The storytimes are also on the Monmouth County Library website (www.monmouthcountylib.org). Just go to the Kids page.

Special Events for October and November are as follows:

Reservations are recommended beginning October 1st for October programs and November 1st for the November program: online <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids> or by phone or in person.

LEGO® Storytime – Ages 2 and up (with parent/caregiver)
Thursday, October 13th, 4:00 - 4:30 pm. Listen to LEGO® stories and make your own LEGO® creation. LEGOS® and DUPLO® will be provided by the library.

Musical Barnyard Storyteller – All ages are welcome (with parent/caregiver). Thursday, October 20th, 4:00 - 4:45 pm. Join Farmer Storyteller with her tin pail of barnyard hand and finger puppets in an interactive musical program featuring farm animal songs and favorite barnyard stories such as Old MacDonald and Little Blue Truck.

Balloon Artist Ava Lena – All ages are welcome (with parent/caregiver). Thursday, November 17th, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. In celebration of Monmouth County Library's 100th anniversary the Oceanport Library will have a balloon presentation. Ava will come with a board of 3 or 4 pictures of the balloons she will be creating that day. She will also demonstrate how to blow up and tie the balloons. If time permits, each participant could choose one of the balloons to take home.

Lastly, don't forget about the Library's Take 'N Make crafts at the beginning and middle of each month.



Oceanport PTO Presents its 10th Annual Fall Festival!

Saturday, October 22nd

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Maple Place Middle School

Rain or Shine

The fun festival will include pumpkin picking/painting, children's games, the INFAMOUS Haunted Hallway, food truck, 50/50, gift basket raffle, junior vendors.....and SO much more!



Let's Play Ball! Shore Regional Little League Registration

2023 Shore Regional Little League Registration opens December 1st. Early bird discounts will be available. Information will go out via email and can be found at ShoreLittleLeague.com or on their Facebook and Instagram pages @shorelitleleague.