

The Oceanport Bulletin



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Mayor's Message



Oceanport Lions Club - June 10, 2023

The Oceanport Lions Club has served the Borough of Oceanport for 71 years and our Borough has benefitted a great deal from the good deeds and selfless contributions the Lions Club members have provided to our community during that time. The Oceanport Lions Club has raised funds to assist Oceanport residents in need, provide college scholarships, enhance local emergency services, support our police department and PBA, supplement our youth sports programs, fund Scouting projects and protect our senior citizens. For the past several years, the Oceanport Lions Club has provided vision screening for children at Maple Place Middle School and Wolf Hill School. The Oceanport Lions Club is an organization that is emblematic of civic pride and commitment to the betterment of society. The people who have served in the Oceanport Lions Club gave their time and energy for the greater good of Oceanport and the fruits of their labor are sprinkled throughout our little town.

Sadly, after serving the Borough of Oceanport for 71 years, the Oceanport Lions Club is no more. I had the distinct honor of attending the last meeting of the Oceanport Lions Club on June 10, 2023 at the Old Wharf Meeting House. Oceanport Lions Club members Donny Mazza, Lou Deller (a former District Governor), Sheri Sidun, Joan Lennon (Club President), John Bonforte, Mark Barreca, Craig Sprung, Susan Sprung, Takeo Ishimasa (a former District Governor), Myong Deller, Matthew Schneider, Kevin Lennon, Yvonne Bova, and Karl Perry (all pictured below) met for the last time, talked about the various fundraising efforts that took place over the past seven decades, reminisced about members past and present, and honored those who have given so much of their lives towards making other people's lives better. Pete Deller, the backbone of the organization for a very long time, was unable

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events

July

- 4 Happy Independence Day! Borough Offices Closed
- 10 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 10 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 11 Planning/Zoning Board Meeting
- 12 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 13 Historical Committee Meeting
- 15 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 15 Paper Shredding @ Fair Haven
- 19 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 20 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 24 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting
- 28 Movies in the Park, *Sandlot*

August

- 1 Quarterly Property Taxes Due
- 5 Paper Shredding @ Neptune
- 8 Planning/Zoning Board Meeting
- 9 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
- 12 Bingo Night @ First Aid Squad Building
- 14 Water Watch Committee Meeting
- 14 Environmental Commission Meeting
- 15 Registration for Garage Sale
Weekend Begins through 9/15
- 17 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 19 Movies in the Park, *Aladdin*
- 22 Planning/Zoning Board Meeting
- 23 Oceanport Board of Education Meeting
- 24 Shore Regional Board of Education Meeting

September

- 7 Mayor & Council Meeting
- 9 Summer's End Festival (Raindate 9/10)

Recycling

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

Oceanport Certainly is a Great Place to Live!

Have you gotten your copy of Oceanport A Great Place To Live, a comprehensive history of Oceanport's second 50 years yet? Copies can be purchased from Toni Sverapa (please call 732-539-1620), any member of the Historical Committee, or at Borough Hall. Hardcover copies are available for \$75, and softcover copies are available for \$30, cash or check made payable to the Borough of Oceanport.

COMMUNITY NEWS



46th Annual Summer's End Festival

Saturday, September 9th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm

(Rain date Sunday, September 10th)

Join your family and friends for a spectacular fireworks show, music by DJ Skills, food vendors, children's activities, displays from local civic organizations & emergency services, famous chili and salsa contest, and more!

Please help support the Summer's End Fireworks Show!

This event could not happen without your help. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and the Parks and Recreation Committee is asking for your financial support with this long running and beloved event. Please donate by using the QR Code below or by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope. All donor checks should be made payable to: "Borough of Oceanport Summer's End"

Thank you for your generosity and your continued support of this Oceanport pastime.



Important information regarding SUMP PUMPS

Not only is it illegal to connect sump pumps to the sanitary sewer it also causes big problems. Sump pumps are designed to pump groundwater and rainwater. Sanitary sewer pipes are designed to carry sewerage, not groundwater and rainwater. Sewer pipes have limited capacity and are designed to carry only sanitary sewage.

If too much sewage tries to get through the pipe in the street, the sewage will surcharge and start filling up the sewer lateral pipes eventually pushing back into someone's house. The sewage might come out of a toilet or washing machine drain for example. The result is a disgusting mess!

If hooked up to a house's sewer lateral, a half-horsepower sump pump will pump about 60 gallons to the sewer each minute, which is the equivalent of an active household's sewage for the entire year.

During the recent rain event that took place on Saturday, April 29th and Sunday, April 30th, there were extremely high flows which are partially attributed to illegal connections of sump pumps to the sanitary sewer system.

Please contact your local plumber if you are unsure if your sump pump is connected to the sanitary sewer and have it removed if it is. You will be protecting yourself, your neighbors, and the environment from a horrific mess. It is critical that sump pumps discharge to the yard or storm sewer, not to the sanitary sewer. It is illegal to connect your sump pump into your sanitary lateral, as it can cause serious problems!



Summer's End 9th ANNUAL CHILI/SALSA COOK-OFF CONTEST

This year we have a surprise celebrity chili entry!

Who can beat it?

Calling all chefs! Enter your prized chili and/or salsa dish in our Community Garden's Annual Contest. Please fill out the entry form found on the on the Oceanport Borough website at oceanportboro.com or at the day of event. Bring your dish ready to present: chili hot in a crock pot, salsa in an ice bath at 5:30 pm to the Community Garden table at Blackberry Bay. Questions, please call Ellynn at (732) 614-2317.



OCEANPORT WALL OF HONOR

The Borough is looking for "tech" volunteers to help recreate the "Oceanport Wall of Honor" in recognition of those who served our country in the military. The original Wall of Honor was dedicated on Veterans Day 2004.

The Borough is also looking for photos of those who have served since 2004, continue to serve, and any residents who did not have the opportunity to submit their photos when the original "Wall of Honor" was created.

If you have any questions, please e-mail our Borough Administrator, Donna Phelps, at dphelps@oceanportboro.com. Please label your pictures with name, branch of service, conflict (if applicable) and any other pertinent information. Please also make sure you have an additional copy of the photo you submit for your records.



Oceanport Volunteer First Aid 911 News

The Oceanport Volunteer First Aid would like to thank everyone for coming out on bingo nights and supporting the squad. The squad hopes to see you at the summer Bingo Nights on July 15th and August 12th. The fun continues through the fall on September 23rd, October 14th, and November 11th. Doors open at 6:00 pm and games start at 7:00 pm.

3

COMMUNITY NEWS

Notice Publicizing the Map Information Service

NOTICE TO: Public, Lending Institutions and Real Estate and Insurance Agents

SUBJECT: Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone Information

The Borough of Oceanport currently participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The CRS administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides that a community, who performs specific activities related to flood protection, flood awareness, and flood prevention, can secure reduced flood insurance premiums for all property owners within the community.

As a public service, the Borough of Oceanport will provide you with the following information upon request:

- Whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) of the Borough.
- Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the FIRM zone and the base flood elevation or depth, if shown on the FIRM.
- Oceanport Borough has a handout on the flood insurance purchase requirement that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.
- Oceanport Borough has copies of completed FEMA Elevation Certificates for buildings built in the floodplain over the past several years. These Certificates are also available online at <https://oceanportnj.withforerunner.com/elevation-certificates/>

If you want to make an inquiry, please provide the street address and, if available, the lot, and block number. Just drop by the Tax Office in Borough Hall located at 910 Oceanport Way. Staff in the office can provide the needed information. There is no charge for this service. Oceanport Borough staff within the Construction Office and Office of Emergency Management will be able to provide you with information; however, the staff will not decide for you as to whether you need the coverage.

Big Wins for the Shore Wrestling Club!

The Shore Wrestling Club (SWC), which caters to grades 1st-8th, ended their season on a high note by clinching first place in the JSJWL Individuals B division. The Shore team secured the overall victory by a margin of nine points against 11 other teams. Head Coach Ryan Bucco said, "It was amazing to see every one of our wrestlers step up their level of focus and intensity after falling short in the regular season. Each and every one of them brought their best to topple all of the other teams, showing that we are truly the most solid team in the B division!"

SWC President Scott Delatush gives a lot of credit to the boys but also to an awesome coaching staff which includes Ryan Bucco, Vince Torres, David DeStefano, Mike Tomiano, Sean DeDeyn, Len Forsyth, Eric Swick, Chris Dudick, Mike Russomano, Larry Fornicola, Paul LaSalle, and Frank Maglione. These guys selflessly put in hundreds of hours throughout the season on the mat and behind the scenes to help teach and promote a sport that they are all passionate about. Vanessa Torres, Bob Gifford, Tom and Traci Ross, Ursula Bucco, Dana Delatush, Anthony and Kelly Scaturo - some of our board members and parent squad are always right there helping out every inch of the way as well!

Sadly, the club will say farewell to three of their 8th-grade members who will be starting their high school journey next year. The club wishes James Gallagher, Luke Scaturo, and Cole Torres all the best on their future endeavors as student-athletes.

A special round of applause for John and Thomas Ross, who have now joined the ranks of SWC greats like Chris Cannon, Sabino Portella, Jack Maida, and Al DeSantis. Both John and Thomas finished the JSJWL Season with perfect records of 17-0 (John Ross, 16 by pin) and 16-0 (Thomas Ross, 12 by pin). Both boys continued winning through the rest of the league's postseason, including the Battle of Champions and the NJ Civil War Tournament. John Ross might be the first person in SWC and possibly JSJWL history to NOT let one point be scored on him - 17 matches and didn't let up one point. Congratulations to John and Thomas on a stellar perfect season and joining the ranks of some of the best wrestlers to come out of NJ!

If you are interested in learning more about SWC, please follow on social media or contact info@shorewrestlingclub.com. Summer is a great time to learn and improve wrestling skills for the fall season. The Shore Wrestling Club works closely with the Triumph Wrestling Club in Ocean, which offers programs for all age groups and skill levels.



COMMUNITY NEWS

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE FROM page 1)

to attend, but was there in spirit. The reason that the Oceanport Lions Club has ceased to exist is that they could not find enough new, younger members to sustain the organization. This problem isn't limited to the Oceanport Lions Club, however, as many civic, social, and service organizations are having the same issue. I am 60 years old, but when I visit with these groups, I am usually one of the youngest people in the room. I don't exactly know what that means for our society as a whole, but it certainly doesn't bode well.

As a parting gift to the Borough of Oceanport, the Oceanport Lions Club donated the sum of \$12,5000.00 to the Borough and we will be using these funds to purchase electronic speed limit controls for installation throughout Oceanport. Even after its demise, the Oceanport Lions Club will be keeping our residents safe and making Oceanport a better place in which to live, work and play. The Borough's governing body will be honoring the Oceanport Lions Club and its members at its July 20th meeting and we would love to see a full council chamber that evening so that they know how much we appreciate how much they have done and continue to do for us.

On June 3rd I had the opportunity to watch three young Oceanport residents --- Rowan Johnson, Cameron Fleming, and Brandon Weiss --- receive their Eagle Scout designation, the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America's program. Our Municipal Complex is named after Oceanport's first Eagle Scout, Clement V. Somers, and Oceanport's Troop 58 has generated an inordinate number of Eagle Scouts for such a small town, so maybe there is hope for us when it comes to the future of civic service!



If you haven't been over to the Fort Monmouth section of Oceanport lately, you've missed a lot. The Pulte/Lodging District residential project is proceeding rapidly and the Allison Hall/Riverwalk commercial development (along Oceanport Avenue) had its groundbreaking ceremony on June 3rd, the same day the wildly successful Boujee Food Festival took place next to Russel Hall. We hope to have Buddy Brocklebank in the dunk tank at next year's Boujee Food Festival.

Now that summer weather has arrived, there is no shortage of things to do in Oceanport. Our brand new turf fields at Maria Gatta Park have been in constant use since they opened and, now that school is out, these fields will be the recreational focus for the kids in town. Our new pickleball courts at Blackberry Bay are

open for play and our waterways are looking better this year than last. Monmouth Park Racetrack is open and, in addition to regular racing days and a great number of highly anticipated stakes races (most notably Haskell Day on July 22nd and the Oceanport Stakes on August 13th), will be hosting a series of festivals throughout the summer. Get outside and enjoy all that Oceanport has to offer but remember to DRIVE SLOWLY as you do!

Oceanport's Annual Townwide Yard Sale

Saturday, 9/23 and Sunday, 9/24

Rain date: 9/30 and 10/1

Clean out made easy! Residents will not be required to obtain a permit for the event but will need to register their address on the Borough website at oceanportboro.com home page.

Vacation Bible School at Calvary is Back!

Calvary Baptist Church Bible School is happy to announce their Vacation Bible School is back again. The theme is Stellar -- Shine Jesus Light and there is a Stellar spot available for your child! Camp is for children pre-kindergarten age four through entering 6th grade. It runs July 31st -- August 4th from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM at Calvary Baptist Church on Eatontown and Elizabeth Drive, Oceanport. Camp is free. To register please call (732) 996-5653.



Sue Sherrill Day in Oceanport!

Councilman Tom Tvrdik presented a Mayor's Proclamation to Oceanport Garden Club's long time member, Sue Sherrill, to acknowledge her 102nd birthday and declared April 27, 2023 as "Sue Sherrill Day" in Oceanport. The members of the Garden Club under the leadership of President Sigrid Lenzing celebrated the occasion at The Old Wharf House with lunch, cake, and coffee.

The Oceanport Bulletin

910 Oceanport Way
PO Box 370, Oceanport, NJ 07757
www.oceanportboro.com
(732) 222-8221

LAURA MCCRAE, Editor (Lmccrae@comcast.net)

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LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Library News

Don't forget Oceanport's Library Summer Reading Challenges from June 1st until August 15th. The Library staff hopes to see an increase in participation this year. The theme for Read to Me, Vacation Reading Club, Teens, and Adults is *All Together Now*. There are wonderful prizes for each age group. You can sign up and log your books and minutes on the Kids page of the Monmouth County Library website (www.monmouthcountylib.org). You can also sign up at the library during library hours.

SPECIAL IN-PERSON EVENTS!

Space is limited; registration recommended beginning July 1st, online <http://bit.ly/OceanportKids>, by phone, or in-person.

Peas and Carrots Band - All Ages Welcome (with parent/caregiver)

Thursday, July 6th, 11:00 - 11:45 am

Enjoy interactive music while singing, dancing, and clapping along with Peas and Carrots!

Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division - Ages 2 and up (with parent/caregiver)

Thursday, July 27th, 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Enjoy an educational storytime about mosquitoes and make your own mosquito craft to take home with you.

Stage A Story - Ages 2 to 6 (with parent/caregiver)

Thursday, August 3rd, 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Join Emily Vorp from Stage a Story for an interactive creative drama workshop where YOU become the star! In this workshop we will dramatize songs and rhymes about friendship and working together such as Mary Had a Little Lamb, The Farmer in the Dell, Peanut Butter and Jelly, and so much more!

Read-To-Me Club & Vacation Reading Club Celebration – The Amazing Z

Thursday, August 17th, 10:30 - 11:15 am

All ages welcome (with parent/caregiver)

Watch magician Brian Vernachio perform amazing feats of magic. This program will be followed by a pizza party sponsored by the Oceanport Public Library Association.

Read to our Therapy Dog Collies - A Family Event

Thursday, August 24th, 3:45 - 4:40 pm

Grab a good book and come read to one of the collies! Register for ONE 15-minute time slot per family and you will be e-mailed a confirmation. If not yet reading, you can talk about pictures in a book or tell the collie a story.

Take 'Make Crafts

Pick up a craft kits to make-at-home! Find directions and themed reads in the Kids page slide how.

July 1-14 - Shark

July 15-31 - Yellow Submarine

August 1-4 - Seagull

August 15-31 - Parrot

Come visit the library this summer and enjoy all it has to offer.

You are invited to **A Popsicle Party**

Monday, July 10th, 6:00-7:30 pm

Sponsored by the Oceanport Public Library Association

Visit the Oceanport Library's new enhanced reception/shelving area.

Sign-up for Summer Reading and/or a library card.

Popsicle coloring sheets available.

Miss Florence will be reading an ice cream story.

Rain or shine, under the Action Camp tent.



Toni Sverapa, Paula Lombardo, and Rosanne Letson from the Oceanport Historical Committee with Linda Ridsen and Barbara Eckert, Oceanport Library Branch Manager donating a copy of "Oceanport A Great Place to Live" and some books from Frank Barricelli to the Library.