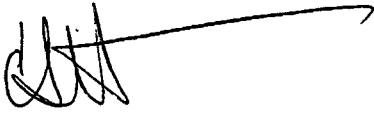


TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE

April 9, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager 

SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of April 14, 2026

Ocean View Post Office Updates

On April 9th we received several updates from various sources including Representative Gray, and Senators Coons and Blunt Rochester's offices in Washington. You will recall that since the closure of the post office in September we've remained engaged with our local representatives as well as our Congressional Delegation pushing for information and support for a new modern facility on the existing site. Additionally, we've asked for effort to take place to consider funds available from *Congressionally Designated Spending* based on information received on February 27th. I participated in several calls with various staff members from Senator Coons office, but received the following on March 20th:

Hi Carol-

We haven't found a path for the CDS process to upgrade a post office. I'm sorry about that. John Gentile (copied) is hoping to learn something about the building soon and we're glad to continue advocating other ways. We just don't think we know how to do it through the CDS process since there isn't an eligible CDS account for the USPS.

*Andrew Dinsmore, Senior Advisor for Outreach and Appropriations
Office of U.S. Senator Coons*

Your packet includes information that has been received.

Grant Submittals – Berzins Nature Park

Last week I submitted grant requests to assist in the final efforts associated with our new Berzins Nature Park! One to the **DNREC Outdoor Recreation Parks and Trails Program** (Pre-Application) and the other **Community Reinvestment Funds** (better known as the **State Bond Bill**). We have been successful in the past and I will continue to update you on progress.

Additionally, I have begun our outreach effort regarding our **Grant In Aid** Request associated with the popular Cops and Goblins event. The application was submitted as required in December and the State Joint Finance Committee will begin working on this effort in the weeks ahead.



Mayor Reddington and I participated in the *March for Meals* program for the 5th year! The effort is hosted by the **CHEER Coastal Leisure Center** 30637 Cedar Neck Road, in Ocean View to spread awareness of the local Meals on Wheels program.

Please visit:

www.cheerde.com/ocean-view for

all local

CHEER Center offerings.

CHEER's mission: "To promote & maintain the highest quality of life & independence by developing and providing services that meet the continuing needs of senior citizens."

Request for Consideration of Developing a Dog Park

A resident has reached out with interest in our developing a secured dog park facility. I have unfortunately not completed the evaluation and research to bring the topic to Council for discussion. I expect to be in the position to do so by May. Outreach to various communities that already have them is underway, in addition to other considerations.

Newsletter/OVTV/WEBSITE/YouTube Channel

I have begun working on the annual Town Newsletter which will once again be included in the May mailing of our tax statements.

REMINDER! We continue to attempt to get information out to our community! I want to continue to remind everyone to:

Read the newsletter! **Tune in to OVTV** our government access channel (Channels 818 and 78) – you can even watch our Council and Planning & Zoning, Budget etc. meetings after the fact! **Check out our Website** – the scroll always has current information running! And **check out our YouTube Channel** – Town of Ocean View where you can locate current and past meetings or watch them live!

Council Member Orientation Session's

The new members of Council will be provided the opportunity to meet and sit down with all of our department heads, visit locations and get updates on initiatives. Dates to be determined in the near future.

An elected officer orientation session will also take place for all members of Council prior to the June 9th Council meeting – beginning at 1pm. Town Solicitor Max Walton will be the presenter.

FY2027 Budget –

The FY27 Budget Ordinance was introduced in March, following discussion and engagement at the February Budget Workshop. I've had no additional questions raised and we're hoping that

the budget will be approved at this meeting. Our FY2027 year begins May 1, 2026, and it requires no tax rate increase, maintaining the 0.257 tax rate per \$100 assessed value.

Tax Rate Stabilization Trust Fund

The first reading of the proposed Tax Rate Stabilization Trust Fund will take place at this meeting. A memo recommending its adoption and details will be presented.

Outreach and Engagement:

I participated in various meetings/engagements/events including those with the Historic Village in Ocean View as Board member, Town Assessor – re FY2027 Full Town Reassessment, Grant in Aid – local legislators and their staff and now Joint finance committee, Mediacom – on behalf of property owners, DVHT – Health plan – regarding transition, DFIT – Workers Comp Trustee meeting/renewals, Tidewater on behalf of resident, Meals on Wheels March Madness with Ocean View CHEER Center, attended Candidates night – to listen – no participation, Legislative Advocacy Committee participation, the Town Solicitor, various residents, and organizations.