



**TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE**

January 8, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of January 14, 2025

It is my pleasure to provide you with information related to the activities of the Town and my engagements during the past month:

Public Works Facility Operations Manager and Foreman Recruitment

As you are aware, we recently hired a new PW's Facility Operations Manager Mathew Martin and Foreman Dave Kittell to replace Larry Zuchelli and Jerrad Steele respectively. Our new hires started work for the Town on Monday, January 6th, just in time to be instrumental in how our Town responded to the recent significant snow event. This made for an interesting first day!

January 6, 2025 - Snow Event

As noted above the forecasts were correct and the storm event dumped between 8 and 10 inches of snow in Ocean View and surrounding areas. Our crews (including in-house staff and outsourced contractors) under the leadership of Ken Cimino prepared well and responded amazingly to the storm! We have received some good feedback as well as handled some concerns for driveways that were plowed in, which is a regular and customary reality and unfortunately not something the Town can take on. The goal of course is keeping our streets passable and with the amount of snow we received plowing the accumulating snow over the course of the event was necessary. I'm so pleased with the communication with me during the event and the dedication of all our staff and very sincerely commend them and Ken for their efforts over the course of more than 20 hours, plus several days thereafter addressing clean-up and icing conditions.

Below are some photos from early Monday Jan 6th at the park.



Old Town Holiday Market and Tree Lighting Event – November 30th

Our holiday event enjoyed strong participation from the community despite cold seasonable weather. We're pleased with how everything went and the feedback we received. Thank you to all who helped to make this day special including partners and sponsors: the Historic Village in Ocean View, Boy Scout Troop 281, the Ocean View CERT team, the Ocean View Police Department, Indian River Golf Cars, Interiors by Kim, Church of Christ, Ocean View Presbyterian Church, The Indian River Concert Choir and the Millville Volunteer Fire Department!



Over the course of the next week you will see our holiday decorations removed for yet another year.

Dine and Donate for the South Coastal Village Volunteers 11am to 8pm!

No plans for lunch or dinner on the January 15th – please consider a visit to the Cottage Café just outside of Bethany on Rte. 1, where a Dine and Donate fundraiser for our partners and community center tenant the South Coastal Village Volunteers will take place!

Long Range Financial Planning

We launched our engagement with PFM in regard to a more robust long range financial planning effort and expect to have useful information to share during the FY26 Budget process.

Water Utility Sale

Our efforts to complete the sale of our fully outsourced water utility to Tidewater took a step forward in late December with our receipt of the necessary documentation from the USDA in regard to how it will address the grants the Town obtained to develop the system. As you are aware, the Town only owns the distribution system (pipes in the ground) and purchases water and contracts for maintenance operations, for the system that serves a portion of Town.

Exercise Classes in John West Park this Spring, Summer and Fall

I'm happy to share that we have been successful in securing Custom Fit 360 to again offer fitness classes as they did last year in the park and have hired a contractor to offer yoga classes again. This is in addition to our exercise stations available free of charge year-round!

Holiday Luncheon!

On December 13th we again gathered with Council, employees (current and past), and our Boards and Commission members to celebrate the holiday season and take time to consider the year coming to an end while thanking all for their service to the Town of Ocean View!



Outreach and Engagement:

I participated in various meetings/engagements/events including those with the Historic Village in Ocean View as Board member, Tidewater Utilities, Middlesex, The Quiet Resorts Chamber of

Commerce (Fire and Ice), various vendors and contractors, the Town Solicitor, and various residents, organizations or contractors in response to requests etc.