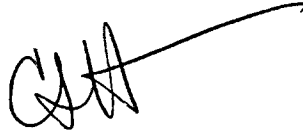


TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE

January 8, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager



SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of January 13, 2026

Happy New Year! – I am happy to share that January 7th marked by 7th year serving as Town Manager to the great community of Ocean View! Looking forward to another busy and productive year!

IACP Legal and Risk Analysis

A good deal of time was spent engaging and working with the representatives from the IACP in coordinating their deliverable and responding to questions or providing data. I am happy to be in the position have them present their findings to the Mayor and Council and our community at the January 13th workshop meeting, as well as my recommended path forward at the regular meeting of Council of the same day. Overall, the report recognizes the fact that Ocean View is a safe place to live as a result of the strong community policing culture and high level of engagement, that our out of town response to calls for service when dispatched averages 360 calls a year, which suggests additional funding support from both the State of Delaware and Sussex County is warranted. My recommendation is that Council support the Chief of Police and my efforts to do so.

Migration from the State of Delaware Health Plans to Delaware Valley Health Trust (DVHT)

Time was spent in recent months working with DVHT in evaluating their offerings and determining if the move from the state plans for employee health care is in the best interest of the Town. Ultimately, as fully detailed in my recommendation, we believe it is. If supported, the state will be made aware in March and Ocean View will join this self-insured, intergovernmental risk pools that serves over 165 municipalities, school districts and counties in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The expected savings year one is \$35,000.

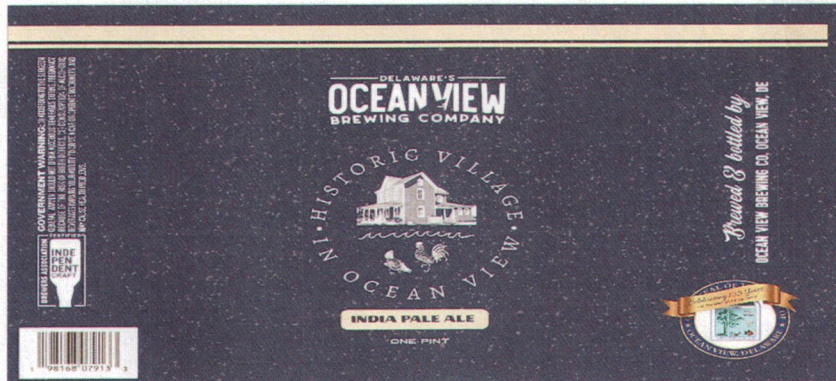
Grant in Aid Application was Submitted for Cops and Goblins Support

In December of 2025 I submitted our Grant Request. We will not hear the outcome until June, however I will be reaching out to committee members, and our local representatives are aware and ready to help support our case.

Fire and Ice – themed In the First State for the 250th anniversary of Delaware!

The Quiet Resorts Chamber of Commerce Fire and Ice Event will take place on Friday and Saturday January 30 and 31st – with Ocean View serving as a host site again as follows:

Friday from 1 to 4pm - Historic Replica of Hall's Store will have Beer tasting and the launch of the Historic Village of Ocean View IPA in partnership with the Ocean View Brewing Company! **Brewer Taylor Smith will be pouring!** Four pack sales of the below commemorative cans will benefit the Village! Don't miss out! There will be snacks available and live music by 5th Avenue and tours of the historic village and snowball fight zone!



On Saturday January 31st from 1 to 4pm – a beer garden hosted by Beach Liquors , chicken platter sales by the VFW Post 7234, live music by Pistol Whipped, an ice maze, snowball fight zone and Our historic Village and Coastal Towns Museum tours.

Old Town Holiday Event a Success!

I am happy to say our Annual Holiday event was a huge success, seasonably cool but well attended and we have received good feedback from participants, vendors and performers. The park saw lots of traffic throughout the holiday season including the holiday trail of lights that if offered free of charge for families to enjoy the lights in the beautiful setting at John West Park.





Outreach and Engagement:

I participated in various meetings/engagements/events including those with the Historic Village in Ocean View as Board member, Ocean View Brewing Company – Fire and Ice, PFM regarding upcoming workshop, Sussex County Association of Towns, IACP regarding Risk analysis, Chamber of Commerce – Fire and Ice, Grant in Aid – local legislators and their staff, Playground vendor, Holiday Décor – Holiday Decorations, DVIT – Health plan option review, Governor Meyer Aide meeting on topics of concern and various other vendors and contractors, the Town Solicitor, residents, and organizations.