

**TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE**

November 4, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager



SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of November 9, 2021

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

Cops and Goblins Event – HUGE Success!

As you are aware we held the wonderful free family event Cops and Goblins last Saturday following a wonderful planning effort by the Ocean View Police Department. The thank you and appreciation comments keep arriving in relationship to the well run and family friendly event. A highlight of the day included the presentation of a quilt to the police department by Ms. Linda Fiscus as a thank you to the department and celebration of the 3 years Ocean View has been named safest place to live! The quilt is being hung on the 1st floor of our Administrative Bldg. at 201 Central.



Up Next! Event Dates to Add to your Schedule

Old Town Holiday Market, Tree Lighting and Trail of Lights (Nov. 27th)

We are finalizing the plans, but all is lining up well with most of our vendors coming back from 2019, great musical entertainment, the train rides through the park, a craft for kids, food, photo

ops, Kris Kringle, the tree lighting, and a holiday movie to end the evening. We are hopeful that the momentum that started in 2019 with this event will continue.

Fire & Ice (Jan 28-30, 2022)

Coastal Towns Chicken Festival (May 21, 2022)

Planning for both events is well underway.

Coastal Towns Museum and the Ocean View Historical Society

I continue to serve on the Board of the historical society and can share that much work is happening to get Hall's Store ready for its ribbon cutting that will occur at 2 p.m. during the Old Town Holiday event on Nov 27th. **Lt. Governor Bethany Hall Long**, a descendant of the Hall family will deliver the keynote just prior to the ribbon cutting.

Purchase of 33 West Avenue

As you are aware the Town closed on the property directly across from John West Park and our Community Center on October 29th. The former owner has been given up until March 31, 2022 to vacate the garage on the site at which time it will be demolished. We are currently working on the design for the site and will share it at an upcoming council meeting. Several neighboring property owners have reached out for information, and we will share the detail with them as well. I thank Town Solicitor Schrader for his leadership in this effort!

Council Workshops

We held two Council Workshops last month – one on Oct 12th related to our considerations for how the Town will spend its ARPA funding and the second on Oct 26th where the feedback from the Charter Review Committee were discussed, and direction given to the Solicitor and staff. Regarding the ARPA item we have submitted stormwater projects to the state as requested to leverage Town funds/design efforts to gain state ARPA funding support. An update on this topic is also on your agenda Nov 9th.

Barnes and Thornburg Engagement

Finance Director Dawn Parks and I have initiated our engagement with Barnes and Thornburg in relationship to the State offering a pooled opportunity to access guidance and review of how towns are planning to spend their ARPA funds. The cost of this engagement is \$4,730 to Ocean View for unlimited assistance which will be withheld from our 2nd draw of ARPA funds next May.

Pilot Shuttle Review and Recommendation

I completed my review and research into our interest in offering a pilot shuttle effort next summer. It too is an agenda item for Nov. 9th. This effort required outreach to DART, DelDOT, Bethany Beach, Bear Trap Dunes, Jolly Trolley and obtaining some price quotes. I will be hoping for Council direction at the meeting.

Technology and Support

Officer Carter and I met with a sound firm recently to go over ways we can improve the experience in the Council Chamber and how we push meetings out to the public while still not open for attendance. We had a few concerns raised regarding not being able to hear the YouTube feed last month but to date have not been able to determine why that would occur if the final recording is clear. The technician suggested that it may be a result of the equipment being used by participants on their end. Regardless, we continue to look for ways to tweak things. Lastly, I wanted to thank Officer Carter and express how fortunate we are to have him on our team. He has enabled us to be more efficient in many ways and to improve the various ways we communicate with our community.

Fundraising Concert for the Blue Star Memorial

The Salt Air Gardeners held a fund raising concert on October 15th with a large crowd. Fund raising is ongoing and donations can be mailed to the Salt Air Gardeners, 38840 Oyster Catcher Drive, Ocean View DE 19970. In addition, it was announced at the concert that the VFW Post 7234 has joined the effort as a partner donating \$1,000. We are working on the final design and with DelDOT regarding the exact placement of amenities at the corner of Atlantic and Woodland Ave.

Excess parcels

We continue to wait to hear back from DelDOT regarding our interest in several excess parcels along Atlantic Ave. in Ocean View.

Public Works Division Report

Daily playground inspection at John West Park.

Attended DFIT workman's comp safety meeting in Dover.

Weekly tour of Town checking and addressing trash and damage to street signs/other concerns and checking ditches.

Oversaw the weekly grass cutting at John West Park and 201 Central and Colt Lane.

Power washing completed at 32 West and the park sidewalks as well as the fence around the playground area.

Clearing of nuts and sticks at 32 West and in John West Park.

Weekly grass cutting completed at DPW shop

Finished over seeding at West and John West Park.

Trimmed all bushes at 32 West and John West Park.

Picked up supplies at BJ's for 201 Central and shop.

Oversaw Collins's Lawn care work to remove dead bushes and installation of stone paver and new plants at 201 Central on police side of building.

Arranged for Surefire to come and complete their quarterly inspection of the fire sprinkler system.

Preparations for Cops and Goblins at John West Park and after event breakdown.

Oversaw contracted support workers for Cops and Goblins necessary due to the storm the day before and the limbs and nuts that fell overnight.

Picked up mums, cornstalks, and pumpkins at Parsons Farm.

Inspecting and prepping the Christmas lights for use in the trail.

Broke down the mosquito sprayer and winterized the units.

Regular cleaning pf DPW garage and heated shop area.

Clean up of John West Park after very successful Cops and Goblins event.

Prepared signs and hauled materials for pumpkin decorating at event.