

**TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE**

October 5, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager

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

Patriot Day – VFW Post 7234 – September 11, 2026

Along with Mayor Maly, Chief McLaughlin and other members of the Ocean View Police Department, I attended the VFW Post 7234 Patriot Day ceremony, which was held at the post in solemn observance of the nearly 3000 lives lost, 25 years prior, as a result of terrorist attacks on our Nation. The ceremony also honored the first responders and civilians who showed courage in the face of danger.



Primary Election Site

The Town's Community Center at 32 West Avenue was once again used as an election site for the Sept 15th Primary Elections. I've been advised that the State election representatives were happy with our facility for this purpose, including accessibility and parking.

John West Park – Playground Renewal Project

Matt Martin and I have been spending a good deal of time meeting with vendors and sharing requirements for our planned John West Park Playground Renewal Project. We will share draft plans at your October meeting in advance to holding a public workshop/open house meeting on October 27th to receive comments regarding the draft plan.

Town Clerk – Donna Schwartz – Clerk of the Year!

On September 24th we attended the Delaware League of Local Governments dinner meeting during which Ocean View Town Clerk, Donna Schwartz was named the Delaware Municipal Clerks Association's Clerk of the Year for 2026! Congratulations and thank you Donna for your dedication to our community! A nomination was submitted by Mayor Maly on behalf of the full Council.



South Coastal Village Volunteers (SCVV) Engagement

Mayor Maly and I met with the SCVV to discuss their programming and interest in some expansion of same. They are very satisfied with their accommodations at 32 West (Community Center). Their membership has grown as has their volunteer count. The level of their impact in our community continues to increase. Of the 3200 various services they completed from Aug of 2025 to Aug 2026 over 2000 (60%) were transportation services with approximately 47% being medical transportation. They reported that their volunteers drove over 46,000 miles in the process of fulfilling the service requests and clocked over 6,600 hours. Specific to Ocean View, they provided over 1,300 various services.

As a result of the above meeting I later met with leadership to show them Halls Store (part of the Historic Village of Ocean View) to make them aware of the space available for future consideration regarding their anticipated program expansion and volunteer appreciation/training activities. Its close proximity to their administrative offices and current program space was appreciated as was the uniqueness of the venue.

I attended the SCVV annual fundraising event held at Cripple Creek Golf Club. The evening was well attended and provided the organization the opportunity to thank their volunteers as well as raise funds towards their community service offerings. They also unveiled their new logo (shown below), signifying their new independent non-profit status, having originally come under the Lewes Village Volunteers. The SCVV began 6 years ago and officially started operations from our Community Center as a tenant in January of 2021.



HELPING SENIORS LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Outreach and Engagement:

I participated in various meetings/engagements/events including those with the Historic Village in Ocean View as Board member, Met with Lt Governor's Aid to advise about the Town and concerns/needs of local governments, Attended meetings and participated in various other outreach related to the Berzins Nature Park and the Town funded amenities (including our matching grants), Completed and submitted a grant request to the Federal Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program related to open space, participated in the Bear Trap Dunes Annual HOA meeting providing information on Town activities and initiatives, DEMA engagement regarding Card Access Grant for the Maintenance facility, VFW – attended Patriot Day event, DFIT – attended Workers Comp Trustee meetings, South Coastal Village Volunteers tenant conversations and continued support of mission; worked on items for the Old Town Holiday event, Meetings with Chamber for Fire and Ice 2027, Meetings and engagement with playground vendor regarding John West Park renewal project, Delaware League – attended monthly dinner meeting, Engagement with Parsons Farm for Cops and Goblins event, Engaged various vendors community organizations in relationship to the Fundraising effort for Cops and Goblins which went well, Discussions and meetings with PFM and our Bond Council in preparation for our S & P rating call in reference to our Municipal Bond sale later this Fall, engagement with the Town Solicitor on various topics, various residents, Tidewater utility on behalf of a resident, and Mediacom on behalf of a several residents, engagement with IQ Fiber in relationship to their lead up to building a high speed broadband network in Ocean View.