

Written by Mayor Ken Baulderstone, Township of Ocean

Main St. Bridge

The bridge just south of the Library is now open, well ahead of schedule.

Contractors Warehouses

At the February Planning Board meeting approval was given to the construction of two buildings that will house 14 Contractors Warehouses on the lot at the north-eastern corner of Route 9 and Seminole Avenue, across from the Dollar General store in Indian Plaza.

Bayshore Pump Station

Work has commenced on the construction of the new Pump Station at a cost of \$800,000. This should be completed before summer so the residents living nearby will no longer suffer from the noise of the temporary pumps and generator.

Blue Hope

In 2017 Ocean County introduced Blue HARP (Heroin Addiction Response Program), a public option for those seeking help from authorities without risking prosecution or possession charges. Residents with addiction could present themselves at selected police stations in the county and enter a residential program for medical detox.

This year the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has revamped the program and launched a new program, Blue Hope, so residents with a substance abuse disorder can contact the local police to be linked to a provider/licensed agency for an evaluation to assess the level of care needed, and assist in navigating and linking the resident to the appropriate level of treatment such as detoxification, residential or outpatient.

Participants will receive 12 weeks of follow up. Ocean Township passed a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ocean Township Police Department and Ocean Mental Health Services for the provision of services to Ocean Township residents.

Bryant Road Park

A contract is being awarded to remove from the Bay the old damaged long dock, the wave batter boards, the slip finger docks and the pilings. The engineer is preparing a plan for approval by NJDEP. The goal is to have the park complete by Memorial Day weekend.

Tourism Working Group

In 2018 Tourism in New Jersey generated \$44.7 billion in spending. The Township does not have employees doing those things for us to get our share. I would like to form a working group to implement programs to attract tourists. If you are interested in participating please contact me.

Last year ABC shot some scenes for a television program on Jones Road in the western section of the Township. The NJ Motion Picture and Television Commission has invited townships to submit a portfolio that can be shared with production companies seeking locations. If you are interested in working on this project please contact me.

Ocean County "Women's Right to Vote Centennial Ceremony

On February 11 Ocean County celebrated Women's Right to Vote Centennial with a ceremony in Historic Court Room One in Toms River. In 1915 New Jersey conducted a referendum to amend the state constitution extending suffrage to women. The referendum failed in 20 of 21 counties, but Ocean County was the only county in the state that voted for the amendment. On June 4, 1919 Congress passed the 19th Amendment

guaranteeing all American women the right to vote. On February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

The Township of Ocean passed a resolution supporting celebrations of this historic milestone and the Town Hall was lit in purple for the week of February 10.

Volunteer Way

The NJDEP CAFRA permit application has been withdrawn and the application fees remain valid for up to one year, for any future application in that timeframe.

If you have topics you would like to be addressed please call me at (609)312-8059, email me at kbaulderstone@twpoceannj.gov, or visit me in the Town Hall.