

## **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2024 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

*Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Cranberry Creek Clubhouse.*

*There was a Flag salute and a moment of silence for our military and world peace and in memory of the recently-deceased Ed Andrew (see below).*

*Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Chairman, Nancy Cotter, Richard Dutton, Jack Edmunds, Rosemarie Martelli and Lisa Stevens. Township Committee Liaison Dan Maxwell was also in attendance.*

*The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on May 20, 2024 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.*

*The first speaker was Amy Raimondi of Interfaith Health & Support Services of Southern Ocean County. She said that Interfaith helps seniors who live at home with such things as transportation to medical appointments; grocery shopping or food pantry deliveries; hair cutting at home; arts and crafts, also at home; and gardening and odd jobs. It also can provide respite for two or three hours per week for dementia or Alzheimer's caregivers. Two weeks' notice is required for transportation to medical appointments and a person will be provided transportation to only one such appointment per week. Volunteers generally transport seniors using their own cars, although the organization also owns two vans that are driven by staff members. Interfaith cannot transport people in wheelchairs. 99% of its volunteers are seniors and they receive training from the organization. Some of the people who work for them are retired nurses or doctors. Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to call Interfaith's Little Egg Harbor office (in the building that also houses Hackensack Meridian on Mathistown Road across from the Ocean County Library) at 609-879-5590 or its Manahawkin office at 609-978-3839. Interfaith also invites contributions of used medical equipment in working condition such as wheelchairs, canes and walkers; they then distribute such equipment at no charge to seniors who need them. Interfaith was started on Long Beach Island about 25 years ago and is now supported by 24 church congregations as well as some banks and Hackensack Meridian.*

*The next speakers were two educational outreach specialists from the Ocean County Health Department, who gave a slideshow presentation about the Department and its numerous programs. It has six locations in the County, two of them (an animal shelter and a WIC (women, infants and children) office) in Manahawkin, and with about 250 employees it is the largest health department in the state. It views its role as prevention, promotion and protection in the public health sphere as opposed to provision of healthcare, which responds to the needs of individual patients who are already ill. Some of the many areas in which it is involved are adult vaccination services; animal facilities (including adoptions and rabies vaccinations); clinic services (including hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS counseling, testing, care and treatment and sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis testing and treatment; it does not, however, test for Lyme disease); communicable disease services (including epidemiology and foodborne and other infectious disease investigations); health education (including teaching in schools, at health fairs, etc. about good nutrition and hygiene such as hand washing and other ways to avoid spreading illness); an early intervention program for children with developmental delays and disabilities; special child health services to assist parents with resources for special needs children from birth up to age 22; substance abuse, addiction and opioid dependency services (including NARCAN education and distribution); environmental health (including restaurant inspections, water testing at public bathing beaches and water pollution enforcement); WIC programs (including education and need-based farmers market benefits and free debit cards); community assessment; and chronic disease screening and education services, including pre-diabetes and diabetes programs. Further details about all of these programs with contact information are available on the Department's website, [www.ochd.org](http://www.ochd.org), and the Department's general telephone number is 732-341-9700.*

*Township Committee Liaison Dan Maxwell then reported that there will be a community-wide garage sale on July 20-21. Participation is free but in order to have your home address added to a map that will be prepared you may register at yardsales@leht.com.*

*Ken Miller then reported on the death on June 16 of Ed Andrew, a longtime resident of Little Egg Harbor who attended nearly all Senior Advisory Board meetings and was a bigger than life figure active in affairs in the Township and his own community of Osborn Island and a great friend to many of us. A celebration of his life will be held on July 14 at the Maxwell Funeral Home with visiting from 11 AM until noon followed by a memorial at noon.*

*The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Harbor Bay Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.*

*The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 AM.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Dutton, Acting Secretary, LEH Senior Citizens' Advisory Board*