

AUGUST 2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ATLANTIC AVENUE PAVING SEASON IS HERE

OUR YOUTH HAVE BEEN DOING IT ALL THIS SUMMER

HISTORIC PUBLIC SAFETY PROMOTIONS

CITY OFFERS PROPERTY CLEANUP ASSISTANCE



Madison with Mayor Small at City Hall

DEFENDING MY CITY

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

By now, you all know I will always stand up for the Great City of Atlantic City. If someone has something negative to say about our city, I'm going to make sure they also hear the truth. When I learned that Atlantic City was being criticized on The Joe Budden Podcast, I reached out to Joe himself. With millions of people tuning in to his show, I knew it was important that our city be represented fairly. He welcomed me on as a guest, and we had an honest conversation. I appreciate Joe and his team for giving me the opportunity to share the real story of our community.

I also had the chance to be the very first guest on the new AC Mike Show Podcast. We talked about my humble beginnings, my journey into politics, and the incredible momentum we're seeing right now. I hope you'll take some time to watch.

It was an honor to welcome Madison Miller, a rising senior at Spelman College, who spent a week shadowing me thanks to the African American Mayors Association Future Leaders Program. Atlantic City was one of only two cities in the country selected to host a Fellow, and Madison had never been to New Jersey before arriving.

While here, she attended directors' meetings, news conferences, ribbon cuttings, and community events, giving her a firsthand look at everything happening across our city. Like so many first-time visitors, she quickly realized there's far more to Atlantic City than the outdated perceptions some people still hold.

It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City!

-Mayor Marty Small, Sr

ATLANTIC AVENUE UPDATED TIMETABLE

Paving will now begin this Fall with an anticipated end of year finish

The original timeline for the paving of Atlantic Avenue from Tennessee to Albany called for a start this summer, but several factors required the schedule to be adjusted, including revisions to the project design. Contractors had initially planned to postpone paving until next year, however, at the urging of Mayor Small, the construction team agreed to accelerate the schedule by reallocating crews from other projects. To cover costs, the city is using money from other NJDOT projects that came under budget. The timeline now calls for paving to begin no later than early October, right after



Atlantic City's peak tourism season concludes, and have the work wrapped up in time for the city's Holiday Parade & Market down Atlantic Avenue on December 12th. During a news conference, Mayor Small emphasized that the delays have never been the result of a lack of funding or the diversion of project funds. No city spending on unrelated initiatives has impacted the paving of Atlantic Avenue.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT FRONT...

Atlantic City's development renaissance continues to gain momentum as developer Keith Groff joined Mayor Small to announce that Phase II of his Lighthouse Row project should be completed by the beginning of this fall. Lighthouse Row Phase I, completed in November 2024, introduced eight luxury homes at 12 S. New Hampshire Avenue, just steps from the historic Absecon Lighthouse. Construction on Phase II began in May and includes seven additional luxury homes adjacent to the original development. Once completed, Groff expects the new homes to be priced between \$850,000 and \$1.5 million, reflecting the strong demand for residential housing in Atlantic City.

Plans are already underway for Phase III, which would bring approximately 30 additional homes to the block surrounding the Absecon Lighthouse.



For a more in depth look at Keith Groff and the development opportunity he saw in Atlantic City before many others, head to www.GreatDayAtlanticCity.com



Another example of Atlantic City's rising development trend is the new MudGirls Studios on Arctic Avenue. After more than a decade of changing lives through art, MudGirls has officially relocated to a larger space, allowing the nonprofit to grow its mission of empowering women through creativity, job training, and entrepreneurship. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Mayor Small told the MudGirls staff: "We are blessed by the work you are doing through the arts and helping people."



GREAT DAY GAZETTE

STAYING ACTIVE WHILE SCHOOL IS OUT



GREAT DAY CAMP



MULTICULTURAL CAMP



SOCCER CELEBRATION

Hundreds of Atlantic City children have been spending the summer at both Great Day Summer Camp and Multicultural Summer Camp. Great Day Summer Camp is organized by the Atlantic City Youth Services and Atlantic City Recreation divisions to give campers a nice balance between athletic and STEM activities while Multicultural camp introduces campers to activities celebrating all cultures and even took on a pirate theme this year. The Multicultural Office was also a partner in the North 2 Shore Welcomes the World Soccer Celebration where families enjoyed soccer activities, art, cultural performances, and time together celebrating the diversity.



JUST LIKE A PRO

From the gridiron to the hardwood, Atlantic City's young athletes have been putting in the work this summer. Atlantic City Recreation's NFL FLAG and Jr. NBA seasons gave local youth opportunities to play the games they love, while learning the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline, and perseverance. At the same time, they made new friends and created lasting memories.



NEXT GENERATION

The next generation of Atlantic City's first responders got to experience what it takes to serve their community through this year's Junior Police Academy, Junior Fire Academy and Beach Patrol Minnows Program. These hands-on programs taught by officers, firefighters and lifeguards gave local youth the opportunity to learn directly from the men and women who protect our city every day.





AROUND THE COMMUNITY



POLICE & FIRE CELEBRATE 29 PROMOTIONS



The Atlantic City Police Department and Atlantic City Fire Department honored 29 members during a joint promotional ceremony at the All Wars Memorial Building, celebrating their advancement to new ranks and continued commitment to serving the community. Mayor Small administered the Oath of Office as family, friends, city officials, and department members gathered to recognize the accomplishments of those promoted to Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Fire Captain, and Police Officer. Among those sworn in was Alexis Zellinger – the first African American female Deputy Chief in the history of the Atlantic City Police Department.



Atlantic City's newest class of scholarship recipients was recognized during a special celebration at Steel Pier as Mayor Small and his Scholarship Committee honored students preparing for the next chapter of their educational journeys. The event celebrated the 58 recipients of the 2026 Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship, which went to graduating high school seniors beginning college as well as Atlantic City residents pursuing trade school, master's, and doctoral programs. Recipients in attendance received commemorative oversized scholarship checks!



DEFENDING HOME BEACH

Congrats to the Atlantic City Beach Patrol for capturing 1st Place at the Chief Rod Aluise Lifeguard Classic!

They put on an incredible performance right here on our own beaches, and have been dominant in the Lifeguard Classics so far this summer.

ONE STEP AT A TIME



New Jersey Attorney General Jennifer Davenport joined Mayor Small, city and state officials, local law enforcement and community members for the Community Walk for a Safer Atlantic City. Events like this bring residents, public safety officials and community leaders together to strengthen relationships, encourage dialogue and stand united against violence.

GREAT DAY GAZETTE

HELP TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY IS ON THE WAY

The City of Atlantic City's Division of Reentry Services is offering **FREE Community Cleanup & Laborer Team** services to Atlantic City residents this summer, and the response has been tremendous. The safety-certified laborer team has already completed service requests at numerous properties and even entire blocks throughout the city, helping residents create cleaner, safer, and more welcoming neighborhoods. Services include overgrowth and brush removal, lot and litter cleanup, bulk debris hauling, and trash can curbside assistance. The team typically responds to requests within 48 hours.

Residents interested in requesting assistance can call **(609) 343-2136 ext. 1073** or send a message to **@acreentryservices** on Instagram.



The Department of Planning & Development and the Green Coalition of Atlantic City hosted the third annual Summer Garden Tour, bringing participants to gardens at these locations throughout the city:

- Cardinal Restaurant
- Fisherman's Park
- Fire Station #3
- Our Lady Star of the Sea School
- Urban Coastal Agricultural Network Instructional Garden at Farmer's Row



Atlantic City's Community Yard Sale turned an ordinary summer day into a citywide treasure hunt, with residents hosting yard sales across our 48 blocks, with a central location at City Hall with vendor tables and live music. Shoppers browsed everything from household items and furniture to clothing, books, and collectibles.

KARLOS R. LASANE, SR. WAY

Atlantic City has officially designated a part of Michigan Avenue to honor the legacy of a civic and political trailblazer. Mr. LaSane made history as the first African American elected to public office in Atlantic County, serving as an Atlantic City Commissioner from 1968 to 1972. He was also a respected community leader whose work in housing development and public service left a lasting impact on the city.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

THE GREAT DAY GAZETTE IS PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



(PICTURES BY CITY PHOTOGRAPHER EDWARD LEA)



WHAT'S COMING UP

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4th

Come to Oscar E. McClinton Park from 5:00–8:00 PM for a free evening of food, music, kids' activities, giveaways, and the chance to meet Atlantic City's police officers, firefighters, and community partners.

RESUME WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 11th

Take the next step toward your career goals from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Carnegie Building. Receive assistance creating professional resumes, accessing job leads, and gaining readiness skills.

RAINBOW BEACH BASH

Sunday, August 16th

Join us from 2:00–6:00 PM at Rainbow Beach (Indiana Avenue & Park Place) for an afternoon celebrating Atlantic City's LGBTQIA+ community. Enjoy plenty of fun on the beach for everyone.

BLACK BUSINESS EXPO

Tuesday, August 25th

Celebrate Black entrepreneurship from 5:00–8:00 PM at the All Wars Memorial Building. This free event features vendor exhibits, panel discussions, and valuable networking opportunities.

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