

APRIL 2026



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THE POWER OF A PAUSE IS FELT IN ATLANTIC CITY

SETTING THE STANDARD

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

When it comes to putting taxpayers first, improving quality of life, and supporting our business community, this administration is setting the standard.

Let's start with our small businesses. Last year, I committed \$500,000 in grant funding to support Atlantic City entrepreneurs. After seeing the real impact this was having across our community, we nearly doubled that investment. It was an honor to celebrate our grant recipients recently and hear firsthand how this funding is helping their businesses grow and succeed.

Just as important are our residents, in particular our youth and seniors who are our two most precious resources. We're making meaningful investments in the next generation, and that includes creating opportunities

for our young people. Through our partnership with EyeKonz Sports, Atlantic City girls can now participate in lacrosse, and soon field hockey, completely free of charge. These are the kinds of opportunities that can shape futures both on and off the field.

Atlantic City continues to be a city of firsts. On March 30 at exactly 3:30 PM., we became the first municipality in the nation to recognize the *3 to 30 Seconds Global Moment to Pause*. This powerful initiative, led by influencer Shabazz the OG, encourages thoughtful decision-making, and was shared with our staff, students, and community. Now, Shabazz the OG is going to tell the world about all the great things happening in Atlantic City.

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

-Mayor Marty Small, Sr.



(MAYOR SMALL AND SHABAZZ THE OG)

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

ATLANTIC CITY GRANTS \$900K TO AID THE LOCAL ECONOMY



The City of Atlantic City celebrated the success of its recent Small Business Micro-Grant Program with a special reception honoring the recipients. The event brought together city leaders and entrepreneurs whose businesses benefited from the program's investment in the local economy. Through the initiative, the city awarded \$900,000 in grant funding to 65 small businesses across all six Atlantic City wards, helping stabilize operations, retain jobs, and support growth. Key metrics from the program demonstrate the meaningful impact on Atlantic City's small business community.

An estimated 200 jobs were retained, and an additional 75 jobs were created, with more than one-third of the money going to startups. The program also played a key role in strengthening commercial corridors, with eleven Boardwalk businesses and eleven Atlantic Avenue businesses receiving funding. In addition, the initiative supported a diverse range of local entrepreneurs. Three-quarters of the recipients are minority-owned, women-owned or veteran-owned businesses, and nearly half of the recipients are Black-owned businesses.



MOMENTUM IS REAL

Atlantic City has been receiving praise for the recent rise of its housing market, so Mayor Small and city concierge Jim Rutala invited developers to Dock's Oyster House to thank them for making this possible. Mayor Small vowed to continue welcoming any and all developers to Atlantic City, and to help guide all new projects from start to finish. In addition, this event served as a call to encourage developers to continue investing in Atlantic City.



MORE BUSINESS BUILDING



The Small Business Academy for aspiring Atlantic City entrepreneurs is back! This free program run by the city's Division of Economic Development is designed to support residents who are interested in starting a business or growing an existing one. Participants gain valuable knowledge, resources, and guidance through weekly classes to help turn their ideas into successful businesses.

GREAT DAY GAZETTE

GAME-CHANGING YOUTH SPORTS INITIATIVE



Mayor Small and Atlantic City's Recreation division announced a major new youth sports initiative designed to expand access to athletics for girls across the community. Through a partnership with Jazmine A. Smith and her Philadelphia-based nonprofit Eyekonz Sports, with support from Atlantic City's CDBG office and the Atlantic City Board of Education, girls in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to participate first in lacrosse and, in the near future, field hockey at no cost. The program is exclusively available to Atlantic City residents and is designed

to build athletic skills while also promoting mentorship, leadership development, and pathways to college scholarships. Call AC Rec at 609-347-5643 for registration information.

FROM THE DIVISIONS OF YOUTH AND SENIOR SERVICES...

Atlantic City youth in grades K-2 have been making sweet memories during the city's Mini Mix Masters program. Early assignments included making parfaits, banana pudding and mini pizzas. One of the best moments for the kids: getting to taste their creations!



Atlantic City Senior residents get to tap into their imaginative side during the city's Senior Creative Writing Class. The first prompt was: *What do the words Atlantic City mean to you?* This led to some touching writing pieces and plenty of fun stories to share with the group!

SPECIAL GUEST AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Dawson Palmarini recently visited Atlantic City, where he was welcomed by the Atlantic City Police Department, Fire Department, and EMS as an honorary officer for the day! After surviving a serious motorcycle crash in 2019 and spending four months in a coma, Dawson has made his mission to travel across New Jersey to thank all First Responders. During his visit, Dawson was presented with certificates of honorary recognition.

Check out the monthly Public Safety Insider at www.acnj.gov for the latest Atlantic City First Responder news!



SPECIAL EVENTS & RECOGNITION

ATLANTIC CITY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SHATTERS RECORDS

Well over 50,000 people attended the annual Atlantic City St. Patrick's Day Parade, making the 38th edition of this event the largest one in its history! The town was buzzing as crowds packed the Boardwalk to celebrate all things Irish, and filled our bars, restaurants and casinos all weekend long, giving Atlantic City establishments that always-welcome offseason economic boost. If you have the parade itch after that unforgettable day, don't worry: the Atlantic City Holiday Parade & Market will be here before you know it!



More parade photos on Page 6!



In honor of Women's History Month, the Mayor's Office of Special Events brought the community together for a special Sip & Paint event that combined art and education. Guided by Paint with Yeli, attendees tapped into their creativity and enjoyed an evening filled with color and fun!



SIP & PAINT

PREPARING FOR THE WORLD CUP



As the city's Multicultural Office and Visit Atlantic City work together to plan exciting FIFA World Cup 2026 events in Atlantic City, Ghanaian football legend Asamoah Gyan and Ghanaian ambassadors visited City Hall to meet with Mayor Small and staff. As part of the visit, Mayor Small was even presented a custom jersey with his name on the back!

WOMEN'S EXCELLENCE



The City of Atlantic City held a Women's Excellence Awards ceremony at City Hall, organized by the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Mayor Small began the event with welcoming remarks, setting the tone for an evening dedicated to honoring women who are making impactful contributions to the community. This year's honorees were Angela Burton, Janet Markowitz, Tina Notaro, Dr. La'Quetta Small, Rowshan Uddin, and surprise honoree Hope Austin, who are all inspiring mentors, advocates, and community leaders. Each honoree received a bouquet, a crown, and a certificate of appreciation. After receiving their awards, each shared remarks about what the recognition means to them.

GREAT DAY GAZETTE

ATLANTIC CITY LEADS THE WAY ON GLOBAL INITIATIVE



Taking just a few seconds to pause and think before reacting can change the course of a life. That's the message Philadelphia motivational speaker and influencer Eric "Shabazz the OG" Lowe brought to Atlantic City. After educating Atlantic City 8th grade students about critical thinking and making smart choices, Lowe went to City Hall for the inaugural *3 to 30 Second Moment to Pause*, where city employees and the community, at exactly 3:30 PM on 3/30, made Atlantic City the first municipality in the nation to recognize this movement. Mayor Small also delivered a proclamation to Lowe in recognition of this historic occasion.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Congratulations to the latest City of Atlantic City Employees of the Quarter!

Atlantic City Senior Services Division
(all members)

- Rhea Burch
- Rashawn Butler
- TJ Culleney
- Ashley Davis
- Lincoln Green
- Kevin Puca
- Jazmyn Rivera
- Priscilla Stone
- Alex Torres



And best wishes to employee Lenora Lampson, who retired from the Department of Revenue and Finance after 53 years of service to the City of Atlantic City and its taxpayers!

EASTER EGG hunt



Hundreds of Easter Eggs were spread all throughout Gardner's Basin as determined Atlantic City kids set out to find them! The annual Atlantic City Easter Egg Hunt also featured games and other activities for the little ones enjoy.

REUSABLE BAGS AND BOOKS GET A SECOND LIFE

The Public Works Department is launching a new community collection program for reusable bags. Residents are encouraged to donate new or gently used reusable bags, which will be sanitized and distributed to local organizations for food distribution events. Drop bags off in the City Hall lobby through the end of April. Public Works is also encouraging residents to recycle unwanted books instead of throwing them away. There's a drop off bin located at our Public Works Yard (1100 N. Albany Avenue).

THANK YOU FOR READING!

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

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE LARGEST ATLANTIC CITY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN EVENT HISTORY!



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GREAT DAY ATLANTIC CITY

WHAT'S COMING UP

PUT YOUR LIFE BACK ON TRACK

Get back on track with this court outreach and expungement event from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on April 9th at All Wars Memorial Building, offering support for resolving eligible cases and guidance through the expungement process. Resources and assistance will be available for Atlantic City residents.

DREAM BIG MASTERCLASS

Dream Big Masterclass offers a free music industry workshop for youth ages 14-24, covering music production, songwriting, and creative ownership. Led by a Grammy-nominated producer, this series inspires the next generation of talent. The five-week program gets started April 15th.

A KING'S FIRST QUEEN SNEAKER BALL

Get your kicks ready! "A King's First Queen" Mother & Son Sneaker Ball takes place April 17th from 7:00-10:00 PM at All Wars Memorial Building. Register now to be a part of this special family affair filled with music and style. For sons in grades K-8 only.

SENIOR HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Senior Health & Wellness Expo provides free health screenings, resources, and wellness activities for senior residents. Fitness sessions designed for seniors are also offered. The Expo takes place from 10:00AM to 3:00 PM on April 23rd at All Wars Memorial Building.

Great Day ATLANTIC CITY

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