Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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FROM THE MAYOR

August 4, 2023

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

It'll never happen they said.

To all the naysayers, I have bad news for you, and to all the believers, I am happy to report that the $100-million Island Waterpark at Showboat has been open for a month now, and people are loving it! I've been there a handful of times already, and let me tell you, it's as advertised. The slides are thrilling, the food is amazing, the vibe is perfect. Do yourself a favor and check out the world's largest indoor beachfront waterpark!

I want to thank Governor Phil Murphy and the National Governors Association for selecting Atlantic City as the host city for their 2023 Annual Meeting. Last year, during the NAACP National Convention, I had the honor of welcoming Vice President Kamala Harris as she arrived on the tarmac, and during the NGA Annual Meeting, I again had the honor of representing this great city by greeting First Lady Dr. Jill Biden as she arrived.

In somber news, I lost a close friend and Atlantic City lost one of its biggest advocates with the passing of New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver. She made sure everything my administration wanted to implement went through, and supported all the positive things we wanted to do for our residents. I'll be forever grateful for that. Our Youth, Senior and Multicultural Divisions would not be in existence today if it weren't for Lieutenant Governor Oliver. You'll read more about everything those divisions are accomplishing throughout this newsletter. This was a tremendous loss for our city, region and state, and our hearts continue to be with Lieutenant Governor Oliver's family and her colleagues.

Enjoy the rest of your summer season, thank you for reading our newsletter, and remember, It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City!

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

Back From Their 'Life-Changing Experience'

The five high school students from Atlantic City who embarked on an all expenses paid, two-week journey to South Africa courtesy of the city, Atlantic City Youth Services and youth education program "A Leadership Journey," returned home and delivered an inspiring presentation in City Hall Council Chambers reflecting on their experiences. While on their South Africa journey, the students were tasked with keeping records of everything that was happening to later share during this presentation. Each student also selected a social justice issue to research before and during the journey.

"We provided five kids from the City of Atlantic City with this experience for free, and they made us all proud," said Mayor Small. "As a mayor who has made taking care of our youth a priority of his administration, this journey meant as much to me as I know it meant for them, and I look forward to seeing what these young people are going to do in the future. They were the perfect representation of our great city in South Africa."

"The students are still feeling the effects and are still transforming as people from this journey to South Africa," said Atlantic City Youth Services Director Christina Noble. "We all pushed ourselves to have deep, meaningful conversations throughout this experience, which is what allowed us to grow as people and, one day, change the world. Every student on this trip added something unique and special, and we enjoyed this life-changing experience as one."

Noble and Atlantic City Youth Services Specialist Elizabeth Trigg accompanied the students to South Africa. A recap of the presentation can be found at acnj.gov and to watch the entire presentation, go to the city's Facebook page.

It's been an exciting summer thus far for our Atlantic City youth, who have been taking part in two, FREE summer camps offered by the city: 'Great Day' Summer Camp organized by ACYS and Atlantic City Recreation, and Multicultural Summer Camp organized by the city's Multicultural Services division. From sports to arts to culture, the kids have been doing it all this summer, including taking various field trips. One of the many highlights for the campers was spending a day on the beach with the Atlantic City Beach Patrol learning CPR and rescue exercises.

During the July City Council Meeting, two men were honored by Mayor Small and the Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management for their heroic actions assisting a family in need. On July 2nd, Jason Smart-El (left) and Brandon Holland (right) jumped into action to help a little girl, the girl's mother and the girl's uncle, who were all struggling to fight through rip currents in the ocean after guarded hours were over. They successfully swam in and saved the family. Mayor Small delivered a proclamation to each of our heroes, recognizing their bravery and bringing attention to the positive outcome, then OEM Coordinator Scott Evans and Atlantic City Beach Patrol Lieutenant Mike Sykes presented each man with something that isn't distributed often in Atlantic City: an Honorary Lifeguard Award.

The Mayor's Office, Atlantic City Police Department, Atlantic City Fire Department, Atlantic City Beach Patrol, Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management and a host of other city organizations took part in the annual National Night Out event, held this year at Sovereign Ave Ball Field. This event

aims to bring the community and local Government/Law Enforcement together. As part of this year's National Night Out, each child was entered in a free raffle for bicycles and other fun items!

"It is an event our agency looks forward to every year as we expand upon our partnerships, collaborations and lasting connections with the public," ACPD Chief James Sarkos told the Press of Atlantic City.

It was a memorable second year for the Atlantic City kids enrolled in the Fire Department's Junior Fire Academy. They spent two weeks this summer learning about drones and water rescue, they cooled off doing sprinkler drills on a hot and humid day, and got to master the fire safety trailer. This was all in addition to several trips, including a day at Island Waterpark just ahead of their graduation.

After a summer full of physical training, bomb squad and forensics exercises, and so much more, the recruits in the Police Department's Junior Police Academy graduated from the program, which also included a tour of the Public Safety Building and an Atlantic City Cruises boat ride departing from Gardner's Basin. A video highlighting the entire program can be found at acnj.gov.

Firefighters with the ACFD recently completed bailout training, which teaches them what to do in the event they ever find themselves in the unfortunate situation of being trapped in a burning building . They are instructed to find

something that can serve as an anchor, look for a window or suitable exit point, and use harnesses which are found in escape kits provided to them to scale down the side of the building's exterior. The firefighter each got to try this several times as part of the training. See video on the city's Facebook page.

The ACPD has been hosting free barbecues at different parks in each Atlantic City ward, with more to come. This is yet another effort to unite police and the community!

Three different days in July, three different cultural celebrations at City Hall. The City of Atlantic City Multicultural Services division held flag raising ceremonies recognizing Independence of Colombia, Puerto Rico Constitution Day and Peru Independence Day. We are extremely proud of all the diversity in Atlantic City and thank the members of the community, including city and county officials, who came out to make these events memorable. Next up is the Pakistan Flag Raising at 3 pm on August 14th, then the India Flag Raising on August 15th at Noon.

The City of Atlantic City Senior Services Division has been making sure our seniors stay active this summer, by offering free citywide fitness classes and a bowling outing.

Our seniors also got to embark on a boat cruise and a faith-based trip to Jersey City, New Jersey.

Senior Services also made sure our seniors stay cool this summer by holding a free fan giveaway for Atlantic City residents 55 and older.

A bike auction held in the City Hall Courtyard brought in nearly $1,000 for the city. In total, 38 bikes that were either abandoned or seized by police were sold.

And save the date now - September 7th - for Atlantic City's next property auction. More than 65 properties will be sold in the online auction. Stay tuned for further details.

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(609) 347-5630, FAX # 347-5621

Attention Property Owners:

The 2023 Final Tax Bills Are **NOW** Available on the Atlantic City website: www.acnj.gov

The Tax Bills will be mailed out the week of July 28, 2023 and will be due when it is received.

**The grace period has been extended until August 25th, 2023 for the 2023 3rd quarter only.

Please read the message under "Information for Taxpayers"

If you are a new owner, please contact the Tax Collector's Office for a copy of the current tax bill, do not wait until the deed information is updated.

If you no longer have a mortgage, please let the tax collector know, so that you are not mailed an advice copy bill.

If you do have a mortgage, but you received a regular tax bill, please contact your mortgage company to confirm.

If you recently moved, please make sure that the Tax Collector's Office has your new mailing address.
The post office does not automatically update tax office records.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience

Two of Atlantic City's largest events of the summer are quickly approaching! For everything you need to know about the TidalWave Music Festival on August 11-13 visit tidalwavefest.com, and all information on the Atlantic City Airshow on August 16 can be found at airshow.acchamber.com.

In preparation for these large-scale events, city, county and state officials, which includes Law Enforcement, have been partaking in regular meetings and Tabletop exercises to review what to in if an emergency situation arises. The safety of our residents and visitors will always be of our utmost importance, and anyone attending these events in Atlantic City, or any event here, can rest assured they are in good hands.

Junior NBA and WNBA kicked off this summer for Atlantic City kids in grades 3-8. This free league presented by the Atlantic City Recreation Department gives the kids a chance to learn the game of basketball for free, and play competitively each week, while sporting jerseys with the official Philadelphia 76ers logo on them. This was one of the many popular activities for Atlantic City youth this summer, a list that also includes swim club and rowing club. And on Saturday and Sunday, August 5th and 6th, registration is open for the Inter AC Soccer Clinic. Sign up at acnj.gov.

After a special sendoff with Mayor Small, some of the participants in the second season of NFL Flag Football in Atlantic City competed in a regional tournament in Baltimore for a chance to earn a spot at the Championship in Las Vegas. While they came up a bit short, we congratulate them on another incredible season!

Congratulations to Team 'Omar & Abdullah's,' who are the champions of the inaugural season of the AC Rec Adult Softball League at Surf Stadium! With only one loss, they were dominant all season long, becoming the only team to hit three homeruns over the fence, while leading the league in hits and RBIs. Team 'Stay Hungry' earned second place honors.

The city would like to thank everyone who participated in the league this season, and everyone who came out to the stadium to show their support from the stands!

After a combined 50+ years of service to the City of Atlantic City, we would like to congratulate Louis Anderson and Albert Stella on their much-deserved retirements! Anderson served in many different departments during her time with the city, most recently in Licensing & Inspections. Stella has been a mainstay for the ACFD, retiring as a Battalion Chief.

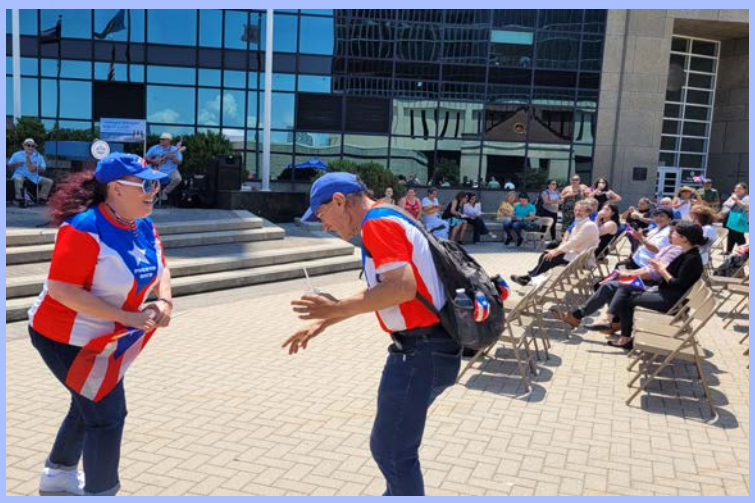
We wish you both nothing but the best!

Mayor Small held a luncheon at City Hall, celebrating our employees of the month (the honor is given out once a quarter), chosen by their department directors. Congratulations to our honorees:

Nina Corbitt (HR), Tracy Couch (Administration), Mohammad Dedar (L&I), Thomas Gilardi (ACPD), Mike Griffin (Health & Human Services), Gene Kirby (Public Works), Broer Linblad (ACFD), Tashiya Terry (Finance) and Arlene Wilkerson (Planning).

The City Hall staff celebrated summer together with an indoor beach party! Each floor brought in some treats to enjoy together. Needless to say, everything was delicious!

Can We Say Great Day?!



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