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It's a Great Day in the City of Atlantic City ■ AUGUST 2024

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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AMERICAN DREAM

FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

In what turned out to be one of my most meaningful press conferences to date as mayor, I had the privilege of announcing a First-Time Homebuyer Lottery for the residents of the Great City of Atlantic City! This is a game-changing opportunity like no other in Atlantic City, that will give our residents the chance to live the "American Dream" and own a home at a fraction of the price it would normally cost to purchase. The first homes available are in a quiet and peaceful Venice Park neighborhood, and I can't think of a better way to invest in the fabric of our community than by creating new homeowners, and new taxpayers to support our local economy. We have plenty more details on this program in this newsletter.

Summer is a time to be outdoors, hit the beach and enjoy Atlantic City's world-famous Boardwalk, and I truly hope you have gotten to do all that, because like always, Summer is just flying by, right? Here in Atlantic City, let me tell you what Summer is NOT, and that is a time to get complacent. As I like to say, under the Small administration, "We Always Workin'" and this Summer is no different. While we continue moving major projects like the Road Diet and Atlantic City Aquarium renovation along, we're including our youth in the "Always Workin'" mantra, by making sure any teenager or young adult who wants to work and has the will to work has a job right now. We currently have more than 300 local youth involved in our Summer Work Program, giving them paying jobs throughout Atlantic City. You always hear officials say they are doing things "for the kids," but under the Small administration, we put our money where our mouth is and get the job done. This Summer Work Program is on top of two FREE Sumer Camps the City organized for our residents, and a Junior Police Academy and a Junior Fire Academy that just wrapped up. No Atlantic City parent will ever be able to say there is nothing to do for their kids in Atlantic City as long as I am mayor!

Thanks for reading our newsletter and remember, It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City!

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

(Mayor Small observes the Summer Work Program coding course at Carnegie Building)

Affordable Housing For AC Residents

Mayor Small has announced a First-Time Homebuyer Lottery program designed to make buying a home more accessible for Atlantic City residents. The first four homes that will be available through this program (pictured above) are in the Venice Park section of the City. The City of Atlantic City is investing $1-million for ten properties in the program ($100,000 each), while New Jersey Community Capital (NJCC) is giving a $100,000 subsidy. The Atlantic County Improvement Authority (ACIA), neighborhood Community Development Corporations and the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office will also contribute money, depending on eligibility, bringing the price of these multi-bedroom homes, which cost approximately $400,000 to construct, down to approximately $175,000 or lower. Also depending on eligibility, applicants may be able to reduce the price even more through additional first-time homebuyer programs. The lottery is restricted to documented residents of the City of Atlantic City, who, as part of the application process, may be asked to provide their credit score, place of employment, verification of housing counseling certificate and verification of pre-qualification of mortgage loan. Applications for the first four properties will be available at www.acnj.gov on August 5, 2024. More information can also be found on the website.

Construction is underway on the $22-million Baltic Avenue Canal improvement project that will reactivate the Baltic Canal built in 1912, which drains stormwater from 775-acres of the City that stretches from south of the Atlantic City Expressway to Absecon Inlet and serves portions of the Ducktown, Westside, Midtown, Bungalow Park, and Inlet neighborhoods. As part of the construction, six large pumps are being added to the Atlantis Avenue Flood Gate System to evacuate water during significant flooding events. Screening systems are being installed at both the Atlantis Avenue and Fisherman's Park pump stations. These systems are designed to remove all litter prior to discharge into the back bay waterways.

Work on exterior improvements for the Atlantic City Aquarium have begun, and the City of Atlantic City is now looking at a September reopening. No exterior building siding aesthetic improvements were included in the initial interior improvement project, and Mayor Small made the determination that when the Atlantic City Aquarium reopens, because it's a first-class attraction, it needs to look good both inside and out. To ensure the reopening is done right, the City was able to secure the money for exterior improvements using American Rescue Plan funds. The exterior work is the final step before the grand reopening! The Aquarium closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youth Staying Busy This Summer

The City of Atlantic City is working with Atlantic County and other area agencies for a Summer Work Program employing more than 300 local teenagers and young adults, ranging from ages 14 to early 20's. Participants in the program are getting real world experience at Atlantic City's Carnegie Building, as well as at 18 outside agencies throughout Atlantic City, including City Hall. Partnering with the City of Atlantic City is the Atlantic County Office of Workforce Development, the NJ Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), and National Action Network (NAN) Tech World, a partner of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino who has previously worked with the City of Atlantic City on youth programs. Media were given a tour of the Carnegie Building to see the youth in action, working in different fields including entrepreneurship, fashion design, podcasting, graphic design, coding and web design. Participants of the paid program set goals for themselves at the beginning of the Summer, then evaluate at the end of the Summer what they learned and the training that was achieved. The Summer Work Program has tripled in size since last Summer.

Whether it be at 'Great Day Summer Camp' run by Atlantic City Youth Services and Atlantic City Recreation, or at Multicultural Summer Camp run by the Multicultural Office, the youth of Atlantic City made plenty of memories this Summer through outdoor activity, unforgettable trips and indoor fun, like Olympic Day! Multicultural Summer Camp ended with planting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while 'Great Day summer Camp' concluded with the campers' end of Summer showcase.

JUNIOR Police Academy, run by the ACPD, instilled positive behaviors in participants, emphasizing respect, discipline and leadership skills. The curriculum included classes and demonstrations, plus a physical fitness session, military drills and life skills training, pushing the kids to their limits and beyond.

JUNIOR Fire Academy, run by the ACFD, doubled in size this Summer, with kids learning the basics of firefighting, fire safety and first aid, while performing educational exercises like rigging setup, and sprinkler and hose drills, which also provided some much-needed relief from the heat!

JUNIOR NBA, run by Atlantic City Recreation, gave participating kids the chance to learn the basic skills of basketball in hopes of turning them into future stars. Thanks to a partnership with the National Basketball Association, the kids got to sport official NBA team jerseys with logos!

A victory for the home team! The Atlantic City Beach Patrol showcased its depth and skills by winning the Atlantic City Lifeguard Classic, placing in the top 3 in every event (results to the right) while having success in other towns' races too.

(1st Place) Doubles Surfboat Rescue - Kyle Deroo and Tom Muskett

(1st Place) One Mile Double Row - Vince Granese and Nick Guidara

(2nd Place) Surf Boat Relay - Lily Malone, Sean Blair, Julianna Granese, Kyle Deroo

(2nd Place) Singles Row - Vince Granese

(3rd Place) Surf Dash Relay - Andrew Gillman, Joe Russell, Lilliana Keim, Will Bradley

(3rd Place) Swim Paddle Relay - Charles Schreiner, Tanner Innis, Michael Awad, Drew Latz

Heroism was on full display as the Atlantic City Fire Department (and all of our First Responders) showed why they are the best out there today by battling a 5-alarm fire on July 11th on S. Georgia Avenue. The City appreciates our firefighters for all you do, and sends a special thank you to the 11 neighboring fire companies who assisted on that day, along with the Red Cross and Volunteers of America.

Interested in joining the Atlantic City Fire Department as a firefighter?

Motivated candidates who meet the criteria can submit a Civil Service Commission application through 4:00 PM on September 3rd. The application and the full list of criteria can be found at www.acnj.gov.

So far this Summer, the ACPD has held free community barbecues in Wards 1, 2 and 4, with BBQ's coming up in the other Wards August 7th (Pete Pallitto Field), August 12th (Chelsea Heights Field) and August 29th (Brown's Park) all from 3:00-5:00 PM.

And we hope to see everyone at National Night Out 2024 at Oscar McClinton Park from 5:00-8:00 PM on August 6th!

Congratulations to Atlantic City Crossing Guard Rosemary Sarno on her well-deserved retirement. For the last 44 years, Rosemary has ensured that thousands of students made it to school and home safely each day. We thank her for the dedicated service to our community! We also would like to wish good luck to our crossing guards for the upcoming school year, who were recently sworn-in to service.

ACPD Officer Riley Flynn has been receiving much praise for his bravery during a house fire in May, where he rescued a teenage girl and pets from the burning home. This includes during the July City Council meeting, where he was honored by City Council and received a Proclamation of Valor from Assemblyman Guardian. Fox News also highlighted Officer Flynn's heroics.

Mayor Small held a special celebration at Steel Pier for the Atlantic City residents who received $10,000 each as part of year two of the 'Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship' program, a three-year, $3-million commitment to the youth of Atlantic City using American Rescue Plan funding. The money goes directly to their university, but as part of the celebration, recipients were acknowledged one-by-one and were given a replica check. Mayor Small also announced he was able to secure the funding for ten additional scholarships for the upcoming school year! Any Atlantic City resident may apply, regardless of what high school they attended. Applications are at www.acnj.gov, the deadline to apply is end of business on Monday, August 5th.

Don't forget the Atlantic City Department of Public Works is in YOUR COMMUNITY all Summer long for the department's Clean Communities program. If you see our crew, stop over, say hello and learn about the different ways you can help them keep our community clean!

The full schedule can be found at www.acnj.gov.

July began with Senior Appreciation Day for Atlantic City residents 55 and older, who were treated to free haircuts, pedicures, manicures and massages. Seniors also got to enjoy weekly Walking Club and Water Aerobics classes throughout the month thanks to Atlantic City Senior Services. Another highlight: the Senior Boat Cruise around Atlantic City where our seniors spotted many dolphins!

Nothing beats enjoying some game action at Surf Stadium (and other City fields) in the Summer! The AC Rec Adult Softball League concluded another action-packed season with a championship win for team Wonder Bar. It's safe to say we're already looking forward to next season!

Congratulations to the latest City of Atlantic City Employee of the Quarter selections, chosen by their department supervisors -------->

Joya Banks, Keith Dunn, Kenneth Mitchem, Anthony Woodard (Health & Human Services - Homeless Outreach Team) * Martin Basso (Fire Department) * Herbert Belton (Public Works) * Lindsay Cohen (Human Resources) * Pamela Fields, Kiyia Harris (Planning & Development) * Andrew Kramer (Administration - PIO) * Leah McHale (Police Department) * Olivia Pawling (Revenue & Finance) * Tauheed Shamsiddeen (Licensing & Inspections) * Lena Zagadinow (Municipal Court)

Can We Say Great Day?!

CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY
TAX & REVENUE COLLECTIONS
OFFICE (609) 347-5630,
FAX (609) 347-5621

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

A Few Reminders

FROM THE CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY
OFFICE OF TAX & REVENUE COLLECTIONS

The 2024 Final Tax Bills will be available to view & pay on August 1, 2024 at www.acnj.gov.

The Tax Bills will be mailed out the week of August 9th, 2024 and will be due & payable when it is received.

The grace period has been extended until September 3, 2024 for the 3rd quarter only.

3 EASY STEPS TO
SET UP AUTO PAY FOR YOUR TAX BILL

1. LOGIN OR CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT
Log into your WIPP Payment Portal
If you are A New User : Create a new account

2. CLICK THE SETUP AUTOPAY LINK.

3. ENROLL IN AUTOPAY AND CHOOSE YOUR PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD.

THAT'S IT- ON YOUR WAY TO AN EASIER BILL PAY!

Important Information For Tax Payers

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.

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