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

AUGUST 2025

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

As a promoter with an entertainment background, I know what it takes to put on a large-scale event like an Air Show, especially what goes on behind the scenes. That's why I need to give Gary Musich and his Visit Atlantic City team, and Eric Scheffler and his CRDA team their flowers. After a summer off, we huddled as a group as late as this past spring to discuss what it would take to bring an Air Show back to Atlantic City this summer. We brainstormed, had follow-up meetings and low and behold, the Atlantic City Air Show was back in July, and it was a welcome sight to see the crowds returning and our businesses get that all-important midweek boost. People want to compare this year's Air Show to Atlantic City Air Shows of the past, but the reality is this was a totally different show with new organizers. We just built the foundation for an entirely new and fresh concept, and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for this event in Atlantic City.

NOBODY sells the Great City of Atlantic City like I do. So I did what I do best recently at Ocean Casino Resort when I spoke in front of a room full of millionaires, and even billionaires, to discuss the $3.4 Billion Bader Field project and why now is the time to invest in Atlantic City. I assure all of you reading this Bader Field Redevelopment is alive and well.

I was humbled to be the Chief Guest of Honor at this year's Atlantic City Bangladesh Mela. I always say "for Atlantic City to matter our multicultural community has to matter." We've demonstrated that in a big way under the Small Administration through programs and services created by our Multicultural Office.

Thank you for reading our "Great Day Gazette" newsletter, don't forget to check out our new Great Day Atlantic City website - www.greatdayatlanticcity.com - and remember, It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City! Oh, and tune into my Facebook page every Saturday morning at 9:00 AM for the return of In the Mixx LIVE in podcast form!

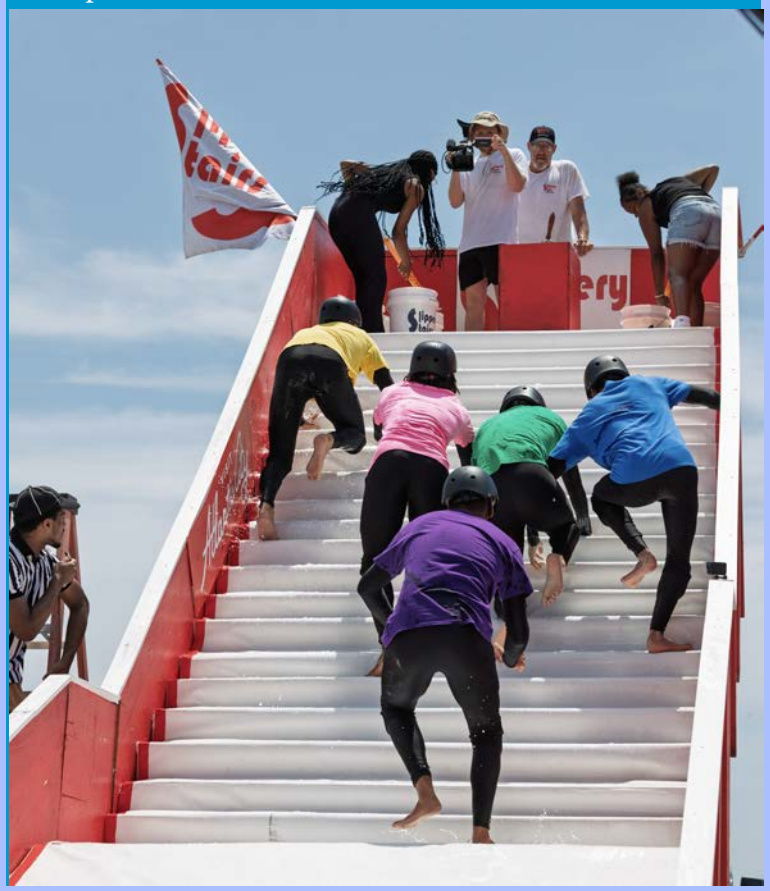
- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

Atlantic City Air Show Makes Grand Return

The Atlantic City Air Show returned in grand fashion to Atlantic City in July as part of the first ever Soar & Shore Festival, presented by Visit Atlantic City in partnership with Herb Gillen Airshows. After a hiatus last summer, crowds once again packed the Atlantic City beaches and Boardwalk for the exciting aerial displays and demonstrations both on the regular Air Show date and Practice Day one day prior. From the all-women Misty Blues parachute team to the Historic B-25 Mitchell bomber and UH-1H Huey helicopter flyovers to the U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin search and rescue demonstration, and everything in between, crowds enjoyed everything the Air Show had to offer, while casinos and businesses throughout Atlantic City got to enjoy the economic boost this show brings.

No Longer Just An Air Show

The Soar & Shore Festival featured a full week of activities, including fireworks, a car show, a silent movie, FIFA Activation Fan Zone and Jimmy Johnson's "Quest for the Ring" Fishing Week. And for the first time, ESPN's Slippery Stairs was introduced to the Atlantic City beach, marking a wet and wild time for participants and spectators!



While your eyes were glued to the sky during the Air Show, our First Responders were hard at work throughout Atlantic City behind the scenes. So thank you to the Atlantic City Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Beach Patrol, EMS and everyone else who worked to keep our residents and visitors safe!

And thank you to Visit Atlantic City and the CRDA for all your efforts in bringing the Air Show back and making it a success. Plans are already in motion for the 2026 Atlantic City Air Show, and we can't wait!

A GREAT Summer in Atlantic City

What a summer it's been! Hundreds of kids in Atlantic City have been enjoying both Great Day Summer Camp and Multicultural Summer Camp – free to residents! Great Day Summer Camp, run by the Atlantic City Youth Services and Atlantic City Recreation divisions, brought together the best of sports, arts & crafts, and outdoor adventure—highlighted by a mini-Olympics and capped with a memorable dance showcase. Multicultural Summer Camp, run by our Multicultural Office, gave the children a chance to explore different cultures through stories, music, games, and food—while staying rooted in the great outdoors. Both camps took the campers on trips inside and outside of Atlantic City and gave them memories that will last a lifetime.

The first-ever Community Care Family Fun Day at Brown's Park, organized by the City of Atlantic City's Health & Human Services division, was a huge success! From waterslides and a game truck to face painting and arts and crafts, there was something for everyone. Families also enjoyed free food, live music, resources from community partners, and plenty of joy and laughter together.

The winners of year three of the Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship for Atlantic City residents were celebrated at historic Steel Pier as they received replica checks and congratulations from Mayor Small and the scholarship committee for all their hard work! Each recipient once again earned life-changing money toward their education.

Atlantic City Recreation's Jr. NFL and Jr. NBA 2025 seasons have come to an end. Participants in each league spent the summer learning the skills needed to become successful football and basketball stars in the future. For both leagues, participants got to wear jerseys with NFL and NBA branding thanks to a partnership between the City of Atlantic City and the National Football League and National Basketball Association respectively.

Resilient & Green

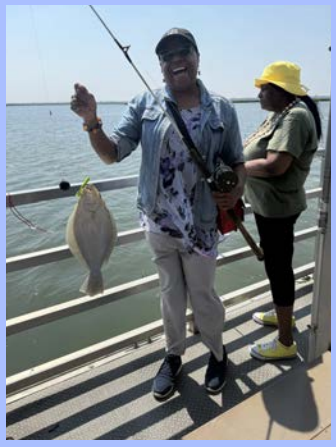
Over the last several years, the City of Atlantic City has invested millions of dollars in making the city more resilient from future storms and flooding. This effort continues as construction has begun on an $8.5 Million Bulkhead Replacement Project in Atlantic City's Chelsea Neighborhood. As part of the project, public bulkheads are being replaced from Albany Avenue to Morris Avenue along the back bay, outfalls will be improved to convey stormwater through the new bulkheads, sidewalks will be restored, and trees will be planted. This project is funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Atlantic City has secured a $1.33 Million grant from the Green Acres Program for improvements to Dolphin Field. Utilizing this funding, planned Dolphin Field improvements include new turf, concession stand and locker room renovations, new fencing, new lighting, new goal posts, landscaping and ADA accessibility. This work is expected to begin later this year and is anticipated to be completed by next summer. Previously, Hard Rock Atlantic City donated a new scoreboard and money for other improvements to Dolphin Field. All of these contributions will remain. The Dolphin Field news follows a trend under the Small Administration of improving recreational facilities in Atlantic City.

The City of Atlantic City's Planning & Development Department and the Green Coalition of Atlantic City partnered with C.R.O.P.S. Nonprofit to invite our residents to explore some of the most stunning spaces our city has to offer during a special Garden Tour. From Fisherman's Park to the Ducktown Garden to the Gardener's Basin Garden and more, participants traveled to each site by bus to learn about the the garden's history and see the true beauty of these hidden gems.

Six new EV charging stations have been installed at City Hall - and are now open to the public! Transportation is one of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions and these new stations are a powerful step toward a cleaner, greener Atlantic City. The public can access via the ChargePoint app, standard charging rates apply.

Atlantic City residents ages 55 and older have been enjoying the outdoors this summer thanks to free citywide events organized by the Atlantic City Senior Services division. This includes an unforgettable fishing excursion where just about everyone reeled in a fish, and some of those fish were even keepers!



History was made at the former Victory First Presbyterian Church site, where a time capsule buried more than 65 years ago was unveiled. The capsule held treasured artifacts that connected us to the cultural roots of Atlantic City!

New Badges & New Beginnings

The Atlantic City Police Department has announced the following promotions:

Promoted to Deputy Chief of Police
Andrew Leonard
Christian Garofalo

Promoted to Lieutenant of Police
Frank Ingargiola

Promoted to Sergeant of Police
Nicholas Berardis
Jeffrey Hannon

The ACPD also had 15 police officers graduate from the Atlantic County Police Training Center. Several Atlantic City officers were presented with awards during the ceremony for being top in their class. The City of Atlantic City congratulates our new ACPD leaders and officers and wishes you all nothing but the best!

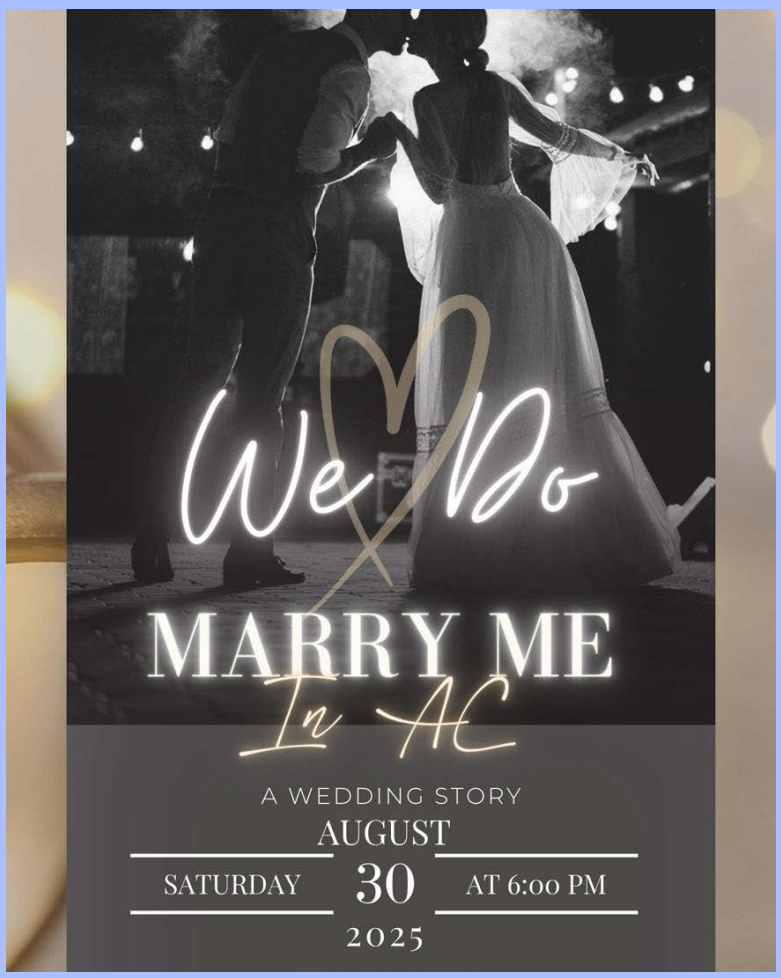
Congratulations to the boys and girls who completed the Jr. Police Academy and the Jr. Fire Academy this summer, and thank you to the officers and firefighters who took the time to run these programs. Both programs taught the kids discipline, they learned about the various departments and of course had some fun along the way! Both programs ended with a special graduation ceremony for our participants.

The Atlantic City Beach Patrol had a strong showing on home beach during the Atlantic City Lifeguard Classic – including a first place finish in the Surf Dash from lifeguards Emmett Kane, Andrew Gillman, Sabrine Ghazaz, and Ty Costabile.

***Join us for National Night Out on August 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Pete Pallitto Field for an evening of community, connection and safety. Come out and meet your local first responders while enjoying food, music, games, and activities for all ages! ***

The City of Atlantic City and ACPD were honored to once again take part in the HEROtini Mocktail Challenge outside Tropicana organized by the Hero Campaign. Guests enjoyed a flavorful afternoon sampling delicious alcohol-free drinks while supporting a powerful message: NEVER drink and drive!

Can We Say Great Day?!



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