Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR IN ATLANTIC CITY

ALL EYES ON NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

ACPD GETS FUNDING FOR MORE OFFICERS

A TASTE OF COLLEGE FOR AC YOUTH

CAN WE SAY GREAT HOLIDAY!

FROM THE MAYOR

December 6, 2023

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

I know you can feel it by now, the holiday season is upon us, one of my most favorite times of the year! In Atlantic City, we have already seen a bunch of tree lighting ceremonies, among other holiday celebrations, with plenty more to come. There's a reason why Travel + Leisure Magazine includes Atlantic City on its list of the Top 25 Best Christmas Towns in America. Go for a ride around town and it won't take you long to see for yourself. It was my honor to once again take part in the city's Winter Wonderland Parade. As Mayor, I will always take advantage of the opportunity to travel through the neighborhoods and see the community celebrating together. It brings joy to my heart. It took a lot of people to make this parade happen, the perfect example of partnerships at its finest, spearheaded by our Office of Special Events.

As an added holiday bonus, a new movie just premiered that is now streaming on BET Plus called 'So Fly Christmas' that features a special cameo by yours truly! But more importantly, it was filmed, in part, right here in Atlantic City and features amazing shots of the city for the whole world to see. I made it very clear when the producer was deciding on locations that Atlantic City should be his top choice, and it paid off.

I would like to thank the New Jersey League of Municipalities, who once again held their annual conference in the Great City of Atlantic City. Just because it usually happens here, doesn't mean it has to happen here, and we appreciate you coming back year after year, and look forward to seeing everyone again next November.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season, and an early Happy New Year. While 2023 was special in Atlantic City, wait until you see what's in store for 2024! Thanks for reading our newsletter, and remember, It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City!

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

The weather outside was quite delightful as the City of Atlantic City Winter Wonderland Parade once again took over the town. Actor Kelsey Grammer, who has been making regular appearances in Atlantic City as of late, served as the Grand Marshal. He was joined by Mayor Small, Atlantic City First Responders (including the ACPD Grinch!), local businesses and organizations and student performers, including the Malcolm X Shabazz High School Marching Band from Newark, NJ. Spectators lined the streets as the parade traveled down MLK Boulevard, around The Walk and along Atlantic Avenue to City Hall, a route designed to hit the city neighborhoods and tourist spots. The parade was organized by the Mayor's Office of Special Events, with a special thank you to Masterpiece Advertising Design, who helped with promotion, even bringing media to town from Philadelphia on a special Holiday Train!

The city distributed more than 900 turkeys and food boxes stuffed with all the fixings just ahead of Thanksgiving to Atlantic City residents. The Food Box Giveaway was organized by Atlantic City Senior Services and the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) office. The Bangladesh Association and Cedar Food Market provided the food. That same day, the city partnered with Kelsey and Kim's Restaurant owners Kelsey and Kim Jackson for a free Community Feed at Soldier's Home. Kelsey and Kim also made sure our First Responders were well fed this holiday season by cooking them a hot meal to enjoy.

UPCOMMING HOLIDAY EVENTS AT CITY HALL

Holiday Bazaar

Looking to check some items of your holiday shopping list? Come to the City Hall lobby from 9:00am-3:00pm on December 8th where local vendors will be selling clothing items, gift baskets, stocking stuffers and more!

Food Box Giveaway

A second Food Box Giveaway happens at 11:00am in the City Hall Courtyard for Atlantic City residents on December 21st. Registration is required in advance and will be done in person in the City Hall lobby weekdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm beginning Tuesday, December 12th. Call Atlantic City Senior Services for more information: 609-347-5458.

Winter Coat Drive

The city is collecting fairly new and slightly used coats now through December 20th in the City Hall lobby, as well as new socks, gloves and hats. The Coat Drive will then be open to the public on December 21st in the City Hall Courtyard from 12:00pm - 3:00pm. We ask coats that are dropped off be clean and ready to wear. Questions can be directed to the Health and Human services Department at 609-347-5437.

Search 'Atlantic City Tinseltown Holiday Experience' to see all Atlantic City holiday events!

The installation of 1,000 state-of-the-art camera lenses in more than 200 locations throughout Atlantic City, with a focus on city neighborhoods, is now underway. Funds for the $5-million project, announced last year, are coming from supplemental aid in the 2023 State of New Jersey budget, meaning this will come at zero cost to the taxpayers of Atlantic City.

This project will change the landscape of Atlantic City and revolutionize the way Law Enforcement protects the community, by utilizing unprecedented Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities. Once installed, the new cameras are expected to help enhance public safety, reduce crime, increase emergency response times, improve police investigations and improve situational awareness during large-scale events and major storms.

Each camera being installed consists of four fixed lenses allowing for 360-degree monitoring views and up to 40x optical zoom, with Pan-Tilt-Zoom capabilities. The cameras can differentiate between objects, clothing and hair colors and directions. The City of Atlantic City is partnering with Atlantic City Electric on this project. The contractor is JCT Solutions, who is currently installing the infrastructure for the fiber optic networks. All cameras are expected to be installed within the next 18 months.

ACPD Officers Michael Peters (pictured) and Dylan Imbrenda were recognized at the Atlantic City Police Foundation's 2023 Hero Luncheon for safely apprehending an armed suspect right after a fatal shooting earlier in the year. They bravely risked their lives to ensure public safety!

The Atlantic City Police Department has been awarded a $3,750,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grant to fund the hiring of 30 new officers. This will include the addition of School Resource Officers. School Resource Officers serve as a valuable resource for students, staff, and parents, providing a visible and positive presence in the school community. They will work closely with school administrators to address issues related to student safety, such as bullying, drug use, and other forms of criminal activity. The grant will also fund the hiring of Traffic Safety Enforcement Officers to focus specifically on traffic safety issues.

The Atlantic City Fire Department was able to quickly extinguish a fire that broke out on November 15th on the Boardwalk outside Resorts Casino Hotel. If it weren't for their rapid response (the fire was under control in less than an hour), the situation could have been significantly worse. As it stands, nobody was injured. Thank you, as always, to the brave men and women of the Fire Department!

The 108th New Jersey League of Municipalities Annual Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center

Atlantic City's economy got a major boost as the NJ League of Municipalities Conference returned to town for three days in November. Mayor Small talked about the economic impact this event has in Atlantic City during the Mayor's Lunch Briefing, before introducing featured speaker Jacquelyn Suarez, Acting New Jersey Department of Community affairs Commissioner. Atlantic City department heads got to join the thousands of attendees from municipalities all throughout the state in educational courses and seminars during the event. The city's IT Director, Patrick Quinlan, was on the Incorporating AI Into Government Services' panel while Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Evans joined the 'Hometown Security Briefing' panel. Among the many exhibits was a City of Atlantic City table, where attendees got to grab some fun items while learning about everything that is happening under the Small administration.

The guest speaker during this year's Veterans Day Observance at City Hall was ACPD Lt. Mark Benjamin, who earned numerous medals and honors during his time in the U.S. Air Force, including the United States Air Force Achievement Medal for his life saving initiatives after a major bus accident in South Korea. We thank Lt. Benjamin and all of our veterans for your service.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has announced the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will commit over $5.5 million in funding to support a multi-faceted approach to immediately expand access to fresh, healthy grocery shopping options for Atlantic City residents. The suite of programs that will be launched by the NJEDA will increase affordable access to produce and healthy food options, ensuring more residents of Atlantic City can purchase groceries right in their community. Mayor Small says this will help fix a 'glaring need' in Atlantic City.

The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs recognized World AIDS Day with a Story Slam event, in partnership with the South Jersey AIDS Alliance. Members of the Atlantic City community came together to share powerful stories of triumphs and challenges. The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs also acknowledged Transgender Day of Remembrance with a memorial ceremony and celebration of life.

Free programs in November offered by Atlantic City Senior Services included Zumba, bowling and a snowman Paint & Sip. Seniors also enjoyed an appreciation luncheon at the PAL Building, and a trip to the new Arteriors Exhibit at James Salt Water Taffy on the Boardwalk, thanks to the AC Arts Foundation. Next up: the 2nd annual Senior Gala at the Claridge!

The Atlantic City Youth Services division has been bringing high school students from Atlantic City on various college tours. Students got to see Temple, St. Joe's and Villanova Universities in Philadelphia, Cheyney University in the PA suburbs, Howard University in Washington, DC and Rowan University in South Jersey (pictured above). On these tours, the students get to see campus, learn about the school's history and get a feel for what opportunities await them!

ACYS and the city's Anti-Violence team organized November Fest, a fun-filled family day at Pop Lloyd Stadium, featuring food, music and Fall-themed activities and games. The ACPD and ACFD were also on hand to spend time with and grill for the kids.

ACYS Director Christina Noble moderated a fascinating panel discussion at Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University as past and present members of the Intergenerational Storytelling Project -- which connects current students with elder members of the Atlantic City community – reunited. This was a partnership between the city, Stockton and Stories of Atlantic City

The City of Atlantic City was well represented during the New Jersey Statewide Reentry Conference in Trenton, NJ. Attending on behalf of the city were our Reentry Services team, the One Neighborhood Evolution Anti-Violence program and our Homeless Outreach team.

AC Rec brought the AC Vikings and AC Lady Vikings on an educational trip to Washington, DC to visit historic sites and see a football game between Howard University and Morgan State University. Back home, AC Rec has been getting rave reviews as they debuted the Adult Flag Football League.

Can We Say Great Parade?!

FOLLOW US

Website: acnj.gov

Twitter: AtlanticCityGov

Facebook: AtlanticCityGov

Instagram: AtlanticCityNJGov