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It's a Great Day in the City of Atlantic City JULY 2025

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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ACPD RECEIVES CELEBRITY PRAISE

A UNIQUE, LOCAL TAKE ON A POPULAR EVENT

ANOTHER $1M INVESTED IN OUR YOUTH

LIFE IS GRAND

FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

With the return of the Air Show looming in July, nonstop entertainment from our casinos and free concerts at Kennedy Plaza on the Boardwalk Wednesday and Thursday nights these next few months, Atlantic City is once again the place to be this summer! But if you think entertainment is the only reason to come to Atlantic City, think again. In the last month alone, we celebrated grand openings and ground breakings for new businesses, new sites, new concepts and my pride and joy - a new courtyard outside City Hall: The Sheila Y. Oliver Plaza. I am so proud of this project. The "LG" as I affectionately called her loved Atlantic City. She didn't just say it, she meant it and often talked about spending her days after retirement in Atlantic City. Well, with this beautiful new courtyard named in her honor that our employees and community will enjoy for generations to come, Sheila Oliver got her Atlantic City retirement! She was always a champion for Atlantic City, and is the reason many of our City Hall programs exist today. Just look at what these programs accomplished in the past month alone.

Our Youth Services and Recreation divisions organized an amazing free carnival for our community; the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs under our Multicultural division united the community during the Great Pride Festival; and our Senior Services division gave our senior residents a memorable "Senior en Blanc" experience. And I have to shout out our Anti-Violence division, who hosted an inspiring Violence Prevention Conference and Peace Walk (pictured to the right), bringing people from all over the country right here to Atlantic City for a common cause. I've said it before, and I'll say it again - 'We're just getting started!"

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.

Cutting Ribbons....

The recently completed Sheila Y. Oliver Plaza incorporates enhanced security and safety features in addition to environmentally responsible concepts. The main entrance to City Hall now features a covered walkway and security gate. For additional safety measures, lighting has been improved throughout the courtyard. Sheila Oliver's name is etched above the main entrance walkway, and her name and image can be found on signs and structures all around the new courtyard. Aesthetic and convenience improvements include the addition of fixed and built-in benches throughout the courtyard, a rain garden, a marble fountain, and a pergola, plus the planting of lovely trees, shrubs and grass. Walking space throughout the Courtyard has been expanded for better pedestrian accessibility. The project also features the repaving and redesign of City Hall's main parking lot.

The city was excited to take part in the ribbon cutting for yet another new Atlantic City business. Hammer & Nails is the first-ever luxury men's grooming shop located on the historic Atlantic City Boardwalk.

The City of Atlantic City's first city-run Dog Park, located at Altman Park (S. New Hampshire & Pacific Avenues) – is now open daily from sunrise to sunset. There are separate sections for dogs over 40 pounds and up to 40 pounds with bags and waste disposal stations located on both sides. There is also obstacle course equipment on both sides. This Dog Park exists thanks to the efforts of the city's Health & Human Services and Planning & Development departments, the city's CDBG Office and the Inlet CDC.

...And Breaking Ground

Construction has begun at the site of the new Uptown Skate Park - a partnership between the city and nonprofit organization Skate AC - expected to open later this summer.

The city has begun removing the boards at the future site of the Atlantic City Boardwalk Holocaust Memorial - expected to be complete this fall.

Foya Development, in partnership with the city, broke ground on a new, affordable housing development - coming soon to 303 N. South Carolina Avenue.

A Call for Peace & An End to Violence

The City of Atlantic City's O.N.E Neighborhood Evolution Anti-Violence division organized a three-day Violence Prevention Conference at Showboat Resort that brought together violence prevention leaders, frontline workers, policymakers, and community organizations from across the country to ignite a shared vision for safer, healthier and more just communities. Day one of the "Pull Up 4 Peace Conference" was Atlantic City-themed with remarks by Mayor Small and Councilman Kaleem Shabazz and an Atlantic City Showcase panel moderated by O.N.E Neighborhood Evolution, among other events. Day two was National Day featuring an appearance by Newark, New Jersey Mayor Ras Baraka while day three began with an empowering Peace Walk from Showboat to Sheila Y. Oliver Plaza.

The Atlantic City Police Department received national praise after recovering two instruments stolen from the Hard Rock Atlantic City belonging to the rock band Heart. Mayor Small always stresses the importance of giving our police officers and firefighters the tools to succeed, especially technology, and ACPD investigators were able to make an arrest and locate the stolen Telecaster guitar and Gibson EM-50 mandolin utilizing surveillance cameras and automated license plate readers. In a social media post, Heart singer Nancy Wilson said she is "incredibly grateful to the Atlantic City Police Department" and expressed her appreciation for the department's "dedication and quick action."

The Atlantic City Police Foundation generously donated a brand new $15,000 wrestling mat -- with help from the Atlantic City Police Athletic League (PAL) -- to a new initiative for Atlantic City youth wrestlers. PAL Executive Director Lt. Will Santiago says this program provides positive structure and athletic opportunities for our youth, as they develop and refine their wrestling skills. There are about 60 boys and girls in the program, which is run by PAL and coached by Marcus Holmes. The new mats feature ACPD and PAL branding!

A Flag Retirement Ceremony was held at Bader Field to ensure that old, worn, or damaged U.S. flags were retired with the dignity and respect they deserve. The proper way to retire an American Flag is through a respectful and ceremonial burning, overseen with care — paying tribute to our nation's symbol.

SCAM ALERT

The ACPD is warning of a phone scam where callers pretend to be an officer telling residents there is an active warrant for their arrest and an alternative to being arrested is purchasing items on the Internet. Be aware the ACPD **will never** call and request you turn yourself in or request the purchase of items. Let the ACPD know if you receive a similar call by calling 609-347-5766 or submit a text anonymously to tip411 (847411). Begin the text with ACPD.

Glamour, Pride & Entertainment

Elegance met pure joy at "Senior En Blanc" – a take on the popular "Diner En Blanc" where guests wear all white and dine picnic-style at a secret location. The Atlantic City Senior Services division didn't keep any secrets though as guests arrived at All Wars Memorial Building dressed in white from head to toe for a free night of dinner and dancing. Around 250 seniors showed up to the event, which featured an appearance from Mayor Small. Every senior left with a complimentary fan to keep them cool this summer.

Love, unity and pride were celebrated during Pride Month in Atlantic City, capped off with The Great Pride Festival at O'Donnell Park. The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs partnered with the Byrdcage and the Miss'd America Pageant for this vibrant, joyful, and inclusive celebration that truly showcased the spirit of our community. To kick off the month, in one of the first events held at the new Sheila Y. Oliver Plaza outside City Hall, the Pride flag was raised during a beautiful and touching ceremony.

AC IN THE NEWS

Thank you to 6abc Action News meteorologist Adam Joseph who did his weather segments throughout an entire evening newscast live from the Atlantic City Aquarium, showcasing all the Aquarium and beautiful Gardner's Basin have to offer! And thank you to NBC 10 reporter Ted Greenberg for featuring the efforts of Bruce Weekes and the city's Economic Development department in attracting more businesses to Atlantic Avenue. The department is also continuing its 'Keep it Local' campaign into summer, encouraging residents and visitors to shop local.

Soar and SHORE FESTIVAL
Presented by VISIT Atlantic City

Atlantic City is the first city to host a full year of events for the annual North 2 Shore Festival! The initial events took place in June, including the Orange Loop Block Party, Bash at Back Sov, Global Grooves at O'Donnell Park and the first of two Free Summer Concert Series at Gardner's Basin (the second one is July 26!)

The Atlantic City Air Show returns Wednesday, July 16 with a practice day on Tuesday, July 15, both from 12:00 – 2:30 PM. Visit Atlantic City has organized a full week of events, including a Car Show, Silent Movie and ESPN's Slippery Stairs, the full schedule and Air Show lineup can be found on Visit Atlantic City's website- visitatlanticcity.com

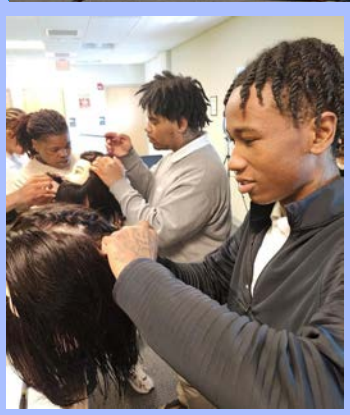
Setting Our Youth Up for the Future

This year marks the third year of the Mayor Marty Small, Sr. scholarship program for Atlantic City residents – a three-year, $3 Million commitment to our youth. The first two years, 100 scholarships of up to $10,000 each were awarded to graduating high school seniors and college students from Atlantic City. This year, there was enough money to award 113 scholarships of up to $10,000 each! Mayor Small and Superintendent of Atlantic City Public Schools Dr. La'Quetta Small held an announcement news conference at Atlantic City High School where the recipients who are just graduating high school were recognized.

Step right up! The city's first ever Youth Carnival at Bader Field and Skate Zone to celebrate the end of the school year was a huge success! Children of all ages and their families enjoyed a free afternoon of attractions, rides, games, ice skating, food and so much more thanks to the city's Youth Services division, Recreation division and the Mayor's Office of Special Events.

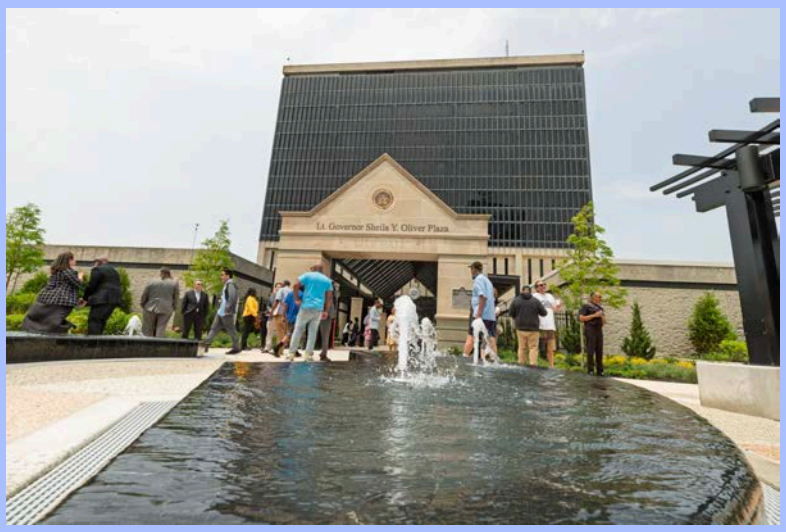
Atlantic City Recreation hosted HBCU Dance Teams here in Atlantic City to give high school seniors the chance to audition to be a part of their teams next year. As part of the HBCU Dance Line Experience, South Carolina State University and the Morgan State University Dance Teams even held a free dance clinic for our youth!

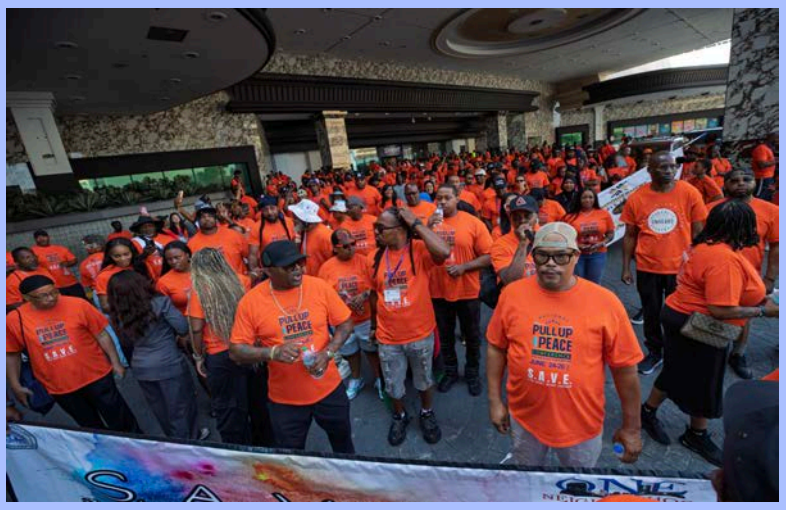
If you haven't been to Pop Lloyd Stadium to watch the Atlantic City Recreation Adult Softball League this summer you're missing out! Come support our community teams and enjoy some game action for free at the newly renovated field every Wednesday and Thursday night starting at 6:00 PM. And call AC Rec at 609-347-5643 to host your event at Pop Lloyd Stadium.



Students in the Atlantic City Youth Services barbering program learned the art of haircutting hands-on — using professional styling scissors to practice techniques. This creative, skills-based program empowers kids with confidence and practical knowledge in a fun, supportive setting!

Can We Say Great Day?!





GCAC

THE GREEN COALITION OF ATLANTIC CITY

2nd Annual

AC GARDEN TOUR 2025

July 17th 10 am - 1 pm

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF 6 BEAUTIFUL GARDENS IN ATLANTIC CITY. ENJOY THE SUNSHINE, ENGAGING CONVERSATIONS, AND STUNNING GARDEN VIEWS!

RSVP by July 14 using the QR Code
or
Email: **green_coalition@cropsnj.gov**

SCAN ME

If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in City programs, activities, and services contact ACHR.gov or (609)347-5374

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