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

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

Happy Summer 2024! We are more than ready to welcome the millions of visitors that will fill our beaches, boardwalk restaurants and shops this season, and it all got started with the annual Opening of the Sea Ceremony outside Resorts, where I turned the key in the sand to signify the start of tourism season. While Memorial Day Weekend is always a busy one in Atlantic City (this past one was no exception) I really hope everyone took a moment to reflect on what this holiday is truly about, and that is honoring the fallen heroes who made this the land of the free and home of the brave.

In talking about Atlantic City beaches, I would be remiss if I did not address the current situation on Atlantic City's north end. Beach erosion there has caused a public health and safety issue, as well as a financial and image issue. When I say the Small administration has explored EVERYTHING we could to this point to come up with a solution to this problem, I mean we've explored EVERY option. We're scheduled for replenishment down the road, but that's not good enough. I've called meetings with the Governor's Office, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Army Corps of Engineers to see if replenishment can be moved up to salvage this season to no avail. This is something that can't and shouldn't wait as both our businesses and the State are losing money. The price to do the work ourselves is millions of dollars more than we were hoping, I won't do that to our taxpayers. Just because it's now June, doesn't mean I'm going to ease up on this. Kudos to Ocean, Showboat, Hard Rock and Resorts for coming up with alternate solutions this Summer given the situation, but I will always fight for our residents, businesses and guests, and that fight will continue. But we won't let this ruin what is guaranteed to be another amazing Summer in the Great City of Atlantic City, where we'll once again be LIVE, LIT AND OUTSIDE!

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

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mayor Small was joined by Atlantic City Beach Patrol Chief Steve Downey, Atlantic City Police Chief James Sarkos and Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Evans to officially welcome the millions of visitors coming to Atlantic City this Summer during the 'Opening of the Sea' ceremony outside Resorts Hotel Casino.

ACBP lifeguards are guarding the following beaches to start the Summer season:

Caspian Avenue (weekends only), New Hampshire Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, North Carolina Avenue, South Carolina Avenue, Kentucky Avenue, MLK Blvd., Michigan Avenue, Mississippi Avenue, Texas Avenue, Brighton Avenue, Chelsea Avenue, Albany Avenue, Bartram Avenue, and Montgomery Avenue.

Lifeguards are on duty in Atlantic City from 10 AM until 6 PM. More beaches will be guarded every few weeks as the season progresses. All beaches will be fully operational by the last week of June. **DO NOT** swim at unguarded beaches.

Interested in joining the ACBP? Open tryouts are June 8th and applications are being accepted now for the Jr. Lifeguard Program, which begins July 1st.

As per tradition, the ACBP then brought Mayor Small out to sea to place a Memorial wreath. The festivities ended with the Beach Ball Drop on the Boardwalk.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Memorial Day Observance)

(South Jersey Regional Stand Down)

(Bernie Friedenberg WWI Memorial)

Two ceremonies were held Memorial Day Weekend in Atlantic City to remember and honor our fallen heroes: one at the Saracini-O'Neill 9/11 Atlantic City Memorial and the other at City Hall Council Chambers, organized by City Council Vice President Kaleem Shabazz. The South Jersey Regional Stand Down returned to Atlantic City's All Wars Memorial Building, providing services and resources to homeless veterans. Prior to the start of that event, Mayor Small stopped by to offer support to all of our veterans and thank the many volunteers who make this event happen. Mark your calendars for June 6th (D-Day) at 12:00 PM at O'Donnell Park for the unveiling of the Bernie Friedenberg World War II Memorial statue, honoring the distinguished service of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Bernard I. Friedenberg, an Atlantic City native, as well as ALL veterans. Also mark your calendars for June 14th (Flag Day) for a special U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony at 10:00 AM at Bader Field, organized by the American Legion Post 61, in partnership with the ACPD. Worn out or tethered U.S. flags can be dropped off at the Public Safety Building (2715 Atlantic Ave).

In May, the Atlantic City Fire Department graduated eleven recruits who completed twelve weeks of training at the Anthony 'Tony' Canale Fire Training Center in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, while 13 Atlantic City Police Department officers graduated after successfully completing 26 weeks of basic training at the Atlantic County Police Training Center. The ACPD also swore-in ten officers who are just beginning their Police Academy training. The City of Atlantic City wishes all our recruits safe and fulfilling careers!

Congratulations to City of Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management Coordinator and ACFD Chief Scott Evans, who was named to Government Technologies 'Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers' 2024 list, which recognizes state and local leaders for their roles in serving the residents.

According to GovTech: *Evans is committed to saving lives. He is also a leader in the world of drones, the evidence of his efforts visible around the city's beaches, where unmanned aerial vehicles patrol for rip tides and the sharks that endanger visitors, especially when no lifeguards are on duty.*

We would like to recognize the ACPD officers who journeyed to Washington, D.C. during National Police Week, to honor the law enforcement officers from throughout the country that have died in the line of duty, as well as their families. The ACPD was well represented on the three-day Police Unity Tour, which ended with a prayer vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Jen Miller McMeekin, the wife of fallen ACPD Officer Thomas J. McMeekin Jr., spoke during the vigil.

The ACFD, ACPD, ACBP, United States Coast Guard and New Jersey State Police teamed up with aviation experts and organizations including American Aerospace Technologies Inc. and AeroDefense to demonstrate how drones can be used to respond to a simulated harbor fire and resulting oil spill, and and to support public safety as they monitor the ongoing emergency and alert local civilians. This demonstration at historic Bader Field served as a training exercise and a major step to review, practice and refine emergency response protocols and techniques.

PUBLIC WORK(ING) HARD

The city's Department of Public Works has been especially busy with Clean & Safe efforts heading into Summer!

Crews have been installing storm drain grates throughout the city as a preventative measure to avoid drainage clogs as a result of trash and debris buildup, ultimately lessening street flooding. With these new grates in place, the debris will instead pile up outside the storm drains, where it can easily be gathered by street sweepers.

The third year of Public Works' Project Clean Communities initiative returns June 3rd, and crews have been installing signs in each neighborhood to encourage the community to get involved! We'll have more information on the city website and social media pages after the launch, or you can call 609-347-5700 to learn how you can help take care of your neighborhood!

As part of Boardwalk Improvement Group (BIG) efforts, Atlantic City's Office of Emergency Management has been training the Public Works Beach and Boardwalk division in identifying hotspots where homeless individuals gather and tactics to safely remove them from that area, helping them get needed services. BIG formally launches this Summer.

Congratulations to Lateffe Wright (pictured to the left) and the five other City Public Works employees who completed an Electrician Apprenticeship Program, taught by the City's former Director of Public Works, Paul Jerkins, a licensed master electrician. The program is designed to teach the workers basic electricity understanding, among other skills, through hands-on training at the Public Works Yard. Each participant had access to individual training booths that replicate an actual wall, electrical panels, disconnects on walls and meter assembly. Teaching these workers these new skills ultimately saves the Atlantic City taxpayers money, as the City no longer has to hire contractors for every electrical project. Wright has officially moved over to an electrician position.

Congratulations are also in store for the participants in a free course teaching basic computer skills to Atlantic City residents, organized by the City's Re-Entry Services division. Keep an eye out for similar programs in the near future.

Lastly, congratulations to the Atlantic City residents who completed the eight-week Small Business Academy, another free program offered by the City, this one to teach residents what it takes to start their own business.

Atlantic City Recreation's T-Ball season is back in full swing on Monday evenings. It's not too late to sign your child up (grades K-2) to learn the basics of baseball from our AC Rec staff. NFL Flag Football is also getting started up again for a third Summer. Kids in grades 3-8 can craft and hone their football skills Fridays at 5:00 PM. And Atlantic City native and NFL Star Abdullah Anderson is bringing back his Free Football Training Camp for grades 3-8 and high schoolers on June 22nd at Atlantic City High School. Register for all these events at acnj.gov and call AC Rec at 609-347-5643 with questions.

From learning about the history of fishing in Atlantic City to what bait to use (thank you One Stop Bait & Tackle!) to actually casting lines into the water, our youth have had memorable and educational experiences during the Atlantic City Youth Services Young Anglers program this Spring, among other exciting programs like Lego Club and Sewing. Sign up for all ACYS programs and events at acnj.gov.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE ACYS EVENTS

June 8 - Youthchella

Featuring music, games and a Glow Party!

June 14 - ACYS Family Cookoff

Where child-adult pairings compete to see who makes the best dish!

And 'GREAT DAY' SUMMER CAMP IS BACK *June 25-August 1* (partnership w/ AC Rec) mixing the best of both worlds in sports and the arts and nature!
Multicultural Services Summer Camp also starts June 25th

Atlantic City residents ages 55 and older have been enjoying Water Aerobics classes this Spring, one of many free programs offered by the Atlantic City Senior Services division, who also recently brought our seniors on an unforgettable trip through the mountains of New Hope, PA on a historic train!

Our Office of Multicultural Services held a cooking class featuring Asian dishes to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month. Participants made Dumplings, then enjoyed a delicious meal made by Levander's 22 Southern Cuisine.

PRIDE MONTH

Call 609-347-6482 with questions.

And check out northtoshore.com to see a list of the hundreds of events happening in Atlantic City during the North To Shore Festival, returning June 17-23, capped off with the first ever Camp North To Shore & Beach Bonfire at Chicken Bone Beach!

Can We Say Great Day?!

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