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

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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BRIDGE THE GAP

FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

I have a saying you hear often that "the Small administration says what it means and means what it says." I made a promise to the residents that during my first full four-year term as Mayor of the Great City of Atlantic City, we would stop putting band aids on First and Second Bridge in Venice Park, but instead we would make it a priority to rebuild both bridges. It took a lot of hard work and dedication from many individuals to make this happen, but I can proudly say I am a man of my word and Venice Park has two, brand-new, beautifully upgraded bridges. But in order for both bridges to be rebuilt, we had to temporarily inconvenience the fine people of Venice Park with detours during construction. But knowing the importance of these projects, at no point did they complain, and they gave is their complete cooperation throughout the entire process, and for that I say thank you.

Put a check mark next to Second Bridge ribbon-cutting. Next up: Pop Lloyd Stadium, City Hall Courtyard, our new Dog Park and, by the time you read my next Mayor's Message – yes, it's happening in March – the Atlantic City Aquarium!

While I love celebrating these accomplishments of my administration and reporting good news to our taxpayers, but I need to shift gears and take a quick moment to give a shout out to my E-A-G-L-E-S! That's right, we're Super Bowl champs baby!! I've been saying all season long I'll be in New Orleans twice, once for my Fly Eagles Fly trip and the second time for the Big Game. Not only did I get to see the Birds win the championship in person, but to be there with my son, words can't begin to describe that feeling that we'll both carry with us for the rest of our lives.

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!

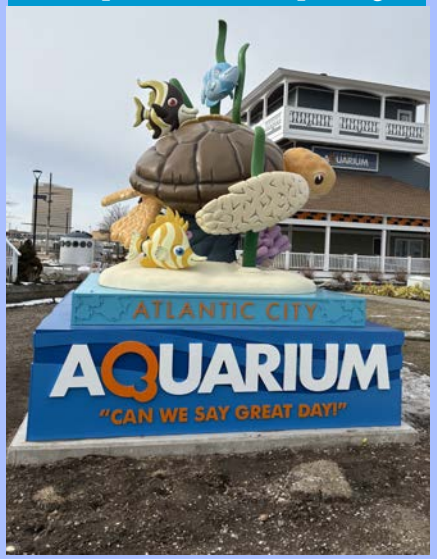
- Mayor Marty "Super Bowl" Small, Sr.

LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE

Much to the delight of residents in Atlantic City's Venice Park neighborhood, the Ohio Avenue Bridge over the Venice Lagoon, which has been under reconstruction, has reopened to vehicle and pedestrian traffic ahead of schedule. Reconstruction of "Second Bridge" as it's known throughout the community began in August 2023, with repair work at the time expected to take up to two years. That repair work consisted of rebuilding the entire bridge, replacing deteriorating timber pile bents with concrete filled steel pipes. Emergency substructure repairs were undertaken in 2021 to stabilize the bridge until replacement. A shared bike lane is also included in the newly constructed bridge, along with sidewalks on each side of the bridge and steel sheet pile bulkheads at the base. Built in 1969, "Second Bridge" was replaced in stages using a single alternating lane of traffic with temporary traffic signals. At no point during reconstruction was the bridge completely closed. The $6.85 Million to repair the bridge came from American Rescue Plan funds and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), at no cost to the taxpayers. In November 2022, reconstruction of the Ohio Avenue Bridge over Penrose Canal in Venice Park, known as "First Bridge" in the community, was completed after a year of work.

Pop Lloyd Stadium is looking better than ever as the reconstruction project nears its completion. Mayor Small was recently joined by members of Atlantic City Recreation and the Public Works Department for a progress tour. In addition to the beautiful blue and red turf, the new and improved field also features renovated locker rooms, restrooms, dugouts and storage rooms. Pop Lloyd Stadium is on track to reopen this spring as a multipurpose sports hub.

The Atlantic City Aquarium grand reopening is getting closer and closer! On Monday, March 24th the Aquarium will reopen its doors to the public for the first time in five years as renovations to the inside and outside of the building are now complete and the building looks and feels completely revitalized! A special ribbon-cutting will be held prior to the reopening.



In The Name of Safety

Police Chief James Sarkos and Fire Chief Scott Evans joined Mayor Small as he announced what he's calling a "big step in the right direction" with Sean Riggin being named as Atlantic City's new Public Safety Director, a position that had been vacant in recent years. In this role, Riggin will direct the activities of Atlantic City's Police Department, Fire Department, Beach Patrol and Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Riggin has over 30 years of public safety and security experience, including Chief of Police, Fire Director, and Emergency Manager Coordinator in the City of Pleasantville. The appointment comes as the Small administration continues to devote considerable resources to its Clean & Safe initiatives. Crime is down 8.6-percent in Atlantic City, and this move is expected to help the city continue this positive trend.

Atlantic City's Let's Get Cookin' 2025 event raising money for the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City featured, for the first time, a friendly battle between the Atlantic City Fire Department and the Atlantic City Police Department to see who makes the most delicious dish.

The ACPD's Stuffed Grape Leaves with Lamb & Rice topped the ACFD's Crab & Shrimp Cakes by vote from those in attendance at Showboat's Island Waterpark, but the real winners of the night were the children: more than $100,000 was raised!

A reminder that a Prescription Drug Drop Off Box is located in the lobby of Atlantic City's Public Safety Building (2715 Atlantic Avenue) to allow individuals to safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications. Accepted items include pills, capsules, patches and pet medications. Litter, liquids and syringes are not accepted. You can see the list of all Drop Off locations throughout Atlantic County at www.acnj.gov.

Atlantic City has seen several rounds of accumulating snow so far this winter, and we would like to shout out the Department of Public Works, who each time had all the main roads and side streets plowed right away. Great job!

VIKING PRIDE, VIKING STRONG!

More than 1,700 Atlantic City students participated in College & Career Week, a partnership between the Atlantic City Youth Services division and Atlantic City High School. This week long event aimed to not only expose our youth to the options available to them post-secondary education including college, trade school, and other opportunities, but also get them excited about those possibilities through activities, showcases, and workshops. The week began with the "It's Showtime!" Kickoff Pep Rally, followed by "Day in the Life" where students learned about various professions from individuals in those careers. Sports, College, & Career Readiness Day was next as students sat in on a panel of sports professionals and athletes and learned important tips on how to prepare for college and careers after high school. The week ended with the main event: a massive College & Career Fair giving the students the resources needed to begin the next chapter in their lives.

ACYS has partnered with the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern NJ and Better Tomorrows for a new program for Atlantic City girls K-12. In the early going, the young scouts created affirmation jars, bracelets, and shared their goals and aspirations. ACYS will be introducing more spring programing soon, while other programs like StemBots Academy for example, has already begun.

The second helping of Atlantic City Youth Services' Family Cook Off once again served up a great time as child and adult pairings competed in this tasty competition. The catch is the ingredients aren't revealed until it's time to cook! Everything needed to prepare the food was provided by ACCC's Atlantic City campus, where the competition was held.

Before tipoff of a home game at the Wells Fargo Center, the Philadelphia 76ers honored the Atlantic City Recreation division at center court for all the positive work they do for the Atlantic City community. As part of those efforts, AC Rec has brought local kids to more than a dozen 76ers games in recent years. The 76ers said they wanted to do this special gesture for AC Rec to show their appreciation.

The city celebrated the graduates of the first cohort of "Raising Kings and Queens," a transformative program made possible through the Atlantic City Reentry Services division, with a special graduation luncheon. Throughout the 10-week program, participants ages 14-18 engaged in mentorship opportunities, etiquette training, and hands-on projects designed to prepare them for future success.

CELEBRATING CULTURE

Mayor Small and the Atlantic City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee announced this year's parade is expected to be among the largest to date, with more than 75 performers, ranging from string bands to pipers, from charitable partners to performers and local businesses and organizations. Mayor Small called it "a true celebration" that will have a positive impact on businesses citywide. Deputy Chief Bridget Pierce of the Atlantic City Police Department has been selected as this year's Grand Marshal.

PARADE DETAILS

WHEN

Saturday, March 8th

WHERE

World-Famous Atlantic City Boardwalk

START TIME

1:00 PM (ish)

MORE INFO

www.acstpatricksdayparade.com

Black History Month ended with two free trips to Philadelphia for Atlantic City residents. The Multicultural Services office brought a group to the African American Museum to explore two inspiring exhibitions: Audacious Freedom highlighting the lives and contributions of African Americans in Philadelphia from 1776-1876 and Shared Vision Black identity, beauty, and power through contemporary art. And Atlantic City Senior Services brought residents to the Whitman Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library for a trip back to 1969 and a showing of the film Summer of Soul. And for a Black History Movie Day back at home, the two divisions partnered for screenings of The Six Triple Eight, sharing the incredible story of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion—the first and only all-Black, all-female battalion to serve overseas during World War II.

Senior Services also celebrated Black History Month with a special paint event where our seniors created portraits of African American women!

Can We Say Great Day?!

NEIGHBORHOOD EVOLUTION
ENGAGE • PREVENT • EMPOWER

ANTI-VIOLENCE DIVISION JOB FAIR 2025

MARCH 11,2025 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

ALL WARS BUILDING 1510 ADRIATIC AVENUE
ATLANTIC CITY

HIGHLIGHTS

More than 25 Employers Engaged: Connect with top companies in this area.

Immediate Interviews: Embrace the opportunity to have on-the-spot interviews with potential employers.

Resume Workshops: Elevate your resume with guidance and suggestions from expert career advisors.

10am-11am- Resume Workshop
11am-12pm- Interview Workshop
12pm-1pm- Break
1pm-4pm Job Fair Event

Bring extra resumes, dress professionally, and aim to leave a lasting impression.

For further details, feel free to reach out to us via email at kamckinley@acnj.gov

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