Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

POP LLOYD: 'A GIFT FOR THE COMMUNITY'

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE - AC CRIME IS DOWN

AREA DADS MAKE MEMORIES WITH THEIR PRINCESSES

WHY ATLANTIC CITY IS A GREAT PLACE TO START A BUSINESS

PLAY BALL!

FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

Here are two things to know about the Small Administration. We never give up and when we tell you something is going to happen, it's going to happen. I had a vision for a long time to turn Atlantic City's historic Pop Lloyd Stadium from just a baseball field into a multi sport stadium for the Atlantic City community. There are a lot of moving parts involved in something like this, but when I have a vision, we stick to the plan until it becomes reality.

We just cut the ribbon to unveil the new look and much improved Pop Lloyd Stadium, which is not just a baseball field anymore. You can also play just about every other field sport there. If you have ever seen the field before this renovation, you won't believe your eyes when you look at it now. This is a true gift to the Atlantic City community to use, as well as outside organizations like Atlantic City High School, who were the first to play a game at the new-look Pop Lloyd Stadium, and let me tell you, the atmosphere was electric. From the crowd to the turf, the reviews were all positive, and we look forward to hosting many more events at this facility for a long time to come.

Speaking of keeping promises, I told the taxpayers of Atlantic City to expect a 6th straight year of property tax relief, and it's now official. The City of Atlantic City's 2025 $258 Million budget includes a 3.4-cent decrease. The Atlantic City taxpayers have been my number one priority from the moment I took office, and we are once again able to deliver in a big way. While most other municipalities are raising taxes, the Small Administration has become the leader in the clubhouse when it comes to fiscal responsibility, and that's credit to my budget team and great relationships. Nothing shows the taxpayers how much we care about them more than by giving money back to them each year!

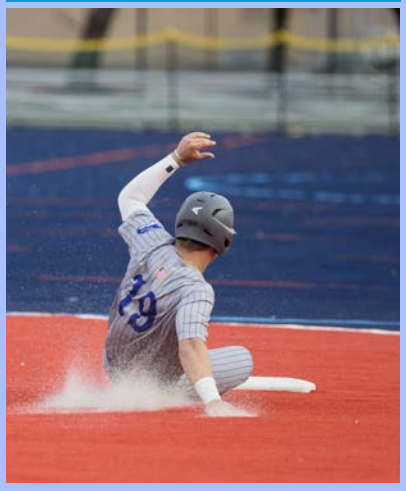
Thank you for reading our "Great Day Gazette" newsletter, don't forget to check out our new Great Day Atlantic City website (www.greatdayatlanticcity.com), and remember, It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City!

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

NEW & BLUE: POP LLOYD STADIUM REOPENS

IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO POP LLOYD

- Artificial Blue and Red Turf
- New Dugouts
- New Locker Rooms
- New Bleachers
- New Restrooms
- New Lighting
- New Fencing
- New Scoreboard
- State-of-the-Art Sound System



Atlantic City's iconic Pop Lloyd Stadium has undergone a $5.6 Million renovation that transformed the venue into a multipurpose sports hub for Atlantic City youth and the entire community. In addition to baseball, softball and T-ball, the field can now be utilized for flag football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and other sports and activities. Funding for the project came from a combination of American Rescue Plan money and 2022 Supplemental Transitional Aid – at no cost to the Atlantic City taxpayer. Pop Lloyd Stadium is named after Baseball Hall of Fame inductee and Negro League star shortstop John Henry 'Pop' Lloyd, who played baseball, lived and worked in Atlantic City. The Stadium was built in the late 1940's, with the last major renovation prior to this on happening in the 1990's. Former Negro League standout Pedro Sierra was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The first game on the newly-renovated field was played just a few days after the grand reopening as Atlantic City High School hosted Oakcrest High School. The players loved every minute of it and the atmosphere throughout the game was fantastic!

*****The City of Atlantic City Recreation division manages Pop Lloyd Stadium, handling the schedule of events and programs. Contact AC Rec at 609-347-5643 to schedule*****

IN OTHER PROJECT NEWS...

The City Hall Courtyard improvement project is nearing completion, and we look forward to unveiling the beautiful new setup later this spring! Please note, if you're visiting, vehicles can only enter the City Hall parking lot from South Carolina Avenue until the end of construction.

The first phase ($6 Million) of a $26 Million Boardwalk reconstruction project is wrapping up, as the boards have been repaired outside Boardwalk Hall, continuing to Arkansas Avenue. The next phase ($20 Million) from New Jersey to Tennessee Avenue is scheduled to begin this fall.

The fencing has been put up for a brand-new Dog Park coming to Atlantic City's Inlet section. the park is located at Pacific ans New Hampshire Avenues, outside Altman Playground. The opening date and all the details will be announced very soon!

KEEPING OUR CITY CLEAN & SAFE

The Atlantic City Police Department now has brand-new Polaris vehicles which will be in full use this summer in the tourism district! These vehicles will increase the ACPD's mobile patrol on the beach and Boardwalk, giving our officers more visibility, ultimately enhancing public safety for our residents and visitors. This is on top of an extra police presence once again on the Boardwalk, Atlantic Ave and Pacific Ave this summer thanks to $3 Million from the CRDA.

CRIME IS DOWN

The ACPD has released an overview of key departmental metrics for the first quarter of 2025, comparing them to the same period in 2024. This data highlights positive trends in crime reduction and community safety across the city. Overall offenses in Atlantic City are down by more than 11% in the first quarter of 2025. Homicide and non-fatal shooting investigations have seen a notable decrease.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

ACPD officers are conducting enforcement operations throughout high-volume pedestrian areas that will continue through the summer. Those who violate the existing traffic laws could be subject to citation. Police are encouraging pedestrians to look both ways before crossing, utilize crosswalks and intersections, and wait for the walk signal. Similarly, the ACPD wants drivers to slow down, stop for people crossing, and to eliminate distractions.

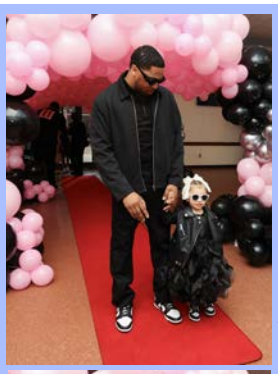
In honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, Mayor Small surprised our Atlantic City dispatchers with a proclamation to show what they mean to our community. We thank our unsung heroes who answer the call 24/7 as they serve as the lifeline between callers in crisis and first responders!

CLEANER & GREENER

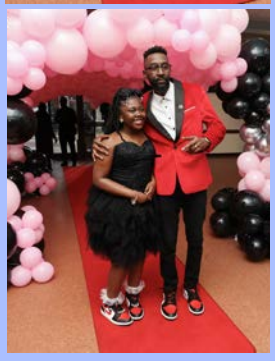
Students from New York Avenue School joined the City of Atlantic City Planning & Development Department and the Shade Tree Committee for an Arbor Day Tree Planting event. Together with the Midtown CDC and members of the community, four trees were planted outside the Atlantic City PAL building. And thank you to the Atlantic City High School Environmental Club for working with our Public Works Department on a cleanup outside their school. Public Works' annual Clean Communities initiative is returning this summer, details will be announced soon.

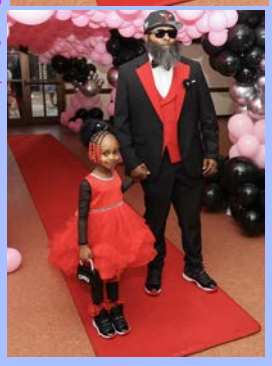
More than 30 tables were set up at Atlantic City Reentry Services' 2nd annual Reentry Resource Fair, designed to connect formerly incarcerated individuals with vital services needed to help them successfully rebuild their lives. That same week, Atlantic City's One Neighborhood Evolution Anti-Violence unit gave individuals with outstanding bench warrants for municipal or superior court matters in Atlantic and Cape May Counties the chance to clear them up. Both events demonstrate the Small Administration's commitment to helping individuals get their lives back on track.

HAVING A BALL



The City of Atlantic City's first Daddy Daughter Sneaker Ball drew a large turnout as area fathers got to spend an eloquent evening with their daughters (grades K-8). Attendees entering All Wars Memorial Building got to walk the red carpet before they were greeted by paparazzi. They then enjoyed a night of dinner and dancing, along with a photo booth, raffles and mocktails. Attendees were encouraged to dress in fashionable attire while wearing sneakers for comfort. The Atlantic City Recreation division organized this event with the assistance of the Atlantic City Youth Services division, Atlantic City Reentry Services division and the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Food and prizes were donated by local organizations and businesses.





While he was in Atlantic City, Mayor Small arranged for actor/comedian Katt Williams to spend some time with the kids in the AC Rec after school program, shooting some hoops and taking photos with them!

The Atlantic City community enjoyed a day of food, music, games and more during Spring Break for Atlantic City Youth Services' Family Fun Day. While open to everyone, in recognition of National Autism Acceptance Month, this event also featured autism-friendly sensory activities and resources.

The little ones took over City Hall during *Bring Your Child to Work Day*. The Mayor's Office of Special Events organized a full day of activities, including a meet & greet with Mayor Small and an afternoon at Bader Field for some drone, K9, motorcycle and other demonstrations from the ACPD and ACFD.

Atlantic City Senior Services recently brought our seniors to New York for a fun and flavorful event: a cake decorating activity designed to bring joy and creativity to our residents. Participants tapped into their artistic sides while enjoying hands-on guidance in designing and decorating their own sweet creations. The list of free May activities for seniors is available at www.acnj.gov.

Atlantic City residents have been learning about the history and cultural importance of the Bengali language. Following successful Intro to Spanish programs, our Multicultural Services division is now offering this multi-week Intro to Bengali course to explore basic vocabulary and common phrases.

BUSINESS SUCCESS

Mayor Small recently helped officially open 2 new Atlantic City businesses while honoring a 3rd that's now booming!

Mike Hauke and Michael Burns – co-owners of the Mad Mutz Mozzerella Laboratory at California and Baltic Avenues – brought national attention to Atlantic City during a recent appearance on ABC's hit television show "Shark Tank." Not only did they get to spotlight their unique brand of mozzarella sticks with a variety of flavors made in Atlantic City and distributed nationwide, but they even walked away with a deal from "Shark" Lori Greiner! With their business now reaching new heights, Mayor Small stopped by the "lab" to surprise Hauke and Burns (center) with a Proclamation recognizing them for their newfound prosperity, and for serving as living proof that a business can successfully start and grow in Atlantic City, hopefully inspiring a new generation of Atlantic City entrepreneurs.

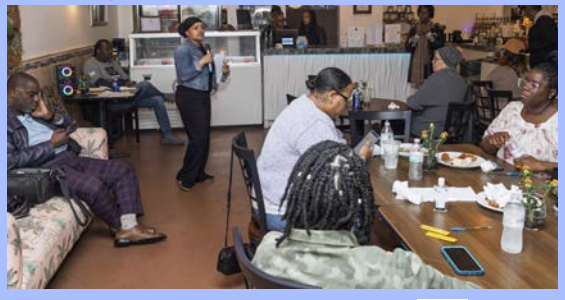
Mayor Small helped cut the ribbon for Atlantic City's new Boardwalk Tram Tours attraction, founded by local personality "AC" Mike Lopez. Mayor Small said he's excited to see residents and visitors start packing the tram cars for the tours and said "AC" Mike is the perfect person to tell the Atlantic City story. Mayor Small also took part in the Grand Opening celebration of the Laff House Atlantic City – a black-owned business-wishing them success at their ACX1 Studio location.

And CONGRATULATIONS to the City of Atlantic City Employees of the Quarter for the first part of 2025!!!!

Christina Bradley – Municipal Courts
Haleem Ceasar – Health & Human Services
Charles Gowdy – ACFD
A'Niyah Harris – Administration (IT)
Sydney Karrer – Licensing & Inspections
Moustafa Maarouf – ACPD
Bao Phan – ACPD
Shana Pocsi – Revenue & Finance
Ayana Plummer – Planning & Development
Alex Serrano – Public Works

For those individuals interested in one day starting a small business in Atlantic City, our Planning & Development department hosted a free "Navigating the Process" seminar at City Hall to give our future entrepreneurs strategies, insights and guidance. Consultant Joe Molineaux shared with everyone the right and wrong reasons to start a business, what it takes to start your business (registration, licenses, etc.), elements of the business plan, where funding is available and why NOW is the perfect time to start a business in Atlantic City. Similar seminars are being planned, contact Atlantic City's Assistant Director of Economic Development Bruce Weekes for more information: bweekes@acnj.gov.

Our CDBG office and Health & Human Services Department held Atlantic City's first Mama Mixer networking event to bring the community together during Black Maternal Health Week. It turned out to be an inspirational, impactful and uplifting success!



Can We Say Great Day?!

BEGINNING MAY 27TH THROUGH LABOR DAY SUMMER HOURS WILL BE IN EFFECT AT THE ATLANTIC CITY AQUARIUM! SUMMER HOURS ARE 10 AM TO 8 PM DAILY

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