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It's a Great Day in the City of Atlantic City ■ SEPTEMBER 2023

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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FROM THE MAYOR

September 1, 2023

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

Is the Summer season really over? It seems like just yesterday I was unlocking the sea, and here we are now at Labor Day Weekend. Needless to say, we were Live, Lit and Outside once again in what was truly another EPIC Summer. September means back to school, and I want to wish all of our Atlantic City youth good luck in the upcoming year. That includes our 'Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship' winners, who have some extra money in their pockets as they begin or return to college. Make us proud!

My directors and I took a trip to Newark to pay our respects to the late Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver. I'll say it again, not only did she mean a lot to me personally, but she meant so much to the City of Atlantic City, and it's still sad to think about the fact she is no longer with us. We even had a separate memorial service right here in the city, that's how special she was to us.

I recently met with residents in Venice Park to discuss Second Bridge construction (over Venice Lagoon) as well as Lower Chelsea residents to discuss the bulkheads. As Mayor, I'm very open with the people of Atlantic City, and meetings like this demonstrate my commitment to the people of Atlantic City. Venice Park residents will be dealing with detours and partial closures of the bridge beginning in October, but with the neighborhood's cooperation, we expect this to be a smooth process as we aim to move this project in and out in no more than two years. Lower Chelsea residents were informed the Small administration will continue to work with them to resolve this bulkhead situation in a way that makes the most sense for them, without putting an extra burden on the taxpayers of Atlantic City.

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

-Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

FIRST $1-MILLION IN HISTORIC SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED

Mayor Small hosted a ceremony at City Hall, where he presented checks to the first 100 recipients of the 'Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship' awarded to Atlantic City residents. Each student was called up one-by-one to receive their check, then they each took a photo with the Mayor.

"We wish you the best of luck on your journey," Mayor Small told the students. "It's not easy, but don't ever give up. There's nothing that you can't overcome, trust me. I'm proud of each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart."

This unprecedented scholarship is a $3-million commitment over the next three years. The money comes from the Addressing Educational Disparity category of American Rescue Plan funds Atlantic City has received. This year, 50 scholarships of $10,000 each went to graduating Atlantic City High School seniors who live in Atlantic City and will begin college this Fall. An additional 50 scholarships of $10,000 each went to college students who graduated from Atlantic City High School and reside in Atlantic City, who will be sophomores, juniors and seniors this Fall.

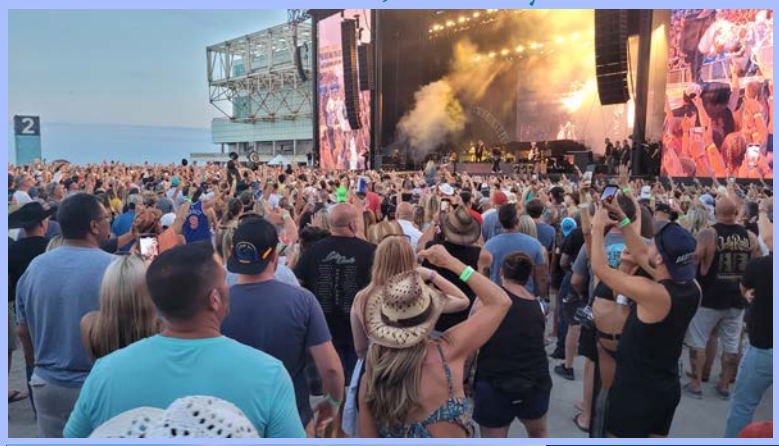
The scholarship winners were announced in June. This event served as a chance to formally celebrate the recipients. The Atlantic City Police Department and the Atlantic City Fire Department provided hot dogs and hamburgers. While the checks distributed during this ceremony had the student's names on them, the money will be sent directly to the institution each student is attending.

Applications for the next 100 scholarships are expected to be released in early 2024. The Scholarship Committee formed by Mayor Small will have regular meetings this Fall to address scholarship criteria and other potential adjustments.

Mayor Small teamed with Showboat owner Bart Blatstein to give Atlantic City youth a free morning at the new $100-million Island Waterpark. Blatstein opened the park up early to let around 200 kids who participated in the city's free 'Great Day' Summer Camp enjoy the amenities.

"The Mayor thought it would be a good idea to have the campgoers at the waterpark, so I agreed because we're part of the Atlantic City family here, and it's the right thing to do," said Blatstein.

An epic, one-week stretch saw a massive beach concert, a Wedding of the Sea, and the return of the Atlantic City Airshow. The 20th anniversary of the Visit Atlantic City Airshow took to the skies on August 16th, drawing crowds of 500,000 people, and generating tens of millions of dollars for the Atlantic City. This year's theme was a "A Salute To Those Who Serve," featuring the return of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Golden Knights, and other military performances and demonstrations. Great job by the Greater Atlantic City Chamber, Visit Atlantic City and David Schultz Airshows for putting on yet another dazzling display. Prior to this, the TidalWave Music Festival returned to the Atlantic City beach for three days of musical performances, headlined by Thomas Rhett, Jason Aldean and Brooks & Dunn. Not to get lost on the shuffle, Mayor Small once again took part in the Wedding of the Sea ceremony. Mass was held at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, followed by a procession along the Boardwalk and to the beach, where Mayor Small and Bishop Dennis Sullivan tossed a wreath into the ocean.



We would like to thank our police officers, firefighters, lifeguards, public works crews, medical personnel, coast guard and ALL First Responders who worked tirelessly during the above events, both on the beach and in the command center. We are proud to say there were no major incidents to report.

On Sunday, September 10th, the Ironman 70.3 Atlantic City will be held in Atlantic City and throughout parts of Atlantic County. The triathlon has three parts that include swimming, biking, and running. Roadways throughout the biking and running courses will be heavily impacted. Please make note of these expected delays and detours.

Our school crossing guards are sworn in and ready to go for the school year! Before taking their oath, Mayor Small reminded them how valuable and appreciated they are.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy was in Atlantic City to sign legislation establishing a Boardwalk Preservation Fund, which appropriates $100-million for the renovation and repair of boardwalk in shore communities throughout the state.

"Today was yet another historic day in our great city as the Murphy Administration continues its strong and epic commitment to Atlantic City," said Mayor Small. "As the oldest and most notable boardwalk in the country, we are confident that we will deliver a competitive application and receive our fair share of much-needed funding."

Travel experts at StudyFinds.org have again placed the Atlantic City Boardwalk at number one on a list of Best Boardwalks in the US! CNN, Reader's Digest and Far & Wide all weighed in, praising the nation's oldest and longest Boardwalk.

The Atlantic City Police Department wrapped up its free Community Cookout events, where officers provided fun and food for members of each Atlantic City neighborhood this Summer. This was an excellent chance for Law Enforcement and the residents to come together, and we look forward to more community-building events this Fall.

During the August City of Atlantic City Council Meeting, City Council passed a resolution recognizing Atlantic City Police Department Sergeant Brian Shapiro, who is the recent recipient of a 2023 Excellence in Policing Award from the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.

Sgt. Shapiro and the ACPD were awarded the Outstanding Community Partnership Award for their work in helping the city's at-risk population, by coordinating regular meetings with casino, business and Law Enforcement officials to better address outreach to those in need.

Sgt. Shapiro credits strong partnerships and collaborations with the positive outcomes of this initiative.

Atlantic City Beach Patrol lifeguard Marc Plotnick has been all over the news, lately, because of his fascinating story. At 68 years old, Marc is the oldest rookie lifeguard in ACBP history. A retired doctor, Marc didn't want to give up saving lives just yet, so with the support of his longtime friend, ACBP Deputy Chief Dave Russo, he tried out, and much to the surprise (and admiration) of his family, made the Patrol, and was responsible for several rescues just days into the start of his lifeguard journey. The city is happy to have 'Marc the Beast' (as he is affectionately called by his peers) on the ACBP!

Congratulations to the ACBP competition team for winning the 56th John T. Goudy Memorial Rescue Races! This is the ACBP's third straight win in this race, beating out 18 other beach patrols. The ACBP also finished first overall in the Margate Beach Patrol World War II Memorial Lifeguard Races, while constantly placing in the top three of many races this summer.

Nice work ACBP!

The ACBP was once again involved with this year's Heart of Surfing event, held on the beach outside Hard Rock Atlantic City, offering free adaptive surfing lessons to kids with autism or developmental disabilities. We thank the organizers for bringing this wonderful event back to Atlantic City!

Atlantic City seniors set sail not once, but twice recently, thanks to the City of Atlantic City Senior Services division. The first trip was a local one on Atlantic City Boat Rides, open to all seniors citywide. The second trip was for our residents in Atlantic City senior living facilities, aboard the Spirit of Philadelphia, for a BINGO boat cruise. Keep an eye our for more events to keep our seniors busy and active this Fall.

After spending weeks this summer learning all about rowing, Atlantic City youth enrolled in Rowing Club received their certificates and enjoyed a pizza party with ACBP members to thank the lifeguards for all their help. These kids were novices before this program started, and by the time it was over, they were rowing on the water with confidence.

Rowing Club was a joint effort between AC Rec, ACYS, ACBP, the Lady Vikings, the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City and Atlantic City Schools, with a special thank you to the ACPD for making sure the kids stay safe on the water.

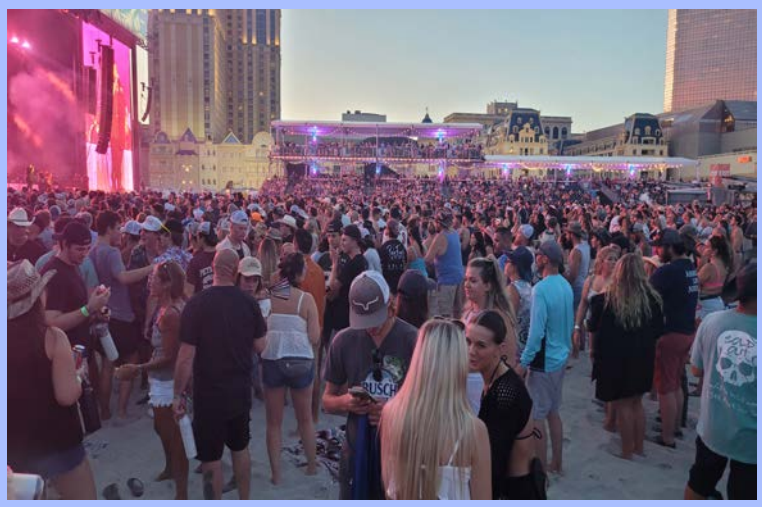
City of Atlantic City Multicultural Services hosted two more cultural celebrations at City Hall in August, with a flag raising ceremony recognizing Pakistan Independence Day, followed by an India Independence Day celebration with another flag raising. Both events feature food, music and attire from the respective countries.

It was a bright and colorful end of summer celebration, as the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs, liaison Judah Dorrington and the Multicultural Services Office held the first annual Rainbow Beach Bash at Park Place Beach.

The afternoon was full of music, food, fun and pride as attendees came from all over the region to enjoy a day on Atlantic City's free beach. One guest, who came from Philadelphia for this event, told the Press of Atlantic City: "The clouds are out, but we got the rainbow."

Atlantic City youth interested in Journalism got a three-day crash course thanks to ACYS, Stories of AC and Stockton University. As part of the Teen Reporter Camp, the kids got to interview City of Atlantic City leaders, including Health & Human Services Director Jarrod Barnes and Director of Constitiuent Services Kashawn "Kash" McKinley. The stories they put together were then published!

Can We Say Great Day?!



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