



E-NEWSLETTER

February 18, 2016

From The City of Sea Isle City, New Jersey

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

As the winter season gradually unfolds here in Sea Isle City, our municipal employees are continuing their efforts to make 2016 a memorable and smooth-running year that's filled with exciting events and activities for every member of the family. With that in mind, on February 9, I delivered to City Council this year's proposed municipal budget, which will allow the Administration to provide the many City services and much-anticipated entertainment options that Sea Isle's residents and visitors have come to expect. In addition to delivering the budget, I also gave my annual State of the City address on February 9, at which time I pointed out that our City's financial position is as sound as ever and that our town is in very good shape overall.

Last weekend, tens of thousands of people were in town for Sea Isle's 22nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge and the many activities that take place during plunge weekend. Even though the weather was rather cold and blustery, thousands of hearty-souls took the plunge in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, February 13. Then, countless others participated in the Mike's Seafood Run-Walk for Autism on Sunday, February 14. My thanks go to Jim Bennett, Mike Monichetti, the Sea Isle City Police Department, Sea Isle's Volunteer Ambulance Corps, our Department of Public Works, the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol and everyone else who ensured that this year's plunge weekend was a safe and happy occasion.

If you were in town during Plunge Weekend, you may have noticed that the Acme Market was selling a variety of staple goods in a large tent on 63rd Street. I am very grateful that representatives from Acme took the time to provide that merchandise to our town during such a busy weekend, because, as I am certain everyone realizes, retailers and food stores such as Acme play a very important role in our community.

In other news, on February 17, it was an honor to have Brigadier General William H. Graham, Commander and Division Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, in Sea Isle City. General Graham was in town while touring the numerous shore protection efforts currently taking place in our region. As his title suggests, the General oversees huge construction projects that ultimately result in strengthened beaches and safer communities up and down the coastline. My thanks go to General Graham and the entire Army Corps of Engineers for the good work they perform on behalf of all seashore communities.

Speaking of shore protection, we anticipate that Sea Isle's beach replenishment project will resume within the next week. Our current beach fill effort, which is taking place in response to the dune and beach erosion that occurred during the recent nor'easters, will add welcomed sand to our island and a strong sense of security to our minds. The Army Corps of Engineers has told us that they have expanded their design, therefore the beaches that front our Promenade will be even wider than they were following last summer's beach fill project.

Wider beaches, a stronger shoreline and a year ahead that offers a huge variety of fine entertainment. Clearly, we have a lot to look forward to in 2016!

This week, I have shout-outs for Sea Isle's new Polar Bear Royal Family, including King Dan Morris, of West Chester, PA; Queen Kathleen Albright, of Furlong, PA; Prince Gavin Brown, of Sea Isle City; and Princess Colleen Burns, of Sea Isle City. Congratulations to each of this year's winners!

Smile...You're in Sea Isle!

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE:

During the February 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Desiderio presented Council with Sea Isle's proposed 2016 budget prior to delivering his annual State of the City Address. During his speech, the mayor highlighted the improvements that have been made in town during the past year, and he confirmed that Sea Isle City is in good financial condition.

Each item on the February 9 Consent Agenda was approved by City Council, including Resolution 024, which authorizes the advertisement of two bids (2016-17 Beach Concessions and a Mobile App for Beach Tag Sales). The bid process is important because it encourages competition and can increase revenue for the City. Also approved was Resolution 025, which establishes the beaches that will be manned with lifeguards in 2016. Before you head to the beach this summer, go to Sea Isle's Visitor's Website or the Beach Patrol's home page to learn which beaches are deemed "bathing beaches." Also approved was Resolution 027, which authorizes the use of Tennis Fee Trust money to open and prepare the tennis courts at Dealy Field and install new chain link fencing around the courts this spring.

During the "New Business" portion of the February 4 meeting, Councilman Kehner stated that he was recently disappointed to see motorists driving through flood water. City Council would like to remind everyone of the dangers associated with driving through water – and that drivers can easily harm themselves and their vehicles by doing so. Additionally, driving through water creates a wake that can damage homes and other property. So, please remember that cars and trucks are not boats – and don't drive through water.

Best regards from the members of City Council,

Council President Jack Gibson (jjgibson@seaislecitynj.us)

John Divney (jdivney@seaislecitynj.us)

Frank Edwardi (fedwardijr@seaislecitynj.us)

Bill Kehner (wkehner@seaislecitynj.us)

Mary Tighe (mtighe@seaislecitynj.us)

PROJECT UPDATES:

Beach Replenishment

Initial replenishment of all beaches in Sea Isle has been completed, with approximately two million cubic yards of sand placed along Sea Isle's shoreline. Additional refilling of beaches eroded by recent storms has been authorized by the federal government. After a temporary halt to the project due to rough seas earlier this week, refilling of Ludlam Island in Strathmere is expected to start again later today, with refilling of Sea Isle to begin this weekend or early next week, in the area of 25th Street. From 25th Street to 57th Street, Sea Isle's beaches will be substantially widened, with beach fill expected to be completed in March. In addition, dune fence and beach crossovers damaged by storms will also be repaired.

Utility Reconstruction, 36th & 37th Streets (fall 2015 construction)

On March 26, 2015, City Council awarded a bid to Garden State General Construction in the amount of \$431,353.40 for the utility reconstruction of 36th Street & 37th Street from Cini Street to Landis Avenue. As of this date, work on 37th Street, Central to Landis Avenue, has been completed and the excavated area has been patched. They have switched over to Central to Cini Avenue, the dewatering system is set up and installation of the sewer has begun. Please be aware of detours in this area.

Utility Reconstruction, various streets

On October 27, 2015 the council awarded a bid to RTW Construction of Southampton, New Jersey in the amount of \$744,713 for utility reconstruction at the following locations:

47th Street from Landis Avenue to Promenade
49th Street from Landis Avenue to Promenade
65th Street from Landis Avenue to Central Avenue
65th Street from Landis Avenue to Pleasure Avenue
69th Street from Landis Avenue to Central Avenue
76th Street from Landis Avenue to Pleasure Avenue

Initial work to install new sanitary main and new water main on 47th is completed.

Initial work to install new water main & sanitary main on 49th is completed.

Initial work to install new sanitary main on 65th is completed.

Initial work to install new water main on 69th is under way.

Once the new water mains pass various testing, work will begin to reconstruct water services and sewer laterals to the individual homes on these streets.

Bulkhead Construction, 80th Street and 93rd Street

On August 25, 2015, City Council awarded a contract to Colonnelli Brothers, Inc. of Hackensack, New Jersey, in the amount of \$199,880 for the construction of bulkheads at the above locations. This project is currently on hold due to availability of materials.

Sea Isle Boulevard (no change from last update)

The Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, at their May 13, 2014 meeting, awarded a \$12.7 million contract to South State, Inc. for the Sea Isle Boulevard Improvement project that will raise the roadway by approximately 4.5-feet and otherwise reconstruct Sea Isle Boulevard.

Traffic has been diverted to the south side of the boulevard; and the contractor has placed fill on the north side of the causeway to an average height of about 6.5-feet, which is 2-feet higher than the eventual height of the completed roadway. The additional 2-feet, which will be removed prior to the next construction phase, is surcharge to compress the underlying layers of soil. The goal is to obtain as much settlement as possible prior to paving on top of the new fill. Now that this initial phase of fill placement is completed, the project will be dormant except for some maintenance activities (such as cleaning accumulating sand in the diversionary roadway, and taking measurements to determine the amount of settlement that is occurring).

Motorists are advised to be aware of the revised traffic patterns in the construction zone and the reduced speed limit.

There are no activities planned for Sea Isle Boulevard until next spring with the exception of the County Road Department mowing the south side.

Streetscape Improvement on Landis Avenue

On September 8, 2015, City Council awarded a bid to Think Pavers Hardscaping of Swedesboro, NJ, in the amount of \$796,648.33 for streetscape improvements on Landis Avenue from 43rd Street to 39th Street. This project will include various aspects of beautification, such as new sidewalks, paver crosswalks, traffic striping, lighting, sod, stone mulching, various tree plantings & tree grates, benches and bike racks. The block from JFK Boulevard to 40th Street was previously completed as part of the JFK Gateway Project.

Work to install new lighting conduits, foundations for new street lighting, new concrete sidewalks, pavers and tree grates on the east side of Landis Avenue between 39th and 40th Streets is complete. The contractor has since moved to the intersection of 39th Street and started on the west side of 39th to 40th Street.

Townsend Inlet Bridge

The TI Bridge was opened to traffic prior to Polar Bear Plunge Weekend, and remains open.

MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION:

During a special meeting on February 17, the Planning Board completed its review of Land Use items. There was also a Parking Study Presentation given by Maser Consultants, the City's Engineering Firm, which was conducted during an early August 2015 weekend by the Sea Isle City Police Department. The top-line results of that study showed that the overall capacity of city-wide residential curbside parking spaces on residential streets is 5,418 spaces. It was observed that 4,770 of those spaces were being utilized that weekend (an 88% usage rate, which indicates that the City's parking was likely at capacity, considering that vehicles often are moved from one location to another throughout any given weekend).

Regarding the discussion about Residential Land Use, in addition to the reinstatement of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) as reported earlier, the board has recommended increases in parking requirements for new-construction residential units in all residential zones. The Board's new recommendation will require two parking spaces for units under 1,000 square feet of living space; three parking spaces for units 1,001 to 1,500 square feet in size; four parking spaces for units 1,501 to 2,200 square feet in size, and one additional parking space for every 500 square feet above 2,200 square feet (all these recommendations reflect an increase of one parking space per category).

Residential set-backs were also reviewed, with no changes recommended to front or rear-yard setbacks. Possibly, some changes may be recommended to side yard set-backs.

The Planning Board's recommendations for Mixed Use zones was to leave everything the same in our C-1 district (in the City's downtown area), C-4 district (along the Promenade), and C-5 districts (Sea Isle's two motel districts) – except for parking in the residential portion of the Mixed Use areas, where additional parking may be required for new construction properties. Changes were recommended in the C-2 and C-3 districts, which are referred to as our "Neighborhood / Marina Business Districts." The desire was to reduce the building density in the C-2 and C-3 areas.

The Board will be sending recommendations to City Council on possible ways to achieve these objectives, including changes for parking in the residential portion of the Mixed Use zones and changes in set-backs.

On February 17, the Planning Board also began to review the next category in the Master Plan re-examination: Parking, Bicycle Traffic, and Traffic Circulation. At that time, the Board identified the issues to be considered and the information needed in order to make recommendations in those areas. The Board's hope is to begin formulating specific recommendations regarding Parking, Bicycle Traffic, and Traffic Circulation at a special Planning Board Meeting, which will be held on Monday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. An outline of the

agenda for that meeting will be shown in Sea Isle's March 17 E-Newsletter. The agenda may also include a discussion regarding Recreation.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION: Saturday, March 12, 3:30 p.m. The Parade runs along Landis Avenue from 82nd to 63rd Street. Irish Celebration immediately after the parade at KIX on 63rd Street (<http://www.kixmcutleys.com> or 609-263-6341).

OCEAN DRIVE MARATHON / 5K RUN / 1.5 MILE FUN RUN: Sunday, March 20, 10:00 a.m., JFK & The Promenade. The Marathon and 10-Mile run begin at 9:00 a.m. in Cape May; the 5K and Fun Run take place in Sea Isle City at 10:00 a.m. (609-523-0880 or www.odmarathon.org).

EASTER PROGRAM: Wednesday, March 23, 4:30 p.m., Dealy Field. Rain Date: March 24. Hosted by Sea Isle City's Division of Recreation (263-0050 or www.VisitSICNJ.com).

GIRLS WEEKEND: April 22-24. This event is hosted by Sea Isle City Chamber of Commerce and Revitalization and features special offers at businesses throughout Sea Isle City.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW: April 23-24, Municipal Gymnasium, 4501 Park Road. Hosted by the Sea Isle Volunteer Ambulance Corps (609-780-4400 or <http://seaislecitynj.us/ambulance-corps.aspx>).

PLEASE DON'T DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATER

During the recent nor'easters that hit our community, city officials received numerous complaints regarding vehicles driving through flood waters at a high rate of speed, which caused severe wakes, damaged fencing and other property, and pushed water into homes and businesses. The City broadcasted a reverse 911 message, sent e-alerts and posted messages on social media prior to each storm asking motorists not to drive through flood waters for this very reason. Living and working on an island comes with certain responsibilities, and being respectful and courteous of others during storm-related events is certainly one of them. Accordingly, the Police Department and the Office of Emergency Management ask that everyone please be mindful of the adverse effects you can have when driving a vehicle through floodwaters and refrain from doing so.

DOG LICENSES DUE – RABIES CLINIC PLANNED:

Dog Licenses are now due for all dogs living in Sea Isle City. Dog Licenses cost \$5.20 each for dogs that are spayed/neutered and \$8.20 each for all other dogs. Dog Licenses can be purchased at the City Clerk's Office, located on the second floor of City Hall, 233 JFK Boulevard, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office will host a Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., inside the former Sea Isle City Public School Building at 4501 Park Road. Sea Isle City Dog Licenses will be on sale at the Rabies Clinic as well.

For more info about Dog Licenses or the Rabies Clinic on March 5, please phone 263-4461, extension 1216.

CASINO NIGHT FUND RAISER:

The P.T.A. of Bishop McHugh Regional School will host their annual Casino Night on Saturday, February 20, at the Ocean Drive Bar & Restaurant, 40th and Landis Avenue, starting at 6:00 p.m. The entrance fee is \$40

per person, which includes a buffet dinner, gaming money and entertainment. The evening will feature Las Vegas-style gambling, raffles with terrific prizes and silent auctions. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at Bishop McHugh Regional School on Route 9. For more info, phone 609-624-1900, ext. 21.

AARP TRIP TO LANCASTER:

On Tuesday & Wednesday, May 24 & 25, AARP Chapter 710 will host a bus trip to Lancaster, PA. The overnight trip will feature stops at Kettle Kitchen Village, tickets to "Crooners" at The American Music Theater, dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord, a Sight-and-Sound showing of "Samson," a family-style meal at Plain and Fancy, a visit to an Amish house and overnight accommodations and breakfast at The Hotel Lancaster. Tickets cost \$262 per person (double) and \$306 per person (single). For more information, contact Joy Sumski at 609-624-2080.

EXERCISE CLASSES & REC PROGRAMS:

AEROBICS:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m., Welcome Center Community Lodge, \$5 per class or \$40 for ten classes (263-0050).

SIT-AND-BE-FIT FOR SENIORS:

Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:15 p.m., Welcome Center Community Lodge. No fee required; please bring photo i.d. (263-0050).

YOGA:

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 7:30 a.m. in the Welcome Center Community Lodge. Fee: \$10 per class (www.njbeachyoga.com or 602-3398).

The City's Division of Recreation offers a variety of programs each month – ranging from children's art and cooking classes to Walk Away the Pounds, Basketball and Volleyball nights and "Open Gym" in the gymnasium of the former public school building on Park Road. Open Gym hours have been extended into the evening on weeknights. Please phone the Recreation Office at 263-0050 for more information about open gym and all other recreation activities.

ORGANIZATIONS & MEETING SCHEDULES:

A.A.R.P. CHAPTER 710: Second Thursday of the month, 1:00 p.m., Community Lodge (263-1453)

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Third Thursday of the month (September to November and March to May), 2:00 p.m., Welcome Center Meeting Room (263-7758 or 263-3914)

BOY SCOUT TROOP 76: Fridays, 5:30 p.m., former Public School Gymnasium, 4501 Park Road (263-5370).

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & REVITALIZATION: First Tuesday of the Month, 9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, City Hall (263-9090).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION: Second Wednesday of the month (March to November), 7:00 p.m., Public Works Building, 3905 Central Avenue (263-2081)

GARDEN CLUB: First Thursday of the month (March to June and September to December), 7:00 p.m., Community Lodge (263-3331).

PLANNING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS: Second Monday of the month (except holidays), 7:00 p.m., City Hall (263-1166)

SEA ISLE CATS INC.: Visit the Crooked Tail Thrift Shop, 4208 Landis Avenue, for meeting times and dates (609-972-5887)

S.I.C.T.A.: Second Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m., Community Lodge (263-6817).

S.I.C. SCHOOL BOARD: School Board Meetings take place on various dates at 7:00 p.m. in the former Public School Building, 4501 Park Road. The next School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. at Ocean City High School, 501 Atlantic Avenue, Ocean City, NJ (263-6142).

WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB: Every Tuesday, 11:30 a.m., Community Lodge (263-8149).

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS: First Monday of the month (except holidays), 7:00 p.m., City Hall (263-1166).

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BEACH TAGS ON SALE:

2016 Saint Patrick's Day Beach Tags are on sale now for the pre-season rate of \$20 each while supplies last. Saint Patrick's Beach Tags, which serve as beach passes for the entire 2016 summer season, can be purchased Monday through Friday (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the Tax Collectors Office on the second floor of City Hall, 233 JFK Boulevard, and on Saturdays and Sundays (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) at the Welcome Center Beach Tag Office, 300 JFK Boulevard.

GARDEN CLUB BEGINS 2016 MEETINGS WITH GREEN AUCTION:

The members of Sea Isle City's Garden Club will begin their 2016 meeting schedule on Thursday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Lodge, 300 JFK Boulevard. As is the case each year, the Garden Club's March Meeting will include their always-enjoyable "Green Auction." This cheery group of green-thumb enthusiasts always welcomes new members – so come on out and join the fun during their informative monthly meetings. Please phone Marlene at 263-3331 for more info.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM WINTER HOURS:

Beginning February 20, the Sea Isle City Historical Museum will be closed on Saturdays until the spring of 2016. Until then, their "winter schedule" will be in effect and the museum will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info about the Sea Isle City Historical Society or their museum (located on the first floor of the Sea Isle City Library at 4800 Central Avenue), please phone 263-2992.

TRASH & RECYCLING INFO:

Curbside trash and recycling collections currently take place once each week on the following streets:

- 1st to 44th Street = Wednesdays
- 45th to 70th Street = Mondays
- 71st to 94th Street = Tuesdays

Don't Forget: The City will not collect carpeting or other construction materials, propane tanks, tires or batteries. Sea Isle City is a Single Stream Recycling Community, which means residents can combine all of their recyclable materials (paper, cans, glass and plastics) in one curbside collection bin. Recycling is not just a good idea...it's the law in Sea Isle City.

Sea Isle City's Trash and Recycling Depot, located next to the Bridge on JFK Boulevard, is open seven days a week (7:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.). The Depot will be closed on holidays (except New Year's Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day). The Depot will accept drop-offs of trash and recycling, however Bulk Trash is not accepted at that location. **Free Refrigerator Magnets** with a complete list of Sea Isle City's year-round trash and recycling information are now available at the Public Works Building, 3905 Central Avenue, and at the Welcome Center, 300 JFK Boulevard. For additional information about Sea Isle's trash and recycling regulations, please phone 263-6000, ext.14.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have questions or concerns, there is no need to wait for an upcoming City Council meeting to express your thoughts. You can contact the head of any City Department to obtain the answers you need. For a complete list of contact information, visit our Municipal Website, www.seaislecitynj.us, or phone City Hall at 263-4461.

RECENT PHOTOS:

Sea Isle City's 22nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge Weekend began with the crowning of the 2016 Polar Bear King, Queen, Prince and Princess on Friday evening, February 12, at LaCosta Lounge. The Prince and Princess Contests are fun events that are open to teenagers up to age 16; and the King and Queen Contests are for contestants over age 21, who are willing to raise funds for Autism charities. This year's "Polar Bear Royal Family" consists of Princess Colleen Burns, 16, of Sea Isle City; Prince Gavin Brown, 15, of Sea Isle City; Queen Kathleen Albright, of Furlong, PA, who raised over \$18,000 for autism; and King Dan Morris, of West Chester, PA, who raised over \$1800 for autism...





The fun continued on Saturday with the annual Polar Bear Costume Contest at LaCosta. Shown below are some of the many well-dressed contestants...





Many people had their photo taken on the Sea Isle Ice Polar Bear Ice Throne on Saturday...



The Fralinger String Band led the procession to the beach for the 2016 Polar Bear Plunge...



Even though it was a cold day, but many people braved the elements and took the plunge in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday...



On Sunday, February 14, the Mike's Seafood Polar Bear Run Walk for Autism raised funds and awareness for autism charities...



Shown below are the overall first place winners of the Mike's Seafood Run-Walk for Autism: Alyssa Aldridge, 15, of Linwood, NJ, the first place female (third from left), and Zack Miller, 32, of Brookhaven, PA, the first place male (third from right). The winners are shown with (from left) Brian Emery, of Mike's Seafood, Race Coordinator Mike Givens, Mayor Len Desiderio and Polar Bear Plunge Organizer Jim Bennett



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