



E-NEWSLETTER

February 4, 2016

From The City of Sea Isle City, New Jersey

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Despite severe flooding and beach erosion, Sea Isle City was able to withstand the impact of Winter Storm Jonas. A substantial amount of clean-up has taken place since the storm, and it's amazing what has been accomplished in less than two weeks. While we still have some work to complete, Sea Isle is in very good shape overall. My thanks go to our Public Works employees, who have been working very hard to clear debris, sweep our streets, and haul-away furniture, appliances and other flood-damaged items that ended-up as bulk trash on the curb. Special thanks also go to our Police Officers, who showed their usual professionalism and devotion to safety during Jonas, our Fire Fighters, who heroically battled and contained a terrible blaze in our business district on January 30 during the flood, Sea Isle's Ambulance Corps volunteers, who put saving lives above all else, and everyone who worked tirelessly before, during and after Jonas impacted our community.

We were honored to welcome Senator Corey Booker, Senator Bob Menendez, and Congressman Frank LoBiondo to town on January 26, when they made a special trip to Sea Isle City to view the impacts of Winter Storm Jonas. During their visit, the Senators and Congressman assured us of their support for our town (along with other shore communities) to receive appropriate assistance in response to the damage we sustained during Jonas. I appreciate their visit on January 26, and I am confident that we will fully rebound from Jonas just as we have every other time Mother Nature has sent us "less-than-ideal" weather – rare as it is.

No doubt many of you are wondering how Jonas affected Sea Isle's beaches. Unfortunately, we did experience some beach erosion and damage to our dunes during the storm, particularly in the downtown area; however, our beaches are still in excellent shape north and south of the promenade. We are very fortunate that last year's beach replenishment project strengthened our entire shoreline, because without that extra sand the effects of Jonas (and the October Nor'easter) could have been much worse. Nonetheless, with that in mind, the City has been working with the New Jersey DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers to arrange the replenishment of our eroded beaches. To address this, as part of the Army Corps of Engineers' commitment to ensure the success of our initial beach fill project in the 50 year federal beach program, we expect to receive a substantial widening of our downtown beaches (fronting the promenade from 29th to 57th Street) within the next month. With this plan of action, all of Sea Isle's beaches will be in the best shape ever for the coming season.

Even though a storm such as Jonas can make it appear that our municipal government comes to a halt, I can assure you that we never take our eye off of the bigger picture no matter what the weather. Case in point, we are making great strides to ensure that 2016 will be Sea Isle's finest year to date and that the summer ahead will be filled with exciting events and activities. Additionally, I will deliver the administration's proposed 2016 Municipal Budget to City Council on February 9, at which time I will also deliver the annual State of the City Address. In case you are not able to be with us on February 9, here's a spoiler alert: The state of Sea Isle City is very strong.

Looking further afield, Sea Isle's 22nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge will once again take place during President's Weekend. I hope you can attend the festivities on February 12, 13 and 14, when thousands of people will be in town to participate in a variety of activities, including the crowning of this year's Polar Bear Royal Family on Friday night, a plunge in the Atlantic on Saturday and the Polar Bear Run / Walk for Autism on Sunday. Don't miss the special "Polar Bear Weekend" section in this newsletter for more details.

Smile...You're in Sea Isle!

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE:

Each member of City Council would like to thank and congratulate Sea Isle City's municipal workers – especially our Police officers, Firefighters, Ambulance Corps and Public Works employees – for their hard work and dedication prior to, during and after Winter Storm Jonas. The combination of strong winds, coastal flooding, snow and cold weather during the storm proved to be quite challenging, however our city employees did a fine job handling everything that was thrown at them – especially during the fire on the 4100 block of Landis Avenue, which occurred while many of our streets were covered with salt water, resulting in two destroyed businesses and other property damage. Our heartfelt thanks goes to each city worker who got us through the storm and back on our feet once Jonas left Sea Isle.

During the January 26 City Council meeting, Council approved Ordinance 1584, which restores Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to .80 for new construction homes. Council was divided by a split vote when considering Ordinance 1584; however it was passed and will be published according to law before going into effect twenty days after publication.

Also on January 26, in response to a request from the Mayor and a large outcry from the public, City Council withdrew Ordinance 1585, which would have allowed a parcel of land on the bay-end of 63rd Street to be re-zoned in order to construct a proposed Verizon communications tower. Council withdrew the Ordinance by unanimous vote and has no intention of re-visiting this issue.

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, February 9, at 10:00 a.m. inside Council Chambers, located on the third level of City Hall. Additionally, there will be a Budget Workshop on Thursday, February 11, at 9:00 a.m., which will also be open to the public.

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 nearly two million cubic yards of sand placed along Sea Isle's shoreline. Additional refilling of beaches eroded by the early October nor'easter and winter storm Jonas in January has been authorized by the federal government. Refilling of Sea Isle's north end has commenced; with the current plan of action to move

beachfill operations to Strathmere today and restore storm eroded beaches there over the next one to two weeks. After completion in Strathmere, beachfill operations will re-commence in Sea Isle, with substantial widening of the beaches to be performed from about 25th to 57th Street. Beachfill on Ludlam Island should be complete in March.

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 including setting up the dewatering system. Please be aware of detours in this area. The photos below of 37th Street (looking west from Central Avenue to Cini Avenue) were taken on February 3...



Utility Reconstruction, various streets

On October 27, 2015 the council awarded a bid to RTW Construction of Southamptton, 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. The photo below of 65th Street (looking east from Landis Avenue to Pleasure Avenue) was taken on February 3...



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 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 which includes new sidewalks, paver crosswalks, traffic striping, lighting, sod, stone mulching, various tree plantings & tree grates, benches

and bike racks. The block from JFK to 40th 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 nearly complete. The photos below of Landis Avenue were taken on February 3...



Townsend's Inlet Bridge (no change from last update)

The south approach to the Townsend's Inlet Bridge in Avalon is undergoing reconstruction to make the roadway more resilient against damage from future storms. Superstorm Sandy destroyed the roadway and a temporary repair was made to have the roadway reopen to traffic for the 2013 summer tourist season. The County has had to repair this approach roadway three times since 2007 due to damage from waves overtopping the seawall.

The current project consists of constructing a line of steel sheet piling along both edges of pavement and casting a reinforced concrete slab between the sheet piling and incorporating the sheet piling into the concrete. The new concrete roadway will be able to withstand the destructive nature of the overtopping waves unlike the current asphalt pavement. Behind the seawall there will be an area of open graded riprap stone that will permit most of the water from the overtopping waves to drain back through to the ocean instead of over the roadway. The bayside slopes will be reconstructed with riprap stone to protect the roadway and reduce the impact of the waves from the bayside. The project also includes some reconstruction of the south abutment to the Townsend's Inlet Bridge.

The work at the south abutment to the bridge requires the roadway to be closed because the narrow width of the bridge makes it impossible to maintain traffic. **The bridge is currently closed, and is scheduled to remain closed through February 11, 2016 (bridge to be opened for Polar Bear Plunge weekend).** The contractor plans to work double shifts during this period of time in order to substantially complete the entire project. Following Polar Bear Plunge weekend, the roadway will remain open, with the possibility of one lane closures for the contractor to complete any required work. In any event, all work will be completed and the roadway fully open by March 15, 2016.

By proceeding in the above manner, the project will be able to be completed in one winter season, as opposed to the previous plan which would have required two seasons to complete.

MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION:

The Planning Board has scheduled another special meeting on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chamber to continue their review of the Master Plan Re-examination. The proposed agenda for that meeting is as follows:

1. Complete Remaining Items Regarding Land Use:
 - a. Residential: Parking Requirements and side-yard setbacks.
 - b. Mixed Use: Parking Requirements, setbacks, use, lot coverage, and confirm recommendations to reduce size of commercial zones.
2. Begin review of Parking, Bicycle Traffic and Traffic Circulation: This will include review of comments from public survey and public workshops, and identifying issues to be considered.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

POLAR BEAR PRINCE & PRINCESS CONTEST: Friday, February 12, 7:00 p.m., LaCosta Lounge, JFK Boulevard and Landis Avenue (<http://www.seaislechamber.com> or 609-263-9090).

POLAR BEAR KING & QUEEN CONTEST: Friday, February 12, 9:00 p.m., LaCosta Lounge, JFK Boulevard and Landis Avenue (<http://www.lacosta-seaisle.com> or 609-263-3611).

POLAR BEAR COSTUME CONTEST: Saturday, February 13, 12 noon, LaCosta Lounge, JFK Boulevard and Landis Avenue (<http://www.lacosta-seaisle.com> or 609-263-3611).

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE: Saturday, February 13, 2:00 p.m., 40th Street Beach (<http://www.lacosta-seaisle.com> or 609-263-3611). The 2016 Polar Bear Plunge will start at 2:00 p.m. with an end time of 2:20 p.m. The official plunge location, with medical assistance and ocean rescue personnel on site during the above mentioned time, is between 38th and 40th Street.

MIKE'S SEAFOOD POLAR BEAR RUN / WALK FOR AUTISM: Sunday, February 14, 12 noon, JFK Boulevard and the Promenade (<http://www.polarbearrunwalkforautism.com> or 609-602-5734).

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).

POLAR BEAR BEACH TAGS ON SALE NOW:

2016 Polar Bear Beach Tags are on sale now for the pre-season rate of \$20 each while supplies last. Polar Bear 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, and on Saturdays (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) at the Welcome Center Beach Tag Office. Polar Bear Beach Tags will also be on sale at the Welcome Center on Sunday, February 7, as well as Friday to Monday, February 12 to 15, of Presidents Weekend / Polar Bear Plunge Weekend at the Welcome Center.

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).

PLEASE NOTE: 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).

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:

During a recent AARP meeting in the Community Lodge, The Berry Pickers Blue Grass Band entertained the members of Chapter 710...



On January 29, the City's Wellness Committee hosted a Municipal Employee Health Fair in the school gymnasium on Park Road, where City employees received health screenings, learned how to live a healthier life, enjoyed a healthy luncheon and took home plenty of useful information...





On January 26, Senator Corey Booker, Senator Bob Menendez and Congressman Frank LoBiondo were in Sea Isle City to view the impact of Winter Storm Jonas. During their visit, they briefly addressed City Council, toured the beaches, examined the ruins of the downtown buildings that were destroyed by fire during Jonas, and they spoke with local business owners who were affected by flood waters...





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