



CITY OF MARGATE CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

ONE SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE

MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY 08402

(609) 822-0424

“Margate City News”

Spring 2013 Newsletter

A Message from Mayor Mike Becker...

It's been almost five months since Super Storm Sandy ravaged the east coast leaving the City of Margate and many of its citizens' homes with severe damage. I am extremely proud of the City's performance in moving quickly to clean up the debris that littered our City. I would like to thank all those involved in getting the City operational so quickly.

As you know, our beautiful building at Washington Avenue suffered water damage and is temporarily closed. Most City departments are now located at the Union Avenue School, 9001 Winchester Avenue, where we have added the Public Works Department and the Building/Code Department to those displaced from City Hall. Dialogue has begun as we seek a permanent solution.

Margate is one of a consortium of Atlantic and Cape May County Seashore Communities who meet regularly and whose purpose is to affect change in FEMA regulations, modifications that will make all our lives better. It's heartwarming to participate in a group where everyone is working for the common good.

To me, the coming of spring is a time of great excitement- a time to look forward to the upcoming summer season when Margate welcomes its summer residents and visitors. Let's all be good hosts and greet them with open arms.

Spring is also a good time for reflection. What's happened to Margate government in the two years since the last election?

- Efficiency has been improved through the hiring of a Business Administrator. Capital spending was reduced by \$2,000,000 annually.
- Savings of \$3,000,000 were achieved on the renovations done to the Fire Station at Washington Avenue compared to earlier plans. This project is almost complete and the station will be operational by the summer.
- Title to the closed Union Avenue School was transferred from the Board of Education back to the City of Margate. This building has been a lifesaver in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy.
- Overall spending has been controlled and closely regulated. There will be NO increase in the local municipal tax rate for 2013.
- The Planning and Zoning Boards have been combined, saving money while making the process more efficient.

As we move forward what can we expect?

- More financial efficiency. We are in the process of negotiating new labor contracts for all employee groups.
- Continued maintenance to our infrastructure.
- Continued preservation of Margate's quality of life.
- Continued improvements to the way Margate's government operates.
- Continued support of our business community. "Shop Locally"
- Assurances that all these changes are sustainable.

Have a great Spring!!

Mike

“NOTABLE MARGATIANS” – WINTER 2012/2013

Former Commissioner Sigmund S. Rimm

By Roger Rubin

“Sig” Rimm, as he is affectionately and respectfully known by generations of Margatians, seasonal and year-round, is honored this edition of the Newsletter as a leader among us who for a third of a century, from 1975 through 2007, helped guide, modernize, beautify and diversify the City of Margate into the quality town that it has become.

In his eight 4-year terms as City Commissioner, he served alongside Mayor Bill Ross, and Commissioners Russ Roney, Tom Markowski, and others, as head of Public Safety for 28 years and Public Works for 4 years. As such he oversaw modernization of the police and fire forces, Master Plan updates, sewer and water improvements making Margate’s one of the finest municipal systems in the State, and flower and other beautification projects in the business districts and all around Margate such as the Gladstone water tower, and the ball fields at Jerome Avenue. Appropriately, Sig has been honored by having those ball fields named after him, the Sigmund S. Rimm Recreational Fields.

Also within his tenure, the Martin Bloom pavilion has been transformed into an active ocean front recreational asset for citizens of all ages, including everything from canasta classes to European trips, under the current directorship of Maryann Christian and her staff. Sig also was instrumental in getting the senior citizens bus in to Margate, which for 20 years now (with Sig as one of the drivers) has provided free island-wide shopping/banking and recreational transport to senior citizens and handicapped individuals, who would be otherwise housebound and isolated.

Beside his municipal contributions, Sig also held top leadership posts in the Jewish Community Center, A.C. Jaycees, Federation of Jewish Agencies, Beth Judah Synagogue, and the Committee to Bring Gambling to Atlantic City, among many others. For 27 years Sig served as a high school football referee and official, and as such was recognized as one of the top referees in the area. He has received numerous awards, including B’nai B’rith Man of the Year, New Jersey Hall of Fame for Elected

Officials, JCC Community Hero Award, and Margate Education Special Award for Outstanding Contributions for the Children of the Margate School District.

Sig was born in Atlantic City 81 years ago, and he and his wife Carol have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren, some of the living in exotic locales such as Hawaii and New Zealand. Sig enjoys numerous hobbies, such as walking, reading, biking and designing and creating unique woodworking pieces in his extensive basement craft room.

The editorial staff of this newsletter, speaking on behalf of the citizens of Margate, wish Sig and Carol good health and joy in the coming years, and extend to Sig our sincere appreciation for all you have done to make Margate a community of excellence and caring.



Update from Commissioner Maury Blumberg...

As Commissioner of Revenue and Finance, I am pleased to report that working together with BA- Rich Deaney and my fellow Commissioners, we were able to direct our staff to help us prepare a budget for 2013 with no municipal tax increase. This was achieved despite the devastating flood damage which has caused severe damage to public property as well as private property. We have held the line on salary costs by negotiating contracts with substantially reduced built in raises, with particular cooperation from the Fire Department and Beach Patrol which have reached agreement with us. We are still in negotiations with the Police and Public Works staff. Our overall salary costs are up less than 4 tenths of one percent. Our tax rate is technically down about one tenth of one percent.

With this new budget we not only have stabilized municipal taxes, but we have an improved surplus position by about \$200,000. We refinanced long term debt which is projected to save more than \$400,000 in the years ahead. We will be preparing a long term capital plan that will match capital needs with long range debt sustainability.

We all look forward to a warmer spring and a fresh outlook on a robust summer season.



Update from Commissioner Brenda Taube...

Greetings everyone and happy spring! I think I can speak on behalf of all of us when I say that I'm grateful for the season change and that I REALLY welcome spring this year! It's wonderful to see our beautiful seaside community get back to its normal splendor. Speaking of "splendor", our Parkway Section will be spiffed up for the summer season and then in the fall we intend a more thorough facelift. Unfortunately, the lighting, irrigation, trees and shrubbery all took a real beating from recent

storms. We intend to retain the same landscape architect who originally designed this very elegant Parkway section of Margate.

As you all know, Hurricane Sandy forced us out of City Hall and into the Union Avenue School. It appears that there is an overwhelming consensus that we should make Union Avenue School our official and permanent home. The City staff is comfortable and our residents are pleased with the convenience of parking and one-stop shopping with mostly all City business under one roof.

And, lastly thank you to our whole team and to Mayor Becker and Commissioner Blumberg for introducing a budget without any tax increase. Again, I think I can speak for all of us and say, “thank you, it is greatly appreciated”.

Wishing you all a spring filled with peace and sunshine!

Brenda



Like Us on Facebook
Margate City now has an official Facebook Page



“Margate City, NJ”



---CALLING ALL ARTISTS---

The Margate Business Association is having a Logo and Event Naming contest!

We are looking for a snazzy logo and name for our upcoming event scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd, 2013. This new event is going to be a very entertaining weekend *celebrating* all the wonderful things Margate City has to offer. The event is meant to get the word out that Margate is here, open and operating year round!

Some events already planned: Pet Parade, First Santa sighting, restaurant happy hours and tastings, treasure hunt through the City (for kids AND adults!), and much, much, much more!

Winner receives \$150.00!

Top three things to communicate through our logo design:

#1 Open Year Round

#2 Home of Lucy

#3 Fun Fun Fun

#4 Text should include: Margate

#5 The event name you decide on should be incorporated into the logo

This logo will be seen online, in print, on tee-shirts and more, so just make sure it:

- Looks great both on and off your computer screen
- Looks great in Black and White and Color
- Is submitted as a high quality jpeg
- is original and un-trademarked.

Remember, the idea of this event is to promote Margate City and the Businesses of Margate.

Think:

Margate- Always in Season • Celebrate Margate • Marvelous Margate

Additional Information:

Artists may submit multiple designs, but they must be submitted as separate entries.

Submissions along with contact info can be emailed to annamaria@marvelousmargate.com

Contest Deadline: Submissions must be in by Monday, April 22 - by 6pm.

Selection committee will be looking for creativity, uniqueness and WOW factor so bring your 'A' game!

A committee member will contact the winner via phone.

Just FYI...Work Sessions are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm, followed by Commission Meetings at 5:00 pm. On the second Thursday of each month there is an evening special Work Session at 7:00 pm provided there are agenda items (call 822-2605 to find out). These meetings are open to the public and attendance is strongly encouraged.

Enjoying this newsletter? Please tell your friends and neighbors so we can increase our database and serve more residents. Email Verna_Fred@margate-nj.com to have email addresses added to our newsletter distribution.