



CITY OF MARGATE CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
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“Margate City News” Fall Newsletter

A Message from Mayor Mike Becker

My warmest wishes to you all and I hope you enjoy the first edition of “Margate City News”, a newsletter to keep you informed and up to date on your beautiful seaside community. This newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis and sent to you at the beginning of each season.

This past May I had the honor and privilege to be reelected to serve as your Mayor. Over the past four months it's been quite active at City Hall. Commissioner Blumberg and I welcomed a new commissioner, Brenda Taube, a new solicitor, Scott Abbott and a new auditor, the firm of Ford Scott. Commissioner Taube brings a fresh energy; Mr. Abbott brings a wealth of municipal experience and also happens to have an office next to City Hall, which is convenient for us but perhaps not as convenient for him, as we often run over for advice. And Ford Scott, our new auditor, is the South Jersey leader in municipal auditing. Our team is in place, ready, willing and able to serve.

Additionally, one of the first actions our new commission did was to create a Citizens Advisory Commission comprised of nine residents with a cross spectrum of backgrounds and professions, to make recommendations to us on city issues and to act as a “voice of the residents”. They've met many times and have been extremely helpful to us so I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them and thank them for their service. They are Steve Altman, Ed Berger, Mitchell Gordon, Dan Lachay, Janet McCarron, Herb Pizagno, Jim Robertson, Joe Rush and Leo Schoffer.

I'm in charge of Public Safety which includes our Police and Fire Departments, Beach Patrol, Building Department and Municipal Court. The hot topic (no pun intended) in my department at the moment is the firehouse. Our primary station on Ventnor Avenue at City Hall is 100 years old and in desperate need of repair. As I write this, emergency structural repairs are being completed and we're working on plans so we can put the rest of the project out to bid. Our hope is to have the station complete and ready to reoccupy by summer 2012. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mayor Russo of Longport and his fire and rescue team for housing our equipment and firemen during construction.

Congratulations to Officer John Oakes and Sergeant Chris Koch on their retirement from the Police Department and to Jeff Lee on his promotion to sergeant.

Our beach patrol did an excellent job keeping our residents and visitors safe in the water. I'm proud to report that there were no serious injuries. Beach Patrol Chief Richard Kugel and his team are already looking forward to the beaches next summer.

If there is anything I can do to help you enjoy your residency in Margate, please contact me at (609) 822-0424.

Mike



Hats Off to Our Emergency Response Team

Kudos to all of you who heeded Governor Christie's mandatory evacuation order during Hurricane Irene. Though we were fortunate and spared this time, we must always be mindful of our geography and take seriously any hurricane threats in the future.

Your Margate emergency team handled the emergency evacuation efforts superbly! Headed by Emergency Coordinator Jerry Greenberg, our emergency personnel coordinated a phenomenally smooth evacuation. Our public works department, led by Director Frank Ricciotti worked tirelessly before the hurricane moving sand on the beach to prevent street flooding, removing all unsecured objects, safely storing them, setting up an island emergency shelter with a back-up generator and distributing sand bags to residents and businesses. Once the hurricane passed, it was back to work again cleaning up all the fallen debris, sawing up trees and branches and replacing all objects which were previously moved for safety. And, last but not least, our Police Chief David Wolfson and his department and Chief Tony Tabasso and his fire, rescue and emergency management service team coordinated an impressively responsive evacuation effort and a smooth repopulation when it was clear and safe to return home.

Bravo! Our emergency team deserves a standing ovation for their impressive weather emergency response effort; but please, Mother Nature, don't necessitate any "encore performances" in the near future!

There are a few other stars to thank for their assistance during this weather emergency, they are Sharon Ianoale of 9600 Condominium Complex who permitted our emergency response vehicles to park in their garage, Jack Fox at the JCC who opened up and made the building available to serve as an emergency shelter and Margate Terrace and its manager Michael Karwowski for allowing fire and rescue personnel to utilize its' community room as a staging area during Irene. We also want to thank Howard Seiden of Casels for offering emergency provisions to our response team if they needed them. And, last but not least, thank you to our Communication Operators (Trish Parrish, Nancy Edge, Shelly Moran & Debbie Bond) who fielded 1,315 calls during one eight-hour period during the storm.

On a side note, a personal plea to everyone...please don't let the fact that we dodged the bullet with Hurricane Irene give you any false confidence. We were fortunate this time but we may not be as lucky the next time.



On to other Weather Emergencies...Here are some Flood Facts

Did You Know?

- Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters outside of fire
- 90% of all presidential-declared U.S. natural disasters involve flooding
- Floods occur within all 50 states (they can occur anytime, anywhere)
- Communities particularly at risk are those in low lying areas, coastal areas, or downstream from large bodies of water
- 25% of flooding occurs outside areas formally designated as being flood prone (i.e. Special Flood Hazard Areas)
- Nation-wide, flooding caused more than \$4 billion a year in losses and 2,200 deaths in the 1990's
- There is a 26% chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30 year mortgage (more than 6 times the likelihood of a fire)
- Even minor flooding can cost homeowners thousands of dollars in losses and repairs
- Flood damage is virtually never covered by standard homeowners insurance
- Today NFIP insures more than 4 million policyholders in more than 19,000 communities in the U.S.
- The City of Margate has many programs to mitigate flood risks and assist residents before, during and after flood events. To inquire about a copy of an elevation certificate for your property, flood protection assistance, or information regarding the Flood Insurance Rate Map contact the City's Building Department at (609)822-1974.
- The City of Margate's flood program currently saves residents hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in insurance premiums.

Two small words but with BIG meaning...



- **THANK YOU Margate Business Association** for organizing successful, fun annual events for us all to attend: Beachstock 2011, Thrilling Thursdays, Le Tour De Downbeach and the Fall Funfest..
- **THANK YOU Roy Goldberg** of Gold Transportation and the Gold Foundation for the outdoor Johnny Rivers Concert and the fabulous fireworks display after the concert.
- **THANK YOU Margate Mother's Association** for organizing our Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony and for the fireworks display on July 4th.



Update from Commissioner Maury Blumberg...

After proudly serving Margate City as the Commissioner of Public Safety for the past 4 years, I am now honored to oversee the Revenue and Finance Department as we look forward to continually providing quality services to our residents. Margate City will always lead the way as a first class community while striving to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in Atlantic County.

The Revenue and Finance Department provides numerous services that are important to the day to day operations of city government. Voter registration, mercantile licensing, purchasing functions, and property tax administration are just a few of the many areas facilitated by this department.

The Office of the City Clerk serves as the central administrative department of the city. Under the supervision of City Clerk Tom Hiltner and Deputy Clerk Rosemarie Freed, this statutory office oversees the daily operations of city government. The primary functions include but are not limited to the following: administrative officer of all elections, maintenance of all municipal records, preparation of agendas, minutes and governing body activities and all other general administrative duties.

The Tax Assessor's department is overseen by Tax Assessor Andy Bednarek and Deputy Assessor Judy Weiner. Their primary responsibility is to ensure that all property values are assessed at fair market value. Currently there are approximately 7,000 line items on the city's list of taxable property, of which 95% are residential. Additionally, this office administers all property tax deductions and exemptions including senior citizens, veterans and all other tax exempt properties including houses of worship. Johanna Casey and Assistant Tax Assessor Mary Becker are also part of the Tax Assessor's office.

Chief Financial Officer Lisa McLaughlin is responsible for all financial, accounting and payroll related activities. The CFO also administers all mandated insurance requirements as well as the city's ambulance billing system, which has provided approximately one million dollars in revenue since its inception. Tara Mazza (Purchasing/Accounts Payable), Dede Hiltner (Clerical/Bookkeeping) and Colleen Dorsey (Payroll) are integral parts of the finance team.

The tax collection and Water and Sewer Utility collections department are under the direction of Tax Collector Tom Hiltner. The day to day operations of tax collection are administered by Deputy Tax Collector Linda Morgan and utility collections are handled by Sandy Miller. In addition to maintaining one of the lowest tax and utility rates in the county, the staff also ensures collection rates well above the state average.

Although the administrative functions of local government may not be as visible as police, fire and public works, their importance cannot be overstated. After serving four years as Public Safety Commissioner, I am now learning that behind the scenes Margate never sleeps. I would be remiss not to tell you about the great work done by Fred Verna our Systems Computer Engineer. Fred works tirelessly making sure all computers, phone, mechanical and electrical security systems across all departments are up to date and in good working order. Systems remain in compliance with State regulations, backed-up, secure and bug free as a result of Fred's efforts. In addition, Fred works on special projects across department lines including energy audits, cellular phone analysis, cable, school, beach and city wide communications. In conclusion, I look forward to continuing my work with a great team of people in Margate. Together we will make a difference. Special thanks to Commissioner Taube for spearheading this newsletter's inception.

Update from Commissioner Brenda Taube...



Greetings everyone and I hope you all enjoyed your summer! I'm your newly elected Commissioner of Public Works. I am proud to serve and honored to be the first female elected official in the history of Margate.

In my capacity, I work with our city engineer, Ed Walberg on the city's infrastructure and with our Public Works team led by Director Frank Ricciotti. Our Public Works family works tirelessly year-round, seven days a week in an effort to keep Margate looking clean and beautiful and your utilities properly functioning. Falling under Public Works is the Recreation Department and I have the pleasure of working with Marianne Christian, the Program Coordinator of the Martin Bloom Pavilion, who leads our residents in a variety of playful activities and with Andrew Miles, Director of Community Education & Recreation who coordinates all our city's programs and activities.

Here are a few updates you might want to be aware of:

- You can now easily stop unwanted junk mail, catalogues and phone books at their source by going to <https://margate-nj.catalogchoice.org>. Save Margate money in disposal fees and be earth friendly at the same time!
- As of October 1st, the city yard will be closed for the season on Sundays but will continue to be open year-round on Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm to 3 pm.
- On Saturday, October 15th there will be a shredding event at the city yard from 8 am to 12 noon.
- On Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm there will be a Community Beach Clean Up sponsored by Clean Ocean Action, on the Granville Avenue beach, which is actually my family's adopted beach. I hope to see many of you there.
- The new Margate City Community Education & Recreation Guide for fall is available. If you'd like one, we have them available at City Hall, the Library and the Margate City Post Office, or go to www.margatecityschools.org and click the "community" tab at the top.
- Also, if you haven't stopped by the Martin Bloom Pavilion lately, please do because you could be missing out on all the fun! The center is full of lively activity all day long from early morning exercise classes to card games, knitting, beading, travel opportunities, etc. A calendar of their events may be picked up at the Bloom Pavilion.

I want to thank everyone, Mayor Becker, Commissioner Blumberg, our Margate City staff and our residents for making me feel welcome and helping me with the transition into this new position. It's a thrill and an honor to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions or if I may be of any service at (609) 822-0424.

PLANNING AND ZONING TIDBITS

By

Roger Rubin
ZONING OFFICER

Margate's zoning rules and regulations are one important reason why our town has the ambience that attracts year round and seasonal families here. Our zoning rules help create open space, comfortable distances between homes, architectural design at a proper size and scale, attractive landscaping, privacy, noise abatement, protection of views, light and air circulation, and numerous other amenities. We like to think our zoning helps make us special, different, more desirable, more attractive, and more valuable.

The Zoning Office is available to all residents and property owners, to guide and assist you in making decisions about improvements to your property. Call us at 609-822-5438 to set up an appointment at your convenience, to discuss anything from a completely new home, to a major or minor renovation, to a deck or porch enlargement, a fence, a shower enclosure, or whatever else you have a question about. You may also contact us by email at rubin_roger@margate-nj.com. If necessary, we will gladly meet at your house, and we will include the Construction Official if his expertise would be helpful.

Here's a zoning tidbit. People often ask, when do I have to be notified by certified mail regarding construction near me. The answer is only when there is an action before the Zoning Board or Planning Board, such as a variance from the zoning ordinance, within 200 feet of your house. When new construction or renovations completely comply with zoning, you are not going to be noticed. However, you may always go to the Construction Office, second floor at 101 N. Washington Avenue, and peruse the plans at your leisure. You will also be noticed if there is a demolition scheduled adjacent to your house.

We look forward to providing you with more "tidbits" in the future editions of this newsletter. And we look forward to hearing from you.

We hope you enjoyed reading the first edition of "Margate City News". Please let us know if you have suggestions on content or ways we can improve it.

Your Margate City governing body and the whole city-wide staff wish our Jewish residents a very Happy New Year!

