



CITY OF MARGATE CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
9001 WINCHESTER AVENUE
MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY 08402
(609) 822-0424

“Margate City News” Spring 2014

Let’s hope that the long snow filled winter season is finally over. Here’s to a new season – a season of sunshine and better times.

Once again, I am happy to report that Margate is in a sound financial position. There will be no municipal tax rate increase, debt is down, and our commitment to keep our infrastructure sound is strong. We have 20% fewer employees in 2014 than we had in 2007 but we are able to continue delivering municipal services second to none.

As we move into spring, the Police Department will be conducting a new safety program. Education and enforcement of traffic laws will be the theme of the program. Officers will monitor all traffic and safety issues. The program will address speeding, failure to stop at stop signs, texting and talking on cell phones while driving, seat belt law, failure to obey pedestrian cross walks and bicycle laws. This program is meant to be educational. Please help us keep our city safe.

The Building Department continues to be busy as the building boom continues.

The Fire Department remains on alert to serve the community when needed.

Stop by Beach Patrol Headquarters and say hello to our new Chief, Greg Smallwood. I very much look forward to the summer and am very confident of Greg’s ability to keep our bathers safe.

Have a great spring. Shop locally. Be safe.

~Mayor Mike Becker

“NOTABLE MARGATIANS”

Caroline “Cookie” Till

Owner/Operator of “Steve & Cookies by the Bay” by Brenda Taube

Each quarter we highlight a Margate resident who has contributed significantly to the betterment of our community. Margate is honored to have so many caring, compassionate and generous residents. One of whom is none other than our Cookie Till, owner of one of Margate’s most popular landmark restaurants, “Steve & Cookies by the Bay”.

Our community probably identifies mostly with Cookie as a restaurateur and hostess of the Margate Community Farmers Market, which Cookie established in 2008 but her community involvement and contributions extend well beyond her restaurant and the farmers market.

Cookie is a native of the area, a graduate of both Holy Spirit and Stockton College. After earning a Masters Degree in nutrition at Drexel University, she was employed by Cambell Soup Company where she worked in product development. After that she and her husband, Steve opened their first restaurant, “The Crab Pot”.

Cookie’s background as a “foodie”, combined with her training and education in nutrition have benefited many of our local organizations. Cookie serves as President of “A Work in Progress Foundation”, a non-profit devoted to establishing gardens and hands-on nutritional programs in Atlantic City and as Secretary for AtlantiCare Foundation’s Healthy School/Healthy Children subcommittee. She also established the “Edible Schoolyard Organic Garden” at Tighe School, the Margate Community Farmers Market, the Salvation Army Spray Avenue Garden in Atlantic City, a cooking program at the Boys and Girls Club in Atlantic City and is helping to rebuild the Hamilton Church Community Garden and playground after it suffered damage from Hurricane Sandy.

In addition to garden, nutrition and community involvement, Cookie has served on the Boards of “A Work in Progress”, “AtlantiCare Foundation”, “Stockton State College Foundation”, “Food Bank of South Jersey”, “Let’s Eat”, “Salvation Army” and the “Atlantic County Special Services Foundation”.

Cookie is involved with numerous other non-profits as she hosts annual fundraisers and charity events at “Steve & Cookies”, including “Spin for the Cure”, “Margate Business Association”, “Charity League”, “Child Federation”, “United Way” and “Earth Hour”. She is also a member of the “NJ Farm to School Network”, “Share our Strength”, “Chefs Collaborative”, “Slow Food”, “James Beard Society” and “Chaine Des Rotisseurs”.

Cookie’s Curriculum Vitae is certainly impressive, but when one looks back on life it isn’t the accolades or accomplishments that are important in the end, it’s the relationships we’ve built with family, friends and the contribution we make to the community, which mean the most.

“Cookie is an amazing woman who leads by example” says Jon Baker, one of Cookie’s bartenders who has worked for her for 12 years. All Cookie’s employees are proud of her, and some have worked for her since the opening of her first restaurant. Jon said that Cookie is like an aunt to him, like family and he has no idea how she manages everything she does - like running the restaurant, being available to 60+ employees, mingling with her restaurant guests and giving back to the community with all the charity work. The “Steve & Cookies” team is proud of the work Cookie does, sighting how she teaches children how to grow their own fruits and vegetables and instructing these children on proper nutrition.

The staff’s admiration and loyalty was evident when Hurricane Sandy ravished our region and caused major damage to the restaurant. The employees at “Steve & Cookies” rallied together and pitched in to help do whatever they could to get the restaurant up and running again.

Cookie’s example of giving back to the community has taken root in her team of employees. Each year during the holidays, the staff at “Steve and Cookies” brings clothes and toys to local families in need. When a member of their own team was recently injured and unable to work for a while, they passed around a hat to help him financially.

It hard to imagine Cookie having any spare time, but when she does, she enjoys learning about other cultures through their food and wine, reading and traveling. Her favorite pastimes include spending time in the garden, playing in the kitchen, sharing food, wine and conversation with family, friends and guests. Cookie also enjoys running and stand up paddle boarding. She resides in Margate with her best friends, Isabella and Bamboo (13 year old Lab mix rescues).

To quote Jon Baker, “if the real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money,” then Cookie Till is a rich woman.” For all her contributions toward making our community a better place, we say “thank you”. The City of Margate is honored to name Cookie Till as a Notable Margatian.

***A Message from Commissioner of Revenue & Finance,
Maury Blumberg...***



From the desk of revenue and finance, I am pleased to forward you the attached message from our business administrator Rich Deaney...2014.. NO TAX RATE INCREASE..read below. Thanks to all our city employees; working hard each and everyday, providing excellent service to our community.

“This budget has been in the making for several months. The staff has worked diligently to achieve our objective of a very modest increase without a tax rate increase. This has been accomplished together. The tax rate for Margate remains the same in 2014 as for 2012 and 2013. The budget is up just over one half of one percent (.58%). Our fund balance remaining after the budget is passed will be almost \$200,000 better than in 2013 and we will be positioned to have an excellent budget in 2015 as well. Margate should be proud of its financial position and for the services it provides its residents and visitors. We as a staff are proud and we thank you for your support.”

~Commissioner Maury Blumberg

When I was five years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down “happy”. They told me I didn’t understand the assignment and I told them they didn’t understand life. ~John Lennon



A Message from Commissioner of Public Works, Brenda Taube...

Oh my goodness, what a winter we had this past year! I don’t know about you but I’ve never welcomed spring like I am this year. The grass is turning green, the birds are singing in the morning and people are coming out of hibernation. Whoopee...welcome spring!

Your Public Works Department has been busy keeping our streets clear and passable with all the snow and ice we’ve had this winter and with managing all the frozen pipes across the City as a result of frigid temperatures. Our team did a great job and I give each of them a heartfelt thank you!

Speaking of appreciation, I wish to thank Monica Coffey for volunteering to lead “Sustainable Margate”, the city’s new green team. She has been working very hard planning special initiatives with our committee and it’s paid off as we recently learned that we will receive our very first grant award of \$2,000 from the State of NJ to help further our efforts and the program. Thank you, Monica, for your leadership and thank you to our whole team for their passion and commitment to Margate and the environment.

Weekly recycling will start Memorial Day and will continue through Labor Day. In the past, we've only had weekly recycling July 4th through Labor Day. Community Yard Sales will be held Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12 this year (whole weekend) and Public Works will be by Monday morning to pick up any unwanted leftovers. The Clean Ocean Action Beach Clean-up Sweep will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 8:30am at the Granville Avenue Beach, so come on out and help...the more the merrier. And, the Public Works Yard will open on Sundays from 3pm till 6pm beginning May 4th.

Lastly, we all love our beautiful Margate Beach so let's shout this news out to the rest of the State and prove that we have the best one by voting Margate the best beach in the NJ Top Ten Beach Contest. Go to <http://www.njtoptenbeaches.org/calendar-photo-contest> to cast your vote for Margate!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, I'm always happy to meet with our residents. I may be reached at (609) 822-0424.

Wishing you all a pleasant, warm and sunny spring!

~Commissioner Brenda Taube



Vote Margate Beach for **Day Trips, Ecotourism & Family Vacation**

<http://www.njtoptenbeaches.org/calendar-photo-contest>

New Jersey's Top Ten Beaches survey is a project of the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and the Richard Stockton College Coastal Research Center. Copyright ©2008-2014



Margate joins Sustainable Jersey

by Monica Coffey

Sustainable Margate Update

It's been a busy winter for the Sustainable Margate committee and the dedicated Margate employees who have helped to implement some exciting new programs. Back in early February, the public works staff kicked off a new bulky rigid plastic curbside collection program. Bulky plastics include items such as plastic trash cans, toys, coolers and outdoor furniture. These items can be dropped off at public works or placed curbside on the first Tuesday of each month. To arrange for curbside pick up, contact public works at 822-5038.

Safe Medication Disposal

Chief Wolfson and the police department staff are about to launch a program which will allow Margate residents to dispose of prescription drugs at the police department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Improper disposal of medications is a growing public health problem worldwide. There are few such programs currently in existence and the chief is to be commended for making this program available to Margate residents. Sustainable Margate member Ellen Lichtenstein is working with Chief Wolfson to be sure that the city gets Sustainable Jersey credit for this action.

Post-Sandy Strategic Planning Report

Margate is working with Jim Rutala of Rutala Associates to develop a post-Sandy Strategic Planning document. As a result of the storm and growing understanding of the impacts of climate change on coastal communities, funding is being made available to assist communities in becoming more resilient. One of the requirements to access the funding is that towns develop strategic plans to demonstrate how they intend to deal with climate adaptation and prepare for increased flooding. Jim Rutala has become an expert in this field and is working with a number of local communities, including Brigantine, Somers Point and Atlantic City. Rutala addressed the Sustainable Margate committee in early March for input on sustainability ideas that could possibly be included in the report. Climate adaptation is a new Sustainability Jersey action and the work that Rutala completes will count towards the city's Sustainable Jersey certification.

Municipal Carbon Footprint

The city is excited to be partnering with Stockton College on a municipal carbon footprint study. The study, to be conducted by three sustainability students under the direction of Professor Patrick Hossay, will measure the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the city in a given year. The footprint will detail the sources of emissions so that actions can be focused on the largest emitters. The footprint will also enable Margate to track its progress and determine if new policies are having an impact. One of recommended precursors to conducting a carbon footprint is an energy audit of municipal facilities. Luckily for the city, this undertaking was completed in 2009 under the direction of Fred Verna.

Sustainable Jersey awards Margate its first grant

Margate was notified earlier this month that it has received its very first grant through Sustainable Jersey. The \$2,000 capacity building grant will be used to fund the municipal carbon footprint and to develop promotional and educational materials for the green team.

Tree seedling giveaway

The city, in conjunction with the Sustainable Margate green team, will be holding a seedling giveaway on Saturday, April 5 from 9-12 pm at the Public Works Yard located at 101 N. Benson Avenue. More than 1,000 seedlings are being provided to the city by the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign as part of a post-Sandy recovery plan.

Sustainable Margate welcomes two new members

Margate's green team was pleased to recently welcome two new members, Carla Glass and Steve Jasiocki. Glass, who has extensive philanthropic experience, is also a graduate of the Rutgers Environmental Stewards program. Jasiocki is currently enrolled in the program and will undertake a project for the city as part of his coursework.

What's ahead?

One of the priorities of Sustainable Margate is increasing bike and pedestrian traffic throughout the city and across Absecon Island. A grant currently before the NJDOT which would convert Atlantic Avenue to two lanes and increase the size of the bike lane, similar to what was accomplished in Longport. Again, thanks to Chief Wolfson who was involved in this effort. Also on the horizon is a Safe Routes to School initiative. Stay tuned for more details on this project.

Ideas are always welcome

Is there something you'd like to see happen in Margate to increase its sustainability? If so, please feel free to share your ideas or drop in on one of our meetings.



What's that sound? Do you hear it? It's the buzz around the **"12th Annual MBA Wine Tasting event on April 30th"** from 6-9pm at Steve and Cookies in Margate! What's the buzz you ask? Just amazing food, wonderful "Jagielky's Chocolate", palate pleasing wine and mouthwatering craft beers. Throw in a complimentary gift, surprise special guest, celebrity host, Diane from the "Mike & Diane Morning Show" on 95.1WAYV, the coolest people in town and you've got a party!

Tickets are only \$50/person and the proceeds from this event, which also features a silent and ticket auction and a Trading Places service auction, help the Margate Business Association's Daniel and Maria Walters Scholarship program, which award scholarships to several Margate High School seniors going to college. Proceeds also benefit the MBA'S Children Fund which has already bought, warm clothing, glasses, school supplies, sent latch key children to summer camps, and provided food, toys and much more.

To purchase tickets or donate an auction item please email Anna Maria at annamaria@marvelousmargate.com. A fantastically fun event that helps out some worthy causes.

2014 MBA Wine Tasting Committe

- Cookie Till and Susan Strijek, Steve & Cookie's By The Bay
- Paula Hartman and Dana Hartman , Hartman Home Team, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Fox & Roach
 - AnnMarie Carr, Jagielky's Homemade Candy
 - Shannon Wray, Equity Communications 95.1 WAYV
- Anna Maria Blescia-Courter, Margate Business Association

Bloom News

Social, Latin, Swing and Ballroom Dance Event

Saturday, March 22nd 7:30pm till 10:00pm (doors open at 7:00 pm)

Margate Municipal Building

9001 Winchester Avenue

Cost is \$8.00 per person. Sponsored by Margate Recreation Dept. (609) 822-2285

Smithville Murder Mystery Luncheon

Thursday, April 10th

Cost is \$40 per person: includes Lunch, Show and Transportation

Contact Marianne or Bill at (609) 822-2285 for more information.

Trip to Villa Roma Resort, Catshills, NJ

Tuesday, June 3rd to Friday, June 6th

Contact Marianne or Bill at (609) 822-2285 for more information.

**The Bloom Bus is available for senior and physically disabled transportation,
call 822-3304 and ask for Marianne Christian.**



**A friendly reminder from your building department regarding contractor work...
Work hours are Monday through Friday 7am to 6pm, Saturdays 8am to 4pm and no
work is permitted on Sundays and Holidays. Thank you for adhering to our code and
if you have questions, please contact the building department at (609) 822-1974.**

Beach Badge Information

Badges Pre-Season sale begins March 24th, 2014

The sale of beach badges will begin Monday, March 24th and will be available for sale at the following two locations:

Margate Municipal Building

9001 Winchester Avenue

Monday thru Friday – 9:00am to 4:00pm

Bloom Pavilion
Huntington Avenue and the Beach
Monday thru Friday – 10:00am to 3:00pm
Beginning Sat., April 5th 7 days a week 10:00am to 3:00pm

Beach badges are required to be worn on the beach during the summer season by everyone 12 years of age and older. **The pre-season cost for a regular badge is \$7 and for a senior citizen, 65 years or older, the cost is \$3.50 (may only be worn by a senior citizen).**

Beginning on June 1st, all seasonal badges will cost \$15.

Reservation Policy

Badges may be purchased through the mail and held for in-person pick up at a later time. To reserve badges, send check or money order payable to “City of Margate” in the exact amount of the purchase to the following address:

Attention: Beach Badges
Margate Municipal Building,
9001 Winchester Avenue
Margate, NJ 08402

Include a phone number and the quantity of badges you wish to purchase. Reservations must be in City Hall by the close of the business day on May 31st and postmarks are not accepted.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT by Ed Berger

Employee Spotlight - Trisha Parrish

THIS IS THE VOICE!

The first thing that happens when you begin a conversation with Trisha Parrish is an overwhelming realization that you are speaking with someone that truly cares.

Trisha is approaching her 35th year as Dispatcher for our City's emergency responders, making her the most senior Margate Police Department employee. Police, Fire, and EMS rely on this soft spoken, steady voice to tell them where they are needed to protect the people of Margate.

Trisha simply says "I work for the people of the City. I take the calls and I send out the alarms", but when asked about her best and worst days on the job, you can tell that her compassion runs much deeper than her brief description. "I really don't want to go into the worst day, but the best one is easy. For days after Hurricane Sandy, I fielded calls from people that had evacuated that were desperate for news about everything they had left behind. My best day was when I got to tell them that they could finally come home."

Trisha was a hairdresser in her "previous life" and heard about the opening for the job from a customer, that happened to be the Chief of Police's secretary". She trained for 6 months in Atlantic City, and then moved into her current surroundings.

"The people make this job, so every day is a great day. It keeps me young"! A great attitude for someone that humorously refers to herself as the one that operates "The Bat Signal", and with a smile reminds all that she is the only one who really gets to "Tell the cops where to go....".

"OMA", as her 3 granddaughters and great grandson call her, lives in Williamstown but is as much a part of what makes Margate a remarkable place as any full time resident. Truly worthy, of this month's "Spotlight".



Employee Happenings...

- Firefighter David Funk and wife Shannon welcomed baby boy Wyatt January 31st
- Greg Smallwood was appointed Chief of the Beach Patrol on February 6th.



Like Us on Facebook
Margate City now has an official Facebook Page
"Margate City, NJ"

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.

There is a special Board of School Estimates (BOSE) Meeting open to the public on Tuesday, March 25th at 5:30pm at the Margate Municipal Complex, 9001 Winchester Avenue. Attend to learn more about your Margate City School Budget.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this newsletter or if you have recommendations for a "Notable Margatian", please call 822-0424.