



# CITY OF MARGATE CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
ONE SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE  
MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY 08402  
(609) 822-0424

---

## “Margate City News” Winter Newsletter

---

### *A Message from Mayor Mike Becker*

As winter approaches let's all take time to realize how lucky we are to live in Margate. We should be grateful for all the little things that collectively made this such a wonderful place.

The change of seasons always leaves me uplifted and feeling a sense of great energy. Let's all work together to keep Margate what it is and to insure that the future remains bright.

Happy Holidays!

*Mike*

---

### **ZONING TIDBITS** **ROGER RUBIN, ZONING OFFICER** **Winter, 2011 - FENCES**

The Margate Zoning Ordinance regulates the fences around your property in a number of ways. You need to get a building permit for erection of new fences or replacement of old ones. Your first step would be to see me in the Zoning Office, main City Hall Building (across from the Wawa) to obtain a “Zoning Permit,” and then you would go to the Building Department at 101 N. Washington Avenue, second floor, to apply for the building permit. Please bring me a copy of your house survey, and any photographs you may have on hand of the property and the existing fence if there is one. The following fence regulations apply:

- **Maximum height from ground to top is 5 feet; it can be 6 feet if you have a swimming pool or hot tub/spa. (There are other swimming pool specific fence requirements which I won't enumerate here.)**
- **Fences are permitted in the rear and along the sides, but only up to the legal front setback for houses.**
- **Fences are allowed next to driveways.**
- **You may fence in your trash area, at the same 5 feet high, or build a fence to hide your air conditioning compressor or emergency generator.**
- **Trellises are permitted, maximum 8 feet high and 80% transparent.**
- **If you have a legal fence, built many years ago, which does not meet current zoning, it may be replaced, provided the degree of “non-conformity” is not increased. I will explain that on a case by case basis when the situation arises.**
- **We have an “Overlay District” in Margate, where fences are permitted across the front of homes at the sidewalk front property line. This overlay district covers approximately from Washington Avenue to Coolidge Avenue (Longport) and from bay to ocean.**

As always, please contact me at 822-5438 or [rubin\\_roger@margate-nj.com](mailto:rubin_roger@margate-nj.com) if I may be of assistance in fencing or other zoning matters.

**Following is a new feature in our Margate City News written by Roger Rubin. Every quarter we will highlight a Margate resident for his or her outstanding contributions to our community. And, we think Mayor Bill Ross fits the bill perfectly. Thank you Roger!**

## **“NOTABLE MARGATIANS”**



### **MAYOR BILL ROSS**

This is the first of what will be a continuing column in the quarterly Margate City News. In each edition, a Margate citizen will be highlighted in this space because of their accomplishments in bettering our community in areas such as civic leadership, the arts, business accomplishments, and/or charitable endeavors. For our first column, we celebrate the life and times of William H. Ross, III, who was our Mayor from 1975 to 2002, and before that was Commissioner of Public Works, then Finance from 1959 to 1975.

We would like to attribute much of this material to the Beacon, a February, 2011 publication of the Margate Historical Society and Library, with permission of Frank Thiemann, President of the Historical Society.

As a beloved leader for almost a half century, Bill Ross presided over the transformation of Margate into the modern, attractive, diverse, and well-run seashore community that it is today, along with his cohorts in excellence Marty Bloom, who preceded him as Mayor, and Commissioners Sig Rimm, Russ Roney, Tom Markowski, as well as longstanding City Solicitor David Fitzsimons.

“Boss Ross,” as he was affectionately known, also served on the Board of County Freeholders from 1973 to 1979, was President of the Atlantic County League of Municipalities and County Mayor’s Association, was on the Board of Directors of the NJ Conference of Mayors, and proudly served as President of the Lion’s Club of Atlantic City.

Many people don’t realize that Bill is not a native of Absecon Island, but was born in New York City on November 22, 1924. He moved to Ventnor with his parents in 1935 and the family moved to Margate a year later. He attended the Granville Avenue School, at Granville and Winchester Avenues, the location of the beautiful, modern William H. Ross, III School, built during his tenure as Mayor and dedicated to him in his presence upon its opening a few short years ago. Bill also attended Atlantic City High, and Staunton Military Academy in Virginia.

During World War II, Bill served in the European Theater in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, which was then a division of the Army. He was in the same bomber group as the movie star Clark Gable, and he also served with Harry Brown, who became his campaign manager as well as lifelong friend. He went on to serve under General Patton in the Battle of the Bulge, and later participated in the liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps about which he was quoted in the A.C. Press: “I remember they were starving. They jumped up looking for food. We gave them our Army rations and whatever we could find. It should never have happened.”

Soon after the war, Bill married his first wife, Eleanor Sharpe. Their daughter Lisa was born in 1950. Ross became active in Margate Republican politics after his return from the war. He served in friendly cooperation with Mayor Martin Bloom, and when Bloom retired in 1975, Ross became Mayor alongside his running mates Commissioners

Russell Roney and Sigmund Rimm. He had a long and successful tenure with the 3 R team, and when Roney retired Commissioner Tom Markowski was added to this historically notable family of civic leaders. They are all paid tribute throughout the City as follows: The Martin Bloom Pavillion, The William H. Ross III School, the Sigmund S. Rimm Ballfields at Jerome Avenue, the Russell Roney Park alongside the Library, the Thomas Markowski Seaside Playground at Granville Avenue, and the David Fitzsimmons Park at the bay end of Washington Avenue.



**Bill presenting a Proclamation to Patti Fitzsimmons**

Bill met his current wife June in 1976. He has 8 stepchildren, John Gallagher, Maureen Hebbig, Colleen Williams, Mark Gallagher, Terrence Gallagher, Rosemarie Hewitt, Maryanne Henson, and Ted Gallagher. June continues to be involved in Margate civic and political affairs, enjoys her wonderful family, and spends much of her time visiting with Bill at Meadowview Nursing Home in Northfield.



**Bill & June Ross**

According to his long time secretary, Dede Hiltner, one of Bill's proudest accomplishments as Mayor was working with Pauline Hill, another prominent Margatian and the Chairman of the Planning Board, to bring Margate Terrace, an affordable senior citizens housing complex, to Margate, so aging seniors of limited means could remain in Margate when they needed to sell their house. Margate Terrace, which opened in 1992, was funded by HUD and took 10 years to realize. It is located near the bay on Fredericksburg Avenue, and is an exceptionally well run, modern and active senior community. Bill and Pauline worked diligently with the sponsors, Margate Community Church, Seashore Gardens, and Shalom House to push this project to completion.

Bill was dedicated to city infrastructure and was quoted as saying, "You must continually improve a town. People sometimes do criticize us for spending money in a bad economy. That does have some merit, but you cannot sit back and let a town deteriorate. If you look around at the towns that has happened to, it lowers property values and they are not towns that people want to take pride in."



**Bill standing in front of the William H. Ross School**

Mayor Bill Ross was popular throughout his years in office. He always went above and beyond the call of duty, writing letters to Margate residents on major milestones and events such as anniversaries, marriages, deaths, and births. He was particularly proud of the City's schools, library, churches, synagogues and other important institutions that set Margate apart as a desirable and diverse seashore town. He had close relationships with many in the business community, such as Al Troiano, George Naame, Roy Goldberg, Ed Gurwicz, and numerous other philanthropic community leaders. Bill and June could be seen at many a Margate wedding or spaghetti dinner. He was an umpire for the local Little League, and a great sportsman, as well as an avid rower and a world class skier.

Commissioner Brenda Taube provides this anecdote about Bill that says a lot about his style and substance: "I first met Mayor Ross in 1991 when I went to City Hall for information and permits for a "TCBY" frozen yogurt franchise. Mayor Ross and his entire team at City Hall were extremely helpful. Little did I know then that Mayor Ross would turn out to be one of my best and I must say "favorite" customers. In fact, every week Mayor Ross would treat his staff to a frozen yogurt dessert during their work sessions. Thank you, Mayor Ross, not just for being a good customer but for being a good person and for your contributions to our wonderful city!"

Commissioner Maury Blumberg reflected about Mayor Ross as follows: "Mayor Bill Ross always cared about his employees and became involved in their family celebrations as well as problems and concerns. There was always during his tenure a caring and concern about the City Hall family that reflected upon the job that was done by City Hall staff for the citizens of Margate."

Mayor Mike Becker had these observations and memories: "Bill Ross is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known. We've been friends for a very long time and I have always looked up to Bill as a friend and for his service to the City of Margate.

"Bill defines the true meaning of friendship. Through thick and thin, good and bad, you know Bill is always there for you.

"We shared many lunches at Kornblau's and McGees and competed in sports. After getting married, Bill is the reason Mary and I moved to Margate to raise our family.

"The constant theme in our relationship is no matter what I did, I always knew Bill was my friend. God Bless you Bill."

We all send our love to Bill and June, with our deep appreciation, as most beloved "Notable Margatians."



**Bill with all of the children at Ross school**





### ***Update from Commissioner Maury Blumberg...***

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our wonderful Margate residents and all our dedicated city workers, a very Happy Holiday season and a joyous New Year. I find this to be a great time of year to reflect on the hard work everyone has done to make Margate a wonderful place to call home. Further, I look forward to fulfilling our commitment of working together to explore ways to save money, keeping our taxes stable and services high. I will be looking at our budget, recommending a part time school superintendent, shared positions for technology, curriculum, truancy officer and reduced superintendent staff. I hope to work with Mike and Brenda to finally make this a reality in these difficult economic times. The savings will be passed on to the taxpayers and used to enhance programs for our kids. Further, I will soon be announcing a reorganized revenue and finance structure that will allow us better communication channels with our temporary BA. In addition, we have committed to reconvening the citizen advisory group of 9 to explore our options for moving the Building Department and repurposing the Union Avenue School. Please forward any suggestions or ideas you may have on this topic. In conclusion, we are poised and ready for a great 2012, moving forward, onward and upward. It's a New YEAR!

---



### ***Update from Commissioner Brenda Taube...***

**H**appy Holidays! I've enjoyed my first six months serving as your Commissioner and have been very busy. Recent projects include hiring a search firm for our new Business Administrator, seeking additional opportunities to share services with Ventnor and Longport, proposing a new location for our Building Department, and researching the best use of the soon to be deeded over, Union Avenue School Property.

Our Building Department lease expires January 31, 2013 and the rent in my opinion is exorbitant so I've been working on a proposal to move it back to its former location, 7 South Washington Avenue, right next to City Hall where the Historical Society is presently located. I've also been researching the best use of the Union Avenue School property, and presented a concept plan to the Commission and the public in November. The plan is a compromise between open space/park/playground and development with 12 homes on oversized lots and a park which remains 44% of the total property. I dropped this proposal off to all residents around Union Avenue School and the response thus far is positive. I do hope to get approval from the Commission to move forward with the new building department location because we have just 13 months to work and we need to get rolling and stay on schedule so everything will be complete by the end of our lease term. At our last Commission Meeting we decided to engage our Citizens Advisory Commission to further study the best use of the Union Avenue School property. I will share my information and we'll see what their recommendations are for the repurposing. Time is of the essence with the Building Department but we have time and should not rush into any plan for the Union School property.

Also, beginning this summer we've arranged with the ACUA to have weekly recycling pickups between July 4 and Labor Day. The rest of the year we will continue with the every other week pick-up schedule. The Public Works Department on Benson Avenue has recycling bins outside the gate from 7 am to 4 pm everyday in the event you have recycling overflow and do not want to wait for the ACUA residential pickup. And, if you're looking for something to do this winter or anytime during the year, there's plenty to do at the Bloom. Weekly schedules are available in their lobby. They also have a 10- night Alaskan Cruise coming up if you're interested (August 10-20, 2012). On November 18<sup>th</sup> we held a city-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive where we collected 30 Turkeys, 470 pounds of assorted food and over \$800 in funds for the Community Food Bank. Thank you for all your generous donations!

Don't forget that you can easily stop unwanted junk mail 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! This web site gives up really cool statistics...We have nine Margate registered users so far resulting in 132 opt-outs saving 5 trees, 1,925 pounds of carbon dioxide, 4,634 gallons of water and 683 pounds of solid waste. Let's keep it going! If you need help signing up, just call me and I'll be happy to walk you through it.

And, last but not least, I want to thank Yogi Hiltner for all his hard work setting up the beautiful holiday lights in the ball field! They are spectacular, adding to our enjoyment of Margate during the holiday season.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me (609) 822-0424 with any questions or suggestions. Warmest wishes for a healthy, peaceful and joyful New Year!

---

## ***Margate City Employee News***

### **Congratulations to the following employees:**

- Firefighter David Funk married Shannon Venier on October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Firefighter John Sher married Kayle Fleming on September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Firefighter Anthony Tabasso Jr. and his wife Joan welcomed a baby boy Maverick on September 14th
- Firefighter Joseph DeStefano and his wife Abby welcomed a baby boy Joseph on July 27<sup>th</sup>
- Firefighter Jim Hiltner and Stephanie Deibert welcomed a baby girl Myla on November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Deputy Chief Dan Adams' daughter Katie signed with Seton Hall for swimming and academics
- Lieutenant Stephen Teasenfitz is retiring from the Police Department on January 1<sup>st</sup> after 30 years of service
- Jeffrey Lee was promoted to Police Sergeant on July 17th
- Margate City Prosecutor Joseph Sayegh was voted 2011 Best Attorney- South Jersey by *Philadelphia Magazine* and 2011 New Jersey Super Lawyer by *New Jersey Monthly Magazine*
- Franz Adler received a lifetime achievement award for his dedication in the sport of power lifting presented by Gene Rychlak at the RPS power lifting event held at Oceanside in November.



### ***Winter Storm Safety Checklist***

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms can produce flooding, dangerously low temperatures, strong winds, icing, sleet, freezing rain and power outages.

### ***Preparing Makes Sense Get Ready Now!***

#### **What should I do?**

- Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, wear mittens and a hat.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.
- Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.

#### **Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills**

- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas.
- If the carbon monoxide detector sounds, move quickly to fresh air location outdoors and call 911.

#### **Cold-Related Emergencies:**

- Frostbite and hypothermia are two dangerous potentially life-threatening emergencies. Learn how to handle these emergencies by taking a first aid class.



### ***Holiday Safety Tips from your Margate City Firemen.....***



- **Be watchful of dangers to children.** Teach them to stay away from candles, fireplaces, fireworks, space heaters, matches, and lighters. Holly and mistletoe can be poisonous to small children and pets.
- **Choose toys wisely.** Avoid those that could be highly flammable or a choking hazard. Make sure electric toys are labeled for fire safety, and keep them away from your tree.
- **Install smoke detectors** on every level in your home and in each bedroom. Check their function according to manufacturer's directions, and change their batteries at least once a year. It could mean the difference between waking up to a small, smoldering fire or one you can't escape. For the greatest fire safety, we recommend a smoke detector inside each bedroom in addition to the required smoke detector on each level of the home.
- **Wrap it up!** Dispose of gift wrappings soon after opening presents. A room full of paper lying around on the floor and furniture is yet another holiday hazard. Do not burn wrappings in a fireplace; they may ignite suddenly and cause a flash fire.

#### **Lights**

**General safety considerations:** Before you begin decorating, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning installation and maintenance of electrical decorations. Use only the lights and other electrical decorations that have been certified by a recognized independent testing laboratory. Outdoors, use only lights and other electrical decorations certified for outdoor use. Use caution when decorating near power lines. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Don't allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.

**Maintain your holiday lights.** Inspect each decoration before plugging into an outlet. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items. Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses. Don't mount or support light strings in any way that

might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords. Discard broken or faulty lights and decorations. Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs can be purchased wherever electrical supplies can be sold. Use the gripping area on a plug when removing decorative lights and electrical decorations from outlets.

**Do not overload electrical outlets.** Do not connect more than three light string sets together, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

**Extension cords** should be of the right size for the job and in good condition. Do not cover extension cords or cords from decorations with rugs or carpets.

**Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.** Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

**Use motorized ornaments/decorations wisely.** Motorized ornaments and other decorations (animated figures) are very popular. Be sure to turn off any motorized ornaments on your tree with your holiday lights, and keep watch over animated figures, which can overheat and burn out if used for long periods of time.

## **Trees**

**Choose a fresh tree.** Look for one without shedding needles. Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

**Care for your tree.** Prior to setting up a tree, the trunk should be cut off with a diagonal cut at least one inch above the original cut. Place the tree in a container that holds the tree securely and is of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree. Use hot tap water for the initial fill of the support stand. Spraying your natural tree with a flame-retardant product will help ensure your tree will remain less susceptible to starting on fire.

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times to a level at least two inches above the butt of the tree. Keep all candles and open flames at a distance equal to the height of the tree in case the tree should tip over.

**Disposing of your tree.** Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.



## **Candles and Fire**

**Care with candles.** Always put candles in candlesticks before you light them. Do not use them in decorations or displays. Keep candles away from curtains or other combustibles materials. Never put them in windows or near exits. And never leave candles in the reach of unsupervised children or pets. Always blow out candles when you leave a room.

**Have a fire safe fireplace.** Have it professionally inspected at least once a year and cleaned if necessary. Don't burn anything but dry wood, as paper can fly out of the chimney. Have a spark arrester installed on top of the chimney to cut hazards. Use a metal fire screen, put ashes in metal containers and never store them in your home.

**Give space heaters space!** An adequate clearance of at least 36" from any combustible surface. Make sure the heater meets UL testing and is used properly.

**Party safely.** Costumes and decorations should be flame - retardant or non- combustible. Take extra care with smoking materials and always cool the contents of ashtrays before disposing. The use of alcohol and smoking can be a deadly combination.

**A Note from your Public Works Department....**Please leave your Christmas trees on the curb on your regular trash day for pickup. The trees will be used to build a dune to protect our beaches. Thank you to Jessica Cuezas and her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at the Ross School for helping to organize this project.

**A Note from your Public Safety Department....**Please make sure your house number is clearly visible so it's easily identified in the event of an emergency.

**Take Part in Margate Civic Pride!** We can really use your help...the city of Margate is looking for volunteer "Block Captains" throughout the city who will be trained to distribute information to neighbors about trash and recycling, to notify Public Works if there is a street, sewer, lighting or other neighborhood infrastructure problem and to serve as a liaison between your neighbors and the Police and Fire Departments. If interested, please contact Franz Adler in the Public Works Department at 822-5038 or email him at [adler\\_franz@margate-nj.com](mailto:adler_franz@margate-nj.com).

**Just FYI...**Work sessions are held every Thursday at 4:00 pm and Commission Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm. These meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

**Input and suggestions are always appreciated;** please let us know what you'd like to read about in "Margate City News".

***Very best wishes for the Holidays and the New Year!!***