



# CITY OF MARGATE CITY

## MUNICIPAL BUILDING

ONE SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE

MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY 08402

(609) 822-0424

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## “Margate City News”

### Winter 2012/2013 Newsletter

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#### A Message from Mayor Mike Becker

Hurricane Sandy has come and gone but her aftermath will be with us for a long time. As Mayor and Commissioner of Public Safety I couldn't be prouder of the way Margate reacted to the storm. Our First Responders performed their duties miraculously. We should all be proud of their professionalism in handling a storm of such force.

The Office of Emergency Management also did a great job. Keeping us informed was a difficult task during the storm but Margate's citizens were kept up to date as information became available.

The Public Works Department worked tirelessly cleaning the city of trash and debris. Over 3 million cubic feet of sand had to be put back in the beach. The magnitude of the cleanup was beyond belief. Great job.

Kudos to all who helped Margate recover in its time of need. I thank all of you for a job well done.

As we continue to move forward in our recovery please be careful and use reputable contractors. Also make sure you get permits which help the homeowner. Permit fees have been waived for hurricane reconstruction.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Mike*

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## “NOTABLE MARGATIANS” – WINTER 2012/2013

### LEIGH TURNER

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It is with great pleasure we introduce you to one of our area's most devoted and dynamic professionals, Ms. Leigh Turner. Ms. Turner is a lifelong resident of Margate, a graduate of Atlantic City High School and the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

As the Community Initiative Coordinator for Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties, Leigh Turner is one of this region's best known leaders in the volunteer community.

Turner manages more than 250 volunteers annually ranging in age from 5 to 95 years old. She oversees volunteer projects from Food Drives to Friendly Visitor, Shopping Programs for Seniors, Toy

Collections and Meals on Wheels. Whether coordinating donations of 300 Thanksgiving Meals or gathering 100 House Tour volunteers, her commitment to our community speaks volumes to her outstanding character and ethic.

Recently, Leigh added a new role to her already busy schedule. When Hurricane Sandy hit our community, Leigh jumped into action. Organized by Turner, the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry opened two days after the storm when many were stuck on the island with little food options. As the needs and donations continued to grow, JFS obtained permission to expand their distribution to include cleaning supplies, toiletries blankets, and other necessities many lost as a result of the storm. In early November, the JFS Distribution Center opened at St. James Church in Ventnor to meet the needs of those whose lives were affected by Sandy. To date, more than 2,500 individuals and families have been helped through the JFS Distribution Center and Leigh added a new expanded her responsibilities at Jewish Family Service to include her position as “Community Coordinator for Sandy Relief.”

With her added responsibilities, Ms. Turner has worked with various agencies to educate herself on the policies and procedures related to Hurricane Disaster. She has become a respected professional on disaster relief and has worked endlessly to ensure the needs of our community are being met.

Among her other community leadership roles, Leigh is Past President of the Home & School Association of Margate, served on the Executive Board of The Holocaust Resource Center at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and is on the Executive Board of Our Children making Change. In 2009, she was selected as a recipient of the area’s “Top 40 Under 40” honoree. Other accolades include a Tribute presented in her honor from the Atlantic County Board of Rabbis for her Excellence in serving the community. She was also recognized by her fellow employees in 2008 with the JFS “Heart and Soul” award for her quiet commitment to furthering Agency goals and mission.

The compelling ways in which Leigh Turner “Makes It All Happen” is critical toward the Agency’s work has earned the long standing respect of her peers and the community.

**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.**



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

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in Margate city was nothing short of devastating as a result of super storm Sandy. The event hit Margate straight on and hard. Special thanks to ALL our city employees and our emergency mgmt. specialist Jerry Greenberg who stepped up and made management during the storm and recovery possible and less painful for all our residents. Thankfully most of the city and city businesses are back up and running and open for business.

Financially, we expect to be fully reimbursed for all of our storm related activities and as a result, should see a minimal impact to our 2013 budget. The city’s financial position remains strong.

Finally, we said a bittersweet goodbye to 3 outstanding city employees in the revenue and finance dept., whose contributions to the city over many years were immeasurable. Best wishes in retirement to Dede Hiltner, Agnes Schwartz and Judy Weiner. Thank you for dedicating your working lives to Margate City. You will all be missed but never forgotten.

*Maurry*

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

Whew, what a fall, right? I hope this finds you all cleaned up and comfortable after Hurricane “Sandy”, ready to begin a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness with no major weather events. We’ve had enough!

I can’t thank our team enough for their efforts before, during and after Hurricane Sandy from the distribution of sand bags to keeping everyone safe during the storm to the clean up, which continues today. It was a scary for us all but I can’t help to be grateful that we had no fatalities and that we were in the “eye of the storm” because it could have been much worse.

We had private and public property damage and our Margate merchants and restaurants were hit hard as well, missing up to two months or more of business. This lost revenue can never be made up, so please support them. Shop and dine in Margate first!

Lastly, I spend a lot of time at City Hall and now Union Avenue School and I enjoy meeting with residents. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at 822-0424, I’d be happy to meet with you to discuss anything about “Marvelous Margate”, our beautiful seaside community by the sea.

Wishing you all joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

*Brenda*

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**ZONING TIDBITS**  
**By ROGER RUBIN, ZONING OFFICER**

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On behalf of the Zoning Department and the Construction Office, we are making every effort to assist all of you with storm and flood repair assistance and approvals. Our boss, Mayor Mike Becker, has instructed us to provide speedy results, clear explanations, to the extent possible, and to respond to you without delay, and we are truly endeavoring to do so.

To that end, please keep this information handy:

**Construction Office**  
**101 N. Washington Avenue**  
**609-822-1974**  
**Hours: 7:30A.M. to 4:00P.M. Monday-Friday**

The Construction Office is directed by James Galantino. Permit fees will continue to be waived to assist you in keeping costs down. Call to find out what kind of work needs permits, and how to properly install dumpsters and pods, as well as any other questions. If you are thinking about raising your house up to FEMA flood level (11 feet above sea level) do not hesitate to call Mr. Galantino for information.

The Zoning Officer is Roger Rubin, who may be reached at 609-822-5438 and is located in the Union Avenue School building at 9001 Winchester Avenue. Many repair building permits do not need zoning approvals, but when they do we will get them done quickly so you can get the building permit without loss of significant time.

**In addition, the City Commissioners have passed a new ordinance (N0. 20 of 2012), which says essentially: If your house was partially or totally destroyed by a storm or flood occurring after a declared state of emergency (as Sandy was) you can rebuild that exact house, at flood level, even if it has zoning non-conformities. If this is a possibility for you, call immediately at 822-5438 to learn how to go about it.**

**The Commissioners are presently considering another important ordinance, which will likely be finalized by December 20: If you want to raise your single-family house or duplex to flood elevation, you can do so without Planning Board action even if there are non-conformities, and you can raise it as high as two feet above flood elevation (meaning up to elevation 13 above sea level).**

**FINALLY, THE CITY'S PLANNING BOARD WILL BE REVISING FIRST FLOOR ELEVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND THE RAISING OF EXISTING HOUSES, TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW FEMA REQUIREMENTS PROMULGATED @ DECEMBER 18. THIS WILL INCLUDE A PUBLIC HEARING AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED, BY AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION AS QUICKLY AS THE LAW WILL PERMIT, WITH A TARGET OF MID FEBRUARY. PLEASE CONSIDER POSSIBLE SELF-IMPOSED DELAYS IN YOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO ASSURE YOU WILL BE IN COMPLIANCE.**

**Again, call if this might be helpful to you.**

We wish you all well in these difficult times for many of us. We are here to simplify and expedite your remediation to the extent allowed by law. Please be in touch and let us help you.

Sincerely,

Roger Rubin

## *Employee Happenings...*

- De Hiltner retired on October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Agnes Schwartz retired on November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Judy Weiner retired on November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Firefighter Brian Duffey and wife Eileen welcomed a baby “Matthew” on October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Lt Chris Hornig was married on December 12<sup>th</sup>



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## **FLOOD SAFETY INFORMATION**

**Provided by CFO Lisa McLaughlin**

Your homeowner's insurance policy does NOT cover losses due to flooding! Margate City has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since its inception and flood insurance is available for almost any enclosed building and its contents. Maximum insurance on a one family dwelling is \$250,000 and \$100,000 on household contents. Nonresidential and business properties are also eligible for insurance in various amounts. Flood insurance is mandatory for all federally related financial assistance for loans to purchase, construct, repair or improve any building in the Special Flood Hazard Area and all lending agencies, real estate offices and title companies are aware of this Federal requirement. Reduced rates are available depending on your lowest floor elevation above mean sea level plus a variety of deductible amounts. We urge you to inquire about flood insurance coverage from your insurance agent for further information regarding this most important part of your insurance coverage.

**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](mailto:Verna_Fred@margate-nj.com) to have email addresses added to our newsletter distribution.**



### **Why Should Businesses Recycle?**

**...It's the law and there are other benefits too!**

- The most obvious reason to recycle is the law.
- Your business is doing its part to help New Jersey reach its 60 percentage recycling reduction goal.

- Recycling may actually reduce cost of doing business reducing the monthly cost to have trash hauled for disposal.
- For every ton of material recycled within municipal borders, communities can receive money from the state through the Municipal Tonnage Grant Program.
- Atlantic County is the only county in the entire state which collects most businesses' recycling at no cost!
- Recycling conserves natural resources and saves energy.
- Not only does recycling save an abundance of natural resources, it also reduces air pollution!

**For more information and/or a commercial waste audit, contact the ACUA at (609) 272-6950**