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Mayor

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Mayor's Report
March 10, 2025

Supporting our Borough Departments continues to be a top priority. Supporting our Departments ensures resources and priorities are aligned, leading to more effective service delivery, productivity, and improved service to residents.

Two highlights this week of our support for Borough Departments:

1. **The Governing Body Approved Bond Ordinance 2025-02 -** Providing for acquisition of IT equipment and appropriating $25,000 and authorizing the issuance for $23,750 Bonds or Notes of the Borough for financing part of the cost thereof. As noted at introduction, these items are included in a grant application that has been submitted and should the Borough be awarded grant funding, it will offset the costs in the ordinance (and unused bonds would be canceled.)

Through this ordinance, the Borough will:

- Obtain IT Equipment for the Construction Department to streamline the permitting process for residents with all records in one system for easier access and review.
- Provide upgrades to both the Borough and PD servers protecting public data and bringing them under hardware warranty.
- Fund the building department request for the new computers and system and bring us into compliance with the new State requirement, Electronic Permit Processing Review System (Bill 1145) which was signed into law in June 2021.

2. **The Governing Body also approved the appointment of Assistant Library Director, Tedi Pascarella** who will train under Director Riccardello to serve as Assistant Library Director starting in May. We look forward to welcoming Tedi Pascarella to the team!

Congratulations to **United Fire Company No. 1 Neptune City, NJ** on 125 years and 50 year members for your dedicated service to the Neptune City community and our local area. We had a great time celebrating the bravery and service of our volunteers at **The Breakers on the Ocean** honoring the true heroes among us! **Neptune City Fire Department** thank you for having us. Congrats to the following Members for their years of service to the Borough and surrounding area:

Wayne Kepler - 55 yrs
Larry Saur - 50 yrs
Tony Barone - 50 yrs
Owen Dunfee - 50 yrs
Robert Reynolds Sr. - 50 yrs
Jimmy Sestito - 25 yrs
Mike Kepler - 25 yrs

Neptune City PD Thank you
Thank you to the Neptune City Police Department for putting yourselves in harms way to protect the public throughout the response and successful investigation and arrest in connection with the fatal stabbing that occurred on March 4 in Neptune City. We are extremely grateful to our PD for the incredible effort and handling of this unfortunate event.

In Memory of Roman Ruiz and Bob Deeves
Sadly, we have had two deaths in Neptune City. We are grieving for Roman Ruiz and Mayor Bob Deeves.

Roman Mateo Ruiz
We are here for the Family, and school family and everyone impacted by the devastating loss of sweet little Roman. Counseling services and grief support is being made available at the school. Please reach out for support and keep an eye on each other during this time of grief. Our hearts are broken. God Bless Roman.

Mayor Bob Deeves
Neptune City lost a great man with the passing of Mayor Bob Deeves. So many people in town benefitted from Mayor Deeve's mayorship and mentorship, including me. Mayor Deeves was gracious and generous with me as I became Mayor and his advice and wisdom was invaluable. We should all learn from the example of Mayor Deeves who was energetic and engaged into his 90's. My heart goes out to the Deeves family and his many friends and colleagues. RIP, Mayor.

Community Outreach
Happy Irish American Heritage Month! The McGreevy Family Mayor's Lunch was held on March 1 and raised $3,000 for the Bradley Food Pantry – triple our fundraising total from last year!

- Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event.
- Thank you to Kelly's Tavern for the generous contribution of Guinness Stew and Irish Wings – everyone was fed well!
- The music was provided by the Pipes and Drums of Atlantic Watch – thank you for donating your time and talents. We also enjoyed traditional Irish music by Peadar Hicky and Vonny on the fiddle. It was great craic and we can't wait until next year.

Rec Basketball – Way to Go Kids, Coaches and Cops!
Congrats to the Neptune City Board of Recreation for the great job on the Rec Basketball Program and organizing the All-Star Night last week for boys and girls teams. It was so much fun. Thank you to volunteer Coaches and NCPD for the support. Fun!

Read Across America Week
I was honored to be able to join Mrs. Reynold's truly delightful 5th Grade class on March 6 as a guest reader. Reading is our superpower! Keep reading.

Upcoming Events

Sat. March 29 is the Parade of Remembrance to Honor Vietnam War Veterans

- March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, marking the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam — March 29, 1973.
- The Borough of Neptune City and the Veteran's Committee is proud to honor our local Vietnam Veterans with a parade for Veterans in partnership with Neptune Township on the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.
- The Borough is asking Vietnam Veterans to join us for the parade. Please contact the Borough to arrange transportation. (732) 776-7224

Sunday, March 30 is the 2nd Annual Women's History Month Event

- We are once again remembering Sarah Stern with a Women's History Month celebration on Sunday, March 30 in honor of the historic female majority of the Neptune City Governing Body. Local small businesses and artists are invited to exhibit (free). Refreshments provided and special guest speakers will be announced soon! Please spread the word and save the date.
- 11 AM – 2 PM at United Fire Company No. 1 Banquet Hall

Shark River Clean-up

The Shark River Mayors' Roundtable will relaunch with a meeting of Mayors from Avon, Belmar, Neptune, Neptune City and Wall Township on March 27.

Over 25 years ago, the officials of Belmar, Neptune, Neptune City, Avon, and Wall Township came together with local environmentalists to protect the Shark River by creating the Shark River Roundtable. Although the Roundtable dissolved, its mission was taken up by the Shark River Cleanup Coalition. In 2017, our towns rallied together to obtain a $2.5 million DOT grant to dredge the boat channels in the Shark River, with the support of Commissioner Tom Arnone and then State Senator Jennifer Beck. This was not intended to be a one shot effort, but the start of much needed maintenance of our incredible resource, the Shark River.

Given the ongoing need to protect the river and improve water quality to benefit our residents, visitors and businesses who all depend on it, we will convene once again to determine our mutual needs and collaborate on sustainability of the Shark River. Capt. Al Modjeski, Habitat Restoration Program Director for the American Littoral Society, has applied for non-federal grant funds (between $250K and $500K) and we expect to know soon if funds will be awarded for the Shark River as well as another opportunity that should be advertised soon and may be pursued for additional funds.

Photography Contest – **Congratulations to winner Ed Sidley** for submitting the beautiful photo of the Shark River! Thank you to everyone who submitted photos. Keep them coming!

Neptune City Historical Committee

Thank you to the Monmouth County Clerk's Office for providing space to promote the Neptune City community and show all the residents of Monmouth County what Neptune City brings to the Historical Community – Thank you Lauren Roth for curating the display and donating time and talent to handle the set-up and removal of the display which will be soon moving to Borough Hall

The Historical Committee and Borough of Neptune City is excited to announce we will honor Jack Nicholson in collaboration with the Borough of Manasquan and the New Jersey Hall of Fame – More to come!

- During the month of April the Borough will honor Jack Nicholson's local roots in celebration of his birth month and 88th Birthday!