FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR RACHEL MCGREEVY

SUMMER HOURS

Mayor's Office Hours are paused for June, July and Aug. However, please contact mayor@neptunecitynj.com any time. Throughout the summer, I will be out in the community meeting with residents and businesses. Please contact me if you would like to arrange a time to meet.

Please be advised that from June 10 - August 30 Hours of Operation of the Municipal Offices and Municipal Court will be Monday - Thursday from 8am - 5pm and **closed Friday**. Please check the Borough website for hours of operation for all departments.

Regional Stormwater Mitigation

Neptune City, Bradley Beach and Neptune Township are actively working with county, state and federal partners to address ongoing coastal flooding in our area. The group is meeting regularly and making significant progress on planning for infrastructure improvements to help protect our communities from the effects of coastal flooding and stormwater run-off.

Since January, the group has been working to assess the current infrastructure needs and prioritizing improvements. Monmouth County has investigated East End Avenue flooding and has determined that the flooding can be partially addressed with the installation of a valve on the outfall. This project will move forward in the near future.

However, to fully remediate this flooding issue, the roadway in this area must be elevated. The County plans to design the elevation and submit this as a capital project.

Engineers will develop a funding request to go to the 11th Legislative District to request $500,000 to conduct a regional flood mitigation study. Neptune City, Neptune Township and Bradley Beach worked with Commissioner Director Thomas Arnone to submit a letter of request for funding for the Regional Flood Mitigation Study.

If approved, this study will be used to develop a comprehensive plan which will be used to seek local, state, and federal funding. The group met in early June to review status of submissions and address short term projects. Representatives from Congressman Frank Pallone's office and staff from Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblymembers Donlon and Peterpaul participated as well. The group will continue meeting with elected officials and government representatives to discuss progress.

Status of County's Acquisition of Boathouse Property

Monmouth County is in the process of acquiring private properties along the Shark River and Riverview Ave., including the Campbell's Boat Yard property, to install a waterfront park in Neptune City to be owned, operated and maintained by the County.

The Monmouth County Open Space Grant is funding the project, a fund Neptune City Residents have paid into over the years through county taxes. Preservation and beautification of the Boatyard property is a unique opportunity to benefit from our local investment over time.

According to a presentation by Commissioner Director Tom Arnone to the Governing Body on May 13, the property sale price was negotiated based on appraisals, the environmental research has been completed, and the title search was underway.

While the design phase of the project has not begun, the park will be designed for passive recreation such as picnicking, bird watching, kite flying and include amenities like picnic tables, open play areas, and benches. The community will have opportunities to provide input on the design phase.

Code Enforcement update and Transition

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Robert Reynolds, Sr. for his years of dedicated and unwavering service to the Borough. While we adjust to Senior's retirement, and miss his presence on the team day-to-day, we are inspired by his accomplishments and work ethic that continue to benefit the residents of Neptune City, now and in years to come.

Summer is here and maintaining Code compliance continues to be a priority. The Governing Body adopted a resolution appointing Avakian Engineering for Code Enforcement until the best long-term replacement is identified to maximize value and minimize cost to the Borough. Residents should be aware if their property is not in compliance with Code, so we are preparing a checklist of common code violations and general code enforcement for Neptune City to share with the public. **Please be on the lookout for the Code Checklist**.

Cannabis Town Hall Held on May 20th

We hosted a meet and greet with Ryan Ward, Co- Founder of Shipwreck'd and East Coast Cannabis. Shipwreck'd has received a resolution of support to submit an application to the Land Use Board for a Class 5 Cannabis Retail dispensary at 300 W. Sylvania Ave. We expect the application to come before the Land Use Board in the near future. Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend and learn more about the proposed project. There was no formal action during the meeting, however residents had an opportunity for questions and answers about general operations and procedures.

Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

7th & 8th Graders made their class trip to Washington, DC on May 16 and 17. It was an incredible effort by teachers, parents, the Wilson Boosters and the entire community to raise funds for the trip and provide the opportunity for our students.

- It was an honor and very exciting to participate in the first ever **Cops vs. Kids Basketball** game on April 12! **The event raised over $1,000.** It was a fantastic community-building event as well. We love our NCPD!

- Also, the first ever, **Mayor's Whole Pie Challenge** was held on May 10 in partnership with **Pete & Elda's/Carmen's Pizzeria!** Over $2,000 was raised with this event from the local business community. Thank you for all the support.

Congratulations Woodrow Wilson 8th Grade Graduates. It was an honor to participate in the Commencement Ceremony on June 12. Neptune City Proud!

Supplemental School Stabilization Aid was recently enacted by the legislature and signed by the Governor that will provide the **Neptune City School District $46,259** for the 2024-25 school year. This grant funding was awarded based on Neptune City's plan to fund operations that it submitted to the Dept. of Education and fortunately it is equal to the full amount of total State school aid received **for this school year,** the 2023-2024 school year (there are ongoing funding gaps to from prior years to accommodate).

The state school aid provided in the enacted in legislation, which was sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal and Assemblymembers Donlon and Peterpaul, is meant to **start taking the steps to modernize the school funding formula and** comes from the Property Tax Relief Fund. The grant funding helps ease the impact of the School Funding Reform Act, which is the final year of its seven-year phase-in, the underlying funding formula continues to disproportionately impact the Neptune City School District.

In May we celebrated National EMS Week. In recognition of the strain on volunteers, a three bill package was enacted authorizing towns to provide up to a 15% property tax exemption each year and $1,250 in tuition credit for county colleges for up to four years, and allow a small income tax credit annually for qualifying volunteers, respectively. These bills were sponsored by Sen. Gopal and Assemblymembers Donlon and Peterpaul

Neptune City will look at how best to implement so existing volunteers may take advantage of these incentives and also serve attract new volunteer first responders.

EVENTS and EXTERNAL OUTREACH

A few highlights - not an inclusive list:

I was able to represent the Borough at the **59th Annual New Jersey Conference of Mayors in Atlantic City May 15-17**. It's a great organization and I learned a lot about resources we can tap into for Neptune City.

Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce Executive Leadership Visit to Neptune City

On June 20th, Council President Pappas and I hosted the **Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce** for a tour of local businesses in Neptune City. Thank you Captain Brian Pringle and Belmar Tiki Boat for providing the great water view of Neptune City for our guests. Showing off Neptune City's wonderful local businesses and the people behind them to the JSCC Executive Leadership was the launch of a collaborative effort to support and grow our small businesses in Neptune City. While we couldn't visit every business due to time constraints, we packed the schedule to provide a compelling introduction and overview of all Neptune City has to offer. Special thanks to the following businesses for collaborating on this effort.

bb.q Chicken and 5 Kids Plaza businesses

Cats Luck Vegan

Cone Zone

CPR Cell Phone Repair Neptune City

Eucalyptus Houseplants & Home

Little Dog Brewing Company

Patrick's Grille

Palmer's Quality Meats

Simon Vintage Furniture

Neptune City participated for the first time **in Local Government Week (April 7-13)!**

Local Government Week brings awareness about the importance of municipal government and its daily impact on residents and all the work that goes on behind the scenes in service to our community. Neptune City is fortunate to have so many

dedicated employees and in appreciation for our employees a lunch was hosted at Minimi Mexican Deli on April 19.

The Neptune City Local Government Week Lunch was one of 26 towns featured by the New Jersey League of Municipalities in the June 2024 magazine, the official publication of the NJLM!



The Shark River Clean-up Coalition held the Spring Cleanup on May 18 at Memorial Park at 9 am. Thank you to the many volunteers and the Neptune City Residents and Homeowners for providing breakfast.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Memorial Day Ceremony** and the Veterans Procession.

We appreciate the many contributions made to honor and mourn members of the U.S. military, including family members and loved ones in Neptune City who sadly never

returned home. Thank you to my fellow members of the Governing Body for the leadership, support and contributions to the ceremony.

Thank you to The Neptune City Police Department who provided the police escort for veterans and well as the Color Guard presentation of the Colors and USMC Veteran Sgt. Morgan for presentation of the wreath.

Neptune City Resident Judi LoBianco for the beautiful National Anthem. Neptune City Resident and USMC Veteran Aaron Williams for playing TAPS. United Fire Co. #1 Ed Simms for reading his original poem and leading the moment of silence in honor of the lives lost defending our freedom. Monmouth County Commissioner Director and Neptune City Resident Tom Arnone for the inspiring address to residents.

Congratulations to Woodrow Wilson 7th Grade Student Saintchina Amius and 8th Grade Student Patrice Lyon for their winning essays. Well done! Please check-out the Borough website to read their inspiring essays.

Thank you to Tom Adcock and Al Jardine from the Borough for all the work behind the scenes and Dan Harker and all of the DPW for making it look so good in Memorial Park.

Thank you to Residents for the investment of your time in this important event and continuing the tradition. We received a lot of support from the community for the parade and we look forward to working together on that next year.

Women's History Month and Irish American Heritage Month

The first ever Women's History Month Event in Neptune City was held on March 30.

"Celebrating Women Through Art" raised over $1,500 for the Sarah Stern Art Scholarship. The event featured Neptune City women-owned small businesses and local artists and was a powerful force to honor Sarah's memory, her local roots and incredible artistic talent. **A special shout out to Girl Scout Troop 902 for the volunteer service and support of the event!** As the first woman mayor elected in the history of Neptune City, I hope to use my role to bring visibility to girls and women in our community.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported the **McGreevy Family St. Patrick's Day Lunch in honor of Irish American Heritage Month** on March 1**. $1,000 was raised to**

purchase food and Aldi gift cards for the Blessing Box Food Pantry. A huge thanks to Kelly's Tavern for providing the Irish Wings and Guinness Stew. It was great Craic.