



Monthly News & Updates

December 1, 2023 | 006

City Hall will be closed Dec. 25, 26 & Jan. 1



Mayor makes 'Wellness Campaign' a top priority

Biggest holiday celebration of all time, Dec. 2





Mayor Lisa Jampetti continued her Mayor's Wellness Campaign Saturday, Nov. 18 by celebrating the Great American Smokeout with a 2-mile Wellness Walk.

About a dozen residents participated in the walk, which was held on a bright and sunny fall afternoon. Councilwoman Kim Hesse led the group in a pre-walk warm-up.

Participants gathered at Peace Pilgrim Park to learn about the city's efforts to discourage cigarette smoking and encourage residents to start the new year smoke- and vape-free. The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout is held annually on the third Thursday in November.

Residents are encouraged to quietly listen to the sound of their feet on the pavement as they walk along the clearly marked Mayor's Walk Route, which travels east-west along less traveled streets. The route starts and ends at Peace Pilgrim Park, where a map of the route is posted along with suggested pre-walk stretching exercises.

Jampetti has been conducting wellness events and activities during her tenure as mayor to encourage residents to lead healthy lifestyles. Previous wellness campaigns include holding COVID-19 vaccination clinics, advocating against the stigma of addiction, and promoting positive mental health activities.

The mayor is currently making free COVID-19 test kits available to city residents. Free test kits can be picked up at Egg Harbor City Hall, 500 London Ave.

The city will host its annual Tree Lighting in front of the Rose Mohr Learning Center 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2.

The tree lighting originally started in Lincoln Park many years ago and moved to the 100-block of Philadelphia Avenue when the Atlantic County Library was established at the historic Commercial Bank building.

Last year, the city dedicated the tree lighting in memory of philanthropist funeral director Lloyd Wimberg.

The event includes musical selections from local school chorales, a DJ, goodie bags for children and Santa will arrive to open the holiday season aboard a shiny red Egg Harbor City firetruck.

New this year is a Winter Bazaar hosted by the Egg Harbor City Economic Development Corporation.

The bazaar includes ice skating on the avenue, a giant snow globe for family photos and a screening of "Frosty the Snowman" on a big screen.

The fun starts at 5 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m. on the 100-block of Philadelphia Avenue. The main street will be closed to traffic to ensure public safety.

The EDC will also be collecting letters to Santa. Bring your child's letter to the drop box, and be sure to include the child's name, age and address.

The organization will also be collecting new or gently-used coats, hats, gloves and

Public participation encouraged for Community Energy Plan



City engineer Ryan McGowan of Remington & Vernick Engineers will be presenting a draft Community Energy Plan at a special City Council meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14.

Public participation is encouraged to hear plans about what the city can do to reduce the city's carbon footprint and save money for taxpayers.

SustainableEHC, the city's green team, McGowan and Chief Financial Officer Jodi Kahn held numerous online consultations over the last 18 months with the technical assistance team at Sustainable Jersey, which guided the city through various energy saving proposals that support New Jersey's climate action goals. The plan is a pre-requisite to apply for implementation grants that will become available next year.

Program areas investigated include upgrading energy efficiency at municipal properties, green building for new construction, establishing a solar energy system, greening the municipal fleet, public EV charging stations, LED streetlights and residential and commercial energy efficiency outreach.

The plan was funded with a \$25,000 grant from the NJ Board of Public Utilities. The city was one of nine municipalities to receive the pilot program grant in 2022. Additional funding is available for community outreach.

blankets for distribution to those who need them.

As Rose Mohr would say, "I'll see you at the library."

Mayor asks residents to go 'all out' decorating for the holidays



The city has announced its annual Holiday Lighting Display Contest is underway.

All households are eligible to compete. Mayor Lisa Jampetti is asking residents to be creative and brighten the night sky so Santa can easily find his way to your home.

Judging will take place 5:30-8 p.m. on certain days between Dec. 14 and Dec. 23, so make sure your home is lit up for the holidays.

The contest includes cash prizes of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

Winners will be announced Jan. 5 on the Official Egg Harbor City Facebook page @theofficialegg harborcitysite, and on Instagram @eggharborcity.

The green team is planning a breakfast meeting in January for local business owners to share information about various incentive programs that can help them improve energy efficiency at their operations, reduce utility costs and increase profits. Other outreach programs are planned, including a spring Green Fair and EV Car Show.

Residents are also encouraged to participate in free home weatherization programs that can save money on monthly gas and electric bills. The programs are available to tenants with the owner's approval. Brochures are available at the information center at City Hall.

For more information about the free home weatherization program or to schedule an appointment, contact Field Technician Tom Hatch at 856-430-2543.

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting in person, or on Zoom. See the eggharborcity.org website to obtain a link to the meeting.

Fall Leaf Collection continues through December



The Public Works Department will continue its Fall Leaf Collection through December.

Residents are asked to place leaves in an accessible pile at the curb. Leaves may not be placed in the terrace/alley. Leaves ONLY may be piled up no sooner than the week of your pickup. No branches, grass or trash. The last day for ACUA yardwaste curbside pickup is Nov. 29, so leaves may not be left in the terraces.

Schedule is as follows:

Winners will also be announced at the first City Council meeting in January 2024, and prizes will be awarded at the second City Council meeting in January.

Christmas on the Avenue Holiday Parade set for Dec. 16



The city will hold its annual Christmas on the Avenue Holiday Parade 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 on Philadelphia Avenue.

The parade will travel from City Hall, east on Claudius Street to Philadelphia Avenue, then south to Arago Street, west on Liverpool Avenue to City Hall. Lineup starts at 5 p.m.

Organizers have decided the parade will not be stopping for performances like in past years, but there will be more floats than ever.

Former Mayor Joe Kuehner and former Councilwoman and School Board President

Nov. 24 - Dec. 1 – Cincinnati Avenue to St. Louis Avenue

Dec. 4-8 – Boston Avenue to Bremen Avenue

Dec. 11-15 – Arago Street to Diesterweg Street

Dec. 18-22 – Egg Harbor North

Ben to Shore donates \$7,500 to Key-Rec



Organizers of the Ben to Shore Bike Tour that made its way through Egg Harbor City on July 23 presented its longtime supporter, Key-Rec, Inc., with a \$7,500 donation for always stepping up to make sure the tour runs smoothly.

Key-Rec has been a rest stop for weary bicyclists for as long as the event has been held – more than a decade.

Families Behind the Badge Executive Director Mark O'Connor presented the award during the Nov. 9 City Council meeting. O'Connor complimented Key-Rec volunteers for having the “best organized rest stop” along the 65-mile tour, which starts at the Ben Franklin Bridge and ends in Atlantic City, and for being gracious in welcoming tour participants.

The Ben to Shore Bike Tour raised \$1.25 million to support families of fallen and critically injured first responders. The organization also works to build healthy connections in the communities they serve.

Next year's tour will be held on July 21.

Stefania Kuehner will be announcing parade units at the grandstand area.

Santa will bring up the rear aboard the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department's big red ladder truck.

There will be a Toys for Tots drop box at the grandstand to collect toys and a mailbox to drop letters to Santa. Make sure to include the child's name, age and address.

The Egg Harbor City Kickapoo Tribe will be serving hot chocolate at the Log Cabin on the corner of Philadelphia Avenue and Buerger Street.

To register to be in the parade, email Karen Adams at eggharborcitychristmasparade@gmail.com.

Baby, it's cold outside!



The Egg Harbor City/Mays Landing Rotary Club will be collecting new and gently-used winter coats, hats and gloves for the folks at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

The coat drive will continue through the holiday season until Jan. 3, 2024.

Drop coats off in the collection bin at Egg Harbor

City snippets...



The Egg Harbor City Council took action on several initiatives during its Nov. 9 meeting.

The council authorized a professional services contract not to exceed \$16,500 for Triad Associates grant writers to apply for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant to make ADA-compliant infrastructure improvements at Egg Harbor City Hall. If approved, the grant would bring the city into compliance with ADA accessibility requirements at the municipal building.

It also approved a \$56,321 expenditure from the 2022 Police Department budget for vendor EB Fence Co. to erect a fence around the Police Department parking lot on the 500-block of London Ave. In lieu of having a sallyport, erecting the fence would enhance security for police personnel and residents during prisoner transports.

The council rejected several bids received to demolish the old Weisbecker's building on the 100-block of Philadelphia Avenue, which has become an unsafe structure. Bids received were higher than the engineer's estimate for the work. The city will conduct a new round of bidding in hopes the bids will produce lower costs for the city.

It also agreed to a shared-services agreement with Atlantic City, Margate and Pleasantville, accepting partial grant funds for the county to purchase a pothole repair machine, which will be available for use in the four municipalities and on county roadways.

Council also held a public hearing and approved a new ordinance requiring property owners and business owners to store salt and de-icing

City Hall, 500 London Ave.

For information, call or text Ron Smith at 609-226-2798.

St. John's to hold annual Christmas Concert



St. John's United Church of Christ, 307 London Ave., will hold its annual Christmas Concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3.

The concert features Christmas carols, violinist Susan Elsayed, harpist Stephanie Sussmeir and St. John's Special Occasion Choir.

Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is free, but goodwill offerings will be accepted.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

PET PARENTING 101



Thinking of

materials in leakproof containers or in a fully enclosed salt shed that prevents the materials from leaching into the ground or into stormwater management system.

It also introduced an ordinance prohibiting illicit connections to the municipal stormwater system. A public hearing on the ordinance will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14.

ACUA to hold Holiday Food Drive



The Atlantic County Utilities Authority will hold its annual Holiday Food Drive in Egg Harbor City Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Place food donations in a clearly marked bag at the curb on recycling day. All donations will be delivered to the Community FoodBank of NJ Southern Branch in Egg Harbor Township for distribution to the community.

Most needed items are canned tuna, salmon, ham, soups, fruit and vegetables, shelf stable milk, peanut butter, pasta, boxed potatoes, rice, cereal and mac & cheese. Disposal diapers and feminine hygiene product will also be collected. Please, NO glass, cellophane, bottled water or baby food.

For more on trash and recycling collections in Egg Harbor City, see www.acua.com.

Property owners may qualify for tax abatements

getting a puppy for Christmas?

Courtesy of Dogtopia.com

Christmas is the time of the year when puppy sales are at all-time high. It is one of the most common gifts that parents get their kids, who may or may not have pestered them all year long to get them one. Before impulse purchasing a puppy, consider the following things and then decide if you're ready for this commitment.

Know what you're getting into

Many families fail to realize that getting a dog should be a progressive decision, not a surprise. A puppy or a grown dog needs a good amount of time to get it settled in a new house, especially around the holidays when it's busier than usual. When a dog enters a family, it changes the environment around the house. It needs your attention and free time. Remember owning a dog is a more than decade-long commitment.

Research your options

If you and your family really want a dog, there are different viable options. If you opt to go with a breeder, steer clear of puppy mills. Suppliers have to keep up with ever growing demand of puppies around this time of year and some ignore the proper breeding programs to do so. Unfortunately, these puppies are often inbred, poorly socialized, and more prone to genetic health problems like allergies, bad hips or to behavioral



Property owners who substantially improve or add on to their homes may qualify for a partial tax abatement.

Improvements made to homes over 20 years old that increase the property's assessed valuation may qualify for a full five-year tax abatement on the value of the improvement up to \$25,000.

But the abatement is not automatic. Property owners must submit an application to requesting the abatement within 30 days of completing construction. Applications are available at the Tax Assessor's office at Egg Harbor City Hall, 500 London Ave. To qualify, property taxes must be current. Improvements to accessory buildings do not qualify.

Commercial and industrial properties may also qualify for a five-year, phased-in tax abatement on the value of the improvements. Exemptions are phased in over five years through a payment in lieu of taxes billing Aug. 15 each year. The applicant will pay full tax on land value but no tax on the improvement in year one, with 20% increases each year until 100% of the tax on the improvements are due in year six.

For more information, contact Tax Assessor Mike Stocklos at 609-965-4747 or email assessor@eggharborcity.org. The Tax Assessor's Office is open by appointment 5-7 p.m. Thursday evenings.

County clerk certifies election results; reorganization scheduled

difficulties like compulsive barking or chewing.

You should first consider getting a dog from established shelter homes and rescue groups. It will not only save you from initial struggle of raising a puppy from a very young age but will also give a caring home to a dog who may not have been treated well in the past. The time and money you may have spent on getting and raising a puppy could be invested in caring and house breaking a dog from shelter homes. A rescue dog would not only give you a sense of fulfilment for saving a life but he will also be a grateful, loyal, and unconditionally loving companion.

Prepare your house

Once you've chosen your dog, make sure that they get proper care and attention when you bring them home.

Secure your Christmas tree, consider puppy-proof décor and refrain from using candles. Remember that mistletoe and holly are poisonous to pets. Also, pet parents and siblings should expect accidents until the puppy is trained.

Atlantic County Clerk Joseph Giraldo has certified the results of the Nov. 7 General Election.

The final certified vote count for Egg Harbor City Council is:

Mason Wright (D) 439
Karl Timbers (D) 420
Donna Heist (R) 417
Ryan Rodriguez (D) 410
Ben Risley (R) 397
Mattia Brown (R) 354

The candidates-elect will be sworn in at the Egg Harbor City Reorganization Meeting being held 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024 at Egg Harbor City Hall, 500 London Ave.

Get in the holiday spirit at historic Batsto Village



Over the river and through the woods, it's practically in your backyard.

Santa arrives at Batsto Village Sunday, Dec. 3 with an all-ages afternoon of winter fun, including tours of the Batsto Mansion and wagon rides through the village. Hot cider and cookies will be available in the Post Office Museum. While there, you are invited to send your holiday mail from the historic Batsto Post Office. Bring in your stamped postcards, letters, and holiday cards to be hand-cancelled with the unique Batsto cancellation (no ZIP code) in the 1852 Post Office.

The St. Nicholas Aurora Carolers will be performing music throughout the village, and visitors are welcome to take holiday photos. Horse drawn wagon rides through the village are approximately 20 minutes at a cost of \$10 per adult, \$5 per child.

Other events planned through the month are:

Dec. 13: Geminid Meteor Shower Watch

View the Geminid meteor shower in the dark skies above the Batsto Visitor Center 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13. Peak viewing for the Geminids this year will be between 10 p.m. and dawn on Dec. 14 where it will be possible to see up to 150 shooting stars per hour. Dress warmly, bring a chair, something warm to drink and sit back and watch.

Dec 20-24: Evening Holiday Tours of the Batsto Mansion

The Batsto Mansion will be open for evening tours 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, Dec. 20-24. See the historic house decorated for 19th century Christmas and learn about holiday traditions of the past. The tour includes a guided walk through the home and a few peeks into rarely seen areas.

Originally built in the eighteenth century as a small ironmaster's house, the mansion now stands as it appeared after Joseph Wharton renovated the home in 1878. Serving as a vacation home for his family, the Batsto Mansion is an excellent example of the Italianate and Eastlake styles, both popular with the Victorian upper class.

Tours are approximately 60-75 minutes and begin promptly on the Batsto Mansion porch. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Batsto Visitor Center. Space is limited, and visitors are encouraged to call ahead to reserve their spot.

Batsto Mansion is located at 31 Batsto Road in Burlington County.

For more information, call the Batsto Visitor Center at 609-561-0024.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance to hold Juried Photography Contest



'Morning Mist, Morning Light' by Patricia Worley won First Place in the Landscape Category, 2023

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is holding the Pinelands 2024 Juried Photography Exhibition that includes more than \$2,000 in cash prizes. The goal of the contest is to celebrate the NJ Pinelands and capture its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

Both black and white and color images taken within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve will be accepted. Categories include Landscape, Flora and Fauna and Other (people, architecture, culture, history, recreation, etc.). All eligible photographs will be exhibited online.

This year's judge is national award-winning photographer Henry Rowan. Entry fee for up to three images is \$40, and \$7 for each additional image up to a maximum of six images. Photos will be accepted in jpeg format; files size may not exceed 8MB.

Awards are \$1,000 for first place, and \$350 for the best photo in each of the three categories.

The last day to submit images is Jan. 31, 2024. Acceptances will be announced Feb. 16, 2024. Awards will be announced at a reception being held 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024.

For more information, including the use of AI, deadlines, and submission instructions, see www.pinelandsalliance.org.

STATEHOUSE NEWS

**Apply for your ANCHOR property tax rebate
before Dec. 29**



If you haven't already received your ANCHOR property tax rebate there's still time to register to receive up to \$1,750 from the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation.

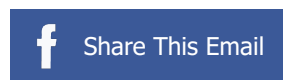
The Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) property tax relief program was approved by the governor and legislature last year to update and expand the former Homestead Benefit program and extend eligibility to renters for the first time. It also increased the threshold for eligible homeowners to qualify.

Renters are eligible to receive \$450 to \$1,500, while seniors can qualify for \$700 to \$1,750.

Payments will roll out as eligible residents apply.

The goal of the rebate program is to make living in New Jersey more affordable.

File an application online at www1.state.nj.us/TYTR_Saver/jsp/common/HBWelcome.jsp by Dec. 29.



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