



Monthly News & Updates

February 1, 2024 008

City Hall will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19 for Presidents Day



Lincoln Park, Steve Gabel

**City approves 3-year Teamsters contract,
Tower Site redevelopment agreement**



Former City Council President Marie Johns, center, the first female council president in Egg Harbor City, joins the City Council at its annual Reorganization Meeting held on Jan. 4, 2024.

Following negotiations with Teamsters Local 331, the City Council Jan. 18 approved a new three-year contract with the collective bargaining unit that includes members of the Public Works Department and clerical workers of the Building, Land Use and Police departments.

The contract provides a minimum salary of \$36,000 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2024, and annual salary increases for existing employees of 4% in 2024 and 2.5% in 2025 and 2026. Workers will get additional holiday on Juneteenth (June 19). The contract also caps reimbursement for out-of-pocket healthcare expenses at \$5,000 per year. Adjustments to language in certain sections of the agreement were also bargained in good faith.

Additionally, the City Council approved a Redevelopment Agreement with Jonathan Sachar of Atlantic Motion Pictures Studios, LLC to build a film studio with associated music venue for producing music videos and concerts at the Tower Site, which is located off Moss Mill Road near the Egg Harbor City Cemetery. It is the site of a radio tower that has a broadcast area that reaches all the way to Philadelphia. Accessory uses for the project include on-site lodging, a private cafeteria and food service, and a technical learning center.

Sachar plans to purchase 31 acres of city-owned uplands at the Tower Site for \$10,000 per acre with closing scheduled for April.

Sachar will seek incentives from the state's ASPIRE Tax Incentive Program, which provides "gap" funding for eligible economic development projects.

Council approves Community Energy Plan

The city held a special meeting Thursday, Dec. 14 to hear a presentation by city engineer Ryan McGowan of Remington & Vernick regarding a multi-year plan on strategies that will reduce energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Community Energy Plan was amended to include additional community outreach components and received final approval at the Jan. 18 City Council meeting.



The plan includes adopting supportive zoning and regulations for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, improving the city's fleet efficiency, supporting mass transit, adopting regulations that encourage solar installations, upgrading efficiency in municipal buildings, and encouraging adopting energy efficiency measures at new developments. The plan also recommends creating a voluntary energy efficiency development checklist for emerging commercial new construction projects. The checklist will provide information about all of the energy incentives available through the NJ Board of Public Utilities and Department

of Environmental Protection. The green team will continue its efforts to educate the public about all the incentives available to reduce the cost of energy consumption in the home and in businesses.

The city funded the investigation and the plan with a \$25,000 grant from the Board of Public Utilities. The application was supported by SustainableEHC, the city's green team. Egg Harbor City was one of 46 New Jersey communities to receive the grant during its first round of funding 18 months ago. The plan was based on a template provided by the Sustainable Jersey program, which provided technical assistance during 11 online monthly meetings attended by members of the administration and the green team.

The plan will be forwarded to the Board of Public Utilities in preparation for an implementation grant that if awarded could provide up to \$250,000 or more to complete initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The green team and city have prioritized actions to include installation of EV charging stations and purchases of EVs for the Police Department. The city is seeking additional funding from other sources to implement other facets of the plan, including upgrading HVAC at City Hall, solar arrays and more.

City opens applications for summer jobs at City Lake Park



The City of Egg Harbor is seeking candidates for summertime work at City Lake Park. The city is seeking candidates to serve as badge checkers, lifeguards, a supervisor, manager and maintenance staff. Salaries range from \$16-22 per hour based on the position and experience.

Lifeguards must be CPR certified and have Open Water Certification. Applications are available at www.eggharborcity.org.

Open Water Certification classes are now forming, just in time to qualify for these summer lifeguard positions. Candidates must be 15 years old and job placement assistance will be provided. For information about classes, email brenda@safetyandaquaticsolutions.com.

City seeks bids for demolition, sale of property



The city is soliciting sealed bids for the demolition of the Weisbecker's Cleaners building at 135 Philadelphia Ave., which has been deemed an unsafe structure. Sealed bids will be received and opened 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 at City Hall, 500 London Ave.

The city is also advertising the sale of a property located at 1100 Duerer St., which was the subject of a foreclosure action in 2023. The property will be sold in as-is condition with a minimum bid amount of \$175,000. Sealed bids are due to the City Clerk's Office by Feb. 13.

For more information about the demolition bids and property sale, contact City Clerk Meg Steeb at 609-965-0081.

Be an H2O Hero: Only rain down the drain



They say knowledge is power. The citizens of Egg Harbor City have the power to reduce stormwater runoff pollution that enters the storm drains and flows through creeks and eventually into the Mullica River. Egg Harbor City is part of the Mullica River Watershed. Storm drains are maintained by the city and are not part of the New Jersey American Water system.

Here are three ways citizens can help reduce stormwater pollution:

1. Place litter in proper containers, use trash receptacles that have secure lids, and recycle materials in the blue buckets supplied by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. If you need recycling buckets, contact the ACUA, which will deliver them to your home at no cost to you. You are entitled to receive one free bucket a year.
2. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable. Refrain from throwing cigarette butts or cigarettes and cigars with plastic tips on the street. The rain washes them into the storm drains where they flow through streams and eventually the river, where they pose a serious hazard to marine life.
3. Pick up after your pet. Dispose of pet waste in the garbage or toilet, not in the storm drains or on the street. Forget you ever heard the phrase "curb your dog." Leaving pet waste in gutters or on city streets will pollute stormwater with bacteria and viruses that contaminate shellfish and can create algae blooms that kill fish. Use the convenient pet waste stations that have been installed in parks and on certain city streets.

Mayor's Wellness Campaign addresses financial health for employees



Mayor Lisa Jampetti is addressing the financial health of employees as part of her Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

Jampetti has arranged for a financial consultant to come to City Hall 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 to talk with employees individually regarding their financial goals.

Financial Advisor Jim Brady Jr. of Edward D. Jones and Co., will speak to employees about retirement income and wealth strategies, estate planning, insurance and annuities and provide general new investor education.

The service is being offered at no cost to the employees or the city.

Goodwill needs your unwanted stuff



Can't wait until the Citywide Yardsale in August to get rid of your unwanted household items and clothing? Do some after-Christmas organizing and housecleaning and help those less fortunate by donating your unwanted items to the Goodwill Store in Egg Harbor Township.

A fire at the store damaged the store's entire inventory, and it is seeking to replenish its stock of household items and clothing, which will be sold at affordable prices to help people with employment training and job placement services. No one was injured in the fire, which is being investigated as arson. The store is hoping to reopen on Valentine's Day.

Simply drop off your unwanted items 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Donation Center in the rear of the store, which is located at 6701 Black Horse Pike in Egg Harbor Township.

Any organization interested in conducting a donation drive for Goodwill is asked to contact Arielle at ayutuc@goodwillnj.org.

Business owners, organizations learn about how to save on cost of energy, equipment upgrades



SustainableEHC in collaboration with Atlantic City Electric held a breakfast meeting Jan. 23 at the Harbor Diner to share information about how to save money on the cost of energy upgrades with eligible businesses, schools and non-profits.

Those who attended the meeting were treated to a delicious breakfast courtesy of Atlantic City Electric, but more appetizing were the incentives and no interest loans offered by the utility when installing energy-saving HVAC, indoor and outdoor lighting and equipment

purchases.

Several Egg Harbor City businesses and institutions agreed the Direct Install program offered would benefit their future energy goals, which included installation of new heating systems, retrofitting with LED lighting and purchasing refrigeration units. Upgrading to energy-efficient heating and equipment reduces monthly energy and water bills and can offset the cost of upgrades. They will also improve indoor air quality and create a more comfortable environment for customers and staff.

Cash incentives include up to 80% of the cost of the project, including labor, and a zero-interest loan for the remainder up to \$75,000 is available for entities with non-residential utility meters and average monthly peak demand not exceeding 200 kW over the last 12 months.

The Direct Install program can be accessed with a phone call to a representative who can walk participants through the process. Atlantic City Electric knows business owners are very busy, so the application process has been made as streamlined as possible.

But first, a full energy audit is conducted at no cost by an authorized Trade Ally to determine kilowatt hours, estimates of cost, and more. Often, Trade Allies can recommend other improvements the business owner may not have considered.

Anyone interested in the Direct Install program can call Outreach Specialist Alex Haver at 445-289-3286 or email ahaver@trccompanies.com.

More information is available at www.atlanticcityelectric.com/smallbusiness.

Historical Society Black History Month talk



The next meeting of the Egg Harbor City Historical Society will be held 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26 at the Roundhouse Museum, 533 London Ave.

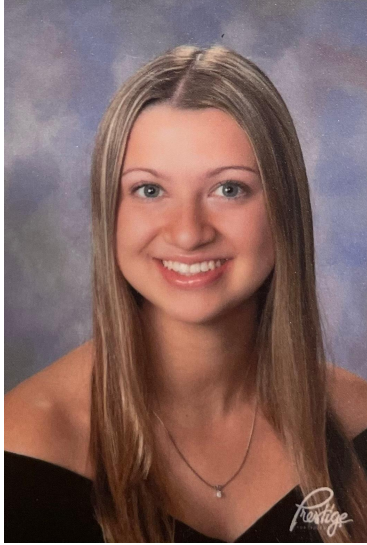
The meeting will celebrate Black History Month with a presentation by Vice President Toni Jones. Her topic will be "Superstitions Among American Negroes."

Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Cedar Creek HS student looks forward to a greener, healthier future

Student Marygrace Fenton, a member of the Cedar Creek High School Green Team, has embarked on a project in collaboration with SustainableEHC, the city's green team, to monitor the impact of winter road salt on the state's streams, lakes and rivers.

The monitoring project focuses on chloride levels in Union Creek at Duerer Street, a county roadway. The creek also



accepts stormwater from U.S. Route 30.

The project is being conducted with NJ Watershed Watch Network, a statewide organization that is employing the support of citizen scientists, and in this case student scientists, to assess the impact of road salt on the state's waterways.

Marygrace's project includes testing stream water at several intervals during winter 2024 using test strip kits supplied by the Watershed Watch Network. She then enters the readings into the online national Clean Water Hub database that will be shared with the Watershed Institute and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Samples will be collected within 72 hours of rain, snow, or when snowmelt

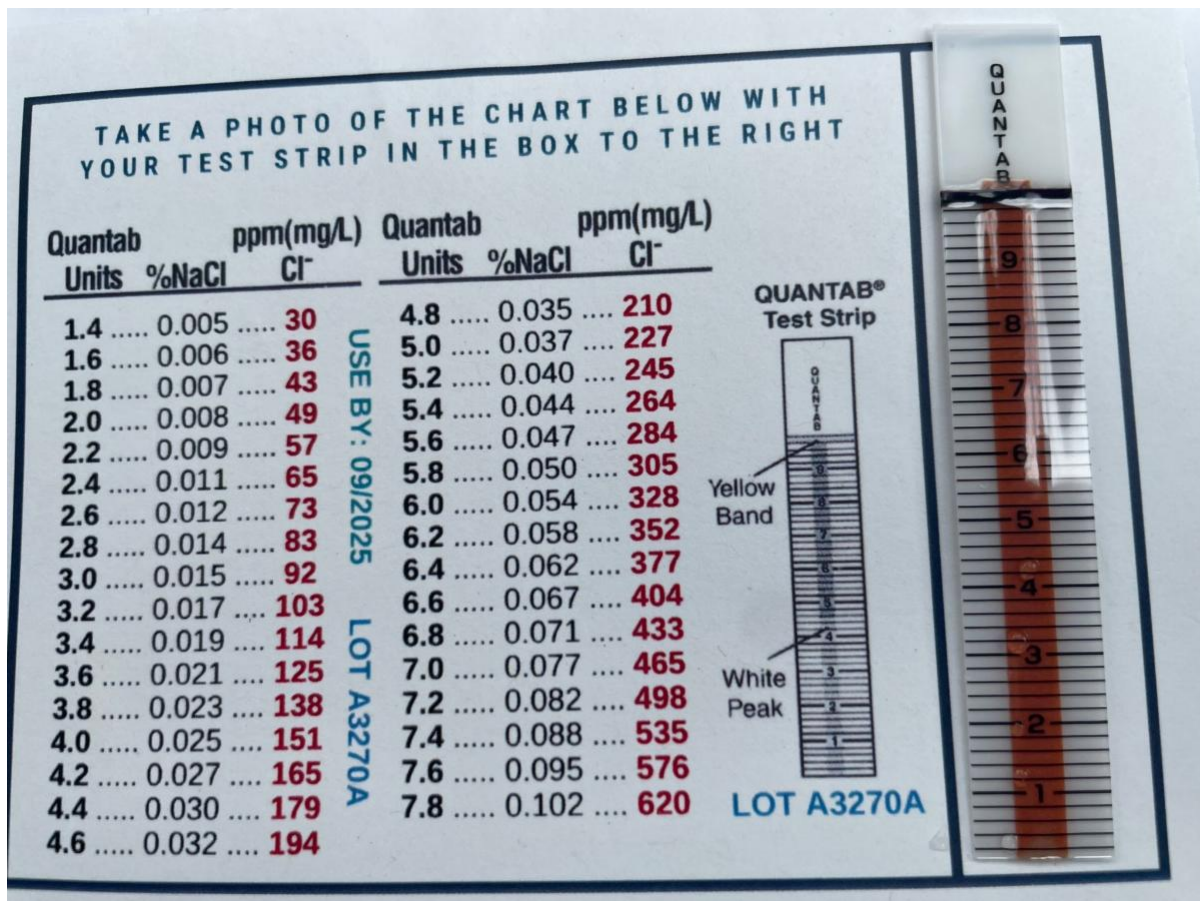
washes road salt into the water.

The data will be used to help Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County and the NJ Department of Transportation assess and refine current road salt strategies.

"By actively participating in this program, our community is not only contributing to the greater understanding of environmental challenges but is also making a positive impact on our local water resources," Marygrace said.

The project aligns with the objectives of the Sustainable Jersey program.

"Through this action, our goal is to earn five points toward the coveted Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Water," Marygrace said.

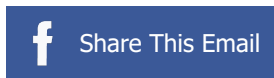


This reading taken on Jan. 10 shows a very low base level of salt.

Rabies Clinic

Free rabies
vaccinations for
dogs and cats

Saturday, March 23
10am - noon
Public Works Garage
1001 Chicago Ave



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