



Monthly News & Updates

July 1, 2023 | 001

Jersey American completes purchase of EHC Utility



New Jersey American Water June 1 completed the purchase of the city's water and sewer system for \$21.8 million. The sale complies the requirements of the NJ Department of Community Affairs and the Board of Public Utilities and is the first sale in New Jersey completed through the Water Infrastructure Protection Act put into effect in 2015.

The act permits the sale of municipal water systems that meet certain criteria. The utility did not have the resources to efficiently maintain the system due to changes in state water and sewer infrastructure legislation, which required system upgrades and capital investments beyond what the city and its 3,000 ratepayers could afford.

The sale requires NJ American invest \$14 million in the first 10 years to upgrade the system, including \$9 million in the first five years, while keeping rates stable for customers. Upgrades include an

Fireworks at City Lake Park



Egg Harbor City is proud of its long-standing traditions and one of them is the annual fireworks display at City Lake Park.

Although many people are out-of-town or otherwise busy on Independence Day, the city makes sure its residents can enjoy a night of fireworks right in their own back yard.

This year's fireworks display will be held at 9 p.m. Saturday, July 8.

Holding the event after the 4th of July allows the city to contract with a pyrotechnic expert at a reduced cost and when they are less busy with displays in larger communities.

The lake will be closed for a time to allow the pyrotechnic professionals to set up the display.

The concession stand will be open late for everyone's enjoyment.

emergency interconnection with NJ American's regional system, water and sewer main and hydrant replacements, and wastewater pump station improvements.

"This agreement provides tremendous benefits for our residents," Mayor Lisa Jiampetti said.

Proceeds of the sale will help the city pay off existing debt, which will benefit taxpayers, and complete community capital projects, including upgrades to Key-Rec Field, purchasing a street sweeper, wetlands restoration at the old water treatment plant and electrical upgrades at City Lake Park Campground.

The company operates water and sewer services for 190 other New Jersey municipalities.

"Our plan includes rebuilding and modernizing the town's water and wastewater infrastructure for continued quality and increased reliability while stabilizing rates and providing excellent customer service," NJ American Water President Mark McDonough said.

The company retained three of the department's five employees. Utility Department Supervisor Keith Adams will also remain employed with the city will continue to head the Public Works Department.

The company will start monthly billing in July. Information will be sent to residents to ensure a smooth transition. The company offers online account management and provides its H2O Help to Others program for qualified customers needing assistance paying their bills.

Learn more at www.newjerseyamwater.com/eggharborcity/.

EHC receives \$400K for ADA access at City Lake Park

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has awarded Egg Harbor City a \$400,000 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant to make Americans with Disabilities Act improvements at City Lake Park.

Gennaro's takes over lake concession stand

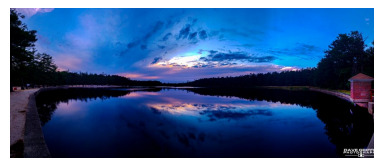


Known for its fabulous Italian offerings, the JODAZ Group, known to residents as Gennaro's Italian Grill and Pizzeria, has taken over the concession stand at City Lake Park this summer.

The concession stand offers quick bites, wings, cheeseburgers, fries, sandwiches, chips, ice cream, candy and soft drinks.

The menu also features daily specials, such as ribs, sausage and peppers and more.

The stand is open during lake hours, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Labor Day weekend.



Badges available for City Lake Park

Lake badges are on sale now at the Tax Office at Egg Harbor City Hall, 500 London Ave., or at the entrance to the lake.

Badges good for the entire

“Being able to enjoy places, activities and recreational opportunities is critical to ensuring a high quality of life,” Mayor Lisa Jampetti said. “This award will allow us to continue our work of creating a more accessible and inclusive community.”

The improvements include the installation of paved handicapped parking spaces, complete with signage and striping, ADA-compliant beach access points, removal of architectural barriers in the existing restrooms, and ADA-accessible walking paths and ramps over existing spillways.

“We thank the Department of Community Affairs for this award and for their commitment to Egg Harbor City,” Jampetti said. “We look forward to making these needed improvements to the park for the benefit of our residents.”

PROPOSED ARCHWAY GREENE

Egg Harbor City, NJ



The Neighborhood Preservation Program to bring back city’s iconic welcome arch

The iconic wooden welcome arch that stood for a time at the entrance to Lincoln Park at 7th Terrace will be making a comeback, thanks to planning being done by the folks at the Neighborhood Preservation Program, a program administered by the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

The arch was dismantled in the early 1930s when the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) was widened but has remained a treasured memory of the city’s residents.

The City Council Thursday, June 8 gave NPP Coordinator Karen Adams the go-ahead to start the regulatory process needed to ensure a smaller replica of the arch gets built on a city-owned parcel in the middle of the 100-

season are \$15 each, \$5 for senior citizens over age 65 and active-duty military with proper identification. Daily wristbands are \$8. Cash only.

The lake is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, weather permitting, until Labor Day weekend.

Badges are required.



SustainableEHC awarded operational grant funds

SustainableEHC, the city’s green team, has been awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded through the PSEG Foundation. Egg Harbor City is one of 57 New Jersey municipalities to receive funds in this year’s round of funding.

Egg Harbor City will use its funds to establish an e-newsletter to keep residents informed about community projects, events and opportunities, update its Brownfields inventory and address animals in the community by partnering with the Atlantic County Humane Society to provide a low-cost chipping clinic.

For more information or to join the effort to create a more sustainable community, see www.sustainableehc.org, SustainableEHC on Facebook, or call Chairwoman Nanette LoBiondo Galloway at 609-

block of Philadelphia Avenue. The city took ownership of the parcel after a major fire about 10 years ago burned the old Ed & Rick's grocery and deli.

The NPP is turning the vacant lot in the heart of the downtown business district into a gathering place for residents to enjoy community events, concerts, movies and more, and has named it "Archway Greene." The improvements, which the NPP hopes to fund with a \$250,000 grant, include 12 public parking spaces at the rear of the property, including one that will be available to serve those with disabilities, a raised stage area, lighting, native landscaping, and an open green space.

The council previously provided the approval for the city's grant coordinator to apply for the American Rescue Plan grant being administered by the DCA. If the grant is not approved, the NPP has funding available to implement the improvement over the next three years.

Archway Greene was designed by architect Benjamin F. Risley Jr. of the Scott Taylor Design Group of Egg Harbor City.

The NPP will now seek the approval of the NJ Pinelands Commission to begin the project. The NPP is a grant-funded program dedicated to neighborhood preservation and revitalization activities that support housing and economic development activities. The DCA provides \$125,000 a year for a five-year period to implement economic development activities that revitalize neighborhoods.

The EHC NPP is also forwarding a façade upgrade program for downtown business owners, has purchased planters and flowers to beautify the Philadelphia Avenue streetscape, and is working to upgrade First Responders Park on the northwest corner of Philadelphia Avenue and Route 30. That project includes adding trees, a flagpole area and a "center of place" sign that spells out Egg Harbor City along the existing curved hardscaped fence.

For more information about the NPP and Archway Greene, contact Karen Adams at eggharborcityedc@gmail.com.

965-5681.

Taxes to decrease substantially this year

Egg Harbor City taxpayers will see a substantial decrease in taxes for calendar year 2023.

The City Council approved its 2023 municipal budget June 8 with no increases in taxes.

The original budget included a 10.5-cent tax rate increase for operating expenses, which was eliminated by applying \$210,000 in surplus funds from the city's Utility Budget. Use of the funds were made possible with the sale of the water treatment plant.

Taxpayers will see a reduction in their tax bills due to a 5.1-cent decrease in the Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District tax rate, and a 2.7-cent decrease in the Egg Harbor City school district tax rate.

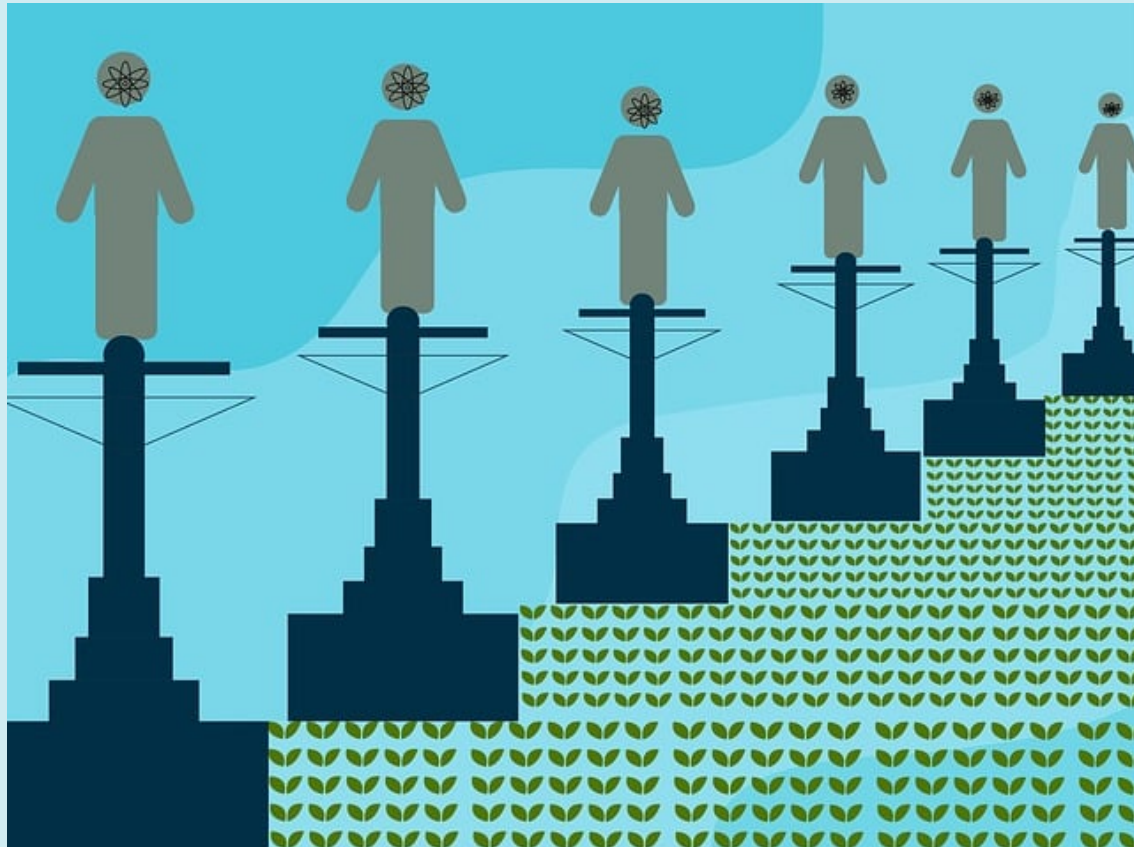
In his annual budget statement in January, Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson indicated the overall county tax rate would decrease 2 cents.



Coalition cleans up

Mayor Lisa Jiampetti accepts funding from NJ Clean

Communities for the Coalition for a Safe Community to conduct cleanups along Philadelphia Avenue. Also pictured is ACUA President Matt DeNafo and ACUA Board Chairman Marvin Emery.



EHC residents can save 21-25% on electric bills

EGG HARBOR CITY – Residents of the city are eligible to participate in the City of Millville’s community solar project, which is scheduled to become electrified in September.

New Jersey’s community solar program allows those who cannot install solar on their own homes to participate in cost savings and reduced their carbon footprint through other community solar projects in the region. There are currently 100 NJ Board of Public Utilities approved community solar projects in various stages of development in New Jersey. Millville’s solar project is scheduled to come online in September 2023.

To assist residents in signing up for the discount, SustainableJersey, in partnership with the NJ Clean Energy Program, has launched the NJ Community Solar Project Finder, an online tool that allows residents to search by Zip Code for community solar projects serving their community.

The Millville project offers a minimum 21-25% savings on the cost of electricity. Residents can sign up with Arcadia, the company that will do the billing for the discount. Arcadia requires those who enroll to provide access to their Atlantic City Electric account to receive the credit on their monthly

Atlantic City Electric bill.

To sign up, visit the home page of [sustainablejersey.com](https://www.sustainablejersey.com), or see <https://www.arcadia.com/for-homes>



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