



Summer 2009

Ventnor City Voice

Ventnor City, New Jersey Newsletter • 6201 Atlantic Avenue, Ventnor, New Jersey 08406 • www.ventnorcity.org • 609-823-7900

MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER JOHN PIATT

No Municipal Tax Increase in Ventnor

What could be better news? Ventnor City taxpayers will not see an increase in their municipal property tax rate this year after years of rising taxes. The Kelly Administration was successful at keeping the municipal tax rate at \$0.664 per hundred dollars of property valuation after its nearly \$26 million budget was recently approved by the State.

That accomplishment is quite remarkable in these economic times. The idea of any municipality not raising taxes this year is rare, but it was a key priority as the Kelly administration took office. As we have been saying all along, the progress that has been made in our financial position is largely due to the volunteer fiscal committee members who worked hand and hand with our Chief Financial Officer Toro Aboderin and many department supervisors to develop a successful “zero-based” budget, not making any assumptions based on previous years.

A central feature of the new budget is the addition of greater detail than ever before. New line items identify more expenses and the old procedure of lumping expenses into categories like “miscellaneous” and “other” are greatly minimized. Being able to identify those expenses increases control by the administration and provides financial transparency to the public.

Still, a successful operational budget is not the whole story. There are many needs in our town that have not been addressed for too long. The City’s infrastructure is old and in many cases severely deteriorated. Large capital expenditures will be needed over the next several years to repair water and sewer lines, streets, and aging public buildings and bulkheads. Old fire engines and public works vehicles will also have to be replaced.

This administration has had a very conservative approach to capital spending. In fact, we initially favored a “pay as you go” approach, and still do where possible, to avoid public debt. But ultimately where infrastructure challenges are so great, public debt is appropriate. The difference in our approach, however, is that we plan public debt in a way that does not impact taxes.

Recently, the Commission authorized the financing of nearly \$9 million for some of those needed improvements, recognizing that even at that level the infrastructure improvements needed in Ventnor are so great that they would ultimately cost much more and take many years. There is, however, a plan. The initial authorization for this financing, for example, was timed as older financing, such as in this case, general purpose and school bonds, are retired, leaving the annual cost of the financing stable, not affecting the tax rate. Also, because a total of \$9 million was authorized in this resolution does not mean that the entire amount will be financed all at once. The funds will be financed as needed. Currently, only \$5.725 million, has been funded for the beginning phases. We believe that this is a very conservative and appropriate approach for our town. We get to begin to put some of these infrastructures back together without harm to our property owners and residents. That’s a win for Ventnor.

Additional financing has including “rolling over” existing Bond Anticipatory Notes for \$2.963 million.

Special Events & Business Development to get More Attention in Ventnor

Ventnor has always been a community where residents “step up to the plate” and volunteer to make the town a better place. The Kelly Administration has been at the center of volunteer activities since it took office and, we believe, that those efforts by volunteers have increased as a result.

Those volunteers have made municipal events, such as the Christmas parade, Ventnor’s Summer Barbeque and the National Night Out, just to name a couple, great events. Now, the special events committee has their high beams on as they look towards next year.

The focus of municipal events will be community development, and now, to a greater extent than before, business development. Early plans include the possibility of a multicultural Christmas event to compliment the parade, a promotional brochure and map, the appointment of a community and business development coordinator, in addition to making all of our current municipal events bigger and better.

We are hoping to find new ways to unify the business community and provide some support in the form of events and promotion that establish a fresh Ventnor identity, or “brand” that will highlight the differences in Ventnor living and help to improve the business environment in our town.

TEN THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT VENTNOR

The City of Ventnor would like to remind all of our neighbors, friends and visitors of the following. These rules are designed to help keep Ventnor safe, clean and enjoyable for everyone and apply to all of Ventnor.

1. Bicycles are permitted on the boardwalk July 1 - Labor Day on weekdays during daylight hours only (dawn to dusk) and from 6AM to Noon on weekends & holidays. After Labor Day to the following July: daylight hours only every day. The bicycle speed limit is 15MPH. Please remember that pedestrians always have the right of way. Anyone under age 17 is required by law to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle anywhere in New Jersey.

2. Dogs are never permitted on the boardwalk. This applies all year not just during the summer season. Dogs are permitted on the beach October 1 to May 15 but they must be on a leash at all times and may be walked only on areas washed by the high tide.

3. The Ventnor Fishing Pier is open to the public. There is no charge to walk out to the first part of the pier but there is a fee for access to the fishing section (past the locked gate). A daily or seasonal pass may be purchased at the pier office during the summer season.

4. Feeding of any wildlife (including birds, seagulls, ducks, rabbits, etc.) is prohibited on all public and private property (including the beach) anywhere in Ventnor.

5. Household trash must be put in trash containers. It may not be left for pickup in paper or plastic bags. Trash containers may be put out to curbside no earlier than 6:00PM the day before your collection day and must be returned to a proper storage location no later than 7:00PM on collection day. If you will not be home then please arrange for someone to do it for you. Trash containers must be stored where they are not visible from the street.

6. Household trash may never be placed in the public trash receptacles located on streets, the boardwalk or the beach.

7. Garden or grass clippings from your property may not be blown onto the sidewalk, into the street or onto your neighbors' property.

8. Beach badges are required for each person age 12+ on the beach from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Daily and seasonal badges are available for purchase at City Hall, Beach Patrol headquarters. Badges may be purchased at a discount prior to June 1. Ventnor badges are also honored in Margate.

9. By federal law no one is permitted on the beach dunes at any time.

10. Street parking anywhere between Jackson and Frankfort Avenues is limited to two hours unless you have a current Ventnor City parking sticker or placard in your car.

BEAUTIFYING VENTNOR'S NORTH BEACH



Have you had a chance to drive down Ventnor Avenue or Atlantic Avenue in the "NORTH BEACH" section of town lately? If so, you have no doubt noticed the recent addition of very beautiful hanging flowers on both sides of the street. The North Beach Residents' Committee, together with financial contributions from the business community and private citizens successfully added the "WOW" to our neighborhood. Many thanks to Commissioner Weintrob who oversees the Public Works department for his help. Also our thanks to Dave Smith and all of the Public Works employees who hung the flowers and committed to watering them for us throughout the season.

This little project only scratches the surface of the grand plans the North Beach Resident' Committee has on the agenda for our neighborhood. We welcome the entire community to our meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM on the second floor of the library. The only requirement is that you bring optimism and a positive attitude with you. VENTNOR is on a roll with the help of our new administration and "NORTH BEACH" is an enthusiastic and involved participant. Feel free to contact us at NorthBeachVentnor@gmail.com.

Below is a list of the financial contributors so far to the hanging flower project topped by our most generous contributor, Mento's Ice Cream & Water Ice. Thanks to everyone for their involvement!

Flower Project Contributors: Mento's Ice Cream & Water Ice, Jagielky's Homemade Candies, AAAA Bike Shop, Ventnor Veterinary Office, Stacey Jaskol of Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors, Carisbrooke Inn, Ninja Martial Arts & Fitness Studio, Mark & Amy Alsentzer Ventnor Investor properties, Amy Weintrob, Peter Mokover, Peter & Shelly Dorazio, Theresa & Dennis Kelly, Alana & Jerry Deprisco, Betty Lou Barnard, Steve & Merrill Polsky, Sonny & Duke Loadenthal, Richard Conklin, Richard & KC Gober, Jerry Hyman, and Anonymous. The North Beach section of Ventnor runs from Jackson Avenue (A.C. border) to Little Rock Avenue

Clean Up Day on North Beach, July 25, 2009. It really was a fun day – about a dozen of us were out, gloves and trashbags in hand. We all met some new people, walked our neighborhood on foot in pairs and cleaned up a lot of trash. We also had some new people out who we hope will become involved with the North Beach Residents' Committee and Ventnor in general. This neighborhood is on the move!

We each cleaned two blocks, beach to bay, and it was a very productive morning. North Beach has really awesome residents and it's great to come together as a neighborhood and do something positive.



NEW BUSINESSES IN VENTNOR'S NORTH BEACH AREA



Malelani Café
Weymouth & Atlantic Aves
8am to 8pm
Sun. thru Fri.
8am to 10 pm Fri & Sat.
609-822-5007

The newest business in ventnory North Beach, Malelani Café offers a haven

for locals, visitors, artists, and people simply seeking that coffee house culture. Located on Weymouth and Atlantic Avenue (across from Sage), Malelani holds Open Mic every Saturday evening from 7-10 PM.

Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner, everything from delicious, freshly baked paninis, pastries, and our heart-healthy salad bar, to coffee drinks with Illy's famous 60-bean blend and specialty black, green, and herbal teas. Come in for our signature Cappuccino or try a Chai Tea Latte. Bubble Tea, fresh juice, and other specialty drinks are also available.

Inquire at MalelaniEvents@yahoo.com for event information. Art shows, writing groups, and special guest performances to come! So, come on in, enjoy our free wi-fi with your laptop or bring some friends and catch up over a cup of fresh-brewed Illy coffee.



North Beach Cafe & Pizzeria
5213 Ventnor Avenue
Across from the Wawa
6am to 11pm 7 days a week
609-822-4664

The Spanish American Cafe is now under new management offering their original menu of Spanish and American

breakfast, lunch and dinner favorites plus the addition of an in-house pizzeria. Jimmy the Pizza Man and family will be throwing the dough and will also be serving pasta dishes, salads, subs and calzones. This is a neighborhood place with a family atmosphere. Daily specials are always offered and on Fridays and Saturdays in season, All-U-Can-Eat Hardshell Crabs will be served steamed on request - Maryland, Garlic or Caribbean Style. Eat in take out or free delivery you are sure not to go hungry.



Ventnor Veterinary Office
5100 Ventnor Avenue
Ventnor and Nashville Aves.
9am to 5pm Mon. thru Fri.
Sat. 9am to 11am
609-823-8566

www.ventnorvet.com

Ventnor Veterinary Office is a full service companion animal hospital. Doctors Jessica Grant and Leonard Walk offer an array of pet wellness services: dental, surgery, acupuncture, full lab, radiology, behavioral counseling grooming and boarding as well as a pharmacy on site. With almost 4,000 square feet of space Ventnor Veterinary Office is dedicated to becoming your partner in your pet's health care.



Domenico's Restaurant
Ventnor & Little Rock Aves.
Monday thru Sunday,
Open at 5pm
609-822-1300

Reservations a must on the weekends

Italian/Mediterranean food in a cozy warm setting in ventnory North Beach. Domenico's is the newest

fine dining establishment to open in the North Beach area of Ventnor. With outdoor dining in front, fresh fish and chop specials each evening and a knowledgeable staff, you can depend on great service and fine meal.

Chef Domenic, previously the chef at Tuckers in Somers Point and more recently the chef at Ventnor Heights' Red Room offers popular dishes such as "Love Boats," endive leaves filled with red onion, black olives, cannellini beans, tomatoes and crab meat finished in a sweet balsamic glaze, "Roasted Beet Salad," "Spaghetini with crab" and "Lobster Sinatra," half a lobster sauteed with little neck clams, shitake mushrooms, pignoli nuts and a light cherry tomato broth over a bed of spaghetini.

Save room for a cappuccino or an espresso with dessert, tiramisu and cannolis are always a hit. Domenico's is BYOB (don't worry there is a liquor store a few blocks away) and does accept Visa and MasterCard (not AMEX). Ciao!



China Dumpling
5200 Ventnor Avenue
Frankfort and Ventnor Aves.
Sun. thru Thurs. 11am to 10pm
Fri. & Sat. 11am to 11pm
606-822-6888

The China Dumpling is serving up fine Chinese, Cantonese and Szechuan cuisine with an emphasis on seafood in a refined yet relaxed atmosphere. They serve Dim Sum daily have a full vegetarian menu, and offer a \$5.50 lunch special from 11am to 3pm served with fried rice and an egg roll. Dine in, carry out or have it delivered for free (\$15 minimum).



H.A.G. Liquor Store
5113 Ventnor Avenue
Between Nashville & Hillside
609-833-4002



Ventnor Dollar Plus & Convenience Store
5117 Ventnor Avenue
Between Nashville & Hillside
609-487-8991

VENTNOR CALENDAR – AUGUST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2009

- Aug 1 **Hooked on Ventnor Fishing Tournament for the Physically Challenged** – 11am to 1pm at the Ventnor Fishing Pier. Snack food, drinks provided. No person will leave without receiving a T-shirt, prize or gift bag. For more information email HookedOnVentnor@comcast.net
- Aug 4 **National Night Out** – will begin at 6:00 p.m. and take place behind the Ventnor Library at Newport & New Haven Aves. An evening of inter active activities, food, fun sponsored by the Ventnor City Drug & Alcohol Alliance, PBA Local 97 and the Ventnor City F.M.B.A.
- Aug 7 **Margate Memorials Life Guard Races** – 6:30 pm at Washington Ave Beach in Margate
- Aug 8 & 9 **Chuck's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament**. Details contact Recreation Department at (609) 823-7950.
- Aug 10 **Dance Programs begins at the Cultural Arts Center** – call (609) 823-7952.
- Aug 12 **Cape Atlantic Women's Invitational Lifeguard Races** 6:30 pm at Suffolk Ave Beach.
- Aug 14 **South Jersey Lifeguard Races** – 6:30 pm Washington Ave Beach in Margate.
- Aug 15 **City Wide Yard Sale** – one day only. Contact Linda at 822-9393 to be added to the map.
- Aug 15 **Movie on the Beach – Happy Feet**
- Aug 20 **Concert on the Beach – the Rocco Brothers** (rock & roll, oldies)
- Aug 21 **Goudy Lifeguard Races** – 6:30 at Suffolk Ave Beach.
- Aug 22 **“Go Green” Night in Ventnor** – Kayak through the bays of Ventnor. Registration begins at 3pm at Dorset Avenue Ramp. The event begins at 4pm. For Details go to www.Ventnormerchants.com or call the AAAA Bike Shop at (609) 487-0808 for details.
- Aug 29 **Children's Hooked on Ventnor Fishing Tournament** – 12noon to 4:00pm at the Ventnor Fishing Pier. Children between 7 and 14 years of age. Snack food, drinks provided. No child will leave without receiving a T-shirt, prize or gift bag. For more information email HookedOnVentnor@comcast.net
- Aug 29 **Movie on the Beach – Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl**
- Sept 5, 6, 7 **Labor Day Weekend** – Barbecues permitted on beaches – grills only, no open pits. 10am-6pm. Beach Badges Required.
- Sept 12 **Tour DeDownbeach** – Family Bike Ride (Bike ride through Ventnor, Margate & Longport) - Details contact the AAAA Bike Shop at (609) 487-0808 or go online to Ventnormerchants.com or MarvelousMargate.com
- Sept 13 **Rain Date for Tour DeDownbeach Bike Ride**
- Sept 14 **Fall Art and Dance Programs begin** at the Cultural Arts Center. Call (609) 823-7952.

VENTNOR ANNUAL CITY-WIDE YARD SALE SAT. AUGUST 15TH!

On Saturday, August 15th, 2009, Ventnor residents are encouraged to clean out their closets and attics and set up a table, big or small, for the city-wide yard sale. No permits are needed.

Last year over 40 families participated and bargains galore were reported. A map of sale locations will be available the week before at City Hall, the Ventnor Library, and other convenient places throughout the city. To add your name to the list, please call Linda at 609-822-9393.

VENTNOR LINKS & RESOURCES

Atlantic County Government:

www.aclink.org

Atlantic County Utilities Authority:

www.acua.com

Downbeach Current:

www.shorenwstoday.com

NBC 40:

www.nbc40.net

Press of Atlantic City:

www.pressofatlanticcity.com

Ventnor Bulletin Board:

www.ventnorevoice.com

Ventnor Business Association:

www.ventnormerchants.com

Ventnor Community Association:

www.weloveventnor.com

Ventnor Public Schools:

www.vecc.atlnet.org