

Aberdeen News



Pictured at Aberdeen's Sept. 16 swearing-in ceremony are (l. to r.): Patrolman Thomas Wagner, Patrolman Liam Gallagher, Patrolman Andrew Gioia, Sergeant Raymond Campbell, Lieutenant Craig Hausmann, Captain Matthew Lloyd, and Deputy Chief Alan Geyer.

Geyer Named Deputy Chief as Part of Series of Four Promotions at Aberdeen P.D.; Three New Officers Hired

The Aberdeen Police Department is looking to the future after a recent series of three new hires and four promotions, including Alan Geyer's elevation from Captain to Deputy Chief. All were officially sworn in during a September 16 ceremony outside Town Hall.

Geyer, whose promotion was effective July 1, has dutifully served in many capacities since joining the department in 1987. Among those roles was a six-

year stint in the Detective Bureau, followed by an assignment to Traffic Safety as Traffic Sergeant. He was appointed second-in-command by Township Manager Bryan Russell to fill the position that had been vacant after Rick Derechailo was promoted to Chief in January 2019.

Russell noted that the move created a domino effect of promotions of veteran officers within the department,

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Make Your Vote Count

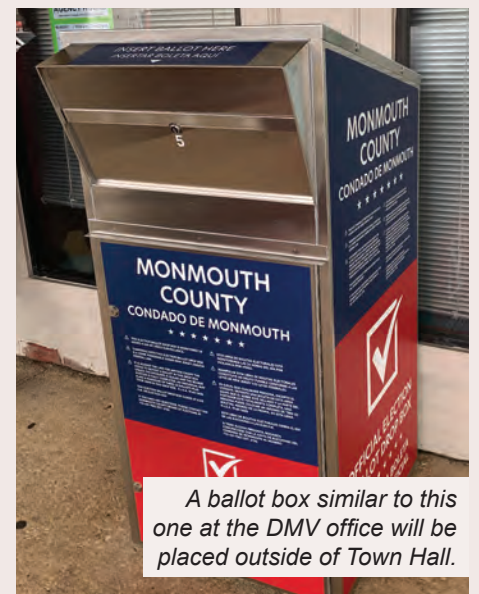
For those voting by mail in the 2020 election and concerned about your ballot getting in on time, Aberdeen Town Hall will be one of just seventeen sites in Monmouth County to host an Official Ballot Drop Box.

Ballots will be collected daily until November 3, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. by the Monmouth County Board of Elections from the specially designated box, which will be bolted to the ground outside of Town Hall and under surveillance by a security camera monitored by the Aberdeen Police Department. Town Hall is located at 1 Aberdeen Square (Church St., just off of Atlantic Ave.).

"This highly secure ballot box provides an excellent option for voters seeking an alternative to the Post Office," said Aberdeen Township Clerk Karen Ventura. "Of course, for those who prefer to vote in person, using Provisional (paper) Ballot, we will offer the same three polling sites successfully utilized in the July primary."

The polling sites will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3 at: Town Hall; the Cliffwood Fire Company building, 478 Angel St.; and the Aberdeen Fire District #1 building, 490 Lloyd Rd.

For further information, contact Karen Ventura at: 732-583-4200, ext. 119.



A ballot box similar to this one at the DMV office will be placed outside of Town Hall.

Municipal News

A Word from The Mayor...

Dear Aberdeen Neighbors,

Back in January 2020, we all finished celebrating the holidays looking toward a year filled with the special occasions and holidays that make up our lives. Well, COVID-19 had a different life-changing course for all of us.

In March, Aberdeen Township declared a Medical Emergency that changed our lives and the way we do business. Virtual Town Meetings, staff working from home and a Town Hall that could not welcome visitors had all of us reacting daily to new ways of conducting township business.

I am proud to report that our Township Manager Bryan Russell, with the full cooperation of every Department Head and employee, was able to continue to deliver services for our residents. Our Police Department under the excellent leadership of Chief Rick Derechailo continues to keep the town safe while responding to the needs of our residents.

If the pandemic wasn't enough, Tropical Storm Isaias left 81% of Aberdeen without power by the time it left us. It took JCP&L seven days to restore 100% of power. How much more can we take? This is when our terrific Public Works Department kicked it into high gear and had our town cleared of debris in days.

As you read this newsletter, you will see what the Town Council was able to accomplish with our skilled staff: a continuation of our road and parks improvement programs, a Summer Concert Series, a Spray Park for kids, outdoor dining venues, and uninterrupted essential services. We also worked on Census 2020, while asking all of you to social distance, wear masks and take other measures to help us flatten the curve. You did! We asked you to help us help you, and you answered the call.

In closing, let's take a moment to think of everyone we lost to COVID. Together we will get through this. On behalf of the Town Council, I send you our best regards. Please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Fred Tagliarini, Mayor



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Aberdeen News

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Neighborhood Parks Projects Continue to Enhance Experience for Residents

In what one Aberdeen Council member describes as “a true labor of love,” the township continues on its multi-year endeavor to improve neighborhood parks throughout the municipality. The latest projects: Fordham Park in the Strathmore section and Joseph J. Booket Park in Oakshades, along with the final phases of improvements at Ivyhill and Storyland parks, also in Strathmore. All four projects are expected to be completed before Thanksgiving.

Fordham Park is undergoing a complete redesign incorporating all-new playscape equipment for both the 2-5 and 5-12 age groups, and a new swing set that includes a parent-child swing. A safety surface will be added to the equipment area, which will be further defined by timber edge curbing around the perimeter. Other improvements will include a new walkway connecting the playground area to the Fordham Drive sidewalk, new picnic tables and benches, as well as replacement of the chain link fence around the perimeter of the park, which also includes a basketball court.

“This park required a full redesign to get the play equipment into a shadier spot and, for child security purposes, in full view from the sidewalk and street,” said Councilwoman Margaret Montone, who serves on the Council’s Parks Committee with Councilwoman Connie Kelley and Mayor Fred Tagliarini. “The new pathway will make it easier for parents to bring strollers into the play area, as well as enhance access for those in wheelchairs. At the same time, the new fencing will help prevent kids from wandering down to the stream in back of the property.”

Joseph J. Booket Park, which adjoins the Oakshades baseball field off of Lloyd Road, is also being fitted with all-new play equipment and a new swing set with a parent-child swing. Other improvements include timber edge curbing around the equipment area’s perimeter, new chain link fencing, as well as a new picnic table, benches and bike rack.

“As in Fordham, Booket will be getting the kind of exciting, contemporary playscape that today’s kids love, while new benches allow parents to comfortably keep a watchful eye over their children,” Councilwoman Montone noted. “Fortunately, the new equipment fits in well with the playground’s footprint, so there was no need to do a total redesign of the area.”

Councilwoman Kelley added: “The playground equipment that we’ve been installing in each project is so colorful, modern and upscale, and offers something for every age group. A lot of thought and care is given to where the equipment, benches

and other amenities are placed. For example, benches are now being situated so that a parent can watch their toddler in the playground and older child on the basketball court. I’m really excited about what we’ve been doing, and we’ve gotten very positive feedback from the communities where projects have been completed to date.”



As shown in this rendering, Fordham Park is getting a complete redesign that will include all-new playscape equipment for both the 2-5 and 5-12 age groups, a new swing set, and a variety of other amenities.

Meanwhile at Ivyhill and Storyland—both of which got new play equipment last year—the township is wrapping up additional enhancements. Ivyhill is being fitted with an embankment slide in its hill, while also undergoing minor drainage improvements in the area of the swing set, picnic table and benches. Work at Storyland is focused around the park’s ballfield, including replacement of the outfield’s chain link fence, outfield underdrain/drainage improvements and turf restoration, as well as replacement of the swing set near the ballfield, including a parent-child swing, and a new bike rack.

Beginning with the 2017 transformation of Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach, Aberdeen has now completed or launched improvement projects at nine parks under the multi-year initiative.

“This has been a real labor of love for those of us on the Council, who strive to make Aberdeen even more family-friendly,” said Councilwoman Montone. “The process begins by going out to the site with our engineer to visualize what we can do to make each park meet the needs of today’s children and parents, and we continue to learn from them. Upon completion, each neighborhood sees an improvement in their quality of life. This is all the more important in this era of COVID-19 when families are staying closer to home and looking for something to do.”

Joseph J. Booket Park is being fitted with an all-new playscape, swing set and other amenities.





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Department Spotlight

Building Dept. Adapts to COVID-19 Without Missing a Beat

Nothing gets built in Aberdeen without the guidance and approval of the township's Building Department.

The Building Department is there to ensure everything is constructed according to established safety guidelines - from tiny half bathrooms to sprawling homes to multi-unit developments and any commercial or industrial property.

But what happens to the department's vital services when a crisis such as COVID-19 hits and newly enacted social distancing measures render its standard operating procedures obsolete? In Aberdeen, the department, under Director John Quinn, used technological innovation and old-fashioned hard work to address the needs of residents, contractors and business owners. While continuing to perform its typical duties, the department also moved quickly to help the township's restaurant owners open for outdoor dining. Simply put, the eight-person department's efforts have kept Aberdeen moving forward, even in the midst of a health crisis.

"The Aberdeen Building Department has done a very good job of assisting our constituents with timely service, even during this time when we are under COVID-19 restrictions," said Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci. "John Quinn and the staff work very hard to accommodate the citizens and businesses of Aberdeen, enabling them to move forward with all of their projects. We are very proud of the staff and how they follow New Jersey's strict regulations and codes."

It has been no small task, considering the way they used to conduct something as common yet vital as home inspections had to be re-imagined. Working in conjunction with state officials, the department developed a checklist. The list was then given to the contractors, who would walk through the project area and take video of, say, the new hot-water heater or gutters. The department would then review the video and decide if the work was up to code.

Although the department resumed on-site inspections in late summer, the video inspections were key in preventing a backlog of work slowing down the township.

"We tried to adapt as quickly as we could," Quinn said. "For our own safety and for the contractors' safety, we started to hold virtual inspections with the guidance of the Department of Community Affairs in Trenton. They authorized us to make the decision on how we want to pursue inspections. During the initial outbreak, we found this approach was the best and safest way to do an inspection."

Perhaps the department's finest hour came when it helped restaurant owners who had been hit hard after Gov. Phil Murphy's executive orders

shut down indoor dining in March and opened limited outdoor dining in June. "It had to do with trying to maintain or sustain the business in the township because those guys were desperate to get back to doing more than takeout," Quinn explained.

So, working with the office of emergency management, the fire department and others inside the township, the Building Department went about the difficult task of configuring outdoor dining in places such as parking lots while navigating obstacles such as fire lanes and the public right of way. The work will stretch into the fall, when the department will help restaurants safely install heaters to keep outdoor diners warm.

"My staff is very adaptable and resilient to all these changes," Quinn said. "We accepted what was in front of us and we tried to adapt."

Carmine Visone, Chairman of the Aberdeen Economic Business Council and co-owner of Home Away From Home Academy, said the restaurant owners and other business owners have noticed a new, more cooperative spirit among those in the Building Department. Visone was especially impressed with the work of code enforcement officer Ken Marr Jr., who monitors temporary promotional signage, property conditions and a variety of other issues involving local businesses of all types.

"Aberdeen has really come together," he said. "I always use the word triangularization here because you have the residential community, the government and the business community, and that triangle has to be connected. And if it's not connected, it doesn't work. In Aberdeen, the business community, township government and residents all work together, and it meshes out really, really well. For the financial success of a town, that triangle has to be in existence."

Councilman Robert Swindle added: "We've heard very good things from the business community in the last several years on how well the Building Department has worked with them to accelerate the time it takes to open a new business or renovate an existing one without jeopardizing the safety of employees and the public. There's definitely a new spirit of cooperation that's encouraged more businesses to come to Aberdeen."



John Quinn

Aberdeen is Hungry For Outdoor Dining

Some scrumptious sliders? A redoubtable rack of ribs? The quintessential quesadillas?

Aberdeen has become a dining destination for foodies who hunger for great fare with a side order of the great outdoors.

Outdoor dining has been a big hit in town for residents who missed eating at their favorite restaurants after Gov. Phil Murphy ordered them to close their doors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in June, bars and restaurants were allowed to commence outdoor dining as long as they adhered to several safety guidelines such as keeping the tables at least six feet apart and limiting eight diners to a table.

Service staff were required to wear masks and touchpoints were cleaned often.

"Everyone seems to like the outdoor dining," said Billy Parker, owner of the Blue Rock Café in Cliffwood Beach. "We've always had outdoor dining on our deck, but it seems to have really caught on here in Aberdeen and that's great to see."

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Blue Rock Café had always offered outdoor dining on its deck but was pleased to be able to participate as soon as outdoor dining regulations were put in place.

Aberdeen is Hungry For Outdoor Dining Continued from Page 5

Aberdeen's Building Department worked in conjunction with officials from other departments and the restaurant owners to make outdoor dining quickly become a reality without sacrificing safety.

"They moved very fast," said Peter Charalambous, owner of Town Square Diner. "They pushed through our permits very fast. As soon as we submitted them, it took just a couple of days and we got our permits. They helped a lot in the planning, also – where it was going to be set up in the parking lot."

The outdoor dining experience has fostered a sense of camaraderie among the restaurant owners at the Aberdeen Town Square shopping center, where the diner shares an outdoor tent with neighbors The Court Jester and Denino's Pizza Place. The three establishments worked with landlord James Dolan of Florham Realty and the township to make the tent a reality.



The Court Jester, Town Square Diner and Denino's Pizza Place joined forces under tent at Aberdeen Town Square.

For restauranteurs such as Mike Page at The Court Jester, outdoor dining has helped keep his business going during these tough times. Page, whose establishment long offered a limited number of sidewalk tables and augmented that with the tent seating, said that the move cut into some of the sales losses that full-service restaurants like his have experienced during the pandemic. "But that's kind of where the world is right now. It's been an interesting experience.

"The town has been extremely helpful," he continued. "There's been nothing but cooperation from the Building Department, the fire department, the Police Department. When you put a big tent up in the middle of the parking lot, there's going to be some safety questions, but they dealt with it very quickly."



When it opens this fall, Alternate Ending Beer Company will offer a permanent outdoor seating area.

Restaurants also benefitted from efforts by Mayor Fred Tagliarini and other members of the Township Council to promote their outdoor offerings in local media and on Aberdeen's You Tube channel.

All told, seven restaurants participated in the program from the outset, with the four aforementioned establishments joined by Eli's Bagels, La Strada and catering hall Piazza Di Roma, which turned its expansive patio into a restaurant open to the public for dinner from Thursdays to Sundays. More recently, Aberdeen's other catering hall, Addison Park, added a tent to its outdoor area for events accommodating approximately 150 guests. Those planning bigger events have the option to rent additional tents for outdoor receptions with up to 500 guests under current state guidelines.

Meanwhile, local patrons will have another outdoor option this fall, when Aberdeen's newest food and drink establishment, Alternate Ending Beer Company, opens in the former Strathmore Cinema. Plans call for the business to include a permanent outdoor seating area that can accommodate about 40 people.

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Around Town

First Responders Bring Birthday Joy Through Drive-By Celebrations

The children and their families would pile out of the house and onto their front lawns. The kids would jump up and down and do a joyous dance, while other family members would smile and wave with excitement and gratitude.

Each drive-by birthday celebration conducted by members of the township's police and fire departments brought a little bit of joy into a kid's life at time when social distancing measures under COVID-19 meant gathering for something such as a birthday party was not possible.

"The reactions to the drive-bys were priceless," said Lt. Craig Hausmann of the Aberdeen Police Department. "These drive-bys created a true sense of community for everyone involved at a time that it was desperately needed."

As Chief Joe Raymond Jr. of the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Company put it, "That was the main reason we kept doing it for as long as we did. Just the look on their faces. You can't buy that excitement."

In addition to their day-to-day duties and calls to emergency situations, police and fire department members managed to conduct dozens of drive-by birthday celebrations between March and August.

Hausmann said a resident liaison with the Aberdeen Township Neighborhood Watch noticed that parents were lamenting on social media that their kids weren't going to be able to have birthday parties. Liaison Adrea Geniton suggested that wailing sirens, flashing lights and honking horns would brighten their big days.

Soon, birthday drive-bys were occurring throughout the township. Sometimes it was just the police or the fire department. Sometimes it was both. Other times, friends and families would join the back of the procession in their own cars.

Hausmann said that families started requesting a certain song to be played on the external speakers of the police and fire personnel.

The drive-by celebrations became so popular, Raymond said his fire company would participate in three or four in a day. "It was good for the guys, too," Raymond added. "It broke up the day and gave us a chance to be out in the community. The opportunity to see the smiles on those kids' faces was priceless."



Fire trucks approach house for drive-by celebration.

Socially Distanced Summer Concerts Hit High Note with Residents

Tuesday nights at Veterans Memorial Park in Aberdeen's Cliffwood Beach section were filled with good music and fun all summer long thanks to the township's annual Summer Concert Series.

Shows took place each Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m., and with social distancing circles put in place, guests were able to jam out to their favorite bands safely. Circles were spaced at least six feet apart and attendees had to wear face coverings when a 6-foot distance could not be maintained.

"It was so vital to be able to provide some kind of normalcy to our residents with a few fun nights out through our beachside concert series this summer," said Aberdeen Public Information Officer and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Brittany Shea. "Our residents certainly appreciated that we were still able to bring some summer fun to the township this year."

The beachside concert series kicked off July 7th with "Parrot Beach," a well-known Jimmy Buffett tribute band. A seven-piece local band called "Madison Avenue" performed on July 14, followed by "The Rat Pack Track Show" on July 21. The jam-packed lineup continued on July 28 with "Southern Steel," a local southern classic rock band and popular returning act from last year.

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Concert fans sat within socially distanced circles.

Aberdeen Received \$34,000 in Clean Communities Grants for 2020

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) once again awarded Aberdeen with a Clean Communities grant to be used to make environmental improvements throughout the township.

This year, Aberdeen received \$34,000 and used the funds to hire two part-time employees who are tasked with keeping the parks, beach, and seawall clean and garbage-free. Money from this grant will also be used for supplies

such as garbage receptacles and materials for repairing sand dune fencing.

The money awarded to Aberdeen through the Clean Communities Grant is part of the \$17.3 million the DEP is awarding to municipalities throughout New Jersey to improve the quality of life in the state's communities. The program is funded by a legislated user fee on manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors that produce litter-generating products.

Geyer Named Deputy Chief *Continued from Page 1*

with Matthew Lloyd named Captain, Craig Hausmann appointed Lieutenant, and Raymond Campbell elevated to Sergeant. Their promotions were effective September 1.

Lloyd is an 18-year veteran of the department who served for three years in the Bayshore Narcotics Task Force and in the Aberdeen Police Department's traffic division. In 2018, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned as Patrol Commander in the Operations Division.

Hausmann joined the department on Sept. 1, 2001 and has served as its instructor in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) program. He was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Patrol Division in 2018.

Campbell is a 14-year veteran of the department, joining as a dispatcher shortly after graduating high school. During his time in the department, he has served as firearms instructor and was selected to serve on the Monmouth County Rapid Deployment Force.

Russell said that although he ultimately makes the appointments, he reviewed the positions with Chief Derechailo.

The three newly hired officers (all hailing from Aberdeen)-- Andrew Gioia, Liam Gallagher and Thomas Wagner--were immediately assigned to the Patrol Division. All are replacing recently retired officers.

Gioia, 26, earned a bachelor's degree from John Jay

College of Criminal Justice in New York and previously worked as a police officer at Brookdale Community College. He has also serves as a volunteer fireman with the Aberdeen Township Hose and Chemical Co.

Gallagher, 23, earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Scranton and was employed as a special law enforcement officer in the Keansburg Police Department.

Wagner, 25, graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kutztown University and served as a special law enforcement officer in the Sea Girt Police Department.

Derechailo noted that the department is excited to have three new officers join the force. He said police departments are like athletic teams in that the more experienced members are counted on to help guide the younger ones. "The older guys have the experience, they've seen a lot of things and need to impart that knowledge and experience on the younger officers," he said. "That's why we have field training officers and a field training program where we team the newer officers with more experienced ones.

"The basics like how to do a report, how to issue a motor vehicle summons, what to observe when you stop a car are part and parcel of what you learn in the academy," he continued. "But getting to learn the community that you work in, knowing the physical boundaries, knowing the business owners, knowing the residents, there's a big, big learning curve there. Our veterans have always been happy to lend a helping hand."



Aberdeen Deputy Chief Alan Geyer was sworn in by his wife Patricia Geyer, and children (l. to r.) Samantha, Dana and Alan, Jr.



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Around Town

Understanding Aberdeen's Recycling Program

Aberdeen gives residents two convenient options for recycling household items: curbside pickup and drop-off at the Public Works facility in Cliffwood Beach.

To promote regular recycling, Aberdeen offers single-stream recycling pickup bi-weekly by town sections, with Section I on the first and third Wednesdays and Section II on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Section I is comprised of Cliffwood Beach, Cliffwood, River Gardens, Oakshades, Freneau, and Heritage Estates. Section II includes Strathmore, High School Area, Woodbrook Drive, Randall Way, Storyland, Santa Fe, Heather Glen, and Clinton Street

Recycled items can also be dropped off at the Public Works facility on Lenox Road, off Cliffwood Avenue, Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

While residents of apartment and condominium complexes are not included in the pickup program, they can bring items to the Public Works yard.

What can be recycled? You can recycle glass, cans, plastics, newspapers, cardboard and mixed paper. Glass and cans should be cleaned. Cardboard and newspapers must be cut and bundled. Mixed paper, bottles and cans should be placed in a closed container

Common recycling mistakes: Items that should be placed in regular trash include glass, cans or any cardboard packaging that have any food

or beverage remains (notable items include pizza boxes and cardboard milk containers); bottle tops; plastic garbage bags, takeout food containers, hangers and sandwich bags.

If you have further questions on items that can and can't be recycled, download the Recycling Coach app for complete information.



Aberdeen offers option of bi-weekly curbside pickups or drop-off at Public Works facility.

Shredding Day Set for Nov. 21

Aberdeen's second document shredding event of the year will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21, in the parking lot of Town Hall, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until the truck is filled.

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Aberdeen Gears Up for Next Wave of Road Repair Projects

Following up on an unprecedented round of mill-and-pave and full reconstruction projects completed in late 2019 and during the spring and summer of 2020, Aberdeen Township is gearing up for another wave of activity that's expected to get under way this fall and resume next spring.

The latest list includes mill-and-pave projects on Hawthorne Street in the Cliffwood Beach section, County Road in Cliffwood and Van Brackle Road in Strathmore, as well as full reconstructions of Cornell Way and Courtland Lane in Strathmore.

"The Township Council is committed to continuing annual investments in our local infrastructure until every street in Aberdeen is renewed," said Councilman Greg Cannon.

Mill and pave projects involve removal (milling) of 2-3 inches of old pavement and then repaving with 2-3 inches of new asphalt. The Hawthorne Street project, which runs the full length of the street, was expected to start in late-September.

A late-September launch is also anticipated for the section of Van Brackle extending from Line Road to Justice Lane, with an approximate two-week timetable. Township Manager Bryan Russell noted that the town has applied for a New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) grant for a mill-and-pave of the roadway's remaining section that runs from Justice Lane to Highway 34.

The fourth and final phase of the County Road mill-and-pave covers the section that goes from Gordon Street to Cliffwood Avenue. Partially funded through a DOT grant, the project will either be completed by this December or be pushed back to next Spring, Russell said.

A late-Spring start is anticipated for the reconstruction of the full length of Cornell Way and Courtland Lane. These projects include excavation and pavement reconstruction extending down 14 inches from the roadway; replacement of curbs, sidewalks and driveway aprons; and storm sewer improvements. Each is expected to take about two months to complete, according to Russell.

Residents on all affected streets will receive hand-delivered notices from Township Engineer CME Associates, advising of the scope of the work and approximate timetable. Daily updates on road closures can be obtained via Nixle and are also available on Aberdeen's website and Facebook page.

This latest schedule follows a program that currently includes the ongoing reconstruction of Sherwood Drive, as well as the completion of full reconstructions of Wayside Drive, Cashel Drive, Carol Lane, Crystal Place, Claire Court, Ambler Court, Ambler Lane, and Dawn Way, and partial sections of Deerfield Lane and Cliffwood Avenue.

Additionally, mill-and-pave projects were completed on Orchard Street, Alden Court, Blair Road, Hyer Court, Halleran Court, Heather Glen Drive, Mathiasen Avenue, Jeter Street, and a section of Church Street.



Reconstructions were completed on sections of Deerfield Lane and Cliffwood Avenue.



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Town Thanks Everyday Heroes Through Lawn Sign Program

Essential workers on the front lines are putting in heroic efforts. This includes healthcare workers, first responders, and the many staff who support them, as well as transit and postal workers, store clerks, pharmacy staff, educators and much more.

In an effort to support the essential employees that work and live in Aberdeen and Matawan, a program was implemented by Adrea Geniton, coordinator of the Cliffwood & Cliffwood Beach Neighborhood Watch Program, and Aberdeen Public Information Officer Brittany Shea. The endeavor was not only uplifting to these essential workers but supported local businesses as well.

The 'Thank An Everyday Hero' program used funds from the sale of lawn signs to provide hot meals, snacks and custom masks to Aberdeen-Matawan first responders, healthcare workers and employees at local grocery stores on a weekly basis. Through late-August, the program sold more than 680 signs and had provided more than 250 masks to essential workers. The signs, which only cost \$15 apiece, are printed by Panther Press on Lower Main Street.

"One of the greatest aspects of our township is that local businesses are always looking to help others," said Shea, who added that in many instances, businesses provided meals to essential workers at low or no cost.

"This program is incredible because it benefits our essential workers while giving business to our local restaurants," she added. "I thank our essential workers and all restaurants who provided food for their dedication to our community."

Local businesses who contributed meals, snacks and money to this program included Blue Rock Cafe, which donated trays of food to the Aberdeen and Matawan Police Departments as well as Aberdeen and Matawan Public Works, and Denino's Pizza Place, which donated pizzas for workers at the Aberdeen Stop & Shop.

If any residents are still interested in ordering a sign, please contact Brittany Shea at Brittany.Shea@aberdeennj.org, or (732) 583-4200, ext. 130.



Healthcare workers, first responders and store clerks were among those getting food and gifts through town's 'Thank An Everyday Hero' program.



Through late-August, more than 680 signs were sold to Aberdeen residents and businesses.



A sampling of some of the snacks and drinks given to first responders

Virtual Tiny Tot Program Provides Fun for Youngest Residents

This summer wasn't completely void of adventure for children around the township, as Aberdeen was able to provide its Tiny Tot & Me program (normally just available during the school year) through a new virtual format.

The program, which is usually held at the George Hausmann Center on Noble Place, provided all participants with the tools to create themed crafts all summer long.

Julie Pena, the program's director and creator, put together four different themed adventures for families to enjoy. The themes focused on nature, the environment, the beach and traveling. Through YouTube videos and pre-packed craft boxes, families were able to create the crafts at their own pace. Some of the adventures and projects included backyard scavenger hunts, the creation of beautiful sea creature bracelets and the building of a 3D fishbowl.

"This program was a way for the township to bring something fun to our kids this summer," said Public Information Officer and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Brittany Shea. "I cannot thank Julie Pena enough for her wonderful vision and dedication to taking this program virtually."

Due to its success, the township hopes to offer this virtual program again starting in October. For more information and updates, visit www.aberdeennj.org.



Tots and their families enjoyed the virtual program.

2020 Leaf Pick-up Schedule & Rules

With Fall under way, it's that time of the year again for the Aberdeen Department of Public Works' scheduled leaf pick-ups.

Please have all leaves piled by your curb by the Sunday evening before the municipal pick-up. Bear in mind that DPW employees will not pick up leaves that have twigs, branches or other yard debris mixed in.

The schedule is:

Cliffwood Beach, Heather Glen, Santa Fe, and Strathmore Sections A,D,F,N & O: Weeks of Oct. 19th, Nov. 9th, Nov. 30th

Cliffwood, High School Area, Heritage Estates, Storyland, Woodbrook and Strathmore Sections W, B, & C: Weeks of Oct. 26th, Nov. 16th, Dec. 7th

Oakshades, Freneau and Strathmore Sections I & J: Weeks of Nov. 2nd, Nov. 23rd, Dec. 14th

Final fall pick-up for all sections will be the week of December 21st.

Be mindful that this is an approximate schedule. The leaf truck will come on your street one day during each of your scheduled weeks. If the truck is delayed because of weather conditions or heavy accumulation of leaves on other streets, it will visit your street the following week.

Bag Your Own' Option: Residents who prefer not to wait for their scheduled leaf pick-up can bring them to the DPW facility on Lenox Road off Cliffwood Avenue, Monday-Saturday, from 7 am - 3 pm. Please do not put anything in the bags but leaves (no twigs, branches, etc.).

Snowstorm Reminders

The Aberdeen Police Department wants to remind residents about the Township's parking rules during snowstorms. All vehicles must be moved from the street prior to the start of the storm. Parking is prohibited on township streets in the Strathmore section, as well as the Heather Glen and Santa Fe Junction developments, until streets are sufficiently plowed.

Alternate side parking rules are in effect during snowfalls on most streets in the Cliffwood, Cliffwood Beach, Oakshades, River Gardens and Freneau/ Woodfield sections, as well as in the areas by the Train Station and High School. If snow falls on an even day, parking is permitted on the odd-numbered side of the street; if snow falls on an odd day, parking is

permitted on the even-numbered side. As noted, certain streets in these areas are subject to full restriction. Check street signs for confirmation.

Unoccupied vehicles in violation of these regulations are subject to a summons and removal by police.

Additionally, owners of any residential lot are responsible for removing all snow and ice from the sidewalk area in front of or bordering the lot within 24 hours of the cessation of any storm or fall of snow or ice. The sidewalk area should be cleared to a width of at least three feet. For non-residential lots, please have snow and ice removed within 12 hours of the cessation of any storm or fall of snow or ice.

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Socially Distanced Summer Concerts Hit High Note with Residents

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“Random Test Reggae Band” was up next on August 11th. For over a decade, the band has been rocking the Jersey Shore with music heavily coated in Caribbean traditions. The August 18 concert featured “Screaming Broccoli,” a four-some that covers the greatest hits of the 90s and beyond. “40 North Country” performed on August 25, playing everything from today’s country hits to the classics.



The beachside shows were held Tuesday evenings at Veterans Memorial Park.

The series finale was scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 26.

“While 2020 has been a difficult year in many ways, Aberdeen Township and our amazing staff did its part in bringing live music to our ears and smiles back to our faces,” said Councilman Arthur Hirsch. “With social distance circles painted on the lawn and a careful eye by our Police Department and Parks Maintenance Crew, Aberdeen’s 2nd annual Summer Concert Series at Veterans Park was a sensational success, with incredible shows in a wonderful outdoor venue.”

Hirsch added: “I want to thank our residents and guests for following the Governor’s Executive order maintaining Social Distancing and proudly wearing masks when appropriate. We also want to thank Brittany Shea for pulling off what some said would be an impossible task. We are excited about what’s in store for next year’s shows.”



This year’s attractions included 40 North, Parrot Beach, The Rat Pack Track Show, Madison Avenue, and Southern Steel, among others.

Aberdeen Launches YouTube Channel

When the pandemic shut down most of the state in March, the township created a YouTube channel to help residents stay connected with their local officials.

The newly-created channel features not only recordings of Township Council meetings and important updates from township officials, but also a virtual bedtime story series read by Mayor Fred Tagliarini, Police Chief Rick Derechailo and other officials and employees.

The channel also includes segments featuring township officials visiting various outdoor dining venues throughout town, as well as important information regarding outdoor dining.

Residents can access the township’s channel at Aberdeen Township NJ on YouTube.

Spray Park Helped Beat Summer Heat

Following state approval to open facilities of its type, Aberdeen’s Spray Park at Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach once again provided relief for children looking for summer fun.

