# The Official Newspaper of Aberdeen Township AberdeenNJ.org



### Township Adopts Municipal Budget with Tax Reduction

For the second year in a row, Aberdeen's Mayor, Council and Manager have passed a budget that reduces the municipal tax levy.

"This year, we are proud to again report that your 2021 municipal taxes will be reduced because the Township is receiving increased revenue from new redevelopment projects in Aberdeen," said Township Manager Bryan Russell. "These projects have taken underutilized and dilapidated industrial sites, and transformed them into thriving new communities that increase municipal tax revenue. Now, we are doing our part, and keeping our promise to return that money to you."

Consequently, the 2021 Aberdeen Municipal Tax Rate will be \$0.513 per \$100.00 of assessed value, a decrease from the 2020 rate of \$0.526 per \$100.00 of assessed value and from the 2019 assessed value rate of \$0.547. Looking at the impact on homes assessed at four price-points:

 Homes assessed at \$200,000 will see their municipal taxes drop to \$1,026 in fiscal 2021 from \$1,053 in fiscal 2020 and \$1,094 in fiscal 2019;

- Homes assessed at \$300,000 will see their municipal taxes decline to \$1,539 in fiscal 2021 from \$1,578 in fiscal 2020 and \$1,641 in fiscal 2019;
- Homes assessed at \$400,000 will see their municipal taxes dip to \$2,052 in fiscal 2021 from \$2,104 in fiscal 2020 and \$2,188 in fiscal 2019, and
- Homes assessed at \$500,000 will see their municipal taxes fall to \$2,565 in fiscal 2021 from \$2,630 in fiscal 2020 and \$2,735 in fiscal 2019.

The municipal tax accounts for 20.32% of residents' total tax bill, with 67.55% coming from the Regional School District, 9.43% from Monmouth County and the balance coming from the municipal library, open space and County Health.

"Despite our efforts with regard to your municipal taxes, it is possible that you may still see an increase in your overall property tax bill," noted Mayor Fred Tagliarini. "If this is the case for you, there are two possibilities: (1) Monmouth County's Tax Board has increased the assessed value of your property through its Assessment Demonstration

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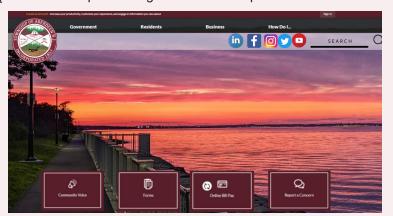
#### A New AberdeenNJ.org to be Launched this Fall

One of the main focuses of new Township Manager Bryan Russell upon coming to Aberdeen in 2020 was to fully revamp the township website. That vision will become reality this fall with the launch of the new **AberdeenNJ.org**. The site is expected to go live around September 25th.

"Municipal websites have become more important than ever in the COVID environment, and we are proud to be completely redesigning the Aberdeen website," explained Russell.

Public Information Officer John Francis Roman pushed for the website to be designed by CIVICPLUS, with an eye toward making the site easy to of use for the average resident. "We are concentrating on a two-click solution for the residents. Website users should be able to find the form they need or the recreational program sign-ups they want within two clicks on our website," he said. "That's what we are concentrating on here at Town Hall; we want something that will be aesthetically pleasing but also easy to navigate."

Russell went on to note that the new website is actually expected to cost the taxpayers less annually. "When all is said and done, the residents will be receiving a brand new, modern website at a net annual savings," he concluded.



Homepage photo by Quin Bond.

### A Word from The Mayor...

#### Dear neighbors,

We are proud to provide you with the latest edition of our municipal newspaper. With the lack of coverage from local newspapers, we feel it is necessary to keep you informed about what's going on in Aberdeen through this publication.

After a very long pause due to the COVID pandemic, I am pleased to say that Aberdeen is completely open, including Town Hall, our Senior Centers, Summer Adventures program, the joint Library, and other municipal programs and facilities.

Of course, during the shutdown, your Council and Administration never stopped working. During the Pandemic we delivered all essential services and continued to serve you, our residents.

On the infrastructure front, at the time this letter is being written, we find ourselves completing and planning many improvement projects on our roads, parks, sewers and water lines—a number of them delayed by contractor labor and materials shortages associated with the pandemic. Rest assured that every Township Department is working at full capacity and is ready to help you. Our Town Manager and Council have a great working relationship and I could not be more pleased with the responsiveness of Town Hall to the needs of our residents and businesses.

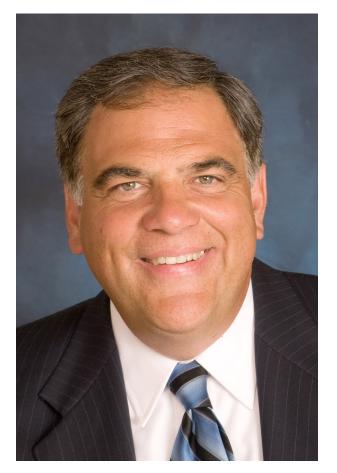
For those of you requiring assistance, please reference the updated Municipal Directory below that includes important phone numbers for township officials and departments, as well as our utility companies, the Public Library, Animal Control, and State of New Jersey Public Service.

Additionally, I can always be reached during business hours on my cell phone: 732-275-7612

In closing, the Council is honored to serve you and is committed to help you with any questions you have.

My best regards,

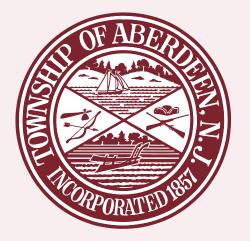
Fred Tagliarini, Mayor





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### Township of Aberdeen Municipal Directory

Police, Fire & Rescue - **Emergencies 9-1-1** Aberdeen non-emergency **Police and Fire 732-566-2054** 

**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL - 732-583-4200** Fred Tagliarini, Mayor, ext. 382 Joseph J. Martucci, Deputy Mayor, ext. 380 Greg Cannon, ext. 385 Arthur Hirsch, ext. 381 Connie Kelley, ext. 386 Margaret Montone, ext. 384 Robert Swindle, ext. 383

#### TOWNSHIP MANAGER - 732-583-4200 Bryan Russell

Catherine Morello, Admin. Asst. ext. 118

#### TOWNSHIP DEPT - 732-583-4200

Township Clerk, ext. 119 Resident Assistance/Mass Transit Secretary, ext. 100 Construction/Zoning Director, ext. 121 Planning, ext. 121 Finance Director, ext. 128 Municipal Court, ext. 128 Municipal Court, ext. 141 Public Works, ext. 400 Public Information, ext. 130 Recreation, ext. 129 Special Events, ext. 129 Tax Assessor, ext. 122 Tax Collector, ext. 137 Service Requests, ext. 100 Recycling Coordinator, ext. 118 Utilities, ext. 288

#### HELPFUL NUMBERS

Animal Control - 732-583-4200, ext. 129 Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library 732-583-9100 Electric Power Outages (JCP&L) 888-544-4877 Gas Leaks (NJ Natural Gas Co.) 800-427-5325 Water (NJ American Water) - 800-652-6987 Call Before You Dig - 811

#### State of NJ Public Service:

211 for community, human services and emergency management/security assistance 511 for traffic and transportation information NJ Poison Control Center 800-764-7661

#### Township of Aberdeen

1 Aberdeen Square Aberdeen, NJ 07747

#### www.aberdeennj.org

### Engineering Evaluations Drive Aberdeen Road Improvement Process

Like all municipalities, Aberdeen Township is fighting a seemingly never-ending battle to maintain its roads against the ceaseless onslaught of the elements, constant usage and other factors.

How and why certain township roads are selected for improvements is a question that has been asked by many residents over the years. The answer: Check the book.

Township officials consult a book containing a thorough list drafted in 2012 by the township engineer who inspected all 72 miles of roads in Aberdeen. He ranked the roads using a pavement condition index, or PCI. The list helps guide the township each year when it makes its road improvement budget.

"Mindful of our budget, every year we essentially select the worst road in each section of Aberdeen to make sure that the tax dollars are spread all over the town," Councilman Greg Cannon explained.

Cannon, who is joined on the Council's Roads Committee by Councilman Arthur Hirsch, said it's important to remember that not all road improvement projects are created equal. Roads that need to be reconstructed typically have a PCI rating under 20. These repairs typically include excavation and pavement reconstruction extending down 14 inches from the roadway; replacement of curbs, sidewalks and driveway aprons; and storm sewer improvements.

Reconstruction projects tend to cost five times as much as milling and overlay repairs.

Roads designated for milling and overlay repairs have been assigned a PCI rating of 20 to 60. This process involves removal (milling) of 2-3 inches of old pavement and then repaving with 2-3 inches of new asphalt.

Cannon said the other factor that is considered in Aberdeen's systematic selection process is that the township paves from the inside to the outside of neighborhoods. "People who live on really bad roads on the outsides of neighborhoods justifiably don't always understand why it seems like we're repaving every-other-road in the

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Full reconstructions of Courtland Lane (pictured here) and Cornell Way were wrapped up this summer.





#### Aberdeen Celebrates Two Long-Time Employees



Cathy Morello and Karen Ventura truly embody what it means to be a good public servant. Both have dedicated their professional lives to Aberdeen, working tirelessly for the betterment of the community.

After more than two decades, Morello and Ventura are retiring, but their commitment to the township and its residents will not soon be forgotten.

Morello, Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager and a 29-year resident, began her career in Aberdeen as a temporary employee of the Building Department in 1998. She was a temp for only six weeks before getting promoted to a full-time position in Planning and Zoning. Morello worked various positions, including in the Sewer and Finance Departments, before becoming Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager in 2012.

"It's funny to think that I came in originally for only six weeks and now I've been here for 23 years," she said. "I've gotten the chance to learn so much from the different departments and am honored to have worked with so many wonderful people."

Morello was appointed to the additional role of Aberdeen's Recycling Coordinator in 2013. As coordinator, she was able to increase tonnage by educating residents, businesses and apartment complexes about the recycling program. She also implemented twice-a-year shredding events, open to township and Monmouth County residents.

"Being coordinator helped me realize the importance of local recycling programs and how we can positively impact the environment through proper recycling," Morello added. "It's been a very rewarding part of my career."

She has worked tirelessly to secure many recycling grants and rebates for the township, the most recent for \$46,000—the largest awarded in township history.

Morello has also played a major role in the Office of Emergency Management and in the organization of many fundraisers, including Thanksgiving turkey and other food drives.

"Cathy is one of the first people you see when you enter the executive offices, and she is so helpful when residents call," noted Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci. "Her passion for Aberdeen is second to none. Whether she is planning Aberdeen Day Events, keeping the Manager on time for his appointments or, most importantly, serving as our Recycling Coordinator, Cathy always gives 100% of herself to complete all tasks. We, on the Council, will miss working with her."

Ventura shares the same passion for Aberdeen as Morello. As Township Clerk for 20 years, she has kept the local government running smoothly by being involved with almost every daily task. Everything from building agendas for council meetings to registering voters, Ventura has always taken pride in being secretary to the governing body.

"There hasn't been a day over the last 20 years that I woke up and didn't want to come to work," she said. "Aberdeen is a warm and friendly community filled with many incredible residents that I've had the pleasure of assisting. I consider myself very lucky."

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#### Meet Aberdeen's New Parks & Rec Director

With the return of the Summer Adventures camp program, reopening of the Senior Center and re-launch of a number of other programs that had been shut down during the pandemic, Keith Heckman has had a busy few months in his new role as Aberdeen's Director of Parks & Recreation.

The 11-year veteran of the Monmouth County Park System assumed the department's leadership role in May from long-time Director James Colabelli, who retired following 23 years of service to the town (see article in Spring 2021 issue of The Aberdeen News).

"As a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), Keith joins us with extensive experience in recreational programming, budgeting, staff management and customer service during his years at Monmouth County's acclaimed Park System," said Township Manager Bryan Russell. "He brings the skillset, leadership qualities and energy to direct a department responsible for maintaining our 16 neighborhood parks and athletic complexes, Senior Center and other facilities, as well as coordinating special events and year-round programming for residents of all ages."

Heckman began his career in 2010 as a Park Ranger in the Monmouth County Parks system before moving into golf administration. He was subsequently elevated to Manager within the golf unit. This was followed by a promotion to Recreation Supervisor in the Visitor Service division, where his responsibilities included supervising department programming, including general recreation, special events and summer camps.

He holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in Corporate & Public Communication from Monmouth University. In addition to the CPRP designation, Heckman is a Certified Pool Operator (CPO) and earned a certificate from

the National Recreation and Park Association's Revenue Development & Management School.

"I'm very excited to have been given this opportunity to lead Aberdeen's Parks & Recreation Department," said Heckman. "Since coming here, I've enjoyed working with our recreation staff, the Administration and the Town Council on initiatives to make our facilities and programming even more in tune with the needs of Aberdeen's residents."



Mayor Fred Tagliarini--who serves on Council's Parks Committee with Councilwomen Connie Kelley and Margaret Montone—added: "We are thrilled to have Keith on board and are confident that he will build upon the strong foundation that Jim Colabelli built. Keith has a lot of great ideas, and we are especially excited about some of his plans for youth programming that will go beyond traditional sports activities to reach those interested in developing their skills in STEM, robotics and other pursuits. We look forward to a long relationship with him."

### Annual Aberdeen Day Returns in September 2021

It's back! Join Mayor Fred Tagliarini, the Township Council, Recreation Department and the Economic Business Council for Aberdeen Day, the annual township-wide celebration, on Saturday, September 18th.

The day-long celebration will once again feature various events at Matawan Regional High School and additional locations around town, most of which will take place outdoors.

"Aberdeen Day is always a wonderful event that brings so much of our community, including residents and local businesses, together for a fun-filled day," said Aberdeen Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Brittany Shea. "We're so glad to be back again for 2021."

In the main event, from noon to 4 p.m., the high school will feature inflatables, pony rides and shows for children, crafts, food, vendor booths and informational displays by local non-profit organizations.

Once again, there will also be a free celebrity athlete autograph signing in the school's gym from 1-3 p.m., featuring two former NY Mets (Mookie Wilson and Howard Johnson), along with heavyweight champion Larry Holmes, heavyweight contender Gerry Cooney, and NY Giants Super Bowl XXL Champ Karl Nelson. The autograph signings are being presented by Quality 1st Basement Systems.

Special business-sponsored events, including entertainment, free food tastings and sidewalk sales will take place at two shopping centers on Routes 34 from late morning to early afternoon. At the Stop & Shop center, DeMarco's Catering, Stop & Shop, Famous Footwear and Smoothie King will present free food, entertainment and special buys on merchandise, while at Aberdeen Town Square, Livoti's will present free food and games.

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, located at 95 Cambridge Drive, will be hosting its 15th Annual Yard Sale, Bake Sale & Snack Shack BBQ from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Star Car Exhibits will be back offering special viewings of the Batmobile, The Mystery Machine and Ghost Busters. Located at 1174 Highway 34, the cars will be on display from 12 to 5 p.m.







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### **Programs Help Aberdeen PD Respond to those with Special Needs**



Detective Lt. Craig Hausmann hands out ices to residents at recent National Night Out event. Hausmann leads the Aberdeen PD's programs to assist people with disabilities.

The Aberdeen Police Department was recently notified that a young child on the higher-functioning end of the autism spectrum has displayed a tendency to approach strangers in the township. Using the **Special Needs Registry**, the child was quickly identified, and police responded to the family's home to speak to the child and the parents.

"The officers were there to support the family as they explained the importance of personal safety and social boundaries to the child," said Detective Lt. Craig Hausmann.

The registry, along with **Project Lifesaver** and **NJ Register Ready**, help the members of the Aberdeen PD to serve those most atrisk in the community.

Three programs that work in different ways help police take a proactive role in keeping residents safe and secure, whether it's a child with autism, a man or woman who cannot walk, or a grandparent with dementia.

Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated by public safety agencies and is strategically designed for "at-risk" individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

NJ Register Ready is New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for disasters. It allows New Jersey residents with disabilities or access/functional needs—or their families, friends, caregivers and associates—an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies so responders can better plan how to serve them in a disaster or other emergency.

Special Needs Registry is a voluntary service open to all residents with disabilities who reside, attend school or are employed in Monmouth County. The registry was created to help police officers and other emergency personnel to better assist residents with special

needs in the event of an emergency. First responders are provided vital information regarding a registrant's disability, emergency contact information, a physical description and current photograph of the registrant.

"The through line for these programs is providing the best possible protections for our at-risk communities through preventative methods," Hausmann explained. "Whether it is a natural disaster, a missing resident with special needs, or an individual with special needs with whom our officers or emergency personnel have come in contact, it is imperative to ensure that our officers have every resource possible to perform their jobs. When incidents such as these arise, every second is crucial. Having prevention and mitigation resources in place is necessary."

The Special Needs Registry, NJ Register Ready and Project Lifesaver have been developed at a time when police are increasingly trained to respond to, say, people on the spectrum, dementia patients, individuals with mental health issues, and other concerns.

Although special training is helping police understand how to best serve the most vulnerable residents, the job has been made more challenging by COVID-19, Hausmann said. The pandemic has made it difficult for some to continue with regular therapy and treatments. In othe cases, consistent routines, which are so vital to many special needs children, have been interrupted.

"The interactions our police officers have with the special needs community (through schools, outreach programs and during calls for service) have helped create a more compassionate mind-set amongst the officers of our department," he said. "The relationships we form with these children when they are younger will allow us to remain connected as they grow into adults with the same challenges."

#### Budget Passes With Reduced Municipal Tax Rate Continued from Page 1

Program; or (2) the other components of your bill from the other local taxing districts (school district, county, etc.) have increased."

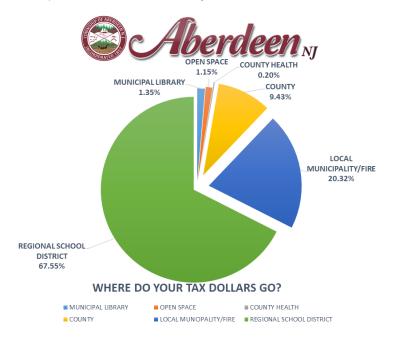
In 2013, the Monmouth County Tax Board – with state legislators representing Aberdeen and nearby towns– adopted a new law requiring all properties within the county to be re-assessed on an annual basis. Previously, properties were assessed only once per decade. All other property owners in New Jersey, except for Somerset County residents, are still assessed on a ten-year basis.

"This means that, in Monmouth County, the Assessor is required to reassess your property every year. If several of your neighbors have recently sold their homes for more than the assessed value, the Assessor is required to increase your assessed value based upon those sales, and this may also increase your tax bill," explained Councilman Greg Cannon. "As a result, regardless of what your local elected officials budget or cut, residents of Aberdeen and other Monmouth County towns may see a tax increase due to the County Tax Board's continuing Assessment Demonstration Program."

Although the Township lacks jurisdiction to change the state laws that treat Monmouth County taxpayers differently than other New Jersey residents, Aberdeen Council members have been in touch with state legislators in an effort to obtain relief for residents from the volatility of this county-wide program.

"In the meantime, while we cannot control how the County Tax Board changes your individual assessment, the Township will continue to do its part to control municipal property taxes.," Mayor Tagliarini said. "With new revenues received, we will continue to return them to you in the form of property tax relief, and we will continue to reinvest them into the physical infrastructure of our town, such as streets, parks, and facilities."

Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci added: "It is our commitment that every tax dollar spent in Aberdeen will result in a visible or tangible improvement to the municipal services you receive and/ or the public facilities available to you as an Aberdeen resident."



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### Aberdeen Again Rewarded for Recycling Efforts

Aberdeen continues to excel in its recycling endeavors. This year, the township received its highest annual grant to date, \$46,715, through the New Jersey State Recycling Enhancement Act. The grant correlates to the tonnage recycled in the last year.

"The grant money is used to invest in community efforts that encourage recycling and other sound environmental practices," said Aberdeen Recycling Coordinator Cathy Morello.

Previous grants funded the purchases of recycling pails, reusable shopping bags, and recyclable school supplies; sponsorship of shredding events; and educational endeavors to promote recycling.

"This latest grant further demonstrates how Aberdeen residents are stepping up to the plate and complying with our recycling program," said Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci. "For those of us on the Council, it's a great feeling to drive down the street on Wednesday mornings and see those recycling pails lined up."

Meanwhile, Aberdeen was also just recognized by the developers of the Recycle Coach Web App as one of just 15 municipalities in New Jersey to properly implement a series of practices designed to promote the informational website to residents.

The handy app provides homeowners with updates and reminders about garbage and recycling days, along with detailed advice on what items need to be recycled. The 15 municipalities who implemented these practices saw an average increase of 605% mobile Users in February 2021 from February 2020, Recycle Coach reported.

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.

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Section I is comprised of Cliffwood Beach, Cliffwood, River Gardens, Oakshades, Freneau, and Heritage Estates. Section II includes Strathmore, the 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.

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.

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### Aberdeen Fire Co. Donates Truck to Alabama Town; Celebrates New Engine

Firefighters in Aberdeen are accustomed to responding when the call goes out for help, so it was no surprise that they reached out to a fire department in Alabama that was devastated by a tornado in March.



Members of the Aberdeen Township Fire District 2 Board of Fire Commissioners, along with Officers of the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Company, have donated a firetruck to the County Line Volunteer Fire Company in Wadley, Alabama.

The 1996 KME fire truck was being taken out of service by Fire District 2, which was getting ready to receive a new Pierce fire engine in May. The donation came at a time when Clay County was still recovering from tornadoes that carved a path of destruction across east-central Alabama.

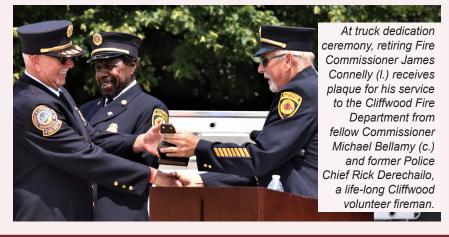
The County Line Volunteer Fire Company's fire station was demolished when it was hit March 25 by a F-2 tornado. Only a small portion of the building was left standing in the wake of the storm. A pumper truck, tanker truck and first responder vehicle were damaged and taken out of service.

On April 25, District 2 Commissioners Michael Bellamy, Tom DeGiglio and

James Black, along with Chief Joseph Raymond Jr. and Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Company President Carmine Caruso presented the firetruck to Chief Robert Bowers of the Coker, Alabama Volunteer Fire Company and Chief Travis Strickland of Shinbone Valley Volunteer Fire Company in Linville, Alabama. They accepted the truck on behalf of Chief Greg Mask of the County Line Volunteer Fire Company.

Aberdeen's generosity has helped the County Line Volunteer Fire Company get back on its feet. More than 100 volunteers from the community have helped rebuild the fire station, and other companies from across the country have donated other equipment.

"We couldn't be prouder of our commissioners and officers for taking the initiative to help their brothers in Alabama at a time of great need," said Aberdeen Councilman and Cliffwood resident Robert Swindle. "Day-in and day-out, the dedicated volunteers from both of our fire companies unselfishly meet the call for our residents. It's equally gratifying to see the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Company go the extra mile to aid in the recovery in this devastated part of Alabama."



### Aberdeen Celebrates Two Long-Time Employees

Ventura holds more certifications than the average Registered Municipal Clerk, such as Certified Municipal Clerk and Certified Municipal Registrar. Her responsibilities as clerk include drafting township ordinances, resolutions and contracts, keeping township records and assisting with the planning of the municipal budget.

"I have always done what I have to do for the residents and consider every project I'm involved with, no matter the size, to be important," she said.

Ventura also oversees the township's Health Department, assisting residents with dog and cat licensing along with setting up flu shot and rabies vaccination clinics.

"During my tenure as Mayor, I could never thank Karen enough for all her help, guidance and advice. She was a true 24/7 employee," said Mayor Fred Tagliarini. "Her pleasant demeanor, professionalism and helpfulness with residents was Continued from Page 4

extraordinary. She will be missed."

While Morello and Ventura have slightly different plans after retirement, they both hope to catch up on some much-needed relaxation and time with their families.

Morello plans to remain in Aberdeen and become involved in local charities that are close to her and her family, like The Wounded Warrior Project and ones hoping to find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis.

Ventura will be relocating to South Carolina where she hopes to play as much golf as possible but spend even more time with her four grandchildren.

"Karen and Cathy are institutions to Aberdeen Township and their shoes will be hard to fill," said Township Manager Bryan Russell. "I cannot thank them enough for all the help they gave me and the dedication they gave to this township over their many years of service. They will be greatly missed."

### Fall Leaf Pick-Up Schedule

Once again, Aberdeen's Public Works Department will be picking up leaves in all residential areas throughout the fall. Leaves must be raked to the curb for pick-up according to the following approximate schedule:

Heather Glen, Santa Fe and Strathmore Sections A, N, D, C & B: Weeks of Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th

High School area, Oakshades, and Strathmore Sections I & J: Weeks of Oct. 25th, Nov. 22nd

Cliffwood, Cliffwood Beach and Aberdeen Road: Weeks of Nov. 1st, Nov. 29th

Woodbrook, Randall Way, Freneau and Strathmore Sections W, F & O: Weeks of Nov. 8th, Dec. 6th

Final fall pick-up for all sections: Dec. 13th

### Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Return

It was a beautiful evening for the annual Independence Day Celebration on July 9, despite rain threatening to cancel the show for the second time.

After the first cancellation on July 2 due to threats of thunderstorms that never showed up, the Aberdeen Township staff stood at Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach just an hour after Tropical Storm Elsa ripped through the area, leaving plenty of flooding behind. Thanks to the dedication of the staff working all day to prepare the park, hundreds of residents enjoyed the night's festivities. The celebration included activities for children such as multiple bounce houses, a balloon artist and face painters, along with various food vendors and music by DJ Sway J.

"It was a beautiful evening that went off nearly without a hitch," said Public Information Officer John Francis Roman. "After flooding from Tropical Storm Elsa threatened its cancelation, township staff really pulled together to host the celebration. The very successful evening celebration was a true testament to their dedication, and it's only going to get better next year."



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### NJMVC Mobile Unit a Welcome Service for Residents

More than 120 Aberdeen residents took advantage of the opportunity to renew their driver's licenses and vehicle registrations, as well as avail themselves of other New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) services right here in town this summer when the agency's mobile unit came to Town Hall. And the mobile unit will be back for another four-hour visit on September 15th.

The NJMVC trailer pulled into Town Hall's parking lot for four-hour sessions on June 21st and July 1st. In addition to renewing licenses or registrations, residents were able to obtain a Real ID, handicap placards, and non-driver IDs, as well as drop-off license plates. With limited spots available, residents are required to register in advance for all services with the exception of license plate drop-offs.

"The first two appearances were a great success, with residents really appreciating the convenience this offered," said Aberdeen Public Information Officer John Francis Roman. "We look forward to partnering once again with the NJMVC this coming fall."

Details on the September appearance, including online registration instructions, are available on Aberdeen's website, Facebook page and notification systems. Seniors and others without internet access can register by calling Town Hall at (732) 583-4200, ext. 130.





Aberdeen residents were able to renew licenses or registrations, obtain a Real ID, handicap placards, and non-driver IDs, as well as drop-off license plates



### Ross Field Makeover is Latest in Cliffwood Beach Rec Facility Upgrades

Continuing the series of improvements and new additions to recreational facilities in the Cliffwood Beach section, a major makeover of Ross Field is scheduled to get under way this fall.

At a recent Parks Committee meeting, Mayor Fred Tagliarini said, "Over the last several years, Cliffwood Beach has seen the reconstruction of the Seawall along Raritan Bay into a picturesque walking trail and fishing spot; the complete reconstruction and reimagination of Veterans Memorial Park, including the addition of our very popular Spray Park; and the refurbishing of Overlook Park."

He went on to note that the transformation of Veterans Memorial Park into a beachside destination, has made Cliffwood Beach the regular home for Aberdeen's annual Independence Day Celebration and Tuesday Night Summer Concerts.

"In the wake of those endeavors," Councilwoman Margaret Montone said, "now it's time to turn to our attention to carrying out important updates at Ross Field."

Under the plans, she related, this major project will include a fully reconstructed basketball court, new playscapes, new ADA sidewalks leading to the play area, new benches and picnic tables, and drainage improvements to the area between the basketball court and Cliffwood Avenue.

Singling out the playground plans, Councilwoman Connie Kelley added: "As we've seen from residents' reactions to what was accomplished at Veterans and Overlook parks, reimagined playgrounds are great investment for our children. The new playscapes at Ross will provide hours of fun for neighborhood kids, as well as families visiting the park for soccer or baseball games."

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### Annual Summer Concert Series Draws Crowds at Veterans Memorial Park

There is nothing like a Tuesday night at Veterans Memorial Park during the summer. Good music, food and company is what the township's Summer Concert Series is all about.

Shows took place each Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the park, located in Aberdeen's Cliffwood Beach section, featuring a variety of popular returning acts and newcomers.

"Residents and even fans from neighboring towns look forward to this series every year and it's very nice to see everyone enjoying the sense of community that it brings," said Aberdeen Director of Parks and Recreation Keith Heckman. "People love being out with their community and that's evident by the crowds getting larger for each show."

The shows drew crowds of more than 200 people at times, with attendees also enjoying fare from local establishments like Alternate Ending Beer Co. and food trucks such as Fatty's Fat Snacks.

After rain delayed the original start of July 6, the beachside concert series kicked off July 13 with local band "Madison Avenue," a returning favorite from last year.

"Arena" was up next on July 20, showcasing the tunes of great rock performers, including Boston, Journey, Pat Benatar, and Guns N' Roses. This 80s cover band was a huge hit amongst the crowd.

The jam-packed lineup continued on July 27 with "Tequila Rose," a local country band that immediately became a new series favorite. The township has hopes to have this band as a regular performer in the series, according to Heckman.

Scheduled acts for August included series newcomer "Good Vibrations," a popular 60s cover band with performances of songs by the Beach Boys and Four Seasons; as well as crowd-favorite returning acts "Random Test Reggae," which rocks the house with their authentic reggae; "Southern Steel," a classic rock band that performs songs by the Allman Bros, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet and many more; and "Screaming Broccoli," covering the greatest hits of the 90s and beyond.

Heckman added that residents should expect an even bigger series next year, with planning already in the beginning stages to bring back some crowd favorites.









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#### Aberdeen Day Returns Continued from Page 5

Attendees also won't want to miss the return of "Aberdeen's Got Talent," from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Aberdeen Town Square. Entertainment will also be provided on Route 34 at Alternate Ending Beer Co. and The Court Jester A variety of activities, including kayaking, are also being planned at Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach. As this issue went to press, additional business-sponsored activities were being finalized for various sites in town.

Free trolley service will once again be offered between venues from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Thank you to Aberdeen Day's Title Sponsors: Buhler Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Aberdeen Town Square Shopping Center, Dunkin Donuts, PMC Associates, Basser Kaufman Inc., Kobe Sushi & Hibachi Japanese LLC, and Airplay. Buhler is also among this year's banner sponsors, joined by Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Denino's Pizza Place, Hometown Residential Realty, Matawan-Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, ProFysio Physical Therapy, Rich Tree Service, Smoothie King, Sobel Han & Cannon, and V&F Auto Body.

For more details and a full schedule of events, visit www. aberdeennj.org or visit www.Facebook.com/AberdeenTWP. Residents can also opt-in for text message updates by sending ABERDEEN to 888777.

#### New in Town...



Members of the Aberdeen Township Council and administration were on hand for the grand opening of My CBD Organics in the Stop & Shop-anchored Colonial Plaza enter on Route 34. Cutting the ribbon are (I. to r.): Councilwomen Connie Kelley and Margaret Montone, My CBD franchisees Brian Judy and Desiree Uebele, Mayor Fred Tagliarini, My CBD North-East Regional Manager Giovanni Paul, Councilman Arthur Hirsch, and Township Manager Bryan Russell. The spa-like shop features premium Cannabidiol wellness and beauty products.

#### Road Improvement Process Continued from Page 3

neighborhood but theirs," he said. "But the interior streets need to be done first so that you're not driving 12-ton equipment back over the new roads to get into the middle of the neighborhood. So, it's not strictly on condition."

Hirsch points out that the only other circumstance that will cause any skipping around on the PCI list is if certain utility work is being planned. "For instance, if some water mains or pipes are going to be replaced by New Jersey American Water, this project presents an excellent opportunity for us to work on that road," he explained.

And while there is a methodical plan in place, the township can't always account for the occasional curveball. For instance, when it came time for road improvements in the Strathmore section, Hirsch noted that the original developer laid concrete under all of the Strathmore neighborhood streets. Since the concrete was poured before 1967 and could contain PCBs, the township has to go to great expense to dispose of it.

Setbacks like these aside, 100% road improvement is the ultimate goal. "This Mayor and Council's vision, and what they've always strived for, is that every road in town will ultimately be redone through either reconstruction or milling and overlay," Township Manager Bryan Russell said. "We are well on our way to accomplishing that."

### **Road Projects Update**

As this issue of The Aberdeen News was going to press, Township Manager Bryan Russell provided an update on the status of current road improvement projects.

- The water main replacement and mill-and-pave of Atlantic Avenue in front of Matawan Regional High School was completed by mid-summer.
- Reconstructions of Cornell Way and Courtland Lane were also wrapped up in mid-summer.
- The final phases of the multi-year, mill-and-pave projects on Cliffwood Avenue and County Road are on schedule to be completed this year. Paving of the last section of County Road was being delayed until around

mid-September due to the need to wait for trench work to settle so as to avoid cracking of the resurfaced roadway. Both of these 'end-to-end' projects were funded with NJ Department of Transportation grants.

- The design phase is being completed on four mill-and-pave projects in the Oakshades section that were part of the Township's 2021 road program. These projects on Gaston Street, Gerard Avenue, Sunnybrook Place and Highfield Avenue were scheduled to go to bid by mid-August.
- Full reconstructions of four aging roads in Strathmore will also be designed this year. The streets on tap for reconstruction in early 2022 are Autumn Lane, Ardmore Lane, Asbury Lane and Iona Place.