MAYOR'S MESSAGE *April 3, 2025*

I begin this week's message with words of thanks for the individuals who attended this year's Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park on March 29 – especially each of the veterans who were with us that day. It is an esteem privilege for me to host that important ceremony each year and to help honor the men and women who served in the United States military during such a long and challenging war. As I indicated on Saturday, our Vietnam veterans are true patriots who deserve our respect; and I hope everyone reading this message will make it a point to show kindness and gratitude to all of our nation's veterans.

There are several upcoming events that are worth mentioning, including the Sea Isle City Environmental Commission's annual Spring Beach Clean-up on Saturday, April 12, when volunteers will gather trash and debris from our beaches, dunes and public parks. In addition to helping beautify our shoreline, beach clean-up events also serve as fact-finding missions that help identify possible pollution trends in our state – so please give an hour or two of your time on April 12 if you can!

The 2025 spring season is already flying by – but fortunately the temperatures and weather conditions seem to be improving just as quickly as the days are passing. Because Sea Isle is a "City for all Seasons," we expect more and more people to be in town each week as the summer rapidly approaches – including when schools are out for spring break and when families are celebrating Easter and Passover.

One of our most enjoyable springtime events is the Tourism Office's annual Spring Fling Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 19, at Excursion Park, where children and their loved ones can enjoy photo-ops with the Easter Bunny and a variety of seasonal games and activities that are sure to please. To learn more about our Spring Fling, see the special section in this week's newsletter or phone one of our friendly employees at the Welcome Center at 609-263-8687.

Another event that many folks look forward to each spring is the Chamber of Commerce's Girls Weekend, which takes place on April 25, 26 and 27. As is the case each year, Girls Weekend is an ideal time to take advantage of discounts and special offers at participating businesses throughout Sea Isle City – so mark your calendars now and don't miss Girls Weekend (even if you're a guy)!

If you have driven past our future Community Center recently, you know that the building's exterior walls are quickly taking shape, and you can plainly see where windows will soon be installed. The excitement around this very important project is growing with each passing week – and I, for one, can't wait until the fall, when we host a grand opening celebration and welcome people into what I am certain will be a very important gathering space for many decades to come. In the meantime, I want to once again thank everyone for their patience as construction continues, especially the nearby neighbors who have been very understanding while trucks have delivered materials and contractors have made noise. –Thank you all!

Summer will be here before we know it, and now is a great time to determine what community events and activities you would like to attend this year. In addition to the abundance of information you can find at www.VisitSICNJ.com, our 2025 Reference Guide (aka: "annual brochure") is now available at the Welcome Center and other locations around town – and it is also being mailed to all Sea Isle City taxpayers. So, take a look at the many enjoyable entertainment options that are coming your way, and get ready for another wonderful summer at your favorite island by the sea!

Smile…You're in Sea Isle!

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

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