MAYOR'S MESSAGE: *July 14, 2022*

This year, we had a tremendous July Fourth weekend in Sea Isle City. Our town was bustling, and there were plenty of happy people everywhere you turned – many of whom enjoyed the long-weekend's Saturday night concert and Family Fun Night on Monday evening at Excursion Park.

On Independence Day morning, more than 600 children participated in Sea Isle City's 2022 Junior Olympics competition at Dealy Field, which was sponsored by the City's Recreation Office and hosted by a small army of volunteers from the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City. I want to express my thanks and best wishes to all of the Yacht Club members who made the Junior Olympics a reality. We could not hold this event without the hard work and enthusiasm that is displayed by the Yacht Club volunteers each July Fourth – and we should all be very grateful for their efforts!

As you no doubt are aware, this year's July Fourth fireworks show was less entertaining than we hoped it would be. Apparently, some of the pyrotechnics that were supposed to explode up in the air detonated on the barge's deck. The good news is that no one was injured on the barge or the tug boat that was keeping the barge in place – and for that we are very thankful.

Knowing that many people were disappointed with this year's fireworks display, we are currently working with the Fireworks vendor to get a credit for the portion of the show that we did not get to enjoy on Independence Day. One way or another, we can all look forward to fireworks displays in the future that will make everyone say "ooh" and "aah" – and we should never forget that there are always more good times to come in Sea Isle City!

During this week's City Council meeting, Council approved a resolution that clarified the individual firefighters who will be members of our Fire Department's Duty Crew. As you probably know, our Duty Crew will be standing-by at the firehouse at specific times of the week and will be ready to respond the moment the fire whistle sounds. I want to thank each of our Duty Crew members and all of the firefighters at Sea Isle City's Volunteer Fire Department, who make this town a safer place for us all.

In other news, I am very happy to report that our 2022 summer events and activities are going very well. Our City-sponsored concerts, movies and family fun nights are bringing big crowds to Excursion Park each week, and all of our recreation facilities are teeming with people every day. Furthermore, the Beachcomber Tours have delighted many families so far this summer, the Chamber of Commerce's Farmers Market is attracting hundreds and hundreds of people to Excursion Park each Tuesday morning, and the Chamber's Open Mic Night is doing a great job entertaining teenagers each Thursday night. So, it's safe to say that the summer of 2022 is turning out to be fantastic!

If you were in Sea Isle's south-end earlier today, I hope you had the chance to enjoy the Philadelphia Flyers 2022 Community Caravan, which paraded through a big portion of Townsends Inlet. The caravan included Gritty, the Flyers' fun-loving, big-eyed mascot, and other orange-clad participants, who filled

the air with music and put smiles on many faces. My thanks go to the Flyers organization for once again including Sea Isle City in their summer event schedule – we look forward to having them back in town again soon!

This year, the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol has the pleasure of hosting the 2022 Tri-Resort Lifeguard Races on the 44th Street Beach, where an amazing amount of athletic prowess will be on display on Sunday, July 17, starting at 6:30 PM. Lifeguard races are always exciting to watch, so please come-out and cheer-on our Beach Patrol's top-notch athletes as they compete against other shore communities on Sunday night!

Even though the summer of 2022 is still underway, we are already looking ahead to next summer – and specifically what our 2023 beach tags will look like. As you can imagine, each year we painstakingly choose from a variety of different design options for our annual beach tags. This year, however, we decided to tap into a new source of creativity that we feel will likely make our 2023 tags our most memorable to date – and that source is "children."

Earlier this week, we launched a Beach Tag Art Contest for kids that is open to any child who wants to submit an entry in one of our four categories of beach tags. That being said, if you know a child who enjoys drawing, they are welcome to enter our contest, which runs until August 31. Details about this new competition can be found in a special section of this newsletter or on the "Beach Tag" page at www.seaislecitynj.us. I am looking forward to revealing the winning artwork during a City Council meeting in the fall – and in the meantime, I encourage any child who wants to submit a design in this competition to sharpen their crayons or colored pencils and to give it their best effort.

Smile…You're in Sea Isle,



Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

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