MAYOR'S MESSAGE *August 8, 2024*

Earlier this week, Sea Isle City's Shooting Stars basketball program for special needs youngsters concluded another successful season. In addition to being organized by the Recreation Office, hosted by a small army of volunteers, and sponsored by local businesses and several kind-hearted families, those who participated in this year's Shooting Stars clinics also received an amazing amount of support from several local civic clubs and organizations – including VFW Post 1963, the Women's Civic Club, the Italian American Club, the Chamber of Commerce & Revitalization, and our Beach Patrol.

In addition to thanking the members of these wonderful organizations, who showered our Shooting Stars players with kindness, snacks and other thoughtful gestures, I also want to thank local property owner Mary Shields, who once again served as the event's head coach and top cheerleader. I am also very grateful for the many "white shirt" volunteers who donated their time to this event each week, and to Sea Isle's Recreation staff for making this heartwarming summer program a reality. –Thank you all!

While I am expressing my gratitude, I also want to thank Sea Isle City's Police Officers, EMT's, Firefighters and Lifeguards for doing a great job representing our City during Tuesday evening's National Night Out gathering at Excursion Park, where hundreds of children and their families enjoyed free food, gifts and activities while interacting with our first responders. My thanks also go to the local businesses and organizations that donated funds or supported the event in other ways, including Alladin Beach Brew & Ice Cream, Bubba Dogs Hot Dogs, the Cape May County Sheriff's Office and SWAT Team, the Coalition Against Rape & Abuse, Cooper Hospital Trauma Center, Crest Savings Bank, Freda Real Estate, James' Fudge, La Finestra Restaurant, O'Donnell's Pour House/Ocean Drive, Rita's Water Ice, the Sea Isle City Chamber of Commerce, and Uncle Oogies Pizzeria.

Even though August has arrived, there is still plenty of "summertime" left for everyone to enjoy – and plenty of fun summer events! If you're looking for some things to do, the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol's annual Captain Bill Gallagher 10-Mile Island Run takes place on Saturday night; Saint Joseph Church's annual "Wedding of the Sea" Ocean Blessing and Festival is scheduled for Thursday, August 15; and there will be a Philadelphia Phillies "Down the Shore Shimmy" at Excursion Park on Tuesday, August 20. There are also many other events coming your way between now and Labor Day – including Sea Isle's weekly Beachcomber Guided Tours, Family Fun Nights, Farmers Market, and Movies Under the Stars.

In addition to these popular attractions, don't miss this month's Concerts Under the Stars at Excursion Park, where an array of tribute bands are scheduled to perform each Saturday night. This weekend, "Frontiers" will spotlight the music of Journey; Jimmy Buffet fans won't want to miss "Parrot Beach" on August 17; Elton John's music will be performed when "Yellow Brick Road" takes the stage on August 24; and "Stevie Mac" will round-out our summer concert series with a tribute to Fleetwood Mac on August 31.

To learn more about these and the many other events and activities you'll find in Sea Isle City, please go to www.VisitSICNJ.com or phone our Tourism Office at 609-263-4461.

This week's "Shout Out" goes to the members of Sea Isle City's Police Department, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Volunteer Fire Department and Beach Patrol. --Thank you all for keeping us safe during the busy summer season and throughout the year!

Smile…You're in Sea Isle!

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio