MAYOR'S MESSAGE *May 6, 2021*

During last week's City Council meeting, I announced that we are moving ahead with our plans for this year's Independence Day Fireworks Show, which will take place on Sunday, July 4th, at 9:00 p.m. The fireworks will once again be launched from an ocean barge near the 50th Street beach, and they will cap-off what I predict will be Sea Isle City's best Independence Day to date!

As you may have heard, earlier this week Governor Murphy announced that as of May 7 he was easing the restrictions on outside gatherings from 250 people to 500 people, and he plans to remove all outdoor gathering limits as of May 19 – however those attending outdoor events will still need to practice social distancing and remain six-feet apart from other groups.

Obviously, this is very good news for the entire Garden State and it is also good news for the many people who were disappointed that we had to cancel Sea Isle City's 2020 "Saturday Night Concerts Under the Stars," because now we are able to host this year's summer concert series at the Excursion Park Band Shell as we hoped! That being said, I have asked the City's Tourism Office to ensure that the popular tribute bands we reserved for the 2021 concert series will be ready to perform on Saturday evenings this summer – so get ready to sing and dance to the sounds of Motown, Elton John, Elvis, Neil Diamond and other popular musicians. As this year's concert dates approach, we will keep everyone informed of current social distancing requirements, so as many people as possible can safely enjoy this summer's line-up of performances. In the meantime, go to www.VISITSICNJ.com or phone the Tourism Office for information about this summer's concert schedule.

According to the Governor, the easing of crowd size restrictions is the result of COVID-19 numbers trending in the right direction and our State's vaccination goals being within reach. However, I remind everyone that we must all continue to do the right thing by following all CDC guidelines regarding facemasks and social distancing, and I encourage those who have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine to please do so as soon as you can.

The Chamber of Commerce will host their annual City-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and I am told that more than seventy local properties will be participating – which no doubt means there will be many wonderful "finds" waiting for bargain hunters all over Sea Isle City. Also, please mark your calendars now for our Community Shredding Event, which takes place on Saturday, May 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Welcome Center's parking lot. The Shredding Event is being sponsored by 1st Bank of Sea Isle City – and it's a great opportunity to rid your home of unwanted documents and sensitive paperwork.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who attended Saturday's grand opening of Sea Isle City's newest recreation facility, the Jim Iannone Fishing Pier and Kayak Launch at Dealy Field. It was such a pleasure to see so many people gathered in Commissioner Iannone's memory – and to officially open that beautiful pier, which will be enjoyed for years to come by anglers, bird watchers, kayakers and anyone who wants to take-in the beauty of Sea Isle City's wetlands and bay.

Smile…You're in Sea Isle!

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

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