MAYOR'S MESSAGE *January 28, 2021*

Amid the cold winter weather we have been experiencing, here is a thought I hope will warm your heart: "Summer will be here before we know it!"

Realizing that many of us are looking forward to the approaching summer season and spending leisurely time on the beach, we have begun to sell 2021 seasonal beach tags, which are now available at the pre-season rate of $20 each. Beach tags are on sale at the Welcome Center and at our Beach Tag Vending Machine in the lobby of City Hall, and you can learn more about Sea Isle City's beach tags by visiting our website, www.seaislecitynj.us, by phoning the Welcome Center at 609-263-8687, or by reading the special "Beach Tag" section of this newsletter.

It's that time of year when green-clad, badge-wearing young ladies usually knock on doors with order forms in hand, selling beloved Girl Scout cookies. As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of life as we know it – and that includes how Girls Scouts will be selling their cookies this year. Therefore, to attract attention to this worthy cause, for the next several weeks local Girl Scout Troop 41012 will be selling cookies outside of the Sea Isle City Welcome Center on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We applaud the Girl Scouts and their troop leaders for maintaining focus on their goals – and for staying safe, all the while getting cookies in the hands of everyone who looks forward to their annual sale.

Traditionally, President's Day Weekend is a fantastic time to be in Sea Isle City – and this year will certainly be no exception! Many local businesses will be open and ready to serve customers throughout the long holiday weekend, February 12 to 15, and a number of businesses will be offering discounts and special offers that you won't want to miss. So, even though things might look a little different this year, plan on spending President's Weekend – and Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14 – in Sea Isle City!

As we have mentioned before, during the autumn, winter and springtime we strive to complete as many municipal construction projects as possible, because we realize that the summer is precious to many people. One project that I am happy to mention has begun is the dredging of several of our bayside lagoons, which will result in deeper channels that are easier to navigate. Dredging has begun near the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City and will continue on to other areas in the weeks ahead. Even though there is a minimal amount of boat traffic during this time of year, I remind all boaters to be aware of the dredging work that is currently underway along Sea Isle's inland waterways.

Since we are in the middle of winter – and a pandemic – I encourage anyone who has an elderly or special-needs neighbor to give them a call and ensure that they are doing well. If you are concerned that there is a problem and would like the Sea Isle City Police Department to conduct a "Check Well Being" call at your neighbor's home, please phone the SICPD's office line at 609-263-4311 and someone will assist you. Remember, we are all in this together!

And speaking of our police department, don't forget that our officers maintain a medication "Drop Box" in the lobby of City Hall, where you can dispose of unwanted prescription medications at any time of the day or night. Placing medications in the drop box will ensure that they are disposed of safely and properly – and that they won't fall into the wrong hands. The SICPD reminds everyone that "a secure medicine cabinet is a safe medicine cabinet," so please make regular use of our Drop Box throughout the year.

I realize that the COVID-19 vaccination process is not moving along as swiftly as we would all like, but I respectfully ask everyone who has not yet received an inoculation to please be patient. Keep in mind that getting an entire nation vaccinated is a daunting task that requires an amazing amount of coordination and effort. That being said, I can't stress enough how important it is for everyone to be vaccinated, so please hang in there – and please continue to wear face masks and practice social distancing at all times. If we all do the right thing, we will cross the finish line together and be stronger than ever!

Smile…You're in Sea Isle!



Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

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