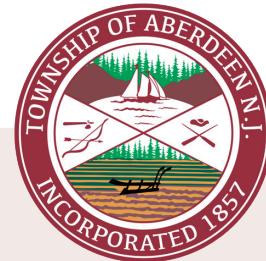


Aberdeen News



Senior residents enjoyed a bus trip to Spring Lake for a St. Patrick's Day show.



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Parks & Rec Dept. Expands Programming, Communications

The township's Parks and Recreation Department is growing to support exciting new programming for residents of all ages and the expansion of annual events.

The digital surge during the pandemic caused a shift in the department to implement an online registration process and launch a department-specific Facebook page to better connect with residents.

"Online registration has really become the driving force that connects residents with the recreation department," said Recreation Director Keith Heckman. "It allows residents access to our programs right at their fingertips and eliminates an unnecessary trip to Town Hall."

This new registration process signifies an important stage of growth for the department and allows 24/7 access as it looks ahead to a full schedule of programming for the spring and summer seasons.

"The Township Council could not be more pleased with the direction the recreation programs are heading," said Mayor Fred Tagliarini, who serves on the Council's Parks & Recreation Committee with Deputy Mayor Connie Kelley

and Councilwoman Margaret Montone. "We always had outstanding senior and youth programs, but now Keith and his team are expanding our family programming. You can also look for more Open Gym Nights and new creative programs. I am looking forward to seeing all of our residents at our events."

Upcoming Spring highlights include: Adult Yoga, Thursdays in April and May starting on April 7, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the township's Senior Center at Hudson Ridge; Teen Paint Night on May 12, from 7-9 p.m., for ages 13-18 at the Fiorendo Sigismondi Community Center in Cliffwood Beach; a Paint and Snack for adults, on May 27 from 6-9 p.m. at the Community Center; and Dodgeball for ages 7-12 from May 29 to June 19 at Veterans Memorial Parks. To see a full list, please visit www.aberdeennj.org/273/Recreation or check out Aberdeen Township Recreation Department on Facebook.

A recent highlight was the very-successful Leprechaun Lookout, a new program created for Saint Patrick's Day to get residents out to visit Aberdeen's parks. Families were given a sheet of clues to find Finnegan the leprechaun

Continued on Page 6

Aberdeen, Matawan Combine Building and Zoning Departments

Aberdeen Township and Matawan Borough have combined their building and zoning departments into a single entity, resulting in a streamlined operation that will save residents of both municipalities money and time. The consolidation is a continuation of Aberdeen's efforts to share services with Matawan and other nearby towns.

Under the agreement, Aberdeen will serve as the combined department's lead agency, which will be headquartered at the township's municipal building at 1 Aberdeen Square. The new combined department will oversee construction and zoning for both municipalities. While each previously had a part-time building department, the consolidation creates a single, full-time entity operating under one roof. Many of the part-time employees previously worked for both towns, splitting their time between the Aberdeen and Matawan offices.

Residents and business owners in both towns should see an increase in efficiency for new construction projects, as well as renovations and other improvements to existing buildings.

"This shared service agreement will make the combined Aberdeen-Matawan Construction Office more accessible and resourceful to all Aberdeen and Matawan residents and businesses, while saving the taxpayers money," said Aberdeen Councilman Greg Cannon. "This is good government. This is what the residents elected us to do."

As the lead agency, the township will collect filing fees paid by builders and contractors, while also being responsible for operating costs of the department. Fee revenue is expected to exceed operating expenses, and Matawan will receive a percentage of the net revenue.

Continued on Page 3

Municipal News

A Word from The Mayor...

Hello neighbors,

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2022. We are proud of this publication because it is our way to inform you what is happening in Town Hall.

In our efforts to address important quality-of-life issues, the Town Council's Roads Committee as well as the Parks and Rec Committee remain busy working on the ongoing improvements to Aberdeen's infrastructure. Stories on the latest projects on those fronts can be found in this issue. We also highly recommend that you read the cover feature story on the many new and innovative programs for residents of all ages implemented by our Recreation Department under the direction of Keith Heckman and his team.

As I said in my January reorganization meeting comments, our Police Department, under the direction of Acting Chief Matt Lloyd, is an outstanding, highly-qualified and well-trained unit. In this issue, you'll find timely tips from the department on staying safe and avoiding fraud.

In other important news, the fine staff of our Public Works Department is now under the leadership of Duane Patterson, while the Township Clerk's office is now led by Melissa Pfeiffer. You will be introduced to both of these capable executives in this issue.

As we began this year, I'm pleased to report that all of our Boards and Commissions are fully staffed with the finest volunteers the Town has to offer. Moreover, thanks to the leadership of Township Manager Bryan Russell, all of our professionals and town employees are continually working to serve Aberdeen's residents and businesses.

Finally, you should know that your Town Council is ready, willing and able to take care of all your needs and address any questions.

My best regards,
Fred Tagliarini, Mayor
(732) 275-7612



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Greg Cannon, ext. 385

Arthur Hirsch, ext. 381

Joseph J. Martucci, ext. 380

Margaret Montone, ext. 384

Robert Swindle, ext. 383

TOWNSHIP MANAGER - 732-583-4200

Bryan Russell, Township Manager, ext. 118

Eric Walker, Admin. Asst. ext. 118

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Construction/Zoning Director, ext. 121

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Municipal Court, ext. 141

Public Works, ext. 400

Public Information, ext. 130

Recreation, ext. 129

Special Events, ext. 132

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Tax Collector, ext. 137

Service Requests, ext. 100

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Township of Aberdeen

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Building and Zoning Departments

Continued from Page 1

The shared services agreement between the two towns commenced on April 1 and will continue for four years, to March 31, 2026. The municipalities will have the right to terminate or amend the agreement if they find they need to.

Aberdeen Township Manager Bryan A. Russell said that officials of the two municipalities worked on the shared services agreement for about a year, but it was tabled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Those officials resumed work on the agreement in late October, with Councils from both municipalities passing resolutions in support of the agreement in early March.

"The shared service will give Matawan a savings over time, and additional revenue to Aberdeen Township," Russell said.



Town Dedicates Newly Named Philip N. Gumbs Park



More than 100 people turned out for the dedication ceremony marking the renaming of Midland Park in Cliffwood to Philip N. Gumbs Park.

One of Aberdeen's most prominent citizens, Gumbs—who passed away in 2005—gained the distinctions in the mid-1970s of becoming Aberdeen's first African-American Mayor, as well as Monmouth County's first African-American Freeholder and Judge. In this photo, Judge Gumbs' daughter, Robina, addresses the crowd while members of the Aberdeen Council and guests look on.

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Meet Aberdeen's New Town Clerk: Melissa Pfeifer

The township's new clerk, Melissa Pfeifer, admits that she has big shoes to fill after the retirement of longtime clerk Karen Ventura, but she has never been more up to the challenge.



After working as a realtor and holding various jobs in the private sector, Pfeifer discovered her passion for public service while working as an office manager at Jersey Professional Management in Cranford—a firm whose services include finding interim and permanent management personnel for municipalities across the state. Local governments and the logistics behind running a township immediately sparked her interest, and Pfeifer ultimately

made the move over to a municipal position in Scotch Plains, serving as the Deputy Municipal Clerk for a little more than four years.

Pfeifer, who holds a degree from the University of Minnesota and completed courses through the Rutgers Center for Government Services, said she gained invaluable experience through her time at Scotch Plains.

Councilman Joe Martucci agreed: "Melissa's years in Scotch Plains prepared her well for the position in Aberdeen. But her start here was also enhanced by working under Karen Ventura's wing for several months."

After more than 20 years, Ventura retired in January, but Pfeifer joined Aberdeen in early October so the two could collaborate for an easy transition. These four months were vital, according to Pfeifer, as she learned many important aspects of the township and how to ensure it runs smoothly.

"Working closely with Karen ensured a smooth transition between us and she was able to teach me hands-on about day-to-day life in Aberdeen," she said.

As municipal clerk, Pfeifer's responsibilities include maintaining custody of all minutes, books, deeds, bonds, contracts and archival records of the Township. She also acts as the secretary to the Town Council, preparing meeting agendas and being present at all meetings.

"My favorite part about the clerk's role is working daily with residents to answer their questions by connecting them to important resources and materials," said Pfeifer. "I have enjoyed learning about Aberdeen; there's something new every day. I look forward to seeing more residents in person as we continue to get more comfortable meeting face-to-face."

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Private Academy Offers High Quality Early Childhood Education for Over 30 Years

Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools, **Home Away From Home Academy** has been paving the way in excellence for early childhood education for over 30 years. Located on Route 34 in Aberdeen, the school has received accolades for its programs for infancy through elementary grades from parents and public schools in the surrounding communities.

As leaders in early childhood education, the school was established to promote the growth of children during their earliest years—the most formative years of social, intellectual, and physical development. Children leaving HAFHA to continue their education in public schools are achieving outstanding performance evaluations in each of their classes, with many moving into the gifted programs offered by their districts.



Home Away From Home Academy owners Carmine and Phyllis Visone

Early Childhood Published Philosophy Hits Nail on the Head

Carmine and Phyllis Visone, owners of Home Away From Home Academy, hold a deeply rooted belief that, given the right tools—balanced with the right kind of play and guidance, and then delivered during the right stages of development—children can grow into adults who are not only smart academically, but smart in a life sense. With practice and research based theory, the school produces academic success for all students, developmentally preparing them for higher learning at a younger age.

"The Visone Method: A New Philosophy in Early Childhood Education" fosters an active love of learning by providing experiences that enable all students to achieve a strong foundation during early childhood. It treats every day as a celebration of life and learning, because what a growing child learns today will be with them for a lifetime. The Visone Method is a behaviorist philosophy that builds self-esteem while considering the whole child. It balances music, drama, and motor skill activities with high-level academic learning in a fun environment.



Academy students routinely participate in charitable endeavors.

Over the last several years, Home Away From Home Academy's many accolades include Township Proclamations, a NJ State Senate Resolution, and an award for their collection of over 800 pounds of food for Fulfill: Students Change Hunger. Additionally, the Visones received the Humanitarian of the Year award in recognition of the school's generous donation of toys to the Hope for Children Foundation. The school focuses on many charitable efforts as part of their message to children that it is as important to give as to receive.

For more information on Home Away From Home Academy, please visit www.hafha.com or call 732-290-0033.

Hafha

More Road Improvements On Tap for Aberdeen

Aberdeen earmarks about \$4 million each year toward maintaining the 72 miles of township roads that are subject to factors such as harsh weather and daily wear and tear. To keep motorists humming along, a host of improvement projects are slated to roll out through the spring and summer, while others that began last fall will continue.

Several road reconstruction projects that were funded in the fiscal 2021 municipal budget are scheduled to begin this spring and summer, while others covered under the fiscal 2022 plan are expected to commence next year.

Beyond fully rebuilding the roadway, these comprehensive projects typically include the installation and/or removal and replacement of concrete curbs, sidewalks and driveway aprons; storm drainage improvements; and construction of curb ramps with a detectable warning surface at each intersection.

Under the fiscal 2021 program, full reconstructions of Asbury Lane, Autumn Lane and Ardmore Lane are targeted to be completed this year. Fiscal 2022 projects scheduled to begin next year include full reconstructions of Bank Street and Donna Place, along with the section of Deerfield Lane stretching between both ends of Drexel Lane. The latter represents the third phase of the multi-year project to fully rebuild Deerfield Lane.

The fiscal 2022 program also includes a mill and resurface project covering the section of Van Bracke Road between Route 34 and Justice Lane.

Councilman Greg Cannon, a member of the Council's Roads Committee, noted that the township's road repair schedule is based on a detailed report drafted in 2012 by township engineer CME Associates. That report evaluated each road in the township, assessing a PCI rating for every street which helps determine timing for full reconstructions as well as less-intensive mill and resurface projects.



In the Strathmore area's 'D Section,' road reconstruction projects scheduled for next year include Donna Place, plus the portion of Deerfield Lane stretching between both ends of Drexel Lane. This represents the 3rd phase of a multi-year project to fully rebuild Deerfield — the section's longest road.

Other factors are considered in the systematic selection process. For instance, work on a neighborhood's inner roads must precede the outer ones to avoid having large machinery damaging roads that have already been repaired.

"We are mindful of the budget when we decide which roads will be improved," Cannon said.

Meanwhile, many of the roads in the Strathmore area's B and I sections are being affected by an ongoing New Jersey Natural Gas project to replace steel pipes with plastic pipes. The work to replace 6,600 feet of pipe in the I Section began in November, improving connecting gas service to about 135 homes. In the B Section, the utility will be replacing 3,300 feet of pipe connecting to about 91 homes.

Although the excavation work may affect only one side of these sections' streets, a shared services agreement between Aberdeen and the gas company will result in the complete resurfacing of all impacted roads in both sections.

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Parks & Rec Dept. Expands Programming, Communications Continued from Page 1

hidden within the parks. Once he was found, residents needed to write down the Irish word he was holding. After collecting all 10 words, the children were awarded a pot of gold, which contained a shamrock necklace, tattoo, chocolate gold coins and other candy. More than 200 prizes were awarded.

"The Leprechaun Lookout campaign was a great way to get the youngest residents engaged and excited to visit our parks this spring," said Deputy Mayor Kelley. "Our recreation programming is a vital asset to life in Aberdeen and we look forward to many more family-friendly events in the near future."

Another first-time event that was a big hit among residents was the National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day celebration on Feb. 6 at the Community Center. Residents enjoyed creating their own ice cream and waffle sundaes in the comfort of their pajamas.

Residents have some upcoming signature events to look forward to like the Independence Day Celebration on Friday, July 1, National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, and Aberdeen Day on Saturday, September 24.

"The department has been investing in the annual events, making them more family-oriented for residents of all ages to enjoy," said Heckman.

In terms of regular programming, a variety of senior classes are held at Hudson Ridge each month with a focus on exercise. Classes and activities include chair yoga and aerobics on Mondays, Qigong and Tai Chi on Tuesdays, strength training on Wednesdays, Zumba Gold on Thursdays, Book Club, Crafting Club and more.

Senior Bus Trips were relaunched after a pause due to the pandemic with a sold-out trip to the Shore Club in Spring Lake for a St. Patrick's Day Show on March 15. Residents 55 and older can look forward to the next trip on May 11 to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton Township.

There are also various trips scheduled through the H.A.M., a therapeutic recreation program for developmentally disabled residents of Hazlet, Holmdel, Aberdeen, and Matawan. An outing to the Popcorn Park Zoo in Forked River on April 23 is being followed by trips to Grounds for Sculpture on May 7 and to Jersey Shore Pirates and Windward Beach Park, May 21.

For people of all ages, the Recreation Department is also organizing a trip to Crabfest in Baltimore, Maryland on July 16. If you are interested, please

contact the Department. The trip is open to residents and nonresidents.

"Our recreation programs are providing families with opportunities to spend quality time together and giving access to seniors in need of low-cost exercise programs and activities," summed up Councilwoman Montone.



Young residents show off their prizes after Leprechaun Lookout event.



Residents celebrated National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day

Mark Your Calendars for the 2022 Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series is back! Residents will have the opportunity to jam-out all summer long on Tuesdays at Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach, featuring some returning favorites, food and fun for the whole family.

Shows will take place each Tuesday, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring their coolers, blankets, chairs and bug spray, and come out for a night of fun.

The series will kick off on July 12 with Asbury Fever, a Bruce Springsteen tribute band that will play all the Jersey Shore hits. Next up is Madison Avenue on July 19, a great local band that is returning for the third year in a row.

Southern Steel, another great local group, will be returning for the fourth year in a row on July 26. The band features retired members of the Keyport police department covering tunes from Lynyrd Skynyrd and other top groups.

On August 2, the weekly program takes a breather for the annual National Night Out celebration at Guisti Park in Cliffwood, where a band will be part of the festivities.

The series returns to Veterans Memorial Park on August 9, when the Jersey Tenors take the stage. This Opera/Rock Mash-up sensation creates an explosive blend of the most iconic Opera classics alongside the music of such Rock 'N Roll industry greats as Queen, Journey, Elton John, and Billy Joel.

August 16 will feature Bell Bottom Blues, an Eric Clapton Tribute Band, and

the country band 40 North will be returning to Aberdeen for the second time on August 23.

The series closer on August 30 will be Screaming Broccoli, returning for the 3rd year in a row, with some classic rock, 80's & 90's and current top 40 jams.

"This program continues to be a favorite for residents looking for a free night of music in our bayside park," said Councilman Arthur Hirsch. "Once again, our Rec Department has put together a tremendous roster of bands designed to appeal to a wide range of people."

Please be sure to check the Aberdeen website (www.aberdeennj.org) or Facebook page for updates on the status of each show.



Southern Steel will return July 26th

Aberdeen Wins NJ Design Award for Aquatic Facilities

Aberdeen's Veterans' Memorial Park and adjoining Cliffwood Beach Seawall won the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association's (NJRPA) Excellence in Design for Aquatic Facility Award for 2022.

NJRPA presented the honor to a township delegation in March at its 2022 awards ceremony in Atlantic City. The award is presented for excellence in design of public use recreation and park facilities which exhibit aesthetic quality, uniqueness of design, usability, and versatility.

"The main intention of this \$6 million project was to repair a Sea Wall along the coast of Aberdeen on Raritan Bay, which was badly damaged during Superstorm Sandy," NJRPA commented. "The wall is a necessary infrastructure that protects the Cliffwood Beach coastline from erosion. Additional elements were added to the Sea Wall, including fishing areas, seating areas, and a walkway along the entire half-mile wall. The project has been commended as one of the most breathtaking recreation walks along Raritan Bay."

The group went on to laud the major revitalization and expansion of the neighboring Veterans Memorial Park into a beachside recreation venue featuring the popular new Spray Park and other features.

"These projects were developed as a direct result of damage caused by weather events," NJRPA continued. "Aberdeen was extremely motivated to complete these projects and give residents the recreation opportunities and facilities they deserve at the beautiful Cliffwood Beach."

"It's truly an honor to be here to accept this award on behalf of Aberdeen," said Councilwoman Margaret Montone. "When designing this park, we never thought about winning an award, we just wanted to provide our residents with a park they deserve in one of their favorite parts of town."



Accepting the award are (l. to r.) Rec Department's Brittany Shea and Keith Heckman; Councilpersons Margaret Montone and Joseph Martucci; and Township Manager Bryan Russell.



Improvement Projects Under Way at Two Township Parks

Two projects are now under way as part of Aberdeen's multi-year program to upgrade its neighborhood parks.

At Ross Park in Cliffwood Beach, work continues on a phase one project that will replace all playground equipment and the swing set; redo the basketball court, including installation of new backboards; perform drainage improvements; add a table and benches; and construct a new ADA accessible walkway to the play area. Work is expected to be completed early to late summer.

Phase two will include improvements to the entrance of the park; repairs to the concrete steps and flagpole; replacement of the current fencing and backstops; and the addition of new foul poles. Work is projected to get under way this year.

Through a \$150,000 Monmouth County Open Space grant, the township will be making a series of updates to Cambridge Park in the Strathmore section, including two new play features, multiple ADA accessible handicap parking spaces, and the addition of a second basketball court. The stairs entering the park were redone in 2021. Work on the latest improvements is expected to commence at some point in 2022.

Cambridge Park site plan from project engineer T&M shows planned additions of a second basketball court, play area enhancements, new ADA-compliant parking area and path, and recently completed access stairs and chain link fence. Work is being funded through a Monmouth County Open Space grant.



CAMBRIDGE PARK
CONCEPT PLAN

Around Town

Aberdeen Welcomes New Director of Public Works

Duane Patterson believes that a Department of Public Works is at the heart of a municipality and should operate with a philosophy of putting residents first.

Patterson, who recently joined Aberdeen as the new Director of Public Works, brings almost a decade of public service experience from the Borough of Roselle. Patterson served most recently as the department's superintendent, but held various supervisor positions in his time with the borough since 2012.

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"During my time at Roselle, I worked with the team and administration to plan for a new automated trash program, create a new pick-up schedule and price out its first sewer cleaning truck," he said. "I'm looking forward to elevating the level of service for residents here in Aberdeen and widening the spectrum of the DPW to accomplish more in-house work."

Along with creating new programs, he crafted capital and annual budgets, worked with engineers on sewer and road improvements, and addressed daily resident concerns.

"Duane brings a great amount of experience to the township and with that, we believe he will further transform our public works department," said Township Manager Bryan Russell. "We are fortunate to hire someone with his qualifications and look forward to his development here."

Patterson added that he conducted research on Aberdeen before applying for the position, taking a liking to the township's focus and dedication to infrastructure.

"I love that Aberdeen is inclusive and transparent. Residents have a lot of input here and that's something that drew me to the township," said Patterson. "Having the opportunity to come to Aberdeen has been such a positive one for me and I'd like to thank the mayor, council and township manager for letting me bring my talents here."

He holds a degree from Liberty University in Virginia and completed Certified Public Works Manager Program classes at Rutgers University.

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Around Town

MVC Mobile Unit Making 4 Visits to Aberdeen in 2022



Residents have multiple opportunities to be served by the MVC mobile unit this year.

After the overwhelming success of its first 2022 visit to Aberdeen in March, the Motor Vehicle Commission's (MVC) Mobile Unit is scheduled to return three more times this year. These follow three visits to the township during 2021.

The unit offers a convenient way for residents to handle a variety of motor vehicle issues, including driver's license renewals, Real ID (if license expires within six months), veterans license designation placards, registration renewals, boat and motorcycle endorsements, non-driver ID cards and license plate drop-offs.

The mobile unit is scheduled to return to Aberdeen on Thursday, June 9 (Veterans Memorial Park in the Cliffwood Beach Section); Friday, Aug. 5 and Tuesday, Nov. 1 (both dates at Town Hall, 1 Aberdeen Square).

To utilize the MVC Mobile Unit, residents will need six points of identification and a Social Security card. Those who do not have the card or an individual identification number may submit an affidavit form which can be found on the MVC website at www.njmvc.gov.

In place of a Social Security card, a customer can present a W2 from the past tax year (2020), a current pay stub (SS number cannot be redacted) or a 1099 form.

Preregistration will be required and the number of customers that the unit can serve will be limited to 40, with an additional 10 placed on standby. Preregistration information will be available on the township's website and on its social media.

"We are pleased to continue to offer these vital services to our residents," said Councilman Robert Swindle. "Our Town Hall staff is to be applauded for their successful efforts to increase the number of visits and we are hopeful that this popular program will become a permanent fixture in the years ahead."



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Aberdeen PD: Locking Vehicles at Night a 'Must'



Acting Chief Matthew Lloyd

Keeping your vehicle safe and secure could take just seconds each day.

That's why the Aberdeen Police Department has periodically been sending messages through social media platforms such as Facebook, urging residents to make locking their vehicles part of their '9 p.m. Routine.'

"Car thefts and car break-ins are crimes of opportunity," Acting Chief Matthew Lloyd said. "If a potential thief pulls up on your car handle and it doesn't open because it is locked, he will likely move on."

In a state where officials reported more than 14,000 cars stolen in 2021 – a 22% rise from the previous year – a little reminder can be a big help.

Lloyd said that in addition to locking your car and closing all the windows, residents should put their vehicle in the garage or other secure area.

He also recommends not leaving any valuables inside the vehicle that could entice someone to go so far as break the window to gain entry. Additionally, he urges residents to turn on the vehicle's alarm, turn on driveway and other external lights in and around the vehicle, and never leave the keys, key fob or garage door opener inside.

Some of the same advice can also help keep your vehicle safe from catalytic converter thefts.

Although state officials do not keep records on catalytic converter thefts,

many law enforcement agencies anecdotally reported a surge over the past two years. Each catalytic converter contains precious metals like platinum, palladium and rhodium, which could fetch big bucks in the automotive parts secondary market.

Aside from activating your vehicle's alarm and keeping it in a secure place, Lloyd said that some people are going so far as etching their 14-digit vehicle identification ("VIN") number on the side of their converter using an electric marker or other means.

"These thefts could occur as quickly as under a minute," Lloyd said. "And the catalytic converters do not have any identifying markings. So, that makes this type of crime appealing to thieves – it's quick, it's untraceable and it's lucrative."

The Aberdeen PD is also reminding drivers to observe a law that went into effect in March geared toward making the roads safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The safe passing law, which uses the so-called 'Move Over Law' as a template, requires drivers to move over one lane when passing pedestrians or bicyclists if it safe to do so. Otherwise, drivers must allow four feet of space between their car and the person being passed. If that spacing is not possible, drivers must slow to 25 mph and pass slowly.

Drivers could face a \$100 fine for violating the law. Drivers who cause injury could face a \$500 fine and two motor vehicle points.

"There will be more residents out walking, jogging, riding their bikes and otherwise taking advantage of the warmer weather," Lloyd said. "We are reminding drivers to safely share the road with them."

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Township Provided Free COVID-19 Testing for Thousands



Mayor Tagliarini gets his Covid test.

Aberdeen's vigorous COVID-19 testing efforts helped thousands of residents stay safe and secure, even as cases from the Omicron variant surged here and across the country.

Mayor Fred Tagliarini and the Township Council, as well as Township Manager Bryan Russell, worked to expand the township's testing through much of December and January.

"The testing has been an important part of keeping our residents safe over the past two years," Tagliarini said. "It became vital as COVID cases caused by the spread of the highly transmissible omicron variant began to skyrocket across the state. For many, testing was as much a way of mitigating the spread of COVID as mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing."

"We saw some people who wanted some peace of mind after spending the holidays with loved ones," Russell said. "We also saw many residents who needed to continually be tested as a condition of their employment. No matter

the reason, we literally tested thousands of residents and mitigated the virus' spread, which surely helped save lives."

Aberdeen's efforts to bolster its testing initiatives date back to November, when township leaders anticipated another wave of COVID-19 cases.

From the free community testing event organized at Town Hall on Dec. 2 to others staged through the end of January, an estimated 2,500 members of the community were tested at various sites around town.

The township partnered with MediMobile, MobileCV19 and others who specialized in administering free PCR and rapid tests. As omicron-driven COVID cases began to subside in late January, the township set up one final drive-thru testing site in partnership with Synergy Medical Labs.

Gov. Phil Murphy in February signed Executive Order No. 292, which lifted the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in addition to the statewide school and daycare mask mandate, effective March 7.

"At a time when locating home tests was virtually impossible, we were able to react quickly to provide free testing for our residents," Tagliarini said. "We will remain vigilant in the event a new variant rears its ugly head."

If any resident needs assistance in locating testing, please call Aberdeen Public Information at 732-583-4200 ext. 130.

Recycling Is a Team Effort

The benefits of recycling go well beyond helping the environment. At the local level, the more we recycle, the higher Aberdeen's annual recycling grant from the New Jersey State Recycling Enhancement Act will be.

And Aberdeen residents continue to heed that call. In 2021, the township received \$46,715—its highest annual grant to date.

"Recycling is an easy way for every resident to do their part to help save our environment," said Deputy Mayor Connie Kelley. "Last year's grant reflects the enormous effort by our entire community to take recycling seriously and cut down on the amount of household trash going into landfills."

The grant money can be used for shredding events, recycling bins, reusable shopping bags and recycling education, in addition to many other recycling program needs.

Last year, Aberdeen was also recognized as one of the 15 municipalities in New Jersey to properly implement a series of practices designed to promote the Recycle Coach website to residents. Recycle Coach is an informational app that provides homeowners with recycling updates and reminders. In addition, the app can help residents determine what items need to be recycled.

Aberdeen offers curbside pickup of recyclables bi-weekly. Pickup is every other

Wednesday depending on your town section, with Section I on the first and third Wednesdays and Section II on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Section I is comprised of Cliffwood Beach, Cliffwood, River Gardens, Oakshades and Freneau, Heritage Estates. Section II includes Strathmore, the High School Area, Woodbrook Drive, Randall Way, Storyland, Santa Fe, Heather Glen, and Clinton Street.

Residents can also drop off their recyclables at the Public Works Yard on Lenox Road off Cliffwood Avenue, Monday thru Saturday, from 7 a.m. -3 p.m.

For the curbside pickups, residents can combine mixed paper in a closed container along with bottles and cans. Cardboard must be cut and bundled. Newspaper should also be bundled and tied. Metal, glass and plastic containers must be clean. Recycling must not contain the following: plastic bags, bottle caps, and any food boxes (such as pizza) directly touched by food.

Please download the Recycling Coach mobile app for more information.

Aberdeen offers curbside recycling every other week.



Shredding Event Set for May 21

Aberdeen Township will be staging a document shredding event on Saturday, May 21 at Town Hall, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., or until the truck is filled.

This free event is open to all Aberdeen residents. Residents may bring up to 100 pounds, which is equivalent to four office paper boxes or four large sized trash bags. All shredding will be done on location in the mobile shredding truck.

Aberdeen Town Hall is located at 1 Aberdeen Square (Church Street, just off of Atlantic Avenue.)

Any questions, please call 732-583-4200, ext. 401.