

# LOWER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2024



### FROM THE COUNCIL...

As summer slips into fall, we see a change of season and a chance to interact with the residents and visitors alike, doing what we do best for the people in Lower Township. It is the people we recognize that contribute to making Lower Township a "Place to Remember". Each year we see the hard work by those in Lower Township Hall, our public works department, the Lower Township Police Department, volunteer fire departments, recreation, construction and zoning, that are dedicated, ensuring public safety and addressing concerns our residents may have.

Lower Township Council, along with the township manager, keeps the quality of life in check, by addressing infrastructure projects, such as improvements to our parks for local children.

Our veterans are not forgotten and are recognized for their service to our country, making our Township proud. Mark your calendars for the township's annual Veteran's Day parade on Saturday, November 9. The council continually works to improve the quality of life, while keeping taxes under control, dealing with inflation, accelerated costs of goods and services, health care along with fair and equitable contracts for our employees. The challenges are ever changing. It is for the people who make this community what it is that we proudly serve and work for.

As fall makes its presence upon us, take time to enjoy all what the community has to offer and remember it is the people who help make it what it is. Be kind and help improve our quality of life by making small gestures, acts of service, as it does make a difference to those who surround you. After all, you reside in a great place – Lower Township!

-Councilman Roland Roy

### LOWER TOWNSHIP OPPOSES STATE'S PROPOSED FLOOD-CONTROL RULES

The state Department of Environmental Protection is proposing regulation changes to the Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) and New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats (NJPACT), which were created to address the predicted effects of climate change and sea level rise.

A county-commissioned report on soon-to-be-proposed state regulations concerning climate change and coastal zone flooding protection found that they would have serious and far-reaching negative consequences for both island and mainland communities in Cape May County. According to that report, which was present to the Lower Township Council, under the new rules 67% of the township would be in a flood zone.

Lower Township and Cape May County officials agree that the REAL regulations are simply too harsh and would cripple shore development and homeownership.

Examples of the changes would be that flood insurance would likely be required where it had not been before and homes within the flood zone would see building and elevation requirements.

Those higher regulatory building standards that will increase construction costs for public and private projects countywide, expand flood hazard areas impacting development and redevelopment opportunities including affordable housing, and may also result in increases to insurance premiums and decreased property values within those impacted zones

Cape May County and all of its municipalities have adopted a Resolution requesting Governor Murphy to consider a more incremental approach to adopting these rules, further requesting the State of New Jersey to engage the legislature rather than enacting these regulations into law by way of Executive Order.

The regulations are currently going through the public comment process and are scheduled to take effect later this year.

#### Make Your Voice Heard!

Written comments are due to the state DEP by November 2, 2024. You can submit a comment electronically by visiting: <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/rule-comment-form/> or scan the QR code on this page.

#### Or mail comments to:

Melissa Abatemarco, Esq.  
Attention: DEP Docket No. 05-24-05  
Office of Legal Affairs  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street, 7th Floor  
Mail Code 401-04L  
PO Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

**NJDEP PROPOSES RADICAL CLIMATE CHANGE RULES**

REAL/NJPACT RULES PROMULGATED FROM GOVERNOR MURPHY'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 100 WILL:

**INCREASE INSURANCE COSTS**

**INCREASE CONSTRUCTION COSTS**

**CURB DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**IMPOSE HIGHER BUILDING STANDARDS ON WORKING CLASS FAMILIES**

CAPE MAY COUNTY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT BELIEVES THE STATE OF NJ SHOULD TAKE A MORE GRADUAL APPROACH BASED ON SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS WITH A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRING

**SCAN TO EMAIL YOUR GOVERNOR TODAY!**

**SIGN NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**HIT SEND**



Frank Sippel  
Mayor  
FSippel@townshipoflower.org



David Perry  
Deputy Mayor  
DPerry@townshipoflower.org



Thomas Conrad  
Council Member - Ward 1  
TConrad@townshipoflower.org



Kevin Coombs  
Council Member - Ward 2  
KCombs@townshipoflower.org



Roland Roy  
Council Member - Ward 3  
RRoy@townshipoflower.org



Michael Laffey  
Manager  
Manager@townshipoflower.org

# SPOTLIGHT

## LOWER TOWNSHIP CONGRATULATES NOAH PLENN ON ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Lower Township Council presented Noah Plenn, an incoming freshman at the University of Delaware, with a proclamation congratulating him on his academic and athletic achievements in Lower Township, his high school career and wish him well on his upcoming college journey and continued success.

Noah Plenn, son of Mitchell and Angela Plenn, was born and raised in the Erma section of Lower Township and attended Lower Township Elementary School and Richard M. Tietelman Middle School where he grew up playing basketball, soccer and lacrosse through the Lower Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Plenn recently graduated from Saint Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, NJ and will be attending the University of Delaware this fall as a scholarship student athlete in the NCAA Division 1 Men's Lacross Program.

Among his list of accomplishments are: two-time USA Lacrosse All-American, two-time New Jersey State Interscholastic Lacrosse Coaches Association 1st Team non-public all-state player, member of the 2022 NJSIAA non public boys state championship team, in which he scored the winning goal,

Saint Augustine Preparatory Class of 2024 Scholar Athlete of the Year, and on the Dean's List 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.



## LOWER TOWNSHIP HONORS CORPORAL JOHNATHAN SCHECK FOR BRAVERY

The Lower Township Council and the Lower Township Police Department presented Lower Township Police Corporal Jonathan Scheck with a proclamation for bravery at a Lower Township Council meeting August 5, 2024 after his actions helped save the lives of others during a severe motor vehicle accident.

Lower Township Police Chief Kevin Lewis told those in attendance that while Scheck and his family were vacationing in Florida, they witnessed a severe motor vehicle accident. Two vehicles involved caught fire with the drivers and passengers still inside.

Chief Lewis noted that Scheck, without regard for his own safety, began extricating the drivers and passengers from both vehicles, risking his own life to selflessly save others. Scheck remained on the scene to assist the EMS and fire personnel in controlling the scene and ensuring safety of others while the vehicles burned.

Mayor Frank Sippel and Chief Lewis congratulated Scheck for his exemplary service, courage, and dedication to truly make him a hero in our community.

Scheck and members of his family and colleagues from the police department were in attendance to support him in receiving the proclamation.



## HELP KEEP THE BEACHES CLEAN

As the summer season is winding down, Clean Ocean Action (COA) is looking ahead to the 39th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps which will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 9:00am to 12:30pm.

## SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Lower Township held its annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Naval Air Station Wildwood. Sally and Jayden Solomon of Egg Harbor Township, attended the ceremony in honor of Elwood Solomon. Elwood, Sally's husband and Jayden's father, was an Egg Harbor City firefighter that responded to the call for aid in recovery efforts at Ground Zero after the September 11 attacks. He passed away from health complications from his service at Ground Zero.





**Saturday, October 19, 2024**  
**9 am - 12:30 pm (rain or shine)**  
Volunteers of all ages needed at 80+ NJ locations!

**Beach Sweeps Checklist:**

- ☐ Register at [CleanOceanAction.org](https://CleanOceanAction.org) (Available September 3)
- ☐ Bring your own bucket and work gloves for trash collection
- ☐ Dress for the weather and wear hard-soled shoes
- ☐ Invite family, friends, neighbors, & colleagues!

**Statewide Sponsors:**

- BANK OF AMERICA
- Think Green
- VANTAGE
- NEW JERSEY REALTORS
- Hackensack Meridian Health

**Countywide Sponsors:**

- kearny park
- MONTICELLO & BAYSHORE
- Target

 [COABeachSweeps](https://www.facebook.com/COABeachSweeps) | [CleanOceanAction.org](https://www.instagram.com/CleanOceanAction.org)

## REMINDERS

Lower Township Council Meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Lower Township Hall, located at 2600 Bayshore Road, unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of meeting dates and times, visit the township website at: [TownshipofLower.org](https://TownshipofLower.org).

Looking for township forms, helpful links, tax payment portal, want to make a suggestion, contact a certain department or report a pothole? Visit the township website at: [townshipoflower.org](https://townshipoflower.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 12, 2024**  
LOWER TOWNSHIP HALLOWEEN PARADE  
HISTORIC COLD SPRING VILLAGE

**OCTOBER 14, 2024**  
COLOMBUS DAY  
LOWER TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

**OCTOBER 20, 2024**  
LOWER TOWNSHIP TRUNK OR TREAT

**OCTOBER 26, 2024**  
LOWER TOWNSHIP HAUNTED TRAILS

**NOVEMBER 5, 2024**  
ELECTION DAY  
LOWER TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED

**NOVEMBER 9, 2024**  
LOWER TOWNSHIP'S VETERANS DAY PARADE  
BAYSHORE ROAD

**NOVEMBER 11, 2024**  
VETERAN'S DAY  
LOWER TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED



## ONGOING EVENTS

**WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS 9:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M.**  
OPEN PLAY PICKLE BALL  
ENDS APRIL 26, 2024

**EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00 P.M.**  
ADULT YOGA  
MILLMAN CENTER

**EVERY MONDAY FROM 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.**  
ADULT NIGHT  
RECREATION CENTER

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION

## NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Winter Edition / Spring Edition / Summer Edition  
High Summer Edition / Fall Edition / Holiday Edition  
Look for it at the entrance or counters of local businesses.

**Township of Lower**  
2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251  
609-886-2005  
<https://townshipoflower.org/>

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

LOWER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING - (609) 886-2005  
LOWER TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT - (609) 886-7880  
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER - (609) 886-1619  
TO MAKE A POLICE REPORT: CAPE MAY COUNTY DISPATCH - (609) 886-2711  
FOR ANIMAL CONTROL: SHORE ANIMAL CONTROL - 1 (800) 351-1822



## FALL 2024