

# LOWER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2024



### FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR...

Now that spring is here, Lower Township is busy preparing for the summer season. Contractors and our Public Works Department are busy working on the Township beach access paths and hopefully they will be completed before the start of summer season. Lower Township is also busy with the reconstruction of Diamond Beach Park, Rotary Park in Villas and the Recreation Center Playground. Other projects that are in the process of being completed in 2024 are Delaware Bay outfall extensions, reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue, Bay Drive, Ridgewood Avenue, Ohio Avenue pump station upgrades, Francis Avenue stormwater connection project and Stormwater GIS mapping project.

As you can see Lower Township local government is working hard to improve the quality of life for our residents with managing to keep taxes stable, in this very difficult time of growing inflation. We are able to do this with the help of Open Space Funding, Grants, and the hard work our Township Manager, Chief Finance Officer and our Township Employee Workforce.

Lastly, I look forward to see everyone on July 3rd for our July 4th Celebration on the Beach front in North Cape May.

-Deputy Mayor David Perry



### LOWER TOWNSHIP PRESENTED WITH WE VALUE OUR VETERANS AWARD

Lower Township was presented with the "We Value Our Veterans" Community Award from the Governor's office and commended by Congressman Jeff Van Drew's office for the township's continued efforts in advocating for veterans, during the February 5, 2024 council meeting.

"The township is extremely proud to be the only municipality in the county to receive this. We have worked very hard over the years to take care of those that have given so much. We would like to thank the public for supporting all these events," Mayor Frank Sippel said.

Retired Sgt. Major Martin Sotomayor presented the New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Community



Award. District Director Christopher Chin, who is also a veteran, represented Congressman Van Drew. Chin brought the Congressional Proclamation from the United States House of Representatives with him.

A packed room of over 50 veterans came out to support Lower Township and the community's recognition from the state and federal government.

To receive this award, the list of requirements included:

- Provide parking spots for Purple Heart Recipients and Disabled Veterans
- Provide discounts to Veterans at local establishments or offer free discount booklets to Veterans

- Hold quarterly Veterans Round-tables
- Honor Veterans at least quarterly at Council meetings/special events
- Have local students bring Veteran Family members to speak at school
- Hold annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies
- Provide discounts for community-based recreation (or similar municipal establishment)
- Hold Veteran Service Organization Meet and Greets
- List Veterans resources on the town website
- Honor and remember POW/MIA Day and Gold Star Families Day
- List Veteran owned businesses on the town website
- Volunteerism by municipal staff at Veteran related events (Memorial Day parades, Veteran Service Organization Meet and Greets, etc.)
- Initiatives or programs providing mental health resources for Veterans

The township not only met these requirements but exceeded them," noted Mayor Frank Sippel.

Lower Township was the only municipality in Cape May County to receive this prestigious award.



Frank Sippel  
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David Perry  
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Thomas Conrad  
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Roland Roy  
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Michael Laffey  
Manager  
Manager@townshipoflower.org

# MANAGER'S REPORT

## LOWER TOWNSHIP 2024 BUDGET

Township Manager Mike Laffey presented the council with a \$34.6 million budget with a tax rate decrease of one-tenth of a cent per \$100 of assessed value, going from .6180 to .6179. The township will have a fund surplus of over \$9.7 million and apply \$4.86 million to the 2024 budget.

"This past January at our State of the Township address, it was briefed that one of our goals was

no tax increase for this year. I am pleased to report that the 2024 budget was introduced at our last council meeting with a zero percent municipal tax increase. We were able to complete over a dozen capital projects last year and we have 14 more in the pipeline for 2024 and 2025," noted Mayor Frank Sippel.

## SPOTLIGHT

### SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL SPORTS

The Lower Cape May Regional Wrestling Team won their first sectional title since 1982 this year and were honored by the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners this week for their championship. The team was present at the Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday and were presented an award for winning the South Jersey Group II title. Head Coach Billy Damiana and the team finished the season 22-6 and a high number of students will be returning to the team next year. The Commissioners wished the team luck in the future and hopes to see them back with another championship next season.



### SPOTLIGHT ON PERFORMING ARTS

The students of Lower Cape May Regional High School held performances for this year's school musical Guys and Dolls.



### LOWER TOWNSHIP HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION ANNUAL YOUTH & FAMILY SKATE NIGHT



### LOWER TOWNSHIP SHRED DAY

**When:** Saturday June 1, 2024  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Where:** Behind Lower Township Municipal Complex.  
2600 Bayshore Road (Villas)

REMOVE BINDERS, PLASTIC COVERS, AND LAMINATED PAPER

REMOVE LARGE CLIPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Thomas, CRP, CCCC  
Lower Township Recycling Coordinator  
609-884-0898 ext. 315

Stay in vehicle! Keep plastic bags out of recycling!



## COVID-19 INFORMATION HUB

**covid19.nj.gov**

Call (General COVID-19 Questions): 2-1-1 (24/7)  
Call (Medical COVID-19 Questions): 1-800-962-1253 (24/7)  
Call (Vaccine Appointment Support): 1-855-568-0545 (8a-8p)  
Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts.

Cape May County is offering 1.5 million dollars of COVID-19 relief grants to help renters, homeowners and businesses.  
Visit ACIANJ.org or call 609-343-2390

**Cape May County Department of Health**  
capemaycountynj.gov  
609-465-1187

## 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](http://TownshipofLower.org).

All dogs over the age of six months shall be required to be licensed, and a license for same shall be obtained and attached to the harness or collar of each dog prior to January 31 of each and every year.

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](http://townshipoflower.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 24, 2024**

FAMILY FUN NIGHT  
AT CLEM MULLIGAN SPORTS COMPLEX  
LIVE MUSIC: KNOXVILLE TRIO  
BOUNCE HOUSES  
MOVIE: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

**MAY 25, 2024**

POOL PASSES GO ON SALE  
AT LOWER TOWNSHIP RECREATION CENTER



## 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

**Sign up  
NOW to  
receive  
LT Alerts**



**Emergency Alerts, Traffic & Weather  
Advisories, Local News and Events via:**

Phone Call, Text, Email or Mobile App



Set your messaging preferences when you register.  
Download the Smart911 app after registering.

**Sign Up at Police, Township or MUA websites**  
If you need assistance with registering, contact the Township Clerk's office at 609-886-2005, extension 100, between 8:30 am & 4:30 pm.

# SPRING 2024