

# INLET HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the First Ward Civic Association

June 2007, Vol. 2, No. 1

## Happenings Around the City That Will Affect You and Me

### The Revel Entertainment Project



**T**his major project, as you have probably read, is bounded by New Jersey, Oriental, the Boardwalk and Metropolitan Avenue. It will include a hotel tower that will be approximately 800 feet tall.

There will be parking for approximately 6000 cars, a hotel, luxury stores, restaurants and other amenities for its patrons. Revel is requesting major road improvements to its site. Melrose Avenue, from Delaware to Connecticut, would be widened and Connecticut would become six lanes (three in, three out), plus an island. Massachusetts Avenue would also have some improvements to allow for the exiting from the casino.

These proposed changes, known as the "South Inlet Transportation Improvement Project," are planned in order to accommodate the anticipated vehicular traffic for the Revel project. According to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), it will require the acquisition of property, the relocation of tenants, homeowners and businesses.

At a meeting with Mr. Kevin DeSantis, Revel's Chairman and CEO, First Ward residents expressed concerns about how the truck and increased car traffic will have an impact on the air quality and the structure of the homes of

the residents who live near the proposed project and the possible danger to children who walk to and from the Uptown Complex.

While renderings for the building are not yet finalized, Mr. DeSantis indicated he would return to the Civic Association when they are completed.

There are other plans in the works that will reconfigure where Melrose/Mediterranean, Delaware and Rt. 30 meet. This will clearly have an effect on how the people in the Inlet and Bungalow Park will get in and out of their neighborhoods.

We hope that the City Planners will hold meetings with the residents before these changes are approved to listen to the concerns of residents and work with Revel and CRDA to see that those concerns are incorporated into the final plans.



*New AtlantiCare tower nears completion.*

### AtlantiCare City Campus Expansion to Open by Year's End

The tower you see rising between Ohio and Michigan avenues is a major expansion project that is geared to meet the growing demands of health care in our community. This new look will include the renovation of 23,000 sq. ft of the existing hospital. Completion is expected later this year. The new patient tower will feature:

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## President's Letter



Dear Residents,

*Changes are occurring daily in our neighborhood and City. I cannot stress how important it is for you to become inquisitive, involved, informed and thus be able to make intelligent decisions about how you want your neighborhood and the City to look in the future. People are*

*meeting and planning without much input from the residents who will have their quality of life affected.*

*I would like to urge developers and public agencies to involve the citizens at the early stages of planning so that interested citizens can get answers to their questions. Many of the public departments have stopped sending out their agendas and those who were once on their mailing list must rely on the Internet (if updated) or newspaper as a means of getting information.*

*It may be necessary to go beyond the statutory requirements to notify the residents of the affected areas. Many of these massive projects will reverberate far beyond those who live within 200 feet.*

*When people feel they are a part of the process there will be less disharmony. This is the only way the City and other public and private agencies can fairly plan for the growth, development and improvements in and around the City's neighborhood.*

*This issue will have some of the things that are happening not only in the First Ward, but also around the City.*

*As always, we ask you to send us your opinion and suggestions.*

*See you around the neighborhood!*

Regards,

*Libbie*

## Hurricane Season

Hurricane season starts in June. It is important for us to remind you to have a disaster plan and an escape route. When you are asked to leave, the sun will probably be shining. The residents of the First Ward are supposed to leave via Rt. 30.

### Emergency Evacuation List:

- Water
- Battery powered radio, flashlight
- Non-perishable food and extra batteries
- Change of clothing
- Medicine
- Blankets /sleeping bag
- List of doctors and phone numbers
- First aid kit
- Credit Card and cash

Call 609.272.9495 if you require special assistance evacuating. Call now to register.

## First Ward Happenings

• **AtlantiCare Family Care Center** will be offering a Summer Camp program from July 9 - August 17, 2007. Call 345.1994 for the cost and other information.

Swimming, videos, weights, basketball and Karate are being offered to children and adults Monday thru Friday. Call 347.5504 for times and age-appropriate classes.

• **Historic Gardner's Basin - Atlantic City Aquarium**



On Saturdays and Holidays at 11am, they feature a Dive and Dine show.

See the piranhas that were added in February.

The Aquarium is open daily from 10-5.

Admission for adults is \$7; Seniors, \$5; Children ages 4-12, \$4; Children 3 and under are free. Call 348.2880 for more information.

• **Atlantic City Cruises and Parasailing**

They feature Sightseeing, Dolphin Watching, Moonlight Dancing, Happy Hour, Private Parties and other services. Call 347.7600 or check out the Web site at

[www.atlanticcitycruises.com](http://www.atlanticcitycruises.com)

Be sure to eat at the *Flying Cloud Café* or *Back Bay Ale House* and shop at the *Crafter's Village* while you are there.

Gardner's Basin is trying to start a Garden Club.

Call Marie Constantino for information at 345.8222

• **Summer at Absecon Lighthouse**

Friday, June 15, 150th Anniversary Gala, 5:30pm, tickets are \$50. Call to reserve your spot.

Sunday, July 15, the Amazing Family Fun Race. Families find clues and north end history sites and turn them in for prizes.

July 23-27, Kids Camp at the Lighthouse

August 15, Happy Hour Sunset Cruise on AC Cruises

September 15, Murder Mystery, "Lighthouse with a Dim Bulb". Call 449.1360 for information or check the Web site at [www.abseconlighthouse.org](http://www.abseconlighthouse.org).

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204 Dylan Drive • Atlantic City, NJ 08401

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For further information or to place an article,  
please call: **609.344.5648**

## AtlanticCare (cont. from pg. 1)

- a new emergency department with its own diagnostic imaging suite,
- a new radiology department
- a new intensive care unit
- construction of a pedestrian bridge from Caesar's over Michigan Avenue.
- a new helipad with trauma stabilization rooms

To help visitors find their way around the new large hospital, there will be four different pavilions: *Friendship, Harmony, Wellness and Heritage.*

Call AtlantiCare at the toll-free number (1.888.569.1000) for information about its programs and services.

## Westrum Development Project



The proposed Westrum development project will build approximately 286 stacked housing units with rear garages on the lots bounded by Atlantic, Connecticut, Pacific and Delaware avenues. Each unit will have three floors with an option for a fourth. The cost of a unit is expected to be approximately \$400,000.

It is proposed as a 'Smart Growth' project because it will be close to transportation, within a five-minute walk or bike ride to the beach, boardwalk and casinos, being built on currently vacant property, provide quality housing options for employees who may be able to walk or bike to work. Additionally, the proceeds from the property sale is revenue for the city, and it will increase the City's tax base.

When we met with the developers, concerns were expressed about the setbacks (distance from the right-of-way). The required distance is 25 feet.

The developers are expected to submit their plans to the Atlantic City Planning Board in the next few months.

## Main Street Atlantic City Focuses on Revitalization

The focus of Main Street Atlantic City (MSAC) is the revitalization of a 16-block area along Atlantic Avenue from Michigan to Massachusetts, now called the

Downtown District. MSAC wants to create a warm, diverse and vibrant district on a corridor that house more than 150 local businesses. The plan will include:

- Converting empty upper floors to apartment units
- Attracting new businesses to the area
- Attracting new investment and
- Physical improvement

Contact MSAC at 609.344.8338 with your suggestions on the kind of stores you would like to see along Atlantic Avenue.

## St. Andrews By the Sea Lutheran Church... New Neighbor



After a decade of struggling to find a new home, this visionary congregation, with 118 years of continuous ministry to Atlantic City, has a new home on Baltic Avenue, between Virginia and Maryland avenues. Having purchased the "shell" of a partially-constructed church, St. Andrews has redesigned and built a church for the 21st century. It plans to have an on-site Adult Day Care Program, is in negotiations for a Nursery/Pre-School Outreach and will continue its Hope House ministry to women and children of the AC Rescue Mission and is developing a targeted ministry among the Latino community.

The Church office is expected to open soon. The opening date for worship is delayed due to delivery problems of special items. The Church is anticipating an opening date in mid-June. Church officials encourage you to visit, and they are excited about being your new neighbor.

Call 344.7333 for more additional information.

## Atlantic City Free Public Library Proposes Changes

Over the past months, the Library staff and its planners have been meeting with residents and community organizations to get their input on the proposed changes that will occur such as new signage and floor plan changes. It is proposed that the teen center and other youth related

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## Important Phone Numbers

Adoption Resources .....	1.800.982.7395
AIDS Hotline .....	1.800.281.2437
Addiction Hotline .....	1.800.322.5525
Alzheimer's Association .....	1.800.272.3900
Asian American Association .....	609.344.2500
AtlanticCare Regional Med. Ctr (City) .....	609.345.4000
(Mainland) .....	609.652.1000
Atlantic City Council Offices .....	609.347.5257/5240
Atlantic City Electric .....	1.856.863.7945
Atlantic City Library .....	609.345.2269
Atlantic City Mayor's Office .....	609.347.5400
Cancer Association .....	1.800.562.2623
Child Abuse .....	1.877.652.2873
Consumer Affairs .....	609.343.2376
CRDA .....	609.347.0500
Domestic Abuse Hotline .....	1.800.572.SAFE
Eye Bank .....	1.800.653.9379
Family Help Line .....	1.800.843.5437
Fire Prevention .....	609.347.5595
First Ward Councilperson .....	609.347.5232
Hispanic Alliance .....	609.345.2772
Jewish Federation of Atlantic/Cape May .....	609.822.4404
League of Women Voters .....	1.800.792.8683
Literacy Volunteers Association .....	609.383.3377
Meals on Wheels .....	609.347.5445
Motor Vehicle Commission .....	609.292.6500
NAACP .....	609.345.4666
NJ Organ & Tissue Sharing Network .....	1.800.742.7365
NJ Poison Control Car .....	1.800.222.1222
Sanitation Dept (Public Works) .....	609.347.5700/5551
Senior Citizen Outreach .....	609.347.5458
Senior Citizen Programs .....	609.347.5445
Social Security .....	1.800.772.1213
U.S Postal Service .....	1.800.275.8777
Veterans Affairs .....	1.800.827.1000
Vital Statistics .....	609.347.5410
Voice/TTY/TDD .....	1.800.424.8802
Voter Registration .....	609.343.2246
Water Department (ACMU) .....	609.345.3315
Welfare Department .....	609.347.5570
Women's Referral Central .....	1.800.322.8092

## Atlantic City Library (cont. from pg. 3)

services would be moved to the first floor. New books, DVDs and Circulation will remain on the first level.

The second level will have Reference, Computers and the Heston Collection which houses Atlantic City historical items.

*Note: If you have any historical photos or documents about Atlantic City, please consider donating them to the library's Heston Collection or letting them make copies of your originals. Call the Heston archivist Heather Halpin at (609) 345.2269, ext. 3062 for information.*

Did you know the library now has a World Language area where it features books in a variety of languages and during the summer months, the library will have a reading programs for the youth. Contact them at their web site [www.acfpl.org](http://www.acfpl.org) or call 609.345.2269.

## Problem Resolution and Participation

*First Ward residents who encounter problems in their neighborhood have an important resource-*

*The First Ward Civic Association.*

*Whether it is a vacant lot noise problem, garbage, street lights or other quality of life issues, the First Ward Civic Association can serve as a starting point to resolve these issues.*

*Come to our meeting on the first Tuesday of the Month (except July and August) at the Uptown Complex*

*or call us at:  
344.5648.*

## FIRST WARD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Valid January 2007 - December 2007  
\$12 yearly**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete form & mail with your check to:**

First Ward Civic Association, 204 Dylan Drive, Atlantic City, NJ 08401