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Neighbors

[The Hammonton Gazette]

Egg Harbor City secures \$128K grant *EHC police proactively stifle threat*

BY CRAIG RICHARDS
GAZETTE PUBLISHER

EGG HARBOR CITY, N.J.— \$128,000 is headed to EHC to install public EV charging stations. The funds, a grant provided by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, is designated to provide money for community energy plans that align with the State's Energy Master Plan.

EHC intends to install the stations first on Philadelphia Avenue with plans to add additional stations at the train station and City Hall as these or other funds allow.

The EHC police's fast and strategic action likely thwarted ill intentions. During the recent 4-H fair in the adjacent township, a pack of youth unruly teenagers were being disorderly and subsequently kicked out. But the group was eager to continue their evening.

After removing them from the fair, officers from Hamilton Twp. and Galloway, informed EHC police of the pending threat of these teens heading to EHC. Seeing the potential for further issues that could arise from this group, EHC Sgt. Landicini and officers DeFeo, Rosenberger, Cantz and Fonville took it upon themselves to proactively advert potential confronta-

tions by preparing themselves and likely areas of convergence for eminent encounter.

Officers, utilizing their community relationships, spoke with staff at Wawa and McDonald's encouraging them to temporarily shut down their stores before anyone got there. And while some took to social media to claim there was looting and rioting, that was not the case, as the kids never had access to the stores. The move was twofold. First officers wanted to ensure the safety of residents, store personnel and property, while simultaneously deescalating possible opportunities for confrontation.

Family Dollar had not been able to lock their doors prior to the teens arrival. However, Sergeant Landicini was able to route the kids out of the store without property damage. Officers from Hamilton Twp., Galloway Twp. and transit police also responded to EHC to assist in addressing the 50-60 teenagers.

EHC Chief Marcella Aylwin reported that overall officers showed a great deal of restraint and professionalism in dealing with the disruptive and often disrespectful youth. While officers could have made several more arrests, one juvenile was charged, and officers are looking to identify several others for instances

currently under investigation. She also noted that the juveniles in the group invading EHC that evening were not local kids.

"These were not our kids destroying our stuff. These were kids outside our community that came with an agenda," she said.

Aylwin went on to request the council review the current city curfew ordinance, currently 11 p.m. on weekends and 10 p.m. on weekdays. The revised curfew could at some point also allow police to start citing parents for kids in violation of the ordinance.

According to the chief, since July 18, there has been one aggravated assault to hurt, one fraud case, two narcotics activities, one robbery, three stolen their vehicles, seven thefts, 10 motor vehicle accidents, six pedestrian stops, 90 traffic stops, 12 arrests, 17 business alarm, four residential alarms, 157 crime prevention activities, four cases of criminal mischief, nine domestic, 40 MS incidents, five firearms ID applications, 21 follow-ups, 609 property checks and 74 public service calls.

The next EHC Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on September 19 at 500 London Street, Egg Harbor City.

Waterford Twp. BOE discusses upcoming school year, goals for staff

BY JENNIFER MCGRAW
FOR THE GAZETTE

WATERFORD TWP., N.J.— The Waterford Twp. Board of Education held one final board meeting before the school year on August 21. Though the meeting was brief, a lot will be implemented in the new school year.

The board began with a statement to the public, discussing transparency with agenda items that get brought to the public.

"The members of the Board Committee work with the administration and Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand this matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education

for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then, it is placed on the agenda for action at the public meeting," the statement read.

The committee discussed each report, for education, personnel and business for the upcoming school year.

"The education committee got together last week to discuss everything with regards to planning for the upcoming school year, including the curriculum, the summer program, PEP goals as well as the Leadership Camp that the sixth graders attended," Ehren O'Donnell said.

The personnel committee, headed by Michael McClintok, discussed an open media special-

ist position and plans going forward, as well as discussing the new supervisor of preschool, among other general staffing updates.

"[The business committee] talked about the SRO contract, basically it was already in place from previous, we just discussed a recap of the contract. We did talk about the summer building and cleaning prep for the upcoming school year and building repairs," Daniel Hoover said.

There was no presentation nor public comments for the meeting, making it go by a little quicker when the committee approved of the items on the agenda.

The board went over some

goals for the 2024-2025 school year, such as implementing Into Reading with fidelity to increase student achievement. They will also evaluate their current RTI model and implement evidence-based strategies and make adjustments to support their at-risk population. Maybe one of the most important goals in a post-COVID world, the staff will implement school-wide systems for positive behavior, trauma-informed and healing-centered practices.

"Waterford Township School District, through our progressive student-centered curriculum and comprehensive system of supports, provides all students with a safe, equitable learning envi-

ronment that cultivates academics, social and emotional growth," McClintok said.

"We encourage the development of personal strengths, positive self-image and appreciation for the uniqueness of each individual. Through community partnerships and engagement, the district provides a strong foundation for students to reach their full potential as they continue their educational journey," he said.

The next meeting will be held September 18, at 7 p.m.

This article was produced in collaboration with New Jersey Civic Information Consortium and Rowan University.

Visit Mississippi and NJ Division of Travel & Tourism unveil new Freedom Trail marker

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., August 21, 2024—Yesterday, Visit Mississippi and New Jersey Division of Travel & Tourism (NJTT), along with Visit Atlantic City, proudly unveiled the newest addition to the Mississippi Freedom Trail outside of the historic Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. This marker, part of a series commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1964 Freedom Summer voting rights movement, honors the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and its groundbreaking efforts toward equality at the 1964 Democratic National Convention which took place at Boardwalk Hall. New Jersey is the first and only state outside of Mississippi to host an official Mississippi Freedom Trail marker.

"Mississippi is proud to unveil the first Freedom Trail marker outside of our state, extending our rich history and the stories of the Civil Rights Movement to Atlantic City," Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves said. "This marker not only honors the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer but also invites visitors to discover more of Mississippi's civil rights legacy. We extend our gratitude to the state of New Jersey, Atlantic City,

Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor Tahesha Way for their partnership in honoring this critical chapter of our shared history."

"We are honored to feature the first Freedom Trail marker outside of Mississippi," New Jersey Acting Governor Tahesha Way said. "Atlantic City is home to several locations that honor the state's civil rights history, including the Civil Rights Garden and the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey. Today, this new Freedom Trail marker signifies the community's role in supporting the Freedom Summer activists to ensure equal representation for Black voters, which played a key role in the Civil Rights movement and forever altered the course of U.S. election history."

The 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City was a pivotal moment in civil rights history, playing a crucial part in challenging racial segregation and standing as the defining event of Freedom Summer. This historic convention led to significant advancements in the Civil Rights movement. The efforts of Mississippi's Freedom Summer activists were supported by vol-

unteers and organizations in New Jersey, who helped shape the future of voting rights in America.

Part of the United States Civil Rights Trail, the Mississippi Freedom Trail consists of over 30 sites that offer visitors the opportunities to learn more about the

Civil Rights Movement, honor important figures of the era and sightsee across the state.

For more on the Mississippi Freedom Trail, go to visitmississippi.org. For more information about New Jersey, go to visitnj.org.



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