

TOWN WATCH / TOWN PRIDE

P.O. Box 17, Sea Isle City, NJ 08243
KEEP SEA ISLE CITY A FAMILY RESORT

Newsletter No. 1

May/June, 2008

Kennedy Resigns

A very sad chapter in the proud history of the Sea Isle City Police Dept. ended with the resignation of former Police Chief William Kennedy amid allegations of sexual and professional misconduct. The details of this very sordid story were printed on the front page of the May 12 Atlantic City Press.

The article states that, in his report, the city investigator paints a picture "of a police department in shambles". "His misconduct brought disrepute to and disrupted the operations of the police dept., destroyed the morale of its employees and law enforcement personnel, obliterated the trust that the citizenry must have in a chief of police, and clearly requires his removal."

In Nov. Kennedy and a female dispatcher were suspended, without pay, pending a departmental hearing. In Dec. The Cape May County Prosecutor's office began monitoring the operations of the police dept. Sea Isle City police Captain Michael Cook has been serving as acting police chief.

Now the question is, "How do we proceed from here?" Great care is needed in the selection process with input from many and varied sources. Despite pleas from TW/TP for wide input, the appointment of Kennedy 4 years ago was perceived as a unilateral decision, with little or no discussion. Possibly due diligence could have prevented an appointment that has proven disastrous.

There is merit in hiring, for a limited transitional period, an outstanding retired police chief with a proven record from another community. This option was put aside at the April 10 council meeting by city administrator George Savastano, when he stated that position would be filled from the inside. City solicitor Paul Baldini said the city might call for a chief's test in July.

(See *Kennedy* on page 2)



138 39th St.

NB. You can usually spot a disorderly house by the number of towels hanging over the front railing.

Our Most Effective Noise Control Law

When concerned citizens and city officials work together, effective action can be taken against owners who rent to rowdy tenants. The answer lies in our "Animal House" Law. This law, also called the "2 Strike Law" requires an owner to appear at a public hearing if their tenants are convicted on 2 occasions for violating city noise and rowdy behavior ordinances.

At a Jan. 11 hearing, Jeffrey Donahue, owner of 138 39th St., was required to post a bond of \$5,000 for 4 years, because of lack of action to correct problems at his property that resulted in 2 convictions and 2 for stock piling trash and not having proper receptacles.

The property was rented to 5 underage girls. The hearing officer believed that the owner should have known that there would be problems. He also stated that all the calls to the police and the required appearances of officers in municipal court resulted in heavy costs to the city.

A total of 4 owners were required to post bonds of varying amounts for from 1 to 4 years. The other properties were 21 40th St. \$3,000 for 2 yrs., 325
(See *Effective* on page 2)

(Kennedy from page 1)

If the position is filled by an internal candidate, they should probably appoint him as acting chief for a period long enough to evaluate performance. During this time the selected candidate should spend a few months in another police department that is purported to have outstanding leadership. In addition the candidate should also attend some form of advanced training for police chiefs. It is our understanding that there are such programs at the state or federal level.

We have a number of outstanding individuals in our police department, but none of whom have ever served in a department that was considered particularly well run and had a friendly, cooperative relationship with the citizenry. Some outside training or expertise is needed if we are to be successful.

(Effective from page 1)

56th St. \$2,500 for 2 yrs. and 379 43rd Place \$500 for 1 yr. The owner's effort, or lack of effort, to correct problems was the main determinant in deciding the amount of the required bonds.

One of the key reasons for the city's successful prosecution of these cases was the willingness of neighbors to drive long distances to testify against the owners of these properties. One neighbor drove 300 miles to state what it's like to live next to a property where the owner has no respect for others in the community.

The other reason for the successful outcome of the hearings was the quality of the city's preparation and the prosecutor. City Attorney Paul Baldini, assisted by Police Captain Michael Cook, were outstanding in enforcing the quality of life standards in Sea Isle. Also the hearing officer was acute, attentive and clearly interested in fair, but effective code enforcement. The meeting ended at midnight.

New owners, who plan to rent their properties, may wonder what they should do to ensure that their property is an asset and not a disgrace to a neighborhood. To aid new owners we have outlined on page 8 several suggestions that will greatly reduce the possibility of having problems.

✓ **Correcting Early Season Problems TW/TP Public Meetings**

On Tuesday June 17 at 7:00 pm a public meeting will be held in the SIC Community Center, 300 JFK Blvd.

The purpose of this meeting will be to help our homeowners and visitors solve problems that they may be experiencing with noise, rowdyism, trash violations, parking and other issues that detract from their quality of life at the shore.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CORRECT PROBLEMS EARLY IN THE SUMMER, OTHERWISE THE PROBLEMS WILL CONTINUE ALL SEASON.

Mayor Leonard Desiderio, Police Captain Tom De Intino and Code Enforcement Officer Brian Teefy are scheduled to attend these meetings.

Two additional meetings have been scheduled for later in the summer.

Tuesday, July 22 and Tuesday, Aug. 19
Again at 7:00 pm in the Community Center.

COME, BE HEARD AND HAVE STEPS TAKEN TO CORRECT ANY PROBLEMS

✓ **BE AWARE - 12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS**
Everyone, both owners and complainants, should be aware that the time period covered by our Animal House (2 Strike) Law is 12 consecutive months.

This means that the law is not restricted to 2 convictions in the same season. For example, the property at 21 40th St. had incidents with convictions in August of 2006 and June of 2007. Two different seasons, but within 12 consecutive months. The owner was required to post a bond of \$3,000 for 2 years.

If a property was a problem late in the 2007 season, the occupants must be on their good behavior as soon as they arrive this year. Both the owner and neighbors should be monitoring the property carefully.



3820 Central Ave.

**N.B. The trash, the many cars parked all over the property
and the numerous broken & missing railing uprights**

A Long Needed Change One Roof, One Owner, 2 Strikes

For several years 3820 Central Ave. has been a notorious property . Problems at the property have been discussed at City Council and TW/TP meetings.

In 2007 two noise convictions were charged against the house, but the owner did not have to post a bond. This is because the building, although not particularly large in size, is a quad (4 units) and the 2 convictions had to be against the same unit.

As of Mar. 25th the 2 Strike (animal house) Law was rewritten to define "seasonal rental premises as any rental or residential accommodations consisting of a single dwelling or 2 or more dwelling units on the same rental property owned by one landlord".

This change means that the law is triggered by 2 convictions anywhere in the building. The neighbors and other members of TW/TP wish to thank City Attorney Paul Baldini for bringing about this effective remedy and brings us more in line with how other communities administer their "animal house" laws.

Please Renew Your Membership

May is the normal renewal time for TW/TP membership.

To facilitate this we have enclosed an addressed envelope. Dues are \$5.00 per person or \$10 for a family. In an average year TW/TP uses nearly all of its yearly income for printing, mailing, advertising and public meeting expenses. A membership application is printed at the bottom of page 7.

This is the first of 3 newsletters in 2008. There will be 3 public meetings and helpful information will be distributed throughout the year. During the winter season volunteer TW/TP members will augment regular police patrols and report to our Police Dept. any possible problems they observe.

A sincere "Thank you" to all who will be renewing their membership, and those who are joining us for the 1st time.

TOWN WATCH

VFW POST 1963

This placard will be printed on heavy, yellow plastic, the back of which will be magnetic so that it can easily be attached or detached from the car of the patrol volunteer. The sign will be 18" wide and 12" high.

Neighborhood Patrols

In conjunction with our police department, TW/TP started regular neighborhood patrols in January of this year. This undertaking has been closely coordinated with Capt. Thomas D'Intino, Administrative Officer Lt. Dennis Felsing and Crime Prevention Officer Thomas McQuillen of our Police Dept.

The goal of neighborhood patrols is to complement and augment the patrolling of our Police Dept. Patrol volunteers are never to put themselves in harms way. If a volunteer notices something suspicious while on patrol, they phone the police immediately, giving an accurate address, a description of the problem, and then "keep moving".

TW/TP patrols are to be active from late fall until the start of the summer season, at which time our Police Dept. staff is augmented by the addition of Class I and Class II summer officers.

We are very pleased to say the Sea Isle City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1963 has donated magnetic placards to be attached to the side of a car while patrolling. This physical presence may cause vandals or thieves to realize that Sea Isle is not abandoned during the winter months.

The response to the program has been excellent, but we can always use more volunteers. Anyone needing additional information or interested in

volunteering for the program, should contact Carl Lingresso's cell phone at (856) 952-4074 or the Sea Isle Police Dept. (609) 263-4311.

City Council Meetings - Let's Participate

The scheduled Council Meetings for the remainder of 2008 are as listed below. As good citizens we should plan to attend as many meetings as possible. All meetings are held in the Council Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Public Safety Bldg., 233 JFK Blvd. except where indicated.

Council meetings are normally very interesting. Council members are well prepared and the participation of the public is encouraged. TW/TP believes you'll be pleased with your new form of government.

May 27	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting
June 10	7:00 PM - Regular Meeting
June 24	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting
July 8	7:00 PM - Regular Meeting
July 22	10:00 AM - Reg. Meeting T.I. Civic Center
Aug. 12	7:00 PM - Regular Meeting
Aug. 26	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting
Sept. 6	10:00 AM - Reg. Meeting - SIC Public School 46 th & Park Rd. (Sat.)
Sept. 30	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting
Oct. 14	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting
Oct. 28	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting
Nov. 10	7:00 PM - Reg. Meeting (Mon.)
Nov. 25	10:00 AM - Regular Meeting



Shown with Mayor Leonard Desiderio and Capt. Michael Cook (2nd from right) are Sgt. John Milburn, Lt. Dennis Felsing, Capt. Thomas D'Intino and Lt. Michael Jargowsky

Sea Isle Police Dept. Promotes 4 Officers

During a ceremony held on April 2, 4 members of the SIC Police Dept. received promotions and took their oaths of office in front of family and friends.

Thomas D'Intino has been a member of the SIC Police Dept. since 1990 and he was promoted to Captain.

Michael Jargowsky and Dennis Felsing, who have belonged to the SICPD since 1986 and 1983 respectively, each promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

John Milburn, who is a 21 yr. Police veteran in Sea Isle was sworn on as Sergeant.

In addition to its administrative staff, the SICPD currently consists of 19 members who make up 4 squads and a detective bureau. The department has 2 trainees, who are studying at the county police academy in Cape May Court House

During the summer months, the SICPD hires approximately 20 additional Special Law Enforcement Officers, also known as Class Two officers, and 2 to 4 Parking Enforcement Officers.

In a statement made by the mayor during the brief swearing-in ceremony, he expressed his

appreciation for all the hard work of the police department and how important their work is to the community.

Wanted - Early Action

Starting Memorial weekend Mayor Desiderio will request a meeting with the owner of any disorderly property as soon as summonses are issued to the occupants of the property.

The purpose of this meeting is to get the owner personally involved to determine what he/she plans to do to prevent future incidents.

In addition to dealing with the owner, renewed emphasis is being placed on the need for a local Cape May County contact, if the owner is not in residence in Cape May County.

When disorderly conduct occurs the owner or contact person will be asked to immediately visit the property and take whatever corrective action is necessary.

Employees of the city and TW/TP volunteers under the leadership of Councilman William Kehner will verify the validity of the contact listing, checking to ensure they know their responsibilities. The rental permit for a property will be withheld if the contact responsibilities cannot be verified.

Parking 48th St. & Landis

Although not officially designated as a city parking lot, the open area at 48th St. & Park Rd. will again be available for parking. The entrance is on Park. Our new trolley service will stop at the lot.

Citizens are encouraged to use this lot. During busy weekends many large duplexes draw as many as 10 cars on a weekend that need parking space and it's just not available. Half of the overload could be parked at 48th & Park, greatly relieving congestion.

When parking problems do develop, it may be helpful to read page 7 "Parking Violations - Who Does What".

Sea Isle City Trolley

Trolley service will be available in SIC. The route of the trolley and the time schedule is shown below.

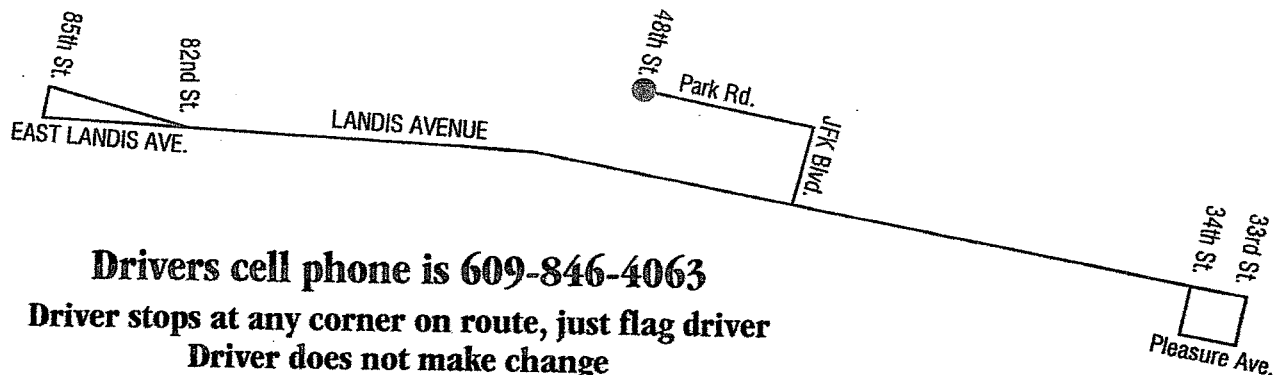
A one way ticket for a child (under 4 ft') will be \$1.00 and an adult \$2.00. Some businesses will provide a \$1.00 discount coupon.

An all day pass costs \$3.00 and the discount does not apply for this pass.

The route of the trolley and the time schedule is shown below.

SEA ISLE CITY TROLLEY ROUTE MAP

Trolley runs on the hour from the north end and half-hour from south end (85th St.)
Last pick-up is at 9:30PM at 85th Street



Drivers cell phone is 609-846-4063

Driver stops at any corner on route, just flag driver

Driver does not make change

2PM, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9PM South bound from 33rd St.

2:30PM, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, & 9:30PM

North bound from 85th St.

The "Jolly Trolley"

Are you ready for the "Jolly Trolley?" This is the nickname given to a service that is being sponsored by the bar owners of SIC. The trolley will run Fri. And Sat. Nights from 10:00 PM until closing.

To some degree the route will attempt to meet the needs of the passengers. Although it may sound frivolous, this service has a serious purpose. It is hoped that it will reduce to some degree, late night noise on our streets and hopefully remove the

temptation to drive after imbibing a little too much.

The fare will be \$5.00. Sounds expensive, but it's inexpensive compared to the cost of a DUI summons or possibly some other violation.

This type of trolley service has proven successful in other shore communities and we wish success to SIC's own "Jolly Trolley".

PARKING VIOLATIONS - WHO DOES WHAT

Police officers on their own initiative can write a summons (ticket) for violations on city property and public streets but not on private property. Violations on private property must be requested by a private citizen.

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES HOW PARKING VIOLATIONS ARE TREATED.

1. Citizen calls police to report:

- A) Vehicle is parked on the street facing the wrong direction (against the flow) or**
- B) Vehicle is blocking the sidewalk (vehicles wheels are on the crosswalk).**

The police will write, sign and place the summons on the vehicle. No signature on the summons or court appearance will be required by the complainant.

2. Citizen calls police to report that a vehicle is parked on the street but blocking their driveway (i.e. prevents citizen's vehicle from leaving their property).

Because the vehicle is on the street, the police will write, sign, place the summons on the vehicle and, if requested by the complainant, have the vehicle towed at the city's expense. No signature on the summons or court appearance will be required by the complainant.

3. Citizen calls police to report that a vehicle has illegally parked on their property (e.g., in their driveway)

- A. If the nature of the offense is clear, the officer will write, sign and place the summons on the vehicle.**

If requested by the complainant, the police will have the vehicle towed and the city will be responsible for the cost. No court appearance will be required by the complainant unless the summons is contested. The court will advise the complainant as to the date and the time of the hearing.

- B. If the alleged violation is in any way in doubt, in place of a summons, the officer will ask the citizen to sign a "Non-indictable Complaint" form which will be placed on the vehicle. The complainant will be required to write, date and sign a statement about the situation. The complaint form and statement will be submitted by the police officer. The complainant will not be required to appear in court unless the summons is contested.**

In this situation, if the complainant wants the car towed, the complainant must make the arrangements and will be responsible for towing costs and liable for any damages to the vehicle.

N. B. Procedures for noise complaints are different:

When the police do not witness a noise incident, they will ask the complainant if they want to sign a "Citizen's Complaint". As a result of signing the complaint, the complainant will be required to appear in court. The court will advise the complainant as to the date and the time of the hearing.

Help Keep Sea Isle A Family Town - Become a Supporter of
TOWN WATCH/TOWN PRIDE
TW/TP Dues\$5 per person\$10 for a family

Name

Street

CityState.....Zip.....

Sea Isle Address

Mail to: TOWN WATCH/TOWN PRIDE
P.O. Box 17
Sea Isle City, N.J. 08243

Great strides have been made to improve the quality of life for SIC property owners by curbing disorderly and indecent conduct of seasonal renters. This is a direct consequence of the effective cooperation between TWTP and the City. TWTP feels that it could provide a further service by compiling a list of suggested actions a landlord could take to reduce the likelihood of outrageous and excessive behavior by some renters. By assisting the landlord in being proactive, perhaps we can foster better relationships between neighbors and "preserve the peace and tranquility of the City of Sea Isle City for its permanent residents as well as to maintain its viability as a vacation resort for families". Landlord suggested actions are:

1. Screen your potential renters as to their level of responsibility, possibly obtaining a letter of recommendation for group rentals that certifies as to their proper conduct on past rentals. Recognize your potential liability as a landlord if you rent to underage groups who may indulge in underage drinking.
2. Inform potential renters as to their responsibilities regarding noise, trash, profanity, size of groups, etc.
3. Include an addendum to your rental agreement, spelling out specific conduct required and/or prohibited during the rental period. Emphasize the eviction remedy as a result of egregious activities.
4. Visit your rental property periodically (at least monthly) to evaluate tenant conduct as to trash, property damage, evidence of large groups, etc. If you are unable to personally visit, make arrangements with your property manager and/or real estate agent to visit the property and provide reports to you.
5. Exchange phone numbers with your neighbors and periodically solicit their feedback. Encourage them to contact you, if there are problems with your renters regarding trash, noise, profanity, etc.
6. Stay abreast of excessive behavior on your property by also contacting SIC town departments regarding complaints, summons and/or arrest activity for:
 - Noise, drinking and disorderly conduct violations, large parties and other egregious activities:
Police Department 263-4311 extension 0
 - Trash violations and rental permits:
Code Enforcement Department 263-6000 extension 9
7. Evict tenants who violate your rental agreement, including addendums, before their actions become your problem (e.g. hearings, bond postings, lawsuits, etc.).
8. Review our town ordinances on the SIC website: <http://www.sea-isle-city.nj.us/> and select "City Codes" from the menu on the left of the city homepage. The applicable ordinance for landlords is found in Chapter XI Rental Housing under Paragraph 11-7 "Responsible Seasonal Rental Dwellings".

This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of actions that if taken would relieve the landlord of responsibility when excesses occur, but rather are suggestions which may reduce the frequency and severity of occurrences.