

# Kiwanis Club to celebrate 100th anniversary at Grand Hotel

CAPE MAY — The Kiwanis Club of Cape May will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with a party April 27 at the Grand Hotel.

Since Jan. 27, 1924, the club has been a community leader.

Kiwanis recognizes the significant needs of children and a community's obligation to encourage and mentor them through every challenge. This ensures they gain the skills necessary to fulfill their dreams and live a full, productive, joyful and satisfying life.

The celebration is intended to sincerely thank all supporters, members and volunteers and bring awareness to the programs and services the club offers.

While Kiwanians are very proud to celebrate decades of genuine ac-

complishments, they also recognize that the needs of children and families have grown significantly over the years.

Children are the future of the world. They are the bedrock treasures of every community and country. Kiwanians believe it is the right of every child to have everything they need so they can develop to their highest aspirations and abilities.

Kiwanis Club of Cape May is involved in food drives to supply local food banks for elders, families and children in need. The club supports an elementary school backpack program, providing educational support and basic nutrition, so children have the energy to learn.

Kiwanis seeks community and national contributions to better serve and support children and fami-

lies. Volunteerism is alive and well at Kiwanis Club of Cape May. Current members include working and retired teachers, health care providers, business workers, crafts people, military veterans and entrepreneurs.

Within the club's diverse and enthusiastic community are people with problem-solving skill sets necessary to take on every challenge. The needs facing the community and children include special needs adults, as well as families and elders who require hands-on engagement and encouragement.

To that end, Kiwanis Club of Cape May has a track record of addressing and fighting hunger, encouraging literacy and guidance every step of the way.

The club's literacy B.U.G

(elementary Bring Up Grades) program, tutoring program and a longstanding traditional scholarship program for supporting and encouraging local students graduating from high school studies and entering college has enhanced the lives of young people living and learning in the Cape May community.

Cape May's well-established and beloved seaside community is a destination for children and families from all over the country.

Typical of resort communities, the residents are the workers who make sure Cape May remains a safe and wonderful place to spend the summer.

One notable chapter in the club's history is the transformation of a lifeguard station into a beachfront clubhouse. Originally a vital hub for lifeguards

ensuring the safety of beachgoers, this structure evolved into a symbolic center of community service.

The clubhouse, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, became a gathering place for Kiwanians to plan and execute initiatives that touched the lives of countless residents and visitors.

Over the decades, the club adapted to the changing needs of the community. Its commitment to children's welfare extended beyond the shores with initiatives like food drives for local food banks and special programs for elementary school children.

The Kiwanis Club of Cape May emerged as a beacon of support, addressing hunger, promoting literacy, and providing mentorship.

As the Kiwanis Club of Cape May celebrates its

centennial anniversary in 2024, the beachfront clubhouse stands not just as a physical structure but as a testament to a century of service. It symbolizes a community coming together to uplift its youth and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

The club's commitment to creating opportunities for children to learn, dream, and succeed resonates through the walls of the clubhouse. As the sun sets over the Atlantic, the Kiwanis Club of Cape May looks back with pride on a hundred years of genuine accomplishments, grateful for the lifeguard station that transformed into a beacon of community service.

Email [info@capemaykiwanis.com](mailto:info@capemaykiwanis.com) for tickets. Visit [capemaykiwanis.com](http://capemaykiwanis.com) or call (845) 546-2441 for more information.

## Sippel highlights 2023, previews year to come

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municipal budget, Sippel said.

At council's Feb. 5 meeting, a representative of the deputy commissioner for New Jersey Military

Affairs will present the township with a "We Value Our Veteran's Community Award," for which Lower

Township hit 15 benchmarks, he said.

Council passed an ordinance in 2023 to provide reserved parking for disabled veterans along with Purple Heart recipients. The former Station Road, next to Township Hall, was renamed Veteran's Way, Sippel said.

In 2023, Lower Township police implemented a drone program which operates under strict general order of the chief of police, he said.

Sippel said the state Division of Fish and Wildlife will start a project in March to upgrade Higbee Beach to provide enhanced viewing and open Pond Creek to tidal flow. The \$33 million project is funded by the federal and state governments which includes an observation deck, nature trails and overlooks. Phase one of the project is funded but phase two, which is not funded, would build an education center on Sunset Boulevard, Sippel said.

Completed 2023 capi-

tal improvement projects included municipal pool improvements, Millman Center Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, replacement of pavilions at Douglass Park, Lincoln Boulevard restroom construction, Carriage Lane, Fire Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridal Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way reconstructed and paved, he said.

Last year, the position of deputy chief was created in the Lower Township Police Department.

The Arrive program was implemented which partners mental health counselors with police officers when they respond to an incident involving a possible mental health issue, Sippel said.

The design to alleviate flooding in the 200 blocks of Frances, Cardinal and West Wildwood, and Drumbed avenues and Rose Lane are being finalized with a bid expected to be awarded in the next few weeks, he said.

Construction of beach access paths in North Cape May and Town Bank went out to bid last week.

Sippel said the township clerk's office issued 905 rental licenses, 312 business licenses, over 1,000 dog licenses and worked on 424 resolutions and 24 ordinances.

Sippel said the tax rate base for the township totals over \$3.7 billion.

At the end of 2023, the township had more than \$9.7 million in surplus, up \$1.3 million from the previous year, he said, the highest ever surplus for Lower Township, he said.

"Part of the reason the surplus came in so high, council approved an occupancy tax which brought in \$737,000 plus," he said. "We also switched banks last year that allowed us to make more money in interest and that brought in close to \$500,000 and we had some money come back from the county MUA (Municipal Utilities Authority) for a recycling program which gave us about a \$1.3 million increase from last year's surplus."

Last June, Standards and Poor upgraded the township's bond rating from AA- to AA.

The construction office issued over 1,200 permits and made over 4,000 inspections and brought in \$688,689 in fees, according to the mayor.

Code enforcement received 677 complaints with 37 summonses issued and responded to 510 dogs running on the beach.

The township's fire safety office conducted over 1,800 inspections in 2023 with 589 business inspections and 528 inspections of homes being sold.

Capital improvement projects planned for 2024 include improvements at Diamond Beach Park, Douglass Memorial Park, Rotary Park, recreation center playground equipment, Delaware Bay outfall pipe extensions, reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue, Bay Drive and Ridgewood Avenue, stormwater GIS mapping program, Ohio Avenue pump station upgrades, municipal pool house renovations and Department of Public Works facility upgrades, Sippel said.

The mayor said the goal for 2024 is no property tax increase.

## Dovekie Alert!

Dovekies have recently been stranding on NJ beaches and roads. They are a type of seabird normally found out in the ocean.

Recent storms are blowing them inland. When these birds end up on land, they can't walk or fly off and are stranded. If you find a dovekie, do NOT leave it on land. They must be in the water to survive.

**To rescue:** Use gloves or a towel to pick it up (bare hands will disrupt its feathers' waterproofing). Put air holes in a lidded box, line it with a towel, and put the dovekie in. Do not give it food or water. These birds are easily stressed, so keep the container in a warm, dry, dark, and quiet place until you can bring it to a Rehabilitation Facility with the proper permits to care for seabirds. Time is of the essence for these softball sized little birds.

Call:

- Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge: 856-983-3329
- Toms River Avian Care: 732-255-9270
- Tri-State Bird Rescue, DE: 302-737-9543
- South Jersey Wildlife Rehabilitation: 856-207-7026 or 856-217-5957
- Or a rehab near you from this list: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wp-content/uploads/njfw/rehab-list.pdf>



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- Roll it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Cash out the account subject to early withdrawal penalties

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



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