Chloramine Added to Drinking Water

New Jersey American Water (NJAW) will be changing the way our drinking water is treated beginning the week of May 28, 2012.

To comply with new, stringent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, NJAW needed to transition the water treatment disinfection practice from chlorine to chloramine. The change was made to reduce the levels of disinfection byproducts that EPA has found to have known health risks.

Compared to chlorine, chloramine produces substantially lower concentrations of the disinfection byproducts. People can use chloraminated water in all the same ways for drinking, bathing, cooking, cleaning and watering lawns and gardens.

There are however, some important precautions for dialysis patients and fish owners.

Dialysis systems already pre-treat their source water to remove chlorine, but modifications might be necessary to remove chloramine. If you’re on dialysis, consult your provider or health care practitioner for more information on your particular treatment need.

For aquatic life, both chlorine and chloramine are toxic in very low levels and must be removed from the water. Most pet stores sell disinfectant-removal products that can be added to the tap water prior to introduction to the fish tank or pond.

Trattoria Serves Up New Name and Menu

Well-known Primo’s Pizzeria & Grille of Highlands has opened a second location in Sea Bright. Owner Vincent Maldini and partners have taken over, remodeled, and revised the former Trattoria G.

Newly named Primo’s Trattoria, located at 1142 Ocean Avenue in Sea Bright, is a cozy BYOB restaurant. The new restaurant features the old favorite great recipes and traditional Italian dishes, and now offers new specials and dinner entrees - including a wide selection of seafood and other southern Italian recipes.

“We also now serve breakfast seven days a week, from 6-11 a.m.,” says Maldini. “Be sure to stop in and say hello, check out our daily specials and experience a great family atmosphere at an affordable price.”

New Councilmember Takes a Seat

Marc Leckstein (right) was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the governing body at the Feb. 7 Borough Council meeting, becoming Sea Bright’s newest council member. He took the seat vacated by Dina Long (left) when she became Mayor at the beginning of this year. Leckstein is the only Democrat serving on council. Though Long is also a Democrat, the Mayor votes only to break a tie.

Parking Permit Changes

The Sea Bright Police Department has made a few changes that apply to parking permits. The enforcement period will now span from May 15 until September 15.

In addition, decals will no longer be used. Instead, over-the-mirror hangers will be issued to permit holders so they have the flexibility to move them to any vehicle.

Only two parking permits per household will be issued. Residential and business parking permits are now available at police headquarters. Applications for parking permits are also available. The owner or lessee of a vehicle must present proof of residency when applying.

Recycling Made Easier

Sea Bright recently made a convenient change to the way it recycles; the Borough now uses a single-stream recycling system.

Single-stream (also known as “fully commingled” or “single-sort”) recycling refers to a system in which all recyclable materials are no longer sorted by residents or businesses. Both the collection and processing systems are designed to handle a fully commingled mixture of recyclables (cardboard mixed with bottles/cans), where the materials are later separated at a recovery facility.

So what does this mean for Sea Bright? Residents and businesses no longer have to keep track of whether cardboard or bottles/cans go out to the curb each week. From now on, every Wednesday, all recyclables are picked up together.

“The purpose of single-stream recycling is to make it easier and more convenient for residents,” says Sea Bright Public Works Director Dave Barhle. “The main goal is get more people to comply and recycle.”

Mandated items to recycle for weekly pick up include:

- Bottles & Cans:
  - Aluminum cans (NO foil, pie tins, cookware).
  - Tin and bi-metal cans.
  - Glass bottles and jars (NO dishware, ceramics, light bulbs, window glass).
  - Plastic “pourable containers” (Neck of bottle smaller than body).

- Newspapers:
  - Newspapers and any inserts that come with the paper. Do not include any paper used for pet waste or household projects.

- Corrugated Cardboard:
  - Waffle section between layers. Do not include food contaminated cardboard (e.g., pizza boxes or waxed cardboard). Break down all boxes.

- Mixed Paper:
  - Letterhead, colored and white paper, junk mail, soft cover books, chipboard (e.g., cereal boxes).
  - Do not include food wrappers, paper cups or plates, or any other product used for food or personal hygiene. No hardcover books, unless cover and binder are removed.
Sad Loss for Sea Bright

Former Mayor Maria D. Fernandes (right) passed away Sunday, February 26, 2012 at the age of 59, after years of chronic illness. She served as Sea Bright Mayor from 2008 until 2011, and was proud to be the first Portuguese-American female Mayor in the state of New Jersey - and the third in the country.

Before becoming Mayor, she was elected to the Sea Bright Borough Council in 1997 and served in this capacity for nearly a decade. She was appointed Sea Bright Council President from 2003 through 2005 and was an active participant and member of the Sea Bright Planning and Zoning Board from 1996 through 2011.

Beginning her public service as a volunteer on the Fire Ladies Auxiliary, she often said she never thought her involvement would eventually bring her to the head of the dais.

Fernandes's leadership prowess also led to her appointment as Chair of the Sea Bright Public Works Committee where she was instrumental in obtaining grants, consolidating services, and improving the accessibility and maintenance of Borough beaches. She also oversaw the Sea Bright Downtown Infrastructure Improvement Project, addressing downtown flooding issues. Other projects during Fernandes’s tenure on the Borough Council included the implementation of free parking in the municipal lots and the negotiation of several shared services contracts with neighboring towns.

Fernandes devoted much of her life to serving the people of Sea Bright, and she loved doing it. The impact of her dedication and diligence will affect many people in Sea Bright for years to come. Her legacy and resilience serves as an inspiration to many people, and she will truly be missed.

Classic Car Show in Gear

Auto enthusiasts are revving up for the Sea Bright Business Alliance’s first classic car show sponsored by Werner Dodge. The event takes place Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, April 29.

Come enjoy a full day of family fun with free contests and challenges by D.J. Pete, who will be giving away incredible prizes every 10 minutes. You’ll also enjoy a live doo-wop band, The Sounds of the Streets, performing from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. near the Sea Bright firehouse.

Registrants can enter their vehicle to win first, second, or third place trophies in one of seven car classes, including stock (five classes broken down by age of vehicle); imports (1900-1979); and trucks (1900-1979). The first 50 registrants will receive dash plaques, and all registrants will receive goodie bags.

Show entrants can register their vehicle in advance at a reduced fee of $15, or on the day of the event between 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for a $20 fee. You can find complete event information and a registration form online at: www.VisitSeaBright.com/carshow

Sea Bright Adds New Fire Truck to its Fleet

Sea Bright’s new 2012 KME Panther Rescue Pumper (right) will replace two older trucks, downsizing the fleet from four to three trucks.

The apparatus was designed to hold all the rescue equipment that was formerly scattered over numerous trucks, and is equipped with specialty equipment that was previously carried by Fort Monmouth Fire and Emergency Services until the fort’s closure.

The new truck can pump 2000 gallons of water per minute and has a 500-gallon-capacity water tank. It was custom built for both fire suppression and specialty rescue, including vehicle extrication, rescue air bags, machinery and industrial rescue, all types of water and ice rescue, and confined space and rope rescue.

Budget Updates

Despite Borough efforts to increase revenues and reduce costs, the proposed municipal budget will carry a tax increase of 2.67 cents per $100 of assessed value. This equates to a $26.70 increase per $100,000 of value, or $80.10 on a home assessed at $300,000.

The increase is the result of continued lost state aid revenues, including a shortage of $135,000 for 2012; the impact of tax appeal judgments; and decreased property tax collections.

Shore Regional’s 2012-13 school budget increases Sea Bright’s total contribution by 3%, from 10.85% to 13.92% due to shifts in property values. This means Sea Bright will pay $322.92 more this year per average house value of $399,000. However, the Oceanport Board of Education has decreased Sea Bright’s total contribution by $106,191, which is 11% lower than last year. The savings was achieved by debt reduction, budgetary line-item adjustments, and an increase in state aid, while still maintaining all positions, services, and programs.
Endangered Species in Sea Bright

By Stephanie Egger, Wildlife Biologist, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

Have you ever wondered why some areas of the beach are fenced with poles and signs each summer? The fenced areas are there to protect endangered and threatened species and alert beachgoers of their presence on community beaches. One such species is the beach-nesting bird, piping plover (Charadrius melodus), which is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act and as endangered under the State’s Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act. Piping plovers are small, territorial, sandy-colored shorebirds, about the size of a large songbird. Each spring, around mid-March or early April, piping plovers return to their breeding grounds (including Sea Bright) to nest and lay up to four eggs. The chicks, which are highly vulnerable to human disturbance, will remain on the beach with their parents until around mid-August when they are ready to fly.

A colonial beach nesting bird, the least tern (Sterna antillarum), is often seen nesting near the piping plover. The least tern is State-listed as endangered. Least terns are about the size of a robin and nest in colonies of just a few to over 500 pairs. They usually lay two to three eggs beginning in late May until early July. Least tern chicks are present on the beaches often into August.

Another federally listed (threatened) species is the beach plant, seabeach amaranth (Amaranthus pumilus). Seabeach amaranth had not been seen on New Jersey beaches since 1899, but now the plant is back! It was rediscovered in July 2000 in Sea Bright and Monmouth Beach. Biologists are not certain how the species re-colonized Monmouth County beaches. Seeds may have blown or floated from Long Island, washed up from the Carolinas during a storm, or been long-buried in the off-shore sands used to widen the beach.

You may wonder how Sea Bright protects these species. The answer is through Beach Management Planning!

What is Beach Management Planning?

The goal of a Beach Management Plan is to provide for long-term protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species, while recognizing the need for storm protection, recreation, and public works in coastal beach communities.

Local officials and beach managers, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) have been working together in stewardship for federally and state-listed endangered and threatened beach-nesting birds and plants occurring on Sea Bright’s beaches. Sea Bright has been operating under an approved Beach Management Plan since 2006.

A Beach Management Plan designates different beach zones, promoting more active recreation (e.g., dog walking) in some areas and more passive beach activities (e.g., bird-watching, nature walks, shell collecting) in others. Thoughtful planning can provide a variety of popular, nature-oriented recreation to benefit the residents and visitors of beach communities. The Service and the NJDEP can also work with Sea Bright officials to develop educational displays regarding listed species and assist in developing educational talks and interpretive nature walks.

Cats and Dogs - An Element of Beach Management Planning

Local ordinances can be useful tools for beach management plans; for instance, along the Atlantic coast, cats and dogs pose a serious threat to the continued survival of beach-nesting birds such as piping plovers, least terns, and American oystercatchers (Haematopus palliatus). Many people believe that cats and dogs should be allowed to roam free, even on municipal beaches. However, beach-nesting birds are vulnerable to cats and dogs. Cats are natural hunters, and even well-fed cats chase and kill birds. Many dogs are naturally inclined to hunt birds, and unleashed dogs chase birds, destroy nests, and kill chicks. Even when they are on leashes, dogs can frighten and kill birds. Currently, the local ordinance prohibits dogs, cats and other domestic animals from March 15 through Labor Day in the beach areas designated as “protected” in the Beach Management Plan. While we cannot tell birds where we want them to nest, we can control our cats and dogs by following Sea Bright ordinances.

As Sea Bright Borough continues to implement its Beach Management Plan, keep in mind that we need to balance issues such as storm protection and recreation with restoring and protecting endangered plants and animals. Local ordinances can be an important part of such protective efforts, but it is even more important for beachgoers to be aware of and understand how plants, animals, sand, wind, and water interact to sustain our beach environment.

Junior Lifeguards Wanted

The Sea Bright Beach Patrol will once again host the popular Junior Lifeguard Program during the summer of 2012. The primary goal of the program, which is managed by veteran Sea Bright lifeguard supervisors as well as select, certified Sea Bright Lifeguards, is to introduce children to ocean lifesaving equipment and procedures, teach water safety, and provide an understanding of basic first aid.

The program also serves to inspire a new generation of aspiring lifeguards. The junior guards have a great time every summer, and hopefully develop a contagious love and respect for the ocean.

The one-week program offers two separate sessions. Session I will be one week, from July 9 through July 13. Session II will be one week, from July 16 through July 25. The program is open to children between 9 and 16 years of age who are able to swim in the ocean. More detailed information and registration forms are available on the Borough website under the Beach link, and in the Sea Bright Beach Office.

Cat Food for Thought

Sea Bright is still collecting dry cat food (unopened bags, please) and PetSmart gift cards to help its feline residents and their caregivers. If you can help, please bring donations to the Police Department.

Calling Young Readers

Young readers from preschool age through 4th grade are invited to explore the night this summer at Sea Bright Library’s 2012 Dream Big-Read program. Families are also invited to join the Read-to-Me portion of the program. Sign-ups begin June 1.

Also, don’t miss the Library’s kick-off celebration featuring Fun on a String! - an exciting and engaging puppet and marionette program for children of all ages presented by Miss Penny on Wednesday, June 27 at 3:30 p.m.

The Library will host a variety of programs, give-aways and contests all summer, and everyone who completes a short book report will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of the summer, participants will be invited to a party and raffle drawing. Two lucky winners will receive a $100 cash prize. For more information, please call the Library at 732-758-9554.
Annual SkimBash Rides to Town

For the ninth year, Sea Bright continues its reign as the premier skimboarding location on the Jersey Shore with SkimBash 2012, June 23-24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the Sea Bright Municipal Beach.

This Skim USA points-accredited skimboarding competition attracts amateur and professional skimboarders from around the county and across the country. Prizes are awarded to first, second and third place finishers in all divisions; the Pro division skims for a cash purse.

Spectators are welcome! This is a family event on the beach with music, food, and giveaways. Please come out and support the local skimboarding community. Municipal beach fees apply.

The contest is sponsored by Jersey Shore Skim Camp and presented by Skim City. For more information about the event, please visit www.SkimBash.com, or call Felecia Stratton at 732-598-6029.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be at Borough Hall on Thursday, April 19, 2012 offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health, call to register at 1-888-653-6441. Prices range from $129 to $159.

Events Calendar

April 21
Taste of Sea Bright Trolley Hop
Find details at: www.VisitSeaBright.com

April 28 (rain date April 29)
Sea Bright Classic Car Show
Find details at: www.VisitSeaBright.com

May 17, 18, 19, 20
Sea Bright Firemen’s Fair
Find details at: www.VisitSeaBright.com

July 10, 11 & 12 (rain date, July 13)
Skimboard Camp
Call 732-598-6029

August 20-24
Recreation Camp w/ Police
Call 732-842-0099 x27

WEEKLY RECREATION PROGRAMS
Call 732-842-0099 x27

Wednesdays, 12 p.m.
Mommy and Me Music Class at Borough Hall

Mondays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.
Kids Summer Volleyball on the Beach

May 24 - August 30
Adult Volleyball League on the Beach
Residents - Free, Non-Residents - $50.

Mayor’s Message

Greetings fellow Sea Brighters and readers of the Sea Breeze!

The early warm weather brings summer and the beach to mind for many of us, so I am pleased to announce that beach replenishment is coming back to Sea Bright this year. The Army Corps of Engineers will return to Monmouth Beach this fall to complete their replenishment, and then the project will proceed north through Sea Bright. Last December, Congress approved N.J. Representative Frank Pallone’s request for $12.3 million in federal funding as part of the 2012 fiscal appropriations. As with the last sand replenishment, a small percentage of the local share of cost (amount still to be determined) will be charged to Sea Bright.

For elected officials, spring means budget time, and as you will see, the members of our Borough Council and our various school boards have been sharpening their pencils. The biggest ticket item looming for Sea Bright is the potential beachfront development. However, before committing taxpayer money to it, the Council is carefully analyzing the project’s market feasibility and sustained revenue generating potential. While this assessment is slowing the pace of progress, it is in the long-term best interest of our community.

I invite all residents to discuss these and other issues, and to work with the governing body in meeting the many challenges facing Sea Bright. The most effective way to do this is to participate in our Council meetings, which take place every first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall. As a personal goal, I hope to improve communication between our government and the people it serves. Therefore, I have established Mayor’s office hours from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on most Thursday afternoons, and I’m using social media to provide current information about Sea Bright. (On Facebook, “like” Mayor Dina Long, or “follow” me on Twitter @seabrightmayor).

On a final note, please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have ideas, time or talents you would be willing to share with your community. After all, the people are what make Sea Bright a place like no other!

~ Mayor Dina Long