



Q3 2021

BORDENTOWN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Environmental Happenings, Tips, and
Tricks for a more sustainable
Bordentown City

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5 TIPS TO LIVE YOUR MOST SUSTAINABLE LIFE



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Every product we purchase has an environmental footprint, from the materials used to create it to the pollution emitted during manufacturing to the packaging that ends up in landfills. The less you buy, the less you contribute to the problem.

JOIN THE REFILL REVOLUTION

Rather than buying brand new, you can reuse packaging you already have and fill up on things like household liquid refills (i.e. dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent), personal care items (i.e. shampoo, conditioner), and dry foods.



SKIP BOTTLED WATER

Extraction of water and production of the plastic bottles are harmful to the environment and wildlife, so grab a reusable bottle and fill up on filtered water at home.

DRIVE LESS, DRIVE GREEN

Change your driving habits by opting to walk, bike, carpool, or use public transportation whenever possible.



GREEN YOUR HOME

Make sure your home has adequate insulation, energy-saving windows, uses a programmable thermostat for more efficient heating and cooling, and has energy-saving light bulbs for more efficient lighting.

SPECIAL TREES OF BORDENTOWN CITY

By Cathy Elliott-Shaw

Just like Dr. Seuss's character the Lorax, many of us here in Bordentown have a passion for trees. The Bordentown City Environmental Commission is seeking nominations for the Special Trees of Bordentown City now through the end of October. We all have the opportunity to highlight the trees in Bordentown City that we love!

Which trees are special?

Those that are particularly old, large, unique, or have a special story associated with them. We'd like to get a sense of where these wonderful trees are located in the community.

How does one nominate a special tree?

Email us at bordentowncitygreenteam@gmail.com and make sure to include your name, the common name of the tree, the location of the tree, a photo, and a few words about why the tree is being nominated.



NOMINATIONS MAY ALSO BE
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
USING THIS LINK:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SPECIALTREES](https://bit.ly/specialtrees)



COMMUNITY GARDEN

By Maxine Brimmer

Many of us in Bordentown City just don't have the kind of yard that accommodates a garden. Bordentown City teamed up with the Bordentown Regional School District Board of Education to provide its residents with the perfect spot to rent a garden plot (6' x 11' in size) for just \$25.00 a season. The Community Garden is located in the field behind Clara Barton School and it consists of 30 plots that are available on a first come first serve basis. The season runs from March 1st to November 1st.

Each gardener plants and maintains their plot, and most importantly reaps the rewards from their plantings. Crops that are grown at the garden are just for the plot holders and are not for public picking. As a group, the Community Garden plot holders maintain the grounds and host events at the garden several times throughout the growing season. This year the Community Garden celebrated our successful harvest with a gathering at the garden along with a raffle from our community pumpkin patch.

If you are interested in joining us next year, please fill out the application on the City website - <https://cityofbordentown.com/community-garden>. Please direct any and all questions to the Director of the Community Garden, Maxine Brimmer at Remaxine@aol.com. Happy Planting!

PUMPKIN COLLECTION THIS FALL

By Cathy Elliott-Shaw

Got pumpkins?

The Bordentown City and Bordentown Township Environmental Commissions are partnering to collect "used" pumpkins in mid-November. Rather than making their way to the landfill or other vegetative waste stream, the pumpkins will be composted at local farms.

Planning is still in the works, so keep an eye out for details.

2021 GREEN FAIR

By Cathy Elliott-Shaw

There were many happy faces on June 12th at the 12th annual Bordentown Green Fair, hosted by both the Bordentown City and Bordentown Township Environmental Commissions. In addition to the 45+ exhibitors, there were local food vendors and a nice variety of musicians. Attendees were invited to enjoy an outdoor yoga class, as well as Gilder House History talks. Native plants and reusable shopping bags were free to all attendees, and one lucky winner took home a rain barrel. Generous community members donated a total of 22 used bikes for the Trenton Bicycle Exchange and the plant swap (bring a plant, take a plant) was again a popular draw.



We couldn't have done it without the support of the Bordentown City Commissioners and City employees. Special thanks to Bob Erickson and all of the Public Works staff for their assistance with set up and clean up, Police Chief Miller and the officers who were on hand to register bikes and collect unwanted prescription medications, the City Clerk, Grace Archer, for hosting a stormwater education table, the Clean Communities Coordinator, Gina Ficarotta, for providing us with reusable bags to give away, and all of the volunteers who made this event a great success!

POLLINATOR GARDENS

By Cathy Elliott-Shaw & Joel Dowshen

Did you know that Bordentown City Green Team volunteers have been planting and maintaining 4 pollinator gardens in Bordentown City? You have got to check them out!

After learning more about the pollinator gardens, if you find yourself being interested in volunteering to help us, send an email to info@bcec.cityofbordentown.com or bordentowncitygreenteam@gmail.com with your name, contact info, and garden that you'd like to help with.

HILLTOP PARK ENTRANCE PLANTING STRIP

The Hilltop Park entrance garden was started in October 2020 with the enthusiastic help of volunteers who cleared the site, put down flattened pizza boxes, and mulched the entire planting strip. In the Spring of 2021, the garden was planted with a variety of native perennials and shrubs. The next phase will be planted this Fall, with hopes that planting will continue around the perimeter of Hilltop Park. Many thanks to Deputy Commissioner Myers and the Department of Public Works for their support, and Kelly Grala, Bordentown City Rotary Club, Girl Scout Troop #25340, Maria Roswell, Sarah McEwan, and all of our incredible volunteers who have weeded, planted, made signs, and weeded some more.



POLLINATOR GARDENS



LIME KILN ALLEY PARK

The pollinator garden at Lime Kiln Alley Park was established in 2013. **Did you know that the outline of the garden is the shape of Bordentown City?** By 2020 the garden was in dire need of rehabilitation and several volunteers have been hard at work removing invasive plants, replanting native plants, and adding compost and mulch. Many thanks to Tommy Bartlett, Judy Guzy, and many other volunteers who have made the pollinators at Lime Kiln Alley Park very happy.

POLLINATOR GARDEN AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

As part of their Bronze award, Girl Scout Troop #20153 chose to study and take action against the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect discovered in the U.S. in 2014. They learned that one of the tactics to fight this invasive species was to establish pollinator gardens. Accordingly, the troop helped re-plant a pollinator garden located outside of the Community Garden on Burlington Street. They're the reason why the garden is now a-buzz with pollinators!

NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT THE BORDENTOWN LIBRARY

By Cathy Elliott-Shaw & Joel Dowshen

Tucked into the back right corner of the Bordentown City Library parking lot is a small garden planted with examples of New Jersey native plants. Several years ago volunteer, Marsha Dowshen, took the overgrown, invasive-riddled plot of earth, cleaned it of the undesirable plants, and planted examples of those plants native to the Garden State. The plants have small name identification placards by them, and a brochure is available at the site with photos, plant names and other information. Marsha weeds and renews the garden regularly, but could also use some help since some of the natives grow quickly.



BAT BOXES

By Cathy Elliott-Shaw

What's new at Lime Kiln Alley Park? Bat houses!

Local resident and Boy Scout, Sean Gerike, constructed bat houses as his Eagle Scout project. With assistance from Bordentown City Public Works staff, three houses were installed at Lime Kiln Alley Park in August 2021.

Bats seek this type of shelter in the summer to give birth and raise their young. While bats are one of the top predators of flying insects, populations have been declining due to reduced natural habitat and a disease known as "white-noses syndrome".

Bats that eat insects are called "insectivorous."

They feast on insects each night and can eat hundreds of insects in just one hour. According to the National Park Service, that adds up to more than \$3.7 billion worth of pest control each year in the U.S. That means fewer insect pests affecting farm crops and fewer pesky mosquitoes bothering the rest of us!

BORDENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

By Steve Lederman

There is a lot going on with the Bordentown Historical Society (BHS)! We have 2 exciting upcoming events: Harrowing History and 2nd Annual Virtual Art Show & Sale.

Harrowing History is back for its 2nd season and, like last year, you will not want to miss it! Bordentown City is full of dark deeds and a hidden, sometimes gruesome past. Harrowing History peels back the city's charming exterior and takes a hard look at its darker, tragic happenings. You may think you know your local history, but we're willing to bet you're not familiar with these tales! The event runs from Saturday, September 18th thru Saturday, November 6th. Tickets can be purchased on our website and are selling fast! Thanks to the Bordentown City Commissioners and Old City Hall Restoration Committee for allowing us to use Old City Hall as the venue for this year's series, and to Rob and Stephanie Pecht of Bordentown Home for Funerals for being such gracious sponsors of Harrowing History.



NOTE: This year's Harrowing History venue is Old City Hall (11 Crosswicks St), NOT Point Breeze/Divine Word.

The Bordentown Historical Society's 2nd Annual Virtual Art Show & Sale will take place from November 3rd to December 5th. We are anticipating this year's show will be bigger and better than last year's as we'll be adding exhibitions of paintings and photographs. At least half of the proceeds will go towards the restoration efforts for the Clara Barton Schoolhouse. Please see our website for more details.





BORDENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Aside from these two exciting events, BHS board members and volunteers have been hard at work cataloging archives and starting to publish some of them on our website: www.bordentownhistory.org.

We've been actively fundraising to continue restoration efforts of the Clara Barton School House, in which Clara Barton herself taught in 1852. It's the first public school in New Jersey, and while the roof was replaced in December 2020, there is still a lot of work to be done!

Last, but not least, BHS has been working with D&R Greenway Land Trust on renovating the Gardener's House, the only remaining original building from Joseph Bonaparte's Point Breeze Estate. Special thanks to D&R Greenway Land Trust President and CEO, Linda Mead for her endless support and vision. D&R Greenway owns the Gardener's House and our goal is to establish it as a first class museum and educational center. We're hopeful for a partial opening in the near future, so stay tuned! A ground penetrating radar evaluation on the property was just performed and a limited archeological dig will take place this October led by Dr. Richard Veit.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH EVERYTHING BHS
IS UP TO BY VISITING
WWW.BORDENTOWNHISTORY.ORG AND
KEEP INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS AT THE GARDENER'S
HOUSE BY VISITING
WWW.DRGREENWAY.ORG.

PROJECT PIZZA BOX

By Jeff Tober

Well, based on the name you know it has something to do with pizza boxes, but what is the “project” you ask? You may have seen us being featured on Philadelphia TV stations or heard about us on 93.3 WMMR with Preston & Steve. If you missed them, stay tuned for a story on The Weather Channel coming soon!



Back in 2017, my team and I at Fernbrook Farms invited CSA shareholders to bring their used pizza boxes to the farm to be recycled. We had seen other farmers using cardboard as a biodegradable weed barrier and the thought occurred to us that pizza boxes might be a great resource for this purpose. Our thinking was that this simple approach could check off many boxes (pun intended). Using pizza boxes in a mulching system could:

- Help us manage weeds and add organic matter/organic carbon to our soils.
- Divert pizza boxes from landfills to soil, especially because they are not accepted in municipal recycling.
- Provide a way for people to participate in a program that reduces waste and allows the carbon from the pizza box to be sequestered back into the soil rather than contribute to the production of greenhouse gases like methane that accumulate in landfills.

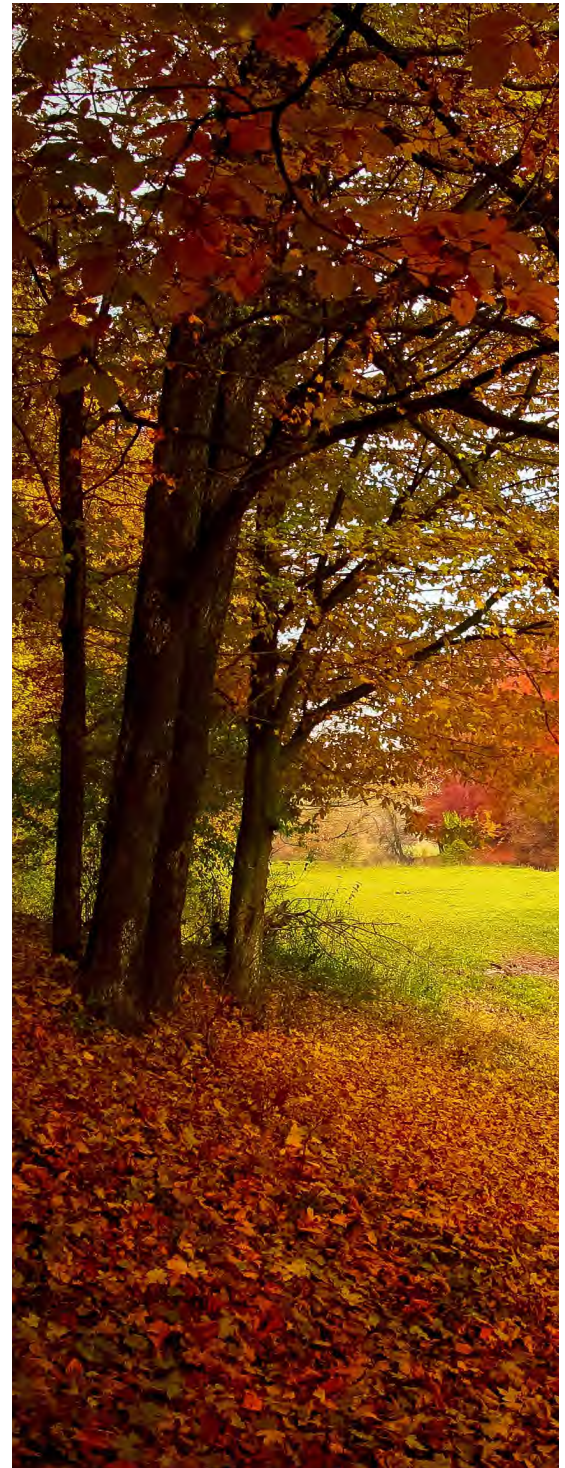
Project Pizza Box worked well on the farm and people were into it, so we approached the Bordentown City Environmental Commission with the idea of expanding efforts to Bordentown City. The commission was enthusiastic and with support from Bordentown City Commissioners a member of the Public Works staff set out to build the City's very first pizza box collection bin. We started out with one and currently have three collection bins located near Carslake Community Center. After joining Rancocas Creek Farm in Southampton, NJ, we continued picking up pizza boxes from the Bordentown City collection bins, alongside our friends at Abe's Acres Farm in Hightstown, NJ.

PROJECT PIZZA BOX

Now, what's the benefit of Project Pizza Box you ask? Let's see, we collect roughly 150 boxes a week, which equates to about 7,500 boxes per year. That's approximately two tons of waste from our little City that we are collectively diverting away from landfills to local farms, with zero cost to taxpayers.

For us local farmers it takes a lot of effort to keep this project going, especially in the summer months when we're short on time. However, using the pizza boxes in our walkways by covering them with straw, leaves, or wood chips really does work and the boxes break down thoroughly. We wanted to lead by example and are happy to see homeowners, community gardeners, and other local farms following in our footsteps by dabbling in pizza box mulching.

Soils high in organic matter are more biologically active and sequester more CO₂. Composting in general is a tremendous and simple way we can address climate change and restore soil health. Project Pizza Box is just one way of tackling this issue, but we must do more! Really, no organic matter (i.e. apple cores, coffee grounds, paper towels, corn husks, etc.) should be tossed into landfills when they can be composted either in your backyard, on a local farm, or by your municipality.



THANK YOU TO THE BORDENTOWN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AND BORDENTOWN CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR EMBRACING PROJECT PIZZA BOX, AND AS A RESULT HELPING OUR CITY PUSH THE ENVELOPE TO A GREENER, HEALTHIER PLANET. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL ME - JEFF@PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG - OR COME BY RANOCAS CREEK FARM TO SEE THE PROJECT IN ACTION AND VOLUNTEER!

SPOTTED LANTERN FLIES

By Ralph Tolomeo

HELP WANTED...YOU—YES YOU...
TO “FIGHT THE FLY”

The “fly” we’re referring to is the
Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF).
SLF is an invasive species that has
the potential to greatly impact
agricultural crops and hardwood
trees. It feeds on the plant sap of
more than 70 species of plants
including grape vines, maple and
black walnut trees. These flies lay
eggs everywhere. They
particularly love the “Tree of
Heaven,” another invasive species
in our area.

This Fall, the City of Bordentown
and the Bordentown City
Environmental Commission
(BCEC) will be sponsoring “FIGHT
THE FLY DAYS” in areas of public
lands in and around the City.

Please join us in this effort!

In addition, everyone can take
action in their own backyard and
while walking about town. Learn
how to help by signing up at the
BCEC website -

www.bcec.cityofbordentown.com

We are counting on your help so
please join the fight.

MANY THANKS!



ABBOTT MARSHLANDS & POINT BREEZE

By Joel Dowshen

Do you know what the Abbott Marshlands is? It was formerly referred to as “The Trenton, Hamilton, Bordentown Marsh” and it is partially encompassed by the former Point Breeze Estate, run recently as the Divine Word Seminary, that Bordentown City now partially owns!

In January 2021, Bordentown City joined the State of New Jersey and the D&R Greenway Land Trust in purchasing portions of the 60-acre tract of land located between Park St and Crosswicks Creek from the Society of the Divine Word, a Catholic missionary organization that had owned the property since 1941. The site is also part of the federally designated Abbott Farm National Historical Landmark.

Thanks to Divine Word, the land will now be protected from development and preserved as a public park. In the early 1800s the site was owned by Joseph Bonaparte, older brother of Napoleon and once the King of Spain. The site is steeped in history with remnants of Bonaparte’s two mansions, tunnels, trails, bridges and stairways, which will be preserved and continue to be studied. Evidence of settlements there are dating back 13,000 years ago, including those of the Lenape People.

Bordentown City purchased five acres of the property, including the existing buildings, the large gymnasium, storage area, the dormitory, and office spaces. Renovations are underway converting the existing spaces into what will become the new location for City Hall, governmental offices, police department, and areas for public gatherings. The D&R Greenway Land Trust purchased an acre of land that includes the original Gardener’s House from the Bonaparte estate, and is working with the Bordentown Historical Society to convert it into a museum and demonstration garden. The remainder of land at this site is New Jersey State property, preserved for public use. Bordentown City is currently formalizing an agreement with the state regarding maintenance of and access to the property.



ABBOTT MARSHLANDS & POINT BREEZE

An integral part of the Abbott Marshlands that all Bordentonians should be aware of and join forces with is the “Friends of the Abbott Marshlands” (Friends), an organization founded by volunteers that promotes access to and use of the Abbott Marshlands. The 3,000 acres of open space between Trenton and Bordentown is the northernmost freshwater tidal marsh on the Delaware. The Friends offer extensive educational programs about the unique ecology and archeology of the area and its cultural history, while also offering opportunities for recreational activities and exploration of its many land and water trails, animals, birds and plant life. All at no cost!



Bordentown City and the Bordentown City Environmental Commission are represented on the Friends of the Abbott Marshlands Council, which is a coalition made up of the City of Trenton, Hamilton Township, City of Bordentown, Bordentown Township, State of New Jersey, Mercer County Parks Commission (the Tulpehaking Nature Center), PSE&G, and others who have signed a stewardship agreement for the protection and care of the Marshlands



LEARN MORE ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE ABBOTT MARSHLANDS BY VISITING, WWW.ABBOTTMARSHLANDS.ORG, AND CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER AND/OR A VOLUNTEER. EXCITING TIMES ARE UPON US AS THE HISTORY OF OUR AMAZING CITY EXPANDS!

COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

By Chuck Latini Jr, Bordentown City Planner



COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

As many of you are aware, Bordentown City just adopted a complete overhaul of the City Comprehensive Master Plan. For those that might still be unaware of the purpose of such a plan, it essentially provides a roadmap for the city's future. The Plan addresses zoning, neighborhood revitalization, recreation, historic preservation, traffic and pedestrian circulation, climate change impacts, among many other issues. It provides a comprehensive vision for how all aspects of the community come together. Luckily for a community such as ours no wholesale change is necessary, but improving upon what we have will make it even better as time marches forward. In the coming weeks, Mayor Sciortino and the Planning Board

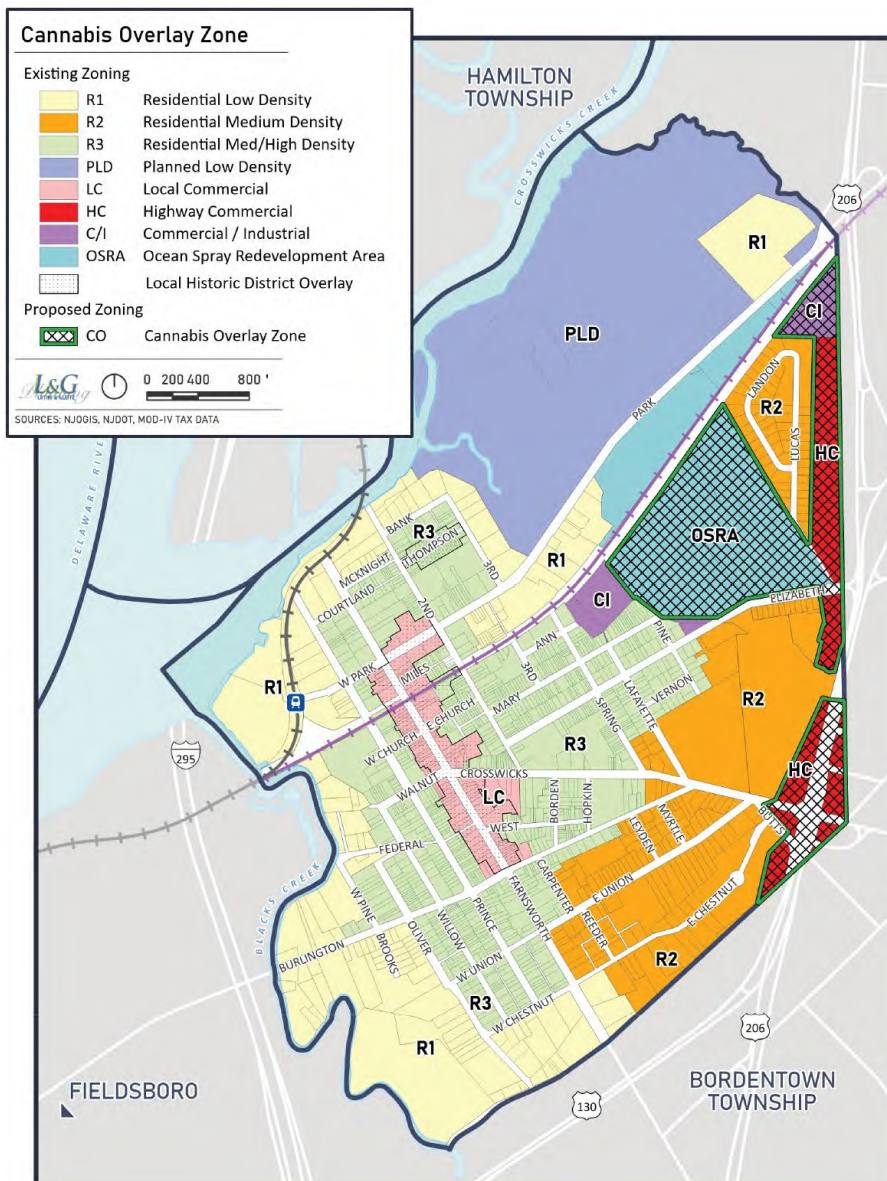
will be working on a new survey that will build upon the Comprehensive Master Plan and help the Commissioners and Administration focus on implementation. Your voice as to what's next will be important as the city budgets for and implements the recommendations of the Plan. Such projects could include improvement of the waterfront and pedestrian connections thereto, revised zoning standards that make it easier for homeowners and renters to improve their properties, park improvements, street lighting improvements, and so on. While some of these items will take time and resources, the Commissioners and Planning Board are genuinely interested in hearing your thought, so stay tuned!.

COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

By Chuck Latini Jr, Bordentown City Planner

CANNABIS

You may have heard or read in the paper that Bordentown City proactively adopted an ordinance in August 2021 that allows for the cultivation and sale of medicinal and adult-use recreational cannabis. Bordentown City chose to opt in and craft a thorough ordinance so that we can control the establishment and licensing of businesses within our city limits - carefully balancing the city's needs with giving businesses the best shot at success.



The ordinance takes a measured approach to allow a limited number of businesses to locate in targeted areas of the city, paving the way to revitalize several underutilized properties and provide long-term financial benefits to taxpayers and the city. We look forward to working with companies that have the community's best interests at heart as this industry gets off the ground.

COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

By Chuck Latini Jr, Bordentown City Planner

CANNABIS (continued)

The ordinance is designed to attract premiere companies seeking to enter the new market by creating a thorough licensing process to evaluate and gauge the intent of prospective applicants looking to grow, manufacture, and/or sell cannabis-related products within Bordentown City and allows the commissioners latitude over who gets licensed, and the types of community support they may provide to city residents. Accordingly, the city can shape programs in partnership with private industry that include such things as local hiring, workforce training, and support for drug and alcohol awareness and prevention. If you have any ideas that you wish to share with the city, please feel free to contact us.

The Bordentown City Commission, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan recommendations, set forth the rules as to how such a business may operate, and where. As the State of New Jersey works to expand the market, the city has identified properties along Routes 130 and 206 for retail sales. and cultivation is permitted within our industrial areas.

The ordinance also allows the city to impose a local tax on cannabis at 2% of gross sales. The hope is that this revenue will help stabilize taxes and provide the budgeting resources to help improve the delivery of programs and services and meet the city's growing needs.



BECOME A BORDENTOWN CITY VOLUNTEER!



We are striving to boost diversity on our committees so please help spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in applying to serve.

Currently the City is in particular need of volunteers to serve on the Old City Hall Restoration Committee, the Shade Tree Commission, and the Historic Preservation Committee, which we are looking to reconstitute in the coming months.

Many seats expire on a rolling basis throughout the year so even if the position you desire is not available at the moment we will continue to keep your application on file for future consideration. If you are interested in serving, please visit the City website and fill out an application - www.cityofbordentown.com/volunteers-for-committees-boards-and-commissions.

Email or return a physical copy of the application to City Hall to be considered for upcoming appointments. A complete list of committees can be found at the top of the City's homepage.



SPECIAL THANKS TO BORDENTOWN CITY VOLUNTEERS

By Mayor Jennifer Sciortino

We'd like to thank everyone who has applied in recent months to volunteer for one of Bordentown City's many boards and committees. A number of appointments have recently been announced and we want to congratulate everyone and wish them well as they give selflessly of their time to improve life for their fellow residents.

Environmental Commission

- Ralph Simon
- Dan Preston
- Lauren Drumm
- Mike MacEwan

Economic Development Advisory Committee

- Kim Ehrlich
- Hilary Chebra
- Vincent Schino

Parks Committee

- Terry Johnson

Shade Tree Committee

- Anne Lyon
- Tom Bartlett

Veterans Memorial Committee

- Lesley Blaser



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