

Aberdeen News



Aberdeen's new Chief of Police, Alan Geyer, addresses crowd at Town Hall ceremony marking his promotion and Chief Rick Derechailo's retirement.



Retired Chief Rick Derechailo exits ceremony as members of the Aberdeen P.D., Town Council and Administration look on.

All photos courtesy of MTC Photography

Geyer Named Chief of Police; Derechailo Retires

Aberdeen has promoted Deputy Chief of Police Alan Geyer to Chief, following the retirement of Rick Derechailo, who had led the department since January 2019.

"While we are saddened to see Chief Derechailo leave, we are very pleased to have another true professional and longtime member of the force, Deputy Chief Geyer, take the reins of our growing department, which now has 43 sworn officers," said Township Manager Bryan A. Russell.

Geyer has served in numerous capacities since joining the Aberdeen Police Department as a Patrol Officer in 1987. In 1995, he was promoted to Detective, followed by promotions to Sergeant in 2000, Traffic Sergeant in 2002, Lieutenant in 2006, Captain of Operations in 2013, and Deputy Chief in 2020. Along the way, his numerous responsibilities included supervising the SRO and L.E.A.D. programs for the

Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District. Geyer continues to direct the SRO and L.E.A.D. programs. He holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice from Thomas Edison University, and attended the FBI's Mid Atlantic L.E.E.D.S. Supervision School. Geyer's community service activities have included serving as a Little League Baseball coach for a number of years.

"The Council has the upmost confidence in Alan Geyer as our new Chief of Police," said Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci. "His length of service and experience in different areas of the department have prepared Chief Geyer for this new position. We look forward to working with him."

Derechailo, meanwhile, retires after more than 36 years with the department, joining in 1985 as a patrol officer. He rose through the ranks to become a Detective in 1990, a Sergeant assigned to the Patrol

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Council Goes to Bat For Senior Vaccines

Coming to the aid of township seniors who were unable to access COVID-19 vaccine registration via state or other online systems, the Aberdeen Council worked with the Monmouth County Department of Aging and the town's legislative partners to line up appointments for Aberdeen's most vulnerable residents.

The process began with a reverse-911 call from Mayor Fred Tagliarini that led to vaccine requests from approximately 350 residents over age 65. After learning of an initial allotment of 75 vaccines from the county, Mayor Tagliarini, Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci and Councilwoman Margaret Montone took over the council chambers and collectively called 300 residents. To date, they were able to secure more than 200 appointments at a county facility in Freehold Township.

"Happily, a number of the folks we called that day had already made other arrangements to get their shots," Mayor Tagliarini said. "We will continue this process as more vaccines become available through the county or other resources, and will not rest until we know that every person on that list of seniors has been vaccinated."

Others having issues getting a vaccine appointment should contact John Roman: (732)583-4200 x130



Councilwoman Margaret Montone, Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci and Mayor Fred Tagliarini making calls to Aberdeen seniors to set up vaccine appointments.

Municipal News

A Word from The Mayor...

Dear residents,

Welcome to our latest edition of *The Aberdeen News*. This issue will update you with information on the 2021 road projects, park improvements and even spotlight a department in Town Hall, this time, Parks & Recreation.

As you will read in these and other stories, the COVID Pandemic did not affect our ability to deliver the services you expect. Every department worked to the best of their ability. The Council is very proud of all our employees for doing an extraordinary job under the guidance of our Town Manager Bryan Russell. This past year was a true test for our new manager. We could not be happier with his job performance and the Council is very pleased that he has accepted our three year contract extension (see article on page 9).

In 2021, we will continue our roads, parks and other infrastructure projects. We also hope life as we know it, will return to normalcy. In March, we helped more than 200 Aberdeen senior citizens register for the COVID vaccine. Until the CDC changes any guidelines, we ask you to wear masks in Aberdeen stores and parks, social distance, and wash your hands often. Together, we must help each other get through this Pandemic.

Please know that your Council members are always available to help you in any way. We are humbled and honored to serve.

My best to all of you,
Fred Tagliarini, Mayor



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Greg Cannon, ext. 385
Arthur Hirsch, ext. 381
Connie Kelley, ext. 386
Margaret Montone, ext. 384
Robert Swindle, ext. 383

TOWNSHIP MANAGER - 732-583-4200

Bryan Russell
Catherine Morello, Admin. Asst. ext. 118

TOWNSHIP DEPT - 732-583-4200

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Planning, ext. 121
Finance Director, ext. 128
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Public Works, ext. 400
Public Information, ext. 130
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Special Events, ext. 129

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Township of Aberdeen

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More Road Improvement Projects on Tap Throughout Town

As work is wrapped up on several 2020 projects that were delayed by weather and contractor staffing issues associated with COVID-19, the Aberdeen Town Council has released its roster of road improvements funded under the 2021 budget.

"The township's 2021 road program includes four mill-and-pave projects in the Oakshades section, as well as three full reconstructions of aging roads in Strathmore," said Councilman Arthur Hirsch. "Additionally, the phased mill-and-pave projects started in past years on Cliffwood Avenue and County Road will be fully completed from end-to-end on both streets this year. Both projects have been funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT)."

In Oakshades, mill-and-pave projects have been budgeted for Gaston Street, Gerard Avenue, Sunnybrook Place and Highfield Avenue, with work expected to be completed by late-summer or fall. A similar timetable is anticipated for completing the water main replacement and mill-and-pave of Atlantic Avenue in front of Matawan Regional High School. Mill-and-pave projects involve removal (milling) of 2-3 inches of old pavement and then repaving with 2-3 inches of new asphalt.

Road reconstructions have been budgeted for Ardmore Lane, Asbury Lane and Iona Place. Construction is projected to begin as early as this fall, but most likely next spring. These projects typically include excavation and pavement reconstruction extending down 14 inches from the roadway; replacement of curbs, sidewalks and driveway aprons; and storm sewer improvements.

Residents on all affected streets will receive hand-delivered notices from township engineer, CME Associates, advising of the scope of the work and approximate timetable. Daily updates on road closures can be obtained via Nixle and are also available on Aberdeen's website and Facebook page.

Meanwhile, from the township's 2020 road program, reconstructions of Cornell Way and Courtland Lane remain in process, with work anticipated to be completed by this summer.

"These projects go a long way to repairing some of Aberdeen's worst roads, but the Township Council still has a lot more work to do," said Councilman Greg Cannon. "We've already submitted our 2022 grant requests and begun planning for next year's budget to ensure funding continues to go to the places that need it the most around town."



Reconstruction work on Cornell Way and Courtland Lane is expected to be completed this summer.



Phased mill-and-pave projects started in past years on Cliffwood Avenue (pictured above) and County Road will be fully completed from end-to-end on both streets this year



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Three Parks Targeted for Improvements in 2021

Continuing the multi-year initiative to revitalize all neighborhood parks throughout town, Aberdeen's Council and Parks & Recreation Department have set their sights on Ross Field, Midland Park and Cambridge Park for this year's round of capital projects.



Contemporary playscapes and other amenities installed in playground at Joseph J. Bookett Park (above) and Fordham Park last year are representative of the upgrades Aberdeen has been making to its neighborhood parks.



At Ross Field in Cliffwood Beach, the town will replace all play equipment and the swing set; reconstruct and color coat the basketball court, and install new backboards; perform drainage improvements/stabilization in the area between the basketball court and Cliffwood Avenue; add a table and benches; and construct a new walkway to play area. According to Township Manager Bryan Russell, work could start by June and be completed by mid- to late-summer.

A similar timetable is also anticipated for the latest project at Midland Park in Cliffwood, which will also be getting a new name (see story below). Plans call for the full reconstruction of the park's two adjoining full-court basketball courts, including new standards and backboards; installation of an Omni Net or similar playscape structure, along with a new safety surface, timber tie curbing and sidewalk to the play area. Additionally, new drainage (mulch) will be installed, and trees will be trimmed.

Finally, at Cambridge Park (which adjoins the Lloyd Road School), a Phase 1 project will add new stairs, drainage and fencing between the park and the school's parking lot. Work is expected to get under way around May 1 and be completed within 4-6 weeks, depending on the weather, Russell said.

"We are pleased to undertake these latest projects, which underscore our Council's commitment to making all 16 township parks more enjoyable places for residents of all ages," said Councilwoman Connie Kelley, who serves on the Council's Parks & Recreation Committee with Mayor Fred Tagliarini and Councilwoman Margaret Montone.



Improvements scheduled for Ross Field this year include a total reconstruction of the park's basketball court.

Midland Park To Be Renamed for Former Mayor/Freeholder/Judge

Midland Park will be getting more than new basketball courts, a new playscape and other improvements this year: it will also be renamed for one of Aberdeen's most prominent citizens, Philip N. Gumbs.

Gumbs, who passed away in 2005 at the age of 82, lived in the Cliffwood section for most of his life. Back in the mid-1970s, he gained the distinctions of becoming Aberdeen's first African-American Mayor, as well as Monmouth County's first African-American Freeholder and Judge.

He entered public service as a member of the Matawan Board of Education and was elected to the Aberdeen Township Council in 1972, serving as Mayor from 1974 to 1975. Concurrently, he was elected to the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders in 1974 and was named Freeholder Director in 1975. He remained in the county post until 1976, when Governor Brendan Byrne appointed him as a workers' compensation judge. He remained on the bench in Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex, Essex and Passaic counties before retiring from Ocean County in 2001 as supervising judge of compensation.

A 1942 graduate of Matawan Regional High School, Gumbs went on to serve in the Army Air Forces until 1945. After his discharge, Gumbs attended John Marshall College in Jersey City, now part of Seton Hall University. He went on to Rutgers University Law School, where he spent a year before transferring to Lincoln University in Missouri.

The longtime member of the St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church in Aberdeen is survived by his wife, Rachel, two children and three grandchildren.

"Philip Gumbs distinguished himself in all facets of his life," recalled Councilman Robert Swindle, who knew Gumbs for 45 years. "Beyond his many accomplishments as a civic leader in Aberdeen Township and Monmouth County, and during his 25 years as a judge, Philip was a devoted husband and father, active member of his church and a role model for the African-American community. Renaming this park to Philip N. Gumbs Park is a fitting tribute to this son of Cliffwood."

Mayor Fred Tagliarini added: "We, on the Council, look forward to celebrating this most-deserved name change as soon as the state allows larger outdoor gatherings. Given the family's popularity in the community, we expect a huge turnout for the official unveiling of the new sign bearing Philip Gumbs' name."



In connection with its latest round of improvements, Midland Park will be renamed for Philip N. Gumbs, a former Aberdeen Mayor, Monmouth County Freeholder and long-time workers' compensation judge.

Parks and Recreation Puts the Fun in Aberdeen for People of All Ages

The township's Parks and Recreation Department works hard so Aberdeen residents can play.

Whether manicuring fields, overseeing park renovations, organizing programs, or facilitating events, Director Jim Colabelli's team tirelessly toils behind the scenes to plan activities for kids, adults and seniors.

Weekend warriors playing a pickup game down at Veteran's Memorial Park, kids splashing around at the Spray Park, seniors pushing through a yoga session at Hudson Ridge, families attending the summer concert series or outdoor movies, and many others can thank the four-member Recreation Department each time they participate in their favorite sport or activity in Aberdeen.

"Our philosophy is to provide free or low-cost recreational services for those folks who are looking for something different to do," Colabelli said.

A perfect example of the innovative programming the Recreation Department provides is the Summer Adventures Program, which takes kids to museums, libraries and other fun destinations. "It is probably one of the most diverse, least expensive programs that you can get into because every day we go on a trip," Colabelli said. "Just as there is with school, there's a bus pickup and drop-off. Not very many communities have that."

At the core of the department's work, however, is the upkeep of the township's 16 parks. It's an exhausting, never-ending endeavor to maintain the fields and the playground equipment.

"That's a great service to the township," Councilwoman Connie Kelley said. "Those facilities get used a lot by our residents, and the Parks and Recreation Department does an outstanding job keeping them in shape."

“**Those facilities get used a lot by our residents, and the Parks and Recreation Department does an outstanding job maintaining them.**”

- Councilwoman Connie Kelley

Colabelli, who is retiring this year after 23 years of service to Aberdeen, will be leaving a long line

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Parks & Recreation Director Jim Colabelli.

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Parks and Recreation Puts the Fun in Aberdeen for People of All Ages Continued from Page 5



The department presides over 16 parks throughout the township as well as such facilities as the Senior Center at Hudson Ridge.



of distinguished service in his wake. His department played a vital role in the birth and boom of the annual Aberdeen Day celebration and has been instrumental in helping the annual Fourth of July fireworks display skyrocket.

The thing he will miss most, however, is the HAM program, which is coordinated with neighboring Holmdel, Matawan and Hazlet. It has provided year-round recreational programming for individuals with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism for more than 30 years.

“The most rewarding part of this job is working with folks that have special needs, and just seeing the look on their faces,” he said. “They do not forget your name. They know me and all the other people that are there for them. And until COVID-19, they always want to come up and give you a hug, and just let you know that they appreciate what you do for them. But I appreciate them more than they appreciate me, believe me.”

Colabelli’s last day on the job is scheduled for June 30. Although a replacement for Colabelli was not named as this issue went to press, the township has moved former Public Information Officer Brittany Shea into a full-time role as Assistant Director of Recreation, where she will focus on special events. “Brittany has done a tremendous job coordinating the Summer Concert Series and other special events over the past few years,” said Township Manager Bryan Russell. “We look forward to her working in this dedicated, full-time position.”

Colabelli and Shea are joined on the Town Hall Recreation staff by support staff Patti Geyer and Michele Hausmann.

Reflecting on Colabelli’s career, Mayor Fred Tagliarini said: “We are very proud of the work that Jim has done for this township. We will miss him and will think about him every Aberdeen Day, every Fourth of July and whenever there’s an event that he helped create or build. He was Aberdeen, through and through.”

“**The most rewarding part of this job is working with folks that have special needs, and just seeing the look on their faces.**”

**- Jim Colabelli
Parks & Recreation Director**

“Jim Colabelli has worked very well with us on the Council’s Parks and Recreation Committee on executing the ongoing program to renovate and improve all parks in Aberdeen,” added Councilwoman Margaret Montone. “There was also great collaboration with Jim on the annual Aberdeen Day celebration, fireworks and other special events that have gotten better every year.”



The department is also responsible for planning the popular Summer Concert series, Aberdeen Day and other special events.



Another Successful Alternative Easter Egg Hunt

With the township's customary Easter Egg hunt again on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Aberdeen's Mayor and Township Council kept the tradition and spirit alive for the second consecutive year through an alternative Easter Egg Hunt.

On April 1, township officials and volunteer "Easter Bunnies" placed Easter eggs on the front lawns of houses with children. All eggs were handled with gloves for the health and safety of all residents. The "Easter Bunny" delivered the eggs that day between 1 and 5 p.m., and children were asked to wait until after 6 p.m. to search for their eggs. The 189 participating families with 355 children registered for the event in advance.

"Once again, the alternative Easter egg hunt proved to be a joyful and safe experience for children and parents alike," said Mayor Fred Tagliarini. "We hope that we can return to our traditional communal hunt in 2022."



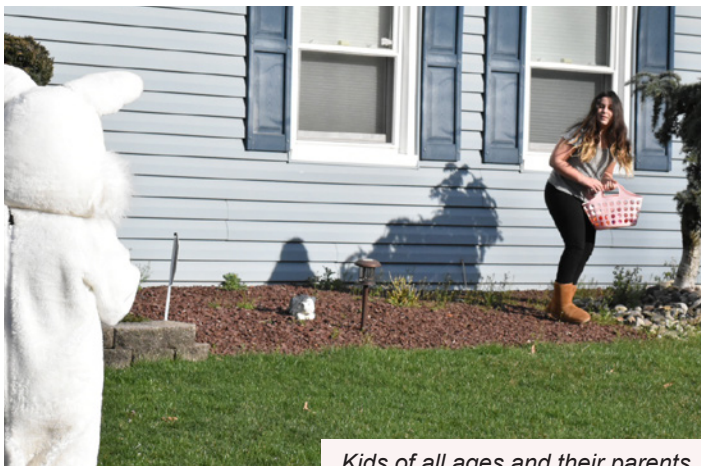
Officer Anthony Marone and his important passenger get ready to make their rounds.



Mayor Fred Tagliarini and Councilwoman Margaret Montone hiding eggs



The Easter Bunny got a warm welcome from kids and their parents



Kids of all ages and their parents enjoyed the hunt on their lawns.



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Recycling Yields Big Dividends for Aberdeen and the Environment

Did you know that recycling is the law in New Jersey? Through education and enforcement of state laws, Aberdeen has created a robust and successful recycling program.

Since 2015, the township has received a total of \$93,143 in recycling tonnage grants from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). This grant money has been used for a variety of recycling program needs, including education, shredding events, recycling bins, and recycling school supplies.

“We are currently preparing the 2020 tonnage report, and it looks like we will have surpassed all of the other years in tonnage due to our educational and enforcement efforts,” said Township Recycling Coordinator Catherine Morello. “The community has really stepped up compliance with the program.”

“**The community has really stepped up compliance with the program.**”

- Catherine Morello
Recycling Coordinator

Aberdeen offers curbside recycling pickups bi-weekly by town sections (see Township calendar or website for exact dates). Recyclables can also be dropped off at the Department of Public Works yard at 147 Lenox Road in Cliffwood Beach, Monday through Saturday, from 7:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. New homeowners can obtain a free Township recycling receptacle at the Public Works yard during those hours.

Items that are picked up curbside or can be brought to the Public Works yard include glass, cans, plastics, newspapers, mixed paper and bundled cardboard. For complete details on acceptable items, see the township calendar or visit the township website, www.aberdeennj.org.



Meet John Roman, Aberdeen's New Public Information Officer

John Roman discovered his passion for serving local communities at a young age. Having worked on both county and municipal levels, his prior experience has prepared him to serve the residents of Aberdeen as the new Public Information Officer (PIO).

Replacing Brittany Shea, now Assistant Director of Recreation, Roman is thrilled to hit the ground running to provide residents with the latest and most important Aberdeen news. “I am excited and thankful for this opportunity to join the Aberdeen community and am looking forward to highlighting the many great aspects of each neighborhood,” he said. “My ultimate goal is to help keep Aberdeen more open, organized and transparent.”

Roman, a Linden native, has served as a Councilman in his hometown for the past three years, something he says makes him a great fit for the Aberdeen PIO position. “As a public servant, I pride myself on always being transparent and am used to providing residents with the most important information using the most effective vehicles,” noted Roman, who holds a degree in political science from Kean University.

“As a Councilman, John has successfully used digital and social media outlets to help

keep his constituents informed,” said Aberdeen Township Manager Bryan Russell. “We look forward to him continuing what Brittany started in Aberdeen.”

Professionally, Roman has been working for the County of Union for the last seven years, rising from a legislative aide to assistant purchasing agent. For the past year, his work has focused on COVID-19 and, more recently, the vaccine rollout. “With my past knowledge, I hope to help Aberdeen with the vaccination process along with my duties as PIO,” he said.

Roman added that in his new role, his high-priority items will be the redesign of the township's website and the expansion of Aberdeen's presence on social media. “Whether it is an incoming storm, COVID-19 vaccine information, a power outage or a grand reopening of a park, I want to make sure Aberdeen residents know what is happening in their town,” he said.

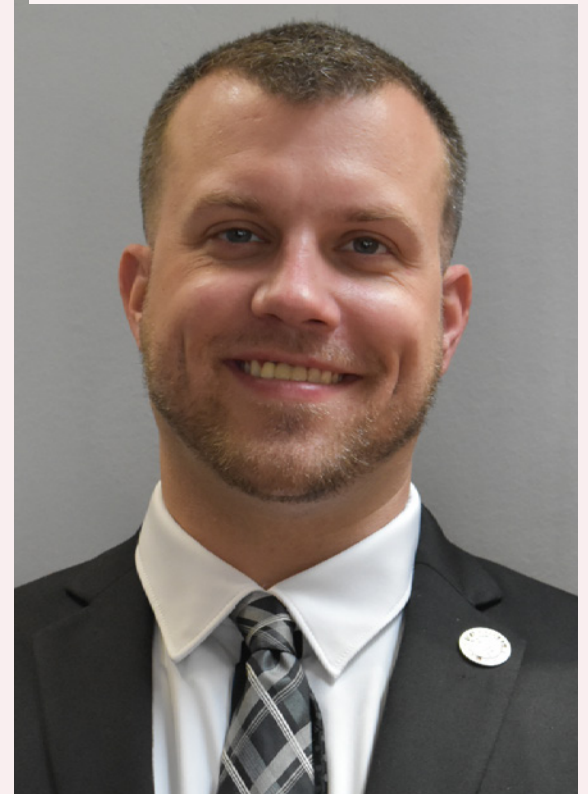
Roman can be reached at john.roman@aberdeennj.org and make sure to follow Aberdeen on social media!

Facebook - @Aberdeentwp

Instagram - @aberdeentownship

Twitter - @AberdeenTwp

Aberdeen Public Information Officer John Roman



Aberdeen Council Extends Contract of Township Manager



Township Manager Bryan Russell

The Aberdeen Township Council has extended the contract of Township Manager Bryan A. Russell, awarding him a three-year employment agreement.

Russell, who serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and Township Council, joined Aberdeen in January 2020 with over 16 years' experience in municipal and state government. He is responsible for overseeing all operational and budgetary functions for the township, working in tandem with the Council, administrative staff and professionals.

"We are very pleased that Mr. Russell and the Aberdeen Council have agreed to continue our professional relationship for another three years," said Mayor Fred Tagliarini. "Bryan has demonstrated the qualities to manage our town, not only with his execution of day-to-day matters, but by his handling of the unique challenges presented over the past year by the pandemic."

Deputy Mayor Joseph Martucci added: "Bryan's strong communication skills and ability to develop an excellent working relationship with the Township Council, employees and professionals were critical in helping our government get things done during a time when it was anything but 'business-as-usual.' COVID dramatically changed the way our Council and employees conducted business, but also led to manpower and supply delays with contractors that impacted the timing of capital projects."

Key among Mr. Russell's accomplishments during the past year:

- The continuation of the Council's roads and parks improvement programs.
- The completion of security camera installations at the Seawall Trail.
- The hiring of a six additional police officers.
- The restructuring of township departments to better serve residents.
- The continuation of Aberdeen's summer events, with a socially distanced concert series and Spray Park operation.

"We look forward to more good things in 2021, as Bryan leads a variety of endeavors that include additional road improvement and park renewal projects, installation of security cameras at our neighborhood parks, updating our township website, and preparing for summer events amid an expected continuation of COVID-19 rules," said Councilwoman Margaret Montone.

"I am honored that the Township Council has demonstrated its faith in me by extending my contract for another three years," said Russell. "I welcome this opportunity to work with the Township Council, employees, residents and businesses on making Aberdeen an even greater place to live in the years ahead."

“**Bryan has demonstrated the qualities to manage our town, not only with his execution of day-to-day matters, but by his handling of the unique challenges presented by the pandemic.**”

- Mayor Fred Tagliarini

Shredding Event Set for Aug. 14

Monmouth County will be staging a document shredding event on Saturday, August 14 in the parking lot of Aberdeen Town Hall, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until the truck is filled.

The summer event is open to all Monmouth County residents. It follows an Aberdeen-sponsored shredding event (funded by the state grants) that was held on April 17.

Aberdeen Town Hall is located on Church Street, just off of Atlantic Avenue.

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Geyer Named Chief of Police; Derechailo Retires Continued from Page 1

Division in 1992, Commander of the Detective Bureau in 1995, Lieutenant in 2003, and Deputy Chief in 2006. Derechailo's community involvement includes serving as a member of the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Company No.1 since 1976, serving on the Board of Fire Commissioners District 2 Cliffwood for seven years, serving as a volunteer assistant baseball coach for the Aberdeen Matawan School

District from 2006 to 2018, and serving as a member of the Matawan Football Alumni Foundation since 2008. He holds a Master of Administrative Science Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University. (See accompanying article.)

Commenting on Derechailo's retirement, Mayor Fred Tagliarini said: "To say we had the right person at the right time as Chief is an understatement. During his tenure, Chief Derechailo helped guide the Town through many uneasy times. His shining moment as Chief was the leadership he demonstrated during this COVID Pandemic. We on the Council wish him good health as he enters a new chapter in his life."



Retired Chief Rick Derechailo hugs Councilman Robert Swindle, as other members of the Council look on.



Ceremony drew members of Aberdeen's CERT team, fire and first aid squads, as well as police chiefs from other parts of Monmouth County.

All photos courtesy of MTC Photography

Retired Chief Reflects on 36 Years at Aberdeen PD

The emotion began to build inside Rick Derechailo when he received his last call to return to headquarters. It reached its peak when he walked out of town hall as Police Chief for the last time.

Waiting for him outside were not only members of the Aberdeen Police Department and Town Council, but also members of the fire department, the first aid squad, the community emergency response team and fellow police chiefs from around the county. All were there to say goodbye and thank you to Derechailo after 36 years of service to Aberdeen.

"It was a very humbling experience," he said. "It was a touching way to end 36 years of service and I was very humbled by their presence there. It said a lot and I was just thankful for their presence and the respect they showed."

Derechailo was promoted to chief in 2019, marking the culmination of a long climb through the department's ranks. He started off as a patrol officer before being assigned to the detective bureau. He moved over to patrol sergeant before returning to run the bureau as detective sergeant. From there, he went from lieutenant to deputy chief to chief.

All told, he was promoted by five different police chiefs.

"What I was proudest of was being able to help people," he said. "That's what I got out of the job. We were there to protect and serve. You see a lot of good things, you see a lot of bad things. But it was just the ability to be able to help people. That's what I took away from it."

Derechailo said some of his most important work was spent visiting schools and spreading

anti-drug and anti-violence messages. He was also able to be a positive influence on the kids that he coached in the Matawan-Aberdeen baseball programs.

Not surprisingly, a handful of those ballplayers have gone on to jobs at the police department.

"The same thing happened to me," Derechailo said. "My second chief was John McGinty, and way back when I was a teenager, he was my Babe Ruth League coach. So, I've kind of come full circle in that respect. Some of the kids that I coached in their teens eventually became police officers. I hope I was some kind of role model there that they were able to follow."

He's enjoying the usual luxuries that come with retirement, such as sleeping later and taking walks with his dog. He is eager to tackle some home improvement projects, and there's enough yardwork to keep him busy for a while.

"Retirement is a bittersweet thing," Derechailo said. "I will enjoy being home more, but I will miss the camaraderie of my fellow police officers."



Patrolman John Zeller, President of the Aberdeen PBA, presents a plaque to Chief Derechailo at retirement ceremony.



Derechailo gives a final salute to his squad.

All photos courtesy of MTC Photography

Security Cameras to be Rolled Out to Parks

A few months ago, a woman who had gone for a stroll along the Raritan Bay Seawall Trail in Cliffwood Beach was suffering a medical emergency. Fortunately, there are security cameras lining the path.

"The woman called 911 and was able to convey her exact location to emergency personnel using the signage we have," said Bryan Russell, Township Manager. "Police who were monitoring the camera from headquarters were able to watch her and make sure she was OK until help arrived."

Township officials wisely had safety in mind when the path was rebuilt after it had been destroyed by Superstorm Sandy in 2013. The old seawall had some cameras, but more were added when it was rebuilt. Russell said the cameras have not only proven to be an important tool in keeping residents safe, but their mere presence helps curb vandalism.

With safety and security in mind, there are now plans to install similar cameras in the township's 16 parks.

"Some of the parks already have cameras, some don't," Russell said. "So, we're going to schedule camera additions to those parks, in some cases in tandem with park renovations."

Russell said it will be a process that could take several years, but he's hoping to begin in the current fiscal year by installing them in two parks.

"The Council has invested heavily into making sure our parks are the best around," Russell said. "Our parks committee spends a lot of time to make sure the residents are getting a top-notch facility. We want to make sure our parks are protected and that's what the security cameras will do."



Following successful implementation at the Seawall Trail in Cliffwood Beach (pictured here) and some Aberdeen parks, security cameras will be rolled out to remaining parks throughout the township.

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Get Ready For The 2021 Summer Concert Series

It's back! Residents will once again have the opportunity to jam out on Tuesdays at Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach thanks to the township's annual Summer Concert Series.

Shows will take place each Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., starting at the end of June through Labor Day. Please keep a look-out for an announcement regarding the full schedule and list of bands. Be sure to check the Aberdeen website (www.aberdeennj.org) and social media pages for updates.

"Last year, our residents and families appreciated the sense of normalcy that the annual Summer Concert Series brought to Aberdeen, so we're thrilled to once again be able to host our series," said Brittany Shea, Assistant Director of Recreation. "A little normalcy in this unusual time is what we all need."

Similar to last year, residents are asked to socially distance and wear a mask when distance cannot be maintained. Residents are encouraged to bring their coolers with food and drinks, blankets, chairs and bug spray.

Veterans Memorial Park is located at Ocean Boulevard and Lakeshore Drive in Cliffwood Beach.



40 North performing at the 2020 Concert Series.

Spray Park to Open Memorial Day Weekend

Get your swimsuits ready as Aberdeen's Spray Park is set to open Memorial Day weekend, starting Saturday, May 29, in accordance with state social distancing and capacity guidelines.

The facility, located within Veterans Memorial Park in Cliffwood Beach, will be open on Saturdays and Sundays until the school year is over. It will then be open daily, starting the weekend of June 25 through Labor Day, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Park is located on Lakeshore Drive and Ocean Boulevard.

"We're excited to once again open the Spray Park after a successful, safe socially-distanced season last summer," said Councilwoman Margaret Montone. "The Spray Park has become a huge favorite for families, who can spend the day using the themed playgrounds and other facilities at Veterans Memorial Park, soaking up the sun on Cliffwood Beach or taking a scenic stroll on the nearby Sea Wall trail."



Aberdeen's beachside Spray Park is located within Veterans Memorial Park.

Jersey Mike's Comes to Town



Store Operator/General Manager Tom Orrok (l.) and franchisee Evan Mayer are pictured inside the new Jersey Mike's at Aberdeen Plaza on Rte. 35 and Cliffwood Ave. Opened earlier this year, the sub shop is located near the L.A. Fitness Signature Club, which anchors the recently renovated shopping center.