

Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee
January 7, 2025 Minutes

Attendance:

Representatives – Helen Grant, Bob O'Brien, Deborah Krause, Larry Clifton, Aubrey Cohn, Veronica Meyer

Alternates –Barbara Kochie, Marilyn Lago, Michele Cammarata, Roseann Brennan, Jerry Spanola, Ronald Forbes

**Brick Township – Mayor Lisa Crate
Councilwoman Heather deJong
Zulma Soto/Amy Schmiedeberg, Senior Services**

Guest: Officer Victoria Finelli, Community Policing

Mayor Crate:

2025 is Brick Township's 175th birthday.

With regards to our Mayor's Senior Advisory, one of the things we would like to do is making sure you have, not only information from the Mayor and our Senior Services but also, information that we think might be important for you to bring back to your community. We will be scheduling as many guest speakers as we can to attend our meetings. A few of the speakers we have extended an invitation to are, Sgt. Joseph Rossi Traffic Safety, Elissa Commins Township Engineer, Dr. Thomas Farrell School Superintendent, Phillip Zimmerman Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau, a representative from JCP&L and other organizations. If there is someone or an organization you feel would be of interest, please let us know.

New Businesses:

Raising Cane's Chicken – Will be located where Quaker Steak was in Brick Plaza. They will be heard by the Board of Adjustment in March.

Beach Bum Bike Purchases & Rentals - Located at 660 Mantoloking Road.

Starbuck's & Chipotle – Will be opening up in Laurel Square Plaza. Starbuck's will be going where Finn's was and Chipotle will be going where the Provident Bank was.

Nitro Nutrition – Located in the Yorktowne Plaza selling Vitamin's, supplements, protein shakes, energy drinks, etc.

Wonder Restaurant – Will be located in Brick Plaza. Wonder is a fast-fine dining concept that offers food from award-winning restaurants across the country. It is not an eat-in restaurant. Customers place their orders online from a restaurant of their choice, i.e. Bobby Flay Steak, Tejas Barbecue and many more. Then everything is made-to-order and can be delivered or picked up. Patrons can order from many of Wonders' iconic restaurants.

First Watch & Shake Shack – No word on opening dates yet.

Christmas Tree Shops – It looks like it will be a Hobby Lobby but they haven't applied for permits yet.

Ross – Reconstruction is currently being completed on the inside.

Statistics – Our EMS Department received 11,229 calls for the year of 2024. We are very fortunate to have a full time, 24-7, EMS available to our community.

Zulma:

Senior Services provides transportation and offers many activities at the Senior Center. Our Outreach Program has 5 outreach workers to provide a multitude of different assistance with filling out applications for state programs. We do a Meals-on-Wheels assessment, we visit your home and see if you are eligible for Meals-on-Wheels. We also will do an assessment to see if you are eligible for some homecare programs.

We have 4 buses that take our seniors shopping, to medical appointments and to our senior center. We also have a bus that is used strictly for dialysis appointments.

In 2024, we provided 11,413 rides, we are providing services to over 2,000 residents in Brick. We stay within Brick and will transport you anywhere in Brick. Sometimes we will drive you to the bank, even the hairdresser. Everything is on a first come, first serve basis and it's an "on demand" system so the routes are different every day.

Our Senior Center, located at 500 Aurora Place, offers many activities which can be seen on our calendar. Trips are done on a regular basis.

We are making appointments for the AARP tax assistance, it is a free service. AARP representatives will come into our center to assist you. Appointments will be held on Fridays from February 7th through April 11 from 9:30am-1pm. Must call to make an appointment. There are several locations for AARP tax assistance throughout Ocean County.

Project Icebox Program – Is a potentially lifesaving program. It consists of a pouch that has a magnetic strip on the back and is placed on your refrigerator. Inside the pouch is an information sheet to be filled out completely and that will help our police and first responders provide prompt, professional emergency medical service. We were awarded a grant this year so we can now purchase additional ones.

Amy Schmiedeberg:

Medicare Open Enrollment – If you need to switch your Medicare Advantage plan or return to original Medicare and join a separate Medicare drug plan, you have until March 31st to do so. We have SHIP counselors at the center to assist you. Please call to setup an appointment.

Officer Victoria Finelli:

Officer Finelli, Community Policing Division, along with Officer Berkeley and Officer Kenny have visited our senior communities to discuss the Neighborhood Watch Program. They have a meeting coming up at Lions Head North, January 14th at 6:30pm. We like to come into each community at least once a year. We will talk about all the different crime trends in Brick and will also run statistics on your community. We will give you feedback on particular crimes we are seeing in Brick, how to protect yourselves from identity theft and recent crimes we have seen around town.

Currently there is a “brushing” scam. When someone receives an unexpected gift or item in the mail that was not ordered. It could be from Amazon or another company. The gift will have the recipient’s address, but not include the sender’s information or be from a known retailer. When the recipient opens the package to see what it is and possibly who sent it, there is a QR code to scan to find out who sent the gift. Once the code is scanned all the information from that phone will be sent to scammers. They then have all access to the phone; all personal information is accessible to the scammers and often the victims’ bank accounts are drained. The gift can be kept or thrown away, but the QR code should NOT be scanned.

We will hand out identity theft booklets and will also talk about it in depth. We also have Project Safe Lock which is a safety program where we install a lock box on the home. It requires an application to be filled out, which needs to be notarized. Project Safe Lock has been a great asset for the Police Department because instead of breaking a window or breaking down a door, we are able to gain access to the home quickly, safely and without damage. Do not get this confused with Life Alert. Life Alert does not allow entrance to you house, it only alerts the police that there is an emergency at your house.

When we come to a meeting we also bring our medication drop-box. We collect any unused or expired medication. Last year, we collected 1,580 pounds of medication just in the drop-box in town hall and we collected 76 pounds of medication in the mobile drop-box. For the year 2024 our total of medication collected was 1,656 pounds. To schedule a presentation at your clubhouse, contact Officer Finelli at 732.262.1158.

Coffee with a Cop:

January 9th – Starbuck's, 91 Brick Blvd. 10am-12pm

March 14th – Taylor Sam's 1643 Route 88 10am-12pm

May 12th – MeeMom's, Brick Plaza 10am-12pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Kaczka,
Secretary

Next Meeting:

Tuesday February 4th at 11am

(Meeting will be held in the A/B Room)

Guest Speaker
Bob Scott, Caregiver Volunteers