

BAYONNE IS A BLEND OF THE BEST
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Newcomers to Bayonne will find that it blends the best elements of a modern thriving city with those of the suburbs.

Approximately 65,000 people make their home in the city known as "The Peninsula of Industry" which is operated under the mayor-councilman form of government.

The mayor is elected to a four-year term as are two councilmen at large and three ward councilmen, one from each of the city's three wards.

There are three high schools in Bayonne including the public co-ed Bayonne High School and the parochial Marist High School for boys and Holy Family Academy for girls. There are eleven public and eight parochial elementary schools.

Day care services for preschool children are offered by the Community Day Nursery and Head Start while after-school services are provided by the Bayonne Police Athletic League Day Care Program for youngsters six to thirteen years of age. Community Nursery and PAL are Divisions of Youth and Family Services Agencies.

Also sponsoring day care centers are the Jewish Community Center, Grace Lutheran Church, Great Beginnings, YWCA, YMCA, Kiddie Play Group, Neighborhood Cooperative Nursery, and the city-operated Preschool Playtime Program.

Bayonne has some 37 houses of worship which includes almost every major Christian and Jewish denomination. There are many ethnic groups that have their own organizations.

More than books are offered at the Main Public Library on 31st Street and Avenue C. There are story hours for the children, films for residents of all ages, delivery service for shut-ins and handicapped, and concerts open to the public. Hours are 9am to 9pm Monday through Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Branch offices are located at 162 Broadway, John Bailey School on West 11th Street and 1055 Avenue C.

In Bayonne the fire department headed by Chief John Brennan and the police department led by Chief Anthony Visone are operated under the Department of Public Safety, headed by Director James Sisk. There are 184 policemen and 189 firemen. The fire department is the only class A department in Hudson County and only one of seven in the state. Bayonne is the safest city in Hudson County and the second safest city in New Jersey, according to statistics.

An interesting variety of firefighter memorabilia including handdrawn and horsedrawn fire wagons, trumpets, badges, helmets, old paintings and photographs of the Bayonne Firehouse Museum. It is open from 8:30am to 4pm weekdays at 47th Street and Broadway.

As of this writing, garbage is collected twice a week throughout the city. However, the municipal landfill may have to be closed as of May 1 by order of the state. The city government is considering a number of alternative means of disposing of it's trash.

The main branch of the United States Post Office is at 26th Street and Broadway. Branch offices are located at Sixth Street and 44th Street on Broadway.

Bayonne receives it's water supply from the Wanaque Reservoir.

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The city joined with other cities in the area to undertake the Wanaque South Project, which will increase the city's supply. Work continues of the cement lining of water mains throughout the community to increase water pressure.

Bayonne's tax collection at 98 percent, is one of the best in New Jersey. The city has received a strong "A" bond rating from both Standard & Poors and Moody's and officials are hoping to obtain an "AA" rating in the near future.

Bus service is provided in the city along Broadway, Avenue C, and Kennedy Boulevard. The No. 14 bus travels along Avenue C through the east side of Jersey City to Exchange Place. The 99, 99S and 55 take commuters from Bayonne to Port Authority in New York.

The No. 10 leaves Third Street and Kennedy Boulevard and ends it's run at Journal Square, Jersey City. From there commuters can take PATH trains to Hoboken, Exchange Place, Grove Street, Jersey City, World Trade Center, 33rd Street, New York, Newark and Harrison.

There are a good number of social and civic clubs and 11 veterans organizations, which offer their help to a wide variety of charitable causes.

Bayonne County Park is the largest in the city, and it's northwest waterfront will be renovated by September of this year. It's facilities include tennis courts, soccer fields, running track, softball fields, baseball fields, a large playground and basketball courts.

City operated parks include the City Park at 16th Street and the Kill Van Kull Park along First Street. There are 26 small parks and playgrounds throughout the community, five of which were renovated this year.

At City Park there is a playground, two handball courts, four tennis courts, two softball fields, two baseball fields, two soccer fields, a football field and the municipal pool. The bulkhead and it's fields will be redesigned beginning with the replacement of wooden pilings with a stone wall this summer.

Completed in 1982, the Kill Van Kull Park is the site of four tennis courts, two bocci ball courts, three playgrounds, two baseball fields and one softball field. There is a good view of the magnificent Bayonne Bridge, whose 50th anniversary was observed in 1981.

There are three yacht clubs including the Atlas at the foot of East Fifth Street on New York Bay, the Elco Marina at the foot of North Street on Newark Bay and the Robbins Reef Yacht Club at the foot of Brady's Dock.