



Camden celebrates Earth Week as the Camden Strong-Clean Camden Neighborhood Cleanup Days begin



Camden's Mayor, Mayor Vic Carstarphen, addresses public for Earth Week Kick Off event in Camden, NJ at Phoenix Festival Park.



Jenise Rolle, South Jersey, Information Equity Project

CAMDEN, NJ—Earth Week 2023 may have officially ended, but the City of Camden is continuing the celebration through a series of neighborhood cleanups, which kick off tomorrow, April 26, 2023, at 9:00 am in

the Cramer Hill neighborhood at 22nd and Harrison Avenue Park. The City's mayor, Mayor Victor Carstarphen, is leading the charge with the third annual Camden Strong-Clean Camden Campaign.

The Camden Strong initiative began in 2021 and focuses on improving community health, increasing public safety efforts, and minimizing illegal dumping throughout the City.

Currently, 14 neighborhood cleanup events are scheduled throughout August 2023, and residents are invited to partner with local officials and organizations as they kick off the Spring season by cleaning and beautifying neighborhood spaces. "When you talk about cleaning our neighborhoods, it's always a collaborative effort," said Mayor Carstarphen at a recent press conference, highlighting the importance of partnership and community collaboration.

The City of Camden and numerous non-profit organizations, including Camden Community Partnership, the New Jersey Tree Foundation, and the Center for En-

vironmental Transformation, hosted a series of free events throughout Camden last week to celebrate Earth Week. Some of the events included tree planting activities at parks, a local food and sustainability festival at Morgan Village Middle School, and the Camden Environmental Summit, presented by American Water. The Summit, which was held in person at the Hilton Garden Inn on the Camden waterfront, provided an opportunity for community leaders, non-profit organizations, environmental advocates, and businesses to educate one another on environmental issues, concerns, and solutions.

Dana Redd, former Camden Mayor and current President/CEO of Camden Community Partnership, shared that members of the Camden Collaborative Initiative have decided that "Loving our Earth" was this year's theme for Earth Week. In addition to focusing on the theme, she said that City officials and its Earth Week partners, are continuing their efforts to "love the environment and the entire City of Camden."

For those committed to long-term environmental change in the City, Earth Week helps to shine a spotlight on the work being done 365 days a year. Keith Walker, the Director of Camden City's Public Works Department, knows that keeping Camden clean is a yearlong priority and a key component for improving the quality of life for Camden residents. "Working together improves the vibrancy of the neighborhoods themselves," says Walker, "our goal is to remind residents that they are stakeholders in their neighborhood." Walker, who was born and raised in Camden, believes that keeping the City clean creates more community event opportunities where residents can connect and

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Praise and Worship

Melvin Crispell, III Brand New Single - "God Is"



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Chart-topping GRAMMY®, Dove, and Stellar Award nominated artist, Melvin Crispell, III, has released his latest music video and single for "God Is." Following his first single and music video release of "Alright," "God Is" is the second single featured from Melvin's

upcoming album, No Failure. The album is now available for pre-order, with the album's first two singles, "Alright" and "God Is" available instantly with digital pre-save/pre-add.

The vocal powerhouse delivers another scintillating live performance that fans have flocked to since he first broke out on BET's "Sunday Best" and became the Season 9 champion. Delivering a powerful expression of faith and devotion on "God Is," Melvin sings about how God is the source of joy and strength, who is there for everything despite the challenges and pains we may all experience in our lives.

"God Is" was originally written by Robert Fryson, and the song has been a gospel classic recorded by James Cleveland. Melvin, who was familiar with the song growing up, brings a joyful country-tinged performance in his new recording, captured on video from his album's live recording. Scheduled to release on June 16th, No Failure will be Melvin's second album. No Failure was recorded live at Springcreek Church in the Dallas-area city of Garland, Texas, and marks Melvin's debut as an executive producer.



In 2019, after winning Season 9 of "Sunday Best" he released his 2020 debut album, I've Got a Testimony. His GRAMMY® and Dove-nominated #1 hit single "Wonderful Is Your Name," written by his late father Melvin Crispell, Jr., was recently honored with the BMI Trailblazers of Gospel Music Award as one of the most-performed songs over the past year on radio and digital streaming services. Melvin is continuing to perform on select dates around the country. Check out "God Is" and "Alright" available now, with "Alright" also out on gospel radio.

Melvin Crispell, III: No Failure Album Pre-Order Available. Get Melvin's Newest Songs, "God Is" and "Alright" Instantly with Album Pre-Save/Pre-Add Today.

To connect with Melvin Crispell, III, visit: melvin-crispell.com or follow on Instagram: @thethirdmelvin-crispell Facebook/Twitter: @MelvinCrispell3.

Special thanks to the Urban Music Scene for the update. Connect with us on social media. Facebook: Supreme Gospel Ent. or Instagram/TikTok: @sherrisupremegospel — until the next column, remain encouraged!

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