

# Carpenters Lane improvements continue

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city recently received a letter announcing Cape May would receive an additional \$400,000 through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Small Cities Program for American Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

The letter, dated Feb. 24, says the city is required to make a 15 percent match, or \$60,000.

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, Cape May already received \$500,000 through the program, which is being used to make ADA improvements to the beachfront, the Franklin Street School and several blocks of Carpenters Lane. The city was required to provide \$75,000 in matching funds. MacLeod said the bulk of the grant is being used for Carpenters Lane improvements. However, the Franklin Street School will receive a ramp for handicapped accessibility and the beachfront will also see improvements for accessibility.

MacLeod said work has already begun in the 500 block of Carpenters Lane



Above, construction on the south side of Carpenters Lane at the intersection of Decatur Street began last week in order to make ADA improvements.

between Decatur Street and Ocean Street. The contractor for the project is Axios Inc., of Northfield. MacLeod said all four corners of the intersection at Decatur will be leveled out to eliminate any trips and falls that could cause personal injury. Sidewalks will also be widened to make more space for individuals in wheelchairs. Work is expected to be completed before

Memorial Day. At the March 6 city council meeting, MacLeod said the additional \$400,000 grant will allow work to continue on Carpenters Lane and make ADA improvements from Perry to Jackson Street. MacLeod said Axios Inc. might or might not be the company used for the additional improvements, depending on the bid proposals.

# RR

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Tony Macrie said Cape May Seashore Lines was not going to put up out-of-service signs. Macrie also said the railroad was not delaying the project. "The project is not delayed," he said. "We had a major meeting with all the officials involved on March 3 in Rio Grande and everyone is happy."

Macrie said the railroad is going to temporarily install railroad crossing signs, which he called crossbucks – signs with big Xs indicating a railroad crossing. He said eventually the intersections would be outfitted with a more elaborate warning system.

"These crossings are getting state of the art flashing lights and gates – very safe," Macrie said.

Macrie said the crossbucks would allow the intersections to open, and he would have explained that to the township manager.

According to Macrie, in February 2011 the railroad came in and installed concrete crossing ahead of the road work.

"We were in and out long before they started the road."



Railroad crossing warning signals, including the crossbuck device at the top of the pole

"Why would we delay the project? It benefits all of us," Macrie said.

Voll had not heard back

from NJ Transit on Monday, but he was hoping they would revoke Macrie's rights to use the rails in Lower Township.

Voll listed other complaints against Macrie and Cape May Seashore Lines, including what he referred to as stifling local volunteer organizations, discarding old ties along the tracks in piles, and storing old railroad cars south of the Cape May Canal.

"We want them removed," Voll said.

Voll said his main concern is the crossings, that they are safe for children on school buses.

Voll said there was a time, when he was in Middle Township government, that he was once a big supporter of Macrie and the railroad; but that has changed.

"Everything he said he was going to do he didn't," Voll said.

Macrie said Cape May Seashore Lines is planning to come to Cape May this summer, but their schedule is not yet approved by NJDOT. He said he expected to be able to announce the schedule in about a month.

# Medic

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"I had a meeting several weeks ago with Lou (Raniszewski, Acting Director of Emergency Medical Services), and said we'd like to have a medic unit located in Lower Township so there is a quicker response working in conjunction with the Lower Township Rescue Squad," Voll said.

Voll said rescue squads often have to meet up with medic units on the road, which means the paramedics have to come from other municipalities to meet with LTRS ambulances. With a station located in the township the response time would be improved.

"Especially in summer when we need paramedics, they have to come out of North Wildwood or Cape May Court House," he said.

Voll said Lower Township Council is on board with the request for a medic station.

"If just one life is saved as a result of having the medic unit closer, it makes our efforts well worth it," Voll said. "We deserve a unit in our township, and will keep pursuing it until we are successful."

Voll also wishes to remind residents of the free adult health and safety fair today. He said the township is providing this as an opportunity for low-income residents to get a health check-up. He said some residents probably don't go to the doctor because they don't have the money.

## Adult Health and Safety Fair

Lower Township Council and Genesis Health Care will be having an Adult Health and Safety Fair in the Township Hall Meeting Room, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, on Wednesday, March 14 from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., which includes no cost basic health and safety check-ups. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this free check up on your health, and safety issues. Our Public Safety Community, Police, Fire Safety, and the Rescue Squad will participate to discuss any safety concerns. Refreshments will be provided – door prizes from local restaurants.

The fair will include: Blood Pressure Screening, Blood Sugar Screening, Balance Screening/Fall Prevention, Hearing/Vision Screenings,

Pharmacy Consultations, Medicare, Medicaid, Nutritional Information, Advanced Directive/POA Information, Fire Safety Bureau, Lower Township Police, Lower Township EMTs, Senior Citizen Call Program, and much more. Sponsored by North Cape, Victoria Manor, and Victoria Commons Centers | www.geneshhcc.com.

# Tax

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2012. VanHeeswyck said last year the commissioners consolidated what she called any loose capital and consolidated the funds. She said the borough doesn't have a lot of capital projects in the works, but they also removed some items from the capital budget.

"One thing we took out of capital completely is the budgeted capital for replacing computers," she said. "It was easier to purchase computers out of current budget without long term financing."

VanHeeswyck said the last time computers were purchased they were probably over \$2,000 each, and some of those were 10 years old before they were replaced. She said the cost of computers has come down, and it's no longer practical to pay for them over the term of a bond.

She said unless the borough is faced with a major expense, they try to fund out expenditures out of the current year's budget.

VanHeeswyck said the commissioners have been looking at the budget very carefully. Personally, she said, she takes the attitude that it's not the borough's money they are spending, but the taxpayers. "Since I have been there, I consider myself fiscally

# CORRECTION

In the Star and Wave March 7, 2012 article, "Application to Army Corps could result in more development in ECM," referred to 14 "low-income" family homes. The homes should have been described as "low-moderate income duplex units." According to Mayor Ed Mahaney, they are comparable to those with a market value of approximately \$400,000 per unit.

In addition, the article incorrectly stated that the city of Cape May would receive \$2.2 million from Garden State Preservation Trust, and borrow \$2 million from Cape May County for the purchase of land in Sewell's Point. The city's portion is being covered by a \$2.2 grant from NJDEP Green Acres, a \$2 million grant from the Cape May County Open Space Fund, and \$200,000 from the City of Cape May's Open Space fund, to cover the \$4.4 million land acquisition. The Star and Wave regrets the error.

TIDES MARCH 2012 Eastern Standard Time			
	High	Low	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.
14	1:20	1:49	7:37 7:45
15	2:28	3:03	8:46 8:55
16	3:39	4:17	9:54 10:05
17	4:47	5:23	10:57 11:09
18	5:47	6:19	11:52
19	6:38	7:06	12:06 12:41
20	7:24	7:48	12:56 1:23
21	8:05	8:26	1:42 2:02

Moon Phases	
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Last Quarter, March 14	
New Moon, March 22	
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- \*\*JOHN CARTER 3D (PG-13) 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
- DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX 3D (PG) 12:20
- DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX 3D (PG) 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:10
- DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX 3D (PG) 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 9:45
- \*\*A THOUSAND WORDS (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 4:50, 7:20, 9:30
- PROJECT X (R) 12:50, 2:55, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00
- ACT OF VALOR (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 10:05
- SAFE HOUSE (R) 2:25, 9:40
- THE VOW (PG-13) 12:05, 4:55, 7:15

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# New

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Mahaney said the men signified a new era that will support the present fire department and volunteer staff.

"We have been fortunate

enough to employ four new firefighters/EMTs in the career fire department to ensure the continued first class, professional services that the city has rendered for decades," Mahaney said.

"We've always been fortunate to have local individuals step forward and have that commitment to a very unusual and stressful lifestyle, wanting to make sure the city is safe at all times."

Also at the March 6 ceremonies, Firefighter/EMT Michael Eck was promoted to lieutenant after years of experience in the fire department and service to the community.

Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr. said he was fortunate to work with the five men and hopes they enjoy and embrace their 25 years of service to the fire department as he has.

"They're an excellent group of individuals," Inderwies said. "I've seen the work they do. It works, it saves lives."

Mahaney gave the firefighters a chance to say a few words following the oaths they had taken.

"It's definitely an opportunity that I think everyone is excited to have and we all worked really hard for this," Gay said.

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