



## House of the week

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## City squabbles over annual appointments

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# Local Republicans excited to welcome Trump

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

Local Republican officials are excited about President Donald Trump's planned Jan. 28 rally in Wildwood to support U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew — a former friendly adversary whom they are welcoming to the party.

Van Drew, of Dennis Township, was a lifelong Democrat before publicly switching parties to Republican last December over what he said were differences between party ideologies.

A self-admitted conservative

Democrat, Van Drew, who represents New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District, said he parted ways with Democratic leaders over his refusal to vote to impeach Trump. Van Drew was one of three Democrats to vote against impeachment, which rankled local Democrats.

On Dec. 18, 2019, the House of Representatives impeached Trump on two amendments: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Van Drew joined U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota as the only two Democrats to vote against the abuse of power amend-

ment, while Van Drew, Peterson and U.S. Rep. Jared Golden of Maine were the only Democrats to vote against the obstruction of Congress amendment.

The next day, Van Drew met with Trump in the Oval Office and officially declared himself a Republican, pledging his "undying support" to the president.

Van Drew will join other Republican officials and speak at Trump's "Keep America Great Rally," which will be held at the Wildwoods Convention Center.

The rally begins at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 3 p.m., according

to information from the Trump campaign.

The last time a sitting president campaigned in the 2nd Congressional District was 28 years ago, when President George H.W. Bush stopped in Vineland in 1992.

Cape May County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton, a Republican, welcomed the rally.

"It means a great deal to Cape May County and the recognition that the county and this legislative district is going to get with the president's support and the

'It means a great deal to Cape May County and the recognition that the county and this legislative district is going to get with the president's support and the support for Congressman Van Drew.'

— Gerald Thornton, chairman,  
Cape May County Board of  
Chosen Freeholders

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A dump truck dumps its load of dredge materials from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal on property owned by the Delaware River and Bay Authority at the Cape May County Airport, where it is being spread around by bulldozers.

# Cape May-Lewes Ferry dredge materials being used at airport

## Residents question safety, complain of dump truck traffic on Bayshore, Breakwater and Shunpike roads

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Dredge materials from the berths of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal are being transported to and spread onto a field across from the Cape May County Airport.

Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) spokesman James Salmon said a dredge disposal site improvement project is under way at the ferry terminal in North Cape May. He said about 225,000 cubic yards of dredge spoils had to be removed from its storage area at the ferry terminal.

"It's full right now, we have to dispose of that

'We apologize to residents in the area. If we don't move this, we can't dredge and if we can't dredge, we can't operate the ferry.'

— James Salmon, DRBA spokesman

so we can continue our dredging operations in the future," Salmon said.

The material is being placed on an empty lot at the county airport purchased by the DRBA in a runway incursion area, where trees had to be removed for the flight path of aircraft landing and taking off at the airport, he said.

Salmon said grass would be planted on the site after the materials are bulldozed and leveled, but

the height of the deposit is expected to reach 10 feet at the back of the lot, he said. At the road, the level of materials will be even with the street but will get gradually higher toward the back of lot.

The contract for the hauling of the materials runs through August but crews are working diligently to try to finish the project by the end of March, he said. All appropriate permits were received, Salmon said.

"It's been tested, it is basically topsoil," Salmon said. "This is material that has been out of the water for quite some time."

He said the DRBA is trying to complete the project before the end of March because it is scheduled to dredge its docking facilities in an April-May timeframe. Salmon said the DRBA wanted to prepare the dredge materials area at the ferry terminal to hold new materials from the dredging.

"We looked at other locations but the cost was prohibitive," he said.

Salmon said a significant amount of material had to be moved from the

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# Protocol allows City Council to limit comments

## Mayor has discretion to impose 5-minute maximum per person

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With three-hour meetings becoming the norm, City Council approved a resolution establishing protocol for public comment at council meetings, in particular to shorten the length of comments by members of the public to 5 minutes.

Some members of the public have been making comments of more than 15 minutes in length, sometimes returning to the podium two or three times.

At a Jan. 7 meeting, the resolution passed in a 4-1 vote with Councilman Zack Mullock casting the dissenting vote.

City solicitor Frank Corrado said anyone who attends the council meetings is aware "public comment goes on for a long time and sometimes at an inordinate length."

He said the state Open Public Meetings Act per-

mits a municipality to place reasonable time limits on public comment to ensure everyone who wishes to speak has that opportunity.

"Virtually every other municipality in Cape May County has established time limits for speakers during a public comment section at public meetings," Corrado said.

He said it has become apparent to him that Cape May should have some reasonable limitation on public comment. Corrado said at the mayor's request, he developed protocol for public comment at council meetings. The resolution notes the purpose of such regulations is to ensure public comment is transparent and civil and that all members of the public have the opportunity to speak on matters relating to the city of Cape May that they believe are of public importance.

"This protocol is meant

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# N.C. man, 25, charged with weapons offenses at gates of USCG base

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Police Department and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office arrested a North Carolina man last week at the gates of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) for possession of assault weapons.

County Prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland and Police Chief Anthony Marino announced the arrest of Dustin A. Peters, 25, of Wilmington, on Jan. 9 for possession of assault firearms, unlawful possession of a handgun, possession of hollow-point ammunition,

high-capacity magazines and other weapons-related charges.

The investigation is a joint effort of the Cape May Police Department, Coast Guard Police Department, Coast Guard Investigative Services, county Prosecutors Office and Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force.

According to authorities, Peters was stopped by Coast Guard security for a routine check on his vehicle at the entrance to the base, where

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