

Cape May Star and Wave



House of the week
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Natural gifts fun to make, good for Earth
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164th YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018 \$1.00

Board chooses safety building architects firm

Location, one building or two still in question for Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Public Safety Building Advisory Committee made a unanimous decision to recommend USA Architects, of Somerville, as the firm to design a new public safety building to house both the fire and police departments.

During a City Council meeting Dec. 4, committee Chairman Jerry Gaffney said 32 architectural firms picked up request for proposal (RFP) packages from the city and eight submitted proposals. He said a select part of the advisory committee narrowed the field of architects down to five after conducting interviews with the firms.

According to its website, USA Architects' focus is primarily in the public sec-

tor for government clients, specifically law enforcement and correctional work. "Such facilities are complex and require a different level of design understanding than a more traditional building renovation," the website states. "This work includes programming, planning and design for public, restricted and secure zones, to streamline operations, reduce costs, increase efficiencies, increase safety and security and form a strong civic presence within the communities they serve."

Among its projects: Bergen County, criminal identification building/new sheriff's headquarters in Hackensack; Berks County Prison security upgrades/renovations/expansion in

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lower Township Rotary Club Christmas Parade

Boy Scout Troop 87 of Erma takes part in the Lower Township Rotary Club Christmas Parade on Dec. 8 in North Cape May. Below, clockwise from left, members of the Lower Cape May Regional High School Marching Band, a ladder truck from the Erma Volunteer Fire Company, the Mentz Restaurant firetruck and Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak joins Township Councilmen Tom Conrad, Roland Roy and David Perry.



Beach replenishment now delayed until fall

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Beach replenishment scheduled for this winter has been rescheduled to begin next fall.

A conference call was held Dec. 3 with the Department of Environmental Protection, Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks, Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies and Beach Patrol Capt. Geoff Rife.

City Manager Neil Young said the delay is due to a funding issue.

"The Coast Guard did not have their funding in place to get this started, so we are a bit behind the eight-ball, not at any fault of the city or the state," he said. "It's a federal funding issue."

Councilman Roger Furlin asked why Coast Guard funding was involved in the beach replenishment pro-

gram. Young said the main portion of this beach nourishment project is located at the Coast Guard base. He said a total of 400,000 cubic yards of sand was scheduled to be dumped on the Coast Guard base beach.

"We only get a small portion of this project at Wilmington Avenue (beach), 42,000 cubic yards," Young said. "The bulk of this project is at the Coast Guard base. That sand ultimately feeds the city of Cape May throughout those two years."

Cape May receives beach replenishment every two years on a 50-year contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for mitigation for the federal government building the Cape May Inlet Jetty, which blocks the natural flow of sand. Beach replenishment in Cape May began in 1990.

City Housing Authority wants more affordable units

By JACK FICHTER
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CAPE MAY — The Cape May Housing Authority would like to have more units and possibly the city as a partner in their construction.

Housing Authority Executive Director Carol Hackenberg and Rick Ginnetti, a housing authority consultant with the Brooke Group, discussed long-term plans for public housing with the city's Planning Board in relation to

a re-examination of the city's master plan.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved the Housing Authority to review the feasibility of Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). RAD would convert the housing project funding from Section 9 to Section 8 housing.

For some conversions to RAD, a financing and rehabilitation package is put together or a new construction

package at the conversion, Ginnetti said. He is assisting the Housing Authority in a potential conversion process to RAD, which would make more money available.

Hackenberg said the city had Section 8 voucher housing about 15 to 20 years ago but it was combined with Atlantic County and the housing authority no longer uses vouchers. Section 8 housing traditionally is private rentals, she said.

"What we have is a break-

even budget every year. We struggle with income due to the rent restriction," Hackenberg said. "We take 30 percent of an annual adjusted gross tenant income and that's ... about 50 percent of our annual income."

Hackenberg said the other 50 percent is a HUD subsidy. She said through the years, the HUD operating subsidy has decreased, as has capital funding.

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Cape May Housing Authority's senior housing.



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