



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



Farmer puts the ewe in yogurt

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165th YEAR NO. 21

CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 \$1.00

Ground broken on Tech Village

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Members of the county Board of Chosen Freeholders, Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) and two heads of technology companies turned shovels full of earth May 15 at the county airport to break ground for the first of three buildings in a planned Tech Village.

County Freeholder Will Morey said two tenants have signed for the yet-to-be-constructed first of three tech buildings, D-Tech International USA and Cellular Tracking Technologies. He said that represented more than 50 percent occupancy of the first building.

"We've long been reliant on tourism and we're very thankful for this wonderful tourism economy that we have, but we recognize that we'd really like more," Morey said. "We'd like more opportunity for our youth. We'd like something that would diversify a bit from tourism."

He said he believes the high-tech sector would open new avenues for the county's economy. Morey said the county identified the area as having a unique advantage, its airspace.

Tech Village, Page A12

Architects show plans for police, fire station

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Concept plans for a new public safety building to house the police and fire departments show two stories, a basement and a display area for the fire department's antique fire engine.

Andrew Adomato and David Bender, of USA Architects, presented three concepts for a new public safety building to the city's Public Safety Advisory Committee on May 14, narrowed down from five shown at a previous meeting.

Adomato called the sketches "bubble diagrams" that show the adjacency of spaces and how the building would fit within the site. He said the building could have a basement since the site, the current location of the city's firehouse, is not in a flood zone.

Architects, page A2

Taking a sip of Cape May County

Wineries, craft breweries and distilleries are growing niche

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Summers along the Jersey cape affords balmy breezes and sandy beaches, the right climate for many playful diversions.

But Cape May County's diverse economy isn't just about getting a suntan, frolicking in the surf or fishing local waters.

Wineries, craft breweries and distilleries are producing their own beverages, giving visitors a taste of Cape May County.

Cape May County Chamber President Vicki Clark said these businesses harken back to the time when towns had their local pubs that brewed their own unique libations for thirsty patrons.

"It's certainly a niche aspect of our overall tourism industry that

is really year-round and not seasonal," Clark said. "It gets much busier in the summer season because that's when there are more people here. It's not seasonal in the aspect that they close in the quieter times of the year. A lot of times we see too they continue to grow throughout the year and they also are great venues for special events throughout the year."

According to the Cape May

County Chamber of Commerce, there are six local wineries, 10 breweries and three distilleries. The uptick in these businesses adds a new dynamic to several local events, Clark said.

Breweries sponsor pop-up beer gardens at summertime festivals, or wineries might sponsor wine-tastings and wine-pairings with

See Cape May, page A4

Atlantic County's liquid attraction

Levinson says people noticing more than the ocean, casinos

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC COUNTY — In the western Atlantic County, woodlands yield to flat farmland, an agricultural powerhouse making New Jersey worthy of its moniker the Garden State.

In this dry region, off the beaten path, vineyards produce fragrant grapes used for making local wines. It's been this way for generations, but new wineries, microbreweries and distilleries have opened, changing not only Atlantic County's economic landscape but creating new attractions for fans of locally-produced wines and craft beers and spirits.

A region where Atlantic City casino gaming once dominated is now a niche for wine tasting tours and brewery tours.

Atlantic County is home to around six wineries, seven breweries, and two distilleries. These range from Renault Winery in Egg Harbor City which has been making champagne since 1870, to DiMatteo Vineyards in Hammonton, which was established in 2000.

Beer lovers have their choice of locally-brewed IPAs, ales and lagers. The Garden State Beer Company in Galloway makes various craft beers including Sunset Beach Saison, Leeds Point Wicked Porter, and Nucky's Empirical IPA. Tuckahoe Brewing Company of Egg Harbor Township sells its Quatrain, Anglesea Red Ale, and Steelmantown Porter.

At Lazy Eye Distillery in Buena Vista Township, their Lazy Eye Vodka is a flagship product, followed by Lazy Eye Raki (Tsipouro) and Lazy Eye Special, a cocktail using

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Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cabernet Sauvignon vines early in the season at the Cape May Winery.

Local wine industry improves with age

Sandy soil, ocean and bay breeze make cape ideal for vines

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

The image is something out of a movie: The sun shining brightly on a large vineyard, where young grapes, glistening with drops of rainwater from the early morning shower, slowly drink in the nutrients nature has provided. The winemaker, who already has been at work for hours, inspects the vines, making sure the young growth is doing well.

It would almost be a perfect Napa Valley day. However, it's not California but Cape May County.

Darren Hesington has been the winemaker at Cape May Winery since Toby Craig and his family, who also own and operate The Washington Inn and Lucky Bones restaurants

in Cape May, bought it in 2003.

Hesington said Cape May Winery was started by Joan and Bill Hayes.

"He planted in the late 1980s and the winery has been around since the early 1990s as a little vineyard. When Toby bought it, I came down in 2003 to be

his winemaker," he said.

Hesington was a good choice since he had experience with New Jersey winemaking after having started his career at Unionville Vineyards in Ringoes, Hunterdon County. He started the vineyards with the owners and worked his way up to the winemaker position, accumulating 17 years of experience before coming to Cape May.

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'Good fruit makes good wine. The wine is made in the fields. Our job is just not to screw it up.'

Darren Hesington, Cape May Winery winemaker

Craft breweries growing by hops and bounds

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

According to some historians, Ben Franklin, inventor, Founding Father and lover of adult libations, once said, "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Whether or not Franklin actually said this has been a topic of debate in more than a few pubs and taprooms ever since it first appeared on a T-shirt. But the sentiment is pretty accurate: good beer is heaven-sent.

If you do not believe this, just look at all the microbreweries that have been popping up all over southern New Jersey area in the past two decades. What

started off as a hobby, with a few basement brews, has now turned into a big market. Some, such as Cape May Brewing Co. or Dogfish Head Brewery, have become almost as well-known as Budweiser and Busch.

So if a new microbrewery starts out, its owners must have dreams of hitting it big, right? Well, Not necessarily so. Some of them just enjoy making a brew which others might enjoy enough they would come to them and their place of business and stay a while.

John DiNofrio had this vision when he and five other associates started Somers Point Brewing Co. (SOP)

See Craft, page A9



Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A few glasses of locally brewed beer at the Somers Point Brewing Co.

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