



Hume family celebrates 50 years at Sunset Beach

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House of the week

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169th YEAR NO. 28 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023 \$1.00

Ørsted gets federal OK for offshore wind farm

Murphy grants firm tax breaks to keep manufacturing in Garden State

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

A few months ago, in spite of ongoing protests from citizens groups and local governments, Ocean Wind 1 representatives predicted federal approval of the wind farm — off the coast of Atlantic and Cape May counties — would come in the middle of summer so work could begin on land locally this fall.

That approval came through Wednesday, July 5.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) granted the state's first offshore wind project its Record of Decision, which Ocean Wind officials called a major milestone in the federal environmental review process.

What is needed next is approval on a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to build the wind farm with as many as 98 massive turbines 15 miles off the coast and connect them

with transmission lines running through Ocean City to Upper Township, where they would connect with the power grid in Beesleys Point at the site of the former B.L. England Generating Station.

The offshore work is expected to begin in 2024.

"Ocean Wind 1 is on the cusp of making history as construction on New Jersey's first offshore wind farm is set to begin in a few short months, delivering on the promise of good-paying jobs,

local investment and clean energy," David Hardy, Group EVP and CEO Americas at Ørsted, said in a news release announcing the ROD. Ørsted is the Danish company behind the project.

"We thank those at the federal level, Secretary Haaland, Director Klein and the team at BOEM, and of course, our partners at the state of New Jersey, Gov. Murphy, Commissioner LaTourette, President Fiordaliso and staff at the Board of Public Utilities, Tim Sullivan and the New Jersey Eco-

nomics Development Authority, and members of the N.J. Legislature, past and present, for their leadership and commitment to bringing offshore wind to the Garden State."

Gov. Phil Murphy, a major proponent of wind farms off the coast to produce renewable energy for the state, weighed in as well.

"The announcement of Ocean Wind 1's Record of Decision to-

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City dedicates lighted arches on Promenade

Fund for Cape May helps project become a reality

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Members of the Fund for Cape May and city officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 5 for new illuminated arches on the Promenade, harkening back to the look of the city's boardwalk 113 years ago.

Curtis Bashaw, founder of the Fund for Cape May and co-owner and managing partner of Cape Resorts, said he marveled at how the community has preserved and regenerated itself and maintained a community spirit that is authentic, navigated many issues over the years and has always improved and become more resilient.

He said the Fund for Cape May was conceived as a way to work in a public/private partnership with the city to support important improvement projects and efforts to make monuments that would last for generations.

"I don't think there's anything that's a greater tribute to our love of a place than to build things that will last far beyond our time here," Bashaw said.

The Fund for Cape May's first project was recon-

struction of Rotary Park followed by Soldiers and Sailors Park, he said.

The illuminated arches are a recreation of those from the early part of the last century. Bashaw read from a July 9, 1910, Star and Wave story describing the originals.

"Work has begun upon the new system of lighting of the boardwalk here and will be rapidly completed," stated the news story. "The new scheme provides for arches at intervals of 300 feet for the whole length of the boardwalk and between each two arches will be columns surmounted by powerful electric lamps."

The new arches stretch from Convention Hall to cove beach, so the work was seen as a demonstration project for the rest of the Promenade.

Bashaw thanked donors for their generosity in funding the project. He said it would not have been possible without the work of Tom Carroll.

Carroll said he became a "personal shopper" for projects, finding fences, benches, light fixtures, utility poles, trash cans, pavers, fountains and a bandstand.

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David Dietz/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Nature joins patriotic light display

Lower Township began its Independence Day fireworks show 45 minutes early July 3. Mayor Frank Sippel said the Office of Emergency Management was monitoring the weather and decided to begin early because of a pending storm. Councilman Tom Conrad said he was watching weather radar and it appeared the storm formed over Delaware or the bay and picked up speed. He noted the barge carrying the fireworks would not have time to return to the dock, so it was safer to shoot off the fireworks rather than have a boatload of explosive devices in a thunderstorm.

Lower HPC concerned over stalled work at Foster House

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Restoration of the interior and grounds of the Judge Nathaniel Foster House on Bayshore Road has lingered, causing concern to Lower Township's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

At a July 5 Township Council meeting, HPC Chairwoman Pary Tell questioned why work is at a standstill.

"They've have been attempted break-ins that we know of, there have been drugs found behind the house," she said. "It doesn't seem like anything is moving forward."

A report was prepared by preservationist Joan Berkey, who was subcontracted by Michael Califati, the architect who prepared plans for interpretation of

the interior of the Foster House.

"We're willing to go in and start doing work inside," Tell said. "The wallpaper the last time I was in there was peeling off the walls, the paint was peeling off the walls. On the window surrounds in the interior, the paint was peeling and they were beginning to rot."

The Foster House is on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the oldest buildings in Lower Township, she said, noting grants have been available but not sought.

Tell said the township could apply for state historic preservation grants through the New Jersey Historic Trust and to the county for Open Space grants for historic struc-

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West Cape sets procedure for collecting cannabis tax

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission introduced an ordinance creating the chain of payment for taxes collected on local cannabis sales.

At a June 28 meeting, borough solicitor Frank Corrado said the ordinance complies with the state statute and makes it the responsibility of the chief financial officer to collect the taxes.

He said Chief Financial Officer Frank Donato reviewed the draft ordinance and offered suggestions for changes.

"The ordinance that I drafted, which I based on a couple of ordinances that I had from other municipalities, indicated that the tax would be collected quarterly and

each quarter the cannabis establishment would produce to the borough CFO a certified report showing the receipts for each month for the preceding quarter," Corrado said.

The ordinance stated each year before Feb. 1, the accountant or financial employee of the cannabis establishment would provide an independent account to the borough's CFO. He said Donato questioned the practicality of that requirement and suggested it be removed from the ordinance.

Mayor Carol Sabo said her understanding was the point of sales system a cannabis establishment is required to use is mandated by the state and

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Fund for Cape May founder Curtis Bashaw, center, cuts a ceremonial ribbon to dedicate the new arches on the Promenade.

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