

## Cape May-backed sand sculptor wins competition

Page A4



## House of the week

B1



168th YEAR NO. 32 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022 \$1.00

# Cape Regional receives nearly \$1M COVID grant

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, which sets national health policy, joined representatives from USDA Rural Development and Cape Regional Medical Center to announce a USDA Emergency Rural Health Care (ERHC) Grant in the amount of \$989,300.

The funding will enable the medical center to purchase essential equipment to outfit nine COVID treatment bays with a

negative pressure unit air handling system along with dedicated radiology equipment including CT-scan, X-ray, and ultrasound to reduce waiting time for testing and diagnosing, and providing more efficient, personalized high-quality care.

"We all know how our health care systems struggled even before the pandemic, but when COVID first landed, it hit rural providers especially hard — putting them under financial stress unlike anything they had ever

seen," Menendez said. "That's why the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is so important. This program provides relief to rural hospitals like Cape Regional — helping them stay open to provide essential care while also expanding the services they provide to the community like a new COVID wing."

"USDA Rural Development is proud to have partners like New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez

who understand that investing in health care and community facilities contributes to the overall well-being, economic development and sustainability of rural America," USDA Administrator of Rural Housing Services Joaquin Altoro said.

"On behalf of the Cape Regional Health System Board of Trustees, the members of the Cape Regional Foundation Board and Cape Regional team members, I would like to thank the USDA Rural Development Program for their

funding to support the expansion of our Emergency Department," said Joanne Carrocino, president and CEO of Cape Regional Health System. "These vital funds will enable Cape Regional Medical Center to purchase essential equipment to outfit COVID treatment bays with a negative pressure air handling system, as well as dedicated radiology equipment including CT-scan, X-ray, and ultrasound. These additions will

See Cape Regional, Page A5



Jack Fichter  
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Tribute bands light up stage at Capestock

The city of Cape May held the music concert Capestock on Aug. 12-14 on the beach behind Convention Hall. The event featured tribute bands of artists who appeared at Woodstock. Above, Jimmy Bleu portrays Jimi Hendrix in Kiss the Sky. At right, Joanne Lediger recreates Grace Slick in the Jefferson Airplane tribute band Reverend Jefferson.



# Judge dismisses Inderwies' suit against officials

The former city manager failed to file notice within timeframe

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In March, former city manager Jerry Inderwies filed suit in Superior Court against Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan, City Manager Mike Voll and Adam Gordon, director of the Fair Share Housing Center in Cherry Hill, claiming the defendants made disparaging and defamatory public statements designed to harm his reputation.

Superior Court Judge James Pickering dismissed the suits against Sheehan and Voll with prejudice, citing Inderwies' failure to file a tort claim notice.

Inderwies said if an elected official files a lawsuit, they must also file a tort claim within 90 days of the incident. "What made mine unique is there is really no specific incident, it was an ongoing process that we felt was damaging my credibility and my name," he said.

Inderwies' complaint stated the defendants accused him of criminal offenses knowing the accusations were "false or recklessly believing they were probably false after an investigation."

He said his complaint contained three parts: false light, defamation and civil conspiracy. Inderwies said he filed a second, amended complaint naming Sheehan and Voll as citizens rather than public officials because it was felt they acted outside their scope of employment.

The judge dismissed that complaint as well.

In 2020, while serving as city manager, Inderwies paid stipends to six city employees from the city's affordable housing trust account totaling \$100,000. Neither the state Department of Community Affairs nor the county Prosecutor's Office charged him with any wrongdoing. The state allows 20 percent of affordable housing funds to be paid for administrative costs.

The city asked the employees to return the stipends.

"There's still current employees and some high-ranking employees that have not given it back," Inderwies said.

He said the suit against Gordon is still active.

The first complaint states: "plaintiff believes and therefore avers that defendants sought to embarrass, humiliate, distress him, and sink plaintiff's chances at seeking elective office — all to cover their own incompetence, and to shield defendant Sheehan's retaliatory, vengeful and vindictive motives which were to punish plaintiff for choosing the safety of the city's residents over currying favor with the deputy mayor when it came to appointing the person most capable to be police chief, thereby passing over Deputy Mayor Sheehan's brother."

Inderwies said he has had no communication with the city since he filed his complaint.

## Welcome Center parking to be scaled back for cost

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — After years of litigation with the owner of Cape May Seashore Lines railroad, the city has been informed by a contractor that he cannot meet the price offered years ago to create parking spaces on unused railroad tracks at the city's Welcome Center on Lafayette Street.

ette Street.

The project, to create 20 to 25 parking spaces, was delayed seven years due to litigation. In December 2015, NJ Transit gave the city permission to create the spaces. The city wanted to improve lighting in the parking lot.

At that time, the city en-

See Parking, Page A3

## Kiwanis Park getting ADA-compliant upgrades

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is planning to upgrade Kiwanis Park on Madison Avenue for full handicap accessibility, including a new play structure and soft surfaces for safety.

On Aug. 2, city engineer Vince Orlando told City Council the city received a grant from the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to improve handicap

accessibility at the park.

He said a city task force met three times which included dialog with the public.

Mayor Zack Mullock said he hoped the project could begin in the fall.

Landscape architect Nichol Welsh, of Engineering Design Associates, showed proposed improvements to Kiwanis Park. She said playground fixtures in the park were outdated and the park had about 20 trees in decline.

"There's a play structure here which I'm not really sure how to use it and maybe we can find some better alternatives," Welsh said.

Mullock referred to the play structure as "stacked jacks."

The DCA grant for handicap accessibility is not for just one type of disability but is for all "abilities and inabilities," serving those in wheelchairs and walkers, autistic children, speech and sight impediments, Walsh

said.

A handicap parking space would be provided on the site with six additional parking spaces created for a total of 12 parking spaces for the park.

"The play surface will be resurfaced to a poured in place rubber surface that will also be handicap accessible," she said. "You can come right from the parking space to the play area."

See Kiwanis, Page A2

# NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

The Rusty Nail is back! Our famed surfer bar and restaurant is back open for the 2022 season. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner—as well as delicious cocktails and the coldest draft beer in Cape May (as verified by Exit Zero Magazine).

205 BEACH AVE, CAPE MAY • RUSTYNAILCAPEMAY.COM • WALK-INS WELCOME

