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Biomedical industry helps crabs
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164th YEAR NO. 37 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 \$1.00

Eight submit plans for public safety building

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Eight architectural firms responded to a request for proposals by the city to provide design services for a new public safety building to house the police and fire departments.

At 2 p.m. Sept. 7, city purchasing agent Dan Shustack, assisted by City Clerk Patricia Harbora, opened eight packages of proposals from architects received earlier in the day. Shustack said he would review all the packages of spiral-bound books of varying lengths and provide a

final list of qualified architects in two days.

Harbora said 32 firms requested bid packages and 12 attended a pre-bid meeting. The firms were Settembrino Architects of Red Bank; Robert Conley of Woodbury Heights; Buckart Horn Architects of Marlton; USA Architects of Newark, Somerville, Easton, Pa. and Philadelphia; Musial Group of Mountainside; Garrison Architects of Marlton and Bala Cynwood, Pa.; H2M Architects of Melville, N.Y. and Parsippany; and Fenwick Architects of Linwood.

Garrison Architects designed

Avalon's Public Safety Building. Members of Public Safety Building Advisory Committee, along with Police Chief Tony Marino, Fire Chief Alex Coulter and Deputy Fire Chief Richard Lundholm toured Avalon's building last October. The firm designed Sea Isle City's Municipal Building and Ocean City's Public Works Garage and Central Receiving.

Fenwick Architects has undertaken a number of historic property projects in Cape May including the redesign of the former Lynn Arden's Children's Shoppe at 325 Washington St. It designed the

fire training facility in Northfield, renovations to the Middle Township Police Station and West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company #5.

Robert Conley provided concept drawings of three different buildings to serve as new headquarters for the fire and police departments to Cape May's Public Safety Building Advisory Committee on Nov. 9, 2017. The drawings include a linked facility sharing an elevator, a two-story design, a partial third-story design and free-standing fire and police buildings. Conley said he an estimated "ballpark" cost for the total facility was \$8 million to

\$10 million.

According to his website, Conley designed the new State Police headquarters and barracks, a firehouse for Parsippany Fire District #5 and a firehouse for Florence Township.

According to its website, Buckart Horn Architects designed a fire station for the York Area United Fire and Rescue, Springettsbury Township, Pa., a municipal services complex for West Hempfield Township, Pa., and a maintenance garage, emergency services building and municipal building renovations in

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Parking may be back on track

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The three-year-old plan to create 30 parking spaces on unused railroad tracks at the Welcome Center may finally be moving forward.

The project has been held up by a lack of communication from Tony Macrie, president of Cape May Seashore Lines, which leases the tracks from the state but has not operated a train on the rusty rails in more than seven years.

During a City Council meeting Sept. 5, solicitor Frank Corrado said the city "finally" heard from Macrie's attorney.

"What prompted him to respond was my letter to him saying we believe the track was unsafe," he said.

Cape May Seashore Lines has received a sign off from the state Department of Transportation that the tracks are safe. Corrado said the railroad was paying attention to an agreement it was sent by the city. He said Cape May Seashore Lines may make suggestions for changes in the agreement.

The railroad has been operating lightweight speeder railcars on weekends, mostly



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A lawyer for Tony Macrie, owner of Cape May Seashore Lines, has finally responded to the city's attempts to contact him regarding its desire to create parking spots on the unused railroad tracks at the city Welcome Center.

known as track repair crew vehicles.

NJ Transit gave its approval in December 2015 for the city to create parking spaces behind the Welcome Center on unused railroad

tracks. In addition, new lighting would be installed for existing parking.

In April 2016, city engineer Tom Thornton received an email from Macrie noting a Head End Power (HEP) unit

used to provide electrical service to trains when they pull into the station needed to be preserved. He said the HEP was located where a proposed

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A Memorial Day opening possible for veterans park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Plans are moving forward to turn the city's war memorial at Gurney Street and Columbia Avenue into a small park.

City engineer Tom Thornton said a survey of the site would be expedited and a base map prepared. A landscape architect will begin the development of a concept plan, he said.

During a presentation to City Council at a Sept. 5 meeting by the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Jim Moffatt said his subcommittee met with the Fund for Cape May.

"We see this like Rotary Park as a private/public partnership," he said. "We have funding commitments from the Fund for Cape May and from county Open Space."

Moffatt said it has been proposed the site would be renamed Soldiers and Sailors Park. Cost of the

project is about \$350,000 including road improvements, which may or may not come into the equation depending on available funding, he said.

The intent is to hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Veterans Day with a dedication of the new park Memorial Day 2019, Moffatt said.

He said it was an exciting project and a relatively small project when compared to constructing a new fire station and changes to the Promenade.

"It's right in the heart of town, it will give us more green space and it will also get rid of a couple of safety issues in regard to that intersection," he said.

The intersection is currently shaped like the letter "Y." Changes will reconstruct the Gurney Street/Columbia Avenue intersection to more resemble the letter "T," Moffatt said.

Suggestions for the Veterans Park, Page A2

City seeks 'as built' documents for AC at Convention Hall

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City engineer Tom Thornton has had difficulty locating the original plans for the installation of the heating and air conditioning systems in Convention Hall. The building has been plagued with air conditioning problems for two years. Thornton's firm, Mott MacDonald, will undertake an evaluation of the HVAC systems.

"It's been a little tough getting plans that reflect the actual conditions there, so we've gone back to some of the contractors that were involved in the project and they said they have 'as built'

drawings and documents that we can view," Thornton said.

After the documents are reviewed, a meeting will be scheduled with city officials and the contractors to get a full understanding of the site, what was actually installed there, he said.

Councilman Roger Furlin said the HVAC system was "limping along." He said it seemed it has taken some time to just get documentation on the system. Thornton said he had not sensed any "dragging of feet" since the HVAC contractors were co-operating with the city.

"It sounds like the ball is

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Five seeking three seats in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Five candidates met the Sept. 4 deadline to submit voter petitions to run for City Council in the November election. Three seats are available.

Two incumbents, Bea Pessagno and Roger Furlin, are not seeking re-election. Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier and Zack Mullock submitted their petitions on deadline day.

Seeking a council seat are Meier, Mullock, John Van de Vaarst, Stacy Sheehan and Mark Disanto.

Mullock ran in the 2016 election. He was born and raised on Cape Island and is vice president of Cape May National Golf Club. Mullock serves on the Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation board and is a member of Cape May's Historic

Preservation Commission.

"I believe it is an important balance between bringing in tourism, increasing revenues, and maintaining a good quality of life for our residents and our tourists. This is our home town not just a cash cow," he stated.

Meier ran three times, winning a seat on council in 2014. He has served as deputy mayor under Mayor Chuck Lear. He said he is seeking re-election because there are a number of projects he would like to see completed, such as Lafayette Street Park, construction of a new public safety building and installation of a handicapped-accessible



DISANTO



MEIER



MULLOCK



SHEEHAN



VAN DE VAARST

ramp at the city's post office.

Sheehan grew up in Cape May and is a graduate of Lower Cape May Regional High School and Temple University. She has worked for Merck Pharmaceuticals and the Steel Workers Union. Her campaign slogan is "Committed, integrity and independent." She is the sister of Cape May Police Capt. Robert Sheehan.

Van de Vaarst ran for council in 2014 and has served on the city's planning and zoning boards, Green

Team, Master Plan Committee and selection panel for a new city manager.

Disanto is a lifelong Cape May resident and a yacht/charter boat captain and transporter. He filed his petitions July 6 for a ballot position, making him the first candidate to file for the November election. He has visions of a city-owned marina and golf course on the east side of Cape May, perhaps accomplished as a public/private partnership.



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