

Tennis Club, city partner on handicapped access

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Tennis Club with the assistance of the city is seeking grant funds to become more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

City Council approved a professional services agreement between the city and Blauer Associates to submit a public facilities grant application for up to \$400,000 to the state Department of Community Affairs for a Small Cities Grant.

The Cape May Tennis Club has leased the site from the city for over 40 years.

The fee to prepare the application, which is due in December, totals \$1,800. If the city receives the \$400,000 grant, the maximum cost of post approval work

to Blauer and Associates would be \$20,000.

The tennis center has 14 Har-Tru and two hard courts and is open year-round, weather permitting, and is open to the public. Those under 21 years of age play free from noon to 4 p.m.

At a Nov. 8 council meeting, the city's contracted engineer Vince Orlando said he was putting together a concept plan for the tennis center he would present to the council in the future.

Scott Maslow, president of Cape May Tennis Club, thanked council and Mayor Zack Mullock on behalf of the Cape May Tennis Club for their support. He said the club could not afford modifications to the facility without assistance from the city to seek grant funds.

"Since 1972, we've been open to the public," he said. "What

you probably don't know is that the land the Cape May Tennis Club sits on was contributed to the city by two tennis enthusiasts, Robert Alexander and Tom Harris for the expressed purpose of setting up a tennis recreational park."

Maslow said he believed both men would be proud of Cape May's continuing commitment and the evolution of the club.

"We feel we have been a great addition to both residents and tourists that come to Cape May," he said. "We've had numerous compliments from everyone that has visited us, and they can't believe the size and charm of our facility."

Last year, a group of members of the club set up a U.S.T.A. (United States Tennis Association) outreach program for kids that would not normally have the

opportunity to learn how to play tennis and other character-building events, Maslow said, noting up to 55 children participate three to four times per week.

He said the club is paying two registered pros at each session to instruct the kids. Maslow said the club partnered with Cape May Cares, Cape May Presbyterian Church, local schools, the Harriet Tubman Museum, Naval Air Station Wildwood and Cape May Nature Center.

Danny Lavecchia, vice president of Cape May Tennis Club, said it was impossible to navigate a wheelchair around the soft courts and the only restrooms were located on the second floor of the clubhouse.

Orlando said preliminary plans call for a handicapped-accessible restroom at ground level and handicapped access to the pro

shop, clubhouse, and the walkways to the two asphalt courts. Handicapped accessible parking would also be created, he said.

A report from Blauer Associates recommends providing at least one van accessible parking space adjacent to the fenced main entrance at least 8 feet wide with an adjacent access aisle of at least 8 feet wide.

Plans call for a ramp to a gazebo/viewing area located in the courtyard area used to watch matches which is elevated 15 inches above grade. The door to the clubhouse is currently too narrow for wheelchairs. The clubhouse is an historic building and Blauer Associates is recommending an evaluation of whether it is possible to provide accessibility without destroying the historic nature of the building.

Aviation Museum acquires A-7 Corsair II cockpit trainer

ERMA — Naval Air Station Wildwood (NASW) Aviation Museum has announced the recent acquisition of an A-7 Corsair II cockpit trainer from The National Museum of the United States Navy in Washington, D.C.

According to a news release announcing the acquisition, the addition to the collection enhances the museum's commitment to preserving the rich history of naval aviation and providing an immersive

educational experience for visitors.

The A-7 Corsair II, an iconic carrier-based subsonic light attack aircraft, played a pivotal role in the U.S. Navy's aviation history. Its development and service spanned several decades, and it became a versatile and reliable platform for ground-attack missions, according to the release.

The cockpit trainer allows NASW to offer visitors a unique opportunity

to step into the shoes of naval aviators and experience the cockpit environment of this historic aircraft.

The aircraft was developed by Ling-Temco-Vought (LTV) in the 1960s. It was intended as a replacement for the A-4 Skyhawk (also in the museum's collection), providing a more modern and capable aircraft for the U.S. Navy.

The A-7 Corsair II saw extensive combat service during the Vietnam War, in which it performed various roles, including close air support and bombing missions.

It also participated in conflicts such as the Gulf War, in which it demonstrated its versatility and effectiveness in ground-attack roles, according to the release.

The A-7 Corsair II left a significant legacy as a reliable and effective platform for ground-attack missions.

It played a crucial role in multiple conflicts and was



Provided

The Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum has acquired an A-7 Corsair II cockpit trainer that will be on display once the museum reopens after a roof project.

appreciated for its ability to carry a substantial payload, its durability and its suitability for carrier operations.

"We are honored to receive this trainer from The

National Museum of the United States Navy," said Chet Rietheimer, curator at NASW. "This addition not only expands our collection but also provides an educational exhibit that

will captivate visitors of all ages. It's a tangible connection to the brave men and women who served in naval aviation."

The A-7 Corsair II cockpit trainer will be a focal point in the museum's display, allowing visitors to get a first-hand look at the advanced avionics, controls and instruments that were integral to the A-7 Corsair II operational success.

The new addition will be on display when the museum reopens after the replacement of Historic Hangar #1's southside roof.

The Aviation Museum was formerly Naval Air Station Wildwood, which served as a World War II dive-bomber training center.

The museum is currently closed for replacement of its southside roof.

However, the museum's office and online store are open.

Visit usnasw.org or call (609) 886-8787 for more information.

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will be closed for the winter while the heated restrooms at Second Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue will remain open.

Council approved an

agreement through the county for towns to share equipment. He said Cape May shares equipment with Lower Township. The city has also agreed to plow snow on county-owned roads in Cape May, which will be reimbursed for personnel time and use of equipment.

The county will pay Cape May \$156 per hour in the first year of the contract for snow plowing, which will increase to \$168 per hour in the third year of the agreement.

Council tabled a resolution authorizing public bids to be accepted on Bid-Net Direct on Nov. 30 for a four-year lease of Broad-

way Pavilion on the Promenade, which contains a snack bar. The minimum bid for the first year of the lease was listed at \$30,000. Council is expected to discuss the lease in closed session at its Nov. 21 meeting.

A contract was awarded to Sports Pros for \$69,158 for flooring including a pickleball court inside Convention Hall. The floor will be gold in color and have a 2 mm rubber underlayment. The contract includes four storage crates for the floor, which is removable.

Council awarded a \$979,062 contract to Fire-fighter One for a new fire-

truck, a Ferrara Igniter Custom Rescue Pumper.

A resolution was passed rejecting all bids for restrooms at Kiwanis Park and authorizing advertising for additional bids. The city received bids ranging from \$299,513 to \$347,793. The bids exceeded the engineer's estimate of costs.

The city will advertise for bids for phase two of renovation to the Allen AME Church. The enabling resolution states the renovations would create a public meeting space. Funding is coming from a county Historic Preservation grant.

Council approved advertising for bids to develop a new restroom facility adjacent to Convention Hall that would be open year-round.

Electric vehicle charging stations are being installed at the Welcome Center and behind the new fire station, Voll said.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new fire station is scheduled for 5 p.m. Nov. 29 with an open house until 7 p.m.

Cape May's tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Rotary Park. The West Cape May Community Christmas Parade steps off at 5 p.m. on Dec. 2, winding its way through West Cape into the mall area in Cape May.

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