



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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ABANDONED BOATS THREATEN HARBOR IN CAPE MAY

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Lack of permit may delay remediation

DEP calls for reforestation of quarter-acre at Lafayette Street at unanticipated 2:1 ratio

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Jersey Central Power and Light's remediation of the former manufactured gas plant site off Lafayette Street has been delayed by the lack of a Land Use Regulation Permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection. The project's start could be delayed into fall 2017.

Jim McLoughlin, project manager from Arcadis, a remediation consulting firm, told City Council on Dec. 19 that the permit, known as a LURP, was needed because

remediation work was scheduled for wetlands on the property.

"Requirements of that LURP permit are currently in flux," he said.

The DEP requires the wetlands be restored following the remediation work, McLoughlin said.

"The issue is we are currently waiting on DEP approval of that LURP, and it's contingent on final approval of a mitigation plan or a post-restoration plan," he said. "Our plan for planting and restoring the habitat that's disturbed is part of this remedial effort."

He said Arcadis submitted its

plan and application for a LURP to the DEP in August.

"We allowed more than the 90-day approval period that's specified in the DEP regulations, although approval has still not been received," McLoughlin said.

He said the city and Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education signed the permit application as owners of the property where the remediation would take place.

McLoughlin said the issue holding up approval is replacement of trees that the remediation would remove and how much the DEP

wants restored. He said the mitigation plan has an environmental survey that lists all current trees, plants and animal species.

"We propose to replace all of those in kind following restoration, which is typical," he said.

In this instance, the DEP is requiring JCP&L to replace habitats on a 2:1 ratio or as close as can be accomplished in a limited area in which the contractor has to work, McLoughlin said.

He said they were able to identify areas in the wetlands where they could establish a woody habitat to accommodate some threat-

ened and endangered species that the DEP sees as having the potential to exist in those habitats, specifically, Cope's gray tree frog and migrating raptors.

McLoughlin said an additional quarter-acre that needs to be managed further east toward Lafayette Street conflicts with the city's plans for future development of Lafayette Street Park.

"It seems we've encountered unexpected responses and direction from the state at nearly every turn, unfortunately, and it's been delay-

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Lower Township Year in Review

In with new, out with old theme of '16

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — In 2016, work began to rebuild the Public Safety Building at the Cape May Airport, local resident Matt Szczur, a member of the Chicago Cubs, made his hometown proud with his performance on the team that helped send the Cubs to the World Series, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry shuffled its fleet and independents Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark chose not to seek re-election to Township Council, allowing Councilman Erik Simonsen to take the mayor's seat unopposed.

January

Szczur honored: Lower Township Council proclaimed Jan. 9 as Matt Szczur Day, honoring a favorite son of the township who is a member of the Chicago Cubs. Szczur was a 2007 graduate of Lower Cape May Regional High School and a bone marrow donor to a 15-month-old girl living with leukemia in Ukraine.

DRBA-FAA partner to conduct research: The Federal Aviation Administration began rehabilitation of a decommissioned runway at the county airport to serve as a field research test bed for advanced aviation-related technologies. The test area will be used for airport safety-related initiatives. The refurbished Taxiway C will be available to users of the airport when testing is not taking place.

Nor'easter pounds region: Winter Storm Jonas pounded the area Jan. 22-23 with snow, rain, high winds and a high tide of 9.38 feet. More than 15,000 electricity customers lost power. Flooding closed the Schellengers Landing Bridge.

February

Group seeks solution to rising drug abuse: Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition held its first fact-finding meeting Feb. 3. The township received a \$125,000 grant for five years to hire a coordinator to try to

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A gritty end to 2016 in Cape May

Beach replenishment is under way at Cove Beach in Cape May as part of a \$16 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project that will pump sand from an offshore dredge to re-nourish beaches from the Coast Guard Training Center to St. Pete's Beach in Cape May Point.

Council seat open in Lower Twp.

LOWER TOWNSHIP — Lower Township Republicans are seeking to fill a soon-to-be-vacant Ward 3 council seat after Councilman Erik Simonsen is sworn in as mayor Jan. 4.

Lower Township Republican Chairman Jeff Lindsay is

promising a fair and open process to fill the vacancy, providing an equal opportunity to all members of the party to seek the nomination.

Letters of intent are being accepted by the Lower Township Republican Organiza-

tion for the Ward 3 council seat until Jan. 6. The organization will hold a meeting Jan. 9 at which candidates that have submitted a letter of intent may address voting members to state their qualifications.

Cape May honors Hughes for acting as Mr. Sandman

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Mayor Edward Mahaney honored former U.S. Rep. Bill Hughes for his longtime service to Cape May and, in particular, for his work in getting the city a 50-year beach replenishment contract with the federal government. Hughes served from 1975 to 1994.

"He always listened to people and what the needs were of Cape May County, and really focused in on

that," Mahaney said during a Dec. 20 City Council meeting.

During Hughes' term, Cape May needed technical support and funding to alleviate flooding from storms and the need to separate storm and sanitary sewers, which were conjoined, causing closings of the beach, Mahaney said.

At that time, the city needed beach replenish and was working toward certification as a National Historic

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Cape May Mayor Edward Mahaney presents former U.S. Rep. Bill Hughes with a plaque commemorating his role in helping the city get a 50-year beach replenishment contract.

WASHINGTON INN

WISHES YOU

Happy New Year

THE WINE BAR
Five for Friday

\$5

glasses of wine
appetizers specials

Open daily
through Sunday,
January 2nd

