



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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SOUTH OF JACKSON NEW GIFT SHOP FOR MODERN FAMILY

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CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A contractor working for Jersey Central Power & Light is building a 55-foot-deep containment wall around contaminants at the site of a former manufactured gas plant at Lafayette and St. John's streets in Cape May. Phase I is expected to be complete by Memorial Day.

Underground barrier nearly done

JCP&L wrapping up work on contaminant containment

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Work on the first phase of containing underground contaminants at a former manufactured gas plant at Lafayette and St. John's streets should conclude this week.

According to Mayor Edward Mahaney, a crew was scheduled to work through the weekend and he expected the installation of an underground barrier would be finished early this week.

A large machine called a one-pass trencher injected a concrete mixture underground to create a containment barrier 3 feet wide, about 55 feet deep and approximately 1,125 feet in rectangular length. A natural clay layer will serve as the floor of the enclosure.

He confirmed the project was delayed

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CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The one-pass trencher digs a hole and fills it with a mixture to create a wall as it moves along the perimeter of the containment site.

Population still falling countywide

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — According to the latest census figures, the population of Cape May County has been falling for the past five years.

The county population in 2010 was 97,263, dropping to 96,597 in 2011. The decrease in population continued in 2012 with a county population of 96,447, dropping in 2013 to 95,896. In 2014, the downward trend in population continued to 95,359, with a total of 94,727 in 2015. That's a loss of 2,536 in five years.

According to Richard Perniciaro, executive vice president of planning, research, facilities and executive support at Atlantic Cape Community College, part of the problem is the county has experienced more deaths than births. He noted the county had 2,000 more deaths than births during the five-year period.

"The county is 1 percent of New Jersey's population and only had one-tenth of 1 percent of the births," Perniciaro said.

He said he had one word for the younger portion of the county's population: procreate. The only influx of population into the county was international migration, Perniciaro said.

"During the time period of 2010 to 2015, international migration was positive 1,231," he said. "The domestic migration that is within the country was negative 1,500."

Perniciaro said the negative migration means 1,500 people moved out of the county, which was sort of counterbalanced by the international migration. Counties that are losing population are more rural such as Salem, Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex, he said.

Cape May County's downward slope in population is attributed to not enough young people moving here "because there's no

'The county is 1 percent of New Jersey's population and only had one-tenth of 1 percent of the births.'

—Richard Perniciaro, Atlantic Cape Community College

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Where are you from? MAC tracks zip codes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Where do my customers come from? Business owners want to know their existing markets and potential markets, and there is no better way to track a customer base than zip codes.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC) tracked zip codes of its customers for half of 2015.

According to MAC Communications Coordinator Susan Krysiak, the non-profit organization instituted a new computer system last year that handles all scheduling and ticket services including online sales. The computer pro-

gram tracks zip codes of ticket purchasers, she said.

The largest share of ticket purchasers for MAC tours and events reside in New Jersey, representing 45 percent of customers. Pennsylvania comes in second with 26 percent of customers. New York customers represented 12.5 percent, Maryland 3.5 percent, Delaware 1.4 percent and the District of Columbia at 0.2 percent, with 90 percent of customers residing in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Virginia provided 2 percent, Connecticut 1.6 percent and Ohio 0.9 percent. A total of 0.5 percent

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Zika virus little threat to residents of county

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a state where the mosquito could be declared the state bird, should residents be concerned with contracting the Zika virus?

According to the state Health Department, Zika is a disease caused by a virus that is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. Zika virus can be sexually transmitted. It typically occurs in Africa and Southeast Asia, southern United States, South or Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico and Pacific Islands.

There have been no

locally transmitted cases of Zika virus from mosquitoes reported in New Jersey. However, infected individuals coming from Zika-active countries could introduce the virus to mosquitoes in the U.S., initiating local transmission, according to the state Health Department.

Zika virus can spread from a pregnant woman to her unborn baby and has been linked to serious birth defects such as a brain defect called microcephaly.

Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control Superintendent Peter J. Bosak said Zika virus is of tropical origin.

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Lower OKs bonding for public safety HQ

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — In 3-2 votes falling along party lines, Lower Township Council approved resolutions Monday authorizing the sale of the township's Public Safety Building to the county for \$1 and a bond/lease agreement with the county to use half the building following its complete reconstruction.

Republican Councilmen Tom Conrad, David Perry and Erik Simonsen voted for the resolutions, while independents Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark cast negative votes.

After the meeting, Conrad said the township would

bond the \$2.1 million cost of renovating its portion of the building. He said using a 15-year bond would save taxpayers \$245,000 compared with the cost of using a 20-year bond.

Conrad said the county would bond the cost of reconstructing its portion of the building.

The township has used the aging building for its police station, municipal court and Bureau of Fire Safety. Conrad said the township would be responsible for maintenance of its portion of the building.

After the bond is paid off, the township will lease its section of the building

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