



**HOUSE OF THE WEEK**

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**SECOND EXHIBIT OF SEASON SET AT SOMA**

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## More contamination found at JCP&L site

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — An additional area of contamination has been found in the wetlands behind Lafayette Street Park, which will require Jersey Central Power and Light to return in October 2018 for additional remediation of the site, a former coal gasification plant.

The project will require a new permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), according to Frank Lawson, JCP&L supervisor of site remediation programs.

“We can’t get that done by Memorial Day, so we’ll have to come back next year,” he said.

The remaining work will not be as involved as the recently completed project, Lawson said, adding that work probably would not require the tent structure to be reinstalled. Some of the roads built into the wetlands will remain for the next portion of work, Lawson said.

“The biggest problem is the farther you get out, the more tidally influenced it is. There is more water out there,” he said. “To dig up a little bit of dirt takes a lot longer.”

Jim McLoughlin, project manager from Arcadis, the remediation contractor for the project, said the remaining work would be a very limited excavation.

Lawson said he has spoken to officials from the city and Cape May City Elementary School about the additional work.

McLoughlin said the timeframe to receive a new permit from the DEP is unpredictable but they would prefer to do the work as soon as possible after the summer season.

Arcadis has been demobilizing the operation and will leave the

site this week other than replanting of trees and grasses along the creek and other areas disturbed by the remediation work.

According to Lawson, the first phase of the project last year was installing an underground containment wall around the entire site.

“Our objective this year was to go out into the wetlands area, put in another secondary containment wall out farther, remove some limited impacts (soil) that we saw out in the wetlands and build a treatment building for the groundwater recovery, which is

outside the primary containment wall,” he said. “And then go back and restore the area and make it look like the way it was before we started here.”

Lawson said invasive plants would be replaced with native species.

All heavy equipment visible to the public will be removed by Memorial Day, he said. A tent like structure has been removed that housed contaminated soil before its removal by trucks from the site, Lawson said. He said 99

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## Cape May OKs \$2.7 million in capital projects

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved \$2.7 million in bond ordinances for capital spending for the beach utility, water and sewer utility and general improvements.

During a meeting May 16, council authorized the issuance of \$411,000 of bonds for the beach utility. City Manager Neil Young said \$100,000 was earmarked for improvements for various buildings and grounds including beach restrooms, beach tag sales booths and items on the Promenade. He said \$311,000 was set aside for equipment including a beach surf rake, a tractor, a four-wheel drive truck and a P.A. system for safety announcements along the beachfront.

Council authorized appropriating \$1.7 million with \$1.6 million of the appropriation being issued in bonds for general capital improvements. Young said the appropriation included road repairs, purchase of equipment and improvements to buildings and parks. He said the city’s capital budget typically ranged from \$1.5 to \$2 million annually.

This year’s budget includes \$750,000 for road repairs, \$174,000 for equipment, \$411,000 for buildings and grounds, \$149,000 office furniture, computers, software and \$230,000 for public safety equipment, according to Young.

In addition, council authorized the issuance of \$769,000 in bonds for the water/sewer utility. Young said the bulk of

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

### Armed Forces Day

Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak speaks during an Armed Forces Day ceremony May 20 at the World War II Lookout Tower. He served as a sergeant in the Army’s 25th Infantry Division during the Iraq War and lost a leg in an IED explosion.

## Beach patrol gets national attention for safety efforts

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Beach Patrol received an award from the U.S. Lifesaving Association for its efforts to make the city’s beaches safer.

CMBP Capt. Geoff Rife told the city’s Beach Safety Committee during a meeting May 22 that the patrol was one of only six receiving the award.

He said the CMBP appreciates the support it has received from the new city manager and council. Rife said the patrol has reached out to Cape May City Elementary School, West Cape May Elementary School, Lower Cape May Regional High School, Maud Abrams School, Sandman Consolidated School and the Carl T. Mitnick School with educational programs on beach safety.

“With formation of this committee, I know from somebody who has been down there for 33 years, that we are going in the right direction and our efforts are making a difference in being recognized nationally,” Rife said.

Beach Safety Week nationally and locally is May 22-28. Firefighter and lifeguard Ed Zebrowski said the week began as rip current awareness but has changed to include all aspects of beach safety.

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## Cape Island declared a Community Wildlife Habitat

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — All of Cape Island has been designated a certified Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

It is the third such community in New Jersey but the first one with multiple towns participating, including West Cape May, Cape May Point, Lower Township and Cape May.

Cape Island is the portion of the county south of the Cape May Canal.

At a ceremony May 19 at the Nature Center of Cape May, Eric Stiles, president

of New Jersey Audubon, said Cape May is one of the most important locations in North America for wildlife due to its location on the “mega-highway of migration.”

“That is married with this explosive potential for people to do good in their own backyards,” he said. “The concept is homeowners making their yards habitats for birds, butterflies and bees.”

Stiles said the towns have recognized wildlife-dependent tourism is essential for the local economy.

“Not only can you do good for wildlife habitat and water, but you can also

do well for the economy,” Stiles said.

Patrick Fitzgerald, senior director of community wildlife at the National Wildlife Federation, said the community here had been working toward the certification for five years. The program’s goal was getting businesses and homeowners involved in creating mini-habitats on their properties, which strengthens the entire habitat network.

“It takes a while to get to the community and talk to folks and get them interested in making changes in their own landscape,” Fitzgerald said.

He said 150 homes and properties were certified on Cape Island. This was combined with education and outreach such as native plant sales, children’s activities and workshops at the Nature Center of Cape May to reach the certification.

Fitzgerald said a certified wildlife habitat must have food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young and involve use of native plants and sustainable gardening practices. Homeowners will plant new native plants and may

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Eric Stiles of New Jersey Audubon, Hilary Pritchard of West Cape May, Lower Township Mayor Erik Simonsen, Catherine Busch of Cape May Point and Collin O’Mara of the National Wildlife Federation



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