City names design firm for Lafayette Street Park

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a resolution to accept a proposal of \$158,800 to complete the design, bidding, construction management and inspection of phase one of a new park on Lafayette Street from the firm of Cairone and Kaupp, of Philadelphia.

Council also approved a "Stronger New Jersey Neighborhood Community Revitalization Program Development and Public Improvement" subrecipient agreement with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the city has until June 30, 2016, to complete phase one of the project, which has a price tag of \$1.5 million.

"It was an outright grant, there was no match," he said.
The mayor said phase one

of the project renovates ball fields adjacent to Cape May City Elementary School and front and rear playground equipment. The project includes a multipurpose field, a practice baseball field and picnic grove, he said.

Mahaney said the project is the only one being awarded in southern New Jersey from EDA. He said EDA has a process for the recipient of the grant to seek proposals and review the proposals with a review team, which included City Manager Bruce MacLeod, City Treasurer and CFO Neil Young, Qualified Purchasing Agent Dan Shustack, City Solicitor Tony Monzo, Planning and Zoning Board Engineer Craig Hurless and Grant Con-sultant Jim Rutala.

MacLeod said the city received four bids for the design and engineering of phase one of the park. He said the grant agreement allows for the funding of \$252,000 up to \$1.5 million for soft costs, including design, permitting

and construction management of the project.

MacLeod said the city procured a 25-year lease on a portion of the school's property that will be improved.

Cairone and Kaupp's proposal included green landscaping and concepts requiring minimal maintenance. He said their intentions for phase one would fit easily into future phases of the project.

MacLeod said the firm also focused on the security needs of the school.

"This particular company's niche, if you will, is in park design, and they have worked on some present projects for the

Department of Defense where it does incorporate schools in the process," MacLeod said.

He said the review team believes its design connects the active and passive recreation aspects of the park.

Councilman Jack Wichterman said the park project has been on the drawing board for five years. He said council always spoke of holding public meetings before ground was broken for the park project.

"A lot of folks with whom I've spoken say 'What are we doing with a new park when we can't take care of the ones we have," Wichterman said. He said the public needs to

be included in the discussion. MacLeod said at least one town meeting on the topic needs to

be held. Mahaney said a designer needs to be on board before

a public meeting can be held. During public comment, resident Patricia Hendricks said the critical element in the park's design was the public's involvement "across the board."

According to its website, Cairone and Kaupp created a master plan for 365-acre Cooper River Park in Camden and Jerome Avenue Park in Margate. The firm was founded in Atlantic City in 1979.

Coast Guard

Continued from Page A1

tenants here at Training Center Cape May, so this is actually for youth. critical mass for us in the state of New Jersey and just north

of here in Atlantic City," said Zukunft. "The fact is this community looks out for my Coast

Only one other county in the nation has been named a Coast Guard Community: Camden County, Ga., home to Coast Guard Maritime Force Protection Unit Kings Bay and Coast Guard Maritime Safety and

Security Team Kings Bay.
On a question of an expanding role for the Coast Guard, Zukunft said ships would be moved to the Arctic, which previously was mostly ice. He said he has increased by nearly 100 percent the number of ships involved in counter drug operations in the

Western Hemisphere.
Training Center Cape May
Commanding Officer Capt.
Todd Prestidge welcomed a
large slate of dignitaries to the celebration, including mayors of the county's 16 municipalities and all members of the county Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The event included 19 cannon blasts from the south end of the parade field. All recruit companies paraded by the reviewing stand and a precision drill team demonstrated their skill.

At the ceremony, Zukunft said he first came to Cape May as a cadet in 1974. "Finally 224 years of this

relationship, this common law marriage that we've had with the community of Cape May, we're going to seal it with a marriage, with a proclamation I'm about to read," he said. Zukunft said over 90 percent

of the Coast Guard's enlisted workforce do not want to leave at the end of their first term of enlistment.

The proclamation noted the Coast Guard presence in the county has grown and evolved since 1924 with the "cultivation of a mutually supportive and beneficial relationship between local Coast Guard units and the people of Cape May County."

"In all the conflicts that we have had in this nation, the Coast Guard was there as a combat unit and I can tell you this, I don't want that ever forgotten, said County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton.

A celebratory dinner fol-

lowed in the Harborview Club. On May 9, Training Center Cape May was opened to the public for tours of cutters and a festival on the grounds that included a food court, live music, cultural, historical and Coast Guard exhibits and activities for children.

Visitors waited in long lines for a chance to go aboard cutters. An air search and rescue demonstration took place over Cape May Harbor.

Additional festivities took place in the evening at Cape May Convention Hall.

Activities moved to the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal in North Cape on May 10, which included a Kegs 'n Eggs Breakfast Buffet, displays and presentation of Coast Guard Spouse of the Year.

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Remediation

Continued from Page A1

soil from the site and off-site properties and their replacement with certified clean fill. To date, about 10,000 tons of MGP-impacted soil has been removed. Numerous reports and studies documenting these

activities have been submitted to and approved by the DEP,

according to JCP&L. In its information sheet, JCP&L addressed the question of how safe the site is in its current state.

"The potential concern associated with the presence of

manufactured gas plant materials would involve eating of the affected soil or drinking of the affected groundwater. The surface soil at the site and at off-site properties in the vicinity of the site was previously removed and replaced with a cover of certified clean fill. MGP materials remain on and off-site but only in the deeper subsurface soils and

groundwater." The report states contamination is not affecting air quality at the site.

When major remediation work begins, plans call for installation of a vertical barrier around the perimeter of the gas plant site extending 55-feet underground. Groundwater would be pumped and filtered until it meets DEP standards.



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