

County airport to receive federal funds for upgrade

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo, R-2nd, chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, announced \$500,000 in federal funding for the Cape May County Airport from the Federal Aviation Administration. The funding will be used to remove about 20 acres of obstructions in all approaches and transitional runway surfaces at the airport, which is located in Lower Township and used for general aviation. "General-aviation airports are a lifeline for countless communities across the country, providing economic growth as well as vital connections to other transportation hubs. Cape May County has rightly been moving to invest and grow operations and opportunities tied to the airport," LoBiondo

said. "In continuing public-private partnerships with local projects, this federal grant will go a long way to improve safety and security at the facilities for residents and visitors to Cape May County." The federal funding is awarded from the FAA's Airport Improvement Program. Eligible projects include those improvements related to enhancing airport safety, capacity, security and addressing environmental concerns. Any professional services that are necessary for eligible projects — such as planning, surveying and design — are eligible, as is runway, taxiway and apron pavement maintenance. Aviation demand at the airport must justify the projects, which must also meet federal environmental and procurement requirements.

Cape Regional offers assistance registering for health insurance

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Sorting through the new insurance options under the Affordable Care Act can be overwhelming, but help is available at Cape Regional Medical Center. On Mondays and Fridays, Certified Application Counselors will be available at Cape Regional Medical Center to help New Jersey residents apply for state-based insurance programs such as the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare; appointments are needed. To schedule an appointment, call (609) 463-4040 during regular business hours. The New Jersey Hospital Association has received support from New Jersey Health Initiatives, a local funding program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to hire a team of counselors to assist people who need help signing up for health coverage through the Marketplace.

Some families and individuals will qualify for tax credits or subsidies that will make their coverage more affordable. To help the counselors better explore your options, people should arrive prepared with information such as Social Security numbers (or document numbers for legal immigrants), birth dates, pay stubs, W-2 forms or "Wage and Tax Statements," policy numbers for any current health insurance and information about any health insurance available through their employer. The counselors will be working in hospitals and other sites across the state. Visit www.njha.com/reform/gethelp to learn more about this program. For additional information on the Medical Center and its programs, visit www.caperem.com or contact Susan Staeger, marketing and public relations coordinator, at (609) 463-2059.

Representation

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Council also approved a resolution requesting the Lower Cape May Regional BOE alter the tax-allocation method to return the district to its original per-pupil method. The resolution stated the current tax-allocation method has "created gross distortions, which are most inequitable to the city of Cape May, and which have resulted in the city of Cape May paying in the 2012-2013 school year approximately \$79,977 per pupil enrolled in Lower Cape May Regional, while the average per-pupil tax levy for the regional district is approximately \$12,162, with some municipalities paying as little as \$7,663 per student, or 10 times less than the amount of the city of Cape May."

The resolution requests the Lower Cape May Regional BOE authorize a referendum to modify the tax-allocation method to one based 100 percent on pupil enrollment so that the issue can be submitted to voters in Cape May, West

Cape May and Lower Township. Wichterman said the request was "boiler plate, it's one of the steps we had to take." "We obviously know it's not going to happen," he said. Lower Cape May Regional School District Superintendent Christopher Kobik said Cape May's argument of "gross distortions" based on a per pupil count has no merit. "The reality is that is not how schools are funded," he said. "If that is the basis for the argument, then that is inaccurate and incongruent with the way schools are currently funded." He also questioned the timing of Cape May calling for a referendum when the city has petitioned the state Commissioner of Education to leave or dissolve the regional school district.

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Date	High		Low	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
14	8:17	8:40	2:05	2:02
15	9:01	9:24	2:51	2:47
16	9:48	10:10	3:38	3:34
17	10:37	10:59	4:27	4:24
18	11:31	11:52	5:19	5:42
19		12:30	6:13	6:19
20	12:50	1:34	7:10	7:24
21	1:53	2:41	8:10	8:33

MOON PHASES
First Quarter, May 6 • Full Moon, May 14 • Last Quarter, May 21
• New Moon, May 28

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Lower hires architect for police station

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved a \$192,000 professional services contract May 5 with architect Dan Shousky/OSK Design to create designs for the construction of a new police station next to Township Hall in Villas. The vote was split, with three independents on council — Mayor Michael Beck, Councilman James Neville and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark — voting in favor and the two Republicans — Councilmen Tom Conrad and Erik Simonsen — voting against the resolution. At an April 21 meeting, council agreed to hire an architect to produce a design for a new police operations building. At that meeting, Conrad and Simonsen asked for an exact cost of a new police headquarters before they would vote on a bond ordinance to finance the construction. Lower Township Manager Mike Voll said the estimated cost of a new police headquarters would be \$3.5 million plus a possible \$300,000 for site work. At the May 5 meeting, Con-

rad questioned the \$192,000 price tag for a cost analysis on the police headquarters.

"This is the whole contract and not just for cost analysis," he said.

Voll said that at the previous meeting, all members approved moving forward with hiring an architect.

He said Shousky has been working with Police Chief William Mastriana as a volunteer and would only charge the township a 5 percent fee when market rate for such services was 11 percent to 19 percent.

Beck said Shousky volunteered a year of his time for the project and produced preliminary plans at no cost to the township.

Simonsen complained about it being a no-bid contract, saying it seemed like a payback for Shousky volunteering on the Public Service Building Committee. Simonsen said Shousky also voted in favor of moving the police station to Villas.

The committee voted unanimously to move public safety operations from the county airport, Beck said.

Simonsen said he appreciated Shousky's work, noting that he appointed him to the Building Committee, but

complained that there was an "appearance of impropriety."

"He's a township resident and his fee will save us a lot of money," Beck said. "I'm not rewarding him for being on the committee, but I don't want to punish him, either."

Voll said the \$192,000 would cover putting the construction out to bid for mechanical, plumbing and electrical work.

During public comment, Shousky said he has been a township resident since 1975 and never had been awarded any work from Lower Township.

He said he has been a registered architect for more than 40 years.

"I want to make sure the taxpayers, including myself, were getting a fair deal," Shousky said.

Following the meeting, Lower Township Solicitor Ron Gelzunas responded to mayor and council in a letter. He stated that he reviewed the Local Public Contracts Law

(LPCL) and spoke with Township Purchasing Agent Margaret Vitelli before determining that the award of the contract was "consistent with the past methodology employed by the township and not in violation of the LPCL."

Vitelli said she does not recall during her 14 years with the township having ever prepared a request for proposals for a professional service contract, except for the recent one in connection with the solicitor appointment in 2014, Gelzunas said.

"Our purchasing agent also opines that there was nothing inappropriate concerning the award to OSK. I concur with her on this point," he stated in his letter.

Gelzunas said state statutes specifically exempt professional services from the requirement of public advertising for bids and bidding, and provides for the award of such contracts by resolution of the governing body.

Cape May Point junior lifeguards

The Cape May Point Beach Patrol will be continuing its Junior Lifeguard Program for the 2014 season.

The program will run from 10 a.m. to noon Tues-

day through Thursday from July 1-29. Those interested in participating should visit www.capemaypoint.org for the registration form and more information.

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