

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 37 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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SPERLAK WORKS ON DISPLAY AT SOMA

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Task force to tackle economic development

Its foremost goal is to create full-time, year-round employment in First District

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Stating the need to reverse the “culture of unemployment” in southern New Jersey, state Sen. Jeff Van Drew and Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak, D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, announced Sept. 4 the members of a bipartisan task force to examine economic development for the First Legislative District.

The legislators held a news conference in front of their Cape May Court House office to discuss the goals of the First Legislative District Economic Development Task Force.

Van Drew will be the task force's chairman, while Andrzejczak will serve as vice chairman.

The task force was created by legislation (SR-78), sponsored by Van Drew, in the spring. It will be charged with identifying policies, methods, regulations and incentives to bolster economic opportunity and create full-time employment in the district. The

task force will submit a report on its findings in two years. Its first meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9.

The meetings will be open to the public, Van Drew said.

New Jersey's First Legislative District encompasses Cape May and Cumberland counties, and Corbin City, Estell Manor and Weymouth Township in Atlantic County.

Van Drew said the task force's membership is an “open-ended process” and additional members can be appointed “at any time.”

The bipartisan task force consists of local officials, representatives of academia and the business community.

Van Drew acknowledged that while seasonal tourism is the first and foremost industry in Cape May County, efforts are needed to bring year-round, full-time employment opportunities.

“In a good part of South Jersey there has even been a culture of unemployment,” Van Drew said. “We need to change that.”

According to Van Drew, the First Legislative District has the lowest per capita income rates in New Jersey, and the highest unemployment rates, childhood obesity rate, teen pregnancy rate, and highest incidences of heroin use statewide.

Van Drew's office provided further statistics the region has the highest rates of domestic violence, infant mortality, gang violence, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

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Lower advised against use of tax dollars for issue advocacy

By MARY LINEHAN
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Two issues monopolizing Lower Township Council's attention in recent months collided during its Sept. 3 meeting as a result of the township solicitor's counsel regarding public money being used to advocate a position.

“The township can spend money to present the facts, but cannot spend money to advocate one way or the other,” said Solicitor Ron Gelzun, responding to Mayor Michael Beck's request for an update on an upcoming referendum regarding Cape May's bid to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

Gelzun told Township Council they could

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Date set for referendum

The date for the referendum on Cape May's bid to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District has been set for Dec. 9.

See story on A2.

Cold Spring Village hosts Revolutionary War Encampment



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Owen Kelsey, left, hammers a frog fork while Mike Mills works on a hook for a tripod with which to hang a cooking pot over a fire during the Revolutionary War Encampment at Historic Cold Spring Village. The weekend include authentically clad Continental, Loyalist and Hessian troops. See more photos on A4.



Mary Linehan/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Bob Stork, who built the model of the lifesaving station the Cape May Maritime Museum plans to build, left, stands with Kevin Maloney, the museum's president, and Sandy Maloney.

Work begins at site of replica lifesaving station

By MARY LINEHAN
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — The Cape May Maritime Museum has taken another big step forward with its plans to reconstruct a 19th century Lifesaving Service station replica at Sunset Beach, having obtained necessary permits and begun cleanup work at the proposed site.

“Thank you so much for your continued support an encouragement for what we believe will be one of the crown jewels of the township,” said Kevin Maloney, the museum's president, addressing Lower Township Council Sept. 3.

Maloney said work has begun on the proposed site for

‘We see this not just as a destination for tourists but as a community gathering place. This is our history and a reflection of us as a community.’

— Kevin Maloney, Cape May Maritime Museum

the station on Higbee Beach, adjacent to Sunset Beach, partially on a former Magnesite factory property.

“Mitchell Nicholson is out there with two huge excavators, cleaning up derelict pipe and old bulkheads,” he said. “That clean out is part of the mandate that came with the CAFRA permit for the construction.”

A CAFRA, or Coastal Area Facilities Review Act, permit

was required for the permit, which Maloney said was granted last April.

“That process took nearly two years and cost almost \$50,000,” he said. And, as the site is “open space, the mandate is to enhance public access and enhance the natural habitat.”

Maloney said that end would be accomplished with a planned boardwalk, which would be ADA-accessible, a

19,000-square-foot parking area, split-rail fencing and signage to delineate dunes from walkways, and general cleanup of the site.

“We see this not just as a destination for tourists but as a community gathering place,” he said. “This is our history and a reflection of us as a community.”

A scale model of the proposed station was on display at the meeting.

“The fellow responsible for donating and building this model is Bob Stork, who is one of the very special people who are helping to make the vision of bringing this station back to

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