

JCP&L receives permit to move ahead on cleanup

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Jersey Central Power and Light has acquired the necessary permit to move forward with remediation of the former manufactured gas plant site off Lafayette Street.

The work was delayed by the lack of a Land Use Regulation Permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection, but JCP&L received the approved LURP on Jan. 9 and its contractor likely will be able to complete all Phase II remediation work by or before Memorial Day weekend.

According to a news release from JCP&L Project Manager Anna Sullivan, to make up for lost



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The contractor working for JCP&L uses heavy equipment to remove trees from the former manufactured gas plant site during remediation work.

time, JCP&L's contractor crews and has started to work longer hours including

work and extended hours on Saturdays. New hours of operations are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Anticipated work to be performed the week of Jan. 15 includes continuing with installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, commencing excavation and off-site disposal of the uplands area, commencing backfill of uplands area, beginning pre-trenching activities for installation of secondary containment wall and performing continuous perimeter air monitoring.

During the week of Jan. 8, work crews established an air monitor system at the perimeter of the work area and completed installation of a temporary

tent enclosure intended to minimize the disturbance to residents from dust and potential odors associated with dewatering of the soils from the wetlands.

In addition, work crews continued with installation of soil erosion and sediment controls and continued clearing and grubbing activities, according to Sullivan.

JCP&L plans to install a second underground containment wall this winter to

create a barrier to prevent contaminated groundwater from flowing into adjacent wetlands. In addition, JCP&L would install a permanent 46-foot by 20.5-foot prefabricated building to treat groundwater captured from the site.

Once the remediation is completed, groundwater would be monitored for the foreseeable future, she said. The DEP would also inspect the groundwater on a regular basis.

Teachers meet to determine learning styles

By JACK FICHTER
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CAPE MAY — Teachers at Cape May City Elementary School collaborate in discussion groups known as Professional Learning Communities to share what works best to help their students learn.

At a Jan. 12 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Victoria Zelenak said teachers formed a PLC to determine the learning styles of students.

Basic skills teacher Patti Marten said a questionnaire was sent home to parents of students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade in an attempt to get to know the students and their learning styles better. Marten said some students are kinesthetic learners, best reached by physical activity, while other students may learn by listening or

seeing. "With our PLC, we hope to dig deeper into what a visual learner needs, what an auditory learner needs and what a kinesthetic learner needs," she said.

Fourth-grade teacher Jay Eppenbach said it is beneficial to collaborate with other teachers on topics such as learning styles.

"It's so valuable that we have this built into our schedules to be able to communicate with other," he said. "We're constantly learning more about our students."

Zelenak said students may fit into several learning style categories. Marten said she saw a number of kinesthetic learners among younger students.

Eppenbach said kinesthetic and visual learners were predominant in younger grades. PLCs meet during teacher in-service

days and also as "pop-ins" in which a teacher may walk across the hallway for a brief conversation, Zeleznak said.

"The teachers came up with their own groups and their own topics," she said.

In other business: Business Administrator John Thomas said state Sen. Jennifer Beck (R-11) proposed a bill to provide funding from the state for military-connected students. He said it would be similar to federal Impact Aid provided to the school for educating children from U.S. Coast Guard families.

Thomas said he would reach out to state Sen. Jeff Van Drew for his support. Based on what the bill proposes, Cape May City Elementary School could see an increase in state funding of \$500,000 if the bill became law, Thomas said.

The bill currently has no

co-sponsors. He said the proposed legislation would also benefit the Lower Township school districts.

On a question of a generator to be installed in the school, whether it would power all or a portion of the school, Thomas said it would provide electricity from the center of the school to the cafeteria and pool area.

He said the school was expecting a \$100,000 energy savings grant that the city will be administering. Thomas said the grant was not sufficient to provide a generator to power the entire building.

Zelenak said the school would present "STEAM by Design," an annual festival of science, technology, engineering and math with displays made by students, Feb. 24. The event is led by PACE teacher Sandy Sandmeyer-Bryan.

Cape May's Virginia Hotel to host book club

CAPE MAY — For those who are looking for a winter escape but can't find the time to travel, why not get lost in a good book, or several? The Virginia Hotel's Sunday Evening Book Club is about to get started and is the perfect way to unwind following the hectic holidays.

Members will sip wine by the roaring fire while discussing the stories that are unfolding. This year's theme is Pulitzer Prize Winners. The book club will begin Jan. 15 with the winner from 2014, "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt,

followed by Anthony Doerr's "All the Light We Cannot See." The final two sessions will discuss the most recent Pulitzer winner in fiction, "The Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Members of the Book Club will receive a Virginia Tote with all three books and a complimentary glass of wine at each meeting for a one-time fee of \$75. To sign up for the club, call Iraisia Ann Reilly at (609) 884-8421, ext. 6754.

About the books: — Jan. 15 and 29: "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt

is a beautifully written coming-of-age novel with exquisitely drawn characters that follows a grieving boy's entanglement with a small famous painting that has eluded destruction, a book that stimulates the mind and touches the heart.

— Feb. 12 and 26: "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr is an imaginative and intricate novel inspired by the horrors of World War II and written in short, elegant chapters that explore human nature and the contradictory power of technology.

— March 19 and April 2: "The Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyen is a layered immigrant tale told in the wry, confessional voice of a man of two minds — and two countries, Vietnam and the United States.

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Women's group to study sex assault at universities

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The New Jersey State League of Women Voters is undertaking a new study on sexual assaults in the college community, and the Cape May County League of Women Voters will provide input regarding the direction of this study at its upcoming general membership meeting, which will also be open to interested members of the public.

The League of Women Voters will use the results of the consensus study to establish a position through which leagues can advocate on behalf of victims of sexual assault via legislation, public awareness and educational programs.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Old Historic Court House Building on Main Street in Cape May Court House. Freeholder E. Marie Hayes will share her insights from her previous responsibilities as lead investigator of child abuse and sexual assaults for the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and captain of detectives.

Areas to be discussed include policy, federal legislation, prevention, role

of campus administration and role of local police. For additional information, email Corinne Robinson at leecor@comcast.net.

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