



House of the week

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Tall-ship captain pens tale about tall sea tales

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164th YEAR NO. 47 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018 \$1.00

Lafayette Street Park development on hold

Project awaits approval from school board regarding safety of students since properties abut

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Construction of Lafayette Street Park is on hold until the Cape May City Elementary Board of Education approves the conceptual design of the park, in particular fencing and security features.

During a school board meeting Nov. 15, Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier said the county Board of Open Space has spoken favorably of Phase 4 of the park, which is a nature trail along a pond and

marsh behind the school. He said the school board would need to transfer ownership of the property to the city since the Board of Open Space does not fund projects on school property.

It is too soon to secure financing for Phase 4 since the city had not spent open space money for Phase 3 of the park project, he said.

Meier said the Board of Open Space was "super supportive" of the Phase 3 plan, including a fountain that was not a part of the original grant applications. The

Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee has not met recently because it has been waiting for approval from the school board of conceptual designs for the park.

The school is allowing the city to lease a portion of its property for Phase 2 of the park with the city holding responsibility for the improvements and maintenance.

"I feel that pushing the Board of Open Space for a value, what they are willing to dedicate to Phase 4, it's too early because they haven't seen us spend Phase

3 yet," he said.

Meier said he has a three-part question for the school board:

— Does the board support the design of the conceptual plan for the park; in particular to the property it has ownership?

— Does the board feel comfortable with the fence around the perimeter of the school property, regarding safety of the students?

— Is the board prepared to make a motion to support the conceptual design of the park?

He said the project cannot move forward without support

from the school board for the park's conceptual design. Meier said he felt the delay in the school board's approval was political.

"I feel our residents and visitors are losing out with us not moving forward with this project," he said.

School board member Thomas Rippman offered a motion to table the issue until a future meeting. School board member Larry Reed said he was not present at the school board's October meet-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lighting up for the holidays

An old-fashioned Christmas exhibit at the Carroll Gallery in the Emlen Physick Estate's Carriage House opened Nov. 16, the night of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities' annual tree lighting. The exhibit features a Dept. 56 Dickens Village, model trains, vintage Christmas family photos and toys and a large tree. Below right, Santa flips the switch to light the tree on the lawn of the Emlen Physick Estate. Below left, Dr. Physick welcomes visitors to his home as MAC's Mary Stewart and Mayor Chuck Lear look on.



Christmas frenzy leaves little room for Thanksgiving

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

Thanksgiving is an American holiday that many people believe is slowly but surely becoming overlooked by many as the Christmas season fast approaches.

Perhaps the reason we might not give too much weight to giving thanks is because the next day, or the very same night we celebrate it, we are out the door and onto the next one. Perhaps we should take a look at how this snubbed holiday got started.

"The original Thanksgiving was a one-shot holiday, not meant to be a yearly thing," said Jim Stephens, who for 18 years has been deputy director of education and interpretation coordinator at Historic Cold Spring Village

in Lower Township.

"Thanksgiving, as we know it, began as a holiday during the Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln marked the fourth Thursday in November as a day to give thanks," he said. "Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a holiday during the Civil War. But there were other times in American history where days of thanksgiving were declared for special occasions to celebrate some occurrence of importance."

The traditional Thanksgiving dinner we have come to know evolved in the 19th century, when there was nostalgia for Colonial times. Because there was very little record of what was actually eaten at the first

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Committee interviews architectural firms for public safety building

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Public Safety Building Selection Committee spent a full day Nov. 7 interviewing five architectural firms on a short list of perspective designers for a new facility for the fire and police departments.

City engineer Tom Thornton said the interviews "went well," while City Manager Neil Young called the day a "marathon."

Committee members conducting the interviews were Rose Traficante, Deputy Fire Chief Rick Lundholm, Fire Chief Alex Coulter, Police Chief Tony Marino, Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier, tax assessor Lou Belasco, Kate Wyatt, city purchasing agent Dan Shustack, Thornton and Young.

Two members of the full Public Safety Building Committee were present, Scott

Griffith and Barney Dougherty, according to Young.

"We got to see that these architectural firms have different mindsets, they have different proposals and costs varied as well," he said. "At least we got to see the personality of these folks instead of just an RFP (Request for Proposals) document."

On Sept. 7, Shustack opened eight packages of proposals from architects received earlier in the day.

The firms were Settembrino Architects of Red Bank; Robert Conley of Woodbury Heights; Buckart Horn Architects of Marlton; USA Architects of Newark, Somerville, Easton, Pa. and Philadelphia; Musial Group of Mountainside; Garrison Architects of Marlton and Bala Cynwood, Pa.; H2M Architects of Melville, N.Y., and Parsippany; and Fenwick Architects of Linwood.

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