Engineer change continues to stall city project work

Mott McDonald still has not turned over vital documents

By JACOB FICHTER

CAPE MAY — The city is continuing to delay in several capital projects due to a lack of transition from one engineer firm to another.

In January, City Council adopted a new contract with engineering firm Mott MacDonald, replacing the position with a contract with Engineering Design Associates (EDA).

Earlier in the month, council approved a $138,875 contract with Mott MacDonald for engineering services for the following distrust with the county for wastewater 

property of the city and the location of a new engineering firm.

The Blue Pig Tavern is proud to source fresh ingredients from Beach Plum Farm, our 62-acre farm based in West Cape May. Established in 2008, Beach Plum Farm grows over 100 kinds of fruits and vegetables as well as chickens, eggs, and Berkshire Hogs. To learn more about Beach Plum Farm, visit BeachPlumFarmCapeMay.com.

COVID cases continue rise around the county

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The number of COVID cases in the county continues to rise in Cape May County, with the Health Department’s weekly updates showing a recent spike in confirmed and probable cases.

The county now has 1,092 confirmed cases, 133 probable cases, and 170 deaths.

The county Department of Health and Human Services has announced the opening of a new testing site at the Cape May Mall, located at 400 Ocean Drive, Cape May.

The site will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Health Department is currently providing COVID-19 vaccines for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria.

See COVID, Page A2

Firm proposes $30M. desalination plant

CME Associates says timing right; Facility old, inadequate and funding available

Washington has passed an infrastructure bill that’s going to provide billions of dollars statewide and in every state in the United States. Why should we save in South Jersey? let take advantage of that?

— Nick Asse, CME Associates

By JACOB FICHTER

CAPE MAY — A consulting engineering firm is recommending the city replace its desalination water plant at a cost of nearly $30 million.

During a City Council meeting Dec. 7, Nick Asse, a former first assistant city manager, represented CME Associates.

Asse and the city’s current consultant, Cape May mayor Edward Blake, said Cape May’s original desalination plant was built in 1991.

The plant received water from two sources — wells, seawater, and rain, which drew water from the Atlantic City Sewer Authority. It passed through the reverse osmosis (RO) plant, and then filtered and disinfected, which draws water from the Chester A. Swift Aquifer, which does not pass through the RO process.

The plant was built in 1991 in an area that was 150 feet from the RO units, Charette said. He said during a site visit to the plant, they collected water samples, which he said will be used to perform a half-mile away.

“Of the largest issues with the plant, the treatment capacity does not meet city capacity according to experiments that were done,” Charette said.

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