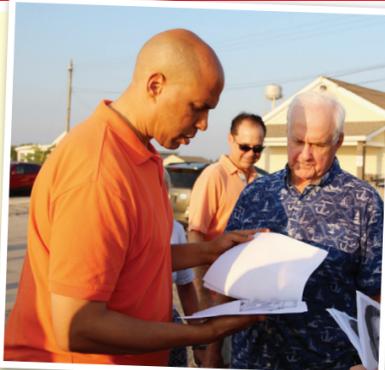




House of the week

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Booker attends flag-lowering

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164th YEAR NO. 33 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 \$1.00



Jack Fichter
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

CMBP holds memorial paddle out

Cape May Beach Patrol held its annual memorial paddle out Aug. 13 honoring life-guardians and family members who have passed away. Life-guardians Marty Franco and Ralph Atwell dropped flowers into the ocean and offered a prayer aboard a rare wooden Van Sant lifeguard boat first used in 1960. Beach patrol members lined up on a jetty for the ceremony.



Peninsula poses no problem for drone industry

County seeks some support for tax incentives at airport

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The county is drumming up support from local towns to urge Gov. Phil Murphy to approve legislation that would offer tax incentives to drone companies that relocate operations to the county airport.

Cape May City Council passed a resolution Aug. 7 urging Murphy to sign a bill incentivizing tech development at the airport.

Carole Mattessich, the county director of strategic business development, said the state Senate and Assembly passed bills endorsing the incentives but the bill was sitting on the governor's desk awaiting his signature.

"It has been over 45 days since the state legislative passage, but typically that would mean the governor had pocket vetoed it," she said. "Under a quirky administrative rule, since the state Assembly is currently not in session, we actually have until probably early September for the governor considering to sign it."

The legislation would provide tax credits for businesses at the county airport and Woodbine Airport.

"We have a great need for tech and aviation companies to come into the county in light of probably our most economic challenge, and that is the creation of year-round, high-paying jobs," Mattessich said.

The county has had a long-time tourism economy. She said suddenly in the 2000s, it was realized that young people stopped returning to the county after they completed their college education.

"Actually, two or three generations of our young people had gone away to college and basically stayed away because they couldn't come back to the county and find jobs that paid them enough both to buy a home and raise families," Mattessich said. "Our population aged up as a result."

She said Freeholder Will Morey conducted a study of what type of new business would be successful in this county. Mattessich said the county reached out to Amazon to see if could "snag" one of its fulfillment centers. She said Amazon replied to Cape May County within 30 minutes.

"They said 'We can't get insured for a fulfillment center on the peninsula, you're surrounded by water and there is no insurance company or consortium that would cover you,'" Mattessich said.

Many industries and businesses available to other counties would not work in Cape May County, she said.

"We are over 45 percent wetlands in this county; you can't build anything," Mattessich said. "We are really mostly built out in the large, previously developable tracts that would bring in a large employer."

She said economic impact analyses projected a \$100 billion drone industry from 2016 to 2020 nationwide. The county began talking to the high-tech aviation industry four years ago.

"We found out very rapidly that everything that made us wrong for most businesses was right for developers of drones and certain types of

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Adviser: Raise parking fee, people will walk

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — If Cape May were to construct a parking garage, the city-owned lot next to Collier's Liquor Store likely would be the best location. However, the ultimate solution may be to raise parking meter rates, an adviser told the city.

Richard Zeghibe, president of Patriot Parking of Philadelphia, offered free advice to the city's Parking and Traffic Advisory

"If you look at the meter system here ... one price fits all, which is interesting because that's not the way everything else is working in the economy we exist in. We're in a supply-and-demand economy."

—Richard Zeghibe, president of Patriot Parking

Committee during a meeting Aug. 13. Zeghibe is familiar with Cape May's lack of parking because he owns a home here. He said a current trend is performance pricing.

"If you look at the meter

system here, what I've seen is that one price fits all, which is interesting because that's not the way everything else is working in the economy we exist in," he said. "We're in a supply-and-demand

economy." Zeghibe said everyone is willing to pay more for convenience and higher quality and that the public sets the price for parking by indicating what they can afford to pay.

"You're not really raising prices, what you're doing is creating spaces," he said.

If the price is correct, there should always be one or two meters available in peak hours in

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Lower wants folks to know Schellinger's Landing in township

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Schellinger's Landing, the gateway to Cape May, has an identity problem. Ask visitors where the Lobster House, Lucky Bones and party boats are located and they will tell you "Cape May." But Schellinger's Landing is, in fact, in Lower Township.

During Township Council's meeting Aug. 20, Engineering Design Associates will present conceptual plans for safety improvements for Schellinger's Landing, between 1st and 5th avenues, and signs identifying the area as Lower Township.

Council approved a \$5,500 professional service con-

tract June 18 with Engineering Design Associates.

On Aug. 6, Township Manager Jim Ridgway said the work would cover an area from Lucky Bones restaurant to the small bridge into Cape May and include improvements to Wilson Drive.

"We're looking at signage on that small bridge which will tell people when they are going into Cape May, they are leaving Lower Township," he said. "When they are coming the other way, they are entering Lower Township when they come over the small bridge."

Lower Township Mayor Erik Simonsen said Schellinger's Landing is a huge tourist attraction with its restaurants, marinas and

party, fishing and whale-watching boats.

"What we we're looking at was a Marine Community District and there are other districts like that throughout the state and along the East Coast," he said.

Simonsen said the district would tie the businesses together from the parkway bridge to the small bridge into Cape May and make it a destination that needs to be promoted properly.

"When we saw grants being offered, we jumped on them," he said.

The mayor said the township likely would not incur any cost for the improvements. He said the goal was to "show off" Schellinger's Landing, which has a long history.

At an earlier meeting, EDA engineer Joseph Maffei said his firm would prepare maps, overlays and right of way plots and research state Department of Transportation permitting requirements to provide improved pedestrian circulation and installation of a Lower Township identification sign.

The township applied for a state Department of Transportation grant that provides federal funds for "community-based, non-traditional surface transportation-related projects designed in strengthening the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the nation's surface transportation intermodal system."



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Many visitors do not know that this small bridge connects Lower Township's Schellinger's Landing with Cape May, instead thinking it is all part of the city.



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