

# Engineer change continues to stall project work

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consider expanding parking at the Welcome Center by parking cars on long-unused railroad tracks adjacent to the building. The city was also seeking to improve lighting of the Welcome Center parking lot.

Parking on the railroad bed would create an additional 20 to 25 spaces. The project stalled over objections from Cape May Seashore Lines despite the railroad not operating a train to Cape May for more than a decade.

A plan was agreed to in August.

"That plan was approved by Tony McCreia, the train operator, and we are currently waiting for the survey and previous plans by Mott MacDonald to complete our construction drawings," Orlando said. "At that time, we'll make a determination whether or not we could offer the contract to the previous bidder, Charles Marandino, depending on the quantities and how the contract is going to change."

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the plans

for the Welcome Center were an attachment to the settlement agreement with Mott MacDonald. He said the city recently met with NJ Transit, which owns the tracks, and discovered a minor amendment is needed to the plans.

A sidewalk was moved 50 feet so it does not have to follow regulation as a railroad crossing, Orlando said.

He said the Lafayette Street Park project is at a standstill until the city receives the survey, previous construction documents and reports from Mott MacDonald. Orlando said he spoke with Tom Thornton, an engineer with Mott MacDonald, and provided him with a list of needed items.

Orlando said his firm worked on a conceptual drawing tweaking the previous plan with minor additions. He said all components in the plan from Mott MacDonald would remain.

Mayor Zack Mullock said some of the changes were due to Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L), which has been remediating the property due to

extensive underground contamination from a former coal gasification plant on the site. He said test well sites overlapped the basketball courts.

Orlando said his firm submitted an engineer's estimate to JCP&L to cover the cost estimated at \$250,000 to replace items demolished during remediation such as tennis and basketball courts.

"We looked at it at today's reconstruction prices, we had some very hard numbers from a previous project we worked on in Middle Township," he said.

Gillin-Schwartz said JCP&L would make a payment in lieu of replacing what it demolished during remediation. An earlier estimate totaled \$180,000.

Plans were completed for widening and repaving the Promenade between Gurney and Decatur streets, Orlando said. Council approved putting the project out to bid last week.

He said bids would be accepted Jan. 5 with a contract awarded shortly thereafter and construction completed by spring.

The city is waiting for documents from Mott Mac-

Donald for designs to expand Cape May's seawall and Promenade, according to Orlando. The city is also waiting for design documents for phase 4 of Pennsylvania Avenue reconstruction, he said.

"That design was mostly completed," Orlando said. "We'll be taking it over and bring it over the finish line."

EDA will effectuate the final closeout of Soldiers and Sailors Park after Mott MacDonald turns over its files to the city, he said.

The city has proposed a project of creating an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant parking area for Kiwanis Park and installing ADA-compliant playground equipment and surface, he said. A path would run from Madison Avenue to the tennis court.

A conceptual plan has been submitted to the state Department of Community Affairs for consideration of grant funding.

Orlando said EDA was providing inspection services on an as-needed basis for the construction of the new fire station.

During public comment,

Taxpayers Association of Cape May President Jules Rauch questioned why the architect for the fire station, Rob Conley, was also acting as construction manager for the project.

Gillin-Schwartz said construction phase supervision was part of Conley's contract.

"I've never heard of the architect being also selected to be the construction manager," Rauch said.

Gillin-Schwartz said Conley had to review the work and certify the payment in order for the city to pay bills from the contrac-

tor. Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said Conley was not the construction manager for the fire station project, but his contract was written for him to periodically inspect the building.

Rauch said of all the buildings he had constructed; the architect would not also be the construction manager.

"You're asking the architect to review his own work," he said.

Mullock said the administration meets biweekly with the entire project task force.

# Point part of Army Corps tour of flooding hotspots

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to visit the borough this week to meet with Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk and Commissioner Catherine Busch and staff in relation to a project with the state to examine locations that regularly flood.

The Army Corps is visiting municipalities throughout the state to look for areas with historic flooding.

The borough is a member of the New Jersey Coastal Coalition, a group of waterfront communities that meet monthly in a workshop setting, to discuss common municipal flooding issues. The group was formed in response to the 2012 Hurricane Sandy.

Its mission is to build more resilient communities at the Jersey Shore by developing policies and best practices that will anticipate future concerns and to create solutions to be shared by all participants.

Thirteen municipalities are going to get visits from Joel Dohm, Army Corps coastal sections project manager, according to van

Heeswyk.

"We're going to be meeting at the municipal building first and then moving on site, so they can review them," she said. "I think we are extremely lucky to have this oversight by the Army Corps."

A representative of the state Department of Environmental Protection will also be part of the inspection group.

# County renews with Cape Regional Home Health Care

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The county has entered into an agreement to continue its relationship with Cape Regional Home Health Care to provide administration and management of Home Health Care Services for residents of Cape May County. The agreement which will begin on Jan. 1, 2022 and will continue for an additional five-year term. The contract provides skilled nurses, physical therapists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, dietary guidance, social workers, and Home Health Aides to clients as needed.

"We are proud to ensure

that these critical services are available to our residents in Cape May County," said Cape May County Commissioner Jeff Pierson, liaison to the Cape May County Department of Health. "The County Board of Commissioners is always focused on our residents needs and finding solutions to help them."

Cape Regional has partnered with BAYADA Home Health Care to provide in-home health services to residents of Cape May County. This includes individuals who are disabled, homebound, and those recovering from surgery, serious illness, or injury.

"Cape Regional Health

System is very pleased to continue our strong five-year partnership with Bayada to serve the residents and visitors of Cape May County with the highest quality home health care services," Cape Regional Health System President and CEO Joanne Carrocino said.

Individuals who are looking for more information on these programs should call (609) 465-1205.

"BAYADA is proud to

partner with Cape Regional Health System to provide high-quality, community-based home care services over the past five years, during a time when we've seen a growing demand for in-home services," said BAYADA Home Health Care CEO David Baiada. "We're thrilled at the opportunity to continue this relationship that will help us to transform how health care services are delivered at home."

TIDES: Dec. 15-22, 2021				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
15	5:21	5:35	11:28	11:20
16	6:00	6:17	12:13	11:59
17	6:38	6:58		12:54
18	7:15	7:38	12:35	1:34
19	7:51	8:17	1:12	2:13
20	8:27	8:56	1:47	2:51
21	9:03	9:34	2:24	3:29
22	9:40	10:14	3:01	4:07

**MOON PHASES**  
Full moon, Dec. 19 • last quarter, Dec. 27

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