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PHOTOGRAPHER, JEWELRY MAKER AT CMAGG
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Mahaney: Feds must OK altering beach slope

Mayor says Army Corps cannot make safety changes without Act of Congress

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The phrase “It would take an act of Congress to change that” applies to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers being permitted to address beach safety, according to Mayor Edward Mahaney.

At an Oct. 28 Beach Safety Committee meeting, he said the Army Corps was looking to have its mission statement enlarged by

an act of Congress.

“That’s what it has to be,” Mahaney said.

Committee member Dennis DeSatnick asked if the Army Corps has changed the template for the upcoming beach replenishment project. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the replenishment program targets the beach at the U.S. Coast Guard base and near Wilmington Avenue known as Poverty Beach. He said currents carry the sand to the rest of Cape

May’s beachfront.

Some sand will also be placed at the cove beach, MacLeod said, adding that the design template has been on a scale of one to 10 but the scale of the new project would be one to 15, providing a gentler slope for the beach. Early in November, the Army Corps will conduct a final survey of beach conditions and make any last-minute adjustments, he said.

MacLeod gave committee members two reports of statistics on

beach rescues and injury calls, one from the Cape May Beach Patrol and one from the Cape May Fire Department.

The fire department responded to 24 EMT/ambulance calls for service for surf zone injuries this year.

Totals for the 2016 summer season, from May 1 to Sept. 30, from Beach Patrol Capt. Buzz Mogck: 117 rescues, 146 victims, 123 first aid and 33 calls to 911 for EMT assistance with a total of

28 surf-related injuries. He said rescues involve blowing whistles and all lifeguards responding. Surf-related injuries can be any minor injury of any kind but are not considered 911 calls, Mogck said.

“That’s why we have surf-related injuries because not all our calls are 911, even though we call the fire department,” he said. “A lot of times there are refusals

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JCP&L will start cleanup phase 2

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) will return to the area of Lafayette and St. John streets this month to continue its project to contain contaminated soil. Work will move more in the direction of the wetlands and Cape Island Creek.

From 1853 to 1937, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) burned coal to provide Cape May with gas for heating, cooking and lighting. In the process, benzene, naphthalene and other chemicals were left underground.

Since 1985, JCP&L has been conducting environmental investigations at the site in cooperation with and under the direction of the state Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, JCP&L has implemented several remedial actions consisting of the removal of MGP-impacted soils from the site and off-site properties and their replacement with certified clean fill. To date, about 20,000 tons of MGP-impacted soils have been removed, JCP&L officials said during an information session Oct. 27 at Cape May City Elementary School.

In 2014, JCP&L removed a vacant building from an offsite property at the corner of St. John and Lafayette streets. The work included removal and replacement of the soil from within the footprint of the building.

In early 2016, JCP&L completed Phase 1 of site remediation activities, which included the installation of engineering controls to isolate the site’s subsurface soils impacted by MGP materials and contain them in an underground enclosure.

A containment barrier of a concrete mixture was installed about 55 feet deep

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Spookiest election in history

Scarecrow Alley at the Emlen Physick Estate features a variety of scarecrows made by members of the public, business and social groups. Above, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton stand side by side as part of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities’ display. The ‘Political Pumpkinheads’ were created by Bella Cirrincione and Jane Menendez. Below, clockwise from left, Seaside Cheese of West Cape May created this cheesehead; MAC trolley driver John Lambert created a salute to the military; ‘Brewster’ serving up brew created by the MAC Hill House staff; and West Cape May Elementary School’s tribute to ‘The Wizard of Oz.’



Events coordinator Mary Stewart speaks to the crowd during a mystery theater session held by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities. She is retiring Jan. 1 after 30 years.

Stewart offers clues to ‘mysterious’ end of career with MAC

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city will once again be host to more than 100 sleuths Nov. 4-6 who will search its streets looking for clues. It is Sherlock Holmes Weekend again for the second time this year. This biannual event, as well as several other mystery plays and weekends, have been a staple for the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities for more than 25 years.

And, from almost the premier performances, Mary Stewart, the chief outreach officer for MAC, can also be seen in Victorian dress, moving about the wandering “Sherlockians,” keeping the weekend from going chaotic. Stewart is very good at her task, and definitely will be missed when she retires Jan. 1 after 30 years with MAC. But all of her dedication helped to ensure what she was looking for when she first started.

“When I moved to Cape May with my husband and the kids, I wanted to meet people,” she said, sitting in her office.

This is a rare sighting for Stewart, because her job requires her to handle many events that involve every-

thing external to the historic site of the Emlen Physick Estate. From organizing the volunteers, membership, development in marketing, communications to educational outreach, she oversees what MAC sends out into the community in the attempt to bring the community to the site.

Stewart was well qualified to handle her job because she started where most people start at MAC, as a volunteer.

“I enrolled my children in the Art League summer class they were having at the estate,” she said. “Afterwards, I went over to Hill House office and asked if they needed a volunteer. I immediately sat down and was handed a pile of newsletters to staple, fold and stuff in envelopes.”

Stewart became friendly with Anna Leeper and other members of the office staff. Eventually, she was hired by MAC to be involved, and eventually run, the special events such as the music festival, education outreach and the mystery plays that are performed during Victorian Week and Sherlock Holmes Weekend.

“Actually, the mystery plays fell into the category of special events, which is

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REGISTER NOW TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

5TH ANNUAL “SOLEMAN” 5K RUN AND MEMORIAL WALK

Please join us for this community event. Free coffee for those that bring a can for the food pantry. Raise awareness of the importance of character in people and to raise money for the Gene Sole Scholarship Fund.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 9:00AM
CAPE MAY CONVENTION HALL

Registration is \$25 for 5K Run & memorial walk is \$15. Veterans are Free! Pre-registration guarantees each runner to receive a tee shirt. Information and registration at SolemanRun.com. Local Business support needed and always welcomed for scholarship fund.