

Train

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Mulligan said. The extension of service to Cape May could revive the locomotive history of the region because The Seashore Line possesses train equipment circa the 1920s and the 1950s. "The train will celebrate the county's history with good transportation and an element of fun," Mulligan said. "It fits the historic niche of Cape May."

Mulligan said the trains

could bring in as many as 200 to 300 tourists per day to shop, dine, and tour in Victorian Cape May without gridlock or parking problems. Throughout the 10-week summer period passengers would have the option of riding the Five Mile Beach trackless trolleys from Rio Grande to Wildwood and shuttle buses to other island resorts with coordinated service via NJ Transit buses to Atlantic City and

Philadelphia. Other benefits include providing aid in an emergency evacuation situation or delivering supplies for disaster recovery. Mulligan said freight transportation for light industrial development could enhance the employment and ratable base for Atlantic and Cape May Counties. The project consists of ensuring the operation of all four bridges on route, replac-

ing sticks of rail and switch timbers, tightening approximately 39,000 bolts, and replacing approximately 76,232 old ties. All switch stands would be replaced with ergonomic handles. "From a legacy standpoint we have inherited good rail and many ties are well within access of their 25-year life expectancy," Mulligan said. Eighteen to 22 personnel would be needed daily for a timely completion. The proj-

ect is expected to take approximately 16 to 24 months. The NJ-ARP 2007 Annual Report declares the Cape May Canal Moveable Swing Bridge, also known as the "train bridge," fully repaired and operational upon completion of acceptance testing last May. On April 15 a nor'easter damaged tracks in Dennis Township, where the trains are currently located. Tracks

must be repaired before trains can return to Cape May. Mulligan said officials are hoping to gain emergency funding from the Department of Transportation to repair the tracks and ideally have some trains running for the 2008 tourist season.

Tourism

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resolutions: one asking for a portion of the beach revenues, and a second asking for a portion of the room tax. A number of 10-percent of the total amount collected from each source was mentioned, but the Tourism Commission decided not to include a number in their resolutions. City manager Lou Corea said taking money from the room tax would create a hole in the general fund and would have "significant budgetary

impacts." As far as transferring a portion of the beach revenue, Corea said because there is a Beach Utility and it is self funding, he is not sure whether funds can be taken out of that account unless they are directly related to beach operations, such as beach cleaning, lifeguards, dune maintenance. "If you can't draw a direct connection it's not likely to be allowed," he said.

Additionally, he said if a portion of the beach revenues are transferred to the Tourism Commission and the Beach Utility comes up short in paying it's bills, that money would have to be made up from the general fund. Public Relations Firm Also related to promotions, commission member Bob Steenrod said the final payment was made to the MWW Group public relations firm,

and he posed the question as to whether or not the Tourism Commission should look for a smaller firm that could give the city more attention. The Tourism Commission will meet again with the MWW Group on Nov. 27. Bashaw said it's normal to change public relations firms every so often, but he would not like to see them drop the use of a PR firm altogether. He said it would be a step in the wrong direction.

Sign of the times Pam Smarro from the Washington Street Mall Merchants Association attended the Tourism Commission meeting to see if the commission could contribute to the cost of Christmas lighting on the mall. The commission said it would see if city council could authorize a contribution from the general fund. Additionally, Smarro said visitors are continually going

into mall businesses and asking what is happening on the mall. She asked about signage that would explain the project. The city manager said they are working with the engineer to get a CAD drawing of the mall project for signs to be placed at each end of the mall. He said they were also looking at creating handouts telling about the mall revitalization project.

Theatre

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The first showing at the Beach Theatre will be 5 p.m., when the theater will present

"In the Shadow of the Moon," a British film about the Apollo missions. Jackson said two theaters – Cinema 1 and Cinema 2 – will be open over the winter. Cinema 1 will have both 35

mm and high definition digital projection systems, as well as five-point surround sound. Jackson said digital projection was the future of theater projection. Jackson said there would be

an online ticketing service he hoped would be working by the end of the week. Ticket buyers can look for the online site at www.beachboxoffice.com. Ticket prices for military,

seniors and kids will be \$6. The Beach Theatre Foundation is also running a membership drive. A basic membership is \$50 for a single membership, or \$75 for a couple. Marquee member-

ships are also available. The foundation will continue to raise funds through the sale of concession items, T-shirts, hats, and donations. "We need some big donations," Jackson said.

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