

Beach

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way," Secrist said. There was also a "backpassing" portion of the project, where 70,000 cubic yards of sand was taken from the vicinity of Convention Hall and Trenton Avenue where sand was abundant, and redistributed by truck in the Wilmington Avenue section of the beachfront. The backpassing was done by Arthur R. Henry, Inc. of Northfield.

The Army Corps of Engineers provided \$7,075,000 to make the replenishment project possible. The Coast Guard contributed \$1.2 million to the project, while the DEP presented \$800,000 to the effort. Cape May City contributed to the state's share. The overall total was \$9,075,000.

Secrist said the Army Corps of Engineers would monitor the progress of the backpassing as well as the flow of sand from the base to Cape May City beaches.

The last replenishment project was completed in spring 2009. According to a

Coast Guard press release, some of the worst coastal erosion in the past two decades has occurred since that time, which allowed water levels at the Training Center to reach record heights. The erosion impacted recreational beaches in the city and threatened the infrastructure of the Coast Guard base. Reports say a runway, firing range and other facilities on the base were in jeopardy.

"It's the end of a significant project for not only the Training Center of Cape May, but the community as a whole," Kelly said.

Cape May Mayor Ed Mahaney said the 3,700 year round residents and 40,000 plus visitors who come each summer will greatly appreciate the project and it will "enhance the enjoyment and safety of Cape May beaches."

He said it will take years to get to the Cape May City beaches from the Training Center, but the 620,000 cubic yards of sand at the base and the 70,000 cubic yards backpassed to Wilmington Avenue have already increased shore-



Above left is the beach at the Coast Guard Training Center before the beach renourishment project. Above right, the beach after completion.

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line protection in the area. "It's really a remarkable sight," he said.

Chad deSatnick, who broke his neck surfing on Cape May beaches in September 2001, said at the Jan. 17 city council meeting that he did not feel the backpassing at Wilmington made the beaches safer. He insisted the city do more to protect residents

and visitors on the beach, by using heavy machinery to keep the slopes on the beach down. He said he was injured when a wave slammed him into a steep slope on the beach. deSatnick said there have been more than 80 spine injury calls on Cape May beaches since August 2008.

Mahaney said following the meeting, the slopes on

the beaches are the lowest they've been in 20 years and Cape May has spent more time and money on beach replenishment than any other shore town in the county.

"It takes a tremendous amount of time to get funding to pay for these projects," Mahaney said. "Ocean City is the only municipality to have a replenishment program like

us." Mahaney said he didn't understand how deSatnick felt the city wasn't doing enough, considering nearly \$10 million was spent on this project.

Events

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families to live and/or work in this National Historic Landmark City and encourages visitors to seek The Nation's Oldest Seashore Resort as a premier tourist destination.

As a result of three months of intensive information gathering and exchange, extensive dialogue regarding both parties' long-range needs and desired outcomes, and the exploration of logistical issues, this partnership is now designed to produce exposure and participation in a wide array of arts and cultural events which will continue to transform

our community's landscape while solidifying our economic vitality. The Stockton Performing Arts Center will partner with the City of Cape May's new Department of Tourism, Civic Affairs and Recreation as well as the City's new Tourism Utility to present performing arts events during the next two calendar years.

This joint venture will be known as "Stockton Goes to the Beach" which ironically will be housed in the new, multi-purpose Cape May Convention Hall located at the intersection of Stockton Place and Beach Avenue. Representatives of the Stockton Performing Arts

Center distribute additional copies of pertinent media releases detailing the specific schedule of events, pricing, and descriptions of the various performers and events. In related news, this new, 20,000 square foot Convention Hall will be unveiled during a grand opening on Saturday morning, May 26, at 10 a.m.

Officials of the City of Cape May and the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey are utilizing this initial performing arts agreement as a fundamental step in establishing a comprehensive, mutually beneficial working relationship that addresses long-term priority needs of both parties.

Lack

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to the political party to which the former member belonged. The political party's committee then has 15 days to make an appointment.

Beck, Douglass, Township Manager Mike Voll, the municipal clerk and other staff, as well as members of the public, waited from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the Republican Committee to come forward with an appointment. Craig was the odds-on favorite, being the top vote getter in the previous round of votes. The committee once again selected Craig as their nominee, but no one informed the township manager, the council members or the public.

Voll walked to the Senior Center earlier in the evening to see if there was going to be an appointment made. Committee chairman Jeff Lindsay indicated the meeting was still going on. Voll asked for someone to call his cell phone when they had news.

Voll said he never received a phone call, but committee members started filtering into the council meeting room around 8:30 p.m., indicating the committee meeting was over and Craig was selected.

The next step would be to have Craig sworn in, after which township business could have been conducted, but Craig did not appear at the council meeting.

"It's a disgrace. (The Republican Committee) had a meeting set up last night and they changed it, moved it to tonight, the exact time as ours," Douglass said.

Asked how he knew about the selection of a new council member, Douglass said people came in from the committee meeting so they knew it was over. However, no one informed Douglass, Beck, or Voll of the results of the meeting.

"We never got a call," Douglass said.

Beck said he was unhappy with the way the situation developed, but he said it's the public who have to respond.

"If the public is not outraged, what can I do? I'm one person. There's a whole town out there that has to sit back

and say this isn't right," he said. "Until they do, this is what you get."

Beck said the conduct of the Republican Committee was an affront to the public, especially those who were waiting for the meeting to begin. Beck said there were more than 20 people from Andrielle Avenue who were waiting for the introduction of an ordinance banning outdoor wood burners.

"It may seem like a small thing to some people but not to those people," Beck said.

Beck also said law requires council to have two meetings per month. Because the meeting had to be cancelled, it meant a special meeting had to be called. That meeting is scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m.

Beck said state statute requires the person appointed to fill a vacancy to be sworn in immediately (see statute reference). Had that happened, the new council member could potentially have been out-voted 2-1 with regard to appointments waiting to be made. Asked if the potential 2-1 vote was a factor in Craig not being sworn in, Beck said, "Regardless of the circumstances, there was a meeting scheduled today, and the mere fact that you anticipate that perhaps there is a vote that will go against you, is that cause to not show up and conduct the township's business? If that were the case, I wouldn't have been to a meeting that last couple of months."

Beck said even when you lose a vote it shows people what is going on.

"I win by losing. If their position was tenable, was a good position, and they came in and lost a vote, all they had to do was show the public how their vote was better and they could have argued in that way," he said. "But not to show and not to know how many people are on vacation so we don't have a quorum is something the public has to hold people accountable for because I can't."

Asked if he was referring to holding officials accountable at the next election, Beck said it could be that or merely a phone call from people telling

their council members they are unhappy with the way this situation has been handled.

"This the first time in Lower Township history that we didn't have a meeting," Beck said.

Douglass said it was time to move forward with whomever the committee had selected.

40A:16-11. Appointment to fill vacancy where incumbent was nominee of a political party; time to fill vacancy

If the incumbent whose office has become vacant was elected to office as the nominee of a political party, the municipal committee of the political party of which the incumbent was the nominee shall, no later than 15 days after the occurrence of the vacancy, present to the governing body the names of three nominees for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy. The governing body shall, within 30 days after the occurrence of the vacancy, appoint one of the nominees as the successor to fill the vacancy. If the governing body fails to appoint one of the nominees within the time prescribed herein, the municipal committee that named the three nominees shall, within the next 15 days, appoint one of the nominees as the successor to fill the vacancy, and such person shall be sworn in immediately. If the municipal committee which nominated the incumbent fails to submit the names of the nominees within the time prescribed herein, the governing body may, within the next 15 days, fill the vacancy by the appointment of a successor from the same political party which had nominated the incumbent whose office has become vacant.

If, on the effective date of this act, the governing body had previously received from the municipal committee the names of three nominees to fill any such vacancy and had not filled the vacancy, the governing body, within 30 days after the effective date of this act, shall appoint one of the nominees as the successor to fill the vacancy.

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Free

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500 people make donations. Home Depot has donated about \$20,000 in materials. In the time since they put out their press release, in which the Jewells said they would apply their \$10,000 sales commission toward the \$50,000, they received one \$5,000, and perhaps as much as \$3,000 in other donations. He said the giving in the community has given him confidence in the project.

"This won't deter us at all. We have a vision and a mission here," he said.

Jewell said if TFMC had set aside all their previous donations they would have had the \$50,000, but they wanted to continue with improvements on the building.

"We wanted the public to know we were working on the property," he said. "We know what the investment is, we know the money is coming. This is just in case it doesn't come by the end of March we have to have a plan B."

Jewell said the center was set up to serve lunch Monday through Saturday. On Saturday they add breakfast to their schedule, so kids would get two decent meals that day. He said besides the meals, TFMC is planning to hold informational

classes sponsored by Cape Regional Medical Center and the Health Department. They envision having courses on everything from health during pregnancy to money management, and a mentoring program for the kids. He said they would also be utilizing a VISTA volunteer.

"VISTA is an organization that addresses property. Yes we are feeding people, but we have a whole lot of other social things," he said.

According to Jewell, the local need is now greater than two years ago when they started the project.

Jewell said if contributors are concerned about the financial stability of TFMC, all they have to do is make out their contribution check to Shore Title and it will held until closing.

"If we don't go to closing, we will return their check," he said.

TFMC, a 501(c)3 non-profit, plans to open later in 2012. Lunch will be served year-round Monday through Saturday, plus breakfast on Saturdays. The meals will be open to anyone who walks through the door, no questions asked.

Again, checks for donations towards the down payment can be made out to Shore Title Company, ensuring that

if the \$50,000 goal is not met everyone will get their check back. The mailing address for contributions is: The Free Meal Center, PO Box 863, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

Jewell said the worst case scenario is, in the event TFMC was evicted, they would simply buy the property when their funding comes in.

"TFMC will survive one way or the other. Too many hungry folks are counting on us," Jewell said.

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