

# Ponderlodge

Continued from page A1

a natural wildlife habitat. Efforts to preserve nine holes of the golf course, use part of the space as a township recreation area, or save buildings for use by fraternal and education organizations have failed.

However, Cape May resident Barbara Skinner attended the Energy Council March 21 at Stockton with environmental consultant Robert Milligan from Canada, and had the opportunity to speak to Altier. She then took the issue to Van Drew along with 1,200 signatures on petitions asking for the main building to be preserved as an environmental educational center.

According to Skinner, Van Drew spoke to the DEP the next day and they expressed interest in the idea. However, on Monday, Van Drew was saying time was short and if

nothing could be done the large building would soon be demolished. However, Van Drew said he was advocating the creation of a satellite campus at the Ponderlodge.

"It would be wonderful for Lower Township. It would create a few jobs and it would put Lower Township on the map," he said.

Van Drew said he couldn't guarantee anything would happen, but he had spoken to Saatkamp eye-to-eye and he believed there would be a determination made within a month. Van Drew said he believed the plan had a 50/50 chance of succeeding.

Skinner said Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck was interested in having a presentation for Township Council if definite plans are made.

"This should be an exciting thing for Lower Township," Skinner said. "If Stockton is able to put a facility there it would be a boon to the area."

Skinner said when she spoke to Altier they talked about having environmental studies in the main building. She said Altier told her Stockton wanted to expand its environmental studies and wanted to be known as New Jersey's "green college."

She said Stockton College is heated with geothermal energy and does a lot of things with measuring climate impact.

Tim Kelly, a spokesman with Stockton, said the college is definitely interested in expanding environmental science studies.

"We have the Coast Research Center that does all the beach surveys and makes recommendations to the Army Corps (of Engineers) for plans for beach replenishment," Kelly said.

Milligan said he got involved in this project because of Skinner, and he saw it as an interesting challenge. He said he believes the

site would be good not just for traditional students but also as a continuing education center for the general public.

"There could be fish and wildlife displays...design it for the public, use it for a higher purpose," he said.

According to Milligan, they spoke to a number of people at Rutgers, and Rutgers had a lot of good ideas for advancing green sciences, but Rutgers also wanted them to find money for them. He said Stockton liked the project and was willing to find the money on its own. Van Drew told the public on Monday this project would not cost Lower Township anything, that Stockton was looking to pay for the project through donations.

"And it's important for the public to realize nothing is being taken from them. The site would be further improved by eco-restoration and hopefully an environmental education center

would be developed," he said. Milligan believes a Stockton satellite campus would have benefits for the neighboring community, which has been concerned about vandalism and fires.

"If Stockton takes over it would be a positive thing. Steps are being taken immediately to ensure nothing happens on the site," he said. "Just a couple days ago some neighbors reported there seemed to be kids inside the building."

According to Milligan, developing a satellite campus for environmental studies, research, and green development, especially in agriculture, would, "Help make New Jersey into a Garden State again, rather than just have it on the license plates."

Kelly said Ponderlodge was an intriguing site for Stockton.

"The possibilities are almost endless," he said. "It's such a beautiful site, and

we're pushing green initiatives, we're committed to environmental sciences."

Located in the Pine Barrens, Kelly said Stockton has always been New Jersey's green campus.

"This is an opportunity to spread out wings a little," he said.

Kelly mentioned the possibility of having a conference center on Ponderlodge, holding classes and doing research there.

"The potential is almost unlimited, so naturally we are really interested," he said.

Skinner said the state could help with the restoration of the main building and the area.

"The state has \$4 million in its budget for demolition, so it's not a matter of money, it's priorities," she said.

# Van Drew talks in Lower Township about state of the state

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - State Sen. Jeff Van Drew attended Monday's township council meeting and spoke about things happening at the state that would interest local residents, including the state budget he said he and the legislative team would not vote for.

"This is an extraordinary time," Van Drew said.

Van Drew said the current economic condition of the state is the fault of both Republicans and Democrats,

not just one party. He said the problems began with Gov. Jim Florio, who is responsible for the largest single tax increase in the state's history - \$2.8 billion. He said although the state needed more revenue, the governor was very blunt in how he handled the matter and offended some people.

Then, during Gov. Christine Whitman's term she cut taxes, the income tax, sales tax - but also increased spending.

"How do you cut taxes and increase spending," he said. "We borrowed money - we

went into debt."

Van Drew said the state increased special contract debt, which did not need to be approved by the voters.

"We were able to borrow money without going to the taxpayers. At the same time we took a pension holiday," he said.

Van Drew said when Gov. Jim McGreevey took office the state was \$6 billion in debt, but the governor didn't want to increase taxes, so debt increased even more.

"That's why we are where we are today," he said.

Van Drew said he is supporting legislation requiring voter approval for all further borrowing, and he said a lot more needs to be done.

He said municipalities need to have recurring revenue sources for their spending with no one-time fixes.

He said there is also much too much money spent on producing and printing paper. He said in less than six months his office received mailings from over 500 different authorities outlining their budgets, events, etc., which no one reads.

"No one is looking at them and there are thousands of dollars being spent on printing and postage costs," he said.

Van Drew also said the First District Legislative Team, which includes himself and Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matt Milam, are in favor of a 10 percent cut in bureaucracy. He said departments should cut their spending by 10 percent, and there the number of state employees should be cut by 10 percent. He also called for a competitive purchasing process, rather than buying off the state vendor list.

"We have a host of ideas, but many of them are difficult to achieve," Van Drew said.

Van Drew also talked about the need for a blue ribbon panel to discuss the problem of illegal immigration. Specifically, he said there were two bills addressing concerns of illegal immigrants. One would provide in-state tuition rates to illegal immigrants, and the other would provide them driver's licenses. He said the legislative team spoke against these

initiatives, while supporting the right of people to immigrate in a legal way.

Van Drew said the U.S. needs to secure its orders and there needs to be a system of visas that allows the government to know who people are hiring.

Van Drew said he is supporting a measure that calls for all saltwater fishermen to register with the state. He said the federal government has decided there must be a registration system by 2010, and if the state doesn't enact one the federal government would do it and there would be a cost. He believes New Jersey should just set up an online registration system by which people could register and print out a "license" using their home computers. If there must be a cost he would like it to support marine sciences - but he would like to avoid the cost.

"We are being charged to death and we are tired of it," he said.

Mayor Mike Beck asked if the state has a 4 percent spending cap as the municipalities do.

"They don't," Van Drew said, "but I have a bill that would establish a the same spending cap for the state as the municipalities, counties and schools."

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare asked Van Drew if the state couldn't streamline the COAH process so the township could get its affordable housing plan approved.

Van Drew said New Jersey has constitutionally mandated affordable housing, but the legislature "screwed it up."

"It's too complicated, it won't work," he said.

He said he believes proposed legislation on COAH needs to be passed so they can get through that stage of the process and then change it later.

One thing he wants to change is the 2.5 percent fee on non-residential development. He said the state was going to impose an 18-month moratorium on the requirement, during which the legislature can look at the whole process again.

**Buried in Credit Card Debt?**  
Over \$10,000 in credit card bills?  
Only making the minimum payments?

- ▶ We can get you out of debt in months instead of years
- ▶ We can save you thousands of dollars
- ▶ We can help you avoid bankruptcy

Not a high-priced consolidation loan or one of those consumer credit counseling programs.

**CALL CREDIT CARD RELIEF**  
for your **FREE** consultation **866-479-5353**  
(Not available in all states)

**Donate Your Car!**  
**1-888-909-SONG(7664)**

**FREE TOWING • TAX-DEDUCTIBLE • BOATS ACCEPTED**  
Providing Personalized Songs for Seriously Ill Children

Donate and Be Entered To Win  
**A BRAND NEW TOYOTA COROLLA!**


Thanks to **Galson** **PROFESSIONAL**

The Medicine of Music™  
**www.songsforlove.org**  
Get Habla Español!

**Featured on 60 Minutes and NBC Nightly News!**

(609) 898-1665  
Cape May, New Jersey

**Jim Matthews**  
Custom Builder



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM**

Is your home in foreclosure?  
**Help is Available**

**FREE** Counseling, Legal Assistance & Mediation

**1-888-989-5277**  
**NJForeclosureMediation.org**

**GROW YOUR BUSINESS!**

Place your business-card-size ad throughout New Jersey and get your message to over 3 million readers for \$1250. Statewide coverage in over 115 newspapers for about \$10 per publication. (cannot choose papers)

CONTACT THIS NEWSPAPER for more information or contact Diane Trent - New Jersey Press Association 609-406-0600 ext. 24; email: dtrent@njpa.org www.njpa.org

**New Jersey 2x2 Display Ad Network**

**DON'T REPLACE YOUR TUB... REGLAZE IT!**

**\$349**

**SAVE \$100**

Rated #1 NATIONALLY

Ask About Stocked Countertops

Tub Refinishing W/COUPON regularly \$-649

We also do Sinks, Tile, Many Colors  
[www.easterrefinishing.net](http://www.easterrefinishing.net)

**EASTERN REFINISHING CO. • 1-800-463-1879**

Coupon Expires 4/31/09

**Kurt Johnson Builders**

**New Homes • Alterations • Additions**  
**Kitchens • Baths • Decks • Siding**

"38 Years Serving Cape May County"  
The Johnson Family heritage 300 years in Cape May Co.  
**609-463-0364**

**GOODTIME ROCK & ROLL**

**94.3**

**WILW**

**"Listen Anywhere in the World at www.943wilw.com"**

**Vendors**

Continued from page A1

mean that we move the others to other spots?" she said.

Steenrod said the city had already received 11 applications. Under state statute, applicants must be qualified military veterans or volunteer firemen.

"My concern is if we get 20 vendors applying does that

**Budget**

Continued from page A1

COAH certification by Dec. 31, 2008, which was met, and the Master Plan reexamination by March 31. The third element is to complete the Plan Endorsement process, which would return city center designation to Cape May.

**The Cape May Star and Wave wishes everyone a very Happy Easter!**

☺

**cmstarwave@comcast.net**

**PETE LEONARD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**  
NJ State Master Plumber Lic#B105864

**NEW CONSTRUCTION~REMODEL~SERVICE WORK**  
**HOT WATER HEATING SYSTEMS**  
**TURN OFFS ~ TURN ON**  
**609-884-1742**

Proudly Serving the Cape May Area 30 years!  
Fully insured & Bonded

We are proudly celebrating 6 years in business! Thank You!!

**Plumber Joe's LLC**

Call or e-mail with your new construction, renovations, service or repair needs today!!

**(609) 884-PIPE (7473)**  
**plmbrjoe@comcast.net**

Fully Licensed, Insured & Bonded NJ State Master Plumber Lic. AB 10164

**Settle IRS Back Taxes for less than what you owe**

If you qualify we can:

- ▶ Stop wage garnishments
- ▶ Remove bank levies, tax levies, property seizures
- ▶ Stop payment plans that get you nowhere
- ▶ Settle state and business payroll tax problems
- ▶ Eliminate penalties, interest charges & tax liens

**American Tax Relief**  
If you owe over \$15,000 in back taxes, call now! ▶ **FREE** consultation ▶

**No Obligation • Confidential • 1-800-355-1716**