

Agreement reached

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Mahaney said the city's obligation of the purchase price is \$4.4 million with \$2.2 million of that amount is being funded through a state grant. Another \$2 million is coming from Cape May County open space funding - the first open space grant the City of Cape May has received, although taxpayers pay into the county open space fund. The remaining \$200,000 will come out of the city's own open space fund.

"When the original proposal was put in for Green Acres money, we were told if we set up a one-cent tax for open space it would be doubled by Green Acres. We now have \$1 million in that account, so we will take out \$200,000 and it will cost the taxpayers nothing," Mahaney said.

Mahaney said if the area had been developed according to the original application

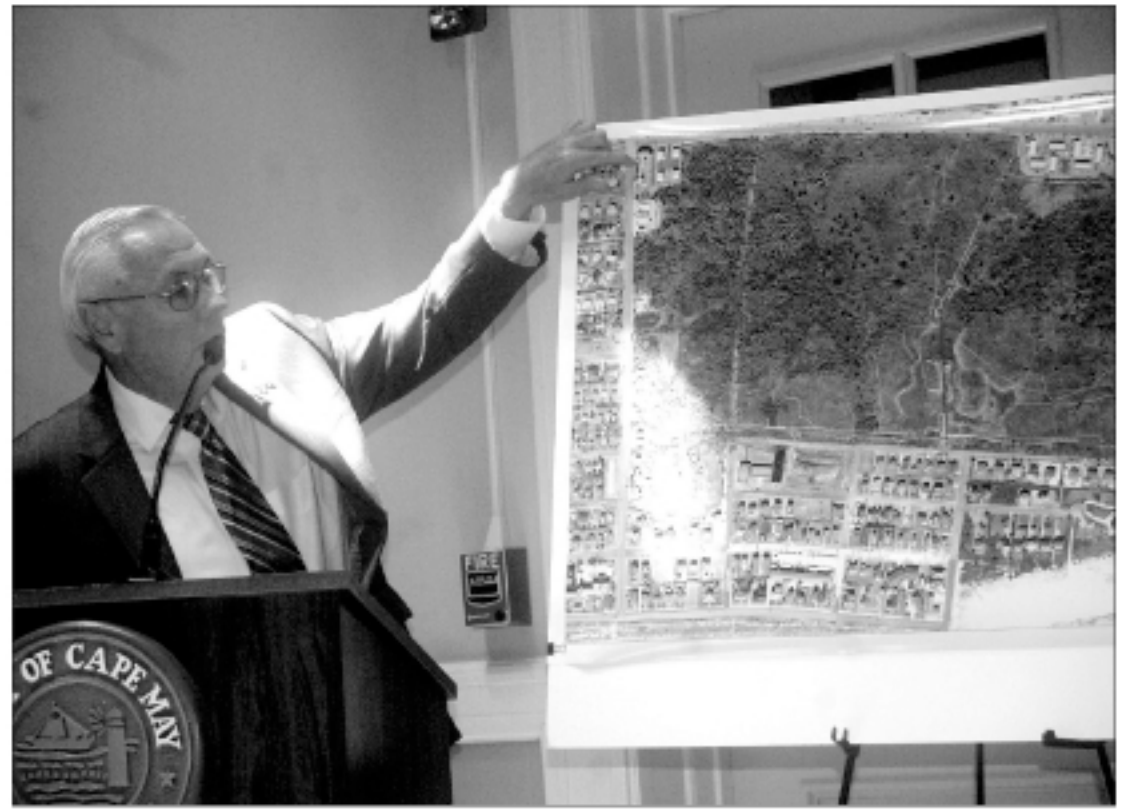
the city would have had to add a police and fire substation, besides the new water tower. Now the approximately 78 acres will become the Sewell Point Wildlife Sanctuary, a passive recreation site and wildlife habitat. The property is already a well-known stopover for migratory birds. According to information provided by DEP attorneys, the Sewell Tract is the largest privately owned property within walking distance of the ocean.

The DEP rejected permit applications to develop the property with 366 residential units and the developer filed suit against the state claiming the state was "taking" the owner's property by denying the permits. Litigation proceeded through the appellate level with no resolution until the recently mediated agreement, presided over by the late New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Daniel O'Hern.

Mahaney said a memorial plaque signifying O'Hern's role in the process would be erected at the site.

Mahaney said the final realization of the process would take several years. According to a DEP press release, the settlement announced Tuesday is subject to "applicable regulations, including the submission of complete permit applications by the developer, and a public review and comment period, and review and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel told the city once the settlement is finalized the county would write a check to the city for \$2 million. The city would begin work on trails, paths and observation decks for the site, which would be managed by a third-party agency.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Mayor Edward Mahaney indicates the Sewell tract as being east of Pittsburgh Avenue. About 78 acres will be preserved as a wildlife sanctuary ending a 17-year dispute.

Summer jazz begins

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closed for the chamber music group, and he would like to see the same thing happen for the Little Jazz Giants.

Riggi said they are shooting for Aug. 6, the first Thursday in August, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., or 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., to draw a crowd.

"Then after the show they can go in somewhere and eat," Riggi said.

Riggi said they already have a sponsor for the second event, the Ugly Mug/Cape May Fish Market/Jackson

Mountain.

Riggi said the Jazz Festival does a lot of advertising, which he believes benefits the town and its businesses. These additional events, he said, would further benefit the town and merchants, while helping promote the Jazz Festival itself.

"It's an opportunity for people to see what we offer in April and November. And we're trying to bring in musicians who have played at the festival and give a taste of what they would get at the festival. The summer concert

series is just the first of things people will see during the summer," Riggi said.

Riggi said the summer shows are a way to promote the Jazz Festival's stimulus ticket plan. A weekend pass for the Jazz Festival is \$150 per person, but if purchased early the buyer can save money. The original plan was to offer a weekend pass at \$125 if purchased before July 1. That offer has been extended to July 15. Tickets purchased between July 15 and Sept. 1 will be \$135. He said those who come down for the festival and pay full price would receive a free Jazz Festival T-shirt.

Fourth of July Events

Fourth of July fireworks at Congress Hall beach

CAPE MAY - The City of Cape May, the Kiwanis Club of Cape May and Congress Hall will stage a week-long Independence Celebration beginning June 27 and highlighted by a fireworks extravaganza sponsored by the City of Cape May, Congress Hall and the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, July 4 at approximately 9 p.m. off Congress Beach from a barge.

Celebration activities will include concerts in the Rotary Park, a parade, the Great Lawn Party at Congress Hall, the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, fireworks and Kites Over the Cape June 27 and 28. For information please call Cape May Civic Affairs 884-9565.

City of Cape May's Independence Celebration

CAPE MAY - The City of Cape May will be holding Independence Celebrations starting on:

- July 4 with an

Independence Parade at 1 p.m. Beach Avenue.

- Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast 7 to 10:30 a.m., Henry's Restaurant.
- The Great Lawn Party, Congress Hall, 11 a.m. - dusk.
- Congress Street Brass Band 6 p.m., Rotary Bandstand
- Fireworks Extravaganza, 9 p.m. Congress Beach from barge.
- July 5 - Delco Barbershop Singers 8 p.m., Rotary Bandstand.

For more information contact Cape May Civic Affairs 884-9565.

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