

# Pine

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Although that particular flight was cut short, the seeds still traveled at a great distance and speed through the heavens. "We believe that this was the first effort to have tree seeds experience the weightlessness of space," the press release says.

According to Burke, the New Jersey Forest Service, Community Forestry Program and the New Jersey Community Forestry Council gave the seed germination kit to New Jersey native, Astronaut Gregory

T. Linteris, Ph.D. before the flight. There were 36 trees grown from the seeds and the borough was lucky enough to receive one during a raffle at the Shade Tree Federation meeting. Over 600 people attended the conference.

The white pines grown from the seeds are a tribute to the seven astronauts who lost their lives on the 28th mission of the Space Shuttle Columbia on Feb. 1, 2008 during re-entry.

Burke said the borough's Shade Tree Commission is one of the most active in the state and they are thrilled to accept such a special award,

which will be a great addition to West Cape May.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect about these seeds is the time it took for them to germinate. According to Land, the usual germination rate for Eastern white pine seeds is around 10 to 14 days, but the seeds that went into space germinated in half the time.

"The trees are already four feet tall," he said. "We'll see how they fare in the long run - especially with the sandy soil we have in South Jersey."

Once all the trees are planted, the New Jersey Community Forestry Program

will document the location of each one and add them to the list of noteworthy trees across the state.

Land said the Shade Tree Commission is still looking for an appropriate spot to plant the tree, since no one is certain how large the trees will be at maturity considering the fast germination period and present size of the white pine. He said the commission is looking for a wide-open space, where residents and visitors can see it regularly. He said the commission would also like to make a plaque to display next to the tree.

Land said the West Cape May Elementary School property and Wilbraham Park have limited space, so the commission is open to suggestions from the public as to where the tree can be placed. He said so far, the backyard park where the borough farmer's market is held seems to be the best location.

"It's a high traffic area, especially during the summer, so everyone will see it there," he said.

He said the commission hopes to involve the students from the elementary school in the planting project. Land said if they find a location

soon enough, they may dig the hole before the ground freezes during the winter and have it ready when the tree arrives in early spring.

Land said the Shade Tree Commission attended the federation meeting in Cherry Hill to receive their required Continuing Education Units (CEU), but came back with something they never expected to receive. He said he is excited to see the Space Shuttle white pine tree become a true landmark of West Cape May.

# Hours

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because no one is going out to eat dinner at midnight. He said he didn't believe extending the hours to midnight was necessary, and should have been left at 10 p.m.

At the Nov. 9 meeting, the board added a last call to the ordinance. Deputy Mayor Peter Burke suggested last call be a half-hour prior to midnight, so customers would finish their drinks before midnight.

Resident John Rowley, who has been collecting signatures for the petition, said restrictions requiring a minimum number of restaurant seats, a restriction on the bar size and number of barstools were all discussed at an October 2008 borough meeting, in the month before the November referendum. Rowley also believes citizens should have been given the right to vote

on the changes made in the ordinance.

"The petitioners demand the commission give residents an opportunity to vote on the matter, in the event the borough commission does not reverse the ordinance," it says in a press release written by the committee. "The petitioner's committee wants the borough to revise its code to incorporate all the license restrictions presented in the October 2008 public meeting. Additionally, the committee wants an opportunity to propose other license restrictions required to preserve West Cape May's quality of life and maximize the license value."

According to Title 40:74-5 of the Walsh Act, the committee needs to collect enough signatures within the borough to represent 15 percent of the entire votes cast in the last election, when the ordinance

was approved. The section also says if the signatures are collected, the ordinance shall be suspended from going into operation and the board of commissioners should reconsider the ordinance within 20 days of the presentation of the petition. Rowley said the committee will need 49 signatures, but he anticipates approximately 65.

"The public has not had enough time to be heard on this issue," Rowley said. "The voters should decide on the changes, because it affects the Borough of West Cape May."

The five members of the petitioner's committee are McDonough, James and Lenanne Labrusciano, Michael Bean and John McMahon.

# Sand

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620,000 cubic yards of sand from an offshore dredge or "borrow area" near the Cape May Inlet. It will be placed at the Coast Guard Training Center, which will serve as a feeder beach as the sand migrates to the city beaches over the years.

Constantino said the beach at the Coast Guard Training Center has been efficient in sending sand to the city beaches. He said some sections have seen enough sand migration to rise two or three feet above the original design parameters. According to Constantino, removing the sand will also help adjust the steep slopes that are created after beach fills, especially in areas collecting a high amount of sand through sand migration.

Pakan said through the New Jersey Shore Protection Construction cost share structure, 90 percent of the project will be covered by federal funding, while the remaining 10 percent will be paid for by the local municipi-

pality and the state. He said the NJ Shore Protection Fund contributes \$25 million annually for beach nourishment projects. The total cost for this two-stage project in Cape May is \$9,075,500.

William Dixon, supervisor for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Coastal Engineering, said he was confident the project would go as according to plan. He said the Army Corps of Engineers will be monitoring the sand migration and how the beach reacts over time to see if the project is having a positive affect and if it is wise to continue.

Resident Paul Johnston asked if the back passing portion of the project would eliminate the sand cliffs forming on the beach, and if the city could use its own equipment to flatten them out.

Dixon said the DEP encourages municipalities to maintain the beach and the project plan between beach renourishments. He said the organization also allows municipalities to eliminate the scarps

(he surface of the steep slope of an escarpment) when they occur if it holds a beach and dune maintenance permit.

City Solicitor Tony Monzo said the beach maintenance permit limits the city to raking, cleaning and minor maintenance of the beach. Mayor Ed Mahaney said the city needs the approval of the Army Corps and DEP if they wish to work on the beach with heavy machinery and equipment.

According to Dixon, the city has the permit, but is not able to rake or sweep two sections of the beach from March 15 through the end of August due to the Piper Plover nesting season.

Dixon said the Army Corps of Engineers concluded there would be no significant impact on the beach nesting birds or plant life while the project occurred. He said there were no sensitive archaeological resources within the borrow area or project footprint either, so the project will not have a negative effect on the environment.



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# Crime

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Walker declined to provide an admission of guilt and the trial was conducted. Belasco said he found Walker guilty based on tes-

timony by the victim, his partner and the police officer. Walker was sentenced to fines and fees totaling \$733. Walker would have faced up to a year in jail for a bias crime.

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