

Brown

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involved. By September 1976, the two had built up Civic Affairs as a team. Brown started out as an assistant and by 1983, he had attained so much knowledge about the position, he was promoted to director.

"He was a great mentor and boss," Brown said of Smeltzer. "I learned so much on the job. It was great because it was something we were building and it was ours to make or break."

Since then, many of the events and activities that residents and visitors participate in have been created and brought to Cape May by Brown and Smeltzer. The annual Independence and Halloween Parades, the Beachfront Run, Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Boardwalk Craft Show, fireworks displays, the Jersey Cape Auto Show and the Cape

May Sand Sculpture Show, just to name a few, have all been initiated by Brown and the Department of Civic Affairs.

Brown gives most of the credit for these successful and well-attended events to his volunteers and staff within the department. He said to see these events held annually and still be going strong is nothing short of rewarding.

"It gives a tremendous sense of pride to see all of them still alive," he said. "To see a project, event or task being well-received is a great feeling."

According to Brown, the reason for so many prosperous events in Cape May is because of the teamwork and strong sense of community within the city. He said city officials, departments, local groups and volunteers all work together to make sure Cape May has fun and exciting activities to offer its visi-

tors and residents on a regular basis.

Brown said even though it's a fun job, it is also challenging because during the summer season, you're trying to entertain and cater to people from all across the world.

"If we're able to please a cross-section of the population from all over the world and in Cape May, that's pretty amazing," he said. "People from all walks of life come here, and trying to provide events for everyone is challenging."

Since he began visiting Cape May, Brown said, the demographics of the city during the summer months have changed somewhat. He said it used to be a place for a lot of young adults to come for vacation, like he did during college. Since then, he said it has become more of a "family resort," so now there are a great number of events for children and family activities

offered by the department.

"Basically it's the same model we started out with," he said. "You just tweak it when you have to."

He said one of the biggest challenges he faced during his 35 years was organizing and relocating events after the old Convention Hall closed down.

"We didn't want to throw in the towel and cancel everything - we just did what we could," he said. "It was difficult, but we made do. When it closed, we moved a lot of events to the elementary school, the park and other venues."

Now that the new Convention Hall is on the way for Summer 2012, Brown hopes it will be a great advantage for the town and a catalyst for larger, well-received events.

He said one of the most rewarding experiences of his career was witnessing the vast number of peo-

ple who came to the 400th Anniversary Parade in Cape May in August 2009.

"It was like a mini-Macy's parade," he said. "After we saw how many people came and how much support it received, we knew we had to improve everything we'd been doing but I don't think we'll ever beat that."

Even though he is retiring, Brown still plans to volunteer and help with local events and recreation activities as much as he can.

"I love this stuff and have a vested interest in it. I don't want to walk away and just disappear," Brown said.

He said he'd miss the staff and volunteers in the department the most, because he always had such a great relationship with them for over three decades. He said the people were more important than anything else, and even though he is retiring, he still cares a great deal about them

and will always consider them friends.

"I'm just going to miss the job and the people. I appreciate all the support from my coworkers over the years," he said. "Sometimes I'd pinch myself and say 'I can't believe I'm in Cape May doing all this' - I've been very fortunate."

Brown and his wife, Debbie, who is a retired teacher, plan to travel together after he retires and see many of the places they haven't yet. Referred to as the "Deerslayer" by Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman and other city employees, Brown intends to spend much of his spare time enjoying the outdoors, hunting and fishing.

"I'm always available to the city to help out with events," he said. "Unless I'm out hunting."

Wind

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Energy press release, WindTracer is a commercially available product that is used for airport wind monitoring, defense and security applications and meteorological research. According to Jackson, this is the first time it is being used for offshore wind farm development.

She said from its rooftop location, the WindTracer will record wind speed and direction over the waters at the planned wind farm sites, and onshore, where Fishermen's Energy has installed a series of meteorological towers.

"We chose the rooftop in Margate because of its location," Jackson said. "There's no obstruction between (WindTracer) and the other sites for measurements."

The data from the device will provide wind resource prospecting and forecasts for turbine siting. The system operates on a constant basis and is monitored and controlled from the Fishermen's Energy office in Atlantic City. Jackson said Fishermen's Energy linked up with Lockheed Martin through Richard Dunk, Director of Coastal/Offshore Alternative Energy Applications at

Rutgers University.

According to the website, Lockheed Martin, headquartered in Bethesda, Md., is a global security company primarily engaged in the research, design, development, manufacturing and integration of advanced technology systems, services and products.

"The WindTracer system could prove to be the most cost-effective monitoring technology for offshore wind resource assessments," Dunk said in the press release. "The system will also provide the necessary wind and turbulence parameters that will enhance the accuracy of reliability of offshore weather forecasts, which are needed

to support wind turbine array constructions and subsequent operational procedures."

Jackson said the WindTracer system is also small enough to be moved, making it a portable and versatile device. She said they currently have an agreement with the seaside apartment building owner to keep the unit there for the time being.

As far as the proposal goes for the offshore wind farm near Atlantic City, Jackson said the team is still awaiting approval from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU). Fishermen's Energy filed a petition with the NJBPU back in February in order to gain support for the financing and construc-

tion of the wind farm.

"We are anticipating an extension on the review," Jackson said.

She said Fishermen's Energy has all other state permits needed to start building the wind farm and hopes they will get NJBPU approval shortly. She is also hopeful it will in fact be the first offshore wind farm in the United States.

"It has the potential to be the first. It's further along than other projects," she said. "As a country, we are so far behind the Europeans and Chinese in terms of wind energy. It's just a matter of time before we get to that point."

Jackson said one of the

most important aspects of the potential wind farm, aside from the renewable energy, is the number of jobs it will create in Atlantic City and New Jersey. She said the manufacturing of parts, maintenance and operations of the wind farm, transportation during construction and many other jobs will be developed if the project is given the green light. She said it could also bring more tourism to the area as well.

Jackson said the project was initially scheduled to get underway in 2012, but most likely will not begin until 2013. For more information about the project or Fishermen's Energy, visit www.fishermensenergy.com.

Park

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Cape May what they want, what they face and what they need in the area," she said.

She said by using the already existing features of the property such as the Cape May Elementary School, little league baseball field and plentiful marshland, she was able to incorporate more recreational activities and environmental education.

She and her team added new features like nature trails and a bocce court, intended for the use of the elementary school students. She said the bocce court would add another recreational activity to the basketball court, dog

park and playground already on the property.

"The design encourages environmental education," Dougherty said. "I feel the design we've come up with is great for the environment and something everyone can enjoy."

As for the green aspects of the project, Dougherty added a "Green Building" to be used for storage and act as a welcome center and information hub for the park. The structure also has a grass roof that can be used as an elevated view of the little league games.

She said rainwater runoff will be directed to a nearby reservoir and solar panels

will be installed to provide enough energy for water to filter through channels and feed the surrounding wetland and gardens. Dougherty said native plant species would be added to the area as a resource for migratory birds and butterflies.

Mahaney said it should take five to seven years to complete the entire project.

"This is the type of project that leaves a legacy for future generations to come," he said.

John Thomas, Business Manager of the Cape May Elementary School, said the school was thrilled to be a partner in the project.

"The school board, as well as the administration are looking forward to having this extra land to use, that everyone can enjoy," he said.

Mahaney said land is becoming more and more scarce on Cape Island and much harder to acquire, so this could be the last chance for the city to create an open space area intended for envi-

ronmental and recreational purposes.

Mahaney used the media conference to also explain the Sustainable New Jersey award the city received in November. Under a ranking system the city needed 150 points and it received 410 points for its environmental efforts, which gave it the silver certification. Consultant James Rutala said the city got the most points of any small town in New Jersey.

The city already has two solar panel projects and is planning another for the new Convention Hall. It has also done energy-saving audits of city buildings and even privately owned buildings in town, and made upgrades to save energy. The city also took part in an effort to hand out 1,750 energy saving light bulbs to local residents in the early fall.

The city's Green Team, a group of volunteers, was created to join Sustainable New Jersey and recently won a \$10,000 grant from Wal-Mart, though the program. The city will be using the funding to install a wind turbine on top of the elementary school.

"It's the first wind turbine at a school in New Jersey," Rutala said.

Mahaney said the turbine would serve three purposes: serve as an educational tool for students, defer some of the electric costs at the school and provide a model for local residents.

He said all these projects will better the quality of life for Cape May residents and show the visitors that this is an area which truly cares about the environment and sustainability.

Intersections on Route 9/Seashore Road to be completed in May

LOWER TOWNSHIP - County Engineer Dale Foster said the ongoing construction of intersections between Route 9 and Seashore Road have a scheduled completion date of Memorial Day.

"The actual date is probably some time in May 2012," Foster said.

The State of New Jersey project includes the extension of Breakwater and Tabernacle Roads, and to create intersections of these roads at Route 9. Traffic lights are being installed at both the Seashore Road and Route 9 intersections.

According to Foster, the contractor, South State, Inc., would like to be done sooner than that, but the utility work is holding it up the project's completion.

"I think there is also some work the railroad has to do," Foster said.

The project also includes the elimination of Bennett's Crossing and Sally Marshall Crossing, which link Seashore Road and Route 9.



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