



Congressman says NJ shore will lose in federal budget

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd District) was disappointed to see no increase in funding in the proposed federal budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and said shore towns across the nation will suffer for it.

LoBiondo said the Army Corps leads beach replenishment projects vital to Cape May County's tourism industry as well as other shore communities around the country. LoBiondo made it clear replenishment projects weren't only for allowing

tourists to have a better vacation at the beach.

"This is not about people getting a sun tan – it's about protecting people, property and the economy," he said.

LoBiondo said he has been through this situation in the past during the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations and hoped it would be brought to an end with Pres. Barack Obama, but no such luck.

"Obama hasn't changed it," he said. "This budget fails to recognize the importance of what the Army Corps of Engineers is doing. These shore communities are the life blood of my district and

'This budget fails to recognize the importance of what the Army Corps of Engineers is doing.'
– Congressman Frank LoBiondo

others across the country." He said one word best describes the present situation – uncertainty. LoBiondo said he and his staff are working persistently to come up with a plan that will help continue beach replenishment efforts.

"We haven't come up with a

foolproof plan yet, but we're working diligently to do so," he said.

Cape May City Mayor Ed Mahaney said Cape May has had a very productive and cooperative relationship with LoBiondo to get state and federal funding over the years to complete beach replenish-

ment projects. He said the U.S. Coast Guard Base and Cape May Point have also been great allies in regards to maintaining and improving local beaches.

He said given the proposed federal budget, the city and state will be looking for other options to obtain funding and additional sources of revenue, as well as ways to implement cost savings.

"Beach restoration over the past 22 years has been vital to the continuation of shore protection and improving Cape May as a tourism destination," Mahaney said. "At this point, we're very concerned about the availability of state

and federal money to continue these projects."

Mahaney said the original 50-year agreement for beach replenishment in Cape May called for periodic replenishment every two years, but could run into problems now that Army Corps funding is repeatedly slashed. He said prior to 1990, the city regularly had flooding issues and property damage during heavy storms. Continued replenishment projects have mitigated those occurrences. He said if funding is found and the efforts are prolonged, the quality of life and the

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Fuel prices have consumers looking for fuel efficiency

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – With a struggling economy and the price of gas rising to a possible \$4 per gallon in South Jersey this summer, many are trading and dropping their gas guzzlers for more fuel efficient vehicles.

Gas prices have already reached that amount in Utica, N.Y., where the headquarters for Cars4Charities is located, a car donation center operating on a nationwide level, accepting any car, truck, van or SUV and helping thousands of charities with the proceeds. Karen Campese, spokesperson for Cars4Charities, said around 500 cars have been donated to the organization so far this year. In return, the donor chooses from a wide array of charities to help and gets a tax deduction of \$500 or more, depending on the condition of the vehicle. She said the number of

donations commonly depends on the economy.

"During the height of the recession, people were hanging on to their vehicles and fixing them," she said. "Now we're getting a fair number of donations – cars that have high mileage, gas guzzlers and ones that need a lot of work."

Dave Sharp, General Manager of Kindle Auto Plaza in Cape May Court House said the term gas-guzzler will be unheard of as the years go on, with car manufacturers and companies improving fuel efficiency in vehicles every year. He said with new technology, like the "eco-boost engines," pick-up trucks that

used to get just 14 or 15 miles to the gallon are now getting 22 miles per gallon. He said many hybrid vehicles and smaller fuel efficient engines have just as good of performance specifications as the larger engines that get seven to 10 miles per gallon less.

Sharp said the number of trades seen this year are on par with the 2011 statistics. He said the majority of the trades are people getting rid of their big trucks and SUVs so they can drive something more economical like the compact and mid size cars and SUVs. He said Kindle participated in the Cash For Clunkers event in 2008 did very well.

"Cash For Clunkers was a good time, we were very busy," he said. "Since then, we've seen a good trend of people trading in trucks and older vehicles that don't have

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Ponderlodge stocked for trout season

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Councilman Tom Conrad is shown releasing brown trout into Flynn Pond at the former Ponderlodge Golf Course, now the Coxe Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area. New Jersey Fish and Wildlife stocked the pond with over 500 brown trout on March 27, however, fishing season doesn't open until Saturday, April 7. See related story on page B6.

Cape May Brewing Company gets beer money from Lower Township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The fledgling Cape May Brewing Company, having tested its wings in the beer brewing market, has decided to see if it can soar.

Ryan Krill, who alternately describes himself as a partner, president, and associate mop man, said Cape May Brewing Company will use a \$68,000 economic development loan to expand the business, tripling their size, expanding their tasting room, and increasing their output.

Colleen Crippen, the township's grants coordinator, said the township maintains a fund of about \$250,000, which was recovered Small Cities loan funds from 1987.

"Once it was paid off it went to the township to develop its own economic development fund," Crippen said.

According to Crippen, the last time the township issued a loan from the fund was about seven years ago to the Erma Deli. Crippen said the township changed some of the language in the loan agreement because businesses were not taking advantage of the revolving loan program. Crippen said Cape May Brewing



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, amid the Cape May Brewing Co. swag is the 2012 Atlantic City Beer and Music Festival award for Best India Pale Ale.

Company qualified because they had a very sound business plan. Businesses that wish to apply for the economic development loan have to present a business plan, which Crippen and the chief financial officer review.

The Cape May Brewing Company incorporated in October 2010, and cut the ribbon on their operation on Dec. 1, 2011.

"We had this idea to test the waters to see if there was an opportunity to start a brewery in this area – there is," Krill said.

Krill said they started their production of craft beers producing 12 gallons

at a time. They expanded their capabilities to produce one barrel at a time, which is equivalent to 31 gallons.

"In brewing we talk about barrels. We will soon be able to produce six barrels at a time, which is equivalent to 186 gallons," he said.

At that rate, there just might be some beer left over for them at the end of the week. Chris Henke, who left an engineering career to design and run the brewing operation, said they don't often get to enjoy the fruit of their labor. Everything they brew during the week is sold and/or consumed by the end

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CM prepares for summer season

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Preparing for the daily arrival of 45,000 or more visitors is no easy task, but the Nation's Oldest Seashore Resort manages to do it on a yearly basis and is currently readying for yet another tourist season.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said local departments are well underway in getting Cape May ready for the summer rush, usu-

ally beginning in early March or sooner. He said the Washington Street Mall area, public parks, the promenade, and of course the beachfront, have certain standards they are required to meet in terms of cleanliness and appearance.

MacLeod said landscaping employees are taking care of yard clean ups and planting flowers around landmarks and municipal properties to beautify the city for the summer. Public

Works Superintendent Bob Smith said the city hires an additional 10 or 12 seasonal employees for the department. Traffic maintenance, machinery and equipment checks, trash and recycling collection, street sweeping and cleaning of the sanitary sewer system are all objectives of Public Works. MacLeod said it's important the storm drains and sewers are clear of clogs, debris

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LT Council stubs out ban on smoke

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council, after deciding to take another look at banning Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWB), introduced an ordinance to rescind its newly passed ordinance banning the devices.

The move brought criticism from some residents – mainly those from Andrielle Avenue, who initiated the action which resulted in the OWB ban. Residents complained that the acrid smoke

from their neighbor's wood-burning boiler was making their lives miserable. On Monday, Diane Morton, who has spoken on several occasions before council, said it is not just the OWB and the associated smoke.

"It's the smoke and fumes that wake the neighbors at 3 a.m., it's the structures they build to keep the wood dry, it's the chainsaws on Sunday morning..." Morton said.

Morton said the matter was discussed before council and the Planning Board, but the objectors to the ban never

came forward until the eleventh hour. Several OWB owners and supporters organized a petition drive to have a referendum on the ordinance, meaning the voters would cast ballots to see if the ban would stay or go.

"I wonder how many people who signed the petition know what an outdoor wood boiler is," Morton said.

Morton said Andrielle residents supported certain restrictions on OWBs, including a requirement to have

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