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165th YEAR NO. 47 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019 \$1.00

## N.J. task force takes hard line against vaping

Recommendations include ban on sale of flavored pods

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

"Now, teacher, don't you fill me up with your rules, 'cause everybody knows that smokin' ain't allowed in school" was a lyric from a hit record from Brownsville Station in 1973, when smoking meant having a Salem or a Marlboro in between algebra and world history class.

Fast forward 46 years and a teen may inhale heated vapors from an e-cigarette that packs as much nicotine as one to two packs of cigarettes. The teens may even vape in the classroom by blowing the cloud of vapor up their sleeve or into a hood.

On Sept. 12, Gov. Phil Murphy issued an executive order calling for an Electronic Smoking Device Task Force to provide recommendations to the governor and the Legislature that outline a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to protect New Jerseyans and to educate the public, particularly youth, about the risks of electronic smoking devices.

The task force was directed to review a requirement to for warning signs to be posted in retail establishments that sell electronic smoking devices that warn customers of the health risks; review expanding the state's ability to investigate, track, and monitor any cases of severe pulmonary disease; recommend legislative and regulatory changes needed to protect young people from electronic smoking devices; develop a statewide public awareness campaign on the risks of electronic smoking device use with a toolkit for educators and educational materials aimed at specific target audiences such as parents, coaches, educators, health care professionals and young people; and identify appropriate interventions to support individuals at risk or experiencing addiction.

The task force issued a report Oct. 3 that noted although the sale of vaping products to individuals under 21 years of age is currently prohibited by law in the state, youth access to vape products continues at an alarming rate.

The task force recommended the Legislature impose a ban on the sale of flavored electronic smoking devices and products inclusive of menthol. It also recommended the ban apply to the sale of electronic smoking devices and associated products that are advertised to, or do, impart a distinct flavor other than tobacco, such as fruit, clove, mint, menthol or sweets.

It also recommended civil penalties be increased for retailers and employees who sell electronic smoking devices, vaping-related products, or other tobacco products to individuals under 21 years of age and the Legislature restrict the sale of electronic smoking devices and related products to face-to-face transactions with limited exceptions since they be purchased online.

The task force recommended explicitly prohibiting the advertising and sale to New Jersey consumers of products intended to conceal or disguise vaping devices as or within other products, such as clothing, accessories, utensils or other electronic devices such as watches.

Making the advertising and sale of these items a per se violation of the Consumer Fraud Act would be subject to civil penalties of as much as \$10,000 for a first offense and \$20,000 for subsequent offenses. Alternatively, the Legislature could prohibit the sale of such items to individuals under 21 and without age verification required for the purchase of tobacco products.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Accompanied at the podium by other CCA board of directors members during a public hearing on a bond ordinance to fund one-third of the cost of restoring the Franklin Street School for use as a county library branch, Jim Cheney said the CCA is willing to amend its lease with the city for the school. 'You have our 100 percent unconditional support,' he said.

## Historic school gets new life

City votes to fund share of cost to turn Franklin St. School into county library

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 4-1 vote Monday, City Council approved a \$2 million bond for its share of the cost to convert the historic Franklin Street School into a new county library branch.

The city has a commitment of \$2 million from the county Board of Chosen Freeholders and an additional commitment of \$2 million from the county Library Commission to restore the school and create a state-of-the-art branch library at an estimated total cost of \$6 million.

The Franklin Street School opened in 1928 as an elementary school for Cape May's black children. Twenty years later, with segregation banned by New Jersey's new constitution, the building's use was changed.

Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks, Councilman Shaine Meier and Councilman Zack Mullock voted to approve the bond.

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan cast the lone dissenting vote.

Going into the meeting, it was unknown whether council had the required fourth vote to approve a bond ordinance, but Mullock cast the needed vote for the ordinance to pass.

Sheehan said she believed the Franklin Street School should be saved but she had been approached by a number of residents who did not want the library moved to the school. She said that's why she was voting against the bond ordinance.

The Franklin Street School as a library branch would be closed Sundays, she said.

"I would like to see it be a community center where it's open in the evening, on weekends, so that people can come to it all the time and have a place to go," Sheehan said.

Mullock thanked county Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton.

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'I don't think it's a coincidence that the NAACP is revitalized, we have the Harriet Tubman Museum and now the Franklin Street library. I don't think that is a coincidence at all.'

—Albert Bland, president, Cape May County NAACP

## Cape Resorts leaders share insights with future business leaders

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — They were neatly dressed, quiet and orderly, and in the future they may be in upper management or operating their own businesses.

Congress Hall hotel hosted a group of 24 students from the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) program at Lower Cape May Regional High School on the evening of Nov. 12. Curtis Bashaw, CEO of Cape Resorts, has been involved in the student community

for several years, working with Mary Rose Bispels' business class at the high school.

Cape Resorts is also a partner with the Career Technical Education (CTE) program at the high school. CTE is the vehicle by which Cape Resorts has afforded internships to students from the school.

The evening started with a tour of Congress Hall by Patrick Logue, vice president of employee and community engagement. He said he wanted to make sure students were aware of opportunities

available in the local business community.

Logue noted Cape Resorts owns Congress Hall, the Virginia Hotel, the Star Inn, Sandpiper Beach Club, Beach Shack Hotel, Beach Plum Farm, Congress Place Suites and the Rusty Nail restaurant.

"One of the things I want to impress upon you as you walk into this building, being as young as you all are, is you are probably seeing this as standalone hotel," Logue told the students. "What I want you to think about is the fact there are microbusinesses

contained under this roof."

He said the hotel has a spa, a pool and beach with services, the Blue Pig Tavern, the Boiler Room and the Brown Room Lounge.

"While it may just look like one business, there a multibusinesses contained here," Logue said. "On a whole other level, Cape Resorts has five different shared services that support the hotel from IT, revenue management, marketing, human resources and accounting."

As the students walked down a long corridor by the hotel's shops

and spas, Logue explained Congress Hall was built by Thomas Hughes. He said the notion of Hughes opening a hotel in Cape May was met with laughter.

"People made fun of him and they referred to this place as Tommy's Folly," Logue said.

The current Congress Hall is the third hotel on the site, the first one built in 1816 by Hughes, the second one was expanded greatly in 1858 and in 1878, a great fire in Cape May burned 30 acres, torch-

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