



Lower OKs contract for design work at Foster House

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 16 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 \$1.00

AtlantiCare's Vision 2030

Six-year plan includes medical school, major expansion, improving lives and community

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY — AtlantiCare President and CEO Michael J. Charlton unveiled the 6,500-employee institution's ambitious Vision 2030 strategic plan Wednesday, April 10, intending to be a national leader in the way health care is delivered while pledging to improve the lives of those most at risk right at home.

Speaking before a crowd of nearly 300 invited guests in the Adrian Phillips Theater at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, Charlton talked about the four "strategic pillars" in Vision 2030, expanding its market share to become a \$2 billion organization and announcing partnerships with the Cleveland Clinic Cancer Institute, the Drexel University College of Medi-

cine, the Global Neurosciences Institute and Oracle Health.

After a video message of support from Gov. Phil Murphy and an introduction by David Goddard, chairman of the AtlantiCare Board of Trustees, Charlton launched into a lengthy presentation that included chats with leaders from the partner organizations, Stockton University President Joseph Bertolino and state Sen. Vince Polistina.

"We need to be remarkable because we live in a time when new innovations in care are being pushed to market every day and if we can seize this opportunity and harness the right technologies, we have the opportunity today to transform health care how health care is delivered," Charlton said.

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Simonsen: Schools need more money

TRENTON — A member of the Assembly Education Committee, Assemblyman Erik Simonsen told the panel meeting in Trenton last week that while he prefers to start fresh with a completely new school funding formula, he supports bills to help districts facing state aid cuts more immediately.

The committee advanced bills extending the deadline for certain districts losing aid to submit school budgets to the state education commissioner (A4059) and restoring two-thirds of a

school district's proposed cuts for this year through a grant program (A4161). Simonsen is a cosponsor of the bills.

"As an educator for over three decades and an administrator in a school district that is facing budget cuts yet again, I have witnessed firsthand how the failed school funding formula has picked winners and losers for the last seven years," said Simonsen, R-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic. "A new funding formula that fairly sup-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Environmental restoration work is under way at the former magnesite factory site as part of the Higbee Beach restoration project, inundating West Cape May with as many as 150 truck trips per day.

Trucks disrupt life in West Cape

10,000 to 13,000 trips expected as part of Higbee Beach project

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough residents are not happy with seeing dump trucks making hundreds of trips on local streets as part of a \$37 million project to restore tidal flow to the marsh, enhancing a degraded upland area and the existing wildlife habitat of Higbee Beach.

A large volume of soil is being trucked to the site. A limitation of five daily dump truck deliveries will be in place during the summer months but currently trucks are traversing the borough all day.

"Overall volume of materials expected to be imported is 150,000 cubic yards, that's around 10,000 to 13,000 dump trucks. We're estimating outside of the summer months, approximately 50 truck trips per day to bring the material in," Matt Holthaus, project manager and engineer of record for the project of WSP USA, said during an informational presentation Feb. 8.

Construction is expected to continue until December 2026.

During a Borough Commission meeting April 10,



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The state Department of Environmental Protection is overseeing a \$37 million restoration project meant to restore tidal flow to the wetlands, enhancing a degraded upland area and the Higbee Beach National Wildlife Refuge.

Deputy Mayor George Dick said he attended a meeting about the project for municipal leaders the previous week. He said the borough has no jurisdiction on county roads, which the dump trucks are using: Sunset Boulevard, Bayshore Road, Stimpson Lane and Broadway.

"They have a deadline to meet to get all the trucks delivered by May 31, so they can cut it to five," Dick said. "They have upped the

number of trucks to 100 to 150 a day."

He said the borough's only jurisdiction is enforcing speed limits.

"If you have a complaint, please call the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection)," Dick said.

The project managers promised to talk to the drivers about slowing down, he said.

"As there are more and more people here, walking the street, crossing Broad-

way, crossing Sunset, they need to be alert," Dick said.

Sunset Boulevard resident Lynn Dudinsky said he was awakened earlier in the week by a dump truck driving past his house at 6 a.m. He said he decided to drive on Sunset Boulevard to the worksite staging area, adhering to the speed limit, and he was passed three times by dump trucks, "once on a double yellow line."

Dudinsky said he followed a dump truck on Broadway traveling at 60 mph.

"They are totally disregarding any kind of safety or rules," he said. "Somebody is going to get killed."

The truck drivers are incentivized to make more trips per day, Dudinsky said.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw told the audience if a dump truck passes their car, they should write down the license plate number, call the police and sign a complaint. He said officers are watching the dump trucks.

Dick suggested speed monitoring signs, which capture data, be placed on Stimpson Lane and Broadway.

Matthews takes reins of Greater Cape May business group

'Who cannot love Cape May? The people and the organizations that I served, the whole community has come to just be something that I adore and I'm just so happy to be here.'

—Bernadette Matthews, Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May



By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — If you put Bernadette Matthews' name in a Bing search online, the AI response is a "remarkable individual who has made significant contributions to the Cape May Community."

As such, she has been elected as president of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May. Matthews' name has become synonymous with history, restoration and music on Cape Island. She served several years as vice president of the chamber.

Matthews arrived in Cape May to serve as executive director of the Cape May Jazz Festival and became involved with nonprofit

organizations.

"Who cannot love Cape May?" she asked. "The people and the organizations that I served, the whole community has come to just be something that I adore and I'm just so happy to be here."

Matthews served over nine years as executive director of the Center for Community Arts and station manager of WFCA Radio-101.5. She is a board member of Historic Cold Spring Village, the East Lynne Theater Company and the Cape May Jazz Festival Foundation.

"This chamber was formed in 1951 and it's really the primary voice of the business community," she said.

Matthews said the chamber

serves tourists at the Welcome Center, last year interacting with 72,429 visitors and managing 242 incoming tour buses. The chamber also has the responsibility of promoting and marketing Cape May, often assisting television crews from Philadelphia and travel writers from around the world and getting local businesses involved with the stories, she said.

The chamber hosts the annual Oktoberfest on the Washington Street Mall, which brings 8,000 to 10,000 persons to Cape May, Matthews said.

With a noticeable increase in second homes in town, fewer houses are decorated for Christmas, she said.

"We started 'Light Up Cape

May,' and this season awarded prizes for best residence, best business, best window, best old-fashioned theme," she said.

Cape May has seen a younger generation of entrepreneurs arrive as some longtime business owners retire, Matthews said.

She recalls a time in the past when July 4 was the start of the busy summer season but now weekends in Cape May are busy throughout the year. Matthews noted the season for whole house rentals started early this year.

Along with promoting local businesses, the chamber provides scholarships for local students and assists a local nonprofit organiza-

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