



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



Jay and the Americans come to town

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165th YEAR NO. 27 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019 \$1.00

More county funds coming for Lafayette park

Open Space Board wants to participate in 'creative placemaking'

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The county Open Space Board has expressed a willingness to provide additional funding to the city for upgrades at Lafayette Street Park, including construction of a decorative fountain.

At a June 25 meeting of the Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee, City Engineer Tom Thornton, of Mott MacDonald, said he had just met with the county Open Space Board. He said

the county was willing to provide additional funds to the Lafayette Street Park project to participate in creative placemaking.

Coined by Ann Markusen and Anne Gadwa Nicodemus for the National Endowment for the Arts in 2010, creative placemaking refers to the process in which "partners from public, private, nonprofit and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities," according to smart-

growthamerica.org.

Creative placemaking advocates believe that community development projects benefit from the participation of artists at the onset of projects, and on the planning and design teams that shape our communities.

Thornton said creative placemaking was a uniform theme to run throughout the county in any municipality where open space provided funding. He said creative placemaking involved using the same type of signs, benches and other items in different mu-

nicipalities as a common theme.

A traffic engineering study is necessary before design of the park is completed, Thornton said.

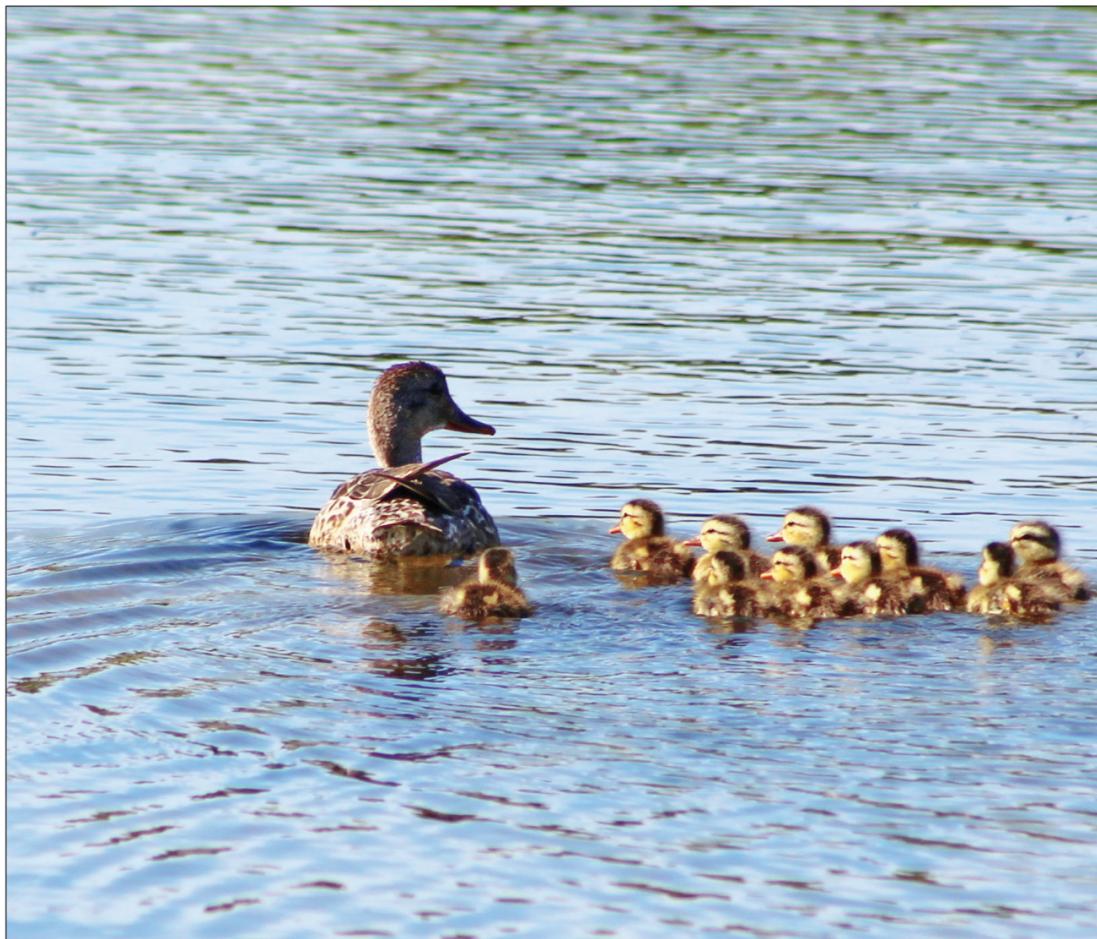
Further site investigation has been taking place on the property. Approval for Green Acres funding cannot take place until the site is determined to be "clean," he said.

The property formerly housed a coal gasification plant that left widespread contamination underground. Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) undertook a process of clean up and confining contamination underground.

In a preliminary assessment, new areas of concern were identified including discovery of an old metal drum with no contents and historic fill material, some of which has mapped and some not mapped. Test borings were conducted in wetlands and upland areas, Thornton said.

He said hand-auguring samples were taken in the tidal marsh area in an upland portion, not close to where any park development is planned. Arsenic was found in that

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A bunch of quackers

A mother duck and her ducklings swim in a pond at the Nature Conservancy in Lower Township.

Black singer, activist Lois Smith lauded at West Cape May event

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Cape May's first lady of song, Lois Smith, was honored by U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew and the West Cape May African American Historical Society.

At a June 29 event entitled "Looking Back-Stepping Forward," held at West Cape May Elementary School, Van Drew presented Smith with a proclamation from the U.S. House of Representatives. The proclamation stated the strength and success of the state and nation rests upon the abilities and talents

of dedicated citizens that show exceptional efforts to promote and improve the community.

Smith was recognized in the proclamation "as an inspiration to all and whose energy and achievements help us glimpse a future full of hope and promise."

The event was a multicultural festival and reunion and a meet and greet with generations of black West Cape May families.

Smith was introduced at the event by Shirley "Becki" Wilson, who said central to Smith was family, friends and God.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lois Smith received a proclamation from U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew acknowledging her musical accomplishments and volunteerism.

House panel OKs USCG pay during future shutdowns

By DIANA CORRELL
Military Times

U.S. Coast Guard members will be paid if there is another government shutdown, according to the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act approved by a House panel last week.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure committee approved a measure by voice vote June 26 that reauthorized Coast Guard funding until 2021. It also makes sure that members of the Coast Guard receive paychecks on time in the event of a government shutdown.

"This legislation ensures our Coasties can continue carrying out their important work to secure our waterways and keep our communities safe," committee Chairman Rep. Peter DeFazio, an Oregon Democrat, said in a statement. "In addition, I am proud to have added an amendment which

guarantees that members of the Coast Guard are paid on time and in full, even in the event of another senseless government shutdown."

The Department of Homeland Security, which primarily funds the Coast Guard, was one of the agencies affected by the partial government shutdown in late 2018, early 2019. During the 35-day impasse between the White House and Capitol Hill, Coast Guard members missed their Jan. 15 paycheck.

The Coast Guard's employee support program provided a tip sheet online with suggestions for managing finances during the partial shutdown, including holding a garage sale, babysitting and posting unwanted items for sale.

Coast Guard members were reimbursed for their lost wages after President Donald Trump signed legislation restoring funding in late January.

Study: City will need back bay protection from rising sea level

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Even if the beachfront is fortified by a seawall, water intrusion can still come from back bays.

At a June 28 meeting, the city's Seawall/Promenade Advisory Committee discussed a New Jersey back bay study from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The interim report presents a focused array of alternative plans that manage risk and reduce damages from coastal storms. The report also outlines the engineering, economic, social, and environmental analyses that

have been conducted to date.

Committee Chairman Scott Maslow said the report covered back bays, levies and retaining walls. He said the Army Corps and DEP would conduct a follow-up study. The report states Cape May's annual average damage over a 50-year period from 2030 to 2080 would total \$21 million.

The report states Ocean City would have annual average damages of \$219 million, Sea Isle City of \$62 million, West Cape May of \$3.5 million, Cape May Point of \$2.7 million, Stone Harbor of \$25 million, Wildwood of \$36 million, Atlantic City of \$323 million and Lower Township

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4TH OF JULY

Picnic & Lobster Bake at Congress Hall