



West Cape May projected to be 44% underwater by 2100

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House of the Week

Real Estate Resource



170th YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Cape May Baby Parade
 At top, Joy Waldinger, author of the book 'Trash Crab,' with two-month-old Fern Rose and family of Philadelphia. Above right, Bev Carr and family with Madelynne and Juliet are 'birds of a feather.' Above right, Charlotte and Ellie Brown, of Jupiter, Fla., with a miniature version of their father's boat.

County seeking a new operator for area airport

Desiderio says DRBA unwilling to renegotiate, discuss sublease

By JACK FICHTER
 Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County Board of County Commissioners Director Len Desiderio is recommending the county explore alternatives to Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) operating the county airport.

The recommendation came after county officials received a less-than-warm welcome from the DRBA Board of Commissioners. While the county owns the airport, it is operated by DRBA.

Two weeks ago, Desiderio, County Commissioner Bob Barr, County Administrator Kevin Lare and county counsel Jeff Lindsay attended the DRBA Commissioners open public meeting in New Castle, Del.

"We went there for two reasons: First, make it clear to the DRBA commissioners that the county issued the Notice of Non-Renewal for the purpose of re-negotiating certain provisions of the lease agreement and that we've repeatedly tried to make that clear to them over the past two months — the county wants to continue our partnership with them under different terms," Desiderio said a statement. "We further told them that despite our stated intent, that their response to the county

date has given the appearance that they were not interested in negotiating with the county. Yet, we were there in an effort to exhaust all efforts to do as we intended — to explore a renewal term with the DRBA upon different terms."

Desiderio stated the contingency from Cape May County attended the meeting to ask DRBA commissioners for a copy of the proposed lease agreement between the DRBA and the operator of the indoor sports complex since the county had no details about the terms of the lease, and to not approve the lease until the county had an opportunity to review it. He stated county commission made it clear they supported the project in concept but had no information about it.

"Once we started asking questions, we learned that none of the DRBA commissioners had reviewed the proposed lease, had no knowledge of the project scope or lease terms, that a draft lease agreement was not even prepared yet, and that just the day before the facility had increased from 80,000 square feet to 120,000 square feet," Desiderio stated.

One of the DRBA commissioners agreed with the county's request, but the other 11 commissioners

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Jack Morey of Morey's Piers fame dies

WILDWOOD — The creative force behind Morey's Piers has died, the company announced Monday.

"It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Jack Morey, our beloved second generation partner, and for the past three decades, the creative force behind Morey's Piers. Jack wasn't particularly fond of titles, but was the company's executive vice president, chief creative officer, and, most importantly, champion of 'it will be beautiful...we change everything.'" the company wrote in a press release.

Morey, who was born in 1960, "was known for his eccentric and gregarious persona, but would often dive deeply and quickly into conversations. Not one to recognize conventional boundaries, a favorite Jack question upon meeting someone was, 'What do you love?'"

Those who've visited Wildwood have seen his vision in the Rio Grande Avenue Gateway, the iconic "Wildwoods" sign, the Wildwood Dog Park and Beach, the Socratic Outdoor Learning Center, the Doo-



Wop style architecture, Starlux Mini Golf, and his latest project the Big Little 9 Golf Course, according to

Morey's Piers and resorts, which bears his vision.

While Morey loved his job, his true passion in life was his family. He loved his bride of 36 years, Karen, and his two children, Zack (Morgan) and Jordan (Alyssa), and the many dog companions he had throughout his life, presently Hobbes, Finley, and Frankie. When his grandchildren (Jack, Miller, and Nora) were born, he was the first to jump to the ground to teach them to crawl, spending almost as much time on the ground as the newborns.

"Jack saw the world in a way few others do, often combining elements which logically shouldn't work together ... but did," Morey's Piers wrote. "Not one for meetings, committees, or offices ... he was most often found in the field either dreaming, designing, or clearing the way for his next vision."

"Jack's perspective and passion are inspirations that, while irreplaceable, we will strive to follow as we continue with his personal quest to make Morey's Piers the 'Greatest Seaside Park in the World.'"

City seeking grant to handle invasive spotted lanternfly

By JACK FICHTER
 Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is applying for a state Department of Agriculture grant to try to reduce the population of spotted lanternflies.

As much as \$20,000 is available for municipalities to fund spray equipment, supplies and labor.

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said during a City Council meeting July 16 that she felt there was a large increase this year in the number of lanternflies.

The insects are attracted to tree of heaven, which is classified in Cape May as an invasive species, City Solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said.

Mayor Zack Mullock advised homeowners to remove tree of heaven from their property.

City Manager Paul Dietrich

cautioned against simply cutting down tree of heaven because of its resiliency. He said the tree must be poisoned and property owners must wait for the tree to die before removing it.

"Unless you dig up the entire root system, the roots will just send up shoots even more rigorously," Dietrich said.

He recommended working with a tree specialist to ensure tree of heaven is properly removed or the tree will recover.

Dietrich said the Department of Public Works removed three of them from the Welcome Center property.

Mullock said in their current stage of development, lanternflies look like small black beetles with white spots.

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HIGH TIDE HAPPY HOUR

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