

Granite shipment, DEP investigation delay parks

By JACAK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Work on Soldiers and Sailors Park is at a standstill due to a continuing delay of a shipment of granite. Progress at Lafayette Street Park has also been delayed due to a state request for a cultural and archeological investigation of the site.

On Sept. 1, city engineer Tom Thornton said the city continues to wait for a shipment from North Carolina Granite. At council's last meeting, he said the company promised delivery of the

granite within three weeks.

"That didn't happen, so we followed up and now he is telling us another two weeks," Thornton said.

He said North Carolina Granite has failed to meet commitments time after time going back to May. Thornton said he was doing everything possible to stay in constant communication with the company and the contractor for the Soldiers and Sailors Park project.

The contractor has moved on to other jobs and cannot guarantee he will be available the day the granite ar-

rives, Thornton said.

"He said they can do some preliminary work but it will probably be a couple of weeks after that before he gains a full work force," Thornton said.

The project can be finished within two to three weeks after it gets under way, according to the contractor.

Thornton said he spoke with South Jersey Gas, which also expressed frustration with the contractor because gas lamps had not been installed that were intended to be connected to gas service. The contractor

promised to install the gas lamps this week, Thornton said.

City Manager Jerry Inderwies said the city sent a crew of six to clean up the park work site. He said barrels were removed from the street and debris from Tropical Storm Isaias was removed.

Inderwies said the city would keep the site clean until the project is completed.

In other business, Thornton said the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notified the city it needed to submit

an application to the state Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) due to Cape May's status as a National Historic Landmark City for the Lafayette Street Park project.

He said the state was requiring a cultural and archeological investigation of the site. Thornton said his firm, Mott MacDonald, was preparing a proposal to undertake the investigation.

"Unfortunately that is going to delay the project. It's a fairly lengthy process to get it through the state Historic Preservation Office," he said.

The investigation is

part of the city's Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) permit application to the DEP, Thornton said.

City solicitor Frank Corrado said he would follow up with the DEP to determine why the Lafayette Street Park project requires SHPO approval when other projects in Cape May do not require such an investigation.

Thornton said the city has not received a response from the county Open Space Board on changes to a fountain design for the park, which the county has offered to fund.

Computers by Appointment at library

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Cape May County Library will launch its new Computers by Appointment schedule Monday, Sept. 14.

Library patrons will be allowed to make an appointment to use the library's computers, printers, fax machines and scanners at all branches. They can schedule one appointment per day to use the specified

equipment by calling their local branch.

At this time, the library is limiting both building capacity and length of stay for the health and safety of patrons and staff. Patrons will be permitted to use a public access computer for as long as one hour while copier, scanner or fax machine use will be limited to 15 minutes. Patrons can schedule a time to use the

library's equipment the same day they are making the appointment or up to five days in advance.

Once an appointment has been made to use library equipment, patrons will call their branch to alert the library staff that they have arrived. Upon entering the building, patrons will have their temperatures taken using an automated scanner. If a patron has a temperature over 100.4 degrees, they will not be allowed to use the library equipment and will be asked to reschedule their appointment. When patrons are in the library building, they must wear a mask.

While staff can assist from a distance, both patrons and library staff are expected to remain 6 feet apart from one another at all times. In this phase of reopening, library patrons will not be permitted to browse the library's collection. For library hours, visit cmclibrary.org.

For more information, call (609) 463-6356.

Political flags

Continued from Page A1

not another. He said it is a legitimate governmental interest for the city to state it does not want the beaches to become politicized.

Banning all political speech on the beach such as flags, hats, T-shirts and buttons would be an enforcement nightmare, Corrado said. He said he did not think it was reasonable to say that banning T-shirts, pins and buttons advances the city's interest in keeping politics off the beach.

Can large political flags be banned from the beaches? Corrado asked what was the definition of a political flag.

"Obviously, Biden 2020 or Trump 2020 is a political statement but is an American flag a political statement?" he asked. "Is a rainbow flag a political statement?"

Corrado said the city's ability to determine what is or is not political speech would open up a "litigation can of worms." He asked what constitutes a flag that

is too large.

He asked whether beach tag checkers or a code enforcement officer would walk the beach making decisions of what is political and what is not or what is too big.

"I understand that people don't like to have politics thrown in their face at the beach," Corrado said.

He said he was concerned that any attempted cure "would be worse than the disease."

"It is not my recommendation that the city try to legislate here or try to adopt some sort of an ordinance, at least not right now," he said.

Corrado said he has litigated hundreds of cases involving public and non-public forums.

Anderson-Towns said he was bothered by the combination of the Trump flag and the Colonial flag, which has been adopted by some right-wing supremacy groups and is a symbol of intimidation.

"Combined together gave a totally different message and it was in no way welcoming," she said.

The beach did not feel like a safe place, Anderson-Towns said.

She suggested council look at the issue in the future.

"It was as if Congressman Lewis was here to say 'sometimes it's necessary to step out and get into good trouble,'" Anderson-Towns said. "Sometimes that silence says it's OK to do that but it really was not."



Provided

Cape May resident Lynda Anderson-Towns was angered by the Trump flag paired with a Colonial flag flying on the beach and asked City Council what its policy is on the issue.

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
9	12:58	1:24	6:44	7:50
10	1:51	2:21	7:33	8:53
11	2:55	3:24	8:32	9:56
12	4:04	4:28	9:37	10:55
13	5:06	5:26	10:39	11:47
14	6:01	6:19	11:38	
15	6:52	7:09	12:35	12:33
16	7:40	7:57	1:21	1:26

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