

# Cape May Point Science Center names director of arts

CAPE MAY POINT — Daniel Magariel has been appointed at the new director of arts for the Cape May Point Science Center.

Magariel, an accomplished novelist and educator, brings a wealth of literary and academic experience to his new role.

He is the author of the critically acclaimed novels "One of the Boys" and "Walk the Darkness Down." His works have garnered widespread praise and are celebrated for their emotional depth, compelling storytelling and intricate character studies.

A native of Kansas City, Magariel holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a master's degree from Syracuse University. He currently teaches at Columbia, where he mentors the next generation of writers.

Magariel, who lives in Cape May, also founded Convent Arts Fellowship,

a fully funded writers and artists residency in Cape May, further demonstrating his commitment to the arts.

In his new role at the Science Center, Magariel will lead initiatives to elevate the institution's arts programming, fostering a dynamic environment for collaboration and creative expression across multiple disciplines. His appointment comes as the center continues to expand its reach and impact within the arts community.

"I am honored to accept the position at the Cape May Point Science Center. It is so exciting to join a place that is not just a beacon for the sciences and the arts, but one that has the potential to explore the ways the two scaffold one another," Magariel said.

The center's arts initiatives span multiple disciplines, including music, visual arts, painting, drawing, video and exhibits. Notably,



Daniel Magariel, author of 'One of the Boys' and 'Walk the Darkness Down,' has been appointed director of art for the Cape May Point Science Center.

it was home to the bronze statue of Harriet Tubman, known as the "Beacon of Hope," during the first stop of its Freedom Tour.

The statue's display highlighted Tubman's historical

significance to Cape May as a stopover on the Underground Railroad. In the early 1800s, escaped enslaved people crossed Delaware Bay, using the Cape May Lighthouse as a wayfind-

ing tool before continuing up Delaware River toward Philadelphia for emancipation.

Located in one of the world's most biodiverse and vital regions, the Cape

May Point Science Center's mission is to provide unique opportunities and funding to advance ecological research, education and advocacy, and to encourage the protection of its piece of nature's heaven. The center further aims to uncover and preserve history, the building it calls home and the community of Cape May Point.

Convent Arts Fellowship is a week-long writers retreat at the Cape May Point Science Center. Steps from the ocean and abutting a stunning state park, the historic facility, which once operated as a convent, is now a burgeoning capital for environmentalists, ornithologists, oceanographers, ecologists and, as of this summer, writers, too.

Convent Arts Fellowship provides support, stillness and community while encouraging artistic courage and originality in writers of all disciplines.

## Barr happy to serve

Continued from Page A1  
always be what drives us,

our focus, but each little sliver that you can create can create other full-time

opportunities."

He pointed out the county's economic development team does a lot of work to further that end and he talked about the drone technology at the airport, an area he oversees as a commissioner.

"We have unique circumstances in Cape May County in that drone technology is taking off worldwide. In Cape May County we're a peninsula; this is a great place where people want to come to test drones," Barr said. "We have the ability to attract these drone companies and bring them in."

He said with the companies come employees, adding the county is on the verge of a deal with the University of Alaska to have some drone testing done here.

"We have a tech village at the airport that is constantly bringing in new business and we're looking to grow that.

"What I believe is putting that on steroids and being aggressive because there are hundreds of potential jobs. It's not going to touch the level of tourism, but these are good-paying jobs we can bring into Cape May County.

"The more we diversify, the better we'll be," he said.

### County airport: New direction

Regarding the airport, he believes it is time to bring

in someone else to run the Cape May County Airport.

"I've taken a year to look at it and see how it is run. My opinion: it's time to move on from the DRBA (Delaware River and Bay Authority) and bring somebody else in to run that airport, somebody who is more focused on New Jersey and know our area better, understands South Jersey and what it's all about.

"It was a good relationship, but I think the time has come where it's time to move in a different direction," he added.

The county signed a 30-year agreement with the DRBA in 1994 with the option to renew for another 30 years, but gave the DRBA a notice of non-renewal. The DRBA is obligated to stay and run the airport for another five years, after which another entity would be brought in.

"It's possible we could keep negotiating and come to another deal with the DRBA, but I don't see that in the offing," he said.

### Streamlining the Open Space process

Barr said he is focused on open space and is on the county's Open Space Review Board.

"The director tasked me with putting a fresh set of eyes on the open space board and reimagining it," he said. "I met with Lower Township and Middle Township and asked, 'What do you want this program to be? How can we help you?'"

The commissioner said he has twice sat in on the director's mayors roundtable, in which he has private discussions with all 16

mayors and the staffs, and was able to ask officials directly how they can make the open space program better for them.

"Open space money is the people's money, it's tax money. We want to give the money back to them. What is the best way to do that? Partner with local officials."

Barr said they heard two main themes about open space: streamline the process to make it easier to navigate and consider active recreation.

### Veterans

Barr said he has a passion for supporting veterans.

He noted his father served in Vietnam, leading many to believe his exposure to chemicals there may have resulted in Barr being confined to a wheelchair.

He said the county has recently completed the first phase of improving the Cape May County Veterans Cemetery, a process that took quite a bit of time.

Barr now is looking at sites for potential veterans housing in the county.

"Hopefully I'll have some good things to say about that in the new year," Barr said.

### Good year ahead

Barr said he expects a good year ahead for the county with the benefit of having U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, R-2nd, very close with President-elect Donald Trump.

Van Drew was a lifelong Democrat who served for years as a county free-

holder and state senator, but after getting elected to Congress switched parties and vowed his loyalty to Trump. Van Drew has been re-elected twice as a Republican.

"That can only help us in terms of transportation and infrastructure money. We're in the process of re-doing all of our bridges. We're going to need federal help," he said. "What better connection is that with our congressman in terms of economic development?"

The commissioner said he is going to a ribbon-cutting every week, a positive indicator for the county's economics.

"If you look around Cape May County, new businesses are opening all the time," he said. "Businesses are popping up in every single town.

"There's a lot of development going on. People are really investing in Cape May County and we have to capitalize on that," Barr said. "Who wouldn't want to be here, to be part of a nice, clean, safe town? That's what all 16 towns are. You can send your kids safely to school here."

### Get in touch with him

"Those are all things I am working on; every single day I work on these things. It's a passion of mine. It's why I got into this, to make things better for people. That's what I intend to do," he said.

His phone number is (609) 703-0750.

"That is my personal cell phone. People can call me. I am willing to meet with anybody. If you call or email, I will email or call back.

"We are in the customer service business. I'm here to represent their ideas and my own. That's where you get good ideas, listening to people. We get the credit, but it's not about us. It's the people, that's who put us here. It's my duty and obligation to speak to them and do what they wish me to do."

Barr said he loves the work he is doing and is "absolutely running for office again. No doubt about it." His term is up at the end of 2025.

### Personal note

Barr said some people tell him he doesn't support the local team because he is a Kansas City Chiefs football fan, not a Philadelphia Eagles fan.

He would like to correct them.

"I belong to the Ocean City Red Raiders. That's my local team, not the Eagles."

"I don't go to nearly as many games as I can because my schedule is crazy, but literally if I have the free time, whether it's baseball, basketball, I try to get there."

On a personal note, he singled out Ocean City boys basketball coach John Bruno, a teacher at Ocean City High School.

"If not for him, I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you. It took people like that to get me where I am today. I love that guy with all my heart," he said. "This community game me a chance. I was the first mainstream student as a disabled person to go to Ocean City schools. They welcomed me with open arms. I work every day not to let down the community and the people who gave me a chance."

**Petals**  
FLORAL DESIGN & GIFTS

202 East Rio Grande Avenue · Wildwood, NJ  
www.petalswildwood.com · 609-523-9500

**FLIGHT DECK**  
DINER Fly on in

OPEN DAILY • 7:30am – 2:00pm

Frequent Flyer? Join our BREAKFAST CLUB

Cape May Airport off Breakwater Road  
609-886-1105 · Flightdeckdiner.com

CUP OF SOUP & HALF SANDWICH MON. - FRI. LUNCH COMBO \$7.99

**Edward Jones** > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

**Your life. Your money. Your terms.**

At Edward Jones, we want to know what you want out of life on a personal level. Then, we want to help you achieve it by creating a financial strategy that's unique to your specific needs.

We're ready when you are. Contact us today.

Allison K Kruse  
Financial Advisor  
7 East Shellbay Avenue  
Suite B-1  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
609-536-9676

MKD-8652E-A AECSPAD 24014494

**COLD SPRING BREWERY**

Historic Cold Spring Village  
COLD SPRING BREWERY  
est. 1804  
Craft Beer  
Cape May, New Jersey

**Firepits, Friends & Fabulous Beers!**

733 Seashore Road, Cape May, NJ 08204  
www.coldspringbrewery.org

READ ABOUT GOVERNMENT, SPORTS, ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE IN THE CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

**Don't Replace Your Bathtub. REGLAZE IT!**

**RATED #1**

- The biggest expense is installing a new tub and surrounding or converting it to a walk in shower. This is typically around \$15,000.
- Another large expense is removing the old wall tile and replacing it with new tile or drywall. Depending on the amount of tile and complexity of removal, this can be over \$5,000.
- Instead of removing the tile and tub, reglaze it for a fraction of the cost.
- Reglazing is a process of using high end primers and paints to recoat the existing tub and tile.

**Holiday Season Special: Standard Tub Starting at \$449. \$399!**  
This special is valid until 12-31-24.

- Most Full Bathroom Reglazing Jobs for Under \$2,000
- Discounts Available
- Call for FREE Estimates!

**TILE AND COUNTERTOP REFINISHING ALSO AVAILABLE!**

**EASTERN REFINISHING INC.**  
1.800.463.1879  
WWW.EASTERNREFINISHING.COM