



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



Trolley Pub a new kind of merry-go-round

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Empty lot at Lafayette St. Park eyed for parking

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Following the latest remediation action by Viasant of the former coal-gasification site on Lafayette Street for Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L), a large empty lot has been left behind that will eventually be part of the expansion of Lafayette Street Park.

According to JCP&L, it has achieved its objectives

for this phase of environmental remediation on the site located north of the intersection of Lafayette and St. John streets.

On behalf of JCP&L, Arcadis US Inc. will continue to have a limited presence at the site associated with the operation of the permanent groundwater treatment system. Viasant and its subcontractor Enviroscapes Inc. will return to the site in the fall to complete wetland and up-

land planting required by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permits. There will be no heavy construction equipment associated with the fall activities. JCP&L will monitor the restoration planting in the upland and wetland areas in accordance with DEP permits and the Cape Atlantic Conservation District Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for the site.

All remediation equip-

ment has been removed from the site and Viasant has completed spring restoration planting in upland and marsh areas. A temporary water treatment plant has been demolished and support zone aggregate has been moved to an approved facility. Final grading within wetlands and uplands in accordance with the approved permits has been completed, according

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Councilman Roger Furlin and Councilwoman Bea Pessagno voted against moving forward with plans to use the former Franklin Street School as a branch of the county library.

Furlin against use of school as the library

He, Pessagno say voters want community center

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Councilman Roger Furlin is opposed to moving the city's library into a restored Franklin Street School.

In a 3-2 vote May 15, City Council approved a shared services agreement between Cape May and the county Library Commission regarding the historic building.

In 2017, Furlin initiated a joint city and Center for Community Arts (CCA) project to create a combined community/senior center, recreational facility and wellness center in the Franklin Street School. He said the city's grant specialist assured him at that time the city could get 100 percent funding to cover such a project.

"I had six meetings with the mayor and city manager, a grant writer, CCA representatives, the city attorney, our marketing

director and HMR Architects and myself, and we created a concept plan and concept drawing toward that end," Furlin said.

He said the plans were presented to council by CCA Director David Mackenzie and architect Bob Russell. Furlin said council approved a resolution Aug. 1, 2017, tasking HMR Architects to provide a cost estimate.

In October, the city's Buildings and Properties Advisory Committee was formed and tasked with looking at the Franklin Street School along with other properties. He said Mayor Chuck Lear changed his mind and decided to move the library to the Franklin Street School.

Furlin said a requested needs analysis was not undertaken to see which use would be more beneficial to the city.

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John Alvarez/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Sunny with a chance of smiles

After nearly a week of rainy days in southern New Jersey, the sun finally made an appearance Sunday, May 20, in Cape May, where bicycles again became a viable means of transportation

Beach Shack gets final approval for expansion design

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape Coachman Realty LLC received final approval from the Planning Board for renovations of the Beach Shack Hotel. The board previously granted preliminary site plan approval to increase the hotel from 66 to 77 rooms.

Conditions set out by board need to be met to receive construction approval, including the parking operation, outdoor seating ordinance and fire code compliance.

"The building height needs to be included on the architectural plans and signature block as well," board engineer Craig Hurless said. "On the original site plan, we waived the required environmental impact study at the time of prior approval. Now we need a waiver for the compliance statement. Cape Coachman has included information from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)."

DEP permitting has begun on site. Certain

Beach, Page A4

Planner recommends changing crosswalks, creating bicycle lanes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

May 18.

CAPE MAY — The city could be made safer for pedestrians by altering crosswalks at wide intersections and safer for bicyclists by creating shared or dedicated bike lanes.

Planner Steve Chiaramonte, of engineering firm WSP, was retained by the state Department of Transportation to prepare a bicycle/pedestrian plan in three documents: existing conditions, recommendations for improvements and a combination of the two, with a summary of outreach to the public. He addressed the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee on

Committee member Hilary Pritchard noted Cape May and Cape May Point were included in the study but not West Cape May. She said West Cape May should be included in future work.

"I think it would be a great idea to do a Cape Island part two and look at West Cape May and the Cape Island side of Lower Township," Chiaramonte said.

Pritchard said the next challenge will be getting the four municipalities to work together and prioritize which projects to begin. She said she hopes Chiaramonte could help the committee get

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Hour**

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