

Rotary Park getting greened up

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With the concrete work, lights and a new fountain in place, Rotary Park will get a large-scale landscaping project in the next two weeks.

Ray Roberts, of Rotary Park project engineer Remington Vernick and Walberg, and Curtis Bashaw of the Mayor's Advisory Committee and the Fund for Cape May, provided City Council with an update July 5 on the progress of the park upgrades.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said July 1 was the deadline for Command Construction, contractor for the project, to finish its work. Mahaney said the contractor finished on time despite 21 days of rain in May.

Roberts said a few items need to be addressed. He said electric lights for east Lyle Lane have been back ordered and expected to be delivered by Aug. 1. Globes for gaslights are being manufactured and are expected by July 18, Roberts said.

He said construction of the gazebo for the bandstand is a complex operation and involves use of a crane. Columns will be installed with the roof raised atop the structures, he said.

Bashaw said landscaping for the park is broken into three categories, including shade-producing trees of a large caliper, which refers to the diameter of the trunk.

"There's 11 4-caliper hornbeams, there's a 6-caliper tulip poplar," Bashaw said.

He said the park would also receive four or five oaks to provide some shade but not block visibility. A total of five 15-foot Burford hollies will be placed at entrances to provide evergreens.

"There'll be some real substance in those larger plantings," Bashaw said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Workers from Sepers Nursery of Newfield unload plants and shrubs that will be installed at Rotary Park in Cape May. About 700 small plants will be added to the landscaping.

He said there was a lot of medium-sized material, about 370 plantings, that will do well in shade in the canopy along Lafayette Street, where a very large planting bed has been created. The park will contain a couple of dogwoods, magnolias and shade-loving hydrangeas such as the paniculata hydrangea and snow queen hydrangea as well as viburnum, he said.

"The whole bed along Lafayette Street was curated to provide evergreen and color all seasons including some winterberry," Bashaw said.

About 700 small plants will be added, much of it ground cover, he said. The materials all come from local nurseries, he said.

Mahaney said the original plan by Temple University students called for all the trees to be cut down.

"There were a series of three different landscape architects and also arborists," he said, adding that there was a major effort to redesign the park and for special attention to preserve not only trees but to preserve the root base and their future health.

Roberts said a survey was

access for those in wheelchairs, he said.

Roberts said the construction contractor hired a tree expert who provided specific instructions on how to work around the trees that would remain in the park and protect them from any further damage. A section of the park was redesigned to save a large sycamore on a corner, he said.

Bashaw said the sycamore tree predated Urban Renewal in Cape May. He said hornbeams would be planted along Decatur Street to create a backdrop for the bandstand.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said sunlight was factored into where trees and shrubs are being planted. He said a number of shrubs would be planted in the landscaped area along Lafayette Street. The Lyle Lane side of the park would be sunnier, MacLeod said.

Mahaney said 10 trees were saved, including the tree that was transplanted. He said the contractor was required to install three trees and the Fund for Cape May would install 22 larger trees, 4-, 5- and 6-caliper trees, not seedlings, some of which are 12 to 15 feet high. To protect the assets of the park, it will be monitored by police with security cameras, he said.

The cost to renovate Rotary Park totals \$1.8 million, with \$500,000 in grant funding mainly for the service streets around the mall, Mahaney said. The project used \$800,000 in city funds that was set aside beginning in 2008, he said.

Mahaney said the final \$500,000 came from the private sector Fund for Cape May for extra finishes that a public entity cannot spend on a park. He said plaques from benches that were donated to the park by members of the Rotary Club in 1971 would be placed on a monument in the park. A grand opening ceremony is scheduled for July 22.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Community activist Patricia Hendricks submits her petitions to run for a seat on City Council.

Hendricks

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Realtor of the Year by the Cape May County Board of Realtors in 2011. A member of the Kiwanis Club, she volunteers in its education and fundraising projects.

A self-proclaimed public policy expert, she has been a regular attendee at City Council meetings. Of special concern to her are beach safety, police leadership and public safety, lawsuits and legal expenses, equi-

table enforcement of ordinances, parking, the need for handicapped access at the post office, the erosion of proper execution of public business under Cape May's governance structure and the absence of teamwork and unity among the city's elected and appointed officials, she stated.

Hendricks said she sees her City Council candidacy as a natural extension of her long commitment to public service.



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Lear submits petitions

Former Cape May Police Department lieutenant Chuck Lear submits his petitions Tuesday, July 12, to run for mayor against incumbent Edward Mahaney.

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
13	3:20	4:08	9:26	10:11
14	4:16	4:59	10:13	11:06
15	5:11	5:47	11:00	11:56
16	6:03	6:32	11:46	
17	6:50	7:15	12:42	12:30
18	7:35	7:57	1:26	1:14
19	8:18	8:37	2:07	1:57
20	9:00	9:17	2:48	2:40

MOON PHASES
Full moon, July 19 • Last quarter, July 26

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** 3D The Secret Life of Pets PG 4:10
** Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates R
11:40, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 9:55
The BFG PG 10:50, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:20
Finding Dory PG 11:20, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30
** The Legend of Tarzan PG-13 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, (7:10, 9:40)
** Lights Out PG-13 (7:10, 9:40) Thursday Premier
The Purge: Election Year R 11:50, 2:30, (5:00, 7:30, 9:50)
** 2D Star Trek Beyond PG-13 (7:00) Thursday Premier
** 3D Star Trek Beyond PG-13 (10:00) Thursday Premier
Independence Day: Resurgence PG-13 11:00, 1:40, (4:20, 7:00, 9:45)
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