

Cape May may revamp Welcome Center, offer parking on tracks

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is considering expanding Welcome Center parking on long-unused railroad tracks adjacent to the building. Initially, the city is seeking to improve lighting of the parking lot.

Tom Thornton, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, the city's contracted engineer, said his firm would prepare a brief report to City Council with recommendations. He said the Welcome Center has 10 poles with light fixtures they have "disassociated" from the arms that support them.

One solution to the problem is to purchase new fixtures and install them on existing poles and paint the poles to match the color of the new fixtures, Thornton said. He said there was some question of keeping the poles from an aesthetic standpoint. The fixtures would be about 20 years newer than the poles, producing a bit of a mismatch, Thornton said.

He said an alternative would be to evaluate the lighting in the Welcome Center parking lot and possibly adding more lights or a different type of lighting.

The third and most expensive option would be to redesign the lighting and create a plan that would include new poles and fixtures for the entire site, he said.

Thornton said the lighting plan could incorporate additional parking behind the



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
The city is considering expanding parking at the Welcome Center on long-unused train tracks adjacent to the building.

Welcome Center on the railroad bed. He said he believed parking on the railroad bed would create an additional 20 to 25 spaces. Thornton said he could have a report ready in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the city should have a meeting with NJ Transit concerning the lease of the tracks to Tony Macrie and Cape May Seashore Lines.

"The economic benefit of improved transportation elements with the city having that operating railroad there are far superior to the parking, but if the railroad is not going to operate for the foreseeable

future, I would certainly favor putting temporary parking there without removing the railroad bed," he said.

Mahaney said the city needs to meet with NJ Transit because the railroad line has been dormant for far too many years. He said the city may be able to solicit support from other towns along the tracks on the railroad issue.

A formal written proposal for abandonment of the tracks can be submitted to NJ Transit from municipalities along the railroad line.

"We would evaluate the feasibility," NJ Transit spokeswoman Nancy Snyder said.

She said Dennis Township made a request for a portion of the railroad right of way to be used for a bike path. Snyder said NJ Transit was reviewing and considering the request. The evaluation process has many elements, including safety and impacts to current and future operations, she said.

Thornton said a survey of two properties on St. John's Street that would be part of a future Lafayette Street Park needs to proceed for the state Green Acres program. He said his firm has been asked to provide preliminary assessments of the properties they are surveying as well as the former Vance's Bar site on Lafayette Street.

City Hall continues to have problems with rain infiltration. Thornton said an architect on Hatch Mott MacDonald's staff could perform a complete survey of the building from top to bottom including the roof, walls and windows, concentrating on the rear of the building in the police department.

He said an interior survey of exterior walls would be conducted using infrared cameras and electric capacitance meters to identify leaks. Thornton said a proposal for the survey would be presented to the city by June 12.

Thornton said there were issues with the facade of the Franklin Street School.

"What we would be looking at specifically is what appears to be some movement of the facade on the easterly face of

the stairs," he said.

A survey would be conducted of the exterior walls, said

Thornton, who recommended obtaining the services of a local masonry contractor to do tests.

FEMA designations

Continued from Page A1

Lower Township. Clark said state Sen. Jeff Van Drew was urged to gather together all of the communities affected by FEMA maps along the bayshore to meet during the winter in Dennis Township. Last week, the municipalities organized the Delaware Bayshore Council comprised of the mayors or their designates from Maurice Township, Downe Township, Middle Township and Lower Township.

"It includes many, many organizations that have expertise and have understanding of what's going on along the bayshore, including the Bivalve organization and the Littoral Society," he said.

The council has pledged to put forth to the state Legisla-

ture a special resolution that declares the bayshore region to be an area of "great significance."

"The purpose of this is to put our beloved bayshore on the map in the state Legislature, because we're going to be coming back to them saying we need attention and we need help and support," Clark said.

The Delaware Bayshore Council is banding together, recognizing "we're all in the same boat."

"We've got to stand together or we're going to be falling together with one of these storms," he said.

Clark said all the municipalities have an interest in seeing the bayshore replenished for horseshoe crabs, red knots, gulls and humans. He said plans have existed for many

years to replenish bay beaches. The plans have been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but not funded.

The plans have not been funded because the bayshore does not have enough economic value to make it worth their while, Clark said.

He said the bayshore has ecological and environmental

significance.

"We're going to be rattling that cage from here to Trenton and all the way to the Governor's Office," he said.

Clark has been chosen as chairman of the council, which meets bimonthly. He said the council would reach a consensus on its long-range and short-term goals.

Friends of Fishing Creek School to hold plant exchange June 13

The Friends of the Fishing Creek School is having a community plant exchange and garden art exhibit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 13.

The school, more than 100 years old, was used as a private home after it closed in 1926. Restored to its original purpose as a place of learning, it is located at 2600 Bayshore Road in Lower Township.

Participants are asked to share plants from their own gardens, exchange information and hang pictures of their gardens in the exhibit space of the school. Gardening projects and events are being initiated by Laura Babbish. She is a member of the Friends and a member of the family that donated the school building to the

state. She is also a professional nursery manager and has been inspired to plant a Victorian garden at the school for future generations to enjoy.

HERE'S AN IDEA...
BUY SOMEONE A
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION
TO THE CAPE MAY
STAR AND WAVE.

FIBER ARTS

The Yarn Shop Classes...Learn To knit

FREE PARKING
OPEN 7 DAYS

315 Ocean Street
Cape May, NJ

609-898-8080

AART's
Cape May Taxi
www.capeMayTaxi.com
We're on your side
CALL 898-RIDE
(898-7433)

- safe and reliable
- all local communities
- clean, comfortable
- airports
- local and distance
- child safety seats

Date	TIDES : June 2015			
	High	P.M.	Low	P.M.
10	2:44	3:33	8:56	9:33
11	3:50	4:35	9:54	10:39
12	4:54	5:34	10:51	11:41
13	5:55	6:28	11:45	
14	6:51	7:19	12:38	12:38
15	7:44	8:07	1:32	1:28
16	8:34	8:53	2:22	2:16
17	9:22	9:37	3:10	3:03

MOON PHASES
New Moon, June 16 • First Quarter, June 24

Cape May Star & Wave
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
Volume 161 Number 24
Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc., 801 Asbury Ave., #310,
Ocean City, N.J. 08226

Published Weekly (52 times a year)
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$39 a year; \$70 for two years; \$20 for six months.
Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, 600
Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, N.J. 08204.
161 Years Old • 1854-2015

Artisans Alcove
ESTATE JEWELERS

SPECIALIZING IN:
• Appraisals
• Estate Jewelry
• Jewelry Repairs
• Engagement Rings
• Watch Repairs

WE BUY:
• Diamonds
• Estate Jewelry
• Gold
• Coins

BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIRS
"Engagement Rings... as one of a kind as your love"

523 Lafayette Street • Cape May, NJ • 609-898-0202
714 Asbury Avenue • Ocean City, NJ • 609-399-2050

ZOE'S
715 Beach Ave. (Across from Convention Hall) • 884-1233 • zoescapemay.com

Breakfast, Lunch and an All New Dinner Menu! BYO

Muffins, Pancakes & Omelets
Crab Cakes, Lobster Rolls, Fish Tacos & Seafood Baskets
Angus Burgers & Cheesesteaks
Veggie Burgers

Eat Inside, On Our Pet Friendly Patio or Take It to the Beach!
Pet Friendly • ATM • Casual Catering

Aleathea's
Inn of Cape May, 7 Ocean St., Cape May • 800-582-5933 • innofcapemay.com

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER DAILY
First Seating Dinner Special... Sun.-Thurs 5-6pm Fri. & Sat. 5-5:30pm

HAPPY HOUR
SUNDAY THRU FRIDAY 3-6pm
\$2 OFF WINE, BEER & COCKTAILS
FOOD SPECIALS 4-5PM

Sydney Live Fridays 4-6pm • Pet-Friendly Porch

The Merion Inn

Don't Forget Father's Day June 21!

Dinner, Cocktails & Live Piano Music nightly
106 Decatur Street at Columbia Avenue, Cape May
Reservations: 609.884.8363 or online at www.merioninn.com

LOBSTER HOUSE
ON FISHERMAN'S WHARF CAPE MAY, NJ

FISH MARKET

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH
thru SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH

FRESH FLORIDA SHRIMP
26-30 count
\$9.95/LB

MACARONI & CHEESE
with LOBSTER MEAT
\$6.50/EACH

TAKE OUT SPECIALS

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH
thru SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH

BROILED OR FRIED
FLOUNDER PLATTER
served with baked potato or
french fries & cole slaw
\$10.95

FRIED OYSTER PLATTER
served with french fries or
baked potato & cole slaw
\$11.75

FRIED SHRIMP PLATTER
Served with baked potato
or french fries & cole slaw
(regular price \$11.75)
\$6.95 EACH
Good Only Wednesday, June 10, 2015
at the Take-Out counter

APPETIZER SPECIAL

OYSTERS ROCKEFELLER
\$7.95

Phone Ahead to Order
609-884-3064
The Lobster House
FISHERMAN'S WHARF in CAPE MAY
www.thelobsterhouse.com