

Workers restoring chimneys at Physick Estate



John Alvarez/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Scaffolding has been set up so workers can restore several chimneys at the Emlen Physick Estate on Washington Street in Cape May. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities is still offering tours during the work, which is expected to be complete in a couple of weeks.

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Since the 1970s, the Emlen Physick Estate has been a symbol of Cape May's dedication to historic restoration and preservation. To many, the estate has stood for the very reason why the city enjoys the national historic status it achieved July 4, 1976.

When scaffolding started to appear up on the roof of the estate, home of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC), many people wondered what was going on.

"There are some biological growths in the chimneys which will be cleaned," MAC's Director of Media Relations Susan Krysiak said. "Basically, the mortar in general is deteriorated. In one instance, they are reconstructing part of the chimney. They are literally taking it apart, brick by brick, and repointing, re-mortaring and putting it back together. They are doing that where they need to, basically. There is leakage

and we don't wish for any more damage to occur."

The two chimneys are under the experienced care of Masonry Preservation Group, a contractor located in Merchantville that specializes in historic brick preservation. The group has worked for MAC in the past, preserving one of the other chimneys. Besides cleaning the biological growth, a flashing cap will be added to the tips of the exposed bricks.

Although the scaffolding can easily be seen on the building, MAC still has tours every day. According to Krysiak, the tours of the estate have not been affected by the construction work.

"Obviously the scaffolding leaves an impression on our visitors," she said. "They ask, 'Oh, I wonder what is happening.' But, really, this is just part of our normal stewardship of the house. And it is an important part of our responsibility to maintain the house for future years so it can continue to be open to the public."

Krysiak said the work on the chimneys started two weeks ago and should be finished in about another month. She said she spoke with one of the workers and he estimated the remaining work will not take long to complete. This will be a good thing because MAC begins celebrating Christmas on Friday, Nov. 17, with its Holiday Preview Weekend, which includes inviting guests to visit the grounds for the tree-lighting ceremony Nov. 18.

"It's a lot of fun because it is a great community event," Krysiak said. "We have people come in from all over with their families. We have free hot chocolate and cookies here in the café. Santa comes and all the children cheer."

The construction of Dr. Emlen Physick's family home was finished in 1879, so after 137 years and millions of visitors, there's nothing wrong with a little touch up to look better.

For information about upcoming events, call (609) 884-5455 or visit capemay-mac.org

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Purchase tickets online or by calling 609-884-5404, or day of event at the Washington Street Mall Information Booth

Field House

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forts will continue to make Lower Cape May Regional School District an important place for the vitality of our greater community," Kobik said.

He said Teitelman School Vice Principal and former high school athletic director Mark Schiffbauer birthed the idea of a field house.

"This is not just for now, this is for generations to come and is going to help everyone from K through 12," Schiffbauer said.

Lower Township Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Mitch Plenn said his department was proud to share the services and use of the field house with the school district.

"There is no other field house like this in our local region," he said.

Plenn said the facility would allow scheduling of indoor practices and community programs during adverse weather conditions.

Board of Education

member Gary Playford said he felt the field house was a "game changer" for educational and sports programs.

With a one, two, three countdown, a ribbon was cut with Board of Education President Richard Hooyman wielding the scissors. A sizable crowd was on hand for the high school's

homecoming football game against Ocean City scheduled for one hour after the grand opening.

The flooring of the field house is covered in artificial turf. Kobik said the facility was heated and air conditioning. He said the new field house would also be beneficial to Lower Township youth leagues.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Students and members of the community get a look inside the new Field House at Lower Cape May Regional High School during an open house Oct. 28.

#TheThumbsUp4Genny Scholarship.

Genny's Annual Birthday Bash FUNraiser

November 18th
6:30pm - 10:30pm at
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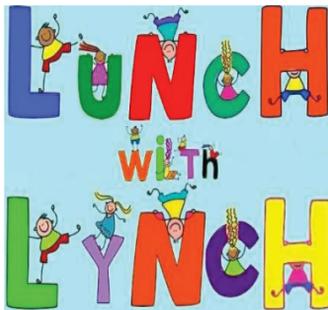
All proceeds benefiting
The Genny Lynn Farnan Robinson
Scholarship Fund

As a birthday present to Gen please bring a toy donation for Gen's favorite non-profit,
The Lynch who Stole Christmas from the Grinch.

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