

Jersey Cape Training Center Earns Certification

COURT HOUSE — CARF announced that Jersey Cape Diagnostic, Training & Opportunity Center, Inc. has been accredited for a period of three years for its workforce development training programs.

The programs accredited serve individuals with disabilities, in-school and out-of-school youth and public assistance recipients.

This accreditation outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the standards established by CARF. JCDTOC, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization with offices at 152 Crest Haven Road, Court House and the ESN office at 1121 Rt. 47 S Rio Grande. It has been serving Cape May County since 1974.

Sea Isle City Petitioners Contest Ballot Statement

By NICK COLIN

SEA ISLE CITY — A vote for changing the city's form of government is a vote for a tax increase and additional costs to the city.

At least that's the way an interpretive statement, that will appear on the Nov. 7 election ballot, puts it.

Paul Baldini, city solicitor, drafted the statement, which estimated that the new form of government would cost the city an additional \$476,000 a year.

According to Baldini, that would lead to a tax increase in the range of .7 cents to 1.3 cents, or to a general rate of about 63 cents per \$100 of assessed value, up from present .6161 cents.

John Fee, petition committee head, was to have filed papers in court yesterday to fight the interpretive

statement. "It's rather prejudicial," said Fee.

"We said from day one that additional positions would create more costs, but increased costs don't necessarily mean a tax increase," he said.

Fee reasoned that a more efficient form of government would offset additional costs.

The court will be asked to take a "timely" look at the matter, in order to insure that the matter is cleared up by the time the ballots go to the printer Sept. 25.

Baldini, who came up with a chart of estimated costs and drafted the interpretive statement, said that it is "standard procedure."

"The statement isn't meant to mix-up the question, but to allow the public to have a sense of understanding the costs involved in creating this particular form of government," said Baldini.

He said that additional costs would range from \$245,500 to \$476,000.

Baldini estimated the council members' salaries at \$10,000 a year, mayor's at \$20,000, administrator's at \$120,000, administrator's assistant at \$40,000,

and the city's attorney at \$25,000.

Currently, the mayor makes \$11,000 a year and commissioners make \$10,000.

According to Baldini, Terry Tighe, whose current position as city clerk, would be eliminated, would likely fill the administrator's assistant position.

Baldini surveyed communities like Avalon and Stone Harbor, who have the five-council, mayor, and administrator-form of government, in order to estimate the salaries, health benefits, and Social Security costs here.

Andrew Bednarek, Avalon's administrator, said that Avalon's mayor makes about \$20,900 a year, while the council members make \$9,000, and the administrator earns \$110,600.

Kenneth Hawk, Stone Harbor's administrator, listed the mayor's salary at \$10,000, the council's at \$5,000, and the administrator's at \$85,000.

As far as health benefits go, Baldini figured the maximum total cost for supplying the mayor, council, administrator, administrator's assistant, and city attorney with Horizon Blue Cross could equate to about \$228,700

or \$25,400 a person.

"It's unrealistic to assume that people will turn down benefits," said Baldini.

Currently, one commissioner's health benefits cost \$25,400, while the other commissioner's cost about \$8,775.

The mayor doesn't receive health benefits in the current form of government.

The chart listed the total cost of social security at

about \$2,370 reasoning that the new costs would equate to \$19,500.

Baldini included an additional \$21,000 to \$41,000 in "other" costs.

"None of these estimates really have any cost factor to create space for (the new members of government) in the municipal building or for long-term capital costs," said Baldini.

"A commission form of government is a cheaper mechanism for running a

town," he said, citing Wildwood as an example of a government that switched to the council form and then back to the commission form.

"One of the reasons cited was cost savings," said Baldini.

Fee and the petition committee are in the process of coming up with their own cost estimates.

Contact Colin at: (609) 886-8600 ext. 35 or ncolin@cmcheald.com

Stone Harbor's Bill from State New Beach Costs \$1.2 Million

By AL CAMPBELL

STONE HARBOR — How beautiful the replenished beach, then came the state's final bill: Amount due \$350,000.

The borough's original share of the federal-state-local project was to be \$850,000, according to Councilman Karl Giulian at the Sept. 5 meeting of borough council.

Then when all the invoices for extra sand were tallied, the state forwarded its "as built" statement, which demanded the additional funds.

To pay the bill, council introduced an ordinance appropriating the additional funds to a 2002 bond ordinance which originated as \$2.3 million, but which will become \$2.6 million.

Hearing on that bond ordinance will be Oct. 3 at 4:30 p.m. in Borough Hall.

"We went back and forth with the engineer (Marc DeBlasio of Remington & Vernick) and Mr. (Administrator Kenneth) Hawk," Giulian said.

After review, he said officials "feel comfortable this is what we owe the state."

"There were a lot of issues surrounding this," said Solicitor Michael Donohue.

"It wasn't our plan, it was a federal plan. They brought the plan to us," he continued.

A chain of contracts connected the local final

amount with amounts paid by the federal and state governments, he said.

The proposed ordinance lists 15 years as the beach's "period of usefulness."

With the passing of longtime borough Public Defender Joseph Franks, and subsequent moment of silence in his memory at the meeting's outset, council appointed Michael Sorensen, whose office is in Court House, to the post.

His term was set from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2006 at \$150 per appearance.

Newspaper vending machines, placed on borough property, will be charged \$50 a year from the present \$20.

Ten boxes maximum are allowed in each of the following locations:

- 82nd Street recreation area adjacent to recreation building.

- West side of First Avenue between 96th and 97th streets.

- Eastern parking lot on the north side of the street between Third Avenue and Sunset Drive.

- Bird Sanctuary parking area on Third Avenue.

- Southwest corner of 80th Street and First Avenue.

- 122nd Street near beach access road.

- 81st Street and the bay near the boat ramp.

Hearing for that ordinance will also be Oct. 3.

Robert Bartke, chair of the Bird Sanctuary Committee, and Dede Harris, member, presented a Pow-

erPoint presentation about resources that were found at the wildness site, including an 88-in round holly tree, the age of which has yet to be determined, but which the presentation asked, "Is this what Capt. Stone first saw?"

Also inside the sanctuary, choked with vines, is a fresh water pond and small hills, once part of a maritime forest.

With funding from such partners as Ducks Unlimited and assistance from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, it is the hope of the group that the sanctuary will be brought back to life as a heronry and attract numerous birds.

"It's very nice," said Mayor Suzanne Walters of the presentation.

"I thank you and the committee for all the hard work you've put into this. It's exciting," she added.

"You ain't seen nothing yet," added Councilman Julian Miraglia.

Dorothy Flynn, who lives opposite the sanctuary, told council prisoners were previously used to clean up the area.

"Maybe consider it when the time comes," she said.

She also advised the former wire fence should be replaced, perhaps behind the split rail fence, to keep out predators.

She also urged council to "remove the siren at 117th Street."

Contact Campbell at: (609) 886-8600 Ext 28 or: al.c@cmcheald.com

Back Pain?

Cape May Court House, NJ - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to Dr. Chase DC, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. Call now for an appointment, 465-5358 and talk to Sara or Colleen, they will help you to get your "life" back.

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New Funding for Aviation Technology Park

POMONA — The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, in collaboration with U.S. Representative Frank LoBiondo, The Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center and Atlantic County officials, announced new funding for the development of a new Aviation Research and Technology Park.

The Park, to be located on 55 acres controlled by the Tech Center in Egg Harbor Twp., is expected to provide an environment in which advanced aviation concepts would be explored by engineers, computer scientists, professionals in the aviation industry and many other diverse segments of the workforce.

The newest funding, in the amount of \$350,000, brings the total of grants for the project to over \$1 million.

In assuming a central role in the Park's development, Stockton underscored its leadership as an economic driver for the County and all of Southern New Jersey.

"The College is pleased to partner with our elected officials, the FAA and County to bring this Park to fruition," Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said.

The Park is expected to create as many as 400 new high-tech jobs, serve as a small business-friendly support center, nurture collaborations between public and private sector aviation interests, and provide new educational opportunities for Stockton students and others around the region.


In addition, the NJ CHE grant to Stockton provides \$200,000 for a Smart Classroom at the Tech Center to be designed and managed by Tech Center and Stockton Information Technology personnel.

Saatkamp said the Park promised to be a magnet for new business, a source of internships and research opportunities for Stockton students and faculty, and a boon to the already dynamic growth of the county, region and State.

The Aviation Research and Technology Park is part of a national effort to modernize and protect the United States airspace system and to increase air-space and airport capacity. It is expected to provide the environment and support for small business incubation and the expansion of existing businesses. The Park will be home to public and private entities along with Stockton educational components.

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