



# Community CONNECTION

FALL 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY

## NJ Motorsports Park passes vital milemarker, as official ground-breaking takes place

MILLVILLE, NJ — A \$150 million world-class motorsports complex has begun its run towards completion here with an official ground-breaking ceremony attended by more than 500 business people, politicians and local interested citizens.

Millville Mayor James F. Quinn opened the ceremony, after pausing to enjoy a flyover of a U.S. Army P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft from the adjacent airport. The new motorsports park pays tribute to the history of the former Army Air Force training base at Millville by naming the raceway Thunderbolt Raceway and the



*Breaking ground — Also at the ground-breaking ceremony, NJ Motorsports Park officials dedicated the facility's media center and tower to New Jersey native and iconic motorsports journalist, Chris Economaki, whose likeness is shown on the plaque in the this photo.*

Lightning Road Course, after the most famous WWII-era aircraft that were based at Millville Airport.

The first phase is to open in June 2008.

When fully constructed on 700 acres of land adjacent to the Millville Airport, the new motorsports park will feature road, oval and off-road racing venues as well as luxurious spectator and participant facilities like VIP suites, shade tree and event garages, and trackside villas. The complex also will include a conference center, aircraft and auto museum and retail shopping.

## Dassault Falcon to expand at Delaware location

NEW CASTLE, DE — Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner and Dassault Aircraft Services President Jack Young announced in August a multi-year expansion plan for Dassault Falcon's facility at the New Castle Airport. The expansion, which will result in 100 new jobs, allows for aircraft completions at the local facility for the first time.



*Expanding in Delaware — Governor Minner (at podium) noted that Dassault Falcon's expansion is a direct result of Delaware's 2006 European business development mission. She said one of her goals is to ensure that Delaware remains a leading choice for the location and expansion of business.*

The Delaware Economic Development Office, new Castle County and the Delaware

River and Bay Authority (DRBA) worked together to secure the expansion.

The plan includes the acquisition of a 22,000-square-foot hangar for customized aircraft completions. Current plans call for about a dozen Falcons to be completed at the New Castle facility starting in 2008. The new jobs will be created within the next 12 to 18

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## DRBA offers MV Cape May for sale

### *Focus to be on cost efficiencies of ferries*

**NEW CASTLE, DE** — The DRBA has begun the process to sell the MV Cape May, one of five ferry vessels in the Cape May – Lewes Ferry (CMLF) fleet.

This action is part of a comprehensive plan to improve efficiency and reduce the operating deficit at the CMLF, which was \$6.8 million in 2006. This figure does not include other operating and overhead expenses directly attributable to the ferry operation, such as security, insurance premiums, and food and retail. The ferry operation is seasonal with the number of daily departures varying from 8 in the winter to 30 during the height of the summer season. The agency is seeking to sell the vessel to the highest bidder.

According to Heath Gehrke, Director of Ferry Operations, the decision to sell the MV Cape May was based on a number of factors. “Based on traffic demand in 2006, the fifth vessel was needed on only 15 days to complete 40 crossings,” remarked Gehrke. “It just doesn’t make economic sense to maintain a vessel for 365 days a year that is used for only 15 days a year.” Gehrke also noted that operating MV Cape May requires 17 crew members compared to 12 crew members for other vessels. The MV Cape May also uses about 25 more gallons of fuel per hour than the typical vessel in the fleet.

The vessel’s maintenance costs were also considered and factored into the decision. The MV Cape May has approximately 20,000 square feet of exterior white painted surface to maintain compared to about 12,000 square feet for the typical vessel in the fleet, resulting in increased paint and labor costs.

“The CMLF will continue to take necessary and prudent actions to close the operating deficit,” Gehrke said. “We are looking forward to the completion of the new marine master plan, which will provide the framework for the future of our ferry operation.”

In September 2006, the DRBA contracted with Hornblower Marine Services, LLC (HMS) to provide marine master planning services for the CMLF. The primary focus of the study will be to determine what the future ferry fleet should look like, including the size, speed and number of vessels.

Built in Norfolk (VA) in 1985, the Cape May is 320 feet long, 68 feet wide and displaces more than 2,100 tons. The vessel has vehicle capacity of 90 and passenger capacity of 1,104.

In 2006, the ferry service completed 5,676 crossings of the Delaware Bay.

## Community Giving



**TOWNSEND, DE** — The DRBA Commission authorized a grant of \$4,500 to assist The Center for Therapeutic and Educational Riding, Inc., located at C-Line Stables here.

According to Rebecca Reynolds, assistant director at The CENTER, the organization used part of this funding to purchase a seven-year old Halflinger pony, shown in the photo at left, adding to its stable of more than a dozen horses of all sizes.

The CENTER serves nearly 100 riders each week with equine-related activities. Each rider takes a half-hour lesson designed for him or her to meet specific goals or challenges. Volunteers from all over the state participate in every phase of the CENTER's activities. The CENTER also has nine instructors, four of whom are nationally certified through the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, Inc.

*Riding — Purchased with funds provided by the DRBA through its Community Giving program, the horse, named Derby, stands at just 14.2 hands.*

## NJ wine growers festival held at Cape May Ferry Terminal

**CAPE MAY, NJ** — More than 200 years ago, London's Royal Society of the Arts recognized two New Jersey vintners for their success in producing the first quality wine derived from colonial agriculture. Today, more than 30 New Jersey wineries continue the tradition of producing high quality wines. Twenty of these wineries offered more than 200 New Jersey wines for tasting and sale at the first Cape May Wine Festival, held at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal on Oct. 6 and 7. The wineries set up their tents overlooking the Cape May Canal and the Delaware Bay, next to the ferry terminal (see photo at right).

The Garden State Wine Growers Association hosted this new festival, which was co-sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and the DRBA. In addition to award-winning wines, the festival offered live music, dozens of crafters, educational seminars, gourmet food, and The Kids Zone especially for the younger attendees.

The CMLF provided free parking at the terminal. Continuous shuttle service to and from Victorian Cape May was also available.

The CMLF also offered combination tickets to those passengers attending the fall festival.



*Enjoying — Tents for the wine festival were set up along the bay, which made a beautiful backdrop for the event. The inset photo shows some of the 200 wines featured by growers at the festival.*



### Dassault,

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months. The impact of the expansion on Delaware's Gross Domestic Product is estimated at \$12 million.

According to James. T. Johnson, Jr., Executive Director of the DRBA,

the New Castle Airport is ideally positioned to be a growth catalyst for the entire area. "We believe that Dassault's decision to expand its operations here illustrates the airport's appeal to the aviation community," Johnson said. "With its location and airport characteristics, the

sky's the limit at the New Castle Airport."

Johnson also credited the working relationship between the state and DRBA to bringing the negotiations with Dassault Falcon to such a successful conclusion.



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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

### Dogfish Head president heads back across the bay, this time aboard the MV Twin Capes

**LEWES, DE** — In 1997, Sam Calagione, founder of Dogfish Head, Craft Brewed Ales, made his first beer delivery to New Jersey. He carried that first 6-pack across 17 nautical miles of the Delaware Bay in a homemade row boat. The trip took five hours.

In August 2007, Sam made another trip to New Jersey to deliver beer. This time, however, he had some help.

Sam and the Cape May-Lewes Ferry joined together for a 10th anniversary sailing that included beer samplings, beer and cheese pairing seminars and more.

The anniversary celebration began at 3 p.m. with a beer and cheese sampling at the Rock Pile Bar in the Cape May, NJ terminal. Along with selected cheese, Calagione offered the brewery's Shelter Pale Ale, 60 Minute IPA, Indian Brown Ale, and the 2007 release of Punkin' Ale.

At 4:30 p.m., Sam and his fellow beer lovers took the MV Twin Capes to Lewes. During the ride, Dogfish Head Shelter Pale Ale was on tap in the Debraak Lounge. Calagione was on hand to



*Sam Calagione (above, second from left) talks to customers at the Dogfish Head beer sampling anniversary celebration aboard the MV Twin Capes in August. Calagione's trip across the Delaware Bay took ninety minutes this time, instead of the five hours his first trip took ten years ago.*

pour samples of some hard-to-find Dogfish Head Beers, talk with guests about his company, and sign copies of his two books, *Brewing Up A Business* and *Extreme Beer*.

Upon arriving at Gerald's Bar and Grill at the Lewes CMLF terminal, Sam hosted a tasting of the beers sampled at the Cape May terminal anniversary event.

Tickets for the beer samplings and round-trip ferry travel were available at either terminal. Over-21 customers at any of the events were issued proof-of-purchase bracelets that were good for discounts on beer, food and at any of the CMLF's retail shops.