



Community

# CONNECTION

FALL 2005

A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY

## E-Z Pass users must slow down at toll plaza

Because many E-Z Pass users speed through the E-Z Pass Only lanes much faster than the posted 5 mph limit at the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the DRBA has initiated a Toll Plaza Safety Awareness Program.

Using variable message signs, flashing yellow gantry lights, speed warning devices, correspondence and news releases, the DRBA hopes to focus drivers' attention on complying with posted speed limits. In addition, the DRBA Police will increase speed limit enforcement efforts at the toll plaza.

The speed limit on the bridge is 50 mph; the speed limit in the toll plaza is 35 mph; the speed limit through the E-Z Pass Only toll lanes is 5 mph. These speed limits are based on the design of the roads, bridge, toll plaza, as well as related highway safety factors.

"Most of our E-Z Pass customers obey posted speed limits and we thank them for doing so," remarked DRBA Chief Operating Officer Jim Walls. "After traveling turnpike speeds, however, some motorists have difficulty judging the speed of their vehicle as they drive through an 'E-Z Pass Only' lane. We need everyone's help to make the toll plaza safer for our employees and the millions of motorists who use this facility each year."



Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner (center) and U.S. Senator Thomas Carper (fourth from left) are joined by officials from the DRBA and Delaware State University at a ceremony at the Delaware Airpark.

## New facility at Delaware Airpark celebrated by DRBA and DSU

The Delaware River and Bay Authority and Delaware State University celebrated the completion of a joint-use facility at the Delaware Airpark in Cheswold with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception on August 9.

The facility, which originated in an ongoing effort to promote economic development in the four southern counties of New Jersey and all of Delaware, will be used for DRBA maintenance and administrative operations as well as classroom, office and hangar facilities for the University's Airway Science Department.

Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner and U.S. Senator Tom Carper joined business representatives, community leaders, university officials and state and local elected officials to dedicate the new joint-use facility. In addition to Gov. Minner and Sen. Carper,

F. Michael Parkowski Esq., Vice Chairman of the DRBA; Dr. Allen L. Sessoms, President of Delaware State University; State Representative Richard Cathcart, Vice President of Business Development for Delaware State University; and Dr. Alain Hunter, Manager of U.S. Air Force Small Business-Pentagon spoke on behalf of this unique partnership.

Delaware State University's Department of Airway Science administers the flight training program for U.S. Air Force military cadets. DSU trains Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) cadets from minority universities and colleges across the country in a Flight Awareness Summer Training Program. DSU has provided flight training to the ROTC cadets annually since 1996.

*Continued on page 3*



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*Community Connection* is a publication of the Delaware River and Bay Authority. For further information, please contact the DRBA at PO Box 71, New Castle, DE 19720, or call 302.571.6300, fax 302.571.6367, visit our website at [www.drba.net](http://www.drba.net), or email us at [contactus@drba.net](mailto:contactus@drba.net).

## MEET THE DRBA COMMISSIONERS

William E. Lowe, III, is a river pilot with numerous marine licenses, including Delaware First Class River Pilot; U.S. Coast Guard Third Mate Oceans Unlimited; and U.S. Coast Guard First Class



Lowe

Pilot Endorsements, Delaware River and Tributaries, Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. He is a member of the Greater Lewes Foundation Board of Directors and of the Foundation's Campaign Committee and is a former member of the Diamond State Port Corporation Advisory Board. Commissioner Lowe is a 1985 graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy with bachelor of science degrees in marine transportation and in marine engineering. His professional training includes pilot ship handling at Port Revel, Grenoble, France; graduate studies at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies; and work at the Academy in applied marine electronics.



Jackson

John M. Jackson is council representative for the New Jersey Regional Council of Carpenters, representing Carpenters Local Union 542

and Millwright Local Union 715. Commissioner Jackson is a former member of the Pennsville Planning Board, on which he served as chairman in 2003. He is an executive board member and trustee of the Apprentice Committee of Local 715, a member of the NJRCC and political director for the southern region since 2003, a member of the NJ Millwright Contractors Association board and a member of Carpenters Local 542. Mr. Jackson has served as treasurer and trustee of the Local 542 Apprentice Committee and as a district council delegate and alternate of the local. He completed his apprenticeship in 1972.

## Board creates new toll class for ferry users

The DRBA Commissioners approved a one-year trial ferry fare class for older children at the April Commission meeting in an effort to make the ferry service more affordable for families.

"The Authority wants to encourage more people to use the service," remarked James H. Walls, Chief Operations Officer for the DRBA. "Management will evaluate the impact of the new fare class on passenger

### OLDER CHILDREN'S TOLL CLASS FARES

	April - October	November - March
Passenger One Way	\$4.00	\$3.00
Foot Passenger Round Trip	\$7.50	\$5.00

Affecting passengers age 6-13 years, the new fare is 50% of an adult fare and is based on a study conducted by Elliott Bay Design Group of Washington.

traffic and make recommendations to the Commissioners at the end of the trial period on whether to continue the program."

## From pennies, book bags grow

In May, DRBA employees began collecting pennies in a Penny Jar Fundraising Contest to benefit local students. As a result, just three months later 100 new book bags, filled with all kinds of school supplies, were delivered to four school districts, two in New Jersey and two in Delaware.

The book bags were distributed to underprivileged students in the randomly selected school districts of Upper Pittsgrove and Wildwood in New Jersey and Appoquinimink and Cape Henlopen in Delaware.

In addition, employees donated new school supplies which were given to schools in both states for distribution to appropriate classrooms.

The DRBA's school outreach contest pitted department against department in a competition to see which one could collect the most pennies with



DRBA Commissioner William Lowe III and DRBA employees delivered 100 new book bags filled with school supplies to four schools in the DRBA region. An employee contest funded the purchases. Photo courtesy of the *Cape Gazette Newspaper*, Lewes, DE – Jim Westhoff, photographer

the “losing” department serving lunch to the “winning” department.

In fact, everyone won because

together the departments raised \$1,761.10, including 116,930 pennies, for the project.

## DRBA donates to junior golf foundation

In June, the DRBA awarded a \$5,000 community contribution to the Cape May County Junior Golf Foundation, Inc. which won the DRBA Riegial Cup, an annual tournament between Lewes and Cape May junior golfers. The tournament is named after Robert “Skee” Riegial, an accomplished local golfer.

Held June 21 at the Cape May National Golf Club in Erma, New Jersey, the tournament featured junior golfers from both New Jersey and Delaware who had qualified through competitive play for a place on one of the two teams.

The event coordinator, John Petronis, is the Director and PGA Director of the Cape May National Golf Course, as well as the President and Founder of the Cape May County Junior



Golf Foundation, Inc.

For more information on junior golf organizations and upcoming events in the area, go to [www.juniorgolfers.net](http://www.juniorgolfers.net) and [www.juniorgolfers.net/cmcjgf](http://www.juniorgolfers.net/cmcjgf).

Pictured above are: DRBA Commissioner Maureen Koebig; John Petronis, President and Founder of Cape May County Junior Golf Foundation; and Robert H. “Skee” Riegial. (The dog is named Jean Paul.)

## Airpark facility completed

*Continued from page 1*

Since 1987, Delaware State University has held the distinction of having its own Airway Science Program and also of being the only historically black institution to possess its own fleet of planes and provide its own instructors.

The DSU Airway Science Program is uniquely positioned to help remedy the lack of minority pilots throughout the aviation industry.

DSU needed the hangar and teaching space to accommodate the many students enrolled in the program.

The new joint-use facility will enable the University to expand its Airway Science program and maintain its leadership in the field.



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## A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Bringing the oyster industry back to the Bay

The Delaware River and Bay Authority is taking part in a bi-state effort to restore a viable oyster industry to the Bay through an oyster shell planting program.

The effort was spearheaded by a number of state, federal, and other agencies including: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Delaware River and Basin Commission.

United States Congressmen Frank A. LoBiondo (NJ-2) and Michael Castle (DE) also played a pivotal role in initiating the effort and acquiring the necessary federal funding to help support the program.

The need for an oyster shell planting program came as the result of a declining oyster population in the Delaware Bay. In order to reverse the decline, a large-scale shell planting and transplant program was undertaken, which is expected to revitalize both the resource and the industry. This

unprecedented bi-state effort was kicked off on July 6 with a ceremony, followed by a trip into the Delaware Bay on a traditional oyster boat to witness the shell planting activity.

Initial reports from the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

show that the project has been successfully implemented. Further sampling will measure continuing results.

