

Community CONNECTION

SPRING 2011

DRBA volunteers share time, effort, and skills at Ronald McDonald House



WILMINGTON, DE — Nine DRBA employees gave time and effort to help those less fortunate when they traveled to Wilmington's Ronald McDonald House for ill children and their families.

The employees, whose effort was organized and coordinated by the Authority's Community Initiatives Committee (CIC), not only prepared a delicious evening meal for the McDonald House families, but also served it to the 75 children and their family members.

The dinner consisted of baked ziti, tossed salad, bread sticks and a variety of desserts. The employees also purchased the food and the disposable cooking trays they used in preparing the meal.

At the end of the meal, the volunteers presented a DRBA activity coloring book and crayons to each child.

The Ronald McDonald House of Delaware provides a safe, affordable "home away from home" to families of seriously or chronically ill children who are being treated at area hospitals.



Public hearings explain need for proposed bridge toll increase



PLANNING FOR NEEDED TOLL INCREASE — DRBA Executive Director Jim Johnson provides details on upcoming capital projects needed at the agency's crossings, including the Delaware Memorial Bridge and the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.



Hearings in both Delaware and New Jersey during the last week of April informed stakeholders of the need to increase tolls at the Delaware Memorial Bridge beginning July 1.

Executive Director Jim Johnson and Chief Financial Officer Victor Ferzetti conducted the hearings which detailed vital capital infrastructure investments needed at the Authority's aging, heavily-utilized crossing facilities, provided information on the proposed rate structure, and solicited public input.

While all rate classifications would be affected under the increase, passenger car rates would increase \$1 each and commercial vehicle rates would increase \$1 per axle.

Projected revenues are inadequate to provide either cash or borrowing capacity

to finance the infrastructure projects.

Tolls for 88 percent of the DMB's customers have not increased for 11 or more years, the DRBA officials explained to the audience.

Among the projects planned at the DMB and CMLF over the next several years are: Phase IV of the I-295 highway improvements (\$29 million); painting and structural improvements on DMB (\$28 million); electronic toll collection upgrades (\$10 million); DMB cable and suspender rope inspection program (\$9 million); DMB traffic management system replacement (\$4.3 million); dock work and replacement of passenger loader tubes at the CMLF (\$15 million); and roadway rehabilitation and safety improvements (\$5.5 million).

Current traffic trends show the new rate schedule would produce about \$22 million annually in additional revenue.

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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, call 302.571.6300, fax 302.571.6367, visit our website at www.drba.net or email us at contactus@drba.net.



LEADER - William E. Lowe, III, of Lewes, DE, was unanimously selected as Chairman of the DRBA Commission in January.

William Lowe named Chairman, James Hogan is Vice Chairman of DRBA Commission for 2011



NEW CASTLE, DE — William E. Lowe, III, of Lewes, DE, and James N Hogan of Franklinville, NJ, were unanimously selected as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, at the Commission meeting in January. Both assumed their new duties and responsibilities during the February monthly board meeting. DRBA leadership posts rotate between the two states every two years.

Chairman Lowe noted that he was honored to have been chosen by his fellow Commissioners for the position and added, "I am confident we can meet the challenges ahead while continuing the spirit of cooperation forged by Chair-

man Jim Hogan and Vice Chairman Scott Green."

Chairman Lowe has worked as a river pilot for the Pilots' Association of the Bay and River. He is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy and has also studied at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies in Maryland.

Vice Chairman Hogan is the Gloucester County Clerk, an elected position that he has held since 1998. Mr. Hogan has had an impressive career in law enforcement, having been County Sheriff, a township police chief, a University police captain and a township police officer.

DRBA recognized for runway safety



NEW CASTLE, DE — The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented the DRBA Airport Operations Division with a Certificate of Appreciation for the agency's efforts to achieve full compliance with the FAA regulations regarding runway safety areas at each end of New Castle Airport's two main runways.

New Castle Airport was one of only four airports in the entire Eastern Region recognized for outstanding work. Included in the work leading to the award was the relocation of a road to the entrance of the Delaware National Guard and the repositioning of navigational aids.



AWARD - Dave Hoppenjans (l), Senior Project Engineer, and Stephen Williams (r), Airports Director, share the award with Jim Johnson, DRBA Executive Director.



COATS — Through generous donations by DRBA employees, the DRBA's Community Initiatives Committee (CIC) collected 255 winter coats in January, which were delivered to local community agencies for distribution. In this photo, the CIC and Commissioner Lathem are shown as they delivered 50 winter coats to the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center's children and staff in Wilmington. Each year the CIC undertakes projects of ideas to help people in the river and bay region. The committee's goal for 2011 is to focus on nutrition and health of children.



GIVE BACK - The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at New Castle Airport Terminal was successful, as shown by this photograph. More than 250 pounds of out-of-date, unused prescriptions or over-the-counter medicines were collected for proper disposal.

DRBA Police participate in DEA national project



NEW CASTLE, DE — On April 30, the DRBA Police Department, working with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and state and local law enforcement agencies, conducted a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to help remove potentially dangerous drugs from our nation's homes.

The program provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications for proper disposal.

At the DRBA, the police established three collections sites— at the New Castle Airport Terminal; at the Cape May Ferry Terminal and at the Lewes Ferry Terminal.

Ferry temporarily levies fuel surcharge on vehicles



CAPE MAY, NJ — Due to the rising price of fuel and the continuing volatility in the international fuel marketplace,

the Cape May-Lewes Ferry was forced to implement a fuel surcharge on all vehicle rates beginning April 1. The surcharge, which is \$2 per vehicle, is designed to pass along a portion of the increased cost of fuel to the system's customers. There is no addition surcharge for passengers.

"Fuel prices have increased significantly for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry in recent years," said Heath Gehrke, director of ferry operations. "The surcharge is tied directly to the price of fuel and the Ferry will continue to absorb a portion of the increase in fuel costs."

The fuel surcharge is determined on a month-to-month basis. The price of vessel fuel is reviewed on the 15th of the month to determine if the surcharge will be implemented in the following month.

Only when the price of fuel exceeds the pre-established benchmark will the ferry implement the surcharge.

For the past two years, CMLF fuel price increases did not exceed the operation's eight-year fuel price trend amounts. It was only in March of this year that the price triggered the surcharge. The fuel surcharge is not a permanent fee.



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LEWES, DE —The Cape May-Lewes Ferry hosted the 60-member Dover Symphony Orchestra aboard the MV Twin Capes for a special fundraiser for the non-profit organization, called “The Symphony at Sea.”

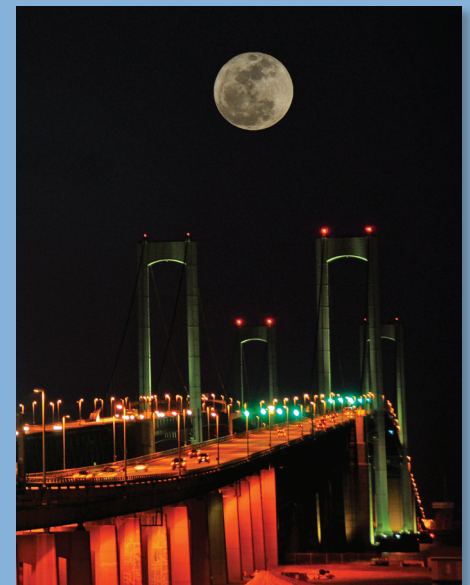
The Symphony sailed into spring with an entertaining musical selection they called, “Big Band to Broadway,” which included popular tunes from famous musicals. The cruise also included a wine tasting, lavish hors d’oeuvres from local restaurants, cocktails, and a silent auction of unique items.

The special event took the symphony and music lovers from Lewes to Cape

May on a memorable, musical outing. The ferry departed Lewes at 2 p.m. and returned at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Dover Symphony Orchestra, which is a non-profit organization funded through grants, member donations, ticket sales and community donations. Members of the orchestra represent a wide spectrum of professions and vocations.

The Symphony involves itself with many different segments of the community through collaborations with schools and other arts organizations.

The CMLF’s variety of venues for special events and fund-raisers, on land and on sea, provided this unique opportunity for the Symphony event.



SuperMoon

NEW CASTLE, DE — On March 19, the moon was closer to the Earth than it has been in 18 years. The phenomenon was dubbed a “SuperMoon” in the 1970s by an astrologer, to describe a new or full moon phase at 90 percent or more of its closest orbit to Earth. Thanks to Wayne Hearn, DRBA employee, for this spectacular photograph of the SuperMoon over the DMB.