



Community CONNECTION

FALL 2006

A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY

Build at the Bridge:

DRBA partners with Habitat for Humanity

Volunteerism and community service have long been core values at the Delaware River and Bay Authority. Those values are demonstrated each year by employees and the Board in a variety of ways.

This year DRBA employees partnered for the first time with Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County (HFHNCC) to construct a Habitat home in the parking lot at the Authority's Administrative Complex in New Castle, DE. In addition, the DRBA board joined the effort by contributing \$10,000 towards construction costs, including framing, siding, roofing, drywall, cabinets and other construction essentials. The Authority plans to continued working with HFHNCC over the next several years.

On October 12, more than 120 DRBA employees volunteered from 8 AM - 4 PM, working alongside HFHNCC volunteers,



staff and the prospective homeowner, to construct wall panels and build a framed Habitat house.

Following a news conference, a ceremonial wall signing took place. The volunteers

then loaded the walls and panels onto a truck for transport to Habitat's Hope Landing site in Wilmington's Eastside.

The panels will be used to construct a 1,200-square-foot, two-story townhome.

Cape May-Lewes Ferry assists 'Passing the Pink' campaign

The Cape May-Lewes Ferry has carried many passengers across the Delaware Bay, but in October it carried a message of hope — a large, wooden pink ribbon that is helping raise awareness of breast cancer.

On Oct. 5, the ribbon was postmarked and signed in a ceremony at the loading ramp to the CMLF by Cape May Postmaster Dean Smith. From there it was carried on board the ferry by Margate Post Office Manager Carol Threatt who coordinates Operation: Code Pink, the breast cancer awareness program held each October at



South Jersey District post offices. At the Lewes Terminal, the ribbon was post-marked and signed by Lewes Postmaster George Tutlane. From Delaware, the ribbon traveled to Washington, D. C. to be given to the designer of the breast cancer semi-postal stamp.

Cape May Postmaster Smith and Margate Post Office Manager Threatt hold the ribbon as they prepare to take it aboard the MV Delaware. They are flanked by breast cancer survivors Able-bodied Seamen Dee Bell (left) and Dot Bender (right) of the CMLF marine department.



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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, or email us at contactus@drba.net.

New operations center dedicated at Millville Airport



Officials from the DRBA and Millville City joined together in September to unveil a new operations and maintenance complex at the Millville Airport. The new facility will be used for DRBA maintenance, administration and operations on the airfield.

DRBA joins national pollution prevention effort

The Delaware River and Bay Authority received a Highway Agency Storm Water General Permit from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which requires DMB maintenance employees to keep rain water flowing freely, without contaminants and debris, from DRBA property into local waterways.

This program is part of a national effort to eliminate pollutants from entering waterways through storm drains, ditches or other means.

As part of the permit requirements, the DRBA will also maintain records of any debris or contaminants collected.

“We want to both inform and warn our patrons against illegal dumping activities, including dropping, spilling or discarding materials, chemicals, or debris onto DRBA property,” said Robert Young, Superintendent of Safety and Environmental Affairs. “Our patrol officers and maintenance personnel will be working together to report any such illegal activity to the proper au-

thorities and enforce the storm water pollution laws.”

While DRBA crossings are not covered by state regulations, the Highway Agency Storm Water General Permit is a federal pollution discharge elimination program that is enforced at the state level. Due to its designation as a “highway agency” by the DEP, the Delaware Memorial Bridge can participate in the effort.

For more information about water quality issues, including storm water run-off, copies of *Estuary News* are available to the public in the lobby of the DRBA Administration Complex. The DRBA’s Storm Water Plan and Annual Report and Certification can be found on the agency’s website, www.drba.net.

Anyone witnessing any action that would breach the Storm Water Permit regulations should call the DEP Action Hotline (877.927.6337) or DRBA Dispatch (302.541.6343).

Employee fundraiser makes good ‘cents’

For the second year, the DRBA employees’ Penny Fundraiser provided bookbags filled with school supplies to 100 underprivileged children in four randomly

selected school districts. The districts were South Harrison and West Cape May in New Jersey and Woodbridge and Red Clay in Delaware.

Routine maintenance on the Twin Spans will close some lanes



Some of the annual maintenance work on the DMB scheduled for this fall includes replacing expansion joints like those shown above and redecking the roadway where needed.

Although annual routine maintenance work on the Delaware Memorial Bridge means weekly lane closures through December of this year, the schedule also calls for all bridge lanes to be open for weekend and holiday traffic during that period.

At times, two of the four DMB lanes will be closed after 10 PM on Sunday evenings and there will be limited third lane closures between 11 PM and 5:30 AM. However, all lanes will re-open by 11 AM on Friday mornings and will remain open for weekend traffic.

For the complete schedule, please go to the DRBA's website: www.drba.net.

Cape May-Lewes Ferry summer events entertain fun-seeking passengers

Rock 'n' roll and reggae, leisurely wine tastings at sunset, fun with Lighthouse Pete, the Pirate, fireworks over the Bay. These events sound like advertisements for a resort's schedule. But, they're just some of the entertainment offered to passengers by the Cape May-Lewes Ferry this summer and fall.

All five vessels in the fleet have always offered passengers fun, relaxation and the opportunity to enjoy one of America's finest waterways in comfort, but the opportunities for fun and relaxation on the ferries this summer and fall have never been more varied.

CHEERS

Beginning in June, the CMLF offered a series of four Sunset (and Wine) Lovers Cruises on the Bay. These cruises were so popular with that the CMLF brought them back for another series in September.

The Sunset (and Wine) Lovers Cruises offered a memorable way for foot passengers to experience the ferry, the wonders of the Delaware Bay, and some of the world's finest wines while gazing at a beautiful sunset over a great body of water and learning about the history of the regions where the evening's featured wines originated. Cruises departed from both ferry terminals.



ROCK THE BOAT

On Friday evenings throughout the summer, the CMLF offered special "Rock the Boat" cruises as another memorable way to experience the ferry and the wonders of the Delaware Bay. With reggae to Jimmy Buffet to plain ol' rock 'n' roll, the cruises featured three hours of music and great enjoyment.

From the Lewes Terminal, "Rock the Boat" passengers enjoyed the music of Honey Voshell and the Honeycombs. From the Cape May Terminal, the cruises featured one of the top local bands, Sweetwater Trio, Kabudi Trio or the Rob Huntley Trio.

FUN WITH LIGHTHOUSE PETE

During July and August, the CMLF's adorable mascot, Lighthouse Pete, the Pirate, hosted a series of three-hour, fun-filled adventures aboard one of the fleet's vessels.

These family fun cruises departed the Cape May Terminal on Wednesdays and the Lewes Terminal on Thursdays.

Lighthouse Pete was joined on the cruises by his clown friends and rollicking music added to the fun as shown in the photo above.



DRBA
PO Box 71
New Castle, DE 19720

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

CMLF crew help Coast Guard rescue 2 capsized sailors

On a normal August evening at approximately 6 PM, the MV Twin Capes set sail on schedule from the Cape May Ferry terminal with a near-capacity load of vehicles and passengers enroute to the Lewes terminal.

Unknown to the crew or passengers, a catamaran sail boat had capsized in the Delaware Bay about a half-hour earlier.

At 6:24 PM, CMLF crewmember Mark Vogelsong reported to the pilot house that a man was drifting in the water. Captain Peter Dudley and Pilot Joseph Napoleon immediately brought the vessel about and the man was spotted in 3-4 foot waves about 100 yards off the vessel's port side.

Capt. Dudley contacted the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) which immediately dispatched a 25-foot vessel to the scene, approximately one-and-a-half miles from the Cape May shoreline.

The MV Twin Capes maintained station within 40 feet of the man in the water who let crew members know that a woman who had been sailing with



him was also in the water.

At 6:37 PM, less than 15 minutes after the initial alarm, USCG personnel retrieved the man from the water.

Just two minutes later, CMLF Boatswain Gayle Carter spotted the missing woman in the water some 300 yards away from the ferry. The Twin Capes immediately moved to her position and directed the USCG to the location.

By 6:42 PM, both recreational sailors were safely aboard the USCG vessel and were taken to the Cape May Ferry terminal where they were checked by paramedics and released in good condition. The capsized catamaran sail boat was not recovered.

The photo of the rescue shown above was provided by ferry passenger Lillis Werder.