

# Community CONNECTION

FALL 2010

## Wedding Expo at Terminal showers prize on bride-to-be



**LEWES, DE** — Forget the typical reception hall or chapel for your wedding.

The Cape May-Lewes Ferry suggests planning a wedding to remember at either CMLF Terminal or onboard one of the CMLF's exciting ferry vessels.

The organization hosted the "Tie the Knot" Wedding Expo at the Lewes Terminal in October, to highlight for the area's engaged couples and wedding planners just how perfect a sea-side wedding could be.

The event, which featured more than 40 wedding experts, provided exciting ideas to go with one of the most unique wedding and reception sites on the entire east coast.

"Having a wedding or reception aboard one of our vessels or landside at water's edge is an incredible experience," according to Heath Gehrke, Director of Ferry Operations. "The beauty of the open water, coupled with gourmet food and entertainment with a cool sea breeze, is an occasion that the couple and their guests will never forget."

A fashion show, experts in catering, photography, wedding planning, travel, entertainment drew couples from all over the area. The free expo offered wedding cake samples, hors d'oeuvres, champagne, door prizes and giveaways. Lucky bride-to-be Jessica Jester won the dream wedding package drawing worth thousands of dollars.



## Emergency drill at New Castle Airport finds workers ready to respond



**PLANNING FOR AN EMERGENCY** — Airport workers, emergency medical units and other first responders took part in a planned disaster drill at New Castle Airport during the summer in order to fulfill FAA requirements.



**NEW CASTLE, DE** — The screams and the blood were fake, but the first responders' actions and the sense of urgency surrounding the scene were real enough to give a sense of what a real emergency at the New Castle Airport could be like.

The full-scale emergency exercise held on the grounds of the airport this past summer showed a well-coordinated response among the local, state and federal agencies and emergency medical units to the planned "emergency" exercise.

While the drill was planned, the details were kept from the participants so they would react to the unknown just as a real emergency would require.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires that all certified airports conduct a full-scale emergency exercise at least once every three years. A drill, like this one, typically simulates an aircraft acci-

dent and tests the response procedures and equipment of fire-rescue units and other emergency personnel who would respond in a true emergency situation.

This "emergency" involved a Gulfstream aircraft inbound to the airport carrying a passenger who strapped an explosive device to his person. That initial 'bomb' on the passenger was defused by security personnel, but a second device, hidden by the passenger aboard the plane, exploded — injuring and killing passengers.

Stephen Williams, DRBA Airports Director, noted that "The drill itself and the corresponding assessments from the evaluators will enable the Airport to determine the effectiveness of its emergency response procedures."

While the drill went smoothly, those involved said they hoped they would never have to respond to the real thing.

## DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor of New Jersey

JACK MARKELL  
Governor of Delaware

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

James N. Hogan, Chairman  
William E. Lowe, III, Vice Chairman  
Susan A. DeLanzo  
Edward W. Dorn  
Richard W. Downes  
Niels S. Favre  
Scott A. Green  
Samuel E. Lathem  
Terri C. Murphy  
Ceil Smith  
Gary F. Traynor  
Douglas L. VanSant

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James T. Johnson, Jr., P.E.

### DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Frank W. Minor

### EDITOR

James E. Salmon

*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](http://www.drba.net) or email us at [contactus@drba.net](mailto:contactus@drba.net).



**NEW LEADER** - Delaware Chief Judge Gregory M. Sleet administers the oath of office to Col. Joseph Bryant as his wife, Sharon, holds the Bible and his daughter and son watch.

## Joseph Bryant, Jr. selected from within agency as new leader of DRBA's police department



**NEW CASTLE, DE** — Joseph Bryant, Jr. of Bear, DE, has been named as the bi-state agency's new Police Administrator, succeeding Col. John R. McCarnan who retired after 16 years of service to the Authority.

For 10 years prior to his promotion, Col. Bryant had served as the agency's Deputy Police Administrator.

"Joe has a unique combination of law enforcement experience, operational skills, and leadership abilities that will prove invaluable to the DRBA," said Jim Walls, chief operations officer at the DRBA. "He has a tremendous record of accomplishments and we are fortunate to

have someone of his caliber leading our police department." More than 50 individuals responded to the Authority's search for a new leader for its department of 67 sworn officers and support personnel.

Col. Bryant has more than 34 years of law enforcement experience, including more than 25 years of police supervisory and management roles. He began his career as a police officer in the New Castle County Police Department and rose through the ranks, ultimately reaching the rank of major before his retirement 23 years later.

The DRBA's new top policeman earned a BS degree in criminal justice from the University of Delaware.

## WiFi and social media on the waves

*DRBA customers stay connected at sea and on land*



**CAPE MAY, NJ** — Staying connected to the digital world, even when aboard a CMLF vessel, got easier this fall with the completion of a wireless network on the agency's vessels and in its terminals.

Travelers appreciate the convenience of WiFi on public transportation systems, according to CMLF officials who note that the CMLF is committed to offering value-added passenger services such as this.

"We want to provide our passengers with a great digital experience while they cruise on the best boat ride in America,"

explained Michael Porch, marketing manager for the ferry. "With WiFi onboard and in our terminals, passengers can provide real-time feedback and even offer suggestions while traveling across the Delaware Bay. Now our passengers don't have to give up their internet connections to family and friends, even when they're at sea!"

And, the CMLF is winning friends on shore with its dip into the social waters of Facebook and Twitter. Both electronic messaging media will permit passengers to communicate immediately with fans and followers. Almost 1,000 people have already become followers on Facebook.



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** -During August, DRBA employees delivered 100 book bags filled with new school supplies to underprivileged children attending four schools in New Jersey and Delaware. The book bags went to Elmer Elementary School and Fairfield Township Elementary School in New Jersey, and Lake Forest South Elementary School in Kent County and PS DuPont School in New Castle County in Delaware. The goal of the donations is to positively impact school children within the region's communities. In the above photo, DRBA employees June Reidenback and Denise Ferrigno deliver bookbags to one school.

## Cape May Ferry Terminal hosts Garden State Wine Growers festival



**CAPE MAY, NJ** — Thousands of wine lovers enjoying a beautiful fall weekend as well as New Jersey Fresh wine gathered on the lawn of Cape May Terminal in October for the Garden State Wine Growers Association's largest wine festival weekend of the year. The site is surrounded on every side by water and its serenity is usually only interrupted by the arrival and departure of the CMLF's vessels for the Lewes Terminal.

More than 20 New Jersey wineries participated in the festival which offered premium local wines, entertainment by live bands, and a variety of artisan vendors and crafters selling hand-made products for adults and The Kids Zone entertainment for children.

Those in attendance walked along the boardwalk and waterfront, watched ships port or stand at the Point of Cape May, or just enjoyed the beautiful scenery.



## Exploring economic development ideas for Cape May Airport



**ERMA, NJ** — The DRBA economic development team met with members of Lower Township advisory boards and other concerned citizens to discuss Cape May Airport — both what has been accomplished during the past 10 years as well as opportunities for continued progress.

The DRBA's presentation on the current airport business plan pointed out the significant leveraging of federal dollars in capital improvements. The Authority also undertook other capital projects, including a new fuel farm, the purchase of a fixed-base operator's assets, infrastructure improvements for hangars, and building renovations.

The business plan stresses that the airport must work toward financial self-sufficiency. While currently there is a yearly operating deficit, DRBA officials noted that there are positive growth factors which include the size of the airport, runway length and the robust tourism industry in the county. Each Lower Township representative was given a copy of the Airport's current business plan.

Those at the meeting also toured the Airport, with stops and discussions at each building and each of the new infrastructure sites.

After the meeting, the Mayor noted that both the township and the DRBA seem committed to working towards an effective partnership. The DRBA's Deputy Executive Director Frank Minor said, "We all believe that this meeting will provide a solid foundation for continuing cooperation and exchange of ideas."



**TOURING** - Lower Township and DRBA representatives tour Cape May Airport.

DRBA  
P.O. Box 71  
New Castle, DE 19720



## Celebrating the Ferry's 40 millionth passenger



**LEWES, DE** — On Monday, August 30, Heath Gehrke, director of operations for the CMLF, designated the Whalen family of Scotch Plains, NJ, as the 40 millionth passenger to use the ferry service since its inception.

The Whalens, Mark and Mindy Whalen and their daughter, Kyra, had departed the Lewes terminal aboard the MV New Jersey at 9:15 AM, and were returning to their home following a vacation in Virginia Beach, VA.

In the photo at left Director Gehrke congratulates the Whalens.

In the top photo, CMLF Captain Robert Vance (at the left of the banner) joins with passengers aboard the MV New Jersey to commemorate the record-setting crossing.

The Ferry operates year-round and now has carried more than 40 million passengers since its first sailing, 46 years ago in July.

