



# CAPE MAY COUNTY NEWSLETTER

EDITION #1

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MARCH, 2024



## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR**



**Leonard C. Desiderio**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Cape May County Commissioners, thank you for your continued support and interest in our County government.

As Director, I share a unified effort with our Board to do what best serves the people of Cape May County. With that in mind, in my first year as Director, Cape May County saw a significant tax decrease and our governing body continues to practice sound financial responsibility, while making priority investments in our critical infrastructure Countywide.

However, as the Board Director of Cape May County, Mayor of Sea Isle City, and a resident/citizen of this County, I understand that this is a busy area with a lot going on 24-7/365. From construction projects and community partnerships, to our day-to-day operations that includes a number of program offerings from one of our various County Departments, our County has a lot to offer.

With that in mind, it can be hard to keep track of everything that the County is doing to improve your quality of life. To keep the general public informed and our government transparent, I wanted to make every effort in 2024 to distribute this Newsletter that includes updates on all things Cape May County. Accordingly, these Newsletters will be posted quarterly on the County's website, as well as distributed by email for those that register for County updates at the link below. Our County government is always and will continue to be here for YOU. Thank you again for your continued support.

**Sincerely,**

**Leonard C. Desiderio  
Commissioner Director**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP FOR THE QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER!**

**Some Project Highlights....**

**Veterans Cemetery** - Entranceway enhancements to the Gerald Thornton Veterans Cemetery will serve as the first phase of a multi-phased enhanced beautification project that will include improvements to landscaping, hardscaping, paving, and the construction of a ceremony plaza for ceremonial events. Construction has already begun and anticipated to be majority complete in advance of Memorial Day.

**County Justice Complex** - The County is currently in the planning and permitting phase for the construction of the County's new Justice Complex that will house the Prosecutors Office, toxicology and technology labs, storage, training rooms, and the cadets for the public safety training center. Expected to go out to bid in the Spring, project is anticipated to be majority complete by late 2025/early 2026.

**ACCC Partnered Zoo Education Building** - Earlier in 2023, the County and Atlantic Cape entered into a Lease arrangement to relocate the County's Zoo Education Building to ACCC's CMCH Campus. Construction is underway with anticipated date of completion by April, 2024. Zoo Camp will be relocated to Atlantic Cape in 2024 and future years to come.

**Grassy Sound Fishing Pier** - CAFRA permit was recently issued by NJDEP and the County will soon be going out to bid for a contract for the demolition and reconstruction of the Grassy Sound Fishing Pier. Also including various aesthetic and landscape improvements, the County's Grassy Sound Fishing Pier will remain a FREE recreational fishing hub for all visitors of the County.

### **ACTIVE AND ANTICIPATED COUNTY ROADS PROJECTS**

Beach Ave Resurfacing - Cape May under construction  
 Lafayette St - Cape May under construction  
 Fishing Creek Rd - Lower Twp. under construction  
 Church Rd Resurfacing - Upper Township under construction  
 Third Avenue Resurfacing - Stone Harbor under contract  
 NJ Avenue Road Diet Plan - North Wildwood under contract  
 Goshen Road Phase 1- Dias Creek Road to Timothy  
 Seashore Road Phase 1- Route 47 to Breakwater Road  
 East Creek Mill Road Phase 1  
 Possibly Tuckahoe Mount Pleasant Road  
 New Bridge Road  
 2024 Countywide Maintenance Paving - includes Mill Rd, portions of Dennisville Petersburg Rd, Belleplain Rd, portions of North Dennis Marshallville Rd, New England Rd, and portions Bayshore Rd South of the Canal, portions of Woodbine Oceanview Road (subject to funding)

### **COUNTY PROGRAM OFFERINGS**

#### **Human Services:**

Community and Behavioral Health Services  
Aging and Disability Program Service Guide

#### **Veteran Resources:**

Division of Veteran Services

#### **Library:**

Library Calendar of Events: Adult and Child Learning Opportunities, Physical Wellness Programs

#### **Fare Free Transportation:**

Fare Free Transportation Service Applications

#### **Health Department:**

Early Detection Cancer Screening  
Flu Clinics  
Covid 19 Vax Clinics

### **2024 Election Information Register to Vote!**

**<https://www.capemaycountyvotes.com/>**

## **Cape May County Officials Bid Farewell to Vice Director Pierson While Celebrating Veterans Day at Public Safety Training Center**

What was his last time hosting the County's annual Veterans Day Ceremony, Vice Director and National Guard Brigadier General, Jeffrey Pierson spoke to honor the County, State, and Nation's Veterans at the County's Public Safety Training Center on Veterans Day, 11/11/2023.



**Vice Director Pierson Speaking to the Crowd**

Vice Director Pierson was accompanied by dignitaries including but not limited to, Commissioner Director Leonard Desiderio, Commissioner Andrew Bulakowski, Commissioner Bobby Barr, Commissioner-Elect Melanie Collette, County Clerk Rita Rothberg, County Surrogate E. Marie Hayes, special guests also included past Commissioner Director Gerald Thornton, USCG Commander/Captain Warren Judge, Army Veteran, Clinton Holloway, Father Miles Barrett, retired Navy Chaplain, and Camryn Schultheis, Miss Cape Shore Teen.



**USCG Commander/Captain Warren Judge Addressing the Crowd of Attendees**

"The General did another great job commemorating our Veterans at the County's Veterans Day Ceremony and looking forward to having him at all future County Veterans events," said Commissioner Director Desiderio. "I believe I speak for the Board in stating that I am grateful for everything our Veterans have done for us. They're over there, so we can be safe here."

**WANT TO WORK FOR THE COUNTY?**

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

**TO SEE WHAT JOB OPENINGS ARE AVAILABLE**

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...**

**CMC BREAKS GROUND AT GERALD THORNTON VETERANS CEMETERY**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT HONOR TO LOCAL STUDENTS**

**EDA APPROVES GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI-TENANT BUILDING AT CAPE MAY COUNTY AIRPORT**

**IN THE FACE OF UNRELENTING OPPOSITION FROM CAPE MAY COUNTY, ORSTED ABANDONS OCEAN WIND PROJECTS**



**STAY CONNECTED WITH THE COUNTY!**

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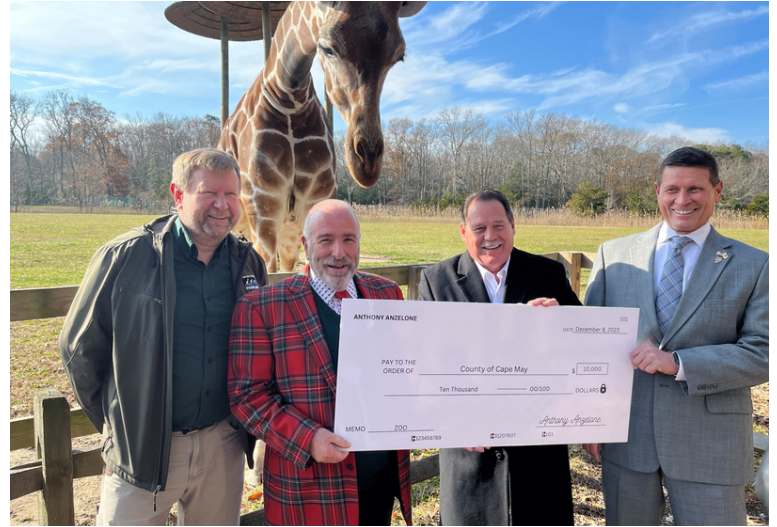


**CAPE MAY COUNTY ZOO RECEIVES \$10,000 DONATION**

On Friday, December 8th, 2023, Anthony Anzelone presented a check for \$10,000 to Cape May County Commissioner Director Len Desiderio, Commissioner Andrew Bulakowski, and Parks Director Edward Runyon to support future capital improvements at the Cape May County Park and Zoo. Donations like this help to support capital improvements like the highly anticipated Zoo Education Wing at Atlantic Cape's Cape May Court House campus that is currently under construction.

"We appreciate the generous donation by Anthony Anzelone to assist future projects at the Zoo," said Cape May County Commissioner and liaison to the Cape May County Zoo, Andrew Bulakowski. "It's gifts like these that help keep the Cape May County Zoo the jewel that it is."

"The Cape May County Zoo has meant so much to me and my family," said Anthony Anzelone. "I want to do my part to make sure the Zoo that our family loves so much continues its tradition of excellence."



**L to R: Zoo/Parks Director Runyon, Commissioner Director Desiderio, Anthony Anzelone, Commissioner Andrew Bulakowski**

"Anthony (Anzelone) continues to be a pillar in the communities of Cape May County and we at the County are sincerely grateful for his support," said Commissioner Director Desiderio. "We will be sure to dedicate the funding donated by Anthony to a worthwhile project that will improve the features of the Zoo for visitors to enjoy for years to come."



**CAPE TECH  
ADULT AND COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

[CLICK HERE](#)  
[WINTER/SPRING 2024 COURSE](#)  
[GUIDE](#)



**LOOKING FOR EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT CAPE MAY  
COUNTY?**

[CLICK HERE FOR EVENTS](#)  
[CALENDAR](#)

## **CMC Director Desiderio Calls on All Mayors and Administrators for First Mayors Roundtable of 2024**

Cape May Court House, NJ - On Friday, February 16th, County Officials met with the Mayors and Administrators of all 16 municipalities of Cape May County to discuss a range of issues facing the County and municipalities in 2024. Topics of discussions included but were not limited to, Ocean Wind, Open Space, Mixed Income Housing, Countywide Dispatch, Shared Service Agreements, and a series of recent and potentially forthcoming laws being advanced in Trenton that will impact Counties and municipalities statewide. State law updates involving juvenile underage drinking and COAH were provided by the County Prosecutor's Office and Assemblymen McClellan and Simonsen of Legislative District 1.



A continued effort of Director Desiderio that started in 2023, the Mayors Roundtables serve as a vital platform for collaborative dialogue and problem-solving among local government leaders, providing an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and address shared challenges throughout the County. These quarterly meetings play a pivotal role in fostering cooperation and coordination between the County and its municipalities.

"Being the Mayor of Sea Isle City, I understand that the municipal problems are County problems and it's our constituents that count on us to collaboratively work together to solve the issues facing Cape May County," said Director Desiderio.



Commissioner Barr also stated, "I'm honored to have been a guest of the Director for my first Mayors Roundtable, and coming from a municipal background, I can see why these meetings are so important. I look forward to continuing to work with local officials toward future partnerships that make sense to the residents of Cape May County."

With a dynamic agenda that adapts to the evolving needs and priorities of the communities, the Mayors Roundtables ensure that discussions remain relevant and responsive to current events happening throughout the County. By engaging in constructive dialogue and strategic planning, County and Municipal Leaders can work together to enhance the quality of life for our residents.



## **CAPE MAY COUNTY BOARD IMPLEMENTS ADHOC COMMITTEES TO TACKLE SOME OF CAPE MAY COUNTY'S MOST PRESSING ISSUES**



On Tuesday, February 12th, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution to establish ad hoc committees to address certain initiatives that the Board has determined to be priorities of the County of Cape May and its residents. This action marks a commitment by us to reaching these goals, but also to the public for accountability with the results. We are excited about undertaking this work. These committees do not, of course, reflect all the great and important work that will be done at the County this year, but it marks new initiatives that we plan to undertake in 2024. These committees are tasked with studying and ultimately making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on each issue. With all of this in mind, the following committees were established by Resolution #106-24 on 2/13/24:

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY**

**Commissioner Morey, Chair and Commissioner Barr**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MIXED INCOME HOUSING**

**Commissioner Director Desiderio, Chair and Commissioner Barr**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RECREATION AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

**Vice Director Bulakowski, Chair and Director Desiderio**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN CAPE MAY COUNTY**

**Commissioner Collette, Chair and Vice Director Bulakowski**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE PACIFIC AVENUE DEVELOPMENT ZONE IN WILDWOOD**

**Commissioner Barr. Chair and Commissioner Morey**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVITALIZATION OF RIO GRANDE**

**Director Desiderio, Chair and Commissioner Barr**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNING BODIES**

**Commissioner Collette, Chair and Commissioner Barr**

The Board and I are confident that by establishing these AD HOC Committees formally by Resolution, our governing body is able to ensure a focused and dedicated approach to address these critical issues individually.

# WHO ARE MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?

*Click any of the hyperlinks below to find out!*

## Federal:

[Congressman Jefferson Van Drew](#)

[Senator Cory Booker](#)

[Senator Robert Menendez](#)

## State:

[Legislative District 1: Senator Michael Testa](#)

[Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, Assemblyman Erik Simonsen](#)

## County:

[Board of County Commissioners:](#)

[Director Desiderio, Vice Director Bulakowski](#)

[Commissioner Barr Commissioner Morey, Commissioner Collette](#)

[County Clerk, Rita M. Rothberg](#)

[Surrogate, E. Marie Hayes](#)

[Sheriff, Robert Nolan](#)

## Local:

[Cape May City](#)

[West Cape May](#)

[Cape May Point](#)

[Lower Township](#)

[Wildwood Crest](#)

[Wildwood](#)

[West Wildwood](#)

[North Wildwood](#)

[Middle Township](#)

[Upper Township](#)

[Stone Harbor](#)

[Avalon](#)

[Dennis Township](#)

[Woodbine](#)

[Sea Isle City](#)

[Ocean City](#)

## What's going on at the State level?



View Legislative District 1's Newsletter at the following link:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## What's going on at the Federal level?



Sign up for Congressman Van Drew's Email Alerts at the following link:

[CLICK HERE](#)