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CAPE MAY COUNTY HERALD

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CMCo Schools Get \$24M in Rescue Plan Relief Funds

By VINCE CONTI

COURT HOUSE - The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) contained \$122 billion for elementary and secondary school emergency relief (ESSER).

When the funds are distributed, 13 Cape May County school districts will receive up to \$24.5 million in allotments. The county funding is part of the \$2.8 billion allocated to New Jersey.

The funding is intended to get students back in the classroom quickly and safely. It is also aimed at dealing with the learning and emotional toll the pandemic inflicted on students, especially those who were least equipped to deal with a year dominated by remote-learning models.

The state draft plan speaks to this aspect of intent when it emphasizes support for "students who have been most severely impacted by the Covid pandemic and are likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities in our communities and schools that have been exacerbated" by the pandemic.

Who Gets What?

Funds ranged from \$19,222 for West Cape May School District to \$4.7 million for Middle Township School District. See accompany-

ing chart to find out how much your district received.

The funds arrive in a county that has been subject to a multi-year progressive reduction in state aid. How that will play into fund utilization is not clear.

School district administrators and elected school boards are in for another year of extraordinary funding, coupled with restrictions on use, state monitoring, planning requirements and the ultimate task of getting students safely back to a regimen of in-person instruction.

How Were Funds Calculated?

Fund allocations were based largely on the proportion of each state's receipt of Title I monies in the most recent fiscal year. The "hold harmless" provisions in Title I were excluded from the calculation, meaning the allocations did not consider school districts that receive Title I funds but do not have concentrations of low-income students.

In Cape May County, that means 13 of the 19 school districts qualify for funds.

Three county districts are non-operating and

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN RELIEF FUNDS

Below are the Cape May County school districts that will receive up to \$24.5 million in allotments intended to get students back in the classroom quickly and safely.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ARP ESSER Funds
Cape May City	\$655,838
County Technical	\$1,191,106
Dennis Township	\$1,955,892
Lower Cape May Regional	\$2,354,880
Lower Township	\$3,539,722
Middle Township	\$4,679,677
North Wildwood	\$1,040,095
Ocean City	\$1,860,625
Upper Township	\$1,106,367
West Cape May	\$19,222
Wildwood City	\$4,183,374
Wildwood Crest	\$661,812
Woodbine	\$1,232,786
Total	\$24,481,396

Source: American Rescue Plan

Herald graphic/ Krishna Mathias

CMCo Commissioner Actions

County Bond to Fund Airport Services Complex

By AL CAMPBELL

CREST HAVEN - A \$24-million bond ordinance was introduced June 8 by the Board of County Commissioners to fund several capital projects, one for half that amount for a government services building at the county airport.

A hearing and second reading of the proposal is scheduled for June 22, at 4:30 p.m., when the board will hold its second meeting of the month at the William E. Sturm Jr. Administration Building, 4 Moore Rd., Court House.

Among the items the bond will finance:

- \$12.7 million for the construction of a government services complex.

- \$4.2 million for improvements to the County Commons, formerly the Rio Mall.
- \$6 million towards the county's municipal redevelopment initiative to foster economic development and redevelopment.
- \$1.06 million for general capital improvements.

As spelled out in the document, the bulk of the funding is for a government services building that will house several county departments in Erma.

Among the departments: Fare-Free bus lot,

Fare-Free offices and garages, Road Department office, County Road Department, Lower Township Public Safety Building, Election Board maintenance, and county gas station.

Work will include site preparation, demolition, construction or reconstruction, environmental remediation, testing, landscaping, sidewalks, and parking.

The ordinance calls for a down payment of \$1.1 million for the projects, with \$22.9 million issued as bonds backed by the county. The "useful life" of the \$12.7-million portion of the bond is projected

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A Layman's Digest of How Climate Change Impacts Cape May County - 6th in Series

Wind Energy - How Beneficial is it?

By SHAY RODDY WITH ART HALL

Previously in this series...

As outlined in the introductory piece, the Herald is endeavoring to provide a layman's digest of climate change issues which Cape May County faces. We are doing this, given the potential disproportionate impact climate change may have upon us here at the ocean's edge.

For our part, we have established that global warming is real and exacerbated by human activ-

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Middle Police Engage with Public in Committee's 1st Meeting

By KAREN KNIGHT



Karen Knight

Members of the Middle Township Law Enforcement Community Engagement Committee, at the June 8 meeting, were, from left: Rachel Shepherd, secretary; Melisha Anderson, educator; Patrick Miller, CARES social service program; Middle Township Police Chief Christopher Leusner; Quanette Vasser-McNeal, former president of the Cape May County NAACP and current Middle Township Committee candidate, and Progressive Black Initiative President Anthony Anderson.

WHITESBORO - About a dozen Middle Township residents June 8 were briefed on law enforcement training and community policing initiatives, with a chance to voice their concerns during Middle Township Law Enforcement Community Engagement Committee's first public meeting.

Middle Township Police Chief Christopher Leusner, who led the meeting, said it was structured to "share information and hear from the public." He was "pleased" with the turnout, noting, "There was a lot of good discussion. That's what was important."

The committee was formed in 2020 by Middle Township Committee (<https://bit.ly/3zj8zvG>) to "give a voice to a diverse group with a shared mission - to foster trust and mutual respect between the police and the community."

Leusner said this was the first of two community

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Concerns Raised on Process for New Tuckahoe Fire Truck

By BILL BARLOW

TUCKAHOE - Voters in Tuckahoe this year strongly supported spending \$600,000 on a new piece of fire equipment, or at least those few who voted did.

The fire commission elections see the lowest turnout of any vote in New Jersey. In this instance, the ballot question was approved five-to-one, with 53 votes to 10.

More people took the time to congratulate the fire company for the new purchase on social media than voted in the election, with 110 "likes" and "hearts" on the volunteer company's Facebook page, and multiple residents offering congratulations.

"We can't thank our residents and truck committee enough for making this huge addition happen!" reads a post from April 29, which includes an image of plans for the new heavy rescue fire truck (<https://bit.ly/3cATpZ5>).

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