

Stockton Plans Satellite Classes In Manahawkin

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has plans to open a new satellite location in the Manahawkin Plaza on East Bay Avenue, with projected opening in time for the start of the fall semester, public relations officer Tim Kelly confirmed Tuesday.

"We're really excited to have a location in Ocean County that's going to make things more convenient for our students," Kelly said.

Though the college has not yet presented its plans formally to the town, Mayor John Spodofora said, "This is something I would welcome in that space." Healthcare is a major opportunity, as a growing field, for graduating high school students to consider as they plan their futures, he pointed out. He also noted Stafford's abundance of internship opportunities, given the proximity of the Southern Ocean Medical Center complex and surrounding doctors' offices.

Stockton, just a short hop down the Parkway at exit 44, has long been an attractive choice for Ocean County residents looking to pursue higher education close to home. College officials hope the move to Manahawkin will give the college a foothold that may open the door to future expansion in the area.

"Ocean County is an area that's always been really important to us," Kelly said – the second biggest draw for the college after Atlantic County, in enrollment terms. Last year the school enrolled 1,500 students from Ocean County.

The school is currently finalizing a 10-year lease with the property owner, Manahawkin Plaza Associates, for a 3,400-square-foot space. The plans include room to grow, up to an additional 5,000 square feet, as demand dictates. The details of just how the square footage will be divided up among classrooms and offices have yet to be worked out, according to Kelly. The work is being funded by Stockton's own investment fund, as the school works toward strategic planning goals.

The new site will offer courses from each of Stockton's eight schools: General Studies, Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natu-

Petition to Reduce Speed Limit on Great Bay Boulevard

Conservationists Want to End Carnage

So far, the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey has collected 246 names on a petition to reduce the speed limit on Great Bay Boulevard in Little Egg Harbor in an attempt to protect northern diamondback terrapins and other wildlife.

There are no posted speed limits on the road from Sea Isle Drive to its terminus, and the rural road speed limit of 55 mph applies. A straightaway interrupted by wooden bridges at intervals, the road is unique in that it runs through a nature preserve: the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge. The area also comes under the protection of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.

During the spring and early summer, terrapins cross the road to get to nesting spots on the shoulders and many are run over and killed. According to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation, during peak nesting season, upwards of 50 terrapins can cross the road in one day. Studies have indicated that up to 30 percent are killed.

Executive Director Mary O'Gorman said the issue of the road came to her attention through the foundation's wildlife biologist, Ben Wurst, who monitors the osprey platforms in the refuge and also has instituted measures to protect the terrapins by fencing the sides of some sections of the road and installing signs warning motorists of the terrapin migration.

"These things only go so far," said O'Gorman. "We really want to see drivers slow down. I think because it is a very straight and flat road, there is a tendency to speed." She hopes township leaders will



File Photo by Jack Reynolds

NOT A SPEED BUMP: Northern diamondback terrapins cross local roads in spring through early summer to lay their eggs in nests along highways. Unfortunately, motorists kill many of them for lack of caring and caution.

react favorably to the petition if they see many people are concerned about the issue.

"In the past, the township has said it's difficult to reduce the speed limit because they have to do a traffic survey and that costs money. They said they would look at other ways to cut down the turtle morbidity. They have been helpful in the past by allowing us to install 'Terrapin Crossing' signs and the fencing, but we can't afford to install fencing for the whole road."

O'Gorman pointed out that reducing the speed limit would also protect cyclists, runners and walkers who increasingly are using the road as recreation.

Great Bay Boulevard is an anomaly because it was built in the 1930s

as a Works Project Administration project. It was intended to connect Little Egg Harbor with Brigantine and ultimately serve as another tourist route to Atlantic City. But the bottom of Little Egg Harbor Inlet proved too unstable to support the last two wooden bridges and the project was abandoned after building five bridges – hence the local name "Seven Bridges Road."

A Coast Guard Station was built at the end of the road and now serves as the home of the Rutgers Marine Field Station. Three marinas also do business from Great Bay Boulevard and have been there since the Great Depression.

"There is no reason for the speed limit on this road to be so high," said Gorman. "There's nothing much out

there; it's a dead end."

The scenery is some of the most picturesque in New Jersey, notes the organization's web site. "Everyone would be better off if we all slowed down and enjoyed it."

Great Bay Boulevard will only get more popular as it will be visited by hundreds of runners on April 29 as the Second Annual Seven Bridges Half Marathon and 5K is planned for the entire length of the road during the height of terrapin breeding season.

"Let's hope they don't step on any turtles," said Little Egg Harbor Committeeman Ed Nuttall at a recent municipal meeting.

To sign the petition, go to info@conservewildlifenj.org.

— Pat Johnson

ral Sciences and Math, and Graduate and Continuing Studies.

The Manahawkin location will serve upperclassmen and transfer students, not freshmen.

Certain courses in medical, physical therapy and other healthcare subjects will combine resources with AtlantiCare and the Rothman Institute, both of which will share space in the building for physicians' practice, clinical lab and specialty offices this year.

— Victoria Lassonde
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BeachBriefs

Group Wants Beach Day for Special Needs Children

Special needs children can look forward to a fun time on the beach in Harvey Cedars this summer as the Best Day Foundation is planning an event on the Hudson Street beach.

John Henkes, a New Jersey representative of the California-based organization, told the Harvey Cedars Borough Commission at its meeting last Friday the youngsters would be involved in surfing and bodyboarding and, if surf conditions permit, kayaking.

"We have these activities to build their self-confidence and self-esteem," said Henkes. "We have been in Brick Township but have not yet been on Long Beach Island. We hope we can have a presence here."

The commission approved the tentative dates of July 21-22.

"It seems like a worthwhile event," said Mayor Jonathan Oldham. "It's nice to give the kids an opportunity to enjoy beach activities. We just have to go over safety issues and other logistics before we can give it formal approval."

Henkes said he hopes he can draw people from LBI to serve as volunteers.

"We will need quite a few people to work with the youngsters," he said.

"They will be in the water so they will be closely supervised. We know the event should brighten the day for the children." —E.E.



Supplied

Someone Forgot to Lower the Boom

Truck Tips Over Leaving Tip Seaman Park

OOPS: The driver of this Ocean County bucket truck apparently forgot to lower the bucket arm, which got caught up in wires while leaving the park. The tension was enough to tip the truck over on Route 9, Thursday morning.