



**ECONOMIC & BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
IN
ATLANTIC COUNTY, NJ
News You Can Use!**

Initial Release: February 1, 2019

&

Addendum Release: May 6th, 2019

May 6th 2019 Addendum to the February 1st 2019 Economic and Business Development in Atlantic County, NJ

OFF SHORE WIND POWER IS COMING

Atlantic County NJ and the Advent of Offshore-Wind

Atlantic County and Atlantic City are on the cusp of a generational transformation of the local economy. In addition to aviation and aviation related industries that are evolving around the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center, the region will also be a major benefactor of the advent of off-shore wind in North America. The first major off shore fields will be constructed 15 miles off Atlantic City to take advantage of the flat sandy bottom that runs for 90 miles offshore. These field will host generation capabilities that will cater to the power demand throughout New Jersey and ultimately, the North-East Corridor. In December 2018, Orsted, in conjunction with Public Service Enterprise Group, submitted a bid to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to build the first offshore wind farm in New Jersey. The announcement is expected from the NJBPU during the summer of 2019.

State Inventories Port Assets

New Jersey is inventorying local port facilities that can support the offshore-wind industry's requirement for space to stage and assemble foundations, towers and turbines to build the offshore-wind industry. Atlantic County is actively participating in the cataloguing of available port resources to capture a share of the projected \$100 billion investment in wind power that could see up to 10,000 megawatts of wind capacity developed offshore by 2030. Orsted North America, a Danish developer, is proposing a project 15 miles off Atlantic City. EDF Renewables/Shell New Energies, a French company, is seeking approval to build turbines eight miles north of the Orsted North America fields. Equinor, a Norwegian company, is pushing a project 20 miles off the coast of Monmouth County.

As a compliment to the port inventory, Gov. Phil Murphy has announced the creation of a New Jersey Offshore Wind Supply Chain Registry. The registry will be developed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's (NJEDA) in tandem with the Business Network for Offshore Wind. The free online portal will allow off shore wind providers with related projects in New Jersey to identify Jersey-companies for partnerships or to become part of the industry supply chain. Atlantic County is aggressively supporting this initiative.

Orsted Memorializes Formal Relationships with Higher Education Partners

Stockton and Rowan University

Orsted U.S. Offshore Wind has signed a memorandum of understanding with Stockton University to support research, academic programs and events at Stockton. The agreement may provide Stockton students and faculty opportunities to assist with the development of Orsted proposed Ocean Wind project. Orsted will provide funding to assist in promoting educational programming related to alternative energy, climate change and resiliency. Stockton offers degree programs in environmental science, marine science and sustainability and operates a marine field station and a coastal research center.

Orsted U.S. announced it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rowan University to support offshore wind engineering research clinics for students. The partnership will help educate the work force of the future and support high tech industries in New Jersey such as offshore wind."

B.L. England in Marmora is in the Running to be the "Plug-in" Site for Off-Shore Wind

The 368-acre B.L. England coal to electric plant, closed on May 1, may become a connector for the offshore wind grid after completion of a site cleanup. The offshore wind company Orsted has said it is looking at the site as a potential place to bring its electricity to market if it wins ratepayer subsidy.

ATLANTIC CITY IN THE NEWS:

Atlantic City gaming revenue up 25% in March

Casino gaming revenue was up more than 25% in March, marking the 10th straight month of growth for the industry. According to figures released Friday by the state Division of Gaming Enforcement, total gaming revenue last month was \$273.7 million, a 25.3% increase from March 2018. Casino gaming revenue has increased by double digits every month since the opening of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City and Ocean Casino Resort in June 2018.

The increase in gaming revenue contrasts with quarterly reports that showed a 15.4% decline in gross operating profits, which reflect earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and other charges. Gross operating profit is a widely accepted measure of profitability in the Atlantic City casino industry.

Nearly \$2 Billion in New Jersey Sport Bets in Nine Months

Nearly \$2 billion has been wagered on sporting events in New Jersey in the nine months since such betting became legal. Gamblers laid down more than \$320 million on sporting events in February 2019, led by the Super Bowl frenzy. Regulators and gambling industry officials wait for the total amount wagered during the college basketball tournament. Resorts Casino posted the largest percentage increase in gambling revenue in February compared with a year ago, up 24.5 percent to \$14.8 million. Caesars was up 10.7 percent to \$19.4 million, and the Golden Nugget was up 5.8 percent to \$26.5 million. The Golden Nugget, which has seen its revenue and market share increase in recent years, slipped to third place in the Atlantic City market in February, just behind the Tropicana and well behind perennial market leader Borgata.

Regulators give Showboat owner OK to move ahead with casino license

Bart Blatstein, the owner of the Showboat hotel is one step closer to bringing casino gaming back to the Showboat property. The Casino Control Commission approved Blatstein's petition for a statement of compliance, a preliminary requirement for securing a full casino license. The Blatstein purchased the 1.4 million-square-foot Showboat in January 2016 for \$23 million. Blatstein reopened the closed casino as a nongaming hotel.

Blatstein had also sought approval from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) to convert 264 hotel rooms in Showboat into market-rate rental apartments. The CRDA approved his request. Blatstein had planned to have the apartments available for occupancy this summer.

Atlantic City's Resorts Casino Hotel to roll out renovations in 2019

Atlantic City's Resorts Casino Hotel announced the completion of more than \$125 million in property renovations and that the company's flagship property on the Atlantic City boardwalk will experience new expansions and amenities throughout 2019.

In the last five years, Resorts has celebrated the openings of the \$35 million Jimmy Buffet Margaritaville and Landshark Bar & Grill Entertainment Complex, a first-of-its-kind iGaming Lounge, a revamped casino floor with 800 new slot machines, new VIP player lounges, and a completely renovated Ocean Tower featuring 480 guest rooms.

Resorts Casino Hotel said it will provide even more space and amenities to Jimmy Buffet's Landshark Bar & Grill. Slated to be complete in May 2019, the only year-round beach bar in Atlantic City will feature an all-new 2,300-square-foot Boardwalk deck - "The Landshark Deck Bar," a large capacity bar with an additional 140 seats, fire-pits and live entertainment.

Shipping container hotel not a cheaper build -- just more hip

A shipping container hotel on the beach block of New York Avenue received unanimous final site plan approval from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. The hotel novelty factor will bring people to the 10,000-square-foot retail space and outdoor courtyard with tables, fire pits, and a summer stage that also got approved last week.

AC Devco to expand Stockton's Atlantic City campus

Construction could begin in the fall on a \$62 million second phase of Stockton University's city campus. AC Devco has proposed a six-story, 105-unit structure over an acre of land between Atlantic, South Hartford and South Providence avenues. AC Devco is headed to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority for site plan approval. The second phase of the Atlantic City Stockton campus moves forward the development of a full-blown university district in the Lower Chelsea neighborhood, a main entrances into Atlantic City.

Stockton offers summer housing at Atlantic City campus

Stockton University is opening its Atlantic City dorms this summer to students taking summer courses or doing an internship in or around Atlantic City. The housing is open to all students taking classes at Stockton regardless of whether they are enrolled at another institution. Businesses in the area providing summer internships can work with Stockton to provide housing for their interns.

A.C. Waterfront Foundation Transfers Assets to Support Stockton Marine Science Programs

The Atlantic City Historical Waterfront Foundation (ACHWF) will transfer its assets to the Stockton University Foundation to create a special fund to support university maritime science programs.

The new Atlantic City Historical Waterfront Foundation Marine Science Program Fund will support Stockton University students and faculty in the marine and maritime programs, with a focus on the waters adjacent to Atlantic City and the Atlantic City Aquarium. Consideration will be given to supporting student and faculty research, engagement with the local K-12 STEM programs and collaborative projects with the Aquarium.

Route 40 road raising to cost \$27M and take another 6 years

The New Jersey Department of Transportation is raising a portion of Route 40 by up to 2.5 feet in a project that will cost approximately \$27.5 million and take three and a half years to construct. A one-mile section of the roadway from Naples Avenue to Bayport Drive in West Atlantic City will be elevated. This will reduce flooding there from about 10 events per year to two. Additionally, the Route 40 ramp that turns onto West End Avenue in Atlantic City will also be elevated. The project will improve the road's drainage system and fill a gap in an existing seawall at Brenta Avenue. The projected construction start date has been moved to 2022.

Army Corps Oversees New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway Dredging and Marsh Restoration

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer announced the launch of the Seven Mile Island Living Laboratory, an initiative designed to advance and improve dredging and marsh restoration techniques in coastal New Jersey through innovative research, collaboration, knowledge sharing, and practical application. The laboratory extends between the inlet boundaries of Seven Mile Island, and includes existing and historic dredged material placement sites, confined disposal facilities, federal and state channels including the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, extensive tidal marshes, a mixture of sandy and muddy sediments and, most important, a rich historic dataset to build upon. Seven Mile Island is backed by 6,000 acres of state-owned marshland that provides both critical habitat for birds, fish, shellfish and other wildlife, and coastal resilience for barrier island communities.

E-Gaming Rises in Atlantic City

A weekend Fortnite tournament with participants from throughout North American was held in Atlantic City on April 27 and 28 and was sponsored by a public-private partnership between the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority and INGAME Esports.

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority last December approved \$700,000 to promote esports events at the Atlantic City Convention Center and Boardwalk Hall put on by INGAME, an esports consulting company. Last October, Continent 8 Technologies announced it would build a 6,000-square-foot data server inside the Convention Center, infrastructure needed for large tournaments.

Stockton Begins Esports Program

Stockton University has initiated an esports program and opened a new state-of-the-art esports facility equipped with 15 high-powered machines customized and built by students. More than 100 students have registered to participate in the esports program, and 50 students are competing on teams in Overwatch, League of Legends, Fortnite, and Smash Brothers Ultimate as part of the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

SOMERS POINT IS EVOLVING

Somers Point Awarded Grant for Expansion of Bike Path

The City of Somers Point has been awarded a \$130,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to expand the Somers Point bike path. The expansion will include construction of bike lanes on Somers Point-Mays Landing Road, which will be used to connect the existing bike path

and the Route 52 to the new Garden State Parkway and Route 9. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2020 with completion in the summer.

Somers Point's Transient Marina to be Completed in the Summer 2019

Construction of a new bayfront marina at the end of Higbee Avenue in Somers Point is underway with completion expected in the summer of 2019. Wickberg Marina Contracting completed the dredging phase of the project and Walters Marine Construction of Ocean View has begun construction on the marina. The marina will feature 20 transient boat slips with full utilities and slips for tour boats and emergency vessels.

Grants have been secured by the City to finance the cost of the marina. A \$550,000 grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation assisted in the dredging, and a \$1.45 million National Boating Infrastructure Grant is being used to build the marina. The City is working on a plan to dredge the entire Bay Avenue waterfront to provide for safe boating access and to allow

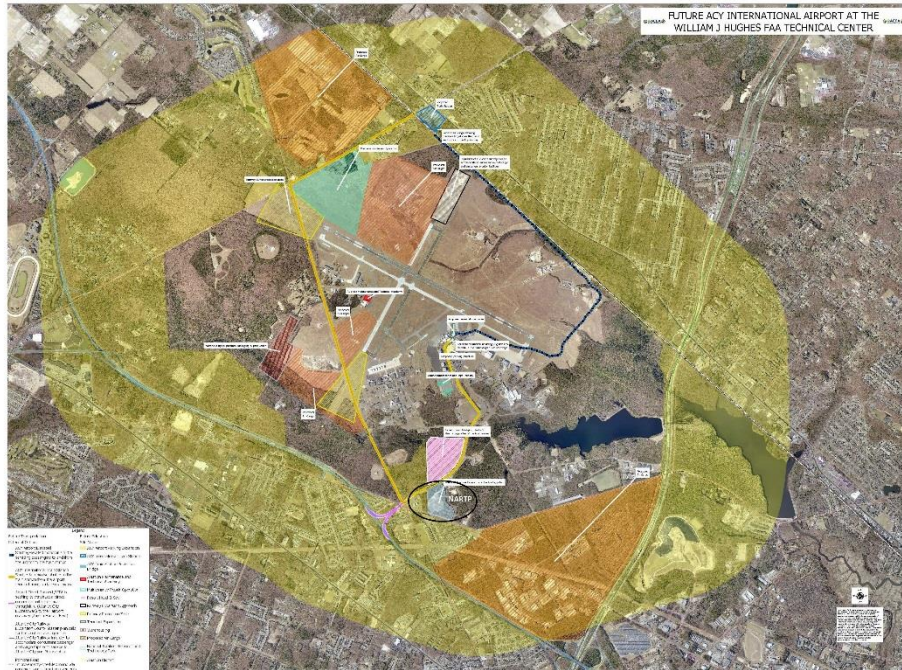
Original February 1st Release

Major Economic Projects Taking Place in Atlantic County (Atlantic City – Hammonton MSA)

The Aviation District – Atlantic City International Airport & the FAA

Tax Credits Around Atlantic City International Airport

Grow New Jersey provides state tax credits for businesses locating within a one-mile perimeter of the fence line of the Atlantic City International Airport, Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center and the National Aviation Research and Technology Park (the airport district). The tax credits provide major financial incentives for business attraction that will assist in the growth of the local aviation industry and help to diversify the local economy. The Grow New Jersey incentive program is set to expire in July 2019, but Governor Murphy has proposed a replacement program among five new tax incentive programs. Additionally, approximately two-thirds of the airport district is within a federal opportunity zone that allows overlapping federal tax benefits to new businesses.



NARTP Building to Open



Construction of the first building of the National Aviation Research and Technology Park is complete while the fit out of offices and laboratories is now occurring. The announcement of tenants is expected soon. The 66,000 square foot building is the first of seven buildings totaling 400,000 square feet and will house approximately 2,000 engineers, technicians and software coders.

NJ Innovation Institute to Provide Management & Consulting Services to the NARTP

The National Aviation Research and Technology Park (NARTP) has finalized a one-year contract with the New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII), a corporation of the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). The NJII will provide management and consulting services to advance aviation-related research and commercial activity at the NARTP, collocated with the Atlantic City International Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center. NJII will leverage its association with government, academia and industry to research opportunities and foster development of an Aviation Innovation Hub in Atlantic County. Atlantic County Government, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority and the Atlantic County Improvement Authority have identified funding necessary to finance the NJII efforts for two years.

Grants for Airport District Planning Secured

The Atlantic County Economic Alliance has received a \$120,000 federal grant to develop an action plan for an aviation district in and around the Atlantic City International Airport, the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center and National Aviation Research and Technology Park in Egg Harbor Township. The action plan will be researched and written by Triad Associates of Vineland and will build on the Atlantic County Economic Development and Action Plan Report that was written by Angelou Economics in 2015. The report will examine highest and best use of real estate, optimizing municipal and county zoning for related development and highlight beneficial property characteristics and selling points.



The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has awarded a \$120,000 innovation grant to Atlantic County to develop plans for a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Academy at Atlantic City International Airport to train new workers in the overhaul and

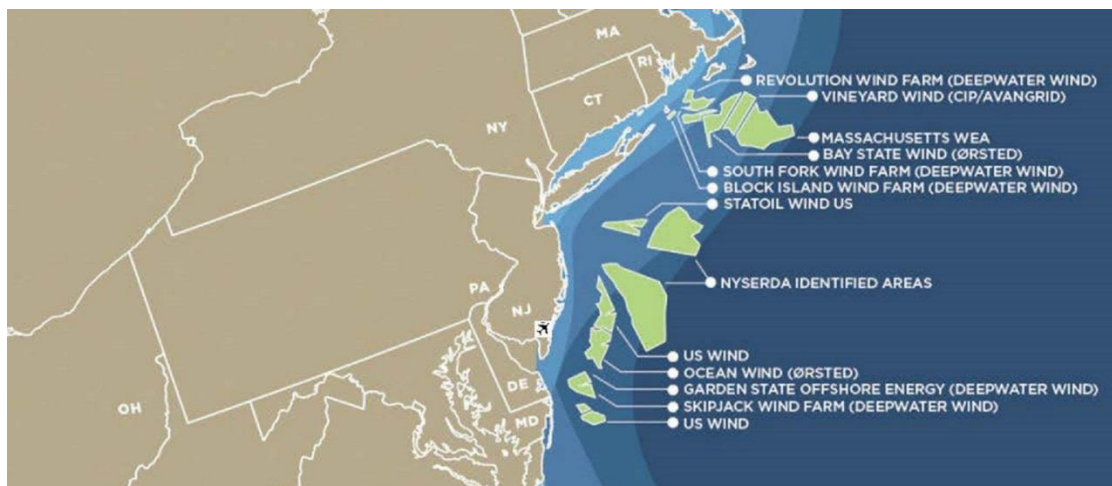
maintenance of commercial aircraft. Construction of the plan will be led by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and will include the input of stakeholders throughout Atlantic County and the State of New Jersey.

Atlantic Cape Community College recently received two grants to make the college a lead education institution for unmanned aerial vehicle technology in the region. The National Science Foundation provided \$224,000 to be used for the college's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations and Maintenance Education and Training Project that will advance technician training for unmanned aerial vehicles. Atlantic Cape was also chosen as a consortium member for the Region 2 University Transportation Center by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which allows students to explore drone technology as it translates to high-demand careers ranging from agriculture to technician repair.

Offshore Wind

State Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind

New Jersey is crafting a strategic plan to develop an offshore wind industry to make the state a leading player in this rapidly emerging industry. The plan will map out how the state will achieve 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind farm generation by 2030. A draft plan is expected to be complete next July, followed by the selection of offshore wind power developers that will build the 1,100 megawatts of the State's 3,500 goal. Developers in contention to build the initial wind fields include Equinor from Norway, Ørsted from Denmark, and U.S. Wind. Ørsted and U.S. Wind are competing to build projects off Atlantic City/Atlantic County.



Ørsted Purchases Deepwater Wind for \$510 Million

Ørsted, the world's largest offshore wind developer, has agreed to buy Deepwater Wind for \$510 million, a purchase that will give Ørsted offshore wind projects that stretch from Massachusetts to Virginia. Ørsted's purchase of Deepwater, the builder of the country's first offshore wind farm near Block Island, Rhode Island, demonstrates growing interest among European companies in the up-and-coming Eastern Seaboard offshore wind power industry. Ørsted, a Danish company, has installed 5.1 gigawatts of capacity in Europe, and aspires to build wind farms 10 miles from the coast of Atlantic City. At buildout, Ørsted plans to produce a total of 1,950 MW of electricity from the Atlantic City wind fields for the greater New Jersey market. Ørsted has opened an office in Atlantic City after working with the ACEA to find a local location.

Offshore Wind will bring Jobs to New Jersey

New Jersey stands to gain 4,313 jobs and \$702 million worth of economic benefits from building offshore wind farms. The potential benefits are based on the hypothetical construction of "average-sized" offshore wind farms. Once completed, the wind farm is expected to create 169 long-term jobs and bring \$31 million in economic benefits to New Jersey. The analysis projects that for every dollar spent in building offshore wind farms along the Jersey Shore, \$1.83 is generated in the state's economy.



Atlantic City

Tourism indicators show positive trends for Atlantic City

A report from the Lloyd. D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism at Stockton University showed that Atlantic County lodging fees and casino parking fees continued a long-term positive trend of growth following the casino closings of 2014.



On June 27, 2018, two new casino properties opened on the Boardwalk at previously closed locations. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City opened at the site of the former Taj Mahal, while the former Revel Casino Hotel was reopened as Ocean Resort Casino. The late-month openings did not have a significant impact on June's numbers, said Brian Tyrrell, professor of hospitality and tourism management studies at Stockton University.

The non-casino lodging performance in Atlantic County is a collection of three measures—occupancy, average daily rate and revenue per available room—and are a "staple of analyzing lodging performance and have been adopted by numerous destination marketers across the globe in analyzing the health of a tourist destination's lodging industry," according to the report.

Casino Gaming

Atlantic City casino revenue is up & casinos employ 30,000 for the first time in 4 years

Casino revenues were up 7.5% to \$2.86 billion in 2018, and the industry attained 30,000 employees over the summer, a level last achieved in 2014 when 11 casino hotels were in operation. Atlantic City's nine casino hotels employed 30,217 people in July 2018, according to statistics released by the state Division of Gaming Enforcement. The figure includes full- and part-time employees.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City and Ocean Resort Casino, both of which opened to the public on June 27, 2018, were responsible for a combined 8,184 jobs in July, or 27 percent of the industry's total. Hard Rock's 4,393 jobs and Ocean Resort's 3,791 make the properties the industry's second- and third-largest employers.

Borgata to begin \$11 million sports betting bar project



The Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa will begin work on an \$11 million project to expand its sports book and integrate it with what the casino calls a "destination bar." The Borgata was the first New Jersey casino to take a sports bet last June after the state won a U.S. Supreme Court case clearing the way for all 50 states to do so. The sports betting has been operating out of a temporary space. The new, larger bar and sports betting facility should be ready by summer 2019. The casino joins others in Atlantic City that have expanded their sports betting facilities or plan to do so in the coming months.

Harrah's Coastal Tower getting \$56 million upgrade

The Coastal Tower at Harrah's is getting a multi-million-dollar facelift, with the first rooms and suites to be available next year. Caesars Entertainment Corp., parent company of Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, announced plans for a \$56 million renovation of 507 rooms and suites in the Coastal Tower to be completed in its entirety by summer 2019. The project will be completed in phases, with the first phase scheduled for completion early next year.

Ocean Resort Purchased

Ocean Resort Casino has reportedly been purchased by a bank and several investors as of January 10, 2019. Details have not yet been released.

Non-Casino Gaming

Meet AC Increases Convention Booking

Meet AC, Atlantic City's marketing and convention center sales group, announced the booking of 238 conventions in 2018 for a total of 371,996 room nights, easily exceeding its goal for the year. Meet AC has set a goal to book 360,000 to 400,000 rooms for 2019.



e-Sports Rises

With the location of Continent8 at the Convention Center as technical support, and the commitment of \$700,000 by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority to e-sports marketing, Meet AC has announced the attraction of the e-sports travel summit to Atlantic City on June 25-27. E-sports is one of the world's fastest growing phenomena, and Atlantic City is positioning itself to be a major player by attracting major events to the city.



Grant to improve Tennessee Avenue

The city of Atlantic City is awaiting approval for grant funding to begin work on a streetscape project on Tennessee Avenue. The application for a \$1 million municipal aid grant has been submitted to the state Department of Transportation to help finance a portion of the Tennessee Avenue streetscape project between the Boardwalk and Pacific Avenue. The grant will match a \$1 million fund reservation from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. Maser Consulting provided a preliminary cost estimate of \$1.97 million. The city's proposed streetscape project, although yet to be designed, is envisioned to include repaving of the road, 24 decorative LED lights, trees and planters, signage, decorative sidewalks, bike racks, trash and recycling containers, improved access for those with disabilities, thermoplastic crosswalk striping and other improvements to make Tennessee Avenue more visually appealing.



Showboat Casino and Housing

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority has approved a plan by Showboat owner Bart Blatstein to convert 400 hotel rooms into 264 market-rate rental units. The Showboat will have 785 hotel rooms remaining to be rented in the non-casino hotel. Construction will be completed by the end of May 2019. The Premiere Light Tower will be converted into apartments while the two remaining towers will remain hotel rooms.

South Jersey Gas Headquarters in Atlantic City



On November 14, 2018, the governor joined local officials and members of South Jersey Gas for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the new headquarters. The new building is adjacent to the equally new Stockton University campus and is part of the Atlantic City Gateway Project, a \$210 million public-private redevelopment initiative in Atlantic City. The building houses 200 company professionals and features meeting spaces, training facilities and a fitness center for employees.

Stockton University Unveils Beachfront Campus

Stockton University opened its new \$176 million beachfront campus on September 5, 2018. The campus includes a gym, classrooms, housing for 500 students, and indoor and outdoor space, including a 56,000 square-foot Academic Center. Over 100 classes were held at the facility during the fall 2018 semester. Due to the added capacity in Atlantic City and on the main campus, freshmen enrollment at Stockton University grew 2 percent and overall enrollment is up 4 percent. In the fall of 2018 there were 1,595 freshmen and 9,621 total students.



Atlantic City Business Grants Extended Citywide

A state business grant program, initially available only to businesses on Atlantic Avenue, is now open to all businesses in Atlantic City. The NJEDA Business Lease Incentive and Business Improvement Incentive programs are designed to support the growth of retail and service businesses by providing grants to street level retail and commercial buildings. The first program provides grants up to 50 percent of the project costs, to a maximum of \$20,000, for improvements made to the first floor of the business. A second program offers reimbursement of 15 percent of the annual lease payments for two years to for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations that lease between 500- and 5,000-square-feet of space. The programs are offered on a first come, first served basis until the fund is depleted.

Grant to Study Marine Center

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority awarded \$100,000 to the city of Atlantic City to partner with Stockton University to study the feasibility of a proposed Center for Marine & Environmental Science center that would be located in the city.

On the Mainland

Renault Winery Purchased

Renault Properties, LLC has purchased and will operate Renault Wineries in Galloway-Egg Harbor City. Renault has two restaurants, an 18-hole golf course and a hotel with an estimated

value of \$8.6 million. Renault was founded in 1864 and hosts wine tours, weddings and banquets.



New Roadway to Ease Traffic at Egg Harbor Township Airport Circle

Construction is underway on an access road that would allow drivers coming from the Atlantic City International Airport and the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center on Amelia Earhart Boulevard to travel directly to Tilton Road north without hitting the former traffic circle. The \$668,000 project is being funded by the SJTA, Atlantic County and the FAA Technical Center. Workers will be laying asphalt and working on drainage systems.

Mays Landing Drug Treatment Center to break Ground

Construction of a \$16 million drug treatment center in Mays Landing's Hamilton Industrial Center has begun. The 120-bed, 58,000-square-foot facility will admit short-term and long-term residents. Two John Brooks programs presently operating in the Atlantic City Tourism District will be relocated to the new center in 2019.

OceanFirst Bank Buys Capital Bank for \$80 Million

OceanFirst Financial Corporation is acquiring Capital Bank of New Jersey for \$80 million and is continuing its steady expansion into the southern part of the state. The purchase gives OceanFirst four branches in Cumberland, Gloucester and Atlantic counties and a loan production office in Burlington County. The Toms River-based parent company of OceanFirst Bank has \$7.6 billion in assets and nearly 60 branches.

Construction on Somers Point Marina is Approved

Somers Point City Council has approved a contract for the construction of a bay marina, which will be located at the end of Higbee Avenue. The plan is for the new marina to include 20



temporary boat slips as well as slips for tour boats and emergency vessels. City officials hope to have construction completed by the summer. A \$550,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will fund the dredging needed to complete the project, and a \$1.45 million National Boating Infrastructure Grant will fund the construction of the marina itself.

Seaview Hotel in Galloway to do \$17 Million Renovation

The Seaview Hotel is performing a \$17 million renovation that will temporarily close the property. The renovation includes updates to the 296 guestrooms and suites, meeting spaces, lobby, public areas and the outdoor pool. A new restaurant will be unveiled.



ACIT and Atlantic City Electric Launch \$6.5 Million Education Program

Atlantic County Institute of Technology and Atlantic City Electric launched a \$6.5-million program that will educate and expand training programs for the electrical workforce.

The workforce development program is intended to educate future electricians to help keep New Jersey's energy grid running, drive innovation in the electrician industry and advance other clean energy technologies.

This is a six-year program that is being implemented at ACIT, Cape May Vocational School and Cumberland County TEC with the assistance of the local workforce development boards across the Atlantic City Electric service area.

The program is completely free and is available to high school students in the specified counties, as well as anyone 21 years and under through the workforce development boards. Classes are scheduled to begin during the first quarter of 2019.

Construction projects underway up and down the Black Horse Pike

The two biggest projects are developments of similar size: the almost 250,000-square-foot Oak Tree Plaza in Egg Harbor Township and the 270,000-square-foot Gravelly Run Square in Hamilton Township.

The Oak Tree Plaza shopping center, which is anchored by Walmart, is adding a 15,000-square-foot multi-tenant building to the development. Construction started four months ago.

Meanwhile, in Hamilton Township, the roof and walls are being erected for the first building of the Gravelly Run Square shopping plaza near the Black Horse Pike and Wrangleboro Road.



Background on
COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY
The Atlantic City – Hammonton Metropolitan Statistical Area

Introduction

The County of Atlantic (the Atlantic City – Hammonton Metropolitan Statistical Area MSA) is in the southeastern part of the State of New Jersey. Atlantic County is bounded on the north by Mullica River adjacent to the New York-Newark-Jersey City MSA, on the south by the Cape May County defined by the Great Egg Harbor Bay & Tuckahoe River, on the west by Camden, Cumberland and Gloucester Counties within the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Atlantic County is comprised of 561 square miles, incorporated into 23 municipalities.

The County offers a dynamic and varied location and an economy that supports businesses in fields ranging from manufacturing, industry and agriculture to tourism, conventions and gaming. The County has traditionally been a major recreational area for the northeastern seaboard due its proximity to Philadelphia and New York City, its miles of beaches, coastal areas and rivers, its boardwalks and other accommodations for tourism. Located in Atlantic County are legalized gaming, light manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution facilities, along with the Federal Aviation Administration Technical Center, an aviation research, development, test and evaluation facility and medical facilities.

Tourism and gaming have benefited from the location of Atlantic County, which is within one day's driving distance of several large metropolitan areas and approximately 60 million persons. Atlantic County is two hours drive from New York City, less than an hour from Philadelphia, and three hours from Washington D.C. Along with the Atlantic City Expressway and the Garden State Parkway bringing car and bus traffic into the County, the Atlantic City Rail Terminal and Atlantic City International Airport have provided tourists and businesses with alternate routes of transportation. Economic opportunities abound and a variety of economic development assistance is available within the county and state to support and encourage local business expansion and retention.

Most recently, Atlantic County implemented an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan, dated September 24, 2015 (the "Strategic Plan"), completed by Angelou Economics. To assist in the implementation of the plan the Atlantic County Economic Alliance, Inc. 501(c) (3) was formed for the specific purpose of performing activities fostering the economic redevelopment within Atlantic County, attract business and industry such as Amazon to the county and increase opportunities for those that reside or work in Atlantic County.

County Government

Atlantic County was established in 1837 in Mays Landing, NJ. The form of government is a popularly-elected County Executive responsible for the administration of County government, and a popularly-elected nine-member Board of Chosen Freeholders (the “Board of Chosen Freeholders” or the “Board”) to function as the legislative body. The County Executive is elected at the general election for a term of four years. As the Chief Executive Officer of the County, the responsibilities include the duty to supervise the administration of county government and through the County Administrator, to supervise the operating departments and agencies of the County government.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders is comprised of nine members, elected for staggered three-year terms. Five of the members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders represent equally-populated districts and four are from the County at large. The Board of Chosen Freeholders exercises the legislative power of the County. In addition, the Board is responsible for the approval of the County budget and the establishment of financial controls. The Board is empowered to review and approve the County Executive’s annual budget, reduce or increase County appropriations requested by the County Executive and override the County Executive’s veto of any ordinance approved by the Board. Finally, appointments of department heads and division directors are subject to the advice and consent of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders keeps the minutes and records of Board proceedings in the appropriate form.

Governmental Services

The County’s Administrative Code organizes Atlantic County into seven operating departments providing services to the citizens of Atlantic County. The County Administrator is responsible for the overall administration and management of the operating departments. Department heads report to the Office of the County Administrator. In addition, the Office of the Treasurer and Internal Audit report directly to the Administrator. The Divisions of Library Services, Extension Services and Facilities Management report directly to the Deputy County Administrator.