

Rehoboth seeking funds for Schoolvue

Line rerouting estimated to cost \$480,000

By Ryan Mavity
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The Rehoboth Beach commissioners unanimously agreed to seek a grant to reroute a sewer

line in the Schoolvue neighborhood.

Mayor Sam Cooper said the proposed \$480,000 project would solve a variety of problems with the line.

In the late 1930s, the sewer line to the wastewater treatment plant ran diagonally across a

field from what is now Rehoboth Elementary School, which Cooper said was not in the city limits at the time.

Years later, the field was subdivided, and several houses were built over the sewer line, in the area of New Castle and Stockley streets extended and School

Lane. Five houses now sit right on top of the old sewer line.

Cooper said the main reason to reroute the line is to ensure it does not back up. He said one of the first places to get flooded, should the line back up, is the boiler room at the elementary school. Cooper said if the line were to collapse underneath one of the houses, it would be impossible to repair. Finally, he said, if the line were to leak, it could

contaminate the soil underneath the houses.

"It is sort of a ticking time bomb if something were to happen," Cooper said.

The solution, Cooper said, is to reroute the line. The proposed plan is to run a new line under Bay Road, connecting to existing manholes on New Castle and Stockley streets extended.

Continued on page 10



DENNIS FORNEY PHOTO

THE CITY OF LEWES' net house is undergoing renovations to improve the building's energy efficiency, remove asbestos shingles and upgrade the exterior with cedar siding. Money from the Delaware Energy Office and Friends of the Canalfont Park paid for the project.

Lewes' net house goes green

Improvements aim at energy efficiency

By Henry J. Evans Jr.
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Lewes' net house will soon be more energy efficient. Construction has changed the appearance of the 1940s-era building and updated energy-related features. Lewes' dock master and Friends of the Canalfont Park have offices in the building.

The City of Lewes received \$43,200 from the Delaware Energy Office for the project, said Elaine Pease, Lewes projects officer.

She said an energy audit of city-owned buildings determined the net house needed upgrades, and qualified for a grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act's Energy Effi-

ciency and Conservation Block Grant program.

Friends of the Canalfont Park have also provided \$44,000 for net house improvements, Pease said.

Improvements include a new heating, ventilation, air-conditioning system; new, double-paned windows and doors; and energy-efficient lighting fixtures.

Old asbestos siding has been removed, the building has been insulated and new cedar siding has been installed.

"It's exciting to see the renovations going on," Pease said. She said the project should be complete in a few weeks. Harkins Contracting Inc., a Salisbury, Md.-based general contractor, is doing the work.

Lewes Mayor Jim Ford said completion of net house renovations would cap the Lewes Canalfont Park project.

Cape resolves bus problems

Calls to district office decline sharply

By Melissa Steele
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Cape Henlopen School District's busing woes appear to be behind school officials for now.

"We've made quite a bit of improvement," said Transportation Supervisor Vanessa Moore, during the Sept. 22 school board meeting.

Two weeks ago, parents lined up to speak for more than an hour to express their frustrations with long bus rides and dangerous bus stops. This time, no one complained.

Moore said the number of calls this past week was far less than the hundreds she received the

first week of school.

"We hardly got any calls," she said.

School board member and parent Sandi Minard said in an interview after the meeting that her son's bus pick-up has improved from 6:25 a.m. to 7 a.m. for a 7:55 a.m. school start.

"I'm hearing less complaints and more satisfied parents," she said.

Still, Minard said, she wants some accountability from district administrators who were in charge of implementing the state-mandated computerized bus-routing program.

"We had three months to get it right," Minard said.

The new, computerized system of plotting bus routes coupled with an influx of students

who registered late were at the root of the problem in which some children rode the bus for more than an hour each way.

The district scrapped earlier bus routes and reworked them Sept. 14 with the help of five additional buses.

The Department of Education agreed to help fund 90 percent of the cost, and Superintendent Kevin Carson said the district will pick up the \$25,000 local share of the new vehicles.

Now that the busing situation has settled down, Carson said, the district will examine the system in order to prevent problems next year.

"Our work is not done," he said. "We'll keep making adjustments as long as necessary."



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