

# EHT board OKs affordable housing plan

■ The plan calls for 76 apartments near Fire Road and Gravesmith Drive.

By **CHRISTIAN HETRICK**  
Staff Writer

Egg Harbor Township's Planning Board unanimously approved the first of a two-phase major site plan Monday to construct an affordable housing development.

Phase one of the project establishes groundwork for the con-

struction of 76 rental apartments in four buildings, a clubhouse and off-street parking for 152 vehicles. The approval also allows the applicant, Egg Harbor Family Associates LLC, an affiliate of The Michaels Organization, to make improvements to Gravesmith Drive and Ravenworth Court to create a connection road between Fire Road and Gravesmith Drive and an entry drive during construction. The property is located

within Columbus Avenue, Fire Road, Doughty Road and Decadon Drive.

Preference for residence will be given to people displaced by Hurricane Sandy, said Jonathan Lubonski, a development officer for The Michaels Organization. He said there also could be a waiting list for Egg Harbor Township residents who want to live on the property.

Lubonski said residents will be

in two income categories: those who earn within 50 percent of area median income and those who earn 60 percent. Rent for a one-bedroom apartment at the 50 percent level will be \$596 per month. At the 60 percent level, it will cost \$718 per month, Lubonski said. A three-bedroom apartment will cost \$885 per month for those at the 50 percent level and \$1,062 per month for those at the 60 percent level.

Lubonski described the potential residents as being entry-level teachers or police officers.

Lubonski said the entire project will cost \$20 million to \$21 million, which will be paid with funds from the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, a 4 percent tax credit and a CitiBank subordinate loan. He said an application for financing is due at

□ See Housing, C3



Staff photo by Michael Ein

Seventh-graders Natalie White, left, and Kylie Hafner, both 12, look at an anti-bullying mural at Alder Avenue School in Egg Harbor Township. The district raised its anti-bullying score from 66 last year to 71 in 2013-14.

## Schools show progress in the fight vs. bullying

But meeting the law's demands is still a challenge

### Anti-bullying grades

Schools were scored on harassment, intimidation and bullying, or HIB, based on a self-assessment developed by the New Jersey Department of Education. The maximum possible score is 78.

The eight core areas are:

1. School HIB programs, approaches and other initiatives: 15 points
2. Training on the board-approved HIB policy: 9 points
3. Other staff instruction and training programs: 15 points
4. Curriculum and instruction on HIB-related information and skills: 6 points
5. HIB personnel: 9 points
6. School-level HIB incident reporting procedures: 6 points
7. HIB investigative procedures: 12 points
8. HIB state reporting: 6 points

By **DIANE D'AMICO**

Education Writer

School districts in New Jersey are making progress in implementing the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, but still grapple with the time it takes to both prevent and thoroughly investigate bullying in their schools.

All school districts had until Jan. 9 to post on their website home pages the results of their 2013-14 self-assessment reports. The reports include eight criteria that range from implementing harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) programs to training staff, providing student instruction and investigating incidents.

Reports for schools in Atlantic, Cape, Cumberland and Ocean counties show most districts making progress. But some still lag, and anti-bullying advocates are concerned that the self-assessment alone is not sufficient to ensure that schools are following the law.

"It is good if schools are honestly using it to improve," said Stuart Green, director of the N.J. Coalition for Bullying Awareness. "But it provides too much

room for self-filtered reliability. It's good to use, but it's also like telling students they can grade their own tests."

Schools can earn a maximum of 78 points on the self-assessment, and local reports show many districts approaching that goal. Each school does its own self-assessment report, which is then also averaged into a district score. Locally, nine districts in Atlantic County, eight in Cape May County, four in Cumberland County and 14 in Ocean County scored at least 70 points. But nine districts in those four counties are also still scoring 60 below.

Currently there is no minimum score districts must reach, or formal steps to intervene in districts with low scores. State Department of Education spokesman David Saenz Jr. said in an email that the department is in the process of reviewing potential criteria and guidelines. He said the state supports school districts by providing information on anti-bullying and resources, and responding to phone call and email inquiries requesting assistance or guidance.

Green said he would like the state to do more to make sure districts are complying. He said the state provides a School Climate Survey but schools are not required to implement it.

Hamilton Township school Superintendent Michelle Cappelluti said they have found the self-assessment useful in providing clear expectations and reminders of what districts should be doing to comply with the law. The district's score rose from 70 last year to 76 this year.

"Knowing and understanding every element within each indicator helps us

□ See Bully, C3

### Top local districts

Avalon: 78  
Stone Harbor: 78  
Brigantine: 77  
Northfield: 77  
Ventnor: 77  
Cape May Technical High School: 77  
Hamilton Township: 76  
Long Beach Island: 76  
Lower Township: 76  
Cape May 75  
Folsom: 75

### Bottom local districts

Somers Point: 60  
Stafford Township: 60  
Little Egg Harbor Township: 56  
Upper Deerfield Township: 56  
Woodbine: 55  
Commercial Township: 55  
Maurice River Township: 53  
Pleasantville: 55  
Port Republic 51  
Deerfield Township: 48  
Source: N.J. Department of Education

## A.C. library cuts budget, will be open one day less

■ Falling property values are expected to take a toll on revenue, and casino-tax legislation could have 'a large impact,' the library's director says.

By **JOHN V. SANTORE**

Staff Writer

The Tennessee Avenue branch of the Atlantic City Free Public Library will end Sunday operations after March 1, and the system could see further service reductions due to budget cuts, Director Maureen Sherr Frank said Monday.

The library, which saw usage increase 40 percent last year over 2013, according to official statistics, received just over \$5 million in 2014 from property taxes, almost its entire budget.

Sherr Frank said an additional \$40,000 came from grants and state aid. The library is not part of the Atlantic County Library System, and therefore is responsible for its own funding.

But dropping property values in Atlantic City have forced the library to cut its anticipated 2015 budget by 25 percent, to \$3.76 million, Sherr Frank said, adding that the elimination of Sunday service is a response to that new reality.

Additionally, the Casino Property Tax Stabilization Act, introduced in December by State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, could further reduce the library's remaining

□ See Library, C3



Photo provided by Mayor Don Guardian's office

Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian, left, and developer Glenn Straub discuss ideas for the Revel property and city projects Monday.

## New Revel buyer, A.C. mayor meet

Atlantic City's mayor met with the new buyer of Revel for the first time Monday.

While Don Guardian said he has read a lot about Glenn Straub in the media, he had never before met the Florida real estate developer.

"He shared with me how he would like to help us create a vibrant city with cranes in the sky putting people back to work," the mayor said. "I shared with him all the exciting development projects and municipal service improvements the city has been initiating since I became mayor."

Straub has offered a grand vision for Revel's rebirth, including a \$108 million water park and high-speed ferries or catamarans between Atlantic City and Manhattan to tap the New York market.

Guardian said he welcomes Straub's "enthusiasm toward remaking Atlantic City into a destination that goes beyond gaming."

He said they both agree Atlantic City's best days are ahead of it.

Lynda Cohen

## Servers with a smile at Atlantic Cape

■ A Galloway Township firm's donation will allow the college to upgrade its computer science curricula.

By **DIANE D'AMICO**

Education Writer

**MAYS LANDING** — The 42 Supermicro Superservers just installed at Atlantic Cape Community College might not

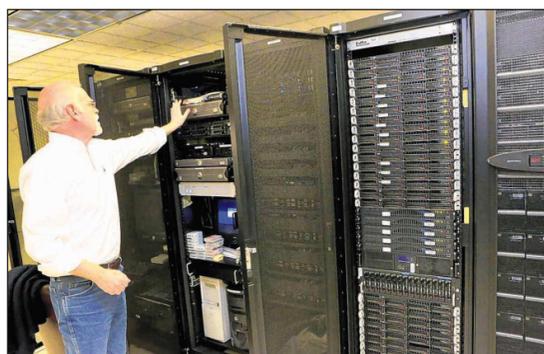
be brand new, but they are far newer than what the college was using, and better yet, they were free.

"For us, these are just broken in," said Douglas Hedges, dean of information technology services at Atlantic Cape, noting that the old servers they will replace have been around for more than a decade.

The servers, which are 3 to 5

years old, were donated by Galloway Township-based Linode LLC, a Linux virtual private server or VPS cloud hosting provider, which has been donating its slightly used servers to colleges across the state for the past few years through its IT Workforce Preparation Initiative. The company was founded in

□ See Servers, C3



Atlantic Cape Community College dean of information technology services Douglas Hedges says the donated servers will replace those that are more than a decade old.

Staff photo by Vernon Ogrodnek

