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MONTHLY UPDATE

FMERA MOVES TO PERMANENT OFFICE IN FORMER FORT LIBRARY



At left, the former Fort Monmouth Van Deusen Library, and at right, the redesigned space now serving as FMERA's office.

A grant from the U.S. Office of Economic Adjustment and proceeds from FMERA's Economic Development Conveyance agreement allowed the Authority to renovate the former Fort Monmouth Van Deusen Library to serve as its new office. FMERA staff moved from its temporary offices in Russel Hall to the repurposed building in mid-July.

The former library was built in 1974 and is located on the Main Post within the Borough of Oceanport. The 10,650-square-foot building was named after the 11th commanding officer of Fort Monmouth, Brigadier General George L. Van Deusen.

FMERA's Senior Construction/Engineering Officer, Tony Poklasny, developed a plan and specifications for the renovation of the library, which was publically bid through the Request for Proposals process. At its May 2012 meeting, the FMERA Board awarded the Design-Build Services contract to Patock Construction to convert the existing space into professional administrative/office space.

Patock Construction was able to preserve the existing red brick inside the building to accent the new sheetrock walls

rather than enclosing the brick inside the new walls. Additionally, to keep construction costs at a minimum, FMERA was able to reuse an entire kitchen from the Myer Center, which is slated to be demolished.

"We are excited to be in our new office space in the former Fort library," FMERA Executive Director Bruce Steadman said. "The renovated building, centrally located in the heart of the Main Post, is a great place for FMERA to conduct its day-to-day operations and monthly Board meetings, and is an excellent investment in a former Army facility that will eventually be sold to an end user."

Public Board meetings are now held in the new office space. In coordination with the Army and the New Jersey State Police, FMERA established a public access plan. Visitors will be able to access the offices by entering the Main Gate on the West side of Oceanport Avenue and stopping at the guard booth.

A NOTE FROM FMERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUCE STEADMAN ON THE SUN EAGLES GOLF COURSE

FMERA is committed to operating the golf course and associated amenities through the rest of this season, the winter (weather-permitting), next season, and the years beyond. Notwithstanding our current lease with the Army, any future sale of the golf course, and the status of our existing operating agreement, FMERA will maintain Suneagles as a top-notch local golf course at the level and condition that our members and guests are accustomed to.

With the new membership drive nearly upon us, our goal is to keep current members and attract new ones as we prepare for the 2013 fall, winter, and 2014 sea-

son. FMERA will ensure that all memberships entered into for the 2013/2014 season will be honored for the entire season.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to the months and years ahead. As always, if you have questions or require any information, please contact the Pro Shop at (732) 389-4300.

STRONGER NJ BUSINESS GRANTS & LOANS HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES RECOVER AND REBUILD

By Michele Brown, CEO of New Jersey Economic Development Authority

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, New Jerseyans have come together to support the state's recovery and rebuilding efforts. From residents and business owners to local, county and state government agencies, our work has continued to illustrate the resiliency that defines New Jersey.

While communities across the state suffered tremendously, the Monmouth County region was among the hardest hit. In recognition of this devastation, FMERA, which is staffed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA), actively engaged with the Army, FEMA and its sister state agencies to assess how the Fort's assets could be used to assist storm victims. As a result of this joint effort, FEMA was able to retrofit and make available over 100 temporary housing units for families in the region that were displaced by the storm.

To support small businesses that were impacted by the storm, the EDA was called on to administer a series of Stronger NJ Business recovery programs.

Storm-impacted small businesses can apply for up to a \$50,000 grant through the Stronger NJ Business Grant program or up to a \$5 million low-cost loan through

the Stronger NJ Business Loan program. Both programs were made available as a result of New Jersey's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Action Plan. As the state's financing arm, Governor Christie charged the EDA with administering \$460 million of the state's Disaster Recovery allocation to support the recovery of our impacted businesses and communities.

Of the 1,975 Stronger NJ Business Grant applications opened to date, more than 21 percent represent Monmouth County small businesses. Over the summer, we have been out delivering checks to many of these establishments.

Beckman's on the Beach, one of the first businesses to be approved for grant funding, is a seasonal convenience store and deli that has served the Belmar community for seven years. Beckman's experienced severe damage from the storm, including a loss of all inventory. Its \$50,000 grant is being used for rent, payroll, utilities, and to replace inventory.

Next door to Beckman's, Eastern Lines Surf Shop was left with more than two feet of sand and water in its first floor. Owners Don and Darby Tarrant paid out-of-pocket to reopen in time for the summer season. The surf shop

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is using its \$38,135 grant to replace inventory and recover some of its rebuilding costs.

Family-owned Casa Comida has called Long Branch home for more than 30 years. The popular Mexican restaurant experienced severe flooding, which significantly damaged its entire property. Owner Kristen Catlett said its \$24,669 Stronger NJ Business grant was the only help it received, and praised the state for making the process as easy as possible for her.

AAMCO of Asbury Park has been providing transmission service, repairs and complete car care to the surrounding area since 2007. After experiencing major roof damage, AAMCO reopened three weeks after the storm, but the impact to the business went beyond physical damage. Being closed for a significant period of time, combined with the destruction sustained by the community, diminished its base of viable local customers. AAMCO is using its \$50,000 grant to supplement operating cash flow as the company gets back on track.

These are just some of the small businesses that we have been able to assist through the Stronger NJ Business programs. With the busy summer season winding down, we need your help to ensure that every business in the region knows that funding is still available.

Businesses should call EDA's Sandy hotline at 1-855-SANDY-BZ (1-855-726-3929) to find out if they qualify. Please spread the word—help is just a phone call away.



Governor Christie visited grant recipient Eastern Lines Surf Shop in Belmar



Some of the damage sustained by Eastern Lines Surf Shop; its Stronger NJ Business Grant is helping to replace inventory and recover some of the rebuilding costs

FORT MONMOUTH RECREATION CENTER CELEBRATES OPENING



On August 10, Monmouth County celebrated the opening of the Fort Monmouth Recreation Center in Tinton Falls. The facility, located in the Fort's former teen center and pool, represents the first reuse of a Fort building for public recreation. The center, which will begin offering classes this fall, boasts four classrooms, a commercial kitchen, a fitness room, a game area with billiards, a full gymnasium, and picnic tables and grills.

At its February 2013 meeting, the FMERA Board approved the Authority's lease of the teen center and pool from the Army, and its sublease of the property to Monmouth County. The two buildings total 22,636 square feet and sit on approximately 6.5 acres in the Tinton Falls Area of Charles Wood.

The Recreation Center is now open to the public. Interested parties should contact Monmouth County for a schedule of activities.

FMERA's Monthly Newsletter is available online at www.fortmonmouthredevelopment.com following each Board meeting. To be added to the email distribution list, please send a request, with contact information, to Scott Oliva at soliva@njeda.com.

***FMERA's Mission:
To create an atmosphere in which employers will employ
and investors will invest, to maximize the jobs created
and the value of the property.***

Note: FMERA Board action is subject to a ten (10) day veto period by the Governor.