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LOGAN MONTELEONE, FOR THE PRESS

A 400-foot progress flag is unfurled at the beginning of the 2026 Atlantic City Great Pride Festival on Saturday.

Atlantic City celebrates 3rd annual Great Pride Festival

LOGAN MONTELEONE
For The Press

ATLANTIC CITY — Members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community from across the region came together Saturday to celebrate diversity, equality and queer joy at the city's third annual Great Pride Festival in O'Donnell Memorial Park.

Along with the parading of a 400-foot progress flag, the festival offered food and craft vendors, community resource tables and yard games.

Drag shows, live music and other entertainment centered on the LGBTQ+ community occurred on a stage in the park throughout the afternoon.

ByrdCage, the city's first full-time LGBTQ+ establishment in over two decades, hosted the festival alongside the city for the second time this year, offering an outdoor

bar among other opportunities for drinks and entertainment.

Owners Giulietta Consalvo, Richard Helfant and Jason Tell said in the less than two years since opening ByrdCage, they have seen their business become a type of home and gathering space for LGBTQIA+ people across the region. The ByrdCage, which was listed for sale last month, was recently registered as a designated safe space by the Atlantic County prosecutor's office, Helfant said.

"So for us, a year and a half later, it is a great, I think, testament to not only Atlantic City and the surrounding area that supports us, but also to the gay community to say, 'Hey, we're here, and we'd love to have you,'" Consalvo said.

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Upper Twp. responds to breach concerns

LOGAN MONTELEONE
For The Press

UPPER TOWNSHIP — Responding to resident concerns about a recent cyber-attack, township Administrator James Van Zlike read a statement on behalf of the township at the committee meeting June 8 that provided an overview of the timeline and process for addressing the breach.



Van Zlike

The time between the township's awareness of the breach in early December and the notices sent out in late May was spent carrying out a complicated investigation, Van Zlike said.

"Investigations of this nature are highly complex, and it is vital to the township to prioritize security systems and data accuracy before providing public updates," Van Zlike said.

The statement read at the meeting elaborated on the township's initial release, stating that information was acquired by the cyberhacker, not just accessed; that the township received a ransom request from the unauthorized actor which it did not pay; and that some details about the breach are deliberately being kept private for security reasons.

After noticing suspicious activity in its online systems Dec. 8, the township launched an investigation with a third-party IT specialist that found an unauthorized person had gained access to its network on or around Oct. 5, according to statements from the township.

Local, state and federal authorities were notified between Dec. 9 and 12, Van Zlike said.

The breach involved the disclosure of information for some residents that may have included identifying details for financial accounts, Social Security accounts, driver's licenses, state identification cards, and credit or debit cards, along with various usernames, email addresses, passwords and answers to online security questions, according to the township release from last month.

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STOCKTON UNIVERSITY New doc celebrates trailblazing president

DAN GROTE
Staff Writer

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — "Stockton always ran through her veins."

That is how James Farris described his mother, Vera King Farris, the third president of Stockton University. He grew up on the campus of what was then called The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey during the 20 years his mother was president from 1983 to 2003.



Farris

"Failure on the path to a goal was education, not fatal. That powered her every day of those 20 years," he said in a recorded message played for about 100 people in the university's Campus Center Theatre on Tuesday. "She loved this place. That love and the people it attracted turned a little-regarded party school in the pines into a nationally ranked environment for excellence where soaring higher is an everyday occurrence."

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MAYS LANDING

School site to become housing

NICHOLAS HUBA
Staff Writer

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP — A Philadelphia-based developer is looking to build 69 housing units on the site of the shuttered Harold J. Duberson School.

In September, the township's K-8 Board of Education sold the school to Odin Properties. A sales price was not disclosed. The company was founded in 2009 and specializes in transforming underperforming assets, according to its website.

"When we first saw this building, it was important for us that as part of the

redevelopment that we retain the historic character of the of the property itself," said Phil Balderson, CEO of Odin, during Monday's Township Committee meeting, "and do so in a way that's respectful of all the historic elements but also in a way that we can kind of make the project work."

Balderson said he wants to return to the building to its former glory.

The committee approved a resolution appointing the company a conditional developer for the site during the meeting.



PRESS ARCHIVES

The J. Harold Duberson School opened in 1928 on Farragut Avenue in Mays Landing.

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