

Cape May sets cost of tree removal application at \$75

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council has enacted a \$75 nonrefundable fee for applying to the Shade Tree Commission for a permit to remove a tree, in addition to a cost of \$75 per tree if approved.

City Council approved an ordinance amending the city code to confirm fees applicable to tree removal applications.

At an April 16 meeting, Councilman Shaine Meier said the ordinance

amended a tree regulation ordinance already in effect.

He asked the ramifications of someone removing a street tree without approval of the Shade Tree Commission.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the original ordinance had a section of violations and penalties.

The Shade Tree Commission reviews applications for tree removal.

He said there has been some confusion with contractors working in the

city that if the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approves a project, trees can be removed, which is not the case.

"Using the example of somebody who just chops down a tree within the definition of the code without a permit, they can be issued a summons potentially, but it becomes a code enforcement issue, they can be cited, they can issue a stop work order," Gillin-Schwartz said.

In order to lift a stop work order, the Shade Tree Commission would

review what took place and make a decision, he said, which is appealable to the city manager. Wrongful tree removal is subject to a municipal court summons, fines and penalties and a stop work order, Gillin-Schwartz said.

The city's tree ordinance established a liaison from the Shade Tree Commission to Code Enforcement for a flow of information, he said.

The amendment to the ordinance states applications to the Shade Tree Commission must include

a nonrefundable fee of \$75.

"If the application is approved, the applicant shall pay an additional \$75 removal fee per tree to be removed as a condition of issuance of the tree removal permit," states the ordinance.

Point addressing high level of Lake Lily

By RACHEL SHUBIN
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — A lot of rain has fallen this spring, resulting in a heightened groundwater level and surface level of Lake Lily, and Borough Commission is taking steps to address the issue.

"We are working through some issues with our ability to pump down the level of the lake," Commissioner Catherine Busch said during a meeting April 23. "We're still in the diagnosis phase."

The commission introduced an ordinance regulating tree removal and replacement to bring the borough into compliance with new requirements from the Department of Environmental Protection. Second reading and a public hearing on the ordinance are scheduled for

the next meeting at 6 p.m. May 9.

"In order to have our stormwater permit, we're required to have such an ordinance," Busch said. "There will be more information on that once it's been introduced."

Borough Commission passed a resolution granting A.P. Construction a temporary water connection during the Higbee Beach Restoration Project.

Busch said the contractor's construction trailer has facilities but no water hookup.

"In order for them to be able to get water from us just during the construction project, we had to have special agreement drawn up," Busch said.

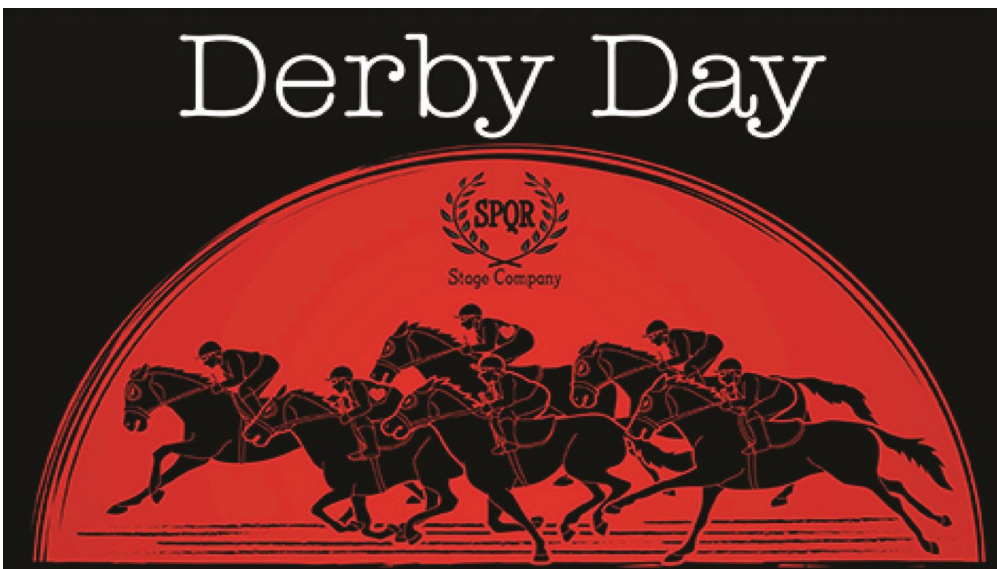
The agreement is only for the life of the project and A.P. Construction will pay the costs of water and connection.

"It will be disconnected at the end of the project," Busch said, noting the only permanent water line services Sunset Beach Cape May Point State Park, which purchase water from the borough.

"We made sure the borough is covered and making it easier for those people down there to have use of water other than trucking it in each day," she said.

Mayor Bob Moffatt reminded residents they can purchase pre-season beach tags beginning May 1 at Borough Hall.

"I also wanted to take a minute to thank Ed Grant and John Amenhauser for working with the City of Cape May and the municipal court on the municipal court services contract, which we should be receiving shortly," Moffatt said.



DERBY DAY tells the tale of three syndicates competing for the blanket of roses: An all female team and filly seeking to make "herstory"; the last of the Kentucky breeders, backing a reluctant jockey, who blew a previous Derby win; and Horse Racing's most legendary trainer, with an undefeated horse, owned by a Saudi Prince. The script was under consideration as a feature film by The Walt Disney Company and finished in the top 20% of entries (from 12,000 scripts) at The Austin Film Festival.

Derby Day will perform at 3PM, Saturday, May 4th at studio-space, located at 112 Woodland Avenue, #4, in Somers Point (across from the Crab Trap).

**** YOU CAN PURCHASE A VIRTUAL TICKET AT WWW.STUDIOSPACESPNJ.COM TO WATCH THE LIVE STREAM OF DERBY DAY ON MAY 4, 2024 AT 3PM EDT****

The streaming page on our website will have a Zoom link that you can access before the event but, we'll activate the stream on the day of 15 minutes early. Any issues email directorpat@gmail.com

Live admission \$20 • Stream purchase \$20



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