

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**  
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**HOUSE OF THE WEEK**  
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**ARTISTS' CO-OP CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY**  
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Robert Newkirk/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Water flowed down Yacht Avenue and surrounding streets in Cape May at the height of the storm. Barrier island communities got 6 to 8 inches of snow and were inundated by high tides. Strong winds associated with the storm added to the area's troubles, knocking out power to as many as 15,700 homes in the county.

## Lower cape drenched

Nor'easter pounds region with snow, rain, lunar tides

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — It was referred to as Winter Storm Jonas and the Blizzard of 2016, but whatever you called it, a strong nor'easter pounded the coast with high surf, strong winds, snow and rain Jan. 22-23. Cape May Harbor posted a record-high tide of 9.38 feet, and northeast winds prevented back bays from draining.

Coastal flooding was forecast and residents living in flood-prone areas were warned to prepare for unusually high tides due to the storm and a full moon Sunday.

Lower Township had 20-plus pieces of equipment ready to deal with the forecasted snow, including plows and loaders. Residents were advised to make sure mobile devices were charged and their vehicles had a full tank of gas.

Cape May County has issued a Code Blue through Sunday, which meant vouchers for hotels were available by calling the homeless hotline.

**Whipping winds knock out power**

Gale-force winds began around 11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22. On Saturday, Jan. 23, more than 1,000 customers had lost power in Cape May and Lower Township during the night. By 7 a.m., 15,700 customers were without power in the county.

From 5:30 to 11 a.m. Sat-



John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A strong nor'easter sent water into the harbor and onto properties and streets along Cape Island Creek, while high waves pounded Cape May's beaches Saturday and Sunday. A berm of sand behind Convention Hall spared the facility from damage.

Web cameras provide view of Cape May during storm from anywhere in the world.  
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John Alvarez/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Despite as much as 7 inches of snow falling in Cape May, the Ugly Mug on the Washington Street Mall remained open to serve thirsty customers.

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## Cape May will dig new well to supply desalination plant

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved three resolutions Jan. 19 to move forward with the design and construction of a new well.

The well will be drilled into the 800-foot Atlantic City Sands aquifer. The project will be financed by a \$2 million loan from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust and state Department of Environmental Protection. The bulk of the loan will be interest free, according to City Manager Bruce MacLeod.

In addition, council approved combining a number of bonds that had been earmarked for well construction into a single bond totaling \$2 million, he said.

MacLeod said the new well, which is expected to be brackish, would feed the city's desalination plant. In total, the city has seven wells with two wells capped and two additional wells tapping the Cohansey aquifer, used only for emergency purposes. One additional well is in the Cohansey aquifer with two other wells already using the Atlantic City Sands aquifer.

During his annual State of the City address, Mayor Edward Mahaney said during the period from

1995 to 1998, City Council planned and financed the installation of a reverse osmosis desalination plant with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day, accompanied by two new supply wells drilled into the brackish Atlantic Sands aquifer. This capital project was financed totally by grants and low-interest loans.

As the first desalination plant in New Jersey, the facility provides 2 million gallons of a maximum 3.4 million-gallon daily capacity and currently produces 66 percent of the potable water used daily on a year-round basis in Cape May City, the boroughs of Cape May Point and West Cape May, and the U.S. Coast Guard base, he said.

Mahaney said the facility has moved Cape May's status from a water-dependent utility to an independent, regional water supplier. During 2015, council was finalizing the location, design, permitting and funding for an additional new water supply well to be drilled into the Atlantic City Sands aquifer to continue to ensure an adequate potable water supply for regional residents for the next 25 years. The new well would gradually replace the current

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## Lower Twp. Council proposes raising fee for Millman Center

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council introduced an ordinance Jan. 20 to change rental fees for the Millman Center.

Rental periods for the center's large room, which accommodates as many as 149 people, has been extended from four hours to six hours. The fee would be \$850, with additional hours at \$100 per hour, Friday through Sunday.

For rentals of the large room Monday through Thursday, the fee for a six-hour rental would be \$650, with each additional hour at \$75 per hour.

Lower Township residents showing proof of residency receive a \$100 discount on the rental, according to the ordinance.

Council approved a one-year professional services contract with Shore Side Enterprises LLC to act as event and promotional coordinator for the Mill-

man Center with fees to be paid by proceeds of rental fees.

Lower Township celebrated the reopening of the center in November 2013 after extensive renovation. The interior was developed into two rooms, a banquet room that holds about 150 people and a conference room that holds 50 attendees. The building received a new sound system with wireless microphones, a stage and a dance floor, and has a commercial catering kitchen.

Council also introduced an ordinance to allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to offer additional classes including health and wellness.

The fee schedule for youth sports programs for residents would be \$15 for one child, \$25 for two children and \$30 for three or more children. For non-residents, youth sports fees for one child would be \$30, two children \$40 and three or more children \$45.

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