



House of the week
Real Estate Resource



Santa carries a big sack of responsibilities

Page B1



Hotel expansion gets preliminary OK

Plan requires 14 more parking spaces but adds 16, decreasing deficiency from 52 to 50

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Planning Board gave unanimous preliminary site plan approval to a renovation and expansion of the Beach Shack Hotel and Rusty Nail restaurant at 205-211 Beach Ave. The board denied an application for the Beach Shack Hotel in summer 2016 but approved plans after they were altered.

During a meeting Dec. 13, attorney Tony Monzo, representing Cape Coachman Realty LLC

and managing member Curtis Bashaw, said the hotel has 66 rooms including two apartments in the southwest corner that would be removed. The corner of the hotel would be rebuilt with seven sleeping rooms.

"In the middle where the two buildings are open, the applicant is proposing to connect the second and third floors and add two more rooms on each floor, for a total of four rooms between the two buildings, and leave the first-floor opening so that cars can pass through from the front to the back parking

lot," Monzo said.

He said the renovation would increase the number of sleeping rooms by 11, bringing the hotel's total to 77 rooms. The pool would be moved to another location on the site, he said.

Monzo said the plan consolidates the shuffleboard court on the same side as the pool. It is currently on the opposite side of the center drive aisle.

The tennis court on the rear of the property, off Heritage Lane, would be removed, he said. Monzo said the rear parking lot would be

configured for 71 parking spaces, which would include 32 stacked spaces operated by valet parking attendants. Stacked parking places vehicles in rows moved only by attendants. The front parking lot would have 33 parking spaces.

"The net total of parking that's being proposed is 104 parking spaces, which is an increase of 16 spaces over what's currently existing and that's 88 parking spaces," Monzo said.

He said with an additional 11 units and three more employees, the hotel would need 154 parking

spaces, an increase of 14 spaces over the existing need of 140.

"However, we're providing more than existing by two, so we're decreasing the deficiency in parking from 52 spaces to 50 spaces, which is an improvement over what is currently existing," Monzo said.

He said the applicant was seeking a variance for 32 stacked parking spaces. The spaces would be used mainly, if not exclusively, for hotel guests, Monzo said.

See Beach Shack, Page A2

Pedestrian hit, killed in North Cape May

ERMA — One pedestrian is dead and another in critical condition after being struck by a car Saturday at the intersection of Route 9 and Bayshore Road in North Cape May.

Lower Township police received notification of an accident involving a motorist and the pedestrians at about 5:21 p.m. Dec. 16. Initial reports indicated two pedestrians had been struck by a motor vehicle and were in need of medical assistance.

Initial investigation revealed that two men were standing on a concrete median next to a traffic light pole in the middle of the intersection, waiting to finish crossing Route 9, when a 2012 Nissan Murano, traveling westbound on Route 9 with three occupants, struck the men when they entered the roadway and entered the vehicle's lane of traffic.

Witnesses on scene and video surveillance footage revealed that the motor vehicle had the right of way because the traffic light was green throughout the entire incident.

Emergency personnel were dispatched to the crash scene. Two Medevac helicopters were requested and responded to the county airport, from where they airlifted to the Regional Trauma Unit at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Division in Atlantic City.

The Cape May County Medical Examiner's Office later notified Lower Township police that one of the two pedestrians had succumbed to his injuries. The second pedestrian was listed in critical condition.

Authorities did not release the victims' identifications.

No criminal charges were pending but the crash remains under investigation.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

It was a Ferry Merry Christmas

Dahlia Bove, 2, of Villas, checks out Santa's reindeer Dec. 17 during the Ferry Merry Christmas at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal in North Cape May. The event was co-sponsored by Lower Township Recreation Department and Delaware River and Bay Authority. Below, Gerald Hill, 5, of Villas, left, and Michael Vientos, 5, and Haley Vandever, 7, right, decorate Christmas cookies.



Planners OK design rules in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Planning Board gave its approval Dec. 12 to an ordinance amending Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) design standards and addressing solar panels, wind turbines and satellite dishes.

When the HPC adopted its design standards in 2002, solar panels, satellite dishes and wind turbines were not addressed.

The ordinance, which will return to City Council for a vote, also focuses on the appeals process an applicant to the HPC may make to the Zoning Board.

Planning Board attorney Richard King said the ordinance was the result of a series of meetings between the Zoning Board and HPC with participation of some Planning Board members.

"We reached a consensus as to what this should say," he said.

King said the role of the Planning Board was to inform council if the ordinance was consistent with the master plan and if they had any concerns.

Planning Board member Scott Maslow said

See Design standards, Page A3

Prosecutor: Opioid crisis top of agenda

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — New Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland said handling the growing opioid epidemic is his top priority as he takes over.

Sutherland, 53, of Ocean City, is set to be sworn in at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Old Cape May Court House. He replaces acting county prosecutor Rob Johnson, who took over when former prosecutor Robert Taylor retired in September after serving 13 years in the position.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, nominated Sutherland for the position.

"I believe that he will do a good job and the governor obviously felt so as well," Van Drew said.

Gov. Chris Christie approved Sutherland's nomination Nov. 30.

Sutherland, who has been practicing law since

See Sutherland, Page A2

WASHINGTON INN

Open Friday and Saturday from 5pm

Holiday Gift Certificates make the Perfect Gift!

OPEN DAILY DECEMBER 26TH – 31st from 5pm

THE WINE BAR
Five for Friday

\$5

glasses of wine
appetizers specials

