

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 51 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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CAPER TIGERS WILL DEPEND ON HEARTS TO WIN

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Resort homes to now be defined as 'event homes'

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Whole house rentals, or so-called “resort homes” in Cape May will now be referred to as “Event Homes,” according to City Solicitor Tony Monzo, a member of the Resort Home Advisory Committee.

At the committee’s Dec. 11 meeting, Monzo gave members a draft of a proposed ordinance for event homes, which he said was based on the opinions and input of the committee as well as residents who have spoken during public comment.

Monzo drafted a definition for event homes, which is, “a residentially styled structure that is used, maintained, marketed, promoted and/or advertised as a destination location available for rent or lease or sub-lease for a gathering of invited guests for functions and special events, including, but not limited to, weddings, retreats, family reunions, parties and meetings. An event house is a transient commercial use

appropriate only in areas zoned for hotel/motel use and never have been permitted as legal uses under existing ordinance standards. The term event home shall not be construed to include occasional family gatherings or weddings.”

At Dec. 11 meeting, Monzo proposed supplemental regulations and qualifications for event houses. He recommended event homes only be in the C3 zone, which extends from Pittsburgh Avenue to Madison Avenue on Beach and from Windsor Avenue to Cove Beach. He said the C3 contains both hotels/motels as well as residential homes, so the area was ideal for event homes.

He recommended setting a limit on events to three per year, which should comply with all state regulations and city code in terms of fire safety, noise, alcohol consumption and occupancy levels. Monzo said a home hosting an event with 30 people or more in attendance qualifies,

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

'Heroes' awarded after E. Atlantic house explosion

Above, members of local fire departments were lauded as heroes by Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck, Monday, as he presented them with certificates of appreciation for their efforts in response to the explosion at the home of Jim and Evelyn McCarty on E. Atlantic Avenue in Villas. The couple are still recovering from injuries sustained in the explosion, which flattened their house. See more information on the awards on page A7.



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Students at Lower Cape May Regional High School turned the tables and interviewed people working in the journalism field, Friday, including (left to right) Pete Thompson from NBC-40, freelance writer Diane Stopyra, Christopher South from the Star and Wave and Dave Weinberg, sportswriter from The Press of Atlantic City.

LCMR journalism class interviews the reporters

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA – Everyone has their guess as to what direction the field of journalism is heading, but at least we can take comfort in knowing it will be in good hands.

Over 30 students at Lower Cape May Regional High turned the tables on a panel of local journalists, inter-

viewing them about their careers as part of their News Media and Television Media classes. These students all have an interest in the news reporting and broadcasting fields and were given the opportunity to conduct their own press conference, so to speak, and ask real journalists ques-

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West Cape May looking at a new fire truck

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Board of Commissioners has introduced a bond ordinance that would allow for the acquisition of a dump truck for the Public Works Department and a new fire truck for the Volunteer Fire Company.

At the Dec. 11 meeting, the commissioners appropriated \$605,000 for the purchase and authorized the issuance of \$574,750 in bonds to finance part of the cost of the vehicles. Public Safety Commissioner Carol Sabo has been working with the VFC,



Photo from WCM VFC website

Above, West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company's current pump-truck was built in 1977.

particularly Deputy Fire Chief Steve Nelson, for the past few months regarding the purchase of a new fire

truck. “This is just the next step in the process of gathering financing in addition to a

USDA grant application for part of the expense of the new truck. That has already been submitted,” Sabo said. “This ordinance will allow us to complete the ordering of the truck in January once the ordinance is approved.”

Fire Chief Chuck McPherson was at the Dec. 11 meeting with several other members of the fire company. He said the process seemed to be running along smoothly.

“Once we get to the point where it's going to happen, we'll sit down and go over exactly why we have what we'll have on (the truck) and

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Sewer completion date based on weather

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The contractor for the borough's USDA Sanitary Sewer Extension and Water Main Replacement project is hoping for a window of opportunity before the Christmas holiday to finish the remaining work.

Borough Engineer Ray Roberts said the residual portions of the project are weather dependent, requiring a temperature of “42-degrees and rising.” At the Dec. 11 meeting, Roberts said the reme-

dial work on Landis Avenue and Stewart Lane still needs to be completed. He said the contractor, F.W. Shawl and Sons, Inc., of Marmora, concentrated on completing the sanitary sewer and base pavement on Park Boulevard from Leaming Avenue to Central Avenue prior to the Christmas Parade.

“We got the base coat down right before the parade,” he said. “It was close.”

He said the top course on these roadways still needs to be laid down, but the weather conditions must cooperate. Roberts said the contractor

had hoped to begin the process on Monday, but weather in the low 30s and rain in the forecast kept the paving process from proceeding.

Roberts said work on Park Boulevard from Myrtle Avenue to Leaming Avenue is substantially complete. He said Third, Fourth and Fifth Avenues have all been paved as well.

The contractor has completed laying the base course on Central Avenue from Broadway to Leaming, including Willow, Maple and Grant Avenues (south and north sides).

Deputy Clerk Diane Wallace said there will be a construction meeting this week to discuss a window for completion of the project. Roberts said the project should be done before the start of 2014 at the latest.

Roberts also noted that the borough's applications for the 2014 Municipal Aid Projects are being reviewed by the state Department of Transportation (NJDOT). The borough hopes to repave State Street from Fourth to Sixth Street and also com-

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