



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A display of items includes a picture of State Police Trooper Marc Castellano, his football jersey and literature from the Move Over campaign.

## Move over

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accident because you failed to move over and it involves a death, you're going to be charged with manslaughter," she said. "What does that mean? You're going to jail."

From 1999 to 2009, more than 220 officers were killed in roadside accidents nationwide.

"In 2010, in our state alone, there were over 600 road workers hit," Setaro said.

Setaro's son was killed in June 6, 2010. The Howell Police Department was in pursuit of a woman driving erratically and speeding with a spare "donut" tire on her car. The driver ran out of gas westbound on 195. Police discovered warrants had been issued for her arrest, Setaro said.

"She told them the reason she was driving so erratically was a man with a gun had hijacked her and ran into a wooded area (after she was stopped)," Setaro said. "The Howell police called State Police as backup."

Three state troopers arrived at the scene, took out their assault rifles, took protection behind the front wheel well of their cars and faced the woods in front of them, she said.

"Little did those men know that day that the real danger was not in front of them, it was right behind them," Setaro said. "Along came a driver doing 70 mph, hit Marc and threw him 205 feet."

Castellano was hit by a 21-year old Jackson resident. Both were alumni of the same high school.

"The New Jersey State Police feel unless you were driving for 10 years, you're inexperienced, period," Setaro said.

The young man who hit Castellano was a West Point cadet.

"He simply took his eyes off the road and hit Marc at 70 mph," Setaro said.

His license was suspended for three months following an intensive investigation.

The story given by the woman who was driving erratically was found to be untrue.

"There was no guy and there was no gun, and she made up the story because she knew she had warrants out for her arrest," Setaro said. "Those officers didn't even need to be out there."

The woman was sentenced to 15 years in prison for causing a false public alarm.

Setaro showed photos of Castellano at his graduation from the police academy.

"He married his high school

sweetheart. At 29 years old, she is a widow," Setaro said.

She said their children, Juliana, 4, and Vincent, 18 months, lost their dad due to distracted driving. Castellano received his master's degree 19 days before he died.

Setaro displayed her son's football jersey and State Police uniform shirt. She told students not to do anything else when driving.

Coinciding with the assembly, Lower Township Police School Resource Officer William Barcas went to classrooms and selected a few students to be "dead." The students left their classrooms, applied white makeup to their faces and a dressed in a black robe to signify their death.

For the remainder of the day, they stayed on the sidelines of all activity in the classroom and elsewhere in the school.

Health and physical education teacher Karen Wadding said using the "grim reaper" example showed the results of a student losing their life in an accident. Student "victims" wrote their obituaries, which Barcas posted on a wall in a busy hallway to further drive home the message.

## Cape May, school may partner to finance new swimming pool

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Generations of children have learned to swim in Cape May Elementary School's swimming pool, and senior citizens have enjoyed exercising there. That ended last fall when it closed after a major leak was discovered.

"In the summer, we received our water bill and it jumped sky high," Superintendent Victoria Zelenak said.

The 40-foot by 90-foot pool was losing 50 to 60 gallons of water per day, she said.

Zelenak said both the school and the pool will be 50 years old next year. That places the pool beyond its life expectancy. Zelenak said there was nothing the school could have done to prevent the leaks.

An architect proposed replacing the pool in a method that would not require digging up the leaky pipes, she said. Instead, a new water-circulation system would surround the pool. The school looked

at two options, a "Band-Aid" approach to repair the pool for about \$500,000 or replacing the pool for \$800,000 to \$1 million. Zelenak said she believed replacing the pool is the best option since other problems could surface if it is only repaired.

Students in the third through sixth grades received swimming instruction in the pool, according to Zelenak. The school holds a triathlon each year involving running, biking and swimming. Students are questioning what will replace the swimming portion of the triathlon, she said.

The city was using the pool six days a week for activities such as aqua aerobics and aqua yoga. The pool is used by the Cape May Waves Swim Team and occasionally by sixth-grade students from the Lower Township School District, she said.

"It's not just for the school, it's for community members," she said.

Zelenak and Board of Education members met with Mayor

Edward Mahaney to discuss replacing the pool.

The school has the option of financing the replacement solely or partnering with the city. Zelenak said no decision has been made. The cost of the pool could be bonded over a 20-year period, she said.

She said if taxpayers requested a referendum on the issue, it would take place in September. The earliest date a new pool would be open is the end of 2015, Zelenak said.

Mahaney said the city would like to participate in financing the cost of a new pool on behalf of taxpayers.

"That pool is just as important to the city's residents and visitors as it is to the school children, and we respect the school districts ownership of it and their willingness to allow us to lease it for our recreational programs," he said.

Mahaney said he pursued financing from a number of state agencies and has a proposal he would like to discuss with the Board of Education.

## Developer

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endangered species and critical wildlife habitat for migratory species, solely for the purpose of avoiding the constitutional consequences of a regulatory taking."

In 2009, the city announced an agreement had been reached to preserve 78 acres of the 96-acre Sewell Point for open space. That followed 17 years of litigation between East Cape May Associates and the DEP.

Under a settlement, 87 acres was to be preserved. A total of 71 homes would be constructed, with 14 affordable-housing units. The city and DEP were expected to partner for the \$7 million price of land for preservation.

Last year, the city continued to meet with East Cape May Associates, the American Littoral Society, DEP and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under a proposed settlement at that time, the city would pay \$4.4 million to purchase 78 acres as a wildlife sanctuary using grant money.

A group of residents known as Concerned Citizens of Cape May used the Open Public Records Act to obtain correspon-

dence from East Cape May Associates to the DEP. Concerned Citizens issued a press release last week critical that Mayor Edward Mahaney and the city of Cape May confirmed its support of the DEP proposal.

Charles Hendricks, of Concerned Citizens, told the Star and Wave that the DEP has sacrificed environmental protection in order to try to save money for the state. He said Plackter's letter to the DEP was followed by an April 10 letter indicating East Cape May Associates had waited long enough and was seeking a monetary offer for the tract from the DEP.

If East Cape May Associates accepted the DEP's offer to build on sensitive land, approval would still be necessary from the federal Environmental Protection Agency Region II for sewer connections, Hendricks said. As an environmentally sensitive area, a number of criteria must be met, he said.

"There's no way they are going to meet that criteria," Hendricks said. "It's effectively dead."

"The question is what is going to happen," Hendricks continued. "Somehow the state

is going to have to find money, and the money they are going to have to find is going to be between \$5 million and \$10 million depending on attorneys fees."

Mahaney told the Star and Wave that the city favored no development on the Sewell Point tract and that it be maintained as a wildlife sanctuary. He said the DEP's position has been vulnerable due to its lack of attention to the case.

"The question now is what they can reasonably offer within their authority and within their financial means that would satisfy East Cape May Associates," Mahaney said.

He said the city still has \$4.4 million available to purchase 78 acres. Mahaney said his understanding was negotiations were continuing.

The mayor said the city has not been notified by the DEP or East Cape May Associates that the current offer has been turned down or withdrawn.

"We feel that there will be additional discussions," he said.

Mahaney said he sent a letter on behalf of the city to the DEP stating the city's preference for no development on the property. He said he was aware there had been court-monitored discussions for some development on the tract.

The city wanted the developer to be responsible to supply affordable housing and be relieved from the responsibility to provide infrastructure for any development that could cost as much as \$15 million, Mahaney said.

**Cape May Star & Wave**  
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)  
Volume 160 Number 18.  
Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc., 801 Asbury Ave., #310, Ocean City, NJ, 08226.  
Published Weekly (52 times a year)  
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail in Cape May County \$22; East of the Mississippi \$25, West of the Mississippi \$29. Periodical Postage at Pleasantville, N.J. and additional mailing offices.  
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd., #28, West Cape May, N.J. 08204.  
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