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about the 140 Leaming home but has spoken to Christian on multiple occasions.

"We just want to keep our neighborhood nice," she said. Christian inherited the house from his father, David, and said the land has been in his family since the late 1800s. He said he was aware the house on the property had cosmetic issues, but whenever he would replace windows or other features, the home would get vandalized or broken into, so he eventually gave up. He made the repairs after receiving a notice from the Cape May County Department of Health in July 1999. The document says the broken windows allowed cats and other animals to access the interior of the house creating a nuisance and odors for neighbors.

Christian said because of the repeated vandalism after replacing windows and boards, he decided to put off making the repairs until he retires from the Los Angeles



Above, two properties on Leaming Avenue the Borough of West Cape May is working on getting cleaned up. Left is 140 Leaming Avenue, whose owner was recently located. Right is 132 Leaming. The owner lives in California and said vandalism has been a problem.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Police Department in two to three years and moves to Cape May. He said he never reported the vandalism or theft.

"I had contractors put windows in, but they were broken by vandals," he said. "I didn't report it because I figured there was nothing anyone

could do."

Both of the Leaming homes are located within the historic district and cannot be demolished without Historic Preservation Committee approval. Christian initially wanted to demolish the house and rebuild a new house when he retired, but has since

reconsidered.

He wrote a letter to the Historic Preservation Committee dated March 7 that says he has no intention of destroying the home, but would rather keep it because it reminds him of his father, his summers in Cape May as a child and when he was a life-

guard for the Beach Patrol.

In the letter he mentions the vandalism that occurred over the years and thefts, which included furniture, his father's war memorabilia, 12 replacement windows, tools and a newly installed 100 ampere electrical system. Christian said its also difficult

to deal with contractors while he's in California, because they can take advantage of him. He said they require payment before the work is completed.

However, Christian has already had the over grown lawn and a fallen down tree in the backyard, which came from a neighbor's property, taken care of. He also wrote a letter to Roach stating he would re-board the windows and make exterior improvements in order to preserve the historic look.

"I plan on keeping the home in compliance with the borough codes," Christian said.

At the Wednesday, March 14 Board of Commissioners meeting, Kaithern said the borough has made contact with other owners or those paying taxes on the homes and are making progress with the issue of decrepit properties in the borough.

Teen

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alcohol use.

"We're not out to arrest kids, but out to protect the town and the individual juveniles...and other parents' rights," Beck said. "It's also to protect the parents who don't know kids are attending these parties."

Beck said he would hope the state would enact such a law, which has been moving slowly through the Senate and Assembly.

At the meeting, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare asked Police Chief Brian Marker if it were true that police could not arrest the juveniles. He said the police can arrest any-

one under 21 if they are in public possession of alcohol. Lare asked about on private property, and the chief indicated there were certain conditions when they could make an arrest.

"Would the ordinance allow the police to go in (a home) without probable cause," Lare asked. "I'm just a little skittish about the police going in without probable cause."

Marker said the Lower Township Police are always cognizant of the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unlawful search and seizure.

Beck, a former Philadelphia policeman, said police cannot enter any home without prob-

able cause.

"They would have to have a call to the house and observe certain things before hand," he said.

Beck said normally the probable cause is a loud, disruptive party. He said the inability to make arrests on private property is a hole in the law he would like to see filled.

Beck said one of the statistics he found most startling was the average age of first use of alcohol in Cape May County was age 11. He said this situation could not continue, and he would like to see counseling or community service used as a deterrent to underage drinking.

Tower

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MacLeod said the wireless carriers will also be installing a security fence around the pole. The wireless companies are sharing the cost of the temporary tower and reattaching their permanent antennas when the 700,000-gallon water tank is repaired and painted.

MacLeod said another wireless carrier, Metro PCS, is interested in being the fourth carrier to have an antenna attached to the water tower

upon completion. Metro PCS will also be using the temporary tower along with the three current service providers.

MacLeod an engineer from one of the four carriers will be working alongside the city's engineering firm, Remington Vernick and Walberg Engineers to make sure the project runs smoothly. He said bids for the temporary pole will go out at the end of this month, and will be awarded in April. The pole should be installed within a

month. "Based on our appearance before the Planning Board a few nights ago, they have been told it's fine to move forward and acquire the temporary pole," he said.

The water tower rehabilitation is scheduled to begin Sept. 10 after Labor Day weekend and continue on until mid-May 2013. The city was awarded a grant and low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to repair the water tower.

Tourism up 17 percent in NJ

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Municipalities, businesses and tourism entities throughout Cape May County should work together to promote the county's many tourist attractions, according to Cape May County Tourism Director Diane Wieland.

Wieland addressed attendees at the Cape May County 2012 Tourism Conference on Tuesday at the county administration building.

She revealed tourism has increased 7 percent in New Jersey.

"We have something for everyone and we need to make sure that we're marketing and letting our visitors know that there's more than the beach and the boardwalk," Wieland said.

Visitations to New Jersey increased by 18 percent, with 80 million travelers coming to the state in 2011.

Wieland said Cape May County generated \$5.1 billion in tourism dollars for 2011, an increase of 4.5 percent from the \$4.8 billion generated in 2010.

According to Wieland, Cape May County has the highest number of second-home owners in New Jersey. She said 47 percent of all Cape May County dwellings are considered second homes, with 54 percent of those homeowners using their properties as vacation homes and do not rent.

She said 59 percent of second-home owners come from Pennsylvania, 35 percent from New Jersey, 3 percent from Maryland and Virginia, 2 percent from Delaware, 2 percent from New York and 2 percent from Florida.

She said baby boomers account for 80 percent of leisure travel, with cultural and historic attractions high on their priorities. Wieland said resort destinations should

market to this demographic.

Born between 1946 and 1965, baby boomers are a "driving force" in the economy, Wieland said.

"When you're out marketing, you need to make sure baby boomers are staying young and need to participate in what you're doing," Wieland said.

Wieland said another growing tourism segment is environmentally-based ecotourism. She said Cape May County is rife with ecotourism opportunities, from hiking, camping and bird watching.

"We know the eco-traveler is usually spending two or three weeks in pursuit of that activity," Wieland said. "Ecotourism is a \$522 million business and we know that number is growing. We have about 54,000 acres of open space in Cape May County that is usable for passive recreation and ecotourism."

She said 47 percent of travelers will take eco-friendly factors into consideration when vacationing.

"People are very concerned about their carbon footprint and that hotels have green policies," Wieland said. "They want to know they're making a difference and not destroying the planet."

Wieland said the county should promote a wide range of offerings, including golf, bird watching, surfing and parasailing.

"We want to make sure our visitors know. The more they have to do, the longer they have to stay," Wieland said.

She said 51 percent of visitors to Cape May County bring children with them on vacation.

County Engineer Dale Foster said the county plans to examine ways to develop a "wayfinding" signage system to improve navigation and decrease traffic congestion.

Wayfinding signs enable travelers to navigate to a des-

ination via effective signage or visual aids.

Foster said a successful wayfinding system answers the following three questions:

* Where am I?
* How do I get to my destination?

* What is here of interest? He said the county would work with the municipalities to develop a central theme for wayfinding with uniform signage for the county and municipalities.

"What we want to do is get those people when they come off the exits of the parkway to start heading into a destination they want to go to. They'll know where they want to go instead of reading a sign at the bottom of the ramp, where there's also other signs posted on there," Foster said.

Foster said in April the county will put out a Request for Qualifications for a consultant to study wayfinding signage. He said a consultant could be procured before the summer season.

He said the first signs could be in place by summer 2013.

"You've got to be able to identify the destination and link the community and county as one. It will help you reduce traffic congestion and bring more people into town," Foster said.

Freeholder Susan Sheppard, the freeholder liaison to the county's tourism department, said the national media recognized Cape May County's beaches, boardwalks and amusement parks as the best attractions.

"The most important thing for Cape May County is we have to market to each other. We have a wonderful area. We have a phenomenal group of beach communities and cultural events," Sheppard said. "We need to have open communication among all of our marketing partners so we can explain and appreciate what we have going on in

Albano recovering from heart attack

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

VINELAND - Assemblyman Nelson Albano suffered a minor heart attack on the morning of March 9 and is

recovering at his Vineland home.

Albano, 58, drove himself to the South Jersey Healthcare Regional Medical Center in Vineland, according to state Sen. Jeff Van Drew. Van Drew

said Albano was transported to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia and a stent was inserted.

"They put a stent in and he stayed there for about a day and that weekend he came home," Van Drew said.

Van Drew said Albano is doing "great" during his recovery.

"This was the most minor of heart attacks you could possibly have. It was caught very early and required one small stent," Van Drew said.

Van Drew said Albano attended one voting session in Trenton since the heart attack.

"He's taking it a little bit easier, but he's doing very well," Van Drew said.

Calls to Albano for an interview went unanswered.

Albano, who has represented New Jersey's First Legislative District since 2006, is a shop steward at Village Supermarket in Vineland and is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

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24	9:55	10:10	3:42 3:45
25	10:31	10:44	4:20 4:17
26	11:08	11:20	4:58 4:50
27	11:45	11:58	5:38 5:26
28		12:27	6:21 6:06