



HPC proposes awards for preservation

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 40 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 \$1.00

Point looking for lead water system connectors

Deputy mayor: residents, if contacted, would be wise to replace pipes

By RACHEL SHUBIN
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Borough Commissioners discussed identifying water connections for lead connectors; Commissioner Catherine Busch gave a general overview of the process at a Sept. 24 meeting.

“I mentioned at our last meeting Public Works is going around and cleaning out water meter pits,” Busch said. “The state has given all water utilities 10 years to identify and remediate any potential lead contamination from

the whole water delivery system.”

Cape May Point has three parts to its system: water mains that run down the street, lateral connections from the water main to the water meter pit, and service lines from the water meter pit to the houses.

“The service lines that go between the water meter pit and the house actually belong to the property owner, not the borough,” Busch said. “The state wants us to double-check what those connections are as well, [by completing] an inventory and re-

porting to the state.”

Busch said according to the state, a lead service line is any water supply connection that is anything but copper or plastic.

“We are going to check every single service just to make sure, on behalf of our taxpayers,” Public Works Supervisor Bill Gibson said. “If you have a galvanized service, you’ll receive a letter from [us] that the Department of Environmental Protection now considers that to be lead.”

Homeowners will receive a letter from the water clerk only if potential galvanized lines are

found. It is optional for homeowners to replace the connections if galvanized pipes are found.

“People would be wise if they get a letter from the borough to replace things,” Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyck said. “I wouldn’t be surprised if they start getting letters from their insurance company like we did with lead paint.”

Van Heeswyck asked if there was an approximate date when changes would have been made to the code as far as what was supposed to be used, like with lead paint, which could be used

as a guideline.

“What most towns are doing to alleviate some of the checking on what the state calls ‘unknowns’ is going to houses built after, say, 1980 and above, [that] shouldn’t have galvanized line,” Gibson said. “It should either be copper or plastic.”

The borough replaced a cast iron main on Yale Avenue several years ago. Busch said that some time this fall, the borough will replace one of the last known cast iron pipes and unknown

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Washington St. residents tired of speeding cars

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Residents of the 900 block of Washington Street are tired of speeders, particularly those racing through the traffic light at Madison Avenue.

Washington Street resident Laurel Nuschke approached City Council at a Sept. 17 meeting about speeding on the 900 block of Washington Street. She said she had residents in her neighborhood, most of whom live there year-round, sign a petition concerning speeding vehicles on their street.

The petition asked council to mitigate the speeding on the street that occasionally results in car accidents at the intersection of Washington Street and Madison Avenue.

“It has been frequently observed that drivers disregard the speed limit attempting to beat the light and wind up running the red-light leaving town, Nuschke said. “Motorists also ignore the ‘no turn on red’ signs at the intersection.”

She said with an increasing number of vehicles entering Cape May, it is only a matter of time until an accident results

in a fatality. Nuschke said motorists disregard crosswalks because they are not marked with signs to warn drivers to stop for pedestrians.

The corner of Queen and Washington streets has a well-used crosswalk for children going to and from Cape May Elementary School.

“We’ve witnessed school children standing in the crosswalk with their parent as cars refuse to stop and drive through,” she said.

Nuschke suggested installing speed humps similar to those used in Stone Harbor and Cape May Point with the humps engineered to allow firetrucks to pass over them.

Deputy City Manager Justin Riggs said the Joint Insurance Fund did not endorse use of large speed humps because they damage vehicles and increase accidents.

She suggested a four-way stop at the intersection of Washington and Madison streets which have been successfully used in West Cape May.

“Cameras and blinking lights could be placed on the ‘no turn on red’ signs,” Nuschke suggested.

She said residents rou-

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Katherine Dudinsky/For the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Oktoberfest in Cape May

Although beer was one of the main attractions at Saturday’s day-long Oktoberfest in Cape May, there was plenty of other food – including popsicles – to go along with the crafts and music. **More photos inside, page A7.**

City Hall lightning damage: \$381,000

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City Council approved increasing the amount of emergency funds for repair of equipment in City Hall damaged by a July 12 lightning strike from \$250,000 to \$450,000.

Deputy City Manager Justin Riggs said the Joint Insurance Fund was paying all costs minus a \$1,000 deductible. “It’s not going to be up to \$450,000.

This resolution essentially is up to \$450,000; however, the claim right now is right around \$381,000,” he said.

Riggs said the HVAC controls in City Hall were impacted by the lightning strike which took time for a vendor to determine. That added cost to the claim.

Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hanie said the city has already received \$100,000 of the claim reimbursement.

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Cape May welcomes movies

Officials attend training at Film Commission

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

NEWARK – Cape May became a large movie set last spring when Searchlight Pictures filmed segments for “A Complete Unknown.”

Set in the music scene of the early 1960s, the film follows 19-year-old Minnesota musician Bob Dylan’s meteoric rise as a folk singer to concert halls and the top of the charts – his songs and mystique becoming a worldwide sensation – culminating in his groundbreaking electric rock and roll performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965.

Cape May is open to more motion picture productions.

At a Sept. 17 City Council meeting, Deputy City Manager Justin Riggs said he, Director of Convention Hall and Recreational Activities Kacie Rattigan, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Eck and Police Lt. Joseph Walker attended a training program held by the NJ Film Commission.

Riggs said the film commission has a program en-

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Point eyes regulating fire pits and grills, but delays action

By RACHEL SHUBIN
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – No one wants smoke coming in their windows from a neighbor’s grill or fire pit.

During a Sept. 24 meeting, Borough Commissioners discussed a proposed ordinance prohibiting fire pits, which was first read at a Sept. 12 meeting.

“After the agenda went out, there were a few people who came to me with concerns and questions about the fire pit ordinance we introduced at our last regular meeting,” Clerk Elaine Wallace said.

She compiled and emailed the comments and suggestions to the commissioners.

“Not every outdoor fire is being considered to be prohibited,” she said. “So, I thought regulating outdoor fires instead of prohibiting fire pits, and in other portions of the ordinance where it mentions open burning and recreational fires, I reworded it to say regulating outdoor fires.”

The discussion continued, addressing what would be permitted and prohibited under the ordinance, including open burning as prohibited.

“There is a paragraph that explains things that are not prohib-

ited by the ordinance,” Wallace said. “Barbecue grills, barbecue pits, glass fire stoves, fireplaces with ember screens are all permitted, so the word ‘prohibited’ isn’t in the titles of anything, which is a better representation of what you’re looking for.”

Commissioner Catherine Busch asked about removing the section regarding burning rubbish and incinerators.

“It’s saying that burning materials are contained in wood, paper I guess, maybe wood pellets that if somebody has a wood pellet stove, that are contained, are all things people could use,” Wallace said.

Busch said the word “incinerator” should be taken out.

Commissioners also discussed the permit requirements and the location of the fire devices in the section. Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyck asked solicitor John Amenhauser if there was specific wording about the 25-foot distances from other structures and properties.

“There was, and that is where this language originally came from,” Amenhauser said. “Fire safety is the primary concern, embers or anything coming from a fire landing within a structure of 25 feet and causing a fire to that structure.”

Busch asked if the 25-foot location needed to be specified in the ordinance. Amenhauser said, in his opinion, that it doesn’t have to and is up to the commission.

“I think having things right along the property line doesn’t make sense to me because it could be five feet from an adjacent structure,” van Heeswyck said.

Discussion of reducing the distance was brought up when Busch asked where homeowners could place a grill because of the small lot sizes in the borough.

“We have to determine as a

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