

## Caper Tigers outlast Falcons in game for the ages

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## House of the week

Real Estate Resource



166th YEAR NO. 43 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020 \$1.00

# Area tourism insiders look back, ahead

## Pandemic-plagued summer led to changes both short- and long-term

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP** — How was the 2020 summer tourist season and how can the industry plan for the 2021 season with a continuing COVID-19 pandemic?

Those questions were pondered during the inaugural Jersey Shoreview, a Zoom webinar Oct. 22 presented by the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism at Stockton University.

The event was moderated by Anthony Catanoso, president and principal owner of Steel Pier in Atlantic City. He said more than 90 percent of his customers were from the New York City area this summer and 90 percent were in the 18- to 34-year-old category.

"We were up 20 percent from our normal North Jersey-New York visitation," Catanoso said.

He said his staff experienced challenges in enforcement of wearing masks, social distancing and sanitation.

A "no dancing rule," was difficult to enforce, he said.

Vicki Clark, president of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, said the county did better than anticipated. She said business in July and August "rebounded nicely."

"Everyone will report that it was off from what it was in 2019," she said. "We were really staged to have a record setting season."

Clark said the closing of the Canadian border affected business in Cape May County, but those customers were replaced with new customers who had

never previously vacationed here.

"We saw a considerable increase in the camping industry that can truthfully boast that they are the original social-distancing experience," she said.

A surge took place in the purchase of recreational and camping vehicles and at the same time, campground owners and managers were teaching people how to camp, Clark said.

"They were teaching people what those strange sounds were in the middle of the night," she

said. "They were teaching people how to build fires."

Clark said Cape May County was well positioned to expand outdoor dining and to relax liquor laws. She said she hoped that would continue into the fall season.

Jim Ziareis, vice president of hotel sales for Tropicana Atlantic City, said the hotel/casino did "fairly well." Its core customers that might have had a complimentary hotel room

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Rachel Shubin/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Doing the foxtrot

Two red foxes have been spotted recently on Poverty Beach in Cape May. The species is not uncommon among coastal landscapes, where they can be found living in pairs or small family groups.

# City Hall ready to reopen with curtailed hours

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Hall will reopen from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays starting Nov. 4.

At a meeting Oct. 20, City Manager Jerry Inderwies said council would decide which public meetings would be held in City Hall and whether council would choose to hold meetings in Convention Hall.

Meetings in City Hall would be limited to 28 people including council and its professional staff. Inderwies said 20 members of the public would be able to attend a council meeting.

"If we have to limit access, then we will still have to provide conference calls, mail-in comments," he said.

Inderwies said a meeting in Convention Hall could accommodate every interested person and could be live streamed with public comment taking place in the hall.

Mayor Chuck Lear asked if council decided to meet in one location, would boards and commissions use the same location? Inderwies said it would depend on the meeting agenda. He said he does not believe every meeting needs to be held in Convention Hall.

City solicitor Frank Colorado said a Planning Board or Zoning Board meeting could have no one in the audience or 100 people, depending on applications.

Closing City Hall daily at 1 p.m. would allow for cleaning of the building each day, Inderwies said.

"It's just a step forward in a full reopening," he said.

The city must still be careful with cases of COVID-19 on the rise, Inderwies said.

The Construction Office needs interaction with the public, he said.

City Clerk Erin Burke recommended not switching locations for meetings back and forth between City Hall and Convention Hall.

A Historic Preservation Commission meeting scheduled for Oct. 19 had to be canceled when the Zoom platform did not work. Inderwies said nine applications had been scheduled for the meeting.

Lear said he believed council meetings should be held in Convention Hall. Concerning meetings of the city's advisory committees, Inderwies recommended in-person meetings at this time just for boards and commissions.

He suggested advisory committees may be able to meet in City Hall after Jan. 1.

## Listing on register necessary for school restoration grant

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved applying to have the Franklin Street School added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The application will be made in association with an African American Civil Rights in the 20th Century grant from the National Park Service.

Grants consultant Jim Rutala said the Park Service awarded the city a \$500,000 to restore the racially segregated school.

"There was some confusion in the fact that since Cape May is a National Historic Landmark, that it covered the requirements for the grant as an historic property," he said. "The state and the National Park Service had weeks of discussion and they are now asking us to have the Franklin Street School registered."

The process will take at least six months but will also qualify the building for additional funding opportunities, Rutala said. The state will review the application and the city's

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File photo/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Franklin Street School must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places to be eligible to receive a grant from the National Park Service.

## Four options to cast ballot; machines only for disabled

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Voters have four options to return their vote-by-mail ballots.

The city has a drop box for ballots at the police station entrance to City Hall, where it is under video surveillance, City Clerk Erin Burke said.

The ballot may be mailed, placed in any election drop box in the county, delivered in-person to the county Board of Elections office in Cape May Court House or handed to poll workers on Election Day at the voter's polling place, she said.

For those who choose to

vote in-person, all five voting districts will be located inside the Star of the Sea Parrish Hall.

"This is primarily a vote-by-mail election, which means if you show up to vote on Election Day, you will be voting by a provisional, paper ballot," Burke said.

Only those who are deemed disabled to the point they cannot complete a paper ballot will be given permission by the county Board of Elections to utilize a voting machine, Burke said. She said not one voting machine was used in Cape May during the primary election. Burke advised voting "the sooner, the better."

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