

City to auction off beach concession licenses

Page A2



House of the week

B1



166th YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020 \$1.00

Murphy imposes limited COVID restrictions

As cases soar, he stops indoor dining at 10 p.m., bans interstate youth sports

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

Gov. Phil Murphy announced new restrictions as the COVID-19 pandemic worsens in New Jersey that take effect Thursday, Nov. 12. One is prohibiting youth sports tournaments through the high school level that feature teams from out of state. The second is cutting back hours for indoor dining at restaurants.

Also at Monday's press conference, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker spoke, calling for a bipartisan relief bill to

go through quickly as coronavirus cases grow across the nation. "We are still in that proverbial valley of the shadow of death," Booker said, and need federal action now.

Effective Nov. 12, all restaurants, bars, clubs and lounges must close indoor dining by 10 p.m. and not reopen until at least 5 a.m. the following day. Outdoor dining, takeout or delivery services can continue past 10 p.m.

The time restrictions also include casinos, but their gaming operations may continue around the clock. After 10 p.m., no food

or drink will be served inside the casinos.

Murphy said because of evidence there has been virus spread because of patrons seated at bars, effective Nov. 12 all bar-side seating will be prohibited at all hours.

To give restaurants some relief with the 25 percent limit on occupancy, they will be allowed to place tables closer than 6 feet apart, if the tables are separated by barriers. The Department of health will issue guidance on those dividers.

He noted outside dining bubbles – tents, essentially, around single

tables – will be allowed, provided they are cleaned between each service.

The governor said the new restrictions on fall sports came mostly because of increased infections at youth indoor hockey tournaments featuring teams from multiple states.

Starting Thursday, all interstate games and tournaments for indoor youth sports – up to and including high school – are prohibited for the time being.

It is not safe for teams to be crossing state lines to participate in tour-

naments where there is significant risk of spreading the virus, he said.

There are no other restrictions at the moment, but more could be coming depending on how the COVID-19 situation changes.

However, those measures will be "surgical" in their approach.

New Jersey, he said, "is back at levels we thought we left behind months ago."

"To be clear, the last thing I want to do ... is shut our economy back down and thankfully we are not

See Murphy, Page A3



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Councilman Zack Mullock defeated Mayor Chuck Lear in the Nov. 3 election in Cape May. He and Bezaire will join Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan, Councilman Shaine Meier and whoever replaces Mullock on City Council.



Provided

Chris Bezaire defeated Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and will take his seat on City Council in January.

County voters backed GOP in most races

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Conservative Cape May County voters helped propel U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew back to Congress, giving him a wide margin of votes in the Nov. 3 election along with decisively voting for other Republicans from freeholder to president.

Van Drew, who was elected as a Democrat in the Second Congressional District in 2018, switched parties to the GOP at the end of 2019 and was elected as a Republican last week.

Although the tallying of votes continues, Van Drew is leading Democratic challenger Amy Kennedy with 174,187 votes to her 155,173.

Cape May County accounted for more than half of the differential, giving Van Drew 32,934 to Kennedy's 20,784, a difference of more than 12,000.

Kennedy's home county, Atlantic, gave her the edge but by a narrower margin of about 3,000 votes, 65,017 to 62,024. Cumberland County also supported Kennedy by about a 4,000-vote margin, but Van Drew won in Salem, Gloucester, Burlington and Ocean counties.

There are votes remaining to be counted in New Jersey and throughout the country, but Kennedy has conceded the race.

Cape May County GOP Chairman Mike Donohue trumpeted the results in the

county in a press release after the Associated Press called the race for Van Drew.

"On behalf of all of our volunteers, committee members, elected officials and supporters, I want to congratulate Congressman Van Drew on his re-election," Donohue wrote. "I also want to congratulate everyone in the CapeGOP family for delivering such a decisive victory for our congress-

man. With aggressive local efforts, including campaigns in Lower Township, Middle Township, Upper Township and Dennis Township, our relentless freeholder campaign, as well as the effort our CapeGOP Federal Campaigns Coordinator Bobby Barr and his compatriots undertook in Ocean City, CapeGOP was able to command a decisive margin to help return Jeff Van Drew to Congress."

"Way back before they shut the world down, we welcomed Congressman Van Drew into our CapeGOP family and pledged our support for his re-election," Donohue wrote. "We kept our promise and Jeff Van Drew will continue as our Republican congressman."

"I would like to thank President Trump as well as all of the Republican, Democrat, and Independent voters who stood with me and continued to place their trust in me to fight for them and all of South Jersey in Washington,"

See County, Page A3

Mullock, Bezaire victorious

Balance of power changes; safety building rejected

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With the election of Zack Mullock as mayor and Chris Bezaire as a councilman Nov. 3, the balance of power on Cape May City Council will change in January.

Mullock received 837 votes to incumbent Mayor Chuck Lear's 534 votes. Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks, who also serves as deputy mayor, was unseated by newcomer Bezaire with 620 votes to her 499.

In order to become mayor, Mullock must resign his council seat. City Council will then appoint a temporary member to fill his term until the next general election in Nov. 2021, at which time there would be a public vote to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term until Dec. 31, 2022.

A number of council votes in the past two years have been cast 3-2 with a voting bloc of Lear, Hendricks and Councilman Shaine Meier. Mullock

and Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan have often cast opposing votes. When a super-majority vote of four members was required to pass a bond ordinance to finance the construction of a \$15 million public safety building to house the fire and police departments, Sheehan and Mullock were able to block its passage.

Both Sheehan and Mullock have favored construction of just a fire station.

With Lear and Hendricks off council beginning in 2021, a four-person voting bloc of Mullock, Sheehan, Bezaire and an unannounced candidate to fill Mullock's council seat could place Meier as the sole dissenting vote on council.

Lear said despite his disappointment of how the election turned out, he was grateful to all who voted for him and gave him their trust. He said election advertising may have portrayed him as unwilling to compromise on issues, which he said was not the case.

Lear said he was surprised Cape May voters favored the city building only a \$5 million fire station instead of a \$15 million public safety building. Voters cast 480 voters for the fire station and 426 votes for a public safety building; 377 voted "no" to either building.

"I think people probably looked at it and said, 'Hey, \$5 (million) is less than \$15 (million) and let's go with the \$5 (million),'"

Mullock, 35, may become one of the youngest mayors in the county. He said he was at a disadvantage in his campaign on advertising, text messaging, email marketing and social media to a point.

"It was more difficult for the non-incumbents to get their message out there, but what the citizens of Cape May get to decide on is the issues," he said.

Mullock said when voters saw the amount of money going into the Lear

See Cape May elections, Page A2

Contractor delaying completion of Soldiers and Sailors Park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The much-delayed Soldiers and Sailors Park faces a further holdup — the contractor will not resume work on the project until Dec. 1.

During a virtual City Council meeting Nov. 4, city engineer Tom Thornton, of Mott MacDonald, said the contractor had earlier promised to resume work in early November.

"Despite the fact that he had indicated he would be able to get the

project done in about three weeks from when he starts, now he's suggesting that it's going to take him until Jan. 15," Thornton said.

He said he informed the contractor he must resume work earlier on the park. The project had been held up by a delayed delivery of granite.

"Unfortunately, just the complications with the granite is taking away leverage that we would otherwise have with our contractor," Thornton said.

An archaeological investigation at the Lafayette Street Park site iden-

tified two locations that have some potential historical significance. One location is related to historical/archaeological potential and another related to prehistoric significance along an old native American trail, Thornton said.

He said the investigation was preliminary and was forwarded to the state Historic Preservation Office on an informal basis. A second investigation may be necessary and would involve excavating soil.

The state Department of Environmental Protection is requiring

the archaeological investigations as part of an application for a permit for the park project.

"At this point we are waiting to hear back from the state Historic Preservation Office as to whether they concur as to whether actual excavation in these areas would be warranted," Thornton said.

The county Open Space Board has agreed to pay for two-thirds of the cost of a fountain for Lafayette Street Park and were no longer questioning the design for the fountain, he said.

"They recognized that it was an effort among the city's stakeholders and that this was the preferred style of fountain," he said.

The Open Space Board wants the city to incorporate the ability to anchor a future embellishment in the center of the fountain such as an opportunity for public art, he said.

City Manager Jerry Indewies said he believed the board would pay two-thirds of the cost of the fountain up to \$165,000.

See Contractor, Page A2

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month



Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the country in both men and women, with 80% of those deaths are believed to be caused by smoking. Long time smokers should speak with their physician to see if they qualify for a Low Dose CT scan (LDCT), that can detect lung cancer early and increase survival rates.

