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170th YEAR NO. 48 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024 \$1.00

## Cooper health executive shares vision, mission

Dr. Christine Winn addresses county Chamber of Commerce at Port O Call in Ocean City

By **CRAIG D. SCHENCK**  
Sentinel staff

OCEAN CITY — “Taking care of people is a blessing and a gift,” Dr. Christine Winn told a packed house Nov. 21 when the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce hosted the Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional official for a presentation on what this year’s merger means for the region.

Cape Regional Health System officially combined with the Camden-based Cooper University Health Care over the summer and has plans to bring advanced care — including physicians, specialists and equipment — to the region.

Winn, senior vice president and

‘Cape Regional has been a stalwart in the community for over 70 years and what Cooper has been able to do is enhance the things that are there. We felt like we wanted to come together to build a healthier community.’

—Dr. Christine Winn, senior vice president and chief regional officer

chief regional officer, highlighted the milestones for Cape Regional and introduced Cooper University Health Care. She reviewed the existing components of Cooper Cape Regional and discussed the principles that will guide future decisions.

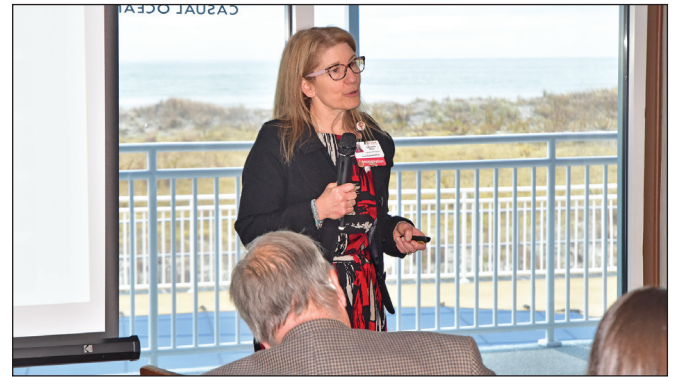
A closer examination revealed strategic focus areas and next steps, including a \$10 million capi-

tal campaign to expand the emergency and radiology departments.

**Burdette Tomlin to Cape Regional and now Cooper**

Winn discussed the evolution of the medical center, comparing

See Cooper, Page A3



**Craig D. Schenck/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE**  
Dr. Christine Winn addresses the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 21 at the Port O Call hotel in Ocean City.

## Cape May tables recycling change for further study

Proposal would limit amount city collects, require private pickup for all excess material

By **JACK FICHTER**  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council tabled an ordinance that would establish limits on recycling collection and require private collection for amounts exceeding those limits.

The proposed ordinance came into being after the Department of Public Works reviewed recycling practices throughout the city and noted increased burdens from commercial properties placing large amounts of recycling curbside.

The ordinance would limit recycling collection to two 96-gallon cans for a total of 192 gallons, which equates to a pile of cardboard 48 inches by 36 inches by 28 inches.

Councilwoman Maureen McDade accompanied the Public Works Department on a two-hour ride around the city on a windy day last month and said she saw many cardboard boxes in the street blocking traffic. She said it was out of place.

During public comment, Tony Montefusco, of Cape Resorts Group, who said he manages a dozen properties in Cape May, was displeased with the proposal.

“This recycling ordinance will put a lot of difficulties on not only our business but other businesses as well,” he said. “It’s already reducing the limited services we receive from the city of Cape May.”

He said Cape Resorts contributes significantly to the city’s revenue through property taxes, mercantile fees, concession agreements and indirectly with the visitors it brings to Cape May. He said Cape Resorts pays nearly \$700,000 in property taxes and fees to the city.

“It is unfair and unreasonable to deprive our business of a service when contribut-

ing so much to Cape May,” Montefusco said. “Other than police, fire, EMS, recycling pick up is the only service that our properties get without additional charges.”

Cape Resorts supports the city implementing recycling standards that make the workload feasible for the Department of Public Works, he said, but does not believe the limit on recycling is fair.

Montefusco said the ordinance would result in additional charges that could be passed on to their guests and asked council to reject the ordinance.

Tom O’Hara, owner of Uncle Bill’s Pancake House on Beach Avenue, concurred with Montefusco.

Taxpayers Association of Cape May Vice President Jules Rauch said for 20 years or more, the existing ordinance states recycling is for residential properties only. The collection of commercial recyclables is at their own sole expense by contract with whomever they choose.

In 2017, during a change of the city’s administration, the contracts for recycling “fell between the cracks,” and there was no continuation of a program that had been in existence for many years, he said.

“We kind of got backed into the corner of getting into the recycling business, which frankly is unfortunate,” Rauch said. “That’s not a good practice for municipalities. I know JIF (Joint Insurance Fund), our insurance agent, has recommended that we not participate in this kind of activity.”

He said taxpayers should not have any responsibility to pick up commercial recycling. The Board of Directors of the Taxpayers Association suggested the city

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**John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE**

### Ready for action

Mounted police from throughout the state and region participated in a training exercise Nov. 21 in Cape May. Above, the New Castle County, Del., Mounted Patrol backs up the Cape May County Sheriff Riot Squad near the Washington Street Mall.

## North Atlantic right whale spotted off Cape May

By **JACK FICHTER**  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — During a three-hour whale, dolphin and bird watch cruise Nov. 17, the Cape May Whale Watch and Research Center observed a critically endangered North Atlantic right whale off the coast.

The whale was identified as #4360, “Musketeer,” by the New England Right Whale Research Program. “Musketeer” was first documented off Nova Scotia in 2013. The whale’s sex and exact age are unknown.

North Atlantic right whales have an estimated population size of less than 370 individuals, less than a third of which are breeding females. Vessel strikes and entanglement are two of the top causes of fatalities. The animal had a healed scar behind its blow holes.

“Musketeer” has almost exclusively been documented in southern New England, including dur-



**Melissa Laurino/Special to the STAR AND WAVE**

This North Atlantic right whale, known as ‘Musketeer,’ was spotted last week off Cape May.

ing the late summer and fall when right whales are less common in that area, according to the New England Aquarium, which conducts aerial surveys of the waters south of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.

The aquarium’s survey area includes the Southern New England wind energy areas and surrounding waters such as the Nantucket Shoals.

If you see a right whale, report it by calling (866)-

755-6622 or alert the U.S. Coast Guard Mid-Atlantic on channel 16.

Cape May Whale Watch and Research Center participates with Whale SENSE and follows all marine mammal viewing guidelines.

By the early 1890s, commercial whalers had hunted North Atlantic right whales to the brink of extinction. They got their name from being the “right” whales to hunt because they floated when they were killed.

Whaling is no longer a threat in the United States, but they have never recovered to pre-whaling numbers, and human interactions still present the greatest danger to the species.

Increasing ocean noise levels from human activities are also a concern since the noise may interfere with communication and increase their stress levels, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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