



'The Carpenter's Son' a musical celebration of St. Joseph

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024 \$1.00

City again tables proposed change to recycling rules

Plan would limit amount homes, businesses could have picked up

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council tabled an ordinance for the second time that would limit the amount of recycling that businesses and residents could place curbside for the city to collect.

Cape May's recycling ordinance does not include commercial pick up, only residential collection even though the city has been collecting recycling from businesses since 2019.

The ordinance proposes to limit residential and commercial recycling collection to two 96-gallon containers; multifamily condominiums would be limited to four 96-gallon containers.

During public comment at a meeting Dec. 3, former councilman Chris Bezaire suggested condominium units should be allowed the same amount of recycling collection as singles of the same size.

Councilwoman Maureen McDade asked if Bezaire were suggesting a 23-unit condominium building should be allowed to line up 45 recycling cans along the street.

"Your job is to not treat different properties differently," Bezaire said.

McDade said the ordinance was created to prohibit numerous recycling cans from lining the street and for the safety of Public Works employees who collect the cans.

Bezaire said aesthetics should not be a reason to adopt an ordinance. He said commercial properties are assessed at a higher value than residential properties because of usage.

City Manager Paul Dietrich said most of the city's businesses do not submit an income statement to the tax assessor. He said all properties in the city are assessed based on the value of their land.

Dietrich said there are six times more residential ratable value properties in Cape May than commercial properties. Bezaire suggested the Department of Public Works hire more employees and have a better collection schedule.

Councilman Shaine Meier said the city owns two recycling trucks but only one is being utilized. He said Public Works employees need higher pay and suggested two recycling pick-ups each week.

Former councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said using a dumpster looked better than a business lining up 26 recycling cans along the street.

Resident Jules Rauch said a 96-gallon can holds more than 12 cubic yards

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Frank Scott/For the STAR AND WAVE

West Cape May Community Christmas Parade spreads holiday cheer

Students from Cape May City Elementary School take part in the West Cape May Community Christmas Parade, which was viewed by record crowds Dec. 7. At top, the Jersey Shore String Band. Below left, the Lower Cape May Regional High School Marching Band. Below right, Santa took time out of his busy schedule to participate in the parade.



Cape May lost more than \$125,000 on Capestock concerts

Poor attendance plagued event all three years it has been held

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — For the past three years, the city's Department of Recreation has staged Capestock, a three-day re-creation of 1969's Woodstock on the beach behind Convention Hall.

The concerts featured tribute bands playing the music of Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, The Who, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Santana, Crosby, Stills and Nash and other 1960s superstar acts.

While it may have been a novel idea, the past three years' concerts lost the city \$125,000 due to poor attendance.

During a City Council meeting Dec. 3, Jules Rauch, vice president of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May, said he received financial information on the concerts from the city's chief financial officer.

"In the three years that project has been before us, we've lost at least \$125,000, and if you start to add in what I call contingency costs for projects, it's a fair amount more than \$200,000," he said. "I don't believe that this a project that is beneficial to the city."

He said attendance for the concerts did not exceed 125 persons per day for the three-day event. Rauch said he did not believe a concert in August

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Minke whale stranded on Sunset Beach

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

SUNSET BEACH — A 20-foot minke whale beached itself here Dec. 3 and was euthanized following an examination by a veterinarian.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) of Brigantine was notified of what was initially believed to be a dead whale on the beach, but first responders confirmed that the whale was still alive and stranded dry on the beach above the outgoing tide.

MMSC's stranding team and veterinarian responded to the scene. The animal was identified as a minke whale measuring about 18 feet in length. Upon examination,

the whale was found to be lethargic, in thin body condition with congestion in the lungs.

After the medical assessment, it was determined that the whale's prognosis was extremely poor and it was unlikely to survive. The impact of stranding on cetaceans (dolphins and whales) is traumatic as their body weight and organs are not supported as they normally are by the water.

When a cetacean is stranded for any length of time, its body weight causes crushing damage to the internal organs, which lessens their chances of survival. The decision was made to euthanize

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Robert Newkirk/For the STAR AND WAVE



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