



House of the week

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Atlantic Cape honors Women of Wonder

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165th YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 \$1.00

More data sought on Historic District expansion

Planning Board wants map, justification for homes being included

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — As many as 189 properties are being considered for inclusion in Cape May's Historic District.

At a Nov. 26 meeting, the Planning Board discussed a lack of criteria for including the additional homes in the district and will ask the city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to provide more information.

At a previous Planning Board

meeting, members were presented with a map that includes properties the HPC believes should be included in the district.

Planning Board Chairman Bill Bezaire examined the list of properties and met with HPC Chairman Warren Coupland; Councilman Zack Mullock, who is council liaison to the HPC; and HPC Commissioner Dave Clemans.

A more complete list of properties suggested to be included will be available to the Planning Board on a future date, Bezaire said. He

suggested board members visit the properties.

The board would notify owners of affected properties.

Planning Board solicitor Richard King said while only 30 days of public notice is required before the Planning Board meets on the issue, the consensus he was getting was each property owner should receive notice by certified mail.

Bezaire said the current list covers 95 percent of the properties. He said the map has specific

lots and blocks.

Board member Linda Wolfe said when Coupland first described the scope of the issue, it was fewer than 50 properties but has grown to 189. She suggested a notification process to affected property owners in stages, because the board could not handle in one meeting the appearance of potentially 189 residents. She suggested the work be divided into zones or sides of town.

Bezaire suggested a property owner against being in the district

could also file written notice with the board.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks said property owners may want to hear the rationale for why their home is being included. Bezaire suggested the HPC deal with the property owners.

"I don't think you can just start plucking out properties and start putting them in your historic district; you have to do this process," King said.

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Cell phone pole would obstruct lighthouse view

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — No one wants to see a cell phone tower spoiling the view of the Cape May Lighthouse, least of all borough officials.

During a Nov. 26 work session, Borough Commission discussed an application for a cell pole in front of 213 Lighthouse Ave.

Borough solicitor Brock Russell said the commissioners had the ultimate authority to approve a ground-mounted cabinet for a new pole at a new location.

He said if the cell phone carrier were only replacing an existing pole with a new pole or installing an antenna on an existing pole or a cabinet on an existing pole, as long as they meet the specifications in the ordinance, it is reviewed by the borough engineer.

Borough Commission would then receive a letter from the borough engineer and have the job of approving a permit.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved an order last

year nationwide requiring a 90-day "shot clock" to approve or deny a new cell antenna site and just 60 days to approve attaching new 5G equipment to an existing pole. A municipality opens itself to a lawsuit if its approvals or denials exceed that time frame.

Russell said he did not believe the "shot clock" was suspended if a cell phone carrier's application were incomplete. For a new pole, the cell phone carrier must provide a survey of the location.

Commissioner Robert Mullock said he objected to the location because of the historic location of the lighthouse. "I really feel that this location is a terrible site, and that in fact, it would be actually better if this pole location was perhaps back where our generator is," he said. "If it has to be within a certain area at that location, then we have access on our driveway to allow them to access the cabinet."

Mullock said the backyard of Borough Hall would be a better location

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Operation Fireside brings USCG recruits 'home' for Thanksgiving

Area families, organizations host young Coasties for holiday

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — "It's alright to smile today," Capt. Sarah "Kathy" Felger, commanding officer of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (TRACEN), told a gymnasium filled with recruits on Thanksgiving morning.

The recruits sat bolt upright in bleachers and staring straight ahead while martial music played in the background, waiting for orders to form lines on the gym floor to meet a family ready to take them home for a Thanksgiving dinner. The American Red Cross organizes Operation Fireside to give recruits a holiday and a break from the arduous routine of basic training.

TRACEN and the American Red Cross placed more than 350 Coast Guard recruits with southern New Jersey families for Thanksgiving, according to spokeswoman Diane Concannon. She said 120 host families, as well as organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Elks, signed up to bring recruits into their homes for the holiday.

"There was an outpouring of support and people stepping up to say they would like to host; we had a waiting list," she said. "We told folks, 'Next year, get in early.'"

Concannon said Operation Fireside has run for more than 35 years with a number of families hosting recruits every year.

"It's a tradition which is wonderful," she said.

The number of recruits at TRACEN varies year to year, Concannon said.

"We're thankful for the people of Cape May County that step forward and open their doors and welcome the recruits in and give them a little bit of the comforts of home while they're training here," she said.

Dave and Suzy Wenner,



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
U.S. Coast Guard recruits line up to be joined with their host families on Thanksgiving morning during Operation Fireside, in which local families and organizations treat Coasties to a home-cooked holiday meal.

'We're thankful for the people of Cape May County that step forward and open their doors and welcome the recruits in and give them a little bit of the comforts of home while they're training here.'

—Diane Concannon, American Red Cross



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Capt. Sarah 'Kathy' Felger, commanding officer of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, informs recruits that it's OK to smile as Operation Fireside begins.

Community Food Closet helps to fill growing need

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — As part of their celebration of the holiday season, many people will find the time or money to help those who are in need. From the literary image of the "Men of Goodwill" visiting Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" to people standing on street corners near red kettles ringing bells, we become aware of the plight of those who might require a helping hand at this festive

time of year. Still, there are those who live in Cape May County who are surprised when they discover assistance is needed here. But over the past few years, there have been people who have recognized help is needed and have risen to the challenge.

"I am happy people are aware we exist," said Tina Johnson, who for the past four years has been executive director of the Cape May Community Food

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Tree Lighting & Holiday Concert

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 | CONGRESS HALL'S GRAND LAWN

CONGRESS HALL FESTIVAL CHOIR
BALLROOM | 6:00 PM

OUTDOOR CONCERT & ENTERTAINMENT
GRAND LAWN | 7:00 PM

TREE LIGHTING & CEREMONY
GRAND LAWN | FOLLOWING OUTDOOR CONCERT

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