

Local leaders say state law 'handcuffs' police

Page A3



House of the week

B1



168th YEAR NO. 7 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 \$1.00

Cape May discusses future of outdoor dining

Mayor concerned applications will overwhelm planning, zoning board staff as summer nears

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's permits for outdoor dining due to the COVID-19 pandemic ended on the last day of 2021, when tables and chairs in parking lots, right of ways and closed streets had to be removed.

On Feb. 1, City Council discussed whether to amend the ordinance governing outdoor dining or just have establishments follow the current code.

Mayor Zack Mullock encouraged council to discuss the issue and provide solid information to bar and restaurant owners. He said the easy answer was for business owners to go before the planning and zoning

boards and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to get approval for expanded outdoor dining.

Mullock said a restaurant owner recently applied for outdoor dining and presented an application to planning and zoning boards and the HPC due to it being a historic property in the historic district. He said the plan was approved.

"Are we going to have a ton of applications come in all at once to our planning, zoning and HPC before this summer season and are there other ways that we can help address that?" Mullock asked.

He said he believes outdoor dining was a success and visitors enjoyed the experience.

"I'm not specifically talking about

closing the street or anything like that but just outdoor dining in general," Mullock said.

The city wants to support restaurants but in a manner that is agreeable to residents, which has been a balancing act for many years, he said.

Councilman Shaine Meier said the city's seating ordinance states that business owners seeking outdoor dining apply to the zoning official, the Planning Board engineer, city solicitor, police and fire departments. The current ordinance provides a framework for outdoor dining noting additional seating cannot be created and setbacks must be observed, he said.

"I think this framework works

very well and it doesn't necessarily make the applicants go in front of any particular board," Meier said.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said residents who live near restaurants should have input on allowing outdoor dining in their neighborhood. She said the number of parking spaces should not be reduced.

"Cape May has a parking issue and we can't be allowing seats to take up valuable parking spaces," Sheehan said.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the ordinance covering outdoor dining requires the restaurant owner to apply to the zoning officer with the application reviewed by various parties for health and safety issues. The ap-

plicant pays a fee and an escrow fee to the planning or zoning board engineer.

Gillin-Schwartz said the current ordinance does not allow tables in parking spaces or the elimination parking. An applicant eliminating parking or doing something that might affect circulation would need to apply to the planning or zoning boards.

The ordinance amended the zoning code to make outdoor seating a permitted use, Gillin-Schwartz said, adding that there were various preexisting, nonconforming uses for outdoor seating.

Sheehan asked if the city counted

See **Future**, Page A2

Township honors Salvatores

COLD SPRING — Joseph and Annie Salvatore have made their passion for history into a legacy that can be enjoyed by generations in Lower Township.

On Feb. 7, Lower Township Council honored the Salvatores for their work in historic preservation throughout Cape May County by presenting them with a proclamation.

Joseph Salvatore, co-founder and volunteer chairman of Historic Cold Spring Village and the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum, had recently been presented with the New Jersey Historical Commission's highest honor, the Richard J. Hughes Award, for his outstanding lifetime achievement in the field of New Jersey history.

Salvatore was born and raised in Wildwood. Upon completing pre-med studies, he attended Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia where he served as a surgical intern and resident. Choosing orthopedics as his area of specialty, he spent two years at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., followed by three years as an orthopedic surgery fellow at the Campbell Clinic in Memphis, Tenn.

For 30 years, Salvatore was involved in his surgical



Provided

Joseph and Annie Salvatore were honored Feb. 7 by Lower Township Council for their dedication to preserving local history.

practice at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in Englewood. He was also an assistant clinical professor in orthopedic surgery at Columbia University

College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. Cold Spring Village Foundation Executive Director Patricia Anne Salvatore, known as Annie, also

received the New Jersey Historical Commission's Richard J. Hughes Award for superior stewardship

See **Township**, Page A3



Provided

West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company Chief Chuck McPherson, left, poses with Police Chief Dekon Fashaw after being honored upon his retirement.

DRBA plans \$151 million capital program

Cape May side will see part of improvements

NEW CASTLE, Del. — The Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) commissioners adopted the agency's 2022 capital improvement program along with an authority-wide five-year strategic plan for the agency's airports and crossing facilities.

The \$151.2 million capital improvement plan is comprised of \$126.9 million in authority resources and \$24.3 million in federal, state and local grant funds.

The five-year strate-



Provided

The MV New Jersey in drydock awaiting repairs. The DRBA adopted its capital spending plan that includes improvements on the New Jersey side of Delaware Bay.

gic plan, which contains nearly 100 infrastructure projects at the Delaware

Memorial Bridge, Cape May-Lewes Ferry and the agency's five regional

airport facilities, serves as a planning tool for directing resources to address the increasing demands associated with an aging infrastructure.

Major projects include the Cape May approach roads rehabilitation for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. Pavements at the terminal approach roads are deteriorating and improvements are necessary to maintain expected levels of service at the Cape May terminal.

The project proposes the design and construction for roadway reconfigurations at the terminal entrance, improvements to the approach roads, and

See **DRBA**, Page A3

McPherson retires from fire company in West Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission honored West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company Chief Chuck McPherson on the occasion of his retirement after 27.5 years of service.

On Feb. 9, Mayor Carol Sabo said McPherson joined the fire company in 1976 and has served as chief since 1994. He

retired as of Dec. 13, 2021.

Sabo said McPherson served the borough with distinction, dedication and honor.

Members of the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company and Boy Scout Troop 73, which is headquartered at the fire company, were in attendance.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said McPherson dedicated more than 45 years of his life to serving the community.



FROM OUR FARM TO YOUR KITCHEN

Shop fresh farm-to-table flavor all winter long at the Beach Plum Farm Market

BeachPlumFarmCapeMay.com • 140 Stevens Street, West Cape May NJ 08204
(609) 459-0121 • @BeachPlumFarm

Beach Plum