



House of the week

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Aloe vera used for centuries

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166th YEAR NO. 10 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 \$1.00

City tax rate stable under 2020 budget

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

\$1.4 million in grants in 2019.

CAPE MAY — City Manager Jerry Inderwies has presented a 2020 municipal budget to City Council with no increase in the local purpose tax rate.

“Although we did use more from surplus, we will recover that,” Inderwies said.

At a Feb. 25 meeting, he said the budget totals \$32.1 million, comprised of \$20.5 million for the current fund, \$2.7 million for the Beach Utility, \$1.3 million for the Tourism Utility and \$7.4 million for the Water-Sewer Utility.

Under the plan, the local purpose tax rate would remain 36.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Inderwies said the current fund is proposed to increase 2.65 percent, the Beach Utility 6.63 percent, the Tourism Utility 5.16 percent and the Water-Sewer Utility 3.94 percent.

He presented anticipated revenue for the current fund for 2020. Revenue from parking meters is anticipated to increase by \$325,000 to \$1.4 million and interest on investments to increase by \$44,000.

He offered revenue comparisons between 2018 and 2019. Parking meter revenue during that time period increased by \$595,000, interest on investments increased by \$193,000 and hotel room tax increased by \$116,000. Miscellaneous construction office revenues increased by \$327,000 from 2018 to 2019, Inderwies said.

Inderwies said room tax is projected to increase by \$35,000 to \$1.1 million. Construction office revenue is anticipated to increase by \$95,000 to \$625,000. He said that could be affected by a downturn in the national economy.

He said the city received

The city receives 55 percent of its revenue from taxes, 17 percent from surplus and 13 percent from parking meters and room tax.

“Without parking meters and occupancy tax, that 13 percent would be levied on the taxpayers,”

See Tax rate, Page A5

Wilson, Guess Who, Greenwood, Platters on way to Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

True Love,” “Have You Heard?” and “Why Don't You Believe Me?”

CAPE MAY — The city's tourism department has scheduled a summer of concerts in Convention Hall including classic rock, country and Motown.

On July 8, the summer concert series goes country with Lee Greenwood, best known for his hit “God Bless the U.S.A.” He had seven No. 1 songs and 25 charted singles. His country hits include “Inside Out,” Somebody's Gonna Love You,” “You Got a Good Love Coming,” “Streamline” and “Love Will Find Its Way to You.”

The summer series kicks off July 1 with the Duprees, best known for the hit “You Belong to Me.” The vocal group is known worldwide for its romantic interpretations of great love songs.

Greenwood has won numerous industry awards, including Male Vocalist of the Year from the Academy of Country Music in 1983, two Male Vocalist of the Year awards from the Country Music Association (CMA) in 1983 and 1984 and a Grammy for Top Male Vocal Performance in 1985 for “I.O.U.” The CMA also named “God Bless the U.S.A.” its Song of the Year in 1985.

The Duprees have made a career out of giving new life to old hits. Starting out in the early 1960s in Jersey City, the group was discovered by George Paxton of Coed Records and a former big band leader. Impressed with their smooth vocal quality, he had them record Jo Stafford's 1950s ballad “You Belong to Me” with big band arrangements. It was an instant national hit and the group's first million seller. More hits followed: “My Own

“God Bless the USA” Concert Series, Page A3



John Alvarez/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

CAPE AID Concert for the Homeless

The Geno White Trio performs March 1 as part of the 4th annual CAPE AID Concert for the Homeless at First Presbyterian Church of Cape May. The concert was a benefit for the Branches Outreach Center.

Stand up and be counted: Groups say census shapes future of region

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

Just like many things in life, the census is about money and power.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the count provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, school districts and many other governmental, private and nonprofit agencies use to provide daily services, products and support for the community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funds go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, municipalities and other agencies based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

10 minutes questions years

It takes just 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that will shape OUR future for the next 10 years.

MakeltCount2020.com

Atlantic County received a grant from the Department of State Complete Count Commission

In addition, Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years.

The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

Lori S. Carlin, partnership

specialist for Atlantic and Cape May counties with the New York Regional Census Center, issued a news release recently encouraging and stressing the importance of participation.

“It's one shot every 10 years to ensure our local civic, public and nonprofit services not merely continue but grow — \$675 billion in federal funding nationwide, to be exact, is at stake. How it's disbursed statewide and locally deeply depends on reaching into our local community,” the news release stated.

Government officials in Atlantic and Cape May counties are stressing the importance of their residents completing the census to help generate more state and federal funds flowing into the area.

See Be counted, Page A2

City may use drone to monitor surf zone area

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A member of the city's Beach Safety Advisory Committee is suggesting the city purchase a drone to photograph and produce maps of the beach related to the surf zone, where a number of injuries have occurred due to a sharp drop-off.

On Feb. 24, committee member Richard Lundholm,

who is the city's deputy fire chief, said the city purchased a drone about five years ago to take photos of the beach from the Cove to Poverty Beach before and after storms. He said the city's information technology director, Dan Shustack, has the photos on file.

Committee member and Lower Cape May Regional High School science teacher Richard Demers said two drones owned by the high

school are outdated and would not be suitable for building data relating to the surf zone in Cape May. During a previous meeting, he had suggested using one of the school's drones.

Demers said he was certified in 2016 as a drone pilot and suggested the city consider purchasing a drone.

A low-budget drone could be purchased and the city could hire a server to do pre-flight planning, fly the

drone, process the information and make it accessible online. Demers said the city is a commercial entity, so the annual subscription fee would be \$3,000.

“Another way I'm thinking is going through an all-inclusive program that's also a subscription fee of \$1,000 per year,” he said. “It has a pre-flight program, it has the flying program and it has the

See Drone, Page A4

Beach Plum

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