



## Road projects wrapping up in Cape May

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## House of the Week

Real Estate Resource



170th YEAR NO. 21 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 \$1.00

## Manufacturer of beach tags details digital

City will use both types provided by nonprofit

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is morphing beach tag sales as a combination of digital and physical formats. Just as parking meters are being fed mostly by phone apps; beach tags may be headed in the same direction.

At a May 7 City Council meeting, Jersey Cape Diagnostics presented its mobile beach pass access system.

Executive Director Joe Sittineri said the non-profit organization has been operating for 51 years. It has manufactured beach tags for the city for 48 years and for other cities throughout the state. The firm also makes tags for horseshoe crab identification.

"We know the ins and outs of every town's beach access. Obviously we've had our finger on the pulse for any changes that are happening," he said.

Jersey Cape Diagnostics sales representative Emma Curry said the organization would be providing the public more options to access the "beautiful beaches of Cape May." She said they were not trying to get rid of beach tags but "elevating the convenience of purchasing beach tags for your beachgoers."

The system will allow beachgoers to pay for their tags online and pick up the physical tags in person.

Beach tags are made at Jersey Cape Diagnostics by persons with disabilities at their facility located at Crest Haven.

A user-friendly interface enables physical beach tag purchases and digital beach tag purchases, allowing users to view the purchased tags' expiration dates and usage history.

A secure QR code will authenticate digital beach tags. Fees are charged to customers; municipalities pay no cost.

The system can integrate with municipal financial systems, so data can be uploaded and it can provide point of sale systems for direct credit card sales and set up a municipal web presence to integrate credit card sales for the purchase of beach tags.

The phone app mirrors beach tags with different colors for different weeks, Curry said. She compared the process to making a restaurant reservation on Open Table taking less than 3 minutes of time.

"It beats standing in line in the hot sun," she said.

Councilwoman Maureen McDade asked how it could be assured that digital beach

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Becca Bergen/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Elle Fanning and Timothée Chalamet star in 'A Complete Unknown,' a biopic about Bob Dylan's rise to stardom starting with an appearance at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island. Below left, a vintage motorcycle used for a scene of Chalamet riding past Congress Hall.



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Local residents found work as extras in the movie during filming days last week.

## Cape May cast as Newport in Dylan biopic

Film producers, stars, extras all the buzz in city last week

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — If you checked into Congress Hall late one night last week and didn't pay much attention to some classic cars parked nearby, you may have looked out your hotel window the following morning to discover you woke up in the year 1965. On top of that, it appeared you were in Newport, R.I., instead of Cape May.

The town was dressed to resemble Newport for filming of a biopic about Bob Dylan at the Washington Street Mall and the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal.

The town was abuzz last week, filled with actors and extras for crowd scenes.

While film produc-

tions have visited Cape May over the past decade, most were low-budget movies that turned out to be box office flops.

Not likely this time. The movie is entitled "A Complete Unknown," based on lyrics from Dylan's song "Like a Rolling Stone."

The movie stars Timothée Chalamet as a young Bob Dylan. The Newport Folk Festival was a turning point in Dylan's career when he switched from acoustic guitar to an electric guitar, generating some boos from the audience.

Banners were hung on Congress Hall announcing the Newport Folk Festival. Buildings in town sported

Dylan, Page A6

## Ceremonial book brigade set up for library opening

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Before the invention of fire wagons and fire trucks, members of the public would throw water on a fire by passing full buckets along a human chain. The same can be done to move books.

The city's new library will open in the restored Franklin Street School on June 13, and a book brigade has been organized to transport them.

Members of the public will form a human chain to pass the books from the old library on Ocean Street.

The event will be a recreation of a similar event in 1982, when the city's library moved from the basement of

City Hall to the Ocean Street location, a former Bell Telephone switching center.

At a May 7 City Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said the county was gracious in moving the grand opening to 3 p.m., which allows Cape May City Elementary School students to participate.

The students have a half-day and it's the final day of school before summer break, she said, which allows the students to join in the book brigade at 1 p.m.

"The streets will be closed; it's going to start at the existing library," Baldwin said.

She said much work needs

Book brigade, Page A2

## Homeowner: City failed to notify of inclusion

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Planning Board tabled adopting a resolution endorsing proposed changes to the historic district map in connection with its adherence to the city's master plan.

At a May 14 meeting, Washington Street resident Alexandra Barikian said she opposed inclusion of her property in the 1300 block of the street in the historic district in any capacity. She added that a resolution from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in December did not clearly delineate her property.

She said the historic district map on the city's website does not include her property.

"I also note that this resolution operates under the Secretary of the Interior standards, none of which apply to my property, which was built in 1950 and meets none of the National Park Service's requirements for historical property consideration," Barikian said.

If the city determines the property should be "inappropriately included as a historical property against the wishes of the owner," she requested that all changes to the property requiring HPC approval be paid for in full

by proceeds of the city's historic preservation fund federal grants program.

Barikian said she was notified of her property's inclusion in the historic district by a fellow resident but not by the city.

"The poor communication and less-than-forthright nature of this resolution and its implementation must be addressed by the multigenerational families of Cape May that it affects directly," she said.

Planning Board Chairman Bill Bezaire said the city would be in touch with her. Planning Board member Marilyn Reed questioned why homeowners were not notified by

letter of their property's inclusion into the historic district.

Bezaire said what was proposed to be supplied to the Planning Board was a map showing existing historic district boundaries and properties and homes being added to the district. Planning Board solicitor Richard King said the HPC should notify homeowners of their inclusion into the historic district and provide an opportunity for homeowners to speak at an HPC meeting.

"What you're probably going to find is a number of them are not historic," Bezaire said.

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