

City Council OKs inspections for lead-based paint

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 26 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024 \$1.00

Digital beach tags, possibly more parking for city

Cape May officials looking at multiple possibilities in lots near City Hall

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Digital beach tags are in operation and more parking spaces are planned for the area of City Hall and the new library on Franklin Street.

On June 18, City Manager Paul Dietrich said digital beach tags were rolled out last weekend. The city is offering two options for the tags, a full digital phone version or a physical tag that can be purchased using a credit card.

Dietrich said a daily tag is available fully digital and compared the process to making a dinner reservation online. Beachgoers can simply show the tag on their phone to

beach taggers, he said.

Wearable beach tags can be ordered digitally, whether it's a daily, weekly, three-day or a seasonal tag, and picked up at any of the city's four kiosks, Dietrich said.

"That way, if you don't have cash with you, you come up there, scan a QR code and pay with a credit card and then get your physical tags and go and enjoy the beach as you normally would," he said.

Memorial Day weekend revenue was up but sales were down other than daily tags, Dietrich said. Daily tag sales were higher than last year, but all other categories were flat or down, Dietrich said.

Last November, council approved across-the-board increases

to beach tag fees to keep up with labor contracts and increased costs to maintain the beach. As such, beach tag revenue was up about \$23,000 Memorial Day week over last year despite slower sales.

In other business, with the opening of the new library in the Franklin Street School, parking has been affected. Dietrich said the former library building on Ocean Street had six parking spaces while the new library has none.

Dietrich said library patrons may have set their sights on the City Hall parking lot as well as drivers parking in the City Hall lot after business hours.

"I think it might be time possibly to do some ParkMobile signage

and start adding both of those lots into a pay situation for certain time periods," he said. "Obviously with City Hall, people are going to come in and do city business, so I don't think during the day necessarily, but I think periods of off hours, weekends, to make this city parking lot available for parking when there is a need for parking in the city. People drive by and see an empty parking lot, it doesn't make sense not to utilize that for the public."

Mayor Zack Mullock said exceptions are necessary for those who want to attend council or zoning or planning board meetings. Dietrich said paid parking could be exempted for meetings by coordinating

with parking enforcement.

He said some businesses now use ParkMobile to allow parking for their lots during off hours instead of hiring a parking attendant. Dietrich said the ParkMobile app would warn persons that parking hours have ended, and they need to move their vehicle.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said he spoke with several parking lot owners including the Ocean View restaurant, which has 45 spaces. He said a private parking lot must pay about \$1,000 as a buy-in to ParkMobile.

He said customers of Maison Bleue Bistro and residents and

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Lafayette park finally about to move forward

Nature trail bumped up as all permits approved

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape May is finally moving forward with development of Lafayette Street Park.

City Council approved the preparation of bid specifications for two phases of construction of the long-delayed project and make application to the county Open Space Program for funding.

At a June 18 council meeting, engineer Vince Orlando, of Engineering Design Associates, said he met with officials of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the prior week to discuss the park.

"I believe we're getting ready to cross the finish line with the Green Acres application for the land swap," he said. "The good news is that we found out the city has a \$500,000 loan with DEP which is getting ready to expire if we don't act quickly."

Orlando said while the city is not ready to bid on the entire Lafayette Street Park project because of "some of the idiosyncrasies," work could be accomplished in phases.

Previously, creating a nature trail into the wetlands behind Cape May City Elementary School was phase four of the project but it now becomes phase one since it has been approved by the DEP, he said.

"The city is seeking funds for that phase. In addition to the Lafayette Street Park loan, we do have \$500,000 for a loan with the DEP for the trails," he said. "The trails will be ready to go out to bid as soon as we decide

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Marching with Pride in Cape May

Equality Cape May's Pride March was held June 20 on the Promenade, beginning at the Cove Pavilion. Participants marched to Convention Hall to hear speakers, followed by a family-friendly after-party at The Inn of Cape May.

Bashaw accepts U.S. Senate debate request

CAPE MAY — Local hotelier Curtis Bashaw, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, has officially accepted an invitation from News 12 New Jersey to debate his Democratic opponents, U.S. Rep. Andy Kim and Sen. Bob Menendez.

According to a news release, the one-hour debate, featuring questions from

moderators and a diverse group of voters from throughout the state, is set for early September at News 12 New Jersey's studio in Edison.

"Thank you to News 12 New Jersey for hosting the first broadcast debate of the U.S. Senate campaign, offering New Jerseyans the opportunity to learn about the candidates and their positions on

the important issues in this historic election," Bashaw said. "As I travel up and down this state, voters tell me they're tired of the corruption and the career politicians who just haven't delivered results for New Jersey families."

He said that's why it's so important that all three candidates debate the big issues

impacting New Jerseyans' lives — ranging from inflation, affordability and the economy, to border security and keeping families safe, according to the release.

"I urge my two Democratic opponents, Congressman Kim and Sen. Menendez, to join me in accepting this first debate request," Bashaw said.

City, HPC to notify new members of historic district

Updated map adds 187 properties; compliance required only if ownership changes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

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

One homeowner opposed inclusion of her property in the 1300 block of Washington Street into the district in any capacity. She said the map on the city's website does not include her property and her home meets none of the National Park Service's requirements for consideration.

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 a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting.

At a June 17 meeting of the HPC, Chairman Warren Coupland said the commission should revisit the issue.

"I think there is going to be a real need for understanding and acceptance of streetscape, but I think it should come back before the HPC," he said.

HPC Commissioner Jim Testa

said the commission approved a definitive map adjusting and correcting previous maps of the city's historic district and HPC should make presentations before the Planning Board and City Council.

"I think we need to move forward and go back and make a complete and successful case," he said.

Coupland said it should be stressed to the board and council the amount of work that went into preparing the expanded historic district map and the participation of the state. He said 187 additional properties would

be included in the district and a suggestion was made the property owners be notified by mail.

A new presentation of facts should be created that would be the third such, he said.

HPC solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said notifying homeowners of their inclusion in the historic district is a good idea even though it is not required by the enabling ordinance. He said those who find themselves newly in the historic district would be "grandfathered in." He said a person who purchased a home before its inclusion in the historic district would not be affected.

Instead, if the home were sold, the new owners would have to comply with HPC regulations.

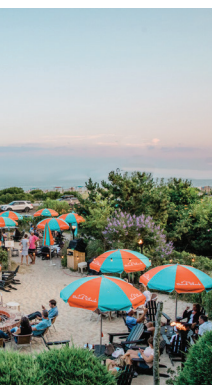
"The idea was that we have a certificate of zoning compliance among two other certificates that people have to get when they transfer ownership in town," he said. "That certificate of zoning compliance would indicate you're in the district, here's your rating, so that would be on the new owners, whoever they sell to, and those people would be notified through the sale process."

Coupland suggested drafting a letter explaining the issues to 187 property owners.

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