

Faulkner nets 100th goal for Caper Tigers

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House of the week

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167th YEAR NO. 23 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021 \$1.00

Party's over: Open alcohol consumption ends

City Council says it's no longer necessary now that bars, restaurants are completely open

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — While bars may continue to offer drinks for takeout in sealed containers under state regulations, the city is putting an end to open public consumption of alcohol.

Bar patrons may purchase an alcoholic beverage to go but they will have to wait until they arrive home or to their hotel before consuming it. The allowance for public consumption enacted last summer amid the COVID-19 pandemic, ended June 2 as council took no action to extend it.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said Cape May had

allowed open consumption of alcohol within 50 feet of a licensed establishment during the pandemic, with an expiration of Dec. 31, 2021, or when Gov. Phil Murphy authorized bars and restaurants in the state to return to 100 percent capacity.

He said the thinking is that if bars are able to operate at full capacity, they do not need an open consumption area. Leading up to Memorial Day weekend, Murphy dropped capacity limitations on bars.

Councilman Chris Bezaire, who was a proponent of the temporary open consumption of alcohol, said he was "perfectly fine" with it ending.

"My only concern that was brought up to me was the state ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) still governs carry-out to go containers," he said.

Bezaire said even if the city does not permit open containers of alcohol, until the governor rules otherwise, bars can still serve sealed containers for take-out. Bezaire said that means customers could walk a few blocks away and open the container.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said she wanted to see an end of allowing open public consumption.

"The reason that I was always given that we were doing this was for the economic viability of

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Cape May City Council extends temporary outdoor dining: Page A2

these bars, and I don't think that's necessary now that everything is open and you can go inside and have a drink if you want," she said.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin suggested signage be placed in bars to inform patrons open public consumption is not permitted. Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said take-out containers of alcohol would continue to be permitted

under state law, something the city cannot regulate.

In a normal year, Cape May police would issue 50 to 150 open container violations, he said.

Councilman Shaine Meier asked if alcohol could be consumed at tables on the closed portion of Decatur Street. Gillin-Schwartz said those establishments would need to receive an extension of pre-mises permit from the ABC.

During public comment, Massachusetts Avenue resident Marilyn Reed said she witnessed a pub crawl from the C-View Inn on Memorial Day with 20 persons on bicycles carrying bottles

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Shannon Kearney/U.S. COAST GUARD

Live graduations resume at Coast Guard's TRACEN

Recruits from Oscar-200 Company graduated from boot camp at Training Center Cape May on June 4, the first time guests were allowed to attend since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020.

Cannabis shops may be coming to Lower Twp.

Two retail, two delivery services to be allowed under ordinance

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council introduced an ordinance Monday to allow retail marijuana businesses and cannabis delivery services to operate in the township's industrial and General Business 1 zone (GB1).

The township would allow one retail marijuana operation in the GB1 zone and one in the industrial zone. The ordinance states licensing retail and marijuana delivery would be conditional uses.

The township would permit two marijuana delivery services, one each in the industrial and GB1 zones.

The GB1 zone is spread throughout the township, while the industrial zone includes the Cape May County Airport and Fulling Mill Road at the border with Middle Township.

No cannabis store or delivery service would be permitted to be located within 1,000 feet of a resi-

dence, firehouse, school, playground, church, hospital, library, beach, public building or recreational facility. Hours of operation would be limited from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cannabis consumption areas would not be permitted at the business locations.

The Planning Board found the proposed ordinance consistent with the township's master plan. Marijuana-related businesses must hold state licenses, the ordinance stipulates.

Township Council also introduced an additional ordinance to set mercantile license fees for marijuana-related businesses at \$2,000 per year.

The township will not issue licenses for marijuana cultivators, manufacturers, wholesalers or distributors.

The ordinances noted 67 percent of New Jersey voters and 70 percent or 8,690 of Lower Township voters approved legalization of marijuana for recreational

See Cannabis, Page A5

Two Lower Township men charged with woman's drug-induced death

VILLAS — Two Lower Township men have been arrested and charged with the drug-induced death of a 49-year-old woman.

Lower Township police responded to the 100 block of East New York Avenue on May 23 for a report of a drug overdose. Patrol officers found the victim unconscious and unresponsive.

According to authorities, officers administered Naloxone and attempted lifesaving procedures but the woman, who was not identified, was ultimately

pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. Members of the Lower Township Police Department's Detective Division and the Southern Regional Medical Examiner's Office arrived on scene a short time later and initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death.

During the investigation, evidence was collected from the scene and the Lower Township Police Detective Division executed a search warrant that led to the arrest of Matthew Britton, 29,

of Villas.

Britton was charged with first-degree strict liability for drug-induced death and second-degree reckless manslaughter. He was being held at the Cape May County Jail.

A second suspect was later identified as James E. Gartner, 25 of, North Cape May. An arrest warrant was issued for Gartner and the Lower Township police are encouraging anyone with information on his whereabouts to call (609) 886-1619, ext. 156.

Lear, Hendricks, Hayes honored for effort on Franklin St. School

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Former mayor Chuck Lear, former deputy mayor Patricia Hendricks and County Commissioner E. Marie Hayes received the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) Champions Award on June 2 for their leadership and advocacy to convert the Franklin Street School into a new branch of the county library system.

They were nominated by retired library director



HENDRICKS



LEAR

Susan Briant. In her nomination, she said Lear, Hendricks, Hayes and Center for Community Arts (CCA) Executive Director David Mackenzie had the vision to renovate and

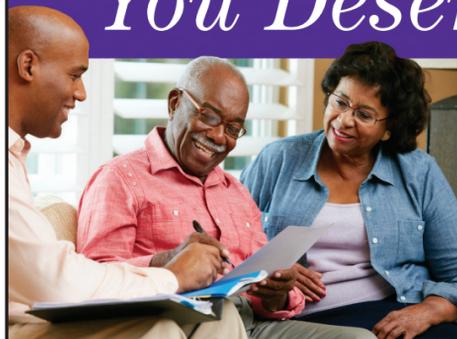
expand the Franklin Street School into a 16,000-square-foot library and community center.

The Franklin Street School was formerly an elementary school for Black students from 1927 to 1947, when New Jersey desegregated its schools.

"These library champions cultivated an amazing multi-year advocacy campaign to successfully move the project forward with great public support," Briant stated.

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You Deserve The Best Cancer Support!



Wednesday, June 23 | 12pm - Getting Healthy After Cancer Treatment

Now that cancer treatment is complete, you may find that getting back to "regular" life is harder than you expected. Join us to talk about nutrition, exercise, dealing with side effects, and more. This webinar will focus on practical and realistic expectations to assist survivors with quality living.

Speakers: Vickie Riskie, MSN, RN, OCN, NE-BC & Anneliese Kuemmerle, MS, RD

For information or to RSVP to this free event, please visit shoremmedicalcenter.org/events



ShoreMedicalCenter.org

100 Medical Center Way, Somers Point, NJ