



Diamond Beach Park now open, ready for recreation

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 29 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 \$1.00

West Cape wants look at HPC list of houses

Historic group wants to extend the district

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) wants to extend the historic district by adding properties missed when the commission came into being in 2016 but poor records are holding it up.

At a July 10 Borough Commission meeting, Mayor Carol Sabo said she wished to review surveys of some of the homes. She said the borough has a full cadre of surveys for properties proposed to be included in the extension.

"Some of the information in the surveys is not accurate," Sabo said.

The mayor said each property proposed for extension of the historic district needs to be examined along with its survey before Borough Commission moves forward with an ordinance change.

She said she wants to ensure the best information is being used for each property.

Elan Zingman-Leith, a founder of the borough's HPC, asked if the mayor believed information in some of the surveys was inaccurate because it was originally written inaccurately, or the homes have changed since the survey was created.

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Bomb scare clears shops on the Mall

'Suspicious' package deemed false alarm

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Police Department was notified of an unattended package in the area of Ocean and Washington streets at about 5:29 p.m. July 8, and officers immediately reported to the area to identify the item and determine its origin.

Upon locating the item, officers determined the package met criteria to be considered a suspicious package and created a safe area, requesting civilians in the area to vacate until further investigation, according to authorities.

Sgt. Anthony Genaro reported to the area and confirmed initial findings and requested a response from the fire department and county Sheriff's Office.

Upon arrival of firefighters, Genaro and Lt. Edward Zebrowski implemented a unified command, increased the size of the safe area around the package and cleared nearby stores.

The command sought assistance from Cape May County CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive) and Atlantic City Bomb Squad for further evaluation.

While conducting a search of the area, police located a separate package nearby that was similar in description to the initial package. The safe area was expanded to ensure the highest margin of safety for citizens and visitors and K-9 units from the county Sheriff's Office.

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Caroline Dupree/For the STAR AND WAVE

Mario Lattuca-Bonamico, co-owner of Cape May Carriage Co., shows a reporter around the stables in West Cape May. Lattuca-Bonamico said a daily routine of care, including their nightly trips around the city, keeps the draft horses healthy and happy.

Work necessary to keep carriage horses healthy

Daily routine includes food, grooming and exercise

By CAROLINE DUPREE
For the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Most evenings, people walking around Cape May's historic district are treated to the sight of horse-drawn carriages led by drivers who talk about the area, including its Victorian history and architecture.

Run by the Cape May Carriage Co., the carriage rides are operated seasonally, typically beginning in May with the peak season being the summer months of June, July and August.

The tours slow down from September through November, then the company offers holiday lights tours in December. The horses don't work in January, February or March, although light work may resume in April.

When not working, the horses are stabled in West Cape May, being cared for by co-owners Chentel Semanchik and Mario Lattuca-Bonamico.

"Seven days a week, it doesn't matter what the weather is, there's somebody here taking care of them," Semanchik said.

She and Lattuca-Bonamico both have extensive backgrounds with horses. Semanchik grew up around animals on a dairy farm and competed in combined driving events. She drove carriages in New York City's Central Park for more than 10 years.

Lattuca-Bonamico is a second-generation carriage



Caroline Dupree/For the STAR AND WAVE

Lattuca-Bonamico inspects the shoes of one of the horses owned by Cape May Carriage Co. He said the shoes are changed every six weeks.

driver who also drove horses in Central Park for many years. Semanchik and Lattuca-Bonamico came to Cape May Carriage in the fall of 2011.

The horses are subject to a daily routine of care that includes getting fed and watered. During the months when they work, the horses get a bath every day. Then the horses can lounge around the stables and field until their work in the evening.

The horses have hay in the field at all times and are also

fed grains, which include oats, corn and soybeans, as well as added vitamins and minerals. In addition, the horses receive SandRID, electrolytes and supplements.

"It's a big responsibility to care for these animals," Lattuca-Bonamico said. "You have to stop everything you're doing to attend and care for these guys, no matter the circumstances."

The horses are examined

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Shooter wounds Trump

Secret Service kills gunman atop roof

Editor's note: See related editorial inside.

Former President Donald Trump survived an assassination attempt July 13 as a 20-year-old gunman opened fire on a campaign rally, injuring Trump's right ear and killing a spectator, officials said.

According to a multiple media accounts including the Associated Press, Trump was rushed off stage with blood dripping on his face after gunshots rang out at the rally in Butler, Pa., and the sniper, identified by the FBI as Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pa., was killed by Secret Service agents. Two other spectators were in serious condition.

"This evening we had what we are calling an assassination attempt against our former president, Donald Trump," Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge, said at a late-night press conference in Butler.

Trump said he was shot in the ear and an email sent out late Saturday night from his campaign team quoted him saying, "I will never surrender."

Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement that Crooks fired multiple shots toward the stage at about 6:15 p.m. Crooks had

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Committee wants bikes off bustling Broadway

Suggests alternate routes for cyclists

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is brainstorming methods to get bicycle riders off Broadway and has suggested a bike path from Park Boulevard past the city's desalination plant.

At a July 10 meeting, Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said he has seen a heavy increase in bicycle traffic, in particular on Broadway in West Cape May. He said he would prefer bike riders not use the busy thoroughfare.

West Cape May Commissioner George Dick said the county was painting "reduced speed ahead" and "25 mph" on the road in both directions at Stimpson Lane and Broadway. He said alternate routes need to be provided to get riders off Broadway and Lafayette Street.

Committee member Robert Morris suggested a bike path using Park Boulevard, where Cape May has a dirt road to its Public Works Yard on Canning House Lane. Atlantic City Electric has

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