



Lifeguards battle at paddle challenge in Brigantine

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 34 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 \$1.00

N.J. recognizes Black contribution to city history

Historic Preservation Office amends entry; National Historic Landmark status next

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The state Historic Preservation Office has informed the city that its nomination for the historic district to recognize the contributions of the African American community during the city's period of significance has been accepted, which places the amended district on the state Register of Historic Places.

The petition was also submitted to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior to recognize African American

contributions to Cape May's National Historic Landmark status, according to City Manager Paul Dietrich.

The first step in the process was a recommendation from the Historic Sites Council, which sent the petition to the National Park Service for recognition.

Dietrich said when a nomination is approved by the state, it typically is approved at the national level. He said he expected Cape May would receive confirmation from the National Park Service by the end of the year.

A story map of African American significance to Cape May has

been posted on the city's website.

It notes: "In the 20th century, the heart of cultural activity for the city's African American society occurred on Franklin Street between Lafayette and Washington streets. Three African American churches and numerous schools existed on this block located between the African American neighborhoods to the north and west, and their business center immediately south.

"Heading eastward and having always been connected to the flow of life for the city's residents, is the beach. By exploring these places of community life, viewers

can gain a better understanding of the vital role African American residents played in shaping the cultural, social and economic fabric of Cape May City."

Also highlighted in the story map is limited space made available on the beach for African Americans: "The beach in Cape May, while a vital source of employment and a catalyst for population growth, also served as a common space for leisure and enjoyment.

"However, the experience of recreational beach access for Black people was predominantly confined to Grant Street beach.

This segregation persisted informally well into the 1980s, largely due to racial discrimination. The rest of Cape May's beachfront was effectively off-limits."

The story map notes a significant decline in the city's African American population.

"By the 1990s, the African American population in Cape May City had endured a series of events leading to a significant decrease in its numbers. This decline was part of a broader trend that saw all Cape May resident population shrinking over the lat-

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State grants fund ADA accessibility on streets, beach

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — State funds have allowed the city to improve access for those with mobility issues on the Washington Street Mall and Rotary Park, install mats on the beach and purchase beach wheelchairs.

At an Aug. 6 City Council meeting, grants consultant Marc Blauer said he has worked with the city since 2008 obtaining Community Development Block Grants, funding from the state that originates from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. He said each year the state has a competition in which Cape May can apply for "a piece of a larger pie of money," typically \$400,000 at time.

The city has won the grant for the past four years, Blauer said. Prior to that, he worked on projects

for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance on the Promenade, East Lyle Lane, Carpenters Lane and Rotary Park.

"Thank you for helping us pay for such important projects" Mayor Zack Mullcock said.

A project underway is the installation of a 12-inch redundant water transmission main. Blauer said the project should be completed by September and that time the city will draw a \$400,000 grant from the state.

"We cannot afford to lose a transmission main on a hot day in August and suddenly have much of the city without water, so we're building redundancy into the system before problems occur," he said.

A project to make Rotary Park more ADA compliant has been completed.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Sun going down on summer?

Students are returning to college and youngsters are shopping for back-to-school clothes but thousands visited Cape May over the weekend, proving that summer is still going strong at the shore.

West Cape preparing to use pesticide spray on spotted lanternflies

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Spotted lanternflies continue to be found in trees here and the borough is preparing to contract with a pest control company to handle large infestations.

At an Aug. 14 Borough Commission meeting, Deputy Mayor George Dick said he and Shade Tree Commission Chairman Wayne Hoffman met with a representative of Viking Pest Control to discuss potential pesticide applications in the borough and its cost.

He said they visited "ground zero," a house and a neighboring property on Sixth Avenue. Dick said the pesticide would be a "green spray-not damaging" which lasts for

about an hour.

A proposed treatment would be a once-a-month application for three months on properties with a lot of lanternflies for which the borough has funding from a grant, he said. Dick said the pest control expert advised that homeowners could put Dawn dishwashing liquid in a power washer and "fire away" at the lanternflies.

He advised residents to spray and stomp on the insects before they lay eggs.

"We've also looked at public spaces, Wilbraham Park and Backyard Park, which we have some in Backyard Park and we're going to try to get a quote from them on how we can

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Study: Property taxes lower than area towns

Cape May civic group finds levy funds just 40 percent of budget

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — "Don't ask me what I want it for, if you don't want to pay some more," Beatle George Harrison said in "Taxman."

The taxman treads lightly in Cape May compared to other beach towns, with 40 percent of its budget coming from property taxes but an equal amount from room tax, license fees and parking meters.

The Taxpayers Association of Cape May published a comparison of property taxes in nearby beach towns, placing Cape May at the low end of the scale.

According to the association, Cape May is

unique in many ways, not the least of which is the healthy balance by which it raises revenue to support its spending.

That balance exists between the needs of property taxpayers and those of the businesses and visitors that make the city a world-class destination.

"The ratio of spending to property tax is a clear way to see this balance, and Cape May is indeed unique," the document states. "For 2024 in Cape May, 40% of the revenue to support municipal services comes from property tax. Another 40% comes from a range of sources which are essentially user fees such as occupancy tax, parking meters, and

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County: BPU vacates Ocean Wind projects

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

Last week, Cape May County announced that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities formally vacated all of its orders that approved the Ocean Wind 1 and Ocean Wind 2 offshore wind projects that were under development by Danish offshore wind corporation Ørsted.

The BPU's actions follow the filing of lawsuits by Cape May County in the New Jersey Appellate Division as well as in the Federal District Court.

The county challenged the BPU's orders, all of which have now been vacated and deemed of no force or effect, according to a news release it issued Aug. 14.

The state of New Jersey agreed to let Ørsted keep \$175 million in es-

crow funds in exchange for vacating the BPU orders, according to the release. Cape May County's actions before the Appellate Division and the Federal District Court remain active.

"Today is a very important day in our ongoing opposition to these environmentally destructive offshore wind projects," Cape May County Board of Commissioners Director Len Desiderio stated in the release. "The vacation of these orders by the BPU means that it will be much more difficult for Ørsted or any other Big Wind company to utilize these lease areas just a few miles off Cape May County beaches."

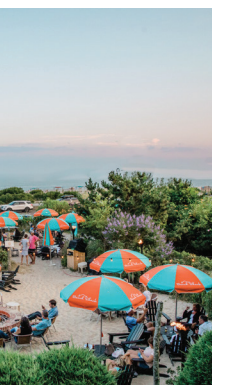
Ocean Wind 1 was an 1,100-megawatt wind farm featuring as many

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HIGH TIDE HAPPY HOUR

EVERY Monday-Friday from 3pm-5pm.

Score Big on weekdays at the Rusty Nail with \$4 Pacifico Draft, \$8 Shack Margarita, \$8 Fishers Island Lemonade, \$8 Dip Trio and \$10 Buffalo Chicken Dip!



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