



## Planners approve side yard pool in historic district

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## House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 36 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 \$1.00

# Cape May proposes public parking at City Hall

There would be a three-hour limit from 5 p.m. Fridays to 10 p.m. Sundays

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance designed to allow parking in the City Hall lot during the evening and on weekends and establish metered hours in the lot with a grace period for those conducting official business with the city.

After hours and during the weekend, City Hall is generally closed other than the police station and adjacent fire station.

No person other than city-authorized personnel may park in the lot between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. except in areas designated by signs. The ordinance provides public parking for those conducting official business at City Hall, which includes attendance at public meetings or pick up or delivery to City Hall offices.

Overnight parking is not permitted. A three-hour limit on parking would be in effect from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. April 1 to Dec. 1. The fee would be 25 cents per 10 minutes for the first 30 minutes.

At an Aug. 20 meeting, Mayor Zack Mullock thanked Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin and Councilwoman Maureen McDade for tweaking the ordinance.

Baldwin said the lot would open at 5 p.m. Fridays for public parking, closing at 10 p.m. Sunday.

"It still allows City Hall employees to have the ability to park here but yet it gives us a lot more additional surface parking spaces within the city on the weekend," she said.

City Manager Paul Dietrich said the meter rates would be the same as those at the Welcome Center.

McDade said additional parking spaces would be created toward the back of the lot when it is resurfaced. She said some residents have expressed frustration about a lack of parking for the new library.

McDade said some new designated parking spots for the library would be created in the alley between the Franklin Street School and the fire station.

Payments for parking would be

through the ParkMobile app since parking meters would not be installed in the lot, according to City Manager Paul Dietrich.

Councilman Mike Yeager said he had some concerns about parking in the lot from December to April when it is free all over town. Dietrich said he did not foresee a great need for parking on the weekends in winter.

A public hearing for the ordinance is scheduled for City Council's next meeting, starting at 5 p.m. Sept. 17.

## MTRAC chairman: City should update its Master Plan now

Crowley says waiting 5 years will leave Cape May behind

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — While the city's Master Plan sits on a shelf collecting dust, Cape May has seen major changes in real estate and tourism following the COVID pandemic.

At a Aug. 20 City Council meeting, Dennis Crowley, chairman of the city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC), said everyone knows how to plan for the future, "we just don't know how to do anything about it."

He said the city's master plan was written in 2019 and if it waits until 2029 to do another Master Plan — a re-examination is required every 10 years — it will be "behind the eight ball."

He said it is imperative that city leaders decide on what they want the city to become and how to get it there.

Mayor Zack Mullock said he thought the COVID pandemic fast-forwarded Cape May a few years.

"When you say that some of the Master Plan maybe antiquated, that may be true due to the amount of change we've all seen the last couple of years," he said.

Crowley said he believes the law provides a community the opportunity to redo the master plan in a shorter period of time than required by state law.

"The community's interest, the community's image, the community's environment is not getting in the mix when it comes to blatant commercialism," Crowley said.

He suggested the city reconvene a master plan study starting with a town meeting on the issue "of what is Cape May supposed to be, what do you want it to be, what is it, what's it going to be."

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said master plans should be written by the people. She said the different districts need to be part of the planning process.

"We can always open up the master plan and do it prior to the expiration of it," Baldwin said.

She suggested the Planning Board form a panel of different cross-sections of people within the city. Baldwin noted master plans sit on shelf and get dusty.

"It's in the master plan but what does that mean?" Baldwin asked.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

### AirFest 2024

Visitors look at the bomb doors of a Gruman TBM Avenger during AirFest 2024 on Aug. 29 outside Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum at the Cape May County Airport.

## County getting around to roundabout

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — On the horizon for the borough is a roundabout at the intersection at Myrtle Avenue and Park Boulevard and a bicycle and pedestrian path along Sunset Boulevard.

At an Aug. 28 Borough Commission meeting, County Engineer Robert Church called the roundabout a "legacy project" that has

been around for 10 years. Initially, the project was expected to be funded by federal aid but issues arose with rights of way and private property acquisition and the project was put on hold.

"While the project was put on hold, the money was reallocated," Church said.

He said if the county wished to receive new federal funding, it could delay the project another five to

six years. Therefore, he said, the county will pay for the roundabout. Church said he hoped to start construction in December 2025 with work lasting about four months.

If the project delayed beyond January of a given year, it would push the start to the following fall, he said. Plans were changed to preserve some parking for businesses that would be lost in the initial design.

Some wetlands permits are required due to the change in design, Church said, and the project would require some utility poles to be relocated by Atlantic City Electric, which could take six months to a year.

"Initially, there is some resistance by some people in the public because they think it's a circle, which they are not. They are ba-

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## Authorities: Man found dead on beach at Cove

CAPE MAY — Patrol officers discovered the body of an approximately 50-year-old man Aug. 26 at the Cove Beach near the end of Beach Drive.

Detectives from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and the Cape May Police Department immediately responded and are currently conducting an investigation.

County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland stated it was a non-suspicious death and the preliminary

investigation has revealed no foul play was involved. No additional information has been released by authorities.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is encouraged to call the Major Crimes Unit of the county Prosecutor's Office at (609) 465-1135 or the Cape May Police Department at (609) 884-9500. Information can be reported anonymously on the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office website at cmcpo.tips.

## Lower warns residents of flood zone proposal

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township included a letter with tax bills warning of New Jersey PACT (Protection Against Climate Threats) proposed rules from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that would put 67% of the township in a flood zone if enacted.

The information is also available on the township's website, according to Mayor Frank Sippel. It includes a link to send an email to Gov. Phil Murphy to express an opinion on the proposed legislation.

"We also have maps of the projected flood zones for Lower Township posted on the website," Sippel said. "The county also published a flier with a

QR code — you can take a picture of that and send your comments to the state too if you choose.

Councilman Tom Conrad said the proposed regulations would have a major effect on the township.

Environmental planner Peter Lomax, of the Lomax Consulting Group, presented an hour of charts and maps to Lower Township Council and

the public at a July 15 council meeting. He said proposed rule changes from the DEP fill a 1,000-page report.

Lower Township has a total land area of 17,184 acres with just under 7,000 acres that is projected to be inundated by water by the year 2100. That equates to 40 percent of land in the town-

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# HIGH TIDE HAPPY HOUR

EVERY Monday-Friday from 12pm-5pm.

Score Big on weekdays at the Rusty Nail with \$8 Well Drinks, \$2 Off All Beer, Half Off All Bottles of Wine, \$8 Dip Trio and \$10 Buffalo Chicken Dip!

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