

Year in Review

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WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission approved its \$3.2 million budget March 23 featuring a 1.7-cent tax rate increase. The tax rate would rise to 40.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value, up from 39 cents last year.

CAPE MAY — Members of the city's Historic Preservation Commission offered a favorable opinion of a proposed project to

install decorative arches on a section of the Promenade similar to the architecture of 1910. At a March 21 HPC meeting, Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said she was working with HPC members John Boecker and Tom Carroll on the proposed project.

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Fire Department donated used turnout gear to the people of Ukraine. Firefighter Jackson Pyle learned about an effort of

the Clifton Fire Department to donate gear and brought the idea to Deputy Fire Chief Michael Eck.

APRIL

CAPE MAY — Representatives of CME Engineering estimated it would cost \$35 million to increase the city's drinking water capacity by rebuilding the desalination plant.

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commission voted

2-1 to oppose coastal regulations proposed by the state Department of Environmental Protection that would require new construction in flood zones be elevated 5 feet above base flood elevation.

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commission approved its 2022 municipal budget April 14 featuring a tax rate increase of 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. The budget was up about \$87,000 from

the previous year due to salaries and wages increasing by \$63,000.

CAPE MAY — A \$55 million expansion of facilities at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May was approved, with plans for new construction to replace outdated barracks and training buildings. Capt. Kathy Feller, commanding officer of TRACEN, said a 20- to 25-year capitalization plan is in place for the center.

CAPE MAY — City

Council approved its 2022 municipal budget with no increase to the tax rate while considering extra personnel for code enforcement. The tax rate remains at 36.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The budget totals \$22 million with \$10.6 million to be raised by the local purpose tax. The budget funds two new police officers and the city is bonding \$5 million to construct a police station.

CAPE MAY — The beaches from Baltimore Avenue through Poverty Beach suffered major sand loss from winter and early spring storms, resulting in a three-level, tiered beach. The center of the beach had a high spot with slopes on both sides and a washed-out area marked by flowing water closest to the dune.

CAPE MAY — City Council approved \$5 million for the construction of a police station including an issuance of a \$4.7 million bond. At an April 19 council meeting, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan, who cast the lone no vote, said there were many unanswered questions such as the location, who was designing the structure and how large a building would be built.

MAY

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a \$94,000 contract for preparation of a preservation plan and concept design study for the city-owned Allen AME Church property.

CAPE MAY — The Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education approved its 2022-23 budget that included a decrease in the local purpose tax. The rate dropped from 5.8 cents per \$100 of assessed property value to 5.3 cents.

CAPE MAY — Council approved an ordinance modifying regulations for outdoor seating for restaurants first approved in 2017. City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said applicants must provide cut sheets of materials to be used for outdoor dining, furniture must not be chained to poles or other structures in view of the streetscape, heating apparatus would be subject to the approval of the Bureau of Fire Prevention and positioned to preserve 5 feet of pedestrian egress.

CAPE MAY — A 63-year-old woman was struck and killed on Lafayette Street. At about 4:14 p.m. May 15, Cape May County dispatch received a report of an erratic driver traveling over the Route 109 bridge toward Cape May. The vehicle struck the woman and continued forward, striking a telephone pole and another vehicle before becoming disabled. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene.

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