

# HPC approves face-lift for Washington Commons

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approved appearance upgrades to the Washington

Commons shopping center, including new siding and decorative awnings.

The Washington Commons Condominium Association sought approval Oct. 21 for renovations to five buildings in the shopping complex.

Attorney Tony Monzo said the renovations include the Acme Market and adjacent stores.

The second building is the larger part of the complex, which backs up to Cape May United Methodist Church.

The third building is along Washington Street, the fourth building is a smaller complex in the middle of the shopping center and the fifth building abuts Ocean Street.

"The application involves new cement board siding on all the buildings

to replace the existing siding," Monzo said.

He said there would be a resurfacing of the parking lot, replacement of light fixtures and some window replacements in building two, all "same for same."

Landscape architect/professional planner Robert Shepanski said the complex is sided with cedar shakes done in the late 1990s.

"Similar to what was done to Victorian Towers across the street, we're looking to modernize the shopping center with clapboard horizontal siding and some new trim details, where they are currently not present," he said.

Shepanski said the current siding wraps all the corners and goes tight to windows, producing an absence of corner and

window trim.

Shepanski said trim would be added to all windows, doors and corners on the buildings.

The white border around the perimeter of the buildings would remain, he said. Shepanski said small, round columns on buildings two and three would be wrapped with a square column "to beef them up at bit."

Building two was the original building in the complex. It has single-pane windows that will be replaced. Buildings three, four and five have double-pane insulated glass, Shepanski said.

He said small awnings with about a 2-foot projection would be added over storefront entrances. Shepanski said architectural brackets would support

the awnings. The existing brick veneer would remain on the buildings, he said.

The Acme store currently has an overhang only over the entrance that measures about 12 feet by 12 feet, Shepanski said. Extending the overhang is still in development and not part of the current application, he said.

"One of the worst things you can do for Washington Commons is not do anything at all," HPC Commissioner Jim Testa said. "So every idea expressed here makes to me very good sense."

He described the shopping center as "extremely tired."

"Refreshing this location is important. It's right in the center of the city," Chairman Warren Coupland said.

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## TIDES : Oct. 30-Nov. 6, 2019

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
30	10:12	10:37	3:40	4:25
31	11:01	11:28	4:28	5:18
1	11:51		5:17	6:12
2	12:23	12:44	6:10	7:09
3	1:23	12:42	6:08	7:08
4	1:28	1:43	7:10	8:07
5	2:31	2:42	8:13	9:01
6	3:28	3:37	9:12	9:49

## MOON PHASES

First quarter, Nov. 4 • Full moon, Nov. 12

## North Cape woman dies after car crash

ERMA — North Cape May resident Elizabeth A. Caulkins, 70, suffered fatal injuries after losing control of her car and crashing.

Lower Township police responded to the motor vehicle accident shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, on Townbank Road

in North Cape May.

Investigation revealed Caulkins was driving eastbound in the area of Sheriff Taylor Boulevard when she lost control of her vehicle. She crossed the centerline before sideswiping an oncoming vehicle and then struck a utility pole.

Caulkins was treated at the scene for life-threatening injuries and transported to Cape Regional Medical Center, where she succumbed to her injuries.

Members of the Lower Township police administration, patrol and detective divisions responded

to the scene. This crash investigation was conducted with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, whose officers were also on scene.

Anyone who witnessed this collision is encouraged to contact the Lower Township Police Department at (609) 886-2711.



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## Shade Tree Commission's oversight powers stronger

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved an ordinance Oct. 15 strengthening the power of the city's Shade Tree Commission to govern the removal and preservation of trees.

Shade Tree Commission Chairman Jay Schatz said the legislation added a few items to an existing ordinance and gave the city's Shade Tree Commission "a little bit more strength in preventing clear-cutting of some of these lots when a house is torn down and when the floor area ratio changes, particularly east of Madison Avenue."

He said the commission could say approve or deny

removal of a tree within the footprint of a house, driveway or any outbuildings that are approved. Schatz said the ordinance allows the Shade Tree Commission to rule on a tree down to 6 inches in diameter, measured 4.5 feet above ground.

The ordinance also increases the fine for removing a healthy tree from \$25 to \$75 and it eliminates the limit on the number of trees that can be subject to a fine, he said. Formerly, the commission could issue fines only for as many as four trees on a property.

The state-mandated value of a tree is included in the ordinance, \$27 per basal inch for a tree that is damaged or removed with a permit.



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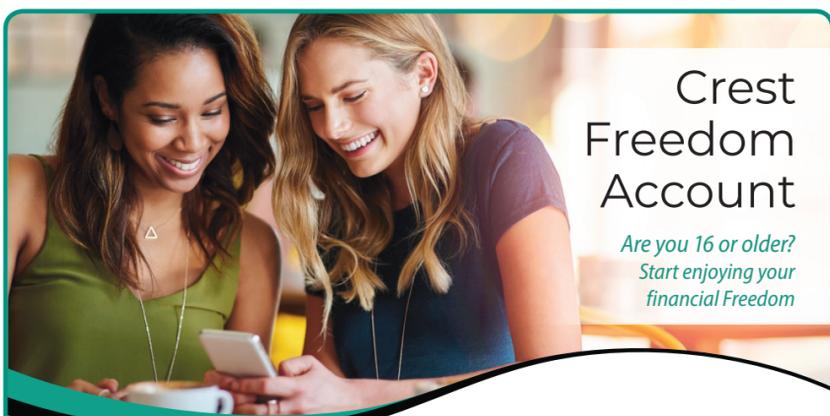
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## Cape May City Recycles

### DON'T JUST DO IT...DO IT RIGHT!

#### Do Recycle

<b>CANS &amp; BOTTLES</b> Glass Bottles (green/brown/clear) Aluminum Can Steel (tin) Cans Plastic Bottles #1 thru 7	<b>PAPER</b> FOOD BOXES Cereal - Rice - Pasta Newspapers Magazines Office Paper Cardboard Soda & Beer Containers Junk Mail Corrugated Boxes Paper Cartons
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Help maintain the quality of recyclables sold as secondary raw material. Place for recycling collection only the items listed under "Do Recycle."

#### Do Not Recycle

The Following Items are NOT ACCEPTED for Recycling Collection and must be Placed in Trash.

**PAPER PLATES & PAPER CUPS, ALUMINUM FOIL & ALUMINUM PIE PLATES, POTS & PANS, MIRRORS, WINDOW GLASS**

**WE DO NOT PICK UP BRANCHES. TAKE BRANCHES TO RECYCLE YARD.**

**Yard Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30am - 3:15 & Sat. 8am-noon- closed Wed.**  
**We are closed Holidays - pick up will be the following day for each holiday.**  
**Picking up Christmas trees starting 12/26 • Trees must be free of all decorations**

**Please Remember ...**  
All Cape May City properties are entitled to a once a week curbside pickup of recycling.

This includes: Bottles, Cans, Plastic and Glass Jars, Newspapers, Corrugated Cardboard, Office Paper, Junk Mail and Magazines

- Please do **NOT** use plastic bags for anything.
- Recycling will **NOT** be picked up if it contains any type of contaminant



**PAPER SHREDDER AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**  
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Any questions call the Cape May City Recycling Office at 609-884-9570