

# Birdhouses

Continued from Page A1

there is a demolition going on and look at the house and if I see shutters, I'll go ask the contractor or the guy running the bulldozer."

Riehl said birdhouses have "migrated" from their original purpose into folk art, which became apparent during two years he spent in North Carolina.

"In the beginning, I was thinking people would use them as a birdhouse and then

people started to tell me, 'No, I wouldn't put this outside, it's a work of art,'" he said.

He does not paint the birdhouses; they remain the color of the shutters.

"That's part of the beauty of them," he said.

Not all parts of old shutters are reusable. Some sections may have rotted, Riehl said. The good sections are stored in 5-gallon paint cans in his garage/workshop.

"When I make my house, it's a lot of cutting and gluing

but it's all from the shutters," he said. "Usually the bottom of the birdhouse is all from one shutter and the roof is from a contrasting shutter; I find a shutter of a different color," Riehl said.

He said common colors of shutters are green, black and red, with yellow and blue more rare. From the average shutter, Riehl may be able to build five to eight birdhouses.

Many of the shutters he finds are more than 100 years

old, he said.

"They really made them solid, a lot of them were pegged together," Riehl said, noting many of the shutters are close to an inch thick.

He has a number of shutters from a house in Cape May Point known as the "Grey Ghost," a large home built in 1879. Riehl said lately he has been making a series of "Grey Ghost" birdhouses.

For someone who actually wants to use his creations as a birdhouse, they have about an inch and a quarter hole for birds to enter.

"If you use a bigger size, you'll attract the predator birds like sparrows and squirrels," he said. "I put a smaller hole on it and then your wrens can get it and songbirds can get it."

The perches on his birdhouses may be knobs, casters, handles, old screws, "whatnots" and artifacts that he finds or someone donates.

"A lot of these end up on bookshelves or on porches and they aren't outside in the elements but they can be," Riehl said.

The birdhouses start at \$40. He said if he really likes



Provided

Jack Riehl turns old shutters into birdhouses from his home in Cape May.

the birdhouse or extra labor went into building it, it may cost more.

No two birdhouses he has built have been exactly the same. He is not about to run out of wood with about 50 shutters currently on hand.

"To me it's more like art than a hobby," he said. "I'm creating something different each time."

Riehl said he does not use a template; all the work is done by hand.

He said shutters have been

found under old houses in the crawl space on more than one occasion.

"Somebody may say 'they're all broken,' Riehl said. "That's OK, I break them up."

Riehl's birdhouses are available in Cape May at the Quirk and Co. on the Washington Street Mall, the Chalfonte Hotel and Jessie Creek Winery in Rio Grande, as well as on Martha's Vineyard. He can be contacted at jackriehl21@gmail.com.

## COVID-19

Continued from Page A1

number of active cases on a given day. He explained that active cases stay on the rolls for 14 days, so the total of 140 on Monday, compared to the 93 on July 15, would include people who are just coming down with the coronavirus through those who are about to come off their two weeks on the list.

He offered a seven-day sample, showing 536 total cases over the week ending July 5 compared to 597 total for the week ending July 12, an increase of 61 cases. For the week ending July 19, the most recent Sunday, there were 653 cases, a rise of 56 – a smaller increase than the week before.

Over the past 14 days, he said, there has been an average of eight new cases per day.

"Overall," Brown said, "we do have more cases in July than June, but even the governor has said we expected cases to be more as we reopen (the economy) than when we were closed."

Cape May County's population explodes during the summer tourist season, increasing more than five-fold from the year-round population.

Brown said a normal summer weekend in years past would see 600,000 people and closer to 800,000 to 900,000 on a July Fourth weekend. This year the county is unsure what the population is but "obviously, way more people than in June or May. So when you consider summer population increase versus spring population and being at roughly eight cases per day in-county over the last

14 days, I think it provides some context to everything."

He added the county's goal remains to "get that number as close to zero as possible. That is why the county had its Social Distancing Ambassadors and is working on a social media campaign to reach younger people to mask up."

Cape May and Salem counties have the lowest number of positive cases and fatalities in the state. Bergen, Hudson and Essex counties all have more than 19,000 cases. Essex has 1,838 confirmed deaths, Bergen has 1,765 and Hudson has 1,313.

On Monday, the New Jersey Department of Health reported the state's total number of cases at 176,963 with 13,741 confirmed deaths and another 1,974 probable tests.

## Governor

Continued from Page A1

the spread of coronavirus with classrooms open.

Asked if teachers and staff members also would have the option of not returning to the classroom, the governor said state officials are focusing on students and their parents.

He noted one of the "aspirations" put forward by educators is having less density in the classroom and some capacity limitations.

"I can't predict where we're going to come out on remote learning options, but if (some) kids are remote learning, that is indirectly impacting density and capacity in the classroom," Murphy said.

In a television interview over the weekend, President Donald Trump reportedly used the case of

New Jersey having had only two fatalities among residents under the age of 18 as evidence why schools could reopen for children.

Asked his opinion on that, the governor said "with all due respect to the president, there is too little known ... the extent to which there is transmission of the virus, including from asymptomatic young kids. The toughest nut to crack in my humble opinion is the passing of the virus from an asymptomatic healthy young kid to someone who is older, someone who may have co-morbidities or is just as vulnerable. That is an important caveat."

He said it jumps out at him that only two lives were lost in that demographic, "but I'm still concerned about transmission of the virus."

### Practices resume for contact sports

As previously announced, contact drills, practices and competitions for "high-risk" sports were allowed to resume Monday, July 20.

Those sports include football, rugby, martial arts, wrestling, cheerleading and others, the governor said, for which the state Department of Health released guidelines.

Guidelines include COVID-19 screenings for athletes, coaches and staff, limited equipment sharing and strong requirements for disinfecting and sanitizing equipment.

Sports under the auspices of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (high schools) and National College Athletic Association (colleges and universities) have to follow those associations' rules, Murphy said.

"We do feel confident that in an outdoor setting, and with the proper public health and safety protocols in place and being followed ... these sports, as we have predicted, may resume," he added.

The NJSIAA announced July 10 that it has pushed back the start of the fall sports season by about a month. Summer practices can continue until Aug. 28, then there is a two-week hiatus through Sept. 13, when only virtual meetings will be allowed. On Sept. 14, practices can resume.

Girls tennis will begin the competition season Sept. 28, and all other sports will begin Oct. 1, except for football, which starts Oct. 2. All postseason play will end by Nov. 22, but football will be allowed Thanksgiving Day games Nov. 26.

### No update on dining inside at restaurants

At the news conference, the governor offered no clear timetable on when restaurants would be allowed to resume serving customers inside. He lauded the creativity of restaurants with their outdoor service, but said because other states have shown their increases in COVID-19 cases were largely due to indoor activities, New Jersey is not ready to take the next step to allow indoor restaurant dining.

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
22	10:00	10:13	3:48	3:39
23	10:48	11:00	4:33	4:30
24	11:39	11:49	5:19	5:25
25		12:32	6:07	6:23
26	12:42	1:30	6:59	7:27
27	1:41	2:32	7:53	8:34
28	2:45	3:35	8:51	9:42
29	3:52	4:38	9:50	10:48

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