

# Beach paths need repairs

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reports of injuries," Umscheid said. He said elderly residents can no longer navigate the pathways. Umscheid said the problem needs to be fixed "before something really bad happens," which could result in a lawsuit and more expensive insurance premiums.

It has been suggested to close the most dangerous beach pathways, he said. Umscheid said closed the Cliffside Drive access July 4, blocking it with plastic fencing that was quickly torn down and ignored. The property owners association is contemplating blocking unsafe paths with metal fencing, but that could cause beachgoers to walk

over the dunes, Umscheid said. He said if the property owners association is forced to spend large sums of money for improvements to the beach paths, the funds may need to be recovered by using beach tags, hiring checkers, beach security and installing fencing. The association had two years of very little income due to the cancellation of its major fundraiser for two years during the COVID pandemic, Umscheid said, noting it rained during the most recent fundraiser, known as a Whale of a Day. The problem needs to be solved by the beginning of the 2023 summer season, he said. Township Manager Mike Laffey said the township applied for a DEP beach permit and received in August. He said the beach paths in

discussion have very deep slopes and require a different type of maintenance and design. Laffey said he, Public Works Superintendent Gary Douglass and an engineer looked at the paths. "We're coming up right now with a materials list for the ones that may need platforms and steps," Laffey said. He said five paths need piling. "You and I have to discuss the expense end of that," Laffey said to Umscheid, noting he had a rough estimate of costs. Laffey said many township beach paths are privately owned. He said some paths are owned by the Nature Conservancy and cannot be improved. "There's a lot of beach paths that aren't finished even in Villas because we don't own them, so we can't do any work on them," he said. The property owners asso-

ciation signed off on the DEP permits and was included in a \$300,000 permit to make some pathways larger on township property as well as identify some on the association's pathways that need to be wider for emergency access, Laffey said. "We can't encroach on the dunes to do these," he said. "That's why we have to build steps and pile drive some piles to make it safe." He said funding the work needs to be discussed with the association. Town Bank resident Bud Damminger said safety was the issue when the township built a new sidewalk along Shore Road. He said many of his neighbors are over 65 years old and cannot use their nearest beach path. "If we can push safety for the sidewalk, we ought to be pushing safety for the pathways," Damminger said. Resident Bill Greenfield said a couple of beach paths in Villas need platforms or piling. He said there is

very little beach remaining at Bates Avenue in front of the path. "You can come up with all the plans you want; that beach is getting so eroded no matter what you do," he said. He said beach replenishment may be necessary. Laffey said some paths are an easy fix but that six or seven are complicated. He said once a materials list is completed, he would meet with Umscheid. Mayor Frank Sippel said money would determine how many paths could be improved. He said the township's contracted engineer was assisting the property owners association. Sippel said the township was going beyond what it was obligated to do for the association. Town Bank resident Skip Miller said he was under the impression if the association purchased the materials for beach path improvements, the township would supply the labor.

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# County COVID risk drops to medium

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

COVIDACTNOW reports 139 new cases of COVID in Cape May County last week. The county's Health De-

partment ceased reporting COVID cases June 4. The county is in the medium-risk category for transmission, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The reported cases do not include the results of self-tests administered at home. The New York Times, which is tracking Cape May County COVID cases, reported an average of 17 new cases per day with one death. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1 in 4 county residents have been infected, a total of 27,153 reported cases. Statewide, an average of 2,100 daily new cases were reported last week with 44 deaths. A total of 823 COVID patients were hospitalized in New Jersey with 94 in intensive care and 37 on ventilators.



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# 2022 Fall Water Main Flushing Schedule October 11 - October 27

## Notice to City of Cape May Water Customers

While flushing does not cut off the supply of water, it does "stir up" sediment. If discolored water occurs, run the **cold water** for a few minutes until it clears so the sediment can work its way through the pipes. The discoloration does not affect the water quality. Please check for discolored water before doing laundry. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap first. If water pressure seems low after flushing in your area, check the faucet screens for trapped particles.

1. Tuesday & Wednesday, October 11 & 12: West of Perry St.
2. Thursday, October 13: North of Mall: Perry to Jefferson
3. Friday & Monday, October 14 & 17: South of Mall, Perry to Jefferson
4. Tuesday & Wednesday, October 18 & 19: Jefferson to Madison
5. Thursday & Friday, October 20 & 21: North of Michigan, Indiana & Massachusetts Aves.
6. Monday & Tuesday, October 24 & 25: North of Cape May Avenue
7. Wednesday & Thursday, October 26 & 27: South of Cape May Avenue

**Thank You for Your Cooperation**



U.S. Coast Guard

City of Cape May Water/Sewer Department 609-884-9575