

# N.J. towns receive \$150 million in state municipal aid

TRENTON — The Murphy administration announced \$150 million in Fiscal Year 2025 Municipal Aid grants, with 540 cities and towns across the state receiving funds to advance road, bridge, safety and quality-of-life improvements, demonstrating the Department of Transportation's Commitment to Communities.

The competitive Municipal Aid grant program attracted 595 applications from 540 different municipalities with a total of \$375 million requested.

Project applications were evaluated and rated on their merits by NJDOT staff and re-

viewed by an independent panel of municipal engineers. Every municipality that applied for funding, all 540.

Cape May will receive \$110,733 for reconstruction of Wenonah Avenue.

Cape May Point has been granted \$174,009 for Alexander Avenue phase II and Surf Avenue reconstruction.

Lower Township was awarded \$158,190 for reconstruction of Beach Avenue and Delaware Avenue.

"Municipal aid allows our communities to undertake transportation projects that significantly improve the quality of life

for New Jersey residents," Gov. Phil Murphy said. "Under our administration's stewardship, the state is doing its part to help municipalities improve local infrastructure so we have a safe and efficient transportation system throughout the state."

"Thanks to the Murphy administration's ongoing commitment to improving New Jersey's infrastructure, communities have the resources they need to improve local roads and bridges," NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor said. "Every one of the 540 municipalities who applied for municipal aid received a grant, which will make travel

smoother and safer on all of our roads."

More than 41 percent of the funding, \$61.9 million, is going to 176 municipalities with Complete Streets policies. Another \$22.2 million is being awarded to 56 communities where the project meets equity criteria to benefit low-income and minority populations.

The department encouraged municipalities to consider using the Municipal Aid Program to fund projects that support safety, walking and biking in their communities. This year 5 percent of the grants represent this type of non-traditional project.

Under the Municipal Aid grant program, each county is apportioned a share of the total funding based on population and the number of local centerline miles.

Municipalities compete for portions of their county's share. NJDOT provides 75 percent of the grant amount when a town awards a contract and the remaining 25 percent upon completion of the project.

Of the \$150 million, \$10 million is allotted for municipalities qualifying for Urban Aid as defined under state law, with the amounts determined by the Department of Community Affairs.

## Point property owners to keep lot as open space

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commission approved the sale of borough-owned property to private owners who have pledged to keep the lot as open space.

Commissioners approved a sale price of \$130,000 for 512 Pearl Ave. to Charles and Carol Evans, the sole bidders for the property.

At a Nov. 14 meeting, resident Jim Fraatz asked if there were restrictions placed on the lot.

Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said the deed restrictions specify the property is to be kept as open space in perpetuity with no structures built on the lot. If the lot were added to an adjacent property, it could not be used to add to the floor area ratio of a house.

She said the property was defined as open space as it was when it was deeded to the borough.

Resident Sandy Allison asked if trees could be cut down on the lot to make a sitting area or create a path over the dune to the beach. The lot is to be kept as it is,

van Heeswyk said. Allison asked if poison ivy or invasive species would be cleared from the property. The borough clears invasive species from open space lots it owns, van Heeswyk said.

Borough Administrator Ed Grant said he met with one of the new owners who indicated they planned to keep the property as it is for future generations of his family.

Commissioner Catherine Busch said in New Jersey, open space is defined as public land, meaning anyone could walk onto the lot. She cast the lone negative vote for the sale.

In other business, van Heeswyk reported paperwork for the Community Ratings System (CRS) has been completed. A favorable municipal CRS rating reduces flood insurance rates for residents.

The borough maintains a rating of class six from CRS, which offers a 20% discount.

CRS is a voluntary incentive program in which 1,500 communities participate nationwide. Flood insurance rates are reduced

through CRS to reflect reduced risk resulting from the community's efforts that address the three goals of the program.

The goals are to reduce and avoid flood damage

to insurable property, to strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to foster comprehensive floodplain management.



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## Land sale

Continued from Page A1

discussing rewriting its special events ordinance. Simonson said she had a final ordinance for the commissioners to review, describing it as a "very robust, very long amendment to the ordinance."

"I combined the ordinance regarding special events on borough property and on all other kinds of properties. It's much more user friendly, much more clear," she said.

Commissioner Jack Antonicello said it was difficult for visitors and residents to identify the historic district. He said the borough should establish its identity with beautification such as changing streetlights and installing signs indicating where it is located.

Deputy Mayor George Dick said he has been working with the Department of Public Works to replace poles and street signs he described as a "mess."

He said he was looking at how many street signs are located between Park Boulevard and Pacific Avenue, replacing those with a more historic post

and signage and determining the cost difference over standard signs.

Antonicello suggested historic street signs in 10 locations, lampposts on Broadway and a town clock in either Wilbraham Park or Borough Hall. He said clocks, depending on their size, range in price from \$6,000 to \$20,000.

Mayor Carol Sabo said some applicants to the planning and zoning boards have complied with light pollution guidelines known as "Dark Sky," but the borough had never codified any of those guidelines into an ordinance.

Commissioners received a copy of Cape May's Dark Sky ordinance and state guidelines. Sabo said commissioners could discuss the matter at their next meeting.

The Shade Tree Commission and the Friends of Wilbraham Park are inviting the public to assist in decorating the park for Christmas at 9 a.m. Dec. 3.

Borough Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 27 and will begin at 4 p.m. due to Thanksgiving being the next day.

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**TIDES: Nov. 20-27, 2024**

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
20	11:06	11:52	4:24	5:40
21	12:02		5:25	6:36
22	12:50	12:57	6:25	7:30
23	1:49	1:53	7:26	8:22
24	2:48	2:52	8:29	9:11
25	3:41	3:46	9:29	9:54
26	4:26	4:33	10:21	10:33
27	5:06	5:16	11:09	11:10

**MOON PHASES**  
Last quarter, Nov. 23 • new moon, Dec. 1

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