

# Business group wants festival back at Wilbraham Park

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The West Cape May Business Association is asking Borough Commission to return the Strawberry Festival to Wilbraham Park after it was moved to Backyard Park. The borough's Shade Tree Commission voted to end such events in Wilbraham Park due to wear and tear to the park from festivals.

At a March 9 Borough Commission meeting, Mayor Carol Sabo said her opinion was not to have Borough Commission overrule a decision of the Shade Tree Commission.

During public comment, West Cape May Business Association board member Bill Causey said West Cape May business owners were concerned that all events and festivals were moved

from Wilbraham Park to Backyard Park, located behind Borough Hall on Broadway.

He said he understood events were removed from Wilbraham Park due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"And then we were told the park is not being used by anybody anymore except for the garden club or whatever it's called, and we don't quite understand that," Causey said.

The West Cape May Business Association has done a lot for the community over the years and donated to the fire company and Christmas parade and to improvements to the park, he said.

The association's only fundraising event is the Strawberry Festival. When the festival is held in Wilbraham Park it raises a considerably higher amount of money than when the event is held in Backyard Park,

Causey said.

He said people walk to the Strawberry Festival from Cape May when it is held in Wilbraham Park, something they are less likely to do when it is staged in Backyard Park.

"The capacity for which we can put in merchants is considerably higher," Causey said. "The whole atmosphere of it is much better."

He said the business association has not received any complaints about the condition of Wilbraham Park after the Strawberry Festival.

"We, in fact, hired employees of the borough to come and clean it up afterwards and it was always left in very good condition," Causey said. "What other groups did I have no idea."

The borough does not do a lot to benefit businesses, he said. Causey asked the bor-

ough to reconsider allowing the Strawberry Festival in Wilbraham Park.

Borough solicitor Frank Corrado said the Shade Tree Commission statute gives them jurisdiction over the management of public parks in West Cape May.

Doug Carnes, an owner of Wilbraham Mansion, read from John Wilbraham's will from 1922 which stated he gave to the borough a tract of land "for the purpose of a public park upon condition that it shall be named Wilbraham Park." The will also left \$20,000 for the construction of municipal buildings on a small portion of the tract.

"The point I'm trying to make is John Wilbraham wanted it to be an area where people were," Carnes said. "The business community is centered down there."

The festival that supports the businesses should be in Wilbraham Park, he said. Carnes said the Shade Tree Commission did not

consult with anyone in the business community before making its decision to move the Strawberry Festival to Backyard Park.

The Strawberry Festival was held in Wilbraham Park for 25 years, Carnes said.

"What the commission did was threaten our financial viability as a group, this

decision is not a small decision, we're a small group to begin with limited funds..." he said.

Carnes said the Strawberry Festival allowed the business association to support itself and the community. He said moving the festival took away one third of its revenue.

## Webinar to address ban on plastic bags, foam

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — A virtual roundtable scheduled for 10 a.m. April 5 will address the state law that bans single-use foam products, plastic and paper bags.

The Plastic Carryout Bag & Polystyrene Foam Food Service Products Reduction webinar is sponsored by the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and New Jersey Small Business Development Center at Stockton University.

Beginning May 4, under state law, single-use foam foodservice products and plastic and paper bags will be prohibited.

Representatives of multiple state agencies will present an overview and answer questions regarding exemptions and waivers.

Presenters are Julia Rossi, environmental services trainee, Department of Environmental Protection; and JoAnn Gemenen, executive director, NJ Clean Communities Council.

To register, go to [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_UG-KI6CZQhGV18\\_HJA14dg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_UG-KI6CZQhGV18_HJA14dg).

The law prohibits all stores (including retail), food service businesses and grocery stores from selling to, or providing their customers with, single-use plastic carryout bags. In addition, grocery stores larger than 2,500 square feet may not provide or sell single-use paper carryout bags, and instead may provide or sell only reusable carryout bags.

### Reusable carryout bags

A "reusable carryout bag" must be:

- Made of polypropylene fabric, PET nonwoven fabric, nylon, cloth, hemp product, or other washable fabric; and have stitched handles; be designed and manufactured for multiple reuses.

Ban on Polystyrene Foam Food Service Products:

Beginning May 4, 2022, the law prohibits all persons and food service businesses from selling/offering for sale any polystyrene foam food service product and prohibits all food service businesses from selling/providing any food served in a polystyrene foam food service product.

## Hospital offers way to thank a physician

SOMERS POINT — March 30 is National Doctors' Day, a chance to honor the medical professionals who dedicate their lives to caring for and healing others.

Each year Shore Medical Center hosts a brunch on Doctors' Day to thank its doctors and advanced practice providers for their commitment to excellence, but Doctors' Day is also a chance for patients and community members to let physicians know they've made a difference.

This year, Shore is giving community members a meaningful way to honor their Shore doctor — with a donation in their honor to support patient care initiatives at Shore Medical Center.

With a donation of \$5 or more, patients can also include a gratitude message for their Shore provider. Messages received by March 30 will be delivered to physicians on Doctors' Day.

To donate online, select the "Honor Your Doctor" button at [givetoshore.org](http://givetoshore.org) and add your physician honoree's name and your message. To donate by mail or phone, call (609) 653-3800 or email [jessica.giles@shoremedicalcenter.org](mailto:jessica.giles@shoremedicalcenter.org).

"Whether you're honoring your primary care doctor or specialist, the doctor who took care of you in the hospital, or a doctor who inspires you, your gift of gratitude means so much to Shore doctors," Chief Development Officer David Hughes said. "Take it from Dr. Charles Roche, who was recognized on Doctors' Day last year by many of his patients."

"Hearing from our patients on Doctors' Day was incredibly uplifting," said Roche, a hospitalist at Shore Medical Center and a primary care provider with Shore Physicians Group's Ocean City office.

Those who donate \$50 or more will have their physician honoree recognized through the medical center's Guardian Angel program. Along with the donor's message, Guardian Angel physicians will receive a certificate, pin and an invitation to Shore's

2022 Guardian Angel pinning ceremony in December.

To search for a Shore

doctor, visit [shoremedicalcenter.org/doctors](http://shoremedicalcenter.org/doctors) or [shorephysiciansgroup.com](http://shorephysiciansgroup.com).

### TIDES: March 16-23, 2022

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
16	7:35	8:01	12:59	1:43
17	8:14	8:38	1:42	2:18
18	8:51	9:16	2:25	2:53
19	9:29	9:54	3:08	3:29
20	10:08	10:34	3:52	4:07
21	10:50	11:18	4:39	4:48
22	11:37		5:50	5:33
23	12:08	12:30	6:27	6:26

### MOON PHASES

Full moon, March 18 • last quarter, March 25

## Cape May Star & Wave

165 YEARS OLD • 1854-2019

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)  
Volume 168 Number 11

Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc.,  
963 Lenape Drive, Lower Township, NJ 08204

Published Weekly (52 times a year)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$42 a year; \$75 for two years; \$22 for six months. Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, P.O. Box 2427, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

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