

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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WCM: School vote will be costly

Commissioners say Cape May withdrawal will hike taxes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — If Cape May is successful in withdrawing from the Lower Cape May Regional School District, property taxes in West Cape May would increase by \$692,000 per year, according to the Dec. 9 special school election ballot question.

At a Nov. 26 Borough Commission meeting, Mayor Pamela Kaithern said the property taxes on a \$400,000 home in the borough would increase by approximately \$550 per year. She said the Dec. 9 ballot question was much different than the Nov. 4 question which would have saved borough residents

money. The Nov. 4 question asked if the regional school funding formula should be changed to one based on student enrollment rather than property value.

"If this one passes, it could be very costly to our taxpayers," said the mayor.

Kaithern said voters needed to go to the polls Dec. 9 and realize if they cast a "yes" vote for Cape May's withdrawal from Lower Cape May Regional, they were voting for a tax increase of \$500 to \$600 per property. She said that increase would be on top of any other rise in taxes.

Commissioner Carol Sabo said she favored passing a resolution to inform residents of the potential tax increase. She said withdrawing is not the proper approach to change school funding.

"That has to happen from the top down," said Sabo.

She questioned Cape May "opting out" of a responsibility to educate our youth."

"It would be at the expense of our taxpayers," said Sabo.

Kaithern said regional school funding should be addressed through a statewide initiative rather than on a piecemeal town-by-town, region-by-region basis.

Commission passed a resolution to inform voters of the \$692,000 annual tax increase amounting to an approximate \$550 annual tax increase on a \$400,000 house should Cape May be successful in withdrawing from the regional school district.



Deborah McGuire/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Tree lighting for Charlotte Daily

Crosby, Zinnia, and Lowell Saign of North Cape May watch a tree lighting in West Cape May's Wilbraham Park, Nov. 29. A holly tree was illuminated in honor of Charlotte Daily, founder of the West Cape May Community Parade, who passed away this year. The event included live music and hot beverages.

New bills would help bees and beekeepers

Legislation ranges from protections to 'Pollinator Week' designation

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The Environmental Commissions of Cape May, Cape May Point and West Cape May and members of the public joined together to get the buzz on bees here Nov. 19.

Assemblyman Robert Andrzejczak outlined five bills he

introduced to aid beekeepers. He is chairman of Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

He told the Star and Wave New Jersey has a Right-to-Farm Act which his legislation would extend to beekeepers.

A beekeeping operation producing honey or other agricultural or horticultural apiary-related products or

providing crop pollination services worth \$10,000 or more annually would be entitled to the protections provided to any other commercial farm.

The legislation also prohibits a municipality from adopting an ordinance to regulate the breeding or keeping of honey bees or any activities related to the use of honey bees for pollination, the re-

production and sale of honey bees, or the production of honey or other apriary products.

The legislation also raises awareness of bees by designating one week of the year as "Pollinator Week" which would fall on the dates designated in the annual proclamation of "National Pollinator

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just in time for a classic Cape May nor'easter. Anchoring one night in the shelter of the harbor, the Greens moved to South Jersey Marina and safely docked.

After tourism and commercial fishing, the Coast Guard Base in Cape May is the largest driver of economics in the county. Not only the largest employer in Cape May County, the Training Center has a recruit capacity of 960 at any one time. Many of the base's 41,000 annual visitors are families like the Greens attending graduation. Many of the families, book hotel rooms, eat in restaurants and in the rare instance dock at local marinas.

Attending graduation almost every Friday in Cape May are the parents and invited family members of the recruits. Families travel from all over the country for only one day in Cape May. Some fly in from as far away as Hawaii and Puerto Rico. One recent graduation of Lima Company saw a recruit's parents arrive by sailboat.

When Stephen and Maryella Green's daughter Christina enlisted in the Coast Guard, they immediately began making plans to travel to Cape May for her graduation. The live-aboard sailing couple practically raised their daughter on a sailboat. They would ultimately arrive in Cape May toward the end of Christina's eight weeks of basic training

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Cape May Wine School Champagne Class
Saturday, December 13 @ 1pm

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