



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



JB JR.S SOUTHERN BARBECUE OPENS IN W. CAPE MAY

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West Cape May OKs bond to pay Willow Creek

Borough to borrow \$300,000 to pay its portion of the settlement with winery, owner

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — An ordinance providing an emergency appropriation of a \$300,000 bond to pay for the borough's portion of a \$550,000 settlement reached with Willow Creek Winery and its owner Barbara Wilde drew 30 residents to Borough Commission's meeting June 22. The settlement from a federal civil rights lawsuit requires half the settlement be paid with 30 days of the agreement and the rest by the end of July.

A lawsuit filed by Willow Creek Winery and owner Barbara Wilde claimed the borough interfered with its civil rights by unnecessarily delaying approval of the winery, which the borough disputed. The settlement resolves all claims between both parties without admission of fault or liability.

According to Mayor Pamela Kaithern and Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado, the borough's insurance company would cover \$275,000 of the settlement as well as the fees of attorneys who represented the borough and Kaithern,

who was also listed in the suit.

The remaining \$280,000 would be covered by the borough. According to Kaithern, the cost of the bond to West Cape May taxpayers would be about \$61.78 over the next five years.

"It will be difficult for the borough to absorb the entire cost," Kaithern said. "I thought of a three-year plan but when we learned we could extend it to five, we chose that option."

The majority of speakers during the meeting stated they were not happy with the settlement but felt it was the best option.

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Willow Creek Winery owner says Kaithern costing taxpayers.
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Dave Ciccetti, of Burwood, Pa., asked how a borough that claims to be pro-farm ended up in this situation. When Corrado began to answer the question, Ciccetti requested a response from Kaithern but was told by Corrado they were

not going to re-litigate the case in a public forum.

"This was not about farming or not," Corrado stated. "It was whether a farm could host wedding receptions and political events and various other kinds of events being held there. That wasn't clarified until legislation was amended that it was allowed under certain conditions."

"A lot of my problems seem to be similar," Ciccetti said. "Shouldn't something have been done at the beginning to prevent

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Drones to drop disaster supplies

By CAROL R. EMMENS
Special to the Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — Drones will deliver not purchases from Amazon, but disaster-relief supplies, according to the Field Innovation Team (FIT) that met at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal June 23 to conduct a "Do Tank." They also will deliver jobs to the county, experts said.

Participants explored how to use drones for humanitarian purposes and saw demonstrations of how it is done. FIT is a group of highly trained people who have diverse experience in responding to disasters. It addresses short-term problems and identifies long-term issues across the globe.

FIT founder Desiree Matel-Anderson said the goal was "to bring humanitarians together with drone operators to work together to expedite responses in a crisis or disaster." There are challenges to using drones; for example, drones usually use radio communication that is dependent on cell phone towers that are not always available.

The peninsula of Cape May is a unique area for drone innovation, said Denise Spell, vice president of business development for Luftronix, which develops drone or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle flight guidance software and solutions. She noted that the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center is located at Atlantic City International Airport and that the Cape May Airport is a test site for drones and the nature of this environment for flying is a "perfect storm for drone innovation." She envisions drones flying up and down the coast.

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Cape to Cape Paddleboard Race

The 2nd annual DeSatnick Foundation Cape to Cape Paddleboard Race began at 10:45 a.m. June 26 at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal in Lewes, Del., with a finish line at Cape May's Queen Street beach. A total of 17 participants paddled 17 miles across Delaware Bay. Johnny Skolnick, a Ship Bottom Beach Patrol lifeguard, finished first with a time of 3 hours and 14 minutes. The foundation helps individuals and families cope both financially and emotionally with spinal cord injuries.

Intense, localized microburst storm wreaks havoc

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Strong thunderstorms June 21 brought down trees and a multitude of power lines, causing outages, setting roofs ablaze and blocking roads.

A fallen power line trapped 120 residents of the Depot Travel Park in West Cape May. A pontoon boat ran aground in Cape May Inlet during the height of the storm.

While a tornado touchdown was initially suspected due to the severity of damage, it was later ruled out by the National Weather Service and classed as a microburst, which is defined as a downdraft in a thunderstorm that is less than 2.5 miles in scale. Although microbursts are

not as widely recognized as tornadoes, they can cause comparable, and in some cases worse, damage than some tornadoes. According to the National Weather Service, microburst damage often looks laid or flattened out. Larger uprooted trees point in the same direction or a fan-shaped divergent pattern. A microburst can have wind speeds as high as 100 mph.

The storm produced winds as high as 80 mph in Cape May.

Atlantic City Electric's system in Cape May County was heavily damaged by high winds that brought down wires, utility poles and damaged transformers. About 39,000 customers lost service at the height of the storm in the hardest-hit

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Joseph Salvatore/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Last week's microburst storm packed an intense punch of strong thunderstorms and tropical storm-strength winds that flipped over a UH-1 Huey helicopter at Naval Air Station Wildwood at the Cape May Airport and brought down utility lines and poles.



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