



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LOCALS ATTEND HERB SOCIETY CONFERENCE

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Ferry marks 50 years of service

Commemorative brick patio, time capsule mark occasion

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — Fifty years after its humble beginnings — sailing used ferries from another line in Virginia — officials with the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA), county and Lower Township gathered June 28 to honor those who made the bi-state Cape May-Lewes Ferry possible. Gathered on the lawn outside

the gleaming white terminal building, officials made speeches as tourists ate burgers and sipped beer nearby and ferries departed and arrived. County Freeholder Will Morey said the ferry operation represented a gigantic economic commitment important to Cape May County. He said there was a significant social commitment to the area through the staff and its culture of caring. Lower Township Mayor Mi-

chael Beck said the ferry meant everything to Lower Township as one of the leading employers and a vehicle to bring visitors to the township. "I cannot imagine Lower Township not having the ferry here," he said. The mayor noted four free concerts and four family nights were scheduled this summer

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Journalist-adventurer was first customer on new ferry in '64

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

Andrea Lippi, better known as Andy, was always looking for new adventures and new firsts. Being the first paying customer on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry on July 1, 1964, was one goal he achieved. Lippi drove all day and night from Detroit, where he had just picked up a new 1964 black Ford Mustang. He arrived at 3 a.m. to find a make-

shift ramp. He slept in his car waiting for the sale of the first ticket, so the story goes. Lippi reportedly bought two tickets: No. 1 he kept, and No. 2 he used for his passage. The next day, so it is told, everyone was looking for the first ticket. He kept it for posterity. It is now in the care of his widow, Catherine. Lippi was an advocate for a ferry from Cape May to

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DRBA official expects ferry to mark 100th anniversary in 2064.
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Christie gets bill allowing weddings at N.J. wineries

Special events would be permitted only at preserved farmland

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — A bill awaiting Gov. Chris Christie's signature directs the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to begin a pilot program permitting special occasion events to be conducted at wineries located on preserved farmland, but only under carefully prescribed rules and in certain circumstances.

A Cape May County winery owner welcomes the legislation, saying it would generate more tourism in the county. It also would allow her to hold special events at her property. Barbara Bray Wilde, owner of Willow Creek Winery on Stevens Street in West Cape May, is at odds with the borough over holding such events.

She sued the borough, alleging that Mayor Pamela Kaithern directed inspection officials to issue citations and stop-work orders, delaying the opening of her winery, while violations on neighboring properties were ignored.

The complaint maintains that the mayor should have recused herself from

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Cape May holds inaugural Seafood Festival



Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Fishermen participate in a competition to make chain bags during Cape May's inaugural Seafood Festival. Chain bags are used in commercial scallop fishing. The event was held June 28 on Beach Avenue, and included fresh seafood, presentations on fisheries issues, information about careers and trends, cooking demonstrations, a professional skills competition and live music. See story, more photos on Page A3.



John Reilly/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May Point resident John Reilly sent this photo, featuring one of two recently demolished homes, to the Star and Wave. Borough residents have never embraced the idea of a historic commission.

Historic commission unlikely in Cape May Point

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — While neighboring Cape May and West Cape May have historic preservation commissions overseeing demolition and major changes to historic homes, the borough is not a likely candidate for a similar commission.

Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said borough residents are not interested in having one. "It's been consistently the feeling of people in this town that they did not want that type of regulation," she said. "This comes not from one or two

people speaking to us, this is from public meetings."

Borough resident John Reilly emailed photos to the Star and Wave last week of a home from the 1800s under demolition at 110 Ocean Ave., across the street from St. Peter's Church. The home was known as Flora Dune.

According to RealEstate-Sale.com, "the home has sat firmly in the dune since 1877 and was originally built by Eliza A. Fahy under covenant with the Sea Grove Association." The home was at one time listed for sale for \$1.3 million.

Van Heeswyk said CAFRA

permits were issued by the state Department of Environmental Protection at two properties where homes — one at the end of Alexander Avenue and the other at the end of Ocean Avenue — were demolished recently. CAFRA reviews do not include historic value of homes, DEP Section Chief Chris Dolphin stated in a letter to Reilly.

Van Heeswyk said every town has its own personality. While Cape May is known for its historic landmark status, Cape May Point is better known for its trees, "green" properties and the environment, she said.

"I think what we lose in some of the historic homes, we certainly gain by protecting the environment," she said.

Van Heeswyk said borough zoning ordinances keep houses small enough that lots are "green."

The mayor said there has not been a strong pitch for a historic preservation commission from the public.

In 2008, professor David Ames of the University of Delaware created a survey of historic buildings in Cape May Point for the borough's Planning Board. At the time,

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