

Cape May Star and Wave

163rd YEAR NO. 35

CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017 75¢



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



Domino's Pizza owner appears in commercial

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Cape May can rake away beach scarps

DEP allows it for first time under Beach Maintenance Permit

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city has gotten permission to rake away steep slopes on the beach caused by wave erosion.

The city received its new Beach Maintenance Permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection, and it allows Cape May to remove scarps on the beach.

A scarp is a low, steep slope along a beach caused by wave erosion. Sharp drop-offs in the

surf zone have been blamed for injuries to swimmers under rough surf conditions.

Cape May's Beach Safety Committee made a recommendation to the city, which was added to the city's beach management plan application to the DEP, that scarps could be removed by raking the beach. During a meeting of the committee Aug. 29, City Manager Neil Young said the previous Beach Maintenance Permit had expired.

"We wanted them (the DEP) to address the scarps on the beach-

front, so Steve Morey from Hatch Mott had taken that idea and approached the DEP with the ability for the city to address the scarps whether they're 2, 3, 4 foot high in the recreational zone," he said.

The city received approval for its Beach Maintenance Permit on Aug. 17 and it includes addressing the beach scarp.

"That's a huge improvement for the city in which we never had in the past," Young said. "In the past, we would have had to go for special permit, costing the city quite a bit of money."

He said the city's director of public works in the past had to call the DEP on an emergency basis to "hopefully get a permit."

Beach Safety Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said in the permit application process, the city just had to be specific about what it wanted to do in beach maintenance after a storm. He said Young, Public Works Director Joe Picard and a representative of the Cape May Beach Patrol consult after a storm.

"We do not do the whole beach-

front, we do sections," DeSatnick

said. "That is what the DEP per-

mitted us to do."

He said the permit did not cost the taxpayers a dime.

Picard said following a recent storm, his crew addressed scarping on the beaches starting at Trenton Avenue but stopping at Baltimore Avenue due to restrictions for nesting piping plovers. He said the scarping measured from 3 to 6 feet high. Using the city's new bulldozer, an area was graded using back passing of

See Beach scarps, Page A3

Group narrows focus on site of safety building

Favors city-owned lot on Pittsburg Avenue

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Public Safety Building Committee is narrowing its focus to building a new firehouse on city-owned property on Pittsburg Avenue.

Following a tour of the city's firehouse and police headquarters in City Hall on Aug. 21, the committee met with architect Robbie Conley, who was contracted by the city's volunteer fire company. Conley toured police headquarters for the first time.

Both buildings showed signs of water leaks and

obsolescence. The committee discussed construction of a Public Safety Building to house both the fire and police departments.

Fire Chief Alex Coulter said Conley provided some general ideas for new construction on the current site of the firehouse. Conley said constructing a police building was more expensive than constructing a firehouse. He said a police station under construction in another municipality in the state had a construction cost of \$275 per square foot.

"The contractor that was

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John Alvarez/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Yo, ho, yo, ho, a pirate's life for me!

A member of the Valhalla's Pirates crew is smart enough to sit down to drink his rum during Historic Cold Spring Village's Seafarers' Weekend on Aug. 26-27. The village's Hand-on History Weekend is scheduled for Sept. 2-3. Visit hcsv.org for more information.

Mad Batter owner Kulkowitz dies at 92

By JOHN COOKE
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — "Harry Kulkowitz made friends wherever he went and demonstrated there was always room for one more at the dinner table," his daughter Sigrid said at his graveside service Thursday, Aug. 24.

About 100 of Kulkowitz's friends and family gathered under the afternoon sun at the Cape May County Veterans Cemetery to pay their respect to a member of the greatest generation. The World War II veteran, avid photographer and restaurant owner died Aug. 22 at age 92.

Bartenders stood next to chefs and musicians in the afternoon breeze for the funeral of the former operator of Cape May's Mad Batter restaurant and Carroll Villa Hotel. Uniformed policemen, bankers and state politicians all gathered as a sign of respect.

"He loved humanity and was a real person," his daughter Susan said.

The composition of the audience supported her claim.

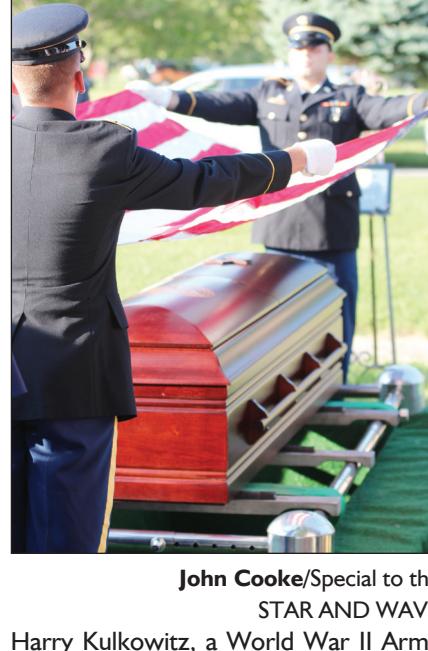
Kulkowitz, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants, was born in New York in 1924. His father was a tailor in New York City. His mother, Sophia, died while he was fighting in Europe.

To join the service in 1941, when the Americans entered World War II, Kulkowitz had to lie on his enlistment papers — he was not yet 18 — to fight alongside his friends. He originally signed up to be a photographer and then became a radio intercept operator. As a radio operator, he was trained to listen to Nazi codes and messages.

Serving under Gen. George Patton, Kulkowitz intercepted the first German message that presaged by hours the Battle of the Bulge.

Later he landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944, as a 20-year-old with the 114th Signal Company, sea sick and frightened, and not knowing "what the hell was going on." After landing on Utah Beach, Kulkowitz went on through the whole European campaign, eventually finishing in 1945 in Germany.

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Harry Kulkowitz, a World War II Army veteran, was buried with military honors.

Lower Code Enforcement increases inspection staff

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township is using part-time employees to step up its code enforcement inspections.

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said the Code Enforcement Department conducted 75 property inspections in June 2016 in which contact was made with the homeowner.

"This June that was up to 166 inspections," he said.

During a Township Council meeting Aug. 21, a Town Bank resident asked why he had to report the same property to Code Enforcement three times for an un-mowed lawn. Ridgway said when it is necessary for the township to mow an unkempt lawn, it grows back in

two to three weeks. He said 100 properties have uncut grass in the township. Homeowners are fined for lack of maintenance, he said, but are given 30 days to remedy the situation. Ridgway said in some cases the homes are rentals and the owner must be notified of the violation.

"It's an unbelievable task with grass and we have contractors when it gets too bad, when we are talking 3 feet or 4 feet," Ridgway said.

Liens are placed against the properties for the \$600 to \$1,000 fines, he said.

"It's not a battle that I think we're losing but it's a battle that doesn't go away if we had someone on every street," Ridgway said.

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WASHINGTON INN

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