

Cape May Star and Wave

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HOUSE OF THE WEEK
Real Estate Resource



INTELLIGENT LIFE SOUGHT IN CAPE MAY

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Lower Twp. approves limited ban of dogs on beach

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council voted 3-2 Monday to approve an ordinance that bans dogs from township-owned beaches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Republican Councilmen David Perry, Erik Simonsen and Tom Conrad voted for the ordinance, while Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark cast “no” votes. Perry said while campaigning in Ward Two last year, residents asked

for better conditions on the beach during peak hours.

“I am definitely in favor of getting this ordinance passed so we can have a beach in Lower Township that is for everyone, not just a select group but everyone, for families, for pet owners, for everyone,” he said.

During public comment, Villas resident Helen Thompson, who was able to obtain an injunction to stop the implementation of an earlier version of the ordinance, stated there were no dog bites on township-owned beaches in 2013, 2014 and none so far in 2015.

“This whole ordinance is based on misrepresented facts. I guess whatever you guys deem are facts you make up,” she said.

Perry said he did not make up facts and the information he gave out was the information he received.

Thompson said Perry disseminated false information on dog bites on the beach that was then reported by the media.

Beck said there was no enforcement of an old ordinance that banned dogs from township beaches.

“It’s so blatantly obvious that we

had no ordinance when we had signs up that says put leashes on your dogs on an area that we ourselves had an old ordinance that says they are not even supposed to be there,” he said. “Why would we put signs up that say curb your dog, put a leash on them if dogs are supposed to be there?”

He said the ordinance was not being put in place due to dog bites on the beach or dozens and dozens of leash violations.

“Show me a ticket that’s been written since 1985,” Beck said.

Thompson, reading from incident

report, said there were two dog-on-dog bites on the beach, no bites involving people from 2013 to 2015.

Villas resident Patience Carroll said she felt the ordinance was a fair compromise for some.

“You were asked in four meetings to provide the information and the facts, and we still don’t have them in reference to dog bites,” she said.

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said he provided resident Bill Greenfield with documents pertain-

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John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Blue moon over Cape May

A blue moon shines above Victorious Cape May, the former Eldridge Johnson House built in 1882, and the former Cape May Star and Wave building July 31. A blue moon is either the third of four full moons in a season or the second full moon in a month. It occurs when there are 13 full moons in a calendar year.

Cape May man arrested in sex assault of boy

Frank L. Thomson was assistant with West Cape May Boy Scouts

CAPE MAY — Frank L. “Sandy” Thomson, 68, of Cape May, was arrested for alleged aggravated sexual contact, luring/enticing a child and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, according to county Prosecutor Robert Taylor.

At the time of his arrest, Thomson was an assistant scoutmaster of West Cape May Boy Scout Troop 73 as well as the treasurer at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Cape May.

According to a news release, on July 16, the Special Victims Unit of the county Prosecutor’s Office received a call from a concerned citizen who related suspicious activity regarding an 11-year-old male and Thomson. A joint investigation was started by the Prosecutor’s Office Special Victims Unit and the Cape May police relating to the suspicious activity. After several interviews, it was learned that Thomson was “grooming” the young juvenile for sexual purposes by buying him expensive gifts. These interviews also led investigators to another juvenile male who was allegedly sexually assaulted by Thomson several

years ago, according to the Prosecutor’s Office.

Thomson was arrested July 25 and charged with one count of luring/enticing a child by various means and endangering the welfare of a child concerning the 11-year-old juvenile.

On July 28, Thomson was again charged with aggravated sexual contact and endangering the welfare of a child concerning the sexual assault that allegedly occurred several years ago.

Taylor stated the crimes are subject to a term of imprisonment of three to 10 years in state prison. Thomson was lodged in the Cape May County Jail in lieu of \$175,000 full cash bail assigned by Judge Dorothy Garrabrant.

Taylor stated this is an ongoing investigation and urges any citizens who may have information concerning this investigation to contact the Prosecutor’s Office at (609) 465-1135. He further stated that his office would continue to work hand and hand with each municipality in the county to target sexual predators that prey on the children of Cape May County.



Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Susan Allen of Port Republic snapped this photo of a Portuguese man-of-war in the south end of Ocean City.

Gulf Stream pushed jellyfish closer to shore

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The appearance of jellyfish on ocean beaches here and in Cape May Point is not common, but a change in the Gulf Stream this year brought more of the stinging pests closer to shore, according to Montclair State University Marine Biology and Coastal Sciences Director Paul Bologna.

“What we think is happening is the Gulf Stream has been a little bit closer and that has allowed coastal species to get pushed in,” he said. “That’s where we think the Portuguese

man-of-wars were coming in about a month ago.

“That can be one of those processes that pushes most of our common coastal species even closer because they’re getting squeezed westward because of the Gulf Stream,” he continued.

Bologna said jellyfish sightings run in cycles, with some years more active than others depending on water temperature.

Lion’s mane and the mushroom cap jellyfish have been spotted in Cape May County waters, he said.

Portuguese man-of-wars washed ashore last month in

Cape May, Cape May Point, Wildwood and Stone Harbor, but no stings were reported.

Bologna said Barnegat Bay has a sizable population of sea nettles and for the last couple years more reports have come in of the translucent creatures showing up in the Cape May area. Bologna said one of his students spotted a large sea nettle in the Cape May Canal while conducting research.

“I would suspect that they’re in a lot of the back bays in all of New Jersey, it’s just that there’s too few of them to become a nuisance for the time being,” he said.

A few weeks ago on the Del-

marva Peninsula, the Maryland coast experienced a wash-up of tiny salps, Bologna said.

He said he has no problem holding jellyfish — such as moon jellies and sea nettles — in his hands because the stingers are not tough enough to penetrate a hand but will cause a painful sting on an arm or leg.

“If you see jellyfish washed up on the beach, there’s a high probability that they’re sitting in the water,” Bologna said.

A Facebook page called “New Jersey Jelly Spotters” is available to post reports of sightings.

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