

Relay for Life set for May 14-15 in Lower Twp.

By **BETTY WUND**

Special to the Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — This will be the second year for the Lower Township Relay for Life, and the momentum is growing.

The track event was held last year at Lower Cape May Regional High School's field and drew teams from organizations, groups of friends and families.

Lower Township event leader Buffi Hinker-Miller said she is enthusiastic about the plans for this year's event, which is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15. She said she actively sought sponsor donations from local businesses for this year's relay.

Sponsorships are no longer available for T-shirt advertising. Those businesses have donated \$500 and will have their names on the back of the event T-shirts. Local businesses can still become sponsors with a track sign for a donation of \$125.

"It's a real community day. Everyone that has cancer is involved in a 24-hour

battle. We see this as a community effort to use 24 hours to honor that battle," Hinker-Miller said.

This year, starting at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14, more teams will take their mark and walk or jog around the track at the school. New teams this year include two church groups. At the event, donations are accepted and survivors can be honored or memorialized with luminarias. They are bags that can be decorated with pictures or designs or names as the donor wishes. Purchased for \$5, they are filled with sand and candles and will light the track during the night hours. Survivors are honored with a special lap and may enjoy an afternoon or dinner buffet. Food for the survivors' tent was donated by local eateries including Domino's in Villas last year.

Participation is by individual or team. A person can donate through the website relayforlife.org/lowertownshipnj. It can be an individual donation or donation to a team. There are different-colored T-

shirts for fundraising goals attained by individuals and teams. There is the option to form a team on the website. By forming a team, a person can reach their contacts via email. They may also choose to use personal email or Facebook posts to friends requesting a donation to their team.

Donations are accepted throughout the summer. Last week, some area restaurants and take-out food establishments had "Stick a Fork in Cancer" days during which a percentage of the revenue for that day was donated to the relay. Domino's in Villas and the Rio Grande Diner were local participants.

Hinker-Miller's husband, Bruce, is acting as the logistics person again for this year's event. He plans to have the parking lot at the Richard M. Tietelmann School open for RVs and a site will be available for tents for overnight participants. The Girl Scouts are involved in setup and cleanup as a community service project.

Teams are committed to



Betty Wund/Special to the STAR AND WAVE
The Relay for Life Committee consists of Buffi Hinker-Miller, Kirby Reed, Bruce Miller and Eric Simonsen.

have a walker on the track throughout the night. Crash sites or rest areas on the infield serve as command

posts for the teams. They are also the place to sell items for the team fundraising efforts at the event.

Jewelry and baked goods are often for sale.

Hinker-Miller said she hopes to keep the walk around the track lively, especially in the late-night hours. Plans are for themes for different laps. Last year there was an ice cream-eating contest during a lap. Participants can purchase lanyards to hold the beads they collect representing every lap completed. And, of course, there will be music.

The history of Relay for Life reflects the fight for life of cancer survivors. The idea started with Dr. Gordy Klatt in 1985. He ran for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The next year, 340 people joined him in an overnight event. Now an international event, relays have raised nearly \$5 billion. For more information, email Hinker-Miller at buffifakes@icloud.com or call (609) 972-4672. Kirby Reed, American Cancer Society specialist for Relay for Life, may be reached at kirby.reed@cancer.org or (404) 653-8071.

City bonding \$2.8M for upgrades, equipment LCMR budget

By **JACK FICHTER**

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced a bond ordinance for \$2.8 million at an April 29 meeting with a total appropriation of \$3 million. Mayor Edward Mahaney said the ordinance covered streets and public improvements with a \$150,000 down payment.

City Manager Bruce Ma-

cLeod said the bond included \$600,000 for road improvements, \$1 million for replacement of Cape May Elementary School's swimming pool, \$200,000 for purchase of a new ambulance, drainage improvements at Cape May Tennis Club and Kiwanis Park, improvements for the fire museum and continued work to solve water infiltration from leaking windows in City Hall.

According to the ordinance, reconstruction of roads, drainage and storm water pipes total \$600,000. Acquisition of equipment including an ambulance, sport utility vehicles and a utility truck total \$339,000.

Improvements to public buildings and grounds including parks, lighting, signs, parking, landscaping and green energy initiatives total \$879,000.

Acquisition of office furniture, fixtures and equipment including computers, servers and software totals \$44,500. Acquisition of public safety equipment including communications dispatching equipment and protective gear totals \$137,200.

A public hearing for the bond ordinance will be held at council's May 17 meeting at 7 p.m.

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Mallett said total revenue would decrease by \$54,283. The local purpose tax levy will rise from \$19,551,199 to \$19,942,222 or 2 percent due to an increase to debt service, which is increasing from \$787,800 last year to \$917,357 for 2016-17.

In January, voters approved a \$6.3 million bond referendum which includes site improvements, new roofs, enhanced security and electrical upgrades at both the middle and high schools.

At the high school, locker room renovations and a new, free-standing field house will be constructed. High school site improvements include milling and resurfacing of the entrance road and parking lot, entrance landscaping and drainage and site pedestrian lighting. Exterior renovations will include roof replacement for the science wing, media center, cafeteria and band room.

Interior renovations include a new security vestibule and door replacement at the school's front entrance and team locker renovations in the old gym.

A new, one story, free-standing, 11,322-square-foot field house would be constructed as a pre-engineered metal building with

bathrooms and storage.

The Richard M. Teitelman Middle School will also receive milling and resurfacing on its entrance road and parking lot with site drainage improvements.

In exterior renovations, the roof over the science wing would be replaced as well as window replacements and steel lintels.

State aid will increase by \$205,000 due to Choice School students attending in the district for a total of \$924,399.

Under cost savings, Mallett said the district recently completed a \$2.8 million energy savings improvement program, which will reduce costs by \$3.5 million over a 15 year period. He said buildings now have LED indoor and outdoor lighting, room occupancy sensors and high efficiency heating and air conditioning. Employees switched from state health benefit plans to a health insurance fund for a savings of \$120,000, Mallett said.

He said the district continues to reduce staff through attrition and to analyze expenses to decrease costs. The school's solar energy field in addition to participating in the Alliances for Competitive Energy Savings co-op resulted in an estimated annual savings of \$50,000, according to Mallett.

Elementary budget

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funds, up \$48,752 from last year.

He said it was impossible to reduce the local tax levy below last year's figure due to state regulations. Onorato said by a state formula, the district's budget could be as high as \$23 million. He said the district budget totals \$21 million.

Enrollment for the district totals 1,764 and has remained stable throughout the year, according to Onorato.

A total of 46 percent of students receive a free lunch while 9 percent receive a reduced price lunch, he said. Onorato said the state would allow an administrative cost of

up to \$1,982 per student but the Lower Elementary School District cost per student is \$1,206.

State aid for the district for the past three years has remained flat at \$10.5 million. The district lost \$45,969 in state Early Childhood program aid this year due to declining preschool attendance.

Total cost per pupil is \$14,655.

According to Superintendent Jeff Samaniego, sixth grade science curriculum will be realigned with Next Generation Science Standards.

"We did articulation with the sixth grade with West Cape May, Cape May Elementary and with Teitelman, our junior high,

so we are all aligned in our local area," he said.

A number of clubs were available to students at the Sandman School including art, book, computer and homework clubs which will continue next year, said Samaniego.

He said the school district will further enhance its writing program in first through sixth grades. Samaniego said the district would enhance use of Google Classroom. He said the district was paying for a number of Google services.

"Kids will be using iPads, Chromebooks, laptops and students can also use Google Classroom to do assignments at home and send them to their teachers," said Samaniego.

Interactive Smartboards will be installed at Douglass Memorial School in

kindergarten, he said. Samaniego said the Mitnick School will be rewired for more web connectivity. Onorato said the school would receive \$125,000 of equipment from the federal E-Rate program.

Additional video surveillance equipment will be added at the Memorial School, he said.

During public comment, North Cape May resident John Skowronski said the school district's budget was \$500,000 more than last year's budget "and last year's was \$500,000 above the previous year."

He asked when decreases could be made in the budget. Onorato said 89 percent of the districts expenditures went to salaries and benefits. Samaniego said the district was in negotiations on staff contracts.

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TIDES : May 2016				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
4	6:26	6:56	12:05	12:23
5	7:21	7:47	1:02	1:14
6	8:14	8:38	1:56	2:05
7	9:06	9:28	2:50	2:55
8	9:59	10:19	3:43	3:46
9	10:52	11:11	4:37	4:38
10	11:48		5:32	5:32
11	12:05	12:47	6:28	6:30

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