

# West Cape discusses COVID-19, census participation

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**  
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The Board of Commissioners is monitoring the increasingly rapid spread of COVID-19.

During a meeting March 11, Mayor Carol Sabo said the commission continues to be updated from the state Department of Health.

"When looking over the guidelines sent out from the Department of Health, I don't see anything new," Sabo said. "But it bears repeating: avoid people who are sick, avoid touching your face, use proper cough etiquette and stay at home when sick."

At the time of the meeting, 23 cases were confirmed in New Jersey. Sabo urged the community to use common sense and good hygiene.

"There was also a concern about people who were coming around and knocking on doors and misrepresenting themselves as being from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]," Sabo said. "Just like other scams, I don't know what their intent was but there was a notice to be on the lookout."

The 2020 census has begun and this is the first year answers can be submitted online.

"Mailers are coming out to peoples' houses with in-

structions on how to log on and submit responses," Sabo said. "It's required by law all residents register and answer all the questions."

Sabo said the answers submitted provide funding, voter count and legislation in the local government.

"It's really important all residents of the community get counted," Sabo said. "When you see the flier come in the mail, please read it through and register with the census."

More information will be available on [www.westcape-may.us](http://www.westcape-may.us) and the borough's Facebook page.

Engineer Ray Roberts reported the West Drive proj-

ect was almost complete. "The only outstanding issue is a driveway which [had] a tire track and the contractor was told to clean it up," Roberts said. "They power washed it and left grooves on the brick, so now there is an issue between the contractor getting that brick replaced."

Paperwork was sent to the developer of Burgin Lane, with a list of items that need to be submitted as part of the agreement for the borough to accept the street.

The commissioners continued their discussion on requirements for eaves.

"I know in Sea Isle there is an ordinance section routine-

ly enforced, requiring gutters and downspouts," solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said. "In connection, if you want to send it to the Planning and Zoning Boards for review, you can."

Gillin-Schwartz put together suggested language for the commissioners to look over.

"Essentially what this new section would require is new construction to be outfitted with gutters and downspouts in order to direct rainwater toward the street," he said. "Or with interior yard drainage approved, similar to [Federal Emergency Management Agency] requirements."

Sabo asked if there was a

way to link this ordinance with the existing grading ordinance.

"Consider putting a maximum dimension on the eave itself," Roberts said. "An eave of no more than 18-inches would not be acceptable, so your side yard would be the edge of the building. Consider an eave cannot extend more than 15 inches into a setback that would fit everyone."

The commissioners accepted a resolution to codify resources within the borough to identify an individual employee to be a resource officer for someone experiencing a domestic violence situation.

# Lower councilmen spread out, uncertain of future events

By **JOHN ALVAREZ**  
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Members of Lower Township Council sat with 6 feet of space between them, as stipulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), allowed people to enter and exit the room singularly instead of crowding close to one another at a meeting March 16.

Still, with all the precautions taken to keep everyone safe and the meeting as normal as possible, there was certainly no avoidance of how the COVID-19 is affecting the area.

The most obvious exam-

ple of this was when resolutions were presented to be voted upon by council. That included a resolution for the authorization of the 8th annual "Escape the Cape" triathlon, which is scheduled for June 13-14.

"We all know, with the world we are living in now, if things do not get better this (event) will not go on," Mayor Frank Sippel said.

However, the mayor did say that because of the great amount of planning between the county and the state, as well as the all of the logistical preparations done by the promoter, the triathlon would be tentatively approved if council chose to

do so. When the vote was taken, all resolutions were unanimously approved.

The Escape the Cape triathlon and Open Water Classic offers sprint- and Olympic-distance triathlons as well as a 3-mile swim. It starts with a 12-foot jump off the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

Councilman Tom Conrad, who is captain of the Lower Township Rescue Squad, addressed the public about some confusion he had heard from county employees concerning what to do in response to COVID-19, including showing a packet he received from Atlantic-Care concerning what EMS

should do when they come in contact with sick people while performing their duties. This includes identifying people with respiratory conditions and finding out if they had traveled out of the country recently or been in contact with others who have done so.

Conrad said residents should not panic if they see people wearing masks since masking people with any respiratory condition is mandatory. He also said for people to wash their hands because this act is the key thing to preventing the spread of the virus, not wearing masks.

"We are in a unique situ-

ation right now," Conrad said. "It is not as simple as you think. But the township is preparing very well. I thank all the departments, especially emergency management, for everything they have done to get the township prepared. The

best help you could do for us is to stay home and if it is not a real emergency, don't call 911 because you don't want to be at the hospital with a bunch of other sick people unless you have to be."

# Cape May-Lewes Ferry consolidates schedule

NORTH CAPE MAY — Cape May-Lewes Ferry officials announced a reduced operating schedule intended to provide for essential travel and allow guests sufficient time to arrive at their final destination before state curfews.

The ferry will leave Cape May at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and Lewes, Del., at 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

"We are making these adjustments to maintain social distancing between our crews while we strive

to maintain service for our guests who need it. As this situation is rapidly evolving, further changes may be necessary," said Heath Gehrke, director of ferry operations. "We want to again thank our customers in advance for their cooperation and understanding during these difficult times."

"All foot passenger travel remains suspended. The consolidated operating schedule will also enable the continued flow of essential services between

southern New Jersey and Delaware. This modified schedule will remain in effect until further notice.

"As a reminder, all food service operations remain closed inside the ferry terminals and on board the vessel. Restrooms are open in the terminal prior to departures and on the vessels during the crossing. Passengers who may have accessibility concerns aboard the vessel are asked to use facilities inside the terminal prior to departure. During

the trip, passengers must remain inside their vehicles for the duration of the crossing. Should a passenger need to use the restroom facility, they are asked to take the stairs to the second deck where they're located. Following use, we ask that passengers return to their vehicle."

Travelers who plan to use the Cape May-Lewes Ferry in the near future are urged to call (800) 643-3779 or visit [cmlf.com](http://cmlf.com) for the latest departure information.

# Food pantries remain open in Villas, Cape May

The St. Barnabas Food Pantry at 13 W. Bates Ave. in Villas is open to all. Anyone needing nonperishable food may call (609) 886-2625 and leave a voicemail.

Someone will contact them and make arrangements for pickup at the

church door. Normal hours will continue from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays. However, those in need may contact the food pantry at any time.

"We apologize that we cannot allow anyone in the church to pick up food but we will meet you at the door

as per our bishop. Please pass the word around to anyone that we can help," St. Barnabas Food Pantry stated in a news release.

The Cape May Community Food Closet, located at First Presbyterian Church, is telling anyone in need of

food to call (609) 600-7715 to make an appointment.

Paperwork is not necessary and food may be picked up until 8 p.m. by appointment. Delivery is available to Victorian Towers and Cape May's public housing complexes.



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