

Cape May Star and Wave

163rd YEAR NO. 38 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 75¢



House of the week
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Get in the swing at Hangar #1 on Sept. 23
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Wetlands may limit location of public safety building

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Wetlands and wetlands buffers could play a role in where a new firehouse/police station may be located in the city. Cape May's Public Safety Building Committee is charged with making recommendations to City Council for a new firehouse and possibly a new police station under one roof.

Public Safety Committee Chairman Jerry Gaffney updated council Sept. 5 on progress of the

group. Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier suggested city engineer Tom Thornton become involved in the selection of a new site for a possible combination firehouse and police station. Meier noted two proposed locations — Elmira Street and Pittsburg Avenue — have some wetlands issues.

Gaffney said the city's tax assessor said the site on Pittsburg Avenue was very dry but architect Robbie Conley said the site would probably require piling to be driven into the ground. He said Conley said the city would

be required to conduct an environmental study.

Thornton said if the site were not within the wetlands it likely was in a wetlands buffer. He said if a 100-foot wetlands buffer is required, it could be reduced to 75 feet in one portion of the property if it is compensated for on another portion of the property. Thornton said his firm could undertake any necessary environmental work such as wetlands delineation or a wetlands aggregate plan.

"We could do a site assessment just to assist in the selection of the

sites," he said.

Mayor Chuck Lear suggested a subcommittee meeting to discuss such assessments with Thornton.

Gaffney said the Fire Department indicated it strongly opposed a location on Elmira Street due to flooding. He said the volunteer fire company indicated it may contribute money for feasibility studies for a new firehouse. Committee member Barney Dougherty said the volunteer fire company provided \$7,000 for an initial study by Conley.

Gaffney said he would like to

see a meeting of the Public Safety Building Committee in the next two weeks to discuss possible locations for a new facility.

"This is a big venture folks, this is really big," he said.

"I would like to think that maybe the low estimate is \$10 million but I really think is probably closer to between \$10 million and \$15 million," Gaffney continued. "Who knows until you really start to dig and know what you're going to do."

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Below, Trisha Seelman of the Nature Conservancy and Cape May Preserve Coordinator Adriana Zita-Livingston demonstrate a flood-gate control on a weir along the South Cape May Meadows, above.

Restored meadows boost native plants, protection

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

SOUTH CAPE MAY — Old timers may look at the South Cape May Meadows and remember when cattle from the Rey farm grazed on the property or when the town of South Cape May existed there before being washed out to sea.

Baby boomers may remember the Outpost ice cream stand there with its frozen custard and saddles on the fence that young cowpokes could sit upon while they enjoyed a cool treat.

Today, the property is owned by the Nature Conservancy and it has undergone a number of changes for the sake of flood control and preserving native plant species.

Members of the media toured the site Sept. 13 along with representatives from the Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection-Division of Fish and Wildlife, who were also involved in the project. A focus of the tour was the changes in the meadows since Hurricane Sandy struck in 2012.

Nate Woiwode, risk re-

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Officials cut the ribbon on combined bike path

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — It's official — the ribbon has been cut on the newly connected Lower Township and Middle Township bike paths.

A brief ceremony was held Sept. 15 on the path near Cresse Lane and the Pantry One store. Wielding scissors to cut the ribbon were Cape May County Freeholder Jeffrey L. Pierson and Lower Township Mayor Erik Simonsen.

Bike riders may travel the path from Route 109 in Cold Spring to the Cape May County Park and Zoo in Cape May Court House. A branch also connects with the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal.

Simonsen said he and his father, Frank Simonsen, rode the entire path to the county park and back.

"It's great to connect the two communities, and hopefully we'll get more on board in the future. That's



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Lower Township Mayor Erik Simonsen, left, and Cape May County Freeholder Jeffrey Pierson cut the ribbon, opening the combined bike path in Lower and Middle townships.

the plan," Simonsen said. "It's nice to get from point A to point B without being on major highways."

He said safety is a big issue.

"You can take your family, your kids and ride from Lower to Middle, and we hope other communities will get on board and we'll connect them all."

West Cape May school won't accept unfunded Choice students' siblings

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Unfunded Choice School students will be able to remain in West Cape May Elementary School through sixth grade, but the school hopes to reduce the current number of 17 unfunded students through attrition by not accepting the siblings

of unfunded students into the Choice program.

During a Board of Education meeting Sept. 14, Superintendent Albert Savio said the state Department of Education Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance visited the school during the summer due to the school's number of Choice students.

"They don't consider

any student unfunded," he said. "We never considered anybody either, we just accepted students into the program every December as the parents came and applied and said 'Your child is accepted into the Choice program.'"

Savio said students were accepted into the program

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MTV show puts spotlight on area's teen moms

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

MTV is once again filming a reality television show in New Jersey. With a due date of this fall, "Teen Mom New Jersey" is the latest spinoff of the "16 and Pregnant" and "Teen Mom" franchise. The show will follow young moms in southern

New Jersey.

The official announcement was made Aug. 27 during the MTV Video Music Awards. NJ.com broke the news Aug. 30, stating that MTV was seen filming at the Cumberland County Fair. MTV had multiple casting calls this year, searching for teen moms and young expectant mothers located in the

same area.

According to America's Health Rankings 2015 report, New Jersey had a birth rate of 40 per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 1993. That number declined to 13 per 1,000 in 2016.

Per the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and

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