

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 14 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, April 3, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LADY TIGERS LACROSSE IS ALL ABOUT FUN

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WCM tax rate drops 1.5 cents

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The good news for West Cape May taxpayers is the local purpose tax rate is being reduced by 1.5 cents in 2013.

The better news is they can expect reductions in the county and school taxes, as well, leading to an 8-cent reduction on their tax rate, or a savings of \$320 per year on a \$400,000 home.

Municipal Auditor Leon Costello said there were a number of factors leading to the tax decrease. One is

that the county has reduced West Cape May's share of the county budget.

"Every municipality pays a certain percentage and West Cape May got a smaller piece of the pie," he said.

"You can come to our meetings anytime," Commissioner Carol Sabo said.

Costello said the budget did not change since its introduction in February. Lower Township also passed the same budget they introduced, but their calls for a 1.5-cent increase. Middle Township has introduced a 2013 budget with a 7.2-cent tax rate

increase.

The West Cape May budget calls for spending \$2,133,821 in 2013, a decrease of \$234,965 from 2012. There was roughly \$185,000 taken out of the budget in state and federal grants that are not being carried over into the 2013 budget. In addition the commissioners removed \$71,500 from debt service, a 42.31 percent reduction. Debt service is normally the line item for paying debt related to capital projects. Costello

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Township tax rate rises

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council voted 3-1 to adopt the 2013 municipal budget with a 2.9-cent tax increase.

The vote came with Councilman James Neville absent and Councilman Tom Conrad not willing to support the budget because of the inclusion of a capital plan, which outlined \$3.7 million in capital projects.

Municipal Auditor Leon Costello said the inclusion of the capital plan was required

by the state of New Jersey, based on case law from another New Jersey town. He said the town was budgeting for capital projects that were not being started and the money was being stolen. He said the state now requires budgets include a description of capital plans so they can be verified.

"The state requires you to put this in the (budget) document, but the money may or may not be spent," Costello said.

Spending money on capital programs requires a separate bond ordinance, voted on by

council, before any money is authorized to be spent on capital projects.

Conrad said he still would not vote to approve the budget because the capital program included a dollar figure he said was never discussed by council.

Council eventually passed the \$25,951,022.76 budget, which reflects an increase of \$1,344,821.50 over 2012, and requires a 2.9-cent tax rate increase. The owner of a \$200,000 home will pay an additional \$58 in taxes in

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a woman welcomes her Coastie home after his Caribbean tour aboard the Vigorous, which came to the aid of a disabled Carnival cruise ship.

USCG Cutter Vigorous returns from Caribbean

Cutter aided Carnival cruise ship

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous returned to Training Center Cape May on Monday after an eventful two-month tour consisting of drug interdiction, a community service project and an unexpected search and rescue mission involving a Carnival Cruise liner.

Recent press surrounding the corporation has made Carnival cruises seem more like a derelict circus after incidences of onboard armed robberies, prolonged delays and mechanical malfunctions on several ships in the fleet. In February, the crew of Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous responded to one of the Carnival catastrophes during its 60-day patrol of the Atlantic sea-board, the Gulf of Mexico

and Caribbean Sea. Cmdr. Greg Magee, Commanding Officer of Cutter Vigorous, said his crew conducted a five-day escort of Carnival Triumph to a ship terminal in Mobile, Ala., after an engine fire disabled the cruise liner leaving its 4,200 passengers adrift. Magee said one female passenger aboard the stranded vessel required regular dialysis and was medevaced by the Vigorous crew. Cutter Vigorous responded to the call on the evening of Sunday, Feb. 10.

"Our main concern was the safety of personnel on board," Magee said. "We made sure the ship was safe and had emergency power at least, so it was stable, and that they had enough food and water on

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

And they're off

Above, children in the younger group begin the race to collect eggs at the annual Cape May Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the City of Cape May and the Kiwanis Club. The event is just one of several egg hunts held in the area. See more egg hunt photos on page B5. Also, see photos from Cape May's Easter Stroll Fashion Show on page A10.

Single stream recycling started on Monday

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Cape May County began implementing single-stream recycling on Monday, extending the types of materials for recycling.

Dual-stream recycling, which the county used in the past, included separating paper recyclables from plastics.

With single-stream recycling, recyclables don't have to be separated, and more recyclable materials are collected in the same container.

Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority Deputy

Director John Baron said all of the recyclable materials would be combined in one retainer and collected in one truck.

"In the past you couldn't put in cereal boxes or six-pack holders or pizza boxes. That's now acceptable as well as all plastics (numbered) 1 through 7 as long as it's smaller than a five-gallon bucket," Baron said.

Collected materials under single-stream recycling include newspapers, office paper, junk mail, shredded paper, dry food boxes, pizza boxes, beer and soda carriers, food and beverage containers, health and beauty

containers, cleaning containers, aerosol cans, aluminum cans, glass bottles (including green, clear and brown).

Materials not accepted for recycling include Styrofoam packaging, polystyrene egg cartons, wax-coated cardboard boxes, window glass, paint cans, PVC pipes, light bulbs and plastic bags.

Since Feb. 1, the county's recyclable materials were delivered to the MUA's facilities in Woodbine and transported to Atlantic County for processing. Cape May County revamped its recycling plant with \$4 million in upgrades, including sorting mechanisms, error chutes, belts,

magnets, and sort rooms, he said.

"The new machinery there is staggering," Baron said. "The new machinery combined with the new sort rooms will allow the processing of materials coming in on one single type of stream."

Baron said Cape May County was one of the last counties in the state to use single-stream recycling.

"Dual-stream is no longer in the majority; it is in the minority," Baron said.

Benefits of single-stream recycling include a cost savings through convenience, he

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