

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 18 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



LOWER CAPE LITTLE LEAGUE TAKES FIELD

Page B8



Move over, save lives, drivers told

Mother of trooper killed by vehicle shares story at LCMR

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Donna Setaro is reminding drivers when they see a police car or other emergency vehicle with their lights blinking on the side of the road that it is the law to slow down and move over one lane if possible.

She knows that tragedy can result from an officer or EMT being hit by car. Her son, State

Police Trooper Marc Castellano, was struck and killed by a car after pulling over an erratic driver.

Setaro brought her message to an assembly at Lower Cape May Regional High School last week.

One reason drivers don't move over when they see an emergency vehicle on the side of the road is they are distracted, she said. The drivers may be drinking coffee, tun-

ing their car radio, putting on makeup, leaning over to pick up a dropped object or texting.

Setaro, of Forked River in Lacey Township, has taken her message, geared to high school students, statewide. The assembly at the regional school was number 292, she said.

Students watched video on the auditorium's big screen taken from police vehicle dashboard cameras of officers being hit by cars while on

roadside stops. The students gasped as they viewed the accidents.

The state law applies to police vehicles, tow trucks, fire apparatus and ambulances displaying red, amber, blue or white flashing or alternating lights, Setaro said. She said few drivers are aware of the law.

"If you are involved in an

See *Move over*, Page A2



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Donna Setaro holds up the uniform shirt of her son, State Police Trooper Marc Castellano, who was killed during a traffic stop.

West Cape May to see LCMR tax jump most

Tax rate to increase to 37.7 cents/\$100

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — West Cape May residents will face the highest tax increase after the Lower Cape May Regional High School Board of Education approved its 2014-15 budget last week.

The spending plan totals \$31.5 million, up \$129,000 over last year's budget.

Business Administrator Mark Mallett said the increase equals four-tenths of 1 percent and that the budget is within the 2 percent state cap on tax increases.

Increases in the budget were driven by the district paying tuition to send students to the Cape May County Vocational Technical School, Special Services School and state facilities, Mallett said. Maintenance costs have increased for ongoing repairs of roofs, electrical and plumbing issues, he said.

Mallett said as a regional school

See *LCMR tax*, page A3

This is only a drill: Terror attack at Training Center Cape May



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Several dozen law-enforcement, emergency-management and military organizations participated in the first full-scale antiterrorism exercise at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May on April 29. The exercise simulated a suicide bomber attacking the galley and injuring dozens of recruits and staff. Exercise players included victims, police officers and EMS personnel, who responded as if it were an actual attack.

Developer: DEP breaking own rules regarding settlement at Sewell Point

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — East Cape May Associates, a developer that has been trying to build houses in the Sewell Point section of the city, east of Pittsburg Avenue, for two decades, is accusing the state Department of Environmental Protection of proposing to allow home construction in wetlands and critical wildlife habitat.

In a Feb. 19 letter to the DEP, the developer's attorney, Jack

Plackter, said the DEP "has acted in a manner inconsistent with its own regulations."

"It is noteworthy that an organized group of more than 150 people from Cape May, as well as credible environmental organizations including the Littoral Society and Audubon Society, have objected to the NJDEP-proposed development schemes," he stated in the letter.

East Cape May Associates informed the DEP that it would not tolerate any further delay

on a final offer of money for what it regards as regulatory taking of the tract. The developer claims it has incurred more than \$5.4 million in expenses excluding attorney fees.

In his letter to the DEP, Plackter stated, "NJDEP has ignored its legislative charge to protect and safeguard the state's valuable coastal resources, including wetlands, habitat for threatened and

See *Developer*, Page A2

Lower Township MUA chairman, office supervisor suffer vandalism

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Commissioners Chairman Nels Johnson and Office Supervisor Emily Oberkoffer were the victims of vandalism two weeks ago.

Johnson told the Star and Wave that two tires on his business truck and two tires on his personal vehicle were slashed April 15. In addition,

one tire was slashed on his brother's vehicle.

According to Johnson, a rental property he owns was damaged when someone kicked in the door to the basement and broke water pipes. He said he believed the vandalism was in retaliation following settlement of a civil suit involving dismissed MUA employees.

Oberkoffer, who also serves as secretary to the Board of Commissioners, told the Star

and Wave that four tires on her SUV were slashed April 16, with a total value of \$937.

"We've been through a difficult nine-month period here, so there are some folks with some axes to grind," she said. "It was definitely a premeditated, malicious act."

Johnson said he may have been targeted for making unpopular decisions on behalf of the MUA Board of Commis-

See *Vandalism*, Page A3



WASHINGTON INN

Catch the delicious breath of Spring!

Serving Dinner Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 5pm

Cakebread Wine Dinner May 21 call for reservations

THE WINE BAR *Five for Friday*
OPEN Friday, Saturday & Sunday



801 WASHINGTON STREET + 609-884-5697 + WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM

CLASSIFIED.....B6 EDUCATION/YOUTH.....A8 HOME OF THE WEEK.....B1 LOCAL INTEREST.....A4 RELIGION.....A4 SPORTS.....B5
COMMENTARY.....A6 ENTERTAINMENT.....B7 COMMUNITY.....B3 OBITUARIES.....A4 SEA & DO.....B1 TIDES.....A3