



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## SHARK TOURNAY WAS QUITE THE CATCH

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# West Cape May files complaint against Willow Creek

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Borough of West Cape May has filed a complaint with the County Agricultural Development Board (CADB) against the Willow Creek Winery, claiming the business has violated its deed of easement and regulations of the Right to Farm Act.

Resolution 100-13 regarding the complaint was listed on the June 12 regular meeting agenda. Mayor Pam Kaithern said the Board of Commissioners had already approved filing the complaint prior to the meeting, so the

resolution was removed. The complaint, drafted by Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado, alleges the Willow Creek Winery held a wedding ceremony on May 11, which an estimated 300 people attended. A letter from the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) Director Susan Payne addressed to Barbara Wilde, owner of Willow Creek Winery, dated Jan. 10, 2013 says events on the property such as this are forbidden as it violates the deed of easement Wilde signed in March 2003.

"Specifically, the SADC has found that use of a preserved

farm to host events like weddings, wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, corporate events, anniversaries, birthdays, luncheons, holiday parties, fundraisers, celebratory events, and other events where the primary purpose is to attend the non-agricultural event, constitutes a violation of paragraph two of the deed of easement," the letter says.

The deed of easement conveyed to the county all non-agricultural development rights and credits on the winery property, in exchange for \$890,000 in funding.

Corrado wrote in the complaint that the Right to Farm Act permits the winery to

engage in "agricultural activities" that either conform to a specific agricultural management practice or constitute generally accepted agricultural operations or practices, so long as the activities don't pose a threat to public health and safety.

"However, neither the deed of easement nor the Right to Farm Act and regulations allow the winery to host events not directly related to selling the property's agricultural output. Those activities are prohibited," Corrado said in the complaint.

The wedding couple, Talia Piacentine and Jim McCullen, maintained a web-

site with ceremony information, which said a wedding rehearsal would be held at the Willow Creek Winery at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 9 and a wedding ceremony at the same location at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. Corrado included photographs from the event in the complaint as evidence, which were retrieved from Facebook.

"The photographs also show the guests consuming what appear to be alcoholic beverages other than wine. The borough of West Cape May has no record of a one-day liquor license having been issued for this event," Corrado says. He also mentions a num-

ber of complaints received by the borough regarding the service of alcoholic beverages other than wine as well as excessive noise from the event. At the May 22 regular meeting, neighbors of the Willow Creek Winery spoke during public comment about the event. Stevens Street resident Bob Myers said the band and large crowd could be heard along Stevens from the intersections of Seagrove Avenue and Bayshore Road and Stimpson Lane.

Meyers claimed the wedding event was held May 13, but Wilde said it was a wine

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## Cape May hosts regional FEMA flood map meeting

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The new Preliminary Work Maps for Cape May County will be released at the end of July, according to FEMA officials, meaning the present Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps remain the best available flood hazard data for residents.

Approximately 400 people from multiple Cape May County municipalities gathered in Convention Hall on Saturday morning to receive updates from FEMA and other state agencies involved in the post-Sandy effort. The meeting was held to explain the process and content of impending new FEMA Flood Maps, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System rules. The two-hour meeting primarily focused on the projected impact of the new FEMA Flood Maps and regulations upon flood insurance availability and significant premium increases.

The special meeting called by city council on Saturday morning allowed members of the public to ask ques-

tions about flood risk and insurance on their personal property, and to work one-on-one with FEMA officials after the conference. Mayor Ed Mahaney said 22 FEMA representatives attended the special meeting.

According to Patrick Holloway, a Risk Map Outreach Specialist for FEMA, the organization was still in the process of remapping coastal hazard zones along New Jersey and New York when Hurricane Sandy struck in late October. He said FEMA has been developing the maps for the past five years and on Monday, released the preliminary work maps for Atlantic, Hudson, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Holloway said preliminary work maps for the remaining counties in New Jersey would be released in the coming months, with Cape May County's map estimated to be released at the end of July. Once the new preliminary work maps are released, they will override ABFE maps.

"Preliminary work map data is standard protocol for the regulatory process

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## LCMRHS Class of 2013 graduation



David Nahan/Cape May Star and Wave

Lower Cape May Regional High School held its 2013 graduation on Friday, June 14. Graduates included Ian Nahan, above left, son of Cape May Star and Wave publisher David Nahan. See more photos of graduates on pages A5,6 and 7.



## 'Partnership' a key word in school presentation

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Representatives from the Lower Cape May Regional School District talked a lot about partnership when they spoke to Lower Township Council, Monday night.

The delegation including Director of Curriculum and Instruction Christopher Kobik, high school principal Joe Castellucci, middle school principal Greg Lasher, and high school business

teacher Kathy Parker, was led by Superintendent Jack Pfizenmayer.

Before the presentation, Pfizenmayer was honored by Lower Township Council on his retirement after a 25-year career as an educator – the past eight being the superintendent.

"Jack is a CEO of a whole host of teachers. He is the kind of leader who seeks to understand before being understood," Deputy Mayor

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