



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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GORDON VINCENT: AN ARTIST, NOT A BUSINESSMAN

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West Nile Virus findings 'typical' for this time of year

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC COUNTY – Between Atlantic and Cape May counties this summer, eight positive mosquito samples of West Nile Virus have been reported.

The most recent positive sample was collected in Northfield's Birch Grove Park. Samples were collected by the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control on Aug. 8.

The positive result was announced Tuesday, Aug. 20. The pool of 34 mosquitos

tested in that sample tested positive for West Nile Virus, Doug Abdill, Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control Superintendent, said.

According to the Center for Disease Control, West Nile Virus is most commonly transmitted from mosquitoes to humans.

The virus cycles between mosquitos and birds. Infected mosquitoes can also transmit the virus to people, horses and other mammals.

Seventy to 80 percent of people infected with the virus do not develop any symptoms. However, one in five infect-

ed persons develop a fever with symptoms including headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea and

per testing season, Abdill said.

Cape May County averages six, according to Dr. Peter

There are 50 to 60 testing locations Atlantic County uses. Testing is rotated between those locations, and two to three sites are tested per week.

Ten to 12 of those sites, including Birch Grove Park, are historically active, Abdill said.

"We test all over," Abdill said. "It doesn't need to be next to what you would consider wetlands ... Birdbaths, storm drains, small containers and things like that."

"Every single kind of habitat we can imagine given there are 45 different types

of mosquitos," Abdill said. "Some prefer to lay eggs in little containers around people's houses and there are some that only lay their eggs in the salt marsh, so it's very different depending on the type of mosquito."

For Cape May County's testing, gravid traps – mosquito traps that collect specific mosquitos known to transmit West Nile – are used.

There are more than 20 in the county, Bosak said, and mosquito samples are collected from them once per week.

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Officials: Residents are reminded to clear standing water, wear repellent.

rash. Fewer than one percent of infected people develop encephalitis or meningitis, an inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues.

Atlantic County averages four to five positive samples

Bosak, superintendent of the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control.

In both Atlantic and Cape May counties, testing occurs from June through the end of October.

LCMR school board asks for referendum on pull-out

ERMA – The Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education voted unanimously Aug. 22 to request a referendum be placed on the ballot in the November general election to ask voters if the City of Cape May should be allowed to withdraw from the district or if the school district should be dissolved.

On July 11, Cape May applied to the county executive superintendent of schools requesting he conduct an investigation as to the advisability of Cape May withdrawing from the regional school district.

A resolution passed by the school board said, "such an investigation would ultimately lead to a public referendum by the three constituent school districts and

whereas the Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education has determined that it would be beneficial to all to have such a non-binding referendum to be placed on the ballot for Nov. 5, 2013 general election."

Lower Cape May Regional School officials will deliver to the county clerk and county Board of Elections a request to put two questions on the ballot in the general election in Cape May, West Cape May and Lower Township:

* Should the City of Cape May be permitted to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District?

* Should the Lower Cape May Regional School District be dissolved?

November referendum would save tax dollars

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Christopher Kobik, who assume duties as the superintendent of the Lower Cape May Regional School District's as of Sept. 1, said he thinks the Board of Education's decision to ask for a referendum in November was a cost savings measure.

According to Kobik, a referendum asking voters if they wish to allow Cape May to leave the regional school district, or to dissolve the school district entirely, is part of the process. He said if a referendum must be held, it should be done without a special election.

"I think people are reading the writing on the wall. Ultimately a vote would have to be taken...why not hold it when not going cost taxpayers money?" Kobik said.

Kobik said if a special election is held it would cost

every constituent municipality more money than if it were held during the general election.

Lower Township Solicitor Charles Sandman III, said from the feedback he has received, what Kobik said was accurate.

"It doesn't cost any money to do it (on Nov. 5)," Sandman said.

On the other hand, Sandman said Cape May continuing its efforts to change the school funding formula would only cost the taxpayers money.

Sandman said Lower Township hired counsel to deal with issue, referring to Frank Campbell, who was lead counsel for the respondent when Seaside Park attempted to leave their school district.

"The Appellate Division made it clear they are not going to allow that and they've showed no signs of weakening," Sandman said.

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Bird is the word

Above, Richard Crossley, a co-founder of the Pledge 2 Fledge (P2F) event, held at Lighthouse State Park near Cape May Point, talks to visitors about avian wildlife. This is the second year for P2F. Crossley is a local expert on birds and an author of several books on birds and bird watching. See more photos on page A10.

NJ Gov. Christie is in Cape May today

CAPE MAY – New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has scheduled an on-site visit to Cape May, today, Wednesday, Aug. 28, at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Christie will conduct a press conference for the news media and general public in the 300 block of the Washington Street Mall. There will be a question and answer session with the media and public at the conclusion of the governor's remarks. Following this press conference, Christie will

stroll the entire Washington Street Mall for the purpose of meeting and exchanging viewpoints with residents, merchants, and visitors in Cape May.

The primary purpose of Christie's presence in Cape May is to gain a personal, first-hand status report of the actual outcomes of the state's comprehensive and integrated programs focusing on the recovery efforts from last October's Hurricane Sandy

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Good Samaritan gets new Cape May T-shirt

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" was always Susan Reilly's favorite passage from the Holy Bible, but little did Reilly know she would one day be in dire need of a Good Samaritan after suffering a serious injury.

Reilly, 52, has been a regular vacationer in Cape May since she was a child. On Tuesday, Aug. 20, during her final week in Cape May, she was taking a jog on the promenade at about 9:30 a.m. A

close friend of hers always said a runner had to touch the flagpole at the end of the promenade by Cove Beach in order to accomplish a complete promenade run, so she made a tradition of it. On Tuesday, that tradition took an ugly turn.

When Reilly touched the flagpole and turned to go back the other way, she realized she had to dodge a pair of trashcans and a sign. She tripped and fell head first into the sign post causing a

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