

Concert to help fund LCMR legacy Holly Shores Campground raises \$1,000 for charity

LOWER TOWNSHIP—The Lower Cape May Regional High School Class of 2014 will host a fundraiser Saturday, May 3, to benefit the "Sign Legacy Project."

The event is scheduled for 7 to 11 p.m. at the Grand Hotel in Cape May, and features a live concert by the Elton John tribute band "Bennie and the Jets." Only 310 tickets will be sold. Hors d'oeuvres and cash

bar will be available. Each graduating class of leaves a gift to the school. The "Sign Legacy Project," consisting of 6-foot-high, back-lit "LCMR" lettering on the Route 9 side of the high school, is designed to promote school spirit and to share that spirit with the community.

At a cost of nearly \$8,000, the school board-approved project is the most ambitious

class project in the school's history. The class also is seeking sponsorships from local businesses to help raise money to complete the project.

An unveiling ceremony is planned for graduation night in June. Tickets for the "Bennie and the Jets" concert are \$35 each, and can be purchased at the Grand Hotel or by calling (609) 226-4474 or at (609) 374-4937.

CAPE MAY—On Saturday, April 19, Holly Shores Camping Resort, a local family-owned campground, raised more than \$1,000 at its annual Easter Brunch with the Bunny fundraiser.

Money was raised through ticket sales, raffles and donations, and all proceeds benefited the Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey, whose mission is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and wellbeing of children.

"Brunch with the Bunny" was just one of the several activities going on Easter weekend at the campground. Holly Shores Campground entertained more than 100 camping families with free activities such as a magic show, pony rides, movie night, DJ Easter dance party, arts and crafts, Easter egg hunt, egg races and a hayride.

More than 135 tickets were sold for the brunch, which featured items cooked by Maggy Robinson, the owner, volunteers and staff.

During the brunch, campers were paid a special visit by the Easter Bunny.

"I was overwhelmed by the turnout of the benefit. It was great to see so many families get together, enjoy a meal and help the sick children in our community," said David Robinson, the owner.

Call 856-966-4663 for more info on the Ronald McDonald House and its charities. For information on Holly Shores Campground, call 609-886-1234.



Volunteer Angela Mathis, of Cape May Court House, sells raffle tickets for gift baskets April 19 during Easter Brunch with the Bunny at Holly Shores Campground in Cape May.

LCMR tax

Continued from Page A1

district, the state considers the number of students and the assessed property value of each participating municipality to determine their share of the tax levy. This year's total tax levy is \$20.2 million.

For 2014-15, Lower Township will pay 59 percent of the tax levy, Cape May will pay 32 percent and West Cape May will pay 8 percent, he said.

West Cape May's share of the tax levy increased from 6 percent last year as a result of the allocation of equalized value by the state Department of Education, Mallett said.

West Cape May's tax rate will jump from 29.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 37.7 cents.

The tax rate for Lower Township will increase from 29.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 33.4 cents as a result of last year's revaluation, which saw property values decline by about 12 percent, Mallett said.

"If the assessed value of their home has declined by approximately 12 percent, the taxes that a Lower Township resident pays will be comparable to what they paid in 2013," he said.

The tax rate for Cape May will show a small decrease from 22.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 22.3 cents.

Mallett offered a comparison of tax bills for a home assessed at \$250,000 in the three municipalities that comprise the regional school district. He said the figure was chosen because it represents the value of the majority of homes in the district.

A West Cape May homeowner would pay \$975 in regional school taxes, up from \$735 in 2013-14. A Lower Township homeowner would pay \$810, up from \$725 last year. An owner of a \$250,000 Cape May home would pay \$598, up from \$568 last year.

Mallett said debt service decreased as bonds from 1995 for an addition and renovation of classrooms for both the middle and high schools were being retired.

Enrollment has declined over the past five years from a high of 1,608 students in the 2011-12 school year to an estimated 1,500 students for 2014-15. He said the decline in enrollment is consistent with other schools in the county.

The school district is projecting an increase in enrollment this year of 24 students due to higher numbers in seventh grade, Mallett said.

State aid has increased from \$9.3 million to \$9.6 million this year due to an increase in Choice School students.

New Jersey's Interdistrict Public School Choice Program allows approved choice districts to enroll students who do not reside within their districts without cost to their parents. Mallett said the district had 15 Choice students in 2013-14, which brought in \$220,000 in state aid. In 2014-15, the district will have 39 Choice students, resulting in an additional \$337,000 in state aid.

During public comment, Lower Township resident John Skowroeski said he was disappointed the budget hasn't either stayed the same or decreased. He said he had hoped the school district's installation of a solar power array would cause the budget to remain flat or decrease.

Superintendent Christopher Kobik said the solar panels saved the school district about \$80,000 last year. He noted fuel and insurance costs have increased for the district.

Kobik said the district is doing other things to help cut costs, such as not replacing a staff member who retires.

Vandalism

Continued from Page A1

sioners.

"I never realized doing community service was going to be this difficult and this painful," Johnson said. "I'm not a paid employee."

He said he is paid \$100 per month, which barely covers the expenses of serving as board chairman. Johnson said he spent a lot of time trying to improve the MUA, event working with employees on their contracts.

Johnson said he believed a lot of the unrest at the MUA stemmed from employees not getting raises they requested. The Board of Commissioners did not approve those raises, he said.

"The executive director, we feel, made a major error in requesting raises, especially given you have an iron-clad contract," Johnson said.

He said raises were given to MUA employees when they received promotions or upgraded a license.

"Giving raises out arbitrarily during contract (negotiation) time could lead to a broken contract," Johnson said. "Since then, things have spiraled completely out of control, with accusations from employees of corruption by board members and the board secretary."

He said none of the claims of corruption in the past year has been proved. Johnson said the board has "fought hard to make sure the ratepayers have the best people working there."

The board has made some tough decisions resulting in retribution, he said. Johnson said he feels "violated." He said whoever takes the chairman's position on the Board of Commissioners "is a marked person."

Johnson said he would ask the board to offer a reward for anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who committed the vandalism. He said police are continuing to investigate the incidents.

In October 2013, the county Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into corruption at the MUA. In the same month, the MUA hired the law firm of Cooper/Levenson to investigate employee complaints.

Former Executive Director Matt Ecker was arrested Oct. 25, 2013, on charges of tampering with a witness and obstructing administration of the law or other government function. Ecker was later dismissed from the MUA and his position remains vacant despite the board advertising to fill the job.

TIDES : April-May 2014				
Date	High		Low	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
30	9:35	9:51	3:22	3:21
1	10:19	10:32	4:07	4:04
2	11:03	11:13	4:52	4:45
3	11:48	11:56	5:38	5:28
4		12:36	6:25	6:14
5	12:42	1:28	7:14	7:06
6	1:33	2:24	8:04	8:02
7	2:28	3:22	8:56	9:02

MOON PHASES
First quarter, May 6 • Full moon, May 14 • Last quarter, May 21

Artisans Alcove
ESTATE JEWELERS

SPECIALIZING IN:
• Appraisals
• Estate Jewelry
• Jewelry Repairs
• Engagement Rings
• Watch Repairs

WE BUY:
• Diamonds
• Estate Jewelry
• Gold
• Coins

BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIRS
"Engagement Rings... as one of a kind as your love"

523 Lafayette Street • Cape May, NJ • 609-898-0202
714 Asbury Avenue • Ocean City, NJ • 609-399-2050

CAROLINE BOUTIQUE

MON-FRI NOON-3PM
SAT & SUN 11AM-4PM

Carpenter's Lane
Between Jackson & Decatur, Cape May 609 884 5035

Axelsson's Blue Claw Restaurant

Open Friday, Saturday & Holiday Sundays from 5pm

Dinner Friday and Saturday from 5PM
Early Dinner Specials 5 - 6pm

1/2 price Raw Bar 5 - 6pm Pub Only
Light Fare Pub Menu from 5pm

Now taking reservations for Mother's Day
Special for Mother's Day, Pub menu served all evening

991 Ocean Drive • Cape May, NJ • On the Water
Reservations Accepted • 609-884-5878
www.blueclawrestaurant.com • Ample free parking

LOBSTER HOUSE
ON FISHERMAN'S WHARF IN CAPE MAY, N.J.

FISH MARKET

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND
thru SUNDAY, MAY 4TH

FRESH SWORDFISH
\$9.95 LB.

MAC AND CHEESE with
LOBSTER MEAT
\$6.50 EACH

TAKE OUT SPECIALS

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND
& SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

FRIED OYSTER PLATTER
served with baked Mac & Cheese
and stewed tomatoes
\$11.25

BROILED SALMON topped with CRABMEAT
served with baked potato or french fries & cole slaw
\$11.50

APPETIZER SPECIAL

CLAMS CASINO
\$7.95

FRIED SHRIMP PLATTER
Served with baked potato or french fries & cole slaw
(regular price \$10.75)
\$6.95 EACH

Good Only Wednesday, April 30, 2014
at the Take-Out counter

Phone Ahead to Order
609-884-3064
The Lobster House
FISHERMAN'S WHARF in CAPE MAY
www.the lobsterhouse.com

OCCUPY MAIN STREET: SHOP WITH A LOCAL, INDEPENDENT MERCHANT

U.S. COAST GUARD NOTICES TO MARINERS ARE BROADCAST ON VFH CHANNEL 22A.

April 25th - May 11th, 2014

Brighton.
EARS TO YOU!

SeaWeeds By the Sea

OPEN DAILY 10am - 6pm • 10am - 8pm Fri. & Sat.
315 Ocean Street • Cape May, NJ

Purchase any Brighton necklace and bracelet and you can choose any pair of Brighton earrings* **FREE!**

*Free earrings must be of EQUAL or LESSER VALUE to the highest priced item purchased. Limited to stock on hand. Charm jewelry excluded. Necklace & Bracelet must be purchased in the same transaction. (Prior purchases excluded.) At participating retailers only.