



Honeybees evicted from Washington Street home

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – When Victoria Clayton returned from a trip and noticed constant bee activity at her Washington Street home a few weeks ago, she was curious to know what all the buzz was about.

Clayton called an exterminator to come and investigate. It turns out the buzz was an infestation of approximately 30,000 honeybees nested in her attic crawl space building a hive weighing nearly three pounds.

“They told me I had ‘good bees’ – honeybees,” she said. The pest control service said



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Above, honeycomb from a hive holding perhaps 30,000 bees created between joists in the Clayton home on Washington Street.

it is illegal to kill honeybees in New Jersey, especially an entire hive full of the beneficial insects. As an animal lover, Clayton said she would never think of taking such an action in the first place.

“I can’t imagine why anyone would want to kill them anyway,” she said. “It was absolutely beautiful what they had created. I never knew how dedicated and meticulous they were about building this home – this colony.”

Clayton decided she wanted to have the nest and bees relocated. She called Gary Schempp of Busy Bees NJ in Cape May Court House, a beekeeper who has been in

much stickier situations than a hive full of 30,000 honeybees. Schempp said just one month before in West Cape May, he removed two separate bee colonies totaling approximately 100,000 bees from a home. He said each hive had around 50,000 bees or more in it, but colony sizes can easily reach 70,000 bees or more.

“It’s a working situation like you can’t believe,” Schempp said. “Removing the hive, there’s honey dripping down my arm, on the step ladder, on my tools – you get stung. It’s challenging, but I enjoy

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Rockin’ the Jersey Shore: Stony reaction to beach-fill project

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city will remove an abundance of small stones left behind by a winter beach renourishment project, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said.

Speaking at the May 2 regular city council meeting, MacLeod said the 3,300 pounds of gravel being removed lies mainly at the high and low tide lines on the beach mixed in with the sand brought in by the back-passing project. Back-passing uses heavy machinery and trucks to move and deposit sand as opposed to the use of an offshore dredge. MacLeod said the back-passing was used as a demonstration, trial procedure to take sand from parts of the beach with excess amounts and deposit it eastward to Wilmington Avenue, where there was less sand. He said after the back-passing project uncovered the gravel and stone, it was reported to the Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Army Corps was responsible for the back-passing process.



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a 4,200-foot strip of beach was littered with stones, gravel and shells after a beach fill project replaced tons of sand on eroded beaches. A contractor was hired to remove the stones.

MacLeod said city officials had a pre-construction meeting with the Army Corps and the DEP for approval. Tuesday to follow up on the beach renourishment project. When the gravel problem was identified, both agencies visited the beachfront to do an analysis in March and then came back to test equipment that will be used to remove the stone deposits.

The contract to remove the stones has been awarded to Reilly Construction of

Chantilly, Va., which will need to provide construction proposals to the Army Corps and the DEP for approval. MacLeod said the stones being removed are one-half inch or larger and reach a depth of about six inches between the high and low tide water lines. The project will take place between Gurney Street and Trenton Avenue, which is approximately 4,200 linear feet of

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

‘Port...Arms!’

Above, a USCG company commander at the USCG Training Center-Cape May gives close order drill instructions to recruit company Mike-186. See related story and photos on page A12.

Juveniles drinking at home may bring fines

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – An ordinance to make underage youth accountable for drinking on private property was approved Monday by Lower Township Council.

It was already illegal for an adult to supply alcohol to a juvenile. Under existing law, the underage drinkers would not be cited. Ordinance 2012-06 makes it illegal for juveniles to drink on private property, with some exceptions. When the ordinance was introduced at the end

of March, Mayor Mike Beck said the intention was not to prohibit a parent from letting his or her 18-year-old child have a beer. He said the purpose of the ordinance was

Cape Assist, said she saluted council for taking action to combat underage drinking.

“The number one drug abused in Cape May County is alcohol,” Mounce said.

She said the average age at which people try alcohol in Cape May County is 11. She said that doesn’t mean all 11-year-olds will grow up to abuse alcohol,

but those who do try alcohol before the age of 15 are more likely to abuse alcohol as adults.

“If they drink before 15 they are five times more likely to abuse alcohol,” she said.

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‘The number one drug abused in Cape May County is alcohol.’

– Kim Mounce, Cape Assist

All signs point to no left turn

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – There are apparently too many NASCAR drivers coming into Cape May Point these days, although one can’t be sure.

The cars don’t have bright paint jobs and sponsor names on them, but there are certain telltale signs.

According to residents and commissioners speaking at Board of Commissioners meetings, drivers are seemingly exceeding the 30 mph speed limit on Cape and Lighthouse Avenues. Outgoing Commissioner John Henderson said he had made the Cape May police aware of the situation, and they would be taking steps to curb speeding.

The most telltale sign, however, is the propensity for left turns. Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk said they get far too many reports of people turning left when they arrive at Pavilion Circle. VanHeeswyk said she talked to County Engineer Dale Foster, and Foster saw to it that more signage was installed around Pavilion Circle. At the intersection of Cape Avenue and the circle, for example, there is a stop sign with another sign with a left turn arrow in a red



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, despite additional signage indicating drivers should go right at Pavilion Circle in Cape May Point, residents say drivers are continually turning left.

circle with a slash through it, meaning “No Left Turn.” On the other side of the street is a yellow, diamond shaped sign with an arrow pointing right. Under that is a sign reading “Keep Right” with an arrow pointing right. Some drivers still make left turns, and drive the wrong way on Pavilion Circle.

VanHeeswyk said in a related matter, the county put a sign in the middle of Cape Avenue in front of the Country Store, to remind drivers New Jersey state law requires them to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk.

In other Point news, van-

Heeswyk said she had a meeting with the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority, and the CMCMAU was concerned about some buildings it said should not have been constructed in the Point. VanHeeswyk said she believes records indicate the CMCMAU is mistaken.

Van Heeswyk said over the last four years she viewed construction fees as a reflection of the economy. When the economy was down it was down home sales and construction fees were down.

“We had several months

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Rehabilitating water tower will save money

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council awarded a \$1,007,500 contract to Allied Painting, Inc. of Cherry Hill to refurbish and paint the city water tank at Madison and Columbia Avenues.

The 78-year old tank was last painted in 2001 for \$400,000, but has since shown extensive exterior rust and is in need of repair. City officials debated replacing the

water tower, which holds 700,000 gallons of water, but found it would cost around \$1.75 million or more to do so.

Allied Painting was the lowest of six bids given to the city in April, coming in at \$35,000 less than the next lowest bid. Mayor Ed Mahaney said the salty seashore environment is rough on metal tanks but believes a full rehabilitation of the tank will allow the tank to operate efficiently for another half-century.

“We’ll most likely get another

er 50 years use of it with a complete rehab,” he said.

City Engineer Ray Roberts said the repairs will begin after Labor Day. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the ultimate goal is to be done before Memorial Day 2013. He noted if the city had opted to replace the tank, it wouldn’t have been finished until May 2014.

The city received a \$515,000 grant and a \$1.6 million low-

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