



Shop small on the mall for holiday treat

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House of the week

B1



167th YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021 \$1.00

Regional district wants \$8.9M for roof, new HVAC

Bond referendum set for Jan. 25 in Cape May, Lower, West Cape

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — A referendum seeking the public's approval for the Lower Cape May Regional School District to bond \$8.9 million is scheduled for Jan. 25.

Voters are being asked to approve the bond, payable over 20 years, as part of a project totaling \$13.9 million.

Main parts of the project are replacing the roof and installing air conditioning in the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School and new air conditioning at Lower Cape May Regional High School.

The roof is estimated to cost \$3.2 million. During a town hall meeting Nov. 17, architect Bob Garrison said the school district has been the most successful of his clients in passing referenda in the past 27 years. He said the state would pay 40 percent of the project's cost.

The school was built in 1974 and a two-story addition was built in 1995. The high school was built in 1960 with additions in 1967 and 1968. A science wing was added in 1995 and an audi-

torium in 2000.

"It's important to realize that while the bones of these buildings are good from the '60s and the '70s, their systems need to be replaced — and you've done that in an organized manner over time," Garrison said.

He said the Teitelman School roof was reaching the end of its useful life. The roof measures 72,000 square feet with a replacement cost of \$35 per square foot totaling \$2.5 million. Garrison said "soft costs" add on \$756,000. They include architect and engineering fees, contingency costs, construction management and legal fees. Garrison said supply-chain issues could contribute to contingency costs.

He said the existing roof would be torn off down to the structural deck. Energy compliant-R-30 insulation would be installed. When constructed, 3.5 inches of insulation was required while the today's code requires 5.5 inches of insulation, Garrison said.

New drains would be installed for proper water flow

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COVID cases increase dramatically in county

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The number of active COVID-19 cases is on the rise in Cape May County, with the county Health Department's weekly update reporting 452 active cases among residents, a 69 percent increase from 267 cases Nov. 26.

There were just 191 cases Nov. 19.

Lower Township led the county Dec. 3 with 115 cases, followed by Middle Township with 100 and Ocean City with 55.

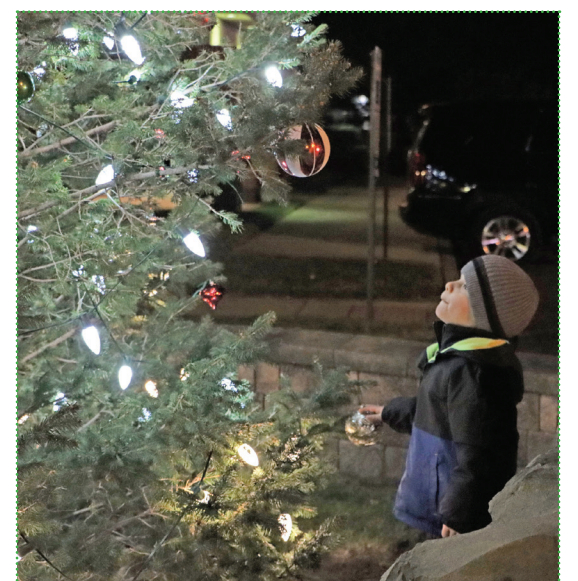
Reported cases in other municipalities: Avalon 5, Cape May 10, Dennis Township 43, North Wildwood 22, Sea Isle City 5 and Upper Township 47.

The Health Department reminds residents of the importance of protecting themselves during winter months when activities are largely held indoors. Vaccination remains the best protection. It is also recommended to mask when indoors and social distancing is difficult.

Despite the regionwide COVID increase in cases, locally there is no threat to the hospital system as Cape Regional Medical Center maintains plenty of capacity. The hospital reported four COVID-positive patients Dec. 4.

Moderna and Johnson

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Frank Scott, Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

At top, ballerinas with the Cape May Dance Company perform Dec. 4 during the West Cape May Community Christmas Parade. Middle left, the Cape May Beach Patrol float. Middle right, Cape May's tree at the Rotary Park gazebo. Above left, Congress Hall's tree. Above right, a boy looks at Lower Township's tree, hoping he's on the nice list.

State ready to accept some marijuana license applications

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission will begin accepting applications Dec. 15 for licenses for cultivators, manufacturers and testing laboratories. License applications for retail cannabis will be accepted beginning March 15.

The agency held a pre-application webinar Nov. 30. CRC Executive Director Jeff Brown said he wanted to stress the difference in how permits were issued in the past for medical cannabis under

the state Department of Health with how they would be issued in the future.

"In order to be moved forward in the licensing process, applications will need to be complete, be fully compliant with qualification and limitation provisions in our regulations and receive a full score for all mandatory measures required of the specific application type," he said. "Importantly, license applicants will not be issued a license until they have met all the requirements for licensure."

He said there are stages of

the application process, such as fingerprinting, probity investigations and documents submission, that will be dependent on the applicants and how quickly they can complete them.

The CRC is not accepting applications for distributors, wholesalers and delivery services but those will be included in future regulations and notices, Brown said.

The notice of recreational cannabis applications indicates what applicants need in the form of letters or resolution from their local

government.

"There are no deadlines, this is a continuous rolling application process and will be continuous until the notice is updated," Brown said. "There is no limit on the number of licenses covered by this notice except a limit of 37 cultivation licenses that can be issued prior to Feb. 22, 2023."

He said while the CRC is not establishing limits, a municipality can do so.

Applications must include disclosure of all persons of interest and all entities of interest, a pro-

posed location and landlord, personal history disclosures for all persons of interest and a criminal history background check.

"If an applicant is using a management services contract or financial sources, we ask for disclosure of any management services agreements or financial source agreements," Brown said.

The CRC will begin accepting applications online at 9 a.m. Dec. 15 for Class 1 cultivator licenses, Class 2 manufacturer licenses and

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