



More delays for parks in Cape May

Page A2



House of the week

B1



166th YEAR NO. 37 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 \$1.00

Fire/police question to have 'no' option

Cape May voters can support one of two construction bonds or neither

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 3-2 vote, City Council approved an interpretive statement on the Nov. 3 election ballot for two questions — one to fund construction of a public safety building and the other to fund construction of just a firehouse. Council also approved an option for voters to vote against both bond ordinances for those who do not want either project to take place.

Voters will see two questions on the ballot — a choice of constructing a \$15 million public safety building to house the fire and police departments, emergency medical services and the Office of Emergency Management and another to construct a \$5 million building to house just the fire department.

On Sept. 1, City Council passed a resolution covering how an interpretive statement on the ballot should read. It had been suggested a third ballot question would allow

voters to cast a “no” vote to both projects.

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said council has agreed something should be built to house the fire department.

“I think it would go against us as a council to allow that ‘no’ vote to be put on that and have nothing get built,” she said.

City solicitor Frank Corrado said he did not agree with Sheehan. The interpretive statement on the ballot is for the voters, he said, and is not supposed to reflect

what council has agreed or not agreed upon.

“It’s to explain to the voters what their choices are,” Corrado said.

He said there may be some voters who do not want either bond ordinance adopted. Corrado said in his opinion, the ballot needed to have a “no” option. If the ballot had only one question for a \$5 million firehouse, there would need to be a “no” option.

“I don’t think that the fact there are two competing referenda

changes that requirement,” Corrado said.

Councilman Zack Mullock said he disagreed with the “no” option. He said if someone does not like either building option, they should not vote.

“If they don’t vote then that guarantees that something is going to be adopted,” Corrado said. “One or the other of those ordinances is going to be adopted.”

He said those who do not want

See Ballot questions, Page A4



Austin Myers/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

NASW Aviation Museum hosts Airfest

The Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum hosted its annual Airfest on Sept. 5-6 with fly-ins from the Classic Jet Aircraft Association. The event included live music, Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh portrayals, exhibits and vendors.

Is beach right place for flags of candidates?

City unlikely to address issue amid presidential campaign dividing U.S.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — When Lynda Anderson-Towns took her grandson and two children from the community to the beach last week, she saw a large Trump flag flying next to a Colonial flag. “This wasn’t an umbrella, this was a very ostentatious flag,” she said. “I was angry that we had to deal with politics at the beach that day.”

Anderson-Towns said she complained to a lifeguard who informed her they had no course of action.

She asked City Council on Sept. 1 what the city’s policy is on political signs on the beach.

“Is it open for other signs — Black Lives Matter or NAACP?” she asked.

City solicitor Frank Corrado called it a complicated legal issue.

“The issue is whether you can have political speech on the beach,” he said. “And if you can, what form that speech can take.”

He said political speech is clearly protected by the

First Amendment.

“The beach is public property and the extent to which the city can regulate speech on that property depends on whether it is a public or not a public forum,” Corrado said.

He said the city can regulate speech in a nonpublic forum more than it can regulate speech in a public forum. Corrado said for the purpose of discussion to assume the beach is not a public forum.

A public forum is a place that is traditionally open for speech such as a park or sidewalk, he said. Corrado said the beach does not really fall into that category, although some places such as Atlantic City treat beaches as parks.

“Let’s assume for now that it is nonpublic forum,” he said. “That means that the city can impose reasonable restrictions on speech so long as they are viewpoint neutral.”

Corrado said the city could not allow one viewpoint to be expressed but

Political flags, Page A2

COVID numbers up in Cape May County

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Active cases of COVID-19 in Cape May County have been adding up over the past week and now include 99 residents, 19 non-residents and nine residents of long-term care facilities, health officials reported Monday, Sept. 7.

As recently as Sept. 1, there were 62 active cases among residents.

Health officials also said 10 new cases of the coronavirus were reported among residents Monday, but there were no new cases among non-residents or in long-term care facilities.

Middle Township and Woodbine lead the county with 18 active cases among residents, followed by Lower Township with 16, Dennis Township with 12 and Upper Township with nine.

Wildwood is reporting seven active cases, there are six

in Ocean City, five in North Wildwood, four in Wildwood Crest and three in Cape May. Sea Isle City has one active case among residents.

There are no active cases among residents in Avalon, Cape May Point, Stone Harbor, West Cape May and West Wildwood.

Three new cases were reported Monday in Ocean City and Dennis Township with two in Woodbine and one each in Wildwood and Middle Township.

The most active cases among visitors are five in Wildwood Crest and four in North Wildwood. There are three active cases among visitors in Cape May and Wildwood and one each in Avalon, Middle Township, Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor.

Of the nine active cases in long-term care, seven were in Woodbine and two in Dennis Township.

As of Sept. 7, there have

See COVID, Page A3

Lower Zoning Board rejects storage center

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Neighbors and the Lower Township Zoning Board have rejected a 48-unit storage center at the corner of Florida Avenue and Bayshore Road, the former site of the Inn Restaurant.

Applicants Larry and Barbara Wind applied for variances for front yard setback, lot coverage, a buffer from neighboring residential use and driveway access points from an intersection. The board unanimously voted against the application.

On Sept. 3, attorney Ron Gelzunas, representing the applicants, said a proposal was before the board four years ago and an architect had been hired to improve the appearance of the buildings.

The project required

a use variance since self storage was not a permitted use in the zone. A portion of the lot is in the R-3 residential district, Gelzunas said.

Engineer for the applicant, Joe Maffei, said the self storage center would have five buildings with 20-foot-wide driveways. While self storage centers are not permitted in the general business zone, gas stations, garden centers, banks and retail stores are allowed, he said.

Maffei said the storage center would not generate a lot of traffic. Entrances and exits to the center would be located on Florida Avenue.

A home is located next to the site. He said lighting would be limited to the interior of the site and landscaping would be included in the project.

See Lower, Page A7

CANDIDATES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Candidates in local elections had until Aug. 31 to submit petitions to appear on the Nov. 3 ballot. Following are candidates subject to verification of their petitions:

- Cape May mayor: Clarence F. Lear III, Zachary Mullock.
- Cape May City Council: Christopher Bezaire, Mark DiSanto, Patricia Gray Hendricks
- Lower Township mayor: Frank Sippel (R), Chris South (D)
- Lower Township deputy mayor: Chris Marlowe (D), David Perry (R)
- Lower Township Council Ward 2: Kevin Coombs (R)
- Cape May Point Borough Commission (three seats): Catherine M. Busch, Mary A. Kelly, Robert J. Moffatt, Anita vanHeeswyk, Marcus D. Wrotny (Commissioner Robert Mullock is not seeking re-election)

Your CONNECTION TO Sports MEDICINE & Orthopaedic SURGERY



Dr. Bui is highly skilled in joint replacement surgery as well as sports medicine, treating arthritis, extremity fractures, pain in knees, hips, shoulders, elbows, hands and feet. He treats patients ages 10 and up. Dr. Bui has treated athletes at all levels from professional, Olympic and college to high school and middle school.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bui contact Shore Physicians Group's Orthopaedic Surgery at 609-365-6280 or visit ShorePhysiciansGroup.com

