



Health, finance, real estate and legal tips in Local Lifestyles

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House of the Week

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170th YEAR NO. 5 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 \$1.00



David Nahan/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Seedlings started after the author attended the Seed Starting 101 course last winter at Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Cape May Court House. The cayenne peppers about to be harvested later in the summer, below, were from that batch.

Thinking ahead to spring

Rutgers Cooperative Extension gardening education series covers planning, planting, harvesting, preparing for fall

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Although winter is just starting to kick in, gardeners may be thinking ahead to spring.

For those looking to get a head-start, Rutgers Cooperative Extension is offering a five-class series that takes students from learning about soil basics and planning a garden to planting, har-

vesting and extending the season.

Taught by Jen Sawyer Caraballo, the Rutgers Master Gardener volunteer coordinator for Cape May County, the Start Your Garden Vegetable Gardening series begins Feb. 28 and takes place monthly through June.

Three of the classes are to be held in-person at the campus in Cape May Court House and the other two are via Zoom. Students can take the entire series or pick and choose among the top-

ics.

The first class from 6:30 to 8:30 Feb. 28 is in person and covers gardening planning and soil basics. The next, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 27, is on starting and planting seeds. The April 17 class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. is online and covers plant care. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. May 22, the Zoom class is about harvesting, use and storage. The final class, back

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Publisher picks a peck of pumpkin peppers

Editor's note: David Nahan, publisher of the Ocean City Sentinel and Cape May Star and Wave, took a course at Rutgers Cooperative Extension to learn how to grow Pumpkin habaneros. This article details his success.

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — I was surprised to be enthralled watching pepper seeds sprout in my house late last winter. The excitement stemmed from the combination of a hunger for a special pepper from Rutgers University and an engaging teacher at Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Cape May Court House.

About a half-dozen years ago, Rutgers Cooperative Extension sent a press release to our newspapers announcing that it was selling a new variety called Pumpkin™ Habanero, billed as having the same flavor as a habanero but only about a fifth of the heat.

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W. Cape tables plan to require H2O use limits

Borough: Install sensors on sprinklers to cut waste

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Following opposition from the public, Borough Commission tabled an ordinance that would have required homeowners to install rain sensors on their lawn sprinkler systems to prevent watering when it's raining.

At a Jan. 24 meeting, residents questioned whether West Cape May has a shortage of water or a need to further conserve it. The proposed ordinance would require a rain sensor on irrigations systems and would amend an existing ordinance adopted in 1992, Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado said.

Deputy Mayor George Dick said those who water their lawns from their own wells would be exempt from the ordinance.

Resident Jerry Alloco said New Jersey has six water districts and West Cape May is in the Coast-

al South section. He said a state report from Jan. 14 showed groundwater levels near or above normal and no state-imposed, mandatory water restrictions were in effect.

Alloco said he sent an email to Cape May's Water Superintendent Robert Cumiskey on Dec. 19 inquiring whether the water department had an emergency or limitations in effect. He said Cumiskey replied, "We do not."

"We do adhere to water-conservation measures but they're voluntary," Alloco said.

Mayor Carol Sabo said water use in the borough continues to increase. Alloco suggested Cumiskey and West Cape May Water Supervisor David Carrick attend a commission meeting as experts.

West Cape May's yearly water allocation from Cape May is 55 million

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Leaves clogging township's \$8M. drainage system

Lower may reconsider using vacuum for debris collection

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Residents raking leaves into the street or curb line for pickup from a vacuum truck may be contributing to flooding in the township.

Public Works Superintendent Gary Douglass told Township Council at a Jan. 17 meeting that leaves are clogging storm sewer grates. He said the township has a problem with leaves, not just on Roseann Avenue where the township spent more than \$8 million to replace a storm sewer main and construct a pump station.

He said there had been a malfunction of the drainage system/pump station that serves the Roseann Avenue neighborhood, where the chamber that serves the 200 block clogged up with trash and manhole covers blew off.

Douglass said he has since talked with manufacturers of the pumps and the problem was rec-

tified by removing trash racks from that chamber. He said there is a secondary catch rack for larger materials before the pumps.

"Our pumps will handle leaves and small bottles, plastic bottles, if need be," Douglass said.

A rainstorm Jan. 9 produced flooding around the township.

"The money we spent on that project has nothing to do with the system breaking down that night," he said.

Douglass said a squall line with very heavy rain blew in about 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 9, sending leaves from the curb line into the drainage inlets and stopping drainage. He said crews were sent out to remove leaves from the storm sewer inlets and drainage returned.

"We try to urge the residents not to rake their leaves into the street other than to the curb line," Douglass said.

He said perhaps a dif-

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