



House of the week

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Plant garlic now, harvest it in summer

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164th YEAR NO. 41 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018 \$1.00

Inn crowd seeks help keeping B&Bs viable

'When Victorian Cape May started, the idea was to do anything they could to help the historic district survive and be able to maintain themselves and enhance Cape May.'

-Shirley Phinney, Elaine's Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The number of bed-and-breakfast inns in the city has declined dramatically in the past 20 years.

Bonnie Pontin, an owner of the John Wesley Inn at 30 Gurney St., provided City Council on Oct. 2 with a list of 43 B&Bs that have converted to whole-house rentals or private residences. She said she was speaking on behalf of the city's inns.

"The B&Bs in Cape May have decreased steadily over the past 20 years, going from almost 70 in 1997 to less than 25 now in 2018," she said.

Pontin read a list of lost B&Bs that included the White Dove Cottage, Poor Richard's Inn, Windward House, Fairthorne Inn, The Abbey, Duke of Windsor, Prince Edward Inn, the Puffin, Barnard-Good House and Rhythm of the Sea.

B&Bs are subjected to rigorous inspections by the city and the

state and must be licensed and heavily insured before they open their doors to their first guest, Pontin said.

She said the city also inspects every five years for building code violations. Pontin said the county Health Department inspects kitchens and food-preparation areas annually. The state examines fire suppression/sprinkler systems and alarm systems annually. A B&B must employ the services of state-certified fire-suppression company to inspect their home an-

nually, she said. Upon successful completion of the exam, a certificate is issued to the homeowner and presented to the fire marshal as proof of compliance.

Pontin said each B&B owner must purchase a mercantile license each year.

"This fee is based on the number of rooms within the particular house and is priced at \$32 per room," she said. "Additional fees include New Jersey state sales

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City Council OKs conceptual plans for Lafayette park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a conceptual design for phases two through four of Lafayette Street Park based on the work of the Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee, city administration and city engineer.

Landscape architect Jason Harkins presented a conceptual rendering of the park's design for phases two, three and four during a meeting Oct. 2. He said phases two and three cover the area along Lafayette and St. John streets, while phases 4A and 4B include a boardwalk and walking trail into a wetlands area.

Phase two would add an adult softball field to the existing soccer field, creating a multipurpose space with a pavilion that could be used as a gathering space for the public, Harkins said.

He said phase three includes two basketball courts, two tennis courts striped for pickleball and a dog park divided into sections for small and large dogs with a shade structure serving both sides. About 60 percent to 70 percent would serve large dogs with the remainder of the area for small dogs, Harkins said.

"You have parking with handicapped spaces for all three sections," he said.

City engineer Tom Thornton said the park would have 80 parking spaces.

The design includes a plaza space with a restroom/storage building. Harkins said an entrance to the park would be located at the corner of St. John and Lafayette streets. The main entrance to the park would be located mid-block on Lafayette Street and take visitors into the plaza space,

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John Alvarez/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Attracting butterflies, wildlife, tourists

A Cape May woman has created a peaceful garden where she attracts butterflies, wildlife and those wishing to take a tour of her paradise. See story on B5.

DiSanto offers visions of golf course, marina, harborwalk, new entry

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Mark DiSanto has a vision for Cape May that includes building an 18-hole golf course, a new entrance at Lafayette Street, a municipal marina and charter docks. He knows the boating industry as sport fishing captain and yacht transporter.

DiSanto said he has extensive navigation knowledge and travel experience from many foreign ports and East Coast transits.

"I would be bringing a wealth of knowledge to the city of Cape May and keen eye for design," he said.

DiSanto said his vision for Cape May has 11 components. His primary vision is to create a municipal marina, running from the Corinthian Yacht Club on



MARK DISANTO

Delaware Avenue to the bend in the harbor, which he said would create jobs and bring in local boats and transit boats. The city has riparian rights into the water, he said.

"We could add events such as fishing tourna-

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Meier supports a new public safety building, redevelopment district

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier is completing four years on City Council and seeking re-election.

While not born in Cape May, he was raised here from a young age and attended Cape May City Elementary School and was involved in Scouting, baseball, choir and 4-H Club.

Meier endorses constructing a new public safety building.

"It's a long-overdue project," he said.

The fire hall building rocks in strong wind and if police continue to work from antiquated quarters, they could put accreditation at risk in the future, Meier said. A new public safety building would provide a



SHAIN MEIER

good command center for emergency management, he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing raising a small section of the city's seawall at Wilmington Avenue to prevent overwash and flooding.

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Mullock wants to use small-town charm to attract more tourists

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Protecting Cape May's community and National Historic Landmark status is at the forefront of Zack Mullock's mind in his second run for City Council.

"I was born and raised in Cape May," Mullock said. "I lived in a bed and breakfast growing up and then in Cape May Point for a bit."

Mullock's No. 1 goal is to address a possible redevelopment zone, something he characterizes as a major issue in Cape May.

"Cape May is well thought out, with a nice town center," he said. "My main issue with the redevelopment zone is what it actually does. Redevelopment is a legal term for creating zoning locations where it is illegal to do spot zoning. It doesn't



ZACK MULLOCK

have to go out to public bidding and citizens have no recourse."

The Washington Commons and former Beach Theatre site are areas that have been targeted as possible redevelopment zones.

"Attorneys would say the

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