



Spike in interest for Caper Tiger volleyball team

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House of the week

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168th YEAR NO. 41 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Double, double, toil and trouble

Glenda and Werner Unzelmann, members of the Cape May Garden Club, set up three witches brewing pepper soup at Cape May MAC's Scarecrow Alley outside the Emlen Physick Estate.

School must wait year for drop-off lane

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A county project to reconstruct Lafayette Street with a lane for student drop off at Cape May City Elementary School will not be completed until next year.

On Oct. 4, City Manager Mike Voll said advertising for bids for the project would be issued Dec. 28 with a contract award Jan. 25 and work beginning Feb. 1 from Sidney Street to just south of Madison Avenue. Completion is scheduled by June 22.

Work on Lafayette Street will cease during the sum-

mer with phase two, Madison Avenue to Jackson Street, beginning Sept. 5 and completion expected in May 2024.

The project includes extensive drainage improvements in phase one.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the drop-off lane for the school was promised to be completed this year. She said it appears it has been delayed for a year.

"I thought we had gotten buy-in from the county that they were going to address this and it was going to be the first thing done was this bump-in," she said.

Mayor Zack Mullock said council would like to see

phase one of the project undertaken from Collier's Liquors to Madison Avenue.

Sheehan said council sent a letter to the county requesting the school portion be handled first or installation of the bump-in done as a separate project.

She said it appeared the bump-in would be installed while school is in session rather during summer vacation. Mayor Zack Mullock said council would reiterate its preference to the county.

"They promised that this work would be beginning this fall," Councilman Mike Yeager said. "I know there were issues with them getting materials, which was

the drainage pipes and the like."

Sheehan said delaying the bump-in prolongs the safety issue for students.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said council sent a resolution to the county in February asking that Lafayette Street to be a priority. He said the resolution did not specify phase one or phase two.

Voll said he would call county engineer Bob Church to reiterate council's request. He said Church is "bending over backward to try and accommodate us." Sheehan said she dis-

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Can't drive 25: Cape May OKs dropping limit

Top speed now 20 mph on all city-owned roads

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council voted 4-1 to approve lowering the speed limit on city-owned streets to 20 mph as a safety measure for a town filled with pedestrians, bicyclists and a growing number of golf carts and scooters.

On Oct. 4, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan cast the only dissenting vote, saying she was in a favor of keeping the speed limit at 25 mph and strongly enforcing it.

The change does not apply to county-owned roads such as Lafayette Street and Beach Avenue.

During public comment, Holly Tilford, chairwoman of the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee, said the committee supports the change. She said the state Department of Transportation has conducted studies that show slower speed limits increase safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.

While a slower speed limit may add travel time when traversing Cape May, it will increase safety, Tilford said.

Resident Hope Gaines said drivers on Washington Street have not complied with a 25-mph speed limit. She asked how the 20-mph speed limit would be enforced.

Mayor Zack Mullock said multiple residents have requested more police enforcement of the speed limit. He said the city is planning to purchase more blinking radar signs that tell drivers how fast they are traveling.

"We are simply trying to

slow people down," Mull-ock said.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said the police department originally requested a citywide 25 mph speed limit. He said he is in the business of saving lives.

"My sentiment is slow down and smell the salt air," Fashaw said.

He said he is bothered by a misconception that the police department does not enforce speed limits.

"You can't make 134 car stops a month without enforcing something," he said.

"Enforcement needs to be enhanced but understand some local residents will get 'tagged' when more speeding ticket are issued," Fashaw said.

Last year, council approved a capital request of the police department to use E-Ticketing, which begins Jan. 1, to issue a warning.

"That ticket now will trigger in the software a warning, so the next time that person is stopped, it will show up," he said.

Sheehan said figures from the police department appear to report less than three car stops per day in a month. She said police stopped 117 cars in July.

The police department does not have a traffic unit, Fashaw said. He said the department made 12 arrests in September including for aggravated assault, shoplifting, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct in addition to all the rescue, alarm, suspicious persons calls and 243 property checks.

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Provided

Honoring Methodist church

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan, left, and Mayor Zack Mullock present Pastor HeyYoung Horton of the United Methodist Church with a proclamation honoring 180 years. **Story, A2.**

MTRAC wants golf cart, scooter registration

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Call them golf carts or low-speed vehicles (LSVs) — whatever you call them, they are having an increasing presence in Cape May and are free of any regulation by the city.

On Oct. 5, the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee expressed support for requiring registration of LSVs.

Dennis Crowley, chairman of the Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC), said the business of renting and us-

ing LSVs is expanding exponentially. He said he believes 11 businesses deliver rental LSVs to the city but none of them is located there.

"It is at this point an unregulated commerce," Crowley said. "There's no way of knowing how many of these carts are

leased and used. There is no revenue coming to the city for this imposition on public services."

Council approved the use of LSVs in 2014. The city's 2019 update to its master plan encouraged expanded use of LSVs as an envi-

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Parking panel revisits mass transit system

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city has reconstituted the Parking Advisory Committee with a mandate to focus on a citywide transportation system.

During a meeting Sept. 21, Chairwoman Bonnie Cassells said the committee

had the ability to determine the best route for the jitney and if transportation would be solely a jitney or supplemented by other forms of transportation.

The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee has been tasked with determining how to fund a transit system. The system would transport

those who rent in areas that may or may not be walkable, Cassells said.

"I know the people that live east of Madison Avenue are using bikes, they're using electric bikes, they're using electric scooters, they're using golf carts as well as cars," she said.

The city has seen an increase of smaller and low-

speed vehicles in the past three years, committee member Jim Testa said.

Cassells said the small vehicles help the city's parking problem but "also cause nightmares when you are trying to navigate streets."

Other drivers may enter Cape May from other shore

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NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

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