



## Caper Tiger football blanks Buena Chiefs in 60-0 victory

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## House of the Week

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169th YEAR NO. 42 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023 \$1.00

# Cape May-Lewes Ferry hits ridership milestone

## Delaware Bay transport system welcomes 50 millionth passenger

LEWES, Del. — At about 11 a.m. Oct. 13, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry registered its 50 millionth passenger at the Lewes Ferry Terminal.

Zach Kaltenbach, originally from Long Beach Island, purchased a ticket for the 11:15 a.m. departure bound for Cape May aboard the MV New Jer-

sey. He and his girlfriend, Jody, with daughters Finley and Harbor, now reside in Millsboro, Del., with their dogs Daxx and Kiwi.

The Kaltenbachs were traveling aboard the ferry for a baby shower in Cape May. The family frequently travels aboard

the ferry, using the Delaware Bay service multiple times per month to visit Zach's parents in Cape May.

Heath Gehrke, director of Ferry Operations, who was joined by DRBA Executive Director Tom Cook and DRBA Commissioner Ted Becker, presented two tote bags with a

gift package of logo items, free passage on the ferry and a certificate valid for future travel aboard the ferry.

For almost 60 years, the ferry has offered continuous service between Cape May and Lewes, Del., resort regions. In addition to 50 million passengers, the popular ferry service has trans-

ported more than 16 million vehicles.

On July 1, 1964, the first ferry vessel departed the Lewes terminal at 6:47 a.m., carrying eight vehicles and fifteen passengers. The 11:15 a.m. departure from Lewes was sold out with nearly 100 vehicles and more than 200 passengers.

# MTRAC: City should boost beach tag fees

## Revenue falls short of funding beach operations in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC) is recommending an increase in beach tag prices.

At an Oct. 12 MTRAC meeting, Councilwoman Maureen McDade said Mayor Zack Mullock asked the committee to examine beach tag prices. She said an analysis of beach tag revenue by Cape May CFO Kevin Hanie was a result of the city signing a new five-year contract with lifeguards, which entails additional expenses.

Hanie said seasonal beach tags are the only ones that have a pre-season and regular season rate for purchase, with the current pre-season rate at \$25 until April 1 when the price increases to \$30. In 2023, the city sold 19,000 pre-season tags and 14,000 regular tags for a revenue of \$900,000.

"The current thinking is to increase the pre-season rate to \$30 and the regular rate to \$40," Hanie said.

With that price increase and the same amount of beach tag sales, the city would see a revenue increase of about \$233,000, he said.

A 10 percent increase in pre-season tags and a 5 percent decrease in regular beach tags, because of the increase in the gap between pre-season and regular tags, projecting a shift for more

pre-season tag sales, the city would gain about \$260,000 in revenue, Hanie said.

He offered another scenario of a 10 percent increase in pre-season tag prices for which the city would see a revenue increase of \$290,000.

McDade said the price increase is intended to cover the increased lifeguard salaries. Hanie said the tag price could also be used for equipment and capital projects.

MTRAC Chairman Dennis Crowley said beach tag revenue currently does not cover 100 percent of the cost to operate the city's beaches, noting some general funds are used.

"The fees to me, especially when you compare them to other towns, are low," MTRAC member Martin Van Walsum said. "At the same time, we do hear outcries from people that can't afford it."

He suggested a charity program to offer free beach tags to those who cannot afford to buy them. Van Walsum suggested planning beach tags fees ahead two or three years.

Crowley said some towns offer lower beach tag fees for children and senior citizens. He said Ortleigh Beach offers a \$15 lifetime pass for seniors.

MTRAC member Russ Dickhart said he favored free beach tags for those at specific poverty level rather

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Coming soon

Cape May Fire Department personnel are filling equipment lockers and moving furniture inside the city's new firehouse, which is expected to be fully operational in December.

# Foster House restoration on hold in Lower

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Restoration of the historic Foster House on Bayshore Road continues to linger due to a lack of funding during a year in which Lower Township residents saw a property tax increase.

The Foster House is one of the oldest buildings in Lower Township and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In July, Historic Preservation Commission Chairwoman Pary Tell questioned why work was at a standstill, noting

break-ins had been attempted.

At that time, Tell said the wallpaper and paint was peeling off and the window surrounds were beginning to rot.

The county Open Space Program bought the structure from the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society and leased it to Lower Township, which promised to restore the house over the next decade either as a well-preserved Colonial Period home or township historical museum.



Provided

Foster House, Page A2 Work has stopped on the Foster House in Lower Township.

# Volunteers plant 5,000 beach grass plus on Dune Day

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Dune Day was a success Oct. 7, when volunteers planted more than 5,000 beach grass plugs in dunes.

During a Cape May Point Environmental Commission meeting Oct. 11, Elise Geiger reported on the event sponsored by the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association.

She said 70 volunteers participated despite rainy weather,

with 50 working on dunes and 20 transplanting greenery at Triangle Park.

"We planted 20 bayberries and 20 American hollies; these were mostly put on the beach entrances," Geiger said. "You can see that the whole area for Lehigh beach coming up was cleaned out by Public Works. Now we have eight American hollies at that particular area, and we also planted 1,750 goldenrods."

Volunteers planted beach grass plugs on an area that lacks

an extensive dune behind the Cape May Point Science Center from Lehigh beach to the state park border, she said.

"The goal there is to start to create a more significant dune structure, and that starts with beach grass," Geiger said.

A total of 2,500 holes were dug to plant two beach plugs per hole. Next year, volunteers may be able to plant goldenrod and some larger plants on the spot.

"It will be fun to watch to see if we can get a dune to grow," she

said. Environmental Commission Chairwoman Barbara Bassett thanked Geiger for organizing Dune Day.

In other business, Garrett Bergman reported on the activities of the Friends of Lake Lily. He said the organization resumed fundraising activities during the summer, mailing an appeal letter to all Cape May Point residents and vendors.

"Working with the borough, we've been funding the contract

with Clean Flo for water quality treatments and periodic maintenance of the 'bubblers' (aerators) in the middle of the lake," Bergman said.

Friends of Lake Lily has been funding a three-year contract with New Jersey Audubon Society for removal of invasive plants as well as mulching and the planting of spring, summer and fall flowers in the west garden beds, he said.

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# PIG AND PIGSKIN SPECIALS

EVERY Sunday at the Nail from 1pm-9pm. Score Big on Sundays at the Rusty Nail with Jimmy's Smokin' Pig Roast, \$10 Buckets of (6) Miller Lite Ponies, and \$2 off Wings, Nachos, Shrimp & more!

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