



## Caper Tigers pummel Gators, 48-2, win division title

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## House of the Week

Real Estate Resource



169th YEAR NO. 43 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023 \$1.00

# Cape May bonds for desalination plant design

## Former councilwoman again pushes for renovation over replacement

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a \$2 million bond to fund design of a new desalination plant and other improvements to the water-sewer utility.

The city needs to replace its desalination water plant, a project with a price tag in the range of \$25 million to \$30 million, much of which the city administration hopes will come in

the form of grant money.

During a council meeting Oct. 17, former councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said the engineering firm hired by the city has no experience with desalination plants. She said she would like to see some of the funding used for an independent study of the cost to rehabilitate the current facility.

"There's a lot of companies in Florida that do rehabbing of desal plants. Have them come and maybe do a look at the desal and see what it would cost to rehab what we have inside besides the addition of a new one," Sheehan said.

Mayor Zack Mullock said Oct. 3 that all members of council wanted to see the 97-year-old building that houses the desal plant maintained and not demolished as part of the project. At an earlier meeting, a consulting engineer suggested demolishing the building since it was too small to accommodate an updated desalination system.

Earlier in the year, David Samuel, managing partner in Consulting and Municipal Engineers, suggested building a new plant where the parking lot for the water works building is located and tearing down the water works building to become the new parking lot for the facility. Sheehan noted the current building has large roll-up doors that allow removal of old membranes from the desalination

system.

"When they designed our desal plant, they did it with the understanding of an addition being put on at that end, but also with the roll-up doors, it makes it easy to extract those membranes and put in upgraded membranes in there," she said.

In August, Samuel said he did not think the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the state De-

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# Concerts never a money-maker but losses down

## Tourism Utility consistently under budget, Rattigan says

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city has cut its losses on presenting summer concerts in Convention Hall after years of losing money.

Last month, Jules Rauch, president of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May, questioned why the city lost more than \$51,000 on a concert on the beach called Capestock, a three-day re-creation of Woodstock from Aug. 18-20 featuring tribute bands.

During a City Council meeting Oct. 17, Kacie Rattigan, director of Convention Hall and recreation activities, said the purpose of the tourism utility, which falls under her department, was to host events and recreation for the sole purpose of providing residents and visitors with "fun, family-friendly things to do."

"This department is not meant to be a revenue stream; however,

it's also not meant to run at a significant deficit," she said. "It is meant to bring tourists to the city who will bring revenue in by staying in the hotels, eating in our restaurants and spending time on our beaches after purchasing beach tags."

Rattigan said she presents a budget annually to the city manager and council that covers concerts, parades and children's programs. She said concerts have never been a money maker. "When concluding the expenses and the profits from concert-related line items, including performer and promoter costs, advertising and printing, ticketing software, ticket sales and advertising sales, the concerts have always been in the negative but the (tourism) utility has never gone over budget," Rattigan said.

She said the tourism utility has been under budget

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Robert Newkirk  
Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## March of the minions

Cape May held its annual Halloween parade Oct. 22, with participants, including the Lower Cape May Regional High School and Richard M. Teitelman Junior High School marching bands, strolling from the Washington Street Mall to the Emlen Physick Estate. At right, a cart load of ghosts from Art of Gymnastics and Cheer in North Cape May.



# Family Promise names day center for Johnson

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — Family Promise, an organization that helps families experiencing homelessness, named its day center in honor of its former executive director Laurie Johnson, who passed away May 29 following a battle with cancer.

A well-attended dedication was held Oct. 19 at the center at 505 Townbank Road.

Family Promise President Mary Ann Castagnetta said everyone in attendance came with a specific reason to "honor our beloved Laurie."

"I don't know any people that have their name on a building; you have to either be remarkable or rich and she's both, rich with love and friends," Castagnetta said. "I've never met another person like her."

The Rev. Hey-Young Horton, pastor of Cape May United Meth-



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Mary Ann Castagnetta, president of Family Promise, looks over the crowd as the Rev. Hey-Young Horton of Cape May United Methodist Church speaks during a dedication ceremony Oct. 19.

odist Church, asked the crowd to shout out the characteristics they remembered about Johnson. The assembled responded with "her energy, her joy, her empathy, her compassion, her spirituality and

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# Audit finds city needs to reconcile accounts more often next year

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hanie said the city passed its annual audit, which recommends more closely monitoring bank accounts and not intermingling salary withholdings.

"The auditors did have one finding in their field work which was that bank reconciliations were not being performed on our payroll and clearing accounts in 2022, which means that necessary adjusting entries were required at year end," Hanie said Oct. 17 dur-

ing a City Council meeting. "As such and as part of our corrective action plan, I'm working with the auditors to ensure that all bank recs (reconciliations) are performed on a timely basis and all accounts are up to date prior to year-end."

The audit noted the city has not fully implemented a general ledger accounting system as required by the state and all bank accounts must be reconciled on a monthly basis.

The report stated a significant amount of adjusting entries were not post-

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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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