



King's brace leads Caper Tigers to 8-0 in CAL

Page A9



House of the Week

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169th YEAR NO. 40 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 \$1.00

Stockton poll: Wind farm support falls in N.J.

Main reasons for opposition are environmental harm, obstructed views

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — Support in New Jersey for building wind turbines off the coast has plummeted over the past four years, especially in shore towns, according to a Stockton University Poll.

According to a news release on the findings, more state residents support the wind farms than oppose them, with 50 percent in favor of New Jersey plans to build wind turbines at sea to generate electricity and 33 percent opposed. Sixteen

percent were unsure.

The results reflect a drop of 30 percentage points from the findings of a September 2019 Stockton Poll that asked an identical question. In 2019, 80 percent of adult New Jersey residents supported offshore wind farms.

Four years ago, 77 percent of residents living in areas that border the ocean or a bay supported offshore wind turbines. Only 33 percent of coastal area respondents favor such con-

struction in the poll released last week by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points.

The main reasons for opposition to offshore turbines: potential harm to sea life and obstructed ocean views.

In July, the U.S. Interior Department approved the construction and operation of 98 wind turbines and as many as three offshore substations in

the Ocean Wind 1 project off the New Jersey coast.

"When the concept of wind farms moved from abstract policy considerations to preparing for actual construction, many residents said 'Not in my backyard, or at least not off my beach,'" said John Froomjian, director of the Hughes Center. "That's especially true along the coast, where wind farms have been the focus of protests and legislative election campaigns."

In the new poll of nearly 600 New Jersey adults, 72 percent still expressed concern about climate change, with 51 percent saying it is very important for the state to combat it and 21 percent saying it is somewhat important. Only 1 in 4 said it was not very important (9%) or not important at all (17%) for the state to make those efforts.

A majority of 52 percent said renewable energy sources such

See Stockton poll, Page A2

See-saw season of revenue this year in the city

Room tax, parking meters up, beach tags, construction down

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — While room tax and parking meter revenue are up, construction office and beach tag revenue are down at this point in the year.

At a Sept. 18 meeting, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hanie gave City Council an end-of-summer review of revenue, a season of ups and downs.

Room tax was up \$86,000, or 4 percent, over last year. Hanie said if the trend continues, the city is projecting a total of \$4 million collected in room tax. That was as of the end of July since the city receives room tax data from the state on a two-month delay.

At the same time, parking meter revenue is up \$73,000, or 6 percent, over 2022 with a projection of \$2.3 million collected by the end of the year, Hanie said.

He said mercantile license fees are up about \$8,000 over last year.

However, construction revenues are down about \$150,000 from 2022, almost canceling out the gains.

"In discussions with Lou

Vito (construction official), he pointed to a decrease in renovation activity from the prior year. That's the big money-maker for the city, renovations," Hanie said.

Vito said an uptick in fall construction activity could allow a rebound.

Hanie said beach tag revenue was down about \$15,000, or about .5 percent, which may be attributed to rainy weather. He said Memorial Day weekend was considered a "wash-out."

Seasonal beach tags go on sale in December, which could allow the city to break even for the year, he said.

Revenue for the tourism utility was down about \$60,000, due in part to the city holding two fewer concerts in Convention Hall than past years, Hanie said.

Water/sewer revenue dropped about \$44,000, which he attributed to lower usage in both Cape May and West Cape May. Hanie said Water/Sewer Superintendent Robert Cumiskey said usage was down 3 million gallons compared to 2022.

"It's obviously not neces-

See See-saw, Page A3



Flip Caruso/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A bird's-eye view of Victorian Cape May

A drone view of Cape May's Washington Street Mall celebrating Oktoberfest on Sept. 30 with authentic music and food and artisans selling crafts, antiques and collectibles.



Craig D. Schenck/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Going down

The Beesley's Point Development Group has been removing structures left over from the B.L. England Generating Station in Upper Township as part of redevelopment of the area on Great Egg Harbor Bay. The next step is implosion of the smokestack, set for 10 a.m. Oct. 26.

City Council addresses nuisance lighting issues

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council amended an ordinance for the city code to include a prohibition of light spilling over onto adjacent properties in residential zones.

The light pollution ordinance was scheduled for a public hearing at a Sept. 19 meeting but will be amended and brought back to council.

Resident Roz Johnson said she lived next to a row of new townhouses that had light fixtures with a huge globe on top that were taller than nearby streetlights. She said the lights at the townhouses come on at 8 p.m. and go off at 2 a.m.

"Because of the globe, it's not a downward light, it's a glaring all over light," Johnson said.

She asked how long after the ordinance was approved would property owners have to correct lighting situations.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said a homeowner would first report a light pollution issue to code enforcement, noting the city did not

have a roving patrol checking lights.

"This is not written by vampires designed to blanket the town in darkness, this is narrowly focused on the problem of nuisance lighting, which is not some term that we made up, it's something that is recognized in other towns, it's recognized by the Green Building Council," he said.

Code enforcement would contact the property owner where the light spillover issue is located and establish a plan for abatement, Gillin-Schwartz said. If that fails, a summons and a municipal court process begins, he said.

In some cases, a trip to Home Depot could solve lighting issues, Gillin-Schwartz said. He said the city was encouraging "curbside discussions" rather than spending time in court.

"People should not have to shut all their shades and all their blinds and close their windows every night because a spotlight is kind

See Nuisance, Page A5

Hospitals reinstate mask policy amid increase in COVID cases

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Due to an increase in COVID cases, Shore Medical Center and Cape Regional Medical Center have reinstated mask policies.

Patients, visitors and hospital staff are required to wear masks at Shore in Somers Point, while Cape Regional employees are wearing masks when treating patients. In addition, the hospital is asking patients to wear masks.

According to COVID ActNow, last week, the

Atlantic City-Cape May Health Service Area had 25 new COVID hospital admissions, seven for every 100,000 residents, which was higher than the 4.3 average for most other areas in the state.

Last week, 558 persons in New Jersey were hospitalized for COVID.

Updated COVID vaccines are available from pharmacies and health care providers.

Every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered to their home. Orders can be placed at COVID.gov.

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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