

## Tigers drop ball, first game in Anchor Bowl

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## House of the week

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# County not immune to catastrophic storms

## Hurricane Ian, which killed at least 100 in Florida, stark example of vulnerability

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Following Hurricane Ian making landfall last week in Florida, where it left at least 88 people dead, many are wondering whether a Category 4 hurricane could strike Cape May County? The answer is yes. No one is alive today to recall it, but Cape May experienced a Category 4 hurricane in 1821. Old newspapers and military logs have accounts of the event.

Hurricanes were not named in the 1800s but the 1821 storm is referenced as the Norfolk and Long Island hurricane or the Great September Gale. Prior to Superstorm Sandy, the 1821 storm was the last major hurricane to make a direct hit on New Jersey. The storm hit Sept. 3, 1821, with winds of 135 mph. According to Hurricaneville.com, hurricane winds extended as far as Philadelphia with some wind gusts reaching 200 mph. The storm followed a path

similar to a driver going north on the Garden State Parkway hugging the coast to New York City. The storm had its origins off the coast of Africa. The Hurricane of 1821 struck Guadeloupe on Sept. 1. It then turned north, passing the Bahamas. At that point, the hurricane was believed to be as intense as a Category 5. In their logs, captains of ships near Grand Turk Island in the Turks and Caicos made mention of the hurricane. Moving at great speed, by dawn

Sept. 3, 1821, the hurricane was off Cape Haterras, N.C. Remarkably, the hurricane reached Delaware Bay by mid-afternoon the same day and New York City by 7:30 p.m. The storm's forward motion was estimated at 50 mph. It was likely the eye passed directly over Cape May since calm winds were reported for a period of 15 to 30 minutes during its passage over Cape Island. The worst-case scenario occurred when water from the

ocean crossed land and flowed into the bay. There were few residents here to report the damage from the storm. One newspaper account said Cape May was physically cut off from the rest of the county by storm surge of over 10 feet. Writer Robert Roy Britt for LiveScience.com stated storm surge pushed the tide up 13 feet in one hour in New York City and inundated wharves, caus-

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Riders on the storm

Surfers took advantage of waves generated by the remnants of Hurricane Ian as it crossed the shoreline, bringing an area of low pressure throughout the weekend.

## Labor Dept. inspected city beach after guard's death

TRENTON — Throughout July and August, the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) led an expansive effort to inspect and provide beach safety assessments to beach patrols along the state's coastline to mitigate issues involving boat and lightning safety. These inspections were prompted by the deaths of two young lifeguards — Norman Inferrera III,

16, and Keith Pinto, 19, in August 2021. Inferrera died after his surfboat capsized at Cape May's Reading Avenue beach, which in June was renamed Inferrera Memorial Beach. While stationed on a lookout tower at White Sands Beach in Berkeley Township, Pinto was struck by lightning and succumbed to his injuries. The beach was dedicated as Keith Pinto Memorial Beach at White Sands in

July. Compliance officers from NJDOL's Office of Public Safety and Health (PEOSH) were deployed to the Cape May and Berkeley Township beaches following each incident to investigate associated safety concerns. After learning of the potential boat and lightning-related hazards faced by beach workers, PEOSH initiated a large-scale inspection project

to spread knowledge and awareness of these dangers in an effort to prevent future tragedies. "Norman and Keith were valued young members of their communities, their squads and this state who gave their lives in protecting their fellow New Jerseyans and guests visiting our shoreline," Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo

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# CMPD steps up its recruitment with video, visit

## Police chief hoping to attract future officers to work in city

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Police Department is using a slickly produced video and visiting colleges in an attempt to recruit new officers.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw presented the video to City Council during a meeting Sept. 20. He said the department saw a decline in recruiting following the COVID pandemic and the death of George Floyd, in which a Minneapolis police officer was charged with second degree manslaughter of a citizen. "We're looking for very qualified people to work here," Fashaw said. "We try to pick the best."

He said detective Kelley Shustack, a graduate of Wilmington University, suggested the department participate in job fairs at colleges in the tri-state area. She was assisted by Patrolman Alex Pruszinski, a graduate of Atlantic Cape Community College.

Fashaw said Shustack and Pruszinski recently returned from Seton Hall University and will be visiting Stockton University, Rowan University, Atlantic Cape, Montclair State

University, Rutgers University, Delaware State University, Kean University and William Paterson University.

Shustack also suggested the Cape May Police Department produce a recruitment video. Fashaw said Shustack wrote and produced the video. Jeff Casella shot and edited the video, which is now available on Facebook and Instagram.

Fashaw said the video played in a loop on a 32-inch television at Seton Hall.

"People can see where they're going to work," he said.

The video shows Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point. Officers are seen interacting with the public. A drone shot shows the beachfront.

Cape May police officers are seen in training as part of a 1,000-hour process that includes the Cape May County Police Academy.

Fashaw addresses viewers, noting he grew up on Cape Island.

"Courage, compassion, honor and integrity — if these core values are part of who you are, the Cape May Police Department is the perfect

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## City seeks further powers to control boats in harbor

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance that would require boat owners to register with the city if they plan to stay in Cape May Harbor for more than 30 days.

The ordinance also would allow the city to notify the owner of an abandoned boat by a message left on the vessel or by mail using the registration number that he or she has seven days to se-

cure the boat or move it. The ordinance would not require boats kept in marinas or at private docks to register with the city.

At a Sept. 20 council meeting, volunteer harbor-masters Jack Lord and Tom Carroll presented photos of abandoned boats and explained the notification process.

"When they both volunteered, I thought this couldn't get be better,"

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## Crawford joins West Cape May commission

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission appointed Alan Crawford to fill the unexpired term of commissioner Peter Burke, who resigned last month.

At a Sept. 28 meeting, Mayor Carol Sabo thanked Crawford for accepting the position. Crawford will serve until January 2024 and may run for the seat in the general election in November 2023.

Crawford has served an alternate member of the

borough's Environmental Commission. He said his family spent a few summers in Cape May in the 1960s.

When he and his wife, Robin, started raising their family, they were able to use his father's Cape May house in the summer. After his parents passed away, they sold the family house and built a house in West Cape May.

Crawford and his family moved to the borough full time in 2020.

"Eight weeks later, the whole country shut down, and we felt pretty smart

about being in West Cape May," Crawford stated in an email.

He had a long career in IT and held several different roles, most recently as an IT manager for a financial services firm. Crawford has volunteered as a field trip leader for New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory for over three years. He serves on both the Bird Conservation Committee and the Environmental Committee of the Willistown Conservation Trust, a Chester County, Pa., land trust. Borough Commissioner

Dan Kurkowski was appointed as deputy mayor to replace Burke in that position. Kurkowski was also appointed as a Class II member of the Planning/Zoning Board.

Departments for borough commissioners were re-designated. Crawford will oversee the Department of Public Affairs and Public Safety, Sabo will oversee the Department of Revenue and Finance and Kurkowski will oversee the Department of Public Works and Public

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# NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

The Rusty Nail is back! Our famed surfer bar and restaurant is back open for the 2022 season. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner—as well as delicious cocktails and the coldest draft beer in Cape May (as verified by Exit Zero Magazine).

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