



## Three LCMRHS teams compete in playoffs

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## House of the week

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168th YEAR NO. 44 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 \$1.00

# Engineer presents plan for higher seawall

## New concept seen as less obtrusive, more user-friendly than previous proposal

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city wants to raise the height of the seawall along Beach Avenue to increase the flood resilience of the city and stop catastrophic coastal flooding from happening in the future.

Ian Walczak, project manager from Colliers Engineering and Design, presented conceptual plans to increase its height by more than 50 percent to City

'This seawall is a lot simpler and softer than the whole concrete wall that was proposed before.'

-Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan

Council on Oct. 18.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 1981 assembled a New Jersey shore protection master plan that acknowledged installation of jetties at Cold Spring Inlet

caused sand starvation, which led to construction of a groin and seawall and periodic beach nourishment, he said.

Walczak said the previous administration set the groundwork for the seawall project, working with an engineering firm that produced a concept for the seawall project. He said the current barrier is 8.5 to 9 feet high but only about 5.5 feet along Beach Avenue.

"We're trying to get an elevation of 15 (feet)," Walczak said.

The previous design was a 'block wall on the road.'

-Mayor Zack Mullock

Mott MacDonald's concept for the project included adding either Armourstone or driving piles, something Walczak said was not the most cost-effective approach.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has Cape May's flood elevation at

11 feet, while the seawall is at a maximum elevation of 9 feet.

"When a big storm comes in, as you've known, historically, you get coastal flooding and over-topping of the existing seawall," Walczak said.

He said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning a project at the corner of Beach and Wilmington avenues that would increase the seawall height. Walczak said he is coordinating

See Seawall, Page A4

# Developers may have to provide a drainage plan

## City wants to ensure projects do not flood neighboring properties, area

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance providing minimum stormwater management and grading requirements for development and regulation of nuisance causing conditions.

At an Oct. 18 meeting, city solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the regulations were intended to capture all development including projects that do not go to the Planning Board because no variances are needed.

Gillin-Schwartz said developing new construction without an examination of the property grading could result in nuisance flooding or drainage issues to neighboring properties. He said when he served as borough solicitor for West Cape May in 2017, new buildings were "falling through the cracks" because projects did not go before a board.

West Cape May passed an ordinance to establish

'You're going to have to account for stormwater management and drainage as part of the application process, whether you go to the board or not.'

-solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz

stormwater and drainage requirements that has been successful, he said.

"You have to come in with a plan at the zoning permit stage and then you have to do an as-built drainage plan and, in this case, a stormwater management plan," he said. "You submit an application, there is an escrow, the city engineer reviews it and at the end, before you get your CO (certificate of occupancy), you need to make sure these conditions are met and complied with."

See Drainage, Page A2



Peter Riley/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## See swallows

Surfer Tristan Sachar heads into the surf and a sea of tree swallows taking flight in Cape May.

## Cape May County Board of Commissioners election

### Continue doing what works plan for Bulakowski

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Andrew Bulakowski hasn't held elected office but has helped other Republican candidates get elected. He is now seeking one of the two seats open on the Cape May County Board of Commissioners on Nov. 8.



Bulakowski

"I have been working with the Republican Party for over 14 years, getting great people elected in the county. I love Cape May County," he said. "Ever since I was a little boy, I always wanted to live here. The county is a special place."

He said the timing was right when Commission Director Gerald Thornton decided to retire at the end of December rather than run for re-election after serving so many years in office.

"I think the county commissioners have done an outstanding job in mak-

See Bulakowski, Page A12

### Hankerson says county diversity not represented

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Dr. Julia Hankerson believes her voice will bring diversity to the Cape May County Board of Commissioners and help resolve longstanding issues facing the county.



Hankerson

Hankerson, a Democrat and fourth-generation resident of Woodbine, is one of four candidates seeking two three-year terms on the commission in the Nov. 8 election.

A social worker for 35 years, she has owned and operated the Woodbine Wellness Center, been president of the Greater Woodbine Chamber of Commerce and was vice president of the board of directors of Cape Counseling (now Acenda).

"We have issues that need to be

See Hankerson, Page A12

### Hayes: Record displays pattern of achievement

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — E. Marie Hayes is running for re-election to the Cape May County Board of Commissioners because she wants to continue the progress that has been made.



Hayes

"I think that I have done a great job during the time I have been a county commissioner. I am absolutely honored I am able to stand as your county commissioner," she said. "We have a lot of good projects going on in the county and I want to see the success of the county go forward, and I believe I have been a part of that."

Hayes was appointed to the board in 2013 to fill an unexpired term and then was elected and re-elected in 2013, 2016 and 2019. She is the only incumbent among the four candidates running for the two three-year terms

See Hayes, Page A12

# Cape May failed to meet water quality standards

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city sent a letter to all water customers Oct. 24 informing them municipal drinking water violated quality standards from January through the end of June 2021.

"Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation," the letter to water customers states.

"Our system has installed

corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the January 1, 2021-June 30, 2021, monitoring period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technical requirements for our corrosion control system. WQP (Water Quality Parameters) results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the state 62 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the state for nine or more days," the letter continues.

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