



Seventeen Caper Tigers earn all-star honors

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House of the week

Real Estate Resource



168th YEAR NO. 47 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022 \$1.00

City considering making builders manage drainage

Intent to cut nuisance flooding caused by construction projects

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council may require developers provide a stormwater drainage and grading plan for any construction that increases impervious coverage by more than 200 square feet, including garages and swimming pools, or when a variance is required for lot coverage.

At a Nov. 15 meeting, council introduced the proposed ordinance and sent it to the Planning Board for their comments.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the city's Planning Board earlier deemed the proposed ordinance consistent with the city's master plan. The Planning Board asked if the ordinance could be tailored so minor development would not need to submit a full grading plan.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said some builders raise the level of a property during construction, creating drainage issues on adjacent properties.

"I think there has to be some kind of recourse for these neighbors to deal with the flooding that's happening on their property because the builder came in, built the

house, and then they're gone and there's no accountability on their part," she said.

Gillin-Schwartz said Sea Isle City drainage regulations have an applicability provision for an addition to an existing structure and/or site improvements that increase the impervious coverage by more than 250 square feet or construction of a swimming pool or accessory garage structure or construction of a new principal structure.

"Are you building a new house, demoing and building new?" he asked. "Then this would apply to you."

The need for a drainage plan would apply to those constructing a garage or pool or a bump out for a bedroom, Gillin-Schwartz said.

He said the need for a full stormwater drainage and grading plan would not apply to a project less than 200 square feet of addition. Creating more than 200 square feet of impervious coverage would require a drainage and grading plan, Gillin-Schwartz said.

For a property owner creating a nuisance drainage issue, the city's code enforcement officer would have authority even without additional regulations from the city, he said.

MTRAC: Require all LSVs be registered with the city

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — They are seen all over the city — golf carts or, as they are known off the links, low-speed vehicles (LSVs) — yet they are not available for rental through any business in Cape May.

How do LSVs get to Cape May? They are delivered by at least eight businesses located outside city limits.

The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC) has been looking at LSVs as a revenue source for the city.

MTRAC Chairman Dennis Crowley told City Council on Nov. 15 that LSVs have become a "Cape May institution."

He said MTRAC views mercantile license regulations as tools for the city to ensure businesses operate in a safe and legal manner and provide support for parking, tourism services and enforcement.

No city codes address LSVs and transportation services other than automobiles, Crowley said. In 1997, council approved an ordinance prohibiting the leasing and renting of motor scooters, motorbikes and motorcycles, he said.

"The council felt they presented hazards to pedestrians and vehicle traffic and presented nuisances and

distractions to the peaceful enjoyment of the residents," Crowley said.

In 2004, council prohibited Segways from city streets.

In 2019, the city's master plan recognized the fact that between 1997 and 2019, things have changed and LSVs have become popular, he said. The master plan states LSVs are vehicles regulated by the state Motor Vehicle commission, Crowley said.

"They also thought it was a great idea to promote the use of these things in Cape May because of the environmental impact they had — it's much cleaner and much more refreshing to use an electric vehicle anywhere in town," he said.

Crowley said the city has promoted use of the vehicles including providing parking spaces designated for LSVs. He said LSVs affect municipal services that need to be properly funded.

Through lowering speed limits in the city, LSVs can now be operated on most streets, Crowley said.

"You can go all over south of the canal legally using a low-speed vehicle," he said.

Councilman Shaine Meier asked Crowley, who identified himself as an owner of a LSV, if the vehicles can reach a speed of 35 mph, which is

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Workers were decorating a 30-foot Norway spruce last week at Congress Hall. The tree was donated by Barbara Magar of Califon, N.J., a tree she personally planted. The retired school teacher and her late husband started a Christmas tree farm.

Sheehan objects to Promenade arches project

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Decorative arches are scheduled to be installed on the Promenade, but Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said council never approved an agreement with a third party for the project.

At one time in the past, the city's Promenade, then a boardwalk, had arches overhead. On Nov. 15, City Manager Mike Voll said footings have been dug in preparation for installation of the arches.

Sheehan said council never approved installing arches on the Promenade.

She said even if there is no cost to the city, council never approved an agreement with a third party, the Fund for Cape May, to erect the arches.

"I'm not for the arches and the reason is this — when you walk on the boardwalk, what do you like to look at?" Sheehan said. "The moonlight and the stars, and now you're going to have lights over you. You will not be able



This postcard from the collection of Richard Gibbs shows the Cape May boardwalk circa 1910, when arches stretched 15 to 17 feet across the wooden way.

to see the moon or the stars."

Sheehan said the Promenade should offer solitude and a "romantic walk."

With installation of arches, pedestrians on

the Promenade would be walking under floodlights, she said.

Sheehan asked what control the city has over the project.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the Fund for Cape

May is paying for the arches. Sheehan said council should have approved an agreement with the Fund for Cape May.

"What happens if some-

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City buys drone for public safety departments

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Police Department has

partnered with AXON AIR and Wawa's Foundation for Heroes Program to outfit the department with its first Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)/drone unit.

According to a news release, the idea has been in the works for a few years, with Lt. Kris Mazza spearheading the research, reviewing and procurement of the aerial training and the

new AXON drone.

The city was awarded a portion of the funds from the Wawa Foundation under its Heroes Program. The balance of the funding was allocated by the city.

Critical to this project was Cape May's Chief Financial Officer Neil Young, who assisted in the funding research for the drone, the release stated.

In 2021, Mazza and the police department conducted

a study into the potential use of drones. The city initially contacted several vendors to explore the capabilities of different brands, comparing their strengths and weaknesses.

Mazza and other department officers and city firefighters attended training with Atlantic Cape Community College's aerial program. Mazza holds an FAA Part 107 license authorizing him to fly missions beyond

recreational use.

The city has secured funding to send four other officers, who have just completed their flight training with the anticipation of testing for their FAA Part 107 licenses before the end of 2023.

Having licensed police officers and firefighters ensures that the UAS can be deployed rapidly in the event of an emergency.

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