

## West Cape May singer Hogan to release single

Page A8



## House of the week

Real Estate Resource



167th YEAR NO. 47 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021 \$1.00



Cape May MAC/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Oh, tannenbaum!

Hundreds gathered for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Emlen Physick Estate to herald the start of the holiday season. The award-winning Atlantic Brass Band played holiday favorites and Santa flipped the switch to light up the huge tree near the outdoor stage this year. This free event was presented by Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture) and sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank.

## Concerns growing over coyote population

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — A resident is asking for help dealing with an ever-growing population of coyotes near her home and Lower Township officials have reached out to the state for guidance.

On Nov. 15, Adele Jones told Lower Township Council that she was having a problem with coyotes near the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal and The Channels apartments off Jonathan Hoffman Road.

"They have come after

'They are very aggressive, they are coming after me constantly on my property. I feel that I am in danger.'

—Adele Jones, Lower Township resident

me," she said. "They come after my dog; they have gotten my dog twice."

Jones said the township recently refurbished the playground on Jonathan Hoffman Road and she fears children will be harmed there.

"I don't know if you realize that there's not a whole lot of children that know the difference between a

straggly German shepherd and a coyote," she said. "They are very aggressive, they are coming after me constantly on my property."

Jones said she can't walk her dog on her 8-acre property after 4 p.m. She said she previously presented a proposal to the township to hire hunters for her property, the same group used

by the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA).

Jones said the hunters have shot more than 60 coyotes on the ferry terminal property.

"They found a den of over 70 coyotes right behind The Channels apartments," she said.

She asked for the assistance of the township before someone at the playground gets hurt.

"I feel that I am in danger," Jones said.

Mayor Frank Sippel said someone would contact her.

See Concerns, Page A4

## Council tables rental rules for more research

Members decide ordinance not ready for introduction

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council delayed introducing an ordinance that would require registration with the city of all homes used for short-term rentals and base mercantile license fees on the square footage of rental properties.

At a Nov. 15 City Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the registration requirement would provide contact information for police if there were a problem at a rental house such as a noise complaint or break in a water pipe.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said from his perspective, the goal of the ordinance was to bring some equity into the city code and responsibility.

Councilman Shaine Meier said he had concerns the ordinance could remove incentives for property owners to offer year-round rentals. Gillin-Schwartz said the ordinance could have a "carve out" for the year-round rental market.

"If you rent your property for a day or a year, you would be covered by the responsibility portion of this and the fee schedule," he said.

City Clerk Erin Burke said it was her understanding that the city does not require a mercantile license for a year-round rental. She said the minimum time for a year-round rental is 175 days.

Gillin-Schwartz said the ordinance was targeted at the short-term rental market.

Mayor Zack Mullock asked for an amendment to the ordinance that the mercantile license fee remain at its current rate of \$75 per year for rentals up to 1,000 square feet.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin asked how the city would enforce a portion of the ordinance that requires 70 square feet of sleeping space for each occupant of a short-term rental property. Gillin-Schwartz said the square footage requirement would provide a reference for fire

See Council, Page A3

## Holiday season now under way in the city

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The holiday season is under way in the nation's oldest seashore resort.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said most parking meters in Cape May have been turned off but those around the Washington Street Mall are still in operation. He said the police department continues to check meters at the mall.

The mall will not be holding a hospitality night with food and beverages this year, Fashaw said, adding that stores are open and are welcoming shoppers.

The West Cape May Community Christmas Parade steps off at 5 p.m. Dec. 4 from the West Cape May firehouse and proceeds down Broadway to Perry Street to Carpenters Lane in Cape May.

Cape May MAC (Music+Arts+Culture) will conduct candlelight tours of residences that night. On three nights in December, participants travel to homes, inns, churches and hotels, stepping across the thresholds to take in interiors decorated for the holidays.

The self-guided tour is one of MAC's largest fundraisers. Maps are provided.

Wristbands for ticket purchasers are provided in advance or at central locations at the start of the tour and must be presented at each participating location for entry. Tour is limited. Trolley shuttle travels on planned route with limited stops. Walking is encouraged. Advance purchase is highly recommended.

Fashaw said extra officers will be on duty for both events. He urged caution due to low lighting in some areas.

"We will have additional officers on the ground for DWI enforcement during these couple nights," he said.

The city of Cape May officially kicks off the holiday season with its annual tree lighting ceremony at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Rotary Park bandstand located on the 400 block of Lafayette Street. The festive family program will include caroling and a special visit from Santa Claus.

Congress Hall has a tree lighting weekend Dec. 3 and Dec. 4. The festivities will begin with a classic tree lighting ceremony with a 30-foot Christmas tree Friday Dec. 3. The Turning Pointe Dance Team will perform at Congress Hall on Dec. 4.

## City taps Yeager to fill open seat

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council voted unanimously to appoint Mike Yeager to fill an open seat following the resignation of Chris Bezaire on Nov. 1.

At a Nov. 15 meeting, Mayor Zack Mullock said Yeager is a member of the city's Municipal Revenue and Taxation Advisory Committee. Since 2010, Yeager has been chairman of the finance committee, as well as treasurer and a board member of Cape May's Corinthian Yacht Club.

The mayor said Yeager worked for CONRAIL from 1990 to 1999 and has a master's degree in finance from the Fox Business School at Temple University and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Gannon University.

Yeager was on vacation and will be seated at council's next meeting, according to city solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz.



Rachel Shubin/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Out with the old

The Cape May fire station was demolished Nov. 16 to make way for a new headquarters expected to be completed by May 2023. The fire department is temporarily working from the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company Hall.



## HOLIDAY BY THE HEARTH

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