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168th YEAR NO. 48 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022 \$1.00

DEP requests city find another spot for police station

Cape May wants to carve out part of Lafayette Street Park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has asked the city if it has alternative locations for a new police station rather than using a portion of Lafayette Street Park.

"We don't," City Councilman Mike Yeager told the city's Environmental Commission on Nov. 22.

The city wants to use land at St. John and Lafayette streets that was originally intended to be a portion of the park. The city proposed a land swap with the DEP for use of the parcel, which was placed in the Green Acres program to be used as parkland.

Use of the lot for a police station would require the approval of the commissioner of the DEP and the State House Commission.

In compensation for use of the quarter-acre lot, the city would dedicate 4.8 acres of land in the Sewell Tract as parkland. In April,

the city bonded \$5 million for construction of a police station.

Yeager said that while design work is under way, the city has no settlement with the DEP for a land swap.

The DEP suggested the Jackson Street parking lot next to Collier's Liquors as an alternative location, Yeager said.

The city's Historic Preservation Commission will be involved in the design of the building, Yeager said.

Environmental Commission Chairman Mike Jones said the police station should have as many green infrastructure building components as possible.

"I know those things initially cost money but as long as that building is going to be there, we ought to do it right," he said.

Seawall redesigned

Yeager said the city's

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Cost of flood insurance rising as Point CRS falls

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Effective April 1, 2023, the borough's rating in the Community Ratings System (CRS) will fall from a 6 to 7, resulting in discounts on flood insurance to drop by 25 percent.

CRS is a voluntary incentive program in which 1,500 communities participate nationwide. Flood insurance rates are reduced through CRS to reflect reduced flood risk resulting from the community's efforts that address the three goals of the program.

The goals are to reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property, to strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Pro-

gram (NFIP) and to foster comprehensive floodplain management.

The discount on flood insurance premiums in the borough will fall from the 20 percent to 15 percent, according to Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk.

At a Nov. 22 Borough Commission meeting, she said flood insurance premium rates in CRS communities are discounted in increments of 5 percent. A class 10 community that is not participating in the CRS receives no discount, van Heeswyk said. The highest class receives a 45 percent premium discount from the NFIP.

Classifications are based on 19 creditable activities in four categories: public

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Christmastime in Cape May

Above, an arbor frames the decorated front porch of the home at 822 Washington St. in Cape May, where the holidays are brightened by numerous displays throughout the historic district. At right, The Mainstay Inn. Bottom right, the Harrison and Pharos inns behind Soldiers and Sailors Park. Bottom left, lighted decorations at the Emlen Physick Estate.



Deaths prompt city proposal to ban exhibition events

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance to prohibit exhibition driving within city limits that would give law enforcement the right to impound vehicles involved.

"You can't write these folks a ticket and then say 'goodnight,' you've got to be able to impound the vehicle," Mayor Zack Mullock said during a council meeting Nov. 15.

Two people were killed and multiple car crashes occurred in September during an unsanctioned H2oi car rally on the streets of Wildwood.

Mullock said he attended a meeting on the topic that included mayors and city managers from around the county. One of the topics discussed was how Ocean City, Md., got rid of H2oi.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the proposed ordinance contains examples of exhibition driving, defined as

the type of driving that serves no public benefit. He said many other shore towns are considering adopting a similar ordinance.

He said he had Cape May police administration including Chief Dekon Fashaw examine the proposed ordinance, which would allow the police to take action or write tickets if a similar event were held in Cape May.

State motor vehicle codes cover careless and reckless driving, but the proposed ordinance was

tailored to Cape May, he said.

"To give you examples, we don't need anybody doing doughnuts on the street or screeching wheels," Gillin-Schwartz said.

Cape May doesn't need quick acceleration on its roads, he said.

Fashaw said Cape May police assisted Wildwood police for two nights during the H2oi event. He said he did not want such an event to ever take place in Cape May.

Fashaw said the police depart-

ment fully support the proposed ordinance, which would give police more power for enforcement.

"My plan if this ever happens is we will sit at both bridges and we will ticket every single vehicle that comes into the city of Cape May," Fashaw said.

Mullock said police could see illegal alterations to the vehicles involved in H2oi.

"No town wants to be the one

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