



## Tennis team gets Halloween treat with revenge win

Page A8



## House of the week

B1



168th YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022 \$1.00

# City funds completion of beach P.A. system

## Promenade to get 1.5 miles of speakers for emergency notifications, tourism information

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a bid of \$335,000 to extend the beachfront public address (P.A.) system for emergency announcements from Convention Hall to Wilmington Avenue.

According to the enabling resolution, the contract was awarded to Delaware Audio Visual Integration and Design of Wilmington. The firm will integrate the new system with an existing system operating from

Convention Hall to Cove Beach. At a Nov. 1 meeting, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the city received only one bid.

"I was a little concerned that the price was a little high considering the poles are already in, as what I understand, and we are just putting up the wiring," she said.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said the wires would be installed underground.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the P.A. system is top-of-the-line and can produce 80 decibels and should

be audible at the water's edge. He noted the north end of the beach has not been covered by a P.A. system for some time.

"Now, obviously, we'd be able to hit the entire beach in the city of Cape May with any emergencies," Mullock said.

The P.A. system could also be used to make announcements along the Promenade. He said an automated message could run daily at 9:55 a.m. informing the public that bicycles need to be off the Promenade by 10 a.m.

Baldwin said a wireless system previously was operated on the beach in the northern end of town and it failed after a year of service. She said all the recommendations have been for the installation of a wired P.A. system.

Sheehan asked if the new system would come with a warranty.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the speakers were designed for an open-air environment.

Mullock said Delaware Audio Visual Integration and Design in-

stalled a P.A. system on the Wildwood boardwalk.

Gillin-Schwartz said the same software and app would control the entire beachfront P.A. system. Baldwin said control stations for the system would be located in beach patrol headquarters and Convention Hall.

"It will be used for tourism like the mayor said, as well as used for emergencies," he said.

Mullock said the system would

See P.A. system, Page A2

# Multiple loops suggested for transit system

## Parking Advisory Committee to present plan in December

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Parking Advisory Committee is targeting December to make its recommendations to City Council for a citywide transportation system that could have jitneys operating four different routes in Cape May.

At a Nov. 2 meeting, committee members expressed concerns over bollards being installed on a parking area being created near the railroad tracks at the Welcome Center. Committee member Bob Elwell said it seemed fewer spaces were being created than were planned.

The hope had been rental railbikes could leave from an area across Broad Street rather than use tracks at the Welcome Center, he said, adding the city owns land off Broad Street where parking could be created for 15 to 20 cars.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said she believes at least 30 new parking spaces had been planned for the Welcome Center.

Chairwoman Bonnie Cassells said one of the tasks of the committee was to determine if the jitney was the "be all, end all" or if there were other options for transportation. The committee has discussed more parking at the city-owned Bank Street parking lot.

Sheehan suggested a shuttle using golf carts to the Bank Street lot that mall workers could use until 1 a.m. She said a direct shuttle would be needed, not one that makes a loop around the city.

Cassells said in the past, the committee discussed finding parking for residents of Victorian Towers.

"They sometimes are in there two or three years before they actually get an assigned parking spot, which means that they are parking all over the place," she said. "Maybe we could add spaces at Bank Street and offer them permit parking there."

Elwell said residents of Victorian Towers probably would not want to walk the distance to the Bank Street

See Transit, Page A4

# Official: Water violation not health risk to public

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Water Superintendent Rob Cumiskey told City Council on Nov. 1 that a recent notice to water customers was not due to a violation for unsafe drinking water.

"At no time was anyone at risk," he said. "This was in fact a low-level violation for a treatment technique, more specifically for pH."

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 in 2021, failing to consistently

meet treatment technical requirements for the corrosion control system.

Cummiskey said the notice was required and written by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for exceeding a newly established range for pH during the first five months of 2021.

After receiving the notification, the city immediately made minor operational adjustments to ensure water entering the distribution system remains within the optimal range, he said.

"Because there was no immediate threat to public health and safety, the city

See Water, Page A4



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Raise the roof

Shingles are being installed on the roof of Cape May's fire station, which is expected to be in operation for the 2023 summer season.

# O.C. continues to fight BPU Ocean Wind ruling

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — City Council has hired Cooper Levenson to represent Ocean City in an appeal of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) decision in the Ocean Wind 1 petition for right of way approvals for transmission lines across the island.

At the end of September, the BPU approved the petition to grant easements for the lines across Green Acres-designated properties without seeking the local government's approval of those easements.

In August 2021, the state Legislature approved a bill, signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy, that took the power of granting easements for rights of way away from municipalities and gave it to the BPU in certain cases, including for transmission lines for wind-generated electricity.

The city decried that as an infringement of home rule and politicians who supporter it acknowledged

the city's opposit was its impetus.

The Ocean Wind 1 project plans as many as 98 wind turbines 15 miles off Cape May and Atlantic counties to generate 1,100 megawatts of power.

Ocean Wind 1, a joint venture between Danish company Ørsted and PSEG, wants to run the transmission cables through Ocean City, under the beach and city streets, heading out Roosevelt Boulevard to Upper Township and connecting with the power grid at the former B.L. England generating plant in Beesleys Point.

Ocean City opposed the petition, asking for cost estimates to be provided for alternate routes for the lines, including through Great Egg Harbor Inlet.

The BPU ruled that the interests of meeting Murphy's goal of wind-generated power overruled the city's position and that it was important to meet the project's construction and operation deadlines.

Ocean Wind, Page A2

# West Cape farmer argues he needs to use pesticides

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Last July, Borough Commission discussed the possibility of limiting pesticide use. West Cape May's Public Works Department does not use Roundup or similar chemicals on borough-owned property.

Some residents are concerned development has become rampant in the borough and wetlands are being destroyed by the use of chemical pesticides on lawns.

In May, a Third Avenue resident said the borough is losing its wetlands, tree frogs, bees, fireflies and other valuable environmental contributions even though lawsuits against the herbicide Round-Up have been settled for millions of dollars nationwide.

Adam Reeves, who serves as deputy fire chief with the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company, contacted Mayor Carol Sabo after hearing discussion of a possible ban of pesticides in the borough.

At an Oct. 26 meeting,

Reeves said he and his father farm about 35 acres, with 20 acres behind Borough Hall stretching to Bayshore Road and another 15 acres behind his house on Seashore Road.

Reeves said they rotate crops of corn and soybeans.

"When I heard of a possible ban of pesticides, it kind of raised some concerns because they are really necessary to our operation back there," he said. "We use strictly herbicides to control weeds, keep the weeds out of the crops, it controls the competition for nutrients."

Reeves said the products he uses are mostly glyphosate products, a post-emergence weed control, which means when the weed comes up and germinates, he sprays the product that kills the weeds.

"We really don't get too much into the insecticides, fungicides, we don't use any of that," he said.

Sabo said she asked Reeves how often he used

See Farmer, Page A9



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