



House of the week

Page B1



Wreaths come in many varieties

Page A10



165th YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 \$1.00

Tourism expert talks bills affecting business

Topics include employee scheduling, contract workers, marijuana and panic buttons

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY — A tourism expert spoke about legislation affecting employee scheduling, panic buttons for hotel employees and a possible referendum for recreational marijuana use during the New Jersey Conference on Tourism last week.

Joseph Simonetta, executive director of the New Jersey Conference on Tourism, addressed participants during the conference

Wednesday, Dec. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City.

He spoke Dec. 4 during a legislative update session, along with 2nd District Assemblyman Vincent Mazzeo and Donald Hoover, of the Fairleigh Dickinson University International School of Hospitality and Tourism. Mazzeo spoke in place of New Jersey Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald.

Simonetta reminded the audience the state Legislature is in a

lame-duck session until the next session begins in January.

A scheduling notification bill, which Simonetta said is not yet drafted but would likely move forward next year, could affect local employers.

"The major elements of the scheduling notification bill is employees are to be given their schedule 14 days in advance of the actual workweek. That's where we think this is going," he said.

The bill prohibits "clopening," which is when an employee has a

closing shift followed by an early opening shift. The bill would mandate a minimum rest period of 10 hours between an employee's shifts.

"There's also predictability of pay. You're supposed to be able to predict the employee's pay for whatever the pay period is," he said. "It prohibits shift-changing. It will prohibit adding shifts without the proper notification. It will prohibit deleting hours or violating any of the 'clopening' operations."

According to Simonetta, the NJTIA is working to include a weather provision in the bill. As an example, he said they are working with an individual who owns a Rita's Italian Ice location. Under the bill, if it starts raining in the afternoon at Rita's and four employees are working, the employer would have to pay those four employees, as opposed to sending them home the way the bill is currently written, Simonetta said.

See Tourism, Page A9

Township OKs 20 home lots at Cox Hall Creek

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — The Lower Township Zoning Board unanimously approved a preliminary and final subdivision of an applicant's plan to allow 22 lots at 10 Shawmount Ave.

The area is on a forested piece of land at the entrance to Cox Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area, the former Ponderlodge golf course.

At a meeting Dec. 5, Attorney Ron Stagliano and K2 engineer John Kornick showed the board the updated applications. Stagliano represented Marcello Mogavero, a contract purchaser of the land from the owner Susan Adreassi.

"What is proposed is 21 single-family building lots, of which 20 lots will be part of the main development of the property," Stagliano said. "There will be two open-space slots, which

are dedicated to storm water management. A single open-space lot comprising approximately 10,000 square feet, adjacent and fronting on Fourth Avenue, to allow public access if the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) approves it, to the Cox Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area, which this particular parcel adjoins."

Stagliano said the applicant's proposal to the township is the lot adjoining the Wildlife Management Area, if they wish to have it. If not, it will be offered to the Wildlife Management Area.

Kornick presented renderings of the proposal, showing the 20 single lots and one parcel on Shawmount Ave. not proposed for any development at this time.

"The project has the ability to connect to water and sewer," Kornick said. "The

See Township, Page A11

Most local legislators will not support vote to legalize marijuana

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Since the move to legalize marijuana came up short of votes in the Legislature, lawmakers say the people will decide the issue next year via public referendum.

Gov. Phil Murphy made the legalization of cannabis part of his agenda, noting it would allow the state to create a new industry and bring additional employment and revenue streams to New Jersey in much the same way as it has in other areas of the country.

But in March, supporters failed to get enough votes to forward the legislation.

In October, Senate Presi-

dent Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester) announced the Senate would make another push for legalizing marijuana during the final months of the Legislature's lame-duck session. Sweeney estimated the success of the bill passing would be "50/50," according to reports.

But Sweeney announced Nov. 18 that there were not enough votes to successfully pass the legalization bill.

Sweeney and state Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D-Union) introduced a resolution calling for a question on the November 2020 ballot, amending the state constitution to allow people 21

See Marijuana, Page A5



Robert Newkirk/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Santa Claus has come to town

Santa Claus rode into Cape May on a West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company truck during the West Cape May Christmas Parade on Dec. 7. See more photos in this edition.

Chamber: Elmira poor choice for safety building

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — USA Architects presented its final conceptual design for a new public safety building during a focus group meeting Dec. 3 attended by members of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May.

Committee Chairwoman Kate Wyatt said the goal of the committee was to provide a building to compliment the Washington Street area and the historical integrity of Cape May while maintaining adherence to regulations and providing a building for optimum staff performance.

Wyatt said there has been a call from some members of the public to construct two separate buildings, the firehouse at its current location and a police station at Broad and Elmira streets. She said the committee looked at that idea in 2017. The current



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The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May said the city-owned property at Bank and Elmira streets is unfit for a public safety building because the Welcome Center and its parking lot are important to tourism.

firehouse is located at the highest elevation in the city, 12 feet above sea level, said Andrew Adornato, principal

architect of USA Architects. The Broad and Elmira streets site is closer to the ocean and Cape Island

Creek, Wyatt said. Concerns of the committee include im-

See Chamber, Page A8

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