



Catalog of Christmas gift givers

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House of the Week

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169th YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 \$1.00

CRC approves annual license in Lower Twp.

Dispensary in North Cape May expected to open in February

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) approved an annual license for Sea and Leaf LLC to operate an adult use cannabis dispensary in Lower Township.

The dispensary, which has not opened, received a conditional license in September 2022.

A conditional license is provisional and gives applicants more time to obtain property or municipal approval. It does not allow the business to operate. An annual license allows a cannabis business to operate following state inspections of the property.

The dispensary is expected to be located at 3860 Bayshore Road in North Cape May at a shopping center that houses a post office and discount store. The store is expected to open in February.

Shorehouse Canna, the county's first cannabis dispensary, held its grand opening Oct. 28 in West Cape May.

At a Dec. 7 meeting, the CRC approved 24 adult use cannabis businesses to convert from conditional to annual licenses, including four cultivators, four manufacturers and 16 retailers.

See CRC Page A2

Cape May's HPC book wins award from state group

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's updated historic preservation standards, presented in a colorful and easy-to-understand book, received the New Jersey Document Award from Preservation New Jersey during a ceremony last month.

The award is for presented for preservation documents exhibiting exceptional merit in the field of historic preservation.

A few months ago, City Council approved the HPC's final version of its historic preservation design standards in a book. HPC Chairman Warren Coupland said the book was the culmination of a couple of years of work by HPC members, planning and zoning board members and the public.

"This was really a two-year work effort spread over three calendar years to get this book done, and now it has been recognized and awarded," he said during a City Council meeting Dec. 5.

Coupland presented the plaque to City Council. He suggested the plaque be hung near the main entrance to City Hall, if its "not too presumptuous."

Mayor Zack Mullock suggested council earmark funds in the 2024 municipal budget to purchase more copies of the historic standards book.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Hung up on Christmas

The Carroll Gallery at the Emlen Physick Estate is displaying 'An Old-fashioned Christmas' featuring a huge Christmas tree suspended from the ceiling, model trains and an elaborate Dept. 56 Dickens Village collection. The estate is at 1048 Washington St. in Cape May.

City opts not to adopt green fleet policy

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council tabled an ordinance to adopt a green vehicle fleet policy, opting instead to move to electric vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

The ordinance stated that a clean and sustainable approach to procurement and operation of city vehicles would provide cost savings by reducing energy consumption of its fleet, enhancing fuel efficiency and lowering green-

house emissions.

At a Dec. 5 meeting, Councilman Shaine Meier said the city would convert to electric-powered vehicles when it made sense, noting some vehicle types could not move away from gasoline engines.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the move was in conjunction with grants the city is seeking.

City engineer Paul Dietrich said the move to electric vehicles was also part of the state's best practices survey the city submits and how

Cape May is graded for state funding.

He said each type of vehicle would be evaluated to determine whether an electric model would be in the city's best interest or whether buying the most fuel-efficient gasoline-powered or hybrid model makes sense.

"I would hope as we get into this, as the vehicles come online in the city, that we monitor those because, quite frankly, there's not enough experience in this country to evaluate battery vehicles

versus combustion vehicles," resident Jules Rauch said during public comment.

He said maintenance and battery replacement costs are extremely high for electric vehicles.

Mullock said the city has an agreement to lease vehicles from Enterprise Leasing that will save the city a significant amount of money over the next five years. Some of the leased vehicles are hybrid models.

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Engineer Dietrich appointed city manager in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Stat and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council appointed city engineer Paul Dietrich as Cape May's new city manager to replace Mike Voll, who is scheduled to retire Dec. 31.

Dietrich has served as the city's engineer since June. He will continue as city engineer for a salary of \$130,000 per year and receive a \$10,000 stipend for his work as city manager.

At a May 15 meeting, City Council hired Dietrich for three years as full-time city engineer. His duties include supervising the performance of city projects; oversight of the Community Ratings System, which determines flood insurance rates for homeowners; and serving as flood plain administrator and municipal housing liaison.

At a Dec. 5 meeting, Councilwoman Maureen McDade said Mayor Zack Mullock and council

asked her and Councilman Mike Yeager to take the lead in the applicant process.

"We had approximately 13 applicants. We conducted phone interviews with every person who applied," she said. "We completed a high-level introductory questionnaire for each of the candidates."

That information was shared with City Council, which held closed sessions to disucc the candidates.

McDade said the process was thorough and the candidates well-vetted.

Mullock said the city attracted a very good group of candidates. He said Dietrich has the full support of council.

"Working with Paul since June of this year has just been outstanding," he said.

Mullock said Dietrich looks at issues as an engineer, as a problem solver.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-

Schwartz said Dietrich's term of employment runs from Jan. 1, 2024, to Dec. 31, 2027.

Dietrich has 24 years of municipal experience. He has lived in Cape May County since 1966, graduating from Ocean City High School and earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northeastern University in Boston.

Dietrich currently lives in

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