



House of the week

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Coast Guard rescues crew of sinking ship

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164th YEAR NO. 52 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2018 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May County and Lower Township officials cut the ribbon to dedicate the newly refurbished Lower Township Public Safety Building on Oct. 23.

Lower Township's year in review '18

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

JANUARY

— Lower Township police promoted five officers: Lt. John Chew, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Vanaman, Sgt. Robert C. Smith Jr., Sgt. Charles Ryan and Corp. John Armbruster Jr.

— Lower Township Council approved a \$1.9 million contract Jan. 3 for the construction of a sidewalk and other pedestrian safety improvements along Beach Drive in North Cape May. Councilman David Perry said sand dunes encroached on the roadway, creating a very dangerous situation for pedestrians and bicycle traffic interacting with motor vehicle traffic. The project included beach modifications, curbs, sidewalks and drainage improvements.

— The Cape May-Lewes Ferry resumed operations Jan. 11 after service had been suspended since Jan. 4 due to extreme ice conditions in Delaware Bay. The tugboat Northstar Integrity was used to break up ice.

— Lower Township Police Ptlm. Jordan Saini rescued a golden retriever that had fallen through ice into Davies Lake on Jan. 21 in the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area. The dog was unable to get out of the water and was struggling to stay afloat. Saini also fell into the frigid lake when ice gave way beneath him while rescuing the dog.

— On Jan. 27, Matt Szczur, a Lower Cape May Regional High School graduate and outfielder for the San Diego Padres, announced the launch of the Matthew Szczur Foundation, which was started with the purpose of raising awareness for bone marrow donors.

— A former Dodge Charger police car, donated by Lower Township police to become a LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) car, made its first appearance at a Lower Township

Board of Education meeting Jan. 23. Eddie's Auto Body restored the car as a charitable project.

FEBRUARY

— Charles Mosley was sentenced Feb. 5 to 30 years in state prison for the murder of 15-year-old Nicole Angstadt of Lower Township. The teen was found dead, partially dismembered and hidden in the crawl space of an abandoned home in Rio Grande in 2015.

— Lower Township Council introduced its 2018 budget calling for no increase in the tax rate. The township's budget totaled \$28.1 million. The township completed 2017 with a surplus of \$7.1 million, an all-time record. The local purpose tax remained at 57.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

— Lower Township Council rejected all bids for the Roseann Avenue roadway and utility improvements on Feb. 5. Bids received exceeded the amount of township funds available for the project. The low bid was \$7.5 million, while the township approved a bond for \$4.7 million.

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Jack Fichter

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Matt Szczur announced the launch of the Matthew Szczur Foundation on Jan. 27



Provided

Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks, left, Mayor Chuck Lear, Councilwoman Bea Pessagno, Councilman Roger Furlin and Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier pose for a photo at the final City Council meeting for Pessagno and Furlin, who did not run for re-election in November.

Pessagno, Furlin bid farewell

Neither sought re-election after four years on City Council

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council members Bea Pessagno and Roger Furlin attended their final council meeting Dec. 18 after completing four-year terms. Neither sought re-election in November.

Pessagno said she enjoyed working on the reconstruction of Rotary Park, the first phase of Lafayette Street Park and the school's new swimming pool.

"Above all, I enjoyed representing the people of Cape May," she said. "I did my best to listen to you and to see what you would like me to do; that was the true honor of the last four

years." Furlin said it seemed as if just two weeks had passed since he was sworn in as a council member.

"I want to thank all the people of Cape May who had confidence to elect me to this position," he said. "It was quite a learning experience for me."

Serving on council was the culmination of serving on the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), Mayor's Advisory Committee, Zoning Board, the Shade Tree Commission and the Buildings and Property Advisory Committee, Furlin said.

Council did not always agree, he said, but he had done his best to analytically

go over the issues and made his votes and judgments based on the best of his ability.

"I feel satisfied in what I've done," Furlin said. He said he hoped to continue to serve on the HPC and Buildings and Property Advisory Committee.

"I've been reading a book by Sen. Ben Sasse that talks about community, amongst many other things, and the fact that our nation is suffering from people having a lack of sense of community," Furlin said. "I'm reading that and thinking Sen. Ben Sasse has never been to Cape May."

Furlin said one thing he learned in the past four years is the sense of com-

munity in Cape May is great with many volunteers serving on city boards and commissions and with non-profit organizations. He said the citizens of Cape May do a lot to enhance the community.

"It's been quite a ride and I've grown a lot from it," Furlin said.

Mayor Chuck Lear concurred with Furlin.

"When you go into elected office, your life goes into hyper-drive," he said.

He said while council has had its disagreements, many times it was in agreement. Lear said it is great to live in a town where the problem is not enough positions for all the volunteers who want to be involved.

Holidays can be perilous time for pets

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — While buying a pet as a holiday gift might be tempting, it's usually better for the pet owner to select the pets, according to Courtney Venzie, assistant shelter manager and animal control officer at the Humane Society of Ocean City.

"If you're going to adopt a cat for somebody, buy the litterbox, the toys, the litter and give that as your gift. You should always let people pick out their animal themselves," Venzie said. Picking out that fluffy

bundle of joy requires patience and a little research. Venzie also cautions against buying certain animal breeds that are popular.

"Usually it's kind of what's going on in the media. When '101 Dalmatians' came out, everybody wanted a Dalmatian. It depends on what kind of movies what animals are glorified," she said. "The hardest things to adopt are animals that are black and black and white, whether it be cat or dog it doesn't matter."

The old superstitious legends of black animals

as harbingers of doom still hold sway in some people's minds.

"It's the whole superstition behind black cats. There are always more of those in a shelter than anything else, black cats, black and white cats. It's the same as dogs. They're always harder to adopt out," Venzie said.

The Humane Society offers cats and dogs for adoption.

Usually there are 120 animals in the shelter on average, with more cats than dogs. Venzie said the shelter houses 10 or 12 dogs compared with the volume

of cats. "We actually have an indoor feral cat colony and house about 60 cats there," Venzie said.

Some animals in the shelter are strays from the area, while others the owners surrender to the shelter.

"This summer we had two moms and 14 kittens dumped in two carriers left behind a shed. They were extremely emaciated and awful," Venzie said.

People who are adopting pets at the shelter should consult with the Humane Society's staff

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New Year's Eve at the Washington Inn

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