



House of the week

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Hanukkah celebration on the Mall

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164th YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018 \$1.00



Jack Fichter and Robert Newkirk/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE Celebrations to kick off the Christmas season were held in and around Cape May over the weekend, including at Congress Hall, Lower Township and West Cape May, which holds its annual Christmas parade, at bottom.



Officials update city residents on public projects

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — During the city's final town hall meeting of the year Nov. 28, Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier and City Manager Neil Young offered updates on a number of projects ranging from the construction of a new public safety building to a study to determine whether the Franklin Street School could be used as a new county library branch.

Lear said the city and county are collaborating on a study of the Franklin Street School to assess whether it could house a new county library and a multipurpose community center. Architect Michael Calafati is conducting a feasibility study. Lear noted the school is a state-designated African American historic site.

"Over nearly a quarter century, the city has sought viable ways to rehabilitate the school and make it the best use," the mayor said.

He noted the county has provided funding to a number of municipalities to build new facilities or rehabilitate existing sites for use as libraries or senior centers. As a result of the 2017 passage of the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, the state will make \$125 million available for public library construction, he said.

"We hope a portion of the state funding will be made available to the county," Lear said.

For some years, the Center for Community Arts (CCA) has made efforts to raise funds to restore the Franklin Street School. Lear said the CCA still has a significant balance in its grant from the state Historic Preservation Office and with state approval, the grant could be added to the school's resource base.

Following a fire at the Allen AME Church on Franklin Street in June, several members of the city admin-

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Authorities charge assault suspect with attempted murder

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — A Pennsylvania man was charged with first-degree attempted murder after allegedly stabbing a North Cape May man last week.

On the morning of Nov. 28, Lower Township police responded to a report of a stabbing inside a home in the 1200 block of Sunnyside Drive. Upon arrival, officers found the victim, Vincent Harrington, 50, with multiple stab wounds. Joseph T. Schroeder, 57, of Bristol, Pa., was taken into custody without incident.

The victim was transported to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, where he

was treated for his injuries and was listed in stable condition. Schroeder was transported to Cooper Medical Center and treated for injuries to his hands he suffered during the stabbing, police said.

Schroeder was charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and unlawful possession of a weapon. He was being detained at the Cooper Medical Center until he was medically cleared to be transported to the Cape May County Jail.

Cape Assist: Cost to society will outweigh marijuana tax revenue

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD — State lawmakers advanced legislation Nov. 6 to legalize the possession and use of recreational marijuana.

Although former Gov. Chris Christie opposed outright legalization, current Gov. Phil Murphy approves of legalizing cannabis and expanding the marijuana industry in the Garden State. Such a push would cre-

ate its own set of societal problems, according to Katie Faldetta, executive director of Cape Assist, a substance abuse-prevention and -treatment agency serving Cape May County.

"We know from what we've seen in other states that when marijuana becomes legal recreationally, traffic accidents go up and emergency room visits go up and the ones that suffer the most seem to be our most vulnerable, including kids," Faldetta said. "Rates

of abuse go up for middle schoolers and high schoolers. It's not something that's recommended for any child that has a normal, healthy brain because it does show to have adverse effects, including the possibility of reducing the IQ between 8 to 10 points."

She said in states where cannabis is legalized, children are accessing edible marijuana, which can be found in soft drinks, candy and baked goods. These products are easier to consume

and hide, according to Faldetta.

"As the product is more available, it's just more accessible to kids in the form of Gummi Bears and Rice Krispies and soda and cookies. While I'm an adult and I like junk food, I know that teenagers also like junk food and kids who may not have used marijuana because they don't want to smell like it or they don't want to get caught may find this more appealing because it's just more acces-

sible," Faldetta said.

She said the law seeks to "demystify" marijuana in the public eye.

"What I think about what the ramifications are going to be for our kids, they're the ones who are going to be using this more than adults at a faster rate," she said.

Joseph Faldetta, Cape Assist's Substance Use Navigator, said one in four children who use marijuana regularly becomes dependent upon it, while one in six adults using

marijuana regularly develops a dependency.

He said edible products such as Pot Tarts, with packaging mimicking Pop Tarts, are targeted toward youth.

"There are definitely things aimed at an immature palate," he said.

Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in January 2014.

According to published reports, the number of people

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