



House of the week

Page B1



Volunteers clean up at Higbee Beach

Page A9



165th YEAR NO. 15 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019 \$1.00



Edward O'Neill and Lauren Suit
Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Little League opening day

Lower Cape May Little League opened its season April 5 at the fields behind the Carl T. Mitnick School. Below, Cooper Gipple, an obvious fan of the Philadelphia Phillies, was ready to play ball. At right, a player for Mister Softee rounds the bases. Below right, players observe the national anthem before the games.



Council spars about chair of public safety building panel

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 3-2 vote, City Council appointed Kathleen Wyatt as chairwoman of the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee, necessitated by the death of former chairman Jerry Gaffney in December. Vice Chairman Barney Dougherty has been serving as acting chair since that time.

Council members Stacy Sheehan and Zack Mullock voted against the enabling resolution, stating they had not been included in the decision process.

At an April 2 meeting, Sheehan said she was disappointed council was not following Robert's Rules of Order by not appointing Dougherty as chairman of the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks said Dougherty was initially asked to consider the chairmanship at the formation of the committee but he declined due to other commitments.

"At this point, I think it's a position he has been comfortable with as vice chair and we haven't heard anything other than that, so I would hate to put words in his mouth," she said.

Sheehan said stating Dougherty was not interested in serving as chairman "was overstepping." She said she contacted Dougherty, who stated he was not notified someone else would be appointed as committee chairman.

"I think it's disappointing that the committee did not ask him if he would like that position and just decided that for him," Sheehan said.

Mullock noted the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee had delivered its final report and a large portion of the committee's work was finished. He said he was very disappointed when he saw the resolution appointing Wyatt to chair the committee.

"I just find that to demote Barney Dougherty at this time is just disrespectful and sad," Mullock said.

Hendricks asked Mullock how he thought Dougherty was being demoted.

"He made it very well known to me he wanted to be the chairman," Mullock replied.

He noted Dougherty served as fire chief for 25 years and his dedication to Cape May was "second to none."

"It's adding to a list of Council spars, Page A4

Sheehan wants cuts to ease tax increase in Cape May budget

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan suggested the city manager ask each department to find 5 percent in its budgets to cut, "since they all got their wish lists on their budgets."

City Council introduced the proposed 2019 municipal budget with a local purpose tax increase of 1.25 cents, up from an increase of .88 cents from an earlier discussion of the budget due to the hiring of three additional firefighters and four employees to pick up recycling, a task formerly handled by a private company.

The city's proposed budget is being raised to hire three additional firefighters, increasing salary and

wages by \$72,000; additional staffing in the construction office for \$10,000; additional expenses to enhance trolley service at \$80,000; and staff health insurance increasing by \$90,000. In addition, the city is initiating picking up recycling after bids from haulers tripled in cost.

At an April 2 council meeting, City Manager Neil Young said at this point, the city raised its anticipated surplus number to nearly \$3 million.

He noted firefighters and recycling costs were added to the city budget. He said debt service and deferred charges was increasing by \$300,000.

"If you add up all those items and you come to a

See Sheehan, Page A4



SHEEHAN

AccuWeather: 2019 slightly more severe

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — After an active Atlantic hurricane season in 2018, AccuWeather forecasters are predicting 2019 to result in a near- to slightly above-normal season with 12 to 14 storms.

Of those storms, five to seven are forecast to become hurricanes and two to four are forecast to become major hurricanes.

Analog years, past years that have weather patterns similar to current and projected patterns, are often used to predict trends and effects during a hurricane sea-

son. They can be based solely on the El Niño — Southern Oscillation or on a combination of weather patterns and teleconnections, which are weather patterns over another part of the globe that can strongly influence current or future weather in a particular area.

"This year, we think that there will be a few less tropical storms and lower numbers in hurricanes, but again, the old saying is 'it only takes one,'" AccuWeather Atlantic Hurricane expert Dan Kottowski said.

After the U.S. took a bat-

tering in 2018, thanks largely to Michael and Florence, meteorologists are once again forecasting effects for the United States. According to Kottowski, two to four are likely.

This year, AccuWeather will be incorporating the new AccuWeather RealImpact Scale for hurricanes and tropical storms to better communicate the real effects of this type of severe weather and so people and businesses will have more comprehensive information on which to base safety decisions. The new scale will be used in hur-

ricane season reporting on all AccuWeather properties.

This new scale differs greatly from the widely used Saffir-Simpson scale, which is based simply on wind speed. The AccuWeather RealImpact Scale is based on wind speed, storm surge, flooding rain, total damage and economic loss in addition to provide a more complete description of potential storm impacts.

To help predict the upcoming season, forecasters have drawn comparisons to previ-

Hurricane, Page A2

EASTER BRUNCH

in THE EBBITT ROOM

Seating 10am -2pm. Live Piano with Paul Sottile, Jr.

Reservations 609.884.5700

25 Jackson Street

ebbittroom.com