



Caper Tiger boys rout Panthers in lacrosse matchup

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House of the week

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169th YEAR NO. 15 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023 \$1.00

Cape May buzzing as city spruces up for summer

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is alive with the sound of hammers, saws, dump trucks and pressure washers as it wakes up for the summer season. The city's Department of Public Works has been busy renovating public restrooms and landscaping municipal properties.

In the next few weeks, the restrooms should be completed by the Special Projects Team of the Department of Public Works, City

Manager Mike Voll said at an April 4 City Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said she, Deputy City Manager Lou Belasco and the city's contracted engineer, Vince Orlando, met with an architect concerning new restrooms on the Promenade next to Convention Hall, formerly the Oasis restaurant. She said the project should be out to bid in a couple of weeks.

"It seems like everything has been dragging on this project because we had to find the architect,

we had to find the engineer, there were a lot of hiccups on this one," Baldwin said.

Voll said the county is reconstructing sections of Pittsburgh, Beach and Lafayette avenues.

"The Cove Pavilion is the next thing on the list to be renovated," Voll said. "With all the weddings coming up we're getting pressure to get that cleaned up."

A new fence will be installed the new section of parking at the Welcome Center in the next two weeks, he said.

The floor of Convention Hall will be resurfaced, Voll said, following roller skating marring the surface. He said the floor is resurfaced every year.

The façade on Convention Hall will be repaired by mid-May, Voll said. Council approved a contract with DKC Contractors in the amount of \$43,795 for the work.

The new fire station has been connected to power and will shortly receive a natural gas connection, he said.

During public comment, for-

mer councilwoman Stacy Sheehan questioned a change order for the fire station construction for \$34,466. Deputy City Manager Lou Belasco said construction has had some "deducts and adds."

"We received a credit for changing from a drywall ceiling to an ACP (aluminum composite panel) ceiling when it was installed," he said. "We had some changes within the electrical and some resulted in credits and additions, we took the

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Lower Twp. OKs Cape May Beach access path study

Homeowners association must provide easements

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved a \$34,000 contract with DeBlasio and Associates to produce surveys for 13 beach access paths at the Cape May Beach Property Owners Association bay-front property from Englewood Avenue to Avalon Road.

The survey includes one pathway at the end of Browning Avenue.

Currently, 6-foot-wide paths are located at Englewood Avenue, Townbank Road, Beverly Road, Race Track Drive, Elwood Road, Cedarbrook Road, Delford Avenue, Cliffside Road, Adelpia Road, Folsom Road, Delair Road and Brookdale Road. The beach access at Avalon Road is 10 feet wide.

According to a proposal, pathways are being surveyed to create easements for Lower Township to maintain the paths, which are owned by the association. The paths will vary in

width from 6 feet to 10 feet. A 10-foot-wide easement will be needed for 6-foot-wide and a 15-foot-wide easement will be needed for the 10-foot-wide paths.

The easements will run from the right of way at Shore Road to the end of the property line on the bay side of the beach.

At a March 7 meeting, Mayor Frank Sippel said an agreement with the township must be signed by the association's board of directors before the project can move forward. He said he wants the work on the beach accesses to begin as soon as possible.

The cost of the project may be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Sippel said.

The pathway at the end of Browning Avenue will be surveyed for the purpose of reconstructing the existing wood stairwell; no easement will be needed at that location. The proposal does not include the design of the stairwell and such

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City honors 'Miss Linda' after 36 years of service

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — If you've been in this city for any length of time, Linda Ewing may have helped your children cross the street at Cape May City Elementary School or taught them in Pelican Place preschool, where she was known as "Miss Linda."

Ewing was born in Cape May and raised on Ewing's Farm in Cold Spring; where she later raised her three daughters and welcomed seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, Mullock said.

The mayor said Ewing has dedicated the past 36 years to serving the city

ognize someone who has benefited the city so much and brought so much joy to our children and the young at heart," Mullock said.

He said a photo exists of him and Meier as youngsters with Ewing at Pelican Place preschool, where she was known as "Miss Linda."

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Frank Scott/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

All decked out in their Easter finery

Girls in the 7 to 9 year old category compete in Cape May's annual Easter Fashion Stroll on April 9 in Rotary Park. Judging categories and age groups included ages 3 and younger, ages 4 to 6, ages 7 to 9, ages 10 to 12, ages 13 and older, best dressed lady, best dressed man, best dressed couple, best dressed family and best Easter bonnet.

Author details Black history of O.C.

'The Westside: Ocean City in True Color' spotlights contributions

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — The Westside of Ocean City has been known as home to the resort's African-American population, but the neighborhood and its residents have come with some misconceptions.

According to Loretta Thompson Harris, author of "The Westside: Ocean City in True Color," some of the city's first Black residents actually lived on Asbury Avenue, home to the city's downtown business district, many of them were entrepreneurs and

Book signing and reception are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, April 15 at the Ocean City Historical Museum at the Ocean City Community Center, 1735 Simpson Ave.

the neighborhood was home to Italian-Americans and Native Americans as well.

The Westside boundaries are de-

finned as Second to 10th streets and from West Avenue to Bay Avenue, but it never included the homes along the bay.

Harris said she gave the book its title "because I'm trying to dispel some of the myths about the Westside. I'm trying to give accurate information that I found in my research."

"People always say to me, 'Where are you from?' I'll say, 'Ocean City.' They'll say, 'Where are you really from?' I'll say, 'Ocean City.' They'll say, 'Where did you move from?'"

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Harris never loved history until researching her own

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — For someone who just published the first of a series of books on the history of people of color in Ocean City, author Loretta Thompson Harris wasn't partial to studying history back in high school.

"It's really hard to believe," Harris acknowledged during an interview last week ahead of a planned signing of her new book, "The Westside: Ocean City in True Color."

She loved everything at Ocean City High School (Class of 1963), except history, "which is ironic."

"In school the things they taught us in history didn't interest me, basically because they

weren't about me," she said. With a laugh, she added, "It was memorizing a lot of dates and a lot of European kings and queens."

"About the only thing they taught us in school about people of color was about Indians. I always felt like Indians got a bad deal. My grandmother on my father's side is Native American."

The overall interest in history changed later in life when she began researching her family background. She discovered her great-grandfather founded a church down the block from where she grew up in Ocean City and learned about a connection to James Still,

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David Nahan/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE Loretta Thompson Harris, of Upper Township, recently wrote 'The Westside: Ocean City in True Color' and will sign her books Saturday at the Ocean City Historical Museum.



INTIMATE. ELEGANT.

Take a seat, order your drink and stay a while.
The Lounge menu is back at the Ebbitt Room.

View the menu at EBBITTROOM.COM
Located at the Virginia Hotel | 25 Jackson Street, Cape May | (609) 884-5700

THE
EBBITT
ROOM

AT THE VIRGINIA