



Caper Tigers sweep Cape May Tech in doubleheader

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House of the week

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169th YEAR NO. 17 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 \$1.00

Flooding persists despite millions spent in Lower Public Works says trash, leaves building up in Roseann Avenue storm drains

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A heavy rain flooded Roseann Avenue during the first week of April, much to the consternation of residents who noted millions of dollars were spent to improve drainage in the area, including construction of a pump station.

During a Township Council meeting April 17, Roseann Av-

enue resident Dorothy Plenn said the township spent millions of dollars to correct flooding and drainage issues on the street but there recently was a "disastrous event" there.

Public Works Superintendent Gary Douglass said the project with a pump station was working properly. He said phase one of the project finished in early 2018 and phase two in late 2019.

He said two chambers were lo-

cated in the street that have trash racks to stop leaves, branches, and bottles that get into storm drains from reaching and ruining the pump station.

About a year ago, the trash rack filled near Plenn's house, sending water out of a manhole, Douglass said. When that happens, mud, compost, leaves, trash and water flood the street, he said. It appears to have happened again.

Douglass said he talked with

the engineer from Mott MacDonald, which designed the Roseann Avenue drainage project, to find a solution. The engineer has retired from the firm, Douglass said.

"There were a couple of discussions on cutting a couple of relief holes in these grates, but we cannot get the company of the pumps to sign off because it will probably void the warranty if trash gets down inside those pumps," he said. "We're still working on some

reliefs, it's happened twice."

Douglass said the flooding issue on Roseann Avenue is taking place in one area when the trash racks are full.

"We gave Mr. Laffey all the maintenance records; we clean them off before we know a big storm is coming, a heavy rain," he said. "What we can't prevent is between catch basins, what lays

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cherry blossom time

A stand of cherry trees was in peak bloom last week at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery off Seashore Road in Lower Township.

Boiler implosion rocks shore towns

Cleanup continues in Upper at site of former power plant

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

BEESELYS POINT — It was a boom felt 'round South Jersey and more powerfully in Upper Township, where the cleanup of the former coal-fired power plant continued Friday morning with implosion of the boilers units.

Beesley's Point Development Group, which bought the 350-acre site in November 2021, specializes in redeveloping at-risk sites and has plans for a hotel, marina, restaurants, retail shops and homes, as well as a strong environmental education aspect with public access and interpretive signage.

The BPDG hired Controlled Demolition Inc. to perform the implosion, saying all appropriate preparation and notification had been conducted leading to the event to assure local and state compliance as well as safety of the community.

Chad Parks, executive vice president of real estate and development for BPDF, said Controlled Demolition places 145 charges over six stories for a total of 1,000 pounds of explosives.



David Nahan/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The boiler units at the former B.L. England Generating Station was partially demolished during a scheduled implosion April 21 in Upper Township.

Parks said they almost were a few pounds short when two men from north of Philadelphia "decided they wanted to cut explosives out of the building."

He said security called the company at about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and a worker responded and apprehended

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Cape May OKs 4th budget with no tax increase

Critic contends slow, steady rise preferable to a big hit in future

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved its 2023 municipal budget, which features no increase in the local purpose tax rate, as well as an amendment to fund the salary of two new police officers.

But one critic said a small increase each year would help prevent a big hit when a major project must be undertaken.

The \$23.7 million spending plan includes revenue of \$10.7 million from the property tax levy and \$8.4 in other revenues.

On April 18, auditor Leon Costello, of Ford Scott and Associates, said many towns had increases in their local purpose tax this year. He said every municipality was seeing large increases in expenses.

"You happen to have a lot of local revenues, and the biggest one that you have, you had a big increase in the room tax,

so that is basically taking care of the increase in costs that you have," he said.

Costello said this is the worst year he has seen for municipal tax increases.

"Cape May is zero," he said.

The city anticipated collecting \$4.9 million but actually realized \$7.6 million from room tax, beach tag fees and parking meters last year, he said.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the city has not had a tax increase in four years.

Former councilman Chris Bezaire said he did not want his property taxes to increase but it was a mistake not to increase the tax rate year after year. He said a 1- or 2-cent property tax increase on an annual or semi-annual basis could cover some infrastructure costs.

The city has a \$24 million budget but does not have an information technology person on staff, which

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Cape Regional, Cooper sign merger agreement

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cooper University Health Care and Cape Regional Health System announced today that the two systems have signed a definitive agreement moving the merger announced in December one step closer to fruition.

When complete, this combination will bring together two respected health systems to expand access to specialty health services to residents and visitors of Cape May County.

"The signing of this definitive agreement to merge is an important milestone in bringing together two of the region's most trusted health systems. I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to bring

Cooper and Cape Regional to this point because I know that, together, we will do great things for the residents and visitors to Cape May County and patients across South Jersey," said George E. Norcross III, chairman of Cooper University Health Care's board of trustees.

"We are very excited to take our relationship with Cooper to the next level, as we share the same vision to provide the highest quality health care to our communities," stated Garry Gilbert, chairman, Cape Regional Health System board of trustees.

According to a news release, the execution of the definitive agreement came

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