



## Lower Cape May Regional sports roundup

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## House of the week

Real Estate Resource



168th YEAR NO. 16 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 \$1.00

# Public favors land swap for new police station

## Fashaw says current facility is insufficient in size, technology, parking

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Not a discouraging word was heard about building a police station on St. John Street during a state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) meeting April 18 to solicit comments on a land swap that would take a small portion of the proposed Lafayette Street Park and trade it for parkland at Sewell's Point.

The city has contacted the DEP

Green Acres Program proposing to dispose of 0.14 acres of future parkland along St. John Street near the intersection of Lafayette Street. As compensation, the city proposes to dedicate as parkland about 4.86 acres of city-owned land at the Sewell Tract.

The city's environmental counsel, Michael Floyd, led the 30-minute meeting.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said the police department has utilized the two buildings, one in Cape May and one in West Cape May,

during the past 20 years since Cape May took over policing the borough and Cape May Point.

"We have increased in size in both manpower and our calls for service," he said.

Fashaw noted in the summer, Cape May's population swells to 40,000 to 50,000 persons. He said a new police station is long-overdue.

The proposed location is not far from the current police station, Fashaw said, adding that the new location would provide increased visibility and foster a better re-

lationship with the community, be better equipped to handle arrestees, provide proper accommodations for domestic violence victims, serve walk-up complaints and provide sufficient parking.

He said integrating the police station with the proposed Lafayette Street Park would benefit schoolchildren and parents. Police officers would be close to the park and elementary school to teach their Drug Abuse Resistance Education and Law Enforcement Against Drugs classes,

Fashaw said.

The proposed location provides quick access to all three municipalities served by the police department, he said. Response times from the proposed location would be about the same as the department's current City Hall location, Fashaw said.

The change in technology required for police departments to operate efficiently requires more space for equipment, he said.

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# Coast Guard to expand its city facilities

## USCG plans \$55 million in construction projects

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A \$55 million expansion of facilities at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) has been approved, with plans for new construction to replace outdated barracks and training buildings.

Capt. Kathy Felger, commanding officer of TRACEN, said a 20- to 25-year capitalization plan is in place for the center.

"Some of it is new construction but a lot of it is replacing our barracks and facilities that we have that are 50 to 60 years old or more," she said.

The first phase, barracks replacement, has been funded for fiscal year 2022. Felger said the long-term recapitalization program is about bringing barracks, classrooms and fitness facilities up to modern standards.

"We currently have about a capacity of 4,200 recruits per year," she said. "Over the next five to 10 years, the Coast Guard is expected to grow and so our capacity needs to increase as well."

Felger said the capacity

would increase from 4,000 to 5,000 recruits per year. She said 400 recruits may be in training and at maximum capacity, the center can handle 800 recruits.

"It's that max that will probably get up to 900 to 1,000 at a time to get that 5,000 per year, Felger said.

She said still in question is how large a staff is needed with a planned increase in recruits. Overall, the Coast Guard has about 32,000 active-duty members.

Congress and President Joe Biden approved a total of \$55 million for 2022 to replace barracks and classroom buildings, Felger said. The \$55 million includes demolition of one of TRACEN's current barracks since new barracks will be built on the same site, she said.

In addition, \$10 million was funded from the federal infrastructure bill for an analysis of needed utilities and infrastructure to support the new construction, she said.

"These are 30- to 50-year investments, not just five- to 10-year investments," Felger

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# ELTC may find new home at city's Allen AME Church

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — East Lynne Theater Company is seeking a lease to make the city-owned Allen AME Church on Franklin Street its home.

At an April 19 City Council meeting, ELTC president Susan Tischler said the theater company is in its 42nd year as an Equity, nonprofit company. She said ELTC would share the space with the city when the

theater is dark.

Tischler said the theater company could curate shows and offer the space for lectures, meetings and gatherings, as well as serving as caretaker of the historic building.

ELTC board of directors member Keating Weinberger said the company wants to lease the building for 10 years at a total cost of \$120,000. Upon signing the lease, ELTC would pay the

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William C. King/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Schooner American back at berth

The schooner American returned April 22 to the Lobster House on Schellinger's Landing following a trip up Delaware Bay for cleaning and painting. The schooner is a steel replica of a wooden schooners but the houses on her deck and masts were salvaged from an original schooner.

# State OKs medical cannabis facilities to sell recreational

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) approved certification for expansion of seven medical cannabis dispensaries, know as Alternative Treatment Centers (ATC), to begin selling recreational marijuana. The expansion covers 13 locations in the state since some of the ATCs have more than one.

The nearest ATC to Cape May County is Acreage CCF New Jersey, with the business name of "The Botanist," with locations in Egg Harbor Township and Williamstown.

In southern New Jersey, the CRC also approved Curaleaf with locations in Bellmawr, Edgewater Park and Bordentown, and Columbia Care, located in Vineland and Deptford.

At an April 11 special meeting, CRC Executive Director Jeff Brown said ATCs were required to have received approval from the municipality where located, provide proof of sufficient supply to continue to meet medical patients' needs after expanding into recreational sales, present plans

to ensure patient access, have plans to address social equity and safety and have a "labor peace agreement" with a bonafide labor organization.

"As far as our consideration, particularly on the patient's side, it's focused on protecting their access, protecting their supply," he said.

Taken into consideration is the "canopy," the space ATCs have to grow cannabis, Brown said.

For medical cannabis patients, ATCs must provide 14 hours per week exclusively for patients, exclusive parking options and point of sale at all times, express checkout so they do not have to wait in long lines, method to order products in advance, a patient access hotline, a private counseling area and availability of virtual meetings or conference calls for a patient access plans.

The CRC requires every licensed cannabis business to make a good-faith effort to hire individuals who have either past cannabis convictions or who have lived in an economically disadvantaged

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# Cape May budget keeps property tax rate stable

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved its 2022 municipal budget with no tax increase to the municipal tax rate while considering extra personnel for code enforcement. "Not only is it a zero percent tax increase but it does a lot," Mayor Zack Mullock said.

The tax rate remains at 36.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The budget totals \$22 million with \$10.6 million to be raised by the local purpose tax.

The budget funds the hiring of two new police officers and the city is bonding \$5 million to construct a police station. He noted the budget adds a healthy amount to the city's surplus fund.

Dennis Crowley, a member of the board of directors of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May, said the association looked at the budget and found it "extremely effective, competent and carefully done."

"It shows careful fiscal

management and a very conservative approach to our resources and our fiduciary responsibility," he said.

Crowley said the revenue side of the budget is impressive with council working to enhance existing revenues and creating new streams.

"New things like the occupancy tax on hotels, motels, transient rentals, residential properties, have all created a very significant increase flow in the revenue stream," he said.

Crowley said the taxpayer's association has been concerned about the quality of life in Cape May, drawing a correlation from what it should be and the existence of ordinances and rules and regulations that govern the use of the town and the conduct of residents and visitors.

"Those ordinances, codes, regulations, if they're not enforced and they're ignored or ineffectively enforced, create the impression that we

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