



Caper Tiger golfers off to a 3-1 start to spring season

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House of the week

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John Schaeffer/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Blessing of the Waters

Cape May Star and Wave columnist Mark Allen led Cape May's Blessing of the Waters ceremony April 1 honoring and remembering all fishers lost at sea and offering prayers for a safe upcoming season. The ceremony took place under rainy skies at the Fisherman's Memorial on Baltimore Avenue.

City to protect records from public 'auditors'

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance to put into place regulations to deal with a new social media phenomenon known as First Amendment Audits, in which a member of the public enters a city hall or other public building unannounced and begins filming with a video camera.

The videos are often posted to YouTube, where they may attract a large audience and earn money for the video's creator. First Amendment Auditors, as they call themselves, defend their behavior by stating they are defending their First Amendment rights and providing a service to the community.

Police have been called in some towns when a First Amendment Audit

is taking place because the parties may disrupt normal business and confront employees with questions.

A YouTube account holder using the name "Long Island Audit" who identified himself as an independent journalist entered Lower Township Hall and walked the halls with a video camera. The video has received 347,000 views in three months.

In the video, Lower Township Manager Mike Laffey asks the person wielding the camera what they are seeking. Lower Township police are called to the scene. The video "auditor" said he had a right to walk around and film under freedom of the press in a building "that belonged to the people."

"Anybody can come in

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Farm act may clog up sewer extension plans

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Second Avenue residents are requesting municipal sewer service be extended to their street, but the process would require multiple state approvals since the pipe could cross wetlands and a property in the farmland preservation program.

Last month, Borough Commission approved a contract with Remington Vernick Engineering for a feasibility review regarding sanitary sewer expansion for Second Avenue, McCullough Alley, Goldbeaten Alley, Morrison Avenue and Third Avenue.

A proposed sewer line would cross preserved farmland owned by the Rea family.

At a March 22 meet-

ing, borough solicitor Frank Corrado said he received communication from the state Agricultural Development Committee indicating since the Rea farm is protected under the Right to Farm Act, a process must be undertaken for a sewer pipe to cross the Rea property.

"That would require the borough to file what is called a Notice of Intention and obtain the approval of the county Agricultural Development Board, the state Agricultural Board and the governor of the state of New Jersey," he said. "That would add a considerable amount of time to that process and there's no guarantee that we would get those approvals because we would have to show there is no feasible al-

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Cape May Point dunes, drainage ready for action

Watershed study: Borough can handle sea rise less than 5 feet

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — While the borough is surrounded by the ocean and bay, Cape May Point's dune system and drainage infrastructure will temper much of the impact of sea level rise if it remains under 5 feet, according to a Watershed Management Plan.

The borough, in conjunction with the Cape May and West Cape May, had a watershed management plan prepared by Stewart Farrell, Matthew Deibert and Mathew Suran of the Stockton University Coastal Research Center.

At a March 28 Borough Commission meeting, Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said collaborating with Cape May and West Cape May greatly reduced the cost of having the plan prepared. She said the Watershed Management Plan was considered out of the reach of the borough financially for a long time.

By having the report, the borough will earn a large number of points in the Community Ratings System toward reducing flood insurance premiums, van Heeswyk said.

She said the plan has much information that can be used by the borough's Environmental Commission and Planning Board. The plan determines quantity and frequency of runoff from precipitation events and effects from tidal influences.

The borough has escaped major storm damage since Dec. 7, 1992, when a northeast storm breached the state park and Nature Conservancy dunes, allowing storm surge to flood 70 percent of the borough's roadways. Lake Lily was inundated with salt water and drainage was impeded by tidal waters during the storm, according to the plan.

Major improvements were made to the dunes defending both the Nature Conservancy and state park lands, enhanced further by a federal beach restoration. In addition, the county dedicated an existing storm drain parallel to Sunset Boulevard from the county Municipal Utilities Authority property to Delaware Bay to greatly improve drainage from Lake Lily.

According to the water-

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John Schaeffer/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Sweeping views

The home adjacent to the Dry Dock restaurant on Pittsburgh Avenue was made from the wheelhouse of an Accentor Class Coastal Minesweeper. Find out more in The Other Side, A6.

Beach committee preparing safety brochure, videos for summer

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Beach Safety Advisory Committee will have a new brochure and videos available for the summer tourist season.

At a March 22 meeting, marketing consultant George Sawyer presented a draft version of a brochure to the committee. He said he also wanted the Cape May Beach Patrol to look at the brochure for any missing safety

information.

"I started out thinking I didn't want some kind of dry, government document. I wanted something that's kind of exciting and inviting to get people to read it," Sawyer said.

The brochure is colorful and includes the city's logo, the lighthouse and gulls in its artwork. It includes an overview of beach tags, lifeguard information and an explanation of beach warning flags.

"I start right off with the shore

break. Of course, that's kind of the biggest concern on the Cape May beaches, so I wanted to make sure we get a lot of information with that and we go into rip currents," Sawyer said.

The brochure includes a QR code linked to the Beach Patrol webpage, which lists which beaches have lifeguards on duty. Sawyer said information on surfing, kayaking and paddleboarding is included as well as a warning to stay off the jetties and not to dig a deep hole on the beach.

The back page of the brochure explains the city's policy on fishing, how to obtain a beach wheelchair and where to find amenities such as showers and restrooms.

Beach Safety Advisory Committee Chairman Steve Steger said the brochure was exactly what the committee had in mind. He suggested an additional QR code linked to beach safety information on the city's website.

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said the committee also

wanted to use social media and videos. Gina Bronson, a television-media and desktop publishing and design teacher at Lower Cape May Regional High School, attended the meeting with three students.

Steger tasked the students with creating new beach safety videos. Beach patrol and committee member Sara Werner provided the students with three scripts. Bronson said the school has

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