



Major decision: LCMRHS wrestler gets milestone win

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House of the week

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167th YEAR NO. 14 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 \$1.00

City continues COVID accommodations

Cape May extends outside dining, limits area where for open alcohol

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council extended temporary outdoor dining for restaurants matching largely what was permitted last year.

During a special council meeting March 30, Mayor Zack Mullock said outdoor seating was a success last year.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said indoor res-

taurant seating was prohibited at this time last year and now is at only 50 percent capacity.

Councilman Chris Bezaire said regardless of the percentage increase for allowable indoor dining, distancing guidelines would prohibit some establishments from reaching 50 percent.

“The feedback we’re getting is even if the indoor dining exists, they (customers) would rather

be outside, social distancing in the open-air space,” he said.

Bezaire said it was made clear in the enabling resolution the city was not giving any establishment additional seating above what is listed on their mercantile license. Establishments have the option of deciding whether they want the authorized number of seats inside or

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By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 4-1 vote, City Council approved a plan reducing the area where open public consumption of alcohol is permitted, establishing a 50-foot zone from establishments rather than allowing consumption in specific business zones.

During a special meeting March 30, council approved allowing alcohol consumption in public within 50 feet of a

licensed establishment. Alcohol consumption is prohibited on the city’s sidewalks, streets, beach, Rotary Park and in vehicles. In a compromise proposed by Councilman Chris Bezaire, the city will permit consumption of alcohol on the Promenade, if within 50 feet of a Beach Avenue licensed establishment.

For outdoor dining areas that offer a BYOB option, open public consumption will be permitted in the right of way subject to an approved

outdoor seating plan.

Open public consumption and sale of “to-go” beverages are permitted only from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and may served only in plastic cups.

Anyone purchasing “to-go” beverages may take sealed beverages away from a licensed premise and to their residence or their private property as long as the beverages remain sealed and are not consumed in a public

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Easter dinner with friends

Two resident horses at Sea Horse Farm on Taylor Lane in Lower Township have their holiday meal in the pasture.

AME Church restoration begins

City hires architect, historic planner/grants coordinator

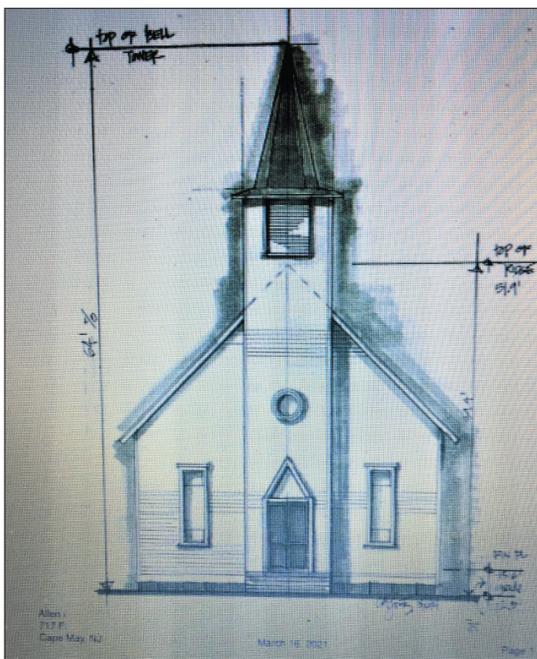
By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved hiring an architect and historic planner/grants consultant to begin work on the Allen AME Church that it recently purchased.

During a special meeting March 30, council awarded a professional services contract to architect Catherine Lorentz. According to the enabling resolution, she submitted a proposal to the city for architectural services with a plan to restore the church’s bell tower that was destroyed by fire in 2018.

At a cost of \$12,500, Lorentz will prepare architectural drawings of the existing building and conditions, recommendations for improvements to unsafe conditions to the exterior facade as required for temporary maintenance, prepare documents for remediation of the building including the removal of debris, collapsing partitions and other items deemed necessary.

In addition, she will research historic documents to identify the original bell tower, design a reproduction,



Catherine Lorentz/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Architect Catherine Lorentz sketched this preliminary rendering of the front facade of Allen AME Church, which the city purchased and will rehabilitate.

tion, door and windows and present design boards for review by the city’s Historic Preservation Commission.

Lorentz will also coordinate work with an engineer for all structural materials such as supporting members, hurricane ties and foundation requirements for the new front entry and bell tower and work with other organizations and the city to procure materials and finishes that are historically appropriate to the church.

Lorentz will survey the building with city staff to prepare an inspection report of heating and air conditioning systems as well as windows, doors, building envelope, roof and the structural suitability for the renovation.

The city intends to make application to the county Open Space Program for funds for the restoration of the building and has hired Nancy Zerbe, project manager for ARCH2 Inc., to develop a preservation plan, coordinate preparation of the grant application and advise the city on additional grant opportunities. The contract is not to exceed \$8,000 with payment of services contingent on the city receiving a county

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Girl, 3, drowns in sewage tank at campground

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland and Chief William Priole of the Lower Township Police Department announce the ongoing death investigation of a 3-year-old girl in the Erma section of Lower Township.

The Lower Township Police Department received a 911 call for medical assistance at 9:27 p.m. Saturday, April 3, and responded to Sun Outdoors Campground in the 600 block of Route 9 in Erma.

Upon arrival, officers found the unresponsive girl, who had been pulled out of a sewage septic tank after accidentally falling in. She was immediately transported to the Cape Regional Medical Center, where she was

pronounced dead later that evening.

Detectives from the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office and the Lower Township Police Department responded to the scene and immediately initiated an investigation.

On the morning of April 4, the Southern Regional Medical Examiner’s Office conducted an autopsy on reported the cause and manner of death are pending the final autopsy report.

The preliminary investigation had not revealed any signs of foul play at the time of this news release. Sutherland said the incident is still under investigation but appears to be an accident at this time.

Cape May appoints Voll as city manager

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved Michael Voll as city manager with a one-year, \$110,000 contract. He had been acting as interim city manager since January.

During a special meeting March 30, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said council should have gone through the process of advertising the position and conducting interviews for the most important job in the city.

“I’m just disappointed that they’re not going to do that, and it was nothing against Mr. Voll,” she said. “It’s not that I’m against him, I just think we have to go through the process to find the best person for the job. I’m not

saying I wouldn’t have voted for him if he was the best person for the job.”

Mayor Zack Mullock thanked Voll for tackling issues and “hitting the ground running right away.”

Voll said council had to make tough decisions to get ready for summer. Among his accomplishments so far, he said, are time clocks to be installed in seven locations and all city employees having to punch in and punch out.

The city is looking for a location for a new police station, Voll said. He said the Public Works Department is seeking seasonal employees.

Repointing of bricks on City Hall is set to begin this week to deal with longstanding leaks, Voll said.

INSIDE

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O’Connor a bright light on stage, in community: **Page A4**

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