

# Cape May Star and Wave



## House of the week

Page B1



## Cape May Stage opens season with 'Heisenberg'

Page A8



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165th YEAR NO. 20 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 \$1.00

# Jitney to cruise city offering free rides to all

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a contract with the Atlantic City Jitney Association for the summer to provide free transportation throughout the city. The service would replace the previous trolley service.

During a meeting May 7, Tony Morgano, of the ACJA, said the contract offers flexibility with routes and stops. He said there would be a learning curve as the

city implements the service.

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said she had concerns the service would not begin until 2 p.m., a time too late to be of use for beachgoers.

She said the proposed route would travel from the parking lot at Cape May City Elementary School to Madison Avenue to Michigan Avenue to Pittsburgh Avenue to Delaware Avenue to the Coast Guard base.

The route would continue to Pennsylvania Avenue to Pittsburgh Avenue to Beach Avenue to Stock-

ton Place to the Washington Street Mall and back Lafayette Street to the elementary school.

She questioned the route going to the Coast Guard base, which would make travel "excessively long," and suggested the route travel in the opposite direction so riders reached the mall and beach faster.

Sheehan also asked where jitney stops would be located. City solicitor Frank Corrado said the city has the flexibility to negotiate revisions to the route and hours.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks said the commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Karl Schultz, said during a visit to the Coast Guard Enlisted Memorial there that he was pleased that Cape May lives its role as a Coast Guard Community. He noted the city continually creates an outreach to the Coast Guard community and he was pleased the jitney would include the base, she said.

Linda Wolf, a board member of the Coast Guard Community Foundation, said a focus group

on the TRACEN campus stated they felt a sense of isolation and asked the foundation to help them integrate more effectively into the community.

She said Coast Guard families wish to volunteer and become more involved in the community. Wolf said as the city looks at proposals for the jitney route, it should not forget TRACEN. Sheehan said she did not wish to eliminate TRACEN but was suggesting the route

See Jitneys, Page A2

## Cape May appeals to head of DEP to save Sewell Tract

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a resolution appealing to state Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe to support use of the Sewell Tract only for preservation and conservation purposes.

The resolution states the Sewell Tract is the "last large undeveloped land parcel in Cape May and contains substantial wetlands and wildlife habitats whose preservation would benefit the city, its residents and visitors." If the Sewell Tract were developed, it would result in the city having to install infrastructure with costs and liabilities to the city and its taxpayers, the resolution states.

Thomas Brodesser and Philip Robinson purchased the Sewell Tract in 1951. The pair also developed Village Green in Cape May. In 1990, the land was conveyed to East Cape May Associates, also owned by Brodesser and Robinson. They sought to develop much of the 96-acre tract. As litigation has dragged on for decades, the DEP made an amelioration offer to allow East Cape May Associates to develop 20 to 25 acres of the area, much of which is believed to be wetlands.

In a 2018 resolution, the city expressed its opposition to the development of the Sewell Tract except for preservation and expressed its support for the position of Concerned Citizens for

Sewell Tract Preservation that the tract remain undeveloped.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared the area priority wetlands, the resolution states.

"The city of Cape May is perplexed by the position taken heretofore by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection that is contrary to principles of preservation and conservation," it states.

The resolution recognizes McCabe as an environmental scientist and steward. It asks McCabe to reverse the DEP's current position on the Sewell Tract and to encourage and support efforts to maintain the Sewell Tract for preservation and conservation purposes.

At a May 7 council meeting, Scott Maslow, chairman of the Seawall/Promenade Committee, said his group has spent a lot of time examining coastal flooding and tidal surges due to climate change and rising sea levels. He noted Cape May was rated for flood insurance.

"It's the responsibility of our city leaders to have responsible building and also to make sure that everything is done so our rating for flood insurance is as low as possible, so that our citizens spend the least amount for flood insurance," Maslow said.

He said if home construction takes place on the Sewell Tract, additional pumping stations would be needed as well as the possibility of additional seawalls

City appeals, Page A8



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Monster motorcyclist

Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Washington Street? The Cookie Monster was seen riding a Kawasaki on May 11 in Cape May.

## City students win plastic-collection challenge

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's elementary school won a competition of the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority that challenged local schools to collect plastic, including grocery and plastic bags, dry cleaning bags and plastic wrapping.

Students at Cape May City Elementary School collected almost 477 pounds

of plastic with student enrollment of 125 children, according to Mayor Chuck Lear. That translates to 314 bags per student, he said.

Lear said the closest competitor collected 124 bags per student. In total, all the plastic collected by county schools was 3,000 pounds. Four collection points were set up in Cape May: the school, City Hall, Public Works Department and Convention Hall.

He said Cape May City Elementary School will be awarded a bench constructed of Trex, a composite material made partially of plastic.

Cape May Public Works Recycling Coordinator Pat D'Arco said each student and teacher who participated in the plastic collection will receive a bracelet from the 4ocean organization.

"Each one of these bracelets represents one pound of

plastic that has been taken out of the ocean," she said.

D'Arco said a pizza party would also be held for the students.

School nurse Tiffany Bohn said the plastic challenge was done on behalf of the school's Green Team.

"I was looking for something that the students, staff and the parents would really get into and they more than surpassed our expectations," she said.

# Lower Twp. hires architect for Foster House evaluation

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved a \$51,800 professional services contract May 6 with architect Michael Calafati for an assessment of the historic Judge Nathaniel Foster House on Bayshore Road.

Services include professional design, an architectural conser-

vator's report, a construction cost estimate, an archaeological investigation survey, an interpretive and furnishings plan and a hazardous materials audit/entomologist infestation survey, according to a letter to Lower Township grants coordinator Colleen Crippen.

The home, built in 1727 and remodeled in 1826, is in the Federal style. According to Calafati's

proposal, work would delineate needed improvements for a preserved building. It would further recommendations contained in a conditions assessment report produced by Calafati in 2014.

The township is considering the home for use as a museum.

The proposal covers services up to the point of completed drawings and specification, also known as bid documents, but not

the services associated with the pre-qualification of prospective bidders. Those services would follow as a separate proposal once construction funds are in place, he stated.

The conditions assessment report would cover site work including landscaping and selective demolition of unnecessary items, removal of non-original asbestos siding and roof shin-

gles, raking and repointing all brick, rebuilding chimney stacks above the roofline and new brick piers at summer beam beneath main block of house, new shoring posts at mid-span in basement and conserving the fire back in the parlor.

In addition, the assessments report would include corner

See Lower, Page A4

Rusty Nail

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