



House of the week
Page B1



Escape the Cape Triathlon returns to Lower June 1-2
Page A2



165th YEAR NO. 22 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019 \$1.00

DeSatnick donates six beach wheelchairs

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD — The DeSatnick Foundation has donated six beach wheelchairs with large tires able to navigate soft sand to Cape May, the Wildwoods and Ship Bottom.

At a ceremony to “unlock the ocean” May 24 in Wildwood, the foundation donated two wheelchairs to Wildwood, one to North Wildwood, one to Wildwood

Crest, one to Ship Bottom and one to Cape May.

While surfing Poverty Beach during Hurricane Humberto in 2001, DeSatnick Foundation founder Chad DeSatnick suffered a spinal cord injury in which he shattered C6 and C7 vertebrae. Neurosurgeons performed an 11-hour surgery to repair the damaged vertebrae. DeSatnick was told he may never walk and certainly would never surf again. During an extensive rehab

program, which still continues today, he realized the number of spinal cord injuries in Cape May was increasing as a result of a 50-year beach replenishment project.

He began lobbying Cape May City Council to bring awareness to the public. A beach safety program was created to educate local students about the dangers and benefits of living in a coastal community, signs indicating the existence of dangerous shore

breaks were posted at every beach entrance and media across the tri-state area covered the safety campaign.

DeSatnick said providing the wheelchairs was the result of a public and private collaboration to assist those in need with access to the beach. The DeSatnick Foundation has helped numerous individuals build ramps for wheelchairs at their homes, lifts to get in and out of bed, adaptive vehicles and purchased power

wheelchairs for those in need.

“This is simply an awesome day,” DeSatnick said. “We will literally help hundreds of people season after season to access the beaches here in South Jersey.”

DeSatnick noted the Wildwoods have hosted “They Will Surf Again,” from Life Rolls On, for 12 years. The event is a day of assisted surfing for those living with paralysis.

See DeSatnick, Page A3



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Honoring those who served, sacrificed

Above, A U.S. Coast Guard color guard from Training Center Cape May on Gurney Street beach participating with Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 8-2 in presenting a rifle salute. Below, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 386 Commander Andy Barber and American Legion Post 193 Commander Ron Stenlake salute the flag during a wreath-laying ceremony at Cape May's All Wars Monument on Memorial Day.



HPC frustrated by cases of deviation from plans

Discusses ways to enforce compliance

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Should members of the city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) keep an eye on properties as work takes place for violations from plans submitted to the commission?

The HPC discussed the matter during a May 20 meeting, when Commissioner Tom Carroll said in some cases a house under restoration deviates from plans filed and “is almost done by the time it comes to our attention and we ask for a stop-work order.” Chairman Warren Coupland suggested a subcommittee be created for the matter. He noted

“They are not only raising it but changing the configuration, changing the sidings, and it's not just one. The concern is some of these houses are contributing (to the historic district designation) or key.”

—HPC Chairman Warren Coupland

some houses the HPC has approved to be raised to a higher flood height have been changed dramatically.

“They are not only raising it but changing the configuration, changing the sidings, and it's not just one,” Coupland said. “The concern is some of these houses are contributing (to the historic district designation) or key.”

He said he and Commissioner Dave Clemans drove

by several homes that no longer resembled the original structure in any way. Clemans said he questioned whether the HPC had approved some of the changes. He said the HPC may have been too lax resulting in some contributing houses in Cape May looking as if they had completely lost their identity.

See HPC, Page A2

Council argues about creation of new master plan committee

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 3-2 vote, City Council approved the creation of a Master Plan Implementation Committee so the recent master plan re-examination doesn't find its way to a drawer or gather dust on a shelf.

Council members Patricia Hendricks, Shaine Meier and Mayor Chuck Lear cast “yes” votes while council members Stacy Sheehan and Zack Mullock voted “no” for the creation of the committee.

Members of the new committee are Chairman Harry Bellangy, Charlotte Todd,

INSIDE
Our View: Too much bickering at Cape May City Council meetings.
Page A6

Elissa Campanella, John Van de Vaarst, William Seeger and Gus Mosso.

At a May 21 council meeting, Planning Board Chairman Bill Bezaire said that in the past, master plans have wound up on a shelf and nothing is implemented. He said the Planning Board

wanted to keep the ideas flowing and have discussion to see what ideas have merit.

The land use element of the plan has almost 50 recommendations, some that can be acted on in a short period of time and others that may take time to discuss the course of action, if any is taken, Bezaire said.

He said the purpose of a Master Plan Implementation Committee is to assist the Planning Board in moving forward with some of the ideas and helping the city's zoning officer to do his job.

See Council, Page A9

Lower honors CPR instructor, 98

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Helen Eppenhiemer, 98, has taught CPR to more than 4,000 persons, including Lower Township Rescue and Lower Township personnel, firefighters, coaches, physicians and other medical personnel.

Lower Township Council

honored Eppenhiemer on May 20. Councilman Tom Conrad said she has been working with the Lower Township Rescue Squad since 1978.

Mayor Erik Simonsen read a proclamation honoring her for more than 40 years of dedicated service to Lower Township.

“For the first 20 years, Helen taught with her late

husband, William, a World War II veteran, and past president of the Lower Township Rescue Squad,” he said. “On May 10 of this year, Helen celebrated her 98th birthday and continues to dedicate her time assisting her daughter teaching larger classes when the need arises.”

See CPR, Page A4

Rusty Nail

NAILED IT!
NOW OPEN DAILY

The Rusty Nail is in full gear and open daily for the season!

Kick back and relax indoor by the fireplace or outdoors around the fire pit with food & drink and live entertainment.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner | Cocktails | Live Music



205 BEACH AVENUE

609.884.0017

RUSTYNAILCAPEMAY.COM