



Caper Tiger golfers defeat Middle Twp. for Yerk Cup

Page A8



House of the week

Page B1



169th YEAR NO. 18 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 \$1.00

West Cape May sewer expansion questioned

Second Avenue residents: Septic is working just fine

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission listened to 90 minutes of public comment on a proposal to install sanitary sewer in an area referred to as Second Avenue, which includes homes on Sunset Boulevard and Third Avenue.

No decision was made whether to move forward with the project during a special meeting April 24, but multiple residents of the area spoke out in opposition to being forced to hook up and bear the cost.

Mayor Carol Sabo said the issue surfaced in March 2022 at the request of a property owner on Second Avenue. At that time, she said there were 19 property owners on Second Avenue that wanted the borough to consider installing sewer lines.

Additional property owners attended later meetings, Sabo said.

Borough engineer Tony Chadwell said sewer main would not be run along Second Avenue. Instead, most main pipes would run along Goldbeaten and McCollough alleys from Columbia Avenue, run down to Morrison Avenue and to a sewer main along Morrison Avenue north to the existing pump station on Fourth Avenue.

"The existing pump station on Fourth Avenue was constructed some decades ago with some extra capacity for a project such as this," he said.

Chadwell said the borough would not need a pump station since the expansion would rely on gravity. He said he looked at the surrounding properties connected to the pump station to determine the average daily flow of those properties and added 68 additional properties that would connect based on a maximum summer flow to determine the new connections are feasible.

The project would run along the borough right of way with the exception of the intersection of Third and Morrison avenues where an easement could be created. The project would use about 3,500 linear feet of sewer main, he said.

Sabo asked how the project increased from Second Avenue residents requesting sewer service to 68 properties. Water/Sewer Superintendent David Carrick said it made sense to do the whole area.

"The only place we don't have sewer is some parts of Stimpson Lane and this portion of Second Avenue, which I always knew was going to be difficult to sewer," he said.

Carrick said it did not make sense to install sewer on a piecemeal basis.

Sabo said borough officials met with

See Sewer, Page A2



Frank Scott/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Opening Day a hit in Lower Township

Patrick Beers gets a hit on his first at-bat April 29 on opening day of Lower Cape Little League at fields behind the Carl T. Mitnick School on Seashore Road.

Five charged with witness tampering

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office has charged five people with witness tampering in connection to an assault that took place last year in Cape May Point.

Arrested were John Linnington, 31, of North Cape May; James Linnington, 58, of Cape May; Christa Linnington, 29, of Wildwood; Marianne Linnington, 63, of Cape May; and Marie Britton, 83, of Rio Grande. They were charged with witness tampering and conspiracy to commit witness tampering.

On April 11, 2022, patrol units from Cape May Police Department responded to a 911 call. At the scene, they found Linnington was involved in a physical altercation with a

woman. Linnington was arrested and later indicted on charges of attempted murder, aggravated assault, criminal restraint, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose (one count), unlawful possession of a weapon (one count) and terroristic threats.

Authorities said that while the investigation was under way, the Prosecutor's Office learned of an allegation of witness tampering. As a result, an additional investigation was conducted and John and Christa Linnington were arrested and charged with witness tampering and conspiracy to commit witness tampering.

James J. Linnington and Christa Linnington were

processed and lodged at the Cape May County Jail.

Marianne N. Linnington and Marie J. Britton turned themselves into the county Prosecutor's Office and were released pending court proceedings.

On April 28, John P. Linnington was additionally charged with witness tampering and conspiracy to commit witness tampering, and contempt. He was being held at the jail pending court proceedings.

County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland advised this is an on-going investigation and urges anyone who may have additional information relating to this investigation to contact the county Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit at (609) 465-1135, or anonymously at cmcpo.tips.

Shore House set to be first county biz to sell cannabis

Owners hope to open West Cape joint July 4

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — If construction is complete and it passes its state inspections, Shore House Canna would open around July 4, becoming the borough's and Cape May County's first adult use cannabis dispensary.

Reconstruction of the former Ripple Root gift shop is under way at 124 Sunset Blvd., next door to the Exit Zero restaurant.

David Christian, an owner, said opening a cannabis dispensary is more complicated than opening a sandwich shop. The state requires the marijuana products to be kept in a steel-walled vault and opaque treatments be installed on the windows, he said.

No one under the age of 21 can enter the building. A security desk will be located at the entrance, Christian said. The first challenge was to find available real estate in a town that welcomes the business, he said.

Shore House Canna's building is owned by Paul and Nicole Melchiorre. The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission requires such buildings to be owned outright without a mortgage.

Christian said his introduction to the cannabis industry was growing industrial hemp on a farm in Vermont, cultivated for its CBD content, which does not produce a high, and later manufacturing CBD products.

Another owner of Shore House Canna, Tom Nuscis, a local restaurateur for over 32 years, began investigating owning a cannabis business 10 years ago. He said he pursued opening a dispensary when medical marijuana became available in New Jersey.

Nicole Melchiorre, an owner of Shore House Canna, said she has family members that have used cannabis in a responsible way to ease anxiety and during cancer treatment.

"We have seen the benefits of it from a medical perspective. I like the idea of being able to bring that to the community and help educate them to know that's it not just a drug, as people have notoriously thought of it, that people use to get high and walk around dazed and confused all day long," she said.

While some neighboring residents have expressed concerns of dispensary customers parking in front of their house, Christian noted the business has a parking lot with 12 spaces. Getting customers in and out of the dispensary in a timely manner will be aided by nine point-of-sale locations in the shop and four self-ordering kiosks, he said.

See Shore House, Page A3

Ørsted secures state permits, moves ahead on Ocean Wind 1

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Ørsted's Ocean Wind 1 offshore wind project earned a group of state permits late last week. If the process remains on track and other federal, state and local permits are approved, land-based construction could start this fall with power being generated by the wind farm before the end of 2024.

Ocean Wind 1 involves 98 massive wind turbines 15 miles off

the coast of Atlantic and Cape May counties meant to produce 1,100 megawatts of power for New Jersey homes and businesses. It would be the first of multiple offshore electricity-generating wind turbine projects not only off the coast of southern New Jersey, but all along the coast from the northern coastal tip of North Carolina to just south of Massachusetts.

On April 28, Ørsted announced what it called a "major state permitting milestone, marking a significant advancement for the de-

velopment of the Garden State's first offshore wind project."

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection said the Ocean Wind 1 plans are consistent with rules regarding the use, development and protection of the state's coastal resources, according to Ørsted, and issued the first permits for construction and operation.

"Today's actions by NJDEP represent significant milestones and critical steps that are needed to advance the state's first offshore

wind project and bring clean, reliable energy and the associated economic benefits to the region," said Maddy Urbish, Ørsted's head of Government Affairs and Market Strategy, New Jersey, in the release announcing the permits.

In an interview with the Ocean City Sentinel on Monday afternoon, Urbish put the permits in context with the plans and timelines for Ocean Wind 1.

The permits — the Waterfront Development Permit, Coastal Area Facilities Review Act Per-

mit, Coastal Wetlands Permit and Freshwater Wetlands Permit — involve work in tidal waters, coastal areas and wetlands and freshwater wetlands.

"The issuance of these permits affirms that the proposed plans for Ocean Wind 1 sufficiently avoid and minimize impacts to New Jersey's natural resources," Katharine Perry, permit manager for Ocean Wind 1, said in the release.

Urbish called the NJDEP per-

See Ocean Wind, Page A2

CLASSIC AMERICAN FARE

MADE USING FARM-FRESH INGREDIENTS

..... homespun breakfast, lunch & dinner favorites

THE BLUE PIG TAVERN

LOCATED AT CONGRESS HALL IN CAPE MAY

TheBluePigTavern.com (609) 884-6422

