

Boys lacrosse sweeps series over Middle

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House of the week

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168th YEAR NO. 17 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Beaches on the east end of Cape May suffered severe erosion from winter and spring storms, forming a three-level tiered beach with a crest that slopes down on each side, trapping water on the inland side. 'I haven't seen Poverty Beach that bad in all these years,' Cape May Beach Patrol Chief Harry Back said.

Storms take big bite of beach

CMBP: Sand 'just gone' from Baltimore to Poverty Beach

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The beaches from Baltimore Avenue through Poverty Beach suffered major sand loss from winter and early spring storms, resulting in a three-level, tiered beach. The center of the beach is a high spot with slopes on both sides and a washed-out area marked by flowing water closest to the dune.

During a Beach Safety Advisory Committee meeting April 25, Cape May Beach Patrol Chief Harry Back said the beach on the east end of the city and the Beach Club of Cape May "is gone."

"If you stand on the beach and look up, it's a 10-foot cliff to the top and that is almost at the rocks that line Beach Avenue," he said. "I haven't seen it that bad since beach replenishment."

Back said he drove City Manager Mike Voll down the beach almost to the border of the U.S. Coast Guard base and found the beach "non-existent."

"I haven't seen Poverty Beach that bad in all these years," Back said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Divots are left in the sand after pooling water drained at Baltimore Avenue beach in Cape May, which suffered severe erosion from winter and spring storms.

"I haven't seen this since the day that they first pumped in '91. I haven't seen the corner (Wilmington Avenue) or Brooklyn (Avenue) or Baltimore as bad as it is right now."

As the supervisor of beaches, he said he wanted the city administration to see the condition of the beaches so when he stated he cannot open a par-

ticular beach because it's unsafe, "that everybody knows why."

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said the city could move a small amount of sand. She asked about using the city's drone to take photos. Back said Rich Demers of the Beach Patrol was Federal Aviation Administration certified to fly a drone.

"It's really bad, I haven't seen it that destroyed in a really long time, but the positive side of it is from that Second Avenue/Broadway, that's still kind of bad because of where it sits, you get past there and the slope looks phenomenal," Back said. "I haven't seen the

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Regional school budget adopted; tax impact varies

Cape May to have slight drop; Lower, West Cape an increase

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education approved the school district's 2022-23 budget April 28, which will bring Cape May a decrease in its share of funding the regional schools while Lower Township and West Cape May will see a slight increase.

The local tax levy is rising 2 percent from \$22.6 million to 23.1 million. The total budget is decreasing from \$43.4 million this year to \$38.4 million for 2022-23.

Total revenue is \$5 million less than last year, which is mainly due to receiving \$2 million in stabilization aid last year, a \$1.5 million reduction in state aid and almost \$900,000 less in surplus/reserve, dropping from \$5.8 million to \$4.9 million.

State aid decreased from \$8.2 million to \$4.5 million due in part to S-2 legislation that is phasing out state adjustment aid to many schools in the county, creating large deficits in operating funds and sending more money to districts where state aid has not kept up with increasing enrollment.

The district is anticipating a slight increase in enroll-

ment projected from 1,228 to 1,264 students. Enrollment has been in decline. In 2013, the district had an enrollment of 1,463.

State adjustment aid is decreasing by \$1.4 million with Choice School Aid decreasing by \$105,000 to \$1.1 million.

In 2020-21, the school district used \$3.3 million in capital reserve to replace the high school auditorium stage lighting system, replace the track/improve drainage, replace the Richard M. Teitelman School auxiliary gym floor and bleachers in both gyms, modernize the Teitelman School elevator and upgrade the school's fire alarm system.

The 2022-23 budget uses \$2.9 million in capital reserve to connect the schools to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) water system, replace the auditorium sound system and renovate the high school locker rooms.

The connection to the Lower Township MUA was necessary due to the Teitelman School failing to meet the drinking water standard for total coliform bacteria

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Point resident charged with attempted murder

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Cape May police arrested Oak Avenue resident John Linnington on a charge of attempted murder after responding to a 911 call from a female victim who reported a physical altercation April 11.

According to police, Linnington, 30, has been charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, aggravated assault by strangulation, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated assault of a domestic violence vic-

tim, criminal restraint, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon and terroristic threats.

Linnington was transported to the Cape May County Jail, where he was being held pending court proceedings.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw urges anyone who has any information relating to the incident to call the Detective Bureau at (609) 884-9500, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office at (609) 465-1135, or report it anonymously at cmsheriff.net or through Cape May County Crime Stoppers, (609) 889-3597.

City Council OKs \$4.7 million bond for police station

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved \$5 million for the construction of a police station including an issuance of a \$4.7 million bond.

At an April 19 council meeting, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan, who cast the lone no vote, said there were many unanswered questions such as the location, who was designing the structure and how large a building would be built.

She said city auditor Leon Costello stated the city had only 18 months to use the bond funding or it would be penalized.

Costello said the ordinance authorized the borrowing of the money but the city did not need to immediately borrow the funds. "Until we pull the trigger and borrow the money, our 18-month clock does not start," he said.

The city could wait nine months before borrowing the money, Costello said.

The penalty would come from the Internal Revenue Service, he said, noting he would not let that happen.

Mayor Zack Mullock warned today's favorable interest rates may rise in the future. He said council needs money to fund the design of the police station.

"With the \$5 million, you're not sure if it's going to be enough because we have no idea the size of the building and without the location, we don't know what kind of structure it's

going to have to be built on," Sheehan said.

The city has proposed building a police station in a portion of Lafayette Street Park and contacted the DEP Green Acres Program proposing to dispose of 0.14 acres of future parkland along St. John Street near the intersection of Lafayette Street. As compensation, the city proposes to dedicate as parkland about 4.86 acres of city-owned land at the Sewell Tract.

Sheehan warned contrac-

tors bidding for the project would bid \$5 million regardless of the size of the building.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said research for a new police station was undertaken about five years ago. A needs assessment at that time predicted a cost of \$3.8 million, she said.

Costello said if the project cost came in lower than the \$5 million, the city would borrow only what it needs and "cancel the rest."

Council approved the for-

mation of police station advisory task force consisting of the mayor; Police Chief Dekon Fashaw; Joseph Stevenson, a retired North Wildwood chief of police; Dennis Crowley, chairman of Cape May's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee and a board member of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May; Cape May police Lt. Joseph M. Walker; Councilman Mike Yeager; City Manager Mike Voll and Deputy City Manager Lou Belasco.

NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

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