



House of the week

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City honors food bank founder

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165th YEAR NO. 19 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Coast Guard Community Festival

U.S. Coast Guard vessels were open for tours during the fifth annual Coast Guard Community Festival on May 4 at Training Center Cape May. Clockwise from bottom right, a recruit company marches at TRACEN; Petty Officer First Class Maleek Jackson, of Houston, at the helm of the cutter Rollin Fritch; cutters line the harbor; and the Silent Drill Team was a crowd-pleaser.



Franklin Street School suitable for new library, study concludes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A feasibility study indicates the Franklin Street School can be rehabilitated and repurposed as a new library for Cape May.

The study, prepared by architect Michael Calafati, was presented during a town hall meeting May 1. He said the cost to restore the building would be about \$6 million, or \$339 per square foot.

Funding for the project would come from the city, Center for Community Arts (CCA), the county and state, which has a pool of \$125 million for library projects.

"The cost for rehabilitation is not going to be any advantage over building a brand new building," he said. "The advantage comes in the fact that the building would be provided by the city."

County Board of Chosen Freeholders Director Gerald Thornton said a new library would also serve West Cape May and Cape

May Point.

"It's a joint effort between county government, the Library Commission and the city of Cape May," he said. "We've met on this issue and we've all made a commitment and the county of Cape May will keep its commitment."

Thornton noted residents are paying a county library tax and a county tax.

CCA Director David Mackenzie said the state recognized the Franklin Street School as an African American historic site.

"This designation has been critical to our ability to raise nearly \$1.2 million," he said.

MacKenzie said \$350,000 of that total was contributed by families, residents and businesses in Cape May.

"Use of the school as a library-based community center will provide broad educational, arts and culture resources and will support local groups at a level not otherwise possible," he said.

See Study, Page A10

LCMR students declare post-grad commitments

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — With the turn of the calendar to May, college-bound students must declare their intention to attend their school of choice in the fall.

Pep rallies are often held in schools before a big sporting event, but Lower Cape May Regional High School staged such an event for College Decision Day.

On May 1, an assembly was held in the school's

performing arts center acknowledging seniors headed for colleges for associate and bachelor degrees, the military and trade schools. As the names of the school or branch of the military students will be attending next year appeared on a giant screen, the students walked across the stage to the cheers and applause of fellow students to the strains of Kool and the Gang's "Celebration."

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Training wheels coming off Cape Island bike map

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee completed its goal of producing a bike path map by Memorial Day that would cover Cape May, West Cape May, Cape May Point and the Cape Island portion of Lower Township. A total of 20,000 maps will be distributed this summer.

At a May 1 meeting, the committee approved galley proofs of the maps. Bike-friendly streets are depicted in green, "not

bike friendly" streets in red and roads in which to use caution in yellow.

The map places Lafayette, Washington and West Perry streets in the category of roads for bicyclists to avoid. Sunset Boulevard is shown in yellow for bike riders to use with caution. Beach Avenue from Perry Street to Wilmington Avenue is depicted in yellow.

Broadway in West Cape May is a cautionary zone as well as Bayshore Road below the canal to Higbee Beach. Jackson, Decatur, Ocean and Gurney streets in the center of Cape May

are in the yellow zone. Cape May Point is largely depicted as bike friendly with the exception of Lighthouse Avenue heading toward the state park. In West Cape May, Second Avenue is recommended as an alternative for Broadway for bikers headed for Cape May Point.

Committee member Meryl Nelson said the map showed the preferred routes Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point wanted on the map.

Notable locations on the map include the police station, Acme, Convention

Hall and Urgent Care. Historic features, nature sites, parks, playgrounds, public restrooms and parking areas are listed on the map. Committee member Hilary Pritchard noted the map also lists gas stations with air pumps for tires, bike rental companies and bike safety rules.

Committee Chairman Bill Murray said the Cape May-Lewes Ferry would have the bike maps available at the terminal. Nelson said the Acme market and the service plaza at

See Bike map, Page A4

Ocean City group offers advice to make city more bike-friendly

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Ocean City businessmen Tom Heist and Drew Fasy, who were instrumental in making that town an award-winning, bicycle-friendly city, recently offered advice to Cape May's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

At a May 1 meeting, Cape May marketing di-

rector Laurie Taylor said it took Ocean City 20 years to reach its level of bicycle friendliness. Heist and Fasy are co-chairs of Bikeocnj.

Heist said having a city government-sponsored bike committee put Cape May ahead of where Ocean City was at the start of its initiative, which had only a group of citizens. He said

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