



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



Brothers serve dinner, dessert in Lower Twp.

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City tables bid to Livestream, record meetings

Resolution pertained only to Cape May's multiple advisory committees

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 3-2 vote, council voted to table a resolution calling for a Livestream or videotaping of the city's advisory committee meetings.

At a June 5 City Council meeting, Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and Council-

man Shaine Meier voted to table the resolution, while Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan and Councilman Zack Mullock voted "no."

Advisory committees are addressing a new public safety building; bicycle, pedestrian and beach safety; use of municipal buildings and property; the Promenade and seawall; Lafayette Street Park and implemen-

tation of the city's updated master plan.

Sheehan said she spoke with City Manager Neil Young and Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies, who confirmed Livestreaming or video recording of advisory committee meetings was possible.

"It's something I think creates transparency, so that people who aren't able

to attend these committee meetings during the day are able to watch them and ones that aren't able to attend meetings at night are also able to watch these meetings," she said.

Meier said the members of the advisory committees should be asked if they wished to be recorded.

"I want to protect the members from having every

thought a committee member says taken as a direction the committee is going," he said. "These committees often act as think tanks and I want these volunteers to feel that their comments and conversations can be done freely."

When the committees have decided on a goal or agenda, they take it to council and present it to the

public, he said.

Meier noted a meeting of committee chairs was scheduled for June 7 and the issue of recording the meetings should be raised for discussion. He said the recording or streaming of advisory committee meetings "may scare away our volunteers from participat-

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Police offer Crimewatch phone app

Cape May chief says it will help get timely information to users

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's police department is embracing phone and social media technology to get more information to the public and press.

Police Chief Tony Marino said he hoped the Crimewatch app and program would help police better communicate with the community by providing a timely information source.

"We've taken the online environment, where people exist today and spend so much time communicating, and organized it around a mission for public safety in partnership with law enforcement," said Matt Bloom, founder and CEO of Crimewatch.

He said Crimewatch uses big data and analytics to measure how a police department is doing with engaging with the public. The web, social media and mobile apps are used by Crimewatch to get information to the community, according to Bloom.

"When a police officer has an important incident they want to push out to the community, they enter it into the Crimewatch system and it will automatically distribute to the Crimewatch apps, to local media contacts, to the website, to the mobile app and any TVs that live in that network, out to any attached social media and also for notifications to residents, stakeholders and people in the community," he said.

Bloom said by sharing information on a continuing basis, Crimewatch can reach 40 percent of the local population at any given time. Cape May police will

have a news portal as its primary website that will integrate with social media including Facebook and Twitter, he said.

Cape May police will have the ability to edit social media and remove information even from posts that have been shared hundreds of times, Bloom said. In the case of a missing juvenile and a post asking for the public's assistance in finding the person, when the juvenile is recovered, Crimewatch can update the post indicating the youth was found, he said.

Bloom encouraged residents to download the Crimewatch mobile app to their phones and set Cape May Police Department as their choice.

"Moving forward, any time the police department puts out an alert or if there is an emergency broadcast, you can get a push notification on your phone," he said.

Included in Crimewatch are email notifications and daily and weekly digests of police activities in emails. Mapping will show where crimes are taking place. An anonymous tip submission platform will allow the public to share information with police, Bloom said.

A security camera registry system will allow local businesses and residents to share captured video to aid police. Bloom said the police department would not have unauthorized access to security cameras.

Residents will be able to register through Crimewatch for home checks by police when they are away on vacation. Also included are a traffic complaint system and an officer commendation system, accord-

Crimewatch, Page A3



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May Harbor finally free of a nuisance

The Nor'Easter II, a derelict charter boat, was removed from the bottom of Cape May Harbor on June 4 by NorthStar Marine and Sea Tow. The boat had long been a hazard to navigation. See the Other Side by Mark Allen on A6.



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A Jitney is transporting passengers around Cape May free of charge on weekends and will begin daily service June 24.

Jitney operating weekends; seven-day schedule June 24

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city had two successful weekends with free shuttle service through the Atlantic City Jitney Association.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks said the routes have been tested and finalized and daily service begins June 24.

The shuttle will operate from 2 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Beginning June 24, the shuttle service will operate from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m. June 21 at the city's Welcome Center.

Hendricks said about 30,000 schedules and folders for the shuttle would be distributed.

"You'll see this beach express going back and forth to the beach and

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Lower Twp. awards \$2.4M. contract for Roseann Ave. work

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — In a special meeting Monday, Lower Township Council approved a \$2.4 million contract with Mount Construction Co. for Phase III of the Roseann Avenue roadway and utility improvements project. The last phase will extend the project to Bayshore Road.

Four contractors submitted bids. Other bids were South State Inc. at \$2.6 million, Agate Construction at \$2.9 million and Mathis Construction at \$3.7 million.

According to a letter from the township's contracted engineer, Mark Sray of Mott MacDonald, the winning bid from Mount Construction was 13 percent below the engineer's estimate for the project.

Township Council

passed an ordinance in May amending and supplementing a bond ordinance from 2015 for drainage and storm water improvements to Roseann Avenue. The description was amended to increase the appropriation by \$4.1 million and to cancel bond ordinance 2018-18. The 2018 ordinance appropriated \$3.9 million for Phase 3 of the project.

Agate Construction was awarded a \$7.2 million contract for phases one and two of the project in 2018.

At a June 10 special council meeting, Councilman David Perry said Phase III was the last section of the project.

"I'm glad to see this getting under way," he said. "This was not included in the original plan and we realized we had more

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Time To Celebrate Dad

This Father's Day, Congress Hall is hosting a cookout full of favorite barbecue dishes for the whole family.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16th

1:30pm - 4:30pm

\$45 adults | \$20 children

Price includes a complimentary drink voucher for Dad.

Tickets can be purchased the day of the event – no reservation required.

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