



## Alumni hope to honor youth football coach Harry Gilbert

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

### Around the Cape Paddle

The DeSatnick Foundation hosted its annual fundraiser June 25, the Around the Cape Paddle, a 14.5-mile circumnavigation of Cape Island. The course started at the Fisherman's Memorial on Cape May Harbor. The foundation's mission is to assist those living with paralysis and spinal cord injury in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Ocean and Monmouth counties, emotionally and financially. The foundation has purchased beach wheelchairs and distributed them to Cape May, Cape May Point, Longport, Ship Bottom, Seaside Park, Lavalette and Ocean Grove.

### City boosts staff; firehouse to open in six weeks

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Manager Mike Voll updated City Council on many projects taking place in the city and staffing for the summer June 20.

He said the city is hiring lifeguards and has covered all of its beaches. Voll said 46 percent of the city's lifeguards are female, highlighting the need for expansion of lifeguard headquarters to accommodate facilities for the women.

Voll said the police department has hired six Class I officers and seven Class II officers for the summer. He said low-speed vehicle traffic regulations are being enforced.

The new fire station is expected to open in about six weeks and the new library in the Franklin Street School should be completed by Christmas, he said.

The city continues to wait for approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of a land swap at the pro-

posed site of Lafayette Street Park. The proposal is to use land at St. John and Lafayette streets that was originally intended to be a portion of the park as a location of a new police station. The city proposed a land swap with the DEP for use of the parcel, which was placed in the Green Acres program to be used as parkland.

Use of the lot for a police station would require the approval of the commissioner of the DEP and the

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### Lower renews liquor license amid DEP dispute

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council renewed the liquor license for the Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club despite an ongoing effort by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to evict the club from a small portion on the former magnesite factory property.

The state of New Jersey signed a charter for the Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club in 1949. The land on which its clubhouse is located

was given to the club by the owners of the former magnesite factory, Harbison-Walker Refractories, almost 50 years ago. The state purchased the magnesite factory site in 1999 to restore the environmentally damaged land.

The club contends a lease of the land for the clubhouse has been in effect since 1982.

During a meeting June 19, Mayor Frank Sippel said the township received a letter from the state DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife objecting to the renewal of the li-

cence. Sippel noted no one from the DEP was present at the meeting to object to the township issuing the license.

Attorney Chris Gillin-Schwartz, representing the Sportsmen's Club, said in his experience, objectors normally attended hearings for licenses. He said it was the third year the DEP had objected to the renewal.

Gillin-Schwartz said the club re-

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## MTRAC proposes annual penalty for parking deficiency

Cape May considering \$100 fee for each spot a business is short

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee wants businesses to pay up for their lack of parking spaces.

MTRAC is suggesting the city determine how many spaces each business is required to have on their property and assess an annual fee for the deficiency.

The assessment would be independent of any zoning variance received for parking.

Earlier this year, City Council charged the Parking Committee with creating a comprehensive plan and MTRAC with finding a way to fund such a plan. The Parking Committee made little progress in its work, MTRAC Chairman Dennis Crowley reported June 15.

"I think we as a committee need to press forward because I don't think we have the luxury of waiting much longer to at least front out a funding solution ... the problem obviously is not going away," he said.

In 1991, then city manager Fred Coldren told the Philadelphia Inquirer big solutions to Cape May's parking problem were elusive, Crowley recalled. As late as 2019, the city's master plan offered three statements in terms of a parking problem and that a solution should be of the highest priority.

"It's probably the only problem in Cape May that they haven't been able to solve," he said.

A lack of parking will extend beyond the summer season as the city transitions to a year-round destination, according to the master plan.

Crowley said during the last 30 years, the city has taken a piecemeal approach to solving the problem such as installing more meters and raising fees.

Crowley said that is not the correct way to solve a parking problem.

"That's a way to annoy the people who come to town to participate in our community," he said, noting installing more meters and raising fees does not provide more spaces.

He said meters do not generate enough money to make comprehensive changes to parking. In 2007, Cape May paid several hundred thousand dollars to Rhodeside Harwell planners to create a comprehensive vision plan for the city. He said one of the recommendations was to reduce street parking in the central district.

Councilwoman Maureen McDade said many modes of transportation are in conflict with each other.

"If the city could find a spot to park 1,000 cars next week, it would be filled up and there would be another 1,000 coming," MTRAC member Bob Elwell said. "At some point, I think we're saturated."

Crowley said he had to fault the city for the way it plans. He said the city did not get beyond identifying needs.

The city uses "Band-Aid," too narrowly focused proposals that delay the planning process, he said. Crowley said solutions become "savaged by the realities of small-town politics."

MTRAC's job is to find funding sources for solutions, he said.

In the past decade, the city has acquiesced to advisory committees for planning, he said. Crowley said the city needs to have staffers who can plan for the future.

Elwell said many projects receive a variance from the Planning Board for an insufficient number of parking spaces.

Crowley said the city See MTRAC, Page A5

## Flags of Liberty mass veteran flag-raising in North Wildwood



Provided

Deb Moore Ministries is hosting the Flags of Liberty veteran flag-raising ceremony at 6 a.m. July 2 on the seawall in North Wildwood. They are hoping for at least 100 participants.

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK  
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH WILDWOOD — The Flags of Liberty veterans flag-raising ceremony is scheduled for 6 a.m. July 2. Registration begins at about 5:30 a.m. on the seawall in North Wildwood.

"This event is truly an amazing patriotic tribute to our service men and women," organizer Lory Kondor said.

Since 2018, the Flags of Liberty event has been held on the Sunday of Independence Day weekend as part of the Sunrise on Sunday weekly veterans flag-raising ceremony hosted by

Deb Moore Ministries.

The event was created by the Rev. Moore, who is the North Wildwood Police Department chaplain as well as pastor at Living Waters Veterans Memorial Chapel on Pacific Avenue in Wildwood.

The event consists of families unfurling the casket flag of their fallen veteran on the seawall.

"It is a grand display of American pride and gratitude for our veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom," Moore said.

According to Kondor, it rained in 2022 and the ceremony had to be moved in-

doors.

"It wasn't quite as majestic but it was still exciting," Kondor said. "We still had 50-plus flags unfurled. This year we hope to have 100 flags unfurled at the same moment."

She said more than 60 people already have registered.

The group has grand plans of raising 250 flags for the event in 2026, marking the nation's 250th anniversary.

Many organizations are involved in the event, such as the Greater Wildwood Elks Lodge #1896, Exulted Ruler Deborah Sweeney, North Wildwood Mayor

Patrick Rosenello, The Emerald Society, VFW Post 5941 and past commander Joseph Orlando, the Sons of the American Legion Post 3311 of Stone Harbor and Avalon and many other veterans organizations.

Those wishing to participate will need two people to unfurl and hold the flag, which are available for those who do not have one.

Kondor said people can register the day of the event but encourages everyone to sign up in advance at sunriseonsunday.com.

Those who participate will receive a commemorative T-shirt and pin and a military Bible.

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