



Area beach patrols compete in Longport Women's Invitational

Page A8-9



House of the Week

B1



169th YEAR NO. 30 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 \$1.00

School board has questions about nature trail

Tables request for endorsement of project as part of Lafayette Street Park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education tabled a request from the city of Cape May to endorse the construction of a nature trail behind the school as part of the Lafayette Street Park project.

At a July 20 school board meeting, Vince Orlando, the city's contracted engineer, said the city is seeking two permits — one to build in a freshwater wetlands area and

the second to build a boardwalk within a coastal wetland — from Department of Environmental Protection. He said the school board must endorse the projects as part of the application to DEP.

The site backs up to Cape Island Creek. As Phase IV of the Lafayette Street Park project, it would consist of upland trails through a wooded area behind the school's athletic fields, as well as elevated boardwalks extending over a tidal marsh and a freshwater pond circling back to the north end toward

the school.

Orlando said the nature trail would have entrances from the street end and the elementary school with a locked gate.

A hard surface would be used at grade for part of the trail and boardwalks in the freshwater transition area and coastal wetlands with four viewing platforms equipped with viewfinders and benches. The path would measure 6 feet wide, he said.

Orlando said the city bonded the funds for the nature trail and

is ready to place the project out to bid once it receives DEP approvals, which is anticipated to take four to six months.

"The hope is to start this project in the spring of 2024," he said.

Amended plans move the nature trail farther into the coastal wetlands, Orlando said.

"We wanted to get past the pond so we could see some of the vistas," he said.

The boardwalk would be handicapped-accessible. Orlando said the trail would go beyond a berm

to an old trail on the site.

Orlando said the city has been working with the DEP on a land swap for another portion of the Lafayette Street Park property which has put that portion of the project on hold.

"The administration wanted to move ahead at least with a project that they know they have funding for and can get approved from the DEP," he said.

Following a closed session, the

See School board, Page A4

City may add 10 more arches on the Promenade

Some members of public say they don't want them

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The six arches that light the way on the Promenade may have some company in the form of 10 more.

Built as a demonstration project between Convention Hall and the arcade, the arches were dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 5. Harkening back to the look of the city's boardwalk 113 years ago, the arches are just less than 17 feet high and about 25 feet wide.

The proposal would add eight extending to Madison Avenue and two east of Convention Hall.

At a July 18 City Council meeting, architect John Boecker, who provided his services free of charge for the project, said arches on the original boardwalk dated back to 1910 and the sizes varied due to different widths of the boardwalk.

A nor'easter destroyed many of them in 1936 and the last arch was removed in 1944, he said. Boecker said the new arches have a steel frame and were designed to withstand hurricane-force winds.

The section of the Prom-

enade with the arches was previously filled with utility poles, streetlights and overhead wires.

"After the phase one construction was completed, it's just a completely different image," he said.

Electrical conduit for the arches was buried underground, allowing the removal of poles and streetlights, Boecker said.

He said spacing of the new arches would be 200 feet at the east end and 180 feet at the west end.

Boecker said a potential phase three of the project could add six arches to Madison Avenue where the Promenade ends.

Mayor Zack Mullock said council was not making a decision on additional arches at the time. He said 11 utility poles are located in the phase two area of the project with many wires crossing the street only to provide power to lights on the Promenade.

During public comment, Beach Avenue resident Edmond Shinn said there is a residential section in Cape May that is lost due to the rental industry. He suggest-

See Arches, Page A4



Craig Massey (file)/Special to the STAR AND WAVE
Six lighted arches have been installed on the Promenade in Cape May and the addition of 10 more is under consideration.



U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Gregory Schell

Staying afloat

Recruits from company Bravo-204 conduct survival float training July 13 in the pool at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May. Recruits are evaluated on how to properly don the suit and inspected to ensure adequate wear, then enter the water and assume survival positions.

Diamond Beach Park plan sent to Open Space Board; part of extensive upgrades

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A number of projects are on the table for infrastructure improvements in the township, including new amenities for Diamond Beach Park, restrooms at Lincoln Boulevard beach in North Cape May and renovations to Rotary Park.

At a July 17 Township Council meeting, Will Hanson, of DeBlasio Associates, the township's contracted engineering firm, reported on progress in the design of improvements to Diamond Beach Park.

Plans call for new playground equipment, pickleball courts, shade structures, a single use restroom and improved handicapped access.

He said the final design was presented to the county Open Space Board and received positive feedback. Hanson said the township is awaiting approval of

funding from the board.

"Once this is received, the project will be ready to go out to bid and we should be set for a fall construction start date," he said.

Renovations to the municipal swimming pool have been completed and it is open to the public.

Hanson said the reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridal Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way are well under way. Pipe installation and concrete work has been completed. Utility trenches are scheduled to be paved at the end of the month with final paving two weeks later.

He said the building envelope is in place and plumbing and electrical rough work completed at the Lincoln Boulevard restroom facility. The project should be completed by the end of August.

A project to survey and

See Park, Page A2

Heat raises fears for 2023 Atlantic hurricane season

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Colorado State University hurricane researchers have increased their forecast and are now predicting an above-average Atlantic hurricane season in 2023, due to record warm sea surface temperatures in most of the tropical and subtropical Atlantic.

Researchers caution that there is more uncertainty than normal with this outlook because of conflicting signals between much warmer than normal Atlantic waters and an expected robust El Niño for the peak of the hurricane season.

El Niño increases vertical wind shear in the Caribbean and tropical Atlantic, which can tear apart storms as they form, but the extreme anomalous warmth in the Atlantic may counteract some of the typical El Niño-driven wind shear.

The CSU team now predicts 18 named storms, nine hurricanes and four major hurricanes — those with a Saffir/Simpson category of 3 to 5 and sustained winds of 111 mph or greater. The updated forecast is an increase from the 15 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes they predicted June 1.

Long-term seasonal averages are 14 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes. The researchers estimate the probability of a major hurricane making landfall in the United States to be above the long-term average.

The team will issue a forecast update Aug. 3.

Forecast is based on statistical models that use 25 to 40 years of historical hurricane seasons

See Heat, Page A2

CLASSIC AMERICAN FARE

FARM-FRESH INGREDIENTS & A COZY TAVERN ATMOSPHERE

***** homespun breakfast, lunch & dinner favorites *****

THE BLUE PIG TAVERN

LOCATED AT CONGRESS HALL IN CAPE MAY

TheBluePigTavern.com
(609)884-8422