



House of the week
Real Estate Resource



Gene London brings costume collection to A.C.
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Study: N.J. has fastest-rising temps in U.S. Climate change leading to higher sea levels, more severe storms

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — New Jersey has much to lose from climate change, and rising temperatures here are already exceeding global averages.

NJTV hosted a panel discussion on the effects of climate change in New Jersey on July 24 in the auditorium of Lower Cape May Regional High School. Cape May officials, members of local environmental commissions and interested members of the public were in attendance.

from NJTV's website. Panel members were Dr. George DiFerdinando Jr., MD, a member of the steering committee of NJ Climate Change Alliance and chairman of the Princeton Board of Health; Daphne Munroe, associate professor of Shellfish Fisheries and Aquaculture at Rutgers University; Jenny Shinn, program coordinator of Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory at Rutgers University; and Lenore Tedesco, executive director of the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor.

The event included brief video clips from NJTV's documentary

'If we were to let our beaches and our marshes move, we would be OK. But instead we built infrastructure and roadways and houses and we said "This is where our beach is going to be." So our barrier islands can't move and when they try to move, they do so during storm events.'

—Lenore Tedesco, executive director
Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor

reports warned the world is failing to make sufficient progress to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

The fourth National Climate Assessment shows warmer air temperatures, shortened seasons and increased rainfall are already hurting forestry, fisheries and farming, threatening the food supply.

Tedesco said the average temperature in New Jersey is rising faster than global averages.

"We're kind of in a hot spot,"
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on climate change, "Facing the Future," a local companion to PBS's national "Sinking Cities" series, produced by WNET's "Peril and Promise" initiative. It noted three recent major scientific

Citizens group opposes public safety building

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — On the same day that the fire department was forced to abandon its sleeping quarters due to a mold problem, the Taxpayers Association of Cape May issued a statement against moving forward with designs for a new public safety building.

A condensation and mold problem in the fire department's sleeping quarters caused all bunks to be moved to the department's volunteer room on the first floor. ServiceMaster is remediating the mold problem in the bunkroom, according to Deputy Chief Richard Lundholm.

Jules Rauch, acting as a spokesman for the taxpayers association, read a statement during a City Council meeting July 23. He stated the association does not believe constructing a new public safety

building is in the best interests of the city's taxpayers and strongly recommended City Council "immediately suspend all architectural design activity."

Rauch said the city's master plans from 2003 and 2009 did not address or recommend any changes to the police and fire facilities.

"City Council did not adhere to a logical procedural process to verify the existing facilities were inadequate and the only solution is to build a new facility," he read from the association statement. "Creation of a Public Safety Building Committee to address this project was premature and is not consistent with the Faulkner Act."

Rauch said City Council had the legal duty to verify and prove the needs assessment and determine and approve the specific needs

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Some are concerned that the building under construction at 821 Washington St. in Cape May and others like it will change the character of the city or, even worse, lead to it losing its status as a National Historic Landmark City.

Some worried overdevelopment will destroy Cape Island character

Building at 821 Washington St. has residents concerned

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Will too much development destroy the charm and ambience of Cape May Point or threaten Cape May's status as a National Historic Landmark City? That was the question asked by members of the public last week in governing body meetings in both municipalities.

Cape May Point resident Ellen Pfender said she has noticed in the past decade a rapid increase in construction. She suggested the construction office, which is operated by the city of Cape May, be returned to the borough to provide more oversight and control over the way the community looks. Pfender also sug-

gested a list be compiled of homes built in the past two years as well as permits for rehabilitation.

"I don't think Cape May Point is the driving force in the number of homes being built, it's the economy. We have no control over that," Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said.

She said the borough's zoning regulations were exceptionally well crafted compared with some other towns, as far as distance between houses and green space are concerned.

The borough's zoning officer, who has been on the job for more than 25 years, makes sure projects comply with zoning regulations, she said. While the borough moved the construction office to Cape May, it did not

move zoning, van Heeswyk said.

"Zoning is unique to Cape May Point. Construction all over the state is the Uniform Construction Code, so it's implemented the same way in every town in the state," she said.

Pfender said the way the borough is building and the way it is looking is not consistent with the master plan and not consistent with the way residents want for the town. Van Heeswyk suggested Pfender approach the Planning Board with such issues.

Borough solicitor Brock Russell said two permits are issued for new construction, a zoning permit issued by Cape May Point and a building permit from Cape May.

A subcommittee of the borough's Planning Board identified what gives the borough its character, van Heeswyk said. Two architects served on the subcommittee, she said.

"Should we define something that we may call a Cape May Point vernacular, so we could set standards, and both architects immediately said being the same is not what gives Cape May Point its character," she said. "It's the diversity of architecture."

Van Heeswyk said the borough still has a number of old homes plus new unique houses. She said every few years, a builder appears and constructs the same style of house and

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Sheehan questions cop's overtime pay

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan questioned overtime pay being paid to a Cape May police lieutenant, stating the lieutenant's contract stipulated he was not to receive overtime pay unless he was on road duty.

During a City Council meeting July 23, City Manager Neil Young said the overtime was paid on an emergency basis to provide for the "health, safety and welfare of the community." He said 13 hours was on an overtime report with five hours from a contractor and eight hours due to

a shift issue.

"I'm not against public safety, I just don't think we should be paying somebody time and a half when it's in their contract that they are not to be paid overtime," Sheehan said.

Young said the lieutenant has accrued overtime twice. Sheehan asked if no one else was available to work and whether the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) was aware of the overtime.

The PBA did not have a reaction to the lieutenant receiving overtime pay, Young said. All officers declined working the extra

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