

Cape May Star and Wave



House of the week

Page B1



Fire damages Washington Street home

Page A3



6 06605 93062 5

165th YEAR NO. 33 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019 \$1.00

'Councilwoman Sheehan and I believe that it is outrageous to cancel a public meeting due to "numbers being higher than expected." The public has a right to know.'

—Councilman Zack Mullock

'The numbers received are ... a work in progress by the committee under the leadership and advice of the city manager, the architectural firm and their choice of professionals.'

—Councilman Shaine Meier

Safety building cost estimates too expensive

City Council postpones public meeting on plan

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council's meeting scheduled for Aug. 13 to present concept plans for a new public safety building was postponed after initial estimates for the building were too high.

According to Mayor Chuck Lear, initial estimates from USA Architects came in at \$18 million to \$22 million. He said the architects will re-work plans to bring down the costs and the meeting would be rescheduled.

According to Councilman Zack Mullock, he and Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan voted to hold the meeting despite the estimates of high construction costs.

He stated the meeting

was canceled by a 3-2 vote with Lear, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and Councilman Shaine Meier voting to cancel the meeting.

"Councilwoman Sheehan and I believe that it is outrageous to cancel a public meeting due to 'numbers being higher than expected,'" he said. "The public has a right to know and should expect their local government to be up front and honest. This needs to stop being discussed behind closed doors and be discussed in front of the public on City Council."

Meier issue a statement to the Star and Wave. "The numbers received are preliminary," he stated. "They are a work in progress by the committee under the leadership and advice of the city manager, the architectural firm and their choice of professionals."

See Safety, Page A2

Cape May eyeing ban on plastic bags, straws, Styrofoam containers

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Environmental Commission is suggesting a ban on plastic bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam food containers from restaurants and stores.

Commission Chairwoman Heather Bruno presented City Council on Aug. 6 with a sample ordinance banning plastic items from Stone Harbor, Avalon and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions.

"We thought it would be helpful for you to put together an ordinance for our town," she said.

Jonathan Hirsch, an owner of Harry's Restaurant, an ocean-friendly certified eatery, said he eliminated

plastic straws, bags and Styrofoam containers after talking with customers.

"As a business owner, there is definitely a cost factor to it," he said.

Hirsch said the beach is Cape May's most important asset, so protecting the ocean is a priority. He said a number of restaurants have stopped using Styrofoam containers. Straws are not provided with all drinks unless requested at Harry's Restaurant, Hirsch said.

Beth Kwart, chairwoman of the South Jersey Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, said there are about 20 ocean-friendly restaurants in southern New Jersey, placing this area in the nation's top 10 of such establishments. If

See Plastics, Page A5



Deborah McGuire/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Sailing off into the sunset

The A.J. Meerwald, a restored oyster dredging schooner and New Jersey's official Tall Ship, sails off North Cape May at sunset Aug. 10. The ship is offering public sails from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal through Sept. 22.

Chief: LTPD back at full staffing level

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — The Lower Township Police Department is now fully staffed with 59 officers and nine Class II officers, according to Chief William Mastriana.

He provided an update on a meeting of the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 8 at Harpoons on the Bay.

"When I came on board as the chief, we were down to 38 officers as a total in the police department," he said.

Lower Township police are participating in a countywide initiative called "Handle with Care" to raise awareness of the significant risk to children exposed to traumatic events. Mastriana said the idea was to establish protocol and communication with school districts through partnerships with the police to help reduce trauma children were experiencing.

He said many times when police officers come in contact with juveniles during traumatic events, there are very limited options for officers to assist. Mastriana said juveniles may be



MASTRIANA

affected by the event the following day in school.

Lower Township police notify the school resource officer about any youth involved in an event such

as witnessing a death or domestic violence. He said the school may not be aware of the situation and the student may be disciplined at school on top of their other problems.

"The whole idea is to reduce the impact for these children and try to do what we can do to make a better life for them," Mastriana said. "The focus is not specifically law enforcement in this day and age, it's more trying to help and get to the root causes of these problems in the community."

Mastriana said all Lower

See LTPD, Page A4

Training Center Cape May gets new cutter

CAPE MAY — Bollinger Shipyards delivered the USCGC Angela McShan, the 35th Fast Response Cutter (FRC), to the U.S. Coast Guard on Aug. 1 in Key West, Fla.

The Angela McShan will join the cutters Rollin Fritch and Lawrence Lawson to be homeported in Cape May.

"Previous cutters have been stationed around the nation, including Alaska and Hawaii," Bollinger President and CEO Ben Bordelon said. "We are extremely proud that the delivery of the FRC-35 marks the 175th patrol boat built by Bollinger Shipyards. This includes the USCG Island Class, USCG Marine Protector Class, USN Cyclone Class and USCG Sentinel Class Fast Response Cutters."

The 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter



Provided

USCG cutter Angela McShan in Key West, Fla.

has a flank speed of 28 knots, state-of-the-art command, control, communications and computer technology, and a stern launch system for the vessel's 26-foot cutter boat. The vessel's commissioning is set for October in Cape May.

Each FRC is named for an enlisted Coast Guard hero who distinguished

himself or herself in the line of duty. This vessel is named after Angela McShan. MCPO McShan was a pioneer for women and African Americans. She was the first African American woman to be promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer. She served over two decades with great devotion and is remembered as an exemplar

leader and professional. She inspired the many she trained, and has been described as a positive, kind and motivational person. MCPO McShan was a stellar performer, mentor teacher and inspirational leader. The Master Chief Angela M. McShan Inspirational Leadership Award was established in her memory.

Dinner & BINGO with BLUE

IN THE BALLROOM EVERY WEDNESDAY

\$29 ADULTS \$19 KIDS

CAPERESORTS.COM/SUMMER