



Number of COVID cases rising in region

Page A4



House of the week

B1



167th YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021 \$1.00

Cape May bonds for roads, sewer, police vehicles

Three ordinances total \$4.1M

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced three ordinances for the purchase of equipment and vehicles, repairs to roads and buildings and the water-sewer system totaling \$4.1 million.

On July 20, council introduced a \$410,000 bond ordinance for the beach utility consisting of \$310,000 for improvements to the city's beachfront Promenade buildings and facilities and \$110,000 for vehicles and equipment including an all-terrain vehicle, a currency counter, storage containers, a photo ID machine, storage sheds and beach walkways.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan asked if the city could rent all-terrain vehicles (ATV) for beach taggers since they are used only a few months of the year. Chief Financial Officer Neil Young said he would be shocked if a company would rent ATVs to the city "because they get beat up in our soft sand."

"Within a few years the drivetrains go, so for someone to rent it to us, I feel that it would probably not be cost-effective," he said.

Young said the city wanted to complete Promenade improvements between Mermaids restaurant and the arcade. He said the city wears out a coin counting

machine every year. As a group they have an overall life of about four years.

Two ATVs are covered by the bond, one for the Cape May Beach Patrol and the other for beach taggers, Young said. He said the ATV for the Beach Patrol would have tracks on it and would be used to tow a wave runner in and out of the water more efficiently than an ATV with tires.

Council introduced a \$1 million bond for the water/sewer utility that includes \$870,000 for improvements to existing water-sewer infrastructure. Young said the bond was mainly for the city's program that replaces water and sewer pipes under roadways.

He said it included \$130,000 for equipment including transmitters for water meters that are beginning to fail. Young said the meter transmitters cost \$300 to \$500 per unit.

The city is reading meters often to detect leaks, which is wearing out batteries in the transmitters sooner than expected, he said.

Council introduced a \$2.5 million bond ordinance for capital improvements that includes \$1 million for road reconstruction with \$50,000 for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The bond

See Bonds, Page A2

City takes steps to deal with abandoned boats

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance to require owners of abandoned boats to remove them within 30 days or face impoundment of the vessel with its registration seized. The boat's owner would be responsible for the costs of transportation, storage or disposal and a fine of as much as \$1,000.

During a meeting July 20, city solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the proposed ordinance copies a state statute on boat abandonment. It defines abandonment as a vessel that has remained moored, grounded, docked or otherwise attached or fastened to any public land or waterway or any private property without consent for a period of more than 30 days or a boat that is partially or completely submerged for any period of time.

He said council could adopt just article two of the proposed ordinance, which would provide a

"playbook for abandoned boats to the code enforcement officer."

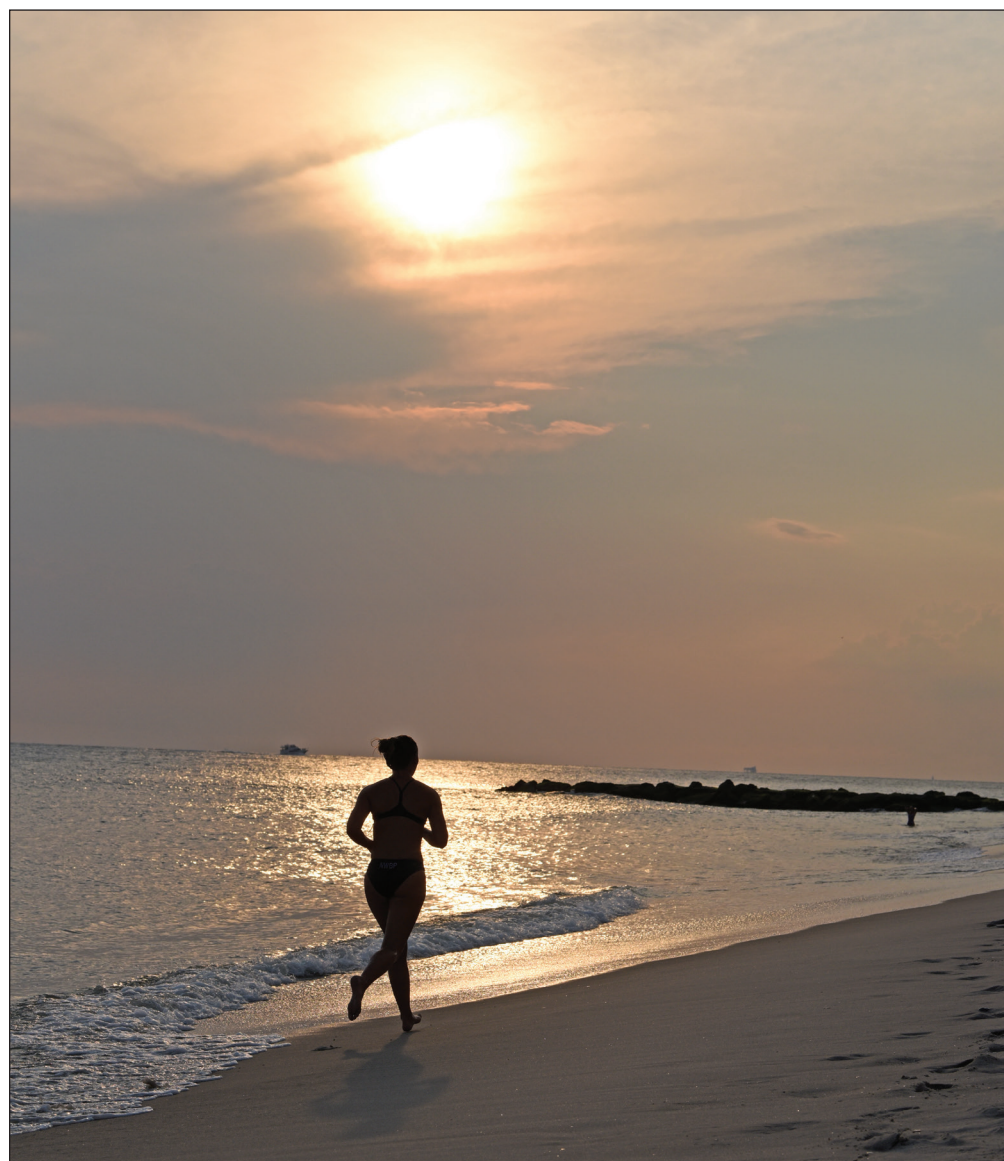
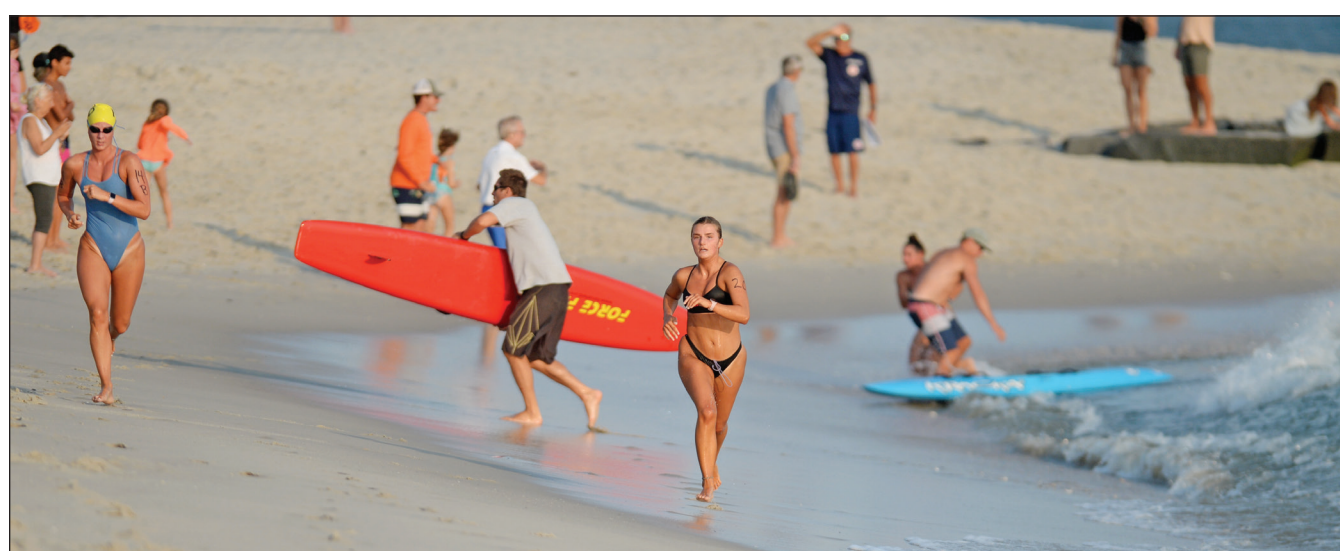
Article three of the ordinance outlines boat registration requirements. Those who wanted to dock or moor their boat in a municipal waterway would be required to register with the city, Gillin-Schwartz said, adding that boaters would have 24 hours to register their boats.

Article three could require dedicating time and city resources to enforcement of registration, Gillin-Schwartz said.

"I think we have to be careful that we're not going to put something on the books that we're not going to enforce," Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said, asking council to remove the boat registration requirement from the ordinance.

Mayor Zack Mullock asked if the city would have to wait 30 days to remove a sunken boat. Gillin-Schwartz said the city could immediately

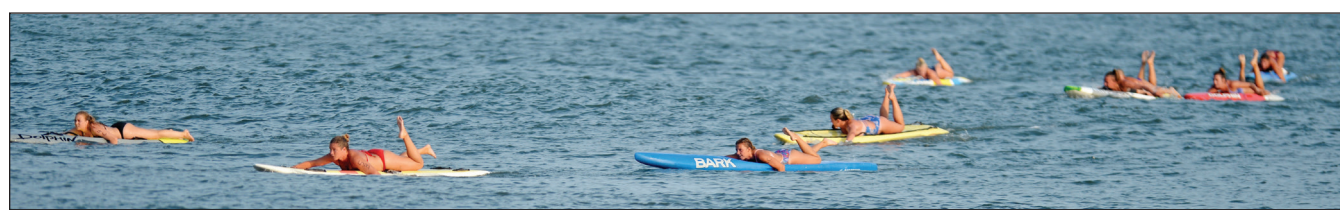
See Boats, Page A2



David Nahan
STAR AND WAVE

Iron Women

Jenna Parker, above, waves as she approaches the finish line July 28 to win the 2021 Cape May Point Beach Patrol Women's Challenge, a run-paddle-swim event that featured 50 lifeguards from southern New Jersey. Below, paddlers. At top, heading for the swim. At left, A competitor finishes in silhouette in the evening sun. See story, page A8.



Report: Point in 'great shape' for sea rise

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — According to a watershed management plan, the borough is in great shape as sea level rises.

The borough's watershed management plan was undertaken as a group with West Cape May and Cape May to make it affordable.

Stewart Farrell, of Stockton University's Coastal Research Center, produced the report, according to Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk.

The information will be used for the Community Ratings System (CRS), which reduces flood insurance premiums in the borough, and as part of an environmental resources inventory and the borough's sustainability plan,

'It's saying overall, Cape May Point's elevation is high enough to endure up to a 3-foot sea level rise.'

—Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk

van Heeswyk said.

She said the conclusion of the 58-page report is the borough is in "great shape."

"It's saying overall, Cape May Point's elevation is high enough to endure up to a 3-foot sea level rise," van Heeswyk said.

The county is sinking while the ocean level is rising, she said. The 3-foot sea level rise does not include storms, she said, instead indicating the water level before a storm.

The report mentions the positive impact of dunes added to the Lower Cape May Meadows. The plan also

examines direct infiltration into permeable soil such as allowing water from roads to percolate to the side of streets without curbing and hard surfaces.

It recommends porous drain fields below roadways. "The Planning Board recommended no sidewalks at least a decade ago, van Heeswyk said. "This was the idea, to have less hard surfaces."

Towns such as Sea Isle City and Ocean City seem to be completely paved over and suffer from frequent flooding since stormwater has no

place to go, she said. When other towns are experiencing flooding after heavy rains, Cape May Point's roads are graded to allow water to flow to the side and infiltrate soil in most places, van Heeswyk said.

In addition, the borough's annual update for the Coastal Coalition has been completed. The mission of the coalition is flood mitigation on the Jersey coast.

Van Heeswyk said the information is used to obtain a higher discount on flood insurance through the CRS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Other municipalities in the Coastal Coalition are Avalon, Cape May, Egg Harbor Township, Linwood, Longport,

See Report, Page A2

When You Need The Best Care For Your Emergency.



24/7 EMERGENCY CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY JUST MINUTES AWAY!

- Sensory-friendly pediatric program
- Fast track triage system for minor injuries and illnesses
- Less than 5 miles from Ocean City
- Caring, skilled and compassionate nurses
- Separate child-friendly emergency treatment & inpatient unit staffed 24/7 by pediatric specialists
- Staffed 24/7 by board certified Bayfront Emergency Physicians

SHORE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
ShoreMedicalCenter.org

100 Medical Center Way, Somers Point, NJ