



## House of the week

Real Estate Resource



## ELTC brings 'Arsenic' back this season

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## Less expensive safety building plan presented

### Options 4, 5 reduce size to two stories, drop cost

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — USA Architects presented two scaled-back designs for a Public Safety Building with a smaller square footage and less expensive construction costs.

During a meeting Sept. 10, Andrew Adornato, of USA Architects, presented different options for constructing a public safety building to house the city's fire and police departments to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

The firm had initially presented three concepts of a three-story building with slight differences in the layout of the interior. He said options two and three were "kind of a want list, options four and five became a needs list."

Rose Trafficante, vice chair of the committee, said a work that which functions as a steering committee had input into reducing the size

of the proposed building in the two new concepts.

Adornato said the new options, numbered four and five, were reduced from three stories to two stories. He said square footage was reduced from the low 30,000s to high 20,000s.

Loads the third floor was generating produced a need for piles and pile caps, Adornato said. A two-story building would have standard spread footings, he said.

"For those of you who know construction, that's a lot less expensive that driving 40-foot piles," Adornato said.

He said structural weight was reduced to about 20 kips. A kip is a unit of force. It equals 1,000 pounds force, used by architects and engineers to measure engineering loads.

Adornato said a cost estimate for Option One, a 33,324 square-foot build-

Less expensive, Page A8



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Lauren Suit/PROVIDED

## Communities mark 9/11

Clockwise from top left, the Cape Harmonaires open Cape May's 9/11 ceremony; Capt. Kathy Felger, commanding officer of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May; Boy Scouts from West Cape May Troop 73 fold the American flag following Cape May's ceremony; Boy Scouts from Erma take part in Lower Township's 9/11 ceremony.

## Security cameras help police nab shoplifters

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Some folks come to Cape May to shop and some come to this seaside town to shoplift.

For those who follow the Cape May Police Department on Facebook or receive alerts or listen to a police scanner, they may have noticed shoplifting activity this summer on the Washington Street Mall.

Detective Sgt. Joseph Walker said the city saw a fair amount of shoplifting this summer, but it may just seem more apparent because the department is making more use of social media and posting security camera photos of suspects.

"It was a little bit more than normal but I think we're advertising it more," he said. "We're having some success with our Crimewatch page and people being able to identify persons."

Walker said Cape May does not see organized groups of shoplifters. He said shoplifters may be young persons and or out-of-town visitors, some with mental health issues.

More and more stores are installing security cameras, which make the

cases prosecutable, Walker said. He said the photos can be shared with other law enforcement agencies to see if the suspect has shoplifted elsewhere.

"If you don't have cameras, get them," Walker said. "When you get them, learn how to use them."

He said it is not uncommon for police to find store employees who cannot operate the system or who must call someone else to extract photos. Walker encourages merchants to join Crimewatch at capemaypolice.org.

Four sets of photos of shoplifting suspects are currently posted on the site. A merchant may recognize a suspect as someone who also shopped in their store and made a purchase with a receipt on file, Walker said.

"They'll go to one store and shoplift and it's the weirdest thing, they'll go to the next store and buy something with a credit card," he said. "We've had that a couple of times this summer where we'll be able to make an arrest."

Walker said a group of persons may be shopping and one person in the group steals some-

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## Lower Twp. scales back aquatic center

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township presented conceptual plans Monday for a scaled-back aquatic center with two pools at the county airport with a price tag of \$10.5 million.

Monica Coskey, of Seven Mile Publishing and Creative, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed aquatic center including financial figures.

She said the Delaware River and Bay Authority has made 50 acres available for rent at the Cape May County Airport to build the center. The site is located to the west of the former Everlon

Building and future tech center, bounded by Breakwater Road, Kersage Road, Ranger Road and intersected by Intrepid Road.

General costs including site work and utilities were estimated at \$780,424 with a multipurpose lifestyle pool with river estimated at \$435,000, she said. Coskey said the cost of an eight-lane competition pool was estimated at \$1.1 million with the aquatic building including a support and filter building estimated at \$5.3 million.

She said the design, contractor costs, contractor markup and fees were estimated at \$2.7 million. Coskey said Lower Township anticipates receiving \$2.5 million

from the county Open Space program for the project.

"The remaining amount would be secured by the township through bonds and would not result in a tax increase to residents," she said.

Annual revenue for the aquatic center is projected at \$719,442 with expenses projected at \$890,840 for an annual loss of \$170,398. The center would be available for use by any county resident, Coskey said.

Annual charge to use the facility would be \$300 for an individual and \$400 for a family. Coskey said additional revenue could come from an annual donation from the Lower Township

Municipal Utilities Authority. Other operating costs could come from OceanFirst Bank, Cape Regional Rehabilitation Center, Lower Cape May Regional Swim Team, Lower Township Elementary Schools' Learn to Swim program, statewide swim meets and the opportunity for naming rights to the facility.

Grants consultant Jim Rutala said Cape Regional Medical Center is interested in providing outpatient health care services in a new facility adjacent to the proposed aquatic center. He said the aquatic center could provide facilities for hydrotherapy

Aquatic center, Page A2

## West Cape May considers plastic bag ban

By RACHEL SHUBIN  
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough is considering a ban on plastic bags and possibly plastic restaurant implements such as straws and Styrofoam containers.

Borough Commission heard a presentation from the Surfrider Foundation of South Jersey at the Sept. 11 meeting.

"Having seen a lot of news items about surrounding municipalities

and ones around the state having bans on single-use plastics, I've had conversations with stakeholders for a long time and I invited folks from the Surfrider Foundation to speak," Mayor Carol Sabo said. "The conversation has revolved around legislation versus conversation."

Commissioners heard from communications and social media coordinator Danielle Plá, chairwoman Beth Kwart and member Allison Morgan.

"I've seen proposed legislation for single-use plastics. What are the options available to a municipality?" Sabo asked.

Kwart explained how people are educated to recycle and learn why plastic bags are bad for the environment.

"We've lived in an education-based society, but education doesn't bring people to change their habits," Kwart said. "Legislation is how you get people to change their habits. They don't want

to pay 5 cents for a paper bag, they will bring their own bags. Even if it's a small fee, they don't want to pay it. It works to change behavior."

Sabo asked who is responsible for enforcement in other towns that have enacted a ban.

"Municipality code enforcement is responsible," Kwart said. "It's enforced just like any other ordinance. In most towns, it will be reported by resi-

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