

Caper Tigers football undefeated at 4-0 after latest win

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House of the week

B1



168th YEAR NO. 39 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Run for the Fallen

The 14th annual Run for the Fallen stopped at Cape May's Soldiers and Sailors Park on Sept. 22. The four-day run began at Sunset Beach in Lower Township and ended at the New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument in Holmdel. The event honors those who gave their lives in the military in service to America.

Lower beach paths 'dangerous,' group says

Homeowners assoc. wants the township to make the repairs

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Town Bank and Cape May Beach property owners are asking the township to repair and improve beach access paths owned by the Property Owners Association of Cape May Beach.

Dean Umscheid, president of the organization, addressed Township Council on Sept. 19, saying a severe safety issue exists due to the condition of the beach accessways.

"Most of these pathways are considered very dangerous and unpassable," Umscheid said.

He said beach accessways at only three of 13 blocks area safe enough to use, with the other 10 needing immediate attention. The north-south main sidewalk in many places is showing undermining, Umscheid said.

He said he receives constant phone calls and messages asking what action the property owners association will take to improve the conditions.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The beach path at Brookdale Avenue in the Cape May Beach section of Lower Township is just one of 10 the Property Owners Association of Cape May Beach is asking the township to fix before someone gets hurt.

Umscheid said the answers he has received from the township cited state Department of Environmental Protection guidelines and permits, COVID, nesting birds and manpower shortages. "It is now at the point where I receive

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Driver kills two at unsanctioned pop-up car rally

CMPD takes part in multi-agency response, investigation into crash

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD — Cape May police were part of a multi-agency response to and investigation of a pop-up car rally Saturday that left two bystanders dead.

Authorities said the unsanctioned event Sept. 24, identified by organizers as H2Oi, directed hundreds of people driving high-performance vehicles to an area without any planning, staging or permitting.

Charges have been filed against Gerald J. White, 37, of Pittsburgh, Pa., whom authorities say struck an occupied vehicle and two pedestrians before attempting to flee the scene.

According to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, at about 9:36 p.m., patrol officers from the Wildwood Police Department were called to the area of Burk and Atlantic avenues for a reported multiple-vehicle crash involving pedestrians.

Preliminary investigation determined White, who was driving a 2003 Infinity, struck a 2014 Honda Civic and then two pedestrians.

One of the pedestrians, Lindsay Weakland, 18, of Carlisle, Pa., was pronounced dead at the scene. Timothy Ogden, 34, of Clayton, who was a passenger in the Honda, was transported to the Regional Trauma Unit at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center but later died as a result of his injuries.

White was charged with two counts of death by auto, two counts of assault by auto, one count of eluding and leaving the scene of an accident.

In a statement, Cape May Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said the events evolved quickly and out of the control of the police departments.

He said the Middle Township Police Department and the WPD prepared incoming agencies, officers and staff for the upcoming events.

The command staff and members of each police department reacted as quickly as they could to the movements of the group, he stated.

"I have never seen such quick reaction to these type of movements in my entire 27-year career," Fashaw stated. "The men and women

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City may end year up \$1.4M in room taxes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city had a great summer for revenue, with room tax and beach tags sales up but a decrease in parking meter collections, according to Chief Financial Officer Neil Young.

"We couldn't have asked for a better season," he said. "There's only one or two items that have downticks; everything else has been fantastic."

Young provided City Council with a report of revenue and spending January through August during a meeting Sept. 20.

He said the interest rates were low on the city's bank accounts but were improved by Sturdy Savings Bank on Sept. 1. The city has opened an account with the New Jersey Cash Management Fund and will be sweeping some funds into that account for higher interest rates.

Occupancy tax was raised this year from 2 percent to 3 percent and through August, revenue from the tax was up more than \$500,000 from last year, Young said.

"We're projecting we'll be up about \$1.4 million to \$1.5 million by the end of the

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City may officially recognize its African-American history

Report: Cape May should extend period of significance as landmark to include contribution to abolitionism

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The state had recommended the city extend its period of historical significance from 1940 to 1948 to coincide with desegregation of its schools.

In February, City Council approved a professional services agreement not to exceed \$45,000 with Nancy Zerbe, of ARCH2, for the production of "technically and permissibly correct and sufficient additional documentation to supplement the city's National Historic Landmark status."

Zerbe produced a report on the African-American history of Cape May and made a presentation report to council Sept. 20.

She said the project was fully funded by the federal government because Cape May is a certified local government through the state and national preservation program. Zerbe said when a property is placed on the state and national register of historic places, it needs to have history and significance.

The city was placed on the state and national registers in 1970 and in 1976 became a National Historic Landmark City.

She said her mission was to look at a different area of significance. Only one area of significance is necessary to place a property on the register which in Cape May's case was for its architecture.

Cape May has had a vibrant African-American community, Zerbe said, noting the historical research undertaken by the Center for Community Arts (CCA).

One of her tasks was to identify properties that represent African-American history. Zerbe said she examined what happened in other African-American communities, how historians have evaluated those

communities and how Cape May compares with other cities.

"A lot of that was using the written documentation but also the wealth of oral histories," Zerbe said. "It was really interesting, when I started combining them or looking at them together, a lot of what historians were saying was important, trends in African-American communities, I found here."

She said she was also looking for what survived following Urban Renewal in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Zerbe said Cape May was fortunate to have three churches within

a one-block area of Franklin and Lafayette streets. Churches were central to life in the African-American community and a provided a foundation for civil rights efforts, she said.

Cape May's schools were segregated until the state ruled against it in 1948.

"Cape May at that point was one of 10 counties that was still segregated; only 25 percent of African-American students in state were in segregated schools," Zerbe said. Booker T. Washington spoke in

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NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

The Rusty Nail is back! Our famed surfer bar and restaurant is back open for the 2022 season. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner—as well as delicious cocktails and the coldest draft beer in Cape May (as verified by Exit Zero Magazine).

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