

City receives federal funds to make route to school safer

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Students who ride their bicycles from housing outside the U.S. Coast Guard base to Cape May City Elementary School must cross three busy roads — Pittsburg

Avenue, Washington Street and Lafayette Street.

The city received a \$348,000 grant from Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program administered by the state Department of Transportation to make improvements.

The route uses Pennsyl-

vania Avenue, crosses Pittsburg Avenue, continues on Pennsylvania Avenue to Michigan Avenue to Madison Avenue to Lafayette Street.

In 2019, engineer Tom Pagani, of WSP USA, said three intersections would get upgraded sidewalk curb

ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and pedestrian signals would be installed at the intersection of Madison and Washington streets.

"We are providing striping for bike lanes from the Coast Guard station to Lafayette," Pagani said.

There are existing bike lanes going up to Pittsburg Avenue, he said. Along Pennsylvania Avenue, where it's wide enough, 5-foot-wide bike lanes will be provided.

"When we get to Michigan Avenue, the road is not wide enough, so from there

we'll switch over to a bike sharrow, which is basically a share-the-road symbol, and the same with Madison. It's just not wide enough," Pagani said.

Safe Routes to School is intended to make routes friendlier for students walking or riding bicycles.

Lower officers honored for saving toddler

VILLAS — On Oct. 18, Lower Township Council and Police Chief William Priole honored Patrolman Robert Fessler and Patrolman Jordan Saini with a commendation for their actions that saved the life

of a toddler.

Fessler and Saini were the first to respond to the scene of a near-drowning of a 2-year-old Sept. 6 at a home in the Cold Spring section of the township. They were able to admin-

ister CPR to the toddler and keep the family calm until emergency medical personnel arrived. The child was resuscitated and was transferred to Cooper University Hospital, where he made a full recovery.

ACE facilitating access to energy assistance

MAYS LANDING — Atlantic City Electric is encouraging residential customers to apply for energy assistance and take advantage of millions of dollars now available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

With the temporarily expanded eligibility guidelines, customers can receive more than \$1,000 in grant support based on income through LIHEAP toward their energy bill by applying for assistance. But customers must act now, as LIHEAP is available only until money runs out.

Southern New Jersey residents can apply for assistance by downloading an application through the Department of Community Affairs, by contacting their local LIHEAP agency or by calling (800) 510-3102.

Last program year alone, Atlantic City Electric helped customers secure more than \$6 million in support that was applied directly to customer energy bills.

LIHEAP provides grants in varying amounts based on a household's income, type of fuel and type of dwelling, with no pay back required. Eligibility is based on a customer's annual household income and size. Homeowners, renters and subsidized housing tenants may be eligible. Customers do not have to be behind on their bills to receive a grant.

New Jersey's monthly eligibility requirements are as follows:

- \$3,348: One-person household
- \$4,379: Two-person household
- \$5,409: Three-person household
- \$6,439: Four-person household

While applying for LIHEAP, qualified residents can also apply for the Universal Service Fund (USF) and may qualify for the Fresh Start energy debt forgiveness program that allows eligible New Jersey households participating in USF to earn forgiveness for pre-existing arrearages by making full, on-time payments on their current monthly charges.

Additional state and federal energy assistance programs are also available.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program provides temporary rental and utility assistance to low and moderate-income households that have had a substantial reduction in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program offers rental and utility assistance to help New Jersey residents avoid eviction or loss of service. Call 211 for more information.

The Universal Service Fund (USF) helps ensure energy bills are more affordable for eligible customers. Call (800) 510-3102 or visit energyassistance.nj.gov for details.

New Jersey SHARES

is a nonprofit corporation that provides assistance to income eligible New Jersey households with energy, telephone and water bills. Visit

njshares.org or call (866) 657-4273 for details.

The Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE) program provides relief on natural gas and electric bills for low- to moderate-income New Jersey households that are experiencing a temporary financial crisis. For more information, call (732) 982-8710 or visit njpoweron.org.

Lifeline is a utility assistance program that offers \$225 to persons who meet certain income guidelines. This benefit includes utility customers as well as tenants whose utility bills are included in their rent. Call (800) 792-9745 or visit aging.nj.gov for details.

For more information about energy assistance programs, visit atlanticcityelectric.com/help.

Atlantic City Electric is urging customers that need assistance to contact the company now to establish payment arrangements. Atlantic City Electric recognizes the financial challenges some customers are facing as a result of the ongoing pandemic and will continue to work with each customer individually regarding the status of their account. The company's Customer Care representatives will work with customers who may have difficulty paying their energy bill to set up flexible payment arrangements that offer individually tailored payment installment plans. Contact Atlantic City Electric at (800) 642-3780 to review payment options.

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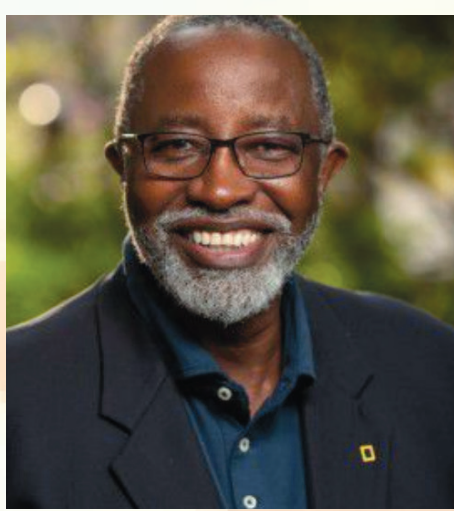
Proceeds of the sale of The Beer That Built The House will be donated to this cause.

RE-ELECT JOHN FRANCIS Ph.D. for West Cape May Commissioner

After walking across America listening and studying, I learned that people are part of the environment, and how we treat each other is what manifests in the physical environment around us. I have the privilege of living with my wife and two young sons in West Cape May in a home that has been in our family for generations.

As a West Cape May Commissioner, I have listened to residents express their concerns about the flooding on their streets and properties. "South Jersey has fastest sea level rise on the East Coast" according to a 2020-2021 Rutgers University study.

Climate change, rising sea-levels threaten not only our infrastructure and homes but also our health and well-being. This will have the deepest impact on our most vulnerable residents. We must be proactive and collaborative in our approach to this immediate threat. A patchwork approach doesn't work. I will work with state and local agencies on a long-term strategic plan for flood mitigation and sustainable development. We need people in our borough government with the expertise to take on new challenges. I have a doctorate in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin and over 20 years of experience working in federal and local governments, including with the US Coast Guard, developing regulations to protect our environment and support sustainable development.



- LEADERSHIP
- SUSTAINABILITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- TRANSPARENCY

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