

Pandemic affects American Red Cross blood drives

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE —When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the

American Red Cross had a serious blood shortage. More than 300 blood drives were cancelled in New Jersey. But the donors came back.

The key now is to ensure the blood supply remains uninterrupted to local hospitals including Shore Medical Center in Somers Point and Cape Regional Medical Center in Cape May Court House.

Alana Mauger, communications manager for the Red Cross Blood Services who promotes drives here and in Pennsylvania, said when the pandemic hit, things didn't look rosy.

"We need to go back to about March 10," she said. "We started to see a lot of blood drives starting to be cancelled, to the tune of more than 300 in New Jersey, resulting in 10,000 donations that did not happen."

"We had a blood shortage — and I say had, instead of have — because what we saw was an amazing outpouring of support from the public to really make an effort to come out and donate blood even after the stay-at-home order was in place in New Jersey," Mauger said.

Because blood drives are considered essential to public health, the American Red Cross was able to continue to operate them, "partnering with organizations and hospitals that were allowed to open their doors to us for those blood drives."

And now, she said, the "good news is at this time, we are able to meet our

patients' needs."

Because donations can ebb and flow, Mauger said it is important to remember the American Red Cross needs to collect 600 pints of blood every day in this region. One fortunate aspect is that demand has been down because hospitals are postponing anything that would require blood except for essential treatment.

"So the demand is a little lower right now and we are able to meet patient needs, but every day we need to collect more blood because it can't be stockpiled and the patient need is going to be ongoing," she said. "We don't know when this is all going to end."

The Red Cross is encouraging people to come out in April and May and into June they "need to continue to collect every single day to meet patient need."

Making it safe

With the social distancing protocols and fears about the spread of COVID-19, Mauger explained, "the blood drives look completely different than they ever did before. That's for sure."

The Red Cross is screening donors for temperature when they arrive, before they can enter the donation site. "We're making sure everyone in that room is

fever-free and symptom free. We're starting there. We're also observing the social distancing guidance by keeping donors six feet apart at all times," Mauger said. No more than 10 people can be in the donation room, including staff.

The result is that the Red Cross can't accept as many people at the blood drives and appointments need to be scheduled, so it is difficult to take walk-ins.

With fewer slots, appointments fill up quickly, she said. "They can't just walk in because chances are they'll be turned away if the blood drive is full from a scheduled perspective. In a normal blood drive we could have squeezed them in. That's not happening now."

In addition, although CDC guidance says the Red Cross staff does not have to wear masks, the staff is wearing them anyway to "be as mindful as possible and trying to put people at ease." The Red Cross has always sanitized the equipment involved in donating the blood, but is now going well beyond that.

"We're very thorough in our infection control," she said, but are now they are making sure to sanitize and wipe down the canteen area, any kind of table or anything the donor touches, such as the health his-

tory booth, everything gets wiped down between every donor and hand sanitizer is available at all stations.

Mauger stressed that if there isn't an appointment available in the next week or two, don't be deterred.

"That blood is going to continue to be needed throughout the spring so if you give three weeks, or four weeks from now, it is just as important as giving right now," she said.

Find a local blood drive

To find a time and location to donate blood and to make a reservation, go online to redcrossblood.org and click "Donate Blood." To find drives, which are being updated regularly, type in a Zip Code and it will list the necessary information.

Here are some of the upcoming drives listed on the redcrossblood.org site:

— Tuesday, April 28: 2 to 7 p.m., Green Creek Fire Company, 14 Bayshore Road, Green Creek.

— Thursday, April 30: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cape Island Masonic Lodge, 1105 Seashore Road, Cape May.

— Wednesday, May 13: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Crest Haven Nursing Home, 12 Moore Road, Cape May Court House.

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appointment. Test results are received in three to four days.

CompleteCare accepts Medicaid, Medicare, as well as private insurance plans and those without insurance. The test will be free of charge and no co-pay will be required for the screening. Translation services are available for those in need.

CompleteCare is not testing patients for COVID-19 at its health centers. Do not go to any CompleteCare location or Cape May County Department of Health for testing.

Physicians are not sending patients to private labs for COVID-19 testing, according to the health department.

Appreciates support

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According to a release, the staff at Cape Regional Health System would like to express their sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the Cape May County community for their tremendous support during this COVID19 crisis. Each day they have received donations of all kinds at the Medical Center and our three Urgent Care Centers.

"We are beyond grateful for the outpouring of support from Cape May County residents. On behalf of the entire Cape Regional team, we thank our community for their monetary gifts and donations of iPads, masks, meals and non-perishable items for our food pantry," Joanne Carrocino, FACHE, President and CEO, Cape Regional Health System stated. "Your support during this health crisis is so encouraging to our entire

team of caregivers on the front lines,"

"There are literally dozens and dozens of individuals, businesses, schools, charitable foundations, and our local and county Chambers of Commerce who have rolled up their sleeves in support of our life saving efforts — so to single out one or two or 10 is just not possible, Staeger stated.

"We have a very long road ahead of us, so we encourage our community to continue to support us through our newly formed COVID19 Relief Fund. This fund provides a simply way to provide a monetary gift that will purchase needed equipment and supplies for our caregivers," stated Tom Piratzky, CFRE, Executive Director, Cape Regional Foundation.

Cape Regional Health System has opened a com-

munity hotline to help provide guidance and to address questions the community may have about COVID19. The number is 1.609.463.CAPE (1-609-463-2273) and is staffed 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Cape Regional has also implemented a telemedicine service that is available to the public to access non-emergent medical care in the safety and convenience of their home. To learn more please visit, www.caperregional.com/cape-regional-ondemand.

The hospital continues to have a need for donations of cloth facemasks from the public. Cape Regional has established a relief fund to purchase priority items for the COVID-19 emergency. Details are available at caperregional.com

Barbara I. Cabott, 83

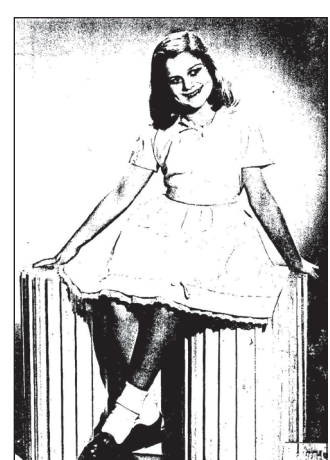
Cabott, Barbara "Bibsy" I., age 83 of Chester, PA, passed away on April 18, 2020.

Born and raised in Chester, PA, Barbara has been an area resident for 5-6 years, although she summered here all her life. She graduated from University of Pennsylvania, earned her BA at University of Vermont, and her Master's Degree in Psychology at Lewis

& Clark College in Portland, OR. Barbara also taught ballet in Wilmington, DE, and was writing a book on movement and meditation, which she never completed. She helped many people in her life, and was very dedicated to her work which was very important to her.

She is predeceased by her daughter, Liza and sister, Joyce Newbegin. Barbara is survived by her daughter Jenny Cabott (husband John Cocci), grandchildren

Joe Streckert, Brigitte Robinson and David Streckert, and great-grandchild Lulu Robinson, Maddie Robinson, and Jamie Streckert. Condolence can be shared at www.EvoFuneralHome.com. My memory of my mother will always be from one of the Beatles songs — "And in the end, the love you take, is equal to the love you make!" Shine on, Bibsy! You are loved.



Barbara 'Bibsy' I. Cabott

TIDES : April 22-29, 2020				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
22	8:32	8:48	2:16	2:20
23	9:07	9:21	2:54	2:51
24	9:43	9:54	3:30	3:22
25	10:18	10:27	4:07	3:55
26	10:53	11:02	4:46	4:29
27	11:32	11:43	5:27	5:09
28	12:18		6:15	5:57
29	12:32	1:15	7:09	6:54

MOON PHASES
New moon: April 23, first quarter: April 30

Tree

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"If you have that much tree in the air and a 75 to 80 mph wind gust comes through from the right direction, you got her," Wall continued.

He said he felt very lucky the tree did not fall on the building.

"It was a tragic loss but we're very fortunate that it died nicely," Wall said. "It

will be missed."

The strong wind from the south acted like a pry bar, he said.

Schatz said a large Linden was felled by wind on New York Avenue and blocked the street. He said another tree fell onto a house on Windsor Avenue, west of Grant Street.

Damage to trees would have been more severe if they had been in leaf, Schatz said.

Taxes

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he said. "It is very important for public access."

Ridgway said he met with Recreation Department Superintendent Mitch Plenn to discuss proactive measures the township may have to implement for proposed June and July activities.

During public comment, resident Bill Greenfield asked when beaches would reopen in the township for walking and fishing. Mayor Frank Sippel said the health and welfare of residents came first.

He said future discussion of an opening date would take place with council and the township manager. Township beaches have been closed since March 21.

CITY OF CAPE MAY RECYCLE COLLECTION

NEW SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID virus, the City of Cape May Public Works Department has changes to the recycle collection schedule.

RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS RECYCLE COLLECTION WILL BE COLLECTED EVERY OTHER WEEK.

No collection week April 13 to April 24.

Recycles will be collected **MONDAY, APRIL 20 TO FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020.**

THE RECYCLE DROP-OFF CENTER IS OPEN:
Monday thru Friday – 8:00 am to Noon
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Curbside Leaf & Grass pickup starts April 15th, 2020

CITY OF CAPE MAY PUBLIC WORKS
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