

# City scores grant to update Bike Walk Cape May plan

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

accidents on Cape Island, some with serious outcomes.

posals to update the Bike Walk Cape May plan.

City Council approved issuing a request for pro-

At an April 18 meeting, Councilman Mike Yeager said the city received

a grant from the Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads program to develop an action plan.

"We got \$200,000, which is basically to come up with a plan which we hope will be followed then by funding to implement that plan," he said.

Yeager said the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee wrote a proposal to update Bike Walk Cape May and incorporate low-speed vehicles (LSVs), traffic-calming measures and signage.

"Hopefully, we'll get a grant to go forward and make the streets safer," he said.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the original Bike Walk

Cape May plan was well done and that 80 percent of the plan has been accomplished.

Councilwoman Maureen McDade said an LSV information pamphlet has been completed. She said her committee met with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee to get feedback on the layout and design. A QR code was added to the back of the pamphlet.

She thanked Police Chief Dekon Fashaw for organizing a meeting with all of Cape Island's LSV rental businesses. West Cape May Mayor Carol Sabo participated with the bike committee as well as at the meetings with LSV rental and sales businesses.

"They will be incorporating our pamphlet when they drop off a rental or they execute a rental for anyone who is renting in Cape May City or West Cape May," McDade said. The city will mail a copy of the pamphlet to mercantile license holders so they can incorporate it into vacation rental property information. The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May will distribute the pamphlet at the Welcome Center and on its website.

"This is a public safety initiative to alert people what the rules and regulations are if they are utilizing a low-speed vehicle, i.e., a golf cart on the island," McDade said.

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# CAPE MAY COUNTY COAST GUARD

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MAY 12-20, 2023

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS  
AT U.S. COAST GUARD  
TRAINING CENTER CAPE MAY

MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
COAST GUARD SALUTE

at Mudhen Brewing Co.  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
127 W. Rio Grande Ave.  
Wildwood, NJ 08260

MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
COAST GUARD  
COMMUNITY  
FESTIVAL

at TRACEN (Training Center Cape May)  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
1 Munro Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204

This is a FREE event.

Photo ID will be required for all adults.  
Bags are subject to search.

CoastGuardCommunity.org

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## Writer shares inspirations

Continued from Page A1

in me a strong work ethic and dared me to believe that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. They were right."

She worked two waitressing jobs to pay for college, earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Rutgers University.

In her prior career, she wrote professionally for business purposes, while investigating insurance fraud for a Fortune 100 property and casualty insurance company and then as a legal liaison in the appellate division of a Philadelphia-based life insurer.

"I'm so thankful for my corporate experience and the friends and colleagues I've met over the years. That work taught me business writing and persuasive writing. It also afforded me the speaking skills to be able to stand before you today," she said. "However, the best decision I ever made for myself was leaving that profession to raise my family."

Quinn and her husband, CJ, have been married for 18 years and have a son and a daughter — Cameron, 13, and Mackenna, 9.

Inspiration to begin her career as a novelist was prompted by her infant son's poor sleeping habits and the need to stay awake nights with him.

She passed the late hours imagining stories in her head that ultimately led to the creation of Danny and Jennie, two of her main story characters.

"Those who have read 'Thicker than Water' have Cameron to thank for giving me the inspiration behind one of my pair-

ings, Danny Culligan and Jennie Martin," she said. "Danny and Jennie's tale was one I'd tell myself in my head during our many nights in the rocking chair."

When those characters continued to "talk" to her over the years, Quinn began historical research regarding the impact of World War I and the Prohibition era in the Cape May and Philadelphia areas.

"It always started the same: a faceless girl and boy in turn-of-the-century clothing. She's skipping along the beach collecting sea shells and loses her straw hat to the breeze. It blows into the nearby dunes where she happens upon 'him.' The boy has his nose in a book, 'Oliver Twist,' and the two strike up a conversation."

She further investigated the economic divide that existed between the locals and the wealthy cottagers, who spent their summers at the Jersey shore.

"It's love at first sight, but not necessarily happily-ever-after," Quinn said.

Quinn said she is a novelist, not a historian.

"Two years were spent in research before I put pen to paper," she said.

After mulling over the storyline for a decade, spending two years researching, with two additional years of writing, Quinn has not only published her debut story but has also plotted its sequels.

"It was a daunting task. While I'd always pictured this couple in Edwardian garb, I wasn't fully versed in the era outside of what I'd seen on television and

film, or read about in other works of historical fiction," she said.

Quinn said the couple falls into the "star-crossed lovers" trope, with class differences being one of the major obstacles — he is a local and she is an heiress who spends summers at the shore.

Her second book, "No Greater Love," is slated for a late-fall release, which continues the Culligan family's saga.

"Thicker than Water" has met with favorable reviews from both the media and readers who have loved not only the nostalgia and historical events set in southern New Jersey shore communities but also how those pieces have been interwoven into the plot of this romance novel.

In reflecting on her writing journey, Quinn's advice to aspiring writers is to "do your homework; it's a process. Don't rush to put it out. Don't commit before you and your work are ready."

When she is not writing, she enjoys hiking the beach at any time of year, reading, and spending time with her family.

Visit [lauraquinnwrites.com](http://lauraquinnwrites.com) for more information.

Patti Phillips of the Friends group said the event was a success with 133 being the most tickets ever sold.

"I don't think we could fit any more people in here," Phillips said, noting the event helps the group gain recognition.

"Our mission is to promote the library and reading, and by bringing in a local author, it makes the community aware of who we are," Phillips said

## School budget

Continued from Page A1

teachers. Several positions were not replaced following some retirements and resignations, he said.

Preschool is currently held in two schools, the David C. Douglass Memorial School and Carl T. Mitnick School.

"Our plan is for September 2024 would be to have a memorial preschool center and have all of preschool

at the David C. Douglass Memorial School and then move kindergarten to Mitnick," Samaniego said.

He said having kindergarten, first and second grades in the same building makes for an easier transition from grade to grade for students and having all preschool classes in one location helps the school district with funding, transportation and food services.

The district will use grant funds and receive \$658,000 in state stabilization aid to enlarge some preschool classrooms to meet preschool regulations, including a restroom in each classroom as required by the state. The district has 20 preschool classes.

The school district will replace the heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems in every building.

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Communities

The Shores

## All Things Spring Market

Thursday, May 25 • 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

This May 25, United Methodist Communities at The Shores' Spring Market will feature a wide variety of crafters and earth-friendly merchandise.

Guests will enjoy live musical entertainment and dessert:

10:00 AM-12:00 PM:  
*Ralph Michaels' Sounds of Sinatra*

1:00 PM-3:00 PM:  
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Tours of our community will be available upon request. Call Brooke Chappell at 609-399-8505 with any questions.

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