

# Pier House reopens after years-long renovation

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Greeks have a word called “meraki,” a verb that translates as “do something with soul, creativity or love; to put something of yourself into your work.”

Nowhere is the spirit of meraki found more than in the family and staff who run The Pier House, a restaurant at 1327 Beach Ave.

On June 26, many local dignitaries from the business and restaurant community visited the Pier House to help celebrate its reopening. The restaurant was having a soft opening party after being closed for about two and half years for renovations.

As any restaurant owner in Cape May will tell you, if you are lucky enough to get the time to do renovations, get them done quickly and

get them done properly. Two and a half years was a little concerning.

“It was crucial for us to get open,” said George Antoniadis, managing partner of Pier House. “All the renovations we needed were done perfectly. We just had to get open. And now we are and I am very happy. I really missed this.”

In a family-run business such as the Pier House, when the term “managing partner” is used, Antoniadis is well aware how everything is relative. He has been involved with the Pier House for practically his whole life.

“I have been involved since the day I was born,” he said with a laugh. “Truthfully, ever since I was 12 years old, I was always doing something here. I always worked in the summers right here. I became a full member in

the business nine years ago in a management position.”

“It was huge to get this place open. It was critical for us to open these doors. We knocked down the building in the month November of 2016,” he continued.

If you looked at what the restaurant was prior to what it is now, the design layout of the location didn’t change much except in the square footage, which has increased. But there have been a few significant changes.

“We have a crooked entranceway, which gives it a little bit of character,” Antoniadis said. “The area of the bar has been increased, giving it more room. Before it was smaller. And the overall flow of the place has been improved. The access point from the vestibule frees up people coming into the dining room. There is a lot more room for our

guests to move about the place easily.

Despite a few add-ons here and there, about 90 percent of the menu is still the same at the Pier House as when the doors closed in 2016. This will be a delight to most returning customers because, going by the culinary delights served at the opening event, the dishes from the kitchen certainly have been missed.

“We will be serving fine dining Mediterranean Greek for dinner,” Antoniadis said. “Breakfast will be served continental style with a few traditional American dishes and our lunches will have some continental servings as well as a few other options. Chef George (Mallous) and his brother, chef Argerios (Mallous), are the brains behind it all on the menu. The two of them are creative geniuses. They are

the faces of the operations in front and back of the house.”

An added feature to the opening night party was found out on the terrace, just off the bar. As the sun was setting, an acoustic duo played outside as the guests enjoyed singing along.

According to Antoniadis, this “new” idea was actually one from the restaurant’s past.

“The restaurant used to have acts performing in the early, prior years,” he said, “but toward the tail end, when we were about to close for renovations, not so much. We haven’t made a statement yet, but we are discussing having one or two acts perform here. Nothing is official as of yet.”

As the party reached its peak, Antoniadis, surrounded by his gathered family, thanked everyone involved and for working

hard to get the renovations completed and the restaurant open.

He also thanked everyone for their support during the time the doors of the Pier House were closed.

Antoniadis then held up a clay plate, an item traditionally broken at a Greek wedding as a symbol of good fortune to the couple starting out on their new life.

“I know when you reopen a business, you’re supposed to cut a ribbon,” Antoniadis said with a smile. “But we are Greek. We don’t cut ribbons; we break plates.”

Antoniadis then smashed the plate as the crowd cheered. And, just like that ... well, after two and half years, the Pier House opened its doors. Finally, it is time for Antoniadis and family to put something with soul, creativity and love into their work again.

## Study: City will need protection

Continued from Page A1

of \$11 million.

“While Average Annual Damages (AAD) per structure fluctuates by municipality, Atlantic City has the highest mean AAD per

Structure at \$41,605 followed by Ocean City at \$12,292. The total study area has a mean AAD per Structure at \$8,591,” states the study.

The study encourages multi-purpose designs such

as combining levees, bulkheads, and barriers with boardwalks and recreation paths or green infrastructure may enhance the utility of flood risk management measures.

Maslow said the study suggests crown walls instead of a plain seawall; the structure is built with a lip.

The study projects the impact of raising the height of the first floor of buildings from Upper Township to Cape May which could affect “cultural resources.” It showed no negative impact from constructing floodwalls, levees, gates or barriers.

“However, impacts on cultural resources (particularly if building modifications are on historic structures or in a historic district) and community or other social effects are potentially sig-

nificant,” it states.

Committee member Jim Testa said major storms can push water into the bay and in Cape May’s case, the bay side is unarmored, “a hodgepodge of properties at different heights and different levels.”

“It’s no surprise in the last several years, you’re seeing record heights being shown for flooding levels in the back bays that were never there before, whereas the seawall has been high enough to keep a really dangerous situation from happening so far,” Testa said.

He said if Cape May puts up a seawall along the beach front of a height of 12 feet, 14 feet or 17 feet, but nothing is done in the back bays, the city would get water intrusion. Testa noted the historic district of the city was generally higher and not affected by flooding by

the back bay.

“If you maintain the flood buffer barrier, the 100-acre Sewell Tract, you are putting a very large sponge in an area of relative closeness,” he said. “It’s just a short hop across Delaware Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue to come from the bays into Sewell Tract.”

The committee also discussed implementation of a maintenance plan for the city’s dunes. Maslow said some other shore communities, such as Stone Harbor and Avalon, have a systemized way of maintaining dunes.

He said a study was conducted and the towns formalized how vegetation on the dunes should be pruned. Maslow said it allowed the towns to control dune maintenance without having to approach the state Department of Environmental Pro-

tection (DEP) each time.

Detailed studies were conducted for Stone Harbor and Avalon by Lomax Consulting Group. The towns passed ordinances to outline dune maintenance procedures, Maslow said.

Stone Harbor and Avalon deal with both public and private dunes while Cape May’s dunes are all on municipal property, he said.

“We would need to decide who pays for the initial cleanup and then how to maintain it,” Maslow said.

The studies also covered keeping indigenous vegetation on the dunes. Maslow said if Cape May does not soon produce a dune maintenance plan, it will have such massive overgrowth, it would be more costly to remedy. He said he believed DEP regulations would become stricter in the future.

Some funds for the maintenance could come from the private sector, Maslow said.

Testa said volunteers cannot just prune and remove vegetation without risking fines from DEP. He said Stone Harbor submitted a lengthy study and plan to DEP.

Maslow said Stone Harbor was not required to obtain additional DEP permits for its dune maintenance program.

Committee member Heather Bruno said the city is challenged by the dunes not being maintained for a long time. She said she worked with Americorps to do one section of dune last winter where poison ivy and sumac were wrapped around trees.

“The amount of work that took was unbelievable,” Bruno said.

Maslow said all work must be done with hand tools since machinery and power tools are not permitted by DEP. Committee member Mike Jones suggested use of the city’s Open Space tax to fund dune maintenance. Maslow said a tax assessment could also finance the work.

Maslow suggested the committee meet with Lomax Consulting Group. Bruno noted dune maintenance was included in the city’s master plan.

TIDES : July 3-10, 2019				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
3	9:07	9:24	2:57	2:45
4	9:58	10:14	3:46	3:37
5	10:51	11:05	4:36	4:32
6	11:46	11:59	5:28	5:29
7		12:44	6:21	6:30
8	12:56	1:45	7:16	7:35
9	1:56	2:48	8:12	8:42
10	3:00	3:50	9:09	9:49

**MOON PHASES**  
First quarter, July 9 • full moon, July 16

**COUNTRY STORE • BAKERY • BLACKSMITHING • BASKETRY**

This event is sponsored by VFW Peterson-Little Post No. 386

**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> & JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> 10:00AM~4:30PM**

Celebrate all things American! Enjoy patriotic family activities, programs, & music. Look for clues in buildings using a real Revolutionary War cipher.

**Cold Spring Brewery**  
is Open Mon-Sat.  
12-8pm (Sun. 12-6pm)

**720 Route 9, Cape May**  
**(609) 898-2300**  
**www.hcsv.org**

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## Free skin cancer screening

CAPE MAY — The public is invited to Choose Your Cover from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 20 at Cape May Convention Hall.

The free skin cancer screening is coordinated by the Cape May County Department of Health in partnership with Schweiger Dermatology and Cape Atlantic Coalition for Health. The event is first-come, first-served.

“According to the Skin Cancer Foundation an estimated 192,310 cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2019. When skin cancer is detected early it increases one’s chance of survival to 99 percent (Skin Cancer Foundation, 2018),”

Health Officer Kevin Thomas said.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer. The best ways to prevent skin cancer are as follows:

- Protect your skin by using sunblock, seeking shade and wearing protective clothing.
  - Do not use tanning beds or any source that uses artificial UV radiation.
  - Get annual screenings.
- Skin cancer warning signs include changes in the size, color and/or shape of a mole or other skin lesion. For more information, call (609) 463-6521 or visit cmchealth.net.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF CAPE MAY  
SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The City of Cape May, New Jersey will hold a public hearing on July 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Cape May City Auditorium, City Hall, 643 Washington Street, Cape May, New Jersey 08204. The purpose of the hearing is as follows: (1) to explain federal and state guidelines, (2) to review eligible and proposed program activities, (3) to consider proposals for an application under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, and (4) to receive citizen comments and recommendations.

Total funds available: \$6,537,428

At least 70 percent of the funds available must be used for activities that primarily benefit people of low and moderate income. None of the funds requested will result in displacement or relocation of people.

Eligible activities include:

1. Acquisition of real property;
2. Acquisition, construction, or installation of public facilities;
3. Code enforcement in deteriorated or deteriorating areas;
4. Clearance, demolition, and rehabilitation of buildings;
5. Special projects to remove architectural barriers which restrict accessibility of the elderly and handicapped;
6. Provision of public services;
7. Activities necessary to develop:
  - a comprehensive community development plan; and
  - policy planning management capacity to enable the recipient to more effectively administer the program.
8. Payment of reasonable administrative costs;
9. Activities carried out by public or private non-profit organizations.

The City of Cape May is considering a Public Facilities application in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for either ADA compliance improvements at Kiwanis Park and/or water and sewer facility improvements with city-wide benefit.

All citizens are encouraged to offer comments at the public hearing or by writing to the City of Cape May, 643 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 ATTN: Neil Young, City Manager. Within ten days following the public hearing, written comments may also be sent to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, NJ Small Cities CDBG Program, P.O. Box 811, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0811, ATTN: Administrator.

CITY OF CAPE MAY  
RECYCLE COLLECTION

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE – JULY 4, 2019

The Thursday collection  
will be collected on  
Friday July 5, 2019

REMINDER:  
NO PLASTIC BAGS

CITY OF CAPE MAY PUBLIC WORKS  
830 CANNING HOUSE LANE  
CAPE MAY, NJ 08204  
609-884-9570