



Provided

Mayor Frank Sippel, along with Mitch Plenn and Bruce Fournier, of the Lower Township Department of Parks and Recreation, present a check to Leslie Frick, manager of the food pantry at St. Barnabas by the Bay in Lower Township.

## Holiday decoration contest winners honored with food bank donations

VILLAS — Mayor Frank Sippel, along with Mitch Plenn and Bruce Fournier of the Lower Township Department of Parks and Recreation, presented \$600 to local community food pantries Jan. 12 at Township Hall.

Township Council has focused on putting the needs of the community at the forefront during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The need for food assistance increased more than 200 percent regarding the number of families needing the support of local food banks and Lower Township has responded by holding frequent donation drives.

Sippel commended the good work done by the food pantry managers and the giving nature of residents of Lower Township.

"The residents of Lower Township continue to give back to their community. Whether it is a call for dona-

## Council

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construct a new fire station had been put out for bid. She said in the past Mullock said all professional service contracts should be put out to bid.

Mullock said the contract was not put out to bid. He said the city has learned over the past four years who are experts in building fire stations and public safety buildings.

"What became mostly important to me was that the contract worked and fit under the \$5 million budget that the voters gave us," he said.

Cassells said she hoped that would not be the answer for every contract the city undertakes.

"You can always make an excuse for not putting something out to bid," she said.

Mullock said council was in the process of putting together a pool of engineers, so essentially every project would be put out to bid. He said all aspects of construction of the fire station would be put out to bid.

Fire Chief Alex Coulter will be involved in the design of the building, Mullock said.

## Supply

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- pulmonary disease)
  - Down Syndrome
  - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
  - Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Smoking
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Also eligible are paid and unpaid health care workers, residents and staffs of long-term and congregate care facilities, along with first responders including law enforcement and fire professionals.

The state says all New Jerseyans can pre-register for the vaccine even if not eligible right now, and to find vaccination sites near them.

To preregister, go online to covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.

Eligible next for vaccines (Phase 1B) are additional frontline essential workers; (Phase 1C) other essential workers; then (Phase 2) general population.

tions for a food drive, toys for children at Christmas or volunteering, the community of Lower Township continues to provide support to those that are in need," Sippel said.

The donations were made in the name of the township's holiday decoration contest winners. The inaugural contest held over the Christmas holiday asked Lower Township residents to participate by nominating their home as one of the best decorated in the township for a chance at bragging rights and a donation in their name to a local food bank. The decorations were then voted on the township's Facebook page. The winners are:

— First Place: Brian Den-

ham and family

— Second Place: Chris Denham and family

— Third Place: Terry Ehrenberg Stickle and family

In honor of Brian Denham's first place win, the Seashore Church of the Nazarene's food pantry received a \$300 donation. Pastor Tim West and Compassionate Ministry Director Almond Weech were in attendance to receive the donation.

In honor of Chris Denham's second place win, the food pantry at St. Barnabas by the Bay received a \$200 donation. And in honor of Stickle's third place win, St. Barnabas received a \$100 donation.

Leslie Frick, who manages the food pantry, was in attendance to receive the donation.

### TIDES: Jan. 20-27, 2021

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
20	1:05	1:14	7:05	7:20
21	1:58	2:10	8:06	8:07
22	2:52	3:08	9:07	8:56
23	3:46	4:06	10:04	9:45
24	4:37	4:59	10:57	10:33
25	5:24	5:48	11:44	11:19
26	6:08	6:33	12:27	
27	6:50	7:16	12:04	1:08

### MOON PHASES

First quarter, Jan. 20 • full moon, Jan. 28

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# City OKs more spending at Soldiers & Sailors Park

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is hoping to have Soldiers and Sailors Park completed by late March or early April.

The city awarded a \$499,000 contract to Think Pavers Hardscaping to build the park in December 2019. During a special meeting of City Council on Jan. 12, Mayor Zack Mullock said the project is "overtime and over budget."

The project had a \$28,000 reduction in costs due to work completed by South Jersey Gas that was part of the original construction contract for Think Pavers. The change order shows extra work completed by Think Pavers at a cost of \$26,500.

"The fact is at this point, we want to see this park finished well before Memorial Day," Mullock said.

The city's contracted engineer, Vince Orlando, of Engineering Design Associates, said he spoke with

Nick Furfari, president of Think Pavers, who stated he would clean up the site "so it doesn't look like a bomb went off."

Orlando said Think Pavers would resume work on the park as soon as the weather warms to allow the installation of colored concrete, landscaping and sod. He said if the weather cooperates, the park could be completed by late March or early April.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan asked about some additional granite ordered for the park. Orlando said some of the granite was ordered by the city and much of it had to be removed and reset.

"I don't know the reasoning behind it," he said. "The change order reflects that resetting of the granite that had to take place."

Councilman Chris Bezaire said it is important for the city to hire a staff engineer. He said due to oversights and mistakes, the city spent an additional \$26,000 on the park.

Bezaire said concrete and lights had to be removed because the lights were installed in the wrong location, adding that a granite wall had to be removed and reinstalled due to engineering errors.

"We just wasted \$26,000 because the engineering wasn't correct or paid close enough attention to," Bezaire said.

He said the city needs to have an engineer on staff and a pool of engineering firms to complete projects. Bezaire noted the air temperature needs to be higher than 40 degrees to pour concrete in the park.

Mullock said the original estimated cost of constructing the park was \$349,283. He said the city received a county Open Space grant of \$189,000, a state Department of Transportation grant of \$160,000 and \$100,000 from the Fund for Cape May for a grand total of about \$450,000.

The mayor estimated the park may cost \$750,000 in total.



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