

Zoning Board rejects swimming pool in front yard

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Zoning Board unanimously voted against allowing a homeowner to place a swimming pool in their front yard at 1624 New Jersey Ave.

At a Nov. 17 meeting, attorney Thomas Keywood, representing Thomas O'Donnell, said the applicant wished to build an

addition to the front of the house.

Architect Joseph Ross said the applicant proposed adding a 16-foot by 23-foot porch, enclosing a carport beneath the house to create a garage, moving parking forward on the lot and placing a pool in the front yard. He said the city's Historic Preservation Commission granted conceptual approval to the plans.

Ross said the home has

little backyard and no side yard setbacks. He said the lot narrower toward the rear.

"Our intent is to put in a 264-square-foot pool with an appropriate patio arrangement and two parking spaces in the front yard. However, all those items are conforming with regard for front setbacks," Ross said.

He said a pool in the front yard would be a noncon-

forming use. The house sits as far back on the lot as possible.

Only the front yard is developable, Ross said. He said the existing lot coverage of 26.1 percent would increase to 36.2 percent. Allowable lot coverage is 45 percent.

Zoning Board engineer Craig Hurlless said a city regulation does not allow a pool forward of the face of a house. He said the pro-

posed pool appears to be in conflict with existing water services.

During public comment, resident Alice Kay Morris said she owns property that abuts the applicant's. She said the house appears "shoehorned" onto a very narrow section on the back of the property and the pool and addition would

make the lot appear more congested.

Morris said renters of the house park cars on the sidewalk in front, forcing pedestrians into the street.

New Jersey Avenue resident Kurt Von Seekamm suggested the house be moved forward on the lot and the pool put in the newly created backyard.

Lower wants rental license fees before season

By JACK FICHTER
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VILLAS — Lower Township Council introduced an ordinance that would require owners of short-term rental properties to buy a mercantile license by March 15 each year.

Existing regulations require those engaged in the short-term rental business,

including through Airbnb and VRBO, to purchase an annual mercantile license on or before July 15.

The township determined the purchase of a mercantile license for short term rentals should occur before the start of the summer season.

The cost of a license would increase depending on the number of people the property can accommodate.

It would be \$150 per year for one to six people, \$240 for seven to 11 and \$325 for 12 to 16.

Hotels and motels would have to pay an annual fee of \$75 or \$4 per unit, whichever is greater.

Apartment houses or rooming houses would be charged an annual fee of \$4 per unit or \$50, whichever is greater.

Structures containing one or more separate units that are rented on a seasonal or year-round basis would have to pay an annual fee of \$75 per unit whether or not the lessee has a separate mercantile license.

A late fee of \$75 would be added for those who do not purchase a mercantile license by April 15.

Lower man charged in burglary

CAPE MAY — Police arrested a Lower Township man found sleeping on a couch in an unoccupied West Cape May home.

Authorities said Kevin Traughber, 31, was charged with two counts of criminal trespassing, one count of burglary, one count of theft and one count of criminal mischief.

The charges were the result of the Cape May Police Department Patrol Division responding to a 911 call reporting Traughber's presence in the home. The caller, a friend of the owner, reportedly found Traughber when checking on the property for the owner.

Authorities said Traughber entered the home through an unlocked door.

Officers on scene recognized Traughber as a suspect in a burglary reported Nov. 11.

Further investigation identified Traughber,

through video surveillance, entering a separate home Nov. 9 and Nov. 10 through a sliding glass door where he had previously drilled out the lock, authorities said.

Traughber reportedly entered that home through an unlocked garage door, took the drill from the garage and drilled out the lock on the sliding glass door. Authorities said he was wearing the same clothes at the time of his arrest.

Traughber was lodged in the Cape May County Jail.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw urges anyone with additional information relating to this investigation contact the Cape May Police Department Detective Division at (609) 884-9500, report anonymously through the Cape May County Sheriff's Tip Line at cmcsheriff.net or through Cape May County Crime Stoppers at (609) 889-3597.

County COVID risk level medium

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County had 77 new cases of COVID last week, according to Covidactnow.org.

The web site reported 12 hospital admissions per 100,000 persons in the county.

The COVID risk level is medium. Since many test for COVID at home without reporting positive cases to health care providers, the level is likely much higher, according to Covidactnow.org. The county is averaging

11 reported cases per day. According to the New York Times, which is tracking county COVID cases, the number of hospitalizations has increased. The New York Times concurs with an average of 11 new cases per day.

On Nov. 18, 1,417 cases were reported statewide and 14 deaths. At that time, New Jersey's 71 hospitals reported 1,032 patients with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID with 119 in intensive care and 47 on ventilators.

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TIDES: Nov. 23-30, 2022

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
23	6:56	7:15	12:17	1:07
24	7:41	8:03	1:01	1:57
25	8:28	8:53	1:48	2:48
26	9:19	9:48	2:38	3:42
27	10:13	10:47	3:32	4:38
28	11:12	11:53	4:31	5:38
29		12:16	5:37	6:40
30	1:04	1:23	6:48	7:41

MOON PHASES

New moon, Nov. 23 • first quarter, Nov. 30

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