

Welcome Center meters to follow schedule for mall

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council reintroduced an ordinance bringing parking meters at the Welcome Center into the same extended season schedule as meters on the Washington Street Mall.

On March 7, city solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said he spoke with Department of Public Works Superintendent Eric

Prusinski who suggested the ordinance include parking at the Welcome Center in the same framework as parking on the Washington Street Mall, which runs from April 1 to Dec. 31.

In the past, council extended the parking season for Carpenter and Lyle lanes and Mansion Street on the mall beyond the Oct. 31 cutoff for other parking areas.

Mayor Zack Mullock

noted the Welcome Center has two parking areas, a stone filled lot and the new portion along the railroad tracks. He said the change would make parking uniform for both areas.

The amendment to the ordinance requires it be republished in a newspaper, Gillin-Schwartz said.

Councilman Shaine Meier said parking meters bring the city \$2 million per year in revenue.

He said he felt a need to “give back something” to tourists who pay the meter fees in the form of a good transportation system in Cape May.

He said the city manager and deputy city manager have a transportation plan that would cut its budget in half and still provide shuttle service to keep traffic congestion down in the center of the city.

Visitors and hotel owners have asked what

transportation service would be provided this summer, Meier said.

City Manager Mike Voll said he would soon be presenting a transportation plan.

The county is reconstructing some streets in the city such as Lafayette Street and Pittsburgh Avenue, but the Shade Tree Commission does not have input on the removal of trees from the projects,

Meier said.

“We need to voice our opinion about trees being taken down, especially street trees on certain roadways,” Meier said.

Cape May is designated a Tree City U.S.A. from the Arbor Day Foundation, which includes maintaining a tree board, having a community tree ordinance and spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry.

West Cape environmental board proposes pesticide ban

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The West Cape May Environmental Commission is recommending a ban on the use of many types of pesticides.

Solicitor Erika Lezama-Simonson has been preparing a draft ordinance for Borough Commission’s consideration based on recommendations from the Environmental Commission.

Deputy Mayor Alan Crawford said the ordinance would ban the use of neonicotinoids and organophosphate pesticides.

A memorandum from the Environmental Commission notes West Cape May and Cape Island have long been a haven for songbird, raptor and butterfly migration. The borough is surrounded by saltwater tidal marsh, making it a critical point on the Atlantic Flyway.

The memorandum noted suspected human birth defects from pesticide exposure and glyphosate levels found in the blood and urine of agricultural work-

ers.

“Another study found neonicotinoids have been demonstrated to harm pollinators at levels found in the environment and are linked to bee population declines,” the memo stated. “Neonics can kill bees or impair their ability to fend off disease, forage for food or survive the winter.”

A 2021 study found that milkweed that has been contaminated with clothianidin could act as an “ecological trap” for monarch butterflies, luring the insects to lay eggs on treated milkweed; however, as the eggs hatch, the insects do not survive.

The state has restricted the use of neonics but the Environmental Commission recommends taking further steps to a borough-

wide ban on individual use of organophosphate and neonicotinoid pesticides.

State code allows for a 300-foot buffer for wetlands, a 50-foot buffer for freshwater wetlands and 150-foot buffer for lands near wetlands, known as transition areas.

The Environmental Commission is proposing a ban on pesticide use within a 500-foot buffer of any active wetlands, wells and streams. The commission is calling for a ban on all synthetic pesticides for turf, landscape and outdoor pest management on both public and private property following a precedent established by Portland, Maine, in 2018. It is also urging the restricted use of any pesticides found on a list created by the city

of Takoma Park, Md.

Mosquito management

The Environmental Commission has scheduled an informational program on mosquito management for 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 24, at Borough Hall, 732 Broadway.

Entomologist Kyle Rossner from the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control will discuss how mosquito populations are controlled and helpful tips to limit their presence naturally.

TIDES: March 22-29, 2023

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
22	9:17	9:40	2:53	3:15
23	10:02	10:25	3:43	3:58
24	10:47	11:08	4:32	4:40
25	11:33	11:53	5:22	5:23
26		12:21	6:13	6:08
27	12:41	1:14	7:09	6:57
28	1:35	2:15	8:09	7:53
29	2:37	3:23	9:14	8:57

MOON PHASES

First quarter, March 29 • full moon, April 6

4-H sets Spring Equine Clinic for April 13-14

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Cape May County 4-H Spring Equine Health Clinic will bring life-saving vaccines to horses April 13-14.

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program is partnering with Dr. Tanja Hanyi to offer the clinic, offering discounted vaccine prices for all horse and pony owners.

Veterinarians and clinic volunteers will travel to farms and boarding stables, in the northern part of the county on April 13 and in the southern portion of the county on April 14, offering vaccinations at reduced prices to horses and without the normal farm call fee.

The clinic is coordinated under the direction of 4-H volunteer Nancy Rothenbiller, who advises all horse owners to keep their animals properly vaccinated against deadly infectious diseases, such as Eastern equine encephalomyelitis and West Nile virus. These diseases spread quickly by biting insects but can be prevented through proper annual vaccination.

There are several different vaccines and vaccine packages offered to suit your horses’ needs. The clinic also offers the Coggins blood test. A negative Coggins test for equine infectious anemia is required annually by the NJ 4-H Horse Program and at most equine events throughout New Jersey and the nation.

Participants must pre-register by April 7 at capemay.njaes.rutgers.edu. Call (609) 827-3485 between 3:30 and 8 p.m. for more information.

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Include your name, address, contact number.

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