

Volunteers sewing face masks for medical personnel

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

With a nationwide shortage of masks for medical personnel treating coronavirus patients and Cape Regional Medical Center last week asking for the public's help in obtaining masks and coveralls, local women with a talent for sewing are making them at home.

Karen Bohme, of North Wildwood, dropped off two dozen masks made of fabric that can be washed at Cape Regional Medical Center on March 27. She said the hospital provided her with a bag of poly material to make more masks.

"The only issue everybody around here is having is the fact that we can't find elastic; it's all sold out," Bohme said.

She said the owner of a sewing machine store believed a shipment of elastic could arrive next week. Elastic is available online but at a high price, Bohme said. In the meantime, Bohme is using bias tape to produce ties for the masks.

Jess Brown of Brown Jewelers has also been making masks, she said.

"We're just trying to help and see what we can do," Bohme said. She found a template online for a semi-oval mask that can fit over an N95 mask.

"What this does is it gives that some extra protection, so that they last longer," Bohme said. "And these can be thrown in the washer."

A template with pleats takes three times longer to make and the mask she is making covers more of the wearer's face.

"It goes up over the nose and down to the chin and I think it actually covers better," Bohme said. She said she can make a mask in about 10 minutes.

"I was trying to do it assembly-line style where you sew all the one seam first, do them all and then start putting them together," Bohme said. "They are actually very easy to do. I was quite pleased at the way they came out. I hoping they're going to work for the hospital."

Bohme has been sewing since

she was 7 years old and had plenty of fabric in her home. She said she used a cotton fabric that was breathable and washable.

The poly material provided to her by the hospital has a plastic feel to it, she said.

West Cape May resident and artist Barbara Hoopp said she became interested in sewing masks after watching a report on MSNBC detailing the shortage of protective equipment for medical workers. She posted her interest to help on Facebook to a group of artist friends.

Marge Chandler, Gina Fullerton, Carol Suero and Heidi Cummings responded and offered her fabric. Hoopp said Chandler and Fullerton cut masks from cotton fabric and Suero provided her with flannel sheets to make linings.

"I just put it out there that I needed more elastic and Kate from the store Miss Demeanor just sent me over enough elastic to last a lifetime," she said. "She and her daughter are making them, so she ordered a whole lot of elastic."

Hoopp made 20 masks and gave them to the Cape May Food Pantry

to safeguard volunteers delivering food.

"These are not for medical personnel; they haven't been sanitized," she said.

At least four videos are available online with instructions of how to sew masks, Hoopp said. She said the activity director of a nursing home asked for masks because the non-nursing personnel must wear masks when in the presence of the residents.

"I can make 21 at a time," Hoopp said.

A friend in New York asked if she could make masks for social workers that work with the homeless in that city.

Hoopp receives cut fabric, cuts lining for the masks, measures and cuts elastic and then sews it together. Producing 21 masks takes about three hours, she said.

"What I found so interesting is I have two sisters who both know how to sew. It was part of what you did in my house. — my mother was a dressmaker. So I sent my sisters the pattern on Monday without any comment," she said. "They're making them, too."



Provided

Karen Bohme has been sewing masks and providing them to Cape Regional Medical Center for staff to use during the COVID-19 crisis.

New name

Continued from Page A1

"The exhibit highlights and celebrates the rich history of the organization, telling the story of its crucial role in Cape May's 50-year renaissance, as it helped and continues to propel the resort into one of the most popular and revered shore destinations in the nation," the release stated. "Instead, the launch will be made virtually, via email to the organization's thousands of members, via this notification to the media, via social media posts and via the switchover to a new website April 1."

Cape May MAC maintains and "interprets" three historic sites, the Emlen Physick Estate, the Cape May Lighthouse and the World

War II Lookout Tower. It offers trolley tours, house tours, walking tours, group tours, outdoor festivals and numerous cultural events. Between the historic sites, tours and events, MAC attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors.

According to the organization, Princeton Communications Strategies of Princeton has been leading the re-branding effort over two years.

"The process involved numerous meetings and discussions which came from a strategic planning process begun in 2018," the release said. "That process sought to solve several issues: Are people aware of how much MAC does in the community and if not, why not? Are we reaching every-

one effectively who would be interested in our tours, activities and events? It was decided that the organization's 50th anniversary year was the perfect time to reinvigorate and reimagine the organization's brand while retaining the best of its rich 50-year history. Thus, the new name 'Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture)' pays homage to the organization's past as it retains the 'MAC' with which so many are familiar but adds 'Cape May' as a means of emphasizing the organization's nucleus," the release stated.

"The addition of (Museums+Arts+Culture) is a new vision of the old acronym, with 'MAC' now making perfect sense, and aligning with the organiza-

tion's mission," the release continued. "'Museums' is plural, because the organization operates the Physick House Museum and because Cape May, itself, is a museum without walls that the organization interprets almost daily each year for thousands of visitors who take one of Cape May MAC's numerous trolley tours through the Historic District."

MAC said the new look is fresh, streamlines its messages, brings the organization into the future and creates "a new level of excitement for its programs."

MAC History
Courtesy of Cape May MAC

In 1970, the organization was formed under the name, Mid-Atlantic

Center for the Arts (MAC) (later "& Humanities" was added), when a group of passionate volunteers, through guile and grit, saved the historic 1879 Emlen Physick Estate from demolition, putting the city on a path toward a cultural renaissance.

Cape May has evolved since then from a quiet shore town into a bustling and historically charming destination with rich cultural and artistic offerings.

MAC's founders were ambitious, and its name ("Mid-Atlantic") reflected their uncompromising and lofty goal: to make Cape May into a regional destination for culture, history and the arts, and preserve its historic integrity for generations.

Cape May MAC's commitment to excellence continues full steam, with "cultural enrichment of the Cape May region" a continuing and key part of its not-for-profit mission. Not just "America's First Seaside Resort," Cape May has evolved in the past five decades into a lively destination for history, culture and the arts, in large part thanks to the vision and dedication of Cape May MAC's founders.

Now, the organization looks forward to the next 50 years attracting ever more residents and visitors to be educated, enlightened, entertained and inspired by the beauty and history of this National Historic Landmark City.

Churches live-streaming services

Continued from Page A1

Seashore Community Church has been working with an app developer as well, West said.

The service is held but it is being live-streamed from an empty sanctuary, a new experience for pastors and church musicians.

"It does make it a little more challenging but at the same time I try to just envision myself in the living room in the spaces with the church family and just have a conversation with them," he said. "It's just that you're looking into a little camera."

The first week that the church used live-stream, there were so many users of YouTube their service dropped offline a number of times. Viewers can communicate with the church via Facebook and other apps.

"So while they are sitting in their homes, if they are watching something live in real time, they can also communicate with other people in the church during that time," West said.

He said he believed the church members were very appreciative of the technology. Some members are gathering together in homes to watch the live-stream and follow it up with lunch.

The church normally serves communion on the first Sunday of the month. The church has prepared sealed bags of wafers and communion cups for church families including some "goodies" for the kids and teenagers and a daily devotional book, West said.

"They will be delivered Sunday morning, so when we go live at 11, the church family that we

know, which is a few hundred, will be able to have communion together," he said.

Those who have to work Sunday, are on vacation or home sick or in the hospital have an opportunity to view the church service, West said. The live-stream webcasts are archived and may be viewed later.

"That's what we're hoping to use these platforms for is to just communicate hope, that this, too, shall pass and the Lord is with us and we can trust him," he said.

Seashore Community Church operates a food pantry that has become busier amid the crisis.

"I've seen more people at our food bank than I've seen in a long time just today," West said.

The food bank is open from 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday and Fri-

day but is available any time for emergencies.

One question pastors are hearing from members is whether the COVID-19 pandemic is part of the time of great tribulation predicted in the Book of Revelations

West said it was more important for persons to identify their relationship with Christ rather than where the world is on the Biblical timeline of events.

The title of West's sermon for March 29 was "Seeing Remarkable Things."

Seashore Community Church live-streams at 11 a.m. at scnaz.com.

The Lighthouse Church of Cape May County live-streams at 10:45 a.m. from its Facebook page.

A number of Catholic masses are available on live-stream from the Diocese of Camden. Vis-

itcamdendiocese.org/live-stream-mass for a list.

First Assembly Cape May live-streams from its Facebook page at 10:45 a.m.

Green Tree Church in Egg Harbor Township live-streams at 10 a.m. at greentree.org/live.

Calvary Chapel Cape May live-streams from its Facebook page at 10 a.m.

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church live-streams from its Facebook page at 10:30 a.m.

Episcopal Church of the Advent Cape May live-streams at 10:30 a.m. from its Facebook page.

United Methodist Church of Cape May live-streams at 10:30 Sunday mornings from its Facebook page.

Revolve Church of North Cape May has a time of corporate prayer over Zoom starting at 9 a.m. at zoom.us/j/405440880.

Coastal Christian Church in Ocean City is live-streaming Sunday gatherings at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Question and Answer Monday at noon, Tuesday midday prayer at noon on Facebook and YouTube and Thursday gathering at 6:30 p.m.

Ocean City Baptist Church live-streams at 9:30 a.m. Sunday from its YouTube page.

New Life Assembly of God in Ocean City livestreams at 10 a.m. Sunday and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at nlanj.com/watch-online.

St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Ocean City live-streams at 9 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook from the website making-waves.church.

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City livestreams at 10:30 a.m. Sunday via its Facebook page.

Mayors

Continued from Page A1

dence and adhere to social distancing practices. Coastal mayors have been forced to make difficult and unpopular decisions including closing playgrounds and outdoor recreational facilities; some towns have been forced to close beaches and boardwalks, and others may follow suit, simply because social distancing guidance has been ignored. We recognize that individuals love to visit the coastal region and want to visit their second homes for a change of scen-

ery. That travel is contrary to the executive orders enacted by the governor, and contrary to the guidance from health officials to stay at home as much as possible. Elected officials from every community may be forced to enact further restrictions if this appeal is not followed.

"We understand these are unconventional requests by elected officials who every day appreciate the visitation and investment in our communities. However, we stand together in support of this position to protect you and your families so we can

all enjoy good health when this crisis has passed.

"Thank you from the mayors and elected officials from Cape May, Cape May Point, West Cape May, Lower Township, Wildwood Crest, Wildwood, North Wildwood, West Wildwood, Middle Township, Stone Harbor, Avalon, Sea Isle City, Den-

nis Township, Woodbine, Upper Township, and Ocean City."


Before this agreement was reached, mayors in Ocean City, Sea Isle City and Cape May had ordered the beaches, Boardwalk and Promenades closed to the public until further notice. (See related story, page A1.)



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Beach Break

Relax, life takes time...



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Crossword

ACROSS

1. Beret, e.g.
4. Filter
8. Bit of a ticket
12. Fire remains
13. Opera tune
14. Study steadily
15. Take to the slopes
16. Bird's flapper
17. Storm
18. Cereal grains
20. Remains
22. Won a chess match
24. Intend
25. Once more
26. Conspiring
30. Gobbled
31. Bled, as a color
32. Passing grade
33. Threatening
36. Supreme
37. Filly's feature
38. Deposits

DOWN

1. Owns
2. Beg
3. Baker's dozen
4. Cut wood
5. Eye part
6. Fish limb
7. Follower
8. Dash
9. Frog's warty kin
10. Advise
11. Honey producers
19. Certain evergreen
21. Baseball necessity
22. Title of respect
23. Poker term
24. Flat surface
26. Publishing
27. Shoe for Witt: 2 wds.
28. Sparrow's shelter
29. Attains
34. Among
35. Is able to
36. Transit coach
38. Greased
39. Hangs low
40. Kind of school, for short
41. Luxury auto
42. Dummy
45. Pair
47. Gear
48. Beer container