

City to charge fee for restaurants using right of way

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A fee schedule has been approved for restaurants using the city's right of way — such as sidewalks, streets and parking areas — for temporary outdoor dining. Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on the restaurants, City Council adopted several resolutions in the past 13 months relaxing procedures for site plan approval and providing procedures for temporary outdoor seating. For use of sidewalk, the fee is the square footage of the sidewalk area at \$1 per

square foot times the number of months of operation. For use of a parking area, the fee is the square footage of the parking area at \$2.50 per square foot times the number of months of operation. For closure of a street, the fee is the square footage at \$3.50 per square foot times the number of months of operation. Councilman Chris Bezaire said businesses affected by that fee had no objections. City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the city code had fees for use of patios on the Washington Street Mall and the Promenade.

"If they are going to be fees related to the use of the right of way, we wanted to come up with something that was fair, equitable and familiar and already in the code book," he said. Bezaire suggested eliminating fees for Beach Avenue since it encumbered only one block with businesses that had no other option for outdoor dining. Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the city was losing parking meter revenue from the Beach Avenue block. "I think there is a give and take. If we're charging everybody else to have these outdoor seating ar-

reas, it's only fair that they also pay for those parking spots that we're losing revenue," she said. Bezaire said he was offering a compromise to pass the resolution and would otherwise not vote in favor of it. He offered a motion to exclude restaurants from the fees on Beach Avenue between Perry and Decatur streets that used parking spaces for seating. Mayor Zack Mullock said council was trying to help restaurants survive another season with COVID restrictions. Last year, the city did not get any fees for the closure of streets or for the loss of parking revenue,

he said, adding that he supported the compromise of excluding Beach Avenue restaurants. The fee for a full year of use of a portion of Decatur Street for outdoor seating would be about \$21,000, Bezaire said. Gillin-Schwartz suggested charging for use of the sidewalk along Beach Avenue but not for the parking spaces. Bezaire said the restaurants had contacted the city asking if it would be feasible to place their tables in the Beach Avenue parking spaces, so foot traffic can use the sidewalk. "To me it makes perfect common sense that you

keep the normal flow of pedestrian traffic and you eliminate an issue we had last year. People were congregating near the barrier walls and sitting on them and hanging out," he said. There is a rational basis for treating Beach Avenue differently due to practical limitations, Gillin-Schwartz said. Bezaire offered a motion to charge Beach Avenue restaurants from Perry Street to Decatur Street the use of sidewalk fee of \$1 per square foot times the number of months of operation. Council voted unanimously for the resolution.



Provided

New leadership for CMBP

Mayor Zack Mullock and City Manager Michael J. Voll led the swearing-in ceremony of Cape May Beach Patrol Chief Harry Back, Capt. Marty Franco and Lt. Sara Werner at the patrol headquarters. The three new administration officials bring more than 75 years of experience in the beach patrol service.

County recertified as Coast Guard Community

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County's connection with the U.S. Coast Guard has always been strong, but the designation as an official "Coast Guard Community" has been a special honor. Officials were thrilled to find out that Cape May County has been recertified as a Coast Guard Community for another five years. Commissioner Jeff Pierson received

the official letter from Coast Guard Adm. Karl L. Schultz. Pierson also serves as chairman of the Coast Guard Community Foundation. "It has been extremely special to me to both represent Cape May County and the Coast Guard Community Foundation and help with this recertification, especially because of my long military career," said Pierson, who served in the U.S.

Army and New Jersey Army National Guard for 42 years and retired as a brigadier general. The honor was originally bestowed on Cape May County on May 8, 2015. At that time, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft proclaimed Cape May County a Coast Guard Community. The county was only the second at that time to receive the designation, which is confirmed by

Congress and the U.S. Coast Guard. It marks the recognition of a strong and special relationship between the people of Cape May County and local Coast Guard personnel. According to the Coast Guard, Training Center Cape May is the fifth-largest base for the Coast Guard and the only recruit training center. Therefore, TRACEN is considered the "Birthplace of the Coast Guard Enlisted Corps."

Restrictions to ease

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For all indoor activities, face masks will be required unless people are eating or drinking. As of May 19, the state is lifting its prohibition on buffets and other self-service foods at restaurants. The state also will com-

pletely remove limits on outdoor gatherings (with safety protocols in place), meaning events associated with summer such as fireworks, parades and the state fair, can all take place — another major change that limited events at the shore last summer. Much of these eased restrictions are being done in

concert with New York and Connecticut. "These steps will take effect ... on May 19 so long as we don't see a backslide in our metrics," Murphy said. "Given tremendous work that so many of you are putting in to improve our numbers, I have every expectation ... we will hit

this May 19 target date with a bull's-eye. "These are the most aggressive steps we have taken to reopen to date and we feel confident we can do this safely because our numbers have trended decisively in the right direction over the past three weeks."

Dozens protest wind project

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Lee Evans said she retired to the area and is upset at the "industrialization of our oceans."

Jeff Reichle, chairman of Lund's Fisheries, said the fishing industry was not made part of the planning process for the proposed project.

"The government leased all these wind areas out and never came to talk to us about where we're fishing and what we're doing, if it's an issue, if it's not an issue," he said. "We've been kind of a second thought in the whole process."

Reichle said the local fishing industry is hundreds of years old and has been a vital part of the shore community.

"We shouldn't even be talking about this until we do the research, and the whole process is backwards. They leased everything out and now they're going to try to do research, which makes no sense whatsoever," he said.

A question remains what effect wind turbines in the ocean would have on marine mammal migration.

"If there is a negative impact on marine mammals,

that's going to come out of our hide because that is going to put more pressure on our fisheries," Reichle said.

TIDES: May 5-12, 2021				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5	4:06	4:53	10:20	10:37
6	5:05	5:46	11:12	11:34
7	5:57	6:30	11:57	
8	6:42	7:10	12:24	12:37
9	7:23	7:46	1:09	1:14
10	8:02	8:20	1:51	1:49
11	8:40	8:54	2:31	2:22
12	9:17	9:28	3:09	2:54

MOON PHASES
New moon, May 11 • first quarter, May 19

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2021 Spring Water Main Flushing Schedule

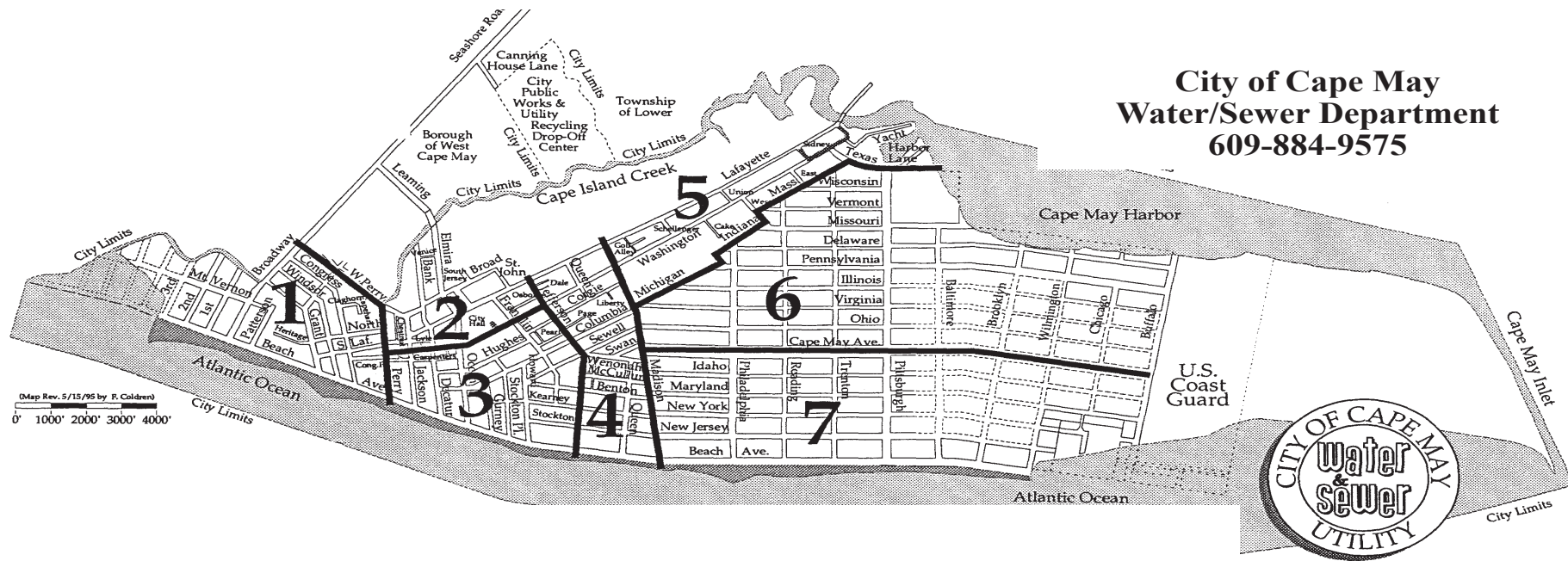
May 10 - May 26

Notice to City of Cape May Water Customers...

All water mains serving the City of Cape May will be "flushed" to remove build up of rust and sediment in the pipes, thereby improving water quality, between Monday, May 10 & Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 7a.m. to 4p.m. as shown.

While flushing does not cut off the supply of water, it does "stir up" rust. Customers should draw water for essential use before flushing in your area.

***Please don't do laundry on your scheduled flushing dates. Thank you for your Cooperation.**



1. Monday & Tuesday, May 10 & 11: West of Perry St.
2. Wednesday, May 12: North of Mall, Perry to Jefferson
3. Thursday & Friday, May 13 & 14: South of Mall, Perry to Jefferson
4. Monday & Tuesday, May 17 & 18: Jefferson to Madison
5. Wednesday & Thursday, May 19 & 20: North of Michigan, Indiana & Massachusetts Aves.
6. Friday & Monday, May 21 & 24: North of Cape May Avenue
7. Tuesday & Wednesday, May 25 & 26: South of Cape May Avenue

**City of Cape May
Water/Sewer Department
609-884-9575**