

City approves study of more beachfront restroom locations

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council authorized requesting a proposal from the city's contracted engineering firm, Mott McDonald, to evaluate public restrooms on the beachfront and make a recommendation for placement of new facilities.

At an Aug. 6 council meeting, Mayor Chuck Lear said the city needs a long-term plan for more restrooms along the beachfront. He said existing restrooms have issues with handicapped accessibility.

A state Department of Environmental Protection public access plan is encouraging more beachfront restrooms throughout the state, Lear said. Councilman Shaine Meier said business owners on the east side of Cape May have indicated a need for more beachfront restrooms since beachgoers are using restaurant restrooms.

"We also know the temporary restrooms in the street, nobody likes those," Lear said. "There are issues if we can even use those in certain areas of Beach Drive because of street width."

He questioned whether restrooms could be built on the seawall, rock pile or street. Lear asked if there was a standard for how far apart restrooms should be located for the convenience of beachgoers.

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan suggested the city look at

one restroom at a time since a number of other municipal projects are in the works.

"It would get done faster if we just focus on one at a time," she said.

Adding public restrooms to the beach tag office, next to Convention Hall, has been suggested but if the building is improved to 50 percent of its value, it would have to be raised to a new flood height, raising the cost.

Councilman Zack Mullock said the building is large and a fair amount of work could be undertaken before reaching the 50 percent mark. Sheehan said the building was assessed at \$555,000.

She asked if the Department of Public Works could install restrooms in the beach tag building. City Manager Neil Young said the city has a \$250,000 grant to replace windows and siding.

"We took approximately 50 percent of the value and submitted the grant application," he said. "Doing more than that at this point would throw a red flag potentially."

Young said bids are under review for the work.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks said once potential restroom locations are established, residents and visitors would provide feedback on each of the locations. Meier said the city needs more locations for persons to change clothes.

Sheehan suggested placing two changing stalls behind restrooms at Philadelphia beach.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

No one injured in house fire

Members of the Cape May Fire Department responded to a structure fire shortly after 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, at 924 Washington St. Assistance was rendered by fire companies from West Cape May, Erma, the Coast Guard, Town Bank, Villas and Rio Grande. According to Cape May Fire Chief Alex Coulter, the fire was located at the rear of the home on the third floor. Firefighters were able to keep the blaze from spreading to the rest of the Victorian-era house. Coulter said the fire reached the attic. The house was not occupied at the time of the fire, which was quickly brought under control.

Dispatch to provide medical data to first responders

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Cape May County Joint Dispatch Center can now instantly provide an individual's MedicAlert profile information to first responders before they arrive at a 911 emergency call for assistance.

The immediate access to critical information is provided through a partnership between the MedicAlert Foundation and RapidSOS — a free service that is contracted with the center through the efforts of the Cape May County Department of Emergency Management.

Dispatchers and first responders will now have direct access to health and demographic information for MedicAlert members during 911 calls.

Telecommunicators will have access to MedicAlert member data either through a phone number associated with a MedicAlert membership or by querying a MedicAlert membership ID number. This allows for telecommunicators to receive data when members call for themselves or in the event a bystander calls

on behalf of a MedicAlert member during an emergency

"This new feature will absolutely save lives and improve the instant medical response to first responders before they even get to the patient," Cape May County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton said. "This is another important component of the county's joint dispatch center and is available to local communities who have made the move to joint dispatch."

Before this partnership, first responders appearing at the scene of a medical emergency needed to search for a MedicAlert bracelet ID to get relative medical information on the patient they are treating. With this new partnership through the RapidSOS system in county dispatch, that information is automatically transmitted through dispatch to the first responders before they arrive at the scene. When a telecommunicator receives a 911 call from a phone number associated with a MedicAlert membership, the RapidSOS system will indicate addi-

tional data from MedicAlert is available for the incident and is then relayed to the responders en route.

"Every second counts, and all medical information is essential when it comes to a medical emergency," Cape May County Department of Emergency Management Director Martin Pagliughi said. "The communities that are part of the county's central dispatch program automatically have this component integrated into the services we provide, as well as communities who join central dispatch in the future."

The MedicAlert Foundation, which has more than 10 million members, provides a lifeline for populations with conditions includ-

ing autism, Alzheimer's, dementia, diabetes, hypertension, allergies and much more.

The medical IDs are part of an online emergency health record that holds critical medical data on the individual who wears the bracelet. MedicAlert pioneered the concept of medical identification six decades ago and partnered with RapidSOS in April 2019.

"Our mission at RapidSOS is to connect the world to public safety, empowering first responders with as much information as possible to aid in the emergency response process," said Michelle Cahn, RapidSOS director of community engagement.

SHOP SMALL, SPEND LOCAL,
EAT LOCAL, ENJOY LOCAL.
Support the local businesses that
support the community.

OYSTER BAY
RESTAURANT & BAR

GREAT STEAKS and SEAFOOD

OPEN 7 DAYS
DINNER starts at 5pm
BAR OPEN from 4pm

HAPPY HOUR 4pm – 6pm

615 Lafayette Street • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2111
www.OysterBayRestaurant.com

FISH MARKET

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH
thru SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH

FRESH FLORIDA SHRIMP
(21-25 CT.)
\$9.50/LB.

MACARONI AND CHEESE
WITH LOBSTER MEAT
\$6.95 EACH

TAKE OUT SPECIALS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH
thru SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

BROILED STUFFED
SHRIMP WITH CRAB MEAT
PLATTER
*served with baked potato or
french fries & cole slaw*
\$12.95

FRIED STUFFED SHRIMP
WITH CRAB MEAT
PLATTER
*served with baked potato
or french fries & coleslaw*
\$12.95

Phone Ahead to Order
609-884-3064
The Lobster House
FISHERMAN'S WHARF in CAPE MAY
www.the lobsterhouse.com

≡ TO GOD BE THE GLORY ≡

THE HARRIET TUBMAN MUSEUM

~ OPENING SUMMER 2020 ~

at The MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH featuring The Reverend Davis Exhibits
Located on Lafayette Street in Cape May, NJ

BE A PART OF HISTORY!
Harriet Tubman worked in Cape May, NJ to raise funds for the Underground Railroad.

YOU CAN HELP FUND THE HARRIET TUBMAN MUSEUM
featuring The Reverend Davis Slavery Collection and more!

All Donations are Important in Any Amount and will be Recognized on our Website.
Donors may be Individuals, Families, Businesses, Schools, Churches.

- \$1 - \$499 Contributor - Listing on Website
- \$500 - \$999 Donor - Listing on Donor Plaque in Museum
- \$1,000 - \$4,999 Founding Member Sponsor
- \$5,000 - Museum Room Sponsor
- \$10,000 - Museum Grand Gallery Sponsor
- \$25,000 - Founding Trustee Sponsor

All \$1,000 Donations or More will be Recognized as "Founders of the Museum" with Permanent Listing on Founding Member Plaque.

To Contribute to the Harriet Tubman Museum, please send your tax deductible donation to PO BOX 2385, Cape May, NJ 08204
All Donations are Tax Deductible through the 501 3C Program.