

Bayshore Road to be repaved, shoulders widened

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — The county is preparing to repave Bayshore Road, Lower Township's main north/south corridor, from Town Bank Road to Charles Street.

A preconstruction meeting with Lower Township Manager Mike Laffey and Deputy Mayor David Perry was held last week.

Perry said he had asked the county for the repaving project as far back as 2016.

"They did their homework, it's not just a repaving," he said. "They are making a lot of safety im-

provements to Bayshore Road."

The Board of County Commissioners approved a \$2.1 million contract with Charles Marandino LLC on Sept. 14 for the project. County engineer Bob Church said the bid came in about \$800,000 under the estimate.

The shoulders of Bayshore Road will be increased to 7 feet wide for pedestrian and bicycle safety, Perry said. Curbing and side-walk will be moved and replaced at Breakwater Road, he said.

The county will replace a 24-inch drainage pipe from Mickel's Run which runs

across Bayshore Road.

Perry said the project is scheduled for 90 days with a start date of this week and a projected completion date of Dec. 19.

Laffey said engineer Marc DeBlasio has completed a survey and design of work to alleviate flooding of Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce avenues in Villas. Some of the work can be handled by the township's Public Works Department before it is put out to bid, Laffey said.

"Some of the work the county did on Bayshore Road has alleviated some of the problem on Cloverdale, but we still have issues on

Ev-ergreen and Spruce," he said.

The county used a vacuum truck on the storm drain system on Bayshore Road.

In Diamond Beach, he said a project to alleviate flooding on Rochester Avenue was at a standstill waiting for permission from the state Department of Environmental Protection to create a ditch at the end of the street to drain water.

Township officials met with the Division of Fish and Wildlife concerning flooding at Madison and Seaview avenues, Laffey said. A swale will be built on Madison Avenue along the fence line.

"We are hopefully working with the county to remove that fence as it sits right now, replace it, but do the work once the fence is removed and then put a fence back up," he said.

A small ditch will be created at the outfall pipe to help drain water from Madison and Seaview avenues along the refuge.

During public comment, East Richmond Avenue resident Susan Zumar said she believes an outfall pipe needs to be extended to alleviate flooding. She said an outfall pipe that serves Seapointe Village is clogged.

East Richmond Avenue resident Jim Pomponi said his request for a street sweeper to clean up sand was answered the next day.

"It didn't eliminate the problem, but it helped to alleviate some of the problem because the water is going a little quicker," he said.

The sweeper has not returned and sand in front of his gutter is a half-inch thick. Pomponi said he frequently sweeps his gutter in the street to keep the water moving.

"We really could use a street sweeper on the island, it's sand," he said.

Cape May elementary to offer preschool to 3- and 4-year-olds

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's elementary school was awarded a \$370,000 New Jersey Department of Education Preschool Education Expansion Grant to expand its full-day preschool to 3- and 4-year-old children.

Superintendent Zack Palombo said the school can now enroll children for preschool if they are age 3 by Oct. 1. The preschool will serve Cape May and U.S. Coast Guard base residents, he said.

The preschool will give students a full-day academic schedule, Palombo said, adding that the school was refitting some of its facilities and rescheduling

personnel for the preschool expansion.

Of the Cape May City Elementary School's student population, 80 percent come from the Coast Guard base. Palombo said a Google survey of base housing residents indicated parents wanted a full-day preschool program. Residents of the Cape May Housing Authority requested the same, he said.

The elementary school currently has 18 preschool students. Preschool classes will have 13 students, allowing a total of 39 children, according to Palombo. Three spaces will be reserved for students with Individualized Education Programs.

The estimated student count for the entire school for Oct. 1, 2021, is 170 chil-

dren, he said.

A typical school day for a 3-year-old student will begin with an 8:30 a.m. arrival time. They may ride the bus but it is not recommended, Palombo said. Classes will take place in the morning with recess and lunch served in the classroom. A nap time of as long as 40-minutes will follow, then a recess with another class, a snack and dismissal.

Before preschool begins, the elementary school needs paraprofessionals, substitutes, volunteers, substitute nurses and classroom retrofitting, Palombo said.

Preschool curriculum will include a focus on social/emotional learning, resiliency with major life transitions and routine/structure.

Assault

Continued from Page A1

The Cape May Police Department's Patrol Division and Detective Division conducted interviews and completed their investigation, which resulted in the arrest of four men on multiple charges.

Grant Peden, of Downingtown, Pa., was charged with aggravated assault,

conspiracy to commit robbery, endangering an injured victim and disorderly conduct.

Brian Dignen, of Chester Springs, Pa., was charged with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery and disorderly conduct.

David Reimold, of Chester Springs, Pa., was charged with robbery, conspiracy to commit

robbery and disorderly conduct.

William Castoldi, of West Chester, Pa., was charged with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery and disorderly conduct.

Peden was placed on a warrant, while Dignen, Reimold and Castoldi were all processed and released on summonses.

Bezaire pleads guilty

Continued from Page A1

the restraining order.

"I did so knowing that asking him to contact 'A.F.' was a violation of the restraining order," Bezaire said.

DeLury said Bezaire had been ordered to avoid all contact with "A.F." or contact through others to her. Assistant County Prosecutor Jennifer Hance said stalking or cyber harassment underlies the charge.

Hance said Bezaire sent emails to "A.F." from anonymous email addresses. Bezaire said he had cyber harassed "A.F."

DeLury said count two, on or about Feb. 2, 2021, alleged Bezaire had contact with a person with the initials "B.B." that would have caused a reasonable person to fear for her safety or suffer emotional distress. Bezaire affirmed the charge.

Bezaire said he initiated several anonymous communications with "B.B." for a period of several weeks to cause her emotional distress.

DeLury consented to having an ankle bracelet monitoring device removed from Bezaire, who said he wished to travel to an out-of-state real estate brokers convention in November.

Hance spoke against removing the ankle bracelet, noting Bezaire had

two victims who asked the monitoring device remain in place. She said Bezaire pleaded to violating a court order.

"It's not counted in the plea, but I would like to get a substance evaluation," DeLury said. "It would probably assist me in ap-

propriate conditions of probation."

Bezaire returned to City Council on Aug. 16 after missing three meetings and offered an apology to the public. He would have been required to give up his council seat had he missed one additional meeting.

TIDES: Sept. 22-29, 2021

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
22	9:37	9:53	3:15	3:37
23	10:13	10:31	3:51	4:18
24	10:49	11:09	4:25	5:00
25	11:27	11:50	4:59	5:44
26		12:07	5:34	6:32
27	12:35	12:52	6:13	7:26
28	1:27	1:47	7:00	8:26
29	2:30	2:49	7:58	9:28

MOON PHASES

Last quarter, Sept. 29 • new moon, Oct. 6

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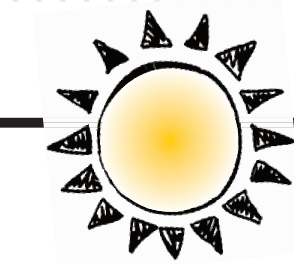
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