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**Stores stay open in winter to cater to local shoppers**  
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Deborah McGuire/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Rare January beach day

Southern New Jersey got a couple of rare mid-January beach days over the weekend. Jim Dobreff, of Stockholm, Sweden, left, Elise Kelly and Jim McPartlin, of Ambler, Pa., and Zoe the dog enjoy a walk Jan. 21 on the beach in Cape May, where the temperature reached 53 degrees.

## Beach panel wants meeting with Army Corps

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A goal of the city's Beach Safety Committee is to set up a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before the next replenishment of the city's beaches in 2019.

"I'm hoping this committee can prepare some questions for that meeting," Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said Jan. 23.

He said he did not know if the meeting would take place in three months or six months. The committee wishes to see the template used by the Army Corps changed to produce less of a slope on the beaches.

DeSatnick said city officials met last week with coastal engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers concerning a project to increase the coverage of seawalls in Cape May. He said

the corps in ready to conduct a feasibility study for the project if council gives their approval.

Cape May Beach Patrol Capt. Jeff Rife said in addition to the committee, City Council members and residents may have questions for the Army Corps about beach replenishment.

Another concern is the state Division of Fish and Wildlife's beach-management program pertaining

to nesting piping plovers, DeSatnick said. Last summer, the state Department of Environmental Protection granted the city permission to rake sharp drop-offs on the beach following storms. He said it is unsure if the city can remove scarps in a limited area or expand its work to Poverty Beach.

"I think it's important the city contacts Fish and Wild-

See Beach, Page A3

## City again peddling idea of Cape Island bike path

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — There are bike lanes in portions of towns on Cape Island but they do not connect with each other or the bike trail that runs from Route 109 to the county park.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Committee member Evelyn Lovitz reported to City Council Jan. 16 on Cape Connect, a concept that began a few years ago as an effort to try to link

these paths.

"Hilary Pritchard and I put out the word that we were interested in looking at a bicycle path that went through the four municipalities, the entire island," Lovitz said.

A group of residents was assembled with the suggestion that an expert was needed to design bicycle paths. She said Alta Design was recommended. Lovitz said a representative of the

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Train tracks such as these at Willow Creek Winery could be used for construction of a bike path to connect the four Cape Island communities.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The proposal calls for expanding the grassy area, closing the one-way portion of Gurney Street and installing benches and landscaping.

## City moves ahead with park plan at All Wars Memorial

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a resolution to enter into a public/private partnership with the Fund for Cape May to create a veterans park around the All Wars Memorial at the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Gurney Street. During a council meeting Jan. 16, Jim Moffatt, a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, said the group looked at the intersection because it presents problems for pedestrians trying to cross the street. He said a 2016 report entitled "Bike Walk Cape May" recommended creating a small park at the memorial.

The three-way intersection surrounding the war memorial creates confusion and is a hazard to pedestrians, automobile drivers and cyclists, Moffatt said. One of the branches of Gurney Street is one way, he said. Moffatt said a branch on the other side of the memo-

rial is two-way, producing a "Y" intersection when approaching Columbia Avenue from the direction of the beach.

"There are no crosswalks for pedestrians crossing the two Gurney Street branches nor on Columbia Avenue," he said.

The war memorial is underutilized and difficult to access due to a lack of crosswalks and curb ramps, Moffatt said.

"By expanding the grassy area around the memorial and closing the one-way branch of Gurney Street, along with implementing proposed improvements such as ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-compliant curb ramps and high-visibility crosswalks, the area would be greatly enhanced by making it more accessible, increase green space in this section of the city and tighten the intersection to improve pedestrian safety and circulation," he said.

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## Cape May considering hiring deputy manager

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance to allow the governing body to create a new position of deputy city manager.

During a council meeting Jan. 16, Mayor Chuck Lear said City Manager Neil Young has other roles in the city government. He said when Young was promoted to permanent city manager from interim manager, council made it clear to him if there came a time when he felt that he was not getting everything accomplished he needed

to do, council would consider hiring a deputy city manager.

Young also serves as the city's chief financial officer and treasurer.

City Solicitor Frank Corrado said the ordinance simply establishes the position of deputy city manager. Existing ordinances give council the discretion of creating the position, he said.

By adopting the ordinance, the city would not be appointing a deputy city manager but the ordinance creates the position the city manager may fill if council supports the decision, Corrado said.

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