



House of the week

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Salty Sirens bring burlesque to Cape May

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John Cooke/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lower Township Mayor Erik Simonsen, left, Jim Ridgway Jr., Matt Szczur and Lower Township Manager Jim Ridgway Sr. pose for a photo during the 3rd annual 'Szcz the Day' fundraiser, which this year kicked off the Matthew Szczur Foundation. The organization promotes testing and donation of bone marrow to help save lives.

Fundraiser launches Szczur Foundation

CAPE MAY — Matthew Szczur hosted the 3rd annual "Szcz the Day" dinner Jan. 27 in the ballroom of Congress Hall. It marked the official launch of the Matthew Szczur Foundation. The event included an hour-long private, 16-person meet and greet with Szczur and his wife, Natalie, prior to open cocktail hour

and both live and silent auctions. Proceeds benefited the Matthew Szczur Foundation and Be The Match. In 2010, the Lower Cape May Regional High School graduate who now plays outfield for the San Diego Padres donated his bone marrow to a baby girl from Ukraine. Anastasia received the bone marrow when she

was 18 months old, and today she's reportedly living her life by swimming, doing karate and just being a kid. The Matthew Szczur Foundation was started with the purpose of raising awareness for bone marrow donors. The odds of being a bone marrow match are 1 in 80,000. The more bone marrow drives The Matthew

Szczur Foundation can hold, the more testing and money will be raised with the intent of saving more lives. While raising awareness through his foundation, his future goal is to host bone marrow drives in as many Major League Baseball stadiums as he can and get as many people tested as possible.

Committee: Extend offseason bike hours on city's Promenade

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is recommending the end date of March 31 for allowing all-day bike riding on the Promenade be moved to May 15 and the Nov. 1 start date moved back to Oct. 1.

Last month the committee suggested the time for bikes to leave the Promenade be pushed back from 10 a.m. to 8 a.m. for safety purposes. The committee is now recommending to City Council the dates of May 15 to Sept. 30 for when the 10 a.m. bicycle curfew on the Promenade is in effect, with no curfew for the rest of the year.

Member James Moffatt said the committee considered bicycling in April, May, September and October.

"Why not open it up all day long for people to ride their bikes?" Moffatt said.

Many days of pleasant weather occur in the spring and early fall months in Cape May, he noted.

"Why keep people off the Promenade after 10 o'clock in the morning when there's not a whole lot of traffic?" Moffatt asked.

While traffic on the Promenade may increase on occasional weekends, it's not like July and August, he said. He said some on the committee wanted

to be more liberal and allow all-day bike riding on the Promenade from Labor Day to Memorial Day.

"We figured let's start out for this first year moving it a month and a half in the spring and one month in the fall," Moffatt said.

An ordinance change would be necessary to alter the hours, he said.

Moffatt said signs at entrances to the Promenade state bicycling is permitted 24 hours per day from Nov. 1 to March 31. He said signs need to be more concise concerning dogs and skateboards. Bikes are allowed on the Promenade as early as 4 a.m. by ordinance.

City Solicitor Frank Corrado said Promenade signs currently seem to state bike riding is permitted until 10 a.m. all year long.

"It says you cannot under any circumstance skateboard on the Promenade and that dogs are permitted on the beach and Promenade only from Nov. 1 to March 31," he said.

Corrado said lawyers are trained to look at the plain meaning. He said the plain reading of the signs indicates the last sentence applies only to dogs on the beach and Promenade.

"So this sign really says almost the opposite of what the ordinance says," Corrado said.

The committee agreed to provide a mockup of a new sign design.

Beach Drive sidewalk project under way

NORTH CAPE MAY — The controversial sidewalk and safety improvement project on Beach Drive has begun despite strong opposition from nearby homeowners.

Asphalt Paving Systems, the contractor hired to complete the Pedestrian Safety and Road Improvement Project to Beach Drive and Shore Drive in the North Cape May and Townbank sections of Lower Township, has started construction.

The project is designed to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety as well as improve drainage issues, repair current sidewalks, create appropriate handicap crosswalk access and help limit sand migration onto the roadway. The project is expected to be completed by May 28.

The contractor is currently prepping the area and installing signage and surveying. While lengthy utility outages during construction are not expected,



Asphalt Paving Systems has begun work on the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety and Road Improvement Project.

minor outages may occur. Motorists should expect minor delays and road closings from time to time throughout this project and advised to use caution if travel is necessary along this stretch of roadway. Calls concerning construction issues can be directed to Lower Township Manager Jim Ridgway at (609)

886-2005. Beach Drive was not in compliance with the state Department of Transportation's standards for motor vehicle and bike sharing and is not ADA compliant, as there is a lack of appropriate handicap crosswalk access. Sand migration was also an issue, especially at the beginning at

Lincoln Boulevard, which had reduced the width of the road.

The project includes installing a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of Beach Drive with curbing and improving existing sidewalks on the east side; drainage improvements on the west side of Beach Drive from Lincoln Boulevard to Fernwood Road and outfall pipe replacement at Washington Boulevard from Beach Drive; curb and handicap ramp improvements on the east side of Beach Drive from Whittier to Emerson roads. Sand that must be removed to complete the project will be relocated onto existing dunes and any vegetation will be replanted.

The project has been the subject of an environmental impact study and the state Department of Environmental Protection has issued approval. In addition, police have voiced their support of the project because of safety concerns.

WCM discusses impact of legalized marijuana

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Gov. Phil Murphy has the borough of West Cape May considering the expansion of medical marijuana and potential legalization of marijuana for recreational use.

New Jersey is one of 29 states with a medical marijuana program. The Board of Commissioners received a letter from Cape Assist beginning a conversation on legalized marijuana.

"Cape Assist is an active and respected organization that works in prevention and providing drug treatment services and education," Mayor Carol Sabo said during a meeting Jan. 24. "There are a lot of perspectives to be had on this topic."

Sabo said Murphy is moving to legalize recreational marijuana and make access to medical

marijuana less restricted.

"There is hope that the governor will make medical marijuana more available and accessible, and the next order of business is what the impact would be in the community," she said.

Sabo said she thought the board should remain open to all sides of the issue.

"My opinion is that it is good to start thinking about this and gathering thoughts about the topic," she said. "There could be opportunities for farming if people want to grow it, and we have farms that are underutilized. I don't want to close doors to anything that could be a fiscal bonus for West Cape May."

New Jersey medical marijuana law has a list of qualifying conditions for use. The product must be purchased at a state-

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