

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 44 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LCMR PLAYER MADIE GIBSON SCORING CHAMP

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Wichterman: Some wrong about issues with LCMR

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman, who has led the charge to change the regional school funding formula, said some suggestions made by candidates for City Council were in error.

He said at Cape May's Candidates Night, there was discussion from some of the candidates suggesting Cape May should sit down and negotiate with Lower Township Council.

"That is not an option," Wichterman said. "We cannot sit down and negotiate."

He said candidates also suggested negotiating with the regional school board to get a least one more member on the board, which he said was also not an option.

"We don't have the right to negotiate with anybody," Wichterman said during an Oct. 21 council meeting. "No one up here has the right to negotiate, nobody in Lower Township has the right to negotiate, it's strictly

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Lower urges rejection of ballot issues

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council is encouraging residents to "just vote no" on a Nov. 4 ballot question asking if the Lower Cape May Regional School District funding formula should be based on the number of students each town sends rather than property values.

Council approved a \$600 addition Oct. 20 to a contract with Wyns Consulting, a statistician working on the school issue for Lower Township. Mayor Michael Beck said the firm was crunching some numbers to be included in the resolution for the Dec. 9 referendum. That ballot question asks if voters want to dissolve the regional school district or whether Cape May should be permitted to leave the district.

Beck said Wyns Consulting would project the financial impact on the regional school district if Cape May

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

For a spooky good time, head down to the Emlen Physick Estate on Washington Street to check out the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities' Scarecrow Alley. The grounds of the estate have been transformed for Halloween, with Scarecrow Alley showcasing homemade scarecrows from the ghoulishly gruesome to the foolishly funny. Above, U.S. Coast Guard Confidence Charlie by the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club. Below left is Elizabeth Crow, ghost of the Washington Inn. Below right, Voodoo Happy Hour by Sue and Anne Gibson. **More photos, events list, B8.**

Scary time to be a crow



City will lease land from school to develop Lafayette Street Park

By JACK FICHTER
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CAPE MAY — The city signed an agreement Oct. 23 with the Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education to lease land adjacent to the school on Lafayette Street for 25 years to be used as part of a 35-acre park. The board voted 6-2 to approve the lease agreement, with board members Mark LeMunyon and Sharon Lee

Kuistra casting "no" votes. The lease payment is \$1 per year.

According to the agreement, the land that is currently a playground and athletic fields would be used for passive recreation, educational and environmental facilities for the general public and students. The agreement states the city grant funding available from the state Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the Lafayette Street Park.

The city will construct improvements on the leased land, with the school having the right to review plans, according to the agreement. The school would have the right to reject incorporation of any proposed improvements into the final plan "on the basis that such improvements create a safety threat to students."

According to the agreement, an existing basketball court immediately adjacent to the school will be

preserved in its current condition or be improved. The city will be responsible for demolishing a shed on the property.

The agreement states maintenance and security of the park and all its facilities are the sole responsibility of the city. The school district will notify the city of any security improvements needed to the school building as a result of the city's use of the leased land. The city will provide all water,

electricity and other utilities at its expense for the leased premises. The school board agreed the park would be available all year at reasonable hours of the day.

According to Bob Fineberg, school board solicitor, the agreement underwent more than one revision. He said any concerns of school board members were conveyed to City Solicitor

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