



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



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Outdoor seat rules a priority for summer

Mercantile license surcharge of \$25 to go into parking trust fund

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council passed an ordinance in May addressing temporary outdoor seating at food and beverage establishments, but the implementation has not been as smooth as some of the drinks served outdoors here.

The ordinance spreads the burden of inadequate parking in Cape May to all mercantile license holders with a \$25 surcharge placed on each mercantile license to bolster a parking trust fund. The surcharge will not be implemented until 2018.

City Manager Neil Young addressed the ordinance and other city initiatives during a Town Hall meeting Sept. 27.

“The implementation of the ordinance, and any ordinance for that matter, came with some pushback from those affected,” he said. “The Zoning Office has since sent out letters to those establishments affected by this ordinance so that applications could be filed and disputes could be discussed.”

Young said it has been discovered some establishments have prior approval for outdoor seats and some are not in the proper

zone to qualify for outdoor seats.

“Some applications have simply been denied an outdoor seating license for safety and parking reasons and some have simply yet to file their outdoor seating application,” he said. “The ultimate goal here is to have compliance for the next summer season and this city administration will work tirelessly to ensure that goal is met.”

The previous city administration began updating a construction code permit fee ordinance with certain portions delayed to the current administration, according to Young. He said three key areas

of discussion were Certificates of Continuing Occupancy, Certificates of Zoning Compliance and Certificates of Flood Damage Prevention Compliance.

Young said since City Council also adopted an ordinance creating a Bureau of Fire Prevention, the need to also have a Certificate of Continuing Occupancy diminished and was removed from the ordinance.

The Certificate of Flood Damage Prevention Compliance requires an inspection of buildings, structures or units prior to the transfer of title to determine compliance

with the flood damage section of the code. Those with questions about the ordinance, may contact the city's Construction and Zoning Official Loy Vitto, Young said.

The Fire Prevention Bureau will begin operation on Jan. 1, 2018.

“The city administration will now be going through the process of starting the department,” he said. “We will be utilizing consultants, current employees and the help from other municipalities to ensure a smooth transition come 1/1/18.”

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Rising insurance rates could force raising of homes

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough homeowners wishing to obtain discounted federal flood insurance may need to elevate their homes on piling in order to comply with new base flood elevation regulations set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and scheduled to go into effect Oct. 5.

Base flood elevation (BFE) is a regulatory requirement for the elevation and flood proofing of structures. The relationship between a property's BFE and the structure's elevation determines the flood insurance premium. In order to comply with the new regulations, some homeowners in Cape May Point may need to elevate their homes.

Cape May Point is part of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System (CRS). Through the NFIP, Cape May Point was given a

Class 6 rating, which gives flood insurance holders a 20 percent discount on their premiums, Deputy Mayor Anita vanHeeswyk said.

According to vanHeeswyk, homeowners opting not to raise their homes may pay in excess of \$10,000 annually for flood insurance. In some cases, it might be cheaper to demolish and rebuild their homes, she said.

“Cape May Point has a lot of cottages and we love them, but it is one of the things that has been a constant change since we have been part of the Flood Insurance Program,” vanHeeswyk said. “FEMA has a requirement if you redo more than 50 percent of assessed value of the home, it must go on piling and meet their levels.”

She said homeowners wishing to remodel their homes can meet with zoning officer John McGraw to review criteria for elevating their homes.

“John looks up the assessed
Flood insurance, A2



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Raising a glass to Oktoberfest

Attendees line up at one of four beer gardens during the annual Oktoberfest celebration Sept. 30 on Jackson Street in Cape May. The event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May, expanded to include Carpenter's Lane.

Seminar details how officials prepare for natural disasters

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Understanding how officials plan for natural disaster responses and how citizens can safeguard their properties and keep themselves and their families safe were part of a seminar Sept. 27 at the Ocean City Free Public Library.

Ocean City Emergency Management Coordinator Frank Donato said when events span multiple departments and agencies, local emergency management

departments get involved in events such as nor'easters, blizzards, flooding and hurricanes.

Donato said every New Jersey town has an emergency management coordinator who works with their county coordinator. Cape May County's Emergency Management Director is Marty Pagliughi.

Troopers with the New Jersey State Police perform emergency management functions for the state, Donato said.

“If we need a resource through the state, our re-

quest goes to them (State Police) through their chain of command,” Donato said.

Donato noted the state's emergency management headquarters is in West Trenton, in a building called the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC). During natural disasters or large-scale events, the governor is located in ROIC.

“That's where all of the information is coming into, that's where it's all getting disseminated from, that's where the decisions are

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Veteran from Millville charged with threats to LoBiondo, staff

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAMDEN — A Millville man was charged Sept. 29 with threatening to assault and murder U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo and his staff, according to acting U.S. Attorney William E. Fitzpatrick.

Joseph Brodie, 38, was charged on a federal criminal complaint with one count of threatening to assault a U.S. official. Brodie has been in state custody since he was arrested Sept. 20 and is slated to appear

before U.S. Magistrate Judge Joel Schneider in federal court in Camden at a later date.

LoBiondo represents New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District, which encompasses Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic and parts of Salem, Gloucester, Camden and Burlington counties.

According to documents filed in the case, on Sept. 15 and 19, Brodie allegedly made various threats via telephone and email to murder and assault a New Jersey member of Congress and the congress-

man's staff.

LoBiondo's office confirmed to the Cape May Star and Wave that he was the congressman threatened.

The count to which Brodie has been charged is punishable by a maximum penalty of six years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Brodie, a veteran, has been frustrated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), according to the criminal complaint.

On May 5, New Jersey State Police troopers per-

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