

# Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 48 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2014 75¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



## ZOO ACQUIRES AFRICAN LION SIBLINGS

Page A8



## Christmas cheer lights up the night



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

As part of the holiday preview weekend, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities had Santa Claus flip the switch Nov. 22 to light its Christmas tree on the lawn of the Emlen Physick Estate. Below left, MAC held an old-fashioned Christmas in the Carroll Gallery featuring model trains, toys and a giant tree. Below right, Haley and Matthew Pinto, of Wildwood, visit Santa.



## County fire official dies after blaze

Treon, 62, complained of chest pains at scene of fire in N. Wildwood

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**NORTH CAPE MAY** — Art Treon, Cape May County fire coordinator and deputy coordinator of the county Office of Emergency Management, died Nov. 19 following a fatal house fire.

The previous night he was on the scene of the fire in North Wildwood, where he complained of chest pain and shortness of breath, and was transported to Cape May Regional Medical Center.

Treon, 62, was a lifelong resident of Lower Township. He retired as a lieutenant from the county Sheriff's Office, where he rose through the ranks and held various positions from 1982 to 2007. After his retirement, he began working for the county Office of Emergency Management.

Treon joined the Town Bank Volunteer Fire Company in 1975. He obtained his 10-year star and became a Town Bank life member in 1985. Treon held the office of vice president, president, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief, taking the position of chief from 1995 to 2009. After stepping down as chief, Treon took over the role of training officer as well as one of the department's safety officers. He received numerous awards

and commendations. Treon was a chief instructor for the Cape May County Fire Academy.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Martin Pagliughi recalled being taught by Treon at the county fire academy 20 years ago.

"Through the fire service, we've been friends for years," he said. "We were more than working colleagues, we developed a personal friendship."

"It's a huge loss for the Cape May County public safety community," Pagliughi continued.

Lower Township Manager Mike Voll said Treon would be "dearly missed." "He was a pillar of the community that loved this town and his fire company and was active in the state fire organizations," he said.

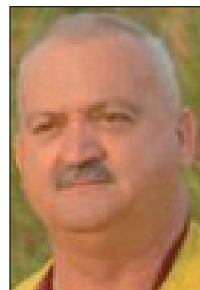
Voll said he had breakfast with Treon at the Rio Grande Fire Company days before his death.

"I was shocked when I got the message that he had passed away," Voll said.

Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck said Treon was "a true son of Lower Township."

"He did an awful lot not only to help the residents of Lower Township but throughout the county,"

See Art Treon, Page A3



TREON

## 'Lower Cape May Tonight' debuts from LCMR studio

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**ERMA** — Live from Erma, it's "Lower Cape May Tonight."

Lower Cape May Regional High School aired the first live television broadcast from a high school in Cape May County on Nov. 17.

The 29-minute live telecast was available on Channel 9 to Comcast subscribers in Lower Township, Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point.

Director of Curriculum

and Instruction Joseph Castellucci said he discussed the content of the broadcast with Television Production Instructor Sam Best.

"We thought it should be somewhat of a version of our 'Lower Cape May Today' program that students see in the morning. However, since its going out live to the community, it should garner aspects of the community as well," Castellucci said.

"Lower Cape May Tonight" is a combination of a school

See Telecast, Page A3

## Cape May residents split on withdrawal bid

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**CAPE MAY** — If residents' comments at a meeting last week are any indication, the city may be split on whether to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

The Taxpayers Association of Cape May in conjunction with the city of Cape May sponsored a roundtable discussion regarding a special election Dec. 9 that will ask voters to withdraw from the regional school district.

The Nov. 21 meeting held in

Convention Hall drew a small audience. Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman, who chaired the meeting, said the Taxpayers Association began working on a solution to change the funding formula for the regional school district in the mid-1990s.

"I go over the bills every month and I saw one month we were paying about \$620,000 for one month to the regional high school," Wichterman said. "Now we put out that payment 10 times a year."

He said since he returned to council, the monthly cost has risen to \$651,000.

"We have about 67 children

in the school. Many of those children are from the Coast Guard, and if they're living on the base, they're not paying any taxes at all," Wichterman said.

He said he is glad the Coast Guard has a base in Cape May but that they are not assisting the city in paying the bill for the regional high school. Wichterman said state Sen. Jeff Van Drew provided no help legislatively to change the state formula for regional school districts.

Special attorney Vito Gagliardi, hired by the city to pursue a change in the funding formula, attended the

roundtable meeting. Wichterman called Gagliardi the most experienced attorney in the state on regional school funding formula issues.

Gagliardi has been working with the city since early 2012. A total of 70 percent of Cape May's voters cast affirmative votes on the Nov. 4 election ballot asking whether the regional school funding formula should be changed to one based on student enrollment, Wichterman said.

He said the city is well aware it will not win on the Dec. 9 ballot question of withdrawal

See Withdrawal, Page A2

# WASHINGTON INN

Serving Dinner Friday and Saturday from 5 pm

Cape May Wine School Champagne Class  
Saturday, December 13 @ 1pm

THE WINE BAR Open Friday and Saturday

801 WASHINGTON STREET + 609-884-5697 + WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM