

Cape May Star and Wave

163rd YEAR NO. 52 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017 75¢



House of the week
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New mayor, maps, drain pipes and dunes in 2017
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TEACHING LITERACY, CITIZENSHIP



Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Students take a citizenship class at the Pleasantville office of Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic, Inc. last week. From left are Natalia Rusakova, of Egg Harbor Township, Tatyana Houser, of Somers Point, and Alex Safrygin, of EHT.

Literacy Volunteers: More than reading

LVA teaches citizenship, literacy in health, finance

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

PLEASANTVILLE — Each week since February, Alex Safrygin, a native of Belarus, has driven to the Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic, Inc., office in Pleasantville to prepare to become a citizen of a country he said he has dreamed about since 1998. Safrygin, of Egg Harbor Township, has lived in the United States for nine months and is taking a citizenship test preparation course through the Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic, Inc., (LVA) to prepare to become a Unit-

ed States citizen. Safrygin said that his wife earned her citizenship in July. When asked why he moved to America, Safrygin answered simply, "It's

my dream." In 1998, Safrygin took a seven-day business trip to California. It was his first visit to the United States. "Only seven days ... and

I dream about the United States every day for years," he said. To help ensure he passes

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Literacy tutors come from all walks of life, but share common goal of helping others

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

PLEASANTVILLE — Before tutors for the Literacy Volunteers Association can help students, they are students. Each volunteer tutor takes a 15-hour training class with Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic, Inc. When the class finishes, LVA Program Director Pa-

mela Grites helps tutors find appropriate materials and set up their classes. Classes to become a volunteer tutor are offered about four times each year. In one year, the LVA trains about 25 to 30 new tutors. Tutors are required to have a minimum of a high school education or have earned

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Cape May OKs design rules in historic district

Standards intended to help maintain federal designation

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — After some tweaking and a few months of discussion, City Council unanimously passed an ordinance Dec. 19 amending design standards for the city's Historic Preservation Commission concerning solar panels, wind turbines and satellite and broadband antennas, and clarifying the procedure for appealing an HPC decision to the Zoning Board.

The ordinance prohibits solar panels that are visible from the street in the historic district or on historic buildings outside the district. The ordinance states solar collectors placed on the ground may be acceptable if placed in a limited or nonvisible, secondary portion of a property. It is suggested they be further screened from view by vegetation.

The ordinance notes for some historic sites, it may not be possible to incorporate solar collectors and meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The standard applies to any rehabilitation or new project inside the historic district and for any rehabilitation project that impacts an historic site outside of the district.

The ordinance states wind mills, wind turbines, satellite dishes and broadband antennas are not appropriate in the historic district.

Installing replacement windows at an historic site is addressed by the ordinance. When original wood windows have deteriorated beyond repair, a solid wood window is the preferred replacement. When a home that contributes to the historic district has had clad windows installed, the owner may replace those windows "like for like." The appearance of the replacement clad windows must be consistent with the general characteristics of an historic window of the type and period but need not replicate the missing historic window, according to the ordinance.

What were once referred to as design "guidelines" are now called "standards." Appeals of HPC decisions are made to the zoning board.

"The appellant shall pay all costs for copies of any transcripts which shall be by a certified court reporter," states the ordinance. "The appeal shall be heard on the record made before the Historic Preservation Commission." A decision by the HPC will be over-

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Air conditioning, mold problem at Convention Hall

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Convention Hall is only six years old but already is experiencing air conditioning malfunctions as well as a mold issue and hairline cracks in a walkway.

During a City Council meeting Dec. 19, Municipal Buildings and Property Committee Chairman Bob Elwell said the committee's greatest concern is the building's air conditioning units. He said Convention Hall has undergone very expensive air conditioning repairs.

In 2016, the city spent \$21,000 repairing the system, Elwell said. In 2017,

the city spent \$49,288 on the system, including \$200 per month for glycol treatment. He said he stopped in the building two Fridays ago and saw desks covered with tarps and an air conditioning contractor repairing a glycol leak.

"It appears that Band-Aids have been used to keep the Convention Hall air conditioning system going, which is a necessity," Elwell said.

He said rental bookings in summer rely on Convention Hall's climate being cool. Elwell said air conditioning problems must be solved.

"Unconfirmed reports

See **Problems**, Page A7



Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

An American Red Cross truck outside a blood drive at the Ocean City Masonic Lodge last week.

Blood donations needed during holidays

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give the gift of life this holiday season by donating blood.

About 5 million Americans need blood transfusions every year, including those with emergencies or who undergo long-term medical treatments. In December, donations

decline but the needs of patients remains steady. The American Red Cross advises setting aside an hour to give blood.

Alana Mauger, external communications manager

for the American Red Cross said a majority of donations remain within the Penn/Jersey region.

She said if needed, the

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