



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## LOSING YOUR HAIR IS NOT ALWAYS A BAD THING

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# Electric-car drivers get a charge out of Cape May

By ALISON HUMMEL  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Driving to the shore for a weekend getaway is something many people in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York consider as soon as the snow melts. Plummeting gas prices are making that drive a little easier on the wallet, but for some drivers, low gas prices won't entice them to take the trip.

What drivers wouldn't be excited to save some money at the pump? Plug-in Electric Vehicle (EV) drivers are at the forefront of fuel-efficiency. You couldn't get any more fuel-efficient, since they are solely powered by electricity. This type of efficiency helps with cost as well as creating little or no air pollution.

The United States has the largest fleet of plug-in EVs worldwide, with about 410,000 high-

way-capable vehicles, 33 percent of all plug-in EVs worldwide.

Drivers predominantly choose the Nissan Leaf, with the Chevrolet Volt and the Tesla Model S coming in second and third for the most commonly driven plug-in electric cars.

The Nissan Leaf can travel as many as 107 miles between charges and drivers use a "universal charger" to power up between drives. Tesla drivers

can go about twice as far, 207 miles between charges, and rely on specific charging stations for Tesla vehicles only.

These efficient and environmentally friendly drivers have to figure out how to get to where they want to go and back again. With the help of public charging stations scattered throughout the region, Cape May is a welcoming destination for all EV drivers.

Drivers can charge their ve-

hicles at The Candlelight Inn in Wildwood, The Montreal Inn, La Mer and Congress Hall, all in Cape May. For those driving further than 107 or 207 miles, they can find charging stations in and around the Atlantic City area in various locations.

"For those people who are taking the trip to the shore, it's a great environmental thing" said

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## Urgent Care access street will remain a two-way road

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — The New Jersey Turnpike Authority has agreed to allow 9th Avenue, which offers access to Urgent Care off Route 109, to remain a two-way street as part of improvements made to the end of the Garden State Parkway and Route 109.

During a Township Council meeting March 21, Township Manager Jim Ridgway said the authority wanted to change 9th Avenue to one way headed toward Route 109.

"We fought for one-way going in because the only way to get to Urgent Care would have been to go through Tranquility," he said, referring to a nearby housing complex.

After state Sen. Jeff Van Drew intervened by writing a letter to the Turnpike Authority, the agency agreed to leave it a two-way road, Ridgway said.

"Instead of changing it the other way, they're going to leave it as it was. It's going to be two way as it has been for the last 20 years," he said.

Mayor Michael Beck asked if the township would bear some responsibility in case of accidents for requesting the change from the authority's plans. He asked if the township faced an increase in potential liability. Beck said he supported the project but did not want to put the township in a position if there is an accident "the state says we told you so."

Township Solicitor Dave Stefankiewicz said if there were any increase in liability it would be minimal.

"I think the change is going to make it a lot safer because they eliminate some curves," Councilman Tom Conrad said.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Rolling down the Bunny Trail

The city of Cape May in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May, Washington Street Mall merchants and Cape May Kiwanis Club held the annual Cape May Easter Fashion Stroll on Sunday, March 27, on the 300 block of the mall. Winnie Fox, of Philadelphia, took third place in the best dressed girls, age 3 and under category. See a list of winners, more photos on B8.

## Lower adds a camera to uniforms of some police

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Lower Township Council approved the purchase of 46 body cameras for the Lower Township Police Department.

The cost of the cameras is \$89,951, of which \$23,000 will be paid by a grant from the state Attorney General's Body Worn Camera Assistance Program.

The cameras will be ordered from Watch Guard of Allen, Texas, according to Chief William Mastriana. The cameras, which have an adjustable lens, will be worn on a pocket on the officer's uniform to get the best view, he said.

The cameras can be turned off by the officer. Mastriana said the county police chiefs' association would be voting on a policy for use of the cameras.

"You can dictate who wears them, who doesn't wear them, but it's very hard to dictate where and when they can't be used," he said.

Mastriana said directives were published by the state Division of Criminal Justice. He said the Police Department would follow the state directive. He said it provides some leeway on deployment of cameras but discretion was very limited as to when a body camera could be turned off by a police officer.

The new cameras have the capability to record continuously for nine hours but he said that was unlikely since the camera would not be running for meal and restroom breaks. Mastriana said a body camera may

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# Phragmites fire causes heat damage to homes at Harbor Cove

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A reed fire in the Harbor Cove subdivision caused heat damage to five structures on three properties and one vehicle at about 3:44 p.m. March 23.

Firefighters from Cape May, West Cape May and Coast Guard Training Center Cape May responded to the fire in the 1400 block of Missouri Avenue.

According to Cape May Fire Department Lt. Ed

Zebrowski, two homes, three garages and a shed were damaged. Vinyl siding melted or curled on several buildings from the initial intense heat of the fire, he said.

Zebrowski said homes at 42 and 44 Harbor Cove sustained the most damage. The fire began in a section of phragmites reeds across from condominiums in the 1400 block of Missouri Avenue.

"The danger that day was high. You have low humidity and somewhat dry ground with a little bit

of wind, that's what gets it going," Zebrowski said.

Winds did not help the situation, he said. From the suspected point of origin, the fire traveled very quickly toward homes, he said.

"If the wind was blowing in the other direction, it would have just gone out to the street and those homes probably wouldn't have been in danger," he said.

The fire is not considered suspicious, according to Zebrowski, and is under investigation by

the state Forestry Fire Service because it was a brush fire. He said a carelessly discarded cigarette is often the cause of similar fires.

Zebrowski said the fire spread rapidly.

"The pros and cons of that is it grows very quickly but it also eats up its fuel very quickly," he said.

The fire was declared under control in 20 minutes. Firefighters worked to keep the fire away from the homes, Zebrowski said.



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Firefighters battled a blaze Wednesday, March 23, in a section of phragmites on the 1400 block of Missouri Avenue. No one was injured.

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