



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Plant may have underground tank

JCP&L says it would be removed as part of remediation

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A geophysical investigation at the site of the former manufactured-gas plant on Lafayette Street may have turned up evidence of an additional underground storage tank.

From 1853 to 1937, the plant provided Cape May with gas for heating, cooking and lighting. In the process, Benzene,

Naphthalene and other chemicals were left underground.

Through a number of mergers, Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) inherited the site, which includes the former Vance's Bar property, the city's dog park and property on the corner of St. Johns and Lafayette streets. JCP&L has been designing a remediation plan that requires the approval of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

JCP&L spokesman Ron Morano told the Star and Wave that a recent underground test "identified a metallic anomaly consistent with the signature of an underground storage tank."

"These things are not uncommon in association with former MGP (manufactured-gas plant) sites," he said. "If it exists, if it's there, it will be removed as part of our remedial action," he continued.

Cleanup of the site is running behind schedule.

A draft of a remedial work plan submitted to the city in 2011 called for the permitting process to last from September 2011 to February 2012. The first-season construction of underground containment structures was projected to begin in October 2012 and conclude by May 2013. Second-season



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

JCP&L may have found an underground tank at Lafayette Street..

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Cape May Point tax rate stays the same

Water, sewer bills will rise \$28/year

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commission approved its 2014 budget, which calls for no increase in the local tax rate. Water and sewer bills will each increase by \$7 per quarter due to increased expenses.

At last week's Borough Commission meeting, Auditor Glen Ortman said the budget was \$40,000 under a 2 percent state levy cap. He said revenue increased by \$6,372 over last year's budget. The tax rate will remain at 25.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Ortman said the water/sewer utility did not have a good year in 2013. The utility's surplus at the end of 2013 was \$88,068, of which \$72,700 is being used in the 2014 budget. He said the water/sewer utility was hit with higher sewage-disposal costs from the county Municipal Utili-

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Spring swing at Cape May National Golf Club



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

With the weekend's Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga., as a possible inspiration, local golfers took to the greens April 11 at Cape May National Golf Club. Above, Dave Kane, of Erma, took advantage of a beautiful spring day to play 18 holes.

Tails wagging over increase in dog-friendly accommodations

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — While a vacation in Cape May is a treat for many people, it's no fun for a dog that doesn't accompany its owner and is left behind in a kennel or stays home alone with visits from a pet sitter.

But there is little reason to leave your four-footed friend at home when Cape May has an increasing number of dog-friendly accommodations.

Bob and Linda Steenrod have been operating the dog-friendly Billmae Cottage for

13 years. They purchased a former rooming house and opened it to man's best friend, Linda Steenrod said. They also offer a house rental on Lafayette Street that welcomes dogs.

Steenrod said more accommodations in Cape May became dog-friendly when the economy slumped.

She said the Marquis de Lafayette Hotel has more than a dozen dog-friendly rooms. The White Dove Cottage has a dog-friendly room and the Palace Hotel, Madison Avenue Beach Club and the Blue Fish Inn have rooms for Fido or Lassie,

'They often bring more things for the dog than for themselves.'

— Linda Steenrod, Billmae Cottage

Steenrod said.

The Rusty Nail restaurant offers outdoor dining and a dog menu, according to spokeswoman Ashley Priest. The menu includes doggie beer that is actually a noncarbonated, nonalcoholic beverage made from chicken broth and barley. Dogs can also dine on

a plain all-beef hot dog without a bun, a doggie bowl of grilled chicken or rice and carrots, or a "wrangler roundup" of lean ground turkey "for doggies on a low-fat diet." The Rusty Nail also offers "all-natural pup treats."

The adjacent Beach Shack motel allows dogs weighing

less than 40 pounds. There are 10 dog-friendly rooms available. According to Priest, guests visiting the Beach Shack with a dog will be charged an additional \$35 per night. The price includes a welcome kit that, beginning May 9, will include a \$20 daily Rusty Nail dining voucher, a custom Beach Shack dog leash, use of a dog bed and food and water bowls, "Mark Your Spot" local points of interest for your dog, "Dog in-room" door hanger, disposable waste bags, a Frisbee and special doggie treat.

Priest said dog-friendly

rooms are all located on the first floor of the motel. Instead of wall-to-wall carpeting, the Billmae properties use area rugs and have carpet shampoos.

Dogs that travel with their owners are generally well-behaved and familiar with staying in a room with their owners, Steenrod said.

"People walk their dogs frequently," she said. "They often bring more things for the dog than they do for themselves, such as a bed, bowls and toys."

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