

# Cape May Star and Wave

164th YEAR NO. 16

CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018 \$1.00



## House of the week

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## LaMer gets OK to move eatery entrance

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Bill Barlow/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Police raid home in Cape May Point

Law enforcement officers outfitted in SWAT gear busted the door down on the home of Michael Pasquarello, 44, at 721 Lighthouse Road in Cape May Point at about 11 a.m. Tuesday and took him away in handcuffs. He was charged with possession of MDMA, a synthetic psychoactive drug commonly known as Ecstasy or Molly, and possession of marijuana. He was later released pending court. **See another photo on A6.**

## Man charged in murder of Villas woman

**CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE** — A Villas resident was arrested April 12 at a Philadelphia hospital and charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Destiny Rollar, 22, at her home.

Charles A. Bland, 25, of 103 East Virginia Ave., was charged with murder, aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and hindering apprehension.

Members of the Lower Township Police Department responded to the home at about 10:24 a.m. April 11 to check on the well-being of Rollar and her two young children who reside at that address, according to police.

Rollar was found to have a gunshot wound to the head and was airlifted to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center for treatment. Her children were later located unharmed at a family member's residence in Philadelphia. Rollar was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Detectives from the Lower Township Police Department and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office responded to the scene and a joint investigation was initiated. As a result, court-authorized search warrants were executed on the residence and two vehicles, one of which was located in Philadelphia.

As a result of the search warrants, numerous items of evidence were seized along with three handguns and two semi-automatic rifles, police said.

According to police, on the morning of April 11, Bland was located in a hospital in Philadelphia where he was being treated from a non-life-threatening gunshot wound that was allegedly self-inflicted. He was taken into custody by Philadelphia police detectives and was charged with weapons offenses. He will be held in Philadelphia until he is extradited to Cape May County.

County Prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland said this is an ongoing investigation and urges anyone who has information to contact the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office at (609) 465-1135.

## Washington Street resident fed up with cars hitting house

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Having your house hit by a car once is traumatic enough, but Washington Street resident Mark Disanto has had it happen twice and experienced a number of near misses.

Last week, Cape May police called Disanto to inform him a car had hit his house at 1362 Washington St. His house is the one just to the left of the informational signboard and almost lines up with cars making a left turn from Sidney Street onto headed toward the Wawa or out of the city.

The latest accident dam-

aged a corner of his home, crumbling the foundation and causing cracks farther back under the house. An earlier accident damaged the front steps. Disanto used to have large trees that acted as a buffer, blocking what he said were at least 20 incidents with cars. The city removed them due to disease, he said.

"The problem is ... no one stops for this stop sign," he said, calling it too small and easy to miss.

He suggests a traffic light at the intersection of Sidney and Washington streets, as well as removal of traffic islands at Lafayette and Sidney streets, Texas Avenue and Washington Street and

another at the merge point of Lafayette and Washington streets in front of the Cape Marlin and Tuna Club.

He suggests another traffic light at Washington Street and the bridge. After removing traffic islands, Disanto suggests allowing two-way traffic on Lafayette Street leaving the city.

"Ninety percent of the traffic leaving town has to go through this maze," he said.

Disanto suggests a re-engineering of the exit from Cape May on Washington Street, perhaps removing the Riggins gas station and a portion of a shopping plaza on the opposite side of the street for a wider road. A pedestrian

was killed using a crossing in front of the C-View Inn, he noted.

He said the history of cars hitting his house does not make for a restful night's sleep and that his biggest concern is a car will hit the house and catch on fire.

He said he has lived in the house for 56 years and been complaining about the road for 35 years. Disanto said he has approached City Council with his request for a traffic light. He said more traffic lights would also make Washington and Lafayette streets safer for pedestrians.

"There's no lights, the traffic is out of control," he said. "The concept is out of date."



Mary Ellen DiCapua/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Mark Disanto indicates where his house on Washington Street was damaged recently when a car struck it. It was the second time it has happened after the city removed trees out front.

## Bike path meeting draws officials from four towns

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Representatives from Cape May, West Cape May, Cape May Point, Lower Township and the county offices of engineering and planning gathered for a joint meeting April 11 on the topic of better bike paths, trails and connections among the four

municipalities.

The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee spearheaded the meeting. Officials attending included Cape May Mayor Chuck Lear, West Cape May Mayor Carol Sabo, Cape May Point Commissioner Bob Mullock and Lower Township Manager Jim

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## Survey finds teen drug, alcohol use down

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

Generally speaking, fewer Cape May County teens are using alcohol and drugs than a few years ago, according to the results of the biennial Cape May County Pride Committee survey.

To keep that downward trend going, it is important for parents and peers to show their disapproval about smoking, drugs and drinking,

officials said.

Kim Mounce, a senior coalition coordinator for Cape Assist, which is part of the Pride Committee, said the survey is offered to students in seventh, ninth, 11th and 12th grades in every school district in the county.

To take the survey, students must have a signed consent form.

"Everything has got to be weighted somewhat, but these are kids whose parents

signed the consent form, so I feel like these are kids whose parents are keeping more of an eye on them, so I would take that into consideration a little bit, too," Mounce said.

The most recent survey was distributed in October/November 2017. In that survey, 457 seventh-graders, 120 ninth-graders, 76 11th-graders and 95 12th-graders participated in the survey.

Participation appeared to

be higher in previous years for some grades. In 2015, 253 ninth-graders took the survey and 188 ninth-graders took the survey in 2013. Among 11th-graders, 184 participated in the survey in 2015 and 121 participated in 2013. In 2015, 146 12th-graders took the survey.

Participation rates were steadier among seventh-graders. In 2015, 426 sev-

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