



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Conrad says beach paths not causing blown sand

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Councilman Tom Conrad addressed rumors and what he called misinformation concerning Lower Township's new beach access paths and a proposed project to construct a sidewalk along the bayfront in North Cape May.

During a Township Council meeting April 12, he addressed statements from the public at council's previous meeting concerning new beach access paths causing issues with sand in the streets. He said the following day, he drove along the bay checking each entryway, ones recently built by the township and older paths.

"I did not see one new beach access path that had an issue with sand blowing down the path onto the street," Conrad said.

He said he again checked all the paths two days before the most recent council meeting to see if there were any sand issues.

"There were none," Conrad said.

New beach access paths in Villas can be found at street ends at Ocean, Bay, Hudson, Pacific, Delaware Parkway, Atlantic, Bates, New York, Ridgewood, Pinetree, Greenwood, Woodland, Oak, Walnut, Spruce, Wildwood and Village roads, he said.

"Sand blowing down the streets from dunes in certain parts? Of course, it's near a beach," Conrad said.

He said he noticed sand on the street was predominately in the areas where the dunes are higher than the street, so sand is actually being blown off the dunes. He said nothing can be done about sand being blown off dunes because it's a natural process.

Conrad said he thought the new beach access paths had reduced sand blowing onto the streets compared to the old paths. He asked the public to inspect the paths.

"Public Works not only did a great job but they won an award from the JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) for that work," Conrad said.

The new paths have received countless compliments, he said.

Conrad also addressed Beach Drive pedestrian safety improvements that include beach modifications, curb, sidewalk and drainage improvements on the west side of Beach Drive from Lincoln

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Showing off their Easter finery

Julianna Hurd, of Ivyland, Pa., who took first place in the girls 3 and under age category in Cape May's Easter Stroll on Sunday, high-fives the Easter Bunny. Below left, the Gerace twins of Mechanicsburg, Pa. Below right, Lillie McCurdy, 5, of Lower Township.



Residents question substation expansion

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Residents of Venice Avenue, Bank and Elmira streets with concerns about a planned doubling of the size a power substation in their neighborhood met with representatives of Atlantic City Electric last week. A second transformer and a 30-foot-tall building are in the proposed plans.

Atlantic City Electric Senior Public Affairs Manager Ronnie Town said the power company had met with both the former and current mayors concerning the project.

Atlantic City Electric Engineer Mike Picucci said the project would be brought before City Council, the Planning Board and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in the future. He said the utility met with the HPC in an informal work session.

Venice Avenue homeowner Steve Dickey said Cape May was a National Historic Landmark city and he had concerns of a larger power station just 100 feet from homes on Venice Avenue. He asked if the substation could be moved to another location and park made from the current location.

Susan Coan, region vice president of Atlantic Electric, said power company looked at the suggestion but didn't believe it had much "traction."

"This substation is here already, it's a good substation, it's functioning," she said.

About 7,000 customers are served by the substation which has only one transformer, Coan said, noting a second transformer would allow headroom for additional growth.

Picucci said corporate policy was to have two transformers at each substation to act as a backup. He said if the one transformer stops functioning, it could take two to three days to bring in a mobile transformer as a replacement. He said the present substation was nearing capacity.

He said the substation lacked a ring bus. Two transmission lines come into the station from the north side and feed the

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Dune trees illegally destroyed in Cape May Point

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Trees on a dune at Whilldin Avenue have been illegally cut down, poisoned and trimmed. The borough will replant the trees and, if necessary, erect a chain-link fence around the dune to protect it from further harm.

During a Borough Commission work session April 11, Commissioner Bob Mullock said trees on the dune have been cut illegally as many as three times.

The borough planted young cedar trees on the

'If it happens again, in that particular area, we may have to fence it in and put a high fence around that area. The general consensus we feel from the community is people are very angry about this.'

—Cape May Point Commissioner Bob Mullock

dune last year, according to Public Works Director Bill Gibson. At the Whilldin Avenue dune, Mullock pointed out branches that had recently been cut. Another pine was black, as if it had been in a fire, but Gibson said the tree had been poisoned.

Gibson said the borough

would plant 13 6- to 7-foot-tall noninvasive Jersey pines on the dune on Arbor Day, April 28.

"As a community, we're going to go in there and plant trees," Mullock said. "If it happens again, in that particular area, we may have to fence it in and put a high fence around that

area," he said. "The general consensus we feel from the community is people are very angry about this."

He said no one would go into New York's Central Park and cut down a tree, and that public sentiment was the same for the dune trees in Cape May Point.

Borough Solicitor Brock Russell said he liked the borough's policy of planting even more trees, so whoever cut down the trees will now find their view more obstructed.

Mayor Bob Moffatt said it was a good idea to inform

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

An unknown scowflaw cut and poisoned trees on the dune at Whilldin Avenue in Cape May Point, presumably to clear the view of the ocean from their home.

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