



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



## BEACHCOMBER HOLDS ANNUAL PUPPY PLUNGE

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John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## A festival for the eyes

Tulips bloom in front of the Devonshire condominiums on South Lafayette Street in Cape May. In years past, the city held an official tulip festival with as many as 18,000 flowers.

## Cape May Point to separate clerk, administrator job

By BETTY WUND  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commissioners introduced an ordinance April 14 to split the clerk/administrator job into two separate positions. This follows the decision not to reappoint Kimberly Hodson as clerk/administrator at the end of her term as

clerk and relieve her of her position as administrator earlier this month.

There have been two people in the current position since it was created in 2007, according to Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk. The clerk is appointed every three years. The administrator serves at the pleasure of the commission. VanHeeswyk abstained

on the vote to present the ordinance.

The budget ordinance was approved after a public hearing with a comment by Irene Schreiner, who asked about money being set aside for emergency snow removal.

According to vanHeeswyk, \$1,904 was reimbursed for the 2010 snowstorm. There is a resolution to that

effect that will be voted on, she said. Commissioner Robert Mullock added that it takes a long time to be reimbursed.

With the addition of an amendment allowing a \$25,000 addition for health insurance coverage for a new person filling the positions vacated, the budget

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## Township OKs \$2.1 million in capital buying

Items include equipment for multiple departments

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — With its 2016 budget approved with no tax increase to property owners, Lower Township Council approved a \$2.1 million capital improvement bond ordinance Monday to purchase items ranging from body cameras for police to a trash truck for public works.

For public safety, the ordinance authorizes purchases of \$324,209 for a body camera system, Alcotest machine, field force riot gear, vehicle security boxes, a weapons storage cabinet, tire deflation device, defibrillators, video surveillance equipment, file cabinets, a paper shredder, computer hardware, software and accessories including but not limited to desktop replacements. Also a projector and information license devices, console replacement parts, an antenna for the communications tower, portable and mobile radios, a nonpassenger all-terrain utility vehicle and two nonpassenger Tahoe vehicles with emergency response and public safety equipment, as well as various emergency shelter capital supplies for the emergency medical service.

The bond ordinance authorizes public works to acquire and install nonpassenger utility vehicles including but not limited to a sewer vacuum truck, a rear-load refuse truck, a compost screener and leaf vacuum, roll-off containers, a hydraulic lift and various shop capital equipment at a cost of \$1.5 million.

The recreation department is authorized for various improvements to recreational and park facilities including but not limited to acquisition and installation as applicable of a football/lacrosse scoreboard, a Ford F-250 nonpassenger utility vehicle, beach path access improvements and resurfacing and fencing improvements at Freeman Douglass Park for a total of \$236,223.

For administration, purchases are authorized for the offices of tax collector, clerk, MLU and general office including but not limited to a sign for municipal hall, office capital equipment and furnishings, a nonpassenger four-wheel drive SUV, various computer hardware and software, a fireproof storage cabinet, a receipt printer and archiving digitalization of record improvements for a total of \$121,463.

## West Cape May weighs adding on to its school

By ALISON HUMMEL  
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Enrollment is growing so much that Alfred Savio, chief school administrator of West Cape May Elementary School, proposed expansion of the school through modular trailers or possibly an addition to the school at an April school board meeting.

“As we continue to grow through the choice program — if we continue to grow through the choice program and get funded — we might want to consider an addition rather than spending the money on a trailer,” he said.

The school educates children who live in West Cape May and also welcomes nonresident students in kindergarten through sixth grade to attend the school at no cost to their parents/guardians on an applica-

tion basis, based on its participation in the New Jersey Interdistrict School Choice Program.

When Savio joined the school in 2009, 39 students were enrolled. As of the 2015-16 school year, West Cape May Elementary has 86 students enrolled. Most of the increase in students can be attributed to the Choice Program, although some of the students later continued their educations as residents when parents relocated to West Cape May.

The special-education classroom currently houses several different programs, and a trailer would provide needed room to the students and educators, Savio said.

An addition would require a bond hearing and the current estimate for construction is about \$3.25

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## Students learn how to prevent bullying through Green Dots

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape May City Elementary School is using an anti-bullying program called Green Dots in which students tell other students to stop any unkind behavior to a fellow student.

Preschool paraprofessional Sarah Pron said Green Dots represent teachers or anyone taking a stand against bullies, while red dots represent bullies.

“We really encourage the children not to be bystanders but rather to

take an active role against any bullying or unkindness they see throughout our school,” she said.

Fifth-grade teacher Madeline Hoff said research showed it’s more effective if a peer intervenes in a bullying situation than a teacher.

“It’s definitely a hard thing for a kid to do to stand up and put themselves in the spotlight,” she said.

Pron said the Green Dot program is effective in preschool, where one student will tell another

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John Alvarez/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Mama makes a mean empanada

Brooke Dodds' son Connor, 7, was the inspiration behind Empanada Mama's in West Cape May. See story on A5

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