



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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ARTISTS CO-OP FEATURES WORK OF PHOTOGRAPHER

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City revamps beach safety brochures, signs

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the city is making an effort to increase awareness regarding beach safety by improving a brochure and signage on the beach. In addition, the city is purchasing heavy equipment that may be used to remove sharp drop-offs at the shoreline following storms.

A number of Cape May's beaches have a sharp drop-off at the shoreline known as a beach slope or shorebreak that may have been responsible for more than 200 spinal injuries on the city's beaches since 2001.

At a City Council meeting April 19, MacLeod said the city has updated a beach safety brochure it has been distributing for a number of years. He said more emphasis has been placed on what formerly was three bullet points in the brochure concerning neck,

head and back injuries.

A larger beach safety sign to be displayed at beach entrances now incorporates the same warnings as the brochure on a third panel, MacLeod said. The sign warns: Don't dive toward the bottom into oncoming waves, don't stand with your back to the waves and avoid bodysurfing, bodyboarding or surfing straight "over the falls, ride the shoulder."

He said the city annually purchases 50,000 beach safety bro-

chures. MacLeod said that in the previous version, the center panel of the brochure dealt with head, neck and back injuries with 10 bullet points of information. The Taxpayers Association of Cape May in a March 2 letter to City Council suggested stronger emphasis in the brochure of the three points concerning diving into waves, standing with your back to ocean and surfing or bodysurfing "over the falls." MacLeod said the three items now appear at the top

of the brochure in a yellow box with a red border "to give it more prominence and significance."

He said the thought was if someone began to read the beach safety brochure but did not finish it, at least the three items deemed to be significant would be seen. MacLeod said a miniature version of the brochure has also been produced.

He showed City Council the new *See Safety brochure, Page A2*

Outdoor seat rule changes on hold

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council tabled two ordinances scheduled for introduction April 19 covering regulations for seasonal outdoor seating and Washington Street Mall patio permits for restaurants and the Promenade.

"The more I look at these ordinances and revisions to them, I still have some great concerns," Mayor Edward Mahaney said.

He said the start of the tourist season is fast approaching and more public input is needed on the matter.

"I think we need to go into summer as a united group. We need to go into the summer working together," he said.

Mahaney recommended the ordinances be tabled. He said the mall patio and Promenade dining ordinance affects only 17 businesses. He suggested City Manager Bruce MacLeod, a council member and a staffer from the city's Construction Office meet with the owners and verify the space they occupy.

"Because if there is a number that comes up for proposal to increase that fee, I want to make sure it's a number that's fair to everybody," he said.

Under the existing ordinance, fees for offering dining on city-owned space were priced in three tiers.

The ordinance proposed raising annual permit fees for applicants that sell alcoholic beverages from \$2.50 per

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Your views

Taxpayers group, business owner assail proposed amendments to outdoor seating rules.

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MP Myers Photography/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Photographer Mary Pat Myers said Cuba's streets are filled with late-1940s and 1950s vintage Chevrolets, Plymouths, Cadillacs and Fords as shiny as the day they rolled off the assembly line. Below, the architecture is an eclectic mix of different styles. 'Sometimes you're walking down the street and it looks like Paris, another section looks like the Garden District of New Orleans. It has all these unique flavors and blends, and then there's this Art Deco area, too,' she said.

Viva el pasado!

Photographer finds a flash from past on tour of Cuba

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — "Elegant negligence" is how portrait photographer Mary Pat Myers describes Cuba. She has just returned from a week in the tropical nation.

Myers said she had the desire to visit Cuba for more than 20 years for its history and architecture. "You're stepping back in time," she said. "It's like in the 1950s, time kind of stopped there."

Myers said when relations with Cuba improved under President Barack Obama, she decided the time was right for a visit. She said she wanted to see the country before the political climate changes or in case Cuba becomes commercialized and starts to resemble Miami.

Myers went as part of an art tour. While she was able to bring her cameras, she was not permitted to bring an electric iron.

"It was very relaxed when we got there, no problems whatsoever," she said.

Myers had a 50-minute flight on Havana Airlines from Miami on a jet she said looked brand new. The person seated next to her had left Cuba with her family

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Containment wall at JCP&L site complete

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The primary containment wall has been installed by remediation contractor Northstar at the site of the former manufactured gas plant at Lafayette and St. Johns streets, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said at a City Council meeting April 19.

A containment barrier made of a concrete mixture was installed about 55 feet deep and about 1,125 feet in rectangular length by a large machine known as a one-pass trencher, which was transported to the site from Michigan.

"They will continue at this point with the process of excavating the ground surface material and soil and replace that with new, certified clean soil that meets New Jersey DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) standards and certification," MacLeod said. "They have already removed a substantial amount of soil, but for the next couple of weeks, you will see a heightened number of trucks coming in and out of town with this process of removing the soil that was there and replacing it with new, clean soil."

The remediation plan calls for the re-

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Bridge to have two-way traffic for USCG fest

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Both lanes of the bridge entering the city from the end of the Garden State Parkway will be open for a very busy upcoming weekend and the entire project should be completed by May 20.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the bridge was determined to be structurally deficient during an evaluation conducted by the county, which owns the bridge and road.

"The county hurried to secure funding to repair it," Mahaney said. "Unfortunately that meant the repairs were being done at a less than opportune time for the city."

He said the county notified the city the project would begin March 28.

"That was kind of a surprise to us, especially since the city has spent a considerable amount of time and effort to coordinate all of our construction projects within the city to minimize traffic congestion," Mahaney said.

He said the city let the project proceed under the county's jurisdiction. Mahaney

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