

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 19 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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FIND FRIENDS - WITH 2 LEGS OR 4 - AT DOG PARK

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Regional school tax up in Lower, down in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education approved its 2015-16 budget April 30, which calls for a .4-cent increase in the local purpose tax.

According to Business Administrator Mark Mallet, Cape May and West Cape May will see a slight decrease in their tax rate, while Lower Township will see a slight increase. Based on

a state equalization formula, Lower Township pays 62.4 percent of the local tax levy, with Cape May at 29.2 percent and West Cape May at 7.9 percent.

He said Cape May's percentage of the tax levy decreased from 32 percent to 29.2 percent. West Cape May's share decreased from 8.4 percent to 7.9 percent. Lower Township's share is increasing from 59.3 percent to 62.4 percent.

The local purpose tax rate for Cape

May is 21.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value, down from 23.4 cents last year.

Lower Township's tax rate is increasing from 33.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 35.3 cents.

West Cape May's rate is dropping slightly from 37.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 35.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The regional school tax bill for a home assessed at \$250,000 in Cape May would be \$539, down from \$585 last year.

In West Cape May, the school tax bill for a \$250,000 home will decrease from \$945 to \$887.

In Lower Township, the regional tax bill on a \$250,000 home will increase from \$838 last year to \$883 this year.

Enrollment in the district is flat this year at 1,474 students. Mallet said enrollment has stabilized over the past few years as a result of the Choice Program, which allows parents to place their children in school

districts other than the one in which they reside. School Choice revenue is increasing from \$542,901 last year to \$718,997 in 2015-16.

In the 2013-14 school year, the regional school district had 15 Choice students, which has risen to 37 this year with 51 anticipated for the next school year, Mallet said.

"Without it, enrollment would have been down slightly," he said.

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PARCC test generating complaints

Teachers say Internet, computers unavailable

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — State-mandated PARCC testing has tied up use of laptop computers, used up most of the bandwidth of the school district's Internet service and disrupted students' learning routines, according to members of the Education Association of the Lower Cape May Regional High School District.

At an April 30 Board of Education meeting, teacher Kathy Parker, representing teachers in the education association, said the New Jersey Education Association has asked all local education associations to present to their school boards their comments on how PARCC testing has affected curriculum and students. She said she was not at the meeting to lay blame or point a finger at anyone.

"We have been told that the New Jersey School Boards Association as well as the principals and supervisors association have endorsed the PARCC Test," Parker said.

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Students honor most influential school teachers

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — This is the time of year when teachers and students are ready to move on. So it is significant that Lower Cape May Regional High School National Honor Society seniors took the time to honor teachers that have had a positive influence on their lives.

"Some of the difficult lessons teachers share with their students are not appreciated until later in life. That is why the Most Influential Teacher (MIT) program, supported by the National Honor Society, is such a gift," Karen Murnaghan, a LCMR English teacher, said at the MIT dinner.

Twenty-five teachers were honored at a dinner in March at the Lobster House by the seniors in the National Honor Society. This is the 12th year the Most Influential Teacher Program has been implemented, according to Jane Rife, society adviser.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Each year, May 1 is celebrated as Loyalty Day by an act of Congress. Veterans of Foreign Wars Peterson-Little Post 386 and the Ladies Auxiliary presented an event in West Cape May's Wilbraham Park. Above, children from Maud Abrams School listen during the singing of the 'Star-Spangled Banner' while veterans and dignitaries salute the flag. In attendance were children from Cape May City Elementary School, West Cape May Elementary School, Maud Abrams School and Lower Cape May Regional High School. Speakers included Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak, Freeholder Director Jerry Thornton, West Cape May Mayor Pam Kaithern and Cape May Point Commissioner Bob Mullock.

Celebrating Loyalty Day



Buglers from Lower Cape May Regional High School take part in the Loyalty Day ceremony. Above right, Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak speaks during the ceremony. Bottom right, World War II veteran John Seubert with Freeholder Director Jerry Thornton.



Lower proposes limiting hours of dogs on beaches

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township introduced an ordinance Monday "revising and restating" beach regulations, including keeping dogs off beaches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from the last Friday before Memorial Day through the first Monday following Labor Day weekend. It specifies dog waste must be placed in receptacles where provided or otherwise carried off the beach.

Mayor Michael Beck said some residents felt their ability to enjoy the beach was being compromised by a "small segment of people who do not control their animals." He said cleanliness was at issue.

Beck said he participated in a beach cleanup one week ago and that he was almost embarrassed to report where dog waste was found.

During public comment, resident Betsy Kramer suggested an area of beach be made available where dogs could run off leash. She said some beachgoers liked to bring their dogs with them to the beach during the day.

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said animal control would have a much more visible presence along the beaches this summer because they would be stationed in the township during weekends.

The regulations would apply only to township-owned beaches.

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Lower will study flooding woes on Roseann Avenue

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved spending \$2,900 to complete a study of flooding and drainage problems in the Bayshore West subdivision, in particular Roseann Avenue.

Known as Phase III, it would include a hydraulic study and storm water mapping of the area that contributes to an outfall line. The study will include recommendations regarding alternatives to alleviate flooding in the area and address deficiencies in the existing pipe. The work will include testing materials clogging a main trunk line.

Engineer Mark Sray, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, said he went before council in September 2012 to give a report of the results of an underwater investigation performed on a trunk line on Roseann Avenue. He said findings echoed a 1986 report indicating 50 percent to 60 percent of the main trunk

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