



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



## MESTERHAZY TRIBUTE HELD IN CAPE MAY

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## Sexting can ruin lives of both victims, perpetrators

Conference sheds light on dangers of epidemic

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**WILDWOOD** — An epidemic of sexting, the sending of sexually explicit photos by mobile phones and other devices, has hit the nation and Cape May County.

In April, 19 teens and one adult were charged with invasion of privacy during a sexting investigation at Lower Cape May Regional High School.

The county Prosecutor's Office held a bullying/domestic violence conference June 8 in the Wildwoods Convention Center. According to Detective Bryan Hamilton of the county Prosecutor's Office high technology crimes unit, 77 percent of sexting takes place when a boyfriend or girlfriend asks for a sexually explicit photo. He said 70 percent felt some pressure to participate, while 12 percent felt highly pressured. He said teens sext in order to gain someone's interest and to be accepted or to show they are daring and "willing to play."

Hamilton said the average teen lacks development in the brain that predisposes them to be impulsive and not to think about the long-term consequences of their actions.

"They lack the reasoning to be able to find out what the implications of their actions are," he said.

He advised teens to take a second and think before they hit the send button for a sext. Once the image is sent, there is no method to get the image back, Hamilton noted.

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## Council forms to fight FEMA designations

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**VILLAS** — Towns along Delaware Bay hit hard by FEMA map designations are banding together to seek relief from potentially steep flood insurance rates and the need for beach replenishment for bay beaches.

"Fortunately, our community was not hit that badly by Hurricane Sandy, but we were hit by that four-letter word called 'FEMA,'" Lower Township Deputy Mayor Norris Clark said. "And FEMA brought their new-fangled wave models that apply to oceans and not the bays and applied it to us and put a whole bunch of our citizens as a result of this into a flood zone."

He said homes that were never located in a flood zone or experienced flooding are now in a "V" zone. Clark said homeowners would face much higher insurance rates and that selling their homes would be more difficult due to flood insurance rates.

"It's going to impact our property values. It impacts hundreds of people along our community," he said.

The problem is not just taking place in

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Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Kevin and Diane Carr hold a 50-year-old edition of the Cape May Star and Wave discovered when Cape May City Elementary School opened a time capsule contained in the building's cornerstone as part of the school's 50th anniversary celebration June 5. The well-preserved newspaper was in a manilla envelope that was wrapped in plastic. More than 100 people attended the event, which included many alumni of the school.

## A half-century celebration



Alumni Wanda Wise and Evonne Wright go through items found in the time capsule with Superintendent Victoria Zelenak, left.

## Lower curtails hours canines permitted to be on beaches

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

**VILLAS** — Despite more than 90 minutes of public comment, mostly against an ordinance that bans dogs from Lower Township beaches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in summer, Township Council passed the ordinance in a 3-2 vote Monday.

Republicans Tom Conrad, Erik Simonsen and David Perry voted in favor of the ban, while independents Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark voted against the ordinance.

The large audience grumbled after the vote.

"See you at the ballot box," remarked one resident.

Perry, who introduced the ordinance, said dogs do not need to be on beaches during peak hours and could possibly injure a person. He said residents complained of dogs defecating on the beach, children knocked over by dogs and dogs running loose.

He said a ban on alcohol consumption on township beaches contained in the ordinance was already in existence in a previous ordinance. A clause banning illegal drug use on beaches was added to the new ordinance, Perry said.

The ordinance prohibits leaving animal waste on the beach, and also bans fires and fireworks on the beach.

Conrad called the ordinance common-sense rules that offer a "happy medium."

Clark said he received more letters on the beach ordinance than on any other topic since he has been in office. He said some of the letter writers questioned changing beach regulations so close to the start of the season.

Clark said letter writers also suggested the township enforce the laws already in place rather than pass a new ordinance.

Beck asked how many citations have been issued on the beach during the past five years for violations of the leash law and dogs defecating on the beach. Township Manager Jim Ridgway said he did not have those statistics but that during the past Saturday

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## Lower Twp. MUA asks ratepayers to act appropriately

By BETTY WUND  
Special to the Star and Wave

**VILLAS** — Brian O'Connor, chairman of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA), read a statement at the start of a June 3 commission meeting concerning customer service and the behavior of ratepayers who visit the MUA office.

He stated that incidents in recent weeks have made the commission aware of the need to publicly address what is expected of those visiting the MUA building. Respect between employees and customers is a requirement of the operation of the facility, he said. Those who do not act appropriately will be held accountable for their actions, O'Connor added.

"There is no doubt that our customers are inconvenienced during this time (of hydrant flushing). We perform this task as quickly and efficiently as possible to minimize disruption to our customers and our community. During this last hydrant-flushing event, a number of our professional staff continued to make adjustments and modifications to improve outcome," he said. "We do our best to make sure that people know when it (hydrant flushing) is to be done so they can plan accordingly. We treat our customers with dignity and respect. All that we ask is that people treat us with respect as we diligently do our jobs to provide them with quality services."

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