



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## LCMR HONORS SOLDIER KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

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## Tourism targets baby boomers

### Flexible schedule, wealth seen as plus for county

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Are baby boomers becoming the backbone of tourism in our county? According to a 2014 report prepared by the county Department of Tourism, the Jersey Cape is increasingly drawing those not tied to the school calendar. Baby boomers are defined as those born between

1946 and 1963. The report found holidays “down the shore” are on the rise and boomers/grandparents, who represent the majority of the county’s second-home owners, are bringing families together to celebrate milestone events such as family reunions. Holiday weekends and special family gatherings are the top reasons second-home owners come back after

summer, the report stated. While visiting, they support the retail, entertainment and food/beverage sectors. Multigenerational vacations are growing, with one in five visitors to the county in 2013 traveling with parents and grandparents. The reports advise that businesses need to consider activities that have a broad age appeal. “As boomers age, they want

to travel with family members to create memories and bond with children and grandchildren,” the report stated. County Tourism Director Diane Wieland said baby boomers are very loyal customers who return year after year. Nearly 37 percent of boomers have been returning to the county for 20 years or more,

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Baby boomers are seen as a key market for tourism officials.

## Three file to run for Council in Lower Twp.

### Independents field full slate for election

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Independents for Lower Township is fielding three candidates for Township Council seats in the November election.

Council currently consists of three independents and two Republicans.

Councilman James Neville is seeking re-election in Ward 2. Newcomer Johnnie Walker is seeking the Ward 1 seat currently held by Republican Tom Conrad.

Glenn Douglass is seeking to regain his Ward 3 seat he stepped down from last year due to state pension requirements. He would be challenging Republican Erik Simonsen if Simonsen files for re-election.

Douglass discovered he could not retire from the state prison system and receive a pension while holding an elected office.

All three turned in petitions to the county clerk May 30.

Walker is commander of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 44 in Del Haven. He said he has been involved in veteran’s advocacy for 29 years.

Walker said he is running because Lower Township Republicans are attempting to obstruct two key projects that he supports: moving the police station to Vil-

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## Lower Township scraps sidewalk plan

### Residents oppose plan for pedestrian project on Beach Drive

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A meeting room filled to capacity with vociferous residents convinced Lower Township Ward Two Councilman James Neville that the township does not need to build a sidewalk along Beach Drive.

More than 200 homeowners, many who were summer residents, crowded Township Hall’s meeting room for a special meeting Saturday, May 31, intended to provide information on the project.

No hands were raised when Deputy Mayor Norris Clark asked the audience how many thought the sidewalk project was a good idea.

Neville said the idea of the project was for the safety of pedestrians along Beach Drive. He asked how many in the room wanted council to “pull back and not pursue the project.” The audience cheered and applauded.

“Then that’s what will happen,” said Neville, noting that he would request that council not seek funding for the project from the county Open Space Board.

He said council would ask the police department to enforce the speed limit along Beach Drive, which elicited more cheers and applause.

While many visitors and residents enjoy strolling along Beach Drive, with its panoramic view of Delaware Bay, they must compete with traffic since the road has no sidewalk on the bay side.

Lower Township Council approved making an application to the state Department of Transportation last fall to build a sidewalk along 1.5 miles of Beach Drive from Lincoln

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
More than 200 residents attended a special meeting Saturday to voice objection to a plan to build a 6-foot-wide sidewalk along Beach Drive to improve pedestrian safety.

## Cape May County called ‘vulnerable’ at emergency-preparedness forum

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Sentinel staff

WILDWOOD — Experts discussed the county’s reaction to hurricanes and preparing for natural disasters at the ninth annual Cape May County Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference on June 3 at the Wildwoods Convention Center.

Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton said Cape May County is “vulnerable” to

hurricanes, calling it the sixth-most-difficult area to evacuate in the nation. He said that plays a critical factor for the county when developing emergency plans.

“We know that when you start moving thousands and thousands of people, that you create a dangerous situation,” Thornton said, adding the county in 2011 evacuated 760,000 people in the wake of

Hurricane Irene in 36 hours.

Thornton lauded the county’s efforts to evacuate long-term-care facilities such as nursing homes. He said Chinese officials were so impressed with the county’s emergency-evacuation plans for such facilities that a group of representatives met with county officials to gather that information.

“I really am proud of this

county and what we’ve accomplished here,” Thornton said.

County Emergency Management Director Martin Pagliughi said Cape May County is in a “recovery mode” from Hurricane Sandy, which struck in October 2012.

“Sometimes it takes a disaster or a near-disaster to learn a lot of lessons,” Pagliughi said. “Cape May County looks in great shape ... but we’re still

in the recovery process.”

He said had Sandy veered southward, Cape May County would have been struck with the full force of the storm, along with major flooding and tidal surges.

In the past 18 months, the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management has participated in a government surplus program, and purchased 22 high-wheeled U.S.

Army surplus vehicles, nine generators and other equipment.

Pagliughi said the vehicles would be distributed two to each municipality and four to six for the county to use as a strike force. The generators will be retrofitted and given to municipalities.

The county began a County

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