



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## AUTHOR KICKS OFF LECTURE SERIES AT MUSEUM

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# Pile driving may be damaging homes

## Cape May's Historic Preservation Commission wants different method used

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Warren Coupland, chairman of the city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), presented a report to City Council on June 6 outlining the damage that could be done by pile driving near historic buildings and suggesting a method that produces less harmful vibrations.

Coupland said he had additional information from a federally funded study of vibrations to compare one source of impact to another on a scale of zero to 1. He said impact pile driving is at the top of the chart.

"The Historic Preservation Commission believes that pounding in of pilings is providing real stress to historically important properties, not only cosmetically

such a plaster and mirrors falling off but to the foundation and other interior framework that people can't see," Coupland said.

According to the chart, damage to modern buildings falls at about .6. He said more than 20 independent studies have been undertaken on impact to historic buildings. Damage occurs at .2 where plaster is being damaged and mirrors fall from walls, about

the same amount of vibration as a street roller used in paving projects. A level of one is five times the threshold for damaging historic buildings, Coupland said.

"I would suggest in Cape May the problem may be more severe, the reason being in the late 1800s and at the turn of the century, we know that some of the buildings were constructed using beach sand in the mortar and in the

concrete for foundations," he said.

Coupland said beach sand particles are round while inland sand has sharp edges in different shapes, allowing them to lock together, so potential damage to foundations in Cape May was very significant.

He said two methods were available to drive piles: the most popu-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Rainy weather throughout the spring has slowed work on Rotary Park and Lafayette Street Park but both are still expected to be completed on time. Above, the foundation and walls for the fountain at Rotary park are finished and the basin is being tested for leaks. The pedestal and granite cover piece are being assembled at the public works yard. Below, work is moving ahead at Lafayette Street Park, where the dog park has been completely restored.

## Parks progressing despite rain

CAPE MAY — Despite a rainy spring, work on the city's two new parks is progressing with hopes for opening dates close to original predictions.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the city was still on target to finish the first phase of Lafayette Street Park by Aug. 2.

"We did have some rainy weather but we had enough time built into the schedule," he said.

Electricity service has been installed to the park and trenching has been under way for water lines, the mayor said.

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## Past shows way to prepare for storm of future

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

AVALON — One of these days, Cape May County will be hit with the full force of a major hurricane. That message was driven home by emergency managers and a meteorologist during the county's annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, held on the first day of the 2016 hurricane season, June 1.

"Sooner or later, it's going to be a major storm that hits Cape May County," County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton said.

He said early predictions had Hurricane Irene and Hurricane Sandy making a direct hit on Cape May County.

"Hurricane Sandy, if that storm would have been another 30 or 40 miles south, we would have been Ocean and Monmouth counties, just wiped out," Thornton said.

He said he flew over

Ocean and Monmouth counties and never saw that level of destruction since he served in the Air Force and saw bombings.

"Every storm is different, our response time is different, but we continue to practice with our first responders, the CERT and everybody else so that we can deal with those different scenarios as they happen," Thornton said.

The entire county was evacuated for Hurricane Irene on Aug. 26-27, 2011, at the height of the tourist season with 750,000 visitors in the county. He said he never thought that many people could be evacuated in 30 hours.

Thornton noted only two ways of escape from the county, Route 47 and the Garden State Parkway. He said Route 47 could be flooded by a major storm with high winds. The parkway could also flood with a high

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## Jersey Shorecast sees bright summer ahead

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY — Profitable summers were predicted for nearly every southern New Jersey shore town at Stockton University's 2015 Jersey Shorecast, although economic instability in Atlantic City mired the otherwise sunny outlook.

A year later, on Wednesday, June 1, Atlantic City's summer season had a brighter outlook.

The eighth annual Jersey Shorecast, held at Stockton's Carnegie Center in Atlantic City, opened with uplifting words from Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian, following what Guardian felt was a strong Memorial Day weekend in the city.

"We used to complain

when there was traffic on Pacific Avenue. Now it's like, 'Yes!' I hope nobody moves," Guardian said. "Too many people on the boardwalk, you have to wait for a gaming table, what joy. We haven't seen that in a few years."

This summer, the addition of several new events in Atlantic City may ensure the crowds will keep coming.

The number of beach concerts doubled from three to six this summer, and two new events — the Ironman 70.3 Atlantic City competition and a Red Bull Global Rallycross in Atlantic City — will be held.

"We're tracking about a billion dollars in devel-

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## Panel tries to focus questions on outdoor seating

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — People like to sit outside, sip a drink while waiting for a restaurant table or eat an appetizer on a hotel porch, but how should the city regulate the increasing amount of seasonal outdoor seating at

hotels and restaurants, in particular seats not included on mercantile licenses and site plans?

The city's Outdoor Seating Committee held its first meeting June 1 in the City Hall auditorium. The issue of seasonal outdoor seating regulation was raised in April when City Solicitor

Tony Monzo presented City Council with a draft of an ordinance to regulate outdoor seating primarily at hotels that present live music and allow seating on the lawn.

The proposed ordinance required merchants to provide a footprint of their property and designate on a plan where additional seats

would be placed. The applicant would designate where those outdoor seats would be located and submit it with a mercantile license application to the city clerk, which would include a review by the city manager.

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