

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 28 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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MAUI'S DOG HOUSE UP EARLY TO SERVE YOU

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Beetle decimating pine trees in Lower neighborhood

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The Brynwood Estates subdivision off Shunpike Road, south of the Cape May Airport, is known for homes on heavily wooded lots. But the lots are less wooded these days since the southern pine beetle arrived last April, killing trees on every property. The pest, which is smaller than a grain of rice, has been killing trees in the neighborhood, primarily pitch pines.

Jim and Diane Morton, of 7 S.

Andrielle Lane, have a towering pitch pine on their front lawn showing the telltale signs of resin tubes on the bark of the tree, indicating a southern pine beetle infestation.

Diane Morton said the tree was trying to protect itself by sending out resin. A neighbor has a lawn full of stumps where the trees once stood.

"It doesn't seem like anybody really wants to plot where the beetles are and I don't understand that," she said. "Do they want everything to die? They don't care it's spreading?"

One of the reasons the couple

bought their home in 1990 was the amount of old-tree growth, Morton said.

Now, dead trees and a number of stumps can be seen all along Andrielle Lane. She said a property behind the subdivision owned by the Boy Scouts may have been "ground zero" for the infestation.

Morton said she has seen pine trees go from green to brown in a week as a result of beetle infestation.

"We are assuming our whole property is going to be brown in a couple of weeks," she said.

They've had three dead pine trees removed from their yard.

A neighbor had 15 to 20 trees cut down, said Jim Morton, pointing out pine needles clogging a storm drain.

"People in this neighborhood have spent thousands upon thousands of dollars to get these trees removed," he said.

Stumps from pines killed by southern pine beetles have a blue stain caused by fungi brought in by the beetles. Diane Morton said the fungi contribute to the death of the tree by cutting off its water supply.

Some young pines in the neighborhood seemed unaffected by the beetles.

John Mead, of 2 S. Andrielle Lane, said he lost 30 trees, with 18 cut down so far.

"It costs about \$200 a tree, and then you're stuck with the stumps, so then you have spend \$100 to have the stump taken out," he said.

Mead said he would plant grass in the spots where the trees once stood. He said he believed the southern

See **Beetle infestation**, Page A3



Phil and Judy Caruso of Cape May Drone/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May celebrates the birth of a nation

Fireworks, as seen from a drone over Congress Hall, light up the nighttime sky July 4 off Congress Street beach in Cape May. A parade and ceremony were held during the day. See more photos on A8.

Salvatores suggest dog park at airport

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — The folks who brought you Historic Cold Spring Village and Naval Air Station Wildwood have a new idea for Lower Township: a dog park at the county airport.

Dr. Joseph and Anne Salvatore presented the concept of a park for dogs at the airport during a July 6 Lower Township Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Norris Clark said Joseph Salvatore told him about existing dog trails at the county airport in Erma. He said he searched online and found dog parks throughout the state and country.

Clark said when Salvatore brought up the idea of a dog park one year ago, it did not advance, but in light of the passage of

an ordinance keeping dogs off township beaches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., he thought it was a good time to present the concept. He said if council thought the dog park was a good idea, they should refer it to the township's Recreation Advisory Board.

Anne Salvatore said she and Joseph visited a dog park in Lancaster, Pa., near Franklin and Marshal College.

"Here were all these dogs walking up the path to get into the dog park and none of them were barking," she said. "It was amazing, all different dogs coming together and playing in this dog park."

The park had two sections, one for small dogs and another for larger dogs, Anne Salvatore said, adding that the park was covered with a composite material.

"All the dogs play together, it's like a playground," Anne Salvatore said.

She said plenty of water was available to the dogs, including sprinklers throughout the park, and games were available for the pooches. She said the park was a result of a contest held by Purina. Salvatore said the dog park must have cost \$500,000 to construct.

"We came back and thought, 'What a great idea it would be to have something like this in Lower Township because of these fabulous dog trails,'" she said.

The Salvatores met with Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) Executive Director Scott Green, who liked the idea but said the DRBA would not fund its construction. The DRBA operates the county airport.

Anne Salvatore suggested the project

See **Dog park**, Page A3

Lower says FEMA flood zone maps done incorrectly

Mayor plans fight 'to the end' over area's V zone placement

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township has ready its reply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency after the agency placed a number of bayfront properties in the V zone, which has the potential to raise flood insurance rates through the roof for those homeowners.

Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck said FEMA used the wrong methodology, the frontal dune model instead of the wave model.

"The wave model eliminates the V zone for basically the whole township," he said.

He said wave modeling had to be used for some of the areas north of Lower Township

that do not have a dune. "And even though it's apparent they are much more vulnerable, they are not in the V zone, we are. So common sense was a casualty in the selection of the process," said the mayor.

Beck said using the frontal dune model was a matter of policy from FEMA rather than a legislated decision.

The second point of the appeal was discovered when bulkhead work was being undertaken in the township.

"Guess what? This is not specifically a dune but a coastal bluff with sand on top of it," Beck said. "It provides the protection that FEMA is looking for."

See **Flood zones**, Page A2

Missing water an issue again in W. Cape May

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission is ready to address the issue of the water loss from 2003 to 2009.

Cape May, which provides water to the borough, reported in October 2013 that 120 million gallons of water were lost between 2003 and 2009.

There are conflicting opinions as to whether a water leak or excessive water use by the borough was the cause. It has been an issue between the city and the borough since 2013.

Cape May officials have stated that West Cape May should be billed \$70,000 for increased water usage. West Cape May officials have blamed a leak.

After a short closed session at the end of the borough meeting June 24, the commissioners announced that they are ready to seek litigation on

the issue.

Since Cape May's water meter in Wilbraham Park was shut down, there has been no dispute in billings by West Cape May officials. Mediation has been suggested by the West Cape May Commission. Cape May has refused to do so.

"For purpose of the discussion in closed session, we discussed the negotiations and potential litigation with the city of Cape May over water loss. We are waiting for documentation from the city. We really cannot take any action until we have that," Mayor Pam Kaithern said.

Following the meeting, Kaithern said the issue has been in mediation and she hopes a solution can be reached.

In new business, commission stated it has received the report of the Business Task

See **Water issue**, Page A7



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE

2015 GENE SOLE SCHOLARSHIP

All of these seniors listed below were nominated by teachers for the tremendous character they've shown throughout their high school career!

Look for great things from these extraordinary young men and women.

Thank you to our great community for their continued support.

Ericca Laub Tyler Novsak Kevin Gould

Josh Schneider George Swoyer Sophie Crossley Ben Isenhardt Brad Fournier Sarah Brown Peter Mayer
Victoria Jacoby Carrie Wunder Meg Ziemba Mike Laing Colie Brooks Jacky Chen Kat Swan Steph Bocanegra