



House of the week
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Canadian TV crew visits Cape Island to shoot footage
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Age, mold, makeshift setup, noncompliance

Public Safety Building Committee tours fire, police stations

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Public Safety Building Advisory Committee toured Cape May's firehouse and police offices in City Hall on Monday. Both buildings showed signs of water leaks and less-than-ideal layouts for efficiency and storage.

Fire Chief Alex Coulter led a tour through the firehouse that he said was built as three separate buildings in 1975. Water stains were visible on ceiling tiles in the kitchen. Mold was remediated behind walls of living quarters for the firefighters on the second floor, he said.

In the engine bay of the firehouse, gear is stored

next to the firetrucks but should be kept in a separate room, Coulter said. He said the boiler room is so hot that air conditioning upstairs runs year round. Air bottles are also filled in the engine bay, something that should be handled in a separate room, Coulter said.

The fire department's ladder truck was too tall for the engine bay door, forcing an alteration.

"We had to modify the front of the building for the truck," he said.

Fascia on the front and rear of the building shows rotting wood from water damage. A circuit breaker frequently shuts off in the ambulance bay due to an overburdened electrical

system, Coulter said.

"It wasn't meant for what it is now," he said.

A small bunk room houses 13 bunks, which exceeds regulations, Coulter said. A day room opens to the engine bay and must use an air-purification system to remove exhaust from the trucks.

Police Chief Tony Marino began a tour of police headquarters in City Hall at the sally port, an outdoor fenced area where prisoners are unloaded from police vehicles. He said the sally port should have a roof to shield it from the elements as well as preventing a prisoner from climbing the fence. In addition, the sally port was built on an easement owned

by the neighboring Methodist church, Marino said.

"Our biggest problem in the police department is really just (lack of) space," he said. "Not so much the quality of that space, but just space in general."

Cape May police also operate a substation in West Cape May Borough Hall, where officers muster at the beginning of their shifts. Dispatch, booking, two holding cells and administrative offices are housed at Cape May City Hall, the former Cape May High School.

Police headquarters experiences water intrusion on two sides of City Hall, Marino said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
A tarp covers a radio equipment cabinet in a second-floor records room at the Cape May police station to prevent water intrusion.

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LoBiondo hot, cold on job of Trump so far

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — In President Donald Trump, U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo has found an uneasy ally.

During an Aug. 17 interview with the Cape May Star and Wave, LoBiondo, a Republican who represents the heart of southern New Jersey — Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem and parts of Camden, Gloucester, Ocean and Burlington counties — explained his admiration for some of Trump's policies while distancing himself from others.

"He's really different than anything we've ever seen," LoBiondo said of Trump. "He's got a much different style. I wish he were not eager to engage

and debate and win every argument on every criticism that's made of him."

During the 2016 presidential election, LoBiondo announced he would withdraw support from Trump, the then-Republican presidential candidate, for remarks Trump made about women during a 2005 conversation with "Access Hollywood" personality Billy Bush.

Trump bragged about trying to have intercourse with a married woman, and noted the perks of being a celebrity, including one vulgar exchange including graphic language and derogatory descriptions of female anatomy.

Trump later apologized for the comments he made,

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Unfunded Choice students not costing WCM taxpayers

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — At recent meetings of the West Cape May Elementary School Board of Education, residents have raised questions about unfunded Choice School students costing borough taxpayers money.

The state Choice School program allows families to send their children to schools in other districts. The state pays for the students in aid payments.

West Cape May Elementary School Superintendent Alfred Savio said the school became a Choice district in

2011.

"When I came in 2009, we had 36 students in pre-K through six and I was just a one-day-a-week business administrator," he said.

Savio said the state increased the opportunity from one Choice school per county to as many schools that wanted to apply for the program.

"We were basically trying to save the district by getting the enrollment up," he said.

Savio said after state approval, the school received 17 Choice students' applica-

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Jack Fichter and John Cooke
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Partly sunny in Cape May

Above, the Gelward family of West Orange and the Kaplan family of South Orange gathered Monday on the Washington Street Mall to view the solar eclipse. At Left, a crowd of an estimated 300 people gathered at the Cove in Cape May as local photographer Chris Bakley hosted an eclipse-viewing party with his professional photography equipment.



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