

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 38 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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City criticized for role in Papal Mass broadcast

Group contends Cape May violating separation of church, state

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Americans United for Separation of Church and State is questioning whether a live telecast of a Papal Mass conducted in Philadelphia should be shown to an audience on a large screen at Cape May Convention Hall.

Alex Lukenitser, the group's associate legal director, said the city should disassociate itself from the event. He said the city should not be

sponsoring or promoting the event in any manner.

"The way the event was originally set up we think was a clear constitutional violation of clear church/state separation," he said.

"We see on the city's website for Convention Hall they've already taken some steps toward that," Lukenitser said. "The city had of late last week been listing itself as a co-sponsor of the event on the Convention Hall website and as of this morning, they are no longer doing so."

"So that is certainly a positive step," he continued.

Lukenitser said Americans United for Separation of Church and State also needed to be satisfied that this event is similar to other events in which the city has not charged rent for Convention Hall.

He said he spoke Sept. 11 with City Solicitor Tony Monzo, who stated he would send a letter to the organization that would address both areas of concern. Monzo's letter would include a list of other events held in

Convention Hall in which no rental fee was charged to the organization.

"He is also going to hopefully explain what the city is going to do to disassociate itself from the event and refrain from acting as a sponsor," Lukenitser said.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has filed lawsuits when similar matters could not be resolved through negotiations, he said. While legal action is always a serious option, Lukenitser said he hoped the matter was "well on the way of being

amicably resolved."

Lukenitser said the organization became aware of the scheduled broadcast of the Papal Mass in Convention Hall by a complaint of one of its members in the Cape May area.

If a similar situation must proceed to court, he said a lawsuit is filed with an injunction to either prevent the event from taking place or to require the governing body involved to remedy the constitutional issues that are

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West Cape May OKs gas station, restaurant

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough's Planning Board gave site plan approval Sept. 8 to Cape Resorts owner Curtis Bashaw and Exit Zero publisher Jack Wright to construct a gas station, convenience store, low speed vehicle rental, 59-seat restaurant, offices and a 1,800-square-foot retail store on the site of a former Shell station at 110 Sunset Blvd.

Plans call for two buildings that would resemble the barn-like gas stations of the 1930s and 1940s found on rural routes.

Bashaw said the number of gas pumps would be reduced from four to two. He said the new buildings would fit it with neighboring Sunset Liquors. A gas station has been located on

See Gas station, Page A2

Cape May Point good with COAH

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk was lauded during the Borough Commission meeting Sept. 10 for being proactive years ago when she worked with the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) by rehabbing small houses in the borough to meet the rules of the law.

The borough was certified by COAH at that time, meaning that is satisfied the rules set by COAH for number of affordable housing units in the municipality. Because of that, the borough was granted immunity from COAH rules until 2018.

"We started working with this

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Patriot Day in Lower Township



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lower Township held its observation of Patriot Day on Sept. 11 at Sunset Beach. It was the first year Marvin Hume did not participate in the sunset flag ceremony, following his death earlier this year. Members of the Knights of Fire Chapter 4, Nam Knights and Warrior's Watch conducted the lowering and folding of the flag. The flag flown during the event was that of Paul Pansini, a New York City firefighter who lost his life at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. More photos, B8.

Lower Twp. lands grant to hire drug coordinator

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — "We had some fantastic news today," Mayor Michael Beck said Sept. 7, announcing that Lower Township had received a federal Drug Free Communities grant for \$125,000 per year for five years to hire a coordinator to help run a drug free coalition in the county.

Beck said Township Council has taken the substance-abuse epidemic in the community seriously and that council formed an in-house committee a few years ago and brought on board Cape Assist.

"It will enable us to do something that has always been kind of a dream," he said. "I prayed for this hard."

He thanked Township grants coordinator Colleen Crippen for her work. Beck said Lynne Krukosky, executive director of Cape Assist, and Kim Mounce, director of community initiatives, have pushed hard to receive the grant.

"This is why we're getting this grant, because we didn't just say, 'We'll get a problem' and put in for a grant, we started the fight before we even knew there were grants," he said.

Beck said grants are given when it is recognized that a "community has a heartbeat and understands its obligation to its youth and it is going in that direction and we will partner with them to give them a greater degree of success."

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said that two years ago, Township Council brought in a reformed heroin addict to speak to students in the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

"We just need to keep fighting this and helping the youth in making proper choices," he said.

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Lower Twp. to make decision on scope of Roseann Avenue work

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Councilman David Perry said he would like to see council make a decision on a major infrastructure replacement project to decrease flooding in the Roseann Avenue area of North Cape May by the beginning of October.

He said there were areas in the township that had similar problems, not as dramatic as the Roseann Avenue area, but it was time for council to look into infrastructure throughout the township and try to target areas with storm-drainage problems and resolve the problems at a reasonable cost on a nonemergency basis.

Township Council has reviewed a

comprehensive study to reduce flooding on Roseann Avenue in the Bayshore West subdivision of North Cape May, completed by the engineering firm of Hatch Mott MacDonald. The firm has offered Lower Township three options ranging in cost from \$600,000 to \$5.2 million to resolve water issues.

Option one is to clean the system at

a cost of \$600,000 to \$700,000, with \$30,000 in tipping fees to dispose of sediment, something Hatch Mott MacDonald did not recommend since the storm water system is more than 40 years old with structural issues.

Option two would be to replace the trunk line with a smaller pipe

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