

Lower Twp. revising rules to protect animals left outdoors

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council tabled an ordinance at first reading Monday after substantial changes were made to the measure that regulates dogs being left outdoors in very cold and hot weather.

The ordinance, which amends the township's existing animal code, will be reintroduced at council's March 16 meeting.

Councilman Tom Conrad questioned a section of the proposed ordinance, "No dog shall be chained or tethered outside before sunrise or after sunset."

He said a lot of senior citizens put their dogs out on a chain or lead before

bedtime. Conrad said he feared the sentence would make that illegal since dogs would not be allowed outside from after dark until sunrise. He suggested the ordinance be amended to read "No dog shall be chained or tethered outside before sunrise or after sunset for more than 30 minutes."

The ordinance states, "In extreme weather below 32 degrees and above 90 degrees and in major storms, where evacuation is recommended, all outdoor dogs and indoor/outdoor cats (with the exception of feral) must be brought indoors whether tethered or kenneled unless the kennel is heated or air conditioning in accordance with the safety code. Indoors will include any area of the

residence which is temperature controlled. The garage and basement, unless heated in cold months or air conditioned in hot months, will not be considered adequate."

Conrad said some dogs enjoy 32 degrees.

Mayor Michael Beck said if someone puts a 15-year-old dog outside when the temperature is 33 degrees, it is "a lot more cruel than having a husky running through the snow." He noted the ordinance stated, "No animal shall be subjected to unnecessary suffering and cruelty such as prolonged fear, injury, pain or physical abuse."

Beck said that provision would cover prosecution of an owner leaving an older dog outside in cold weather. Councilman David Perry

said he found a section of the ordinance too extreme. It stated: "The garage or basement, unless heated in cold months or air conditioned in hot months, will not be considered adequate."

He said he knew residents that keep pets in their shaded garage during summer with concrete floors that were relatively cool.

"I don't know anyone that has an air conditioned garage," Perry said.

He said he did not want to see an ordinance with which residents could not comply.

Township Solicitor David Stefankiewicz suggested making garages and basements inclusive as long as they do not fall outside the allowable temperatures.

"Obviously, if your garage

is not 90 degrees, it may be OK, and if the basement is not below 32 degrees, it might be ok," he said.

Stefankiewicz said council was very close to having made a substantive change and suggested the edited ordinance be reintroduced at council's next meeting.

The ordinance also states "Dogs must be able to move freely when chained or tethered and shall be confined for a period no greater than nine hours within a 24 hour period."

Failure to comply with provisions of the ordinance upon conviction would result in fines from \$100 to \$1,000 for each offense.

During public comment, resident Helen Thompson said four members of council

had known about an extreme weather ordinance since January 2014.

"You let the pets go through like one of the worst winters I can remember," she said. "Now, you've tabled it. You had 15 months to think about the language."

Conrad said the ordinance was not brought to council until this year.

"If somebody had a dog out there the other day in the snow and we hadn't passed the new ordinance, our ordinance would have been quite capable of arresting them and charging them based upon the way it sat before," Beck said. "We would have hauled them into court had we gotten a complaint and found somebody that left their dog out."

LCMR art students' drawings first step in multimedia effort

Lower Cape May Regional High School advanced art students will present the show "Who am I?", a collection of portrait drawings, at the Villas branch of the Cape May County Library for the month of March.

The exhibit showcases the first step in an undertaking that will become an interdisciplinary project combining art, music and literature.

Patricia Neville's art students began the first step in the process in January, when they created portraits in pencil that will be the basis for collages they are now creating. During the collage stage of the mission, students may choose any material they wish to create their image.

Once the visual product is complete, the images will be taken to Karen Murnaghan's creative writing class. The seniors in creative writing will develop lyrics inspired from the drawings and collages.

"One wheel has to get done turning for the next to begin," Neville said.

The final step in the process comes to fruition when the lyrics are set to a musical score with the help of choir teacher Sandra Beane-Fox and band instructor John Drechen.

Helping to orchestrate the project, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities is providing the expertise of Eliot Bailen.

Neville said the school hopes to hold an exhibit for the final products some time in late May at the school's Performing Arts Center.



Burton

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cooking techniques and to talk about her chicken. And you could just see the joy in her face. She loved doing what she was doing."

Debra Donahue, who for more than a decade had the rare experience of working full time, year round at the Chalfonte, also has fond memories of the time spent in that kitchen.

"Dot always took care of me like a mother bear protects her cub. She knew I probably missed dinner, likely hadn't had lunch, and it would be hours till I was done for the night. On my rounds, I'd pass through the kitchen and she'd 'Pssst,' and tell me that she'd 'put up a plate' for me. And so, at the end of my shift, around about 11, I'd peek into the Frigidaire, and there would be a plate or a bowl of the things she knew I liked the best — pure love on a plate or pure love in a bowl. She anticipated what would be comforting to me after a long day. She paid attention to the little details and she remembered them. What is astounding is that she didn't just do this for me. She took care of everyone in this way from a seemingly endless well of caring and love."

"She was lovely, she really was," said Emily Dempsey, a friend of Burton's before Dempsey first started work-

ing at Chalfonte in 1955. "I knew Dot before I worked there. Because I was born and raised right here in Cape May, Dot treated me special. She would give me advice on how to be a good waitress. And if some guys would come in, she say, 'Look out for this one. Look out for that one.' She was always just honest. You always knew where Dot was coming from. I could never turn her down. She was so nice to me. It was like a 'privilege to me.'"

"Dot was Dot," said Lois Brown Smith, who also met Burton when they were pre-teens. "I'd known Dot and Lucille forever. Dot met everything head on in a subtle manner. If you said 'Dot, let's do so and so,' she'd say, 'What are you talking about? No, I'm not going to do that.' And that was the end of it. Dot sort of led the pack, just like her mother."

Dempsey continued, "I remember one evening, we had finished serving dinner. Dot wanted to go to bingo and she asked me if I could set up for breakfast. I didn't want to because I wanted to go down to the center of town. She asked, 'Well, what do you want?' Well, I told her there was a store there with a pair crew socks I liked. I was athletic then and I was always wearing sneakers at the time. Well, the store had these crew socks in every color of the rainbow. So I said to Dot, 'If you could buy me one pair that was off-white, I'll set up for you.'"

"Well, she went to bingo and hit the jackpot. The next morning, Dot dumped a bag

filled with every color sock on the table in the kitchen. She bought me every color they had in my size. She was always doing things like that for me. I'll never forget it because one pair was expensive for me."

"There was a time I was running an affair for the Macedonia Church down at Borough Hall," Smith recalled. "I asked if she could make some rolls. Dot said, 'OK, I'll make you some rolls and I'll fry you some chicken.' It was never ever 'no' from Dot. But you had to be on time. 'I want you to be down there by four o' clock to pick it up,' she'd say. 'Don't come at 5 because if you come at 5, you ain't going to get it.' That's just the way she was. She was one of the kindest hearts," Smith said with a laugh.

West Cape May Councilwoman Pam Kaithern also remembered Burton's generous nature.

"Dot was involved in the West Cape May Christmas Parade with Charlotte Todd. At the first parade meeting I attended as mayor, Dot would tell me, 'I'm retired. You know I'm retired, right?' And she'd laugh. But she was always there at the parade, ready to be a judge and always with buckets of chicken for everyone to eat. One of the last pictures I had of Dot was of her wearing the last judge's corsage Charlotte Todd had made for the 2013 Christmas parade," Kaithern said.

"She was like an institution," Dempsey added. "Their family was like an institution. I can't remember if we ever had a cross word. We would sit in the kitchen after breakfast and we would sing and tell stories while we prepared the vegetables for the evening meal."

"I was so happy that I got a chance to visit her for the last time. My daughter had surgery and was recuperating at a convalescent home in Cape May Court House. Well, someone had told me Dot was there, too. So one day I stopped to see Dot. She was in the dining room and the sun was setting behind her and her hair was so white and puffed up. She looked like an angel. She just looked beautiful."

As an ending to this town-wide eulogy, local chef Randall Segal summed it up the best when asked if he had a favorite story about Miss Dot. "One Story! We all have hundreds. And that says it all."

Flood

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advantage of having their designation based on an earlier map but usage will affect rates based on whether it is a primary or secondary home, she said.

Meola said the fee alone between a primary and secondary residence is a \$250 difference before any rate increase.

A home that is in compliance with current required flood elevations may use an existing elevation certificate, she said. Before the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act, there were huge price increases when a home went from an A zone to a V zone.

"The construction code for an 'A' building allows for enclosures and your base flood (elevation) is usually lower," Meola said. "Going to a V zone, it's supposed to be steel-reinforced beams, just the construction costs alone could be \$40,000 to \$80,000 for an A zone structure to a V zone because they're built for the height and velocity of the waves."

She said if a home remains in the same flood zone, even with a possible change in the base flood elevation, as long as the home is high enough, the homeowner will see normal rate increases but not huge hikes in the rates.

Some of the provisions of the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act are temporary.

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4	7:07	7:29	12:37	1:14
5	7:43	8:05	1:16	1:48
6	8:17	8:40	1:54	2:20
7	8:51	9:13	2:30	2:51
8	10:23	10:46	4:06	4:22
9	10:56	11:21	4:43	4:53
10	11:30	11:58	5:22	5:27
11		12:09	6:06	6:07

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