

# Rate of COVID-19 increase higher in south Jersey

## Sheer number lower here; 3 new deaths, 25 cases in Cape May County

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

While Atlantic County was having the greatest doubling rate of COVID-19 cases late last week – at only eight days – it improved over the weekend to a doubling rate of 14.5, just ahead of Cumberland County, with cases doubling in 12.5 days.

Cape May County, by contrast, which was at 18 days at the end of last week, is now at 24 days, still behind the counties reporting 30 days, but the best in south Jersey.

As Gov. Phil Murphy

noted in his Monday, May 4, press conference, the rate of increase is higher in south Jersey, but the sheer number of cases remains low compared to other parts of the state. Bergen County, for example, where the doubling rate is now 30 days, has 16,282 positive tests and 1,215 deaths.

### Cape May County

From Saturday through Monday, May 4, the Cape May County Department of Health reported three new COVID-19 deaths, bringing the countywide total to 25,

plus 25 new positive tests for the coronavirus over those three days.

On Saturday, May 2, an 85-year-old from Lower Township died and there were four new cases of the coronavirus. On Sunday, cases increased by 11.

On Monday, the county reported 10 more cases and two deaths, a 72-year-old man from Lower Township and a 70-year-old man from Middle Township.

As of Monday, there were 371 cases of COVID-19, but health officials reported 154 of the residents affected are now off quarantine.

According to the New Jersey Department of Health, as of Monday, statewide there have been 128,269 positive tests and 7,910 deaths from COVID-19.

Cape May County has the second fewest cases among counties in New Jersey. Only rural Salem County has fewer, with 314 cases and 14 deaths.

Neighboring Atlantic County is now up to 1,142 positive cases and 51 deaths, as of Monday.

In Cape May County, Upper Township leads with 27 active cases, but Lower Township, which as 16 cases as of Monday, also has 26 cases in long-term care facilities. Of the 25 reported deaths from COVID-19 in Cape May County, 17 have been in long-term care facilities, including 15 in Lower Township. The other two were in Dennis Township.

Lower Township is reporting three others deaths. Upper Township has two COVID-19 fatalities and there is one each in Woodbine, Middle Township and Dennis Township.

Middle Township has 23 active cases, Wildwood has 17, Ocean City has 12, Dennis Township has eight (plus 23 in long-term care), Woodbine has four (plus 22 in long-term care), North Wildwood has four, West Wildwood has two and there is one each in Avalon, West Cape May and Wildwood Crest.

There were no active cases as of Monday in Cape May, Cape May Point, Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor.

Of the active cases, 116 are in the communities and an additional 76 are in long-term care facilities.

### Antibody testing

Cape May County now has antibody testing available, the Department of Health announced.

“Now that we have the antibody testing it is going to give us an even bigger picture on how many individuals were exposed to the disease,” Health Officer Kevin Thomas said Monday. “It is still has not been proven on how much protection the antibodies give an individual, so social distance is still the key in prevention.”

According to the department, Centers for Diseases Control and Protection states that the blood test checks for antibodies that show up if a person had a previous infection with the Covid-19 virus. Depending on when someone was infected and the timing of the test, the test may not find antibodies in someone with a current COVID-19 infection. Antibodies usually take up to three weeks or longer to show up on testing, the county reported, explaining antibodies are proteins that help fight off infections, but it is still unknown if antibodies prevent a person from spreading the virus or being reinfected by the virus. “Antibody tests should not be used as the only way to diagnose someone as being currently sick with COVID-19. If you have symptoms, such as fever, shortness of breath, loss of taste, and/or cough, call your healthcare provider to ask about testing. To receive antibody testing or for additional information call your health care provider,” the county said.

### COVID-19 in pets

“At this time, it is rare for animals to contract COVID-19, but there have been a few cases in the United States. There is no recommendation currently for routine testing in animals. Public health officials are still learning about the virus, but there is no evi-

dence that pets play a role in spreading the virus in the United States. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it is always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals,” Thomas said.

The department offered the following guidance:

In rare situations animals can become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, and they may experience mild signs of illness. There is no evidence that animals can spread the disease to people. Call your veterinarian with any concerns about your pet’s health. The veterinarian will determine if they need to see your pet. Please let them know if anyone in the household has signs of COVID-19 before visiting the animal hospital.

Until more is known, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following:

– Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.

– Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people.

– Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals.

– Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.

Individuals that are sick should restrict contact with pets and other animals. Limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask.

### LEGALS

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT  
APPLICANT/OWNER NAME: Ed Mar Properties, LLC  
APPLICANT/OWNER ADDRESS: 331 Walnut Avenue, Gloucester City, NJ 08090  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 503 Beach Avenue, Lower Township, NJ  
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Block: 244; Lot: 2 and 3  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held before the Planning Board at the Lower Township Municipal Building meeting room, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251, on the 21st day of May, 2020, at 6:00 PM, to consider an application for development regarding the above mentioned property, wherein the Applicant is seeking permission to renew and reapply for variances and an expired subdivision granted in 2018 pursuant to Resolution 18-24 wherein variances were granted to subdivide an existing over-sized lot located at 503 Beach Avenue in Block: 244; Lots: 2 and 3 into two lots. Proposed Lot 2 being 7,327 square feet of area with 50 feet of lot width and frontage, and Lot 3 being 7,745 square feet of area with 50 feet of lot width and frontage contrary to the requirements of Section 400-15(D)(1); and minimum rear yard and side yard setback for the existing structure on Lot 3. The Applicant is also proposing to construct a detached garage in the front yard along Beach Avenue on Lot 2 contrary to Section 400-29; an accessory building no closer than six feet to the other buildings on the site, and a 36 foot wide driveway for proposed Lot 2 contrary to Section 400-34.B. The Applicant is also applying for a dune review for both lots. The Applicant is applying for all of the above, together with any and all other variances and or waivers the Board shall deem necessary at the time of the hearing.

While New Jersey’s Executive Order 103 and Executive Order 107 are in effect, the Division of Local Government Services has issued guidance to ensure continuity of Land Use application procedures, to ensure due process is afforded during Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment hearings and to remind local units to adhere to appropriate social distancing and health measures as they implement this process. In-person attendance at the hearing by the applicant, the Board or the public is prohibited.

Maps and other documents relating to this matter shall be available at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date for inspection. Under the present circumstances, the maps and other documents relating to this matter shall be posted for public review at <http://townshipoflower.org/> free of charge. Members of the public are advised to contact the Board Secretary at 609-886-2005 to receive a hard copy of the plans and application materials by mail or via a secure, public location subject to OPRA and any standard fees or charges. All Application Materials, as required, have been submitted to Lower Township in Digital Format and the usual Paper Format, by the Applicant.

All parties to the hearing, including the public, must no less than 3 days in advance of the meeting provide to the Board Secretary any additional documents or exhibits to be presented at the hearing. These additional documents and exhibits shall be individually labeled by the submitting party as an exhibit and the Board Secretary shall post the labeled exhibits prior to and for the video meeting. Please contact the Board Secretary at 609-886-2005 to arrange delivery options of the Exhibits and to advise the Board Secretary of your anticipated participation. All Exhibits shall be submitted in Digital Format. When the matter is called, you may present any support or objection which you may have to the granting of the relief or approval sought in the petition. In order to participate in this hearing including the opportunity to comment, you may call 1-571-317-3122, and use access code 900-990-677 for voice connection or to participate by video and audio by way of computer, laptop or smart phone go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/900990677> at the date and time above. Prior to the hearing, you are encouraged to review the instructions to participate through your choice of electronic attendance. The plans, application and applicable documents for the hearing are posted on the internet at <http://townshipoflower.org/>.

For those individuals lacking the resources or know-how for technological access, please contact the Board Secretary at 609-886-2005 during normal business hours and the time of the hearing for assistance in delivering exhibits, accessing the plans and the meeting. This Notice is given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-11, et seq.

Ronald J. Gelzunas, Esquire  
Attorney for the Applicant

5/6 pf \$65.72

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### LEGALS

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT  
APPLICANT/OWNER NAME: I & H Builders, LLC  
APPLICANT/OWNER ADDRESS: 689 Woodstown Rd., Swedesboro, NJ 08085  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 121 Millman Lane, Lower Township, NJ  
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Block: 148, Lot: 2.01  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held before the Planning Board of Adjustment at the Lower Township Municipal Building meeting room, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251, on the 21st day of May, 2020, at 6:00 PM, to consider an application for development, regarding the above mentioned property, wherein the Applicant is seeking permission to construct a swimming pool within the front yard setback along New Jersey Avenue contrary to the requirements of Section 400-15(D)(1) Front yard setback; Section 400-15(D)(1) Accessory building distance to other buildings; Section 400-38 swimming pools located in side or rear yard areas only Section 40034.B center line of any driveway from the street line of any intersecting street; of the Zoning Ordinance, together with any and all other variances or waivers the Board shall deem necessary at the time of the hearing. The application is also seeking a dune review.

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Ronald J. Gelzunas, Esquire  
Attorney for the Applicant

5/6 pf \$59.52

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SHOP SMALL • SPEND LOCAL  
EAT LOCAL • ENJOY LOCAL.



## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Urge
  - Curve
  - Crawling insects
  - Woodwind
  - Now payable
  - Type of fossil fuel
  - Basks in the sun
  - Each part
  - Uneasy
  - Special talent
  - Magic formulas
  - Smoker’s need
  - Garment border
  - Cinnamon et al.
  - Take off
  - Canned fish
  - Metal-bearing rocks
  - Come out
  - Punctuation marks
  - Small mass
  - Lets go
  - Plays, as a guitar
  - Toothed wheel
  - Trucker’s rig
  - Stout
  - Roused
  - Oblong
  - Miss
  - October’s stone
  - Ding
  - Superman’s emblem
  - Locks’ companions
- DOWN**
- Pinch
  - Skier’s lift: hyph.
  - Held
  - Males
  - Conforms
  - Measuring device
  - Wine locale
  - Tennis serves
  - Agree silently
  - “Catch me” game
  - Stallone, to friends
  - This lady
  - Caustic material
  - Old wound
  - Star chart
  - Neck and neck
  - Hodgepodge
  - Hearty meat dish
  - Wild feline
  - Sculpt
  - Stomach
  - Make angry
  - Ships of the desert
  - Not offs
  - Mauï dances
  - Fine sand
  - Acceptable
  - Hardens
  - Grass section
  - Eden dweller
  - Adult boy
  - Chinese skillet

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18			19					20		
	21	22						23	24	25
26	27					28		29		
30								31		
32			33	34		35	36			
37				38		39				
			40					41	42	43
44	45	46				47		48		
49						50		51		
52						53		54		

## Sudoku

#613

		7		5	1	2		
				4				
			9			8		
	4	6		7			9	
1	2	6						7
				4	2	3		
	7					8		5
5	4	9						
6		2						

#614

	9	6			3	7		
	4	3				5	9	
5	2		9		6		4	
								7
		9	2	1				
	5	4		3	9	2	6	
	3				5		9	
		7			6	4	2	5
	6		9					1

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember, you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

## L.T. plans \$3M in road improvements

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – At its next meeting, Lower Township Council is expected to approve a \$3 million bond for road improvements.

According to Township Manager Jim Ridgway, the project includes Wilson Boulevard and three connecting streets, Star Avenue and the 100 block of Florida, Jacksonville, Miami and Tampa avenues and portions of Croydon Drive.

On Monday, council approved a change order for the Schellenger’s Landing sidewalk and crosswalk project for \$18,190. The work will include concrete driveway restoration to properly meet the existing grades in front of the South Jersey Marina parking

lot, including demolition and construction of a new storm water inlet, and construction of a railing to protect pedestrians in front of Cinco de Mayo restaurant.

Ridgway said the Public Works Department would return to the “new normal” schedule on May 18. He said by the end of the week, the department would publish a new schedule of leaf and grass pickup to begin June 3. Grass pickup will begin May 18.

Township Council approved extending the deadline for second quarter property taxes from May 11 to June 1.

Council approved refunding fees paid to Recreation Department’s spring youth sports program cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Alternatively, fees paid may be applied to a future sports program.

## Lower council donating portion of salaries to support families in need

VILLAS – All five members of Lower Township Council have committed to donate a portion of their township salaries to help residents in need during the 2019 novel coronavirus public health emergency.

This initiative was first raised by Councilman Kevin Coombs, quickly joined by Deputy Mayor Dave Perry, and fully supported by Mayor Frank Sippel, Councilman Tom Conrad and Councilman Roland Roy, Jr, according to a release from Friends of Sippel, Perry and Coombs.

The initiative aims to assist residents with their rent and add groceries to the Lower Township food banks throughout the course of the pandemic.

“Lower Township currently has a 200 percent increase in the number of families seeking help from our food banks. I have spoken with several families who are worried about being able to pay make rent and feed their family,” Coombs said.

“I decided to run for Ward 2 Councilman last year because I wanted to help the residents in our

community,” he continued. “At the township level, we are limited in the ways we can provide relief from the governor’s executive orders or otherwise help our residents during this pandemic, but we have an obligation to help where we can and right now we can help our residents with rent and food.”

The initiative, which will be funded by Sippel, Perry, Conrad, Coombs and Roy, will pay the rent or mortgage of one Lower Township family each month and provide donations to each of Lower Township’s five food banks starting immediately and continuing throughout the pandemic. Families in need of rental or mortgage assistance should submit a letter detailing their circumstances to ATTN: Assist our Family, P.O. Box 231, Villas, New Jersey 08251.

“This virus has presented circumstances like we have not seen in our lifetime,” Perry stated. “Our residents have been forced out of work and are facing an economic uncertainty that is forcing

them to choose between feeding their families or paying rent.”

“Right now, we must lead by personally giving and provide an opportunity for people to join us in helping those who are in need in our community. It’s the right thing to do right now,” he added.

The initiative also includes a food drive that is conscious of social distancing requirements. On Saturday, May 9, Township Council and volunteers from the Lower Township Republican Party will be driving throughout the township to collect food donations for Lower Township’s five food banks.

“If you are able to give, we ask that you contact us and we will come collect the food from you,” stated the release. “We will come to your house in a truck and ask that you come outside and drop the donation in the bed of the truck when we arrive.

If able to donate, send the home address to [lowertownshipgop@gmail.com](mailto:lowertownshipgop@gmail.com) or on Facebook to “Friends of Sippel, Perry and Coombs.”

HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?  
PUT IT IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF  
THE CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Email to: [cmstarwave@comcast.net](mailto:cmstarwave@comcast.net)  
Include your name, address, daytime phone.