

# Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 39 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, September 25, 2013 50¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## LADY TIGERS SOCCER IS ON A ROLL

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# Noise complaints lead to reexamination of ordinance

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Complaints of loud parties and large gatherings at rental homes around Cape May have city council reexamining ordinances currently in place.

“It’s becoming a growing problem and before it becomes something that’s attracting major quality of life issues and major negative publicity for the city, I’m going to recommend that we take hold of it,” Mayor Ed Mahaney said at the Sept. 17 regular meeting.

Mahaney said he and Deputy Mayor William Murray have been looking into the situation over the past two years. He said homeowners are renting out their properties and knowingly accommodating large parties like weddings, graduation parties and reunions, leading to gratuitous noise, parking and trash, which have neighbors complaining. He said these “resort houses” have become more of a destination rather than rentals, as owners are providing amenities and accommodations usually seen at luxury resorts.

Mahaney said he believes the ordinances in place should be reexamined so police can issue appropriate citations if there is a violation. Currently, residents can only call police to complain. The police then issue several warnings to the offending property, but rarely a citation.

During public comment, Bonnie Pontin, innkeeper of the John Wesley Inn on Gurney Street, said on the evening of Sept. 14, her guests were distraught due to loud noise coming from the home next door where a wedding party of well over

100 people was taking place. She said even with windows closed and air conditioners on, there was still an incredible amount of noise.

“It was such an egregious breach of privacy, I can’t even tell you,” she said to council.

According to Pontin, she called the police several times throughout the late afternoon and evening. She said officers came three times to issue warnings, but 15 minutes after they left, the subsided sound would pick up again. She said the loud noise went on until at least 12:30 a.m.

Mahaney was familiar with the incident and said at least four officers arrived at the scene two or more times and threatened to issue citations on the final visit, which was when the party ceased.

Terry Schmidt, innkeeper at The Humphrey House on Ocean Street, just a block over from Gurney, said his guests could also hear the loud noises coming from the party and said the owners of these rentals should be held accountable and pay a fine for such incidences.

“They were setting up for the wedding all day, bring-

ing in generators, setting up tents, toilets...the owners knew what was going to happen,” he said.

Mahaney said these rental homeowners provide the police department with a phone number in case guests have disruptive parties like this, but they often turn off their phones or simply don’t answer when the police call. Mahaney said this is why the city should consider creating stricter ordinances and issuing more citations.

He said other shore com-

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## LT officials will not be quiet about heroin use

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Speaking at a Substance Abuse Symposium in Lower Township, Monday, Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor called five drug overdoses last week “frightening.”

The five ODs are part of 91 recorded in Cape May County since the beginning of the year. At least one of the five resulted in death, bringing the total to 20 fatal drug overdoses since Jan. 1.

Those numbers are not as surprising considering other numbers Taylor gave related to heroin.

“Historically, heroin was 10 percent pure. It’s 35 percent nationally. The heroin coming out of the Philadelphia/Camden area is 63 percent pure heroin,” he said.

Other numbers include the relatively low cost for heroin. Taylor said heroin can be purchased in Camden for \$4 to \$5 per bag, and resold in Cape May County for \$20 per bag. Compare that to \$1 per milligram for prescription pills, such as Percocet or Vicodin, which normally come in 30 or 60-milligram tablets.

Last year, the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office seized 3,500 bags of heroin, and according to Taylor, they have already seized more than 3,500 bags in 2013.

“In one year, heroin use by 18 to 25 year olds has risen 24 percent,” Taylor said. “And what we tell people is they didn’t all start at 18.”

Kathryn Gibson of Cape Counseling Services deals with youth ages 15 to 18 –

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## Cape May Point going to the birders

Above, bird watchers on East Lake Drive in Cape May Point look for various types of warblers, including the yellow warbler, black-throated blue warbler, redstart warbler, palm and pine warblers. According to Rick Price of Harrisburg, Pa., a weather front brought many types of warblers to Cape May Point. He said they would stick around until nightfall to avoid hawks that are awake during the day. His wife, Peggy Price, is seen in the photo above right with an unidentified birder.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

# Leroy Reeves, West Cape May’s classic car collector

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – It’s a rare occurrence to see someone hold on to their first car, especially decades after the purchase and when the vehicle is pushing 90 years old.

Leroy Reeves of Stimpson Lane has always been drawn to classic cars, and one could say he embodies the mystical bond between man and machine. Reeves, 84, currently has three vintage cars, two of which he has owned since high school. He’s owned more cars than he can remember, but retained his all-time favorites.

His 1924 Touring car, a four-door Model T style Ford, was the first car he ever bought. He got it when he was a sophomore in Cape May High School during the mid ‘40s. He spent years doing minor work to the four-cylinder black beauty, but did a full restoration after he



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Leroy Reeves with his three prized classic automobiles.

retired from the county road department as a supervisor in the early ‘90s. Reeves also served as mayor and a commissioner for West Cape May in the 1970s.

His second pride and joy is also a car he purchased in high school. Reeves said

his grandfather Andrew told him about the 1914 Ford, also a Model T, which he had seen for sale in Cold Spring. Reeves purchased the car and another 1920s era vehicle for \$90. He said his father, Clement, wasn’t too happy about having two extra cars

in the driveway, so Reeves was forced to take them back and get a refund.

He said his friend Jimmy Rutherford ended up buying both of the cars and crashed one, but a short time later sold the Ford coupe to another high school chum, Floyd Brown. Reeves bought the Model T from Brown a couple of months later for \$15, a cheaper price than he had bought it for the first time.

“My dad did me a favor,” he said. “When I got it, it was a basket case. I got it running and worked on it here and there.”

Coincidentally, the 1924 Touring car went through the same line of owners before ending up in the car loving hands of Reeves.

“When I was a kid, I always loved Model T Fords. I just had to have one,” he said.

Instead of one, he now has two. Reeves said he fully restored the 1914 Ford in 1993, just before he began

the 1924 Ford restoration project. He built a new body for the 1914 using bending panels, a flexible type of plywood. Reeves painted the car fire engine red and did work on the inline four-cylinder, added wooden wheels and found all of the vintage parts he could, such as the brass headlamps and other accessories.

“It’s hard to believe it’s 100 years old and still running strong,” he said.

Reeves added wooden wheels and other traditional style parts to the Touring car as well, making it as original as he possibly could.

Growing up with his three other brothers and working on his father’s 500-acre lima bean farm in West Cape May during the ‘40s and ‘50s, Reeves said working on cars was always a great way to spend his down time.

He has a photo of himself

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