

# Lower to spend \$3 million on vehicles, equipment

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — With its 2023 budget in place, Lower Township Council introduced a \$3 million bond ordinance to cover the purchase of vehicles, shop equipment, software and communications equipment for various departments.

The township is appropriating \$1.4 million for various improvements to Rotary Park and the Recreation Center and as

applicable: playground equipment, repaving of the driveway at the Carl T. Mitnick School, and acquisition of equipment for the municipal complex including trash and recycling containers.

The bond ordinance appropriates \$733,000 for the Department of Public Works for equipment including a backhoe, a street sweeper, a wheeled loader, and miscellaneous shop equipment.

The ordinance includes a \$518,311 appropriation for the

police department for equipment including tasers, gas masks, a security cabinet, camera system, automatic license plate reader, various hardware, software, and office equipment, radios for police vehicles, all-wheel drive vehicle and two non-passenger vehicles.

A total of \$311,750 is earmarked for administration including vehicles, replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, emergency equipment,

hardware and software upgrades for various township officers, furniture replacement, filing systems and archiving of records.

Council awarded a \$21,690 contract to Degler Whiting for a Porter Electric retractable gym divider curtain for the Lower Township Recreation Gymnasium. The divider curtain is 80 feet long and 30 feet high with a transmitter and receiver kit.

For the annual Independence Day celebration, council ap-

proved a \$61,000 contract with S. Vitale Pyrotecnico Industries for the annual fireworks show scheduled for July 3. According to the contract, the show will last 23 minutes with a rain date of July 5.

A shared services agreement with the city of Wildwood was approved to provide emergency medical services to the Schooner Island Marina section of Lower Township. The annual contract totals \$3,300.

## Shore House Canna

Continued from Page A1

Online ordering will be available, which will allow a customer to walk in and skip waiting in any lines.

The dispensary will not have a Jefferson Airplane, Haight Ashbury, Cheech and Chong, Snoop Dog atmosphere.

"We're looking for more like a beachy, surf-shop-meets-weed-shop kind of aesthetic that matches the community and people's love of the ocean, a casual, laid-back feel," Christian said.

The dispensary will have a bud bar for customers to check out different strains of cannabis products, a vape and pre-rolled section and an edible and ingestible section. Customers will not be picking up the actual products off the shelves, just representative packaging, as the real weed is kept in a vault and brought out by employees at the time of sale.

Someone who shoplifts would be disappointed because they would take home a wrapper with no product inside, Nicole Melchiorre said.

Employees, known as bud tenders, will be trained to teach customers about the different products available, Christian said.

"I hope the canna-curious come in," Nicole Melchiorre said. "We want to be inviting and not intimi-

dating."

Those who "learn and leave" without making a purchase are welcome in the shop.

"We want to help educate everyone and change that stigma that it's a bad thing," she said.

Initially dispensaries in the state had a pharmacy vibe to them since they were first opened to provide medical cannabis. Christian said Shore House Canna will look more like the dispensaries of Colorado and California, where there is more of an educational experience.

While cannabis growing facilities may produce a smell of cannabis, a retail shop should not. All the items in the shop are sealed in packaging and the shop has a HEPA filtration system, Christian said.

Signs will be posted stating consumption on site is prohibited, he said.

Nuscis said there is safety in buying cannabis from a dispensary where the products have been tested.

"If you're buying off the street, you don't know what you're getting these days," he said.

Nuscis said he was dead against the use of cannabis for many years following serving in the Navy, where missions sought out those bringing marijuana into the country. He said he changed his mind after seeing its beneficial use,

particularly for disabled veterans.

Shore House Canna is anticipating hiring 40 to 50 employees. Experience with cannabis is not necessary, according to Christian. All employees must be age 21 or older. The dispensary can be contacted at Shorehousecanna.com

"This is a small town, and this is a small shop, but there is a lot of interest

and pent-up demand that isn't being served," he said. "People don't want to drive 40 minutes."

"We are very cognizant of the community and the concern about congestion," Christian said. "We're doing what we can to mitigate it with the technology and the number of point of sales we have in the store."

Nicole Melchiorre said the key takeaway is the dis-

pensary will be operated by local persons, not a corporate multi-state corporation.

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**TIDES: May 3-10, 2023**

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
3	7:05	7:32	12:48	12:58
4	7:45	8:09	1:31	1:33
5	8:25	8:47	2:14	2:10
6	9:06	9:27	2:57	2:48
7	9:48	10:09	3:42	3:30
8	10:34	10:57	4:30	4:16
9	11:26	11:50	5:22	5:08
10		12:25	6:18	6:08

**MOON PHASES**  
Full moon, May 5 • last quarter, May 12

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