

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 33 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, August 14, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



SOMA GALLERY FEATURING STAN SPERLAK

Page B7



Program teaches parents to talk to kids about drugs

VILLAS – Lower Township is looking to strengthen parent-child communication on the topic of substance abuse with heroin use on the upswing.

“Parents and educators have the key role in getting information to kids about the effects of drugs and helping them stay away from it,” said Lower Township Police Chief William Mastriana. “In the last year, there’s been between 18 to 25 year olds, a 24 percent increase in heroin deaths in New Jersey.

Lower Township and the Lower Cape Alliance are hosting a one-hour, interactive multi-media presentation entitled the “15 Minute Child Break.” The presentation will tell parents, grandparents and caregivers how to talk to their kids about drugs and alcohol.

The free program will be presented by the

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. at Lower Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Rd., Villas. The program is for adults only.

“We take seriously our obligation to protect you and your family from the evils of substance abuse in all forms,” said Mayor Michael Beck. “This one hour program will give you the chance to become your child’s first line of defense against substance abuse by providing tips of how to speak frankly with your child about making correct choices.”

The program will explain how to notice the signs of drug use, current terminology and trends of use. Participants will receive age specific information and communication skills concerning substance abuse.

Bigger discount on flood insurance

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Flood insurance policy holders can expect a larger discount in their 2014 policy now that the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) has raised the city to a Class 6 status.

At the Aug. 6 city council meeting, Mayor Ed Mahaney said Cape May has gone from a Class 8 rating to a Class 6, meaning instead of a 10 percent discount on their flood insurance policy, property owners will now receive a 20

percent discount. Mahaney said the last CRS review the city received was in 2009.

According to Mahaney, Cape May needs approximately 300 more points to reach Class 5, which would qualify the city for a 25 percent discount. He commended Colleen Scully, the city’s flood plain manager and tech assistant for the construction office, for her effort in helping the city attain the Class 6 rating.

Mahaney also gave the public an update on the revised timetable for the release of

the Preliminary Work Maps. The maps were originally scheduled to be released at the end of July, but Mahaney said he was notified by FEMA that it would likely be the end of this week.

“Then the county and municipal elected officials would be called to a webinar,” he said. “The maps would be explained for all municipalities in Cape May County and we would then receive our maps.”

He said the maps would likely be made available to the public by Aug. 19. Mahaney assured homeowners

they would be notified by reverse 911 calls about how they can acquire the data online. The Floodplain Management Office can also be reached by phone and in person to assist individuals in determining their home’s placement and which type of zone it may be in on the maps.

Mahaney said when the Preliminary Work Maps are released, the city will have until Nov. 29 to inform FEMA of any areas the city believes are improperly assigned in zones. He said following

Please see Flood, page A2

Committee to look at outdoor seating

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council has designated a committee, similar to that of the recently developed Shared Parking Committee, to draft a report regarding outdoor seating in Cape May.

The resolution was added to the agenda at the Aug. 6 city council meeting by Mayor Ed Mahaney. Mahaney said the popularity of outdoor seating among local businesses in the food and beverage industry has grown through the years. He said it was time for a committee to review the ordinances, construction codes, mercantile licenses and process in which these businesses are allowed to obtain the privilege of having outdoor

seating. The report will be presented to council and the planning and zoning boards.

Bars and restaurants can be permitted to have outdoor seating once they obtain permission from the planning or zoning boards, the construction office, and applying for a mercantile license that reflects the increased seating capacity. Mahaney said large increases in seating capacity typically warrant the need for an increase in parking spaces, restrooms and kitchen size. He said there seems to be a “need for greater cooperation” between all of the entities involved to avoid confusion and potential violations of the city code.

The committee respond-

Please see Look, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Feeling crabby?

If you are, you might have been at the Cape May Crab and Craft Beer Festival held last Saturday at the Physick Estate, by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities. See more photos from the festival on page A10.

Roseann Avenue residents want working storm sewers

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY – Homeowners from Roseann Avenue in North Cape May attended the Aug. 5 council meeting to say they were seriously concerned about street flooding due to a poorly functioning storm water trunk line under their street.

Dan Santoro of the 300 block of Roseann raised the issue at last week’s council meeting. Santoro said he has owned his home for 10 years and has seen the street flooded with about two feet of water 12

to 14 times. The most recent flooding was about three weeks ago.

Santoro said he has seen the flooding so severe that people’s lawns were completely covered with water. He said the biggest concern is that water is going to enter people’s homes or lie under the crawl space. Santoro said even if the water is not as high as previously mentioned, larger vehicles will driver through the water and send waves that break against people’s garage doors. He said his neighbor across the street bought his home just

a few months ago, and he is spending \$20,000 to dry out his crawl space and waterproof his foundation.

The resident said he moved into his Roseann Avenue home in May and learned that his neighbor had gotten approval to direct rain water into the sanitary system. He said his wife is suffering from mold that occurred due to water lying under his house. He said the previous owner pumped out water before the sale and believes this matter was not disclosed prior to the

Please see Sewers, page A2

Process for school funding challenge includes reports

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Executive County Superintendent of Education Richard Stepura has asked all municipal constituents of the Lower Cape Regional School District to submit feasibility studies regarding the school funding formula.

On July 2, Cape May City Council passed a resolution petitioning Stepura’s office to conduct an advisability report for the possibility of the city withdrawing from the school district. Council also

asked Stepura to review the feasibility study developed by attorney Vito Gagliardi and a team of experts, who were hired by Cape May late last year.

On July 15, Lower Township passed a resolution opposing the city’s resolution.

According to Richard Vespucci, spokesman for the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), Stepura held a meeting on July 22 to review procedures and granted Lower Township, West Cape May and Cape May Point the chance to develop feasibility reports, with a deadline of

Dec. 16. Cape May Point is a constituent of the school district but sends its students on a tuition basis.

Vespucci said Lower Township just asked for an extension of the deadline to April 30, 2014, but the DOE has not yet responded to the request. He said on the day of the official deadline, the county superintendent will then have 60 days to review the feasibility reports received and develop the advisability report.

Gagliardi said the advisability

Please see Reports, page A2

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