



Caper Tiger swimmers top Greyhounds

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House of the Week

Real Estate Resource



170th YEAR NO. 2 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 \$1.00

'Segregated Beaches' exhibit marks MLK Day

Display features historic photos from Cape May, Atlantic City at Physick Estate

CAPE MAY — A new Carroll Gallery exhibit at the Emlen Physick Estate opens Martin Luther King Jr. weekend and explores the racially segregated beaches of Cape May and Atlantic City prior to the civil rights era, through photos and original artwork.

Cape May MAC (Museums + Arts + Culture), in association with Center for Community Arts (CCA) and Chicken Bone Beach

Historical Foundation, will present "A Line in the Sand: Segregated Beaches in Cape May and Atlantic City" through March 25, with an opening reception on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15.

Prior to the 1960s civil rights era, Black persons were limited to recreation on certain beaches because of the color of their skin. Beaches had been racial-

ly segregated at resorts such as Cape May and Atlantic City for decades through the 1950s, with boundaries that sometimes moved from season to season, but which were clear, even when they weren't publicly advertised.

See Cape May's Grant Street beach through historic photos provided by West Cape May families and original artwork by Cape May County artist Chanelle René, and Chicken

Bone Beach in Atlantic City through historic photos from the Chicken Bone Beach Historical Foundation.

Learn how people of color enjoyed their time at these segregated beaches on the Jersey shore despite the harsh racial divide of the Jim Crow era.

The public is invited to the exhibit in the Carroll Gallery on the grounds of the Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St.,

and to the opening reception on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Admission is free.

The Center for Community Arts (CCA) is a multicultural education organization whose arts and humanities programs foster creativity, community building, and appreciation for the rich diversity of our world. centerforcommunityarts.org.

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Mullock: City's finances strong, projects on way

State of City Address highlights accomplishments, looks ahead

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — As witnessed by its residents and visitors, the city was crowded throughout the summer and holiday season, generating solid revenue from parking meters and room tax while a new fire station was completed and a new library is set to open in the spring.

In his annual State of the City Address during the reorganization meeting Jan. 2, Mayor Zack Mullock said Cape May is a great city because of the hard work of homeowners, residents, businesses, tourists, volunteers and city employees.

"We have moved rapidly and with strong conviction for these days that require government to act professionally and expeditiously," he said. "Sometimes it feels like a whirlwind, but we need

only to look around us to see the impact of COVID-19, climate change, saltwater intrusion and even some civic disorder and crime that we've seen as a country."

Room occupancy tax through December totaled just less than \$4 million, a record and a 10 percent increase over 2022. Parking meter revenue totaled \$2.3 million, a 7 percent increase over 2022, while beach tag revenue fell about \$4,000, he said.

"Our surplus remains at the highest level it has ever been," Mullock said.

To preserve and protect the town, officials, residents and employees must work together in a nonpartisan manner, he said.

"Our goals and projects are our projection of our sense of community. Sometimes during

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West Cape could limit use of lawn sprinklers

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission introduced ordinances amending regulations for water conservation and the removal of trees.

At the borough's Jan. 3 annual reorganization meeting, Mayor Carol Sabo said the water ordinance prohibits irrigation or sprinkler systems to be installed without a rain sensor.

"All irrigation or sprinkler systems installed prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall be modified to include an effective rain sensor device or switch," Sabo read from the ordinance. "Until such a rain sensor or switch is installed, owners of property with irrigation

or sprinkler systems shall arrange to manually override their systems."

Failure to comply with required water-conservation measures would be punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 for the first offense, a \$100 fine for the second offense and \$500 fines for the third and additional offense, states the ordinance.

"This is just a sensible, easy way to conserve some water when it's raining," Sabo said.

During public comment, resident Tom Myers asked if the ordinance would prohibit lawn watering on odd-numbered days. Deputy Mayor George Dick said residents could water on odd-numbered days but not between the hours

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Allan Barmak, of Cinematic Digital Experience, watches as cameraman Tony Ventouris captures 3D images of rooms in the Emlen Physick Estate.

Bringing history into future

3D digital images facilitate use of Physick Estate as movie set

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — You've heard the phrase, "You ought to be in pictures." Someday you may turn on your television or be watching a movie when you recognize a familiar Victorian house, the Emlen Physick Estate, and you may ask yourself when that was filmed in Cape May.

The answer may be the actors and director never came to Cape May, but a crew may have been here to create a 3D immersive digital imagine of its rooms.

Last week, Cinematic Digital Experience arrived at Cape May MAC's Victorian house museum to create digital images of the exterior of the house and two interior rooms that will go far beyond standard digital photography.

Cinematic Digital Experience refers to the process as immersive extended reality experiences, or XR, which goes far beyond the virtual house tours you may have seen on real estate websites that allow you to "walk" through a house.

You may be familiar with green screen which places actors in front of large green screen allowing the background to be changed to any-

'Cape May MAC is thrilled to be an early adopter of this cutting-edge technology. We see it as a new way to fulfill our mission of historic preservation, by preserving the physical space in the 1879 Physick House Museum in a valuable and unprecedented way, using this digital twin technology, as the Smithsonian has done for some of its artifacts.'

—Jody Alesandrine, director and CEO, Cape May MAC

thing from orbiting the earth from space to a dusty desert. XR goes beyond green screen using a large video wall behind the actors on a soundstage creating a virtual set.

How does all this new technology fit with MAC and its preservation mission? It will allow persons anywhere on the planet to feel as if they are walking through the Physick Estate. In addition, MAC may be able to capture some revenue by making XR images of the estate available as film sets for productions without the film crew ever coming to Cape May.

A crew from Cinematic Digital Experience started by flying drones over the Physick Estate to capture images and the work then moved to the interior of the house.

Allan Barmak, a principle of Cinematic Digital Experience, said the

company's whole initiative was focused around digital preservation of historic landmarks, preserving history.

"Our developer is actually from the Ukraine, and he escaped the Ukraine and is living in Italy, but he is working on a project about preserving the history of buildings in the Ukraine before they potentially get destroyed," he said.

Barmak described the work taking place at the Physick Estate as creating full 3D interactive engaging environments. He said anyone anywhere in the world could be one click away from "being" in the Physick Estate through the technology.

The term "digital twin" is used to describe the final product.

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