



## House of the week

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## Fire damages Howard Street home

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165th YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 \$1.00

# Expanding preschool may offset aid cuts

## Creative resource allocation could mean more state funding for Lower

By RACHEL SHUBIN  
Special to the Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — More students in preschool could add up to a cost savings for the Lower Township Elementary School District. The Board of Education listened to a proposal aimed at combatting the township's projected \$1.7 million loss in state aid in 2020-21 during a meeting Oct. 29. The loss equates to 17 percent of state aid being cut.

Board Secretary John Hansen and Supervisor of Academic

Achievement Sarah Bowman proposed increasing the size of the district's preschool by 75 students to help offset the loss.

"Tonight the board will be voting on the budget workbook, which will include 75 additional seats," Bowman said. "It is a work in progress, ideas we are discussing and nothing is set in stone. Our administration will continue to work in concert with the board to finalize that plan."

The district is fully funded by the state for its preschool program. The per-pupil allotment

is determined by an enrollment account submitted every Oct. 15. The funding this year is about \$12,500 per student.

Bowman said the state is investing in early childhood education for a variety of reasons. The first five years of life are a period of rapid brain development in children, she said.

"The S2 legislation projected a loss of \$1.7 million in state funding for Lower Township," Bowman said. "About \$1.2 million of that will be budget reduction and we anticipate based on what we saw

last year, losing an additional \$350,000 for S2 enrollment reduction. We also anticipate losing another \$160,000 for S2 choice aid reduction, which is where we got that number of \$1.7 million."

Bowman said the devastating loss to the district requires visionary thinking outside the box.

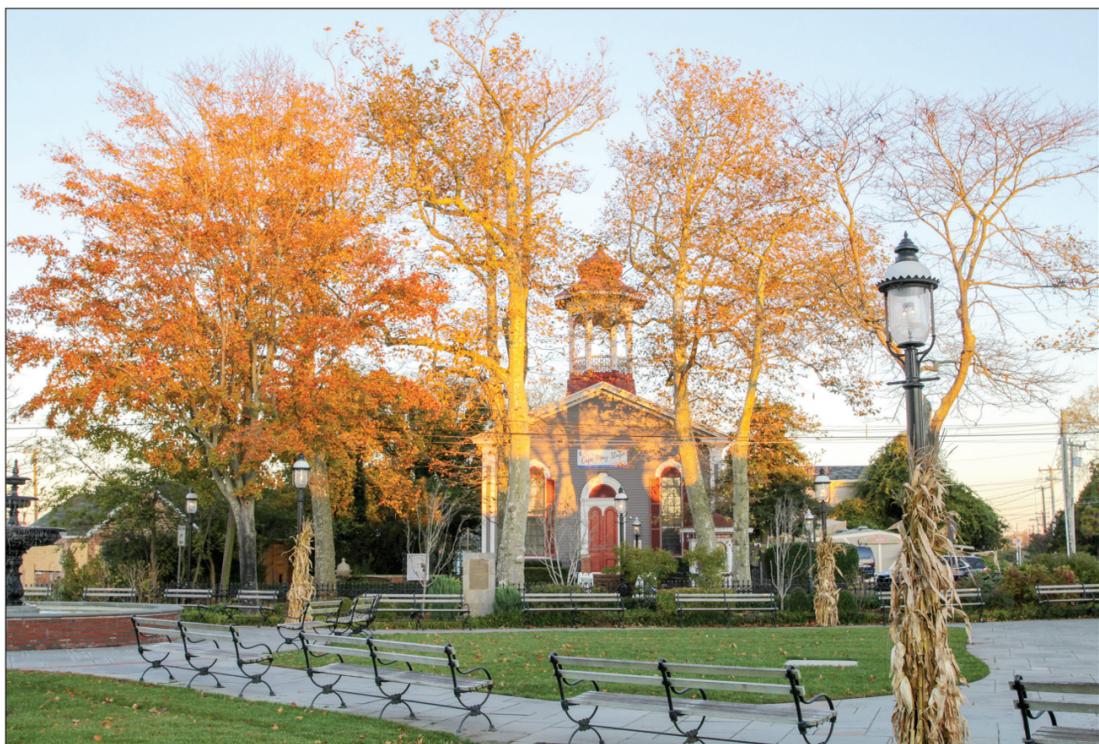
"The Board of Education and administration have developed a plan to add five additional preschool classrooms at (the Carl T. Mitnick School)," Bowman said. "I see the benefits as threefold. Impacts on student achievement,

benefits to our community and helps our budget and the impact of our projected \$1.7 million loss. Adding the opportunity to include 3-year-olds if we do an additional five classrooms should open up 75 seats for regular education 3-year-olds."

The plan will require moving the board office and child study team offices into trailers.

"The S2 legislation components [include] four or five years of continual cuts," Hansen said. "The

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Autumn's in the air

After a warm October in Cape May, autumn made its presence known Nov. 2 with some color in the trees and a temperature of 32 degrees in Rotary Park, facing the Robert Shackleton Playhouse.

## Director: Larger library would offer public more, better programs, events

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A larger library located in a restored Franklin Street School would offer many more programs for the public than this city's small library, according to the county library director.

At an Oct. 30 Town Hall meeting, Andrea Orsini, director of the county Library System, said cooking and baking demonstrations are held in a number of county library's branches. Cape May's library does not have a kitchen but the new Stone Harbor branch library has one, she said. The Wildwood Crest Library also has a demonstration kitchen, Orsini

said. Exercise programs offered at other branch libraries include pilates-yoga fusion, yoga for beginners, dance fitness (Zumba), Qigong and Tai Chi, "Move and Groove line dancing," low sit cardio, sit combo cardio moves for physically disabled persons, chair yoga and all levels of yoga.

Every library branch has a weekly story time, Orsini said. She said story time at the Cape May Library was very well attended.

"I still don't know how she's fitting everyone in there," Orsini said. "Her numbers are so huge. She could definitely do with some more space."

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## Jitney service served nearly 50,000 riders

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Shuttle service from the Atlantic City Jitney Association moved almost 50,000 persons around Cape May this summer, according to Cape May Marketing Director Laurie Taylor.

At an Oct. 30 Town Hall meeting, Mayor Chuck Lear said \$80,000 was budgeted for the Jitney service but \$107,000 was spent.

Earlier in the year, the city raised parking meter rates around the Washington Street Mall from \$1 per hour to \$2 per hour. Lear said the city took in an additional \$450,000 in revenue from parking meters as a result of the change, which offset the expense of Jitney service.

Taylor said the Jitney program was developed

in May. She said official service began June 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and ran through Sept. 2.

The Jitney ran seven days per week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Using social media, 10,000 persons saw information on the Jitney during the first weekend of service, Taylor said.

A brochure was developed noting the Jitneys were air conditioned, wheelchair accessible and the service was free. She said two routes of travel were developed, an "around town" route and a "beach express" route.

Taylor said both routes worked very well.

"Our department, myself included, were in constant communication 24-7 with the Jitney Association," she said.

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## Altering jetties may keep more sand on beaches

### Biennial additon may have made Cape May rock groins ineffective

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has used the same template to replenish the city's beaches with sand for 30 years.

Now, the city's Beach Safety Committee is suggesting a change in the template may be necessary and also eyeing rock jetties, known as groins, that now may be the wrong length, further contributing to sand loss.

The committee's primary focus is changing the slope of the beach in the surf zone to prevent head and injuries to bathers, boogie boarders and body surfers.

At an Oct. 28 meeting of the Beach Safety Committee, Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said he, Mayor Chuck Lear, Beach Safety Committee Secretary Kate Wyatt, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies met in August with U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew and representatives of the Army Corps and state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discuss the issue.

"In speaking with the Army Corps and the DEP, they are both on board with looking into what we want to do to change the template after 30 years," he said.

DeSatnick said both agen-

cies advised Cape May to "think out of the box."

"One of the questions in my mind is you've been following the same template for years and the same end result happens, the sand is washed out, it's not retained," he said.

A 2015 feasibility study for the city by the engineering firm of Hatch Mott MacDonald recommended moving sand to the down drift (west) side of groins before summer. DeSatnick said he believes the study used information that was antiquated. He said the study was mostly about dunes and sand replenishment.

"The primary purpose is to alter the wave from a plunging wave to a spilling wave," states the study.

Hatch Mott MacDonald also recommended that a study be conducted to investigate whether altering the rock groins' lengths and reducing the crest elevations of certain groins in the western portion of Cape May would have beneficial effects on the beach morphology.

Cape May Beach Patrol Capt. Geoff Rife said the groins are a certain length for a reason.

"They didn't just run out of rocks," he said.

Public Works Superin-

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### INSIDE

— Former Congressman, Ambassador Bill Hughes dies at 87.  
— Officials at all levels of government recall Hughes' civility, commitment.

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# WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

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