By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave  

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By JACK FITCHER  
Cape May Star and Wave  

Cape May — During the city’s final town hall meeting of the year Nov. 25, Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Sheriff Brian Maier and others offered updates on a number of projects including the construction of a new public safety building; a study to determine whether the Franklin Street School could be used as a new county library branch.  

Lear said the city and county are collaborating to develop the former Franklin Street School to serve whatever it could serve. “We’re not sure if it could be a new county library and a multipurpose community center,” Architect Michael Calafati is conducting a feasibility study. Lear noted the school is a state-designated African American historical site. “Given its location in a quarter-century, the city has sought viable ways to rehabilitate the school and make it the best use,” the mayor said.

He noted the county has provided funding to allow new facilities or rehabilitation existing sites for use as a library or senior centers. As a result of the 2017 passage of the New Jersey Literary Constructive, the county will be allowing the department to build public library construction projects.

“We hope a portion of the bond would be made available to the county,” Lear said. For some years, the County Commissioners have discussed using general funds to raise funds to restore the Franklin Street School. Lear said the CCA still has a significant balance in its grant from the state Historic Preservation Office and with state approval, the grant could be added to the county’s general fund.

Following a fire at the All Saints A.M.E. Church on Frank Street in June, several members of the city council reported to a meeting of the year Nov. 28, Cape May City Council, which held its annual Christmas parade, at bottom.

Authorities charge assault suspect with attempted murder  

Cape May Court House — A Pennsylvania man was charged with attempted murder after allegedly stabbing a North Cape May police officer during the stabbing, police said.

On the morning of Nov. 28, Lower Township police responded to a report of a stabbing inside a home at the 1200 block of Sunnyside Drive. Upon arrival, officers found the victim, Vincent Harrington, Sr., 55, who was stabbed multiple stab wounds. Joseph Faldetta, Cape Assist, Page A3  

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Cape Assist — Cost to society will outweigh marijuana tax revenue  

Wildwood — State lawmakers advanced legislation Nov. 6 to legalize the possession and use of recreational marijuana.

Although former Gov. Chris Christie opposed the legalization movement, current Gov. Phil Murphy approved of legalizing cannabis and expanding the marijuana industry in the Garden State. Such a push would create its own set of societal problems, according to Katie Faliceta, executive director of Cape Assist, a substance abuse-prevention and -treatment agency serving Cape May County.

“From what we’ve seen in other states that when marijuana becomes legalized recidivism, traffic accidents go up and emergency room visits go up and the ones that suffer the most seem to be the most vulnerable, including kids,” Faliceta said. Rates of abuse go up for middle schoolers and high schoolers. “It’s not something that’s recommended for any child that has a normal, healthy brain because it does show to have adverse effects, including the risk of addiction,” she said.

She said in states where cannabis is legal, children are accessing edible marijuana, which can be found in soft drinks, candy and baked goods. These products are easier to consume and hide, according to Faliceta.

“As the product is more available, it’s just more accessible to kids in the form of Gummy Bears and Rice Krispies and balls and cake. They will use it just like junk food, I know that,” Faliceta said. “Teenagers also like junk food and kids who may not have used marijuana because they don’t want to smell like it or they don’t want to get caught may find this more appealing because it’s just more accessible.”

Faliceta said. She said the law seeks to demystify marijuana in the public eye.

“I think about what the ramifications are going to be for our kids, they’re going to learn that they can be smoking marijuana before they’re learning that they can be for middle schoolers and high schoolers. “It’s not something that’s recommended for any child that has a normal, healthy brain because it does show to have adverse effects, including the risk of addiction,” she said.

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