

LCMR softball team marks Senior Day with a win

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House of the week

Real Estate Resource



167th YEAR NO. 21 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021 \$1.00

Murphy: Mask requirement lifted effective Friday

Mandatory social distancing ends indoor, outdoors; gathering limits to end June 4

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The state is lifting the indoor mask requirement effective Friday and eliminating the 6-foot social distancing requirement indoors and outdoors, Gov. Phil Murphy announced Monday afternoon in his COVID-19 press conference.

The state also will end the 6-foot social distancing requirement, including in bars and

restaurants, where dance floors will reopen and people will no longer have to remain seated to eat and drink.

Murphy said state officials have always been guided by the science and data. As far back as December, he noted, New Jersey targeted Memorial Day “to take the strongest steps” on the path to re-opening the economy.

As part of the data, the governor said there are more than 4 million New Jersey residents who

have been fully vaccinated and that almost 8.4 million doses of vaccine have been administered across the state.

The changes

Effective Friday, May 28, the statewide indoor mask mandate will be lifted. Individual businesses or entities can still require customers, guests or employees to wear them.

Masks will continue to be re-

quired in:

- Health care settings and long-term care facilities
- Correctional facilities
- Homeless shelters
- Airplanes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation
- In airports, bus and train stations and other transit hubs
- Public-facing state offices such as Motor Vehicle Commission agencies
- Worksites close to the pub-

lic including warehousing and manufacturing facilities

- Child-care centers and facilities
- Youth summer camps
- Public, private or parochial preschool program premises and elementary and secondary schools including charter and renaissance schools.

Murphy explained the reason behind the requirements for

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Back on their ‘feet’ again

Sally Thresher flips horseshoe crabs May 24 on a beach in the Villas section of Lower Township. The crabs die from dehydration or by having their brains eaten by seagulls if they are not able to right themselves and crawl back into the bay. See The Other Side column on A6 for details.

City offers scofflaws 30-day grace period

Businesses, rentals need mercantile license, fire inspection

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Owners of businesses and rental properties are in a 30-day grace period to obtain a mercantile license and fire inspection.

Mayor Zack Mullock referenced a report from the city’s Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee spotlighting a number of businesses, in-

cluding rental homes, that have failed to obtain the necessary documentation.

“We want to give everyone a fair warning. We’re not looking to do any sting operations or anything like that, but we want to let everyone know. We know there are folks out there who have not registered for their mercantile license, who have not scheduled a fire inspection, so I hate to be the bearer of bad news,

but you have 30 days, so get to it,” he said.

Mullock predicted a very busy summer season, saying the city wants to make sure visitors are safe.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said a number of towns have been hunting for businesses that have not purchased mercantile licenses. Lower Township hired a contractor for five figures to find unregistered rental prop-

erties, he said.

“There are a lot of people that haven’t got a mercantile license in the past. This is an opportunity to come in during the next 30 days, get signed up, get your inspection scheduled,” he said. “We’re not going to be looking back, we want to look forward. We want people to have safe properties.”

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Parking spaces removed at The Meadows

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Residents of The Meadows of Cape Island condominiums at Lafayette Street and St. James Place were up in arms after the city converted a deceleration lane in front of the complex into parking spaces.

During a council meeting May 18, City Manager Mike Voll said the city received a letter from a resident on the

opposite side of the street from the Meadows asking why parking spots could not be created in front of the condominium complex.

Voll said he checked with county engineer Bob Church and researched city records and found no reason not to create parking spaces in the deceleration lane on Lafayette Street.

“However, we found that in 2010 originally, Ordinance 210-2010, it is a no parking zone, and it was

done by ordinance,” Voll said.

He said a no parking zone exists from Washington Street, at the curve by the gas station, all the way to Madison Avenue. Voll apologized to Meadows residents.

“For the record, the signs are back up. It’s a no parking zone,” he said.

During public comment, Meryl Nelson, president of the Meadows of Cape Island Association, thanked the

city for removing the parking spaces.

“You have united our community,” she said.

Nelson brought copies of 35 letters written to council by Meadows of Cape Island residents. She asked that someone at City Hall write a letter memorializing the no parking zone in front of the condominiums for future reference.

The deceleration lane

See Parking, Page A5

Differing rules complicate job for city’s police

CMPD covers Cape May Point, West Cape May, which has yet to decide on marijuana stance

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance May 18 to amend the zoning code to prohibit the operation of marijuana businesses in all zones of Cape May.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin noted the ordinance stated it must provide notice to surrounding towns.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said a provision in the municipal land use law deals with regulations that may affect a neighboring municipality.

“Because of this regulation covering the entire town, it’s impacting the borders with West Cape May and Lower Township,” he said.

Cape May provides police services to Cape May Point and West Cape May, which is considering allowing cannabis businesses. Gillin-Schwartz said in Cape

May, marijuana cannot be smoked on public property but can be smoked on private property.

He said he spoke with Cape May Point’s solicitor and was under the impression the borough may not regulate consumption.

“Our officers are going to have to know what the local regulations are,” Gillin-Schwartz said.

Fashaw said he had been in contract with West Cape May Mayor Carol Sabo concerning marijuana issues. He suggested Gillin-Schwartz speak with West Cape May solicitor Frank Corrado.

“The police department is going to have to set up the same regulations as far as how we interact with the public with all three of our communities,” Fashaw said.

The police department will follow the state attorney

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Lower hires Inspira to supplement EMS

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved a \$36,000 contract with Inspira Medical Services to provide supplemental emergency medical services (EMS) to the township beginning June 1.

During a meeting May 17, Mayor Frank Sippel said Inspira has the expertise, command structure, state-of-the-art equipment and more than 350 employees to raise the level of care to the township.

“Inspira will interview and consider to hire employees of Lower Township Rescue Squad if qualified,” he said.

Sippel said Inspira would

work side by side with Lower Township Rescue while the township works out the contract with Inspira and transitions to a new emergency services provider.

Inspira was the only bidder for the contract, according to the enabling resolution. A second resolution stated that over the course of the last year, due largely to staffing shortages, the level of expected and required EMS services from Lower Township Rescue Squad “has diminished to the point where a need has arisen to secure an alternative emergency medical services provider to ensure that the residents of and

See Inspira, Page A3

You Deserve the Best Cancer Support

Wednesday, June 2 | 12pm - Life After Cancer Treatment

Cancer treatment over? Wondering now what? This online workshop is for you. Topics covered will include survivorship care plans, fear of recurrence, following up with physicians, emotional support, and what to expect after treatment. Join us for a warm interactive environment.

Speakers: Vickie Riskie, MSN, RN, OCN, NE-BC & Candice Tumillo, MSW, LCSW

For information or to RSVP please visit shoremedicalcenter.org/events

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