



Readers offer suggestions for library building

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House of the week

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168th YEAR NO. 28 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022 \$1.00

Reproductive rights march today on Promenade

Local businesses supporting 'Bans Off Our Bodies' protest of Roe v. Wade reversal

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24 is a day that will live in infamy for current and future generations of Americans.

As the new reality of living in the "post-Roe generation" sets in, a local movement to protect bodily autonomy has begun.

Perigee Moon Tattoo of West Cape May is hosting a "Bans

Off Our Bodies" march for reproductive rights at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, on the Promenade in front of Cape May Convention Hall. The march will begin at 6 p.m. and head toward the Cove. The public is encouraged to bring signs and friends to the event.

"Come out and march with us, take an hour or two off in the evening and march with us," Perigee Moon owner Kirsten Ewing said. "Bring your moms, dads, everyone you can."

In addition to the march, Perigee is holding a raffle to raise money for the National Network of Abortion Funds. Prizes will include three \$100 gift certificates and one \$300 gift certificate for tattoos at Perigee Moon, as well as donations from local businesses, including Out There Coffee, Ostara's Coffee House, Guardian, Flying Fish Studio, Bad Cat Farm and others.

"There will be other businesses donating, too," tattoo artist Sandy Gatelein said. "We can't

wait to see everyone there."

The live raffle drawing will be held at the end of the event. Raffle entrants who cannot attend will receive a call, and prizes can be shipped. The raffle tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by stopping into Perigee Moon.

"The mission of the National Network of Abortion Funds is to build power with members to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access by centering people who have abortions and organizing at the

intersections of racial, economic and reproductive justice," tattoo artist Destanie Safford said. "They're trying to make it safe and affordable for everyone to access abortions. It's not just a women's issue, it's a trans issue, a racial issue and a human issue."

Since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade as the law of the land, people everywhere are grappling with the

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Preparing for launch

The Desatnick Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports those living with spinal cord injuries, held the Around the Cape Paddle, its annual fundraising event, on July 17. The course started and ended at the Fisherman's Memorial on Cape May Harbor following a loop past Cape May's beaches, Cape May Point and up the Cape May Canal.

Wind farm impact study ignored at hearing

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — A public hearing held by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on the proposed Ocean Wind 1 turbine project off the coast drew more than two hours of public comment Thursday afternoon, but very little addressed details in the actual topic at hand — the 1,400-page draft report on the potential effects of the wind farm.

Instead, the hearing was dominated by union members and officials who support the wind farm because of the jobs they believe it will create, after multiple speakers from Clean Ocean Action repeatedly asked for the comment period to be extended, saying the window was far too short for people to digest the voluminous impact statement to be able to offer informed opinions.

Other commenters from Ocean City and Upper Township weighed in, including

Upper Township Committeewoman Kim Hayes, who said the township supports the project but is asking for a minor change to move a substation 500 feet.

BOEM is having a series of three virtual public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or DEIS. The first was last week. The second is at 5 p.m. today (July 20) and the third is at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 26. (To tune in, learn more and offer comments, go to BOEM.gov for details.)

Zachary Klein, policy attorney for Clean Ocean Action, said he joined colleagues Cindy Zipf, Kari Martin and Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan, all of whom spoke, in calling for an extension of the public comment period and to urge BOEM to do a pilot-scale offshore wind project off the coast of New Jersey "before rushing into industrialization of the ocean at the massive scale that Ocean Wind 1 will require."

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Pool construction reducing West Cape tree canopy

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Increasing numbers of residents are building swimming pools and, in the process, removing trees from their yards in a town that values being green and leafy.

During a Borough Commission meeting July 14, Mayor Carol Sabo said pool installations often require the removal of trees. Property owners often request paving and fences around the pool.

Sabo said there may be a need to provide a protection area around another tree during construction of a pool, but frequently roots are damaged, which triggers a need to remove that tree as well because it is dying.

Two years ago, Cape May Point took steps to outlaw pools because of land constraints and environmental effects. She asked if West Cape May wished to explore similar legislation. Sabo asked if a pool ban would infringe on property rights.

"Is our priority as a commission to protect and preserve our tree canopy?" she asked. "Does that take precedent legally over an individual's property rights?"

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said another issue with pool construction could be water displacement with a high-water table in portions of the borough. He said the state is discussing the possibility of requiring new homes to be built 5 feet higher than current regulations.

Burke said property

owners have requested to remove trees strictly because they wanted more sun shining on their pool. He said in some cases, the offending tree was in a neighbor's yard.

"Sometimes the tree was agreed to remain and then all of a sudden, the tree would be dead in a year and half after the pool was installed without any real understanding of how that happened except probably the roots were impacted," he said.

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Council wants to slow traffic on city streets

Forms committee to study steps to lower speed limit

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Councilman Mike Yeager, a member of the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, is recommending reducing the speed limit on many streets in Cape May.

"We have a large number of streets that are very narrow," Yeager said at a July 5 council meeting. "They are not marked; there's no speed limit signs on those streets and by default, anywhere in this city, in any municipality, the speed limit is 25 mph, which we all know is pretty insane if you're looking at Corgie Street, if you're looking at the lower part of Franklin (Street) below Columbia (Avenue), if you're looking at Hughes Street."

He said council needs to look at speed limits excluding county-owned roads. Yeager said it is likely the state has regulations gov-

erning changing speed limits.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz is researching the issue with assistance engineer Vince Orlando.

Yeager said a speed limit reduction committee is being assembled with hopes of its first meeting taking place soon. He said traffic studies would be involved in the process.

"If we're going to do this, we should do this on a large scale. We should cover everything at one time," Yeager said. "I think it's an effort worth moving forward with and make this place a lot safer."

Sharrows, arrows with a message to share the road with bicycles, will be installed on streets from Cove Beach to Ocean Street and from Lafayette Street to Beach Avenue, he said.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the city can reduce speed limits but

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City police: Bike riders are ignoring traffic laws

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Visitors to Cape May might be unaware that children must wear a helmet and that everyone must obey all traffic laws while riding a bike.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw spoke with members of the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee on July 13, saying the police department has an initiative to address bicycle helmet violations and bike riders defying the travel direction on one-way streets.

He said a helmet safety campaign was moving quickly with officers giving "positive tickets" to youth

wearing helmets and informing parents of helmet laws.

"The problem I'm seeing is people aren't paying attention to signage on the Promenade and on the mall; they're still riding their bikes through, they're still coming the wrong way," Fashaw said.

It is difficult to educate persons who are in town on vacation only for a few days, he said.

Fashaw said he rides a bicycle around the city and talks to young persons about wearing a helmet.

"A bicycle and a golf cart have to obey the same laws as a motor vehicle," he said.

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NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

The Rusty Nail is back! Our famed surfer bar and restaurant is back open for the 2022 season. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner—as well as delicious cocktails and the coldest draft beer in Cape May (as verified by Exit Zero Magazine).

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