County expects fed funding for flood mitigation

**By JACK FICHTER**

Cape May Star and Wave

AVAILON — An influx of federal funds for flood mitigation projects is on its way and officials want to ensure Cape May County is in the position to take advantage of it.

Cape May County Emergency Management Director Marty Patlught said the state Emergency Management Mitigation Unit notified his office in April about the new federal fund.

“What we want to do is have these municipalities get ready, have the engineering done, a cost benefit analysis done, ready to go to find, so as soon as that notice of funding is in, we’re going to be working with these municipalities to have their grants specialists or engineers work through our office and try to get all these projects in first in line,” he said. “We want to get our fair share in Cape May County.”

Patlught and the New Jersey Coastal Conference will be holding a webinar June 27 to announce the release of a funding study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Protection on the group’s behalf and the expected release of a draft of the study.

“This is a roadmap for essential funding for the 13 municipalities that participated in this venture by the Corps and the DEP,” Patlught said. “It’s very detailed, it’s going to help these municipalities get funding in the future for the State of County.”

See County, Page A2

Author: Raise cost of parking to open the premium spots

**By JACK FICHTER**

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — If parking in the center of town becomes expensive enough, folks will decide to take the bus, drive to a parking lot, or look for ways to find some space to park.

Henry Gruber, a staff writer at State and author of the book “Paved Paradises: How Parking Explains the World,” frequently writes about how finding space to park becomes a political problem when the issue is brought to the forefront.

Gruber said a lot of thought and much effort has gone into finding ways to make parking easier in areas where people gather, but it is an issue that has not been considered until it becomes a problem.

He said studies estimate 10 percent to 30 percent of downtown traffic in congested areas is caused by drivers looking for a parking spot.

“There’s a very easy solution to that. If you’ve got metered parking spaces and they’re all full, it means that your parking options are better,” he said.

See Author, Page A2

Celebrating Independence Day

Cape May celebrates Independence Day with a parade July 1. Above, the Hegeman String Band strutts down the street. Below, the Cape Reformatory train transport the Blue Pig mascot.

DRBA presents preliminary design for new ferry vessels

**By JACK FICHTER**

Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — Progress is being made on the preliminary design for a new vessel to transport passengers and vehicles on the Atlantic Interisland Ferry that will be equipped with hybrid propulsion.

A public information session was provided via zoom on June 27.

John Peterson, of Elliot Bay Design Group, a marine engineering and naval architectural firm, said a master plan for the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) decided how many vessels would make up its future fleet as well as its size, capacity and power requirements.

John Waterhouse, of Elliot Bay, presented conceptual drawings of the new ferry. He said the vessel was similar to the current ferries in a number of ways.

“This vessel is slightly smaller; it has a 72-berth capacity compared to the nominal 156-berth capacity of the existing ferries because the outside seating areas and the seating on the boat, but it has a number of features that we think will make it a great vessel for the operators and for the passengers on the vessel,” he said.

The new ferry would have a battery room for a hybrid propulsion system. Electric propulsion motors would drive fixed-blade propellers with rudder control on both sides of the vessel.

“A hybrid electric system, such as we are proposing for this vessel, has lots of switching, lots of cabling, so careful attention has to be paid to how we lay out those spaces and figure out how to integrate all of these systems,” Peterson said.

See DRBA, Page A7