

Bicycle panel to place safety literature on rentals

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee has a number of projects in the works, from distributing bike safety brochures and hangtags on rental bikes to a possible dedicated bike lane on Columbia Avenue.

During a meeting May 30, committee member Hilary Pritchard provided a summary of projects the committee was working on or has completed. The committee has obtained bicycle safety brochures from the state to be placed in welcome bags for visitors in rental homes and to be distributed by bicycle rental shops.

Pritchard said the committee has also discussed printing laminated hangtags on rental bikes with

rules of the road. Committee member Robert Morris said 1,000 magnets for refrigerators in rental homes with bike safety rules would be ready this week. He said as a Kiwanis Club project, every student in Cape May City Elementary School and West Cape May Elementary School would receive a light for their bicycle.

An innkeeper suggested bicycles provided by bed and breakfast inns also receive hangtags with safety rules.

Committee member Evelyn Lovitz reported on the formation of Cape May Island Connects, a steering committee with representatives from Cape May, Lower Township, West Cape May and Cape May Point. She said the committee has not held its first meeting but its goal will be to create bike

paths connecting attractions of all four municipalities.

Murray expressed concerns the two committees would duplicate efforts.

Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks said the city's low-power radio station, AM 1700, would return to the airwaves this summer and could broadcast bike safety information.

The committee has been looking at wayfinding in the form of maps of suggested bicycle routes and improved signage. Hendricks said there were many signs in town and the city was looking at signs with international symbols to inform the public of beach and bicycle safety, dog rules and alcohol regulations.

"I think we need to add Cape May charm to it," Pritchard said.

"We're not the city of

"no," Hendricks said.

A map of bike routes was not likely to be completed for this summer season, Pritchard said.

Lovitz said a bike route map of all of Cape Island would eventually be completed.

Hendricks said the county Open Space Board is providing some funds to create a small park at the war memorial on Columbia Avenue. She said the county would not provide funds for infrastructure or roadwork, which is estimated to cost about \$180,000. The city has applied for a state grant, she said.

City engineer Tom Thornton is determining the total cost of infrastructure for the project to substantiate the grant application, according to Hendricks, who added that the Fund for Cape May

is committed to entering a public/private partnership to complete the park.

The committee will collaborate with other committees on several projects. Pritchard said the committee would work with the Seawall and Promenade Advisory Committee for opportunities to widen the Promenade to include cycling.

In addition, the committee would work with the Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee to explore opportunities for a bike path and walking track in the park, she said. Another possible project is a hybrid bicycle lane on Columbia Avenue that would have a dedicated bike lane in one direction and a shared lane in the other direction.

Pritchard said Columbia Avenue could provide

an alternative to bicyclists riding on Washington and Lafayette streets to get to the heart of Cape May.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee discussed the merits of encouraging bicycle riding on Washington Street. Lovitz said it was safer for bike riders to weave through Cape May on a number of streets rather than use Washington Street.

Murray said if an official bike path map were produced, he wouldn't recommend naming Washington Street as a bicycle route. He said placing a shared car/bike lane on Washington Street could have a calming effect on traffic.

Morris warned bicyclists would assume riding conditions were safe on Washington Street if a shared lane were created.

Police academy wins national award

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County's Police Academy has been awarded the National Association of Counties' Achievement Award for its program "Updating the County Police Academy to Meet the Needs of a Changing Law Enforcement Environment" in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

The Police Academy is well recognized in the region. Municipalities from throughout the state, along with Pennsylvania and Delaware, send new recruits there for training.

"We couldn't be prouder

of the work being done by Chief Thomas DePaul and his staff at the Cape May County Public Safety Training Center," said Freeholder Vice Director Len Desiderio, who is liaison to the Training Center. "I have been saying for years how great the academy is based on the feedback we get from police departments in New Jersey, and this provides more validation."

The nomination highlighted the academy's driving simulator, indoor range and the de-escalation program. The academy trains veteran officers, special officers and Class 1 and 2

officers.

"The reason why this program is so successful is because of collaboration," DePaul said. "We work really well with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Sheriff's Office, along with local chiefs of police. We also are grateful for the support the freeholder board has provided over the years. The collaboration of all these organizations coming together is what makes this program so great."

There are more than 3,000 counties in the nation that are eligible to file for this award.

Road closings, detours in effect June 10

ERMA — The Lower Township Police Department would like to inform residents and motorists that the 6th annual Escape the Cape Triathlon will be taking place Sunday, June 10.

For the running and cycling portions of this event, there will be road closings and detours. Between 6:45 and 11 a.m., all persons living along Ferry Road, Jonathan Hoffman Road, Seashore Road (including the West Cape May bridge

to Stimpsons Lane), Bayshore Road (south of the canal), Stimpson Lane, New England Road, Atlantic Avenue, Emerson Avenue and Beach/Shore Drive from Lincoln Boulevard to Sandalwood Road, can expect road closing. Additionally, Douglass Park will be closed beginning at 11 p.m. Friday, June 8.

Anyone who lives in the area of any of the above-named streets should plan an alternate travel route

during the morning hours.

Residents living in an area affected by a road closing who must leave their home are asked to call the Police Department at (609) 886-2711. Officers will make arrangements to safely escort people to an open road.

It is further requested that resident not put trashcans at the curb or park vehicles in the roadway during this time to ensure the safety of participants as well as spectators.

Cape Assist gets \$25,000 grant from Horizon

WILDWOOD — Cape Assist, a substance abuse prevention and counsel-

ing agency serving Cape May County, has received a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

The grant will fund the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) and Taking Control of Your Health programs.

"The grant ... will enable Cape Assist to continue our important work educating seniors with basic health information and related programs," Executive Director Katie Faldetta said. "The WISE and Taking Control of Your Health programs will benefit older adults in Cape May County."

During the six-week interactive lessons, trained prevention specialists will educate adults 51 and older on self-care for chronic conditions, safe use of medications, how to complete health-related forms and how to have productive conversations with doctors.

"The classes are a combination of interactive exercises, group discussions and projects," said Temerity Berry, director of Prevention Services with Cape Assist. "Participants are given tools and resources that they can take home and share with their family, friends and peers."

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TIDES : June 6-13, 2018

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
6	1:50	2:37	8:10	8:20
7	2:44	3:32	8:58	9:22
8	3:40	4:25	9:46	10:22
9	4:37	5:16	10:35	11:20
10	5:32	6:05	11:24	
11	6:26	6:54	12:14	12:13
12	7:18	7:43	1:07	1:03
13	8:11	8:32	2:00	1:54

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