Cape May to install new safety signs at all beach entrances

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — New signage offering information on ocean currents and shore breaks and flags indicating ocean condition will be installed at each beach entrance in the next three weeks.

At a May 20 meeting of the Beach Safety Committee, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Joe Picard said he heard the calls from the board of the back of the signs, which beachgoers who want to leave the beach, would want permission for visiting Cape May's beach.

An additional sign will warn beachgoers that smoke, including e-cigarettes, and alcohol and drugs are prohibited on the beach.

Picard said the beach would be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Committee secretary Kate Wyatt noted lifeguards go on duty at 10 a.m.

Beach Patrol Capt. Geoff Rife said many guards serve for warrants.

"A lot of our guards for us, the two beach patrolling are all the way down to the Cove during their workouts. They are constantly training, paddling and rowing," he said.

Before 10 a.m., cell-phones and radios can summon guards. Deputy City Manager Jeff Martin officially granted 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rife noted beach safety signs at entrances stand "only when lifeguards are on duty." The beach patrol offers after-hours protection until dark as of June 1. "It is always open with a full staff of lifeguards," he said.

The Beach Safety Committee is looking for volunteers to measure the beach. Leover Cape May Regional High school science teacher Jeff Martin has a hands-on curriculum in summer as Cape May Beach Advisory
director for the DeSatnick Foundation.

Kate Wyatt noted lifeguards will be on stands with a skilful crew. Beach officials said lifeguards will be open with a full staff of lifeguards, he said.

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