Man raising funds to pay student lunch debt in township

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A local resident has launched a campaign to pay off the debt of students who have been unable to pay for their lunches.

When students at Lower Cape May Regional High School can’t afford to buy lunch, they are still served and given an IOU. Despite the availability of free and reduced-price lunches, some students have not taken advantage of the service.

As a result, the school built up more than $7,300 in unpaid lunch debt. Cape May resident Jeremiah Schenerman decided it was time to act, and set up a Go Fund Me page for Lower Cape May Regional High School to pay off the students’ lunch debt.

“Having a lunch debt is a daily reminder of stress from things outside of your control and a form of embarrassment for students,” he wrote on his Go Fund Me page. “I’m raising this money for LCMR District and other Lower Township area schools to pay off existing student lunch debts.”

Schenerman said the Democratic clubs of Upper Township and Middle Township started similar programs and he decided to earmark the funds to pay off the Lower Township student lunch debts.

He said students and say, “We can pay off the rest of the lunch debt in Lower Township.”

He said he called Lower Cape May Regional High School food services director and they provided a figure of $7,700. That has been reduced to $5,500 from parents donating and Drew Gandley at the Eat Well restaurant on Town Bank Road gave them a figure of $7,700. Most of the debt is from students who purchase full-price lunches. Schenerman said he has more students who are receiving reduced-price or free lunches.

Schenerman met with Lower Cape May Regional High School Superintendent Christopher Kobik on March 29. Money from the Go Fund Me page will be donated to the Lower Cape May Regional Education Foundation, which will earmark the funds to pay off student lunch debt in Lower Township.

Schenerman said the program needs to be set up to help students who have not handed in the paperwork for free or reduced-price lunches to do so.

He said he will call the Lower Cape May Regional High School food services director and set up a program to pay off student lunch debt in Lower Township.

Opportunity may knock at Lower’s door

Township included in state’s submission for federal funds

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

NEWARK — Lower Township has been included in recommendations for Opportunity Zones submitted by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, something that could make the township attractive for new businesses or relocations.

The Opportunity Zones program — sponsored by Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) — is the first new federal tax incentive program to help communities and distressed areas. It provides opportunities for private investors to support investments in distressed communities through participation in Opportunity Funds. Further details on the structure and implementation of the program will be released by the Department of the Treasury later this year.

Every community should have access to the resources needed to realize its full entrepreneurial potential,” Booker said. “But barriers stand between too many communities and the funding they need to create opportunities and grow our economy.”

Kobik said the township is doing well and needs the assistance of the state Department of Community Affairs to help with the Mayor and the township council.

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ERMA — A 72-year-old woman who lost consciousness and struck a house on Seashore Road in Lower Township was pronounced dead upon arrival at a hospital).

Police were dispatched to the intersection of Breakwater Road and Seashore Road, where a report of a motor vehicle accident at about 3:39 p.m. March 30. Officers arrived on scene to discover a 1-car accident involving a two-lane road. The driver of the vehicle was extricated from the scene by the Lower Township Rescue Squad and the vehicle was evaluated by the rescue squad.

Officer was evaluated by the rescue squad, the vehicle was removed from the roadway and the road was opened to traffic.

Woman dies in crash into house in Lower Township

Cape May held its Easter Fashion Stroll on April 1 in Rosey Park. At top, the Easter Bunny strikes a pose with Vera Bailey, 5, of Sewell. At left, Grace Brockman, 2, Noah Brockman, 5, and Eva Brockman, 16 months, of Rio Grande Avenue, contestants in the egg race 4 to 6 category.

Strolling in their Easter best

Cape May Star and Wave

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