West Cape May files action vs. Willow Creek

Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough has filed a declaratory judgment action against Willow Creek Winery, seeking to enforce a recent amendment to the Right to Farm Act that prohibits preserved farm wineries from hosting weddings or other “special-occasion events” unless certain conditions are met.

Willow Creek Winery, a preserved farm, has indicated that it will continue to hold weddings and other special-occasion events on its premises despite its failure to comply with any of the newly enacted statutory conditions.

“If this is about compliance with the law,” Mayor Pamela Dalton stated in a news release. “We hold events that are in accordance with the law and in a way that properly balances the state’s interest in agricultural tourism with the rights of stakeholders in the outcome of what could be military downsizing. Stakeholders include local officials and base personnel, she said.

“We need to talk to the base about the importance of these activities,” said Township Manager Mike Voll. “The base participates in a number of events on our coasts, and they have a plan, and why hasn’t a plan been developed for Willow Creek Winery to host similar events on its property?”

Mayor Dalton said that the issue was discussed at a recent meeting of the Banana Bowl Authority (MUA), which is responsible for the management of the Banana Bowl.

“We can’t afford to have any base close to our shores and that’s what we’re trying to avoid by touring the bases and by involving all stakeholders in the MUA in the decision to Gov. Chris Christie about how can we make sure these bases stay strong going into the 21st century.”

Guadagno, said.

By BETTY WUND

Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

West Cape May’s beaches have been the sites of a number of injuries to body surfers since 1999. Replenished with sand from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1999, replenished beaches have been the sites of C-spine injuries in severe storms.

Beginning in March 2010, the city began petitioning the beach safety board to take steps to ensure that beachgoers are safe from the dangers of rip currents.

In August, a group of beachgoers filed a suit against the Cape May Fire Department, charging that the department failed to provide adequate protection to beachgoers.

The case was dismissed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which ruled that the department had no duty to protect beachgoers from rip currents.

John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Big waves batter bathers

Several suffer cervical, neck and spine injuries in Cape May

CAPE MAY — Rough surf has been the cause of a number of injuries to body surfers in Cape May Aug. 4-6 in Cape May.

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

Unfortunately, it doesn’t take much of a swell with the way the shore break is to injure people that are not familiar with it. — Chief Alex Coulter, Cape May Fire Department

Just before 1 a.m., the Cape May Fire Department was called to Cape May Point Beach to assist New Jersey State Police with a body that was washed ashore.

According to state Police Chief John MacLeod, the body was a 44-year-old man from Long Island, N.Y.

“Unfortunately, it doesn’t take much of a swell with the way the shore break is to injure people that are not familiar with it,” Chief Alex Coulter of the Cape May Fire Department said.

Coulter said the man was a body surfer who had a dislocated shoulder due to surf conditions.

The man was treated by paramedics and taken to the Cape May County Medical Center.

Coulter said that the beach is not safe for body surfers and that the department is working with the state Police to educate the public about the dangers of body surfing.

The department also wants to see more signage along the beach to warn visitors about the dangers.

The department is also working with the state Police to install cameras along the beach to monitor surf conditions.

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