

Harbor

Continued from page A1

dumped into the salt marsh between Schellinger's Landing and Madison Avenue. Sayre said this was basically dumping mud on top of mud.

"It was fine to fill in wetlands back then - there were no rules against it," Sayre said.

He said at the time the Turtle Gut Inlet, which was located in the vicinity of today's Wildwood Crest, was still in existence at the time. The inlet served as the division between Five Mile Beach and Two Mile Beach, but was filled in by the county in 1922. He said the jetties were completed in 1910 and the U.S. Coast Guard eventually took over the area.

According to Sayre, large groups of workers were constantly involved in the dredging process going non-stop, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This was because much of the equipment used was steam-powered, which meant it was important to keep the fires going at all times.

He said the harbor was originally dredged and dug to be a little over 30 feet deep, but it has become more shallow as the years have gone by. He said he could remember watching enormous boats coming into the harbor as a child, without even stirring up any mud.

"Now, some boats coming

into the harbor have to wait for high tide," he said.

According to Sayre, the leading developer in the project was a man by the name of N.C. Graves. He said the dredging was completed in 1908, however, it was not until July 4, 1913 when the harbor was officially opened and the city had a big celebration in honor of its completion.

Sayre still has an engineer's map showing the area before the harbor was made. He said at the time, the eastern portion of Cape May (near the Coast Guard base) was mostly meadows. Sayre said Devil's Reach, which is near Yacht Avenue and provides a great view of the harbor, used to be a bit larger and was covered with trees and bushes. A lot of the original streams that flowed to the harbor have been filled in over the years, but he said a portion of them are still in existence.

"Nothing has changed, except where man has changed it," he said.

According to Sayre, one of the main reasons for the harbor being built was so sailing vessels that were more subject to being shipwrecked during storms could seek refuge during inclement weather. He said Cape May was the ideal location for the inlet and jetties, which provided a safe haven for boaters in a big storm.

"The fishing industry has

always been big here because of the safe inlet, not just because of good fishing," he said.

Sayre said he has always had a close connection with the harbor throughout his life, which would explain his heavy interest in it. He said he was one of the members of the Harbor Sailing Club responsible for revitalizing the Corinthian Yacht Club in the late 1950s. Sayre gave sailing lessons on the harbor for a number of years, which gave him work to do during the summer when he wasn't teaching.

"I've been around the harbor a long time," he said.

The Sayre family has been in the farming business for generations and still own 50 acres of farm property off Seashore Road. He said with the exception of his military service, he has always been in Cape May and is intrigued by its history.

You can learn more about the history of Cape May Harbor on June 18 at Harborfest. The 100th anniversary celebration is being organized by Mark Allen of the South Jersey Marina, Gretchen Whitman of the Nature Center, and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May. It will be held at the Nature Center, adjacent to the Corinthian Yacht Club and the Coast Guard Base.



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

MAC presents Encore Award to Cape May Mayor Edward Mahaney

CAPE MAY - Pictured above (left to right): The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC) Treasurer Mary McKenney, President Doug McMain, Director Michael Zuckerman and Trustee Jeff Elliott presented Cape May's Mayor Edward Mahaney (center) with the 2011 Paul Aiken Encore Award for his outstanding leadership in the field of cultural and heritage tourism at the South Jersey Cultural Alliance's 2011 Encore Awards Gala on Thursday, May 19. MAC honored Mayor Mahaney for his eloquent advocacy for cultural and heritage tourism, at both the state and local levels, and for his leadership role in the construction of a new Cape May Convention Hall. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC) is a multifaceted not-for-profit organization committed to promoting the preservation, interpretation, and cultural enrichment of the Cape May region for its residents and visitors. MAC membership is open to all. For information about MAC's year-round schedule of tours, festivals, and special events, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278, or visit MAC's Web site at www.cape-maymac.org.

Day

Continued from page A1

Morgan claimed the SPCA was more interested in prosecution than preventing animal cruelty.

"The SPCA said all what

you say is fine, but we want her to plead guilty to something," Morgan said. "Our reputation is worth more than that."

Morgan said the hearing was rescheduled for Aug. 10.

Court

Continued from page A1

new West Cape May municipal judge, before DeWeese's official retirement date came. "Consolidation has always been an option on the table, but some don't want it that way," Geyer told the Star and Wave after the Oct. 27, 2010 meeting.

He also said during that time, Cape May City and West Cape May officials had a discussion in 2007 regarding a possible consolidation, but a mutual agreement was never reached. According to Geyer, there was a court consolidation feasibility study done around the same time before he was in office, which he is reviewing considering a

more permanent consolidation is being discussed once more.

Geyer said if the municipalities were to combine courts, there is a possibility certain modifications would need to be made to the borough building, involving parking and handicapped access, which would require the decision of outside agencies. Geyer said the consolidation will continue to be discussed in the near future; and as long as there are no major problems, and the savings are there, there is a good possibility of it occurring.

"I think there's always opportunities for consolidating and sharing services," he said.

The feasibility study prepared by Jersey Professional Management in Cranford, dated January 2008, recommended combining the courts of Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point effective 2009. The report recommended using the West Cape May facilities to house the joint court. The study made recommendations on staffing, courtroom modifications and security improvements. The study estimated consolidation would save between \$115,100 and \$157,000 between the three municipalities. West Cape May was estimated to save \$46,000 in the first year of consolidation.

West Cape May water loss

At the May 11 meeting, resident John Rowley asked Mayor Pamela Kaithern for the water loss analysis from Edens Revenue Recovery Associates as well as the West Cape May Water Department, so he and Kathy Gallagher of the West Cape May Taxpayers Association could compare the data they had gathered.

Rowley once again asked for documents at the May 25 meeting, but Kaithern said

she only had a hand-written report from the Water Department of what occurred. She said an official report has not been created yet.

The borough was provided with a written report titled "Analysis of West Cape May Water Billing Discrepancies," Dated Feb. 8, 2011. A cover letter attached to the report is dated Feb. 22, 2011. The report indicated there was a discrepancy between the amount of water entering and leaving West Cape May, and the amount transmitted to residents. That amount was about 33 percent lower than the other two amounts, the report says. The report says the discrepancy was about 15 to 16 million gallons per year.

The report also lists possible reasons for the discrepancy, including: the water meters or either or both Cape May and West Cape May were inaccurate, water loss after it went through the Cape May meter, water loss in the West Cape May water system, water infiltration on flow into the West Cape May system, unauthorized and unmetered water use by West Cape May residents, or some combination of the factors listed.

The report says Edens hired a company called ADS to retest the meters and found them accurate, but they found the meter at Wilbraham Park was "grossly oversized for the quantity of water that flowed through it," the report said. ADS indicated the meter would not work until the flow rate reached 40 to 50 gallons per minute, which the report indicated was a significant finding.

The report reads, "Since the meter at Wilbraham Park measures flow leaving West Cape May, and is credited to West Cape May when Cape May calculates West Cape May's water bill, it is evident that Cape May has underestimated the credit due to West Cape May and has, accordingly, been overbilling West Cape May."

The report says the meter did not register at all at 40 gallons per minute, and 100 percent of the water at that rate would not be accounted for. The logical magnitude of such a discrepancy, the report says, is a loss of 21 million gallons per year (40 gallons per minute x 60 minutes x 24 hours per day x 365 days).

The report recommended replacing the Wilbraham Park meter with a smaller meter, suggesting a 10-inch Neptune High Performance meter, then after two or three months, attempt to gauge the amount of underestimated credits/overbillings.

Geyer asked Kaithern if the water loss calculations could be done on a monthly basis, so it is more closely watched. "No, because it's designed to be done on a quarterly basis," Kaithern replied. "It probably could be done, but it would be a very intense process."

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