

Mail

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isn't working," Wieland said. Wieland said they stopped their ad campaign for print media as of June 15, and turned to radio advertising.

"We told people to go to our website to get information, which would link them to other websites," she said.

Wieland said the county site has tourist information about Cape May County in French for French speakers.

She said they were also directing Canadians to the Canadian Automobile Association, which many Canadians are familiar with because they drive to New Jersey.

"They can go to these sites and get information so they can contact businesses directly," she said.

Wieland said her sources suggest just under half a million Canadians visited New Jersey in 2009. She said more than half of Canadian visiting New Jersey come to Cape May County.

Vicky Clark, president of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, said she had not heard from chamber members regarding any fallout due to the strike. However, the chamber had to curtail its mailing of informational packets to Canada.

"From our perspective, this is the time of year's we are sending a lot of vacation packets to Canada. We are not mailing anything now, and we are directing everyone to our website," Clark said.

Clark said they had some advance notice a strike was possible. She said when the strike was issued they were able to get some information on the matter. She did not feel Cape May County was going to be severely impacted by the strike.

"Many are return visitors, so I don't think it will hurt our Canadian visitors. It might complicate things for people who aren't renting through realtor or property management company," she said.

Judy Pensa, a rental associate with Jersey Cape Realty, said there has not been a problem because most of their rentals have already been processed.

"We now email leases. There was some concern payments would not be here in a timely manner, so we were giving wiring instructions. This has not been a problem that is not easily handled," Pensa said.

According to Pensa, they normally email leases these days, particularly to Canada because it gets there much

quicker. She said they were alerted to the postal strike problem and some people were mailing items using carriers other than the normal postal service.

Gail Wilsey Morrison of Wilsey Realty said the only situation they faced was similarly handled.

"It only happened to me once, but typically, most of the money is in," she said. "One was just booked and what they ended up doing was using FedEx rather than postal services."

On Saturday, June 18, the US Postal Service suspended the acceptance of mail to Canada, other than Global Express Mail. On Tuesday mail service resumed, but with delays expected due to backed up mail from the U.S. and other countries.

Some Cape May businesses did not notice any repercussions of the Canadian mail strike. Amy Menz of Coastline Realty said she wasn't aware there was a strike. She said it normally takes a long time to get anything from Canada. The general manager at the LaMer Beachfront Inn said they don't deal with many Canadian guests and all business is normally done using email and credit cards.

PBA

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Voll said. According to Voll, the PBA wanted some of the language changed in the contract regarding healthcare and other things.

"I thought we had an agreement as of last Thursday," Voll said. "The contract was sent to council and the PBA's attorney Charles Schlager."

Voll said the contract was presented to the rank and file on Monday and it was voted down. He said by the time of the meeting it was too late to take action on the contract.

PBA 59 President Fran Fiore said it was unfair to say the union rejected the contract. According to Fiore, the contract they received on Monday had different language in it than it had the last time they saw it.

"We thought we came up with a solution good for everybody with everything going on in the state, but when got a copy of it there was a lot of wording changed, particularly with healthcare," Fiore said. "We're not going to jump into something."

Fiore said they took a secondary vote, and if it were just the economic issues, the rank and file would have ratified the agreement.

Fiore said last year the township approached the PBA in April and said they were going to have a shortfall. The township asked the PBA to not take overtime pay, but instead receive comp time, or time off equivalent to their overtime.

"We agreed to forgo any and all overtime payments and only take comp time for

the remainder of the year," Fiore said. "I believe there was over \$300,000 in savings to the township."

Fiore said dealing with overtime was a purely an economic issue, and the PBA figured they would help out the township.

"No one is here to be greedy," he said.

According to Fiore, the township said it would again face a shortfall and they began discussions with the police union, culminating with the no vote on June 20.

"There is really not a no vote here. It's pretty unfortunate because everyone stood to do pretty well. We took some losses but you have to give and take," he said.

Fiore said Gov. Chris Christie was due to sign legislation Tuesday requiring public employees to pay up to 35 percent of their healthcare. He said he believes the governor has the prerogative of making the legislation effective in 60 days, which would be more comfortable for the union, which would also have to contribute another 1.5 percent to pensions - an increase from 8.5 to 10 percent.

Prior to Monday's meeting, Mayor Mike Beck said the contract process was being rushed.

"Now they are trying to ram through a police contract," he said. "They are trying to beat the legislation. If the contracts are extended for three years they will have the ability to walk away from a lot of the proposed changes."

Beck said at four years from now police officers would have to pay 30 percent of the

healthcare package. He said the older officers are hoping to avoid the significant payments while the new hires will shoulder the burden. "They are selling their young. The new cops are the ones going to pay for this," Beck said.

"The Van Drews and other guys took beating to get us the tool kit, and these guys are going to throw the tool kit off the side of the tracks," he added.

Voll said his proposal is to replace seven retiring officers making \$100,000 with new officers who would start out at \$30,000 a year.

"In 2012 we planned to put four more people in the police academy if we got the cheaper stating pay. We were also going to spread out payments over 18 years, and there would be no more longevity," Voll said.

Voll said the township would save \$350,000 over the first nine years.

Voll said there was agreement with the union prior to the June 20 closed session meeting, when he said the union wanted more changes.

"By then the party was over, it was too late, there was no time to make changes," he said.

Voll said he believed they would renegotiate the contract in the fall, but would then have to deal with the legislation the governor signs, which he said was not beneficial to the union or public employees.

Voll said the township deals with six labor unions and all their contracts expire at the end of the year.

Soda

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tioned. He allegedly dropped a soda on the floor of his vehicle, unbuckled his seatbelt and attempted to retreat it. When he did, his 2002 Chevy Trail Blazer crossed the oncoming lane of traffic and struck a 1998 Chevy truck nearly head-on, pushing it into a red, 2007 Dodge Charger parked behind it. Lear said the two damaged cars belonged to the same family, who live in Coast Guard housing.

After striking the parked

vehicles, Weed's vehicle traveled back across Pennsylvania Avenue and ended up over the curb on the right side of the street.

Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr. said Coast Guard rescue personnel reached Weed first and found him unconscious. Weed later regained consciousness and was able to speak to emergency personnel. Inderwies said the steering wheel in Weed's Trail Blazer was damaged, with its consistent with a chest hitting the steering wheel - an indication of possible chest trauma

and internal injuries. He was transported by AtlantiCare Medevac 5 helicopter to the hospital.

The accident is still under investigation by Cape May Police Officer Coll. Lear said indications are Weed would be cited for careless driving. All three vehicles were towed from the scene.

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erected properly, sitting on the sea wall," he said.

"By the end of the summer, people will see something more like a building," he said.

Both Smith and Ogren were thrilled to have been awarded this particular bid, given the aggressive market right now.

"Construction companies need more work and the municipalities have less work available," Ogren told the Star and Wave in May. "It was nice to finally get it."

There were six bid processes before Ogren was chosen. According to Smith, they applied for the project four times. On the final try, their bid came in at just the right amount, keeping the city within its \$10.5 million budget for the Convention Hall.

Ogren and Smith both said the city has done a great job planning the project and have been very cooperative with

the process thus far.

"Everyone involved has been great," Smith said.

Ogren added the importance of making sure everything is done properly and safely in a project of this magnitude.

"You don't want to fly by the seat of your pants," he said. "We submit our recommendations, the city reviews and approves them. It's a process."

Ogren said the primary subcontractors have already been chosen for the project and the steel and other materials being used have already been ordered. Smith said they prioritized the subcontractors they would need, making sure they had the most crucial contractors aboard first, such as the electricians and special equipment operators.

Smith said residents of Cape May will start to see something positive and progressive with the construction now that the concrete work will begin.

"The city wants it done on time, so we have to the schedule work," Smith told the Star and Wave in May.

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157 Years Old
1854-2011

Vision

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According to the document, the city still has over 600 Victorian buildings. Cape May must also preserve its tourism industry, as well as its fishing industry and strong relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard. The statement says the city should work with business owners to develop a "Coast Guard friendly" business program and work with the military branch to be ranked as a "Coast Guard City."

The city shall also coordinate with state, county and local municipalities and solicited funding resources to improve its public transportation system while improving and enhancing parking and roadways along with a pedestrian and bicycle friendly travel development.

Finally, the Sewell Point residential development proposed in east Cape May remains the largest area of undeveloped lands, containing around 100 acres of environmentally important lands that span from the beach to Harbor Cove. The city has set aside 18 acres for development and will ensure the remaining 82 acres be protected.

"This was a very well thought out community visioning statement and everyone has worked extremely hard on it," Hurlless said.

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