

Share

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would save \$40,000 in tuition. The foundation is also offering \$50,000 in tuition scholarships to Wildwood Catholic - \$1,000 each for the first 50 new students, grades nine through 12, to enroll in Wildwood Catholic for the 2010-2011 school year. Bob Mullock said the foundation would also explore creating a charter school and accepting vouchers from public schools. Von Savage said the foundation has volunteers interested in underwriting certain sports programs. The Sciarra family, which operates Kona Sports in Wildwood, agreed to underwrite the tennis program. Bob Mullock, who operates Cape May National Golf Course, said he would underwrite the golf team. Other such agreements are in the works.

The foundation is also proposing \$100,000 for program improvements. Part of that includes hiring a headmaster and appointing a teaching chair. Plans call for shared school administrative costs, maintenance, fixed charges, instructional and staffing costs. Foundation member Claudia Von Savage called the plan a "win-win-win" situation benefiting the elementary school, high school and the diocese. "And if we have the two schools together we have a ready made feeder school for Wildwood Catholic," she said. Resolutions supporting the Save Wildwood Catholic Foundation have been passed in Upper Township, Middle Township, Lower Township, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, North Wildwood, Ocean City, Avalon, Cape May and Cape

May Point. Resolutions are on the agendas in Sea Isle City and West Wildwood. Freeholder Director Dan Beyel, who had three children graduate from Wildwood Catholic, compared the way the diocese was handling school to the "Wild West." "We'll hang him and then give him a trial," Beyel said. "The method of this decision-making was really poor," he added. Beyel said the decision to close the school would just add strain on other schools in the community. "The school should stay open despite any deficit ... if any," Beyel said. Von Savage said the school operates for the purpose of preparing students for higher education. He said 90 percent of Wildwood Catholic students go on to college. He said one of the foundation's

goals is to continue that tradition. Another is to construct a model for other Catholic schools to follow. As a show of good faith in dealing with the Diocese of Camden, committee member Joe Catanoso said the foundation was suspending some protest activities. "We will hold off on the Crusader Bucks and with the demonstrations for now," he said. Crusader Bucks are coupons churchgoers would drop in the collection plate showing the amount of money they were putting in escrow until the diocese decided to leave Wildwood Catholic open. Those involved so far on the www.savewildwoodcatholic.com team include: Rich Bischoff, Joe Catanoso, Bob Mullock, Carole Pantalone, Bob Sandman, Tony Monzo,



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave Save Wildwood Catholic Foundation member David Von Savage of West Cape May was one of numerous foundation members presenting a plan, Jan. 28, to keep Wildwood Catholic open. Doc Sorenson, Megan Gillin Savage, Joe Pelusi, Rich Schwartz, Zach Mullock, David J. Von Savage, Claudia Don Savage, David Von continues to grow.

Back-in

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as is used in the Jackson Street lot. There, a driver pays for his time at a central, parking meter kiosk and gets a receipt, which is displayed on the dashboard. "Council's understanding was we would use meters and housings we had on hand," Mahaney said. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the city has sufficient numbers of individual, stand-alone meters it can install. MacLeod said the city has about 380 housings for parking meters and 600 mechanisms. Mahaney said he didn't want the expense of adding another metering system and thought the simpler the system the better. "My understanding is we are not here today to talk

about a new metering system and increasing the budget, but we are here today to increase the number of parking spaces and individual meters," he said. Councilman David Kurkowski said he thought the city should evaluate the cost of installing 330 meters or investing in a pay and display system. Or perhaps consider selling off all the meters in storage to offset the cost of the new system. MacLeod said selling the city's meters would not bring a large return. Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said he believed the city should use the equipment it already has. Regarding the back-in spaces, Favre said if the police are going to have to enforce the back-in rule, offi-

cers should also enforce the rule about parking against traffic in other areas. Smith also outlined plans to eliminate some 15-minute parking spaces and to meter loading zones for use after noon. He said spaces for 15-minute parking would be eliminated on Carpenter Lane, the south side of Columbia east of Stockton, the west side of Guerny, and two spaces on Lyle Lane. Several loading zones on Decatur and Pittsburg would continue to be designated loading zones from 6 a.m. until noon, but meters would be in effect from noon till 10 p.m. Smith said most businesses in the city get their deliveries before noon, and after that the space would be open for parking.

None

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As a candidate, Kurkowski ran on the idea of leading Cape May into the next era. He said one of the biggest problems was a declining population. He advocated second homeowners making Cape May their permanent home. He said there should be a concentrated effort to recruit people to live in Cape May. Kurkowski advocated a

public-private partnership for the new Convention Hall project. Kurkowski also wished to address the parking problem in Cape May, saying it deters visitors. Steenrod ran a campaign on balance, cooperation and diversity. She said she would bring a sense of cooperation and communication to city council. She said in 2006 that she saw the value of Cape May investing in a revitaliza-

tion program and supported a Convention Hall with a second floor and more retail area. She supported a Cape May that struck a balance between families with children and those seeking upscale amenities. Like Kurkowski she supported the creation of affordable housing for the working population in Cape May.

Flat water/sewer rates are likely in CM

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH Cape May Star and Wave
CAPE MAY - Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said after six months, a Water/Sewer Rate Study Commission settled on a new uniform rate system, which charges a flat rate for every customer for the first 5,000 gallons quarterly, then assesses a fee for usage over

that amount. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the committee evaluated its billing method and rate calculations, reviewed the utility's budget, and examined billing formulas in other municipalities. "Our intention was not to reinvent the budget wheel," MacLeod said. MacLeod said in 2009 the city experienced a decrease in consumption from the previous year, and the decline in usage continues. He said if the city stayed with the current system, ratepayers might be looking at a 10 percent increase. Instead, he

said, the commission recommended going to a fixed charge for 5,000 gallons per quarter plus charges for use over that amount. "The formula redistributes the revenue pie," MacLeod said. "The new method results in a fair and equitable rate system. It doesn't impact low users or reward high users." MacLeod said the utility's budget increased by \$127,000, and the new method and rates would generate the revenue needed to balance the budget.

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