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City finishes Master Plan review, on time and on budget

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Members of the Cape May Planning Board advised city council the city's Master Plan reexamination was complete and has been received by the state prior to the March 31 deadline.

Planning Board President Bill Bezaire told city council the reexami-

nation was "done on time and on budget." Bezaire was joined by Planning Board and member Harley Shuler and board engineer Craig Hurless.

Hurless told city council the state requires municipalities to reexamine their Master Plan every six years. A Master Plan is the city's framework by which future planning decisions are made.

Hurless said the Master Plan reexamination was adopted March 24 by the Planning Board, and city council did not have to take any action with regard to the state, but would later take legislative action as required to make zoning changes, such as the redesignation of the south side of Texas Avenue as a Neighborhood-Commercial (NC) Zone, changes to the C-1 district with regard to proper-

ties on Elmira and Broad Street, and the redesignation of an R-1 area on Maryland Avenue as R-3.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the Master Plan reexamination was the second part of a three-part plan to satisfy state requirements and improve the city's position in planning and zoning matters. The first was the

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Pondering the lodge again

Stockton College shows interest for satellite campus

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Officials from the Richard Stockton College toured the former Ponderlodge Golf Course, Wednesday, to get a look at the property they feel might be a good site for a satellite campus.

"This is the first time we saw it, Matt Altier, Stockton's Vice President of Administration and Finance, said. We took a group of our staff – facilities engineers, police, faculty – we wanted to evaluate the situation and put together some ideas. We just wanted to look at the location."

Altier said they want a large group of people from Stockton to look at the site, pull together demographics of the area, and then get together and discuss the matter and eventually put together a proposal.

Altier said Stockton has a huge environmental studies program.

"We have a large environmental college, and we want to see if there is the potential for research (there). We also have a hospital management program and an up-and-coming adult continuing studies program, so we wanted to have a look-see at things," Altier said.

He said the group initially walked through the main building and saw some really positive things, as architectural aspects, as well as negative things, such as a leaky roof. He said a lot would depend on the feedback he gets from various department people.

Altier said Stockton is always looking to expand and increase its programs and they already have satellite campuses at Nacote Creek and the Carnegie Center in Atlantic City. He said the college already has a large commuter population from Cape May County and when the opportunity was presented to start a satellite campus here the college decided to look at it.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew told the public at Monday's Lower Township Council meeting he met with Altier and Stockton President Herman Saatkamp Jr., and said they expressed interest in the site for use as a satellite campus focusing on environmental sciences.

The 253-acre golf course was purchased by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for \$8.45 million several years ago to preserve as

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, Anthony George gestures while singing "You're Gonna Love Me" during the talent competition. Right, th newly crowned 2009 Mr. LCMR, Ben New and entourage.



'New' Mr. LCMR crowned Tuesday night

High school entertainment wowed audience

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA – A new Mr. LCMR was crowned at Lower Cape May Regional High School, Tuesday evening – specifically senior Ben New.

New picked up the Casual Wear Award and Talent Award and beat out 11 other contestants to take home the coveted Mr. LCMR crown. Besides wowing the judges with his choice of casual wear, New demonstrated superior music skills by singing "Bubble Toes" by Jack Johnson, and alternately accompanying himself on guitar and congas. Perhaps New also impressed the judges by not getting flustered when the microphone stand lowered suddenly, forcing him to finish his song with the mic at waist level.

Taking first runner-up was senior Anthony George, who also took the prize for his introduction. George said he wanted to be Will Smith, but he might not have the ears for the part. He also wowed the audience with a dramatic lip-sync of "You're Gonna Love Me" from Dreamgirls. While most lip-syncs are borderline lame, George made his entertaining and received perhaps the biggest ovation of the night.

Second runner-up was senior Mubarak B. "B.J." Walker who also won the interview award with the question, "What three people, living or dead, would you like to have dinner with?" Walker's third choice was a homeless person, he said, because they would be hungry and could use the meal. Walker performed Bob

Marley's "Redemption Song" in the talent portion.

Third runner-up was senior Kyle Boyle, who also garnered the Semi-Formal Wear Award. Boyle may have had help in this category, as his escort, Nona Poehler looked sophisticated and ravishing in a blue backless evening gown, with her hair in a short, stylish cut. Boyle and others performed an SNL skit of "Single Ladies" for the talent portion.

Each contestant who placed in the contest also took home at least one other prize.

A pair of junior "Chazes" also took home awards, Tuesday. Chaz McGann won the "Mr. Popularity Award" for raising the most money for charity. Jars with the contestants' names on them for collecting money were placed in the lobby before the contest. McGann entertained the audience with an interesting techno dance featuring him on a dark stage with glow-in-the-dark strips that made him look like a stick figure.

Chaz Lear, who said in his interview that he wanted to be remembered for being friendly, was named "Mr. Congeniality," as selected by the contestants.

Other contestants included Dakota Abadie, Kyle Damiana, Dylan Gannon, Shane Parker, and Kyle Rodriguez.

Abadie led three others in a rendition of YMCA. Damiana did a wrestling tribute, claiming he can't sing or dance, despite dancing as well as anyone else on the stage not affiliated with Jersey Cape Dancers. Damiana

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Courtesy of the Cape May Jazz Festival

Cape May Jazz Festival next weekend

Next weekend marks the 31st Cape May Jazz Festival. Among the many musicians is the James Cotton Blues Band who will be playing Saturday night, April 18, at Lower Cape May Regional High School. James "Superharp" Cotton is a member of the Blues Hall of Fame and has shared the stage with the likes of B.B. King, The Rolling Stones, Johnny Winter and Janis Joplin.

Vendor ordinance passes

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council passed its new ordinance regulating peddler, hawkers and vendors, Tuesday, as vendors made one last request for the city to limit the number of people getting permits to vend on city streets.

Council voted 4-0 with Deputy Mayor Linda Steenrod abstaining to pass the often-discussed ordinance, which deals principally with hot dog vendors on Beach Avenue. A previous ordinance allowed the city manager and police chief to identify at least seven spots on Beach Avenue and set fees for vending permits. Ordinance 182-209 designates seven specific locations on Beach Avenue and allows permits to be issued to any qualified applicants.

Bud McDonough, speaking on behalf of the vendors, asked city council to reconsider having no cap on the number of permits the city would sell for seven spots. McDonough said when the city designated vending locations it calmed what he described as a chaotic situa-

tion of vendors camping out in vehicles or fighting for spots. Since that time, he said, there have been no problems and no complaints about the vendors.

"We don't need an onslaught of vendors. If we open it up to anyone who applies before April 30 that means anyone in the county who wants to vend, or start to vend, can come to Cape May"
–Bud McDonough

"What I see now is the designated spots are open to anyone who applies to the city by a certain date," he said. "We don't need an onslaught of vendors. If we open it up to

anyone who applies before April 30 that means anyone in the county who wants to vend, or start to vend, can come to Cape May. No other city operates with an open enrollment."

McDonough said the change seemed favorable to new vendors coming to Cape May rather than the ones who were vending previously.

City council did not respond to the comments of McDonough or a second vendor, Tony Genaro. At a previous meeting, Mayor Edward Mahaney said he thought it was unlikely the city would see 20 applications for vendors, an arbitrary number brought up at that meeting. Genaro had asked what would happen if the city received 20 permit applications for seven designated spots. Mahaney said he doubted the city would get so many applications, but seven people would be allowed in the designated spots each day. When someone did not have a designated spot he or she could vend at an at-large location, or not vend in Cape May.

Steenrod said she abstained

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