

DWI

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Whitten helped develop the community policing unit and was involved with D.A.R.E.

At around 6 a.m., command officers from the LTPD located Whitten at his Lower Township residence - not the Crawford Road residence where the vehicle was located - and interviewed him. Whitten was then transported to the police department building where an alcohol breath test was administered.

Whitten was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report an accident and failure to maintain a lane. Whitten was immediately

suspended by Lower Township Police Chief Edward Donohue, who notified the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office when it was determined a police officer was allegedly involved in the accident. Donohue said the prosecutor's office would not have been notified if it was just a DWI case. He said leaving the scene and the other circumstances required the prosecutor be involved.

Donohue issued a statement saying, "I am very disappointed at the position this officer has placed himself in, given the fact that he has served this department and our community well for the last 14 years. However, in addition to municipal court

proceedings the officer will also face major disciplinary action as a result of this egregious off duty conduct."

According to Donohue, Whitten is suspended without pay. He has the right to an initial hearing within five days, but Donohue indicated Whitten had waived his right to that hearing through his attorney. Donohue said disciplinary action normally awaits the conclusion of the court proceedings, but sometimes run concurrently.

In 2004 Lower Township Patrolman James McCorkle resigned after being convicted of driving while intoxicated.

On Aug. 23, 2005 another Lower Township police officer, Paul Larkin, was charged with DWI.

Whitten is the second Lower Township officer currently under suspension. Patrolman Chad Fitzmaurice is suspended pending the completion of an ongoing internal affairs investigation.

recycle!

MARCH TIDE TABLE

	HIGH am	LOW pm	HIGH am	LOW pm
3/5	2:06	2:47	8:39	8:31
3/6	3:22	4:03	9:48	9:43
3/7	4:30	5:07	10:49	10:48
EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME				
3/8	6:30	7:02	12:42	
3/9	7:23	7:52	12:47	1:31
3/10	8:11	8:38	1:40	2:16
3/11	8:56	9:22	2:31	2:58

1st Quarter	3/4
Full Moon	3/10
Last Quarter	3/18
New Moon	3/26
Perigee	3/7
Apogee	3/19

Budget cut

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time D.A.R.E. officer. He said assigning two of the four officers to patrol would reduce overtime.

Mahaney referred to a page in his summary, which he claimed is not a public document, outlining positions he thought could be cut. He recommended freezing promotions across the board, with the exception of an employee who obtained a state rank on her own. He said the city was going to save money by the appointment of a new municipal judge, and he recommended the city provide \$7,000 for free trolley service in 2009 only, because the Chamber of Commerce could not fund the trolley this year.

Mahaney said under his proposed cuts no one would lose a job, and anyone due a raise

would get it. He said this is a difficult economy and just as the state is looking to make cuts, the city must do likewise. He said the cuts would put the city in a suitable surplus situation.

Mahaney also recommending cross-training employees to give them larger skill sets, and hiring new people with more skills. Mahaney took the moment to inject a little humor, saying he and City Manager Bruce MacLeod now do their own typing.

Deputy Mayor Linda Steenrod said she needed time to review the revisions before making comment. Besides the mayor, none of the council members made comments about the proposed 2009 budget, which is scheduled to be introduced March 17. Councilman Niels Favre was on vacation.

Meters

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the meters to include a grace period during which the car owner could pay the meter and avoid a ticket. If someone moves into a violation status they can opt to pay the maximum parking rate for the day or take a \$32 parking ticket, of which half goes to the state.

"They can avoid a ticket and the revenue to the city stays the same," Kurkowski said.

In addition to the increased revenue, Kurkowski said the meters could automatically notify the police department of a violation, so there is no need for roving parking enforcement officers.

A solar panel and a backup 12-volt trickle line would keep the system from going off-line. Kurkowski said the meters would run off a high

speed WiFi system which would be provided at no cost to the city. He said the system would be an advantage to public safety, and residents and visitors could have access to high-speed wireless Internet. A fee for the Internet would be determined and shared between the city and the vendor.

Kurkowski said Photo Violations Technology would build the system at its expense - totaling about \$5 million - and just need the right of way.

"They will do it for free, we just have to give them access," Kurkowski said.

He said for their investment the vendor would derive some income, but it would also maintain the meters.

The city would still collect coins, but it is anticipated that 85 percent of the users

would use credit cards.

Kurkowski said the vendor would also not touch the equivalent of last year's parking meter revenue, which has already been calculated into Cape May 2009 budget. He said the bottom line was the city would have an improved parking meter system, maintained by the vendor, and it would provide a new revenue stream through the WiFi, which itself is a bonus.

He said the vendor proposed a 15-meter trial so the city could "kick the tires" on the system.

Mayor Edward Mahaney suggested looking to see what other companies offered in comparison to the Photo Violation Technology proposal to get the best opportunity for the city.

Villas gas

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"We will continue to do canvassing to develop interest," he said.

Lare asked how long township residents would be inconvenienced by torn up roads. Gordon said they

expect to do several blocks at a time and restore the road as they go. He said it would take several months to install the mains. The lateral line installation would go on as needed.


"We could be doing construction for quite a long time," he said.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi: \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29. Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price .50 per copy.
PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Weekly, every Thursday.
POSTMASTER: Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.
ASSISTANCE: For information on starting mail home delivery of the Cape May Star and Wave, call 884-3466 weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm.

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Community news briefs

Cape May City Elementary School Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for Residents

CAPE MAY CITY - Are your children ready to start preschool or kindergarten in September 2009? Do you live in Cape May? If the answer is yes, then the Cape May City Elementary School is the school for you and your children. There is no charge for residents of Cape May City to attend this Governor's School of Excellence.

Registration for the 2009/2010 preschool and kindergarten classes will take place at the Cape May City Elementary School, 921 Lafayette St., during March 9-13, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Parents must pick up, complete and return registration forms to the school office. Access the forms online at www.capemaycityschool.org.

Preschool will be a half day morning session from 8:20 until 11 a.m. and a half day p.m. session from 12:30 until 3 p.m. Kindergarten will be a full day session from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Preschool children must be four years old on, or before, Oct. 1, 2009. Kindergarten children must be five years old on or before Oct. 1, 2009. Bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records, and a document that shows

Dancing Paws Fundraiser
March 7

CAPE MAY - The Animal Alliance of Cape May County will host its annual Dancing Paws fundraiser dance event from 7 to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, at Congress Hall. Live band Love Affair will play.

Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. There will be snacks, desserts and coffee included in that price plus a cash bar. This event will raise money for the animals of Cape May County. For more information, call 889-5285 or visit the website at www.AnimalAllianceCMC.org.

'Cover to Cover Book Club'

CAPE MAY - Love books and everything about good books? Cape May's free program is "Cover to Cover," a book club for adults who love to read.

If you would like to join the discussion and group meeting, please join them at the Cape May Elementary School on Lafayette Street on Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m. The book of discussion this month is "The Hour I First Believed: A Novel," by Wally Lamb.

For more information call the Department of Civic Affairs at 884-9565.

Big band bash benefit
March 21

CAPE MAY COURTHOUSE - Get your dancing shoes on, re-live the big band era and support a great cause at the Center for Community Arts/WCFA-LP 101.5 FM's Swing into Spring bash on Saturday, March 21, at the Wildwood Golf Club, 1170 Golf Club Road.

The benefit, presented by Cape May Traditional Jazz Society, will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. and will feature a sit-down dinner along with big band music and dancing. Tickets are \$40 and advance reservations are required. Space is limited.

Music will be provided by The Ambassadors. Party clothes modeled after the 1930/40s are encouraged.

To make your reservation, or for more information, call 884-7525.