



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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# Van Drew Team details legislative agenda

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — State Sen. Jeff Van Drew and Assemblymen Bob Andrzejczak and Bruce Land sat around a conference table in their Cape May Court House district office and outlined their agenda for 2017.

"We work very much together as a team," Van Drew said of he and his fellow Democrats.

In fact the trio is known as the

"Van Drew Team," a moniker they encourage to show all three are on the same page.

The team represents New Jersey's First Legislative District, a diverse amalgam of sleepy bedroom communities, seashore resorts and rural farming towns encompassing all of Cape May County and parts of Cumberland and Atlantic counties.

For this year's agenda, economic development, veterans division from the criminal justice

system, tightening drug penalties and acknowledging the American flag take center stage.

### Aquaculture

Van Drew said he would like to see an aquaculture bill he sponsored become law. The bill, currently awaiting the governor's signature, would require the Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Protection to work with the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers in establishing a joint permit application process for aquaculture projects.

Aquaculture involves the production of finfish and shellfish for consumption. The state currently has 160 licensed aquatic farmers who had to undergo a state and federal permitting process. Aquaculture in New Jersey is a \$36 million industry, according to the Aquaculture Innovation Center at Rutgers University.

Van Drew said aquaculture

could spurn economic development in southern New Jersey.

"We are looking for different ways to go about and create economic activity in the First Legislative District. Aquaculture is an area we are uniquely suited to because of the quality of our water, because of the location of our counties," Van Drew said.

He noted it's "virtually impossible" for small entrepreneurs to

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# Frisoli bids farewell to MUA post

By BETTY WUND  
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Vice Chairman Tom Frisoli attended his last Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority meeting as a member of the commission Jan. 4 after not seeking re-appointment for another term. The commission honored Frisoli with a plaque for his service.

In accepting the plaque, Frisoli thanked all who have supported him during his time on the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Brian O'Connor said Frisoli was his mentor when he joined the board during a difficult time.

"I cannot say enough about this gentleman for the hours he spent working with the MUA during all the strife we had," O'Connor said.

Frisoli said he had made the decision to not seek another position in public office or to want another term on the MUA board two years ago. Former Lower Township deputy mayor Kevin Lare had him appointed to the board in 2000. Frisoli said he was asked by Lare to turn around the situation at the MUA that was making the employees unhappy and the ratepayers feel belittled.

"From the very beginning, I immediately went to war with the then executive director, the office manager, two board members and the solicitor. What I found out, what they were doing was doing everything in their power to get rid of employees by falsifying records," Frisoli said. "I started getting phone calls from employees informing me that they needed help. They didn't know me

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Washington Street Mall is blanketed in snow following a storm Saturday, Jan. 7, that left about 10 inches of powder across southern New Jersey. Below, the roof tiles create interesting icicles at Cape May Sweet House. At bottom, snow plows got a workout.



## First snow of season blankets lower cape

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A 12-hour storm Saturday, Jan. 7, brought as much as 10 inches of snow to the Cape May area.

Nor'easter Nick, chief meteorologist for SNJ Today and WIBG Radio, said the area experienced a rather significant coastal storm but it was not a nor'easter.

"We didn't have the impact that a typical nor'easter has. We didn't have the strong winds off of the ocean creating the flooding," he said. "We only had the precipitation to deal with."

The storm was low pressure coming from the Gulf of Mexico moving off the coast of Virginia in a northeasterly direction. While early forecast models predicted high pressure would suppress

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# Simonsen takes over as mayor of Lower Newcomer Sippel now deputy mayor

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township's annual re-organization meeting Jan. 4 may have been the most innovative on record as it opened with a music video of John Legend and Alicia Keys performing the classic John Lennon/Paul McCartney song "Let It Be."

Granted the new mayor, Erik Simonsen, who received his oath of office from Freeholder Jeffrey Pierson, is a school administrator, but he also is a well-known local musician. If one takes the video on face value, it presented a message of peacemaking. Township Council has been split politically between Republicans and independents for three years, but now consists of all Republicans.

"May we all let it be," Deacon Dan Monney said as he led the invocation. "Yesterday was a stormy day but somebody above said tonight there's a special meeting, we're going to put the sunlight on Lower Township."

Pierson noted Simonsen attended Rutgers University and the University of Scranton and holds a number of certificates of education. He predicted Simonsen could be on his way to holding a state office.

Simonsen received his oath surrounded by his family including his parents, brother

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# Cape May Lighthouse gets new beacon

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — The U.S. Coast Guard has installed a new rotating beacon in the Cape May Lighthouse.

Following a lightning strike June 21 that burned out a motor in the lantern room, the USCG temporarily installed a strobe light. It now has been replaced with a VRB marine rotating beacon known as VRB-25. According to the manufacturer of the beacon, Vega, the VRB-25 provides a range of up to 22 nautical miles with a 100-watt lamp. It was

designed to meet a United States specification for an accurate and reliable replacement beacon.

More than 600 of these lanterns are in service around the world, with more than 300 in North America. The lenses are molded from optical-grade acrylic resin and produce a beam that is very true and parallel. These lenses are accurately matched to within 5 percent of each other.

According to Vega: "The main challenge is to build a rotating turntable which does not require any maintenance for 10 to 20 years and consumes less than 1 watt. The VRB-25 uses centrally

mounted ball-bearing races with rubber seals to retain grease with wide temperature range. The motor is 'direct-drive' with no moving parts to wear or break. The magnets and drive coils are at a large radius to provide high torque at low speeds. The motor is electronically commutated and maintains its rated speed to within 3 percent. An optical speed sensor provides precise feedback to the PID controller."

Cape May Lighthouse's original first-order Fresnel lens was installed in 1859. The lens measured more than 7 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter. The light was

visible about 20 miles out to sea, limited only by the curvature of the Earth. The original lens may be seen at the Museum of Cape May County at 504 Route 9 North in Cape May Court House.

The Fresnel lens was replaced in 1945 by a 36-inch rotating aero-beacon lens equipped with a 1,000-watt bulb known as a DCB-35 and produced 350,000 candle-power. The lens was elevated 1.25 degrees to help air traffic also, according to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. In 2002, the DCB-25 was replaced with a DCB-224, which used 25-inch reflectors.



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