

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 26 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2008 50c

INSIDE



SPORTS

Corinthian Yacht Club hosts Cape Regional Cup Regatta, **B1**

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

Cape May Lewes Ferry Terminal

On July 3, steel band and refreshments at the ferry terminal in North Cape May starting at 7 p.m. Fireworks at 9 p.m.

The All-American Celebration at Congress Hall

Fireworks on the beach Friday, July 4. Celebration continues through Monday, July 7

Independence Parade

Beach Avenue at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 5

Kiwanis Pancake Day

Saturday, July 5 at Henry's, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

JUNE / JULY TIDE TABLE				
	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
7/3	8:48	9:08	2:37	2:27
7/4	9:42	10:00	3:30	3:22
7/5	10:35	10:50	4:20	4:17
7/6	11:28	11:40	5:10	5:11
7/7		12:21	5:58	6:07
7/8	12:29	1:13	6:46	7:04
7/9	1:20	2:07	7:34	8:03
New Moon	July 2			
1st Quarter	July 9			
Full Moon	July 18			
Last Quarter	July 25			

Ed Mahaney sworn in as new Cape May mayor

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Mayor Ed Mahaney was sworn in Tuesday at the annual reorganization meeting, and before the meeting was over Mahaney had asked all the Planning Board members with unexpired terms to resign.

Mahaney said the city is in the process of reviewing its Master Plan as well as applying to the state for Plan Endorsement. The deadline for Plan Endorsement applications was June 24, and Cape May has not completed the first step needed for Plan Endorsement.

Plan Endorsement encourages municipalities to cooperate in regional planning, and communities with Plan Endorsement are given a high priority for grants, permits, and state services. On June 24, Mahaney said Cape May was once about two years ahead of West Cape May in the Plan Endorsement process, and it is now two years behind its neighbor.

"Some may be reappointed," Mahaney said, "but we are going to have a cross-section of our community."

Mahaney said he had discussed his action regarding the Planning Board with each member of council, saying it had become apparent the

Planning Board felt uncomfortable with attempting to formulate a Master Plan in the timeframe now available. The city is supposed to finish its Master Plan review by March 2009.

"One solution is to bring in technical, professional assistance to help the Planning Board with doing the Master Plan and help the Plan Endorsement Committee with the Plan Endorsement process, to restore our status for state grant and loan money," Mahaney said.

Mahaney also said the city needed to look at the individual Planning Board members and see if their talents could be better utilized in other areas or on other boards or commissions. He said some of the Planning Board members didn't have the time or scope of talent to complete a Master Plan in the time frame allowed.

"Due to urgency of matter I asked them to resign," Mahaney said. "We're trying to get more a more diverse group with particular talents and who will interact with the community."

He said he thought the action was appropriate and there is no adversarial relationship with the Planning Board, of which the mayor is a member. He said he respects the effort and service of the current members, but believes they were ill at

ease with the task confronting them.

Mahaney replaced Mayor Jerry Inderwies on the Planning Board. Mayors sit on the Planning Board in a term concurrent with their term of office.

Michael Jones was appointed to the Class II position held by Bob Smith, whose term had expired.

Mike Jones given Class II was Bob Smith's position

after his term expired June 30. Meryl Nelson was replaced by Robert Winkworth in a Class IV position. Robert Elwell, Sr. replaced Winkworth as an Alternate II, and Greg Wright resigned. The remaining members whose resignation Mahaney asked for include Bill Bezaire, Harley Shuler, Jessie Weeks, Rick Spackman and Planning Board Chairman John Drach.

Mahaney said the members would have to attend weekend and learn to be responsible members of boards and commissions.

"We need to have people who are dedicated...people who really want to do some work," he said.

This came after Mahaney commended the people of Cape May for their volun-

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Freeholder Director Daniel Beyer swears in Mayor Ed Mahaney, above, as the mayor's sister Patricia M. Branch holds the Bible. Below, Councilwoman Terri Swain takes the oath with the help of her husband Glen McBrearty.



Terri Swain takes oath of office

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Councilwoman Terri Swain began her remarks at the Cape May reorganization meeting, Tuesday, saying, "It's been a remarkable week for me."

Swain made an honest man out of Glenn McBrearty on Sunday in what was said to be the most hastily arranged wedding on record. The couple had been engaged for two years.

Swain thanked her family and friends and all the voters of Cape May who voted to elect the first Swain to city council. The Swain family, of Swain's Hardware, is one of Cape May's oldest families.

In her first act as a member of council, Swain nominated Councilwoman Linda Steenrod to be deputy mayor. Seconded by Mayor Ed Mahaney, Steenrod abstained

from the vote and was elected by a 4-0 to replace Niels Favre as deputy mayor.

Swain was selected by city council to serve as a council representative on the Tourism Commission. Both Swain and Steenrod were sworn in by city clerk Diane Weldon.

Swain also thanked outgoing Mayor Jerry Inderwies and Councilman David Craig for helping her with the transition into her new office. She also thanked Mahaney as the new mayor for getting her involved in the Rutgers certification program for elected officials.

Swain promised hard work as a council member, saying, "I'm committed to the process." Swain said she wanted to improve communication between council and the public and was in favor of both increasing the number of council meetings and televising council meetings.

State Fire Marshal finds 61 violations at 649 Broad

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - On June 25, State Division of Fire Safety inspectors found 61 fire code violations at 649 Broad Street and closed what was alleged to be a rooming house for foreign student workers.

On Tuesday, state fire inspectors were back at 649 Broad Street at the request of the property owner Waclaw Berczynski, who asked for a reinspection.

According to fire inspector Walt Larcombe, the structure would remain closed, and said Berczynski's mercantile license, which allows him to rent his units, had been

pulled. City clerk Diane Weldon confirmed that Berczynski's mercantile license, which was taken out in his wife's name, was in jeopardy. She said she was preparing a letter to Berczynski informing him that another hearing would be held on his mercantile license. A hearing was held in July 2007, which resulted in his license being revoked. Weldon said Berczynski should not have been issued 2008 mercantile licenses.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said interim city manager Bruce MacLeod is reviewing the whole process of issuing mercantile licenses.

"We have to install more

coordinated communication between the offices that hand licensing in a variety of areas," Mahaney said. "We need to improve the licensing system to make sure we are touching base with all representative agencies before issuing licenses."

Larcombe said after the reinspection of 649 Broad Street the same violations were found. He said 15 of the violations remained after a 2007 inspection that resulted in Berczynski's mercantile license being revoked. He said the conditions jeopardized the lives of the numerous students who lived there, but would also jeopardize the health and safety of police or firefighters called to a fire

there. Cape May Fire Chief Jerome Inderwies Jr. said if fire blocked a second floor stairs there was no egress because the property owner had walled off an inside staircase between the first and

second floor. Berczynski allowed his property to be inspected by the Star and Wave, and the staircase had indeed been closed off. Berczynski said this is because he was con-

verting the property into two condominium units and had a lawyer working on the application.

Berczynski said all of the

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Plan Endorsement advancing

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - After being years ahead of neighboring West Cape May, Cape May is trying to catch up with the borough in terms of Plan Endorsement.

Plan Endorsement is a program under which municipalities are encouraged to participate in cooperative regional planning and follows guidelines consistent with state development and redevelopment plans. As a reward for their participation, municipalities are assigned a higher priority status for available funding.

Eric Gundrum, a planner

with the Remington Vernick engineering firm, gave a presentation to the Planning Board, last week, telling them he is preparing a Municipal Assessment Report - the first step in a 12-step process toward Plan Endorsement. Gundrum said he would complete an initial step in the process - preparing a Municipal Assessment Report - in the next 30 days. City engineer Mark DeBlasio asked Gundrum how quickly the process could go.

"If running on all cylinders, how fast could it be completed?" he asked.

"As soon as 90 days," Gundrum said, adding that it could be as much as two years.

According to Gary Novak, West Cape May Planning Board chairman, the process took West Cape May about four years, before finally getting approval on April 18, 2008.

"There are 556 municipalities in New Jersey, and only 11 have Plan Endorsement. If it was easy there would be a higher number," he said.

Planning Board chairman John Drach said the Planning Board has no responsibility in the Plan Endorsement process; but there are three members of the Planning Board on the Citizens Advisory Committee on Plan Endorsement, and they want

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Rosanne M. Borgo/Cape May Star and Wave

Summer fun in West Cape May

You know it's summer when the Borough of West Cape May hosts its Farmer's Market every Tuesday at 3 p.m. through August behind Borough Hall on Broadway.