

Mall

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Gauvry said there was no "father of the mall" as was portrayed on a plaque formerly displayed on the mall, but the mall was the culmination of the work of a number of people, including former Star and Wave owner and publisher Tom Hand. Gauvry also mentioned Vince Casale, owner of Casale's Shoes, who was one of the original backers of the mall project.

Freeholder Ralph Bakley, who was a Cape May police officer when the heavy equipment was brought into Cape May to begin the original project, said merchants told the city "You're going to kill us."

"They said it won't work, it'll never work," Bakley said. Minnix dryly described the 37-year-old mall as being "moderately successful." He said during his administration people told him it was a shame there were no outdoor cafes, something seen up and down the mall today.

Out-going Mayor Jerry Inderwies expressed relief at the rededication of the mall after a \$3.5 million renovation.

"Finally, the new mall has become a reality," he said.

Inderwies recalled the first grand opening 37 years earlier, saying, "There were as many skeptics as this time.

But now we have a new mall that will be here for generations."

Inderwies thanked the merchants for putting up with the inconvenience of the construction, but assured them they would see the benefits for years.

Those attending the ribbon cutting ceremony were entertained by the Cape Harmonaires Barbershop Chorus. Entertainment and activities ran throughout the day. A free music program ran from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. at Rotary Park, with music provided by the Swingtimmers and local favorite Bluebone.

Coaches

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Additionally, playing a varsity sport in high school has become a year around commitment.

"The kids just don't want to commit to a year of practice, running, lifting..." Wilson said.

Under head coach Lance Bailey, football players who were not participating in another sport were required to continue their conditioning and strength training.

For these various reasons the number of football players at Lower Cape May Regional are not high.

"Our numbers are not high, our program is intense. I had 10 guys quit in the past two

weeks," Wilson said.

The youth camp, however, is basic instruction. Wilson said they are trying to inculcate the fundamentals of football, and teach the kids the importance of being focused and staying involved. That is why he has been trying to be involved with the junior high school. As a result, he said, the LCMR football program lost no graduating junior high players to the parochial schools, which recruit in this area.

Wilson said he wanted to reinstitute a youth football camp, such as former head coach Jeff Wunder held years before. He said Bailey had

also wanted to start a camp. Now, Wilson is hoping Lower Township would help back the camp. He said he would welcome working with the Lower Township Recreation Department and the youth football program.

The Jersey Cape Instructional Football Camp is scheduled to run from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day. It is described as "four days of non-contact intensive football technique training."

Registration for the camp is \$125, and each participant receives a T-shirt and a pair of Nike cleats (not guaranteed after June 12). Participants need to bring their own cleats, a pre-molded mouthpiece, snacks daily, a gym bag, and sneakers in case the camp moves inside due to inclement weather.

For registration call Lower Cape May Regional High School at 609-884-3475. Applications are available from the school office. For all information call the high school and ask for Mike Wilson.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
The three longest continuously operating business owners on the Washington Street Mall, Rosemary Stumpo of Stumpo's Restaurant, Vince Casale of Casale's Shoes and Hilary Pritchard of the Whale's Tale.

House

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ing, "The electrical panel on both the first and second floors has open blanks, and is not marked for identification. Some of the electrical outlets have 3-ways, which must be removed. Extension cords must also be removed."

Callahan also said the house was in violation of the Certificate of Occupancy, as it was being operated as a rooming house.

In a letter dated July 27, 2007, deputy city clerk Jean Davis advised Margaret Berczynski, listed as one of the property's owners, their mercantile license for 649 Broad Street had been revoked based on the use of the property as a boarding house, which is a violation of city zoning.

On August 14, Davis again

sent a letter to Margaret Berczynski informing her an application for a mercantile license had been denied.

"As a result of these violations, the city is unable to issue you your requested license," David wrote.

According to city officials, Berczynski did in fact take care of a number of violations, some as minor as dead batteries in smoke detectors. All but two of the kitchen areas had been removed, and a second floor staircase was constructed as a fire exit. Acting city manager Bruce MacLeod said two mercantile licenses were issued to Berczynski this year for two duplex units.

However, on Wednesday, several student workers from Turkey said there were about 25 people living at 649 Broad Street. One indicated that there were as many as 30 just a couple of weeks ago. Each of the student workers had agreed to pay Berczynski \$100 per week, which at 25 renters is \$10,000 per month. One young man said they are living in small rooms, two to a room, and he has to share a bed with his friend.

Lt. Chuck Lear of the Cape May Police Department said they got the names of 20 individuals who were living at 649 Broad Street, and the student workers told police there were as many as 25. Lear said this was not a police operation, but an action being taken by the state Division of Fire Safety.

"Our assistance was transportation and relocating the people," Lear said.

The police transported workers and belongings to the home of a Turkish speaking man who lives in Cape May, and who was acting as an interpreter. Lear said the city was doing what it could to help find some housing for the student workers.

"I placed a call to Social Service, and we're still in contact with them to see who has a program available,"

Lear said.

Lear said he did not know what violations were found by the Division of Fire Safety, but he expected that office would provide the city with copies of the complaints soon.

Lear spoke to Carol Fols of Social Services, and Fols told Lear Berczynski, as the sponsor for the student workers, he was responsible for finding them housing.

Berczynski is the executive director of the Philadelphia International Institute, and Responsible Officer for the program. A student worker said he was also known as Mark Berczynski, who is listed as the Alternate Responsible Officer. The address for the institute as it appeared on a letter awarding Berczynski sponsor status was "629 Broad Street, Camp (sic) May, N.J., 08204."

The Philadelphia International Institute's website shows a picture of One Liberty Place in Philadelphia.

Several of the students said the conditions at 649 Broad Street were very poor.

"Everything is wrong. Everything is dirty," a young woman said.

A young man who moved out of the house said the beds have insects. Another young man said Berczynski promised them housing and a job. One young man produced an employment agreement signed by Berczynski promising 40 hours of work per week at \$7.50 per hour. The contract also said the individual would be charged \$100 per week for rent. A young woman said they were told if they didn't have rent money when they arrived they should just leave.

Told that the contract promised a job, another young man said, "It's all bulls\*t."

One young woman said she overheard Berczynski telling police he didn't take any rent money from the students.

"I'm crying, he's laughing," she said, indicating Berczynski.

Turkish students said they paid \$3,000 to enter the sponsorship program, which partners with the United States' Exchange Visitor Program. Some students from Ukraine said they paid \$5,000 to join the program, which promised housing and a job in America for up to four months.

Most of them found a job on their own, but as of Wednesday, most of them don't have a place.

Author's Note: If any readers have units available to rent reasonably to foreign workers displaced by the fire violations, contact me at csouth\_cmsw@comcast.net and I will make an effort to pass the information along to them.

**Cape May Stars & Wave** 154 Years Old  
1854-2008

600 Park Blvd. #28 W. Cape May, NJ 08204  
PHONE: 609-884-3466 FAX: (609) 884-2893  
Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical (USPS 619020)

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:** By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi: \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29, Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price: \$.60 per copy.

**PUBLICATIONS 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 (609) 884-3466 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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