



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, mayoral candidate Rusty Chew, left, and Mayor Ed Mahaney at the Candidates Night sponsored by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May.

Forum

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in grant funds and rebates. Mahaney, who has been mayor for more than four years, said he has provided leadership and helped develop a 20-year sustainability plan for the city, which will boost the city economically, environmentally and enhance the appeal of Cape May. The mayor noted Cape May was once again designated with silver level status through the Sustainable New Jersey program and was ranked among the best small municipalities because of his administration's efforts, intensifying the city's ability to receive more grants. Mahaney and Chew disagreed upon whether the new \$10.5 Convention Hall would support itself. Chew believes the taxpayers will

ultimately bear the burden while Mahaney said revenue from events and the self-liquidating Tourism Utility will cover the costs and not create an inconvenience for the taxpayers. Mahaney said throughout his 12 years experience on city council and 17 years on the Planning Board, he has done whatever was best for Cape May and as mayor, moved the town forward. Chew said during Mahaney's term, there have been too many projects done using outside sources when many could be completed by utilizing the talent of local individuals. Chew referred to Mahaney's alma mater, Temple University, which was given several contracts to perform studies in the city. All contracts were approved by city council, but Chew believed the studies

could have been done differently. "Temple is a great university, but I think we need to have someone who knows the area," Chew said. With regard to tourism, Mahaney said Cape May is one of the nation's leaders when it comes to having tourists pay their share of the costs. He said tourism fees pay 48 percent of the budget. Chew said it's important to extend the tourist season and get more people to visit Cape May year round. He said the more money spent here, the less burden is put on the taxpayers. Chew and Mahaney both support advancing technology in the city to promote events and tourism. Mahaney said he has proposed to council setting aside \$55,000 for improving the city website

and creating a website for the new Convention Hall but "did not get the support of three councilmembers." Both are also opposed to the state's regional school funding formula, which has city taxpayers paying \$72,000 per student sent to the Lower Cape May Regional School District. "It's absurd we're paying that amount per student," Mahaney said. Mahaney commended the effort Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman has made in changing the formula and said he supports putting funds in the 2013 budget to help. He said the ultimate decision will be made within the state legislature. Chew said he supports changing the formula, but referred to it as an "uphill battle" that will not be sorted out overnight.

Dogs

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ee of an animal shelter in Florida, said she feels putting a time limit on the period in which dogs can be tethered will be difficult to enforce. She said neighbors or passers by will most likely not keep track or know exactly how long a dog has been tethered, which means they will not call Code Enforcement to report the incident. Council has discussed putting a four-hour limit on the tethering of dogs. Marie Stone, also of Washington Street, said she agreed with Taylor and felt there should be an ordinance prohibiting tethering. She said numerous municipalities

across the nation have done so. Stone believes when a resident leaves their dog outside unattended it becomes someone else's problem. She said there was no reason for dogs in this city to be tethered. "This is Cape May. Our animals sleep in bed with us or have their own bedrooms," she said. Mayor Ed Mahaney said council has received letters and emails from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) regarding the ordinance. He said the public hearing and second reading on the ordinance will be held at the Nov. 20 regular meeting at 7 p.m.

Game

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zens asking the newspapers to set up a candidates debate. There was discussion of bringing a radio station in for the debate, but the station did not return calls placed by Fichter. South reserved the Millman Center for Oct. 26, and contacted the League of Women Voters to inquire if they were available to moderate the debate that evening. South reached out to Lower Township Republican Committee chairman Jeff Lindsay to see if the GOP ticket was interested in a debate. "In my very first discussion with Chris South, I asked what was being proposed for the format of the debate. I was told by him that the League of Women Voters still needed to be contacted and that the information would be forwarded to me after that was done. I never received any information about the format. After not hearing back

from Mr. South, I again asked about the format on Oct. 9 and asked for contact information of the appropriate person at the League of Women Voters so that the debate procedures and format could be ironed out. I did not receive a response until Oct. 15. I was then informed yesterday, Oct. 17, for the very first time, that a date, time and location were set for the debate," Lindsay said. According to South, there were delays in communication getting back and forth, exclusively through email. "What I was looking for was some indication that the Republican team was interested in having a debate. Instead, I only received inquiries about the format and substance of the debate. This is in contrast to the Independent team, which immediately said they wanted to debate," South said. "Neither Mr. Fichter nor I have ever organized a debate and did not realize there was going to be a negotiation prior to accepting the

invitation. Mr. Lindsay is an attorney and he is undoubtedly used to establishing guidelines before entering into an agreement." "Given that, we assumed the presence of the League of Women Voters would be enough to establish the debate as credible. Their professionalism and reputation for non-partisanship is well-established in Cape May County," South said. "They moderate most of the debates or candidates forums in the county, and I'm not sure the origin of Mr. Simonsen's characterization of what that debate." South said because of the nature of weekly newspapers publishing just once a week, they found themselves in a rush to advertise the debate. Fichter and South asked Lare after the Oct. 15 Township Council meeting to contact Lindsay and urge him to inform the newspapers if the GOP ticket would participate. Fichter told Lare the newspapers needed to have an answer in order to suffi-

ciently advertise the debate. Without a commitment from both sides, the decision was made to cancel the debate. "I emailed Mr. Lindsay first thing in the morning on Oct. 15 with the contact information for a League of Women Voters representative, but he didn't call her for two days. I can only assume he was too busy to call," South said. South informed Lindsay that the debate could continue, but there was not enough time to promote the event well. Lindsay did not respond to that email message. Lindsay said the debate was planned without anyone consulting the Republican candidates. "To this date, the only direct and specific proposal for a debate has been made by the Simonsen, Lare, Craig team, for a debate to be held on the radio, so that the largest possible audience could be reached," he said.

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ARGO R 12:20, 3:00, 7:00, 9:35
TAKEN 2 PG-13 12:05, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4 R 12:40, 2:50, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA PG 12:05, 2:10, 4:40, 6:50
SINISTER R 12:10, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
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View

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Kurkowski said he did not see the need for 38 new acres of additional parks and open space for the Lafayette Street project. He said the existing parks should be revamped and maintained before the city acquires new land. "I don't even see people using the parks we have to

justify 38 new acres," he said. As for the studies done by Temple University, Kurkowski said there are talented individuals within the city and county who could have taken on the task. "Why did this money leave Cape May, why did it leave the county?" he asked. He said each project and study should have had a bid-

ding process to make it fair for everyone. Candidates were asked their thoughts on current and future beach replenishment, especially in areas where there have been multiple head and neck injuries due to sloping beaches and other factors. Swain said beach replenishment was crucial to the

survival of Cape May as a resort town and said beachgoers needed to be responsible for knowing when it was safe to surf or swim. She suggested visitors and residents be educated on beach and water conditions. Kurkowski said the city needs to turn to the federal government for more funding and to continue projects. Meier said the city needs to continue working with the Army Corps of Engineers and find a variety of solutions.

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The candidates were asked if they would defend and uphold the council-manager form of government and Faulkner Act, under which the city operates. Kurkowski said City Manager Bruce MacLeod has done a great job and said he should be responsible for day-to-day operations, as defined in the Faulkner Act. He said members of council and the mayor have in the past infringed on what the city manager is supposed to be doing. Meier said residents who request documents should have them provided the next day or sooner, as he did not believe council was being transparent. Swain said she thought the council of the last four years has been the "most transparent government," holding over 10 town meetings. She said council has discussed every issue openly. An audience member later asked if Swain "had a mind of her own," claiming Swain voted frequently with Mayor Ed Mahaney. "I am my own woman. I am my own person to a fault," Swain replied. "I don't do what anyone tells me to do." Kurkowski said he checked the voting records throughout Swain's term and found she voted with the mayor 99 percent of the time.

TIDES
OCTOBER 2012
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
24	4:35	4:52	10:23	10:55		
25	5:30	5:45	11:22	11:44		
26	6:18	6:33	12:14			
27	7:01	7:16	12:27	1:01		
28	7:39	7:56	1:07	1:44		
29	8:15	8:34	1:44	2:25		
30	8:51	9:12	2:20	3:05		
31	9:26	9:50	2:54	3:44		

Moon Phases
Last Quarter, Oct. 8
New Moon, Oct. 15
First Quarter, Oct. 21
Full Moon, Oct. 29
Apogee, Oct. 4
Perigee, Oct. 16

Cape May Star & Wave
(ISSN 519-020), Volume 158 Number 43. Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc., 112 E. 8th St., Ocean City, N.J. 08226. Subscription price in Cape May County \$22; East of the Mississippi \$25; West of the Mississippi \$29. Periodicals Postage at Pleasantville, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Ave., #28, West Cape May, N.J. 08204.
158 Years Old
1854-2012