



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LCMR BASEBALL STILL WORKING ON A LINEUP

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City to seek claim on Convention Hall low elevation

By PAUL GRISER
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Although Convention Hall weathered the elements of Superstorm Sandy last fall, an alleged design or construction error has the hall sitting in opposition to FEMA's base flood elevation regulations, and has the city paying much higher flood insurance rates than it would otherwise.

Cape May City Solicitor Tony Monzo read a prepared statement on the topic of flood insurance at a city council meeting, Tuesday, March 19.

"The city has been working hard on the construction of Convention Hall, as well

as the flood insurance it will have," Monzo said to start his statement.

Monzo said Convention Hall was required to carry a V-zone flood insurance policy by FEMA. The V-zone, according to FEMA, is the velocity zone, or the most hazardous flood zones, and generally includes buildings on the first row of beachfront properties.

Buildings in the V-zone flood level, according to Monzo, have a 15-foot elevation requirement on all areas of a building. However, after an inspection by FEMA, the sump pump room of Convention Hall only had an 8.51-foot elevation.

'...the City has already placed the architect and all engineers that were involved in the design of the building as well as its construction manager and general contractor on notice, and instructed them to advise their carriers as to a potential claim.'

– From statement read by
City Solicitor Tony Monzo

"The remainder of the building has a finished floor elevation of 15.21 feet, which exceeds the FEMA requirements," Monzo said.

Monzo said the city is awaiting further guidance from FEMA in respect to the sump pump room. He also said FEMA cannot take any legal action against the city for construction related problems.

"(FEMA) has no enforcement and cannot impose fines for noncompliance," Monzo said. "Actually, in this case FEMA offered to provide technical assistance and to work with the city in order to obtain full compliance."

Monzo said the city was

informing the professional contractors involved with the construction of Convention Hall to notify their insurance carriers to expect a claim to be filed.

"...the City has already placed the architect and all engineers that were involved in the design of the building as well as its construction manager and general contractor on notice, and instructed them to advise their carriers as to a potential claim," Monzo read.

After finishing his prepared statement, Monzo said no public or press related questioning would be answered at

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Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Robert "Bob" Andrzejczak (second from right) was sworn in by Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver as the first legislative district's newest Assemblyman. Looking on, left to right are State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, Assemblyman Nelson Albano, Andrzejczak's wife and eight-month-old son. Andrzejczak replaces Assemblyman Matt Milam, who resigned for personal reasons.

Andrzejczak sworn in as newest Assembly member

TRENTON – Sgt. Robert "Bob" Andrzejczak was sworn in on Thursday by Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver to become the newest member of the New Jersey General Assembly, representing the 1st Legislative District, which includes parts of Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties.

"Sgt. Andrzejczak has dedicated his life to fighting for the causes he believes in," Oliver said. "I have no doubt that he will bring that same passion and commitment to his new role as Assemblyman. I welcome him as the newest member of the Democratic Caucus and look forward to working with him to spur our economy and move New Jersey forward."

Andrzejczak will fill the seat vacated by Matthew Milam who recently resigned. He joins Assemblyman Nelson Albano in representing the first legislative district.

"I am extremely grateful for this opportunity,"

said Andrzejczak (D-Cape May / Atlantic / Cumberland). "There is a great deal of work that needs to be done but I am up for the challenge. I'm particularly interested in helping our veterans and creating more opportunities for working people in South Jersey. I will fight as hard for the first district as I did for our country."

Andrzejczak grew up in Lower Township and graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School in 2004. He currently lives in Middle Township with his wife and eight-month old son.

Andrzejczak joined the Army the year after high school as infantry, completing basic training in Georgia before being stationed in Hawaii for six months. In 2006, he was deployed to Iraq for the 1st time and was stationed in Ryad and Hawija. The deployment was scheduled for a year but at Christmas

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Photo by Frank Scott

6th annual Singer-Songwriter Conference

Above, Tracy Grammer was one of the headliners at the annual Singer-Songwriter Cape May Conference, which played out in various venues in Cape May over the weekend. The conference draws over 170 performers and hundreds of guests to hear them play in crowded venues across town. See more photos and story on page B8.

Point budget comes in with another decrease

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Cape May Point's 2013 budget has been proposed with a one-tenth of a cent decrease in the tax rate, while the budget increased \$18,858, a 1.12 percent increase, to \$1.7 million. Municipal Auditor Glen Ortman said the budget is \$46,000 under the state mandated 2 percent budget cap.

Some of the largest numeric changes in the budget include a 33 percent decline in interest on investments, but the change only amounts to \$400. There is a 91.96 percent decline in computer opera-



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May Point Mayor Skip Stanger credited outgoing Clerk Administrator Connie Mahon with expediting a new dune project at Alexander Avenue, above, before taking her new job in Middle Township.

tions salaries and wages. Heeswyk said the borough Deputy Mayor Anita van- now has a part-time IT spe-

cialist who will come in once a month. The cost of computer operations dropped by \$10,473 in 2013.

The appropriation for life-guards, the largest item after police and debt service, dropped 3 percent to \$117,975.

The three largest budget items remain the cost for police, water and trash pick up. The borough has an interlocal agreement with Cape May for police services, which will cost the Point \$260,995 in 2013, a 3 percent increase over 2012. The over budget for Public Affairs and

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