

# Cape May Star and Wave



158TH YEAR NO. 26 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, June 27, 2012 50¢



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## A hat for all (beach) seasons

Above, Peter DiCianni is a little camera shy but wanted to show off his beach hat with a Cape May beach tag from every year, beginning with 1977. He said some of the tags were acquired over eBay. See more beach photos on page A10.

## CM Police contract settled

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city has approved a four-year deal with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 59, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2011 and runs until Dec. 31, 2014.

Patrolman John Campbell, representative of PBA Local 59, said he was glad the city and police force could finally reach an agreement. Campbell has been involved in contract negotiations for 17 years and said this deal was by far the most difficult, due mainly to the poor economy. Police officers held what they described as an “informational picket” outside the new Convention Hall in May, because they had been working without a contract for nearly 18 months. At the June 19 city council meeting, the new contract was finally announced.

“We all approved it, signed it and we’re all set,” Campbell said.

He said the contract concessions are a “sign of the times,” as they reflect the poor economy and the state mandated 2 percent cap on tax levy increases. The concessions primarily affect new hires.

Campbell said the new contract between the city and PBA Local 59:

- Increases salaries by 1.75 percent for 2011 and 2012
- Increases salaries by 2 percent in 2013 and 2014
- Reduces starting pay for new hires from \$36,689 to \$30,000
- Terminates longevity pay for new hires
- Increases the number of steps for new hires to reach top pay from 10 to 18
- Decreases the number of holidays with premium pay (time-and-a-half), from 14 to just Thanksgiving and Christmas

Campbell said there were also changes made with regard to terminal leave. In the new contract, an officer can accrue four days of ter-

minal leave for every year of service, with the idea that 25 years of service accrues 100 days. The pay rate was based on the salary during the last year of service, which is the highest pay. Now, officers will be capped at their 2012 pay rate. For new hires, their ability to accrue days for terminal leave will be capped at 80 days, which was 100 days before. New hires will also be paid according to the 2012 pay rate.

At the June 19 meeting, Campbell said even though the contract was difficult to negotiate and it took longer than anyone expected, he was still happy with the end result.

“We look forward to maintaining the professional and harmonious relationship we’ve always had,” Campbell said of the city and PBA Local 59.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said the contract will prevent future city councils and taxpayers

Please see Settled, page A2

## Cape May City Council authorizes new contract for city manager MacLeod

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City Manager Bruce MacLeod will continue his long career with Cape May after city council awarded him a contract extending his service to Dec. 31, 2014.

MacLeod was first appointed as the interim manager in June 2008 and then in October of the same year was made the full-time city manager. MacLeod also serves as the city tax collector.

He said he has worked in local government his entire professional career. After graduating from Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, N.C., he took a position as the Cape May County comptroller in the finance department for four years, starting in 1975. In 1979, his career with Cape May city began as the assistant treasurer and assis-

tant tax collector. In 1984 he became the head treasurer and continued in that position until becoming city manager.

“I’ve spent my entire working career in local government,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed my working career here with the city of Cape May. It’s been good to me.”

MacLeod considers himself fortunate to have been made Cape May’s city manager and hopes to one day retire from that position – if he continues to be reappointed. He admits some administrations have been easier to work with than others, but ultimately takes a lot of pleasure in his work.

At the June 19 regular city council meeting, MacLeod was officially awarded the contract, which Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said gives a 1 percent raise each year through 2014.

“It’s very reasonable



Bruce MacLeod

and you do a good job,” Wichterman said to MacLeod. MacLeod started at a salary of \$118,200 when he was

elevated to city manager.

Mayor Ed Mahaney commended MacLeod for his service to the city and noted the tough economic times and various challenges the city

years of MacLeod’s term.

“You’ve worked very hard and when we asked you to take over this post four years ago, we faced a major set of challenges,” Mahaney said to

ness was impacted from the recession and some are now beginning to “walk out of it.” He said the city’s ability to manage the budget and keep tax increases lower than other municipalities, stems from theories and philosophies of being conservative, creating revenue and having a strong surplus.

“Certainly the electric bill goes up or the cost of gasoline so we do have to anticipate the fact that we have to grow the budget incrementally,” he said. “We’ve always taken that conservative posture and approach, both from the revenue side as well as the spending side. I believe that philosophy has helped us with our budget consistently through the years.”

MacLeod’s current contract will expire June 30, with the new contract taking full effect July 1.

*‘I’ve enjoyed my working career here with the city of Cape May. It’s been good to me.’*

– City Manager Bruce MacLeod

was facing when MacLeod became city manager. Mahaney said the city had to reorganize the city manager’s office, stabilize the city’s finances as well as rework the city’s master plan, Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) plan and plan endorsement process all in the first few

years of MacLeod’s term. Mahaney said with MacLeod’s leadership, the city was able to keep competing as a tourist destination and economize in a time when most were on a downturn.

MacLeod said from an economic perspective, every form of government and busi-

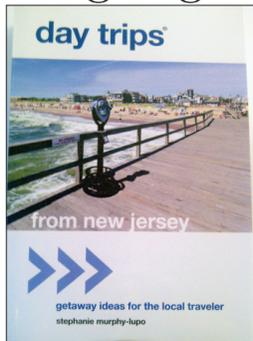
## Travel book highlights Cape May

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The MTV show “Jersey Shore” has done nothing for New Jersey’s reputation, but author Stephanie Murphy-Lupo is trying to redeem The Garden State’s image by showing people how enjoyable and invigorating a simple day trip can be.

Her new travel book “Day Trips from New Jersey: Getaway Ideas for the Local Traveler,” was just released in May, giving visitors and Jersey residents the inside scoop on numerous places and venues throughout the state.

Murphy-Lupo is a career journalist, author and freelance photographer who is no stranger to writing about her



Cover of a book highlighting Cape May area interests

travels and adventures. As a journalist, she wrote about her experiences exploring

numerous American destinations – as well as travels to Cuba, Portugal, Australia, Finland, Sweden, Canada and Italy.

She gained extensive insight about the way other people view their own journeys through interviews with entrepreneurs, celebrities, scholars, scientists, musicians, artists, entertainers, athletes, analysts and policymakers. She said her most interesting interviews included Donald Trump, Sophia Loren, Tony Bennett, Frankie Valli, Gen. Alexander Haig, Regis Philbin, Michael Milken, Gary Player, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Dr. Murray Gell-Mann and Arthur Laffer.

Please see Book, page A2

## Mail carrier locates ‘stolen’ surrey

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The owners of a three-wheeled surrey said their mail carrier located their missing surrey, which was taken from the front of their business on June 21.

Steve Reisman from the Whimsical Mermaid said they had been putting a life-sized mermaid in a three-wheeled surrey outside their business. But last Thursday

at about 1 p.m., Steve and Terry Reisman noticed the turquoise surrey was missing, and the 6-foot mermaid left lying in the grass.

The Reismans didn’t view this as just another statistic on the yearly stolen bike list. This was an invasion. This was a violation of trust they would have extended to anyone who would have asked.

Terry penned that in a letter she sent to the Star and Wave, asking to get the sur-

rey back.

“We think we are nice people and had you come into our shop and asked if you could take the surrey for a ride we would have said yes in a heartbeat,” Terry wrote.

The Reismans had loaned the surrey to strangers over the years. Earlier that morning they allowed their neighbor to take his four-year-old son for a ride. They loaned

Please see Surrey, page A2

## Change of command installs Farr as Station-Cape May CO

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape May held a change of command June 18, welcoming the new commanding officer Lt. Scott Farr to the base and saying farewell to Lt. Scott Murphy.

Murphy had been the station’s commanding officer since June 2009 and was responsible for Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay’s largest small boat station, in addition to two seasonal small stations. According to Coast Guard reports, those stations conducted more than 3,300 vessel boardings and 336 search and rescue missions that saved or assisted nearly 850 lives and \$18.5 million in property.

Farr is reporting from the Coast Guard’s 5th District Command Center in Portsmouth, Va., where he served as command duty officer and operations unit controller for the Mid-Atlantic and Rescue Coordination Center, the same position Murphy held prior to coming to Cape May. Murphy said Farr has taken over his last four posi-



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Lt. Scott Farr is the new commanding officer of the US Coast Guard Station Cape May, which is the working station at the US Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May.

tions in the Coast Guard. “He follows me around. He always takes the position I leave,” Murphy said of Farr.

Murphy said he is confident Farr will carry out his new detail with integrity

and do the best he possibly can. Farr said he requested the position in August 2011 and found out he would be assigned to Cape May in

Please see Farr, page A2



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