



See photos from VFW outing, page A12.

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Are classes for officials a must?

LOWER TOWNSHIP – While discussing best practices policies, Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck said the state recommends council members attend state classes for elected officials within a certain period of time. “The question is, can we make them go to school? And what if they don’t?” Beck said. Beck said Lower Township Council members have generally attended the classes.

Point has volunteers, not on plaque

CAPE MAY POINT – The Borough of Cape May Point has some outstanding volunteers, you just wouldn’t know it by looking at the Volunteer of the Year plaque in Borough Hall.

At the Sept. 14 commission meeting Mayor Skip Stanger said the names listed end in 2005.

“Have we not recognized volunteers since then?” he asked.

Stanger said he would be asking for nominations in his column in the taxpayer newsletter.

Dog bites dog

Attack prompts call to make tougher animal cruelty laws

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A dog attacking another dog on Washington Street has city council and Code Enforcement looking into tightening laws for dog owners in Cape May.

Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca said on Sept. 12, in the 1000 block of Washington Street, an 8-month-old Belgian Malinois tied up outside was killed by a pit bull mix passing by as its owner

adopt local legislation dealing with the matter. He said, however, Cape May might be allowed to create more specific regulations.

According to Monzo, New Jersey law prohibits intentionally depriving a domesticated animal of food, water or shelter. City Manager Bruce MacLeod affirmed Monzo’s statement and said state law allows dogs to be chained as long as those three items are available to the animal. MacLeod agreed council

‘Any ordinance that can be passed to better protect animals and the people would be great.’

– Former Councilwoman Linda Steenrod

walked it.

Fiocca said the owner of the pit bull mix saw the Malinois puppy was tangled up, and tied the pit bull to a trashcan before attempting to untangle the puppy. The pit bull broke free and attacked the puppy.

Fiocca raised the issue to city council at the Sept. 18 regular meeting, asking council to consider stricter animal protection ordinances. She said there were extenuating circumstances that needed to be addressed as the Malinois puppy was chained up and left unattended. She said the dog was chained up each day for hours at a time.

City Solicitor Tony Monzo said state statute lists a number of items as animal cruelty. Monzo’s initial thought was state law preempts the ability of a municipality to

could consider an ordinance that would exceed state animal cruelty laws.

He said Code Enforcement and Animal Control Officer John Queenan spoke with the owners of both dogs involved in the incident.

Mayor Ed Mahaney recommended Queenan, MacLeod and Monzo work together to gather information and ordinances from other municipalities regarding animal cruelty. Mahaney said council hopes to have a report for its November work session.

Linda Steenrod, neighbor to the owners of the puppy, said her goal in going to council and its solicitor was to prevent a situation like this from occurring in the future.

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CAPE MAY – Above, emergency vehicles block off the scene of a fatal fire, Tuesday morning, at 1247 Washington St., Cape May. The fire, which was confined to a rear cottage, resulted in the death of a 54-year-old Cape May man.

Fire claims Cape May man’s life

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A Cape May man is dead after an early morning fire in his Washington Street residence.

Erik Watson, who was one of three people rescued by firefighters during a Dec. 23, 2010 fire at the Merion Inn, passed away as the result of a fire in the cottage where he was living.

Cape May Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr. said he was the first on the scene, where he met the neighbor who placed the 9-1-1 call at about 6:30 a.m. reporting the fire. Inderwies said he met the neighbor on the street, who told him he saw smoke from the rear cottage at 1247 Washington St., and that there might be some-

one inside. Inderwies said on his initial check of the structure he found smoke and heat coming from the building. Soon after a fire crew arrived and went into service.

The crew donned SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) and with forced entry tools gained access through the main door of the cottage. Inderwies said they located Watson, 54, on the floor near the front door. He said the fire was extinguished within two minutes.

The Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office announced Tuesday that Watson was dead at the scene. The cause of death was determined to be accidental.

A full investigation will be conducted, but Inderwies said a preliminary investiga-

tion seemed to indicate the fire started in the area of a stove. He said the cottage sustained heavy heat and smoke damage.

Watson was injured in an early morning blaze in December 2010, after which he was admitted in fair condition to the Temple University Hospital Burn Center, suffering from burns and smoke inhalation. Watson was removed from a second floor window by firefighters during an active fire, and later flown to the burn center in Philadelphia. Two others were rescued unharmed during the Merion Inn fire. At the time, fire officials said the fire was contained to a second floor apartment.

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Two attorneys compete for CM County surrogate’s job

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY – Two attorneys, both Ocean City residents, are vying for the position of Cape May County surrogate.

Freeholder Susan Sheppard, a Republican, and Jeffrey Sutherland, a Democrat, will face each other in the Nov. 6 election for the county job.

Incumbent Surrogate

Robert Hentges, who served 40 years, announced he would not seek re-election this year.

The surrogate is a county officer responsible for the probate of wills, appointing guardians for minors and the incapacitated and appointing administrators of estates.

The five-year term carries a minimum annual salary of \$107,000.

Sheppard graduated from Villanova University in 1988

and Widener University School of Law in 1991. She worked at a Philadelphia law firm and smaller boutique firm before moving to Ocean City in 1998.

She and her husband, Frank Faverzani, have three children, Frank, Nora and Mark.

From 2003 to 2006, Sheppard was an assistant city solicitor in Atlantic City before opening her own law practice in Ocean City in

2008.

Sheppard served on the Ocean City Council from 2008 until 2010, when she ran a hotly contested primary for Cape May County freeholder. She won the Republican primary and general election and became freeholder in 2011, where she currently serves as vice director.

One of Sheppard’s departments as freeholder is the county surrogate’s office.

“I recognize how impor-

tant that office is to people in need,” Sheppard said. “You’re dealing with very sensitive issues.”

Sheppard said her decision to run for surrogate hinged on a personal incident, when her father died suddenly while mowing the lawn.

“I did some soul searching as to where I was in life. I guess that happens when any parent dies. I wanted to

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November means jazz

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – After a noticeable absence, a jazz music festival will again be staged in Cape May – this time with a new name, style and a various venues featuring world-class musicians.

The inaugural Exit 0 International Jazz Festival, a Spy Boy Production, is being held Nov. 9-11. The festival will feature over 100 artists throughout the weekend at local venues including the newly constructed Convention Hall.

President of Spy Boy Productions and festival producer, Michael Kline, said he has the utmost respect for Carol Stone and Woody Woodland who founded and produced the popular Cape May Jazz Festival for years. He said their efforts gave him the ideal foundation to

build upon in creating the Exit 0 festival.

“I have a tremendous amount of respect for Carol and Woody and for the Friends of Cape May Jazz because producing 17 years of festivals – I’m not sure people understand what an amazing thing that is,” he said. “Spy Boy Productions is stepping in to keep a festival here in Cape May because I think it was missed here in town. We’re keeping some of the same ideas and making big changes.”

Kline, who lived in New Orleans, La., for 13 years, said he has been to jazz festivals around the world and realizes Cape May’s festival made a name for itself. When it was discontinued, he decided to take the reins and bring that image back to life.

Kline said he is thinking

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Tree trimming relieves residents’ concerns

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Residents in the 1000 block of New Jersey and New York Avenues were relieved to see electric company crews and contractors on scene last week to maintain power lines and cut tree limbs that had become hazardous.

At the Sept. 18 regular city council meeting, Jules Rauch of 1010 New York Avenue said during public comment the electric wires near his home and neighboring properties were frayed and exposed. He said there were also sightings of flashes and sparks, which was a major concern because of the trees and buildings in close proximity to the wires.

The day of the meeting, Cape May County was hit with thunderstorms that brought heavy rain and winds. Rauch said during the



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Crews were in Cape May recently to trim branches away from power lines. Residents have been concerned about potential fires if electrical lines are downed by falling branches.

storm, there were several flashes and sparks coming from the exposed wires.

“That electric line is old, it’s

frayed, it’s in the trees and with the storm today, there

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