

# City pays tribute to Gaffney for 'selfless service'

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Former mayor and councilman William "Jerry" Gaffney was honored during a town hall meeting Nov. 28 for more than 20 years of service to Cape May.

Mayor Chuck Lear said Gaffney was elected mayor in 1990 and again in 1999 under the previous form of government. He noted Gaffney was a "Jersey boy through and through," having grown up in Collingswood, where he graduated from the borough's high school.

Gaffney studied business administration at Drexel University prior to enlisting in the Army in 1955. Lear said Gaffney resumed his studies at Rutgers University after completing his active military service.

"While in the Army, Jerry was stationed at Fort Dix, Washington, D.C., and Fort Polk, Louisiana," he said.

Lear said after two years of active service, Gaffney served an additional six years in the Army Reserve.

"Fortunately, Jerry took

one significant break from his active military service to marry Mary Ann Stokes in 1956," he said.

Jerry and Mary Ann Gaffney raised five children and had seven grandchildren. Lear said Jerry Gaffney's life has been marked by service to country and community, serving as a borough commissioner in Medford Lakes for eight years before moving to Cape May.

"He served our city as a council member for 16 years and as mayor for four," Lear said.

A career as an insurance underwriter was immensely useful to Cape May, as Gaffney was instrumental in bringing Cape May into the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) and served 10 years as a member of the JIF board, Lear said.

Among Gaffney's accomplishments while serving on City Council and as mayor was his participation in the design and development of the city's desalination plant.

"He was instrumental in the city's actions to employ a paid fire chief and a city administrator, both positions important to the city's ongoing growth and

development," Lear said. "Jerry also broke the glass ceiling by employing the city's first female police chief."

Gaffney played a vital role in developing Harborview Park, made major improvements to Broadway Pavilion and explored equity concerns related to the Lower Cape May Regional School funding formula, Lear said.

He said Gaffney was a key player in establishing a beach replenishment program. In early 2017, he served on the City Manager Search Committee. Lear said during his tenure as mayor, Gaffney officiated at the marriages of 360 couples and generously donated the proceeds of his earnings toward scholarships at Wildwood Catholic High School.

"I learned recently Jerry is at work on a writing project, 'Weddings by the Jersey Shore,' a book of memories of interesting weddings and the people he met," Lear said.

He said Gaffney is a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus and the Taxpayers Association of Cape May. He served as a Eucharistic minister at



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Mayor Cuck Lear, left, thanks former mayor William 'Jerry' Gaffney for more than 20 years of service to the city and its citizens during a town hall meeting Nov. 28.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church for more than 30 years and a volunteer at the Center for Community Arts, spending 10 years as a volunteer disc jockey on WCFA Radio. Lear said Gaffney continues his conscientious work as a tour guide at the World War II lookout

tower for the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities.

"In December 2002, Jerry was inducted into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to honor his more than 20 years of public service," Lear said. "Fit-

tingly, this league honor is awarded to officials 'who have selflessly guided their communities through good times and troubled times with little recognition of the sacrifice.'"

He said Gaffney has recently chaired the city's Public Safety Building Advisory Committee.

"It can be said that mayor emeritus William 'Jerry' Gaffney is dedicated, selfless, respected and admired," Lear said. "He's a true gentleman, a man of character and integrity, and throughout his public service career he has represented all of us with distinction."

"His legacy as a steward of the city of Cape May will endure and we are all the beneficiaries," he continued.

Gaffney received a standing ovation from the audience. He said 24 years in elected office was a long time and he has been asked many times why he served for so long.

"I've enjoyed it very much," Gaffney said. "And secondly, to have the support of the family, very, very important, those two answers make it all worthwhile."

## Cape May to continue annual inspection of rental properties

By JACK FICHTER

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CAPE MAY — Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies Jr., who also heads the city's Fire Prevention Bureau, has probably been

in every building in Cape May at one time or another. He may have helped put out a fire at a home or business when serving as the city's fire chief or conducted an annual inspection of the property.

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 1,200 to 1,300 inspections this year. Inderwies said hundreds of violations were found and have been corrected.

There may be some confusion with two ordinances

council introduced Nov. 20. An ordinance was introduced to amend the fire code. A second ordinance repealed a section of city code that required the county Health Department to inspect bed and breakfast

inns for health code violations. According to Inderwies, Cape May was the only municipality that required a health department inspection for guesthouses.

The city will continue to annually inspect all rentals properties whether seasonal or year-round and residential properties prior to sale.

"Any residential property that is rented will be inspected annually," Inderwies said.

Since the Fire Prevention Bureau inspects bed and breakfast inns once per year, if any serious violations are discovered, the city will notify the health department, he said.

B&B owners complained for years of overly zealous fire inspectors from the state. Inderwies said all but three or four properties

are now inspected by the city. He said any property that was under violation when the city took over fire inspections in January remains under state jurisdiction until the violations are cleared.

"There are still some properties, some hotels, that are inspected by the state but they're slowly correcting them and turning them back over to the city," Inderwies said. "We have 99 percent in our jurisdiction now."

Education is the key to compliance, he said.

"So far this year, we've made hundreds of corrections and we have not issued one penalty," Inderwies said. "We are trying to educate instead of hitting someone with a penalty. We'd rather educate them and have them fix it."

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#### TIDES : February 2018

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5	6:20	6:38		12:24
6	7:03	7:22	12:28	1:11
7	7:43	8:04	1:09	1:55
8	8:22	8:45	1:49	2:37
9	9:01	9:25	2:29	3:19
10	9:40	10:07	3:07	4:01
11	10:20	10:51	3:47	4:43
12	11:02	11:38	4:29	5:26

#### MOON PHASES

New moon, Dec. 7 • first quarter, Dec. 15

## Cape May City Recycles

**DON'T JUST DO IT...DO IT RIGHT!**

Do Recycle

### CANS & BOTTLES

Glass Bottles  
(green/brown/clear)

Aluminum Can  
Steel (tin) Cans

Plastic Bottles #1 thru 7

### ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Computers & TV's

### RIGID PLASTICS

### PAPER

FOOD BOXES

Cereal - Rice - Pasta

Newspapers

Magazines

Office Paper

Cardboard Soda

& Beer Containers

Junk Mail

Corrugated Boxes

Paper Cartons

Help maintain the quality of recyclables sold as secondary raw material. Place for recycling collection only the items listed under "Do Recycle."

Do Not Recycle

The Following Items are NOT ACCEPTED for Recycling Collection and must be Placed in Trash.

PAPER PLATES & PAPER CUPS, ALUMINUM FOIL & ALUMINUM PIE PLATES, POTS & PANS, MIRRORS, WINDOW GLASS

WE DO NOT PICK UP BRANCHES. TAKE BRANCHES TO RECYCLE YARD.

### YARD OPEN

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 3:15pm

Saturday 8:00am - Noon

Closed Wednesday Nov. 1 - April 30

### Please Remember ...

All Cape May City properties are entitled to a once a week curbside pickup of recycling.

This includes: Bottles, Cans, Plastic and Glass Jars, Newspapers, Corrugated Cardboard, Office Paper, Junk Mail and Magazines

• Please do **NOT** use plastic bags for anything.

• Recycling will **NOT** be picked up if it contains any type of contaminant



PAPER SHREDDER AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Labels for Recycling Containers are available on request or can be picked up at City Hall or Recycling Office located at the Public Works Complex on Canning House

Any questions call the Cape May City Recycling Office at 609-884-9570



## CAPE MAY STAGE

CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF THEATRE

NOV 14-DEC 30  
THUR-SAT | 7:30 PM SAT & SUN | 3:00PM

# AN ACTOR'S CAROL

DIRECTED BY  
ROY STEINBERG

WRITTEN BY  
CHARLES EVERED

Having played Scrooge many times a cranky actor finds himself visited by three spirits of his own. A cast of 4 play 17 characters in this hilarious new look at a classic that reminds us that the most jaded among us can find magic in the holiday season- and in the theater as well.

This Holiday Season, Cape May Stage will be accepting new and unwrapped toys for children in need through the Local Toys for Tots Campaigns through December 15th

Join us for a Talk-Back at  
7:30 PM on December 3rd.

609-770-8311

capemaystage.org

The Robert Shackleton Playhouse 405 Lafayette Street, Cape May