

Marlowe seeking seat on Lower Township Council

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — Democrat Chris “Kit” Marlowe is making his third run for a Lower Township Council seat in the Third Ward. He is running against Republican incumbent Roland Roy, who did not respond to requests for an interview from the Star

and Wave.

Marlowe said he is running at the request of Lower Township Democrats.

In 2015, he retired as a safety manager for a civil engineering company. He said he moved to Lower Township, which has beautiful beaches and a proud history but many people struggle to pay bills.

Marlowe has a bachelor's

degree in chemistry and a master's degree in environmental engineering, working mostly in health and safety for environmental engineering companies. He also was an inspector for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Marlowe serves as a board president of his church and is on the board of Cape Hope, which advocates for the homeless.

“I think that people need a choice, and that choice should lead to greater transparency in township government,” Marlowe said.

He said he was disappointed by how often decisions were made behind closed doors during the Simonsen administration and under

Mayor Frank Sippel it's even “more silent.”

“There isn't a whole lot you can learn by going to a town meeting,” Marlowe said.

He said he would like to see meetings be more open, suggesting a blog that would allow all to provide input.

He said Diamond Beach residents have complained response time for 911 medical calls is slow since the ambulance must travel from Erma on the mainland. After Lower Township Rescue Squad shut down, Inspira took over emergency medical services in the township.

He said Diamond Beach residents told him they continue to have extended response times.

“It seems to me Lower

Township enjoys enough tax revenue from Diamond Beach that we ought to give them the best emergency services that they can,” Marlowe said.

He said he has concerns about the slowness of the sewer installation project in Erma. Marlowe said houses are standing empty because their septic tank failed and can't be replaced because the property does not meet square footage requirements.

Regarding cannabis dispensaries, which council approved, Marlowe said he was not in favor of persons spending their whole lives “stoned or driving stoned” but he found it interesting there are dozens of places to buy alcohol but nowhere to

purchase cannabis.

“I don't have a lot of problem with the individual decisions that the town is making, I have a problem with how they make them,” Marlowe said.

He said he is suspicious of how the township awards contracts. He said the Roseann Avenue flood reduction project had an over-run of more than \$300,000, partly because the engineering firm of Hatch Mott MacDonald failed to test groundwater before completing the design.

“The principal qualification of Hatch Mott MacDonald seems to be they donate to Republican campaigns,” Marlowe said.

To avoid problems with state pay-to-play regulations, somebody donates to the county and the township gives them a contract and someone donates to Lower Township and the county gives them a contract, he said.

“I see a one-hand-washes-the-other setup,” Marlowe said.

He said to get a township or county job, it helps to be a Republican and connected with the right family.

“While I think taking care of local citizens and giving them work is a great thing, I also think that if you have a lot of nepotism and favoritism going on, you may not be selecting the very best employ-ees,” Marlowe said.

The residents of Lower Township need a set of eyes where the decisions are being made so they can know when decisions are being made wisely in their interest or being made unwisely in the interest of somebody's friend or somebody's cousin, he said.

Marlowe acknowledged if elected he would be one person on a five-person council.

“I won't be changing the decisions but having some eyeballs in those closed-door meetings, which is most of the governing in Lower Township, will make a big difference on what happens,” he said.

His yard signs state Kit Marlowe will “open a window on things that matter to you.”

“I'm not running on a Democratic platform, I'm running on a good-government platform,” he said.

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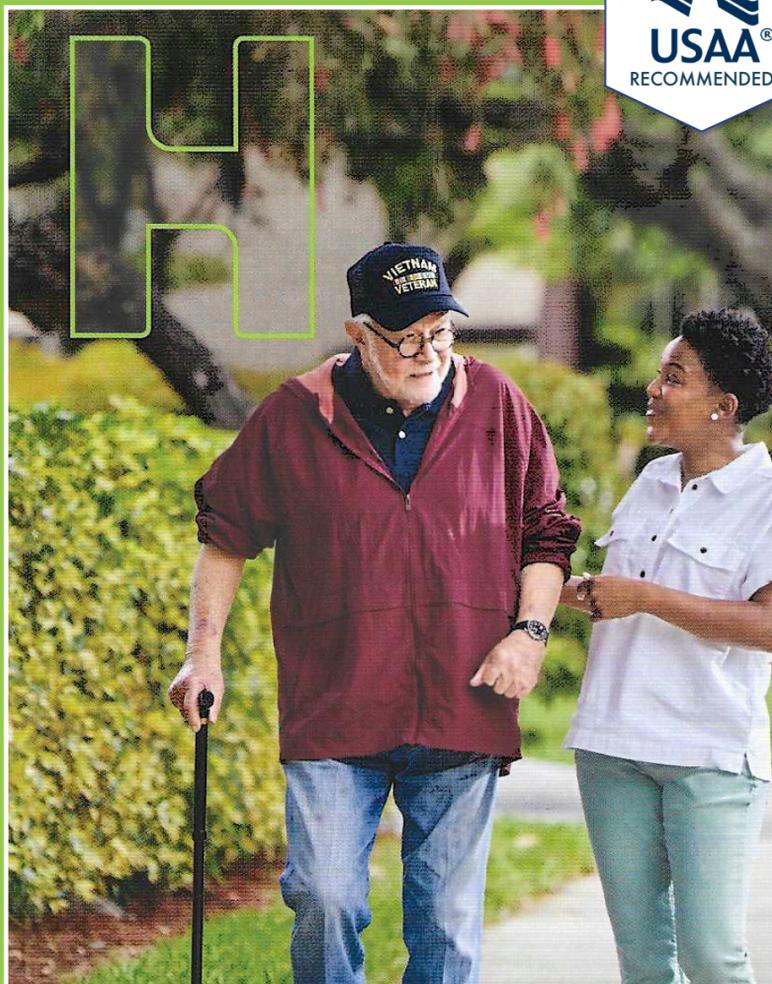
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